

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Sept. 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, Sept. 29

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Beef stroganoff, rice.

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

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

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

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

A few changes to the sports schedule for Monday, Septem-

ber 29th:

Cross Country at Groton (Olive Grove) begins at 3:00pm (rolling schedule - times are approximate):

- 3pm Girls Varsity
- 3:30pm Boys Varsity
- around 4pm Munchkin Fun Run
- 4pm Girls/Boys JV
- 4:30pm Girls/Boys MS

Soccer vs Dakota Valley begins at 3:30pm

- 3:30pm Boys Varsity
- around 5:00pm Girls Varsity

Tuesday Sept. 30

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Chicken breast, baby bakers.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

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

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

Trump's Attacks on First Amendment Would Revive Crime of Seditious Libel

In a week that witnessed President Donald Trump's unrelenting, frontal assault on the First Amendment freedoms of speech, press and expression, it became crystal clear, in his own words, that what he wants to do is to suppress speech that is critical of him. On Friday, September 19, Trump told reporters in the Oval Office that negative coverage about him is "really illegal." He seems to mean it. On the same day, a federal judge dismissed as "improper and impermissible," and a violation of the rules of federal procedure, his defamation suit against the New York Times, for articles questioning his success as president.

On September 16, Trump accused the reporter, Jonathan Karl and his employer, ABC News, of engaging in hate speech against him, and warned Karl that his Attorney General, Pam Bondi, might "go after you." On September 20, Trump demanded that Bondi prosecute his political opponents, and ordered her not to wait, but to do it, "NOW!!!" All this occurred in the same week that Trump cheered the suspension of the ABC late-night talk show host, Jimmy Kimmel, taken down by the chair of the Federal Communications Commission, Brendan Carr, who said, "we can do this the easy way or the hard way." Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Tx) and Rand Paul (R-Ky), and a host of conservatives who admire the First Amendment, criticized Carr on grounds that he has no business pressuring a network to remove someone for saying something he doesn't like. Cruz said Carr's actions are "dangerous as Hell" and straight out of a Mafia movie. When ABC reinstated "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," Trump condemned the network and suggested he might bring another defamation suit.

Trump's threats against the media and, more broadly, those who dare to criticize him, reflect an authoritarian's disdain for freedom of expression and, historically, harken back to the old English law of seditious libel which, among other things, made punishable speech that might instill in the people contempt of their government or lower their esteem for their rulers. America's founders rejected seditious libel when they drafted the First Amendment guarantees of speech and press freedoms. Trump's warnings exhibit ignorance of the foundations of a free society and put him at odds—once again—with the framers of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The bold libertarianism behind the founders' commitment to freedom of expression was based on the novel and democratic theory that free government depends for its existence on freedom of discourse. The scope of the First Amendment was determined by the character of the government and its relationship to the people. Since the American government is the servant of the people, exists by their consent and for their benefit, and is constitutionally limited, responsible to the people and elected by the people, the president may not tell Americans: You shall not think this or that, or if you do it is at your peril. An authoritarian, however, would assert such authority.

At bottom, a government of, by, and for the people, as Abraham Lincoln described our system, depends on popular elections. The libertarians who justified freedom of expression for individuals and opposition parties—dissidents—agreed that the widest possible scope of protection must be secured to maintain a free and informed electorate, one capable of making reasonable choices. Freedom of expression might be abused, but the people, if exposed to all opinions, would choose wisely when it came to candidates and policies.

The scheme of seditiousness can exist only in a relationship based on inferiority, as when people are subjects rather than sovereigns and their criticism represents contempt for their master. In America, where the people are sovereign and the source of governmental power, James Madison declared, "the

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case is altogether different." Coercion and abridgment of speech violate the fundamental principles of a free society. The crime of seditious libel, the libertarians believed, could not be reconciled with the genius of a Constitution that guarantees freedom of expression. Indeed, one of the major tenets of this new libertarianism, radical because it was an exercise in self-defense against a government that would censor speech, was that a free government, in contrast to Trump's view, cannot be criminally attacked by the opinions of its citizens. The libertarians' teaching, that the government must be bitted and bridled by the Bill of Rights, is their great legacy.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.

West Central Edges Groton in Soccer Action

The Groton Area boys and girls soccer teams traveled to West Central on Saturday, with both squads falling in hard-fought 1-0 contests.

In the girls' division, West Central (7-3-2) earned the win to solidify its spot at No. 3 in the state power ratings. Groton Area (6-4-0) remains close behind at No. 4. The Tigers will close out the regular season with two matches: hosting Dakota Valley (8-2-1) on Monday at 5 p.m., followed by a road trip to Watertown on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.

On the boys' side, Groton Area also dropped an earlier match in the week to James Valley Christian, 3-0. JVC sits atop the state power ratings at 10-1, while Groton (6-5-2) remains No. 4 and West Central (4-7-1) follows at No. 5. The Tigers have one final tune-up before the postseason, hosting Dakota Valley (0-8-1) on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

The first round of the state soccer playoffs is scheduled for Oct. 7.

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Northern State runs past the University of Mary in NSIC North opener

Bismarck, N.D. – The Northern State University football team put together a commanding 39-point victory over the University of Mary on Saturday in their third NSIC win of the season. The Wolves led the contest with 413 rushing and 552 yards of total offense. They scored seven touchdowns and held the Mary offense to just four yards rushing in the win.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 53, MARY 14

Records: NSU 3-1 (3-1 NSIC), MARY 2-3 (1-3 NSIC)

Attendance: 1876

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern scored in each of the four quarters, notching seven points in each of the book ends, as well as 25 in the second and 14 in the third

Trey Birdsong returned to the Wolves line-up with a bang scoring the first six points for the Wolves on a 40-yard reception from Brock Bagozzi; Jeremy Caruso added the PAT putting the Wolves up 7-0

It was a big second quarter for the Wolves with three touchdowns and a field goal, including a defensive score by Lorenzo Jones Jr.

Wyatt Block opened the quarter with his first touchdown of the afternoon, a 3-yard rushing scoring, followed by a Caruso PAT

Bagozzi added a second passing touchdown at 11:08, connecting with Carter Campbell for a 5-yard score

The Wolves opted to go for the 2-point conversion and the Wolves holder Cade Kaiser rushed to the goal line, giving NSU a 22-0 lead

The Marauders got within scoring range on the following drive and set-up for a 37-yard field goal attempt

Jones Jr. blocked the field goal by Jack Henninger and ran it back 73-yards for his first defensive touchdown as a Wolf

UMary responded on the following drive, breaking through for their first touchdown of the day

Northern closed out the half with a 25-yard field goal by Caruso with just 25-seconds remaining

Block opened the second half for the Wolves in school record fashion, notching his second touchdown of the day on a 96-yard rushing score on NSU's opening drive that lasted 14-seconds

After two passing scores, Bagozzi decided it was his turn to enter the endzone, rushing 11-yards for his third touchdown of the season and a 46-7 lead for NSU

The Marauders closed out the third frame with their final touchdown of the contest, cutting into the NSU lead

The Wolves were not done; Mason Stubbe rushed for the first touchdown of his career at 21-yard run at 14:01 in the fourth

The Northern offense notched 28 first downs, 413 yards rushing, 139 yards passing, and 552 yards of total offense; completing 15-of-25 passing attempts with conversion rates of 64.3% on third down and 100.0% on fourth down

The defense held the Marauders 2-of-9 on third down and 0-of-2 on fourth down, notching 3.0 sacks, and two interceptions

In addition, Mary was held scoreless the two times they entered the red zone, while Northern went 4-for-4 when they entered the red zone

In the kicking game, NSU averaged 61.1 yards per kickoff and 37.0 yards per punt to lead the contest

Bagozzi, Daniel Britt, and Maxamillion Thomson each saw time under center in the win, with Bagozzi leading the group completing 11-of-18 attempts with 121 yards and two touchdowns

Block recorded a single game career high of 163 yards rushing with a pair of touchdowns, averaging 12.5 yards per carry

Stubbe followed with a career-high 82 yards and a touchdown in his second career appearance

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Birdsong led the receivers with 40 yards as 12 Wolves recorded a reception in the win
Jake Adams led the team four the fourth straight contest with seven tackles, including a 0.5 tackle for a loss, followed by Elijah Jopp and Cooper Logan with five tackles each
Jopp and Kyle Thomas recorded their first interceptions of the year, with Thomas notching eight return yards
Gabe Gutierrez added to his season sack total with 1.5 for a total loss of 14 yards, while Logan, Max Van Landingham, and Javonnee Szymanski combined for the other 1.5 sacks in the game
Caruso scored nine points for the Wolves and tallied 486 kickoff yards, while Jackson Isakson added 64 kickoff yards and 111-yards punting with a 45-yard long

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Brock Bagozzi: 11-of-18, 121 yards passing, 2 touchdowns, 41 yards rushing, 1 touchdown
Wyatt Block: 163 yards rushing, 2 touchdowns, 96-yard long (school record)
Mason Stubbe: 82 yards rushing, 1 touchdown
Elijah Jopp: 5 tackles, 1 interception
Lorenzo Jones Jr.: 3 tackles, 2 break-ups, 1 blocked field goal, 73-yard touchdown return
Jeremy Caruso: 6-for-6 PAT, 25-yard field goal, 60.8 yards per kickoff

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

Block broke the single game school record with his 96-yard rushing touchdown; the previous record of 83 yards was set by Johnny Bentley against Mayville State in 2005
The win is Mike Schmidt's first in Bismarck as the head coach of the Wolves
Northern is now 3-1 in the NSIC and 1-0 in the NSIC North Division

UP NEXT

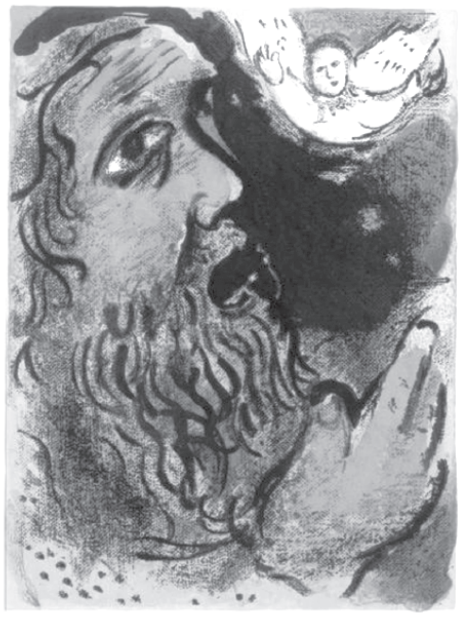
Northern continued their 2-game road trip next Saturday at Bemidji State. Kickoff is set for 4 p.m. on October 4.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



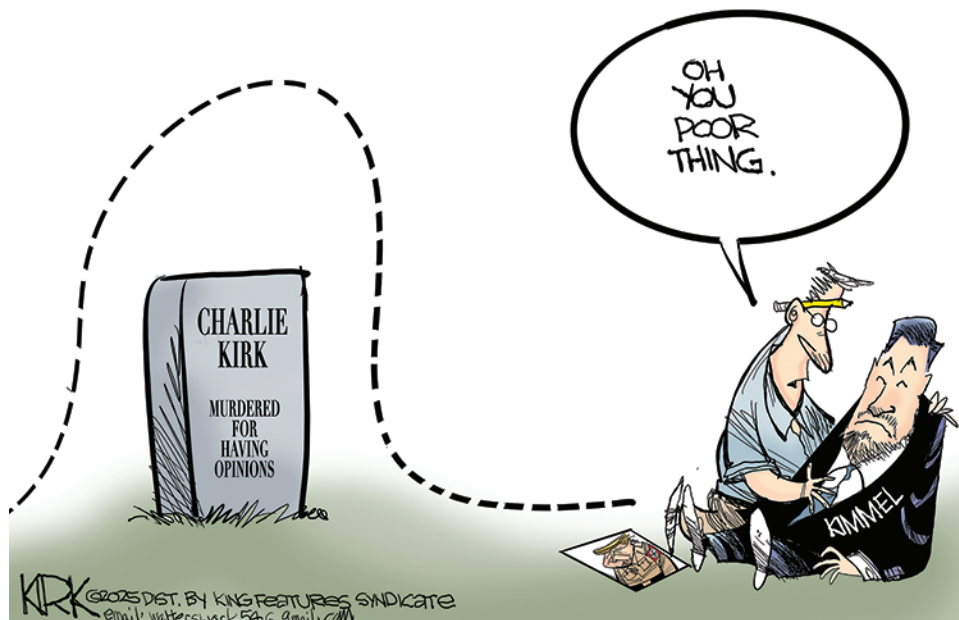
"Job Praying" by Marc Chagall (1960)

...You will take pleasure in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. You will pray to Him, and He will hear you; and you will pay your vows. You will also decide something, and it will be established for you; and light will shine on your ways.

❧ JOB 22:26-28 ❧

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SUDDENLY EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT
THE FIRST AMENDMENT



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which book could be summarized, "God will hold us accountable for all our actions"? *Daniel, Hosea, Zephaniah, Haggai*

3. From Genesis 28, who had the vision of angels going up and down a ladder reaching into heaven? *Joseph, Ahab, Ehud, Jacob*

4. What does Paul say is the supreme gift of the Spirit to believers? *Faith, Love, Holiness, Eternity*

5. From Genesis 19, where did Lot encounter an angel? *Wilderness spring, City gate, New temple, Tent door*

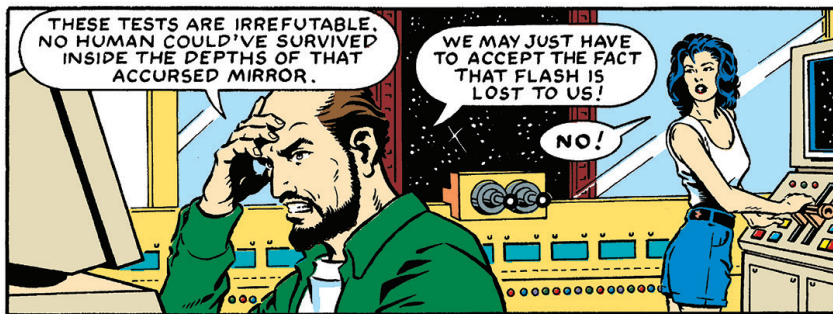
6. Where did Jesus turn water into wine? *Bethany, Nazareth, Cana, Gethsemane*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Zephaniah, 3) Jacob, 4) Love, 5) City gate, 6) Cana

More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

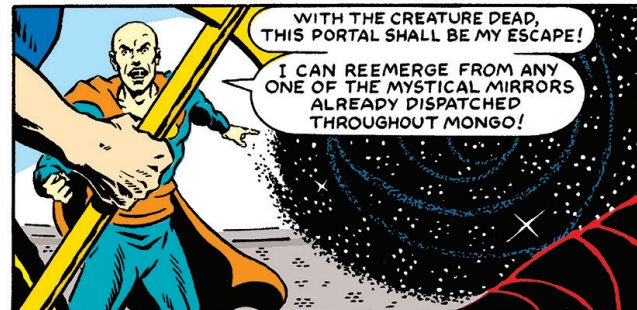
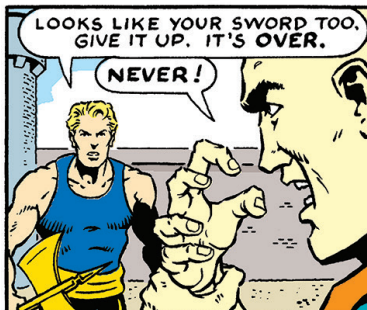
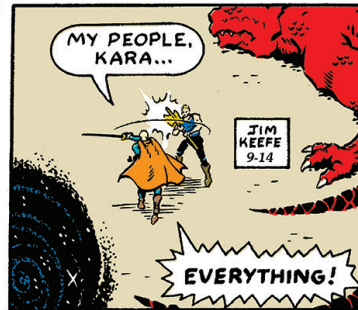
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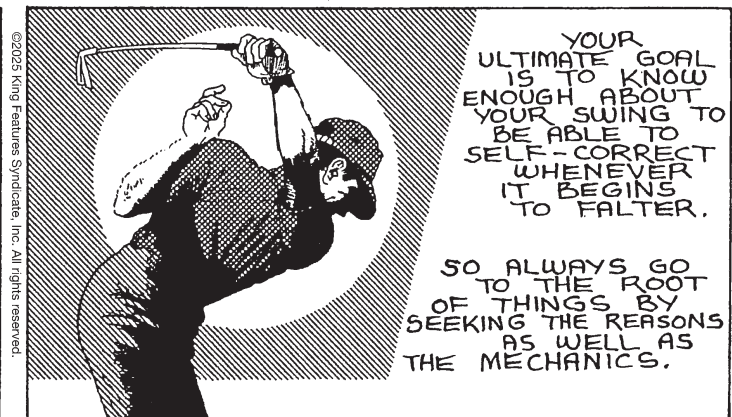
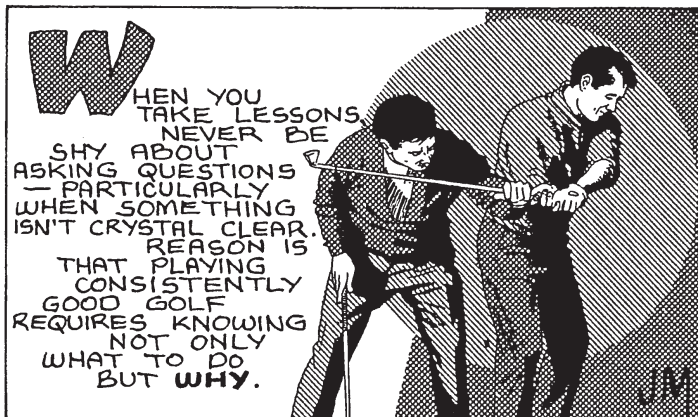


WITH HIS FOLLOWERS HAVING FLED AND THE PORTAL TO THE DARK VOID SLOWLY DIMINISHING, GARAKAHN ENGAGES FLASH IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH!

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Eligard Injections Cause Man To Develop Breast Tissue

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been treated for prostate cancer and stopped my semiannual Eligard injections three years ago. I'm 75 years old and about 5 feet, 9 inches tall. Before treatment, I weighed 227 pounds; I currently weigh 209 pounds. My testosterone level is 49.6 ng/dL. My breasts have become somewhat feminine.

My question is: Will they regain their normal appearance? I'm losing weight slowly, and I'm trying to build muscle with weights. -- Anon.

ANSWER: Gynecomastia is the growth of male breast tissue, specifically when not due to breast cancer. It can happen during puberty in healthy males, but it is a common side effect of androgen deprivation therapy for

prostate cancer. Up to 75% of men treated with antiandrogen therapy like leuprolide (Lupron or Eligard) will develop breast tissue.

It isn't likely that the breast tissue will go away on its own. For men who want treatment due to the appearance or tenderness of the breast tissue, there are radiation, medication and surgical treatments available. Radiation therapy is the most effective for men who develop breast tissue with androgen-depletion treatment.

Tamoxifen is the usual medical treatment, and you may ask the physician treating your prostate cancer about these choices. Men who can't take or choose not to take either of these treatments can be referred for surgical treatment, which can be liposuction or a mastectomy.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 74-year-old active male currently taking a daily 81-mg aspirin due to a periodic heart arrhythmia. I have elective sinus surgery scheduled, requiring that I be under a general anesthetic for 90 minutes and that I be off aspirin for the two weeks preceding the procedure.

I'm beginning to have second thoughts about the surgery as I wonder if I'm risking a stroke. Would you please share your thoughts on this? Thank you. -- R.B.

ANSWER: Aspirin is used in some people with atrial fibrillation (the likely heart arrhythmia you would be put on aspirin for) when they are at a low risk for a stroke.

There is a score called the CHA2DS2-VASc that is used to estimate risk. People at a higher risk are recommended anticoagulants such as apixaban (Eliquis). Since you are 74, you get at least one point for your age, and unless you have another risk factor that I don't know about, you have an estimated risk of stroke without treatment of approximately 0.6% per year.

While it is true that being off aspirin for a period of time around a surgery increases your stroke risk, your risk is already so low that the absolute risk of being off aspirin for two weeks is quite small. You should always consider the risks of any surgery against the benefits, but the risk of stroke in your case is small compared to the risks anyone has with sinus surgery (such as bleeding or an infection).

I am a little surprised about it being two weeks; normally when a person comes off aspirin before surgery, it's for five to seven days. Also, not all surgeons require aspirin to be stopped before sinus surgery.

Since your reason to be on aspirin is to prevent a stroke due to your arrhythmia, and this risk appears to be very small, it may be that the surgeon determined the risk of stopping aspirin was so small. So, it wouldn't be worth the possible increased risk of bleeding from the sinus surgery if you're still taking aspirin.

If you haven't talked to your regular doctor or cardiologist about this, I recommend doing so since I don't have your full medical history.

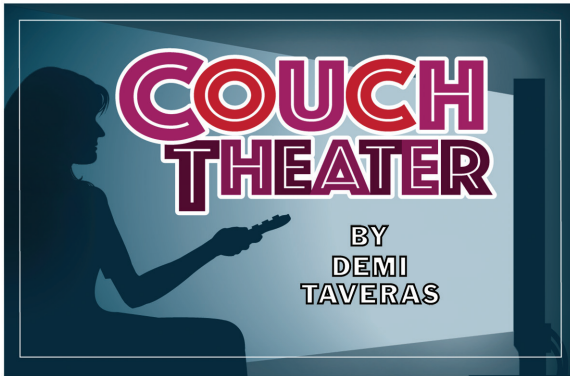
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"Caught Stealing" (R) -- The way Austin Butler ("Eddington") continues building on his career with standout leading roles is quickly propelling him into one of the top movie stars of our decade.

Although his latest film has an incredible supporting cast (Zoe Kravitz, Regina King, Liev Schreiber and more!), Butler's performance as baseball-star-turned-bartender Hank Thompson is pivotal in this vibrant crime thriller. Still carrying trauma from a car crash that injured him and killed his friend, Hank is a shell of who he once was as he battles an alcohol addiction and emotional unavailability. When his British punk neighbor, Russ (Matt Smith), abruptly leaves for London, he leaves Hank his cat to care for. Having to shuffle in between their apartments for the cat, Hank is then greeted by a pair of Russian mobsters who are looking for Russ and won't take "no" for an answer. The aftermath that ensues is chaos upon chaos that not a single viewer could predict. You can rent the film when it releases digitally on Sept. 30! (Amazon Prime Video)



From left, Liev Schreiber, Austin Butler and Vincent D'Onofrio star in "Caught Stealing." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Monster: The Ed Gein Story" (TV-MA) -- Ryan Murphy's "Monster" anthology series generated a large viewership (as Murphy's series always do) with its seasons about serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer and the murder case involving the Menendez brothers. His next season is gearing up for its premiere on Oct. 3, with eight episodes detailing the life of suspected serial killer Ed Gein. Charlie Hunnam ("Sons of Anarchy") portrays the killer who was nicknamed "The Butcher" of Plainfield, Wisconsin, in the 1950s. Laurie Metcalf ("Lady Bird") plays his mother, Augusta, who had a haunting effect on her son, while Tom Hollander ("The White Lotus") transforms into film director Alfred Hitchcock ("Psycho"). Somewhat surprising is the inclusion of pop singer Addison Rae in the cast; she landed her first TV role as teenager Evelyn Hartley. (Netflix)

"Weapons" (R) -- This comedy-horror film, led by Josh Brolin ("Brothers") and horror aficionado Julia Garner ("Wolf Man"), pulled in \$264 million worldwide after a \$38 million cost, making it quite the success financially. It also received rave reviews from horror fans and film critics, so it might be the perfect watch for you if you're looking for something more terrifying than the other suggestions! The film follows a third-grade class of 17 children who go missing in a very eerie way. All the children escaped from their houses at exactly 2:17 a.m. and ran to an unknown destination, where they're nowhere to be found. The teacher of the third-grade class, Justine (Garner), becomes the primary suspect behind their disappearances. But when no evidence points to her, and the police prove to be lackluster, one of the parents, Archer (Brolin), starts conducting his own investigation. The story is told in a nonlinear way, leaving viewers to wonder if Justine and Archer will put the pieces together quickly enough to find and save the missing kids. Rent it now. (Fandango at Home)

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1. Which artist wrote and released "Together Again"?
2. Who released "We Are the Champions"?
3. Alan O'Day is best known for which song?
4. Which Beatle wrote and released "All Those Years Ago"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I want you to tell me why you walked out on me, I'm so lonesome every day."

