

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **Sunday, Oct. 26**

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.; 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.

4th-6th GBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 2 p.m.

1st Grade GBB Practice, 3:30 p.m.

5th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.



## **Monday, Oct. 27**

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at noon.

4th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Faulkton: (JV-6, V-7:15)

## **Tuesday, Oct. 28**

5th Grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.

Volleyball host s Milbank: (Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:30)

FFA National Convention, Indianapolis, Ind.

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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

### Freedom of Assembly and an Irrepressible American Spirit on No Kings Day

Neither the invective-filled disparagement from White House officials, nor the vulgar video posted by President Donald Trump on October 18, in which he hailed himself wearing a crown and piloting a jet fighter plane while dropping excrement on Americans who participated in the nationwide, "No Kings" protests, deterred the seven million protestors in some 3,000 locations across the country who demonstrated the strength and spirit of the majestic First Amendment right of peaceable assembly. Freedom of assembly, our nation's founders believed, was an essential, democratic means for protecting the voice of the people, so integral to their republican experiment that they supposed it to be, in the words of Justice Joseph Story, "unquestionable and inherent."

Trump acolytes, including Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in the runup to the largest protest on a single day in American history had, for days and weeks, baselessly disparaged protestors as those who "Hate America." The steady stream of slurs covered the ground: Hamas terrorists, Marxists, Socialists, criminals, idiots and members of "antifa," yes, always the bogeyman of antifas, which Trump wants Congress to brand a "domestic terrorist organization," even though no such organization exists. Another authoritarian leader, Mussolini, for whom Trump has expressed admiration, prosecuted "anitifas" in Italy in the 1920s. Their crime? They were anti-fascists who opposed the fascist leader. The administration's disdain for the right of Americans to exercise speech and assembly freedoms illuminates the authoritarianism into which Trump has plunged the nation.

The constitutional guarantee of Freedom of Assembly, which finds its roots in the English Bill of Rights of 1689, emerged in the heat of pre-revolutionary America as colonists voiced objections to repressive measures enacted by the king and parliament. In 1774, General Gage, on behalf of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, assumed the authority to issue a proclamation that declared it "Treason" for inhabitants of the province to assemble themselves to consider their grievances and form "associations" for their common conduct. All civil magistrates and officers were ordered to apprehend such persons for their "Offences." In August 1774, Thomas Jefferson expressed outrage: "it is the most alarming Process that ever appeared in a British Government." He said that "the executing, or attempting to execute, such Proclamation, will justify Resistance and Reprisal." On October 14, the Continental Congress issued the "Declaration and Resolves," the first document in American history to protect freedom of assembly, which Congress called a "natural right," and the direct precursor of the declaration of rights contained in the Revolutionary state constitutions, beginning with the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776.

In debates on the Bill of Rights, members of the First Congress in 1789 raised no objection in principle to including freedom of assembly in the First Amendment, but a few representatives wondered aloud whether it was necessary, given that it struck everyone as a "self-evident, unalienable" right, "inherent" in freedom of expression, and "certainly a thing that never would be called into question." It was, therefore, "unlikely" to be denied. Other members, however, pointed to English history and governmental denials of assembly, including its prohibition in the reign of King Charles II, and predicted it might happen in America, which made its protection necessary. Others supported its incorporation and pointed out that it would justly enhance our "democracy."

Justice Story, at the forefront of the nation's early landmark judicial decisions, addressed in 1833, the standing of freedom of assembly as a fundamental right. "This would seem unnecessary to be expressly provided for in a republican government, since it results from the very nature of its structure and institutions. It is impossible, that it could be completely denied, until the spirit of liberty had wholly disappeared,

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and the people had become so servile and debased, as to be unfit to exercise any of the privileges of freemen."

On October 18, the vulgar denigration of freedom of assembly by President Trump could not match the irrepressible spirit of the American people. Trump might have ignored the millions of citizens who assembled in objection to his deeply unpopular policies, which have left him under water in the major categories of opinion polls, but, unlike Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, who simply but appropriately replied to protests against their policies by stating that, in a democracy, the people have a right to voice their opposition. Trump, however, doesn't seem to believe that.

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## Three 100-yard individual performances spur Northern State to overtime victory

Aberdeen, S.D. – The (RV) Northern State University football team faced off against MSU Moorhead on Saturday evening in a barn burner between two 5-2 squads. The Wolves edged the Dragons in their first overtime contest of the season as Graham Borden batted down MSUM's 2-point conversion attempt for the win. NSU racked up 365 rushing yards and 282 passing yards, marking another high-powered offensive performance in front of 4,947 fans.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 49, MSUM 48

Records: NSU 6-2 (5-2 NSIC), MSUM 5-3 (4-3 NSIC)

Attendance: 4947

### HOW IT HAPPENED

The teams traded touchdowns throughout, with the game tied at 42 at the end of regulation. Northern tallied seven points in the first, ten in the second, 14 in the third, and 11 in the fourth, while Moorhead notched seven in the first, seven in the second, 21 in the third, and seven in the fourth.

The Dragons scored first to open the game at 10:50 on the clock, however the Wolves got to work quickly, opening the drive on their own 30.

Wyatt Block opened NSU's scoring with a 3-yard run on the Wolves opening drive, his first of the evening.

The team's traded scores in the second with a 5-yard running by Jack Strand for MSUM and a 2-yard rushing score by Daniel Britt at 3:57.

Jeremy Caruso gave Northern their first lead of the evening, hitting a 33-yard field goal just before halftime and the two teams entered the locker rooms with NSU up, 17-14.

Trey Birdsong opened the second half with a bang on a 36-yard touchdown pass from Britt at 12:42, extending the NSU lead; the Dragons however responded and cut the lead to three on the following drive.

The tides turned in Moorhead's favor as the third ticked down, with MSUM taking a 28-24 lead with just under five minutes remaining in the quarter.

The Wolves were back to work and regained the lead as Gavin Giesler hauled in an 11-yard touchdown from Brock Bagozzi with a minute to play in the quarter.

That lead did not last long with the Dragons running back the kick-off 97-yards for the score.

NSU trailed 35-31 entering the fourth and MSUM extended that lead by seven with seven minutes remaining in regulation.

The Britt to Birdsong connect replayed with 3:30 on the clock on a 9-yard receiving touchdown, followed by a successful 2-point conversion rush by Block; and the Wolves were within three.

The Northern defense was lock-down on the following drive, going 3-and-out and returning the ball to the offense with 2:19 remaining in game.

Birdsong's second TD reception, a 9-yarder from Britt (plus a Block two-point rush), tied the game in the fourth.

11-plays and 78-yards later it was up to Caruso who sent his second field goal of the evening, a 23-yarder, through the uprights, forcing overtime.

The Wolves opened the overtime period with the ball and Block scored his second touchdown of the evening, a 12-yard run, followed by Caruso's fifth PAT to give NSU the 49-42 lead.

Moorhead broke through with an 11-yard passing score on their possession, however the foiled 2-point conversion by Borden sealed the win.

Northern led the contest with 30 first downs, 365 yards rushing, 647 yards of total offense, and three sacks, while adding 282 yards passing.

The defense held MSUM to 125 yards rushing and kept the powerful Dragon passing offense at bay.



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with the game on the line

Britt had a career game for NSU with 342 yards of total offense and three touchdowns, recording his first 100-plus yard rushing game of the season and second overall as a Wolf

Block rushed for a team leading 192 yards and two touchdowns, marking his fifth straight contest with triple figure rushing totals

Birdsong tallied his first 100-yard game as a Wolf, racking up 132 total receiving yards with two touchdowns

Cooper Logan led the defense with ten tackles, including one sack, while Javonnee Szymanski and Max Van Landingham added a sack each

Cooper Eisenbeisz led the return game with 69 total yards, including a 22-yard long

Caruso was lights out in the kicking game, scoring 11 points for the Wolves on a pair of made field goals and five point after attempts; he also averaged 56.7 yards per kickoff

Jackson Isakson punted for the first time since October 11 against Minnesota Duluth, averaging 30.7 yards per punt

## **NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS**

Daniel Britt: 210 yards passing (12-19), 2 touchdowns, 132 yards rushing, 1 touchdown

Wyatt Block: 192 rushing yards, 76-yard long, 7.1 yds/carry, 2 touchdowns

Trey Birdsong: 132 receiving yards, 36-yard long, 2 touchdowns

Cooper Logan: 10 tackles, 1.0 sack, 1 break-up

Javonnee Szymanski: 6 tackles, 1.0 sack

Jeremy Caruso: 2-for-2 field goals, 33-yard long, 5-for-5 PAT

## **BEYOND THE BOX SCORE**

Block's 192-yard effort is his fifth 100+ yard game of the season, pushing him over 900 yards for the year and keeping him among the NSIC's top rushers

Birdsong's 2-touchdown game is a career high as a Wolf, and he now leads the team in receiving touchdowns in 2025

NSU's 49 points are the most scored in the series against the Dragons since 2013

Northern is 3-1 in the NSIC North following the win, sitting atop the division and tied for third in the overall league standings

## **UP NEXT**

The Wolves return to action next Saturday, traveling to No. 5 Augustana University. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. against the undefeated Vikings in Sioux Falls.



**Pictured are Jayden Schwan, Ryelle Gilbert, Riley Shellenberger and Kella Tracy.** (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

## **Gilbert is medalist at State Cross Country Meet**

Four Groton Area Tigers represented the school at the State Cross Country Meet in Huron on Saturday, each capping off a strong season with determined performances on the biggest stage.

Sophomore Ryelle Gilbert led the Tigers with an impressive 22nd-place finish in the girls' race, crossing the line in 19:55.37—earning herself a Top 25 state medal.

In the boys' competition, senior Jayden Schwan ran a steady race to place 34th overall with a time of 17:33.08, closing out his high school cross country career with another solid performance.

Junior Kella Tracy finished 54th in 20:56.35, continuing her string of strong finishes this season.

Freshman Riley Shellenberger capped off the Tigers' day by posting a personal-best time of 19:20.09, good for 100th place in his first state appearance.

The Groton Area cross country program once again showed depth and promise, blending experience with young talent as the runners represented their school and community with pride.



**Groton Area sophomore Ryelle Gilbert races to a 22nd-place finish at the State Cross Country Meet in Huron with a time of 19:55.37, earning a Top 25 state medal.**

(Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

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## High School Girls Volleyball Game

*Faulkton @ Groton Area*

*Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

### Game Times/Locations:

#### **Main Court in Arena**

- 6:00PM → JV
- 7:15PM → Varsity

#### **Ticket Takers (Report @ 5pm):**

- Lindsey DeHoet
- Ashley Brudvig
- Joni Groeblichhoff

**Admin on Duty:** Joe Schwan

**Down Syndrome Awareness Game** – HOSA sponsoring fundraiser for Baylor Torrence (Mrs. Torrence's daughter)

### Pre-Game Introductions:

1. National Anthem
2. Varsity Introductions/Lineups

**LOCKER ROOM:** Faulkton will use the last locker room down the JH hallway.

**ATHLETIC TRAINER:** There will be an athletic trainer on site. AED is located near the ticket booth.

**ADMISSION & SPECTATORS:** Adults: \$5.00 Students: \$4.00.

**CONCESSIONS:** Will be available.

**JV/Varsity Refs:** Scott Deutsch and Mark Nelson

**JV/Varsity Line Judges:** Kristi Zoellner and Melanie Johnson

**JV/Varsity Scoreboard:** Kristen Dolan

**JV/V Official Book:** Lynette Grieve

**JV/V Libero Tracker:** Becky Erickson

**Announcer:** Mike Imrie

**National Anthem:** Groton Area 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Rowan Hanson

**Team Benches** – **Groton:** South Bench  
**Faulkton:** North Bench

### Livestream:

- [Groton High School | High School Sports | Home | Hudl](https://fan.hudl.com/usa/sd/groton/organization/12097/groton-high-school)  
fan.hudl.com/usa/sd/groton/organization/12097/groton-high-school
- GDlive.com (must pay \$5 to watch)

***Thank you,***

*Alexa Sperry, Athletic Director*

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## High School Girls Volleyball Game

*Milbank @ Groton Area*

*Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

### **Game Times/Locations:**

<b>Main Court in Arena</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 5:00PM → C</li><li>- 6:00PM → JV</li><li>- 7:15PM → Varsity</li></ul>	<b>Ticket Takers (Report @ 4pm):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Missi Smith</li><li>- Mary Johnson</li><li>- Lance Hawkins</li></ul> <b>Admin on Duty:</b> Brett Schwan
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**Senior Night** – 4 senior VB players & their parents will be announced prior to warm-ups

### **Pre-Game Introductions:**

1. National Anthem
2. Varsity Introductions/Lineups

**LOCKER ROOM:** Milbank will use the last locker room down the JH hallway.

**ATHLETIC TRAINER:** There will be an athletic trainer on site. AED is located near the ticket booth.

**ADMISSION & SPECTATORS:** Adults: \$5.00 Students: \$4.00.

**CONCESSIONS:** Will be available.

**JV/Varsity Refs:** Mark Nelson and Malory McIntire

**JV/Varsity Line Judges:** Kristi Zoellner and Melanie Johnson

**C Ref:** Melanie Johnson

**C Line Judges:** HS VB Players

**C/JV/Varsity Scoreboard:** Kristen Dolan

**JV/V Official Book:** Lynette Grieve

**JV/V Libero Tracker:** Becky Erickson

**Announcer:** Mike Imrie

**National Anthem:** GHS Pep Band under the direction of Mr. Joshua Friez

**Team Benches** – Groton: South Bench

Milbank: North Bench

### **Livestream:**

- [Groton High School | High School Sports | Home | Hudl](https://fan.hudl.com/usa/sd/groton/organization/12097/groton-high-school)  
fan.hudl.com/usa/sd/groton/organization/12097/groton-high-school
- GDLive.com (must pay \$5 to watch)

**Thank you,**

Alexa Sperry, Athletic Director

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*The Lord said to Satan,  
"From where do you come?"  
Then Satan answered the Lord  
and said, "From roaming  
about on the earth and  
walking around on it."*

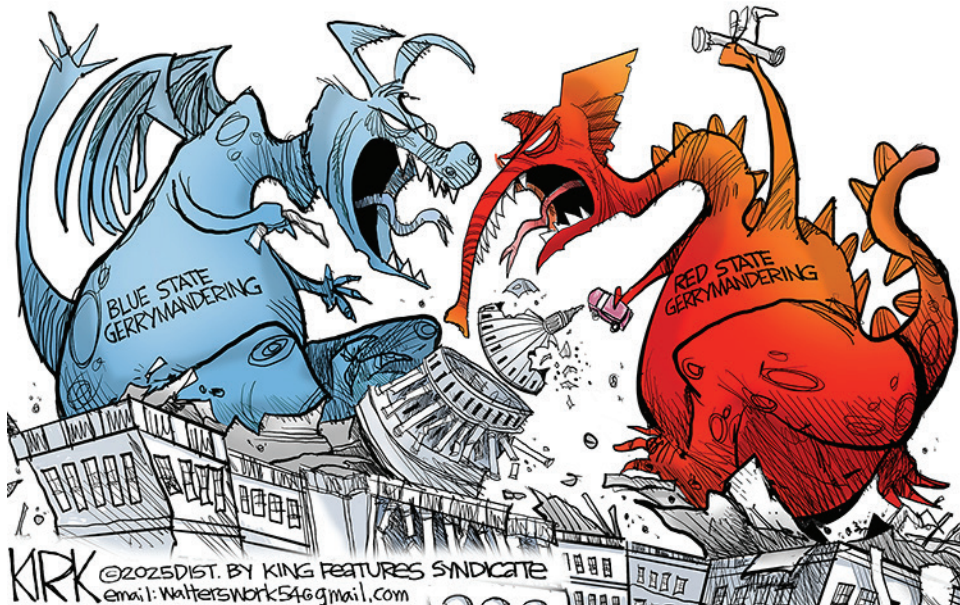
❧ JOB 1:7 ❧

*Detail of "Head of Satyr" by Michelangelo (16th century)*



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WHEN AMERICAN POLITICS DEVOLVES INTO A BAD  
JAPANESE MONSTER MOVIE...



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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Matthew 12, when an evil spirit returns to a person, how many companions does it bring? 2, 3, 7, 16

3. In which book's 22:18 does it state, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live"? *Exodus, Numbers, Isaiah, Hebrews*

4. The mark of the beast number (666) is found in what chapter of Revelation? 1, 7, 11, 13

5. From 1 Samuel 16, which king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? *Solomon, David, Elah, Saul*

6. Who called the city of Nineveh the mistress of witchcraft? *Ahab, Nahum, Lucifer, Peter*

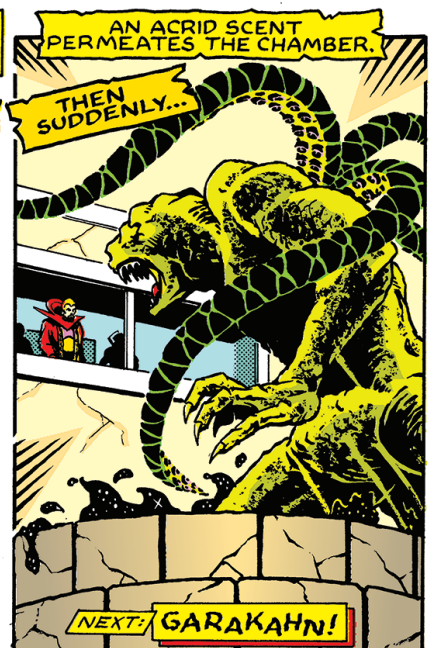
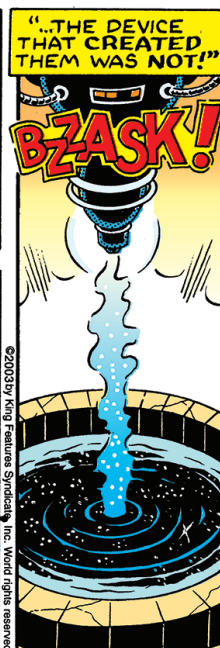
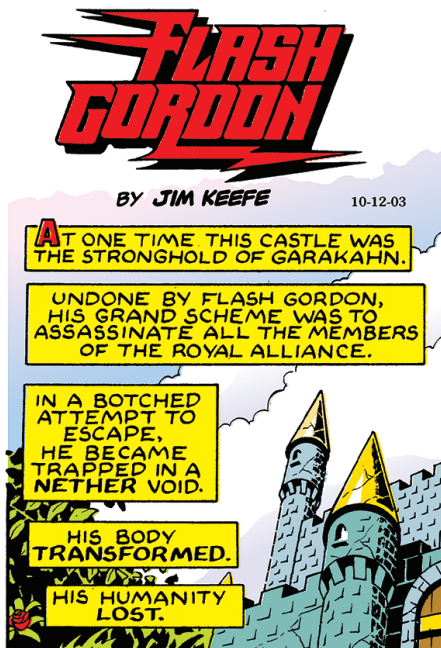
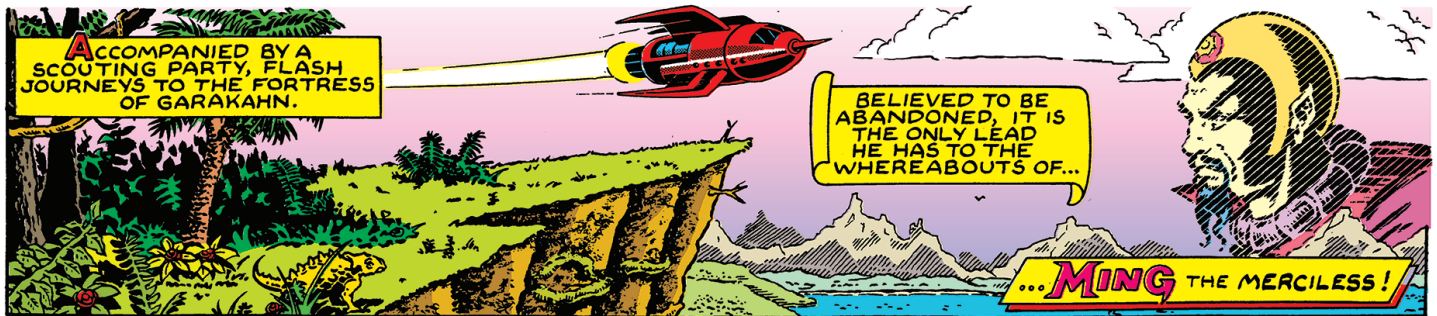
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Seven, 3) Exodus, 4) 13:18, 5) Saul, 6) Nahum

*Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy). FREE TRIAL!*

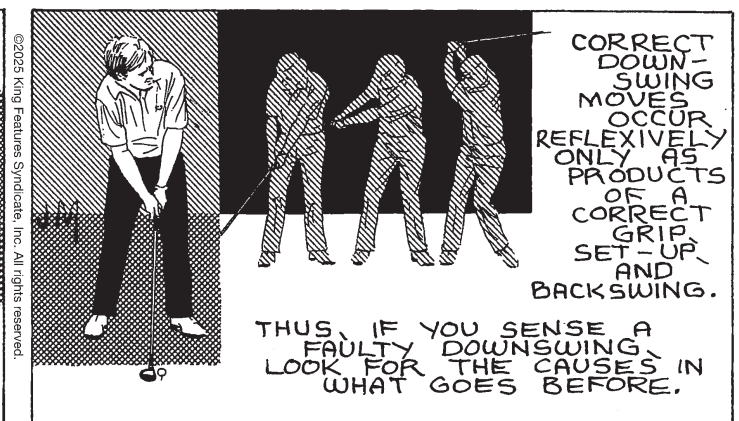
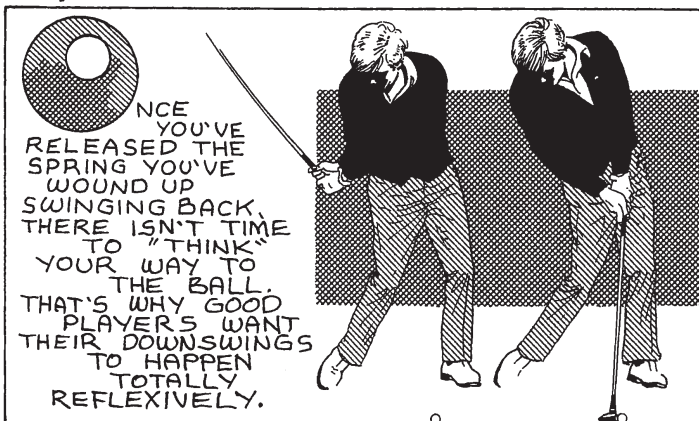


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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Understanding the Risk Reduction of Statins With Cholesterol

DEAR DR. ROACH: A cardiologist recently suggested that I should consider taking a statin because of my "borderline" cholesterol level. So, I took a dive into the details of statin therapy. I learned that although statins are thought to reduce the chance of a cardiovascular event by up to 50%, the actual reduction is very small.

I presented this information to the cardiologist and decided to forego statin therapy, which he endorsed. A better understanding of this difference would be very valuable to your readers. -- T.G.

ANSWER: The amount of absolute risk reduction from a statin in a person without known heart disease depends mostly on a person's absolute risk of heart disease. This depends on the person's risk factors such as age, sex, blood pressure, cholesterol level, smoking status, family history, and others. (When a person already has known heart disease, then the benefits of a statin are so large that this kind of analysis isn't generally done.)

The relative risk reduction from a statin depends on the potency and dose of a statin, but a typically used number is about a relative risk reduction of 20%. (A 50% relative risk reduction isn't achievable with the current medication.)

