# Groton Daily Independent

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**Sunday, June 7**

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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.

U12 Baseball at Sisseton Tournament

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

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**Monday, June 8**

Senor Menu: Turkey wraps, lettuce/tomato/cheese, potato salad, fruit.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

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

BBB Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Arena

Groton VB GMS Camp, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Arena/Gym

U14 Legion hosts Watertown, 5:30 p.m.

Jr. Legion at Watertown, 5 p.m.

U8 Baseball host Clark, DH, 5:30 p.m., Falk and Nelson Field, (Red and Blue)

U12 Softball at Mobridge, DH, 5:30 p.m. (B&G)

U8 Softball at Webster, DH, 6 p.m. (B&G)

T-Ball at Warner, 6 p.m., Football Field

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## We The People

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



**By David Adler**

# You Can't Say James Madison Didn't Warn Us

James Madison's prescient warning about a president who engineers a scheme of deep-seated and pervasive corruption, grounded in self-dealing to enrich himself and strengthen his ties to law-breaking loyalists through arbitrary acts that violate the Constitution and republican principles, resonates across the nation at this juncture in our history as Americans learn more details about President Donald Trump's underhanded operations.

President Trump's illegal and unconstitutional "Anti-Weaponization Fund," which has been withdrawn by the administration, at least for now, coupled with his self-declared immunity—"forever"—from any IRS audits of his tax filings, and those of family members and businesses, a brazen effort to grant himself a self-pardon from such civil inquiries, brings his corruption to a new pitch.

Madison's declaration at the Constitutional Convention that the president might "pervert his administration into a scheme of peculation and oppression," anticipated the depths of Trump's predatory attacks on our system, demonstrated again and again as he exploits the power of the presidency to convert public assets into private wealth. Trump's activities as a "Day Trader," which the Associated Press has reported is measured by "more than 3,600 buy and sell orders," in the first quarter of this year, in companies whose stock value he can easily manipulate by his words, tweets and official acts, is illustrative. Trump's acts of perfidy, his betrayal of the public trust, soar beyond his contemptible stock market forays, which his predecessors in the Oval Office eschewed because of their flagrantly unethical nature. There is the personal financial windfall that he reaped from his shakedown of foreign businessmen and heads of state, who were "encouraged" to stay at his hotel in Washington D.C., in violation of the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution. Not to be overlooked are his importunings to the leaders of Saudia Arabia to invest in businesses in which he has a self-interest, and in the business ventures of his children and son-in-law. Such acts are the price of doing business with President Trump.

Madison's warning about the predatory potential of a future president did not require on his part much imagination, but rather the utilization of the knowledge he gleaned from his keen study of history which, in the case of England, provided numerous examples of corrupt ministers who had engaged in self-dealing to enrich themselves and their allies, for which, they were impeached. The English history of impeachment, constantly before the eyes of the founders and thus influential in the shaping of the Constitution's Impeachment Clause, was punctuated with cases that absorbed the interest of delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

The first exercise of the impeachment power in English history—the Earl of Suffolk (1386) – revealed in subsequent years a predictable pattern of the abuse of power in self-serving ways that incurred the wrath of the House of Commons for the next three centuries. Suffolk was impeached for applying appropriated funds to purposes other than those specified by Parliament, which fell into the newly minted category of "High Crimes and Misdemeanors." The celebrated impeachment of the Duke of Buckingham (1626) reflected self-dealing. Buckingham procured offices for himself, which thus deprived deserving men of the opportunity to hold office, a misdemeanor exacerbated by his procurement of titles of honor for his mother, brothers and other relatives. In 1695, the Duke of Leeds was impeached for accepting money from a company with which he was doing business. This impeachment directly influenced the construction of the Emoluments Clause which, among other things, prevents the president from accepting funds beyond the salary of the executive, as determined by Congress.