Answers

1. Singer-songwriter Buck Owens, in 1964. The song was later covered by several others, including Ray Charles, Emmylou Harris and Vince Gill.

2. Queen, in 1977, as the A-side to "We Will Rock You." The song, written by Freddie Mercury, is often played at sports arenas to celebrate home team wins.

3. "Undercover Angel," in 1977. But O'Day is mostly known for writing hits for other artists. Among many others, he penned "Angie Baby" for Helen Reddy.

4. George Harrison, in 1981. The lyrics were complete, but Harrison rewrote it as a tribute to John Lennon after Lennon was murdered in 1980.

5. "Walk Right Back," by The Everly Brothers, in 1961. The song was recorded before it was finished being written. Anxious to get it released, they sang the first verse twice.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



"Forget about last week's upset. ...
Concentrate on this week's upset!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



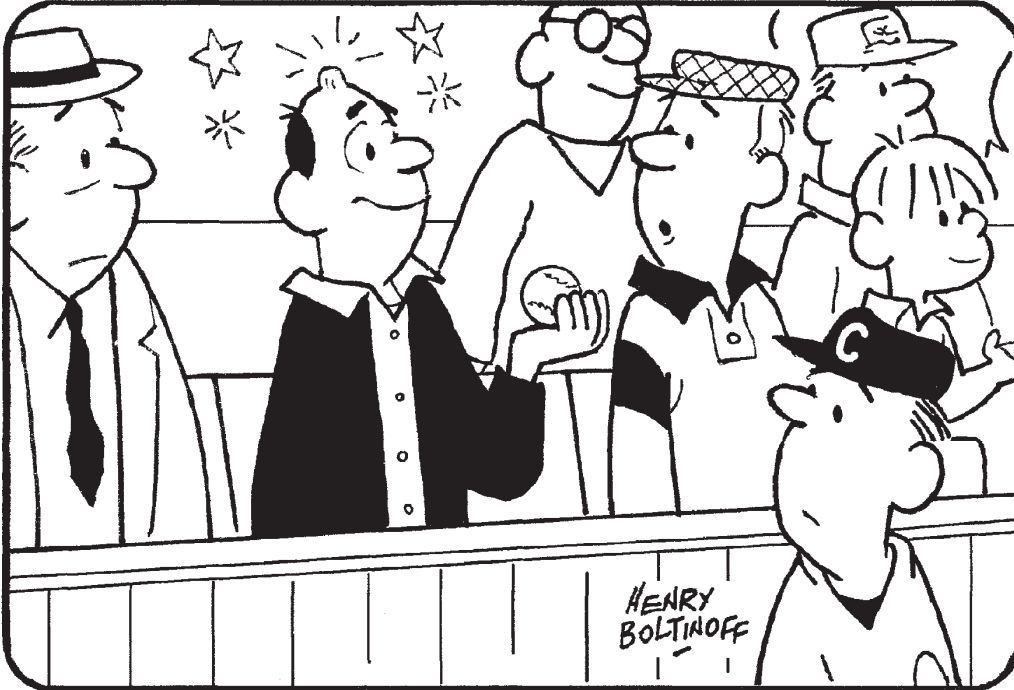
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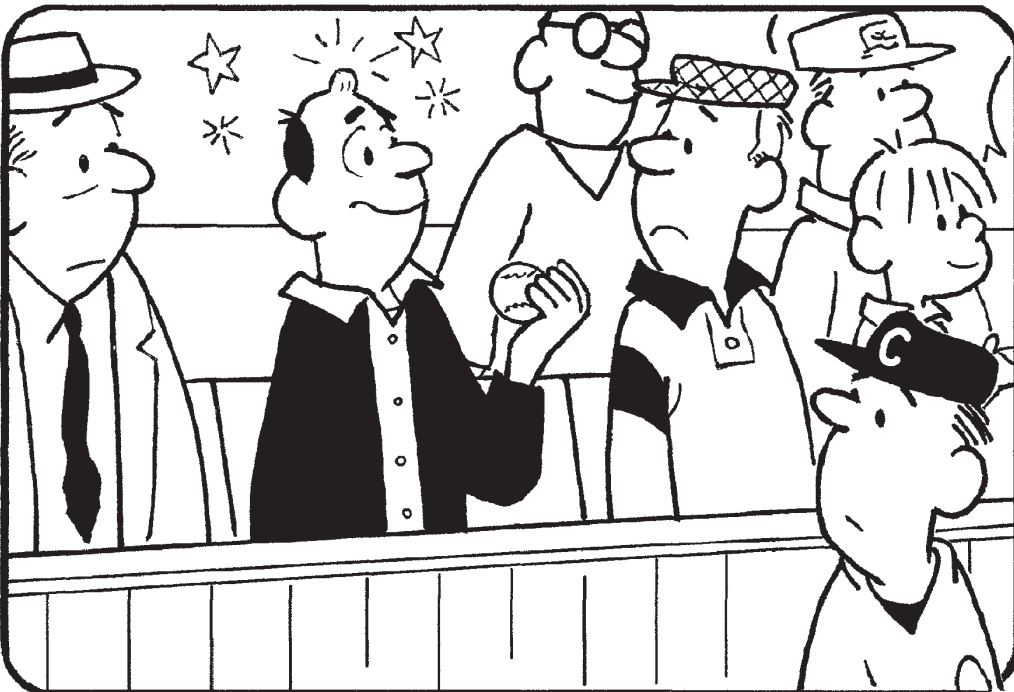
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Bump on head is moved. 2. Mouth is different.
3. Tie is longer. 4. Hand is moved. 5. Player is moved. 6. Cap is
larger.

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* "We are moving out of our apartment, as we finally found a home to purchase. With all the new projects, we're going to need our deposit back, so we want to leave the old place in tip-top shape. Here's a trick we learned: Tiny nail holes in drywall are instantly patched by rubbing a bar of soap across the surface." -- S.G. in Arkansas

* Now is the time to have your heating systems checked over if you have not done so already. Before you start a fire in your fireplace, make sure you have your fireplace checked for cracks in the mortar joints. Very small cracks can start a fire in your home, as the flames can be sucked through the hole. While you are at it, have any creosote buildup cleaned out. Be safe AND warm this season!

* "Before I pluck my eyebrows, I rub on a bit of my granddaughter's teething gel. She's done teething and doesn't need it anymore, but it works well for me. Be very careful to apply, let dry and wash your hands before touching your eye any further!" -- M.L. in California

* "Most cake recipes ask you to grease and dust the cake pan for easier removal of the cake. To avoid unsightly flour marks on the outside of a cake, just dust the pan with a bit of your cake mix instead of using flour." -- J.P. in Pennsylvania

* "Wear oven mitts to protect your hands when clipping roses or other thorny plants." -- O.L. in Louisiana

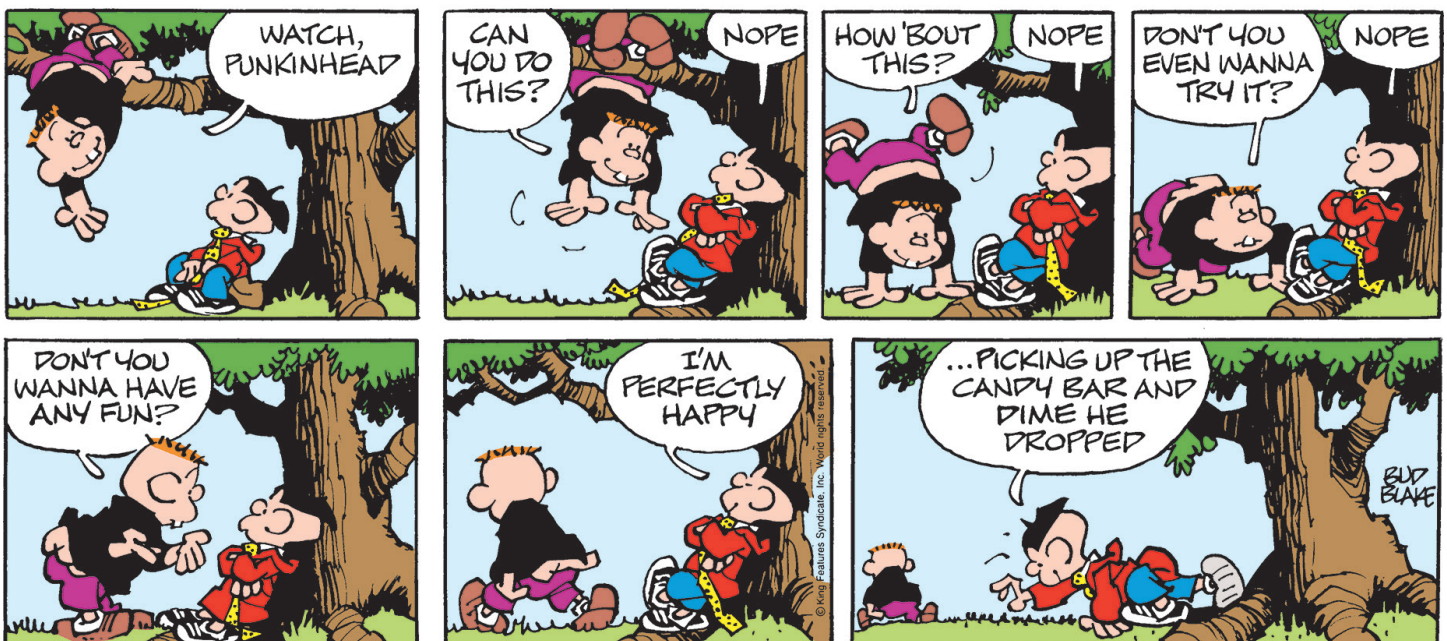
* Got dogs? Here's a great recipe to get the smell of skunk out: Mix 1 quart hydrogen peroxide (3%), 1/4 cup baking soda and 1 teaspoon liquid soap. Mix well and bathe pet in this solution, rubbing it into coat and keeping it away from your dog's eyes. Cannot be mixed ahead, so keep the ingredients on hand if you have curious pups and skunks in the area.

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

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TIGER

by **BUD BLAKE**



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Frozen" character
5 Droop
8 Aspiring atty.'s exam
12 Former Italian money
13 — Beta Kappa
14 Off-roaders, for short
15 Grand tale
16 Trail the pack
17 Clench
18 Garden pavilion
20 "Reckon so"
22 Asian holiday
23 Busy insect
24 Dick Tracy's love

- 27 Russian horsemen
32 "Breaking Bad" network
33 Ad —
34 Smack
35 Seller
38 Ballyhoo
39 Put on TV
40 Ecol. watchdog

- 42 Oscar contenders
45 Roast hosts
49 Salt formula
50 PC key
52 Hardy cabbage
53 Fed. workplace monitor

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15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22					23				
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- 54 Fan's cry
55 Wicked
56 Unfavorable votes
57 Journalist Nellie
58 Coral formation

DOWN

- 1 Couturier Cassini
2 "Break My Heart" singer
3 Calif. neighbor
4 Diamond sides
5 Mottled

- 6 "Caught ya!"
7 Leslie Caron role
8 California's — Beach
9 Spandex-like
10 Rara —
11 Recipe amts.
19 Exist
21 Petrol
24 Light touch
25 Big bird of Australia
26 Sore, as a throat
28 Odometer start
29 Like some owls
30 Half a ton

- 31 Fr. holy woman
36 Orchestral strings
37 Goof up
38 Website invader
41 Downing Street VIP
42 Shortly
43 Juanita's home
44 Belgrade resident
46 Roof edge
47 Writer Wiesel
48 Ego
51 Pitcher Maglie

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

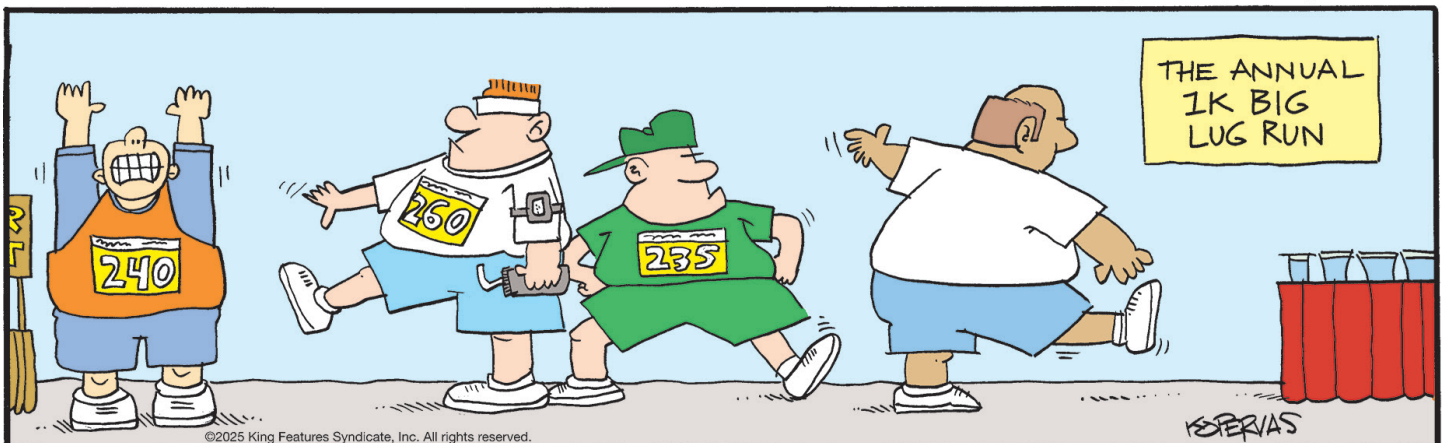
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Olive



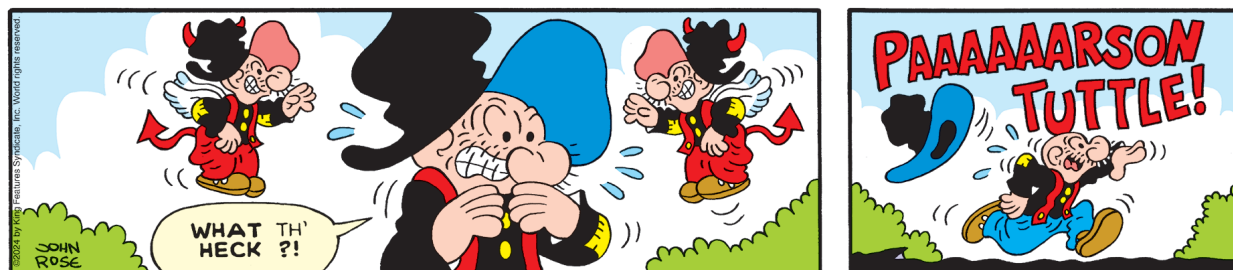
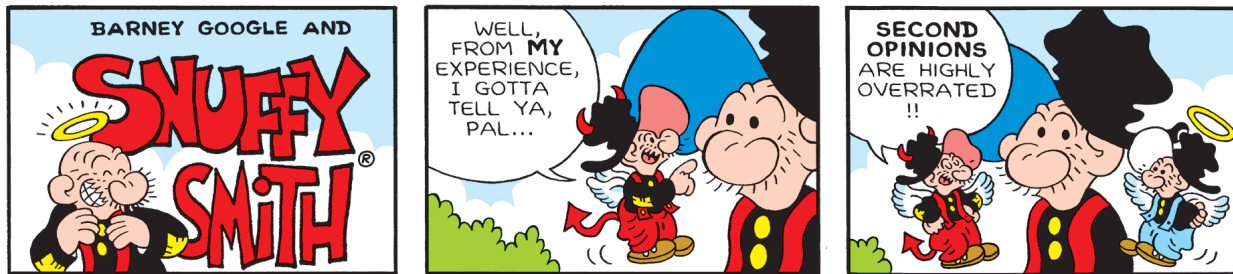
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



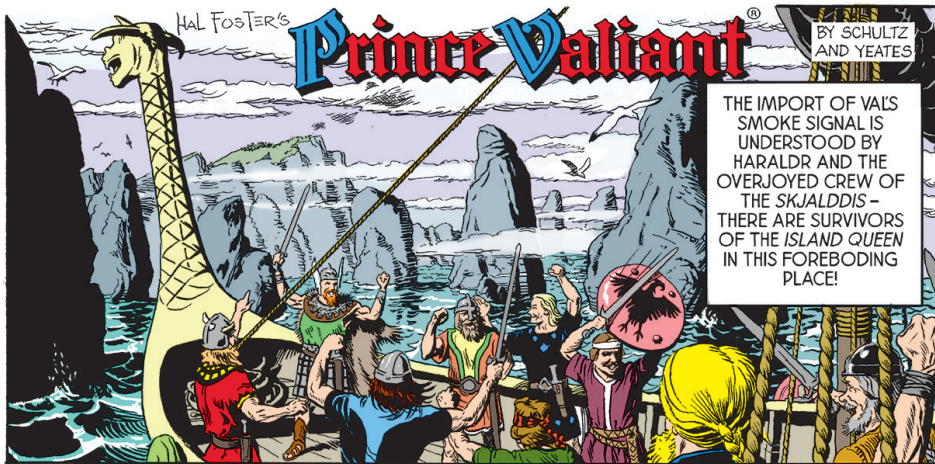
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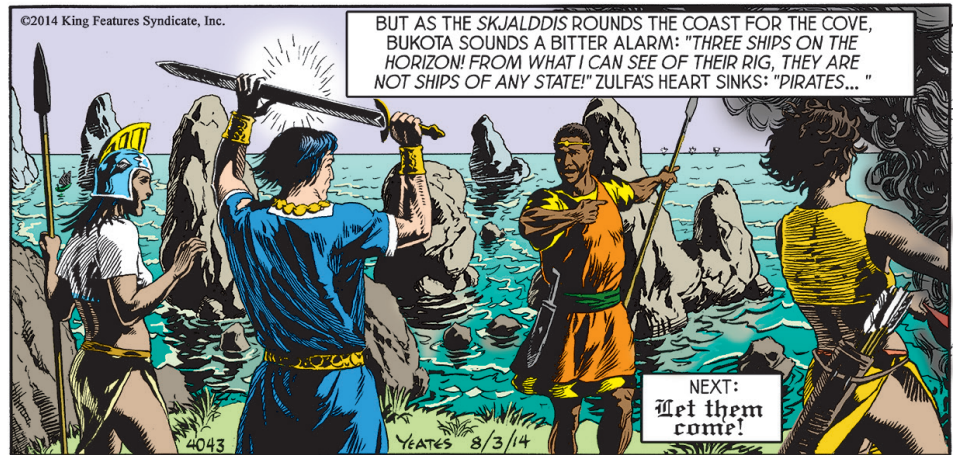
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WITH THE ANGLE OF THE SUN GOOD, HARALDR ACKNOWLEDGES VAL'S SIGNAL WITH A FLASHING BIT OF POLISHED METAL. SO BEGINS A CODED DIALOGUE KNOWN TO THESE NORTHERN SEAFARERS, WITH ZULFA FEEDING VAL NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION.

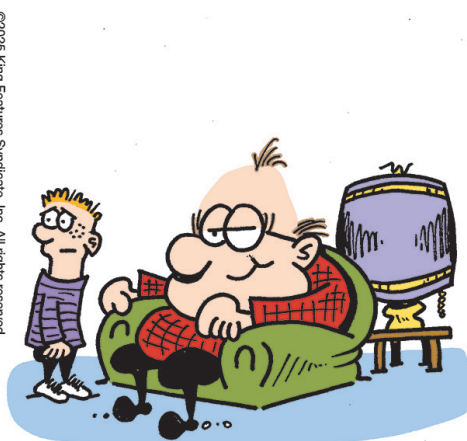


"THERE IS A SHALLOW COVE ON THE WESTERN SHORE, WHERE A CLEVER SEAMAN MIGHT MAKE LAND, TIMED BETWEEN THE TREACHEROUS TIDES," SHE EXPLAINS. DIRECTIONS ARE SIGNALLED TO HARALDR AND HIS SHIP SPRINGS TO LIFE.



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Yes, you can turn off the news

Several months ago I took a "short" break from watching the daily news -- except that break wasn't so short after all when I extended it to over a month.

Then, wanting to continue with the peace that came from not being hooked into the daily news cycles and media hysteria, I set my phone to send me alerts with short blurbs about important news. I could quickly scan the few lines of the alert, catch up and be done with it. That's worked well these past months.

Except it doesn't keep people from calling me to ask if I've seen a certain piece of news or telling me to quickly turn on the television. The bigger the news, the more people who call.

I've advised more than one upset person to turn the television off and not turn it on again for an hour or two. After a serious event, news stations will continue to hash over the same initial information, even if they don't know anything new. Nothing good can come from hearing the same bad news over and over.

There's more to it than just keeping up with what's going on. If you're having trouble sleeping, if you're stressed all the time, if you're afraid or angry -- all these things can be a result of watching too much of the news.

If you have high blood pressure and a home monitor, keep track of it as a way to spot whether any spikes in your BP coincide with events you've watched on the news.

If you have a cellphone, there are several free news apps you can use that will alert you to events.

And, in case no one has ever told you, it really is OK to just turn off the news.

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1. Pitcher Larry Sherry, 1959 World Series MVP, and his brother, catcher Norm Sherry, played together on what Major League Baseball team from 1959-62?

2. Woody Strode, who played for the NFL's Los Angeles Rams (1946) and the CFL's Calgary Stampeders (1948-49), received a Golden Globe Award nomination for his acting role in what 1960 gladiator movie?

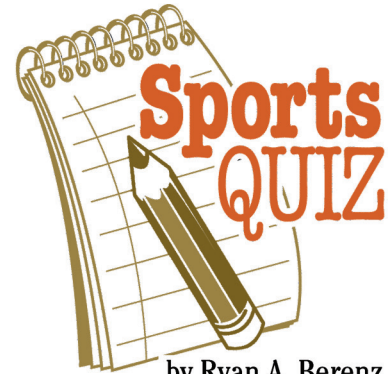
3. What two-sport pro athlete played with the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and San Francisco Warriors (1964-65), and Major League Baseball's Chicago White Sox (1967) and Minnesota Twins (1969-70)?

4. Julie Krone became the first female to win a Triple Crown race when she jockeyed what horse to victory at the 1993 Belmont Stakes?

5. Name the Ukrainian boxer who became the first undisputed world heavyweight champion in 24 years when he beat Tyson Fury in May 2024.

6. What is the nickname of the University of Delaware's athletic teams?

7. What multinational sports entertainment franchise was founded in 2000 by twin brothers Steve and Dave Jolliffe?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. The Los Angeles Dodgers.

2. ?Spartacus.?