I normally go through this analysis with every patient when considering a statin, and it starts with estimating their absolute risk prior to treatment. There are several calculators to give an estimate; I usually use [tinyurl.com/PREVENTCalc](http://tinyurl.com/PREVENTCalc) and adjust it for any risk factors that are not considered by the calculator. (I should add that some people have difficulty understanding these numbers and simply ask me about my opinion, which is fine, but I prefer to work collegially.)

For example, a 75-year-old man who has a cholesterol level of 220 mg/dL and an HDL of 45 mg/dL with a blood pressure of 140/80 mmHg (all of which might be considered "borderline"), the calculator gives an estimated absolute risk of 19.4%. This is the risk of this person developing any kind of obstructive heart disease, including a heart attack or death, during the next 10 years.

With a statin, a reasonable guess would be a drop of about 20% of the absolute risk (19.4% in this case), meaning a drop to 15.5%. The relative risk reduction is 20%, but the absolute risk reduction for this person is 3.9%.

A second example is a 50-year-old woman with the exact same numbers who has an absolute risk reduction of 3.6%. She would get the same 20% reduction, but this is only a 0.72% drop for a new absolute risk of 2.88%.

Clinicians and epidemiologists use another number called the "number needed to treat" (NNT), which is a function of the absolute risk reduction. In the examples above, about 26 75-year-old men would need to be treated for 10 years to prevent a case of heart attack or death, while 139 50-year-old women would need to be treated to prevent one case.

The benefit of a statin or any other treatment to reduce heart disease depends on how much risk a person has to begin with. Whether this benefit is "worth it" to any given person depends not only on the absolute benefit, but also on their aversion to medicine and their level of worry about heart disease.

The cost of a statin (\$5 or \$10 a month) isn't a big consideration for most. Serious side effects to statins are rare, but if they occur, there are alternatives.

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

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**Colin Farrell, left, and Tilda Swinton star in "Ballad of a Small Player."** (Courtesy of Netflix)

"It: Welcome to Derry" (TV-MA) -- The new prequel series to the "It" films just premiered its first episode in the nick of time for Halloween, although episodes will continue releasing weekly well into

December. Taylour Paige ("Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F") and Jovan Adepo ("His Three Daughters") play a couple who move to the fictional town of Derry, Maine, to find some normalcy for themselves and their son. Little do they know that Derry, of all places, doesn't have much normalcy to offer them. Just as they arrive at their new home, a boy goes missing, leaving the police department at a loss as to how it happened. But if you know the "It" franchise, you know it all comes down to the kids and their sleuthing. Hopefully, they're prepared for what they're going to find ... (HBO Max)

"Devil in Disguise: John Wayne Gacy" (TV-MA) -- The final pick for spooky-season viewing this year is this true-crime drama series about the life of 1970s serial killer John Wayne Gacy. Michael Chernus ("Severance"), who's usually known for more comedic roles, takes on the role of the titular character and presents a more menacing side to him than we've ever seen before. The series focuses on the many personalities of Gacy that he showed to his community -- him as a contractor, a politician, and even a clown -- but also the psychopathic side he kept hidden. As an investigation launches against Gacy and his crimes, viewers can watch along to see how he tries to slither out of the consequences of his own actions. All eight episodes are out now. (Peacock)

"Ballad of a Small Player" (R) -- Hailing from "Conclave" director Edward Berger is this new psychological thriller led by Colin Farrell ("The Penguin"). Based on the novel by Lawrence Osbourne, the film follows gambling man Lord Doyle (Farrell), who is down on his luck but still gambling his life away in Macau, China. Between his incessant gambling and heavy drinking, Lord is a mess. So, when private investigator Cynthia Blithe (Tilda Swinton) shows up in Macau looking for him to settle the debts from his past, the high stakes get even higher for Lord to win some money. The setting of Macau is a vibrant playground for the storytelling of this film to kick off, and viewers can enjoy yet another stellar performance from Farrell when the film premieres on Oct. 29. (Netflix)

"Hedda" (R) -- Last but far from least is this drama film based on the play "Hedda Gabler" written by Henrik Ibsen, but it puts an interesting spin on the original play. Tessa Thompson ("Creed III") portrays the title character, a woman named Hedda, in the 1880s who finds herself bored with her current life and marriage, even though money and a mansion are exactly what she thought she wanted. Then, over the course of one night, as if from wishful thinking, life tosses her the curveball she's been wanting -- in the form of an ex-lover, Eileen, showing up at the party that she and her husband are throwing. The sole presence of Eileen puts the vibe of the night at an imbalance, leaving it to Hedda to find an equilibrium not only for the night but for the rest of her life. Out on Oct. 29. (Amazon Prime Video)

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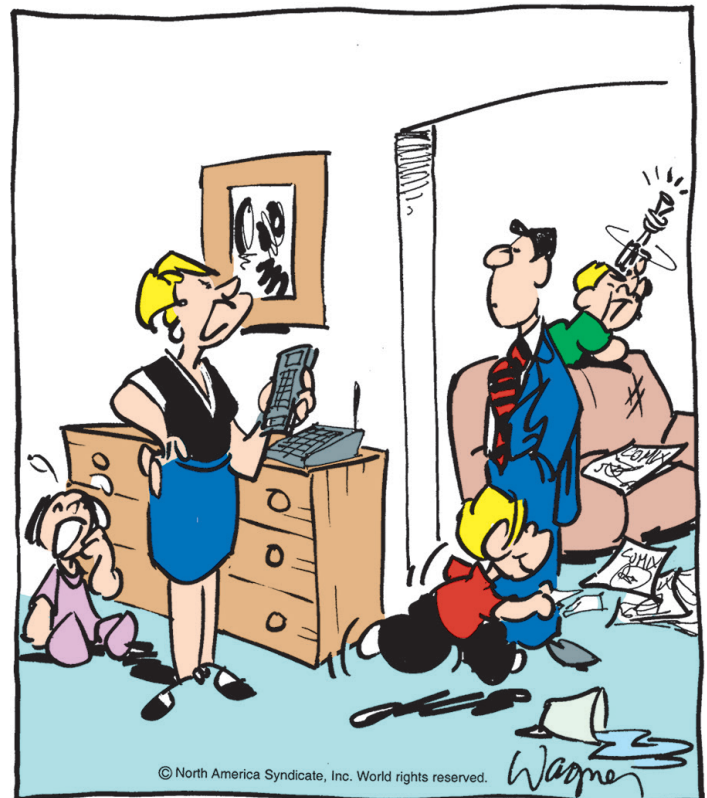
1. Which group released "Best of My Love"? (Hint: It was on their "On the Border" album.)
2. Name the first artist to release "Misty Blue."
3. Who was the first to release "Put Your Hand in the Hand"?
4. Which singer-songwriter released "Only the Lonely (Know the Way I Feel)"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "All my life was a paper, once plain, pure and white."

Answers

1. The Eagles, in 1974. In 1975, Billboard rated it at No. 12 of all the songs for the year.
2. Wilma Burgess, in 1966. Months later the song was covered by Eddy Arnold. It had been penned specifically for Brenda Lee, but she said no to recording it.
3. Anne Murray, in 1970. The following year the Canadian group Ocean released the song on their debut album. A dozen others followed over the years with their own covers, including Joan Baez, Elvis Presley and Tennessee Ernie Ford.
4. Roy Orbison, in 1960. The song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.
5. "You Decorated My Life," by Kenny Rogers, in 1979. The next year it won the Grammy for Best Country Song.

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**GRIN and BEAR IT** *Wagner*



"We can scratch one more sitter from the list.  
... Your mother recognized my voice."

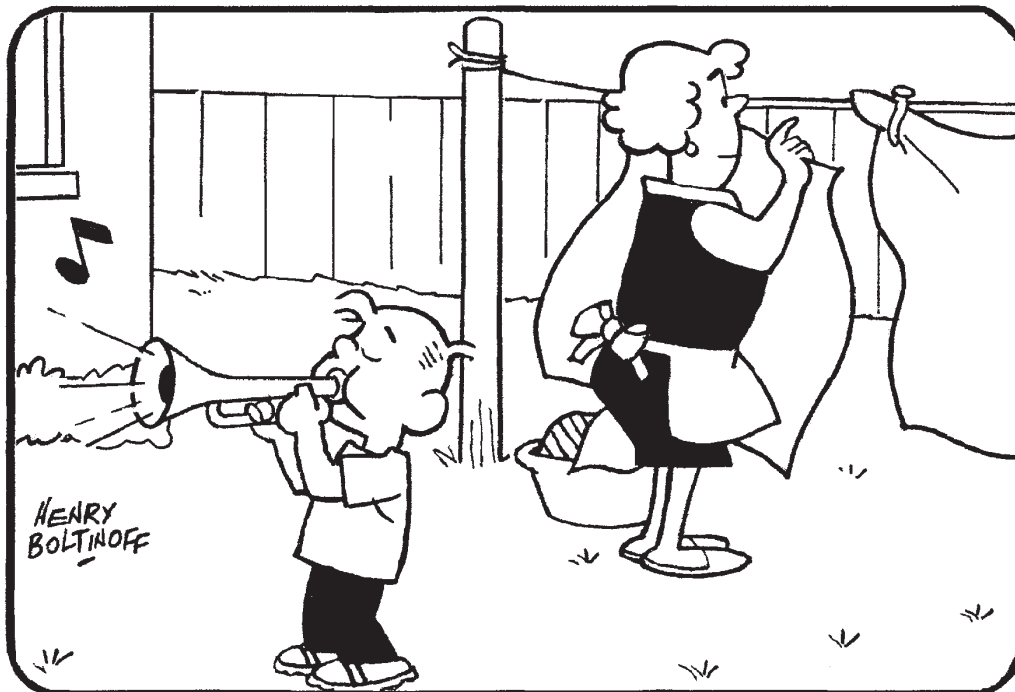
## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

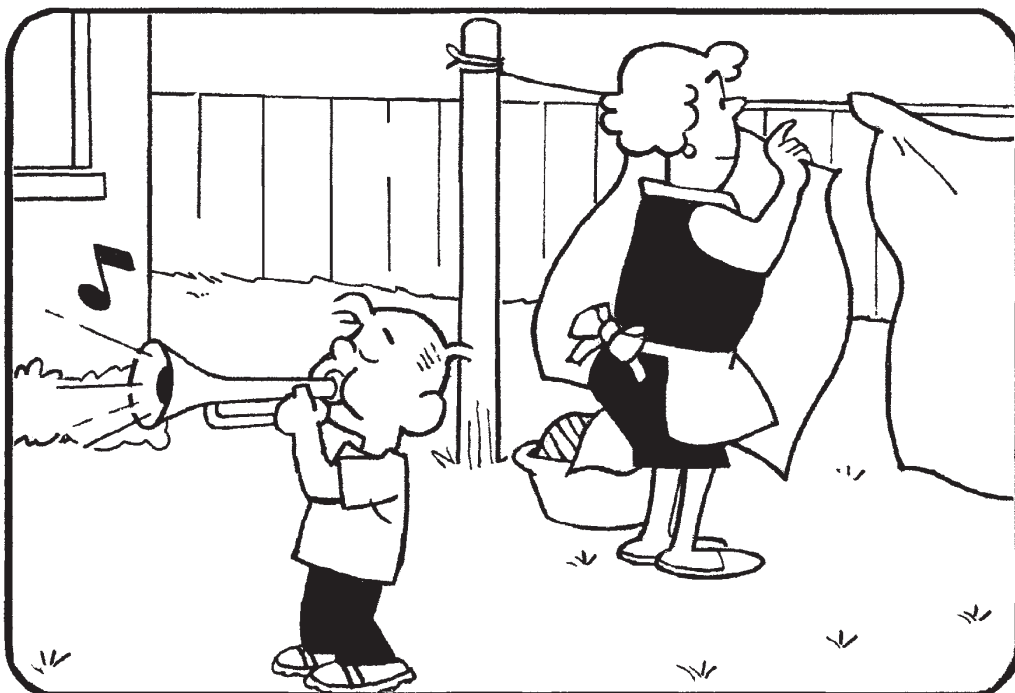


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Music note is moved. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Clothespin is missing. 4. Sheet is longer. 5. Window is wider. 6. Arm is not showing.



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\* "Save plastic bags that cannot be recycled and use them to collect food scraps that cannot be composted or flushed."

-- B.M. in New York

\* Keep your hard-boiled egg yolks from crumbling by wetting your knife between slices.

\* "To soften the butter without melting it, warm a bowl that is bigger than the butter stick and invert it over the butter on a plate. It's nice before a meal because it makes a hard stick of butter easier to spread on bread rolls, but not so soft that you use too much." -- T.G. in Indiana

\* Save the peel on oranges and grapefruits. You can toss them on a fire for a nice smell.

\* "Hard water stains in the toilet are no match for denture tablets. Simply drop one in the toilet and let sit overnight. A quick scrub and a flush in the morning should do it." -- P.S. in Washington

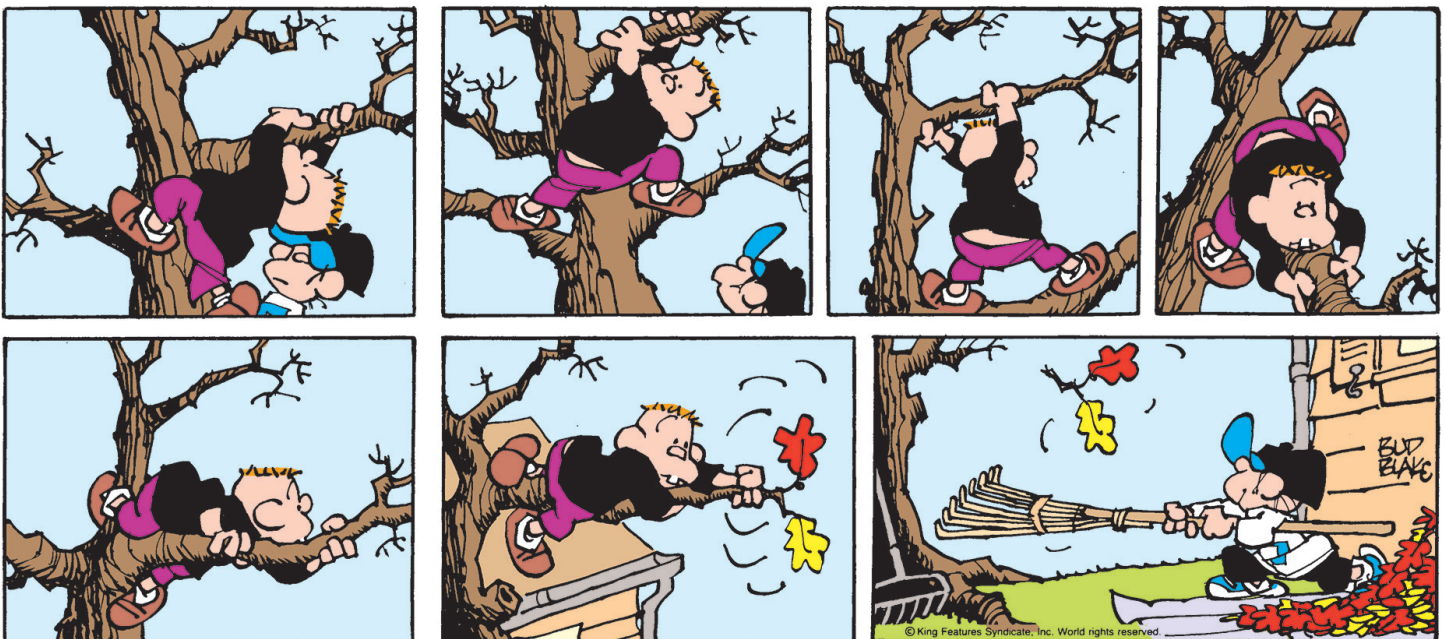
\* Make a holiday cheese ball simply: Combine a package of cream cheese with a cup of finely shredded cheese (your choice) and 1/3 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt. Form into a ball, roll in coating of your choice (dried fruit pieces, chopped nuts, spices, etc.) and chill. Wrap in a pretty cellophane bag and bring with pita chips, crackers or pretzels as a hostess gift.

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 Dandies  
5 Patient's  
need, briefly  
8 Small town  
12 "Yeah, right!"  
13 Brazilian city  
14 Screenwriter  
James  
15 Buyer's offer  
17 "Pinocchio"  
fish  
18 Six, in Milan  
19 Devoured  
20 Dexterity  
21 "See ya!"  
22 Knock  
23 Apiary  
homes  
26 Business  
magnates  
30 "Shake —!"  
("Hurry!")  
31 Singer Carly  
— Jepsen  
32 Aussie hop-  
pers  
33 Lend a hand  
35 Composer  
Joplin  
36 Priestly gar-  
ment  
37 "Humbug!"  
38 Music cate-  
gory  
41 JFK Library  
architect  
42 "— the sea-  
son ..."  
45 During  
46 "Troy" actor

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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15					16				17			
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45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

- 48 Flintstones'  
pet  
49 Long. crosser  
50 Skin care  
brand  
51 Ollie's pal  
52 Corp. sym-  
bols  
53 Conference  
leader?  
5 Banal  
6 Grown-up nits  
7 Iowa college  
8 Rear veranda  
9 Hybrid fruit  
10 Stagger  
11 Earth sci.  
16 Light beams  
20 Pouch  
21 "Excuse me?"  
22 Deli bread  
23 "So there!"  
24 — -de-France  
25 Speed (Abbr.)  
26 Make lace  
27 Tic-tac-toe  
win  
28 "— so fast!"  
29 Retired jet  
31 Barbecue  
coating  
34 World Cup  
cheer  
35 Stated  
37 Pulsates  
38 Wanders  
39 Send forth  
40 Jazz singer  
Simone  
41 Baby carriage  
42 Scrabble  
piece  
43 Slanted type  
(Abbr.)  
44 Ocular woe  
46 Crunchy  
sandwich  
47 Soup cooker

### DOWN

- 1 Little lies  
2 Theater  
award  
3 Mani counter-  
part  
4 NASCAR  
sponsor

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# Groton Daily Independent

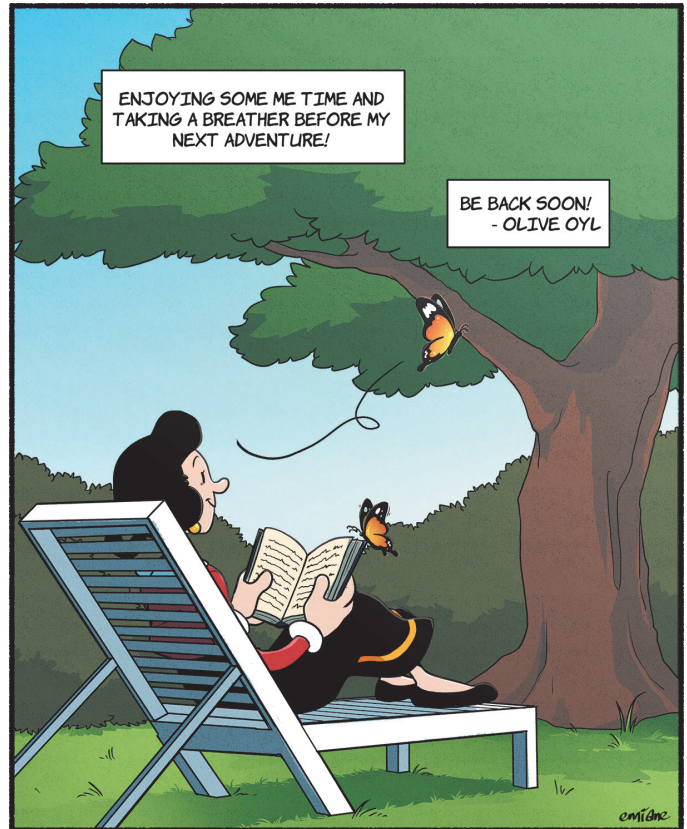
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## — King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

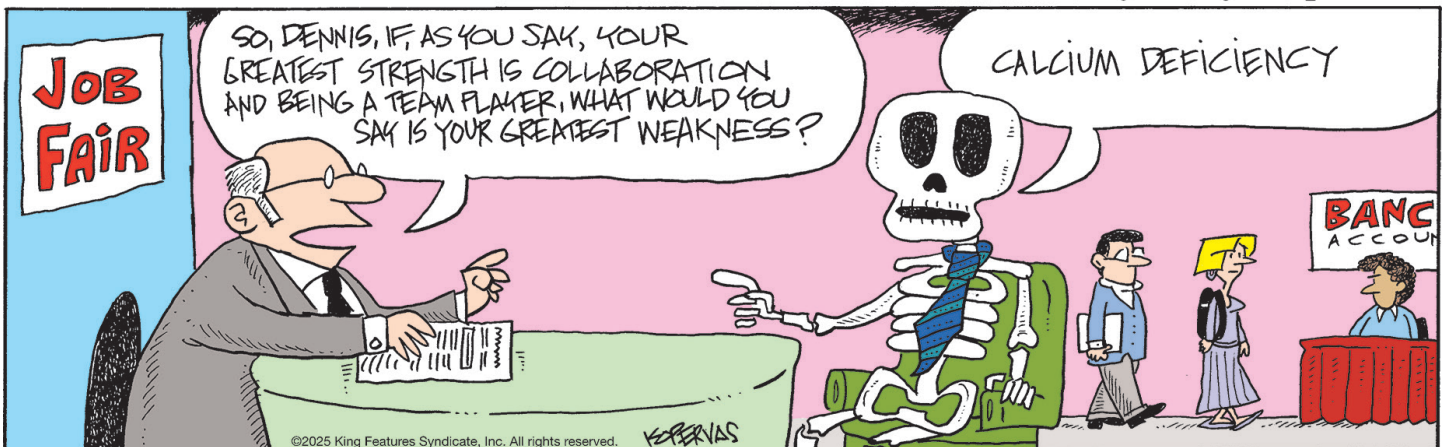
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H	I	V	E	S		T	Y	C	O	O	N	S
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G	E	N	R	E		P	E	I		T	I	S
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D	I	N	O		L	A	T		O	L	A	Y
S	T	A	N		T	M	S		T	E	L	E