These illustrative episodes in the instructive history of impeachment in England, along with others grounded on charges of attempting to subvert the fundamental laws, efforts to introduce arbitrary power, and the betrayal of public trust, promotion of dishonorable measures and causes, and schemes to obtain exorbitant grants and funds incompatible with the duties of one's office— all offenses committed by Donald Trump—were deemed, by Justice Joseph Story, to be impeachable offenses.

In the Constitutional Convention, Madison and other delegates emphasized, repeatedly, that the congressional power of impeachment represented the most effective deterrent to presidential acts that might inflict injury on the nation. Several of President Trump's acts would warrant impeachment within the context of the framers' principles and definitions. Whether Congress lives up to the framers' standards is another matter.

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



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# Ride 605 riders welcomed in Groton

The Groton American Legion Post 39 welcomed participants in the South Dakota American Legion Riders' annual Ride 605 fundraiser on Saturday morning, as dozens of riders stopped in Groton during their four-day, 1,400-mile journey across South Dakota to raise money for veterans and youth programs.

The riders were greeted with breakfast, lodging and a community welcome before continuing on the next leg of their trip. The Ride 605 event serves as a fundraiser for the South Dakota American Legion Foundation, with proceeds supporting veterans and youth initiatives throughout the state.

Groton Mayor Scott Hanlon welcomed the group and thanked them for including Groton on the route.

"We are honored to have you here," Hanlon said. "It's our pleasure to have you here and visit with everybody. You guys have a safe trip. If you ever go by, always feel free to stop in Groton. You're always welcome."

Hanlon encouraged the riders to return and praised the community spirit that makes Groton a welcoming place.

"If you ever break down, you ask anybody for help, they'll help you," he said. "It's a nice little town and we really enjoy you guys stopping through."

Post 39 Commander Doug Hamilton thanked the riders for their visit and recognized the volunteers who prepared breakfast for the group.

"The kitchen staff had a few hitches and glitches this morning, but they did a good job," Hamilton said, noting that members of the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion all stepped up to help host the event.

Hamilton also highlighted recent improvements made to the American Legion building, including new flooring, lighting and interior renovations.

Ride 605 coordinator Bruce Babcock expressed appreciation for the overwhelming support received from Groton businesses and organizations.

"We went way over our goal," Babcock said. "Every one of the businesses in town took up the checkbook and asked, 'How much do you need?' It kind of touches me how they support the veterans of town."

Babcock announced that local donors contributed $2,532 toward the Ride 605 effort. Contributors included Base Kamp Lodge, Bierman Farm Services, Circle Ag, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton American Legion Post 39, Groton City Hall, Groton Ford, Ken's Grocery, LW Sales, Thunder Basketball and Claremont American Legion Post 262.

Babcock also recognized South Dakota American Legion Department Commander Kevin Hempel and Ride 605 Trail Boss Fred Nelson, along with Nelson's wife, Micheline, for organizing the extensive four-day ride, which includes approximately 20




**Bruce Babcock, district commander for the American Legion, coordinated the local 605 Riders event in Groton.** (Screenshot from GDILIVE.COM video)




**Groton Legion Commander Doug Hamilton gave the welcome on behalf of Post #39.** (Screenshot from GDILIVE.COM video)

stops across the state.

Nelson thanked the Groton community for its hospitality and explained how the funds raised will be used.

"Those funds that you've donated all go to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation, which goes to the children and veterans programs in South Dakota," Nelson said. "One hundred percent of the money goes there."

Nelson praised the community's efforts and said Groton had set a high standard for other communities along the route.

"You definitely made it tough for others to meet what you did here," he told the crowd.

The event also promoted a fundraising drawing featuring a print of a Vietnam-era military painting donated to support the foundation.

Before riders departed for their next stop, participants observed a moment of silence in recognition of D-Day, marking the anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

With temperatures expected to climb into the upper 80s and low 90s, organizers wished the riders safe travels as they continued their journey. The Ride 605 fundraiser concludes Sunday after covering approximately 1,400 miles across South Dakota while raising funds to benefit veterans and youth programs statewide.