3. Cotton Nash.

4. Colonial Affair.

5. Oleksandr Usyk.

6. The Fightin' Blue Hens.

7. Topgolf.

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



A talking cat?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Whenever I'm having a conversation with my friends or talking to my mom, our cat "Jasper" stands right in the middle of our group and meows. If we stop talking, he stops meowing. What's going on? Is my cat trying to talk? -- Victoria L., Canton, Massachusetts

DEAR VICTORIA: Sort of! Although it's probably because Jasper sees a bunch of humans gathered together, all of whom have thumbs and can therefore open a bag of treats for him.

Cats vocalize with humans more than they do with other cats. Much more. Researchers (and owners) have figured out that they meow at us a lot because it

prompts us to give them food, treats and snuggles -- even though we have a harder time understanding cats' meows than other animal noises. They're very perceptive, these housecats, with not much to distract them from observing us all the time (especially since so many of us work from home these days).

They've figured out our daily schedule better than we have. I have a cat who hops on my lap and starts head-butting my smartphone exactly at bedtime. He gets his little snack, and I get eight proper hours of sleep. And if I get home late? Oh, the silent treatment I receive. It's the complete opposite of meowing, and just as manipulative.

Like you, I'd like to think that Jasper is just trying to get in on the excited conversation going on all around him. That could be the case. It could also be Jasper's realization that big gatherings of humans usually involve food ... and if he stays underfoot, some of that deliciousness will come his way.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* In a remote area of Colombia called Los Pinos, some students have to get to school on a zipline up to 800 meters long.

* A teaspoon of a neutron star would weigh over a trillion tons.

* Chock Full o' Nuts coffee does not contain nuts. It's named for a chain of nut stores that the founder converted into coffee shops.

* During the Middle Iron Age, spears were placed into the graves of some young men. The reason isn't clear, but some

think it may have been a military send-off similar to the modern 21-gun salute.

* While worms make up the majority of their diet, robins won't mind if you leave out a dessert tray. In fact, they're partial to pastry dough, fruit cake and coconut cake.

* In 1998, a Georgia student was suspended for wearing a Pepsi shirt to "Coke in Education Day."

* American cheese was invented in Switzerland in 1911 by Waltz Gerber and Fritz Stettler to lengthen the shelf life before being shipped overseas.

* According to Guinness World Records, Veronica Seider's eyesight was so keen that she could recognize people from more than a mile away.

* In 2010, a man became stranded for days near Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan. With no way to call for help, he cut down four wooden power poles with an ax, causing an outage to the nearby community, and SaskPower sent a helicopter crew to investigate. They found the man and escorted him back to safety.

* When Joel Burger married Ashley King in 2015, Burger King paid for the ceremony.

* In India, escalators in Delhi metro stations feature "sari guards" to prevent women's long garments from getting trapped.

Thought for the Day: "It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop." -- Confucius
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All parts of the dandelion, including its flowers, roots and stems, are edible. Dandelion tea is full of nutrients such as vitamins A, C and K, folate, calcium and potassium. It is known to be beneficial for digestion and for detoxing the liver and bile systems, which can help clear acne and other skin problems. It also contains beta-carotene, which protects against cell damage, and polyphenols, which are anti-inflammatory, which help the heart. - Brenda Weaver

Source: health.clevelandclinic.org/dandelion

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by Freddy Groves

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee

The U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has been busy. In a recent week they passed 14 veterans bills, all designed to help veterans and their families.

Here are a few of the bills that passed out of the committee and are ready to go to the full House of Representatives.

The Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025 is intended to improve outreach to benefits by authorizing the VA to send digital messages to veterans instead of only paper mail for G.I. Bill updates. Not only does it save paper, but digital information arrives immediately.

The Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025 is intended to expand access to health care in rural areas. One crucial component will allow health care staff to prescribe controlled substances via telemedicine instead of requiring that a veteran appear in person for an appointment. The requirement was temporarily lifted during the pandemic; this bill seeks to make it permanent.

The Women Veterans CANCER Care Coordination Act requires the designation or hiring of a coordinator for each area. The care team, under the direction of the coordinator, is required to coordinate between the various clinicians and cancer care providers, including community care.

The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act allows veterans who are going for degrees in engineering, mathematics, technology, science or health care to receive nine additional months of benefits (up to \$30,000).

The Service Member Residence Protection Act protects a veteran's home from squatters during periods of military service when the veteran is away. Too many instances of squatters taking over empty homes have tied owners' hands due to local laws being ineffective. A long process is often necessary, involving the courts and legal eviction, to remove squatters. This amendment to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act preempts those state laws.

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Wishing Well®

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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. TELEVISION: What was the name of the dog on "The Brady Bunch"?
2. U.S. CITIES: Which major U.S. city was called Yerba Buena until 1847?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Bryce Canyon National Park located?
4. HISTORY: Where did the Renaissance begin?
5. MOVIES: What is the nickname of the serial killer in "The Silence of the Lambs"?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the 20th president of the United States?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many amendments are in the United States' Bill of Rights?
8. ASTRONOMY: What type of galaxy is the Milky Way?
9. MUSIC: Which rock band sings the theme song to "The Big Bang Theory"?
10. LITERATURE: What is the last name of the family in "Little Women"?

Answers

1. Tiger.
2. San Francisco.
3. Utah.
4. Florence, Italy.
5. Buffalo Bill.
6. James A. Garfield.
7. The first 10 amendments (of 27 to date).
8. Spiral.
9. Barenaked Ladies.
10. March.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Rounding Up Results

It's tough rounding up 1,500 buffalo in the annual Buffalo Roundup, but it's a whole lot tougher rounding up a two-thirds vote in both chambers of the Legislature to support a new prison. Regardless, we got both done this week, and what a week it was!

South Dakotans pride ourselves on getting things done – no matter how difficult it may be to do so. More than 20,000 visitors turn out to watch the Buffalo Roundup, and they get to see the big final show, but they don't see the weeks of preparation that go into getting the herd ready for that big final push. And they don't see the weeks of work that come after as the wildlife specialists at Custer State Park work the herd.

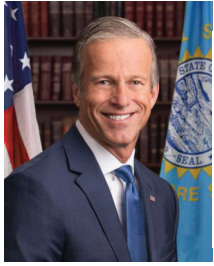
That spectacle is truly a sight to see, and if you never have, you must. The buffalo is as majestic an animal as there is, but they're tough. And they're mean. And they'll turn on you in half a heartbeat. I rode in the Roundup this year, and it was far from my first time, but it was my first time as Governor! Turns out, the buffalo don't care what your title is.

On the other hand, I was able to put my full Governor's Office to work to get the prison across the finish line. For months, this issue was our top focus. We worked with the prison task force to build a plan. And then we diligently addressed every question that remained. We built a good plan, and we achieved a good result. We got it done.

Now, the real work begins of actually building the largest public safety investment in South Dakota history, and it'll take some time. But the end result will be a good one. And in the meantime, we're getting to work on the Correctional Rehabilitation Task Force to focus on making sure that inmates have the opportunity to return to our communities as productive members of society.

There's always more work to do. Now, we get into the thick of preparing the State Budget and getting ready for the 2026 legislative session. Folks always have questions about what's next for South Dakota. Answering those questions becomes a lot easier when I remember my oath to support the Constitutions of the United States and of South Dakota – and when we keep our eyes on the prize: delivering results for the great people of South Dakota.

So long as we continue to do that, we'll be able to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free for generations to come.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Big News for Small Businesses

For many South Dakotans, running their own business is part of their American Dream. Small businesses are the backbone of a lot of South Dakota's communities, whether they are Main Street storefronts or family farms and ranches. I'm proud that this summer, Republicans delivered permanent tax relief for these hardworking Americans – relief that will help small businesses, farms, and ranches thrive and grow for many years to come.

This year, Republicans made permanent the pro-growth tax cuts that we enacted in 2017. Alongside lower tax rates for all Americans, this bill locks in the lower tax rates for small businesses that we enacted eight years ago. Small businesses, farms, and ranches that operate as pass-through entities will also continue to benefit from the small business tax deduction that our bill made permanent. And these pro-growth tax policies will help free up cash for small businesses, farms, and ranches, to invest in their operations and employees.

Then there are the specific investment incentives that are also now permanent fixtures of our tax code. Bonus depreciation for new equipment makes upgrading farm, factory, or office equipment more affordable. As just one example, with bonus depreciation, a farmer can deduct the full cost of a new combine or tractor the year he starts using it rather than over several years. We also made immediate expensing for research and development permanent, a provision that has already had a meaningful impact getting innovative technologies off the ground in South Dakota. And another provision allows full expensing for building new factories and factory improvements, which will help grow manufacturing across the country.

Our bill also delivered meaningful relief from the death tax for family-owned businesses, farms, and ranches – something that has long been a priority of mine. We permanently raised the exemption threshold for the death tax to \$15 million, which will save a lot of family businesses from this fundamentally flawed tax and the costly estate planning that comes with it. Thanks to this bill, Americans who have worked their entire lives building up their dream won't have to worry about that dream being sold off or dismantled to settle a tax bill when they pass it on to the next generation.

I spend a lot of time with small business owners, farmers, and ranchers in South Dakota. One thing I always hear is concern about the cost of doing business. With permanent tax relief, we're giving small businesses more breathing room, which helps them grow and create good jobs in South Dakota. We've permanently oriented the tax code to support family businesses, farms, and ranches – and that will have a big impact for years to come.

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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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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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Boy, Oh Boy, What A Day It Was

Throughout my years, I have had many crazy days. I guess it's crazy days that develop character. If so, I have a lot of character.

I never had a day quite like last week. Everything seemed to go wrong for me.

When we got up, our electricity was off. It had been off for many hours, and we had a few hours left before it would come back on.

The worst thing was that there was no coffee. How can you start a day without coffee?

In a few hours, the electricity was restored. We both took a deep sigh, thinking that was the worst of the day.

I looked at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "Well, my dear, at least the day can't get any worse."

Oh, how I wish I had not said that. Because the day was beginning.

I got into my office, started working and was ready to print, and wouldn't you know it, my printer wasn't working. I thought I ran out of ink, but when I replaced it with new ink, nothing changed. My printer had died on me. I never realized how much I needed a printer until I didn't have one. I had to order a new printer, which would take a couple of days to come.

I sat down in my easy chair to drink some coffee, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage needed to run to the grocery store to pick up some items. That left me alone in the house for over an hour.

She no sooner got out the door when the telephone rang. I'm not too quick at answering telephone calls because most of them are scams. However, this call came in four times, so I thought it might be someone I knew, and I answered it.

The person on the phone asked me my name, and I told him my name, and then he said that my daughter was in an automobile accident, had broken her nose, and was in the hospital. He told me I need to talk to her attorney to work out the details of her bail money.

He gave me the name and number of the attorney, so I called him.

Before I called him, I thought I should call my daughter to see if these things are true. I'm a skeptic, and I like to verify what I'm hearing to ensure it's the truth. She didn't answer her phone. That caused me to worry because she never does that.

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I called her attorney, and he explained the situation to me. It seems, and they have video proof, that my daughter ran a stoplight and hit an oncoming car. There was a lady in the car who was pregnant and had broken her collarbone. My daughter broke her nose.

I was pretty alarmed.

Then he explained to me that my daughter needed \$6000 bail money to get her out of jail today. It had to be taken care of within an hour, or they couldn't do it until the next day.

I told him I didn't have enough money for that, I only had at best \$2500. He said, "Well, I will check with the court to see if they'll go with that. Give me a call back as soon as you can."

I hung up the phone and then called my wife, but she didn't answer. I called my other daughter, and she replied, telling me that it was probably a scam.

I called the attorney back and told him I could only come up with the \$2500. He said if I met him within an hour at Winn-Dixie, he could take care of the process there. I wouldn't have to go down to the jail.

I hung up my phone, and who was calling? You're right. It was my daughter who was supposed to be in jail.

We had an interesting conversation. She had not been out of her house all day. In fact, the reason she didn't answer the phone was that it was being charged. Incidentally, she's in the firefighters department, which was a little curious to me that "her attorney" didn't know that.

I decided to call the Sheriff's Department to obtain information about this and find out where my daughter was being held in jail. After an interesting conversation with the Sheriff's Department, they informed me that this was a scam and was happening all the time in our county.

There was nothing I could do about it because no money had exchanged hands, so I was powerless.

I decided to call my daughter's attorney. He answered the phone. I said, "I just want to thank you for getting my daughter out of jail. I appreciate that so very much."

He answered and said, "I'm glad I could help."

Then, before hanging up, I said, "By the way, my daughter was never in jail." When I said that, he hung up very quickly.

As I hung up the phone I thought of a Bible verse. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

No matter how difficult my day, God's faithfulness is more than enough.

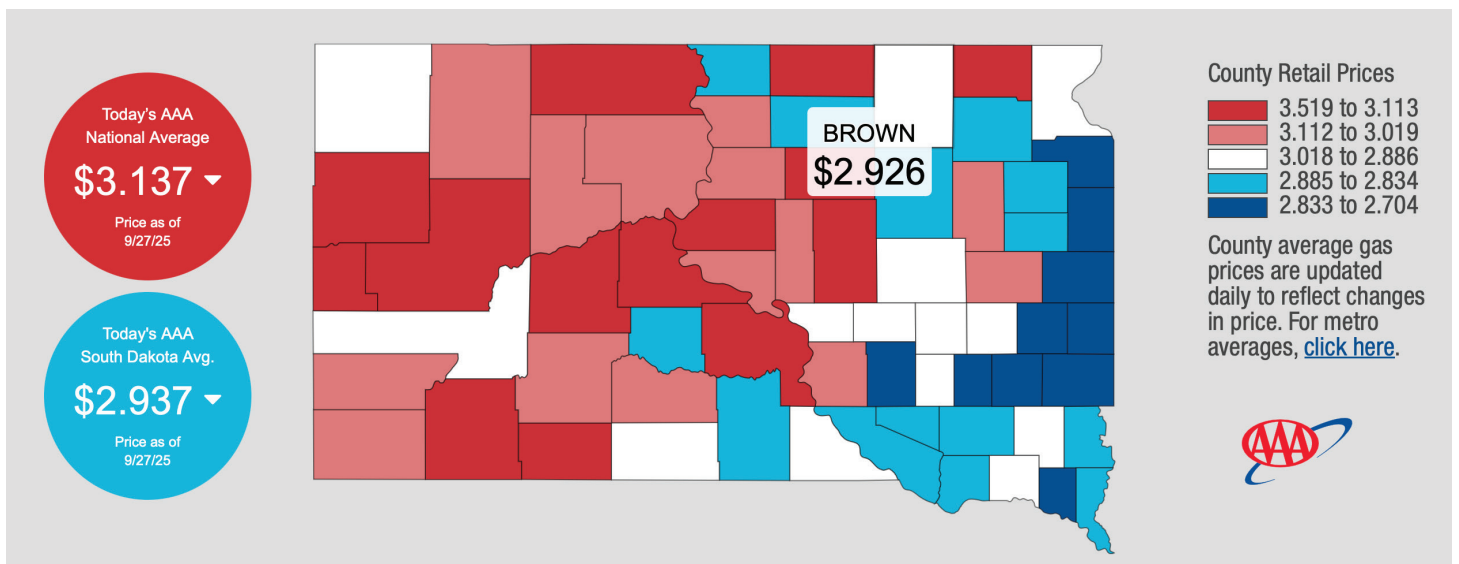
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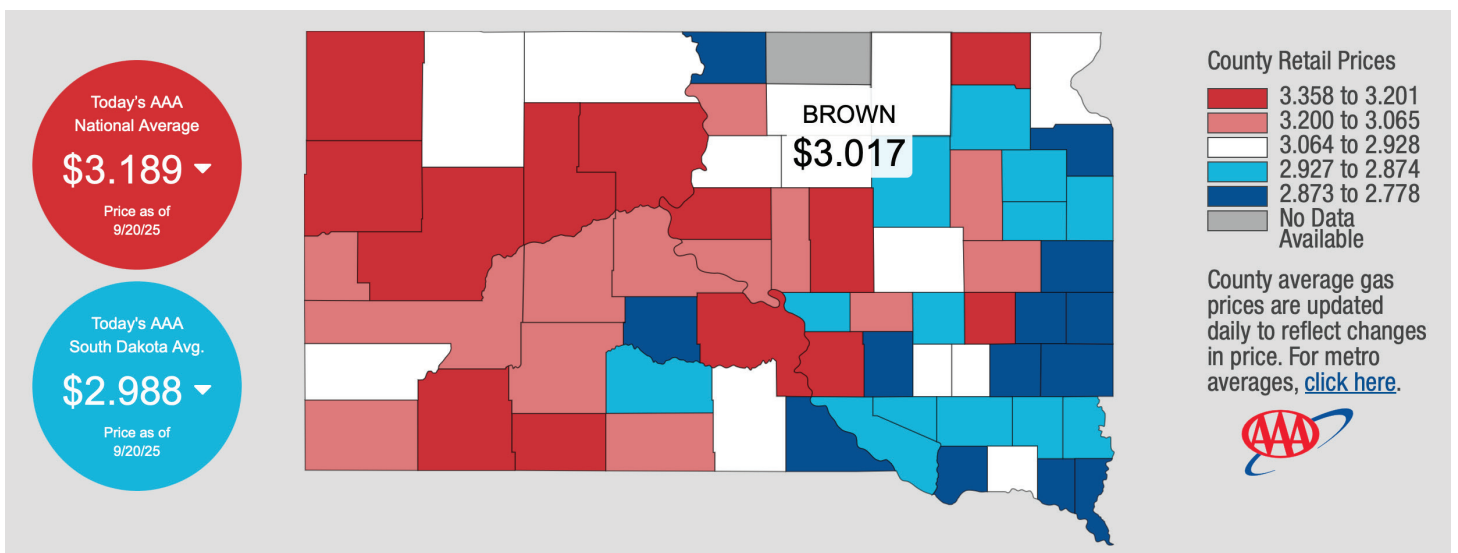
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.937	\$3.119	\$3.575	\$3.369
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.947	\$3.128	\$3.578	\$3.374
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.988	\$3.168	\$3.629	\$3.406
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.011	\$3.181	\$3.634	\$3.373
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.099	\$3.299	\$3.706	\$3.283

This Week



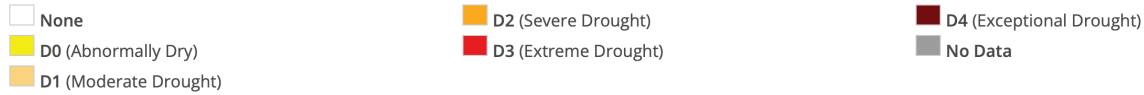
Last Week



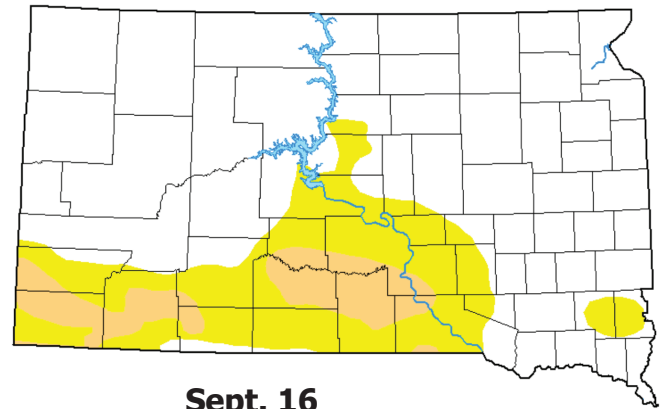
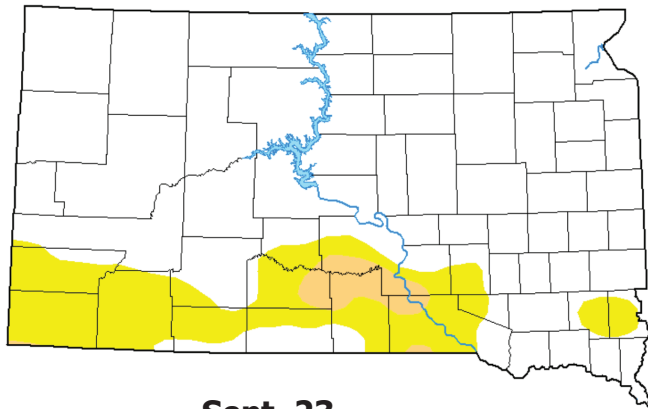
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Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



Most of the region is free of drought or received drought-easing precipitation, including some high-elevation snow in the central Rockies. Although rain slowed fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, moisture should benefit rangeland, pastures, and fall-sown crops.

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EARTHTALK

What's Wrong With Joe Rogan? Global Warming Is A Proven Fact

by Ava Baranowski

Dear EarthTalk: Is Joe Rogan right that the planet is actually cooling right now and we are not in a global warming crisis?

—Bruce P., via email

Many media influencers, including Joe Rogan, a comedian and podcaster on "The Joe Rogan Experience," have claimed that climate change is exaggerated, even that the planet is cooling. However, scientific evidence warns that the Earth is instead actually warming unusually fast due to human activity.

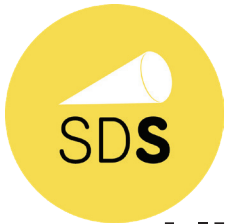
Rogan recently cited data from a 2024 study that shows Earth's temperature over the last 485 million years. He stated that "the temperature on Earth is plummeting." The study does include time periods where the temperature was higher than current levels, but upon closer inspection those moments were caused by events such as the mass extinction of dinosaurs, or the "Great Dying." Following asteroid impact, temperatures rose by five degrees celsius, which lasted for about 100,000 years. Temperatures have varied, and yes, our current time period is the coolest it's been in a long time. However, the real data point Rogan failed to take into account is time. Since the industrial revolution, temperatures have been climbing at a speed that rivals any other point in history, which is why climate change is so concerning. This warming has been driven primarily by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels.

One of the co-authors of the study, Daniel Lunt, confirmed that the past warming periods occurred "so slowly that they are essentially undetectable on the timescale of a human lifetime." However, in only 150 years, Earth's temperatures have risen 1.2 degrees celsius. According to NASA, 2024 was the warmest year since 1880, causing wildfires and droughts. Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) reminds us that "temperatures during the warm periods on Earth three million years ago—when sea levels were dozens of feet higher than today—were only around 3 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels." We are about halfway there.

Climate misinformation is becoming ever more common. Unfortunately, Rogan has millions of listeners, and other influencers spread harmful information to primarily youth viewers. Without proof, people continue to make claims that climate change is a hoax. Although TikTok has attempted to put in place misinformation policies, it is near impossible to prevent the spread. In the future, check on your friends and family. It is so easy to be exposed to false information. Use websites that check credibility, and make sure to do your own research before believing someone random on the internet..



Joe Rogan is spreading misinformation about global warming because he isn't aware of all the facts regarding the history of the changing climate over time on our planet. Credit: Do512, FlickrCC, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Republican push for tips on Charlie Kirk posts drives firings of public workers

Scores of public employees have been terminated, some at the behest of elected leaders

BY: JONATHAN SHORMAN-SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 9:06 AM

Hours after Charlie Kirk's assassination, Suzanne Swierc shared two thoughts on her private Facebook page — that the killing of the right-wing activist was wrong, and that his death reflected "the violence, fear and hatred he sowed."

The post upended her life.

Indiana Republican Attorney General Todd Rokita soon obtained a screenshot of the post by Swierc, an administrator at Ball State University, and added it to an official website naming and shaming educators for their comments about Kirk.

Libs of Tik Tok, a social media account dedicated to mocking liberals, shared her comments with its 4.4 million followers on X. A week after the post, the university fired her.