Olive



Out on a Limb

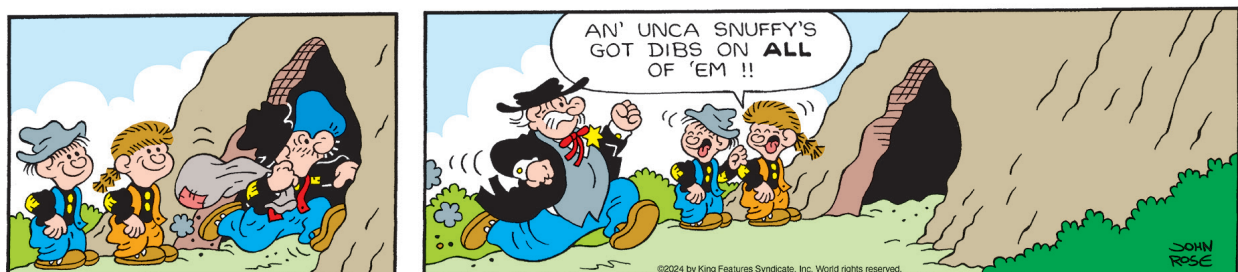
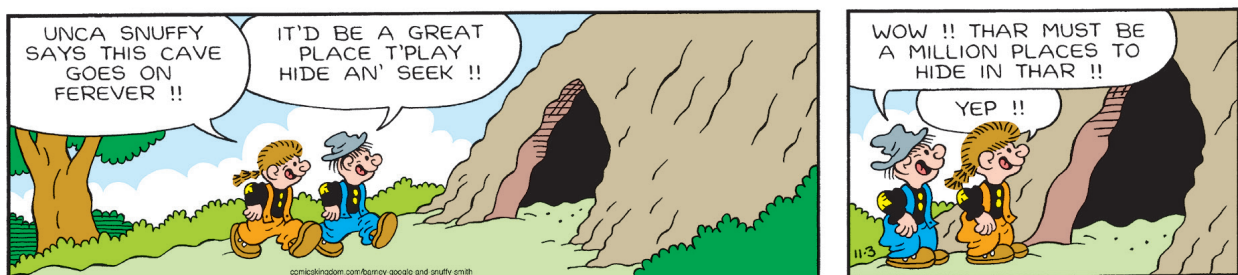
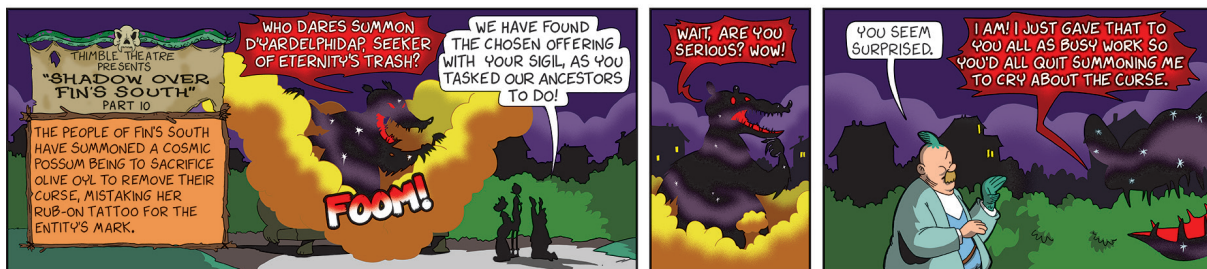
by Gary Kopervas





# Groton Daily Independent

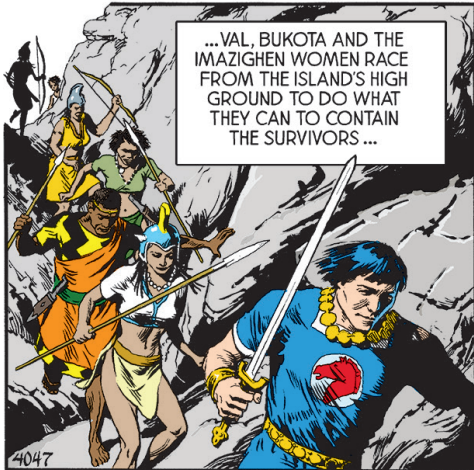
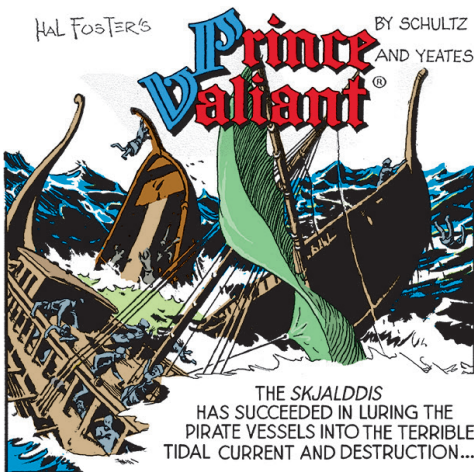
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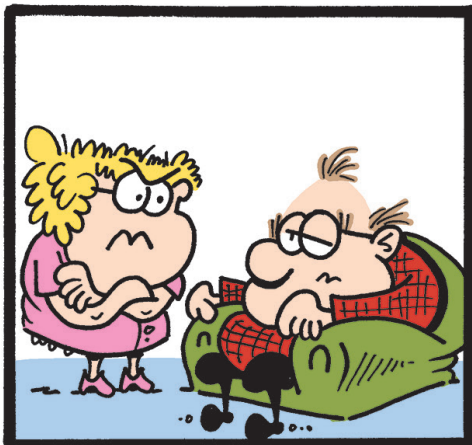


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## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Gift giving this year?

A show of hands, please: How many of us are already in a panic about just how we're going to give holiday gifts to our family and friends this year? With the costs of everything seeming to go up by the day, how are we going to manage to stretch our budgets to include gifts?

And why do we want to, given our circumstances? Because we always have. Because it's expected. Because it makes us feel good. Because we want to maintain the relationships we've had.

Whatever our reasons for wanting to give gifts, it's going to be tough this year. But it can be done with a bit of thought.

If you search on the internet for "gift giving on a budget," you'll find thousands of ideas. Most of them seem to fall into one of three categories: experiences, time and love.

A family movie night can be an experience the grandkids long remember. Borrow a selection of age appropriate movies from the library, make popcorn, buy drinks and order pizza. Or ask the local bowling alley about a family price for a few hours of lane time.

Then there's the gift of time. Give a personalized coupon book you've made, good for a special outing, a home cooked meal, gardening help in the spring or hours of child care.

Best of all might well be the gift of love when you make your gifts: a platter of holiday treats, inexpensive glass jars filled with homemade candies, winter hats you knitted, a small bundle of favorite recipes you've printed on 3x5 cards. The dollar store offers many ideas such as picture frames you decorate and fill with family photos or artwork. Look for items to create themed gift baskets.

So, gift giving can be done -- unless this is when you finally decide to say, "I can't do it this year."

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Senior Citizens 65+

Physical Therapy.

**\$20 a month**

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1. Pat Pitney (nee Spurgin), who became president of the University of Alaska System in 2020, won a gold medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics competing in what sport?

2. What Pro Football Hall of Famer served as an associate justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court from 1993-2015 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2018?

3. What NBA player, nicknamed "Chocolate Thunder" for his powerful dunks, shattered two glass backboards in 1979 and led the league to adopt breakaway rims?

4. American Dick Beardsley and Norwegian Inge Simonsen intentionally crossed the finish line together and shared first place in what 1981 long-distance running race?

5. Running back Pinball Clemons amassed a Canadian Football League record 25,438 combined regular-season yards playing for what team from 1989-2000?

6. What three Chicago Cubs players were immortalized in the refrain of the 1910 poem "Baseball's Sad Lexicon" by Franklin Pierce Adams?

7. What trophy is awarded to the winner of the traditional college football rivalry game between the Cincinnati Bearcats and the Louisville Cardinals?



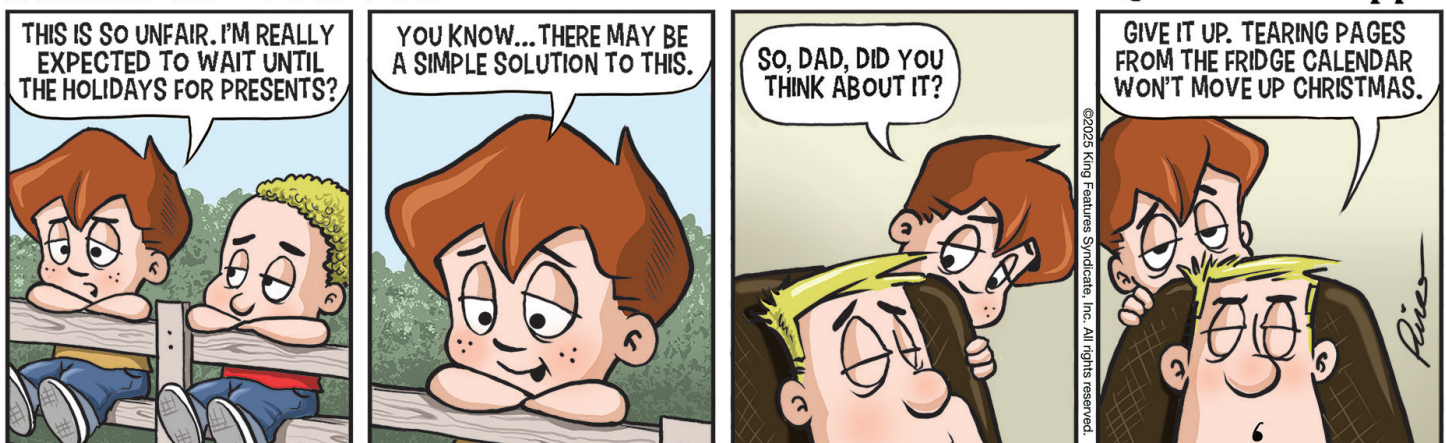
by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Air rifle shooting.
2. Alan Page.
3. Darryl Dawkins.
4. The London Marathon.
5. The Toronto Argonauts.
6. Joe Tinker, Johnny Evers and Frank Chance.
7. The Keg of Nails.

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## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



## Halloween pet safety is a paramount concern

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Please warn your readers to keep their cats indoors on Halloween night! I've heard too many stories of cats disappearing or being injured by people with ill intentions -- especially black cats. -- Francis in Des Moines, Iowa

DEAR FRANCIS: It's a good idea to keep cats indoors every night, but yes, they face additional threats to their safety on Halloween. The biggest danger is from cars -- traffic is heavier during peak trick-or-treating hours, around sunset. Frequent opening and closing of the front door is another danger: As owners hand out treats in the doorway, their cat may take the opportunity to run outside -- often right into the busy street.

Halloween safety extends to all the pets in the household. Cats are not likely to get into the big bowl of candy near the doorway, but dogs may be fascinated by the wrappers and lovely aromas. If owners don't keep watch, their dog may overturn the bowl and begin gobbling up chocolate or sugar-free candies that contain xylitol -- an ingredient that is poisonous to them.

While pranksters harming cats (and other pets) can happen, a much more concerning fact is that many people adopt black cats for Halloween, only to abandon them afterward for one reason or another -- they're too expensive to take care of, their apartment management doesn't allow pets, and so on. Impulsive adoptions are a bigger risk.

So keep your pets safe on Halloween by placing them in a separate room during the busiest part of trick-or-treating, or during a party. And make sure the candy stays out of their reach.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* One spark of static electricity can generate as much as 3,000 volts.

\* Hockey pucks are frozen before each game to prevent bouncing in and out of play and other potentially dangerous and uncontrolled movements.

\* According to the National Turkey Federation, around 88% of Americans enjoy the bird as part of their annual holiday feast each year. That adds up to a belly-busting 46 million-plus turkeys, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Yep,

we don't call it Turkey Day for nothing!

\* The phrase "United States of America" was first published anonymously in the Virginia Gazette newspaper in Williamsburg, Virginia, on April 6, 1776.

\* When he was a teenager, physicist Stephen Hawking's friends called him "Einstein" after they created a computer using telephone switchboards, old clock parts and additional items meant for recycling.

\* Nearly 500 animal species have documented homosexual behaviors.

\* The Atlantic is the saltiest of Earth's five major oceans, primarily due to the Antarctic ice sheet and global mountain ranges.

\* Muhammad Ali started boxing at age 12 after someone stole his bike. The tearful boy told police officer Joe Martin that he wanted to pummel the culprit, and Martin, who was a boxing instructor at a local gym, advised him to learn how to fight.

\* American school buses are yellow because the color is easier to see in poor light and bad weather.

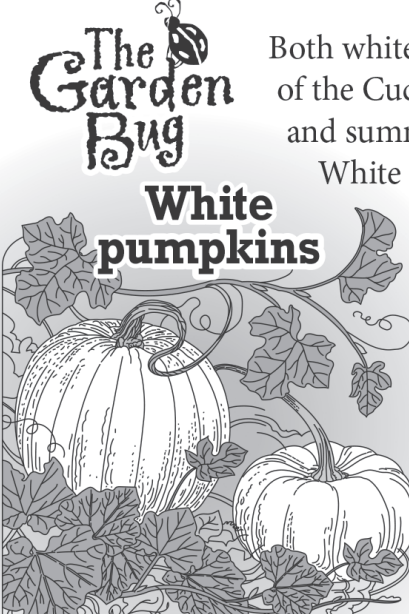
\* Helium was the first chemical element not initially discovered on Earth.

\* On average, Google.com processes about 63,000 search queries every second, or more than 5.5 billion searches per day, and 2 trillion per year.

\* A common garden spider can produce as many as seven types of silk, each made up of a different sequence of proteins.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus." -- Bruce Lee  
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**The Garden Bug**

**White pumpkins**

Both white and orange pumpkins are members of the Cucurbita family, which includes winter and summer squash, cucumbers, and melons.

White pumpkin varieties such as "Lumina," "Snowball" and "Casper" were developed about 40 years ago using albino pumpkin seeds. They tend to be smaller and more "round" than other pumpkin varieties. "Lumina" are the most popular for carving and making decorative displays for the fall holidays.

- Brenda Weaver

Sources: [chefsmandala.com](http://chefsmandala.com),  
[www.epicgardening.com](http://www.epicgardening.com)

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by Freddy Groves

## Stolen valor: When they didn't earn it

Despite the Stolen Valor Act and the punishments for violating that act, there are still far too many who decide to take the chance on reaping the material gains of claiming benefits and wearing a uniform they didn't earn.

A veteran on the east coast was nailed not only for scamming charities but for pretending to be a Purple Heart recipient. In a rare change from the usual in these cases, the veteran is a female. She claimed she'd been injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack. The charity in question was one she had created to help low-income veterans and the homeless, all noble endeavors, if any of it had been true. Instead, all the money donated by genuine charities went into her own pocket and paid for travel, a fancy car, gym membership and more. She'll repay the money she scammed and spend a year in jail.

Then there was the former Marine who had the nerve to submit an application for a Purple Heart for himself. He based this on a fake case of PTSD and IED-caused brain injury while he stole in excess of a quarter of a million dollars in disability benefits from the VA. Over the years he'd been invited to speak at veterans events and made up stories in the press. However, for this he'll only serve two years of supervised release.

Then there was the thief (again, a female) who claimed to have earned a Purple Heart for pulling people from a burning Humvee, needed surgery for injuries, damaged her lungs on burn pit smoke, then collected \$250,000 from various charities -- all without ever having served in the military. For this she got 70 months in prison.

To those who think they can pull off an impersonation of a true veteran, there are always people who will know when your salute isn't right, who'll know when your DD-214 looks forged and who'll know when the ribbons on your fake uniform aren't correct. And they'll turn you in.

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## Wishing Well®

3	5	4	3	8	2	5	8	3	8	7	2	7
G	N	P	I	P	N	E	E	V	A	H	E	O
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2	5	6	2	6	2	6	2	6	2	6	2	6
F	M	F	I	S	L	T	L	U	E	D	D	Y

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. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states are part of New England?
2. LITERATURE: What district does Katniss Everdeen represent in "The Hunger Games"?
3. ANATOMY: What is the longest nerve in the human body?
4. COMICS: What is Captain America's shield made of?
5. SCIENCE: What is the process called when a solid becomes a gas?
6. HISTORY: In what year did the Three Mile Island nuclear accident happen?
7. MOVIES: What is Edward's last name in the movie "Twilight"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only marsupial found in North America?
9. TELEVISION: Which character on "The Brady Bunch" is famous for saying, "Marcia, Marcia, Marcia!"
10. ENTERTAINERS: Pop singer Taylor Swift was born in which U.S. state?

### Answers

1. Six (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island).
2. District 12.
3. Sciatic nerve.
4. Vibranium.
5. Sublimation.
6. 1979.
7. Cullen.
8. Opossum.
9. Jan.
10. Pennsylvania.

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South Dakota Governor



**Larry Rhoden**



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

## Business Done Right

The right project in the right place at the right time. That's how we do economic development in South Dakota. More often than not, that means focusing on opportunities for existing South Dakota businesses to grow and expand – whether that be a new product, a new market, or just doing what they do well on a bigger scale. Sometimes that means finding the right partner to move into the state in a way that benefits us as well as that new business.

South Dakota has taken this approach for many years, and it's worked very well for us. Under the Noem-Rhoden Administration, this approach hit a greater stride. After Governor Noem declared South Dakota "Open for Business" during the COVID pandemic, visitors came to South Dakota by the millions. Freedom-loving Americans moved here by the tens of thousands. And businesses relocated here in huge numbers, as well.

This growth has set South Dakota up well. We have the lowest unemployment rate in America and have won the Governor's Cup each of the last two years, meaning we have the most economic development projects per-capita. On top of that, we have the 6th fastest growing economy of any state and the 4th highest average personal incomes. Over the past several years, there were times when South Dakota even led the nation in income growth!

The economy boomed under the Noem-Rhoden Administration, and we're working hard to keep it strong since I took the reins as Governor. That doesn't mean saying yes to every project. We'll be better served in the long run if we continue to advance the right project in the right place at the right time.

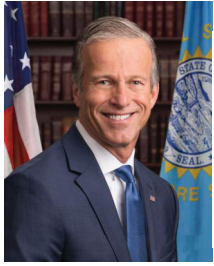
Two such right projects are the expansions currently underway at both the Sioux Falls and Rapid City airports. Since 2019, when Governor Noem and I took over in Pierre, we've consistently broken records every year for tourism. In fact, the number of folks coming through the Rapid City airport has increased by 30% over that timeframe, and Sioux Falls is up by 25%. Those are staggering numbers, and even over the last year, we've seen another steady increase.

I announced a plan to make a wise and targeted investment in these airport projects. The state has leftover housing dollars available that haven't been used, so if we shift these to our economic development fund, we can offer them to the two airports in the form of a loan that they'll repay over 20 years. It'll be a 0% loan so that the projects will remain affordable, and the state will get those dollars back over time once the projects become profitable. That's a win-win!

That's how we do business in South Dakota. We invest in our communities. We keep taxes low and regulation light. We pave the road for opportunity and then get out of the way. And that's how we'll continue to approach these issues: the right project in the right place at the right time.

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

## Democrats' Shutdown Has Real Consequences

For nearly a month, Senate Democrats have kept the government shut down and held government funding hostage to their partisan demands. Their motivation is pure politics, but their shutdown is having very real consequences, including in South Dakota. Republicans are continuing our efforts to reopen the government. But given Democrats' determination to prolong the shutdown, Republicans and the Trump administration are working to help hardworking Americans who are being impacted by the shutdown.

South Dakota's agriculture producers are among those who are being hurt. Due to the shutdown, Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in South Dakota and across the country were forced to close, leaving farmers and ranchers without access to critical services, and during harvest season no less. Producers who take FSA loans have been unable to certify the sale of their products or cash checks from their sales, and that is simply unacceptable.

From the beginning, I urged the Trump administration to keep FSA offices operational during the shutdown. Unfortunately, shutdowns force the government to make hard choices in the face of limited resources. But over the last several weeks, my office has worked with the Trump administration to find a way to reopen FSA offices, and, because of those efforts, on October 23, FSA offices were able to resume operations.

Farmers and ranchers are not the only victims of Democrats' shutdown. Military families have turned to food banks in "unprecedented" numbers. Nutrition programs are in jeopardy. South Dakotans on Medicare and in rural areas are dealing with the elimination of telehealth services. And federal employees are working without certainty about their next paycheck. But none of this has been enough for Democrats to back down from their partisan demands and reopen the government. They remain dug in, terrified of the backlash from the far left if they don't appear to be fighting President Trump hard enough.

Democrats have stood in the way of reopening the government and mitigating the pain of the shutdown every step of the way. They have blocked a nonpartisan funding extension a dozen times. They blocked the bipartisan defense appropriations bill, which would have at least supported national security and paid the troops absent a broader funding deal. And most recently, they blocked a bill to pay any federal employee who is working during the shutdown.

One leading Democrat recently told an interviewer, "Of course, there will be, you know, families that are going to suffer...But it is one of the few leverage times we have." Are hardworking American families just leverage to Democrats? We need some Democrats to show some courage, say "no" to the far-left activists who demanded this shutdown, and vote to reopen the government.

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## Navigating the Shutdown

### BIG Update

Many government services are halted during a government shutdown. One of which was the local Farm Service Administration (FSA) offices which provide vital services to producers. I've heard from many producers across South Dakota that they need these offices to open so they can cash their checks from commodity sales. Without these funds, many farmers are put in a tough spot. I expressed my concerns to Secretary Brooke Rollins, and she assured me USDA would fix the problem.

Good news for producers – these local FSA offices will now be open five days per week to sign these checks and continue payments for other programs like ARC, PLC, CRP, and more. These services are critical for producers, and I will continue to advocate for them in D.C..

### BIG Idea

Day after day, hundreds of thousands of military service men and women and federal employees have shown up to work without pay during the government shutdown. These hardworking individuals shouldn't have to suffer because Congress didn't do its job. I introduced the Shutdown Fairness Act, which has President Trump's support, to pay federal employees and servicemembers who are required to work during a government shutdown. My bill would make sure none of these employees work without pay and help folks make ends meet for themselves and their families. It's not fair that these individuals and families have to suffer by missing a paycheck, so I've made sure my pay is withheld as I keep working to resolve this shutdown..

### BIG News

The Trump Administration announced plans to buy beef from Argentina. This announcement was concerning to me and cattle country, and I shared these concerns with the administration and asked for more details about this plan.

South Dakota's cattle producers set the standard for quality and safety in beef production. I understand the President's efforts to strengthen trade and keep food affordable, but those efforts should not undermine the farmers and ranchers who put dinner on our tables. Any decision to import foreign beef must hold countries to the same gold-standard regulations our producers meet every day. American ranchers play by the rules, produce the best beef in the world, and they deserve a fair shot to compete.

This week, USDA also announced its plan to fortify cattle herds in the U.S. The best way to ease prices at the meat counter is with more U.S. beef. Anything we can do to keep more American families in the cattle business is good news..



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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## Where Oh Where Is My Hair

It is true that I don't pay attention to many things in life. I guess I'm just too busy to notice everything.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always asks me why I'm not paying attention. To keep engaged in that argument, I say, "I'm too poor to pay attention. Could I borrow \$0.25 from you?"

I have yet to get that \$0.25. But it is true, I don't pay attention.

It all started when I was in grade school. I had a hard time paying attention to my teacher. I don't remember how many times I was sent to the principal's office for this very thing.

Believe me, I have tried to pay attention throughout life, but it has been very difficult for me. I'm too poor to pay attention, and as I get older, the poorer I get.

All of this came to a head the other day when I walked into the bathroom to shave, brush my teeth and comb my hair. When I was combing my hair, I noticed there wasn't much hair to comb. The less hair I have, the longer it takes me to comb my hair. I wish I could explain that.

It then dawned on me that I was going bald. I then remembered my uncle who was very bald and explained it by saying, "Grass does not grow on a busy street."

I'm beginning to understand what he meant. According to his definition, my head has been very busy the last few months. I'm just not sure what it's been busy doing.

Being bald has made me think that maybe I should start wearing a hat. That might cover up some of the bald spots.

Last week I was going to go to the barber. I told The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "I'm going to my barber to get a haircut."

Just as I was walking out the door, she replied by saying, "Have you decided which hair you're going to get cut this week?"

As I closed the door, I heard her laughing, but I wasn't laughing on my side of the door.

When I came back from my barber The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage greeted me and said, "Did the barber cut the right hair?" And then she laughed as though it was something funny!

Pondering this, I was trying to find the answer to a straightforward question: Where did all my hair go? And, what scared it away?

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What provokes me is, why does the hair on my face continue to grow while the hair on the top of my head has retired? Why can't I turn it around? Then I wouldn't have to shave every day.

When I was at my barbershop, I was tempted to ask if there was anything I could do to replace what had vanished on the top of my head that. Then, I didn't think it was a proper question to ask the barber.