**Paul Kosel and Deb McKiver were the servers.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)




**Groton Mayor Scott Hanlon gave the welcome on behalf of the Groton community.** (Screenshot from GDILIVE.COM video)



**Fred Nelson from the Spearfish Legion Post thanked all those who helped with the morning program and breakfast in Groton.** (Screenshot from GDILIVE.COM video)

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**Those helping with breakfast for the 605 Riders were Travis McGannon, Sons of the Legion commander, Bruce Babcock, District Legion Commander; Doug Hamilton, Groton Post #39 commander; David McGannon, Steve Dresbach, Deb McKiver from the Groton Legion Auxiliary, and Scott Cooper; not pictured are Todd McGannon and Ben Smith, in front is Paul Kosel, Sons of the Legion adjutant.**



**David McGannon was in charge of the pancakes.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Working the grills were Scott Cooper, Ben Smith, Travis McGannon and Todd McGannon.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Doug Hamilton was dumping the fruit into the bowl.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The bikers were going through the serving line.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)







**These were some of the motorcycles on their way out of Groton.**



**Spearfish American Legion members Fred and Micheline Nelson lead the Legion Riders on a 4 day 1,400 mile SD American Legion Foundation fundraising ride.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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**The bikers had breakfast in the back room of the Groton American Legion Post.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Carol Howitz and Micheline Nelson, both of Spearfish, prepared the large presentation check for photos throughout the event. Using masking tape, they were able to quickly change the names and amounts displayed on the check. After each photo was taken, they simply removed the taped information and replaced it with the next set, which had been prearranged on the back side of the check.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)




**Bruce Babcock and Doug Hamilton represented the Groton businesses who made a total donation of $1,550 to the 605 Riders. Fred Nelson received the donation.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Dale Kurth represented the Claremont American Legion with a $100 donation to the 605 Riders. Fred Nelson received the donation.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)




**Doug Hamilton represented the Groton American Legion with a $250 donation to the 605 Riders. Fred Nelson received the donation.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)




**Bruce and Karyn Babcock represented BaseKamp Lodge with a $632 donation to the 605 Riders. Fred Nelson received the donation.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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# Groton teams go 3-1 against Redfield over busy weekend

Groton baseball teams combined to post three victories in four games against Redfield competition over the weekend, highlighted by an explosive offensive performance from the Groton Post 39 14U squad and a home run-powered victory by the senior legion team.

The biggest offensive outburst came Friday evening when Groton Post 39 (14U) rolled to an 18-8 victory over Redfield at Groton.

After Redfield scored first in the opening inning, Groton answered with a nine-run bottom of the first to seize control. The 14U squad added seven more runs in the fourth inning to put the game away.

Trayce Schelle earned the win on the mound, striking out eight batters over four innings. Easton Larson worked in relief.

Keegan Kucker sparked the offense from the lower portion of the lineup, going 2-for-4 with three RBIs. Hank Hill also collected two hits. The Groton offense showed patience at the plate with 14 walks and was aggressive on the bases, stealing 13 bases. Schelle, Asher Zimmerman, Bentley Ehresmann and Gavin Hanten each recorded multiple stolen bases.




**Jarrett Erdmann earns the win for the Senior Legion Post vs Redfield.** (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)




**Kason Oswald is the winning pitcher vs Redfield Junior Legion during Groton's Game of Play Day.** (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



**Zach Fliehs stands ready at bat in Junior Legion game.** (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



**Designator hitter Gavin England had success at bat with two hits in three at bats in Senior Legion win vs Redfield.** (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

Groton's junior Legion team continued the winning ways with a 4-2 victory over Redfield.

Groton scored twice in the first inning as Braden Fliehs singled home a run and Kason Oswald added an RBI sacrifice fly. Fliehs later drove in another run in the third inning to help build a 3-0 advantage.

Oswald was strong on the mound, allowing two runs over 4 1/3 innings while striking out seven. Wesley Borg closed the door with 2 2/3 hitless innings of relief, striking out two.

