

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, March 15

**Cancelled but on-line message at 9 a.m.:** Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

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

**Cancelled:** 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.; **Cancelled:** Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

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

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

Groton Soccer Association Clinics, 11:30 a.m., Arena.

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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



## Monday, March 16

Senior Menu: Lasagna, broccoli, fruit, bread stick.  
School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Sloppy joes, baked beans.

Groton Senior Citizens, 1 p.m., Community Center  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

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

1st Grade Boys Basketball Practice, 4:30 p.m., elementary gym

HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym

## Tuesday, March 17

St. PATRICK'S DAY

Senior Menu: Baked turkey crunch, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes.

City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Cit Hall

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

HS Baseball Practice, 6 p.m., HS Gym

Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., elementary gym

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## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #17 Results

**Team Standings:** Foxes 10, Coyotes 8, Jackelopes 7, Chipmunks 6, Cheetahs 4, Shihtzus 1

**Men's High Games:** Brad Larson 225, Brad Waage 204, Lance Frohling 194

**Women's High Games:** Suzie Easthouse 192, Brenda Madsen 191, Vicki Walter 184

**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 558, Tony Waage 522, Brad Larson 516

**Women's High Series:** Suzie Easthouse 504, Vicki Walter 471, Brenda Madsen 425

**Fun Game:** Most Strikes - Cheetahs with 35!

Need a **Babysitter** or  
**House Cleaner?**

♥ **Babysitting Available!**

**House Cleaning Offered!**

**Text Jeslyn Kosel at (605)-290-7821**

*I'm in Groton but am willing  
to drive to nearby towns!*

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## *Groton Area February Students of the Month*



**Jayden Schwan**  
Senior



**Teagan Hanten**  
Junior



**Kyleigh Kroll**  
Sophomore



**Tevan Hanson**  
Freshman



**Jameson Penning**  
Eighth Grade



**Tori Schuster**  
Seventh Grade



**Jernie Weig**  
Sixth Grade

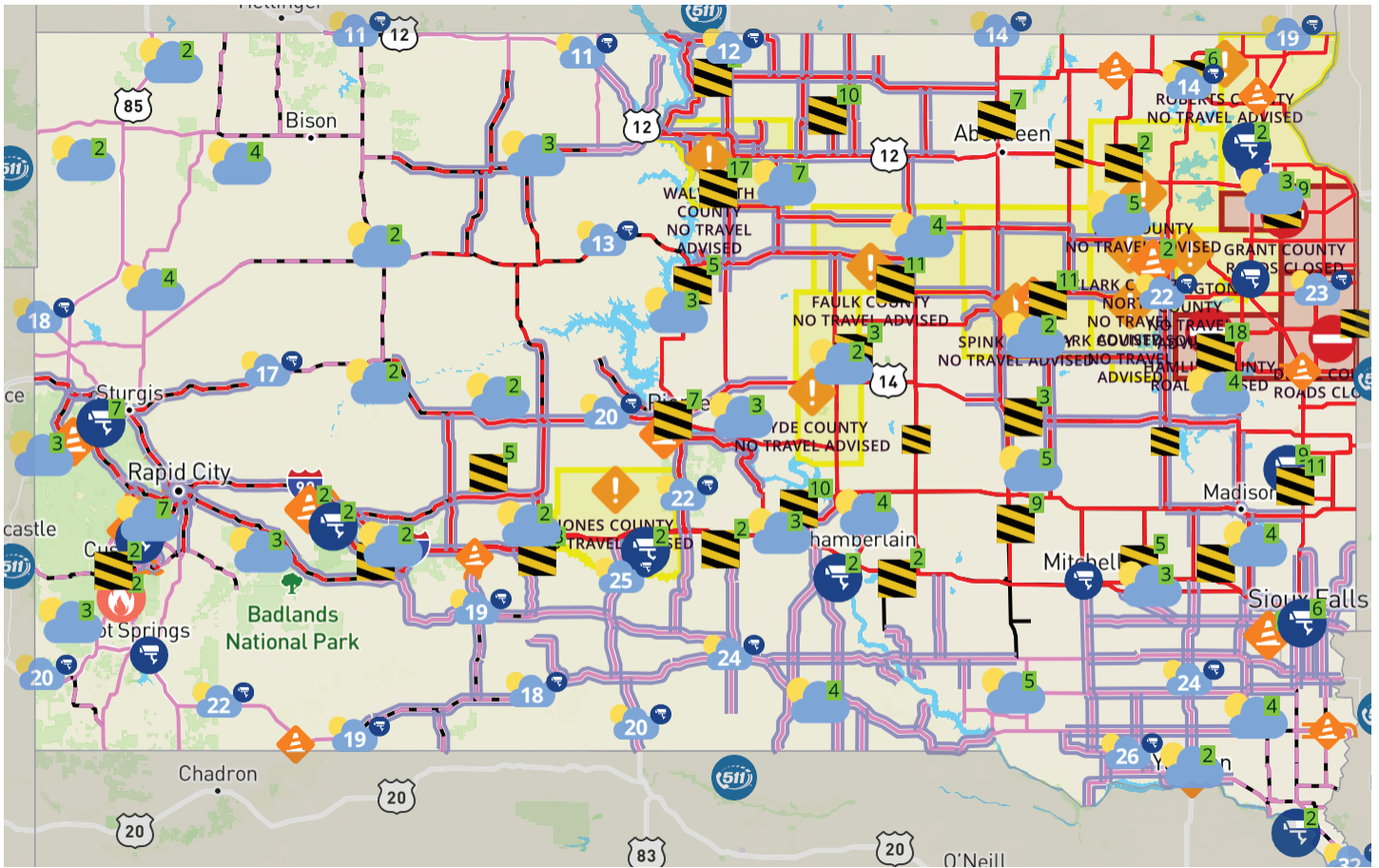
Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.

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## Most roads closed in blizzard area

The latest road conditions report that most roads are closed in the blizzard warning area. In other words, stay home!

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## GRADUATION CARDS DESIGNED & PRINTED WHILE YOU WAIT!

Have your graduation cards created at the  
**Groton  
Independent Office**

No ordering online.  
No waiting weeks.  
No shipping delays.

- ✓ Sit down.
- ✓ Help design it.
- ✓ Approve it on the spot.
- ✓ And walk out with your cards in your hands!

★ **ONLY \$50 FOR 100 CARDS** ★



Text Paul at **605-397-7460**  
to set up your appointment today!

*Celebrate your senior. Shop local. Get it done the easy way.*

What can **\$20**  
get you?



for  
**SENIOR  
CITIZENS**

*Open 24/7*

**GDI Living**



**Fitness**

or anyone using physical therapy

15 N Main • Ste. 101

**BEST  
RATES  
AROUND!**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Student: \$29.82 per month or \$255.60 per year  
Single: \$35.15 per month or \$319.50 per year  
2-Person: \$55.45 per month or \$575.10 per year  
Family: \$67.10 per month or \$702.26 per year

**MONTH-TO-MONTH**

Student: \$35.15 per month  
Single: \$40.48 per month  
2-Person: \$59.78 per month  
Family: \$72.43 per month  
Senior/PT: \$20 per month



Call or Text Paul at 605/397-7460  
Call or Text Tina at 605/397-7285

**Same rates for several years!**

## EMPLOYMENT

The City of Groton is seeking an experienced lineman to join our municipal electric department. Duties include but are not limited to maintenance, inspection, construction, and repair of the city's electrical distribution systems, street lighting, substations, and related equipment. Applicants must be citizens of the United States, have a high school diploma or GED, and possess a valid commercial driver's license (or be able to acquire CDL within 6 months of employment). Journeyman certification highly preferred.

Benefits package includes paid time off, medical insurance, life insurance, and SD Retirement. Position is open until filled.

If you are interested in applying, please email completed application/resume to [city.doug@nvc.net](mailto:city.doug@nvc.net). You can also drop off, or mail completed application/resume to Groton City Hall, 120 North Main St, Groton, SD 57445. The City of Groton is an equal opportunity employer.

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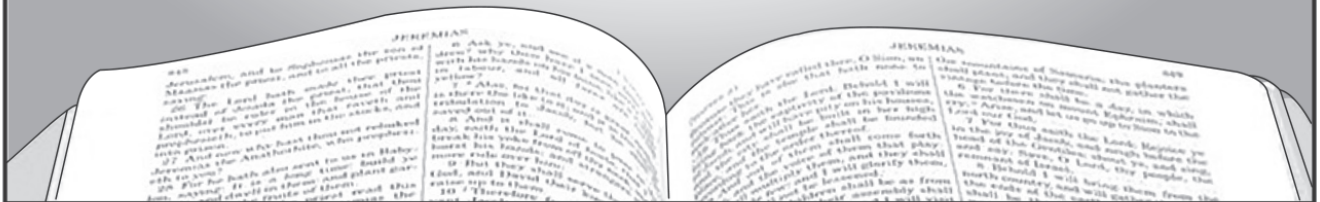
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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Submit to God and be at peace with him;  
in this way prosperity will come to you.  
Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his  
words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty,  
you will be restored...

Job 22: 21-23



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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. 2 Kings 19 and which other book's chapter are almost alike word for word? *Deuteronomy 7, Isaiah 37, Jeremiah 50, Job 16*

3. From Genesis 29, which of Jacob's wives was first to bear children? *Leah, Naomi, Bilhah, Zilpah*

4. Of these, who stole idols from her father? *Elisabeth, Martha, Rachel, Deborah*

5. In Acts 22, what famous rabbi was Paul's teacher? *Hillel, Turkel, Zakkai, Gamaliel*

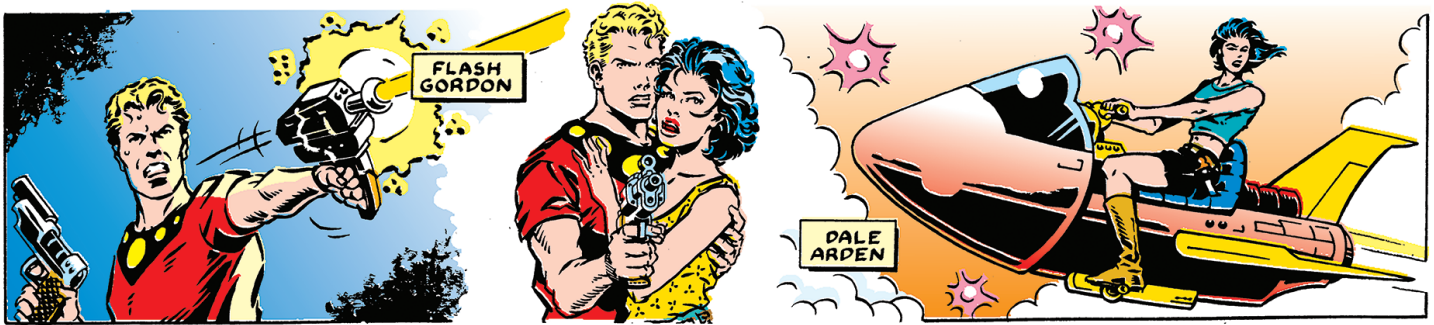
6. From Genesis 4, who invented farming? *Adam, Cain, Abel, Jubal*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Isaiah 37, 3) Leah, 4) Rachel, 5) Gamaliel, 6) Cain

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

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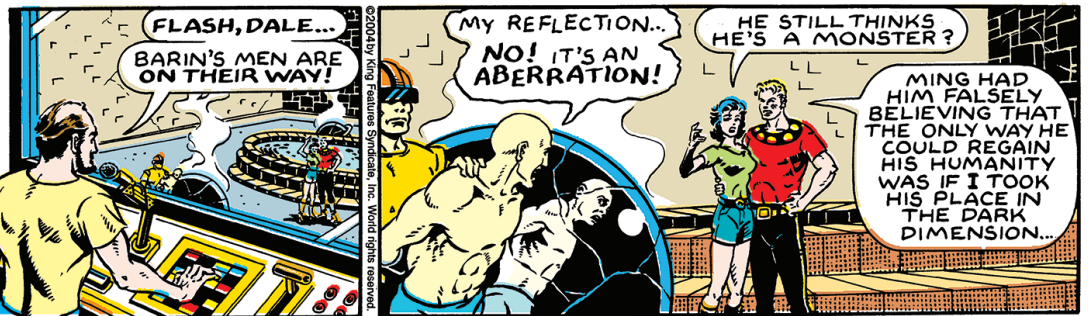
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## FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 2-29

HAVING FREED THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF HIS TASK FORCE, FLASH HAS ZARKOV SEND OUT A DISTRESS CALL.



www.kingfeatures.com

"...NOW THAT RENSHAW HAS BEEN CAST INTO THE VOID, GARAKAHN'S BODY HAS BEEN RESTORED..."

"...BUT NOT HIS MIND."

DON'T LOOK AT ME... TOO HIDEOUS... HEH HEH HEH HIDEOUS!

AND NOW THAT THE PORTAL'S CLOSED..?

RENSHAW'S TRAPPED.

IT'S FUNNY...

RENSHAW SOLD US OUT TO GARAKAHN IN HOPES OF SAVING HIS OWN SKIN.

BUT BY SIDING WITH THE CREATURE...

HEE HEE HEE

"...HE HAS BECOME ONE!"

AAAAA AA!

NEXT: FUNERAL IN ARBORIA!

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

MOST WEEKEND GOLFERS UNDER-CLUB CONSTANTLY, AND PARTICULARLY WITH THEIR SHORT-IRONS.

WHAT THEY DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE IS THAT THE HARDER YOU HIT A 9-IRON OR WEDGE, THE MORE HEIGHT YOU GIVE THE SHOT, NOT DISTANCE.

PLAY A ROUND OR TWO MAKING HALF - OR THREE-QUARTER SWINGS WITH YOUR 7-IRON AND 8-IRON, INSTEAD OF FORCING YOUR 9-IRON AND WEDGES.

YOU'LL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE RESULTS.



## Taking Vitamin K2, Although Safe, Doesn't Prevent Osteoporosis

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 68-year-old female who is in good health. I currently take vitamin D3, and the only prescription that I'm on is rosuvastatin. It has been brought to my attention by my cousin, who is a devout vegan, that taking vitamin D3 with K2 is much better than just taking D3 alone. If this is true, I'm wondering why my doctor hasn't recommended it.

When I mentioned this to my friends, they had never heard of D3 and K2 either. Do you see an advantage to switching over to this supplement? I had a bone density test done this past year, and the doctor said that there were no problems. -- W.R.

ANSWER: In my opinion, supplements can be a way of treating symptoms and some medical conditions. But there are very few situations in which a supplement is proven to be effective at preventing problems for a person who feels well.

Vitamin D3 may be one exception as it is important to prevent and treat osteoporosis for those who are at risk. While I often hear that vitamin K2 is effective for osteoporosis (probably based on a Japanese study), several studies in the United States failed to show any significant benefit of it over a placebo. So, I do not recommend vitamin K2 for people with osteoporosis, nor do I recommend K2 to prevent it. Since you don't have osteoporosis based on your bone density test, you would be taking it for prevention.

Vitamin K2 is being evaluated for helping to reduce heart disease risk, but the evidence isn't strong enough to recommend it yet. Vitamin K2 is very safe, and I don't object to people using it, although they are likely wasting money.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: Outside of limiting your salt intake, avoiding potassium and phosphates, and hydrating properly, is there anything that one can undertake to stop or reverse declining kidney function? -- H.M.

ANSWER: The answer depends on the underlying reason for the chronic kidney disease (CKD) and how far the disease has progressed. Limiting sodium, potassium and phosphates is good general advice for most people with CKD. It's also important to avoid drugs that stress the kidney. The most important classes of drugs to avoid are anti-inflammatory drugs (like ibuprofen and naproxen) and the many prescription drugs in the NSAID class.

Medical procedures with dye should be avoided if possible, and some antibiotics are problematic. So, it's important for all your doctors to know about your kidney disease.

Blood pressure control is important for everyone with CKD. Some medicines for high blood pressure (such as ACE inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers) are more protective of the kidney than others, so it's worth asking your regular doctor or kidney specialist if your medicines are optimal. People with diabetes should also keep their blood sugar in the optimal range as much as possible.

For people with CKD and high levels of protein in their urine, the use of SGLT2 inhibitors (such as dapagliflozin or empagliflozin) has been proven to slow the progression of kidney disease by almost 30%. People with CKD who smoke should stop. Modest protein restriction remains controversial, but I advise it for my patients with CKD.

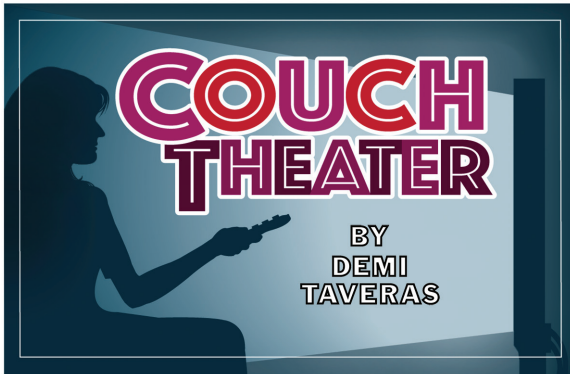
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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**Elizabeth Moss, left, and Kerry Washington star in "Imperfect Women."** (Courtesy of AppleTV+)

"The 98th Academy Awards" (TV-PG) -- Award season has come to an end for the time being, and the race to the Oscars this year was one of the more interesting ones we've had in past years. With Jessie Buckley ("Hamnet") being the only obvious shoo-in for her respective category, the other categories have swung in every which way depending on the award show. What is certain is that Ryan Coogler's "Sinners," at 16 nominations, now holds the record of having the most noms in Oscar history, surpassing films like "Titanic" (1997) and "La La Land" (2016). Best Casting was a new category this year, and Conan O'Brien came back to host the ceremony for the second consecutive time. Stream the ceremony at your leisure now! (Hulu)

"Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man" (R) -- Cillian Murphy is back in the breakout role that led him to stardom for this crime-drama film that premieres on March 20. Taking place in 1940, approximately seven years after where the series leaves off, the sequel picks up as the order of the Peaky Blinders is up and running again under the leadership of Thomas Shelby's (Murphy) chaos-loving son, Duke (Barry Keoghan). Although Thomas himself is living in "self-imposed exile" in the countryside, he returns to Birmingham after it's been bombed by the Nazis during World War II. Simultaneously, he's drawn back into the past he left behind for the sake of the war. Rebecca Ferguson ("Mercy") and Tim Roth ("260 Days") co-star. (Netflix)

"Imperfect Women" (TV-MA) -- This new psychological thriller series premiering March 18 is led by three actresses who have each been in iconic TV shows throughout their careers: Elisabeth Moss ("The Handmaid's Tale"), Kerry Washington ("Scandal"), and Kate Mara ("House of Cards"). They play a trio of friends whose dynamic completely shifts when one of the women, Nancy (Mara), is found dead. With Nancy's mysterious and sudden death comes secrets from all parties that bubble up to the surface, including a not-so-platonic connection between her husband, Robert (Joel Kinnaman), and friend Eleanor (Washington). This is definitely not a girls' night you'd want to be a part of! The first two episodes are out now, with the following six releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+)

"Young Sherlock" (TV-14) -- Hero Fiennes Tiffin, most notably known for starring in the "After" romance films, takes on the role of the English detective we all know and love - but as the 19-year-old version of him. Not quite the seasoned detective we've seen Robert Downey Jr. or Henry Cavill play, this Sherlock Holmes is at Oxford University and swears that his days of larceny and stealing are truly behind him. Although Sherlock promises his mother that he'll stay out of trouble, it naturally finds him when he's found at the crime scene of a murder at his very university. So, he's forced to figure out a way to prove his innocence, which will undoubtedly sharpen his ingenious sleuthing skills. All eight episodes are available to stream now. (Amazon Prime Video)

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1. Who wrote and released "Piano Man"?
2. Which artist wrote and released "Dirty Blvd"?
3. What was "Smoke on the Water" about?
4. Which artist released "Talk to Me"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I've been in love so many times, Thought I knew the score, But now you've treated me so wrong, I can't take anymore."

Answers

1. Billy Joel, in 1973. Joel has said that the song was written about his time as a lounge piano player in Los Angeles.
2. Lou Reed, in 1989. The song topped Billboard's Modern

Rock Tracks for four weeks.