I've tried a lot of things to cover up that bald spot on the top. I try to comb the hair from the side of my head up and over the top. That did not work at all. No matter what I did, nothing fixed that problem.

The good thing about being bald is I only see it when looking in the mirror. The only ones who see it are those whom I meet with during the day.

I then had another thought stomped through my brain. Why is it that men go bald but most women do not? I was tempted to ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, but then I thought she might answer this question in a way that would not make me too happy.

The more I keep The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage off the top of my head and the missing hair, the happier I'm going to be. Believe me, she can fix anything. I was afraid she would fix me, but I would not be happy with the fix.

Sometimes it's better to keep quiet about something. When you start asking questions, especially with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, you often get answers, and most of them aren't the ones you want to hear at the time. I have learned that silence is the best music to listen to, especially if you're married.

I wish I knew where my hair went so I could retrieve it and put it back where it belongs. Until then, I'm going to have to live with less hair on the top of my head.

I wished that having less hair on the top of my head would mean I wouldn't have to comb it as much. Regardless of the hair on the top of my head or the lack thereof, combing my hair is quite a job in the morning.

In my devotional reading I read a verse from Galatians 1:10, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

Thinking on this verse reminded me that sometimes I am more concerned about what people think about my looks. Rather, I should be more concerned about what God thinks of me. Am I living a life that pleases Him?

When that is my daily focus, it does not matter about my hair or lack thereof.

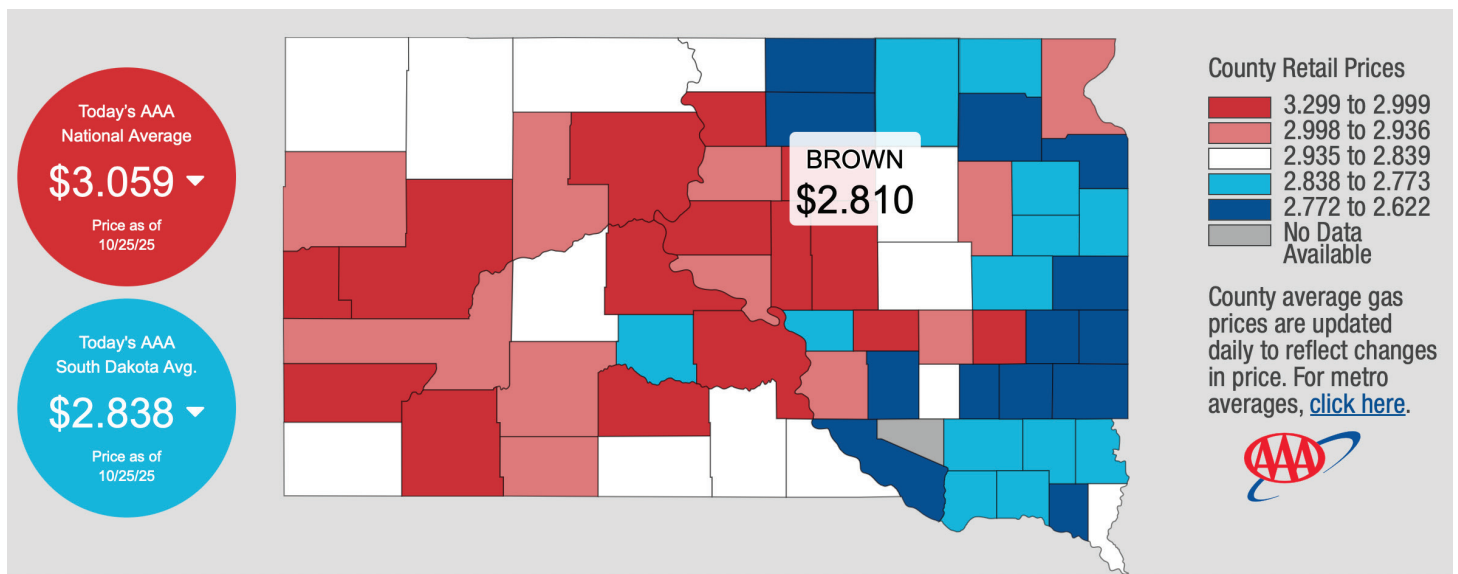
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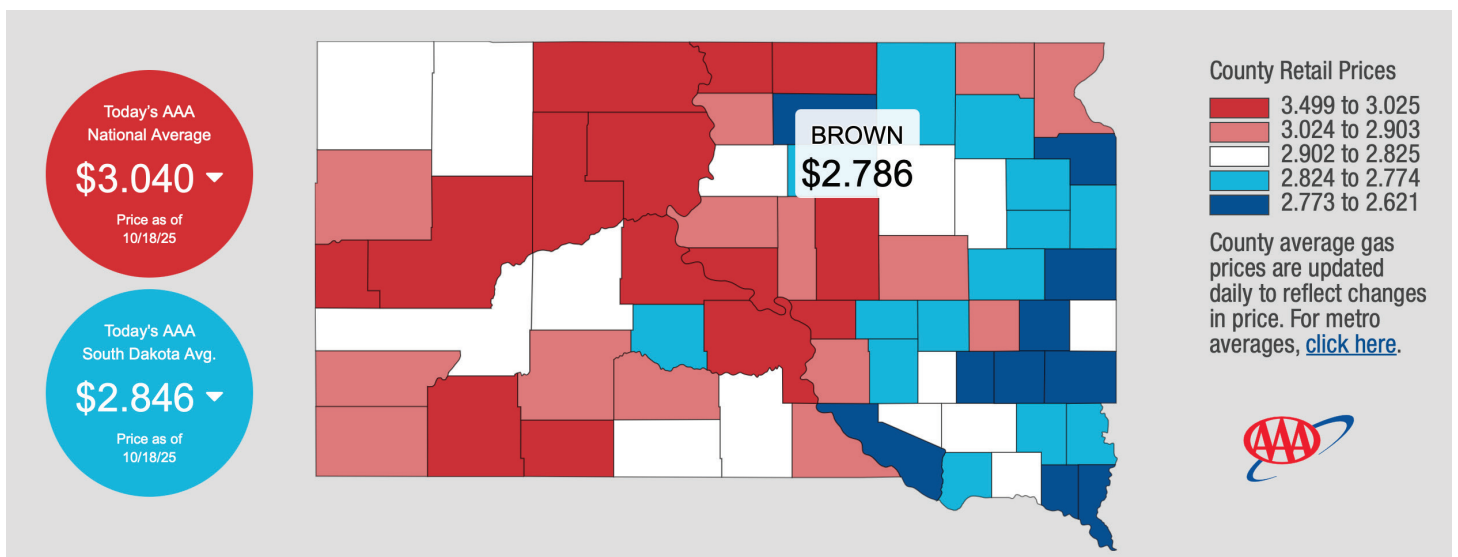
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.838	\$3.031	\$3.486	\$3.327
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.853	\$3.029	\$3.495	\$3.309
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.847	\$3.026	\$3.497	\$3.307
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.962	\$3.139	\$3.601	\$3.382
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.055	\$3.265	\$3.694	\$3.294

### This Week



### Last Week

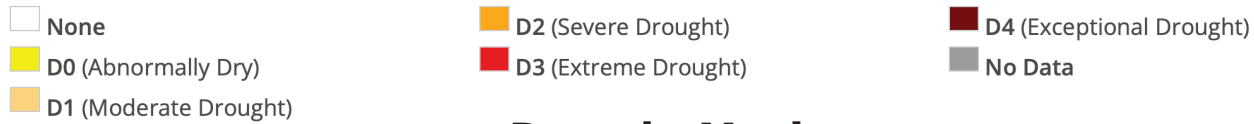




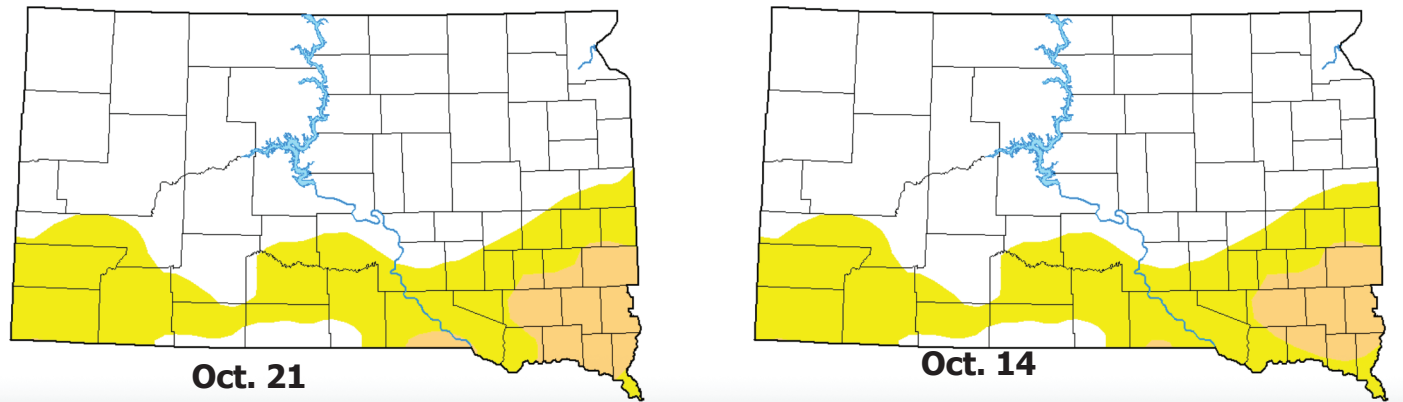
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## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



A wide range of precipitation totals were observed last week. Generally, 1.5 to 3.0 inches hit the northern and western Dakotas, much of central and eastern Wyoming, and scattered locations in northwestern Wyoming. An inch or a little more fell on many locations in a swath from central Nebraska into southeastern South Dakota, but other locations reported several tenths of an inch of precipitation at best, with most areas from southwestern Wyoming through western Nebraska and from eastern Nebraska through Kansas reporting little or none. This pattern resulted in less change here than in most other regions. Areas of deterioration were introduced in parts of the east-central and southeastern High Plains Region while improvement resulted from heavier precipitation farther west. The most widespread areas of improvement covered southwestern Colorado and western Wyoming. Coverage of dryness and drought is considerably lower in this region than in others, with the total area entrenched in some degree of dryness or drought (D0-D4) dropping slightly to a bit over 36 percent this week. The extent of Extreme Drought (D3) was almost cut in half, from 3.3 percent down to 1.7 percent. There is no D4 in the Region, but D3 remains across much of southwestern Wyoming and part of central Colorado. The proportion of the Great Plains States in this Region experiencing some degree of dryness or drought (D0-D4) is relatively low compared to much of the Lower-48; specifically, 3 percent of North Dakota, 32 percent of South Dakota, 35 percent of Nebraska, and 28 percent of Kansas.

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## EARTHTALK

### Surprise, Surprise! Megadroughts Linked To Climate Change

by Shashwat Mishra

Dear EarthTalk: What (and where) are megadroughts and what's their relation to climate change?  
— Kory Smith, Providence, RI

Megadroughts are severe droughts that last for decades and affect entire regions, even millions of square miles. They have immense effects on both nature and human societies. These events used to be rare, but they are now happening more often. Many scientists believe that climate change plays a major role in making these droughts worse. Rising temperatures and changes in weather patterns are causing drier conditions. This hurts water supplies, farming and entire communities around the world.

Megadroughts lead to noteworthy decreases in precipitation, soil moisture and water levels. Research shows that megadroughts have long taken place in history. North America went through megadroughts in the medieval era. Nonetheless, the megadroughts today are more severe because of human actions.

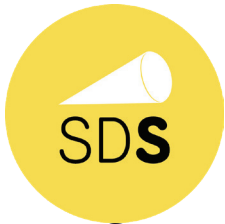
Megadroughts aren't limited to one area. The southwestern U.S. and Mexico are facing record-low water levels in reservoirs. In Africa, the Sahel region regularly deals with long dry periods. The Andes mountains and the Amazon basin are struggling with reduced rainfall. This harms important ecosystems and water sources. Similarly, eastern and southern Australia usually experience intense droughts, stressing farms and local communities. Data from global drought monitoring groups emphasize how global and recurrent these droughts have become. And climate change makes them worse. Some natural events like El Niño have always caused some variation in rainfall. Nonetheless, human induced climate change is intensifying these changes, creating more severe droughts.

The consequences of megadroughts are extensive. Ecologically, they devastate ecosystems, diminish biodiversity, and elevate the likelihood of wildfires. Economically, they negatively impact agriculture, decrease hydropower output, and elevate the prices of food and energy. Megadroughts also lead to water shortages, food scarcity, and force certain communities to relocate.

Megadroughts can be mitigated through various methods. You can get involved by aiding initiatives that prioritize climate action and resource preservation. Furthermore, you can inform individuals about megadroughts and promote sustainable behaviors. Finally, You can also contribute to or assist organizations focused on environmental restoration and drought resilience efforts. Megadroughts illustrate the profound link between human actions and the environment. We can reduce the effects of megadroughts by collaborating and choosing sustainable options.



**The U.S. still exports large amounts of trash and recycling overseas, particularly plastic waste.** Credit: Pexels.com.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### State revamps use of opioid settlement money by offering 'transformative' grants up to \$2 million

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-OCTOBER 25, 2025 9:45 AM

The South Dakota Department of Social Services plans to revamp its opioid treatment and prevention grants, with a three-tiered system including "transformative" grants up to \$2 million.

Department officials announced the new grant structure using opioid settlement funds at Tuesday's Board of Social Services meeting.

"Just trying to put some of the same window dressing on some of the same old methodologies isn't what we're after," Secretary Matt Althoff said. "We're looking for true innovation, a true effort to earnestly fill the gaps that exist today."

South Dakota is projected to receive just under \$99 million in settlement funds by 2038, based on the department's settlement dashboard. The money comes from a series of nationwide settlements with the makers and sellers of the opioid painkillers that contributed to a spike in drug addiction and overdoses.

The majority of that funding will be distributed and spent by the state, while 30% will be used by local governments.

The state has received about \$23 million in its share of the funds so far, with about \$11.7 million uncommitted. The department plans to reserve about \$12 million in a trust fund to sustain the state's opioid abatement plan, in case federal funding for other substance use-related grants ends. That equates to about 25% of each disbursement received over the life of the settlement.

Most spent funds have gone toward the community grant program, with the state using part of its share to give additional money to local entities and organizations, followed by the prescription drug monitoring program, naloxone distribution (naloxone is a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose) and overdose follow-up programs.

Brenna Koedam, behavior health division chief, said there is an increased number of referrals for opioid use and other substance use disorder treatment services, increased understanding in how to handle substance use among providers, reduced burnout among first responders and law enforcement, and reduced stigma surrounding opioid use disorder in the last few years. She did not explain to the board how most of those achievements were calculated or measured, though she attributed them to programming assisted by the settlement fund.

Opioid related deaths in South Dakota decreased to 39 in 2024, compared to 2023's peak of 47. According to the state's Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology data, 844 South Dakotans visited emergency departments for suspected drug overdoses — opioid and other — in the first six months of this year. That's down by one visit compared to the same timeframe in 2024 and up by 44 compared to 2023.

Attorney General Marty Jackley criticized the department in August for not spending the opioid settlement funds as quickly as he wanted, and not sending enough of the money to the city governments of Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Althoff said at the Tuesday meeting, and in response to Jackley's comments in August, that the department needed to spend COVID-19 relief funds that were expiring before they spent more settlement dollars.

Koedam announced Tuesday that the department will restructure its community grants into three tiers:

- Small grants of up to \$5,000 for immediate or short-term projects, offered on an ongoing basis and focused on prevention, such as funding a speaker on opioid use and risks at a school district.
- Mid-size grants of up to \$50,000, offered twice a year, intended for projects that can be completed



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in a year.

- “Transformative” grants of up to \$2 million intended for regional innovation, which could include workforce development to attract more workers to the behavioral health field, based on a letter of interest from potential grant recipients.

Althoff said South Dakota’s substance use problems extend beyond opioids, citing meth and alcohol as other examples.

“The opioid dollars will not necessarily be able to just solve the opioid problem,” Althoff said. “We’re trying to be very creative about how we do this in ways that — even if opioid isn’t the first level of addiction, it might be even tertiary involvement — it’s all bridged and interrelated.”

Koedam added that the department signed contracts with Colorado-based Steadman Group and the University of South Dakota totaling just under \$325,000 to conduct a statewide opioid needs assessment, which will identify gaps in South Dakota’s treatment and prevention infrastructure. The needs assessment is expected to be completed by spring 2026.

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

## **Hundreds protest DHS Secretary Noem during press conference in Minnesota**

**BY: MADISON MCVAN AND MICHELLE GRIFFITH-OCTOBER 25, 2025 9:30 AM**

Hundreds gathered outside the federal Whipple Building at Fort Snelling Friday to protest the presence of Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, who is leading the Trump administration’s efforts to detain and deport millions of immigrants.

Noem held a press conference to tout the administration’s arrests of immigrants who have committed crimes. She spoke behind a table piled with seized firearms and bags of marijuana, meth and fentanyl.

Many protesters feared Noem’s presence signaled the beginning of a large-scale immigration enforcement effort like the one launched in Chicago last month.

But Noem’s appearance focused instead on celebrating arrests made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s St. Paul field office.

“I’m here today to ask all of the people in Minnesota, all of the people in the Midwest and throughout our country, to support your law enforcement officers, to support them and help protect them as they go out and do their job,” Noem said.

Dozens of clergy members attended the protest, leading demonstrators through songs like “This Little Light of Mine” and “We Shall Not Be Moved.”

Craig Loya, a bishop at Episcopal Church in Minnesota, preached a message of inclusion.

“As long as I have breath, I will continue to preach and proclaim that diversity makes us stronger and that there is no clearer moral imperative than standing with the immigrant and the outsider, because that is how God has embraced every single one of us,” Loya said.

Protesters demonstrated right up to the Whipple Building’s glass doors, with many holding signs and shouting anti-ICE chants.

“No more Minnesota nice. We won’t want your fascist ICE,” the protesters chanted.

The chants did not reach the windowless room of the Whipple Building where Noem spoke.

When asked whether President Donald Trump would deploy the National Guard or other federal law enforcement to the Twin Cities, Noem said “it’s up to the president.”

But thousands of newly-trained ICE officers are expected to join field offices in the coming weeks, including in St. Paul, paid for by funding approved in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed in July, Noem said.

Under Noem, DHS has bucked precedent by requesting troves of personal data from states and other federal agencies to assist in deportation efforts; arresting people at courthouses; sending immigrants to

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countries they have no ties to and in some cases known for human rights abuses; and ignoring court orders.

Immigration agents detained a roofing crew in St. Paul on Oct. 3. The officers arrived in unmarked vehicles and refused to show their identification, according to advocates. Some wore masks.

Asked about the incident, Noem said "our agents always follow exactly what the law is and what the regulation and the protocol is for every single operation that they're out on, so they are always identifying themselves and making sure that people know who they are."

A handful of Minnesota Democratic lawmakers also attended the protest, including DFL state Rep. Samantha Sencer-Mura, who said she was at the protest to send a message to Noem that she and ICE weren't welcome in Minnesota.

"We know a lot of what they do — the point is just fear," Sencer-Mura said. "Always trying to combat that with love and community is a good way to just show up."

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

*Madison McVan is a Report for America corps member who covers economic mobility for Minnesota Reformer. She previously covered agriculture for Investigate Midwest after graduating from the University of Missouri in 2020 with degrees in Journalism and Latin American studies.*

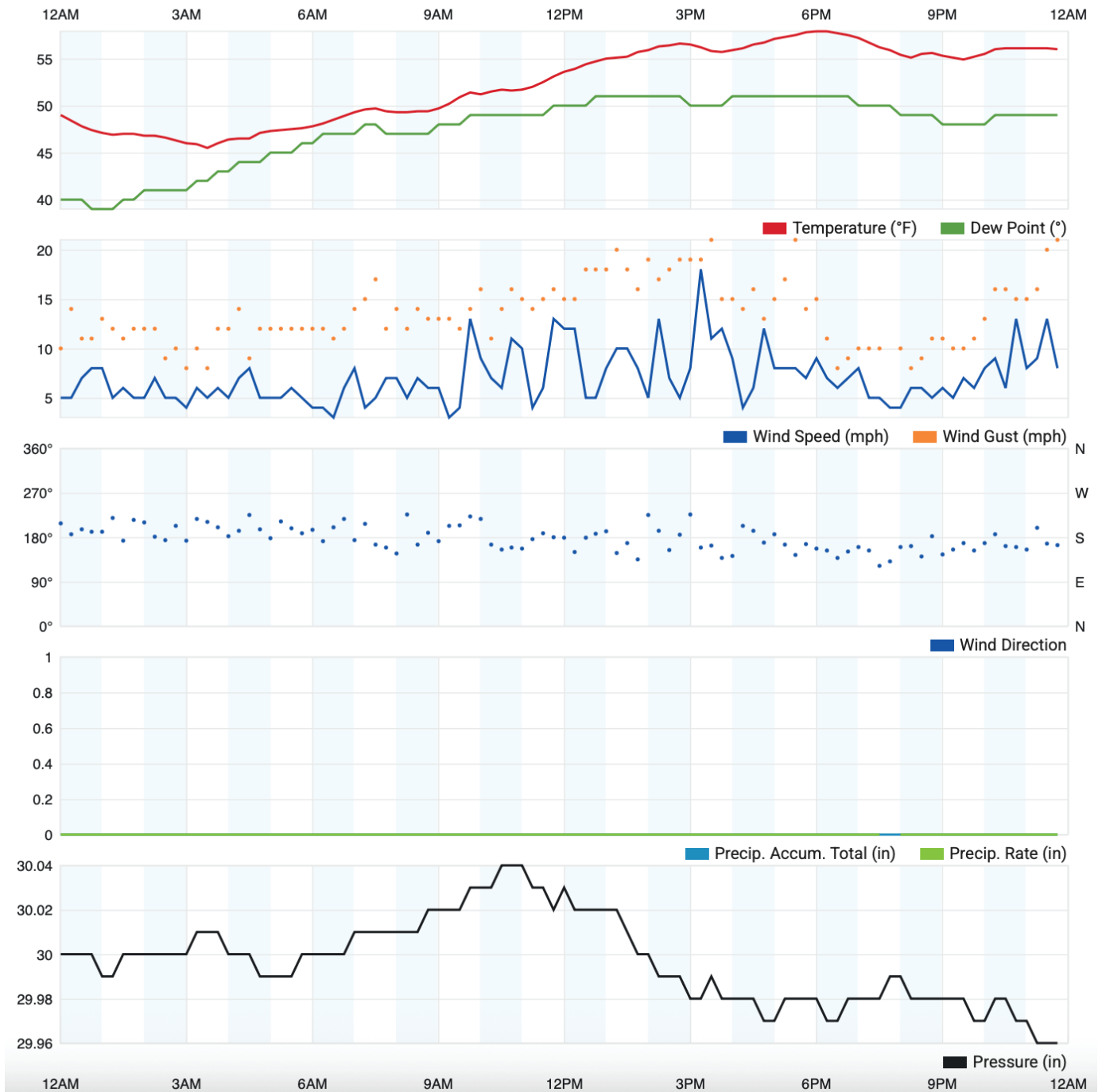
*Michelle Griffith covers Minnesota politics and policy for the Reformer, with a focus on marginalized communities. Most recently she was a reporter with The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead in North Dakota where she covered state and local government and Indigenous issues.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 25, 2025





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## Wind Advisory

Today



High: 62 °F

Mostly Cloudy  
and Windy

Tonight



Low: 50 °F

Cloudy

Monday



50 % → 80 %

High: 55 °F

Breezy.  
Chance Rain  
then Rain

Monday Night



70%

Low: 38 °F

Rain Likely

Tuesday



30%

High: 49 °F

Chance Rain



## Wind Advisory Sunday

October 26, 2025

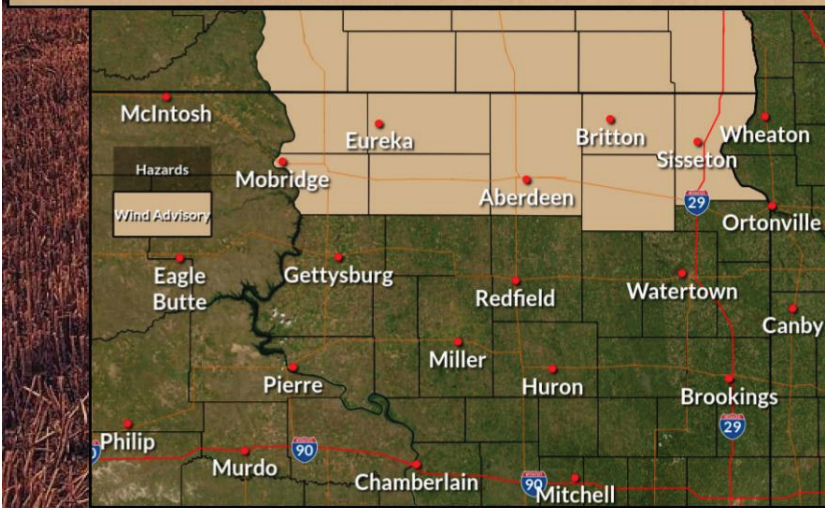
4:17 AM

Wind Advisory in Effect from 9 AM CDT to 5 PM CDT Sunday, Oct. 26th.