Fliehs drove in two runs, while Jordan Schwan led Groton at the plate with two hits. The defense was

flawless behind its pitchers, committing no errors. Alex Abeln anchored the defense with 10 putouts.

The senior Legion team completed the successful weekend against Redfield with a 10-7 victory over Redfield Clay Kiser Sr. Legion 18U on Saturday.

Redfield took an early 1-0 lead before Groton answered with two runs in the bottom of the first inning, including Lincoln Krause stealing home.

The game turned in the third and fourth innings as Groton scored seven runs. Carter Simon delivered the biggest blow of the day, driving in four runs on four hits. Simon singled home a run in the third inning before launching a three-run home run to left field in the fourth.

Jarrett Erdmann earned the win after striking out five over 3 2/3 innings. Gavin Englund picked up the save, while Nick Groeblinghoff provided relief work.

Englund added two hits at the plate, while Krause swiped three bases as Groton finished with four steals.

The lone setback of the weekend came in amateur baseball action as Groton Locke Electric fell 12-2 to Redfield Dairy Queen on Saturday.

Nick Morris drove in both Groton runs, while Jonah Schmidt collected two hits. Alex Morris worked six innings on the mound. Redfield's offense proved difficult to contain, collecting 16 hits in the contest.

## Aberdeen raises SD 250th Anniversary Flag for the weekend




**Aberdeen raising the temporary SD 250th Anniversary Flag at Wiley Park. The flag will be flown through the weekend.** (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)




**SD ANG Cadence Feist poises with Bruce Babcock of the Groton American Legion during Aberdeen's 250th Flag program at Wiley Park.** (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell.

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!

SONG OF SOLOMON 2: 12,13



*Detail of "The Flower" by Alphonse Mucha (1897)*

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"I'M CALLING MINE A BALLROOM."

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# BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. In Matthew 5, what, besides salt of the earth, did Jesus compare Christians to? *Water, Bread, Light, Mountains*