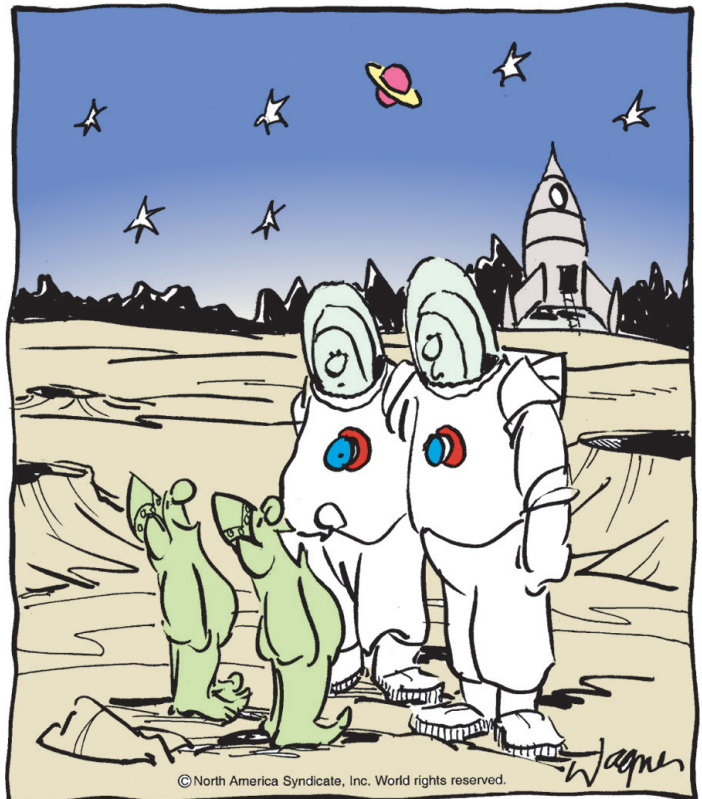
3. Deep Purple was in Switzerland at the Montreux Casino to do some recording when the casino caught fire. Detractors say the song's famous opening riff was taken from Beethoven's 5th played backward. Others note, however, that it seems to be taken directly from a Bossa Nova song called "Maria Quiet." You decide.

4. Stevie Nicks, in 1985.

5. "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," by Lonnie Donegan, in 1962. Tom Jones released a cover of the song in 1967. Donegan's son auditioned for "The Voice UK" and performed a duet of the song with Tom Jones in 2019.

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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by Wagner</sup>



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"You guys really wear diapers?"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WELL, BAD NEWS, A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WERE LET GO TODAY IN OUR DEPARTMENT. GOOD NEWS, THERE'S EXTRA DONUTS IN THE BREAKROOM.



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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Briefcase is different. 3. Vest is missing. 4. Elbow patch is added. 5. Newspaper is larger. 6. Bush is moved.

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\* When you make a meringue, be sure to spread it all the way to the crust on all sides. If you do, it won't shrink.

\* "Newspaper bags are handy hand covers in many situations. Keep them close if you are painting, doing a DIY art project, working in the shop with sticky or greasy materials or baking and working with dough. If you are interrupted, simply slip a bag over your hands to answer the phone or door, etc. It's much quicker than washing and drying your hands, and you can go right back to it once you have dealt with the interruption." -- W.A. in Oregon

\* "To clean burned-on bits from your cast iron skillet, scrub with a plastic scrubbie and salt as an abrasive. Dry immediately and rub with oil to keep moist." -- R.T. in Ohio

\* Metal shower hooks can be used in the sewing basket to hold safety pins. They can be used in a jewelry box to corral costume rings as well.

\* "Line the edges of a plastic shower curtain on both sides with duct tape. Then snip out a few holes through the tape edging. You can use the holes to tie the plastic stretched out between trees for a wind break or as a quick shelter from the rain. You can tie bagged sand to the corners as a car cover. Stake it to the ground under your blanket to avoid ground moisture. Lots of possibilities." -- F.C. in Georgia

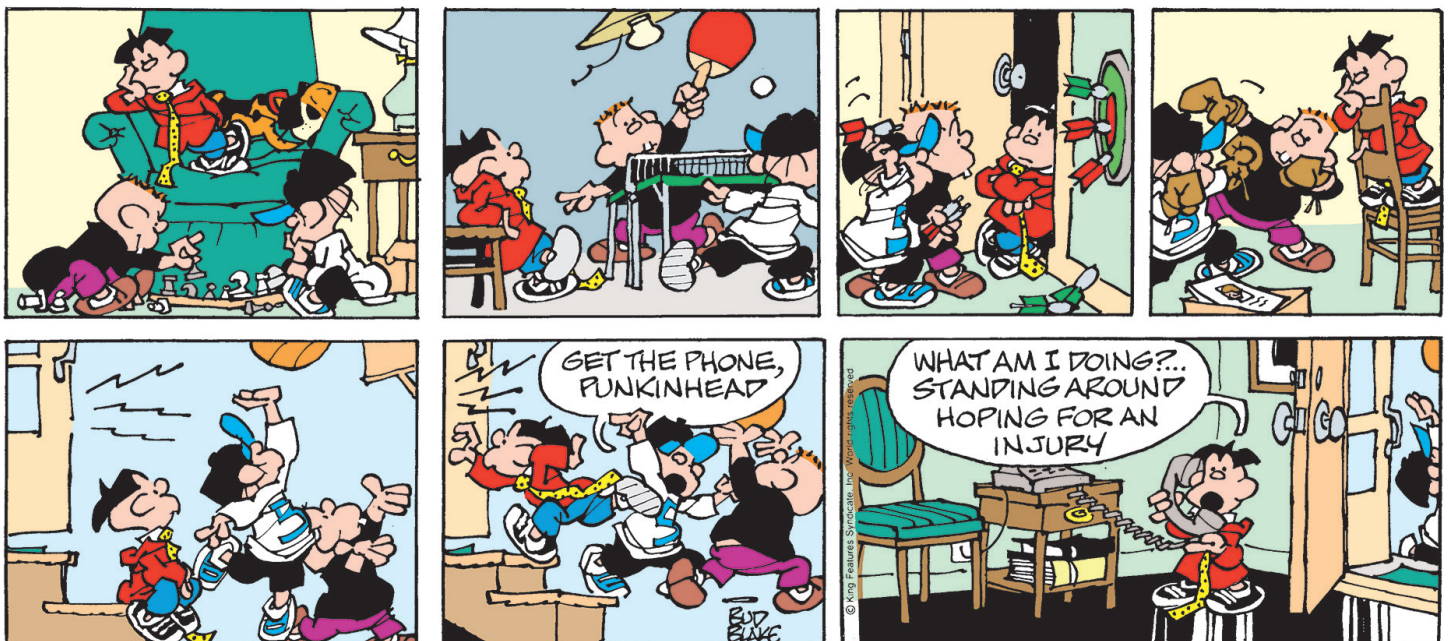
\* After your dishwasher has run its course, open up the door and let the dishes air-dry. On cold days, there's the added bonus of humidifying the house with the steam that escapes.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembroke Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Banner
- 5 Invoice fig.
- 8 Experts
- 12 Earring site
- 13 Brit's restroom
- 14 Carry on
- 15 Capital of Paraguay
- 17 Slender weapon
- 18 Rationed (out)
- 19 Urges forward
- 21 "La Dolce —"
- 24 Granola morsel
- 25 Luke's teacher
- 28 Folklore monster
- 30 Mel of Cooperstown
- 33 "Caught ya!"
- 34 Welcome
- 35 Bankroll
- 36 "Tasty!"
- 37 Give temporarily
- 38 Burden
- 39 Navarro on "The View"
- 41 Mausoleum
- 43 Continue
- 46 Skiers' mecca
- 50 Bank statement no.
- 51 Capital of India

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
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			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33				34						35		
36				37					38			
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43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 34 Close
- 35 Crime lab evidence
- 36 Motown genre
- 37 Bouquet
- 38 Tofu source
- 39 Norms (Abbr.)
- 40 Morrison
- 41 Venezuelan corn patty
- 42 Capital of South Africa
- 43 Daring Knieval
- 44 Beholds
- 45 Roman 401
- 46 Champagne brand
- 47 Ripped
- 48 Rep
- 49 Candied veggie
- 50 Resistance unit
- 51 Foreman foe
- 52 Cattle call
- 53 Author
- 54 Sigma follower
- 55 QBs' goals
- 56 Glitzy rock genre
- 57 Fixate
- 58 Peculiar
- 59 Irate
- 60 Grate
- 61 Canyon comeback
- 62 Concludes
- 63 Conspiracy
- 64 Barak of Israel
- 65 Guitarist Lofgren
- 66 Rock producer Brian
- 67 Method

### DOWN

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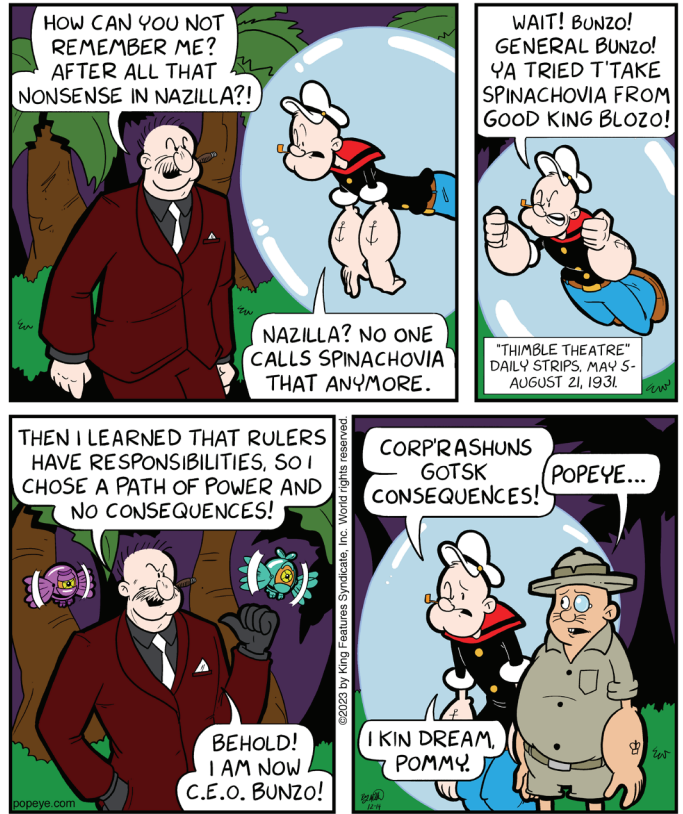
## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

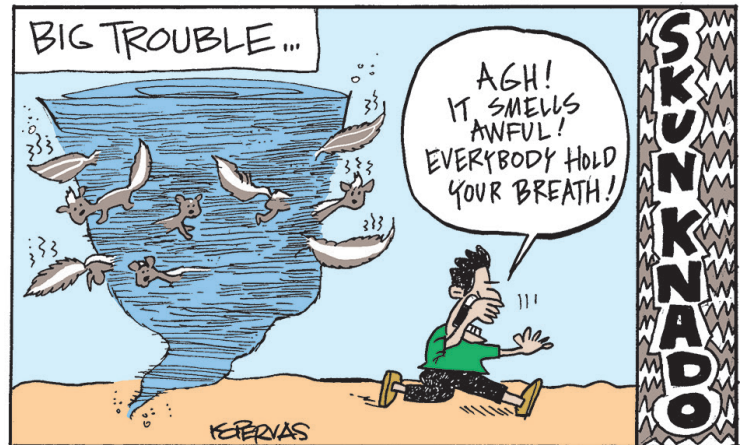
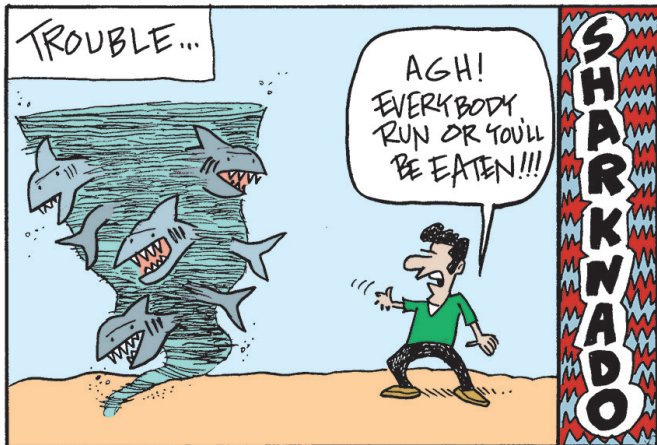
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			V	I	T	A		O	A	T		
Y	O	D	A		O	G	R	E		O	T	T
A	H	A		G	R	E	E	T		W	A	D
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P	O	S	Y		S	O	Y		S	T	D	S

## Olive



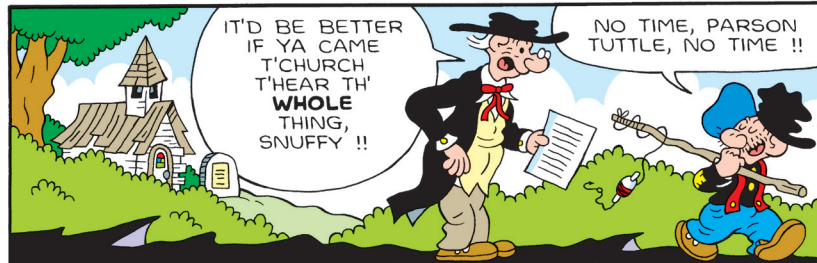
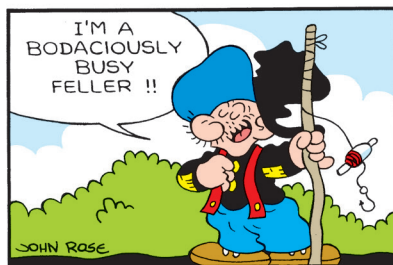
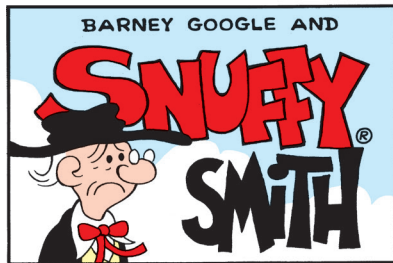
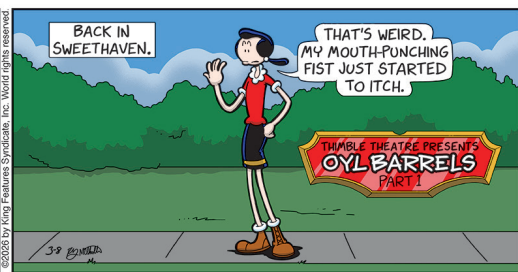
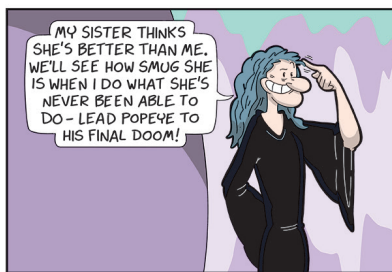
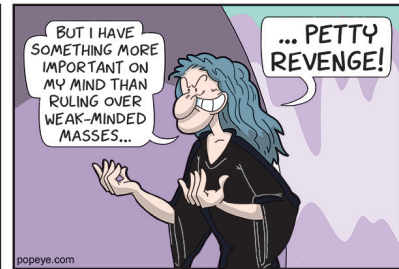
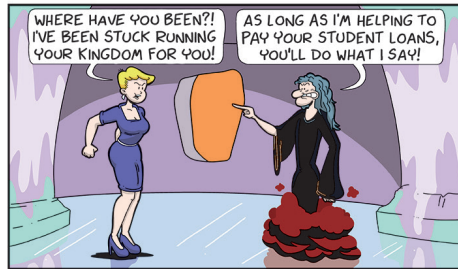
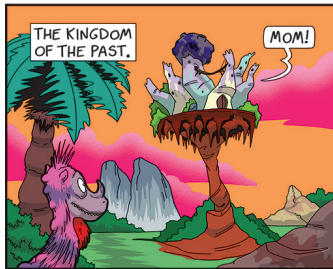
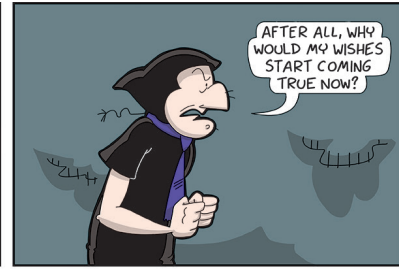
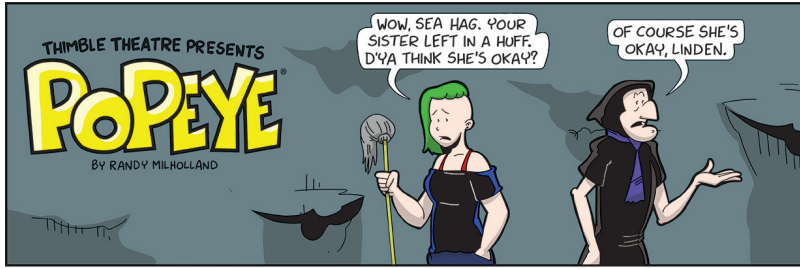
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



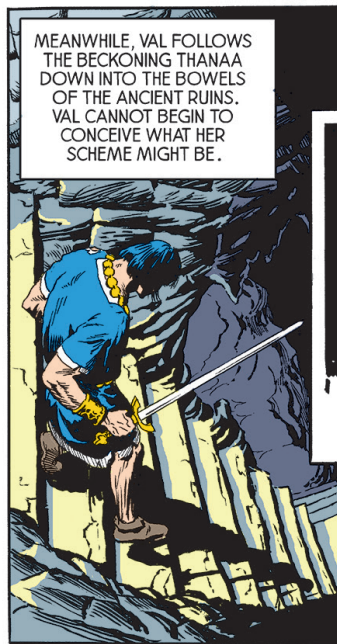
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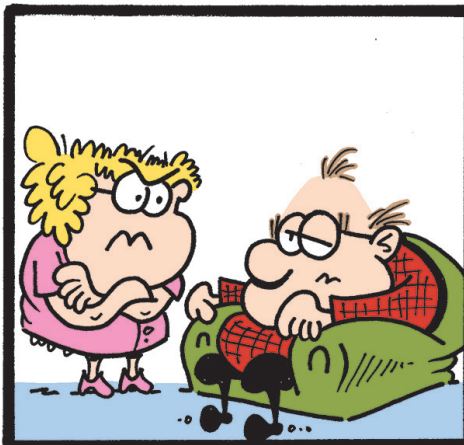


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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Recall: rice products might contain glass

A recent food recall for one manufacturer includes a list of fried rice, ramen and dumpling products that is 23 pages long. The list covers lot numbers and production dates going back many months. With 50 items per page, that comes to 1,100 items. The problem? They all might have glass in them.

The additional concern? They were sold under several brand names, including as the house brand for two big chains. One of those alone has a recall for over 30 million pounds of the rice products.

But there's more. We also have a BBQ sauce with undeclared allergens, the cat food without enough vitamin B1, dog treats with salmonella and cottage cheese that contains milk that wasn't pasteurized.

It's not only food items that are currently on recall lists. We have baby monitors that can catch fire while charging, the bath foam that can forcefully eject pieces (three injuries so far) when opened and the metal wire grill brushes that can break off and attach to the grill or food.

Vehicles aren't being left out. Ford is recalling transit vehicles because the brake pedal can come apart and fail. (Free inspection and repair, however.) Certain 2025-2026 Subaru vehicles are being recalled due to fuel leak, which can cause a fire. (Again, there's a free repair.) BMW has damaged air conditioning wire harnesses, which can cause a fire. Kia Telluride, which has power front seats, are recalled because they might not restrain occupants in a crash.

To find the list of rice products that might contain glass, go to [www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls). At this writing, there is a banner across the top of the page, and it's classified as a Class 1 (High) recall.

Make it a weekly habit to take a look at recall sites, such as [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov) (food), [fda.gov](http://fda.gov) (food and drugs), [www.cpsc.gov/recalls](http://www.cpsc.gov/recalls) (consumer products) and [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov) (a variety of products, food and medicine). Keep an eye on vehicle recalls at [www.nhtsa.gov/recalls](http://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls) (you'll need your VIN).

Stay safe!

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1. What NASCAR driver, 1970 Grand National Series champion, quit in the middle of the 1973 Talladega 500 because he'd heard a voice telling him to get out of the car?

2. Before joining the Florida Gators in 1990 and leading them to a national championship in 1996, Steve Spurrier was head coach of what college football team from 1987-1989?