"The day that my private post was made public without my consent was one of the worst days of my life," Swierc told reporters this past week. She said she received calls, texts and other harassing messages, including one suggesting she should be killed, that left her terrified.

A wave of firings and investigations has swept through academia and government in the wake of Kirk's death, as state agencies, colleges and local school districts take action against employees over comments perceived as offensive or inappropriate. Dozens of workers in higher education alone have lost their jobs.

A Texas State University student was expelled after he publicly reenacted Kirk's assassination; Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republicans had called for the student's expulsion. Clemson University in South Carolina fired one worker and removed two professors from teaching. The University of Mississippi fired an employee. An Idaho Department of Labor employee was terminated.

The purge is driven in part by Republican elected officials who are encouraging Americans to report



Demonstrators protest the suspension of the "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show outside the El Capitan Entertainment Centre, where the show is performed, in Los Angeles earlier this month. While Kimmel has returned to the air, dozens of public workers have been fired across the country for comments about the assassination of Charlie Kirk. (Photo by Mario Tama/

Getty Images)

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co-workers, their children's teachers and others who make comments seen as crossing the line. They have been egged on by the Trump administration, with Vice President JD Vance urging listeners of Kirk's podcast to call the employer of anyone "celebrating" his killing.

President Donald Trump has threatened to expand the crackdown beyond Kirk, warning falsely in the Oval Office last week that negative press coverage of him is "really illegal," despite constitutional protections for freedom of the press.

At Kirk's memorial service, Trump said, "I hate my opponent." His choice to lead the Federal Communications Commission threatened ABC over comments about the reaction to Kirk's death made by the late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel and the network pulled his show for several days.

Mark Johnson, a First Amendment attorney based in Kansas City, Missouri, who has been practicing law for 45 years, said he had never seen a moment like the current one.

"Not even close," Johnson said. "What's been happening in the last month is astonishing."

In Indiana, Rokita is using his office's "Eyes on Education" webpage to publicize examples of educators who have made controversial remarks about Kirk. The page, billed as a transparency tool, housed a hodgepodge of submitted complaints about teachers and schools in the past. Now, it also includes 28 Kirk-related submissions as of Thursday afternoon.

Wisconsin Republican U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden threatened to strip an entire town of federal funding after a high school math teacher noted on her personal Facebook page that Kirk had in the past said some gun deaths are worth it to have the Second Amendment. The teacher has been suspended.

Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters, who is leaving his job next month to head up a conservative teachers organization, has launched investigations of school employees in response to tips submitted to Awareity, an online platform that allows parents and others to report concerns. Last week the Oklahoma State Department of Education said it had received 224 reports of "defamatory comments."

Florida Republican U.S. Rep. Randy Fine has urged people with information about anyone celebrating Kirk's death who works in government in Florida to contact his office. And South Carolina Republican U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace wants federal funding cut off for any school that fails to fire or discipline staff who "glorify or justify" political violence.

"It's at a scale never before seen and I think it's completely unhinged," Todd Wolfson, president of the American Association of University Professors, said of the rush to fire higher education faculty.

Free speech consequences?

Kirk, who founded the campus conservative activism organization Turning Point USA and was close to Trump, was a hero to many Republicans. They saw a charismatic family man and a Christian unafraid to take his hard-right vision onto liberal college campuses.

But many Democrats and liberals experienced Kirk as a provocateur with a record of incendiary remarks about people of color, immigrants and Islam. While many of Kirk's opponents have condemned the assassination, some have also emphasized their disagreement with his views or suggested his death arose out of what they saw as his hateful rhetoric.

"I have faculty who are getting fired, who have tenure and are getting fired, for saying things like 'I condemn political violence but the words that Charlie Kirk used, he sort of reaped what he sowed,'" Wolfson said. "All things told, I may not agree with that statement, but that's a perfectly reasonable thing for somebody to say. Certainly not something to be fired for."

Some Republicans have long denounced what they view as past Democratic censorship, including Biden administration efforts to pressure social media companies to censor content during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have also criticized firings and pushed back on perceived political correctness run amok during the height of the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter movements, moments of ascendant progressive influence.

But as the current round of terminations plays out, some conservatives argue public employees who speak out about Kirk are facing the consequences of their actions. Oklahoma state Rep. Gabe Woolley, a Republican, said individuals in a taxpayer-funded role who work with children should be held to a high level of accountability.

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"I think the most important factor to consider ... is that these people chose to enter the public square on public social media accounts and to mock and celebrate the death of an American patriot who was a Christian martyr who was killed for his faith doing what God called him to do," Woolley said.

Woolley added that "if you choose to make something public, you should not be shocked or surprised by any type of public pushback."

Swierc described a relatively restricted Facebook account. It was private and couldn't be found by searching for her name; only individuals with mutual Facebook friends could request to add her as a friend. She did not list her employer on her profile.

Swierc's post on Kirk could only be seen by her Facebook friends. At some point, someone — Swierc doesn't know who — made a screenshot of the post. It was then circulated publicly and ended up on Indiana's "Eyes on Education" page.

On Sept. 17, Ball State University President Geoffrey Mearns fired Swierc, who had been director of health promotion and advocacy within the Division of Student Affairs. In a letter informing Swierc of her termination, Mearns wrote that many current students had written to the university to express concern and that her post had caused unprecedented disruption.

Swierc filed a federal lawsuit against Mearns on Monday, alleging he violated her First Amendment rights. Swierc, who is represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, wants a court to order Mearns to expunge her termination from her Ball State University personnel file, along with unspecified damages.

"I do not regret the post I made, and I would not take back what I said," Swierc said during a virtual news conference organized by the ACLU of Indiana. "I believe that I, along with every person in this country, have First Amendment rights to be able to speak on a number of things."

Ball State University declined to answer Stateline's questions, citing the lawsuit. In an unsigned public statement on the day of Swierc's firing, the university said the post was "inconsistent with the distinctive nature and trust" of Swierc's leadership position and had caused significant disruption to the university.

Swierc's lawsuit is one of a growing number of legal challenges to firings and employee discipline over comments about Kirk. On Wednesday, a federal judge ordered the University of South Dakota to reinstate an art professor who had placed on administrative leave after calling Kirk a "Nazi" but later deleted the post and apologized.

Aggressive state attorney general

Swierc didn't name Rokita, the attorney general, as a defendant in her lawsuit, but the official has loomed over the situation.

Two days after Kirk's assassination, Rokita urged his followers on X to submit to him any evidence of educators or school administrators celebrating or rationalizing the killing. He wrote that they must be held accountable and "have no place teaching our students."

But Rokita has also said the Indiana Attorney General's Office isn't investigating individuals submitted to his "Eyes on Education" page — suggesting the effort is mainly intended to generate public pressure against employers. Each example on the page lists contact information for the school's leadership and in some instances information about the next local school board meeting.

"For a government official, especially of that caliber, to be creating a database and doing this has an incredibly chilling effect on speech," said Ashkhen Kazaryan, a senior legal fellow at The Future of Free Speech, a nonpartisan think tank located at Vanderbilt University that promotes the values of free speech and free expression.

Rokita didn't agree to an interview. "Our goal is to provide transparency, equipping parents with the information they need to make informed decisions about their children's education," Rokita said in a news release.

On Monday, Rokita sent a six-page letter to school superintendents and public university administrators, providing guidance on the legal authority to fire and discipline teachers for speech related to Kirk. The letter suggested that speech occurring on social media is a factor that weighs in favor of the authority to fire an employee because it carries the risk of being amplified and disrupting school operations.

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Rokita also analyzed comments about Kirk by a U.S. history teacher in Indiana who had said the assassinated activist can “suck it” and referred to comments made by Kirk in 2023 that some gun deaths every year are the cost of Second Amendment rights. The district’s employer had chosen not to terminate the teacher, but Rokita laid out a legal justification for firing the employee.

He concluded the letter by writing that many schools would be within their legal authority to fire teachers “who have similarly contributed to the divisive and, for many, painful eruption of controversial discourse on social media and elsewhere concerning Charlie Kirk.”

Joseph Mastro Simone, an employment law professor at Washburn University, said private employers have broad discretion to fire workers over speech. But the government is different, he said, with the First Amendment providing at least some level of protection to employees.

Decades of court cases have established the core principle that if a public employee is speaking in their capacity as a citizen on a matter of public concern, then the government can only take action if the speech causes significant disruption to the delivery of the public service and that disruption outweighs the employee’s interest in the speech, he said.

Mastro Simone said if a teacher’s message made in his or her own time is causing community outrage and pandemonium, “that’s probably going to count as some disruption.”

“And there might be sufficient disruption to outweigh whatever interest the employee has in the speech,” Mastro Simone said. But the closer the teacher’s message is to core political speech — such as voicing support for a candidate for office — the more the scales tip in favor of the employee being able to speak without fear of discipline.

“It is certainly a matter of public concern, what’s going on here with the Charlie Kirk assassination. The interests are probably pretty high, I would think,” Mastro Simone said.

Push to honor Kirk

As some Republican officials have called for action against public employees who have made comments about Kirk, they have often drawn a line at what they see as celebrating or glorifying his assassination. Walters, the outgoing Oklahoma state superintendent, has gone further and is investigating districts for “refusing to honor his memory.”

The Oklahoma State Department of Education last week said in addition to reports on individual teachers, it was investigating 30 reports of schools that didn’t observe a moment of silence. Three reports alleged schools weren’t flying their flags at half-staff.

On Tuesday, Walters announced an official push to start a Turning Point USA chapter in every Oklahoma high school. Later that day, he announced he would resign as superintendent to become CEO of the Teacher Freedom Alliance, a new group that casts itself as a conservative alternative to teachers’ unions.

Walters’ Turning Point effort comes after Oklahoma state Sen. Shane Jett, a Republican, filed three pieces of legislation to honor Kirk, including one that would establish “Charlie Kirk Free Speech Day” and another requiring public colleges and universities to develop a “Charlie Kirk Memorial Plaza” on their campuses.

Walters and Jett didn’t respond to interview requests.

“Charlie Kirk inspired a generation to love America, to speak boldly, and to never shy away from debate. Our kids must get involved and active,” Walters said in a news release on Tuesday. “We will fight back against the liberal propaganda, pushed by the radical left, and the teachers unions. Our fight starts now.”

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

Jonathan Shorman covers democracy for Stateline, including elections, voting rights, fights over state vs. federal power, civil liberties and more.

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COMMENTARY

Lawmakers fixated on property taxes need to widen their focus

by DANA HESS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 9:06 AM



Members of the Comprehensive Property Tax Task Force meet in Sioux Falls on June 25, 2025. (Makenzie Huber/

South Dakota Searchlight)

During the last legislative session, lawmakers passed Gov. Larry Rhoden's bill designed to help homeowners get relief from the high cost of paying property taxes. Don't expect that to be the last word on the subject.

Dramatic increases in property taxes have given rise to some strident calls for change. Owner-occupied dwellings, in particular, have seen their property tax bills increase. While the Legislature is certainly listening to those complaints, as yet it is still struggling to find relief for property owners who say they are seeing the ability to keep living in their homes slipping away.

The property tax problems in South Dakota were neatly summed up during an educational panel at Dakotafest, as noted in a story in the Mitchell Republic. South Dakota Retailers Executive Director Nathan Sanderson said that

when the subject is property tax relief, the state has three choices: shift the burden to another class of property, ask schools and counties to spend less, or find another funding source.

None of those solutions have many backers, though finding another funding source is part of the solution offered by Rhoden. He has proposed allowing counties to voluntarily impose a sales tax of up to half a percent with the funds to be used for relief of residential property taxes. This is a stopgap measure at best and sure to have its detractors in the Republican-controlled Legislature, because it calls for a new tax.

Rhoden already has one property tax win, with the passage of a complex law designed to offer homeowners some relief. The new law, which took effect July 1, limits the increase in owner-occupied residential assessments to 3% countywide for five years; sets a five-year, 3% cap on the amount taxing districts and school capital outlay budgets can increase as a result of new construction; exempts some home improvements worth less than 40% of a home's value from affecting assessments; and expands eligibility among disabled and elderly people for property tax assessment freeze programs, including an increase in the multi-person household income limit from \$45,000 to \$65,000, and an increase in the maximum value of an eligible home from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

While that legislation has many moving parts, it represents only a portion of a tax system that lawmakers were admonished to study by another Dakotafest panel member. Former state senator Mary Duvall said lawmakers should do their homework, learning about the state's tax system so they know what they're talking about and have the expertise to assess the impact of their legislation.

The need for expertise in how the system works can be seen in a proposed constitutional amendment offered by former legislator Julie Frye-Mueller, among others. That amendment has not yet been approved for circulation to gather signatures.

If approved by voters, the amendment would scrap property taxes and instead levy a \$1.50 fee on transactions of \$15 or more and a 10% fee on purchases of less than \$15. These fees would be charged

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over and above the sales taxes that are already on the books.

The Legislative Research Council, which has to review all proposed constitutional amendments, said its passage would change everything as it relates to the funding of counties and schools. Passage of the amendment would also rely on the Legislature to design a way to collect the tax, establish a distribution formula and manage a new property tax replacement fund.

Those blank spots in the amendment will certainly ask voters to take plenty on faith if they were to vote for the new system. The next step in the process of approving the amendment for circulation is creating a fiscal impact statement which will show if the new tax, at a buck-and-a-half a purchase, could actually generate enough money to keep schools and counties afloat.

The proposed amendment shows the folly of trying to fix the state's tax system in a piecemeal fashion. Like the 18 property tax bills in the 2025 legislative session or the dozens that will likely show up in 2026, they only go to show that there's no one solution to revamping the system.

As Sanderson pointed out at Dakotafest, the Legislature has been "schizophrenic" lately when it comes to taxes, cutting the sales tax and considering elimination of the sales tax on groceries. Lawmakers do this, all the while proposing legislation that's supposed to "fix" property taxes, often without including a way to replace the funding.

According to Sanderson, the Legislature has conducted summer studies of property taxes three times in the last five years. With summer winding down, let's hope that this year's Comprehensive Property Tax Task Force can decide on a way forward that makes sense for the state.

That may be a lot to hope for since past summer studies apparently haven't alleviated the pressure felt by the state's property taxpayers. The scope of these studies is too narrow. It would be best for the state to widen the study and take on all taxes, rather than just property taxes. A comprehensive study is needed because it's obvious that a change in property taxes is likely to have ramifications for the state's entire tax system.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

Trump to deploy troops to Portland, Oregon, vows 'Full Force'

BY: JACOB FISCHLER-SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 4:10 PM

PORTLAND, Ore. — President Donald Trump said Saturday morning he will send troops to Portland, attempting an unprecedented use of U.S. military forces within the country.

In a brief post to his social media platform, Trump said he would have Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth order troops deployed to Oregon's largest city.

Trump did not specify what legal justification he had to do so, what military branch would be used or other key details. The troops would be used to defend U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities from "domestic terrorists," he said.

"At the request of Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, I am directing Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth,

to provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland, and any of our ICE Facilities under siege from attack by Antifa, and other domestic terrorists," Trump wrote on his social media platform. "I am also authorizing Full Force, if necessary."

A 19th-century law, the Posse Comitatus Act, generally forbids military members from conducting domestic law enforcement. Constitutional experts say the idea was one of the nation's founding principles.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek, a Democrat, said in a statement Saturday morning that she is reaching out to the White House and the Department of Homeland Security for more information.

"We have been provided no information on the reason or purpose of any military mission," she said. "There is no national security threat in Portland. Our communities are safe and calm. I ask Oregonians to stay calm and enjoy a beautiful fall day. We will have further comment when we have more information."

A spokesperson for the U.S. National Guard said the branch had no information to share and deferred questions to the White House.

A White House official writing on background noted a recent history of protests at an ICE facility in Portland.

The local U.S. attorney has brought charges against 26 people since early June for crimes including arson and resisting arrest, official said. Neighborhood residents have also made noise complaints related to protests, the official said, adding that state and local officials have refused to intervene.

That description, though, did not correspond with the quiet scene at the facility as an Oregon Capital Chronicle reporter visited Saturday morning.

Oregon's senior U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, also posted a video of the undisturbed facility and told Trump, "we don't need you here. Stay the hell out of our city."



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, U.S. President Donald Trump and U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth attend a Cabinet meeting at the White House on April 30, 2025 in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

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U.S. Rep. Maxine Dexter, a Democrat whose district includes much of Portland, blasted the announcement as “an egregious abuse of power and a betrayal of our most basic American values.”

“Authoritarians rely on fear to divide us. Portland will not give them that,” she wrote. “We will not be intimidated. We have prepared for this moment since Trump first took office, and we will meet it with every tool available to us: litigation, legislation, and the power of peaceful public pressure.”

‘Don’t take the bait’

A group of about a dozen local leaders — including Dexter, Portland Mayor Keith Wilson and U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, a Democrat — assembled on short notice for a press conference Friday evening to discuss the potential deployment.

Merkley described it as a “don’t-take-the-bait press conference.”

“There’s a lot we don’t know,” he said. They’ve been given no details about how many troops are being sent, from what agency or branch of the government, and there’s been no coordination with the city of Portland, he said.

“Here is what I do know — the president has sent agents here to create chaos and riots in Portland, to induce a reaction, to induce protests, to induce conflicts. His goal is to make Portland look like what he’s been describing it as,” Merkley said. “Their point is to lead to an engagement. An engagement that could lead to violence.”

Wilson described the agents as already in Portland.

“They are here without clear precedent or purpose,” he said. “This is happening against the national backdrop of a federal government that may not even be open in a week’s time.”

Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson said that as a sanctuary county in a sanctuary state, the county would not help enforce federal immigration laws without an order signed by a judge.

Escalation of military use

Deploying troops to Portland would mark a dramatic escalation, even for Trump, who has tested the legal limits of domestic military use.

He sent National Guard troops and U.S. Marines to Los Angeles in response to protests against aggressive immigration enforcement there, despite the Democratic governor’s objections. And he ordered National Guard troops to assist police in Washington, D.C.

But the Los Angeles deployment responded to a specific circumstance, and the president holds power to deploy the National Guard in the District of Columbia because it is a federal territory.

Neither is true for Portland, where there has not been any evidence of violence at protests against the administration. The state government is dominated by Democrats.

The city did see extended protests in the summer of 2020 after the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Trump deployed federal agents then in what he said was an effort to protect the federal courthouse in downtown Portland.

Alex Baumhardt of the Oregon Capital Chronicle contributed to this report.

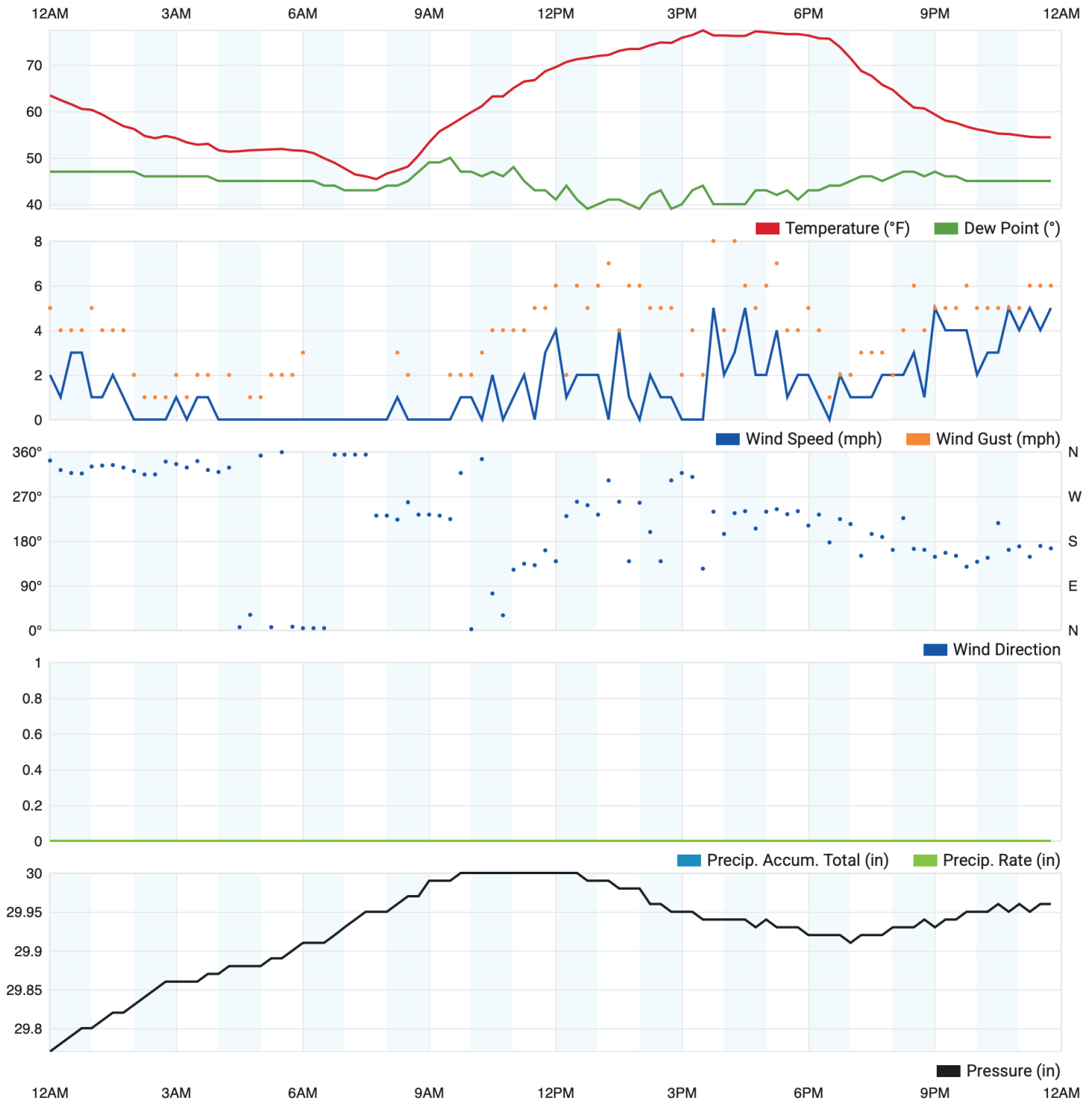
Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 27, 2025



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Today



High: 83 °F

Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Increasing
Clouds

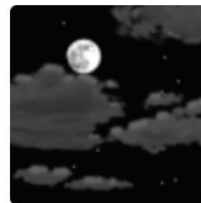
Monday



High: 87 °F

Partly Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 62 °F

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 83 °F

Mostly Sunny



**Sunday:
Above Normal
Temperatures
80-90°**

 Coolest across the
Sisseton Hills
Warmest in Central
South Dakota

South winds increasing 20-35^{mph}
Otherwise Dry with increasing
clouds late

weather.gov/aberndeen
September 28, 2025 

Mild and dry weather continues today with temperatures in the 80s. Mild weather will continue well into the upcoming work week, with little chance for moisture. Winds will be on the increase however, and persistent through the next few days.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 78 °F at 3:31 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 7:37 AM

Wind: 9 mph at 2:00 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94 in 2021