- Southerly winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts up around 45 mph are expected over northern South Dakota on Sunday.
- The strongest winds are expected in the early afternoon hours between the Missouri River and the James River.

### Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	Sun					
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Aberdeen	39↑	44↑	44↑	45↑	36↑	30↑
Britton	41↑	45↑	46↑	46↑	39↑	32↑
Chamberlain	33↑	37↑	39↑	39↑	36↑	31↑
Clark	38↑	41↑	45↑	45↑	37↑	33↑
Eagle Butte	39↑	38↑	36↑	31↑	20↑	20↑
Eureka	44↑	44↑	47↑	46↑	31↑	24↑
Gettysburg	41↑	43↑	44↑	43↑	31↑	28↑
McIntosh	40↑	40↑	38↑	32↑	20↑	14↑
Milbank	26↑	32↑	36↑	36↑	31↑	26↑
Miller	41↑	44↑	44↑	45↑	36↑	31↑
Mobridge	44↑	43↑	41↑	39↑	24↑	18↑
Murdo	39↑	41↑	40↑	39↑	31↑	28↑
Pierre	39↑	39↑	38↑	38↑	31↑	26↑
Redfield	40↑	45↑	45↑	47↑	37↑	31↑
Sisseton	31↑	36↑	41↑	41↑	33↑	28↑
Watertown	36↑	37↑	40↑	40↑	35↑	31↑
Webster	36↑	41↑	46↑	45↑	36↑	31↑
Wheaton	30↑	32↑	35↑	36↑	31↑	28↑



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A Wind Advisory has been issued for parts of northern SD for Sunday, October 26th, from 9 AM CDT to 5 PM CDT. Sustained winds will be between 25-30 mph with gusts up around 45 mph. These winds will cause elevated fire danger across much of the central and northeastern SD as well as potentially blowing around unsecured objects and making driving difficult at times.

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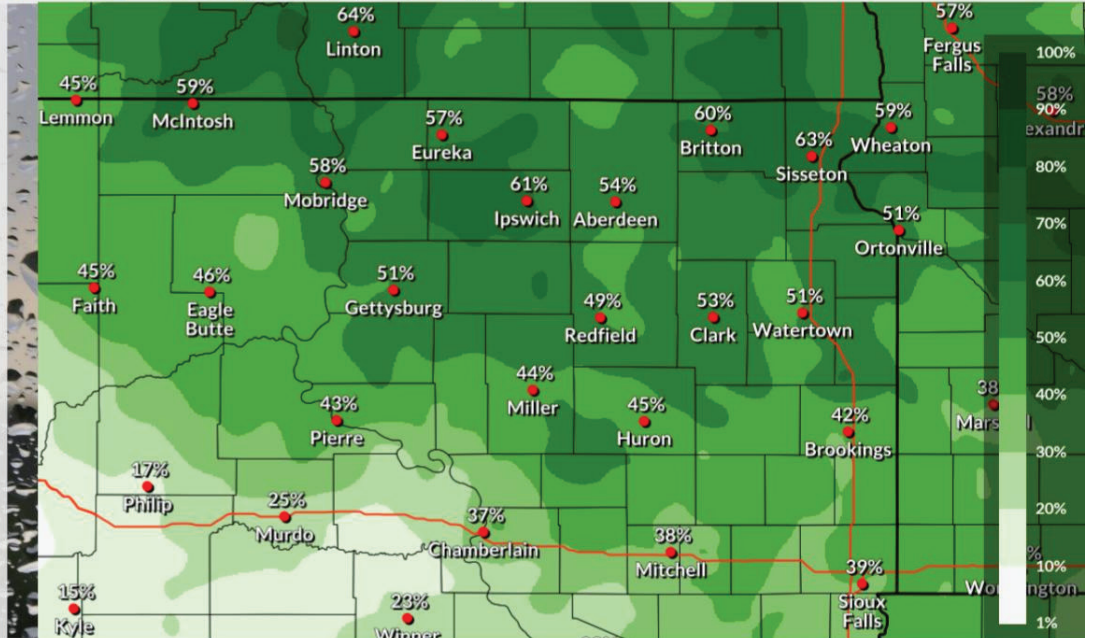


## Rain Monday and Tuesday

October 26, 2025  
4:17 AM

Chance of more than 0.5" starting Monday morning

- Rain will move into central SD after midnight Monday morning and spread east through the day.
- **Highest rainfall accumulations** will be during the day Monday.
- Precipitation ends:
  - Tuesday morning for central SD.
  - Tuesday evening for northeastern SD and west central MN.



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Rain will move into central and northeastern SD Monday and continue through Tuesday. The heaviest rainfall accumulations will be during the afternoon on Monday, with 45-65% chance for greater than a half an inch of rain to fall through Tuesday.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 58 °F at 5:58 PM**

**Low Temp: 45 °F at 3:34 AM**

**Wind: 22 mph at 5:25 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 83 in 1922

Record Low: -3 in 2020

Average High: 54

Average Low: 29

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.89

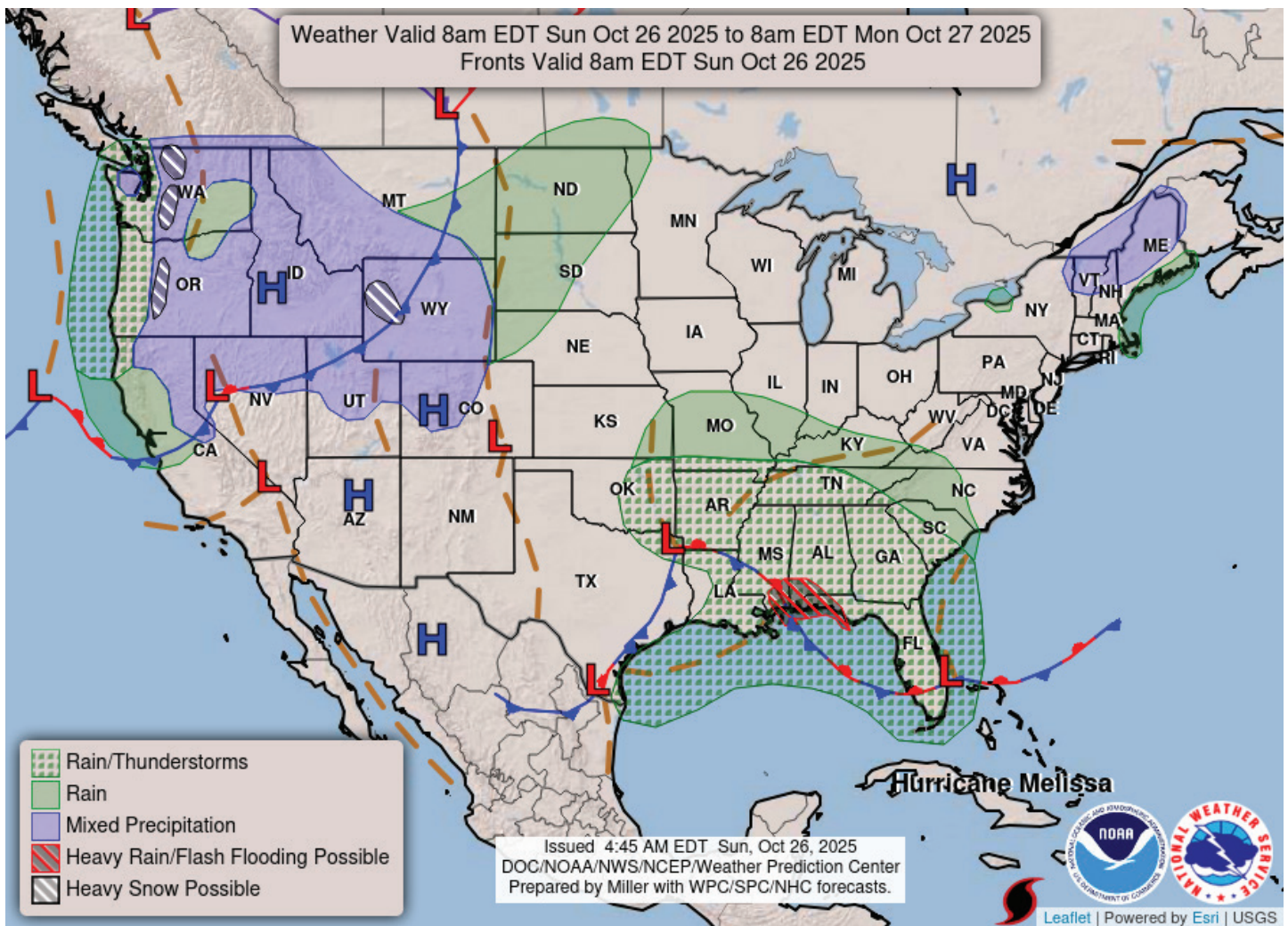
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.48

Average Precip to date: 20.22

Precip Year to Date: 23.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:28 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:05 am





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## **Today in Weather History**

October 26, 1919: Record cold occurred across the area on this day in 1919. Temperatures fell below zero at many locations across central and northeast South Dakota and into west-central Minnesota. The record lows were 3 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 4 degrees below zero at Wheaton, 5 degrees below zero at Kennebec, 8 degrees below zero at McIntosh, and a much below average low of 10 degrees below zero at Miller.

October 26, 1996: A rare and significant late-season tornado outbreak took place as a low-pressure system trekked across the North-Central US. A series of low-topped supercells during the morning and afternoon hours produced a total of 26 tornadoes; 3 in Nebraska, 9 in northeastern South Dakota, and 14 across west-central and central Minnesota. Five of these were rated F2, and while no fatalities resulted, 15 people were injured, and there was a good deal of property damage. To help put the extraordinary timing of this event in perspective, in the 66 years of record-keeping from 1950-2015, Minnesota has only recorded 15 other October tornadoes, and South Dakota 9.

October 26, 2010: A record-breaking surface low-pressure area moved across the Northern Plains and brought high winds to all of central and northeast South Dakota from the early morning of the 26th into the early evening of the 27th. Big Fork, Minnesota, measured a surface low pressure of 955.2 millibars. Sustained northwest winds of 40 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 to 75 mph caused scattered property damage across the region along with blowing several vehicles off the road. Along with the high winds came snowfall of 1 to 5 inches, which resulted in treacherous driving conditions. Several schools started late on the 27th due to the slippery roads and strong winds. The high winds, combined with slick roads at times, blew several semis and other vehicles off the road on Interstate-29 and other locations across the region. Only minor injuries occurred with these incidents. The high winds damaged many traffic signs and signals, downed many power lines and poles, along with downing branches and several trees. As a result, several hundred customers were without power for a time across the area. The high winds caused roof and siding damage to many buildings along with damaging some fences. A shed was also destroyed near Sisseton.

1865: A hurricane sank the steamship USS Mobile off the Georgia coast. The wreck, laden with 20,000 gold coins, was found in 2003.

1952: There have been thousands of weather reconnaissance and research flights into hurricanes in the Atlantic and Pacific since the mid-1940s. There have been several close calls, but only four flights have been lost. A B-29 Super-fortress flight into Super Typhoon Wilma 350 miles east of Leyte in the Philippines disappeared on this date. No trace was ever found of the plane or crew. In the last report, the flight was in the Super typhoon's strongest winds, which were around 160 mph.

1997: An autumn snowstorm pummeled central and south-central Nebraska with record early season snows. Wind-driven snowfall amounts totaled as much as two feet by storms' end. Several highways were closed, including Interstate 80, as near-blizzard conditions developed. Once the snow subsided, the record early season snow totals were tallied. Guide Rock measured twenty-four inches of snow, Clay Center twenty-three inches, and Hastings seventeen inches. A fifty-mile wide swath of snow more than fifteen inches fell from near Alma to York. Amounts further north averaged from four to eight inches. The heavy, wet snow was responsible for many power outages in the area as tree limbs broke and fell on power lines. At one point, the town of Hardy had no power and could not be accessed by vehicles due to the snow. Numerous schools and businesses remained closed several days following the storm. Many highways, including Interstate 80, closed at the height of the storm. On Highway 136 east of Alma, road crews worked for ten hours carving through a ten-foot drift that covered the road. Record cold accompanied the snow as temperatures dropped to the single digits on the morning of the 26th.

1998: Hurricane Mitch, the second deadliest hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean, reached Category 5 strength on this day.

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Daily Devotion

## Genuine Repentance

**God knows we won't live perfectly, but He always helps those who surrender their will to Him.**

2 Corinthians 7:8-10: 8 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— 9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Because we desire to be more like Jesus, we make resolutions, ask Him to help us, and try to behave differently. Yet despite our best efforts to do things God's way, we sometimes slide back into old habits. Overcoming sinful attitudes and behaviors starts with genuine repentance, which includes ...

**Conviction.** The Holy Spirit will reveal our areas of sin and convict us of wrongdoing. Through Scripture, He'll show us God's standard and what needs to change.

**Contrition.** The next step—grieving over our iniquity—is followed by confession to the Lord. Genuine sorrow arises from the knowledge that we've sinned against God. True contrition will lead us to humble confession.

**Commitment.** Real repentance is complete when we wholeheartedly pledge to turn from our old ways and move toward righteousness. God knows we won't live perfectly, but He looks for a surrendered heart that diligently seeks to obey Him.

Paul used strong language when telling us to turn from iniquity: "Put to death ... whatever belongs to your earthly nature" (Col. 3:5 NIV). What sin are you struggling to overcome? Have you genuinely repented, committing to turn from it permanently? Let the Holy Spirit empower you to change.

*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:

10.24.25

11 18 31 51 56 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$714,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

2 31 33 35 50 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$5,530,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

21 32 34 35 44 5

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 57 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

13 15 22 23 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$63,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

3 24 46 58 61 7

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.25.25

2 12 22 39 67 15

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$358,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



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## **Upcoming Groton Events**

08/09/2025 Groton Legion 30th Anniversary Celebration  
08/07/2025 Groton Firemen Summer Splash in the GHS Parking Lot 7:30-8:30pm  
08/11/2025 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 3:30-6pm  
08/23/2025 Glacial Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm  
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
09/06-07/25 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
09/07/2025 Couples Sunflower Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am  
09/07/2025 9th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm  
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
10/31/2025 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/15/2025 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm  
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving 11:30am-1:30pm Community Center (Thanksgiving)  
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.  
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

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

### **Payton with 4 TDs, leads undefeated North Dakota St. past previously unbeaten South Dakota St. 38-7**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Cole Payton accounted for 380 yards and four touchdown runs to lead undefeated North Dakota State to a 38-7 victory over previously-unbeaten South Dakota State on Saturday night for its second straight Dakota Marker trophy.

The FCS defending national champion and top-ranked Bison (8-0, 5-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) snapped a two-game skid at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium for its first win there since 2019. The Bison have also won three straight against second-ranked South Dakota State (7-1, 3-1), including a 28-21 win at home in last season's NCAA semifinal matchup.

It was just the 10th matchup of No. 1 vs. 2 in FCS history, but only the fourth time it has happened in the regular season.

Payton scored twice from short yardage and had a 57-yard TD run as the Bison built a 31-7 halftime lead. The Bison scored on five of six possessions and had 345 yards of offense in the first half. They finished with 500 yards overall and held South Dakota State to just 166.

Payton's 47-yard touchdown run made it 38-7 early in the fourth quarter. He was 18-of-23 passing for 243 yards with an interception and ran 17 times for 137 yards.

Luke Marble threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Lofton O'Groske in the second quarter for the Jackrabbits. North Dakota State leads the overall series 66-47-5, including an 12-10 advantage in Dakota Marker games.

### **Illinois State rides Rittenhouse's 3 TDs to 21-13 win over Illinois State**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Quarterback Tommy Rittenhouse accounted for three total touchdowns — two passing and one running — and No. 18 FCS Illinois State beat South Dakota 21-13 on Saturday.

Will Leyland's 37-yard field goal with 8:47 left in the first quarter gave South Dakota a 3-0 lead. Rittenhouse led a 12-play, 79-yard drive that ended with his 11-yard scoring pass to Scotty Presson Jr. early in the second quarter. Aidan Bouman gave the Coyotes their last lead of the game on an 11-yard touchdown pass to Jesse Miller to cap a 14-play, 80-yard drive.

Then, 30 seconds before halftime, Illinois State (5-3, 2-2 Missouri Valley Football Conference) took the lead for good when Rittenhouse ran it in from the 6 to end a 12-play, 75-yard drive that gave Illinois State a 14-10 advantage.

The lone touchdown in the second half came late in the third when Rittenhouse threw a 2-yard score to Presson for a 21-10 lead.

Bouman threw for 173 yards and L.J. Phillips Jr. ran for 129 yards on 26 carries for the 21st-ranked Coyotes (5-3, 2-2).

Illinois State holds a 9-2 advantage in the series that dates back to 2011. ISU is 4-1 overall in Vermillion inside the Dakota Dome, with the lone defeat coming in 2016 by a score of 27-24.

### **PREP VOLLEYBALL**

Aberdeen Central def. T F Riggs High School, 25-8, 25-10, 25-15

Burke def. Gregory, 25-10, 25-8

Wagner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-20, 21-25, 25-22

Wakpala def. Oelrichs, 25-12, 25-20, 25-21

East-West Invitational=

Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-16, 25-21

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Brandon Valley def. Spearfish, 25-13, 25-17  
Brookings def. Spearfish, 21-25, 25-20, 25-14  
Harrisburg def. Douglas, 25-9, 25-9  
Harrisburg def. Rapid City Central, 25-5, 25-9  
Harrisburg def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-9, 25-16  
Rapid City Stevens def. Brookings, 25-17, 21-25, 25-10  
Watertown def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-16, 17-25, 25-15  
Watertown def. Spearfish, 25-19, 25-18  
Yankton def. Douglas, 25-13, 25-16  
Yankton def. Rapid City Central, 25-18, 25-20  
Yankton def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-9, 25-23  
SESD Conference Tournament=  
Burke def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-12, 25-8  
Parkston def. Bon Homme, 25-14, 25-13  
Parkston def. Burke, 12-25, 25-16, 25-12  
Parkston def. Chamberlain, 25-10, 25-16  
Winner def. Burke, 25-20, 25-15  
Winner def. Parkston, 25-17, 25-22  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=  
Little Wound vs. Crow Creek Tribal School

## **Trade tensions appear to have cooled after talks between US and China, setting up a Trump-Xi meeting**

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, DAVID RISING and EILEEN NG Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Trade tensions between the United States and China appeared to cool on Sunday ahead of a meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, with the Chinese government suggesting that a mutual understanding had been reached between the world's two largest economies.

The talks followed China placing limits on the exporting of rare earth elements needed for advanced technologies and Trump's threat of an additional 100% tariffs on Chinese goods. The conflict has been poised to weaken economic growth worldwide.

China's top trade negotiator, Li Chenggang, told reporters that the two sides had reached a "preliminary consensus" on areas of dispute and would seek to further stabilize the relationship. Trump also expressed confidence that an agreement was at hand.

"They want to make a deal and we want to make a deal," he said. Trump reiterated his plan to visit China in the future and suggested that Xi could come to Washington or Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Florida.

The announcement came at the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, hosted in Kuala Lumpur, with Trump seeking to burnish his reputation as an international dealmaker.

Yet the path to those deals has involved serious disruptions at home and abroad, with his tariff hikes scrambling the global economy and a U.S. government shutdown that has him feuding with Democrats.

Trump attends ceasefire ceremony between Thailand and Cambodia

At the summit, Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire agreement on Sunday during a ceremony attended by Trump, whose threats of economic pressure prodded the two nations to halt skirmishes along their disputed border earlier this year.

Thailand will release Cambodian prisoners and Cambodia will begin withdrawing heavy artillery as part of the first phase of the deal. Regional observers will monitor the situation to ensure fighting doesn't restart.

"We did something that a lot of people said couldn't be done," Trump said. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet called it a "historic day," and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said the agreement creates "the building blocks for a lasting peace."

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Trump touched down in the Malaysian capital shortly before 0200 GMT, where he performed his trademark campaign trail dance with local performers and waved an American flag in one hand and a Malaysian flag in the other. His trip will also include visits to Japan and South Korea and a planned meeting with Xi.

The president signed economic agreements with Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia, some of them aimed at increasing trade involving critical minerals. The U.S. wants to rely less on China, which has limited exports of key components in technology manufacturing.

"It's very important that we cooperate as willing partners with each other to ensure that we can have smooth supply chains, secure supply chains, for the quality of life, for our people and security," said U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

Trump reengages with a key region of the world

The president attended this summit only once during his first term, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth seemed unfamiliar with ASEAN during his confirmation hearing in January.

But this year's event was a chance for Trump to reengage with a collection of nations that have a combined \$3.8 trillion economy and 680 million people.

"The United States is with you 100%, and we intend to be a strong partner and friend for many generations to come," Trump said. He described his counterparts as "spectacular leaders" and said, "everything you touch turns to gold."

The summit also allowed Trump to play global peacemaker with Thailand and Cambodia, which have competing territorial claims that result in periodic violence along their border. Some of the worst modern fighting between the two countries took place over five days in July, killing dozens and displacing hundreds of thousands of people, some of the worst modern fighting between the two countries.

Trump threatened, at the time, to withhold trade agreements unless the fighting stopped in a display of economic leverage credited with spurring negotiations. A shaky truce has persisted since then.

"The fact that Trump was holding the tariff card was actually very, very significant," said Ou Virak, president of Phnom Penh's Future Forum think tank. "That's probably the main reason, if not the only reason, but definitely the main reason why the two sides agreed immediately to the ceasefire."

Now, he said, "there's a ceremony for Trump to be in front of cameras" so he can be "seen as the champion that brings an end to wars and conflicts," giving him "more ammunition for his bid for Nobel Peace Prize."