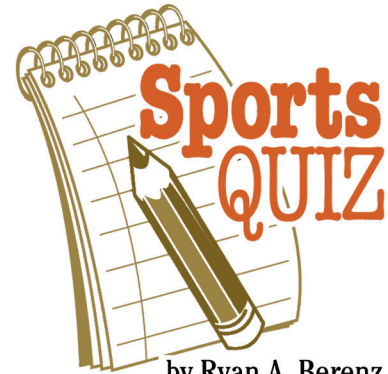
3. The 2003 Presidents Cup golf tournament was declared a 17-17 tie after three undecided playoff holes between what two golfers?

4. What Pennsylvania sportswear manufacturer was the official supplier of uniforms and apparel to Major League Baseball teams from 2005-2019?

5. Who created the Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League in the early 1960s and became widely known as the father of modern fantasy sports?

6. What professional football league played only eight of the scheduled 10 weeks in its lone 2019 season and included teams like the Orlando Apollos, Arizona Hotshots, Salt Lake Stallions and San Diego Fleet?

7. A case of the yips for a baseball fielder is named after which Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman who struggled to complete routine throws to first and committed 30 errors in 1983?



by Ryan A. Berenz

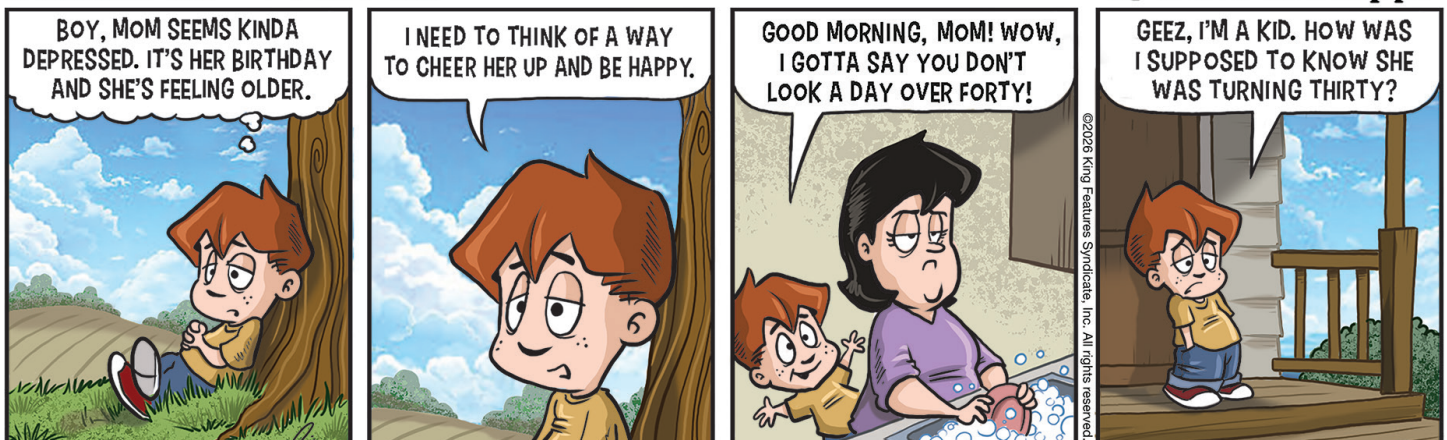
## Answers

1. Bobby Isaac.
2. The Duke Blue Devils.
3. Tiger Woods and Ernie Els.
4. Majestic Athletic.
5. Bill Winkenbach.
6. The Alliance of American Football (AAF).
7. Steve Sax ("Steve Sax Syndrome").

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Keeping pets safe from poisons



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We had a scary incident a few weeks ago. Our puppy "Terah" got into the cabinet under the kitchen sink and chewed on a plastic spray bottle with cleaning solution in it. When the plastic cracked liquid went everywhere, and she licked up quite a bit of it. I caught her just after it happened and rushed her to the emergency vet. By the time we got there, she was shaking, drooling and vomiting. Terah stayed there for two days, getting IV fluids, and she was still weak and not very hungry when we brought her home. She's doing very well now, and I am putting child-safe locks on all the cabinets! Please warn your readers to keep pets away from cleaning products and other poisons. I never thought my puppy would chew through a spray bottle. -- Billy in Asheville, North Carolina

DEAR BILLY: Thank you for this important reminder. Puppies are curious and love to chew on just about everything. The best way to keep them safe is to use "exclusion" measures like cabinet locks, high shelves and baby gates to prevent them from accessing cleaning products.

Cleaning products aren't the only danger to dogs, cats and other mammals in the house. Foods like avocados, onions, garlic, chocolate and grapes (including raisins) can be deadly. Xylitol, a sweetener used in sugar-free candies but also in unexpected places like peanut butter, is especially dangerous.

Some plants are deadly to cats and dogs and should be kept out of the house or well out of reach. And medications are another huge danger if left out where a pet can reach.

Next week, I'll go over the common symptoms of poisoning and what to do if you suspect your pet has ingested something poisonous. Meantime, you can find a list of substances to keep away from your pets at [fairfaxvet.com/pet-poison-control-foods-and-substances-to-keep-away-from-your-dog-or-cat](http://fairfaxvet.com/pet-poison-control-foods-and-substances-to-keep-away-from-your-dog-or-cat)

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* Adding bubbles to your bath keeps the water warm for a longer amount of time.

\* To perform Kermit's early swamp scene in "The Muppet Movie," Jim Henson had to spend a day in a 50-gallon steel drum under a pond.

\* Wakes were originally held in case the apparently deceased returned to life.

\* The word "love" or "zero" in tennis possibly derives from the French word "l'oeuf," meaning "egg," which may repre-

sent the figure zero.

\* Giraffes have the highest blood pressure of any mammal.

\* Because the speed of Earth's rotation changes over time, a day in the age of dinosaurs was 23 hours long.

\* The Pyramid of Khufu at Giza, the largest Egyptian pyramid, weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings.

\* A stork shot by a hunter in Germany in 1822 was found with a Central African spear piercing its throat, providing scientists with the first evidence for long-distance bird migration.

\* Soccer stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi were born 869 days apart, and their respective eldest sons were also born exactly 869 days apart.

\* The SkyWheel in Helsinki is the only Ferris wheel in the world featuring a sauna in one of its gondolas.

\* "To Have and Have Not," starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, was made into a movie after director Howard Hawks told Ernest Hemingway he could make a great film from what Hemingway called his worst book.

\* Peru is the only country whose English-language name can be typed on a single row of a standard QWERTY keyboard.

\* Pulmonary arteries are the only ones in the human body that carry deoxygenated blood.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves." -- Bill Vaughan

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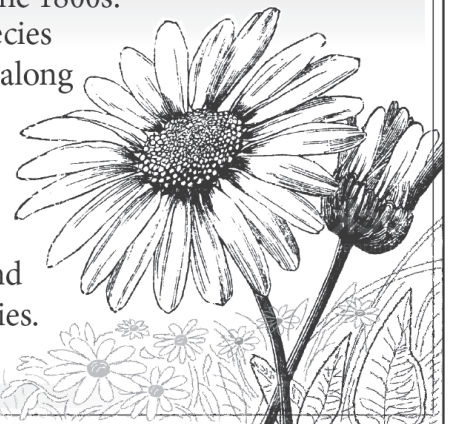
### Ox-eye daisy

When in bloom, it's easy to see why this European native was introduced in the U.S. as a garden and florist ornamental in the 1800s.

It now threatens as an invasive species in the wild. It is commonly found along roadways or spread across fields, meadows and lakeshores. Once established, it can spread rapidly by means of roots and seeds, crowding out native plants. The end result is of use to few wildlife species.

Source: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

- Brenda Weaver





by Freddy Groves

## Fake prescriptions scam

How much would you trust a prescription cream compound that was whipped up in a back room by a bunch of untrained teenagers? Sounds dangerous, and it turned out to be just that by patients who used the fake cream and ended up with painful rashes. It was a real moneymaker for some scammers however: Have some kids mix up \$15 worth of ingredients in the back of a pharmacy, and then charge the government \$16,000 for each prescription.

The VA Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) was one of a handful of agencies who investigated a doctor who was part of this \$145 million scam, as well as his pharmacist pals. Besides the VA, the Department of Labor, the Post Office and the IRS were involved. There were bribes and kickbacks paid by unscrupulous pharmacy owners, unnecessary prescriptions written by the doctor (an orthopedic surgeon) and, of course, thieves don't pay taxes on their ill-gotten millions.

The operation was a well-oiled machine devoted to making money. Special prescription pads were provided to the doctor that referred patients to a specific pharmacy, and the doctor's staff were instructed to write prescriptions for each patient seen that day, whether or not they even needed the compounded cream. One of the pharmacists checked several times a day to see how much had been billed that day. If out of the office, staff would text him the amount of money made.

The doctor was sentenced to eight years in prison and has to pay back \$13 million in restitution. One pharmacist was sentenced to 17 years in prison and will repay \$115 million in restitution. The other pharmacist will serve 15 years in prison. Together with his thief pharmacist buddy, they will forfeit \$405 million in seized assets.

So there is some justice here. TITLE: None of them will be out of prison quickly, and when they are out, their fancy homes and cars won't be there, and neither will the millions they stashed in multiple accounts and shell companies.

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## Wishing Well®

4	8	2	3	8	5	3	4	8	5	3	8	7
A	S	V	C	E	B	A	N	C	U	R	U	D
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5	7	4	5	6	7	6	7	5	7	6	7	6
H	T	E	E	E	H	D	E	S	R	G	S	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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1. MOVIES: Who is the director of the Oscar-winning movie "Parasite"?
2. FOOD & DRINK: What is miso?
3. LITERATURE: What are the names of the romantic couple in "Wuthering Heights"?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which city's nickname is "Pearl of the Orient"?
5. HISTORY: In what year were the first modern Olympic Games held?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Before becoming president, Barack Obama served as a senator from which state?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Which peninsula is the largest in the world?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek god of war?
9. MUSIC: Who composed the opera "The Ring of Nibelung"?
10. ACRONYMS: In computer emails, what does the acronym "CC" stand for?

### Answers

1. Bong Joon Ho.
2. Fermented soybean paste.
3. Heathcliff and Catherine.
4. Manila, Philippines.
5. 1896 in Greece.
6. Illinois.
7. Arabian Peninsula.
8. Ares.
9. Richard Wagner.
10. Carbon Copy (once used in typewriters).

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South Dakota Governor



## Larry Rhoden



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

### A New Tool for Property Tax Relief

As the 2026 Legislative Session wrapped up this week in Pierre, lawmakers have spent the past couple months working through the issues that matter most to South Dakotans. We accomplished a great deal, but one thing tops it all: we delivered the largest property tax cut in South Dakota history.

When I travel the state, I hear about property taxes more than any other issue. Folks across South Dakota are saying the same thing – property taxes are getting too high, and something needs to change. That’s why property tax relief was my top priority this legislative session.

Lawmakers considered dozens of proposals this year. Property taxes fund important local services like schools, roads, and law enforcement, so we had to be careful to find solutions that provide relief without putting those services at risk.

I brought a plan, Senate Bill 96, and we got it across the finish line. SB 96 allows the people in each county to replace a portion of their owner-occupied property tax revenue with a local half-cent sales tax if they choose to do so. Every dollar raised from that sales tax must go directly toward reducing property taxes.

No county is required to adopt this option. It’s not a mandate – it’s a choice. Local leaders and local voters will decide whether it’s the right opportunity for their community.

South Dakota is a big state made up of many different communities. What works in one county may not be the best fit for another. SB 96 simply gives the people another tool so they can make the decision that works best for their county. It also broadens the tax base. By allowing counties to use a small sales tax instead, a portion of that cost can be shared by visitors and tourists – and it just so happens that property taxes have risen most in the counties with most visitors! So that’s a win-win.

But my bill was not the only part of the solution. I worked with legislative leadership to get Senate Bill 245 across the finish line, which provides substantial statewide property tax relief to homeowners. Sales taxes were set to go up by 0.3% next year, so we thought it would be best to return that to the people in the form of property tax relief, and the Legislature agreed.

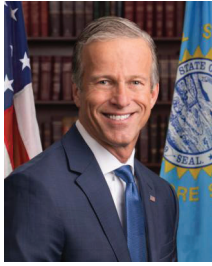
We listened to South Dakotans, worked with legislators, and passed these bills to provide real relief while keeping decisions close to the people.

When we signed these bills, we did it with extra fanfare in the Capitol Rotunda. Dozens of legislators stood around me because it took many hands to get this done. I’m proud of the work that we did. This record-setting property tax cut will certainly help keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free.

These bills help ensure that South Dakotans can keep more of what they’ve earned while keeping our communities strong. We’ll keep working to make sure South Dakota remains a place where families, farmers, ranchers, and businesses can thrive for generations to come.

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

## Honoring South Dakota's Agricultural Heritage

Up before dawn, in the fields well past sundown, and a hard day's work in between, no one says life on a farm or ranch is easy. This week, during National Agriculture Week, we celebrate these hardworking Americans who produce food, fuel, and fiber for America and the world.

Some people might not think much about where the food at the grocery store comes from, but not South Dakotans. You can't travel far in our state without seeing some sign of South Dakota's rich agricultural heritage. I'm grateful to the South Dakotans who are keeping up this way of life, and I'm proud to represent them in the United States Senate.

I recognize that these are challenging times for a lot of agricultural producers. The last few years have seen input costs and interest rates rise, and supply chain disruptions and natural disasters have impacted producers in our state and around the country. As always, supporting and strengthening our agriculture industry is a top priority for me.

Last year, Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cuts, a landmark bill that not only provided tax relief but made improvements to many of the programs that farmers and ranchers depend on. It strengthened the farm safety net, reauthorized commodity programs and raised reference prices for every covered commodity, and bolstered crop insurance, especially for farmers who are just starting out. And livestock producers also benefit from this bill's improvements to the Livestock Indemnity Program and Livestock Forage Disaster Program, as well as investments in animal disease prevention efforts.

As its name suggests, the Working Families Tax Cuts also delivered significant tax relief for farmers and ranchers. It locked in lower individual and small business tax rates permanently. Tax relief from the 199A deduction is now permanent too, as is 100 percent expensing, which allows farmers and ranchers to deduct the full cost of new equipment the year they start using it.

South Dakota farmers and ranchers dream about passing their operations on to the next generation, but the death tax can unnecessarily complicate this dream. In the Working Families Tax Cuts, Republicans raised the exemption threshold for the death tax and made that higher exemption permanent, which will prevent a lot more family farms and ranches from having to worry about a devastating tax bill when their operation passes to the next generation. And it's not just the tax bill itself that can be costly, the estate planning can also be expensive, and exempting more farms and ranches from this tax saves them from the headaches of planning for it so can they stay focused on their operation.

I don't know if there's a group of people who take more pride in their work than farmers and ranchers. At times the headwinds are strong, but farmers and ranchers are stronger. I'm proud to come from a state with a rich agricultural heritage and to work to support this way of life as South Dakota's senator.

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March 2 – March 8, 2026



Welcome back to the Weekly Round[s] Up. It was another busy week in DC. Lately, I am averaging about 18 events each day, between briefings, hearings and meetings with so many South Dakotans! I appreciate hearing from people across the state on a wide variety

of topics affecting South Dakotans. Along with meetings with South Dakota groups, I also stayed busy with hearings, briefings and votes.

One important briefing from this past week to note was the classified briefing for all senators on Iran. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth gave a satisfactory briefing on the events going on in Iran. While I can't get into details, know that it is incredible what our military is able to accomplish. We continue to keep our men and women in uniform in our prayers, and our hearts go out to the families of the servicemembers who lost their lives defending our country in this conflict. More on this and the rest of my week in the Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota groups I visited with: Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; South Dakotans representing National Parent Teacher Association; South Dakotans with the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Foundation; Agricultural Retailers Association; South Dakota YMCA leaders; South Dakota surgeons with American College of Surgeons; American Legion Department of South Dakota; South Dakotans with Ducks Unlimited; South Dakota Broadcasters Association; Department of South Dakota VFW; Christina Oey, Executive Director of South Dakota Humanities Council; Rosebud Sioux Tribe Council; Mickelson & Company LLC out of Sioux Falls; Katie Schmid with the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors; Feeding South Dakota; Dakota Credit Union Association; South Dakotans with Community Transportation Association of America; and South Dakotans with the National Bleeding Disorders Association.

Met with South Dakotans from: Aberdeen, Black Hills, Blackhawk, Brookings, Ellsworth, Garretson, Gayville, Kimball, Onida, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Warner, Watertown and Willow Lake.

Other meetings: LTG Hartman, Acting Commander at U.S. Cyber Command; Nathan McAuley, CEO of Anchorage; and Pierre Yared, Acting Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

I also gave remarks at an Internet Works Middle Tech Mixer where I was recognized as an Inaugural Trailblazer in Innovation.

Hearings: This week I attended two Senate Armed Services Committee hearings; you can watch the first [here](#) and the second one [here](#).

Briefings: I attended three classified briefings: one with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence the second with the Cybersecurity subcommittee; and a Senators-only briefing about current events in the Middle East.

Votes taken: 4 – This past week I voted in support of funding the Department of Homeland Security once again. I also voted to advance the 21st Century Road to Housing Act, legislation that we worked on in the Senate Banking Committee. I am pleased to see floor action on this bill as my office helped write over 20% of this major legislation. Final passage vote will occur within the next few days. Lastly, I voted nay on a War Powers resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from Iran.

Bible Study and Prayer Breakfast: This week I attended Senate Bible Study hosted by Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.). The study we went over was titled Insights on Successfully Persevering in Office. I also went to Senate Prayer Breakfast hosted by Senator Roger Marshall (R-Kan).

My Staff in South Dakota visited: Aberdeen and Onida.

Steps taken: 63,514 steps or 29.26 miles.



## Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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### Just Another Pain in the Neck

For some reason, the other week I thought of my maternal grandfather, who I was named after. He had a farm up in the hills of Pennsylvania, and when I would visit, my cousins and I would get together and make fun of old grandpa. I didn't understand at the time, but I'm beginning to understand now.

Grandpa had more pain in every part of his body than anybody I knew. Every time he got up to walk, his knees would creak. He had pain in his hips, in his back, and every part of his body had some pain. He limped as he walked.

My cousins and I thought it was hilarious because we didn't know about this thing called pain. For the most part, we thought he was acting and trying to make us laugh.

If that was his objective, he was very successful. We were very careful to laugh only behind his back out of due respect. After all, he was our grandfather.

Often, we would bet on which part of his body would hurt first.

Now that he's gone and it's been over 50 years since he died, I can't help but think of his pain and how he handled it day after day. Thinking back, I should've paid attention to how he handled that pain, but at the time, I could not associate his pain with me.

I did not know very much about pain. I didn't have too much pain as a young person. I had what was called a "boo-boo", which was hardly a pain. And I must say, a lot of my "boo-boos" were manufactured. The reason was that the medicine for a "boo-boo" was ice cream. The serious "boo-boos" required chocolate ice cream.

Whenever I was hungry for ice cream, I would make up some "boo-boo," and my mother always gave me the medicine. That's why I always thought grandpa was manufacturing his pain. My only problem was that I never could figure out what his medicine was for that pain.

It wasn't until recently that I began to appreciate grandpa's pain. It started a few years ago when I had a heart attack. That was just the beginning.

I'm at the point now that when I wake up in the morning, I make a bet on which pain will be first that day. My body must've been listening to me because whatever pain I chose, it was always something other than that.

Actually, I'm the kind of person who does not like to acknowledge my pain. Yes, as a young person, recognizing my "boo-boo" was different. That always involved ice cream. But now, when I have pain, I need to take a pill.

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Every pain in my body needs a different pill, or so my doctor says. And, as you know, doctors are always right. Just ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I remember a few years ago when we took trips together and had a lot of fun. Now my trip is traveling across town to see my doctor. If I never see my doctor again, I will be happy.

When I have grown accustomed to my pain, I go to visit my doctor, and he discovers a new pain. Oh boy! Maybe if I didn't visit my doctor, I wouldn't have pain? He might be the cause. I've got to think about that.

A few years back, I was hit with shingles on my right side. Fortunately, I saw my doctor within 24 hours and modified the results accordingly. To this day, I have pain in my right hip and my knee.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told me that I need to use a cane, because a cane will make me able.

I thought about it and realized what Cain had done to Abel. I may have pain, but I'm not stupid.

When she says that, I smile at her and say, "That's okay my dear. I got it all under control." She looks at me and laughs, and I would rather deal with her laugh than with the pain I have.

The other week, I was in the waiting room, and as I was there, I looked around. It must've been my imagination, but I seemed to be the youngest person in that room.

Half a dozen of the people there were using walking canes. Most of them were hobbling to see the doctor. I've never seen such a crowd of older people.