Record Low: 18 in 1951

Average High: 70

Average Low: 42

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.86

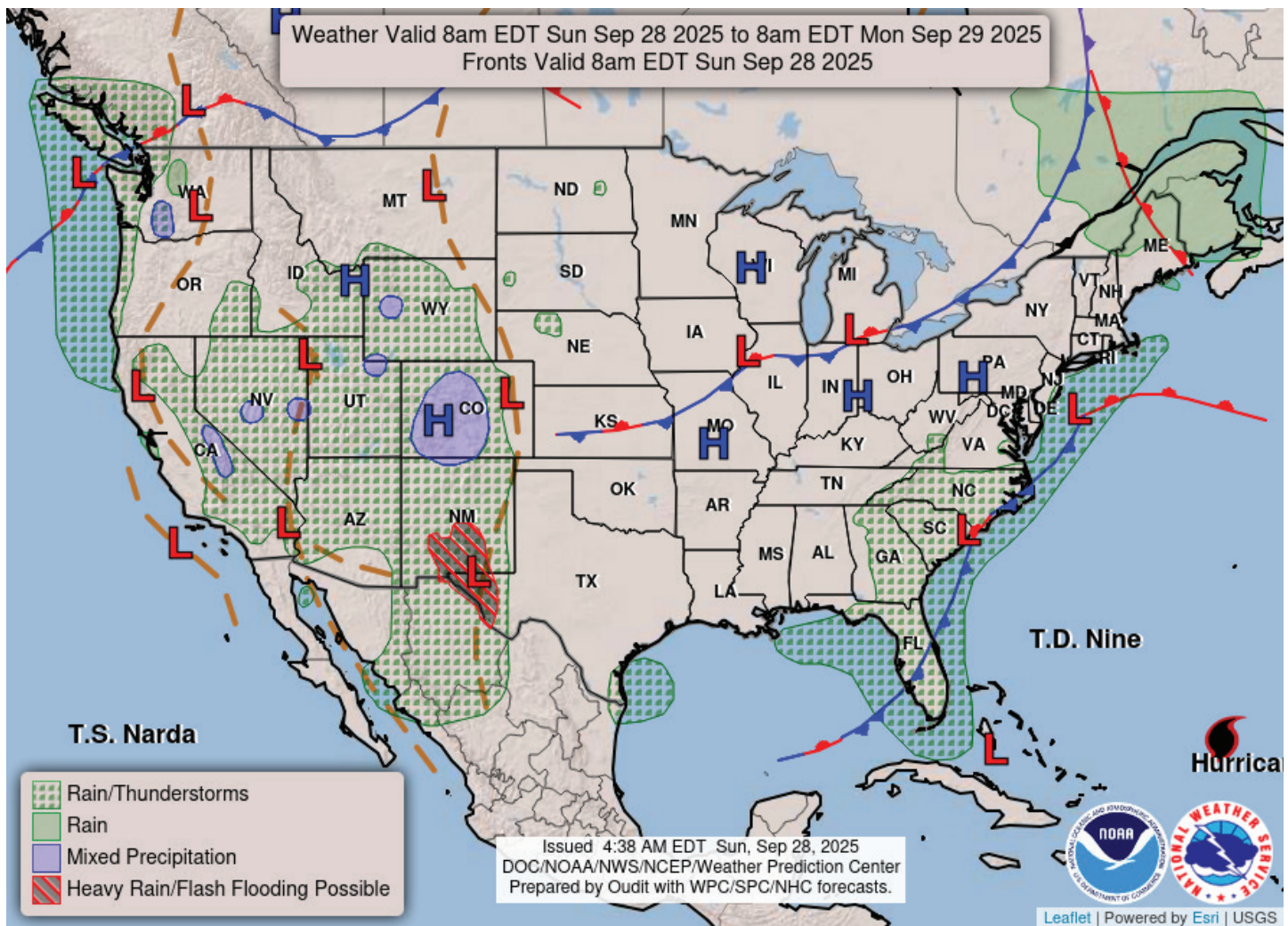
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.62

Average Precip to date: 18.20

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:18 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28 am



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Today in Weather History

September 28, 1951: During the early morning hours, near-record to record cold covered central and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota. Temperatures across the area fell into the upper teens and 20s. Aberdeen recorded a record low of 18 degrees; Kennebec dropped to 20 degrees, Pierre fell to 21 degrees while Timber Lake had a record low of 23 degrees. The overnight low in Mobridge was 23 degrees, 24 degrees at Watertown, and 26 degrees at Sisseton.

1836 - The first of three early season snows brought four inches of snow to Hamilton, NY, and two inches to Ashby MA. (David Ludlum)

1837: The first recorded storm to rake the entire Texas coast was Racer's Storm, named for a British sloop of war which encountered the system in the extreme northwestern Caribbean on September 28th. It is remembered as one of the most destructive storms of the nineteenth century due to its extreme duration and 2000 mile path of destruction.

1874: A strong category 1 hurricane went by Charleston and Georgetown, South Carolina. The tide was unprecedented height, inundating the entire riverfront of the city of Charleston

1893 - Albuquerque, NM, was soaked with 2.25 inches of rain, enough to establish a 24 hour record for that city. (The Weather Channel)

1917 - A hurricane hit Pensacola, FL. Winds gusted to 95 mph, and the barometric pressure dipped to 28.50 inches. Winds at Mobile AL gusted to 75 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1929: A hurricane-spawned tornado hit Fort Lauderdale, Florida. While the path length of this estimated F2 tornado was 0.8 miles, it caused 16 injuries.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in southern Kansas and north central Oklahoma overnight. The Chikaskia River rose 2.5 feet above flood stage at Blackwell OK during the day causing flooding in Kay and Grant counties of north central Oklahoma. Early morning thunderstorms in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas produced 3.07 inches of rain in six hours at McAllen. Thunderstorms produced up to six inches of rain in southeastern Texas later in the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. produced severe weather from northern Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley during the late afternoon and evening hours. Hail three inches in diameter was reported at Nolan TX, and wind gusts to 80 mph were reported at Lawrence KS. Thunderstorms drenched downtown Kansas City MO with up to four inches of rain, leaving some cars stranded in water six feet deep. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms over northeastern Florida drenched Jacksonville with 4.28 inches of rain between midnight and 6 AM EDT. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Binghamton NY with a reading of 30 degrees. Morning lows were in the 20s in northern New England. Unseasonably mild weather prevailed in the northwestern U.S., with afternoon highs in the upper 70s and 80s. In Oregon, Astoria reported a record high of 83 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: On the morning of September 28th, Hurricane George made landfall near Biloxi, Mississippi with maximum winds of 110 mph and a minimum pressure of 964 mb, making it a Category 2 hurricane. After landfall, Georges moved very slowly across southern Mississippi and weakened to a tropical depression by the morning of the 29th when the center was about 30 miles north-northeast of Mobile, Alabama. The storm dissipated near the northeast Florida/southeast Georgia coast by the morning of October 1, 1998.

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**GOD HAS A PLAN FOR
EACH OF US, AND HE
WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM
AND FULFILL THAT PLAN...**

Years ago, while marching with my high school band, I was more into my music than I was into following my director. We were to march to the goal line on the football field, make a right turn, and then exit the field. One hundred and eleven musicians followed the directions perfectly. One tuba player kept marching into the end zone, alone, embarrassed, and lost. I was that tuba player.

Everyone needs the Director to be their guide and guard. If we choose otherwise, we will end up in an end zone — alone, embarrassed, and eternally lost. The alternative?

"A person's steps are ordered by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?" asks Solomon. Perhaps he was going through a difficult period in his life and recalled a bit of advice from his father, King David: "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him." He may have been facing a decision about his future, a family problem, or issues with his staff. Wherever he was in his walk with God, he realized the importance of seeking His wisdom.

God has a plan for each of us, and He wants us to follow Him and fulfill that plan. However, He also has given us the freedom to make the ultimate decision: Will we seek His guidance and His will, or choose to go our own way? And, if we seek it, will we know it when we see it?

Again, we turn to the heart of Proverbs: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." When we, in humility, bow before Him in complete surrender, seek His will in prayer and study His Word, and ask for the counsel of fellow believers, we can be assured that He will bring His light to our path and protect our every step. Then, we will know it when we see it!

Knock, seek, listen, wait, watch, talk with others, and be faithful to Him. He will appear!

Today's Prayer: How foolish we are, Lord, when we do not wait for and trust You. You have our best interests at heart. May we wait patiently as we seek Your guidance. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "A person's steps are ordered by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?" Proverbs 20:24

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: 09.26.25

4 21 27 33 49 21

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$497,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

2 12 20 34 43 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,730,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

4 7 8 34 48 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 51 Mins 45
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

4 9 11 21 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$35,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

5 21 22 49 68 25

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

10 16 32 61 66 4

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$160,000,000

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 VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Yankton, 25-12, 25-21, 23-25, 25-12
Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-17, 25-10, 25-12
Cody-Kilgore, Neb. def. Takini, 25-13, 25-21, 25-13
Lemmon High School def. Bison, 25-10, 25-12
Lemmon High School def. McIntosh High School, 17-25, 25-10, 25-21
Linton, N.D. def. Herreid-Selby, 25-14, 25-19, 31-29
Northwestern def. Deubrook, 25-9, 25-17
Northwestern def. Milbank, 25-6, 25-10
Tri-Valley def. Sioux Valley, 25-18, 26-24, 25-18
Belle Fourche Invitational=
Pool C=
Bowman County, N.D. def. Edgemont, 25-15, 25-15
Lakota Tech def. Edgemont, 25-23, 31-29
Philip def. Edgemont, 25-21, 25-21
CSDC Tournament=
Sully Buttes def. Gettysburg, 25-15, 16-25, 25-21
Wolsey-Wessington def. Gettysburg, 25-12, 25-19
Flandreau Triangular=
Flandreau Indian def. Crazy Horse, 25-20, 25-17
Flandreau Indian def. Tiospa Zina, 25-10, 25-16, 18-25, 25-17
Great Plains Lutheran Tournament=
Castlewood def. Florence-Henry, 25-22, 25-19
Deubrook def. Great Plains Lutheran, 26-24, 25-18
Estelline-Hendricks def. Deubrook, 25-17, 25-17
Estelline-Hendricks def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-21, 25-17
Freeman def. Great Plains Lutheran, 19-25, 25-15, 25-23
Great Plains Lutheran def. Britton-Hecla, 25-17, 25-22
Northwestern def. Castlewood, 25-8, 25-18
Sanford Pentagon Tournament=
Blue Bracket=
Championship=
Dakota Valley def. Chester, 25-19, 25-22
Consolation=
Warner def. Tea, 25-13, 25-9
Watertown def. Tea
Watertown def. Warner, 25-14, 22-25, 25-18
Fifth Place=
Sioux Falls Christian def. Miller
Quarterfinal=
Dell Rapids def. Sioux Falls Christian
Western Christian, Iowa def. Miller
Semifinal=
Chester def. Western Christian, Iowa, 25-23, 25-21
Dakota Valley def. Dell Rapids, 25-16, 25-12
Third Place=

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Western Christian, Iowa def. Dell Rapids
Blue Pool=
Chester def. Tea, 25-13, 25-14
Dakota Valley def. Watertown
Dakota Valley def. Western Christian, Iowa
Dell Rapids def. Chester, 25-21, 26-24
Dell Rapids def. Tea, 25-13, 25-8
Miller def. Warner, 17-25, 25-20, 25-20
Sioux Falls Christian def. Miller, 25-0, 25-0
Sioux Falls Christian def. Warner, 25-16, 25-22
Western Christian, Iowa def. Watertown, 25-0, 25-0
Orange Bracket=
Championship=
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. Rapid City Christian, 25-21, 25-22
Consolation=
Colman-Egan def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland
Colman-Egan def. Platte-Geddes
Mobridge-Pollock def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland
Platte-Geddes def. Mobridge-Pollock
Quarterfinal=
Rapid City Christian def. Arlington
St Thomas More def. Gayville-Volin High School
Semifinal=
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. St Thomas More, 25-7, 25-20
Rapid City Christian def. Canton
Orange Pool=
Arlington def. Mobridge-Pollock
Canton def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland
Canton def. Platte-Geddes, 27-25, 33-31
Colman-Egan def. Gayville-Volin High School
Gayville-Volin High School def. Arlington
Gayville-Volin High School def. Rapid City Christian
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. Canton
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-10, 25-7
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. Platte-Geddes
Platte-Geddes def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland
Rapid City Christian def. Colman-Egan
St Thomas More def. Arlington
St Thomas More def. Mobridge-Pollock
White Bracket=
Consolation=
Canistota def. Menno
Ethan def. Canistota
Parker/Marion def. Ethan, 25-21, 19-25, 25-23
Parker/Marion def. Menno, 25-14, 25-12
Fifth Place=
Wagner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton
Quarterfinal=
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton
Winner def. Wagner

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Semifinal=

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Hanson

Winner def. Hill City

White Pool=

Canistota def. Menno

Hanson def. Canistota

Hanson def. Menno

Hill City def. Canistota

Hill City def. Hanson

Hill City def. Menno

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Parker/Marion

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Ethan

Parker/Marion def. Wagner

Wagner def. Hitchcock-Tulare

Winner def. Ethan

Winner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton

Wessington Springs Tournament=

Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Wessington Springs, 25-18, 25-11

Pool B=

Jones County def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-11, 25-15

West Central def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-17, 25-20

Pool C=

Howard def. Colome, 25-18, 25-6

Howard def. James Valley Christian School, 25-20, 25-15

Howard def. Lower Brule, 25-21, 25-12

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

South Dakota State rolls past Mercyhurst 51-7 behind Mason's 3 TD passes, Jackrabbits move to 4-0

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Chase Mason threw three touchdown passes, James Basinger ran for two scores and South Dakota State jumped out early and rolled to a 51-7 victory over Mercyhurst on Saturday.

South Dakota State (4-0), ranked second in the FCS coaches' poll, stretched its home winning streak to 32.

Mason completed 21-of-29 passes for 321 yards. Graham Goering led the Jackrabbits with seven receptions for 101 yards. Alex Bullock, Lofton O'Groske, and Jack Smith each had a touchdown catch. Basinger finished with 53 yards rushing on 15 carries.

Mason threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Bullock and then a 19-yarder to O'Groske to help stake the Jackrabbits to a 17-0 first-quarter lead.

In the third quarter, Mason completed an 18-yard touchdown pass to Smith, and Basinger's 1-yard TD run made it 37-7 with about four minutes left. Basinger ended the scoring with another 1-yard run with about two minutes left to play.

Adam Urena was 12-of-18 passing for 103 yards and he threw one touchdown pass and two interceptions for Mercyhurst (1-4).

It was the first meeting between the teams.

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Cole Payton leads way as North Dakota State dominates South Dakota 51-13

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Cole Payton accounted for three touchdowns and North Dakota State rolled over South Dakota 51-13 to celebrate homecoming on Saturday.

The Bison scored touchdowns on each of their five first-half possessions and led 34-3 at halftime.

Nathaniel Staehling returned an interception 43 yards for a touchdown to make it 41-3 early in the third quarter.

North Dakota State's only punt came with 5 1/2 minutes remaining in the game.

The FCS top-ranked Bison (4-0, 1-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) had touchdown drives of 77 and 90 yards on their first two possessions and led 13-0. They had a shorter field on their third possession and Barry Kpeenu's 6-yard run made it 20-0 barely a minute into the second quarter. At that point in the game, NDSU had a 213-38 advantage in total yards. At game's end the advantage was 547-296.

North Dakota State drove 95 yards for a touchdown on the next possession, with Payton throwing to Bryce Lance for a 2-yard touchdown that made it 27-0.

Coming into the game, Payton led the FCS in passing yards per completion (18.10) and per attempt (12.84) and ranked second in passing efficiency (214.7) through his first three starts.

Payton was 14-for-18 passing for 273 yards with two touchdowns and ran for 102 yards on 11 carries, with one touchdown. His passing efficiency was 241.8.

The North Dakota State defense ranks first in passing defense and total defense and second in scoring defense.

South Dakota (FCS No. 18, 2-3, 0-1) got a 31-yard field goal from Will Leyland on the final play of the first half and a 51-yarder from Zeke Mata in the fourth quarter. Carson Fletcher scored on a 4-yard run with about a minute remaining.

US braces for storm expected to hit the east coast as Hurricane Imelda in coming days

By FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A weather system that is forecast to become Tropical Storm Imelda later in the day before approaching the coast of South Carolina as a hurricane early next week was causing disruption in the Bahamas and nearby islands on Sunday.

Meanwhile Hurricane Humberto weakened very slightly but remained a strong Category 4 storm in the Atlantic, threatening Bermuda.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster urged people to monitor the weather closely and stay alert. And in North Carolina, Gov. Josh Stein declared a state of emergency in advance of the system, currently called Tropical Depression Nine.

Forecasters said the system was on track to become a tropical storm later Sunday and a hurricane by late Monday or Tuesday. It would be named Imelda.

As of 0900 GMT Sunday, the system was located about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west-southwest of the Central Bahamas and was headed north-northwest at 7 mph (11 kph). Its maximum sustained winds were 35 mph (55 kph).

"What we learn every time is we never know where they are going to go," McMaster said during a news conference to discuss the storm. "This storm is deadly serious. Not just serious. Deadly serious."

The storm could bring high winds and heavy rain, which could produce flooding, he said. The state was prepositioning search and rescue crews over the weekend.

Hurricane Humberto weakens slightly but still major storm

Humberto had maximum sustained winds of 155 mph (250 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, making it a Category 4 hurricane. It was located about 585 miles (945 kilometers) south of Bermuda and was moving west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

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A tropical storm watch could be required in Bermuda later in the day, forecasters said, and swells could reach the U.S. east coast on Monday.

Tropical Depression Nine was threatening parts of Cuba and the Bahamas with heavy rainfall and flash flooding, with portions of the latter under a tropical storm warning. More warnings and watches were expected later Sunday, the hurricane center said.

The Bahamas' Department of Meteorology urged people in the northwest and central islands, which include Nassau, Andros Island, San Salvador and Long Island, to "make final preparations" for tropical storm conditions. The agency said it expected the center of the system to move across that region throughout Sunday.

"Residents in low-lying areas should take actions to mitigate property damages due to flooding," it said in the statement.

The tropical disturbance brought heavy rains to the Dominican Republic on Friday, leading authorities to evacuate hundreds of people and declare a red alert in five provinces.

In the Pacific

Tropical Storm Narda, formerly a hurricane, is about 1,045 miles (1,680 kilometers) west-southwest of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula and is heading north at 5 mph (7 kph). Maximum sustained winds are 60 mph (95 kph).

Swells generated by Narda are affecting coastal Mexico and Baja California Sur, forecasters said, and life-threatening surf and rip current conditions are possible in Southern California.

Trump says he will send troops to Portland, Oregon, in latest deployment to US cities

By CLAIRE RUSH and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he will send troops to Portland, "authorizing Full Force, if necessary" to handle "domestic terrorists" as he expands his deployments to more American cities.

Oregon Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek responded by saying Trump is abusing his authority by ordering troops into a city that she said is doing "just fine" on its own. She was joined by other government, police and business leaders who all said soldiers are not needed and Trump is presenting a patently false picture of the city.

Trump made his announcement on social media, writing that he was directing the Department of Defense to "provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland." Trump said the decision was necessary to protect U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, which he alleged are "under siege from attack by Antifa, and other domestic terrorists."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for details on Trump's announcement, such as a timeline for the deployment or what troops would be involved.

Governor says troops not needed

In an afternoon news conference, Kotek said she directly told Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem earlier in the day that troops are not needed and she believes he does not have the authority to deploy the military there.

"We can manage our own local public safety needs. There is no insurrection. There is no threat to national security," Kotek told reporters.

The governor said she "tried to understand his reasoning" during their conversation and his response was just, "Let's keep talking."

"This is an American city. We do not need any intervention," Mayor Keith Wilson said at the news conference. "This is not a military target."

Kotek said the president did not give a timetable for troops arriving. She said she told him the Oregon National Guard is not needed and she does not plan to call it up.

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Trump, however, previously deployed guard soldiers and active duty Marines in Los Angeles even though California Gov. Gavin Newsom opposed it. The federal government is appealing a judge's ruling that Trump's use of the guard was illegal.

Kotek urged the public to stay calm, saying any kind of property damage or violence will not be tolerated. "Let's not take the bait," she said. "Let's not respond to what the president is trying to do."

Residents ask, "Where's the emergency?"

Earlier Saturday, there was no sign of any federal presence downtown, where people jogged along the Willamette River, relaxed by a riverside fountain or rode bikes on a sunny fall day.

"Where's the emergency?" asked resident Allen Schmertzler, 72, who said he was "disgusted" by the president's decision.

Another, John McNeur, 74, called Trump's statement "ridiculous." He pointed out that he was taking "a leisurely stroll" along the river on a peaceful, sunny day.

"This place is not a city that's out of control," he said. "It's just a beautiful place."

Trump has also named Chicago and Memphis

Trump previously threatened to send the National Guard into Chicago but has yet to follow through. A deployment in Memphis, Tennessee, is expected soon and will include only about 150 troops, far less than were sent to the District of Columbia for Trump's crackdown on crime or to Los Angeles in response to immigration protests that turned violent with the troops' arrival.

In Memphis, about 80 to 100 people marched to a plaza in front of City Hall to protest the expected arrival next week of the guard and more than a dozen federal law enforcement agencies, ranging from immigration to drug enforcement.

Protesters held signs with messages such as "Resources Not Task Forces" and "Memphis don't need no occupation, Memphis don't need no government control" — a play on the Pink Floyd song "Another Brick in the Wall."

Speakers said beforehand that instead of federal troops and agents, Memphis needs more funding for education, crime prevention, youth services and hospitals. The Oregon officials made similar comments.

Few details from the Pentagon

Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said the Department of Defense would provide information and updates when available.

"We stand ready to mobilize U.S. military personnel in support of DHS operations in Portland at the President's direction," Parnell said.

A spokesperson for the Oregon National Guard, Lt. Col. Stephen Bomar, said via email that "no official requests have been received at this time" for Guard support. "Any requests would need to be coordinated through the Governor's office," he added.

Oregon's congressional delegation, with the exception of GOP Rep. Cliff Bentz, demanded that the Trump administration keep federal agents and troops out of Portland.

"This unilateral action represents an abuse of executive authority, seeks to incite violence, and undermines the constitutional balance of power between the federal government and states," the Democratic lawmakers wrote in a letter to Trump, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Noem.

Protests in Portland

Portland, population 636,000, was the site of long-running and sometimes violent racial justice protests following George Floyd's killing by Minneapolis police in 2020. The Trump administration sent hundreds of agents, including from the U.S. Border Patrol, for the stated purpose of protecting the federal courthouse and other federal property from vandalism.

Late Saturday evening, a small crowd of protesters gathered on the sidewalk outside the ICE facility. One person was arrested by federal law enforcement after a brief confrontation as ICE agents cleared a path for a vehicle exiting the facility.

Recent demonstrations have been far more muted and focused on the area around the ICE building. It's located outside downtown, which was the heart of the 2020 protests. Its main entrance and ground-floor windows have been boarded up and were previously tagged with graffiti.

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Some federal agents have been injured and several protesters have been charged with assault. Some demonstrators also say they have been injured. When protesters erected a prop guillotine earlier this month, the Department of Homeland Security called it “unhinged behavior.”

Police Chief Bob Day said at the news conference that his agency does not participate in immigration enforcement. He said afterward that Federal Protective Services is responsible for the ICE building and police would intervene only against vandalism or criminal activity in the surrounding area.

The city said this month that it would issue a land use violation notice to its ICE building because it was used to detain people overnight or for more than 12 hours — violations of its conditional land use approval. DHS said detainees are briefly processed before being sent to other detention facilities.

Portland is one of a number of so-called sanctuary cities. There is no strict definition for sanctuary cities, but the term generally describes places that limit cooperation with ICE.

Portland officials stress the city’s recovery

City groups and officials have sought to highlight the recovery of the downtown area since 2020.