Trump has explicitly campaigned for the honor, continuously adding to a list of conflicts that he either helped resolve or claims to have ended.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim praised the agreement between Thailand and Cambodia during opening remarks at the summit, saying, "it reminds us that reconciliation is not concession, but an act of courage."

Tariffs are in focus on Trump's trip

Trump sat down with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Kuala Lumpur, who was also attending the summit. There has been friction between the two leaders over the Brazilian prosecution of Jair Bolsonaro, the country's former president, who has been close to Trump. Bolsonaro was convicted of attempting a coup in his country earlier this week.

During his meeting with Lula on Sunday, Trump said he could reduce tariffs on Brazil that he enacted in a push for leniency for Bolsonaro.

"I think we should be able to make some good deals for both countries," he said.

While Trump was warming to Lula, he avoided Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. The president is angry with Canada because of a television advertisement protesting his trade policies, and on his way to the summit, announced on social media he would hike tariffs on Canada because of it.

Trump has expressed confidence about reaching deals during the rest of his trip, including with China. Fentanyl trafficking and soybean sales are among Trump's priorities.

"I think we have a really good chance of making a very comprehensive deal," Trump said.

It remains to be seen whether Trump's dealmaking addresses longstanding issues or puts them off for another day.



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U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent suggested Sunday that Washington and Beijing could step back from their confrontation instead of pushing forward with higher tariffs by America and export restrictions on rare earth elements by China.

When asked if the two countries could extend the trade truce from earlier this year, Bessent said: "I would say yes." However, he emphasized that the final decision would be up to Trump.

One leader who was absent from the summit in Kuala Lumpur is Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Although he was close with Trump during his first term, the relationship has been more tense lately. Trump caused irritation by boasting that he settled a recent conflict between India and Pakistan, and he has increased tariffs on India for its purchase of Russian oil.

## **Melissa strengthens into a Category 4 hurricane, threatening catastrophic flooding in Jamaica, Haiti**

By The Associated Press undefined

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Hurricane Melissa strengthened into a major Category 4 hurricane, with the possibility of intensifying to a Category 5 storm Sunday night, unleashing torrential rain and threatening to cause catastrophic flooding in the northern Caribbean, including Haiti and Jamaica, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

The weather agency added Melissa is likely to reach the southern coast of Jamaica as a major hurricane late Monday or Tuesday morning, and urged people on the island to seek shelter immediately.

"I urge Jamaicans to take this weather threat seriously," said Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness. "Take all measures to protect yourself."

Melissa was centered about 120 miles (195 kilometers) south-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and about 280 miles (450 kilometers) south-southwest of Guantanamo, Cuba, Sunday morning. It had maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (225 kph) and was moving west at 5 mph (8 kph), the hurricane center said.

Melissa was expected to drop torrential rains of up to 30 inches (760 millimeters) on Jamaica and southern Hispaniola — Haiti and the Dominican Republic — according to the hurricane center. Some areas may see as much as 40 inches (1,010 millimeters) of rain.

It also warned that extensive damage to infrastructure, power and communication outages, and the isolation of communities in Jamaica were to be expected.

Melissa should be near or over Cuba by late Tuesday, where it could bring up to 12 inches (300 millimeters) of rain, before moving toward the Bahamas later Wednesday.

The Cuban government on Saturday afternoon issued a hurricane watch for the provinces of Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo and Holguin.

Storm's slow progress

The erratic and slow-moving storm has killed at least three people in Haiti and a fourth person in the Dominican Republic, where another person remains missing.

"Unfortunately for places along the projected path of this storm, it is increasingly dire," Jamie Rhome, the center's deputy director, said earlier on Saturday. He said the storm will continue to move slowly for up to four days.

Authorities in Jamaica said on Saturday that the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston will be closed at 8 p.m. local time. It did not say whether it will close the Sangster airport in Montego Bay, on the western side of the island.

More than 650 shelters were activated in Jamaica. Officials said warehouses across the island were well-stocked and thousands of food packages prepositioned for quick distribution if needed.

River levels rise

Haitian authorities said three people had died as a consequence of the hurricane and another five were injured due to a collapsed wall. There were also reports of rising river levels, flooding and a bridge destroyed due to breached riverbanks in Sainte-Suzanne, in the northeast.

"The storm is causing a lot of concern with the way it's moving," said Ronald Délice, a Haitian depart-

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ment director of civil protection, as local authorities organized lines to distribute food kits. Many residents are still reluctant to leave their homes.

The storm has damaged nearly 200 homes in the Dominican Republic and knocked out water supply systems, affecting more than half a million customers. It also downed trees and traffic lights, unleashed a couple of small landslides and left more than two dozen communities isolated by floodwaters.

The Bahamas Department of Meteorology said Melissa could bring tropical storm or hurricane conditions to islands in the Southeast and Central Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands by early next week.

Melissa is the 13th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had predicted an above-normal season with 13 to 18 named storms.

## **East Timor joins ASEAN in bloc's first expansion since the 1990s**

By DAVID RISING, EILEEN NG and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations welcomed East Timor as its newest member Sunday, which its prime minister said was a "dream realized" for the tiny nation. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Thailand signed an agreement expanding a ceasefire on their borders with the hope it will lead to a lasting peace.

"Today, history is made," Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao told the other leaders as the flag of East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, was added to the other 10 on the stage at a formal ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

It was ASEAN's first expansion since the 1990s and was more than a decade in the making.

"For the people of Timor Leste this is not only a dream realized, but a powerful affirmation of our journey — one marked by resilience, determination and hope," he said.

The ceremony marked the opening of ASEAN's annual summit, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the U.S.

Thailand and Cambodia sign expanded border ceasefire

Shortly after his arrival Sunday, U.S. President Donald Trump took part as Cambodia and Thailand signed a formal expansion of the ceasefire that he helped broker this summer to end their border conflict.

"There was a lot of killing. And then we got it stopped, very quickly," Trump said before Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul signed the agreement.

The terms of the agreement include Thailand releasing 18 Cambodian soldiers held prisoner and for both sides to begin removing heavy weapons from the border area.

There were few details in the agreement on how it would be carried out, though it said the leaders agreed to establish an observer team made up of ASEAN member states "with the objective of ensuring the full and effective implementation."

Both Cambodian and Thai leaders called the agreement a "joint declaration" on the ceasefire, while Trump dubbed it the "Kuala Lumpur Peace Accords"

"This declaration, if fully implemented, will provide the building blocks for lasting peace," Anutin said. "But more importantly, it will begin the process of mending our ties."

Hun Manet said that "today marks a historic moment of profound significance for Cambodia and Thailand — a day where we affirm our shared conviction that peace is always possible when nations have the courage and wisdom to pursue it together."

Trump said he had signed economic agreements with both of those nations, and later also concluded a deal with Malaysia.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Japan's newly inaugurated Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi were among more than a dozen other leaders on hand.

Membership in ASEAN could help the one of world's poorest countries grow

East Timor's accession to ASEAN gives the country, which has just 1.4 million people and a GDP of around \$2 billion, better access to an economic community of nations with some 680 million people and a \$3.8 trillion economy.

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Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, whose country holds the bloc's rotating chairmanship, said East Timor's accession "completes the ASEAN family, the affirming of our shared destiny and deep sense of regional kinship."

He said ASEAN's goal was to "pursue growth that is both resilient and fair, and to safeguard the welfare of generations to come."

The integration of the region's youngest nation, and one of its poorest, demonstrates ASEAN's "inclusivity and adaptability, especially at a time of geopolitical flux," said Angeline Tan, an analyst with Malaysia's Institute of Strategic & International Studies:

"As protectionism is on the rise, the expansion of ASEAN demonstrates its commitment to regionalism, openness and equal participation," she said.

The last country to join ASEAN was Cambodia in 1999.

East Timor, wedged between Indonesia and Australia, was a Portuguese colony for over four centuries before declaring independence in 1975.

Indonesia invaded nine days later, beginning a brutal 24-year occupation that claimed tens of thousands of lives through conflict, famine and disease. A U.N.-supervised referendum in 1999 paved the way for independence, which was formally restored in 2002.

Today it is led by two independence heroes — Prime Minister Gusmao and President Jose Ramos-Horta, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996.

They are trying to tackle high levels of unemployment, malnutrition and poverty. Some 42% of the country's population live below the national poverty line. Nearly two-thirds of its citizens are under 30 years old, making youth job creation a high priority.

Its major source of government revenues comes from the oil and gas industry, but with resources quickly becoming depleted it is looking to diversify.

Initially, the idea of bringing East Timor into ASEAN was met with skepticism by several other members, and even though that was overcome, Joanne Lin, co-coordinator of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute's ASEAN Studies Centre in Singapore, said adding the nation is "not without challenges."

"Timor-Leste's administrative and institutional capacity still lags behind most ASEAN members, and full participation will require sustained technical and financial support from the secretariat and member states," she said. "But its inclusion also brings new energy and perspectives — especially on issues like youth empowerment, democratic governance and small-state diplomacy."

For East Timor, ASEAN membership gives it access to the bloc's free trade deals, investment opportunities and a broader regional market.

East Timor applied for membership in 2011 and was granted observer status in 2022.

"For us this new beginning brings immense opportunity in trade, investment, education and the digital economy — we are ready to learn, innovate and uphold good government," Gusmao said.

"This is not the end of a journey, this is a beginning of an inspiring new chapter."

## **Trump threatens Canada with 10% extra import tax for not pulling down anti-tariffs ad sooner**

By MARK SCHIEFELBEIN Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he plans to hike tariffs on imports of Canadian goods by an extra 10% because of an anti-tariff television ad aired by the province of Ontario.

The ad used the words of former President Ronald Reagan to criticize U.S. tariffs, angering Trump who said he would end trade talks with Canada. Ontario Premier Doug Ford said he would pull the ad after the weekend, and it ran Friday and Saturday during the first two games of the World Series.

"Their Advertisement was to be taken down, IMMEDIATELY, but they let it run last night during the World Series, knowing that it was a FRAUD," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform as he flew aboard Air Force One to Malaysia.

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"Because of their serious misrepresentation of the facts, and hostile act, I am increasing the Tariff on Canada by 10% over and above what they are paying now."

It was unclear what legal authority Trump would use to impose the additional import taxes. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on when the 10% hike would come into effect, and whether it would apply to all Canadian goods.

Dominic LeBlanc, the Canadian minister responsible for trade issues with the U.S., tried to draw a distinction by pointing out in a statement that the responsibility for negotiations rests with Canada's federal government, not provincial leaders.

"Progress is best achieved through direct engagement with the U.S. administration," he said.

Canada's economy has been hit hard by Trump's tariffs, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has been trying to work with Trump to lower them. More than three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the U.S., and nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian (\$2.7 billion U.S.) worth of goods and services cross the border daily.

Spokespersons for Carney and Ford did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Many Canadian products have been hit with a 35% tariff, while steel and aluminum face rates of 50%. Energy products have a lower rate of 10%, while the vast majority of goods are covered by the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement, and are exempt from tariffs. That trade agreement is slated for review. Trump negotiated the deal in his first term, but has since soured on it.

Trump and Carney will both attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Malaysia. But Trump told reporters traveling with him that he had no intention of meeting Carney there.

Trump said the ad misrepresented the position of Reagan, a two-term president and a beloved figure in the Republican Party. But Reagan was wary of tariffs and used much of the 1987 address featured in Ontario's ad spelling out the case against tariffs.

Trump has complained the ad was aimed at influencing the U.S. Supreme Court ahead of arguments scheduled for next month that could decide whether Trump has the power to impose his sweeping tariffs, a key part of his economic strategy. Lower courts had ruled he had exceeded his authority.

## **Venezuela's Maduro says the US is fabricating a war and seeks to revoke citizenship of opponent**

CARACAS (AP) — Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro said the U.S. government is "fabricating" a war against him as the world's biggest warship approached the South American country, while moving to revoke the citizenship of an opponent he accuses of egging on an invasion.

Maduro said in a national broadcast on Friday night that the administration of President Donald Trump is "fabricating a new eternal war" as the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, which can host up to 90 airplanes and attack helicopters, moves closer to Venezuela.

On Saturday, the Venezuelan president also referred to the pressure he has felt from the U.S. government as he started legal proceedings seeking to revoke the citizenship and cancel the passport of opposition politician Leopoldo López.

"They promised they would never again get involved in a war and they are fabricating a war that we will avoid," said Maduro in Friday night's address. Trump has accused him, without providing evidence, of being the leader of the organized crime gang Tren de Aragua.

"They are fabricating an extravagant narrative, a vulgar, criminal and totally fake one," Maduro added. "Venezuela is a country that does not produce cocaine leaves."

American forces have destroyed several boats off the Venezuelan coast, allegedly for their role in trafficking drugs into the United States. At least 43 people were killed in those attacks.

Tren de Aragua, which traces its roots to a Venezuelan prison, is not known for having a big role in global drug trafficking but for its involvement in contract killings, extortion and people smuggling.

Maduro was widely accused of stealing last year's election, and countries including the U.S. have called for him to go.

Earlier, Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said on her Telegram account that Maduro had ap-



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pealed to the country's Supreme Court of Justice to revoke López's nationality for his "grotesque, criminal, and illegal call for a military invasion of Venezuela."

López, a well-known Venezuelan opposition figure who has been exiled in Spain since 2020, has publicly expressed his support for the deployment of U.S. ships in the Caribbean and attacks on suspected drug trafficking vessels.

The vice president said that López's passport will be revoked "immediately," and that he is also accused of promoting "economic blockage" and "calling for the mass murder of Venezuelans in complicity with enemy and foreign governments."

The opposition leader reacted on his X account, dismissing the move because "according to the Constitution, no Venezuelan born in Venezuela can have their nationality revoked." He once more expressed support for a U.S. military deployment and military actions in the country.

"Maduro wants to take away my nationality for saying what all Venezuelans think and want: freedom," López wrote. "After having stolen the 2024 election, we agree to pursue all avenues to end the dictatorship," the politician added.

López spent more than three years in a military prison after participating in anti-government protests in 2014. He was sentenced to more than 13 years in prison on charges of "instigation and conspiracy to commit a crime."

He was later granted house arrest and, after being released by a group of military personnel during a political crisis in Venezuela, left the country in 2020.

## **Rubio says mediators of Gaza ceasefire shared information to uncover a recent threat**

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and COURTNEY BONNELL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that Israel, the U.S. and the other mediators of the Gaza ceasefire deal are sharing information to disrupt any threats and that allowed them to identify a possible impending attack last weekend.

The State Department said a week ago that it had "credible reports" Hamas could violate the ceasefire with an attack on Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

"We put out a message through State Department, sent it to our mediators as well, about an impending attack, and it didn't happen," he told reporters en route from Israel to Qatar, where he met up with President Donald Trump for a multistop tour in Asia. "So that's the goal here, is ultimately to identify a threat before it happens."

Rubio said multiple countries are interested in joining an international stabilization force that aims to deploy to Gaza but that they need more details about the mission and rules of engagement.

The U.S. could call for a U.N. resolution supporting the force so more nations can take part, he said, adding that the U.S. has been talking with Qatar, Egypt and Turkey and noting interest from Indonesia and Azerbaijan.

"Many of the countries who want to be a part of it can't do it without that," he said of an international mandate.

He also noted that next week the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Dan Caine, is expected to be the latest in a parade of U.S. officials to travel to Israel.

Vice President JD Vance joined special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner earlier in the week in Israel in an effort to shore up the fragile ceasefire deal. Rubio arrived just as Vance was departing, meeting with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and touring a U.S.-led coordination center monitoring the ceasefire.

Rubio touched on several other key foreign policy priorities in his remarks to reporters. Here's a look: Sanctions on Colombia's president

A day after the Trump administration imposed sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, his family and a member of his government over accusations of involvement in the global drug trade, Rubio

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said it was not about targeting the country itself, which is one of the closest American allies in the region. "This is not a U.S. vs. Colombia thing," he said. "This is us reacting to the actions of what's turned into a hostile foreign leader."

He said the U.S. has excellent relations with Colombia's people and institutions and that the Trump administration didn't want to hurt the country's economy, so it held off on tariffs. Trump last weekend had threatened to unleash them.

Asked if he would rule out tariffs, Rubio said Trump makes those decisions but "obviously the president was aware of the options available to him and chose these instead."

The sanctions ramped up tensions with Colombia's first leftist leader, who has hit back at the Trump administration.

"I believe the current U.S. government violated its rule of law by sanctioning me as if I were a mobster, when I dedicated my life to fighting the mafia," Petro wrote on X. "Their desperation will lead them to set traps for me. I'm ready to fight. For myself and for my people."

Stance toward Venezuela

Reporters asked Rubio whether other leaders in the region may help urge Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to step down, with speculation swirling about whether recent U.S. military actions in Latin America are aimed at ousting Maduro.

Rubio responded that when the U.S. deploys assets in its own hemisphere, "everyone sort of freaks out."

The Trump administration has launched a series of strikes against alleged drug-running boats in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific and is deploying an aircraft carrier to South America, a major escalation of an already robust military buildup in the region.

Rubio insisted that the U.S. is taking part in a counterdrug operation. And he again accused Maduro's government of allowing and participating in the shipment of narcotics.

"This is a very serious problem for the hemisphere, and a very destabilizing one," Rubio said. "And that has to be addressed."

He says other countries in the region, including Ecuador, Mexico, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, cooperate in combating drug trafficking.

Maduro said the U.S. government is fabricating a war against him.

"They are fabricating an extravagant narrative, a vulgar, criminal and totally fake one," Maduro said Friday night in a national broadcast. "Venezuela is a country that does not produce cocaine leaves."

Taiwan and China

Rubio said it was important for the U.S. to remain engaged with China but that Taiwan would not become a bargaining chip for the world's largest economies to reach a larger trade agreement.

Trump says he expects to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea in the coming days during his Asia trip. Beijing claims sovereignty over the self-governed island and vows to seize it by force if necessary. The United States is obligated by its own laws to give military support to Taiwan.

"If what people are worried about is we're going to get some trade deal or we're going to get favorable treatment on trade in exchange for walking away from Taiwan — no one is contemplating that," Rubio said.

## Early voting begins in New York City mayor's race and contest to pick New Jersey's next governor

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Polling places opened Saturday for the start of in-person voting for two of the year's most closely watched elections: the New York City mayor's race and the contest to pick New Jersey's next governor.

New Yorkers are choosing between Democrat Zohran Mamdani, Republican Curtis Sliwa and former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat on the ballot as an independent. The incumbent mayor, Eric Adams, is also on the ballot but dropped out of the race last month and recently threw his support behind Cuomo.

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The New Jersey governor's race features Republican state Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli against Democratic U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill.

The off-year elections are key tests for Democratic Party leaders as they try to decide what kinds of candidates, priorities and political messaging might best counter Republican President Donald Trump's agenda ahead of the crucial 2026 midterms.

The races, to that end, have spotlighted affordability and cost-of-living issues as well as ongoing divisions within the Democratic Party, says Ashley Koning, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

"New York City pits the progressive wing against the establishment old guard in Mamdani versus Cuomo, while New Jersey is banking on moderate candidate Mikie Sherrill to appeal to its broad middle," she said.

On Saturday morning, a steady stream of voters turned out at an early voting site at Creedmoor, a psychiatric hospital in the New York City borough of Queens where Mamdani lives and Cuomo was born and raised.

Deepa Paulus, a 28-year-old artist, was among a number of younger voters who cast their ballot for Mamdani, citing his pledge to tackle housing and other affordability issues in the high-cost city.

"He has a lot of really good ideas for the future of New York, and I feel very hopeful when I hear him talking," the registered Democrat said. "I know it's hard to actually implement changes like that, but I'm excited to see what he does."

Mamdani, a democratic socialist, has electrified liberal voters who are drawn to his proposals such as universal, free child care, free buses, and a rent freeze for New Yorkers living in about 1 million rent-regulated apartments.

However Alix Mondesir, a 67-year-old retired lawyer, said he voted for Cuomo even as he conceded that the "idealism of Mamdani spoke to my heart directly."

"The bottom line is we can't go on hopes. We have to go on someone that shows that they can handle the budget, that they've been in the fire and that they've survived," the registered Democrat said. "I don't want a guy learning on the job. I want a guy with a proven track record."

Cuomo has portrayed Mamdani's policies as naive and financially irresponsible. He has appealed to voters to pick him because of his experience as the state's governor, a position he gave up in 2021 after multiple women accused him of sexual harassment.

Cuomo has also assailed Mamdani, who would be the city's first Muslim mayor, over his criticism of Israel.

Mamdani, who has weathered anti-Muslim rhetoric during the contest, says Israel's war in Gaza amounts to genocide. Cuomo and Sliwa, the founder of the Guardian Angels public safety patrol group, equate Mamdani's position with antisemitism.

The New Jersey gubernatorial candidates, in their final debate earlier this month, sparred over the federal government shutdown, Sherrill's military records, Trump's policies and the high cost of living in the state. The winner would succeed Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy, who is term-limited.

New York has allowed early voting since 2019, and it has become relatively popular. In June's mayoral primary, about 35% of the ballots were cast early and in person, according to the city's campaign finance board. New Jersey adopted early voting in 2021.

Early voting is also underway in other states.

In Virginia, voters began casting early ballots on Sept. 19. The state's closely-watched governor's race pits former U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger, a Democrat, and Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears.

One of those candidates will become Virginia's first female governor. During a debate earlier this month, they clashed over cultural issues such as the rights of transgender children in sports and school bathrooms.

Early voting runs through Nov. 1 in Virginia and Nov. 2 in New York City and New Jersey. Polling sites in all three states will then open widely for Election Day on Nov. 4.



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## **Virginia gubernatorial candidates debate trans youth rights as LGBTQ+ voters weigh a fraught moment**

By OLIVIA DIAZ Associated Press/Report for America

SALEM, Va. (AP) — René Harvey and her wife arrived at a Roanoke Valley pride celebration in October carrying deep-seated worries about all that could go wrong.

The couple had been to the region's annual pride festival before, but this year felt different. Harvey keeps up with the news, and the headlines describing political violence and LGBTQ+ hate linger with her. She's been following Virginia's statewide elections, including a race for governor that has heavily focused on trans youth.

"It's scary, the way things are heading," said Harvey, sitting at a booth for her LGBTQ-friendly parish. "We had a fear coming here today."

It turns out Harvey had nothing to worry about. The festival was peaceful, even celebratory. Her interactions with residents in the area were friendly. Festival-goers from all over Virginia weren't dwelling on gender identity and how it's handled in the public schools.

But the topic matters to Winsome Earle-Sears, the Republican nominee for governor, who has said in her campaign that trans girls should be banned from bathrooms and sports teams. Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic nominee, has largely avoided the subject, saying only that statewide political leaders should not be meddling in local school matters.

Southwest Virginia Pride's festival took place on the edge of Appalachia, in a city where President Donald Trump defeated Vice President Kamala Harris by more than 19 percentage points, and Republican nominee Hung Cao beat U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine by 13 points in his unsuccessful campaign. Spanberger, who has worked to make inroads with rural Virginians, and Earle-Sears have both made appearances west of the city.

The winner of the governor's race will likely have a lot to say about regulations over trans youth in schools. In October, term-limited Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an executive order urging the Virginia Board of Health to draft guidance to "protect women's and girls' health and safety," and he has also supported similar legislation in the Democratic-led legislature, which failed.

Harvey can appreciate nuance on the matter. She used to work in schools and said she believed kids deserve equal opportunities to succeed, particularly in sports. But she worries about the safety of her queer and trans neighbors, gathering in a vibrantly decorated sports complex to celebrate in a moment when their identities have been pushed to the political forefront.