3. Who became leader of the children of Israel after Moses' death? *Isaac, Joshua, Aaron, Abraham*

4. What is the biblical word of "Didymus" translated as? *Sinner, Heathen, Teacher, Twin*

5. On what island did John write the book of Revelation? *Cyprus, Crete, Malta, Patmos*

6. What was the trade skill of Paul? *Shepherd, Carpenter, Tentmaker, Tax collector*

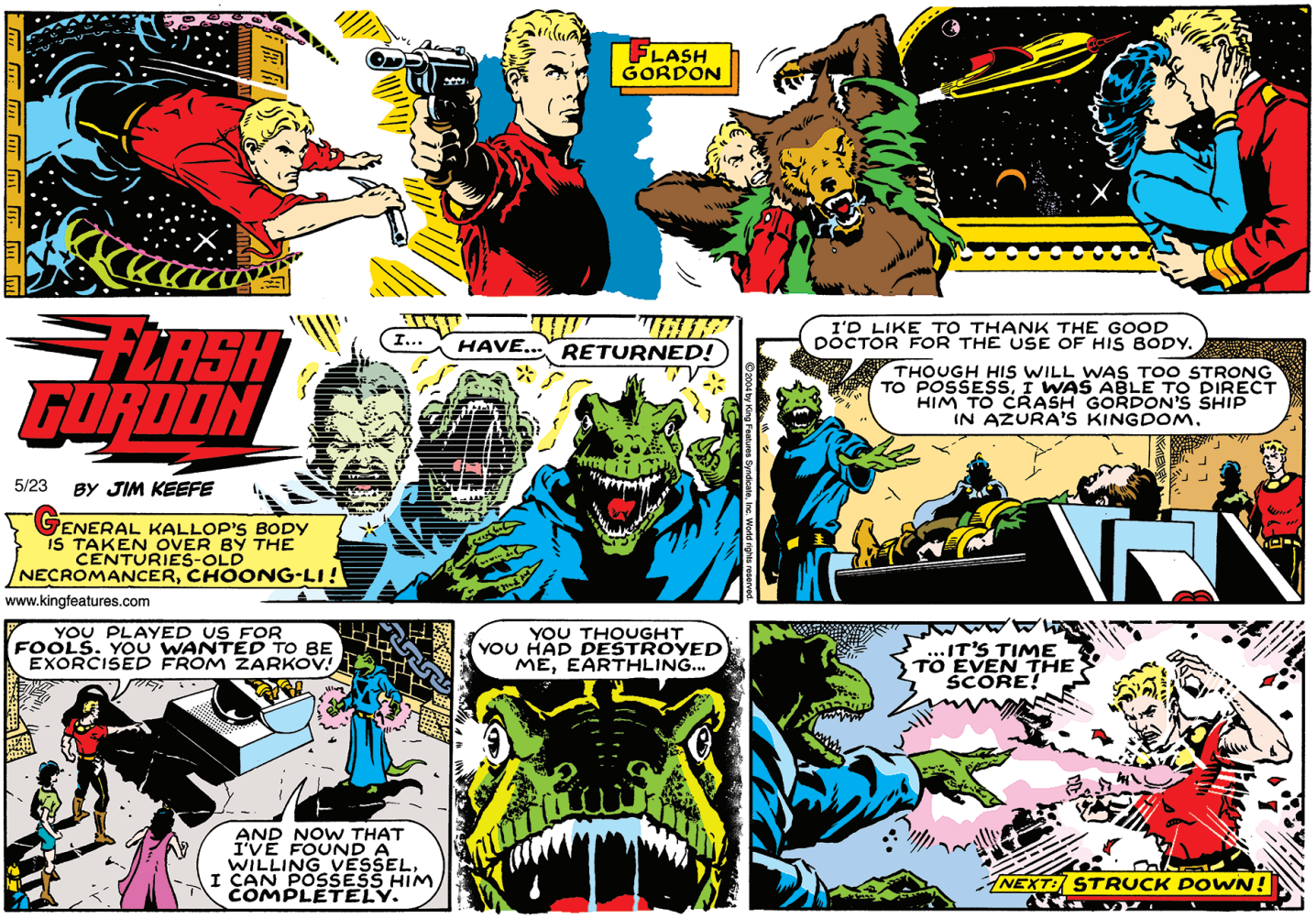
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Light (of the world), 3) Joshua, 4) Twin, 5) Patmos, 6) Tentmaker

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

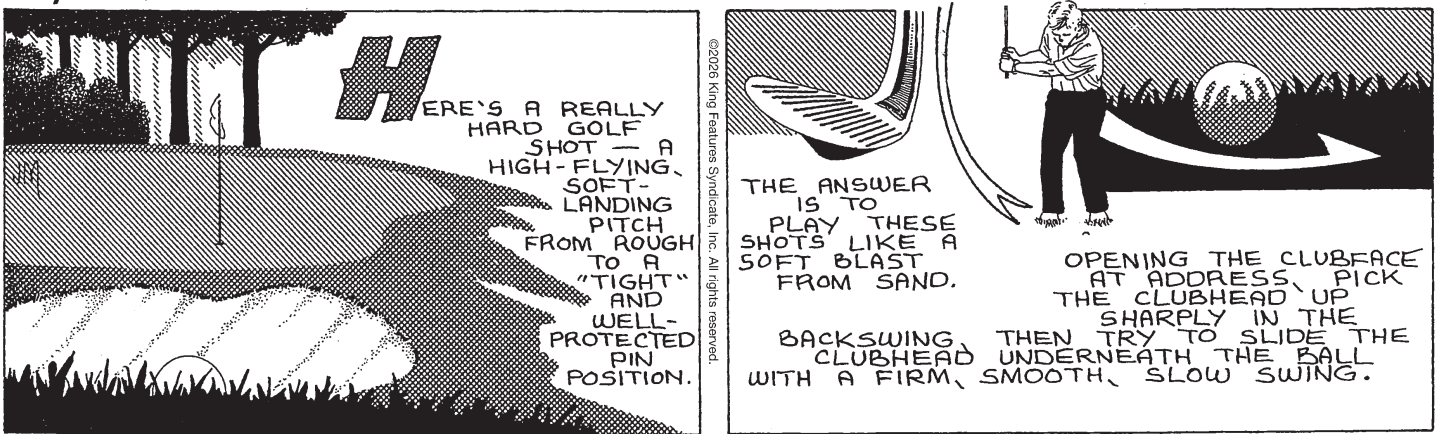
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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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## A Tooth Extraction Presents a Risk for Osteonecrosis of the Jaw