This summer was reportedly the busiest for pedestrian traffic since before the pandemic, and overall violent crime from January through June decreased by 17% compared with the same period in 2024, a recent report from the Major Cities Chiefs Association found. The downtown has seen a decrease in homeless encampments.

Since the Sept. 10 assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, Trump has escalated efforts to confront what he calls the “radical left,” which he blames for political violence.

“We’re going to get out there and we’re going to do a pretty big number on those people in Portland,” Trump said Thursday in the Oval Office. He called such people “professional agitators and anarchists.”

Stampede at a political rally for popular actor Vijay in southern India kills 36, injures 40

NEW DELHI (AP) — A stampede at a rally for a popular Indian actor and politician in the southern state of Tamil Nadu killed at least 36 people and injured 40 others, the state’s health minister said late Saturday.

Ma Subramanian told The Associated Press that the victims were dead by the time they were taken to a hospital and that the injured were stable. The dead included eight children, Subramanian said.

The rally, which officials say was attended by tens of thousands of people, was being addressed by Vijay, one of Tamil Nadu’s most successful actors-turned-politician in the district of Karur.

Indian media reports, quoting local officials, said as Vijay spoke to the surging crowd, a group of his supporters and fans fell while trying to get close to his bus, causing the stampede. Supporters had gathered at the political rally amid intensely hot temperatures and Vijay arrived hours late, officials said.

“There was indiscipline” at the rally, Subramanian said, adding that an investigation had been ordered.

Quoting officials, the Press Trust of India news agency reported that at least 30 people fainted while Vijay was addressing the rally from atop his campaign vehicle and were rushed in ambulances to area hospitals. He halted his speech mid-way when workers raised alarm after noticing that people were fainting and falling, it said, adding that as they were removed to hospitals, Vijay continued his speech.

However, he ended his speech shortly after sensing an abnormal situation in a section of the huge gathering, the news agency said.

Hours after the accident, Vijay offered his condolences.

“My heart is shattered,” he posted on X. “I am writhing in unbearable, indescribable pain and sorrow that words cannot express.”

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the “unfortunate incident” was “deeply saddening.”

My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing strength to them in this difficult time. Praying for a swift recovery to all those injured,” he said on social media.

In southern Indian states, particularly Tamil Nadu, some film stars have larger than life status, rooted in the ancient Tamil culture of hero worship and image worship. Many have become politicians and some have even been given divine status.

In 2024, Vijay retired from acting and launched his own political party. It was unclear whether he plans to run for office in Tamil Nadu state.

Stampedes are relatively common in India when large crowds gather. In January, at least 30 people were killed as tens of thousands of Hindus rushed to bathe in a sacred river during the Maha Kumbh festival, the world's largest religious gathering.

What to know about Iran's nuclear program as UN reimposes 'snapback' sanctions

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — United Nations sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program were reimposed Sunday, putting Tehran under new pressure as tensions remain high in the wider Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

At the U.N. General Assembly this week in New York, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi tried a last-minute diplomatic push to stop the sanctions. However, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei boxed in their efforts by describing diplomacy with the United States as a "sheer dead end."

Meanwhile, efforts by China and Russia to halt the sanctions failed Friday.

A 30-day clock for the sanctions started when France, Germany and the United Kingdom on Aug. 28 declared Iran wasn't complying with its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Tehran has argued without success that the deal was voided by the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018 under President Donald Trump's first administration. Since then, Iran has severely restricted required inspections by the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, particularly after the 12-day war Israel launched on Iran in June. That war saw both the U.S. and Israel bomb key Iranian nuclear sites.

"We don't think it can impact the people of Iran, especially the people of Iran's determination to defend their rights," Araghchi said Friday in New York about the sanctions, despite the pressure already on the country's economy. "The question is, what it impacts is diplomacy. It closed the way of diplomacy."

Here's what to know about Iran's nuclear sites, "snapback" sanctions and other issues raising tensions between Iran and the West.

What is 'snapback' and how does it work

The "snapback" process, as it is called by the diplomats who negotiated it into Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, was designed to be veto-proof at the U.N. Security Council and took effect 30 days after parties to the deal told the Security Council that Iran was not complying. It again froze Iranian assets abroad, halted arms deals with Tehran and penalized any development of Iran's ballistic missile program, among other measures.

The power to impose "snapback" would have expired Oct. 18, which likely prompted the European countries to use it before they lost the measure. After that, any sanctions effort would have faced a veto from U.N. Security Council members China and Russia, nations that have provided support to Iran in the past. China has remained a major buyer of Iranian crude oil, something that could be affected if "snapback" happens, while Russia has relied on Iranian drones in its war on Ukraine.

Why the West is worried about Iran's nuclear program

Iran has insisted for decades that its nuclear program is peaceful. However, its officials increasingly threaten to pursue a nuclear weapon. Iran now enriches uranium to near-weapons-grade levels, the only country in the world without a nuclear weapons program to do so.

Under the original 2015 nuclear deal, Iran was allowed to enrich uranium up to 3.67% purity and to maintain a uranium stockpile of 300 kilograms (661 pounds). The IAEA put Iran's stockpile just before the war at 9,874.9 kilograms (21,770.4 pounds), with 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60%. That would allow Iran to build several nuclear weapons, should it choose to do so.

U.S. intelligence agencies assess that Iran has yet to begin a weapons program, but has "undertaken

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activities that better position it to produce a nuclear device, if it chooses to do so."

US struck three major Iranian nuclear sites during Israel's war

Iran's nuclear facility at Natanz, located some 220 kilometers (135 miles) southeast of Tehran, is the country's main enrichment site and had already been targeted by Israeli airstrikes when the U.S. attacked it in June. Uranium had been enriched to up to 60% purity at the site — a short step away from weapons grade — before Israel destroyed the aboveground part of the facility, according to the IAEA.

Another part of the facility on Iran's Central Plateau is underground to defend against airstrikes. It operates multiple "cascades," groups of centrifuges that work together to more quickly enrich uranium. The IAEA has said it believes that most if not all of these centrifuges were destroyed by an Israeli strike that cut off power to the site. The U.S. also dropped so-called bunker-busting bombs on the site, likely heavily damaging it.

Iran's nuclear enrichment facility at Fordo, located some 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Tehran, also came under U.S. bombardment with bunker-busting bombs. The U.S. struck the Isfahan Nuclear Technology as well with smaller munitions.

Israel separately targeted other sites associated with the program, including the Arak heavy water reactor.

Why relations between Iran and the US have been bad

Iran was decades ago one of the U.S.'s top allies in the Mideast under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who purchased American military weapons and allowed CIA technicians to run secret listening posts monitoring the neighboring Soviet Union. The CIA fomented a 1953 coup that cemented the shah's rule.

But in January 1979, the shah, fatally ill with cancer, fled Iran as mass demonstrations swelled against his rule. Then came the Islamic Revolution led by Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, which created Iran's theocratic government.

Later that year, university students overran the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, seeking the shah's extradition and sparking the 444-day hostage crisis that saw diplomatic relations between Iran and the U.S. severed.

During the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, the U.S. backed Saddam Hussein. During that conflict, the U.S. launched a one-day assault that crippled Iran at sea as part of the so-called "Tanker War," and later it shot down an Iranian commercial airliner that the American military said it mistook for a warplane.

Iran and the U.S. have seesawed between enmity and grudging diplomacy in the years since, and relations peaked with the 2015 nuclear deal. But Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in 2018, sparking tensions in the Mideast that persist today, fanned by the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's wider strikes across the region.

Tropical weather in the Atlantic slams the Caribbean and may hit Southeast US next

By FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Crews spent Saturday preparing for a weather system that was forecast to become Tropical Storm Imelda late Saturday or early Sunday before approaching the coast of South Carolina as a hurricane early next week.

Meanwhile Hurricane Humberto strengthened into a strong Category 5 storm in the Atlantic and threatened the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Bermuda.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster urged people to monitor the weather closely and stay alert. And in North Carolina, Gov. Josh Stein declared a state of emergency in advance of the system currently called Tropical Depression Nine.

Those warnings came a year to the date after Helene devastated parts of the Carolinas.

Forecasters said the system was on track to become a tropical storm overnight or early Sunday and a hurricane by late Monday or Tuesday. It would be named Imelda.

As of late Saturday, the system was located about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of the Central Bahamas and was headed northwest at 2 mph (4 kph). Its maximum sustained winds were 35 mph (55

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kph), a little below the threshold for a Category 1 hurricane.

"What we learn every time is we never know where they are going to go," McMaster said during a news conference to discuss the storm. "This storm is deadly serious. Not just serious. Deadly serious."

The storm could bring high winds and heavy rain, which could produce flooding, he said. The state was prepositioning search and rescue crews over the weekend.

Hurricane Humberto grows stronger

Humberto had maximum sustained winds of 160 mph (260 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. It was located about 365 miles (585 kilometers) north of the northern Leeward Islands and was moving northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

Humberto could produce life-threatening surf and rip currents for the northern Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Bermuda over the weekend, forecasters said.

The National Weather Service in Puerto Rico issued a small craft advisory, urging people to stay ashore and avoid unnecessary trips, with swells from Humberto expected to reach about 7 feet (2 meters) in Atlantic waters. The service also advised people to heed the beach warning flag system because of the high risk of rip currents.

Tropical Depression Nine was threatening parts of Cuba and the Bahamas with heavy rainfall and flash flooding, with portions of the latter under a tropical storm warning. More warnings and watches were expected Saturday night and Sunday, the hurricane center said.

The Bahamas' Department of Meteorology urged people in the northwest and central islands, which include Nassau, Andros Island, San Salvador and Long Island, to "make final preparations" for tropical storm conditions. The agency said it expected the center of the system to move across that region throughout Sunday.

A statement from the department said air force hurricane hunters were deployed to investigate the system. Maximum sustained winds on Saturday were about 35 mph (55 kph).

The department expected rainfall in the central and southeast Bahamas to reach between 4 and 8 inches (10 and 20 centimeters), with some isolated areas seeing up to 10 inches (25 centimeters).

"Residents in low-lying areas should take actions to mitigate property damages due to flooding," it said in the statement.

Florida officials also keeping a close eye

The expected tropical storm was forecast to run parallel offshore of Florida's Atlantic coastline.

Officials across South Florida, which has been saturated by rain throughout September, continued to keep an eye on the system, and a tropical storm watch was issued for parts of the coastline north of West Palm Beach to an area north of Daytona Beach.

In Homestead, which was devastated by Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Emergency Manager Jaime Hernandez worried about complacency.

"Too many South Floridians who may have experienced limited impacts from storms that came close in recent years, such as Hurricane Irma in 2017, have come away from these events mistakenly believing they have 'been through the big one,'" Hernandez said.

He noted that Homestead is one of only four communities in the continental U.S. to experience the catastrophic impacts of a Category 5 hurricane. "We know all too well the importance of having an emergency plan and remaining informed," Hernandez said.

The tropical disturbance brought heavy rains to the Dominican Republic on Friday, leading authorities to evacuate hundreds of people and declare a red alert in five provinces.

Flooding in the southwestern province of Azua displaced at least 774 people, and 26 were being sheltered due to the overflowing of the Tabara River, Civil Defense spokesperson Jensen Sánchez said.

In the eastern Atlantic, the center of post-tropical cyclone Gabrielle moved away from the Azores. A hurricane warning for the entire Portuguese archipelago was discontinued.

Gabrielle was expected to approach Portugal's coast by early Sunday. Swells expected to produce life-threatening surf and rip currents were expected to reach Portugal, northwestern Spain and northern Morocco on Saturday.

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In the Pacific

Hurricane Narda lost strength and became a tropical storm, according to forecasters.

As of late Saturday it was about 1,070 miles (1,725 kilometers) west-southwest of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula and was heading north-northwest at 5 mph (7 kph).

Swells generated by Narda were affecting coastal Mexico and Baja California Sur, forecasters said, and life-threatening surf and rip current conditions were possible in Southern California over the weekend.

UN imposes 'snapback' sanctions on a hungrier, poorer and more anxious Iran

By JON GAMBRELL and AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Nations reimposed sanctions on Iran early Sunday over its nuclear program, further squeezing the Islamic Republic as its people increasingly find themselves priced out of the food they need to survive and worried about their futures.

The sanctions will again freeze Iranian assets abroad, halt arms deals with Tehran, and penalize any development of Iran's ballistic missile program, among other measures. It came via a mechanism known as "snapback," included in Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, and comes as Iran's economy already is reeling.

Iran's rial currency sits at a record low, increasing pressure on food prices and making daily life that much more challenging. That includes meat, rice and other staples of the Iranian dinner table.

Meanwhile, people worry about a new round of fighting between Iran and Israel — as well as potentially the United States — as missile sites struck during the 12-day war in June now appear to be being rebuilt.

Activists fear a rising wave of repression within the Islamic Republic, which already has reportedly executed more people this year than over the past three decades.

Sina, the father of a 12-year-old boy who spoke on condition that only his first name be used for fear of repercussions, said the country has never faced such a challenging time, even during the deprivations of the 1980s Iran-Iraq war and the decades of sanctions that came later.

"For as long as I can remember, we've been struggling with economic hardship, and every year it's worse than the last," Sina told The Associated Press. "For my generation, it's always either too late or too early — our dreams are slipping away."

Iran sanctions set to 'snapback'

Snapback was designed to be veto-proof at the U.N. Security Council, meaning China and Russia could not stop it alone, as they have other proposed actions against Tehran in the past. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called them a "trap" for Iran on Saturday.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom triggered snapback over Iran 30 days ago for its further restricting monitoring of its nuclear program and the deadlock over its negotiations with the U.S.

Iran further withdrew from the International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring after Israel's war with the country in June, which also saw the U.S. strike nuclear sites in the Islamic Republic. Meanwhile, the country still maintains a stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60% purity — a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90% — that is largely enough to make several atomic bombs, should Tehran choose to rush toward weaponization.

Iran has long insisted its nuclear program is peaceful, though the West and IAEA say Tehran had an organized weapons program up until 2003.

The three European nations on Sunday said they "continuously made every effort to avoid triggering snapback." But Iran "has not authorized IAEA inspectors to regain access to Iran's nuclear sites, nor has it produced and transmitted to the IAEA a report accounting for its stockpile of high-enriched uranium."

Tehran has further argued that the three European nations shouldn't be allowed to implement snapback, pointing in part to America's unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018, during the first term of President Donald Trump's administration.

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U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio praised the three European nations for "an act of decisive global leadership" for imposing the sanctions on Iran and said "diplomacy is still an option."

"For that to happen, Iran must accept direct talks," Rubio said.

However, it remains unclear how Tehran will respond Sunday.

"The Trump administration appears to think it has a stronger hand post-strikes, and it can wait for Iran to come back to the table," said Kelsey Davenport, a nuclear expert at the Washington-based Arms Control Association. "Given the knowledge Iran has, given the materials that remain in Iran, that's a very dangerous assumption."

Risks also remain for Iran as well, she added: "In the short term, kicking out the IAEA increases the risk of miscalculation. The U.S. or Israel could use the lack of inspections as a pretext for further strikes."

Hunger and anxiety grow in Iran

The aftermath of the June war drove up food prices in Iran, putting already expensive meat out of reach for poorer families.

Iran's government put overall annual inflation at 34.5% in June, and its Statistical Center reported that the cost of essential food items rose over 50% over the same period. But even that doesn't reflect what people see at shops. Pinto beans tripled in price in a year, while butter nearly doubled. Rice, a staple, rose more than 80% on average, hitting 100% for premium varieties. Whole chicken is up 26%, while beer and lamb are up 9%.

"Every day I see new higher prices for cheese, milk and butter," said Sima Taghavi, a mother of two, at a Tehran grocery. "I cannot omit them like fruits and meat from my grocery list because my kids are too young to be deprived."

The pressure over food and fears about the war resuming have seen more patients heading to psychologists since June, local media in Iran have reported.

"The psychological pressure from the 12-day war on the one hand, and runaway inflation and price hikes on the other, has left society exhausted and unmotivated," Dr. Sima Ferdowsi, a clinical psychologist and professor at Shahid Beheshti University, told the Hamshahri newspaper in an interview published in July.

Executions surge in 2025

Iran has faced multiple nationwide protests in recent years, fueled by anger over the economy, demands for women's rights and calls for the country's theocracy to change.

In response to those protests and the June war, Iran has been putting prisoners to death at a pace unseen since 1988, when it executed thousands at the end of the Iran-Iraq war. The Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights and the Washington-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran put the number of people executed in 2025 at over 1,000, noting the number could be higher as Iran does not report on each execution.

Europe takes a record lead into Ryder Cup's Sunday singles

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Team Europe already had demolished and disheartened the Americans in another Ryder Cup romp on Saturday, and it wasn't finished.

The final match of a long, loud and obnoxious day at Bethpage Black was all square when Matt Fitzpatrick blasted out of a fairway bunker and heard European cheers when his ball spun back to 2 feet away. Next to play was Tyrrell Hatton, whose shot into the 18th hole spun back and nicked his teammate's ball.

It summed up how the exquisite golf of Europe, which took on every challenge — starting with a gallery so hostile extra security was required — and wound up in the Ryder Cup record book for the largest lead in the modern format: Europe 11 1/2, United States 4 1/2.

"I didn't really imagine this," European captain Luke Donald said.

Europe needs only to win three of the 12 singles matches Sunday to take that precious gold trophy back home across the Atlantic Ocean. Donald has turned to 45-year-old Justin Rose to lead off against Cameron Young, followed by Tommy Fleetwood, who can become the first European to go 5-0 on the road.

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The main attraction is Rory McIlroy against Scottie Scheffler, the game's top two players who have three majors and 10 victories this year among them.

The real attraction is Europe. The louder and more vulgar it got, the better they played.

"Things got tougher out there, and it fired them up even more," Donald said. "They were able to get better through those difficult moments out there. That is what makes me most proud as a captain, just their ability to take the punches and come back even stronger."

McIlroy caught the brunt of verbal abuse and at one point turned to the spectators and said, "Shut the (expletive) up." And then he stuffed his shot to 5 feet for birdie that closed out the foursomes match on the 16th hole for another blue point.

There was nothing the not-so-mighty U.S. team could do.

"I think it's one of the best performances of a road team in any sport. They have played incredible. They have played great. They have putted even better," U.S. captain Keegan Bradley said. "They have come into a hostile environment and played great golf."

"You know, sometimes as a competitor, as an athlete, you have to take a step back and again sort of tip your cap to something like that."

That's about all he could do.

The previous record after the four sessions of team play was 11-5. No team has rallied from more than a four-point deficit on the last day. Europe needs to win only three of the 12 singles matches for the outright win.

Scheffler also made it into the Ryder Cup record book. The world's No. 1 player is the first to go 0-4 under the current format.

The Americans had a lead in only three of the 70 holes played in fourballs Saturday afternoon. U.S. Open champion J.J. Spaun hit it tight on the 17th and 18th for birdies as he and fellow San Diego State alum Xander Schauffele squeezed out one of only two U.S. points on the day.

The other belonged to Bryson DeChambeau and Young in the opening foursomes match.

"The course is set up relatively easy, and they're making a lot of birdies and we're not," Schauffele said. "They're just beating us flat out, and I'm just happy to get a point with J.J. A little bit of red on the board is a win today."

Europe swept all four team sessions for the first time since its 2006 win at The K Club in Ireland. At stake Sunday is a chance to break the record for the biggest rout — 19-9 by the Americans at Whistling Straits in 2021.

The New York fans didn't turn on the Americans for their performance. They cranked up the noise against Europe, shouting at them in the moments before — but not during — their shots, booing at every turn.

"Look, in between shots, say whatever you want to me," McIlroy said. "That's totally fine. Give us the respect to let us hit shots, and give us the same chance that the Americans have."

New York State police spokesman Beau Duffy said two fans were ejected. The PGA of America said it added security to the McIlroy match and the other three. It also posted a message on the large video boards on "Spectator Etiquette."

"Attendees consuming alcohol should do so in a responsible manner. Overly intoxicated attendees will be removed from the premises." Fans booed when the message was displayed.

McIlroy ultimately got the last laugh. He is unbeaten in his four matches.

It got a little testy inside the ropes, too. Fleetwood and Rose had a 3-up lead on the 15th over Scheffler and DeChambeau. Rose was first to putt from about 15 feet. But he felt DeChambeau's caddie was in his space as he was lining up his putt and he told him so.

Rose made the putt, and DeChambeau matched him from 12 feet. DeChambeau barked at them going to the 16th tee and soon the caddies were involved.

There was warm handshakes a hole later when Europe won.

"I didn't feel like that space was being honored," Rose said. "I made my feelings known — asked him to move, maybe not as politely as I could have done, but in the scenario, it's coming down the stretch. We

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both have a lot on our minds and it's intense out there.

"I said to them, 'If I should have done it a different way, I apologize.' But other than that, I had to step up and hit a huge putt with a lot going on."

Bradley was asked what message he would give to his team to keep hopes alive, and the New England native pointed to the Patriots' stunning comeback against the Atlanta Falcons in 2017.

"Twenty-eight to three. I was at that Super Bowl," Bradley said. "I watched it. What a cool thing to have witnessed live in person."

The way this Ryder Cup has played out, 11 1/2 to 4 1/2 feels much bigger.

Trump to meet Monday with top four congressional leaders as government shutdown risk looms

By SEUNG MIN KIM and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump plans to meet with the top four congressional leaders at the White House on Monday, one day before the deadline to fund the federal government or face a shutdown.

The meeting involving House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune as well as House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer was confirmed Saturday by a White House official and two other people familiar with the planning. They were granted anonymity to discuss a meeting that has not been announced.

"President Trump has once again agreed to a meeting in the Oval Office. As we have repeatedly said, Democrats will meet anywhere, at any time and with anyone to negotiate a bipartisan spending agreement that meets the needs of the American people," Schumer and Jeffries said in a joint statement on Saturday night. "We are resolute in our determination to avoid a government shutdown and address the Republican healthcare crisis. Time is running out."

The meeting was first reported by Punchbowl News.

The parties have been in a standoff for days as Democrats, namely in the Senate, have refused to offer the necessary votes to pass a funding measure that would keep the government open beyond Tuesday.

Absent any action, a shutdown would begin at 12:01 a.m. ET on Wednesday.

Democrats had secured a meeting with Trump until Republican leaders intervened and the president called it off. But Schumer spoke privately with Thune on Friday, pushing the majority leader to get a meeting with Trump scheduled because of the approaching funding deadline, according to an aide for Schumer.

"As rank-and-file Democrats begin to question their leadership's unsustainable position, Sen. Schumer is clearly getting nervous," Ryan Wrasse, a spokesman for Thune, responded Saturday night. "There's an easy way out, and they'll get a chance to take it next week."

Democrats, believing they have leverage, have insisted on key health care provisions in exchange for their votes. They want an extension of subsidies that help low- and middle-income earners purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Democrats are also insisting on reversing cuts to Medicaid that were included in the GOP's signature tax measure earlier this year.

Republicans say those demands are nonstarters and that they are willing to have a conversation with Democrats on those issues separate from government funding talks. The GOP is asking for a straight extension of current funding for seven weeks.

Earlier in the week, Johnson acknowledged he had encouraged Trump not to meet with the Democratic leaders.

"He and I talked about it at length yesterday and the day before. I said, look, when they get their job done, once they do the basic governing work of keeping the government open, as president, then you can have a meeting with him," Johnson said on the Mike & McCarty Show in his home state of Louisiana. "Of course, it might be productive at that point, but right now, this is just a waste of his time."

And Thune, R-S.D., had said earlier in the week that he "did have a conversation with the president"

and offered his opinion on the meeting, which he declined to disclose. "But I think the president speaks for himself, and I think he came to the conclusion that meeting would not be productive," Thune said.