Then it hit me like a pie in the face. Looking at all of these old people in that room with all kinds of pain, I realized that I fit in perfectly. That really startled me at the time.

Instead of seeing a medical doctor, I need to see a psychologist.

I was thinking, as I looked around at the people there, is there a time when this pain ends? How long do I have to put up with pain?

As I was thinking about this I remembered a verse in the Bible that addresses this.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

As painful as my sufferings are, they are only temporary. One moment in heaven and I won't remember any of my pain. As I trust Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour my destiny is assured.

## EARTHTALK

### Does The Rise Of Solar Power Jack Up Electricity Costs For Everyone?

by Aadya Anand

Dear EarthTalk: Does the rise of solar power actually make electricity more expensive for everyone?  
-- Julie Smith, Pittsburgh, PA

Solar energy promises long-term savings and environmental benefits, but the path to widespread adoption is challenging, particularly in the way it affects electricity pricing and the overall energy market.

Solar power generates electricity by harnessing sunlight, so it is a clean energy source. However, adopting it can be costly. Most expenses come from the initial investment in infrastructure, including installing and integrating solar panels into the existing grid. These costs are balanced by the relatively low maintenance and operational expenses going forward. With ongoing advancements in technology and decreasing costs, this renewable energy source is becoming more accessible and affordable for both consumers and utilities.

While these upfront expenses can temporarily raise electricity prices,, these costs will stabilize and solar power can lead to more affordable energy for everyone over time.

Solar power also has challenges due to its intermittent nature, being available only during daylight hours, not aligning with peak demand times, like evenings when electricity use is highest. To ensure a reliable energy supply, backup sources like natural gas are often needed, leading to increased costs. "Constructing and upkeeping a secondary energy source results in higher overall energy costs because two energy systems cost more than one," reports Elmira Aliakbari of the Fraser Institute, a Canadian think tank.

Energy storage technologies, like batteries and pumped hydropower, are essential for addressing solar energy's intermittency. Storing excess solar power for later use can reduce the need for backup sources. However, the cost of storing electricity remains a significant challenge, making it difficult to rely entirely on wind and solar power. While energy storage is still expensive, advancements in battery technology are expected to reduce these costs over time, making solar energy more affordable.

The rise of solar power may result in short-term increases in electricity prices due to grid upgrades and energy storage costs. But in the long run, solar offers significant savings by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions. Switching to energy-efficient appliances and supporting policies and companies investing in renewable energy and energy storage solutions is equally important. Educating others about the benefits of solar power and participating in local initiatives like time-of-use energy programs can ensure a more sustainable and cost-effective energy future for everyone.



**The expansion of solar power may be driving overall electricity prices up in the short term, but analysts expect it to lower overall energy costs moving forward.** Credit: Pexels.com.

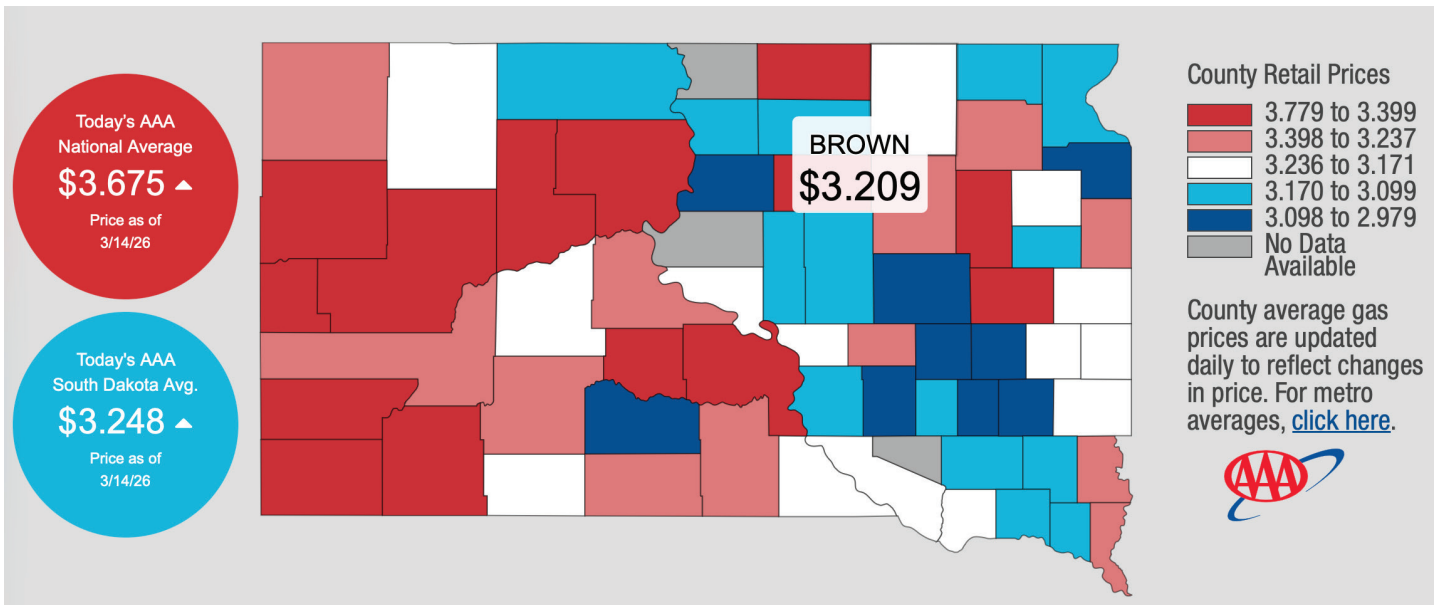
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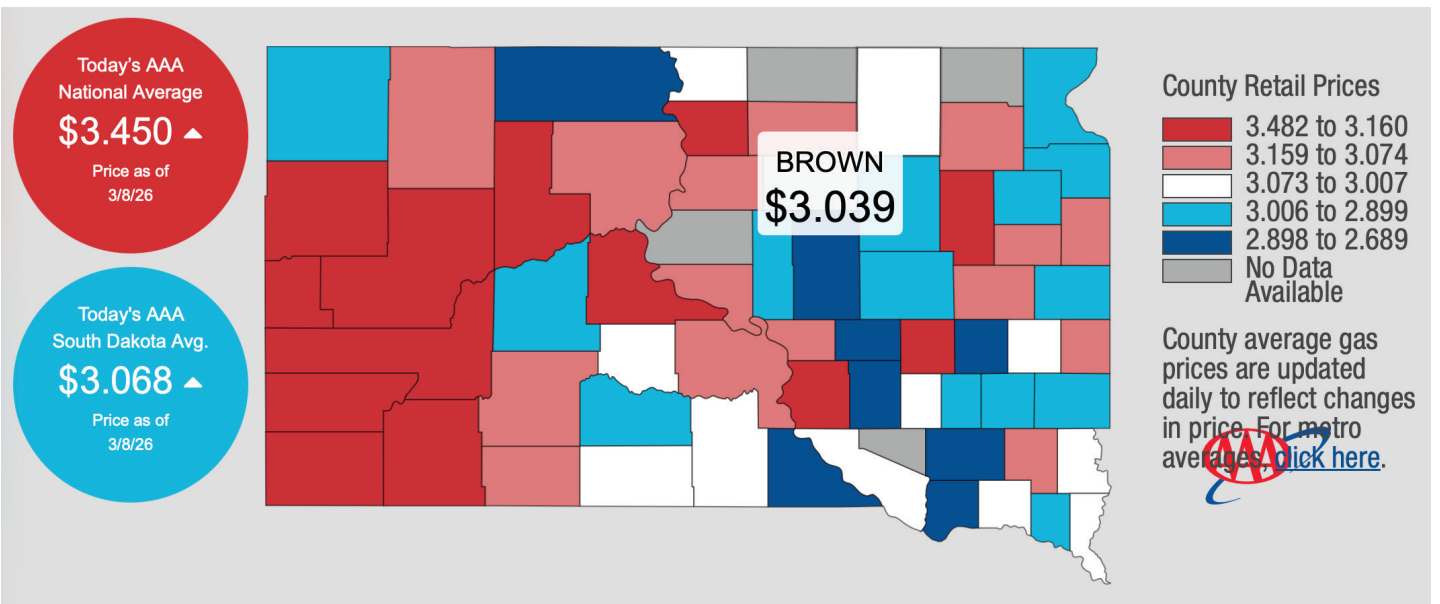
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.248	\$3.395	\$3.902	\$4.228
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.217	\$3.365	\$3.863	\$4.169
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.055	\$3.218	\$3.705	\$3.936
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.611	\$2.788	\$3.248	\$3.362
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.962	\$3.151	\$3.573	\$3.272

### This Week



### Last Week



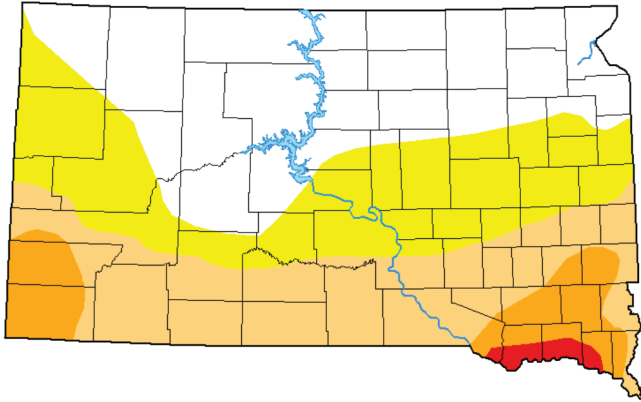
# Groton Daily Independent

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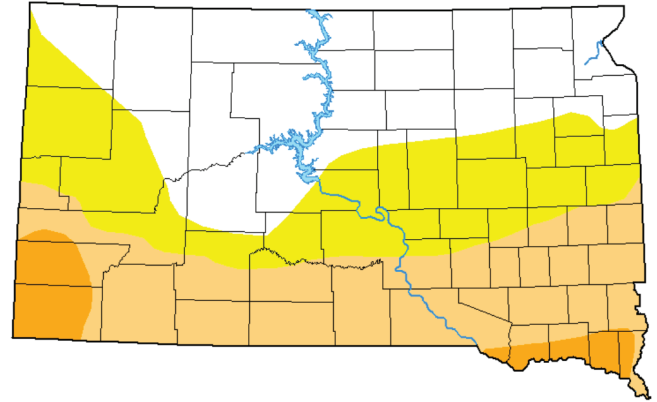
## Drought Classification

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

## Drought Monitor



March 10



March 3

Widespread drought of varying intensity continues across much of the Central Great Plains and Central Rockies. Drought expanded this past week to include all of southwestern Colorado and intensified for northwestern parts of the state. The low snowpack throughout the Central Rockies, especially Colorado, remains a major concern heading into the spring. As of March 10, snow water equivalent for the river basins of Colorado is running below 70 percent of the 1991-2020 average. There were a couple exceptions to the worsening conditions. A wet snow (1" or more, liquid equivalent) supported the removal of extreme (D3) drought across parts of the Denver metro area. Heavy rainfall (more than 1.5 inches) prompted small 1-category improvements to eastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska.



### Bans on sugary foods in SNAP programs in five states challenged by recipients

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA

WASHINGTON — A group of food stamp recipients sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture this week over its efforts to prohibit the benefits from being used to purchase certain non-nutritious items.

Five consumers enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, brought the lawsuit March 11 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The recipients hail from Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Tennessee and West Virginia and are challenging the waivers in those states.

President Donald Trump's administration has so far approved waivers in 22 states — part of its Make America Healthy Again agenda — that restrict which items recipients of the federal food assistance program that helps 42 million people can buy with their benefits.

The restrictions, which range from candy to sugar-sweetened beverages and other processed foods, differ throughout states.

The agency has described the waivers as a "key step in ensuring that taxpayer dollars provide nutritious options that improve health outcomes within SNAP."

But the lawsuit claims that the "practical effect" of the waivers is "to destabilize food access for every SNAP participant in the affected states."

The lawsuit argues that the waivers "impose ambiguous and scientifically untethered product restrictions that vary not only by state but, in some instances, by store location."

The lawsuit also claims that people with chronic illnesses are "losing access to products they need to manage blood sugar or sustain diets they need to maintain baseline health care needs."

"The challenged waivers also create confusion and conflict at the point of sale by depriving SNAP recipients of clear notice about which products remain eligible for purchase," the lawsuit notes.

The SNAP recipients are represented by the National Center for Law and Economic Justice, a nonprofit that advocates on behalf of low-income families, individuals and communities, along with the law firm Shinder Cantor Lerner.

A spokesperson for USDA said Friday the agency would not comment on pending litigation.

Shauneen Miranda is a reporter for States Newsroom's Washington bureau. An alumna of the University of Maryland, she previously covered breaking news for Axios.



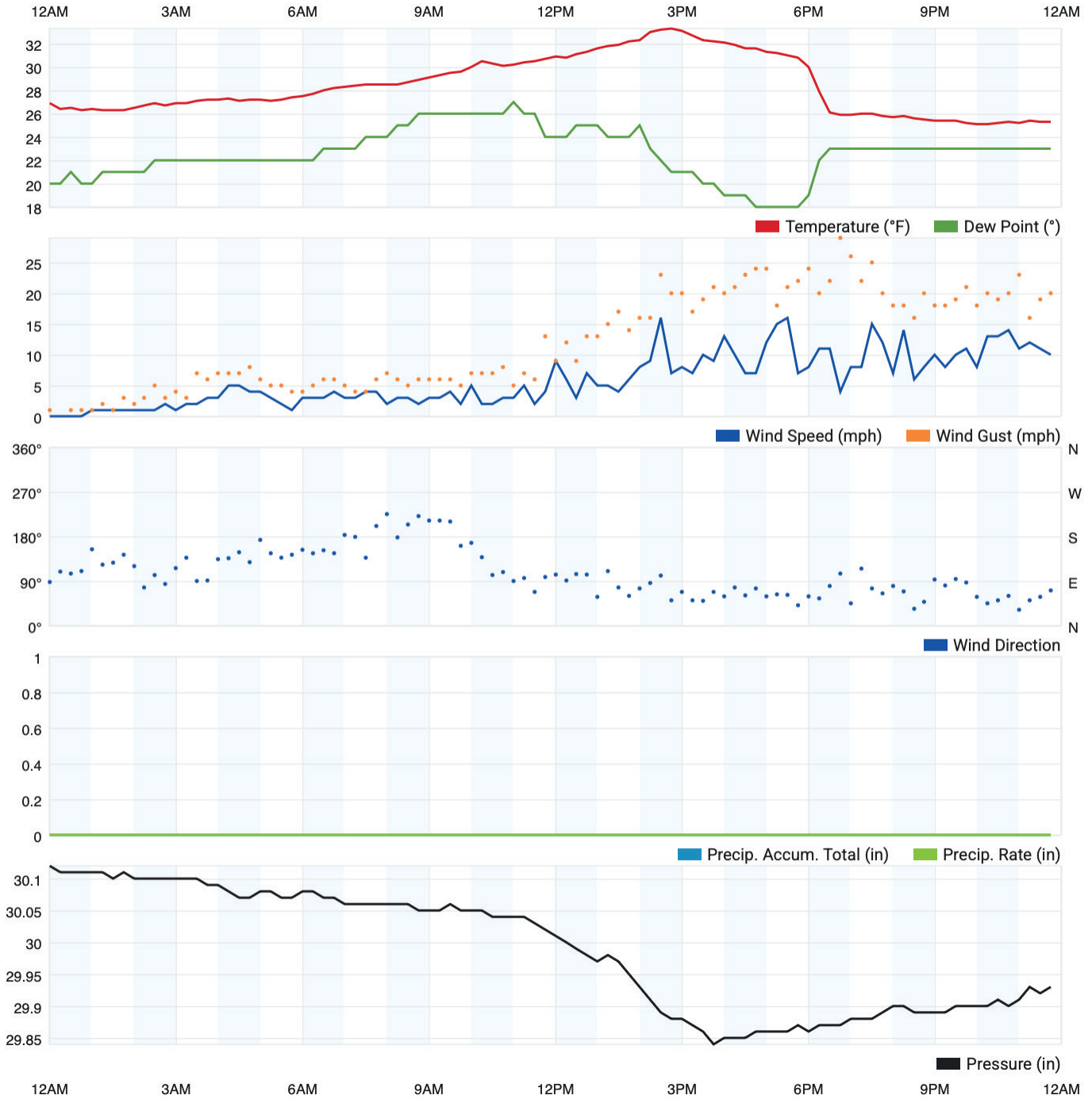
**A sign explaining restrictions on buying soda and sweetened drinks using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits is displayed in a grocery store in Bountiful, Utah on Feb. 11, 2026.** (McKenzie Romero/Utah News Dispatch)

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs






March 14, 2026



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## Blizzard Warning

Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
<b>High: 16 °F</b>	<b>Low: -4 °F</b>	<b>High: 13 °F</b>	<b>Low: -1 °F</b>	<b>High: 32 °F</b>
Snow and Blowing Snow then Areas Blowing Snow and Windy	Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Snow Likely then Wintry Mix Likely



## Weekend Winter Storm

March 15, 2026  
4:51 AM CDT

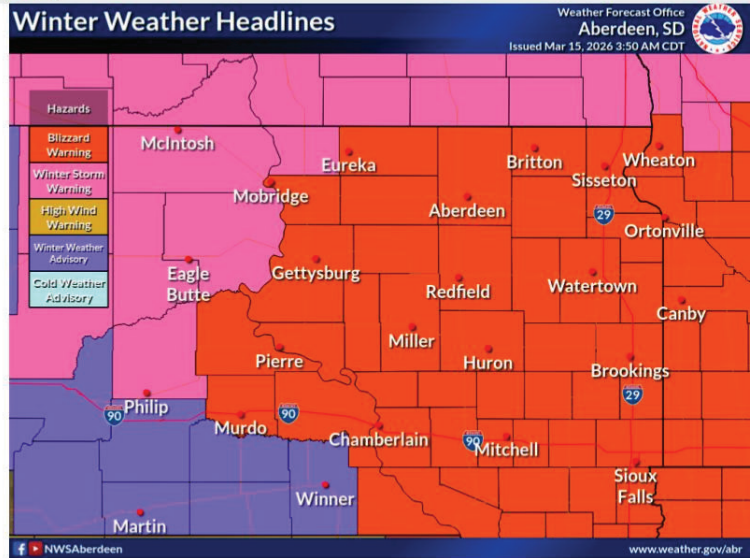
Snow + Strong Winds = Travel Impacts Likely

### Key Messages

- Lower than expected snow totals for many locations.
- Light to moderate snow continues through the early morning hours.
  - Snow gradually ending from northwest to southeast late morning into early afternoon.
- North winds increase this morning with **gusts of 35 to 50 mph. Major travel impacts likely due to blowing and drifting snow.**

### What has Changed

- Forecast snow totals are less than previously expected.
- Added slide showing very cold wind chills from 15 below to 25 below zero early Monday.



For headline timing in your area, please visit <https://www.weather.gov/abr/>



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Blizzard Warnings remain in effect today for much of the region as northerly winds gusting from 35 to 50 mph create blowing and drifting snow and low visibility at times.