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 79-year-old female who's in good health. I am 5 feet tall and weigh 95 pounds, and I'm very active. I've been taking Prolia for the past two to three years for osteoporosis, which has since improved to osteopenia. Right after my most recent Prolia shot, I developed discomfort in my mouth and was told that I have a cracked root in a molar. I previously had a root canal on this molar and was told that this tooth should be extracted.

I realized that it'd be best to wait five more months to do this to be safe, out of concern of getting osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ). My question is, what do I do in case of an emergency, especially if the tooth becomes infected and needs to be extracted sooner? Also, since I have a history of dental problems, how can I get off Prolia in the future and still protect my bones? -- L.L.

ANSWER: Denosumab (Prolia) is a treatment for osteoporosis that is normally given as an injection every six months. Among its side effects is an increase in the risk of ONJ, which is a serious condition that consists of poor blood supply to the bone and causes death in part of the bone of the jaw. The lower jaw (mandible) is much more commonly affected than the upper jaw (maxilla).

Osteoporosis medicines that slow down the action of the osteoclasts -- the cells that break down bone so that it can be rebuilt -- put people at a higher risk of ONJ. These medicines include the bisphosphonate class, like oral alendronate (Fosamax) and risedronate (Actonel), as well as the intravenous drug zoledronic acid (Reclast) in addition to Prolia. Prolia has the highest risk of ONJ, followed by IV bisphosphonates and oral bisphosphonates.

A tooth extraction is a high-risk procedure for developing ONJ. For people who are on Prolia, the risk of ONJ is about 2.3%, which is much higher than the approximately 0.3% risk for people who are on oral bisphosphonates.

You are right that your best bet is waiting to get the extraction until just before the time that you'd have taken your next dose of Prolia. In one study, not a single person out of 76 people developed ONJ if they waited five to seven months after their previous dose. However, you don't want to wait too long, as the osteoporosis will start to progress and a person can develop a fracture. The timing needs to be critical, and the medication should be restarted as soon as the extraction site has healed.

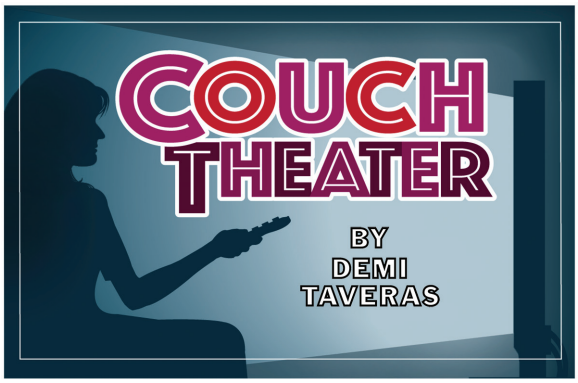
Your dentist can minimize the risk of ONJ by using an antibiotic and a very careful extraction technique. Some evidence supports the use of platelet-rich fibrin in the extraction socket, but other studies haven't found a benefit. Your dentist should do this even if you can wait the additional five months, and they should certainly do it if the tooth requires extraction sooner. Your doctor who's prescribing Prolia should be discussing the plans with your dentist at this time.