Democrats have expressed confidence that voters would blame Trump and Republicans for any disruptions in federal services, even though that's not at all guaranteed.

Republicans, on the other hand, had been heading toward the work week with plans in the Senate to keep showcasing Democrats' refusal to agree to the stopgap measure, while the House GOP planned to stay away from Washington in a show of their own unwillingness to engage Democratic alternatives.

That too, came with potential political drawbacks for House Republicans, as Democrats hammered them for being, as Jeffries said, "on vacation."

Officials place Des Moines schools leader on leave after his arrest by immigration agents

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Officials put the leader of Iowa's largest school district on administrative leave Saturday, a day after federal immigration agents arrested him because they said he was in the country illegally.

The Des Moines school board voted unanimously to place Superintendent Ian Roberts on paid leave during a three-minute-long special meeting. The board said Roberts was not available to carry out his duties for the 30,000-student district and stated that officials would reassess his status after getting more information.

After the meeting, school board president Jackie Norris read a statement, saying word of Roberts' arrest Friday made for a "jarring day" but noting that board members still didn't have all the facts.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said agents detained Roberts because he was in the country illegally, didn't have authorization to work and was subject to a final removal order issued in 2024. ICE agents stopped Roberts while he was driving a school-issued vehicle, and the agency said he then fled into a wooded area before being apprehended with help from Iowa State Patrol officers.

He was held in the Woodbury County Jail in Sioux City, in northwest Iowa, about 150 miles from Des Moines.

"I want to be clear, no one here was aware of any citizenship or immigration issues that Dr. Roberts may have been facing," Norris said. "The accusations ICE had made against Dr. Roberts are very serious, and we are taking them very seriously."

Norris said Roberts has retained a Des Moines law firm to represent him. Lawyer Alfredo Parrish confirmed his firm was representing Roberts but declined to comment on his case.

Norris also repeated that the district had done a background check on Roberts before he was hired that didn't indicate any problems and that he signed a form affirming he was a U.S. citizen. A company that aided in the search for a superintendent in 2023 also hired another firm to conduct "comprehensive criminal, credit and background checks" on Roberts that didn't indicate any citizenship issues, Norris said.

Also Saturday, the Iowa Department of Education released a statement saying Roberts stated he was a U.S. citizen when he applied for an administrator license. The department said the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners conducted a criminal history check with state and federal authorities before issuing a license.

The department said it is reviewing the Des Moines district's hiring procedures for ensuring people are authorized to work in the U.S.

Roberts had previously said he was born to immigrant parents from Guyana and spent much of his childhood in Brooklyn, New York. He competed in the 2000 Olympics in track and field for Guyana.

ICE said he entered the U.S. on a student visa in 1999.

A former senior Guyanese police official on Saturday remembered Roberts as a middle-distance runner who could have risen through the ranks of the South American country's police force had he not emigrated to the U.S. decades ago. Retired assistant Guyana Police Force commissioner Paul Slowe said Roberts entered the Police Force after graduating from the country's standard military officers' course.

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"He served for a few years and then left. He was not dismissed or dishonorably discharged at all; he just moved on," Slowe told The Associated Press. "He was a good, promising and disciplined man."

Long, fraught timeline of Iran nuclear tensions

By The Associated Press undefined

The United Nations reimposed nuclear sanctions on Iran Sunday, putting new pressure on Tehran's ailing economy as tensions remain high in the wider Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi offered a last-ditch effort to try to halt the sanctions at the U.N. General Assembly met this week in New York. Efforts by China and Russia to stop the sanctions failed as well.

The clock started when France, Germany and the United Kingdom on Aug. 28 declared Iran wasn't complying with its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers

Here's a timeline of the tensions over Iran's atomic program:

Early days

1967 — Iran takes possession of its Tehran Research Reactor under America's "Atoms for Peace" program.

1979 — U.S. ally Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, fatally ill, flees Iran as popular protests against him surge. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returns to Tehran and the Islamic Revolution sweeps him to power. Students seize the United States Embassy in Tehran, beginning the 444-day hostage crisis. Iran's nuclear program goes fallow under international pressure.

August 2002 — Western intelligence services and an Iranian opposition group reveal Iran's secret Natanz nuclear enrichment facility.

June 2003 — Britain, France and Germany engage Iran in nuclear negotiations.

October 2003 — Iran suspends uranium enrichment under international pressure.

February 2006 — Iran announces it will restart uranium enrichment following the election of hard-line president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Britain, France and Germany walk out of stalled negotiations.

June 2009 — Iran's disputed presidential election sees Ahmadinejad reelected despite fraud allegations, sparking protests known as the Green Movement and a violent government crackdown.

October 2009 — Under U.S. President Barack Obama, the U.S. and Iran open a secret back-channel for messages in the sultanate of Oman.

July 2012 — U.S. and Iranian officials hold secret face-to-face talks in Oman.

July 2015 — World powers and Iran announce a long-term, comprehensive nuclear agreement that limits Tehran's enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

The nuclear deal collapses

May 8, 2018 — Trump unilaterally withdraws the U.S. from the nuclear agreement, calling it the "worst deal ever." He says he'll get better terms in new negotiations to stop Iran's missile development and support for regional militias. Those talks don't happen in his first term.

May 8, 2019 — Iran announces it will begin backing away from the accord. A series of regional attacks on land and at sea blamed on Tehran follow.

Jan. 3, 2020 — A U.S. drone strike in Baghdad kills Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the architect of Tehran's proxy wars in the Middle East.

Jan. 8, 2020 — In retaliation for Soleimani's killing, Iran launches a barrage of missiles at military bases in Iraq that are home to thousands of American and Iraqi troops. More than 100 U.S. service members suffer traumatic brain injuries, according to the Pentagon. As Iran braces for a counterattack, the Revolutionary Guard shoots down a Ukrainian passenger plane shortly after takeoff from Tehran's international airport, reportedly mistaking it for a U.S. cruise missile. All 176 people on board are killed.

July 2, 2020 — A mysterious explosion tears apart a centrifuge production plant at Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment facility. Iran blames the attack on archenemy Israel.

April 6, 2021 — Iran and the U.S. under President Joe Biden begin indirect negotiations in Vienna over how to restore the nuclear deal. Those talks, and others between Tehran and European nations, fail to

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reach any agreement.

April 11, 2021 — A second attack within a year targets Iran's Natanz nuclear site, again likely carried out by Israel.

April 16, 2021 — Iran begins enriching uranium up to 60% — its highest purity ever and a technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Feb. 24, 2022 — Russia launches its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Moscow ultimately will come to rely on Iranian bomb-carrying drones in the conflict, as well as missiles.

July 17, 2022 — An adviser to Iran's supreme leader, Kamal Kharrazi, says Iran is technically capable of making a nuclear bomb, but has not decided whether to build one.

Mideast wars rage

Oct. 7, 2023 — Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip storm into Israel, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 others hostage, beginning the most intense war ever between Israel and Hamas. Iran, which has armed Hamas, offers support to the militants. Regional tensions spike.

Nov. 19, 2023 — Yemen's Houthi rebels, long supported by Iran, seize the ship *Galaxy Leader*, beginning a monthslong campaign of attacks on shipping through the Red Sea corridor that the U.S. Navy describes as the most intense combat it has seen since World War II. The attacks mirror tactics earlier used by Iran.

April 14, 2024 — Iran launches an unprecedented direct attack on Israel, firing over 300 missiles and attack drones. Israel, working with a U.S.-led international coalition, intercepts much of the incoming fire.

April 19, 2024 — A suspected Israeli strike hits an air defense system by an airport in Isfahan, Iran.

July 31, 2024 — Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, is assassinated during a visit to Tehran after the inauguration of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel later takes responsibility for the assassination.

Sept. 27, 2024 — An Israeli airstrike kills Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon.

Oct. 1, 2024 — Iran launches its second direct attack on Israel, though a U.S.-led coalition and Israel shoot down most of the missiles.

Oct. 16, 2024 — Israel kills Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in the Gaza Strip.

Oct. 26, 2024 — Israel openly attacks Iran for the first time, striking air defense systems and sites associated with its missile program.

Trump returns — and reaches out

Jan. 20, 2025 — Trump is inaugurated for his second term as president.

Feb. 7, 2025 — Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says proposed talks with the U.S. are "not intelligent, wise or honorable."

March 7, 2025 — Trump says he sent a letter to Khamenei seeking a new nuclear deal with Tehran.

March 15, 2025 — Trump launches intense airstrikes targeting Houthi rebels in Yemen, the last members of Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" capable of daily attacks.

April 7, 2025 — Trump announces the U.S. and Iran will hold direct talks in Oman. Iran says they'll be indirect talks, but confirms the meeting.

April 12, 2025 — The first round of talks between Iran and the U.S. take place in Oman, ending with a promise to hold more talks after U.S. Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi "briefly spoke" together.

April 19, 2025 — The second round of talks between the U.S. and Iran are held in Rome.

April 26, 2025 — Iran and the U.S. meet in Oman a third time, but the negotiations include talks at the expert level for the first time.

May 11, 2025 — Iran and the U.S. meet in Oman for a fourth round of negotiations ahead of Trump's trip to the Mideast.

May 23, 2025 — Iran and the U.S. meet in Rome for a fifth round of talks, with Oman saying the negotiations made "some but not conclusive progress."

The Iran-Israel war begins

June 9, 2025 — Iran signals it won't accept a U.S. proposal over the nuclear program.

June 12, 2025 — The Board of Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency finds Iran in non-

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compliance with its nuclear obligations. Iran responds by announcing it has built and will activate a third nuclear enrichment facility.

June 13, 2025 — Israel launches its war against Iran. Over 12 days, it hits nuclear and military sites, as well as other government installations.

June 22, 2025 — The U.S. intervenes in the war, attacking three Iranian nuclear sites.

June 23, 2025 — Iran responds to the U.S. attack by targeting a military base in Qatar used by American troops, causing limited damage.

June 24, 2025 — Trump announces a ceasefire in the war.

July 25, 2025 — Iranian and European diplomats hold talks in Istanbul over Iran's nuclear program.

Aug. 8, 2025 — France, Germany and the United Kingdom warn Iran in a letter that it will reimplement U.N. sanctions if there is no "satisfactory solution" to the nuclear standoff by Aug. 31.

Aug. 28, 2025 — France, Germany and the United Kingdom say they've started the process to "snapback" U.N. sanctions on Iran.

Sept. 9, 2025 — Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency reach a deal over potentially starting inspections, but questions remain over its implementation.

Sept. 19, 2025 — U.N. Security Council declines to stop "snapback" sanctions on Iran.

Sept. 26, 2025 — U.N. Security Council rejects China and Russia's last-minute effort to stop "snapback."

Sept. 28, 2025 — U.N. reimposes "snapback" sanctions on Iran barring any last-minute diplomacy.

As Democrats prepare for a possible federal shutdown, their endgame is uncertain

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats who have struggled for months to counter President Donald Trump have settled on a bold, one-step strategy if they do not get significant concessions on health care before government funding runs out Wednesday: voting to shut down the government.

The plan is heartily endorsed by many frustrated voters in the base and party activists, some of whom called on Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York to resign in March after he provided support for Republicans to keep the government open at that time.

"America's ability to endure this moment requires a Democratic Party driving a vibrant, impactful and public resistance," Katie Bethell, executive director of liberal grassroots group MoveOn, wrote in a letter to party leaders.

Less clear is what's in the minority party's playbook after 12:01 a.m. EDT Wednesday, when the shutdown would start and the administration could begin laying off hundreds or even thousands of federal workers, if it carries through with plans laid out by the White House this week.

How does it all end? And what do Democrats do then?

Betting on who will take the blame

Publicly, Democrats say they believe Trump and Republicans will bear the blame if there is a shutdown and that they eventually would be forced to negotiate a compromise. That is a risky bet.

Republicans hold the majority in both the House and Senate and have shown no signs of relenting as Democrats insist on an immediate extension of health care benefits that expire at the end of the year, among other demands.

Democrats have also adopted a somewhat resigned view of the choice ahead.

The country "will get worse with or without" a shutdown, Schumer said this month. "Because Trump is lawless." It's an uncertain endgame and an about-face for Democrats who in the past have strenuously opposed shutdowns that were instigated by Republicans.

An extended shutdown with mass firings of federal workers would be a major escalation in the annual spending battles between the two parties. The threat of government closure — and the potential political ramifications — has generally scared both sides enough to bring everyone to the negotiating table, eventually.

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"Funding the government is a Democrat equity, at least it always has been," said Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., who has declined to negotiate with Democrats unless they help pass the seven-week extension of government funding that has cleared the House. "And here they are steering us off that cliff."

The most recent shutdown — the nation's longest — was in the winter of 2018-19, when Trump was insisting on federal dollars to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall during his first term. It ended when he backed down after 35 days.

A role reversal for Democrats

Schumer says things have changed since his March vote to help fund the government through the summer.

Republicans passed a massive tax bill that cut Medicaid spending, and Trump has repeatedly blocked federal spending that was previously approved by Congress. Democrats say Republicans have not reached out to negotiate, and they criticized Trump for canceling a White House meeting with Schumer and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York.

It appears the president may have reversed course, as he now plans to meet with Schumer, Jeffries, Thune and House Speaker Mike Johnson on Monday.

"This president is just — he's not up to being president if he can't sit down and negotiate with the two Democratic leaders," Schumer said on PBS' "News Hour" this week.

Jeffries said Friday that Democrats are "not going to go along to get along."

Johnson "has my number. John Thune has my number," he said. "The White House knows how to reach out."

Most Senate Democrats have held together in threatening a shutdown, but it is possible that some in the caucus will vote to keep the government open or try to strike a deal when the deadline arrives.

Sen. John Fetterman, D-Pa., voted with Republicans in a test vote, and nine other Democrats voted with Schumer and Republicans on the March resolution. Republicans would need at least six additional Democrats, potentially more, to reach the necessary 60 votes for passage.

Schumer has a lot to lose either way, after taking a political thumping from liberal groups, and many voters, in the spring.

For the left, it's time to fight

A groundswell of angst and frustration has been simmering for months among the Democratic base, driven by Republicans' tightening grip on Washington and a growing perception that the Democratic Party is too weak to fight back. Now, with federal closures looming, many activists and lawmakers see a rare point of leverage and a chance to recast the party's image with voters.

"It would be naive to suggest that all the trust that Democratic elected officials have lost and squandered with their base voters can be regained in one moment or one fight," said Joel Payne, chief of communications for MoveOn. "But I think it will go a long way to really start to reverse that relationship."

Sydney Register of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee said Democrats cannot afford to yield again even if that means the administration carries out mass federal layoffs.

Register said that voting with Republicans was like giving "the schoolyard bully their lunch money."

"I want to see them hold on to their lunch money, because all the bully is going to do is try to keep stealing from you," she said.

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., made a similar analogy about Trump and Democratic efforts to extend the expanded health care subsidies, which expire Jan. 1. Some Republicans support the extension, but Trump and GOP leaders have said that is a fight for later in the year. Democrats say the time for action is now.

"I'm not afraid of (Trump), I'm not afraid of his threats, and I know that this is going to be a tough fight and an ugly fight," Booker said this month. "But this is one fight worth having, and that's where I stand."

Russia tells UN: No intent to attack Europe, but aggression will get a 'decisive response'

By JENNIFER PELTZ and EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — As new tensions rise between Russia and NATO powers, Moscow's top diplomat insisted to world leaders Saturday that his nation doesn't intend to attack Europe but will mount a "decisive response" to any aggression.

At the same time, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov took a notably measured tone toward the United States in the wake of last month's summit between the countries' leaders.

Though they left without a deal to end Russia's war in Ukraine, Lavrov said Moscow had "some hopes" to keep talking with Washington, and he suggested his country sees U.S. President Donald Trump's administration as a practical-minded counterpart.

Lavrov spoke at the U.N. General Assembly after weeks in which unauthorized flights into NATO's airspace — intrusions the alliance blames on Russia — have raised alarm around Europe, particularly after NATO jets downed drones over Poland and Estonia said Russian fighter jets flew into its territory and lingered for 12 minutes.

Russia has denied that its planes entered Estonian airspace and has said the drones didn't target Poland.

But European leaders see the incidents as intentional, provocative moves meant to rattle NATO and to assess its response. The alliance warned Russia this week that NATO would use all means to defend against any further breaches of its airspace.

At the U.N., Lavrov maintained it's Russia that's facing threats.

"Russia has never had and does not have any such intentions" of attacking European or NATO countries, he said. "However, any aggression against my country will be met with a decisive response. There should be no doubt about this among those in NATO and the EU."

Speaking three years into the Ukraine war

With Russia's war in Ukraine in its fourth year, U.S. President Donald Trump said this week that he believed Kyiv can win back all the territory it has lost. It was a notable tone shift from a U.S. leader who had previously suggested Ukraine would need to make some concessions and could never reclaim all the areas Russia has occupied since seizing the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and launching a full-scale invasion in 2022.

At a news conference Saturday after his speech, Lavrov said Moscow appreciates Trump's proposal that has rekindled dialogue between the two countries. When U.S. and Russian interests don't coincide, he said, "the most important thing is not to let it result in confrontation or collision, especially a hot confrontation, and we're united in this position, in diplomacy."

He said some unnamed European countries have turned diplomacy "into kissing up to their friends from Washington," so he believes the U.S. will continue to support Ukraine and substitute diplomacy with sanctions.

"This is a path without any promise. It won't succeed," Lavrov said. "However, frank dialogue on any matters — well, we'll see that the U.S. is prepared for that, and we're also prepared to conduct it."

Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country and the U.S. had a "mutual understanding" and that Trump's administration "is listening to us." Notwithstanding Trump's remarks this week that Russia's failure to prevail made it "look bad," Lavrov sounded an open note toward Washington from the U.N. microphone, which he often has used to lambaste the West.

"In the approaches of the current U.S. administration, we see a desire not only to contribute to ways to realistically resolve the Ukrainian crisis, but also a desire to develop pragmatic cooperation without adopting an ideological stance," the diplomat said.

To be sure, Lavrov still had sharp words for NATO, an alliance that includes the U.S., and for the West in general and the European Union.

Trump's emerging view of Ukraine is part of the equation

Trump's new view of Ukraine's prospects came after he met with its president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on the assembly sidelines Tuesday — seven months after a televised blow-up between the two in the Oval

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Office. This time, the doors were closed, and the tenor was evidently different — “a good meeting,” as Zelenskyy described it in his assembly speech the next day.

For the fourth year in a row, Zelenskyy appealed to the gathering of presidents, prime ministers and other top officials to get Russia out of his country — and warned that inaction would put other countries at risk.

“Ukraine is only the first,” he said. its president,

Russia has offered various explanations for the Ukraine war, among them ensuring Russia’s own security after NATO expanded eastward over the years and drew closer with Ukraine after Russia’s move into Crimea. Russia also has said its offensive was meant to protect Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine and the West have denounced Russia’s invasion as an unprovoked act of aggression.

Addressing the devastating war in Gaza, Lavrov condemned Hamas militants’ surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, but said “there is no justification” for Israel’s killing of Palestinian civilians, including children. Nor, he added, is there is a basis for any potential Israeli annexation of the West Bank, which Palestinians consider a key part of their future state, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem.

Between the Gaza war and the situation in the West Bank, “we are essentially dealing with an attempt at a kind of coup d’état aimed at burying U.N. decisions on the creation of a Palestinian state,” Lavrov said.

The Hamas attack killed about 1,200 people in Israel; 251 were taken hostage. Israel’s sweeping offensive has killed more than 65,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It does not give a breakdown of civilian and combatant deaths but says around half of those killed were women and children.

The international community has long embraced a “two-state solution” to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But Netanyahu rejects the idea of a Palestinian state, saying it would reward Hamas — a position he reiterated Friday at the General Assembly.

The sparse indictment of Comey by Trump’s Justice Department belies a complicated backstory

By BYRON TAU Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The indictment of former FBI Director James Comey is only two pages and alleges he falsely testified to Congress in 2020 about authorizing someone to be an anonymous source in news stories.

That brevity belies a convoluted and contentious backstory. The events at the heart of the disputed testimony are among the most heavily scrutinized in the bureau’s history, generating internal and congressional investigations that have produced thousands of pages of records and transcripts.

Those investigations were focused on how Comey and his agents conducted high-stakes inquiries into whether Russia was helping Republican Donald Trump’s campaign during the 2016 presidential race against Democrat Hillary Clinton and her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Here are some things to know about that period and how they fit into Comey’s indictment:

What are the allegations?

The indictment alleges that Comey made a false statement in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The single quote from the indictment appears to be from an interaction with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

Prosecutors contend Comey lied when he denied having authorized anyone at the FBI to be an anonymous source to the media. In fact, prosecutors allege, he had done that very thing by telling someone -- identified as “Person 3” in the indictment -- to speak to reporters.

“It’s such a bare-bones indictment,” said Solomon Wisenberg, a former federal prosecutor and now a defense attorney in private practice. “We do not know what the evidence is going to be” at trial.

What did Comey say to Congress?

Wisenberg said the testimony in question appears to have come when Cruz was pressing Comey over the role that his deputy director, Andy McCabe, played in authorizing a leak to The Wall Street Journal for a story examining how the FBI handled an investigation into Clinton’s use of a private email server when she was secretary of state.

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Cruz's question was complicated, but it boiled down to pitting Comey against McCabe. The senator noted that Comey told Congress in 2017 that he had not authorized anyone to speak to reporters. But Cruz asserted that McCabe had "publicly and repeatedly said he leaked information to The Wall Street Journal and that you were directly aware of it and that you directly authorized it."

"Who's telling the truth?" Cruz asked.

Comey answered: "I stand by the testimony you summarized that I gave in May of 2017."

At that time, Comey had been put on the spot by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa. Comey was asked whether he had "ever authorized someone else at the FBI to be an anonymous source in news reports about the Trump investigation or the Clinton investigation."

Comey answered, "No."

The indictment says Comey falsely stated that he had not "authorized someone else at the FBI to be an anonymous source in news reports," but Comey appears not to have used that exact phrasing during the 2020 hearing at issue, potentially complicating efforts to establish that he made a false statement.

What may have sparked the questions?

"Person 3" is not identified in the indictment. That person appears to have been discussing an investigation related to Clinton, based on a clearer reference in a felony charge that grand jurors rejected. Comey figured in several inquiries into alleged leaks in the Clinton investigation.

One involved McCabe, who told the Justice Department's inspector general that as deputy FBI director he had authorized a subordinate to talk to a Journal reporter. He told investigators he had informed Comey about that interaction after the fact.

It's unlikely the indictment is focused on that episode because McCabe never told investigators that Comey had authorized him to talk to the media, only that the FBI director was aware that McCabe had done so.

Two other leak investigations involved a friend of Comey's who served for a time as a paid government adviser to the director. That adviser, Daniel Richman, has told investigators he spoke to the media to help shape perceptions of the embattled FBI chief.

Richman, a law professor at Columbia University, was interviewed by FBI agents in 2019 about leaks to the media that concerned the bureau's investigation into Clinton. Richman said Comey had never authorized him to speak to the media about the Clinton investigation but he acknowledged Comey was aware that he sometimes engaged with reporters.

Comey has acknowledged using Richman as a conduit to the media in another matter. After Comey was fired by Trump in 2017, he gave Richman a memo that detailed his interactions with the president. Comey later testified to Congress that he had authorized Richman to disclose the contents of the memo to journalists with the hopes of spurring the appointment of a special counsel who might investigate Trump.

How did we get here?