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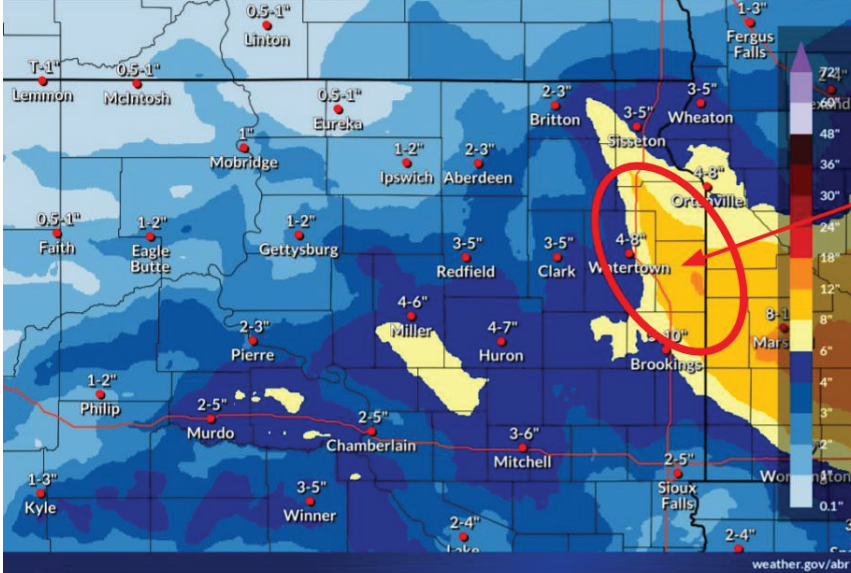
## Additional Snowfall Forecast

March 15, 2026  
4:55 AM

### Expected Snowfall: Official NWS Forecast

Valid 1 AM Sun Mar 15, 2026 through 1 AM Mon Mar 16, 2026

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD  
Issued Mar 15, 2026 2:16 AM CDT



### Key Points

- **Generally less than 6 inches additional accumulations** for most areas through the morning.
- These forecast amounts may be on the high side if bands of snow fail to materialize early this morning.
- **Increasing impacts from blowing and drifting snow as winds increase this morning.**
- **Travel will be extremely difficult to near impossible this morning.**

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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD



## Wind Gusts and Timing

March 15, 2026  
4:57 AM CDT

### Average Wind Gust (mph) Forecast

	3/15 Sun								3/16 Mon			
	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm
<b>Aberdeen</b>	41	45	46	44	39	33	26	23	21	19	17	16
<b>Britton</b>	40	45	44	43	40	34	29	26	22	20	19	20
<b>Chamberlain</b>	39	44	47	47	45	36	26	21	16	14	14	14
<b>Clark</b>	45	48	47	46	45	40	37	32	28	24	23	22
<b>Eagle Butte</b>	48	47	46	43	39	32	24	19	16	14	12	12
<b>Eureka</b>	39	41	41	39	37	30	23	18	15	13	12	12
<b>Gettysburg</b>	43	44	44	44	39	32	25	21	17	14	14	13
<b>McIntosh</b>	39	38	38	36	33	28	19	14	11	9	8	9
<b>Milbank</b>	35	42	46	42	43	40	38	34	31	29	27	25
<b>Miller</b>	44	48	48	46	42	33	28	24	22	20	18	16
<b>Mobridge</b>	39	40	38	36	33	28	22	15	12	9	9	9
<b>Murdo</b>	44	46	46	43	39	33	25	20	17	14	13	12
<b>Pierre</b>	40	44	44	40	38	30	21	14	11	8	8	9
<b>Redfield</b>	44	50	51	49	44	36	30	26	23	21	20	18
<b>Sisseton</b>	37	42	44	42	44	38	36	33	30	28	25	24
<b>Watertown</b>	42	48	51	46	44	41	38	34	31	27	24	24
<b>Webster</b>	39	45	45	43	42	38	34	30	27	24	22	22
<b>Wheaton</b>	33	37	40	40	40	38	36	33	31	28	28	26

- Northerly winds increasing through the early morning hours. **Gusts from 35 to 50 mph.**
- Blowing and drifting snow becoming an issue this morning. **Travel will be extremely difficult to near impossible.**
  - **Highlighted in red box**
- Winds will diminish tonight into Monday morning.

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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

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## Cold Temperatures and Wind Chills Tonight

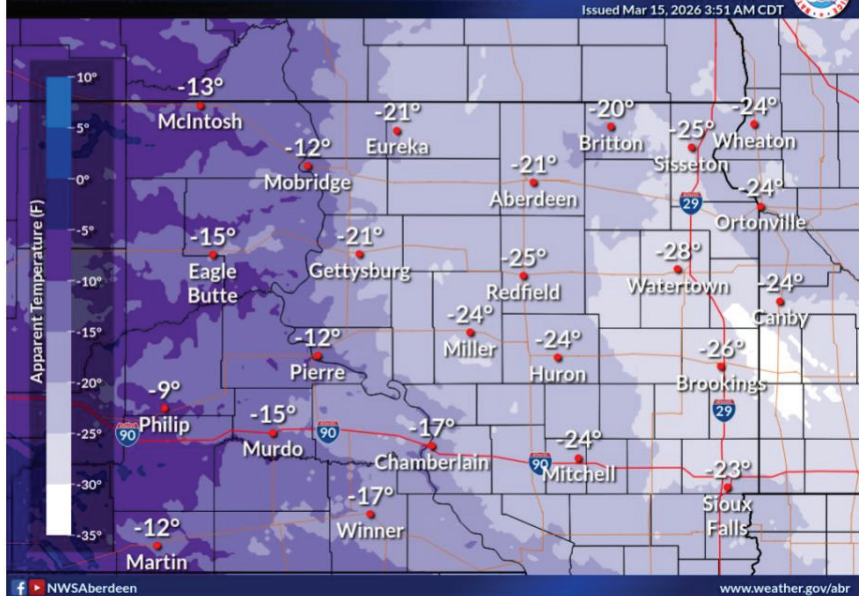
March 15, 2026  
4:59 AM CDT

Cold wind chills through Monday morning

### Key Messages

- Today and Monday will see some colder temperatures, with the coldest occurring tonight into Monday morning.
- Wind chills Monday morning forecast to range from **15 below to 25 below zero** for many areas.
- Dress in layers if you must go outside, including a hat, face mask, and gloves. **Bring in your pets!**

### Minimum Wind Chill Monday Morning



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 33 °F at 2:46 PM

Low Temp: 25 °F at 9:52 PM

Wind: 29 mph at 6:36 PM

Precip: : 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 79 in 2015

Record Low: -29 in 1897

Average High: 41

Average Low: 19

Average Precip in Mar.: 0.37

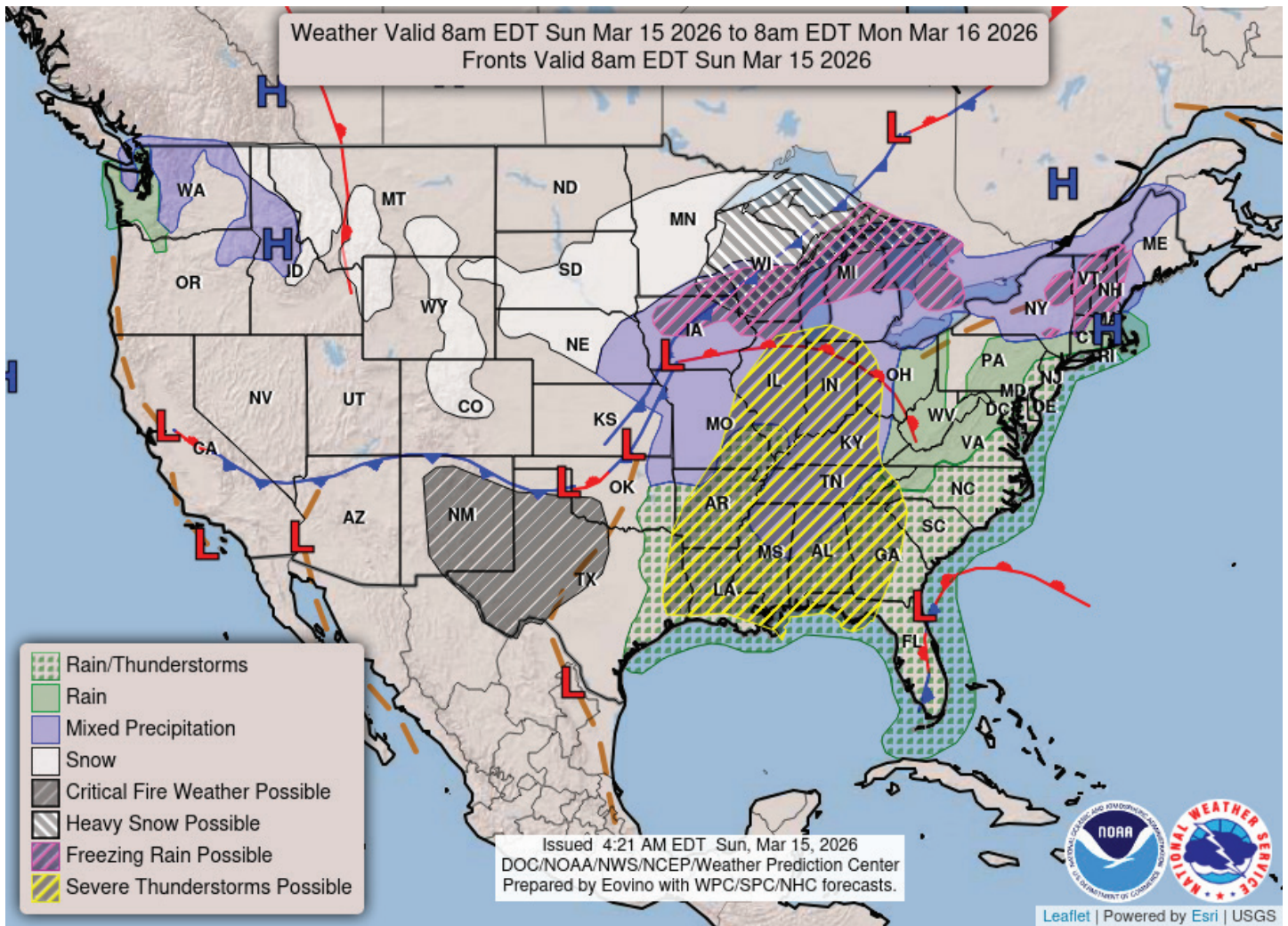
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.54

Precip Year to Date: 1.33

Sunset Tonight: 7.37 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 am



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## Today in Weather History

March 15th, 1941: Beware the Ides of March. The most severe blizzard in modern history struck North Dakota and Minnesota. The blizzard began on a Saturday night while many were traveling and thus claimed 71 lives. Winds gusted to 75 mph at Duluth, Minnesota, and reached 85 mph at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Snow drifts twelve feet high were reported in north-central Minnesota. A cold front traveling 30 mph crossed Minnesota in just seven hours.

March 15th, 2010: Snowmelt runoff from an extensive snow cover flooded many creeks and roads, along with thousands of acres of pasture and cropland throughout northeast South Dakota. There were numerous road closures. The flooding lasted through the end of the month and for many locations in April. Brown, Marshall, Day, Spink, and Roberts were the most affected counties. Numerous communities were affected, including Aberdeen, Claremont, Waubay, Amherst, Kidder, and Richmond Lake. The Claremont, Amherst, and Britton areas were the hardest hit with flooded land and roads. Several farms were surrounded by water, with some people stranded. Between Aberdeen and Britton, sixty percent of the area was underwater. Thousands of acres of cropland will not be planted due to too much water, with estimates that 20 to 25 percent of Brown County cropland would not be planted. Many people in northeast South Dakota have had too much water for years. The road damage was extensive, and repairs will cost millions of dollars. Many roads across the area will also have to be raised. Many people had extra-long commutes due to flooded streets, with some moving out of their homes. Across Day and Marshall Counties, rising lakes threatened many homes and cabins with sandbagging taking place. Most lakes and rivers across northeast South Dakota were at or near record levels.

1941 — The most severe blizzard in modern history struck North Dakota and Minnesota. The blizzard hit on a Saturday night while many are traveling, and thus claimed 71 lives. Winds gusted to 75 mph at Duluth MN, and reached 85 mph at Grand Forks ND. Snow drifts twelve feet high were reported in north central Minnesota. A cold front traveling 30 mph crossed Minnesota in just seven hours. (15th-16th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 — A winter storm in the western U.S. produced heavy snow in central Nevada, with 23 inches reported at Austin. High winds raked the desert areas of southern California and southern Arizona. Winds gusted to 59 mph at Douglas AZ. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — More than one hundred hours of continuous snow finally came to an end at Marquette MI, during which time the city was buried under 43 inches of snow. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S., with forty-one cities reporting record low temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from Alabama to the Middle Atlantic Coast. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 at Virginia Beach VA. Low pressure in southeastern Ontario produced high winds in the northeastern U.S. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Saint Albans VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 — Low pressure crossing the Upper Mississippi Valley produced high winds from the Northern and Central Plains to the Great Lakes Region and Ohio Valley. Winds gusted to 73 mph at Iowa City IA, and wind gusts reached 79 mph at Waukesha WI. Winds of 75 mph were reported around Rapid City SD, with gusts to 100 mph. Up to a foot of snow was reported in western Iowa, western Minnesota, and extreme eastern North Dakota. Blizzard conditions were reported in northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

## Dealing With Guilt

**If you are tired of carrying the burden of guilt, turn to God for freedom.**

Ephesians 1:3-14: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Yesterday we said that guilt can be false or legitimate. But in either case, feeling ashamed can lead us to doubt God's presence, provision, or promises. We might even struggle to believe He loves us.

There's another response to self-reproach: an attempt to pay the Lord back for our mistakes. To earn His approval, some of us get busy and stay that way. But then other tasks may go unfinished, and resulting remorse can rob us of pleasure in our relationships. Such self-condemnation can also lead to discouragement and depression.

Because of guilt's corrosive power, we need to take care of it quickly. When we've broken God's commands, the solution is to repent and accept His forgiveness. False guilt, on the other hand, is erased by embracing biblical truth. Remind yourself ...

I am special. God chose me and is transforming me into Christ's image.

I am loved. God loves me unconditionally, unalterably, and continuously.

I am forgiven. Jesus paid the full price for my every sin. God has permanently forgiven me and adopted me into His family.

God has provided a way out from the burden of guilt you carry (Psalm 103:12). All you need to do is accept His offer.

*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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Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
03.14.26

18 27 31 32 56 1

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$1,000,000/year**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
03.13.26

6 19 36 40 55 9

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$60,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
03.14.26

8 9 25 36 44 10

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$18,620,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
03.14.26

6 14 29 30 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$26,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
03.14.26

24 30 50 53 61 17

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
03.14.26

9 30 42 50 52 21

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$88,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

## GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

SDHSAA State Tournament

Class B

Championship=Ethan 48, Harding County 39

Consolation Champion=Bennett County 58, Lyman 47

Seventh Place=Centerville 53, Colman-Egan 46

Third Place=Corsica/Stickney 65, Parkston 58, OT

Class AA

Championship=Sioux Falls O'Gorman 59, Brandon Valley 53

Consolation Champion=Mitchell 59, Rapid City Stevens 53

Seventh Place=Tea 69, Sioux Falls Jefferson 55

Third Place=Sioux Falls Washington 65, Aberdeen Central 42

Class A

Championship=Lennox 65, Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud 51

Consolation Champion=Sioux Valley 63, West Central 61

Seventh Place=Lakota Tech 67, Wagner 64

Third Place=Sioux Falls Christian 51, Hamlin 50

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

## Gulf states intercept new missiles and drones as Iran threatens to widen war

By SAM METZ and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Arab Gulf states reported new missile and drone attacks Sunday after Iran threatened to widen its campaign as the war in the Middle East entered its third week.

Israel and the United States attacked Iran on Feb. 28, saying they were striking nuclear and military sites and encouraging the Iranian people to rise against their leaders. Iran has responded with attacks against Israel and neighboring Gulf states. The war, which shows no signs of ending soon, has upended global air travel, disrupted oil exports from the region and sent fuel prices rising across the world.

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates warned residents on Sunday that they were working to intercept incoming projectiles, a day after Iran called for the evacuations of three major UAE ports, threatening for the first time a neighboring country's non-U.S. assets.

Iran earlier accused the U.S. of using "ports, docks and hideouts" in the UAE to launch strikes on Kharg Island, home to the main terminal handling Iran's oil exports, without providing evidence. The UAE and other Gulf countries that host U.S. bases have denied allowing their land or airspace to be used for military operations against Iran.

Iranian strikes have killed at least a dozen civilians in Gulf states, most of them migrant workers. In Iran, the International Committee for the Red Cross said more than 1,300 people have been killed so far. That includes 223 women and 202 children, according to Iranian Health Ministry figures reported by Mizan, the judiciary's official news agency.

In Israel, 12 people were reported dead by Iranian missile fire, said the national rescue service Magen David Adom. At least 13 members of the U.S. military have also been killed since the war began, including seven in combat and six who died in a plane crash over Iraq last week.

U.S. President Donald Trump said he hoped allies would send warships to secure the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, Lebanon's humanitarian crisis deepened, with over 820 people killed, according to the Min-

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istry of Health, and 850,000 displaced as Israel launched waves of strikes and sent additional troops into southern Lebanon.

Iran says the US attacked from close to Dubai

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said the U.S. attacked Kharg Island and Abu Musa Island from two locations in the UAE, Ras Al Khaimah and a place "very close to Dubai," calling that dangerous and saying Iran "will try to be careful not to attack any populated area" there.

U.S. Central Command said it had no response to Iran's claim. A diplomatic adviser to the UAE's president, Anwar Gargash, rejected accusations that the U.S. used its land or air as a base for its attacks on Kharg Island.

Iran has fired hundreds of missiles and drones at Arab Gulf neighbors during the war, but it has said it was targeting U.S. assets, even as hits or attempts were reported on civilian ones such as airports and oil fields.

Araghchi said the Strait of Hormuz was closed only to "those who are attacking us and their allies."

Trump urges allies to send warships to Strait of Hormuz

As global anxiety soars over oil prices and supplies, Trump said Saturday that he hopes China, France, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom and others send warships to keep the Strait of Hormuz "open and safe." Britain, in response, said it was discussing with allies a "range of options" to secure shipping.

Araghchi, in a social media post, urged neighbors to "expel foreign aggressors" and described Trump's call as "begging."

Iran's joint military command has reiterated its threat to attack U.S.-linked "oil, economic and energy infrastructures" in the region if the Islamic Republic's oil infrastructure is hit.

US identifies 6 killed in military aircraft crash

The U.S. Department of Defense on Saturday identified six service members who died when the military refueling aircraft they were aboard crashed Thursday while supporting operations against Iran.

The service members were Maj. John A. Klinner, 33; Capt. Ariana G. Savino, 31; Tech. Sgt. Ashley B. Pruitt, 34; Capt. Seth R. Koval, 38; Capt. Curtis J. Angst, 30; and Tech. Sgt. Tyler H. Simmons, 28, according to U.S. officials.

The crash in western Iraq followed an unspecified incident involving two aircraft in "friendly airspace," according to U.S. Central Command. The other plane landed safely.

Another attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad

A missile struck a helipad inside the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad late Saturday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The embassy complex, one of the largest U.S. diplomatic facilities in the world, has been repeatedly targeted by rockets and drones fired by Iran-aligned militias.

The State Department again warned citizens in Iraq to leave "now," and by land since commercial flights were not available. It noted that Iran and Iran-aligned militia groups "may continue to target" U.S. citizens, interests and infrastructure.

## **Crew of fatal US military crash included Alabama father recently deployed and several from Ohio**

By DAVID A. LIEB, MARK SCOLFORO and JULIE WALKER Associated Press

A pilot from Alabama had just been promoted to major in January and had been deployed less than a week when the refueling aircraft he was aboard crashed in Iraq this week, killing him and five others, his brother-in-law said Saturday.

Alex Klinner, 33, leaves behind three small children: 7-month-old twins and a 2-year-old son, his brother-in-law, James Harrill, said Saturday while confirming his death.

"It's kind of heartbreaking to say: He was just a really good dad and really loved his family a lot — like a lot," Harrill said.

Klinner was one of three people killed in the Thursday crash who the U.S. government said were assigned to the 6th Air Refueling Wing at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida and who Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey

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said were stationed in Birmingham. On Saturday, the U.S. government identified the other two as Capt. Ariana Savino, 31, of Covington, Washington, and Tech. Sgt. Ashley Pruitt, 34, of Bardstown, Kentucky.

Three additional deceased service members on the aircraft were assigned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio. They were identified by federal and state officials as Capt. Seth Koval, 38, Capt. Curtis Angst, 30, and Tech. Sgt. Tyler Simmons, 28.

The U.S. government listed Koval from Mooresville, Indiana, while the Ohio National Guard listed his home Stoutsville, Ohio. The Ohio National Guard listed both Angst and Simmons from Columbus, Ohio, while the U.S. government listed Angst as from Wilmington, Ohio.

The aircraft was in "friendly" airspace, supporting operations against Iran, when an unspecified incident involving another aircraft occurred, according to U.S. Central Command. The other plane landed safely, U.S. military officials said.

A new father and a new major

Klinner, a graduate of Auburn University and an eight-year U.S. Air Force veteran from Birmingham, Alabama, had just moved with his family into a new home, his wife, Libby Klinner, said in an Instagram post mourning his death.

An outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking, Klinner was also ready to help others. When Harrill last saw him in January, Klinner had shoveled Harrill's vehicle out of the snow during a family wedding.

"Alex was one of those guys that had this steady command about him," said Harrill, of Atlanta, who helped set up a GoFundMe site for Klinner's family. "He was literally one of the most kindest, giving people."

Libby Klinner said in a post that her heart is broken for their children, who will grow up not knowing their father.