Instead of carrying fear, she may join the next pride event, carrying a concealed handgun if it's legally allowed at a future celebration.

"Just for peace of mind," she said.

Ads surge in the Roanoke Valley

Trans youth in schools has been a key debate across Virginia heading into statewide elections, and the Roanoke Valley is no different. Earle-Sears has spent about \$1 million and Spanberger around \$409,000 on ads in the Roanoke media market addressing the matter, according to data from the nonpartisan media tracking firm AdImpact.

One of the top commercials from Earle-Sears' campaign airing in the region attacks Spanberger for voting "to let boys share locker rooms with little girls" and "let children change genders without telling their parents," according to AdImpact.

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An ad put out by Spanberger counters that she wants to "get politics out of our schools and trust parents and local communities."

The ads mirror the battle lines of their recent debate, in which Earle-Sears described trans students as a safety threat, and Spanberger declined to say whether she would rescind the measure signed by Youngkin requiring students to go only to the restrooms of their birth gender.

Jacey Clay, a trans woman on that board that organized the pride celebration, said the way trans people had been described in the governor's race felt divorced from her reality. She made her transition two years ago, and said her people looked out for her and did not shame her.

"I have never once had a bad experience in the real world with people in Patrick County," Clay said of her home in southwest Virginia. "I only see this fear of trans people in online spaces."

Clay's custom is to ignore the ads and Reddit chatrooms. In her Appalachia, she said, where she goes to the bathroom doesn't come up in conversation.

Dolly Davis, a trans woman from Roanoke County, waved and hugged dozens who crossed her path at the pride event. "Our community is a close one," she said. But she also acknowledged that "the talk from kowtowing politicians" is sometimes hard to ignore.

"We're hiring them to work for us," Davis said of trans voters. "But on the job, they tell these political lies going after us."

Concerns linger in Fairfax

About half of Virginia voters in the 2024 presidential election said support for transgender rights in government and society had "gone too far," according to the AP VoteCast survey of voters. That measure was roughly in line with voters nationally. Only about one-quarter of Virginia voters said that support had "not gone far enough" and about the same share said it was about right.

Transgender rights were an issue that President Donald Trump hammered in attack ads last year ahead of his victory over Harris, most notably with a punchline: "Kamala is for they/them; President Trump is for you."

It's been a year since Trump's anti-trans campaign. But the conversation has continued in Fairfax city, a deep blue community roughly 225 miles (362 kilometers) from Salem, Va., where Harris beat Trump by more than 34 points.

It's there where parents, students, teachers and others gathered at a Moms for Liberty town hall earlier this month, and a panel of parents bemoaned local school board policies that considered the rights of trans kids.

One of the parents, Chris Funderburg of Prince William County, said, "There is a transgender student at the school, and my daughters don't want to use the bathroom at the school." Another parent described her high school son as "completely mortified" when he had to change clothes in front of a trans boy in the locker room.

Earle-Sears and Republican John Reid, the nominee for lieutenant governor, also spoke at the event of their pledges to weigh into the cultural matter if elected in November. At one point, Reid, who is openly gay, said to a cheering crowd. "You are not a bigot for saying that boys belong in one restroom and one locker room, and girls belong in another."

Reid's view contrasts with Sarah Goodman, a former Roanoke-area public high school English teacher who attended the pride festival. She said she left her position partly because she felt politicians were forcing too much anti-LGBTQ politics onto teachers.

Standing near rainbow-colored booths next to a live performer belting songs by Chappell Roan, Goodman said, "This is about bigoted adults."

## Shootings at a party in North Carolina kill 2 and injure several others

MAXTON, N.C. (AP) — Shootings at a large outdoor Halloween party in southeastern North Carolina early Saturday killed two people — one of them 16 years old — and wounded several others, a sheriff said.

Robeson County Sheriff Burnis Wilkins' office said that 13 people were shot at the party held at a home in a rural area outside of Maxton, which is about 95 miles (150 kilometers) southwest of Raleigh near the South Carolina border.

Wilkins said the shootings stemmed from two groups attending the event that attracted more than 300 people, with ages in attendance ranging from pre-teenagers to about 50.

"There's a lot of interviews taking place, but apparently there was a confrontation between a couple of groups of people and then gunfire between those two started," Wilkins told WBTW-TV.

The sheriff's office later Saturday identified the other fatal shooting victim as 49-year-old Jessie Locklear Jr. of Lumberton.

The office said the 11 others shot range in age from 17 to 43. One of the wounded was taken to a medical facility with life-threatening injuries, while several remain hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries, a sheriff's news release said. Others were treated and released.

No arrests had been made as of Saturday afternoon. But the sheriff said his office had multiple persons of interest related to the shootings, The Robesonian reported. His office said that there was no current threat to the community.

Wilkins said his office believes multiple people fired shots and multiple weapons were used, the newspaper said.

Sheriff's deputies had been sent about 1:15 a.m. to what was the party's location on a loud music complaint. But before they arrived, local 911 operators received reports of the shootings, a news release said.

"This was yet another senseless act of gun violence that has taken the lives of two individuals and left many others seriously injured," Wilkins said in the release. "What makes this even more disturbing is the involvement of teenagers, alcohol, and guns at a large house party." Alcohol law enforcement agencies also are involved in the investigation, his office said.

More than 150 people fled the location before law enforcement officers arrived, Wilkins' office said, while asking that anyone with information about what happened or who were at the scene to contact sheriff's investigators.

Wilkins said law enforcement wasn't initially aware of the party because the crowd number was below the local threshold to obtain a permit, news outlets reported.

## 4.9 million pounds of frozen, boneless chicken have been recalled

Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hormel Foods is recalling nearly 4.9 million pounds of frozen boneless chicken products it sold to restaurants, cafeterias and other outlets, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced Saturday.

Customers reported finding metal in the chicken breast and thigh products. Hormel concluded that the metal came from a conveyor belt used in production, the food safety service said. There have been no reports of illnesses or injuries.

The recalled Hormel Fire Braised chicken items were distributed to HRI Commercial Food Service, a restaurant supply company, at locations nationwide from Feb. 10 through Sept. 19. The products are only sold to food service companies, not directly to consumers.

The food safety service said that some of the recalled chicken may be in freezers at hotels, restaurants and cafeterias and urged that it be thrown away. Hormel said it has notified all customers who received the products.

Consumers with questions about the recall can reach out to Hormel Foods through the company website or by calling 1-800-523-4635.



## American cardinal celebrates old Latin Mass in St. Peter's in a sign of change

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A top American cardinal celebrated a traditional Latin Mass on Saturday in St. Peter's Basilica with the explicit permission of Pope Leo XIV, thrilling traditionalist Catholics who had felt abandoned after Pope Francis greatly restricted the ancient liturgy.

A few thousand pilgrims, many of them young families with multiple children and the women covering their heads with lace veils, packed the altar area of the basilica to standing room-only capacity.

Cardinal Raymond Burke, the conservative American figurehead, presided over the 2 1/2-hour liturgy, which was rich in hymn, incense and priests bowing to the altar, their backs to the faithful in the pews.

For many traditionalists, the moment was a tangible sign that Leo might be more sympathetic to their plight, after they felt rejected by Francis and his 2021 crackdown on the old liturgy.

Francis had taken action after the spread of the ancient liturgy, especially in the United States, dovetailed with the rise of religiously inspired political conservatism and decline in church attendance at more progressive parishes.

"I'm very hopeful," said Rubén Peretó Rivas, an Argentine organizer of the pilgrimage. "The first signs of Pope Leo are those of dialogue and listening, truly listening to everyone."

Liturgy wars a long time brewing

The latest rounds in the liturgy wars date back to the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernized the church. Among the reforms was the celebration of the Mass in the vernacular, rather than Latin.

In the decades that followed, the old Latin Mass was still available but not widespread. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI relaxed restrictions on celebrating it as part of his overall outreach to traditionalists still attached to the old rite.

In one of the most controversial acts of his pontificate, Francis in 2021 reversed Benedict's 2007 reform and reinstated restrictions on celebrating the old Mass. Francis said its spread had become a source of division in the church and been exploited by Catholics opposed to Vatican II.

Rather than heal the divisions, though, Francis' crackdown seemed to further drive a wedge.

"We are orphans," said Christian Marquant, a French organizer of Saturday's pilgrimage.

Leo's election and vows to bring peace and healing

Leo, history's first American pope, was elected with a broad consensus among cardinals and has said his aim is unity and reconciliation in the church. Many conservatives and traditionalists urged him to heal the liturgical divisions that spread over the Latin Mass, especially.

After Leo's election, Marquant wrote Leo a letter on behalf of some 70 traditionalist groups asking, among other things, for permission to celebrate a Mass according to the ancient rite in St. Peter's during the traditionalists' annual pilgrimage to Rome.

Burke, who had an audience with Leo on Aug. 22, gave him the letter and Leo gave his permission, Marquant said.

Francis, too, had allowed Latin Masses to be celebrated in the basilica even in the immediate aftermath of his 2021 crackdown, but only by low-ranking priests. In 2023 and 2024, the traditionalists couldn't find anyone even willing to approach Francis to ask permission, Marquant said.

On Saturday, Burke didn't mention Francis, his crackdown or Leo in his homily, the key section of which he delivered in Italian, Spanish, French and English. But he referred repeatedly to Benedict and his 2007 reform liberalizing the old liturgy as if it were still very much in force.

Through Benedict's reform, "the whole church is maturing in an ever deeper understanding and love for the great gift of the sacred liturgy, as it has been handed down to us in an unbroken line from the Apostolic Tradition, from the Apostles and their successors," Burke said.

The Hungarian ambassador to the Holy See, Eduard Habsburg, stood for over an hour with his family among the pilgrims to cross through the basilica's Holy Door, and then found spots in the standing-room-

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only section for the Mass.

"It's really nothing like the cliches you hear of traditionalists," he said as he inched his way into the basilica. "The reality is families with children."

In July, leaked Vatican documents undermined Francis' stated reason for having imposed the restrictions in the first place: Francis had said he was responding to "the wishes expressed" by bishops around the world who had responded to a 2020 Vatican survey, as well as the Vatican doctrine office's own opinion.

But the documents suggested that the majority of Catholic bishops who responded to the survey had expressed general satisfaction with the old Latin Mass and warned that restricting it would "do more harm than good."

Tradition-minded Catholics in the pews hopeful

James Rodio, a psychiatrist and father of three, has been attending the traditional Latin Mass with his family for nearly three decades in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I was just struck by the reverence and beauty and symbolism in action and gesture, and of course the content too," he said in a telephone interview.

Even though Rodio had always had access to a traditional Mass in Cleveland, he and other parishioners felt "frustration" at Francis' crackdown and the restrictions that he imposed.

"Behind it all, there was a sadness" and sense that Francis didn't understand them, he said. "How could any organization have an approach for 16 or 17 centuries and then say it wasn't valid anymore?"

Rodio said he and his fellow parishioners are optimistic about Leo and hope he will allow more parishes to offer the traditional liturgy. In recent weeks, the diocese of Cleveland received a two-year extension to keep allowing the Latin Mass at two diocesan churches.

"My guess is Leo may try to do a lot by not doing a lot publicly," Rodio said.

## **New Jersey officer stopped at ATM and pizzeria instead of investigating double-murder**

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — A New Jersey officer has been charged with misconduct after prosecutors say he didn't quickly respond to and properly investigate reports of a shooting that turned out to be a double murder, instead stopping at an ATM and pizzeria.

Franklin Township Police Sergeant Kevin Bollaro was the on-duty officer on the evening of Aug. 1, when police received 911 calls reporting gunshots and screaming in Pittstown, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) from Manhattan in central New Jersey, according to Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renee Robeson's office.

But rather than responding immediately, prosecutors say GPS data and surveillance video show Bollaro drove nearly two miles in the opposite direction of the caller's location to a bank ATM.

Dispatchers relayed other calls from concerned neighbors as Bollaro proceeded towards their locations without activating his police vehicle's emergency lights and sirens, they said.

When he arrived at the location of the first caller, the officer told the dispatcher he didn't hear anything and said he would continue to the locations of the other callers. But Robeson's office said GPS data shows he never visited those locations before he asked the dispatcher to clear him from the scene.

They say Bollaro instead headed to Duke's Pizzeria in Pittstown, where he remained for nearly an hour. Witnesses later saw him park and enter another local restaurant, where he remained for roughly another hour, prosecutors said.

Bollaro later submitted a report in which prosecutors say he made false statements about the extent of his investigation. They note that during the timeframe he claimed to be canvassing the area, the officer was already on route to the pizzeria.

The following day, Aug. 2, the bodies of Lauren Semanchik, 33, and Tyler Webb, 29, were found in a home roughly 600 feet (183 meters) away from the location of the first 911 caller. Prosecutors say the two had been shot to death by New Jersey State Police Lieutenant Ricardo Santos, who had later killed himself.

Bollaro has been charged with official misconduct for knowingly refraining from performing his police duties, prosecutors said. He also faces a charge of tampering with public records for knowingly making

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false entries in his incident report.

Bollaro is due to appear in court Nov. 5.

His lawyer, Charles Sciarra, didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Saturday but, in a statement to the New York Post, called the charges "unfortunate." He maintained "nothing Kevin Bollaro did or did not do that day impacted or could have stopped" the killings.

The families of the two shooting victims, meanwhile, have said they are "shocked at Sgt. Bollaro's egregious conduct" and believe it is the "tip of the iceberg of the many failures by the local and state police" in the killings, WABC-TV reports.

## **June Lockhart, beloved mother figure from 'Lassie' and 'Lost In Space,' dies at 100**

By BOB THOMAS and BETH HARRIS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — June Lockhart, who became a mother figure for a generation of television viewers whether at home in "Lassie" or up in the stratosphere in "Lost in Space," has died. She was 100.

Lockhart died Thursday of natural causes at her home in Santa Monica, family spokesman Lyle Gregory, a friend of 40 years, said Saturday.

"She was very happy up until the very end, reading the New York Times and LA Times everyday," he said. "It was very important to her to stay focused on the news of the day."

The daughter of prolific character actor Gene Lockhart, Lockhart was cast frequently in ingenue roles as a young film actor. Television made her a star.

From 1958 to 1964, she portrayed Ruth Martin, who raised the orphaned Timmy (Jon Provost), in the popular CBS series "Lassie." From 1965 to 1968, she traveled aboard the spaceship Jupiter II as mother to the Robinson family in the campy CBS adventure "Lost in Space."

Her portrayals of warm, compassionate mothers endeared her to young viewers, and decades later baby boomers flocked to nostalgia conventions to meet Lockhart and buy her autographed photos.

Offscreen, Lockhart insisted, she was nothing like the women she portrayed.

"I must quote Dan Rather," she said in a 1994 interview. "I can control my reputation, but not my image, because my image is how you see me."

"I love rock 'n' roll and going to the concerts. I have driven Army tanks and flown in hot air balloons. And I go plane-gliding — the ones with no motors. I do a lot of things that don't go with my image."

Early in her career, Lockhart appeared in numerous films. Among them: "All This, and Heaven Too," "Adam Had Four Sons," "Sergeant York," "Miss Annie Rooney," "Forever and a Day" and "Meet Me in St. Louis."

She also made "Son of Lassie," the 1945 sequel to "Lassie, Come Home," playing the grown-up version of the role created by Elizabeth Taylor.

**New life on television**

When her movie career as an adult faltered, Lockhart shifted to television, appearing in live drama from New York and game and talk shows. She was the third actor to play the female lead in "Lassie" on TV, following Jan Clayton and Cloris Leachman. (Provost had replaced the show's original child star, Tommy Rettig, in 1957.)

Lockhart spoke frankly about her canine co-star: "I worked with four Lassies. There was only one main Lassie at a time. Then there was a dog that did the running, a dog that did the fighting, and a dog that was a stand-in, because only humans can work 14 hours a day without needing a nap."

"Lassie was not especially friendly with anybody. Lassie was wholly concentrated on the trainers."

After six years in the rural setting of "Lassie," Lockhart moved to outer space, embarking on the role of Maureen Robinson, the wise, reassuring mother of a family that departs on a five-year flight to a faraway planet in "Lost in Space."

After their mission is sabotaged by a fellow passenger, the nefarious Dr. Zachary Smith (Jonathan Harris), the party bounces from planet to planet, encountering weird creatures and near-disasters that required viewers to tune in the following week to learn of the escape. Throughout the three-year run, Mrs. Robinson

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offered consolation and a slice of her "space pie."

As with "Lassie," Lockhart enjoyed working on "Lost in Space": "It was like going to work at Disneyland every day."

"So smart, quick, and funny — she filled her 100 years with curiosity, laughter, and rock 'n' roll," Angela Cartwright, who played her daughter on "Lost in Space" posted on Facebook. "I can only imagine she's feeling right at home as she steps off this planet and into the stars."

Bill Mumy, who played her son in the film, posted on social media: "A one of a kind, talented, nurturing, adventurous, and non compromising Lady. She did it her way. June will always be one of my very favorite moms."

In 1968, Lockhart joined the cast of "Petticoat Junction" for the rural comedy's last two seasons, playing Dr. Janet Craig.

A little bit of everything

Lockhart remained active long after "Lost in Space," appearing often in episodic television as well as in recurring roles in the daytime soap opera "General Hospital" and nighttime soaps, "Knots Landing" and "The Colbys." Her film credits included "The Remake" and the animated "Bongee Bear and the Kingdom of Rhythm," for which she provided the voice for Mindy the Owl.

She also used her own media pass to attend presidential news conferences, narrated beauty pageants and holiday parades, and toured in the plays "Steel Magnolias," "Bedroom Farce" and "Once More with Feeling."

"Her true passion was journalism," Gregory said. "She loved going to the White House briefing rooms."

Lockhart liked to tell the story of how her parents met, saying they were hired separately for a touring production sponsored by inventor Thomas A. Edison and decided on marriage during a stop at Lake Louise, Alberta.

Their daughter was born June 25, 1925, in New York City. The family moved to Hollywood 10 years later, and Gene Lockhart worked steadily as a character actor, usually in avuncular roles, sometimes as a villain. His wife, Kathleen, often appeared with him.

Young June made her stage debut at 8, dancing in a children's ballet at the Metropolitan Opera House. Her first film appearance was a small role in the 1938 "A Christmas Carol," playing the daughter of Bob Cratchit and his wife, who were played by her parents.

She was married and divorced twice: to John Maloney, a physician, father of her daughters Anne Kathleen and June Elizabeth; and architect John C. Lindsay.

Throughout her later career, Lockhart was connected in the public mind with "Lassie."

Even though she sometimes mocked the show, she conceded: "How wonderful that in a career there is one role for which you are known. Many actors work all their lives and never have one part that is really theirs."

## Russian missile and drone attacks kill 4 in Ukraine as Zelenskyy pleads for air defense

By SAMYA KULLAB and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukraine overnight into Saturday killed at least four people and wounded 20, officials said, and prompted fresh pleas from Ukraine's president for Western air defense systems.

In the capital, Kyiv, two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a ballistic missile attack in the early hours of Saturday, Kyiv's police said.

A fire broke out in a non-residential building in one location, while debris from intercepted missiles fell in an open area at another site, damaging windows in nearby buildings, Ukraine's State Emergency Service wrote on the message app Telegram.

"Explosions in the capital. The city is under ballistic attack," Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram during the onslaught.



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Two killed in Dnipropetrovsk region

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were killed and seven wounded, acting regional Gov. Vladyslav Haivanenko said, adding that apartment buildings and private homes were damaged in the strikes.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched nine missiles and 62 drones, of which four missiles and 50 drones were intercepted.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 121 Ukrainian drones over Russia overnight.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that such attacks intensify Ukraine's need for Patriot defense systems.

"It is precisely because of such attacks that we pay special attention to Patriot systems — to be able to protect our cities from this horror. It is critical that partners who possess relevant capability implement what we have discussed in recent days," he wrote in English on X.

"America, Europe and the G7 countries can help ensure that such attacks no longer threaten lives," he said.

Ukrainians adapt

As plumes of smoke from the attack in Kyiv rose in the background, Ukrainians went about their day shopping in a popular nearby farmer's market unhindered, having become accustomed to frequent Russian air assaults.

"We didn't know the attack was right here, but even when we figured it out we still came. Despite the Russians' strike, there are still a lot of people here who need to eat. I knew that people would come to shop," said Halyna Stetsiura, 54.

The fruit and vegetable vendor arrived very early in the morning to prepare her stall, while the attacks were still underway.

Serhi Lihus, 53, a beekeeper, said he was driving to the market when he heard the explosions. "It was still dark, approximately 6:30, everything was on fire," he said. Still he showed up to the market to sell his honey.

Svitlana Shyshlovska, 40, a customer, said despite the threat of attacks, "you still need to buy food to have something to eat and such markets are not an everyday occasion."

Push for air defenses

Zelenskyy is hoping Ukraine can purchase 25 Patriots from the U.S. to fortify its air defenses, particularly in cities.

Zelenskyy on Friday urged the United States to expand its sanctions on Russian oil from two companies to the whole sector, and appealed for long-range missiles to hit back at Russia.

Zelenskyy was in London for talks with two dozen European leaders who have pledged military help to shield his country from future Russian aggression if a ceasefire stops the more than three-year war.

The meeting hosted by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer aimed to step up pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding momentum to recent measures that have included a new round of sanctions from the United States and European countries on Russia's vital oil and gas export earnings.

The talks also addressed ways of helping protect Ukraine's power grid from Russia's almost daily drone and missile attacks as winter approaches, enhancing Ukrainian air defenses, and supplying Kyiv with longer-range missiles that can strike deep inside Russia. Zelenskyy has urged the U.S. to send Tomahawk missiles, an idea U.S. President Donald Trump has considered.

Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's envoy for investment and economic cooperation, said Friday he believes Russia, the U.S. and Ukraine were "quite close to a diplomatic solution" to end the three-year war.

Speaking to CNN after arriving in Washington for talks with U.S. officials, Dmitriev said a planned summit in Budapest between Trump and Putin had not been canceled but would likely occur later.

Trump said Tuesday his plan for a swift meeting with Putin was on hold because he didn't want it to be a "waste of time."

Speaking aboard Air Force One on his way to Malaysia on Saturday, the U.S. president said he would only reschedule the meeting if he was certain of progress.

"I'm going to have to know that we're going to make a deal. I'm not going to be wasting my time. I've

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always had a great relationship with Vladimir Putin but this has been very disappointing,” Trump said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made clear in public comments Tuesday that Russia is opposed to an immediate ceasefire.

A White House official confirmed Friday that Dmitriev, who announced his visit on X, will meet with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to publicly discuss the private meeting.

## Left-leaning independent Connolly wins Irish presidential election

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Left-wing independent Catherine Connolly, who secured the backing of Ireland’s left-leaning parties including Sinn Féin, has won the country’s presidential election in a landslide victory against her center-right rival.

Official results showed strong voter support for Connolly as president, a largely ceremonial role in Ireland. She won 63% of first-preference votes once spoiled votes were excluded, compared to 29% of her rival Heather Humphreys, of the center-right party Fine Gael.

Connolly, 68, said Saturday evening at Dublin Castle that she would champion diversity and be a voice for peace and one that “builds on our policy of neutrality.”

“I would be an inclusive president for all of you, and I regard it as an absolute honor,” she said.

Humphreys conceded she had lost earlier Saturday before vote counting had finished.