Trump and Comey have been engaged in a long-running feud. Trump blames Comey for having started an investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 campaign that led to the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller. Mueller spent the better part of two years investigating whether Trump's campaign colluded with the Kremlin to help him win the White House.

In the end, Mueller uncovered no evidence that Trump or his associates criminally colluded with Russia, but found that they had welcomed Moscow's assistance. Trump has long vented about the "Russia hoax," which shadowed and defined the early years of his first term.

Trump has spent the ensuing years bashing Comey and saying he was worthy of being charged with treason.

Just days before the indictment, Trump publicly urged his attorney general, Pam Bondi, to act against Comey and two other perceived Trump enemies: "We can't delay any longer, it's killing our reputation and credibility," Trump posted on social media last week. "JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW."

Within hours of the indictment being returned, Trump turned again to social media to gloat: "JUSTICE IN AMERICA! One of the worst human beings this Country has ever been exposed to is James Comey."

Comey has hardly backed down, criticizing Trump on a host of matters. In a 2018 memoir, "A Higher

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Loyalty," Comey compared Trump to a mafia don and said he was unethical and "untethered to truth."

Like Trump, Comey took to social media after his indictment.

"My family and I have known for years there are costs to standing up to Donald Trump," he said. "My heart is broken for the Department of Justice, but I have great confidence in the federal judicial system, and I'm innocent. So, let's have a trial."

Airstrikes and gunfire kill at least 59 people in Gaza as pressure grows for ceasefire, hostage deal

By WAFAA SHURAFU and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes and gunfire killed at least 59 people across Gaza, health officials said Saturday, as international pressure grows for a ceasefire and hostage return deal while Israel's leader remained defiant about continuing the war.

Among the dead were those hit by two strikes in the Nuseirat refugee camp — nine from the same family in a house and, later, 15 in the same camp, including women and children, according to staff at al-Awda Hospital, where the bodies were brought. Five others were killed when a strike hit a tent for the displaced, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the dead.

Israel's army said it was not aware of anyone being killed by gunfire Saturday in southern Gaza, nor of a strike in the Nuseirat area during the time and at the location provided by the hospital.

The director of Shifa Hospital in Gaza City told The Associated Press that medical teams there were concerned about Israeli "tanks approaching the vicinity of the hospital," restricting access to the facility where 159 patients are being treated.

"The bombardment has not stopped for a single moment," Dr. Mohamed Abu Selmiya said.

He added that 14 premature babies were treated in incubators in Helou Hospital, though the head of neonatal intensive care there, Dr. Nasser Bulbul, has said that facility's main gate was closed because of drones flying over the building.

Netanyahu and Trump scheduled to meet as pressure grows

The attacks came after a defiant Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told fellow world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly on Friday that his nation "must finish the job" against Hamas in Gaza. Forty-eight hostages are still held captive there, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive.

Netanyahu's words began after dozens of delegates from multiple nations walked out of the U.N. General Assembly hall en masse Friday morning as he began speaking.

"You were like the last of the lepers. Netanyahu, we promise you that if you don't bring a comprehensive agreement and end the war, you will forever be a leper," said Itzik Horn, the father of Eitan Horn, one of the hostages held in Gaza since the Hamas attack that started the war. He was referencing the U.N. speech and Israel's isolation.

"My son Eitan sleeps sick and starving on the floor of a tunnel in Gaza or, worse, is used as a human shield against IDF fighters. What will you save him with?" Horn added Saturday evening.

International pressure on Israel to end the war is increasing, with a growing list of countries deciding recently to recognize Palestinian statehood, which Israel rejects.

Countries have been lobbying U.S. President Donald Trump to press Israel for a ceasefire. Trump and Netanyahu are scheduled to meet Monday. At a weekly protest in Tel Aviv Saturday night, a hostage who had been held in Gaza for 471 days begged Trump to give the remaining captives the same chance to return home.

"Mr. President, as you meet Prime Minister Netanyahu, please make the hostages your top priority," Doron Steinbrecher, 32, said. "Families remain torn apart, their loved ones trapped in darkness, some waiting for a chance to return to life and freedom, others waiting to be buried with dignity."

Among those whose bodies are held in Gaza is Inbar Haiman. Her uncle asked Saturday at a protest in Jerusalem that Trump help facilitate the return. "We want her back home as if she were alive," Eli Cohen said.

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On Friday, Trump told reporters he believes the U.S. is close to achieving a deal on easing fighting in Gaza that "will get the hostages back" and "end the war."

Yet, Israel is pressing ahead with another major ground operation in Gaza City, which experts say is experiencing famine. More than 300,000 people have fled, but up to 700,000 are still there, many because they can't afford to relocate.

Hospitals are short on supplies and targeted by airstrikes

The strikes Saturday morning demolished a house in Gaza City's Tufah neighborhood, killing at least 11 people, more than half of them women and children, according to Al-Ahly Hospital, where the bodies were brought. Four other people were killed when an airstrike hit their homes in the Shati refugee camp, according to Shifa Hospital. Six other Palestinians were killed by Israeli gunfire while seeking aid in southern and central Gaza, according to the Nasser and Al Awda hospitals.

Hospitals and health clinics in Gaza City are on the brink of collapse. Nearly two weeks into the offensive, two clinics have been destroyed by airstrikes, two hospitals shut down after being damaged and others struggling with medicine, equipment, food and fuel in short supply, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Many patients and staff have been forced to flee hospitals, leaving behind only a few doctors and nurses to tend to children in incubators or other patients too ill to move.

On Friday, aid group Doctors Without Borders said it was forced to suspend activities in Gaza City. The group said Israeli tanks were less than a kilometer (half a mile) from its facilities, creating an "unacceptable level of risk" for its staff.

Meanwhile, the food situation in the north has also worsened, as Israel has halted aid deliveries through its crossing into northern Gaza since Sept. 12 and has increasingly rejected U.N. requests to bring supplies from southern Gaza into the north, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

COGAT, the Israeli military agency in charge of transferring aid to the territory, said Saturday that humanitarian aid to the northern Gaza Strip "continues on an ongoing basis," and that it has increased significantly over recent weeks at a crossing into central Gaza.

"Food is scarce and expensive and water is not safe to drink," said Amal al-Aas, who lives with her husband, three children and her father in western Gaza City.

People who are fleeing Gaza City for the south said food remains too expensive, and runs out at crammed charity kitchens offering staples like lentil soup and rice.

"Sometimes the food runs out before we get some. We go home empty-handed," said Fatima Al-Daghma, who was displaced from eastern Khan Younis, on Saturday.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 65,900 people and wounded more than 167,000 others, Gaza's Health Ministry said. It doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but says women and children make up around half the fatalities. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, but U.N. agencies and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

Israel's campaign was triggered when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage.

US revokes visa for Colombia's president after he urges American soldiers to disobey Trump

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tensions between the United States and Colombia have escalated with the State Department announcing it was revoking a visa for Gustavo Petro, president of the Latin American country, after he participated in a New York protest where he called on American soldiers to disobey President Donald Trump's orders.

The department said on social media that "we will revoke Petro's visa due to his reckless and incendiary actions."

Petro was visiting for the annual U.N. General Assembly. During a nearby protest Friday over the war in

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Gaza, he said "I ask all the soldiers of the United States' army, don't point your rifles against humanity" and "disobey the orders of Trump."

Petro returned to Colombia on Saturday as intended, in accordance with a Sept. 18 decree on the delegation of powers during his absence. He said on X that he found out about his visa status upon his arrival.

The State Department did not answer questions about whether the revocation would affect future visits.

Petro, Colombia's first leftist president, used a post on X addressed to Trump to say that "international law grants me immunity to go to the U.N. and that there should be no reprisals for my free opinion, because I am a free person."

Petro, who has a history of speaking off the cuff in meandering, ideologically charged speeches, also said on social media that "I don't care" about the punishment because he is also a European citizen. That means he does not need a visa to travel to the U.S.

Colombia broke diplomatic ties with Israel last year over the Israel-Hamas war. Petro has repeatedly described Israel's siege of Gaza as genocide.

Colombia has long been a top U.S. ally in Latin America, cooperating closely on the fight against drug trafficking. But there have been repeated clashes between Petro, a former rebel group member, and Trump's Republican administration.

In his General Assembly speech Tuesday, Petro called for a criminal investigation of Trump and other officials involved in this month's deadly strikes on boats in the Caribbean that the White House has said were transporting drugs. The White House has offered scant information about how the operations came together or the legal authorities under which they were carried out.

Earlier this year, Petro resisted deportation flights using American military aircraft, leading to a diplomatic crisis as Trump threatened to retaliate with higher tariffs and visa suspensions. The U.S. is Colombia's largest trading partner, and Petro's government relented, saying it would accept the planes.

The U.S. accused Colombia earlier this month of failing to cooperate with anti-narcotics efforts. Although the designation did not include sanctions that would have slashed U.S. assistance to the country, it was a sharp rebuke that frustrated Petro.

He said his country had lost the lives of "policemen, soldiers and regular citizens, trying to stop cocaine" from reaching the United States.

Denmark reports new drone sightings at military facilities

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The Danish defense ministry said Saturday that "drones have been observed at several of Danish defense facilities."

The new drone sightings overnight Friday into Saturday come after there were several drone sightings in the Nordic country earlier this week, with some of them temporarily shutting down Danish airports.

Several local media outlets reported that one or more drones were seen near or above the Karup Air Base, which is Denmark's biggest military base.

The defense ministry refused to confirm the sighting at Karup or elsewhere and said that "for reasons of operational security and the ongoing investigation, the Defense Command Denmark does not wish to elaborate further on drone sightings."

The ministry clarified later to public broadcaster DR that reports of additional drone activity at Skrydstrup Air Base and the Jutland Dragoon Regiment referred to sightings that didn't occur overnight from Friday to Saturday. Its earlier statement seemed to imply that timing, and was widely reported.

The ministry couldn't be reached immediately for confirmation, but a statement on its website referring to the incidents at the base and barracks was dated Thursday — though it didn't directly confirm the sightings took place that day.

Anxiety and suspicion

Tensions have been running high in Denmark in recent days after various reports of drone activity, and hundreds of possible sightings reported by concerned citizens couldn't officially be confirmed. Nonethe-

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less, the public has been asked to report all suspicious activity to police.

On Saturday, DR and several other local media reported that in Karup, there were drones in the air both inside and outside the fence of the air base at around 8 p.m. on Friday, quoting Simon Skelkjær, the duty manager at the Central and West Jutland Police.

DR said that for a period of time, the airspace was closed to civil air traffic, but that didn't have much practical significance as there is currently no civil aviation in Karup.

The repeated unexplained drone activity, including over four Danish airports overnight Wednesday into Thursday and a similar incident at Copenhagen Airport, has raised concerns about security in northern Europe amid suspected growing Russian aggression.

Flights were grounded in the Danish capital for hours on Monday night.

The goal of the flyovers is to sow fear and division, Danish Minister of Justice Peter Hummelgaard said Thursday, adding that the country will seek additional ways to neutralize drones, including proposing legislation to allow infrastructure owners to shoot them down.

For the upcoming European Union summit next week, the Denmark's defense ministry said on X that the country's government had accepted an offer from Sweden to "lend Denmark a military anti-drone capability," without giving further details.

German reports drone sightings

In neighboring Germany, several drones were reported in the northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein, which borders Denmark, from Thursday into Friday night.

The state's interior minister, Sabine Sütterlin-Waack, said that "the state police are currently significantly stepping up their drone defense measures, also in coordination with other northern German states," German news agency dpa reported. She didn't provide further details, citing the ongoing investigations.

German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt told reporters on Saturday afternoon that his ministry is working on new anti-drone rules that aim to detect, intercept and — if needed — also shoot down drones.

On Thursday, European defense ministers agreed to develop a "drone wall" along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to better detect, track and intercept drones violating Europe's airspace.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that in regard to frequent attacks on infrastructure and data networks, "we are not at war, but we are no longer living in peace either." He didn't allude to a certain country as the actor behind those attacks.

"Drone flights, espionage, the Tiergarten murder, massive threats to individual public figures, not only in Germany but also in many other European countries. Acts of sabotage on a daily basis. Attempts to paralyze data centers. Cyberattacks," he added during a speech at the Schwarz Ecosystem Summit in Berlin on Friday, dpa reported.

What became known as the "Tiergarten murder" in Germany refers to the case of Vadim Krasikov, who was convicted of the Aug. 23, 2019, killing of Zelimkhan "Tornike" Khangoshvili, a 40-year-old Georgian citizen who had fought Russian troops in Chechnya and later claimed asylum in Germany. Krasikov was returned to Russia as part of a massive prisoner swap between the U.S. and Russia in 2024.

One of the six runways at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport was closed for about 45 minutes early Saturday afternoon after reports of a drone sighting around noon (1000 GMT), military police spokesman Doron Wallin told The Associated Press. Aircraft were redirected to another runway.

Wallin said no drone or drone pilot was found and the runway was reopened. He said that such reported sightings are a regular occurrence, with 22 so far this year.

NATO discusses airspace violations

Later on Saturday, Adm. Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, the chair of NATO's Military Committee, said at a NATO meeting in Riga, Latvia, that "Russian aircraft and drones, on top of the already existing measures will now find the resolute response of the newly established and already operational Eastern Sentry activity, which further strengthen NATO's ability to react quickly and decisively against this kind of reckless behavior."

"Russia bears full responsibility for these actions," Dragone said. "Today, I express full and unequivocal solidarity with all allies whose airspace has been breached. The alliance's response has been robust and will only continue to strengthen," he said.

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Latvian President Edgars Rinkēvičs said that “the immediate priority today is clearly air defense.” “Russia continues a pattern of provocations, most recently recklessly violating the airspace of Poland and Estonia,” Rinkēvičs said.

Trump asks Supreme Court to uphold restrictions he wants to impose on birthright citizenship

By MARK SHERMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s administration is asking the Supreme Court to uphold his birthright citizenship order declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens.

The appeal, shared with The Associated Press on Saturday, sets in motion a process at the high court that could lead to a definitive ruling from the justices by early summer on whether the citizenship restrictions are constitutional.

Lower-court judges have so far blocked them from taking effect anywhere. The Republican administration is not asking the court to let the restrictions take effect before it rules.

The Justice Department’s petition has been shared with lawyers for parties challenging the order, but is not yet docketed at the Supreme Court.

Any decision on whether to take up the case probably is months away and arguments probably would not take place until the late winter or early spring.

“The lower court’s decisions invalidated a policy of prime importance to the president and his administration in a manner that undermines our border security,” Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote. “Those decisions confer, without lawful justification, the privilege of American citizenship on hundreds of thousands of unqualified people.”

Cody Wofsy, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who represents children who would be affected by Trump’s restrictions, said the administration’s plan is plainly unconstitutional.

“This executive order is illegal, full stop, and no amount of maneuvering from the administration is going to change that. We will continue to ensure that no baby’s citizenship is ever stripped away by this cruel and senseless order,” Wofsy said in an email.

Trump signed an executive order on the first day of his second term in the White House that would upend more than 125 years of understanding that the Constitution’s 14th Amendment confers citizenship on everyone born on American soil, with narrow exceptions for the children of foreign diplomats and those born to a foreign occupying force.

In a series of decisions, lower courts have struck down the executive order as unconstitutional, or likely so, even after a Supreme Court ruling in late June that limited judges’ use of nationwide injunctions.

While the Supreme Court curbed the use of nationwide injunctions, it did not rule out other court orders that could have nationwide effects, including in class-action lawsuits and those brought by states. The justices did not decide at that time whether the underlying citizenship order is constitutional.

But every lower court that has looked at the issue has concluded that Trump’s order violates or likely violates the 14th Amendment, which was intended to ensure that Black people, including former slaves, had citizenship.

The administration is appealing two cases.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco ruled in July that a group of states that sued over the order needed a nationwide injunction to prevent the problems that would be caused by birthright citizenship being in effect in some states and not others.

Also in July, a federal judge in New Hampshire blocked the citizenship order in a class-action lawsuit including all children who would be affected.

Birthright citizenship automatically makes anyone born in the United States an American citizen, including children born to mothers who are in the country illegally, under long-standing rules. The right was enshrined soon after the Civil War in the first sentence of the 14th Amendment.

The administration has asserted that children of noncitizens are not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States and therefore not entitled to citizenship.

Rudy Giuliani and Dominion Voting Systems settle defamation suit over his 2020 election claims

NEW YORK (AP) — Rudy Giuliani has reached a settlement with Dominion Voting Systems in its \$1.3 billion defamation lawsuit over his baseless 2020 election-rigging claims.

The two sides said in a filing in federal court in Washington, D.C., on Friday that they have agreed to permanently dismiss the suit against the former New York City mayor and former personal lawyer to President Donald Trump.

The brief filing doesn't cite the settlement terms. Spokespeople for Giuliani and the Colorado-based company said Saturday that the terms are confidential and declined to comment further.

Dominion sued Giuliani in 2021 for \$1.3 billion in damages after he led Trump's efforts to cast doubt on the 2020 election results.

Conservatives and other Trump supporters blamed the company, one of the nation's top voting machine makers, for the Republican's loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Many alleged, without evidence, that its systems were easily manipulated. Dominion had provided voting machines for the state of Georgia, a critical battleground that Biden won and which flipped control of the U.S. Senate.

The web of conspiracy theories following the the 2020 election not only caused headaches for Dominion but also undermined public confidence in U.S. elections, led to calls to ban voting machines and triggered death threats against elections officials.

But Trump's former attorney general and others found no widespread fraud in the election.

Fox News also agreed to a nearly \$800 million settlement with Dominion in 2023, and another politically conservative network, Newsmax, agreed to a \$67 million settlement with Dominion over its election claims.

The company's suit against Giuliani was based on statements the onetime presidential hopeful made on social media, on conservative news outlets and during legislative hearings in which he claimed the company conspired to flip votes to Biden.

Dominion's lawsuit was among a series of legal and financial setbacks for Giuliani stemming from his role in spreading election conspiracy theories.

Earlier this month, a New York judge ordered the Republican, once celebrated as "America's mayor" for his leadership after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, to pay \$1.36 million in legal fees.

Giuliani, in recent years, has also been disbarred as an attorney in New York and Washington; filed for bankruptcy and reached an undisclosed settlement to keep his homes and belongings after he was ordered to pay \$148 million to two former Georgia elections workers he defamed.

Thieves steal \$1M worth in craft whiskey from Washington distillery

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

Thieves who made off with 12,000 bottles of craft whiskey in a rare U.S. liquor heist this summer did more than just snag nearly \$1 million worth of product -- they also spirited away nearly half the stock of a single malt distillers had worked for more than a decade to make.

Now the Skagit Valley Sheriff's Office is investigating, and whiskey aficionados are wondering if — and where — the coveted bottles of Westland Distillery's first 10-year Garryana whiskey might turn up.

The bottles disappeared July 31, when someone in a freight truck showed up at Westland Distillery's warehouse in Burlington, Washington, holding the paperwork that purportedly gave them the right to pick up a shipment of Westland single malt, Watchpost blended, and Garryana whiskies bound for New Jersey.

But the bottles never arrived at their intended destination, and the "sophisticated, fraudulent carrier

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scheme" was discovered a week later, said Jason Moore, the managing director of the Seattle-based distillery.

The 10th anniversary edition bottles of Garryana are irreplaceable, said Moore.

"This is an unfortunate and pretty extraordinary situation," said Moore.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office didn't immediately respond to a phone message left by The Associated Press.

It could be difficult to sell the stolen goods, said Mark Gillespie, the host of the WhiskyCast podcast who has published more than 3,800 tasting notes for different whiskey varieties.

"It's going to be really hard for whoever took this to actually get this onto the market, because what they took was so rare that everybody knows about it," Gillespie said. "We see these thefts occasionally in Scotland, where thieves will steal a trailer full of whiskey — and it usually ends up in Russia."

But getting 12,000 bottles out of the U.S. could be difficult because the bottles are rare and recognizable, and flipping them in the U.S. may be tough because of the nation's three-tier system for alcohol sales. Distilleries generally have to sell liquor to distributors or wholesalers, who then sell to retailers and restaurants and bars. Selling alcohol on the secondary market — such as when individuals buy up popular bottles and then resell them for a profit — is generally illegal.

That's not true in much of Europe, where auction houses and other businesses specialize in secondary market sales.

"The providence of the Garryana is important because it's their first 10-year-old whiskey," Gillespie said. "Basically, age statements state how old the whiskey is, and in this country you have a lot of craft distilleries that aren't quite 10 years old. So for a craft distillery to be able to release a 10-year-old is an accomplishment."

Westland focuses on single-malt whiskeys, a style of liquor made from barley, similar to a Scotch whiskey. But Moore says Westland has worked hard to capture the terroir of the Pacific Northwest inside each bottle, using locally produced grains, peat harvested from an Olympic peninsula bog and a specific type of yeast selected to bring out the regional flavors.

That's what makes the Garryana special, he said — it's aged in casks made from the Quercus garryana oak tree, which grows primarily in the Pacific Northwest.

The limited-edition whiskey regularly wins awards, said Gillespie, and the 2023 edition was named the third best whiskey in the world by Whisky Advocate magazine. The Garryana sells out every year, Gillespie said, and with 3,000 of this year's 7,500-bottle release gone, the price on the secondary market will be driven up.

Moore said the company has taken additional steps to protect its supply chain, and right now they are focusing on serving customers instead of the investigation.

"What happens from there is outside of our control, and we get excited about sharing our whiskey and engaging with the supporters we have," Moore said. "This is an extremely rare thing, and while it's a setback, we're confident that we're going to get to share this whiskey. We're proud to make something people enjoy."

Losing \$1 million in stock would put a lot of distilleries out of business, but Gillespie said he expects Westland to make it through the loss, in part because it was acquired by the Paris-based Remy Cointreau Group in 2016. Still, he has some advice for people eager to get a taste of Westland's products: Stick to the legal supply chains.

"If somebody tries to offer you a case of Westland whiskey right now, I'd call the cops," Gillespie said.

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Today in History:

September 28, Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2025. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 28, 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first broadly effective antibiotic.

Also on this date:

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Virginia.

In 1924, three U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, completing the first round-the-world trip by air in 175 days.

In 1941, Ted Williams became the most recent American League baseball player to hit over .400 for a season, batting .406 for the Boston Red Sox.

In 1962, a federal appeals court found Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett in civil contempt for blocking the admission of James Meredith, a Black student, to the University of Mississippi.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House calling for an end to Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and expanding the responsibilities of the Palestinian Authority.

In 2016, Hurricane Matthew forms near the Windward Islands and goes on to kill over 1,000 people in Haiti, elsewhere in the Caribbean and the southeastern U.S.

In 2000, capping a 12-year battle, the U.S. government approved use of the abortion pill RU-486.

In 2020, the worldwide death toll from the coronavirus pandemic reached 1 million, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

In 2022, Category 4 Hurricane Ian barreled ashore in southwestern Florida and then bisected the center of the state, causing more than 100 fatalities and billions of dollars in damage.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Brigitte Bardot is 91. Filmmaker John Sayles is 75. Football Hall of Famer Steve Largent is 71. Zydeco musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 68. Hockey Hall of Famer Grant Fuhr is 63. Actor-comedian Janeane Garofalo (juh-NEEN' guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 61. Actor Maria Canals-Barrera is 59. Actor Mira Sorvino is 58. Actor Naomi Watts is 57. Olympic gold medal swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg is 50. Rapper Jeezy is 48. Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 48. Pop-rock musician St. Vincent is 43. Actor Hilary Duff is 38. Boxer Terence "Bud" Crawford is 38. Tennis player Marin Čilić is 37. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 33.