"They won't get to see firsthand the way he would jump up to help in any way he could," she wrote. "They won't see how goofy and funny he was. They won't witness his selflessness, the way he thought about everyone else before himself. They won't get to feel the deep love he had for them."

A man with a ready smile

Simmons was a boom operator responsible for transferring fuel from the tanker to the receiving aircraft, according to his Air Force biography.

His mother, Cheryl Simmons, said Saturday that she was making funeral plans for her son.

In a statement obtained by WCMH-TV in Columbus, Tyler Simmons' family said it was saddened beyond measure to hear of the fatal crash.

"Tyler's smile could light up any room, his strong presence would fill it. His parents, grandparents, family and friends are grief stricken for the loss of life," they said.

The Ohio National Guard said Koval was an aircraft commander with 19 years of service. A graduate of Purdue University, he served in the Indiana National Guard before transferring to an Ohio unit in 2017, according to his Air Force biography.

Angst was a pilot with 10 years of service who graduated from the University of Cincinnati, according to his Air Force biography provided by the Ohio National Guard.

The refueling aircraft is a mainstay in the US military

U.S. Central Command, which oversees the Middle East, has said the crash occurred on a combat mission but was over "friendly" territory in western Iraq. Military officials said it is being investigated and was "not due to hostile or friendly fire."

The KC-135 aircraft refuels other planes in midair, allowing them to fly longer distances and sustain operations without landing. The plane can also be used to transport wounded personnel and conduct surveillance missions, according to military experts.

The Congressional Research Service says the Air Force last year had 376 KC-135s, including 151 on active duty, 163 in the Air National Guard and 62 in the Air Force Reserve. It has been in service for more than 60 years.

## Tehran claims the US attacked it from the UAE as Iran war enters its third week

By JON GAMBRELL, SAM MEDNICK, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran urged people Saturday to evacuate the Middle East's busiest port and two others in the United Arab Emirates, openly threatening a neighboring country's non-U.S. assets for the first time as its war with the United States and Israel entered a third week.

Tehran said the U.S. had used "ports, docks and hideouts" in the UAE to launch strikes on Kharg Island, home to the main terminal handling Iran's oil exports, without providing evidence. It urged people to leave areas where it said U.S. forces were sheltering.

Hours later, there was no sign of an attack on Dubai's Jebel Ali port — the Mideast's busiest — or the Khalifa port in Abu Dhabi. But debris from an intercepted Iranian drone hitting an oil facility sparked a fire at the third port, in Fujairah.

Iran says the US attacked from close to Dubai

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, told MS NOW that the U.S. attacked Kharg Island and Abu Musa Island from two locations in the UAE, Ras Al-Khaimah and a place "very close to Dubai," calling that dangerous and saying Iran "will try to be careful not to attack any populated area" there.

U.S. Central Command said it had no response to Iran's claim. A diplomatic adviser to the UAE's president, Anwar Gargash, said on social media the country has the right to defend itself but "still prioritizes reason and logic, and continues exercising restraint."

Iran has fired hundreds of missiles and drones at Arab Gulf neighbors during the war, but it has said it was targeting U.S. assets, even as hits or attempts were reported on civilian ones such as airports and oil fields.

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump said the country "obliterated" military sites on Kharg Island and that oil infrastructure could be next if Tehran continues to interfere with ships' passage through the Strait of Hormuz, where one-fifth of global oil supplies usually transit.

Iran's parliamentary speaker has said strikes against the country's oil infrastructure would provoke a new level of retaliation.

Araghchi told MS NOW that the strait was closed only to "those who are attacking us and their allies."

As global anxiety soars over oil prices and supplies, Trump said Saturday that he hopes China, France, Japan, South Korea, the U.K. and others send warships to keep the Strait of Hormuz "open and safe." Britain in response said it was discussing with allies a "range of options" to secure shipping.

Araghchi, in a social media post, urged neighbors to "expel foreign aggressors" and described Trump's call as "begging."

Iran repeats threat against US-linked oil assets

On Saturday, Iran's joint military command reiterated its threat to attack U.S.-linked "oil, economic and energy infrastructures" in the region if the Islamic Republic's oil infrastructure is hit.

Iran's semiofficial Fars news agency said the Kharg Island strikes caused no damage to oil infrastructure. It said they targeted an air defense facility, a naval base, the airport control tower and an offshore oil company's helicopter hangar.

U.S. Central Command said it destroyed naval mine storage facilities, missile storage bunkers and other military sites.

Israel earlier announced another wave of strikes in Iran targeting infrastructure, and said its air force had hit more than 200 targets in the past 24 hours, including missile launchers, defense systems and weapons production sites.

Another attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad

A missile struck a helipad inside the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad on Saturday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The embassy complex, one of the largest U.S. diplomatic facilities in the world, has been repeatedly targeted by rockets and drones fired by Iran-aligned militias.

The State Department again warned citizens in Iraq to leave "now," and by land since commercial flights

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were not available. It noted that Iran and Iran-aligned militia groups "may continue to target" U.S. citizens, interests and infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's humanitarian crisis deepened, with over 800 people killed and 850,000 displaced as Israel launched waves of strikes against Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

Marines and an assault ship will add to US forces

A U.S. official said Friday that 2,500 more Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli were being sent to the Middle East, adding to the military's largest buildup of warships and aircraft in the region in decades. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military plans.

Marine Expeditionary Units can conduct amphibious landings but also specialize in bolstering security at embassies, evacuating civilians and providing disaster relief. The deployment doesn't necessarily indicate that a ground operation will take place. The Wall Street Journal first reported the Marine deployment.

The Tripoli was spotted by commercial satellites sailing near Taiwan, putting it more than a week away from waters off Iran.

Earlier in the week, the Navy had 12 ships, including the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and eight destroyers, in the Arabian Sea. The total number of U.S. service members on the ground in the Middle East is not clear.

US identifies 6 killed in military aircraft crash

The U.S. Department of Defense on Saturday identified six service members who died when the military refueling aircraft they were aboard crashed Thursday while supporting operations against Iran.

The service members were Maj. John A. Klinner, 33; Capt. Ariana G. Savino, 31; Tech. Sgt. Ashley B. Pruitt, 34; Capt. Seth R. Koval, 38; Capt. Curtis J. Angst, 30; and Tech. Sgt. Tyler H. Simmons, 28, according to U.S. officials.

The crash in western Iraq followed an unspecified incident involving two aircraft in "friendly airspace," according to U.S. Central Command. The other plane landed safely.

## High winds cause power outages, property damage and at least 1 death as wild March weather blows in

By MARK SCOLFORO and MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people were left without power Saturday after high winds raked eastward from the Great Lakes region, leaving trees down and substantial property damage in their wake. Farther west, at least one person died in a massive wind-driven wildfire in Nebraska.

About 346,00 customers were still without electricity as of the late afternoon in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan, according to PowerOutage.us, which tracks outages nationwide.

A 66 mph (106 kph) gust at Pittsburgh International Airport on Friday was deemed its fourth-strongest on record that was not caused by a thunderstorm, according to the National Weather Service. Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport saw winds hit 85 mph (137 km) that afternoon.

Winds took down a gas station canopy in New Franklin, Ohio, and an auto parts store sign in Baldwin, Pennsylvania. Trees and tree limbs fell into or onto homes and cars from Cleveland to Pittsburgh. The roof of a school building in the Chicago suburb of Niles, Illinois, was severely damaged by wind.

High winds fueled multiple wildfires across a broad swath of Nebraska's range and grassland, causing one death in Arthur County, officials said. The victim was not immediately identified, and the sheriff's office did not disclose other details about the death.

What state officials have dubbed the Morrill County fire has burned at least 735 square miles (about 1,880 square kilometers) so far across four counties. At least 12 structures have been destroyed, according to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Chelle Ladely of Sidney said her home was currently safe, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of the nearest fire. But she worries for other friends and family in the area.

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"Smoke is filling the air, and at night I can see the burn of the fires on the horizon," Ladely said. "My father is a crop agronomist, and his company as well as other local farmers are all gathering their water trucks to help aid with the fires, and truckloads of bottled water and food is being supplied by our good patrons for our volunteer firemen trying to extinguish the blazes."

Several other wildfires pushed by winds of up to 65 mph (105 kph) burned another 225 square miles (about 580 square kilometers) for a total of nearly 938 square miles (about 2,430 square kilometers) by midday Saturday. The strong winds have kept firefighters from containing any of the fires, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency said. Gov. Jim Pillen toured areas burned by the Morrill County fire.

In Chicago, thousands of revelers turned out to see the city's namesake river dyed bright green and a downtown parade celebrating the St. Patrick's Day holiday, despite the threat of snow and stiff winds that drove the feels-like temperature well below freezing.

Dangerous winds were but one piece of a wild weather mosaic that included heavy rains in Hawaii, triple-digit heat coming next week in Phoenix and a return of winter cold to the Midwest and Northeast. Chicago was forecast to approach the single digits Fahrenheit by Tuesday, with Minneapolis seeing lows around zero (minus 18 C).

Several Minnesota cities have already declared snow emergencies starting Sunday, when what could be the season's largest snowfall is expected to hit. Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula are also in the crosshairs.

AccuWeather warned of a "potent triple-threat March megastorm" from Sunday into Monday.

"It's definitely a very active weather weekend, that's for sure," AccuWeather senior meteorologist John Feerick said. "It's a highly amplified pattern, which means you get a lot of extremes. Also, not just the Lower 48, but Hawaii's getting hit hard right now with some very heavy rain."

Feerick said people along the Wisconsin-Iowa border might see some ice as travel conditions become dangerous in large parts of the Upper Midwest.

## **AP Exclusive: Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan talks diplomatic efforts as regional war rages**

By ABBY SEWELL and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's powerful foreign minister said Saturday that there is no serious initiative to resume negotiations between the United States and Iran but that he believes Iran is open to back-channel talks.

The comments by Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to The Associated Press in an exclusive interview came as Ankara is striving to stay out of the widening war in the Middle East.

Ankara, which has good relations with both Washington and Tehran, had attempted to mediate a solution between them before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran two weeks ago, triggering the war.

"The conditions are not very much conducive" to diplomacy now, Fidan said. The Iranians "feel betrayed" because for a second time they were attacked while in active negotiations with the U.S. over their nuclear program, he said, but added, "I think they are open to any sensible back-channel diplomacy."

Fidan, 57, served as Turkey's intelligence chief for more than a decade before being appointed foreign minister in 2023.

Key role in formulating Turkey's Middle East policy

In that role, he played a key part in shaping Turkey's policy in the Middle East, particularly toward Syria, Iraq and Iran. He is considered to be one of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's most trusted advisers and one of the potential candidates to succeed him.

Turkey has maintained a neutral position in the war, criticizing both the U.S and Israeli strikes against Iran and Tehran's retaliatory actions against Gulf states that host U.S. bases. Fidan said he has been attempting to persuade the Iranians to halt those attacks.

Fidan said Turkey's top priority is to remain outside of the conflict, even after three missiles believed to come from Iran were intercepted over Turkey by NATO defenses. Turkey is a NATO member and an air

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base in southern Turkey is used by NATO forces, including U.S. troops.

Iranian officials have insisted that they did not fire at Turkey, although the available data shows that the missiles came from Iran, the Turkish foreign minister said.

He ruled out a military response at this stage, saying that NATO's defenses were effective and that Ankara's "primary objective" is to stay out of the conflict.

"I know that we are being provoked and we will be provoked, but this is our objective," he said. "We want to stay out of this war."

Fidan, who has regular contact with Iranian officials, said he does not know the severity of the wounds suffered by Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei in a strike earlier in the war, but that "what we know is that he is alive and functioning."

Khamenei was appointed to replace his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed Feb. 28 during the war's opening salvo.

Fidan said "the process of electing a new leader and the medical conditions of the new leader, it created a gap" in Iran's power structure and "I think that gap has been filled by the high command of the Revolutionary Guards," referring to the paramilitary force reporting to the Supreme Leader.

## A failed peace initiative

Before the conflict, Turkey tried to avert a war by offering to host talks in Istanbul that would have brought U.S., Iran and other regional countries together. Iran later opted for talks mediated by Oman, without the participation of regional actors and focusing solely on its nuclear program — talks that ultimately failed.

Fidan said that Iran had refused to discuss its missile program and the proxy armed groups it backs in the region, including the Lebanese Hezbollah and a group of Iraqi militias — both of which have now waded into the regional war.

Turkey had proposed that "the Americans and the Iranians can discuss fully the nuclear issue and we as regional countries can come together to discuss the other two with Iran" as part of an initiative to build trust within the region.

## Tensions with Israel

Turkey and Israel have tense relations, with Erdogan becoming one of the most vocal critics of Israel's actions in Gaza. Turkey has cut trade ties with Israel and frequently accuses Israel of committing genocide. Israel in turn accuses Turkey of supporting Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that launched the deadly Oct. 7, 2023 attack in southern Israel.

Since Israel launched its strikes on Iran, some have gone as far as to suggest that Turkey could be the next target. Fidan dismissed that possibility, while acknowledging that the war in Iran gave Turkey an increased incentive to step up its own production of weapons and air defenses.

"As long as Netanyahu is there, (Israel) will always identify somebody as an enemy," he said. "Because they need it to advance their own agenda. If not Turkey, they would name some other country in the region."

He criticized Israel's role elsewhere in the region, including in Syria, where both countries have strategic interests.

Turkey has been a strong backer of the current government in Damascus led by interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, the former leader of an Islamist rebel group.

Israel regards al-Sharaa's government with suspicion and, since it took power in December 2024, Israeli forces have seized control of a swathe of land in southern Syria and launched airstrikes on Syrian military facilities, wiping out much of the country's arsenal. Israel has said its presence in Syria is meant to secure its border from another Oct. 7-style attack.

"They are after not security, they are after more land," Fidan said. "So as long as they don't give up this idea, there will always be a war in the Middle East."

## An ongoing role in Gaza

Turkey has also sought to play an active role in postwar Gaza. It has joined U.S. President Donald Trump's Board of Peace — boycotted by many other countries that see it as an attempt to supplant the United Nations and criticize the lack of a role for Palestinians — and has offered to supply troops for an

international stabilization force in the battered enclave.

Fidan said it was important for Turkey to join the Board of Peace, as an "opportunity" to stop the war, although "we are not under the illusion that the Board of Peace will address all the existing issues."

Fidan said Turkey has not received a request to contribute troops to the stabilization force, which he attributed to the Israeli opposition, but added, "I think the Americans are quietly trying to settle the issue with the Israelis to allow Turkey to participate."

Fidan said however, that Turkey's priority was the establishment of an administration committee for Gaza, which is to be made up of 15 politically independent Palestinian administrators.

"We expect them to go into Gaza and start their work," he said. "This has not started yet, so we need to start from somewhere."

## **Before recent attack, Michigan synagogue had been bolstering its security**

By ED WHITE AND ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

The Michigan synagogue that came under attack this week when an armed man drove his car into the building had for months been strengthening its security apparatus by hiring a seasoned police lieutenant as its security director and holding active shooter training.

That beefed up security, which came in response to rising antisemitism and other attacks at places of worship, is being credited with saving lives in an event that ended with only the attacker dying.

An armed private security guard shot back at the attacker after he opened fire through his windshield in a hallway inside the building. When the car barreled in, there were 140 students inside in an early childhood learning center. All were unscathed.

The car's engine caught fire, and the gunman, Ayman Mohammad Ghazali, a Lebanese-born U.S. citizen, eventually used his own weapon to fatally shoot himself, according to Jennifer Runyan, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Detroit field office.

"If they had not done their job almost perfectly we would be talking about an immense tragedy here today with children gone," U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin said of the building's security.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer added: "These heroes threw themselves in harm's way, engaging a suspect."

One of Temple Israel's rabbis said "it was only a miracle" that none of its members were hurt.

"Unfortunately the entire Jewish community, no matter where we are in the world, we have to plan for things like this," Temple Israel Rabbi Jennifer Kaluzny told CNN.

The effort to bolster security at Temple Israel, outside Detroit, came as many houses of worship have undergone similar efforts, with leaders working to fortify facilities in the wake of deadly attacks. Synagogues around the world have increased protections after the U.S. and Israel launched a war with Iran.

The synagogue last June hired a former police lieutenant, Danny Phillips, to lead its in-house armed security guards as the head of security, with the temple saying it was taking a proactive step "in response to the evolving realities facing Jewish communities."

Phillips served in law enforcement for almost three decades, including more than 20 years as his department's advanced firearm instructor, according to the website of a college where he teaches a police academy course on responding to active assailants.

And in January, Temple Israel's staff and clergy participated in an active shooter prevention and preparedness training led by an FBI official, according to the synagogue's social media accounts.

Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said on Thursday that he had contacted the head of security for the temple just two days before the attack. He credited the thorough preparation ahead of the attack as the reason that there weren't casualties.

Ron Amann, a member of the safety team at CrossPointe Community Church in Wayne, Michigan, is still recovering after being shot in the leg by a man who tried to attack the Christian church last June. The gunman was killed by another team member before he could enter a Sunday service.

Amann, who was armed, said he passed his grandson to his wife when he heard a woman yell, "There's a man with a gun."

"When you sign up for the safety team you have to be willing to stand up and fight, bluntly, rather than run the other direction," said Amann, 64, who has a metal rod in his lower right leg.

"My alertness is just at a higher level than it ever was before," he said. "The events at the synagogue just keep bringing it back to the forefront. I'm certainly saddened by all that."

CrossPointe church is 30 miles (48.2 kilometers) from the synagogue. But Pastor Bobby Kelly said he and his staff sheltered in place Thursday when they heard about the attack. Police even drove around the church.

"When you hear of something happening," Kelly said, "you don't know where it's going to happen next."

## **Jet fuel prices are rising.**

### **That could make summer flights more expensive**

By RIO YAMAT AP Airlines and Travel Writer

Jet fuel prices are rising as the war in the Middle East disrupts global oil supplies, putting cost pressure on airlines as the busy summer travel season approaches.

Experts say it's not a question of if airfares will go up, but when, for how long and by how much. The impact may be felt most on long-haul international routes, which burn significantly more fuel than shorter flights.

Some airlines outside of the U.S. have announced fare increases or fuel surcharges in an effort to offset the growing expense. In the U.S., United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby recently warned that airfare increases will "probably start quick" as increasing fuel costs work their way through the industry.

Why are jet fuel prices rising?

The war is constraining oil exports and prompting major producers like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq to scale back output as shipments face growing obstacles.

Iran has attacked commercial ships across the Persian Gulf and targeted oil infrastructure in Gulf Arab nations following U.S. and Israeli strikes. The attacks have effectively halted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow passage that carries about one-fifth of the world's oil supply.

The volatile crude oil prices causing retail gasoline prices to swing up sharply have had the same effect on the price of jet fuel. The average price in the U.S. reached \$3.99 per gallon on Friday, up from \$2.50 the day before the war started two weeks ago, according to the Argus U.S. Jet Fuel Index. The index tracks the average price airlines pay for jet fuel across major U.S. airports.

Figures from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics show that U.S. airlines paid about \$2.36 per gallon for fuel in January, the most recent data available.

What does it mean for airlines?

Some airlines are partially protected from sudden price spikes through fuel hedging, a strategy that allows them to lock in fuel prices months or even years in advance. But not all airlines hedge, and those that do are usually only protected for a portion of their fuel needs, meaning prolonged price surges may cause more carriers to raise fares.

"No one hedges anymore, and even if you do, hedging the crack spread is really hard to do," Kirby said at a Harvard event last week. The crack spread is the difference between the price of crude oil and the price of products produced from it, like gasoline.

Another factor for airlines: Air space closures have required rerouting flights around parts of the Middle East, which can mean longer routes, additional fuel burn and higher operating costs.

What does it mean for travelers?

Travelers may feel the impact in several ways.

Airlines can add or increase fuel surcharges, an extra fee common among carriers outside of the U.S. that's added on top of the base ticket price.

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Major U.S. carriers, however, don't charge a separate fuel surcharge. Instead, they build fuel costs into the overall ticket price, meaning any increase is more likely to show up as a higher base fare for travelers, according to Tyler Hosford, security director at global risk management firm International SOS.

Airlines also may adjust what they charge for premium add-ons — such as seat upgrades, extra legroom seats, checked bags or priority boarding — as another way to offset higher operating costs. For consumers, that means even if the base fare doesn't rise immediately, the total cost of a trip could still increase once additional fees and upgrades are factored in.

If higher fuel prices persist, airlines may also adjust schedules or reduce certain routes, said Christopher Anderson, a professor at Cornell University's business school whose research includes operations and information management in the hospitality and airline industries.

How high could airfares climb?