As mentioned before, oral bisphosphonates have a lower risk of ONJ. But there are other classes of medication for osteoporosis that carry little to no risk of ONJ, such as the parathyroid hormone analog teriparatide (Forteo); the selective estrogen receptor modulator raloxifene (Evista); and the sclerostin inhibitor romosozumab (Evenity).

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

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**Javier Bardem, left, and Amy Adams star in "Cape Fear."** (Photo Credit: Courtesy of Apple TV+)

"Michael" (PG-13) -- Antoine Fuqua, director of "Training Day" and "The Equalizer" films, undertook the assignment of a lifetime by signing on to direct this biographical film about the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Jaafar Jackson portrays his legendary celebrity uncle, with this being his very first acting role! The film picks up with the start of the Jackson 5 at Motown, trickling into the years where Michael emerged as a prominent solo artist with albums like "Off the Wall" and "Thriller." Surprisingly, the film culminates in 1988, decades before Michael passed away, as he embarks on the Bad World Tour. Obviously, due to its abrupt ending and viewers' responses, a second movie was confirmed by Lionsgate Films in May. While the performances of the cast can be praised, specifically Jaafar and Colman Domingo ("Euphoria") as Joe Jackson, this "biopic" leans more toward a jukebox musical due to its omission of Michael's sexual assault allegations and the nuances that made him the controversial yet iconic figure he is today. Available to rent on June 9. (Fandango at Home)

"Cape Fear" (TV-MA) -- This hair-raising psychological thriller series stars a trio of incredible actors -- Javier Bardem ("F1"), Amy Adams ("Nightbitch"), and Patrick Wilson ("The Conjuring: Last Rites"). Produced by powerhouse directors Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg, "Cape Fear" is based on the novel "The Executioners" by John D. MacDonald and has two film adaptations from 1962 and 1991 that precede it. Bardem plays Max Cady, an ex-convict who gets released from prison after serving a sentence for a crime that he didn't commit. When Anna (Adams) and Tom (Wilson), the attorneys who represented him in court, hear word that Max is walking free once again, they begin to fear for their lives and the lives of their children because Max seems dead set on getting his revenge! The first two episodes are out now to stream. (Apple TV+)

"Earth, Wind & Fire (To Be Celestial Vs. That's The Weight of The World)" (TV-MA) -- This documentary film out now to stream dives deep into the bestselling Chicago band Earth, Wind & Fire, who's had sales of more than 90 million records worldwide! Although their start began in 1969, their music continues to sound loudly today, especially songs like "September," "Boogie Wonderland," and "Let's Groove." In the doc, viewers get to see archives of visual, audio and written material from the band, as well as appearances from public figures like Barack Obama, Lionel Richie, H.E.R., Stevie Wonder, and more. Musician and filmmaker Questlove directed and produced this project, and he also helped compile the music for the doc alongside composer Raymond Angry. (HBO Max)

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1. "The Ballad of Jed Clampett" was the theme song for which TV show?

2. Who was the lead singer on hits like "Big Girls Don't Cry" and "Walk Like a Man"?

3. Name the group that released "Baby, Now That I've Found You."

4. Who released "Little Children"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "A hot summer night fell like a net, I've gotta find my baby yet."

Answers

1. "The Beverly Hillbillies," running from 1962 to 1971. An Ozark family ended up living in a Beverly Hills mansion after oil was found on their mountain land.