Connolly, a former barrister who has served as a lawmaker since 2016, has been outspoken in criticizing Israel over the war in Gaza. She has also warned against the European Union’s growing “militarization” following Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Ireland has a tradition of military neutrality, but her critics have said she risks alienating the country’s allies.

Connolly will succeed Michael D. Higgins, who has been president since 2011, having served the maximum two seven-year terms. She will be Ireland’s 10th president and the third woman to hold the post.

The politician has garnered the backing of a range of left-leaning parties, including Sinn Féin, the Labour Party and the Social Democrats.

Prime Minister Micheál Martin on Saturday congratulated Connolly on her “very comprehensive election victory.” He said he was looking forward to working with the new president as “Ireland continues to play a significant role on the global stage, and as we look forward to hosting the EU presidency in the second half of 2026.”

Irish presidents represent the country on the world stage, host visiting heads of state and play an important constitutional role, but they do not have executive powers such as shaping laws or policies.

Nonetheless, parties on the left celebrated the results as a significant shift in Irish politics.

“We have seen a real appetite for the change that Catherine represents,” said Labour Party leader Ivana Bacik. “We believe this really does mean a new sort of politics is possible, that we can now realize the ambition that I talked about a year ago: The real prospect of a center-left-led government after the next general election.”

Connolly and Humphreys were the only contenders after Jim Gavin, the candidate for Martin’s Fianna Fail party, quit the race three weeks before the election over a long-ago financial dispute.

Martin, who heads Ireland’s government, had personally backed Gavin as a presidential candidate. Though Gavin had stopped campaigning, his name remained on the ballot paper because of his late withdrawal from the race. He won 7% of first preference votes.

Others — including musician Bob Geldof and the former mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor — had indicated they wished to run for president but failed to receive enough backing for a nomination.

The electoral commission said Saturday that there was a “significantly higher than normal” number of spoiled ballots, and that there will “clearly be a need for deeper and further reflection” about voter dissatisfaction.

Simon Harris, the deputy premier, said the spoiled ballots showed “the number of people in Ireland now who are clearly feeling disaffected or disconnected with politics.” He said officials will be looking at the possibility of changing the threshold needed to secure a nomination in future presidential elections.

About 46% of the 3.6 million eligible voters turned out to vote. There were nearly 214,000 invalid ballots nationwide, representing a tenfold increase on the last presidential election in 2018.

## **Judge rules immigration detention of Chicago man with daughter battling cancer is illegal**

CHICAGO (AP) — The detention by immigration authorities of a Chicago man whose 16-year-old daughter is undergoing treatment for advanced cancer is illegal, and he must be given a bond hearing by Oct. 31, a federal judge has ruled.

Attorneys for Ruben Torres Maldonado, 40, who was detained Oct. 18, have petitioned for his release as his deportation case goes through the system. While U.S. District Judge Jeremy Daniel said in an order Friday that Torres’ detention is illegal and violates his due process rights, he also said he could not order his immediate release.

“While sympathetic to the plight the petitioner’s daughter faces due to her health concerns, the court must act within the constraints of the relevant statutes, rules, and precedents,” the judge wrote Friday.

Torres’ attorney took the ruling as a win — for now.

“We’re pleased that the judge ruled in our favor in determining that ICE is illegally detaining Ruben. We will now turn the fight to immigration court so we can secure Ruben’s release on bond while he applies for permanent residence status,” his attorney, Kalman Resnick, said in a statement Friday night.

Torres, a painter and home renovator, was detained at a suburban Home Depot store. His daughter, Ofelia Torres, was diagnosed in December with a rare and aggressive form of soft-tissue cancer called metastatic alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma and has been undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

Torres entered the U.S. in 2003, according to his lawyers. He and his partner, Sandibell Hidalgo, also have a 4-year-old son. The children are both U.S. citizens, according to court records.

“My dad, like many other fathers, is a hard-working person who wakes up early in the morning and goes to work without complaining, thinking about his family,” Ofelia said in a video posted on a GoFundMe page set up for her family. “I find it so unfair that hardworking immigrant families are being targeted just because they were not born here.”

The Department of Homeland Security alleges that Torres has been living illegally in the U.S. for years and has a history of driving offenses, including driving without a valid license, without insurance, and speeding.

“This is nothing more than a desperate Hail Mary attempt to keep a criminal illegal alien in our country,” Assistant Homeland Security Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement. “The Trump administration is fighting for the rule of law and the American people.”

At a hearing Thursday, which Ofelia attended in a wheelchair, the family’s attorneys told the judge that she was released from the hospital just a day before her father’s arrest so that she could see family and friends. But since his arrest, she had been unable to continue treatment “because of the stress and disruption,” they said.

Federal prosecutor Craig Oswald told the court that the government did not want to release Torres because he didn’t cooperate during his arrest.

Several elected officials held a news conference Wednesday to protest Torres’ arrest. The Chicago area has been at the center of a major immigration crackdown dubbed “Operation Midway Blitz,” which began in early September.

## Blue Jays' Addison Barger hits the first pinch-hit grand slam in World Series history

By IAN HARRISON Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Blue Jays outfielder Addison Barger launched the first pinch-hit grand slam in World Series history during Toronto's 11-4 Game 1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday night.

Batting for Davis Schneider against left-hander Anthony Banda, Barger drilled a 2-1 slider 413 feet to right-center — his third home run this postseason.

"I was choking up a little bit, just trying to put the ball in the air and get a run in in that situation," Barger said.

Barger's drive was the first postseason grand slam in Toronto history, and the big blow in a nine-run sixth inning that gave the Blue Jays an 11-2 lead over the defending World Series champions.

After he was told to get ready to pinch hit, Barger ran to the club's high-tech Trajekt pitching machine to watch simulated pitches from Dodgers righty Emmet Sheehan, who was in the game at the time. He was surprised to face Banda instead.

"I know it's a tough at-bat, left on left, but the goal was just put the barrel on the ball, hopefully hit it in the air and get the run in," Barger said.

"I hope he doesn't know who is pitching tomorrow," Toronto manager John Schneider joked.

Barger hit for Davis Schneider a night after crashing on his teammate's pull-out couch. It wasn't immediately clear why Barger didn't have anywhere else to sleep.

"It was so funny," Schneider said. "I looked over and just saw him sleeping there in the middle of the night. He's a head case but he's funny."

Barger arrived at the ballpark Thursday wearing a T-shirt that read "I hit balls hard," one he said came from a minor league hitting coach. He got another shirt after Friday's win, a gift from Hall of Famer and Fox TV panelist David Ortiz during his appearance on the postgame show, but declined it.

"I left it," Barger said. "It has Red Sox on it, I'm not wearing that. Are you kidding me?"

Barger also gave up cleats, donating them to the Hall of Fame.

Fellow outfielder Myles Straw agreed, calling Barger "one of the funniest guys I've ever played with."

"He's hilarious," Straw said. "That's what makes him who he is and that's why we all love him. There's no one else like him, I promise you. He's got some loose screws, for sure."

Alejandro Kirk added a two-run homer later in the sixth for Toronto.

It marked the third-biggest inning in World Series history. The Philadelphia Athletics scored 10 runs in the seventh against the Chicago Cubs in Game 4 in 1929, and the Detroit Tigers matched that total in the third inning of Game 6 against the St. Louis Cardinals in 1968.

Toronto is in the World Series for the first time since winning the second of back-to-back titles in 1993.

Barger hit 21 home runs in the regular season, his second in the majors.

## Shutdowns began as a way to enforce federal law. Now Trump is using it to take more power

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government shutdown, already the second-longest in history, with no end in sight, is quickly becoming a way for President Donald Trump to exercise new command over the government.

It wasn't always this way. In fact, it all started with an attempt to tighten Washington's observance of federal law.

The modern phenomena of the U.S. government closing down services began in 1980 with a series of legal opinions from Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, who was serving under Democratic President Jimmy Carter. Civiletti reached into the Antideficiency Act of 1870 to argue that the law was "plain and unambiguous" in restricting the government from spending money once authority from Congress expires.

In this shutdown, however, the Republican president has used the funding lapse to punish Democrats,



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tried to lay off thousands of federal workers and seized on the vacuum left by Congress to reconfigure the federal budget for his priorities.

"I can't believe the Radical Left Democrats gave me this unprecedented opportunity," Trump posted on his social media platform at the outset of the shutdown.

Democrats have only dug into their positions.

It's all making this fight that much harder to resolve and potentially redefining how Washington will approach funding lapses altogether.

Why does the US government even have shutdowns?

In the post-Watergate years, Civiletti's tenure at the Department of Justice was defined by an effort to restore public trust in Washington, sometimes with strict interpretations of federal law.

When a conflict between Congress and the Federal Trade Commission led to a delay in funding legislation for the agency, Civiletti issued his opinion, later following it up with another opinion that allowed the government to perform essential services.

He did not know that it would set the groundwork for some of the most defining political battles to come.

"I couldn't have ever imagined these shutdowns would last this long of a time and would be used as a political gambit," Civiletti, who died in 2022, told The Washington Post six years ago.

How shutdowns evolved

For the next 15 years, there were no lengthy government shutdowns. In 1994, Republicans retook Congress under House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia and pledged to overhaul Washington. Their most dramatic standoffs with Democratic President Bill Clinton were over government shutdowns.

Historians mostly agree the shutdowns did not work, and Clinton was able to win reelection in part by showing he stood up to Gingrich.

"The Republicans in the Gingrich-era, they do get some kind of limited policy victories, but for them overall it's really kind of a failure," said Mike Davis, adjunct professor of history at Lees-McRae College.

There was one more significant shutdown in 2013 when tea party Republicans sparred with Democratic President Barack Obama. But it was not until Trump's first term that Democrats adopted the tactic of extended government shutdowns.

How is this shutdown different?

During previous funding lapses, presidential administrations applied the rules governing shutdowns equally to affected agencies.

"A shutdown was supposed to close the same things under Reagan as under Clinton," said Charles Tiefer, a former acting general counsel for the House and a professor emeritus at the University of Baltimore School of Law. He said that in this shutdown, the Trump administration has used "a kind of freewheeling presidential appropriation power, which is contrary to the whole system, the original Constitution, and the Antideficiency Act."

The administration has introduced a distinctly political edge to the funding fight, with agencies updating their websites to include statements blaming Democrats for the shutdown. The Department of Defense has tapped research and development funds to pay active-duty service members. Trump has tried to initiate layoffs for more than 4,000 federal employees who are mostly working in areas perceived to be Democratic priorities.

During a luncheon at the White House with GOP senators this week, Trump introduced his budget director Russ Vought as "Darth Vader" and bragged how he is "cutting Democrat priorities and they're never going to get them back."

Democrats have only been emboldened by the strategy, voting repeatedly against a Republican-backed bill to reopen the government. They argue that voters will ultimately hold Republicans accountable for the pain of the shutdown because the GOP holds power in Washington.

Democrats are confident they have chosen a winning policy demand on health care plans offered under Affordable Care Act marketplaces, but there is an undercurrent that they are also fighting to halt Trump's expansion of presidential power.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., acknowledged that his state has more to lose than perhaps any other due to the

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large number of federal employees and activity based there. But he argued that his constituents are fed up with a "nonstop punishment parade" from Trump that has included layoffs, cancellation of money for economic development projects, pressure campaigns against universities and the dismissal of the U.S. attorney for Virginia.

"It kind of stiffens folks' spines," Kaine said.

Democratic resolve will be tested in the coming week. Federal employees, including lawmakers' own staff, have now gone almost an entire month without full paychecks. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which helps about 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries, faces a potential funding cliff on Nov. 1. Air travel delays threaten to only grow worse amid air traffic controller shortages.

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said he hopes his colleagues start negotiating quickly to end the impasse.

He said he's been one of the few members of the Democratic caucus to vote for ending the shutdown because "it empowers the president beyond what he would be able to do otherwise, and it damages the country."

## **Poker's NBA-and-Mafia betting scandal echoes movie games, and cheats, from 'Ocean's' to 'Rounders'**

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The stakes. The famous faces. The posh private rooms. The clever cheating schemes.

The federal indictment of a big-money poker ring involving NBA figures on Thursday, in which unsuspecting rich players were allegedly enticed to join then cheated of their money, echoed decades of movies and television, and not just because of the alleged Mafia involvement.

Fictional and actual poker have long been in sort of a pop-cultural feedback loop. When authorities described the supposed circumstances of the games, they might've evoked a run of screen moments from recent decades.

Poker in 'Ocean's Eleven,' 'Molly's Game' and 'The Sopranos'

A 2004 episode of "The Sopranos" showed a very similar mix of celebrities and mobsters in a New York game whose players included Van Halen singer David Lee Roth and football Hall-of-Famer Lawrence Taylor, both playing themselves.

In 2001's "Ocean's Eleven," George Clooney finds his old heist buddy Brad Pitt running a poker game for "Teen Beat" cover boys including Topher Grace and Joshua Jackson, also playing themselves. Clooney spontaneously teams with Pitt to con them. And the plot of the 2007 sequel "Ocean's Thirteen" centers on the high-tech rigging of casino games.

Asked about the relevance of the films to the NBA scandal, which came soon after a story out of Paris that could've come straight out of "Ocean's Twelve," Clooney told The Associated Press with a laugh that "we get blamed for everything now."

"Cause we also got compared to the Louvre heist. Which, I think, you gotta CGI me into that basket coming out of the Louvre," Clooney said Thursday night at the Los Angeles premiere of his new film, "Jay Kelly." He was referring to thieves using a basket lift to steal priceless Napoleonic jewels from the museum.

2017's "Molly's Game," and the real-life memoir from Molly Bloom that it was based on, could almost serve as manuals for how to build a poker game's allure for desirable "fish" in the same ways and with the same terminology that the organizers indicted Thursday allegedly used.

The draw of Bloom's games at hip Los Angeles club The Viper Room were not NBA players, but Hollywood players like Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire and "The Hangover" director Todd Phillips. (None of them were accused of any wrongdoing.)

In the movie written and directed by Aaron Sorkin, Bloom, played by Jessica Chastain, describes the way a famous actor acts as an attractor for other players, the same way officials said Thursday that NBA "face cards" did for the newly indicted organizers.

The unnamed actor, played by Michael Cera, was at least partly based on the "Spider-Man" star Maguire.

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"People wanted to say they played with him," Chastain says. "The same way they wanted to say they rode on Air Force One. My job security was gonna depend on bringing him his fish."

In her book, Bloom described the allure for the players she drew.

"The formula of keeping pros out, inviting in celebrities and other interesting and important people, and even the mystique of playing in the private room of the Viper Room added up to one of the most coveted invitations in town," she writes, later adding that "I just needed to continue feeding it new, rich blood; and to be strategic about how to fill those ten precious seats."

Bloom would get caught up in a broad 2013 nationwide crackdown on high-stakes private poker games, probably the highest profile poker bust in years before this week. She got a year's probation, a \$1,000 fine, and community service.

There were no accusations of rigging at her game, but that didn't make it legal.

The legality of private-space poker games has been disputed for decades and widely varies among U.S. states. But in general, they tend to bring attention and prosecution when the host is profiting the way that a casino would.

A brief history of movies making poker cool

Poker — and cheating at it — has run through movies, especially Westerns, from their silent beginnings. Prominent poker scenes feature in 1944's "Tall in the Saddle" with John Wayne and 1950's "The Gunfighter" with Gregory Peck.

"The Cincinnati Kid" in 1965 was dedicated entirely to poker — with Steve McQueen bringing his unmatched cool to the title character.

A pair of movies co-starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman really raised the game's profile, though.

In the opening scene of 1969's "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," a hyper-cool Redford is playing poker and refuses to leave until another player takes back a cheating accusation.

In 1973's Best Picture Oscar winner "The Sting," 1930s con-men Newman and Redford seek revenge against a big fish and run a series of increasingly bold gambling scams that could've come from Thursday's indictments. Newman out-cheats the man at poker to set him up for the big con, a phony radio horse race.

The 1980s saw a dip in screen poker, with the subject largely relegated to the TV "Gambler" movies, starring Kenny Rogers, based on his hit song.

But the end of the decade brought a poker boomlet from the increased legalization of commercial games.

Then, at possibly the perfect moment, came "Rounders." The 1998 Matt Damon film did for Texas Hold 'em what "Sideways" did for pinot noir and "Pitch Perfect" did for a cappella: it took an old and popular phenomenon and made them widespread crazes.

Soon after came explosive growth in online poker, whose players often sought out big face-to-face games. And the development of cameras that showed players' cards — very similar to the tech allegedly used to cheat players, according to the new indictments — made poker a TV spectator sport.

The "Ocean's" films and the general mystique they brought piled on too.

Clooney, talking about the broader set of busts Thursday that included alleged gambling on basketball itself, pointed out that his Cincinnati Reds were the beneficiaries of sport's most infamous gambling scandal, the 1919 "Black Sox" and the fixing of the World Series, "so I have great guilt for that."

"But you know there — we've never had a moment in our history that we didn't have some dumb scandal or something crazy," he said. "I feel very bad for the gambling scandal 'cause this was on the night that, you know, we had some amazing basketball happen."

## Historic libraries bring modern comfort to book lovers and history buffs in New England

By LEAH WILLINGHAM and KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — When David Arsenault takes down a worn, leather-bound 19th-century book from the winding shelves of the Boston Athenaeum, he feels a sense of awe — like he's handling an artifact in a museum.

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Many of the half a million books that line the library's seemingly endless maze of reading room shelves and stacks were printed before his great-great-grandparents were born. Among fraying copies of Charles Dickens novels, Civil War-era biographies and town genealogies, everything has a history and a heartbeat.

"It almost feels like you shouldn't be able to take the books out of the building, it feels so special," said Arsenault, who visits the institution adjacent to Boston Common a few times a week. "You do feel like, and in a lot of ways, you are, in a museum — but it's a museum you get to not feel like you're a visitor in all the time, but really a part of."

The more than 200-year-old institution is one of only about 20 member-supported private libraries in the U.S. dating back to the 18th- and 19th-centuries. Called athenaeums, a Greek word meaning "temple of Athena," the concept predates the traditional public library most Americans recognize today. The institutions were built by merchants, doctors, writers, lawyers and ministers who wanted to not only create institutions for reading — then an expensive and difficult-to-access hobby — but also space to explore culture and debate.

Many of these athenaeums still play a vibrant role in their communities.

Patrons gather to play games, join discussions on James Joyce, or even research family history. Others visit to explore some of the nation's most prized artifacts, such as the largest collection from George Washington's personal library at Mount Vernon at the Boston Athenaeum.

In addition to conservation work, institutions acquire and uplift the work of more modern creatives who may have been overlooked. The Boston Athenaeum recently co-debuted an exhibit by painter Allan Rohan Crite, who died in 2007 and used his canvas to depict the joy of Black life in the city.

One thing binds all athenaeums together: books and people who love them.

"The whole institution is built around housing the books," said Matt Burriesci, executive director of Providence Athenaeum in Rhode Island. "The people who come to this institution really appreciate just holding a book in their hands and reading it the old-fashioned way."

**Book lover's dream**

Built to mimic an imposing Greek temple, staffers at the Providence Athenaeum often talk about the joy of watching people enter for the first time.

Visitors must climb a series of cold, granite steps. Only then are they met with a thick wooden door that ushers them into a warm world filled with cozy reading nooks, hidden desks to leave secret messages to fellow patrons, and almost every square inch bursting with books.

"It's the actual time capsule of people's reading habits over 200 years," Burriesci said, while pointing to a first-edition of *Little Women*, where the pages and spine proudly showcase years of being well read.

Many athenaeums are designed to pay tribute to Greek influence and their namesake, the goddess of wisdom. In Boston, a city once dubbed "the Athens of America," visitors to the athenaeum are greeted by a nearly 7-foot-tall (2.1-meter-tall) bronze statue of Athena Giustiniani.

The building is as much an art museum as it is a library.

"So many libraries were built to be functional — this library was built to inspire," said John Buchtel, the Boston Athenaeum's curator of rare books and head of special collections.

The 12-level building includes five gallery floors where ornate busts of writers and historical figures decorate reading rooms with wooden tables overlooked by book-lined pathways reachable by spiral and hidden staircases.

Natural light shines in from large windows where guests can look down to see one of Boston's most historic cemeteries where figures like Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock are buried.

"We're able to leave many of these things out for people to peruse, and I think people can often get curious about something and just follow their curiosity into things that they didn't even know that they were going to be fascinated by," said Boston Athenaeum executive director Leah Rosovsky.

**A safe haven**

When athenaeums were founded, they were exclusive spaces that only people with education and money could access.

Some are now free. Most are open to the public for day passes and tours. Memberships to the Boston



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Athenaeum can range from \$17 to \$42 a month per person, depending on whether the patron is under 40 or is sharing the membership with family members.

Charlie Grantham, a wedding photographer and aspiring novelist, said she first visited during one of the institution's annual community days, where the public can explore for free. She said she was surprised by how accessible it was and describes the space as "Boston's best kept secret — an oasis in the middle of the city."

"It's just so peaceful. Even if I'm still working... doing things I'm stressed out about at home, when I'm here, there's like a stillness about it and things feel more manageable, things feel enjoyable here," she said.

Some people visit every day to work remotely, read or socialize, said Salem Athenaeum executive director Jean Marie Procius.

"We do have a loneliness crisis," she said. "And we want to encourage people to come and see us as a space to meet up with others and a safe environment that you're not expected to buy a drink or buy a meal."

## **Today in History: October 26, Shootout at the O.K. Corral**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 26, the 299th day of 2025. There are 66 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On October 26, 1881, four lawmen, including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, exchanged gunfire with five outlaws, killing three of them, in the "Shootout at the O.K. Corral" in Tombstone, Arizona.

Also on this date:

In 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In 1861, the legendary Pony Express officially ceased operations, giving way to the transcontinental telegraph. (The last run of the Pony Express was completed the following month.)

In 1979, South Korean President Park Chung-hee was shot to death by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jae-kyu.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an experimental transplant in Loma Linda, California. (She lived 21 days with the animal heart.)

In 2000, the New York Yankees became the first team in more than a quarter-century to win three straight World Series championships, beating the New York Mets in Game 5 of their "Subway Series."

In 2001, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, giving authorities unprecedented ability to search, seize, detain or eavesdrop in their pursuit of possible terrorists.

In 2002, a hostage siege by Chechen rebels at a Moscow theater ended with 129 of the 800-plus captives dead, most from a knockout gas used by Russian special forces who stormed the theater; 41 rebels also died.

In 2020, Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed to the Supreme Court by a deeply divided Senate, installing President Donald Trump's nominee days before the U.S. general election.

In 2024, Israel launched predawn airstrikes against military targets in Iran in retaliation for a barrage of ballistic missiles the Islamic Republic fired on Israel on Oct. 1. It was the first time Israel's military had openly attacked Iran.

Today's Birthdays: Musician Milton Nascimento is 83. Actor Jaclyn Smith is 80. TV host Pat Sajak is 79. Politician, diplomat and former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is 78. Musician Bootsy Collins is 74. Artist and filmmaker Julian Schnabel is 74. Actor James Pickens Jr. is 71. Actor-singer Rita Wilson is 69. Actor Dylan McDermott is 64. Actor Cary Elwes is 63. Singer Natalie Merchant is 62. Country singer Keith Urban is 58. Actor Tom Cavanagh is 62. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane (TV: "Family Guy") is 52. Actor Florence Kasumba is 49. Actor Jon Heder is 48. Actor Folake Olowofoyeku (foh-LAH'-kay oh-low-wow-foh-YAY'-koo) is 42. Rapper Schoolboy Q is 39.