It's difficult to predict exactly how much ticket prices could increase as a result of costlier oil and fuel. Industry analysts say the impact of higher jet fuel costs can vary based on the route, airline and travel demand.

Fuel typically accounts for 20% to 25% of an airline's operating costs, making it the second-largest expense after labor, according to Rob Britton, an adjunct marketing professor at Georgetown University and retired American Airlines executive. A sharp rise in fuel prices therefore can have a major impact on airlines' budgets.

Which airlines have announced price hikes?

So far, most fare increases and fuel surcharges are coming from airlines based in the Asia-Pacific region, but experts expect more airlines — especially those without fuel hedging — to follow if high jet fuel prices persist.

Hong Kong's flag carrier, Cathay Pacific, said it would increase its fuel surcharge starting Wednesday.

"The price of jet fuel has approximately doubled since March amid the latest developments in the Middle East," the airline said in a statement Thursday.

Other airlines with price increases or new surcharges include:

— Air France-KLM said roundtrip economy fares on long-haul flights could rise by about 50 euros (about \$57).

— Air India introduced fuel surcharges Thursday on certain routes. After March 18, the carrier says the surcharge will increase by up to \$50 for all tickets to Europe, North America and Australia.

— Hong Kong Airlines increased fuel surcharges across several routes as of Thursday.

— FlySafair in South Africa announced a temporary fuel surcharge

What can travelers do to keep costs down?

Experts say travelers planning summer trips may be able to limit the impact of rising airfares by booking earlier rather than waiting for last-minute deals.

Locking in ticket prices sooner — especially with flexible booking options that allow changes — can help secure lower prices before airlines adjust rates further.

Hosford, the security director at International SOS, suggests travelers stay flexible with travel dates, check fares at nearby airports and set alerts for price drops. He also recommends using frequent flyer miles or credit card points to book flights instead of holding out for a "perfect deal."

"If you were going to spend cash on the flight but now you're not, then that's a good redemption deal," he said.

## Russian strike on Kyiv region kills 4 people and wounds 15 as peace talks are stalled

By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A combined Russian missile and drone attack on the Kyiv region killed at least four people and wounded 15, a Ukrainian official said Saturday, after the United States postponed Russia-Ukraine talks due to the war with Iran.

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The attack hit four districts, damaging residential buildings, educational institutions, enterprises and critical infrastructure, the head of the regional administration, Mykola Kalashnyk, wrote in a social media post. He said three of the wounded were in critical condition.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the main target of the strikes was the energy infrastructure of the Kyiv region. He said Russia launched around 430 drones and 68 missiles.

Russia's Defense Ministry on Saturday said the nighttime strikes targeted energy and industrial facilities serving Ukraine's armed forces, as well as military airfields.

Russia hopes to gain from the Iran war

The U.S. has postponed its sponsored talks planned this week between the two sides due to the war in the Middle East.

As U.S. and Israeli missiles and bombs rain on Iran, Russia has responded with words of indignation but no action to support its ally. Moscow's failure to help another ally, after the 2024 ouster of former Syrian ruler Bashar Assad and January's U.S. arrest of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, highlighted the limits of its influence.

Still, the Kremlin expects to reap benefits from the Iran war.

Russia is already profiting from a surge in global energy prices, and could hope that the Mideast war will detract attention from Ukraine, deplete Western arsenals and force NATO allies to reduce military support for Kyiv.

Zelenskyy on Saturday called on Kyiv's Western partners to pay "one hundred percent attention" to the need to boost the production of air defense missiles.

"Russia will try to exploit the war in the Middle East to cause even greater destruction here in Europe, in Ukraine," he said in a post on social media.

"We must be fully aware of the real level of the threat and prepare accordingly, namely: in Europe, we need to develop the production of air defense missiles — especially those capable of countering ballistic threats — as well as all other systems necessary to truly protect lives," he said.

Kyiv is also awaiting White House approval for a major drone production agreement proposed by Ukraine last year, Zelenskyy said Thursday, as countries scramble to modernize their air defenses after the Iran war exposed shortcomings.

Also on Thursday, Zelenskyy criticized the 30-day U.S. waiver on Russian oil sanctions because of the war in the Middle East, saying it is "not the right decision" and won't help bring a stop to Russia's more than four-year, all-out war on Ukraine.

"This easing alone by the United States could provide Russia with about \$10 billion for the war," Zelenskyy said. "This certainly does not help peace."

Ukraine strikes a refinery and port in southern Russia

Ukrainian drones hit an oil refinery and port in Russia's southern Krasnodar region, local Russian officials reported.

Krasnodar authorities said three people were hurt in a strike on Port Kavkaz, opposite Crimea, which is used to ship liquefied natural gas and grains. A service vessel and pier infrastructure were damaged, officials said, adding that one person was hospitalized.

Falling drone debris also sparked a fire at the Afipsky oil refinery, one of the largest in southern Russia, authorities said in a Telegram post. They said no one was hurt, but did not immediately comment on damage.

In a Facebook post on Saturday, Ukraine's General Staff said both the refinery and port are used to supply Moscow's armed forces. It added it was assessing the impact of the strikes.

Among the Afipsky refinery's products are diesel fuels and natural gasoline that can be used to make jet fuel or petrol. It was targeted by Ukrainian drones before, including in January and November.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces shot down 87 Ukrainian drones during the night, including 16 over the Krasnodar region and 31 over the nearby Sea of Azov.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said that as of late afternoon, 31 drones had been downed on the ap-

proach to the Russian capital on Saturday. Russia's aviation authorities brought in temporary flight restrictions at three of Moscow's international airports - Domodedovo, Vnukovo and Zhukovsky.

Earlier this week, Russian and Ukrainian officials both claimed front-line progress, with Ukraine saying it pushed Moscow's forces back across places on the front line and the Kremlin insisting Russia's invasion of its neighbor is making progress.

## **Burt Jones was the inevitable Republican nominee for Georgia governor. Then Rick Jackson showed up**

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Burt Jones seemed like the inevitable Republican nominee for governor in Georgia.

He is the current lieutenant governor, he has lots of family money and perhaps most important, he has President Donald Trump's endorsement.

But that certainty crumbled after health care tycoon Rick Jackson unexpectedly cannonballed into the race in February, dumping more than \$30 million of his money into television ads. That already is more than any candidate has ever spent in a primary race for Georgia governor, with more than two months before the May 19 election.

The blitz has left Jones clinging to Trump's endorsement like a life preserver while Jackson consciously evokes Trump. Jackson even descended in a glass elevator at his office building to announce his candidacy, echoing Trump's 2016 campaign start when he rode down a golden escalator in his eponymous New York skyscraper.

Jay Morgan, a former executive director of the state Republican Party, said "there's no template" for what Jackson is doing in Georgia.

"We're on a different playing field," he said. "It's like going from Little League to major leagues."

Jackson's emergence is yet another challenge to Trump's influence in a critical battleground state. The president's kingmaker record in Georgia is shaky, failing to dislodge Gov. Brian Kemp and others in 2022 and backing Herschel Walker in a Senate loss that year.

More recently, Trump nudged Clay Fuller to the front of a crowded Republican field in the special congressional election to replace Marjorie Taylor Greene. Fuller advanced to a runoff against a Democratic opponent.

Jones could be the Georgia politician most closely tied to Trump in this year's campaigns, and a loss would again show the limits to the president's sway over the party.

"The Trump endorsement is still valuable to get, but it can't be the be-all and end-all," said University of Georgia political scientist Charles Bullock. "I guess \$50 million or whatever Rick Jackson is spending will be a real test of that."

Trump sticks with Jones

In all, it is a picture of an election turned upside down. The two other top Republican candidates — Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and Attorney General Chris Carr — have largely stayed out of the crossfire, but are struggling for attention.

Democrats want to break a Republican winning streak that dates to 2002. Among the candidates are former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and Geoff Duncan, a onetime Republican lieutenant governor.

Trump has stood by Jones, who risked facing criminal charges when he tried to help Trump overturn his election loss in 2020.

"Burt Jones has been here and been with you and been with me right from the beginning," Trump said Feb. 19 at an event in Rome, Georgia.

Jones is trying to counter Jackson by questioning his "Make America Great Again" bona fides, noting his history of giving to Republicans other than Trump and saying his health care staffing company assisted Planned Parenthood and gender-affirming care.

Jackson swatted back on Monday, filing a lawsuit claiming Jones was defaming him. Jones responded with a negative ad barrage the next day.

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Jackson's entry into the race was preceded by a \$19 million bombardment from a mystery dark money group accusing Jones of using his office to enrich himself. There is little evidence to support the most serious claims — that Jones used his position as lieutenant governor to promote a giant data center development his family partly owns.

Jackson has repeatedly denied that he is bankrolling the ads that began in November.

On Feb. 4, Jackson launched his candidacy at the faux Italian office park he custom-built for Jackson Healthcare in suburban Alpharetta. Jackson likened himself to Trump as a businessman inspired to enter politics and said he would be "Trump's favorite governor."

"I saw a so-called front-runner who was as weak as can be and as lazy as the day is long," Jackson said of Jones. "Really, he wants the title of governor, but not the job."

A Jackson lawsuit at least temporarily cut off a key source Jones' money — his leadership committee. That unusual Georgia fundraising vehicle lets Jones and a few other entities raise unlimited contributions. A federal judge ruled the structure illegal because Jackson's contributions from others remain subject to Georgia's \$8,400 limit. Jones was ordered not to spend from the committee, but a judge froze the order Friday to let Jones appeal.

Although Jones has ramped up his spending from other sources, political consultants said Jackson has purchased so many television spots already that he may crowd out his competitors.

### From foster child to riches

Jackson is a former foster child who now calls himself a billionaire. His fortune stems from Jackson Healthcare, which recruits medical workers and leases them as well-credentialed temp workers. Among his biggest clients has been the state of Georgia. His companies have collected nearly \$1 billion from state government in recent years, including providing medical workers during the pandemic.

He's been a force in Georgia politics for more than a decade as a Republican megadonor and policy advocate. In the early 2010s, he bankrolled an unsuccessful effort in Georgia and Florida to overhaul medical malpractice claims. He unsuccessfully pushed to privatize Georgia's foster care system. Later, he successfully backed efforts to increase support for foster children.

While Jackson has aired hard-edged ads pledging to cut taxes, deport immigrants and block gender-affirming care to minors, some said he is driven by Christian faith and concern for others.

"He's a rock-solid conservative and just a terrific guy," said Eric Tanenblatt, a Republican operative who has worked for Jackson. "He's obviously a successful business person, but also someone with just a genuinely kind heart."

Jackson made powerful Republican friends over the years.

He put former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush on his company's advisory board, and Jackson and his company gave more than \$1 million to a political action committee backing Bush's failed 2016 presidential bid. That's now part of Jones' attack that Jackson is a "never Trumper." Jones also slams donations to Nikki Haley, who unsuccessfully opposed Trump in 2024, and to former Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney's PAC.

Jackson has tried to offset that history, writing a \$1 million check to Trump's MAGA Inc. PAC on Dec. 10. Jones supporters aren't buying it.

"My Chihuahua Izzy is closer to being MAGA than Rick Jackson is," said pro-Jones Republican activist Debbie Dooley.

Even if people question Jackson's pro-Trump credentials, his entry seems to have stifled a push by Republican officials to crown Jones. Before Jackson entered the race, Georgia Republican Party Chairman Josh McKoon, and the state's two Republican National Committee members sought to waive a party rule against taking sides in primaries so the party could back Jones. But with local party groups condemning the move, the national party now says it won't wade in.

"We're not spending any money in that race," the RNC chairman, Joe Gruters, told WSB-AM on Feb. 19.

Being a huge self-funder doesn't guarantee election success. Republican Kelly Loeffler and her husband pumped more than \$34 million into her unsuccessful Georgia Senate campaign in 2020. Of 65 candidates who spent more than \$1 million of their own seeking federal office in 2024, only 10 won, according to

Open Secrets, a group that tracks spending.

But for now, Jackson's money makes his message feel inescapable.

"The landscape that we were looking at 30 days ago looks radically different today," Morgan said.

## Construction finishes on a major offshore wind farm, the first during Trump's tenure

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT Associated Press

Construction is finished on a major Massachusetts offshore wind farm, the first project to reach this stage during President Donald Trump's time in office.

Offshore construction was completed Friday night on Vineyard Wind with the installation of the final blades, Craig Gilvarg, a spokesperson for the project, said Saturday.

Trump, who often talks about his hatred of wind power, has said his goal is to not let any "windmills" be built. Vineyard Wind was one of five major East Coast offshore wind projects the Trump administration halted construction on days before Christmas, citing national security concerns. Developers and states sued, and federal judges allowed all five to resume construction, essentially concluding that the government did not show that the national security risk was so imminent that construction must halt.

Another one of the five, Revolution Wind, began sending power for the first time to New England's electric grid on Friday and will scale up in the weeks ahead until it is fully operational.

While Revolution Wind just began delivering power, Vineyard Wind has been doing so for over a year as more turbines were finished. Vineyard Wind is a joint venture between Avangrid and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, located 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, Massachusetts. It has 62 turbines that will generate a total of 800 megawatts. That is enough clean electricity to power about 400,000 homes.

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell has said the completion of this project is essential to ensuring the state can lower costs, meet rising energy demand, advance its climate goals and sustain thousands of good-paying jobs.

The Trump administration has been particularly critical of the Vineyard Wind project because of a blade failure. Fiberglass fragments of a blade broke apart and began washing onto Nantucket beaches in July 2024 during the peak of tourist season. Manufacturer GE Vernova agreed to pay \$10.5 million in a settlement to compensate island businesses that suffered losses.

Vineyard Wind submitted state and federal project plans to build an offshore wind farm in 2017. Massachusetts had committed to offshore wind by requiring its utilities to solicit proposals for up to 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2027. In what might have been a fatal blow, federal regulators delayed Vineyard Wind by holding off on issuing a key environmental impact statement in 2019. Massachusetts Democratic Rep. William Keating said at the time the Trump administration was trying to stymie the renewable energy project just as it was coming to fruition.

The Biden administration signed off on it in 2021, as it sought to ramp up offshore wind as a climate change solution. Construction began onshore in Barnstable, Massachusetts.

The first U.S. offshore wind farm opened off Rhode Island's Block Island in 2016, at the end of President Barack Obama's tenure. But with just five turbines, it's not a commercial-scale wind farm. The nation's first commercial-scale offshore wind farm officially opened in March 2024, when President Joe Biden was in office. Danish wind energy developer Orsted and the utility Eversource built that 12-turbine wind farm, called South Fork Wind, 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of Montauk Point, New York.

Trump began reversing the country's energy policies his first day in office with a spate of executive orders aimed at boosting oil, gas and coal. White House spokesperson Taylor Rogers said Friday night that Trump "reversed course on Joe Biden's costly green energy agenda that gave preferential treatment to intermittent, unreliable energy sources and instead is aggressively unleashing reliable and affordable energy sources to lower energy bills, improve our grid stability and protect our national security."

## Iranians grapple with whether to flee the country because of the war

By SAM McNEIL and SERRA YEDIKARDES Associated Press

KAPIKOY BORDER CROSSING, Turkey (AP) — After bombs exploded near her home in the eastern Iranian city of Golestan, hairdresser Merve Pourkaz decided to leave.

Pourkaz, 32, said she traveled nearly 1,500 kilometers (932 miles) to an alpine border crossing in the hopes of reaching the safety of the nearby Turkish city of Van.

"If they let me, I will stay in Van until the war ends," she told The Associated Press recently while waiting at the crossing. "If the war doesn't end, maybe I'll go back and die."

Pourkaz is one of the 3.2 million people in Iran who the U.N. refugee agency estimates have been displaced since the U.S.-Israel war with Iran started. While some are seeking shelter in safer parts of Iran or one of its neighboring countries, others are returning from abroad, heading toward the fighting to protect their families and homes.

So far, relatively few people have chosen to leave: The U.N. estimates that only about 1,300 Iranians have fled via Turkey each day since the war started, and on some days, more people return to Iran than depart. But Iran's neighbors and Europe are growing increasingly concerned about a possible migration crisis should the war drag on and are making contingency plans.

As Pourkaz was entering Turkey, Leila Rabetnezhadfar was headed the other way.

Rabetnezhadfar, 45, was in Istanbul preparing to marry a German university professor when the fighting started. She postponed the ceremony and left for home in Shiraz, in southern Iran.

"How can I feel safe in Istanbul when my family is living in Iran during the war?" said Rabetnezhadfar, explaining that bringing her family to Istanbul wasn't an option because her apartment is small, her brother needs medical care, and life there is expensive.

"I will not leave Iran until the war ends," she said.

Fleeing the fighting

The U.N. has warned that continued fighting will likely push more Iranians to flee their homes.

As in the 12-day conflict last year, many Iranians are now sheltering in place, without money to flee or perhaps because of U.S. President Donald Trump's Feb. 28 warning.

"Stay sheltered. Don't leave your home. It's very dangerous outside. Bombs will be dropping everywhere," he said.

Although large numbers of Iranians haven't fled the country yet, people have been leaving major cities for the relative safety of the countryside bordering the Caspian Sea north of the capital, Tehran, according to the International Organization for Migration.

"Movement out of Iran appears limited mainly because people are prioritizing staying with their families, as well as the safety of their families and property, and due to security conditions and logistical constraints," said Salvador Gutierrez, chief of the IOM's mission in Iran.

If Iran's critical infrastructure is destroyed, that could lead to waves of people trying to cross into one of Iran's neighbors: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey and Iraq.

"If Tehran, a city of 10 million people, doesn't have water, they're going to go somewhere," said Alex Vatanka, a fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington.

Iran is already grappling with one of the world's largest refugee populations: roughly 2.5 million forcibly displaced people mostly from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Neighbors brace for impact

If the crisis deepens, aid groups say the most likely destinations for refugees are Iran's borders with Iraq and Turkey, which stretch roughly 2,200 kilometers (1,367 miles) through rough alpine terrain that is home to many Kurdish communities and are difficult to police.

Turkey had a so-called open-door policy that allowed millions of Syrian refugees to enter the country during their country's long civil war. But it has abandoned that approach for various reasons.

Instead, it has prepared plans to shelter Iranian refugees in "buffer zones" along the border, or in tent cities or temporary housing inside Turkey, the country's Hurriyet newspaper quoted Turkish Interior Minister Mustafa Ciftci as saying.

Iranians who have fled the war will likely not seek refugee status in Turkey because asylum claims might take years to process, if at all, said Sara Karakoyun, an aid worker at the independent Human Resource Development Foundation based near the border.

"They don't want to wait in limbo for years for a refugee status they might not get," she said.

Turkey's defense ministry said in January that Turkey had hardened its border with Iran by adding 380 kilometers of concrete walls, 203 optical towers and 43 observation posts.

Turkey will likely send troops to secure its border and tightly control the flow of people into the country while seeking European Union funds to help deal with refugees, said Riccardo Gasco, an analyst at the IstanPol Institute.

Europe taps network to prepare for the worst

The relationship between the EU and Turkey was redefined by the Syrian refugee crisis a decade ago. Nearly two-thirds of the 4.5 million Syrians fleeing the civil war ended up in Turkey. Many then made their way to Europe via small boats.

In 2016, Brussels and Ankara forged a migration deal where the EU offered Turkey incentives and up to 6 billion euros (\$7.1 billion) in aid for Syrian refugees on its territory to persuade Ankara to stop tens of thousands of migrants from setting out for Greece.

Aid groups said that deal created open-air prisons with squalid conditions. But for the EU leadership, the deal saved people, kept many migrants from reaching EU territory, and bettered the lives of refugees in Turkey.

Renewal of that deal is up this year, but Turkish citizens have soured on Syrian refugees and anti-immigrant right-wing parties have surged in popularity in parts of Europe.

And another refugee crisis is already underway even closer to Europe, with fighting in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah displacing more than 800,000 people so far.

"We've got a situation (in the Middle East) that could have grave humanitarian consequences right at a time where humanitarian funding has been completely slashed," said Ninette Kelley, chair of the World Refugee & Migration Council, pointing to the Trump administration's gutting of USAID. "Is the world ready for another humanitarian disaster?"

## What to know about attacks at Old Dominion University and a Michigan synagogue

The Associated Press undefined

Communities were left reeling from attacks that unfolded less than two hours apart at a Michigan synagogue and at Old Dominion University in Virginia, violence that officials said would have been bloodier without intervention from residents.

In Virginia, a former Army National Guard member who served years in prison for attempting to aid the Islamic State opened fire Thursday on a classroom at Old Dominion University, killing one person and wounding two others. ROTC students subdued and killed him, authorities said.

In Michigan at a major synagogue outside of Detroit, a man, who had learned a week earlier that four of his family members were killed in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon, rammed into a synagogue and then killed himself, authorities said. None of the 140 children and staff inside were hurt, but a security officer was hit by the vehicle and knocked unconscious.

Here is more information on what happened:

Old Dominion University shooting

Mohamed Bailor Jalloh yelled "Allahu akbar" and asked whether those in the university classroom were holding an ROTC event before he opened fire, according to authorities and court papers.

Jalloh killed Lt. Col. Brandon Shah, an ROTC leader, and wounded two others, according to officials. FBI

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officials praised the students' bravery for preventing further harm.

One of the people wounded has since been released from the hospital while Sentara Health said the other person is in fair condition.

ROTC students receive a scholarship to attend college while training to become commissioned officers in the U.S. military.

The campus shooting is being investigated as an act of terrorism, FBI Director Kash Patel said on social media.

Who was the Virginia Shooter

Jalloh was a naturalized U.S. citizen from Sierra Leone who was a specialist with the Virginia Army National Guard until 2015, when he was honorably discharged.

In 2017, he pleaded guilty to providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization, the Islamic State group, and was sentenced to 11 years in prison. He was released early after completing a drug treatment program, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

It wasn't clear how he qualified since inmates serving sentences for terrorism-related offenses typically aren't eligible for such programs or other sentence-reducing credits.

Jalloh had been transferred from a prison facility to a residential reentry center, or halfway house, in August 2024, and released from federal custody later that year, according to court records.

He was on probation and taking online classes at the university at the time of the shooting.

Michigan synagogue attack

Ayman Mohammad Ghazali, 41, waited in his car outside Temple Israel, near Detroit, for about two hours with a rifle, commercial grade fireworks and jugs of liquid believed to be gasoline, before crashing into the building full of dozens of children.

He started firing his gun through the windshield, exchanging fire with an armed security guard. Ghazali fatally shot himself after he got stuck in his vehicle and the engine caught fire, said Jennifer Runyan, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Detroit field office.

The FBI, which is leading the investigation, described the attack on one of the nation's largest Reform synagogues as an act of violence targeting the Jewish community, but said that they didn't have enough evidence yet to call it an act of terror.

Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard credited preparation and training for the swift response to the attack.

Man who attacked synagogue had lost family

Ghazali was a Lebanese-born man who had recently found out that an Israeli airstrike in his native country had killed his two brothers, a niece and a nephew, an official in the town of Mashgharah told the AP. They were killed at their home just after sunset while having their fast-breaking meal during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The official, who requested anonymity because he could not publicly discuss details of the airstrike, also said their mother was seriously wounded and remains in the hospital.

Israel has stepped up attacks on the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon as the war with Iran has spread violence across the Middle East.

Ghazali came to the U.S. in 2011 on an immediate relative visa as the spouse of a U.S. citizen and was granted U.S. citizenship in 2016, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

He lived in a single-story brick home in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn Heights about 38 miles (61 kilometers) south of the synagogue.

## Trump seeks to close

### \$1.6 trillion revenue gap with raft of new tariffs

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration this week stepped up its ambitious effort to replace about \$1.6 trillion in lost tariff revenue that was eliminated by the Supreme Court's decision to strike down

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a range of the president's import taxes.

Recovering that lost revenue, which the White House was counting on to help offset the steep, multi-trillion dollar cost of its tax cuts, is possible but will be challenging, experts say. The administration has to use different legal provisions to impose new duties, and those provisions require longer, complex processes that U.S. companies can use to seek exemptions. It could be months or more before it is clear how much revenue the replacement tariffs will yield.

"I wouldn't bet against this administration being able to get back on paper the same effective tariff rate they had before," said Elena Patel, co-director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. But the new approach will "make it easier for people to contest the tariffs, which is going to put a big asterisk on the revenue until all that is settled."

On Wednesday, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the administration will investigate 16 economies — including the European Union — over whether their governments are subsidizing excessive factory capacity in a way that disadvantages U.S. manufacturing. The investigation will also cover China, South Korea, and Japan, Greer said.

In addition, he said there would be a second investigation of dozens of countries to see if their failure to ban goods made by forced labor amounts to an unfair trade practice that harms the United States. That investigation will also cover the EU and China, as well as Mexico, Canada, Australia, and Brazil.

Both investigations are being conducted under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act, which requires the administration to consult with the targeted countries, as well as hold public hearings and allow affected U.S. industries to comment. A hearing as part of the factory capacity investigation will be held May 5, while a hearing on the forced labor investigation will occur April 28.

It's a far cry from the emergency law that President Donald Trump relied on in his first year in office, which allowed him to immediately impose tariffs on any country, at nearly any level, simply by issuing an executive order.

Moments after the Supreme Court's ruling, Trump imposed a 10% tariff on all imports under a separate legal authority, but that duty can only last for 150 days. The president has said he would raise it to 15%, the maximum allowed, but has yet to do so. Some two dozen states have already challenged the new tariffs. The administration is aiming to complete its Section 301 investigations before the 10% duties expire.

The effort underscores the importance that the Trump White House has placed on tariffs as a revenue-raiser at a time when the federal government is facing huge annual budget deficits for decades into the future. Previous administrations, by contrast, used tariffs more sparingly to narrowly protect specific industries.

Erica York, vice president of federal tax policy at the Tax Foundation, noted that the first investigation covers roughly 70% of imports, while the second would cover nearly all of them.

"That breadth suggests the goal isn't to address the issues at hand, but instead to recreate a sweeping tariff tool," she said.

Trump sees tariffs as a way to force foreign countries to essentially help pay the cost of U.S. government services, even though all recent economic studies find that American companies and consumers are paying the duties, including ones from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and economists at Harvard University. In his state of the union address last month, Trump even touted his tariffs as a potential replacement for the income tax, which would return the United States' tax regime to the late 19th century.

Trump also wants tariffs to help pay for the tax cuts he extended in key legislation last year. The tax cut legislation is expected, according to the most recent estimates by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, to add \$4.7 trillion to the national debt over a decade, while all Trump's duties, including ones not struck down by the court, were projected to offset about \$3 trillion — or two-thirds of that cost.

The court's ruling Feb. 20 that he could no longer impose emergency tariffs eliminated about \$1.6 trillion in expected revenue over the next decade, according to the CBO.

Some of Trump's tariffs remain place, including previous duties on China and Canada that were imposed after earlier 301 investigations. The administration has also slapped tariffs on some specific products, including steel, lumber, and cars. Those, combined with the 10% tariff for part of this year, should yield

about \$668 billion over the next decade, the Tax Foundation estimates.

"It's going to take a really big patchwork of these other investigations to make up for the (lost) tariffs," York said.

The administration's efforts are also unusual because they reflect an overreliance on tariffs to bring in more government revenue. Trump has also said the duties are intended to return manufacturing to the United States, and he has used them to leverage trade deals.

"What makes this really different," said Kent Smetters, executive director of the Penn Wharton Budget Model, "it is really the first time tariffs have been mainly used as a revenue raiser."

Patel, meanwhile, argues that raising revenue can be done more reliably and straightforwardly by Congress. Laws like Section 301 are traditionally intended to be used to address specific trade policy concerns in particular countries.

"It's not supposed to be there to raise revenue," she said. "If we want to raise revenue through tariffs, then Congress should impose a broad based tariff."

## The biggest change to voting in Republican election bill could become a burden for many US voters

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Joshua Bogdan was born and raised in the United States. The only time the New Hampshire resident has left the country was for a day and a half in seventh grade, when he went to Canada to see Niagara Falls.

Even so, that did not mean proving his U.S. citizenship in last fall's local elections was easy.

The 31-year-old arrived at his voting place in Portsmouth and handed the poll worker his driver's license, just as he had done in other towns when arriving to vote. She said that would no longer do.

The poll worker said that under the state's new proof-of-citizenship law, which took effect for the first time during town elections in 2025, Bogdan would need a passport or his birth certificate because he had moved and needed to reregister at his new address. A scramble ensued, turning the voting process that he had always found fun and invigorating into a nerve-wracking game of beat the clock.

"I didn't know that anything had officially changed walking in there," he said. "And then being told that I had to provide a passport that I've never had or a birth certificate that's usually tucked away somewhere safe just to cast my vote — which I've done before — it was frustrating."

A national push, despite noncitizen voting being rare

Bogdan's experience in New Hampshire is a glimpse into the future for potentially millions of voters across the country. That is if Republican voting legislation being pushed aggressively by President Donald Trump passes Congress and a "show your papers" law is put in place in time for the November elections.

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility, or SAVE America Act, cleared the U.S. House last month on a mostly party-line basis. Republicans say it would improve election integrity. Trump has called its safeguards common sense. The bill is scheduled to come up in the U.S. Senate next week for voting and debate.

Republican messaging has mostly highlighted a less divisive provision in the bill that would require voters to show a photo ID, but the mandate for people to provide documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections is likely to have the most wide-ranging consequences. Noncitizens already are prohibited from voting in federal elections, and it is not allowed by any state. Cases where it occurs are rare.

Obtaining the necessary documents under the SAVE Act is not as easy as it might sound. A similar effort was tried in Kansas a decade ago and turned into a debacle that eventually was blocked by the courts after more than 30,000 eligible citizens were prevented from registering.

A long list of documents to use, but with caveats

Rebekah Caruthers, president and CEO at the Fair Elections Center, said the legislation's strict documentation requirements could move the U.S. "in the opposite direction" of representative democracy.

"If this bill passes, it would deny millions of eligible Americans their fundamental freedom to vote," she said in an email. "This includes millions of people who make up your communities, including married

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women, people of color and voters who live in rural areas.”

The list of qualifying documents in the SAVE Act for proving citizenship appears long, but many of them come with qualifiers.

Under the bill, a REAL ID -compliant driver’s license would have to indicate that “the applicant is a citizen,” but not all do. Only five states — Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont and Washington — offer the type of enhanced REAL IDs that explicitly indicate U.S. citizenship.

Standard driver’s licenses, generally available to both citizens and noncitizens, often do not include a citizenship indicator. Some states, including Ohio, have recently added them.

The stipulations continue, buried in the fine print.

While military ID cards are listed as qualifying documents under the act, they will not suffice on their own. The bill says a military ID must be accompanied by a military “record of service” that indicates the person’s birthplace was in the U.S.

A DD214, the current standard-issue certificate of release or discharge for all military service branches, does not currently fulfill that requirement. According to the Pentagon, that document only lists where someone lived at points of entry and discharge and a person’s current home of record. It does not list where someone was born.

Obtaining a passport requires time and money

For most provisions, the SAVE Act contains no phase-in period that would give voters and local election offices time to adjust. If passed by Congress and signed by Trump, its documentary proof-of-citizenship mandate would apply immediately, meaning it would be in place for this year’s midterm elections.

That could lead to a rush to obtain documents by those who want to register or need to reregister. A 2025 University of Maryland study estimates that 21.3 million Americans who are eligible to vote do not have or have easy access to documents to prove their citizenship, including nearly 10% of Democrats, 7% of Republicans and 14% of people unaffiliated with either major party.

A passport would most effectively meet the requirement, but only about half of American adults have one, according to the State Department, and the SAVE Act requires the passport to be current. An expired one does not count.

Obtaining a passport in time for a looming voter registration deadline is another potential hurdle.

Workers who process passports had layoffs at the State Department reversed, but just last month the department forbid passport processing at certain public libraries that had long helped relieve pressure at the department. Government libraries, post offices, county clerks and others still provide the service.

It takes four weeks to six weeks to get a passport, according to the department’s website, excluding mailing time. A new passport costs \$165 for adults while renewals cost \$130, and the photo costs \$10 or \$20 more. The turnaround time can be sped up to two weeks or three weeks for an additional \$60 — and for even faster processing, add \$22 more. The fully expedited process for a new passport would cost at least \$257.

Birth and marriage certificates

A birth certificate may be a quicker and cheaper choice for most people, but there are twists.

The SAVE Act requires a certified birth certificate issued by a state, local government or tribal government. What does not appear to qualify is the certificate signed by the doctor that many new parents are given in the hospital when their child is born. It provides information similar to a certified birth certificate, but would not meet the letter of the federal legislation.

Like passports, birth certificates can sometimes take weeks to obtain. Those who live near their birthplaces can visit the local vital statistics office, but staffing shortages and escalating demand for REAL IDs have caused significant backlogs in some states. In New York, the waiting period for certified copies is four months, the state said. Average processing times for online certificate requests vary widely by state, from as few as three days to 12 weeks or longer.

People whose birth certificates don’t match their current IDs — mostly women who changed their names when they married — would likely need additional documentation to register to vote under the bill. A 2023

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Pew Research Center survey found about 80% of women in opposite-sex marriages in the U.S. take their husband's last name.

A major change to the voting process, but with no extra money

Notably, the SAVE Act does not provide any money to help states and local governments implement the changes or promote them to voters.

For Bogdan, that was part of the problem when New Hampshire's proof-of-citizenship law took effect. People who have voted elsewhere in the state are not required to show proof of citizenship in their new towns if poll workers confirm their registration history, but Bogdan said workers at his polling place did not seem to know that or try to look up the information.

He eventually was able to cast his ballot because, by luck, he had recently retrieved his birth certificate from his parents' house more than an hour away so he could apply for a REAL ID. But he said government notices to voters would help prevent possible disenfranchisement.

"Young voters like myself don't always carry around our birth certificate, Social Security card, all that important stuff, because it's not used ever or very often," he said. "And so all those young kids who are going to go out and try and vote will be held back from that."

## US faces elevated terrorism threats against backdrop of Iran war and cuts at FBI, Justice Department

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In New York City, two men who federal authorities say were inspired by the Islamic State brought powerful homemade bombs to a far-right protest outside the mayoral mansion.

In Michigan, a naturalized citizen from Lebanon rammed his vehicle into a synagogue, where he was shot at by security before he shot himself to death.

In Virginia, a man previously imprisoned on a terrorism conviction was heard yelling "Allahu akbar" before opening fire in a university classroom in an attack that officials said ended when the shooter was killed by students.

The three acts of violence in the last week have laid bare a heightened terrorism threat unfolding against the backdrop of the U.S. war with Iran and as the country's counterterrorism system is strained by the departures of experienced national security professionals at the FBI and Justice Department. The firings and resignations, along with the diversion of resources and personnel over the last year to meet other Trump administration priorities, have fueled concerns about the capability to head off a potential surge in threats.

"So much experience has been decimated from the ranks," said Frank Montoya, a retired senior FBI official. "The folks that were best positioned to get to the bottom of it before something really bad happened" are in many cases no longer with the government, he said, meaning less experienced personnel assigned to the threat are "starting from way behind."

The FBI said it would not comment on personnel numbers and decisions, but issued a statement saying "agents and staff are dedicated professionals working around the clock to defend the homeland and crush violent crime. The FBI continuously assesses and realigns our resources to ensure the safety of the American people."

Iran has a history of plotting attacks, targeted killings inside the US

Iran has vowed revenge for the killing by the U.S. and Israel of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and though the fighting has so far been confined to the Middle East, the Islamic Republic has long professed its determination to carry out violence on American soil.

Iranian operatives, for instance, responded to the 2020 assassination of Gen. Qassem Soleimani during the first Trump administration with a disrupted murder-for-hire plot targeting former national security adviser John Bolton.

A Pakistani business owner who says he was carrying out instructions from a contact in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard was convicted in New York last week of trying to hire hit men in 2024 for assassination plots targeting public figures, including President Donald Trump, who was then running for president.

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Though much attention has focused on Iran's use of proxies or hired hands to carry out plots, the country's capability to organize a large-scale assault on the U.S. remains unclear despite clear angst over the potential. The FBI warned in a recent bulletin to law enforcement about Iran's aspiration to conduct a drone attack targeting California, but after the warning was publicized, officials emphasized the intelligence was unverified and that no specific plot was known to exist.

Lone actors have been a persistent concern for the FBI

The U.S. government after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks overhauled its intelligence and national security apparatus to prevent similarly catastrophic events. But in the years since, lone actors radicalized online have nonetheless carried out shootings like the 2015 ambush attacks at a pair of military sites in Chattanooga, Tennessee and a rampage at an Orlando nightclub the following year by a gunman who killed 49 people and raged against the "filthy ways of the west."

Those plots by self-directed individuals have proved notoriously difficult to prevent and have occurred even when the FBI has not been roiled by firings and internal upheaval like during the first year of the Trump administration.

"They're self-directed," said retired FBI official Edward Herbst. "That's what makes them really lethal. You never know when they're going to rise up. You never know when and where they're going to attack."

Terrorism concerns typically rise during times of international conflict when military action overseas is accompanied by increased vigilance, including outreach from agents to their sources, more active sharing of tips between federal and local law enforcement and closer coordination among FBI joint terrorism task forces, said Claire Moravec, a former FBI national security official who served as deputy homeland security adviser in Illinois.

Officials have said there is no indication that either the men arrested in connection with the explosives in New York, or the man responsible for Thursday's Old Dominion University shooting, were motivated explicitly by the Iran war. The man who crashed into Temple Israel synagogue near Detroit on Thursday lost four family members in an Israeli airstrike in his native Lebanon last week, an official in Lebanon said.

Regardless, wars like the one in Iran can function as "accelerants," raising the volume and intensity of grievances for the disaffected, Moravec said.

"Ultimately, the goal during these periods is not 'surveillance' but maintaining a broad awareness of how international events could translate into domestic security risks, so that threats can be identified and disrupted early," she said in an email.

Resignations, firings at the FBI and Justice Department

The Justice Department's National Security Division was established in 2006 to address threats of terrorism, espionage and other concerns. In the last year, lawyers in the division found themselves assigned to review the Jeffrey Epstein files to prepare them for release, and elite sections dedicated to prosecuting terrorists and catching spies have endured turnover.

About half of the division's counterterrorism prosecutors have left since the beginning of the Trump administration, along with about a third of its senior leadership, according to estimates from Justice Connection, a network of department alumni.

A Justice Department spokesperson said the division's singular focus remains "keeping the American people safe from threats foreign and domestic" and that there are no known or credible threats to the homeland.

FBI Director Kash Patel has fired dozens of agents, most recently about a dozen employees who worked on the counterintelligence investigation into Trump's retention of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

"This is not an exaggeration to say that they are not as capable as they were a year and a half ago," Matthew Olsen, who led the National Security Division during the Biden administration, said this week on the Lawfare podcast, adding that "they've lost, forced out, fired, the most capable, the most experienced FBI agents, FBI officials and DOJ prosecutors, that were working on the Iran threat."

In the national security realm, where experience and source development are vital, the loss of institutional

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knowledge and community relationships can be a crushing blow, said Montoya, the former FBI official.

"There was no transition," Montoya said of the agents who have been abruptly fired. "These guys were just walked out of the building. The new guys can call them and say, 'Hey, can you tell me what you were doing?'" but even so, "you're still introducing a brand new face into the equation."

## Today in History: March 15

### Julius Caesar assassinated on 'ides of March'

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, March 15, the 74th day of 2026. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On March 15, 44 B.C., on the "ides of March," Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by Roman senators, including Brutus and Cassius, who feared Caesar was working to establish a monarchy.

Also on this date:

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for federal legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote. The result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1972, "The Godfather," Francis Ford Coppola's film based on the Mario Puzo novel and starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, premiered in New York.

In 2012, convicted former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich entered a federal prison in Colorado, where the 55-year-old Democrat began serving a 14-year sentence for corruption. (He was released in February 2020 after President Donald Trump commuted his sentence; Trump pardoned Blagojevich in February 2025.)

In 2018, a pedestrian bridge under construction over a busy Miami highway collapsed, crushing vehicles; six people died and 10 were injured.

In 2019, a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, while livestreaming the massacre. (Brenton Tarrant, an Australian white supremacist, was sentenced to life in prison without parole after pleading guilty to 51 counts of murder and other charges.)

In 2022, Russia stepped up its bombardment of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, while an estimated 20,000 civilians fled the desperately encircled port city of Mariupol by way of a humanitarian corridor.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Judd Hirsch is 91. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 85. Filmmaker David Cronenberg is 83. Musician Ry Cooder is 79. Actor Frances Conroy is 73. Baseball Hall of Famer Harold Baines is 67. Filmmaker Renny Harlin is 67. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 63. Singer-TV host Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 58. Actor Kim Raver is 57. Actor Eva Longoria is 51. Musician will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas) is 51. Actor Kellan Lutz is 41. Actor Carson MacCormac is 27.