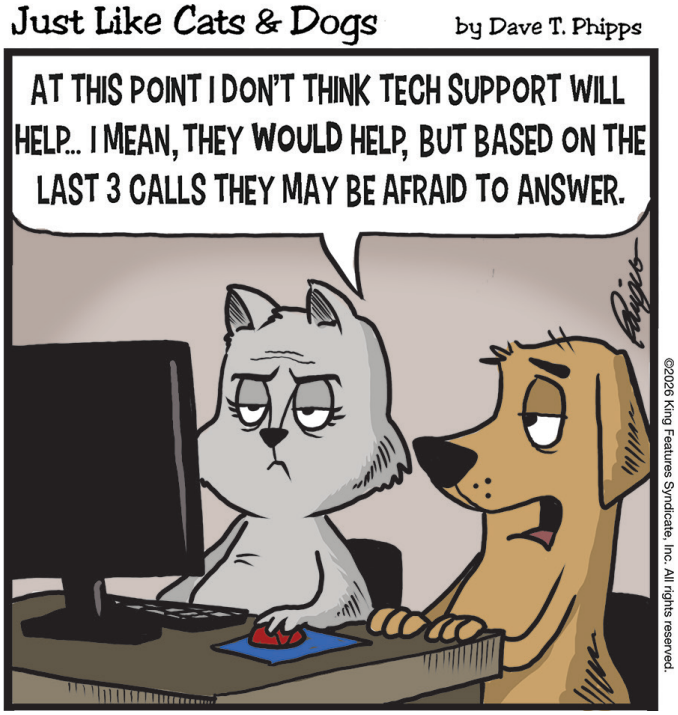
2. Frankie Valli, of the Four Seasons, was born Francesco Stephen Castelluccio. He first became interested in having a singing career when, at the age of 7, he heard Frank Sinatra singing in New York.

3. The Foundations, in 1967. The song topped the charts in the U.K. and Canada.

4. Billy J. Kramer & the Dakotas, in 1964.

5. "Bad Case of Loving You (Doctor, Doctor)," written and originally released by John David "Moon" Martin in 1978. It was Robert Palmer's cover in 1979 that turned the song into a hit. Palmer's version got the Grammy nomination for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance.

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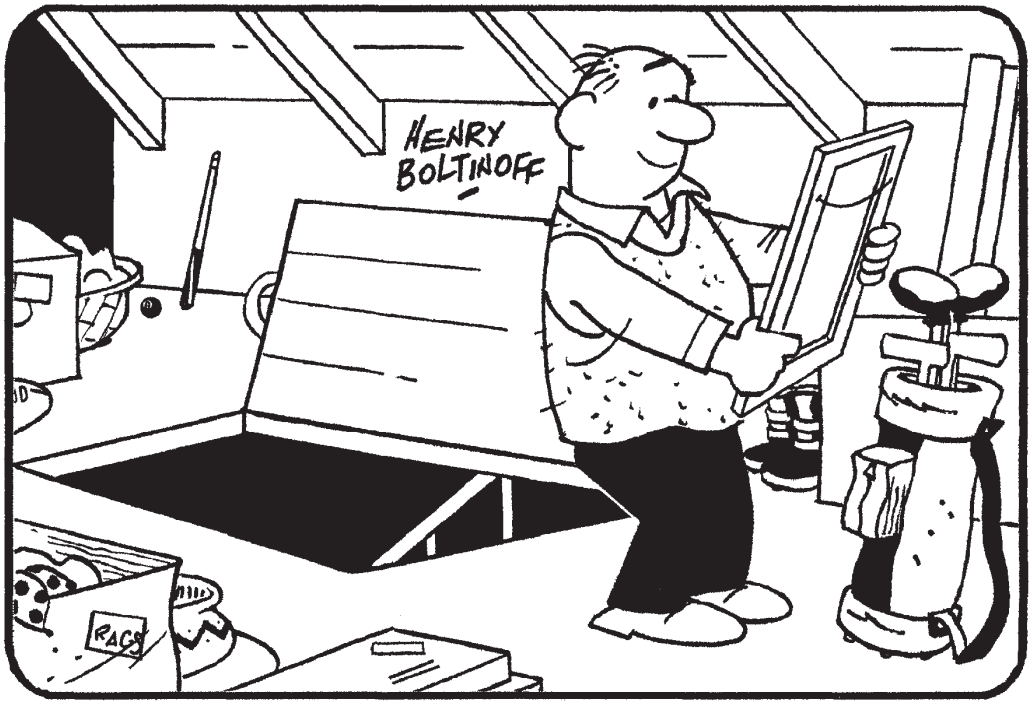


"I saved enough to pay for the fender!"

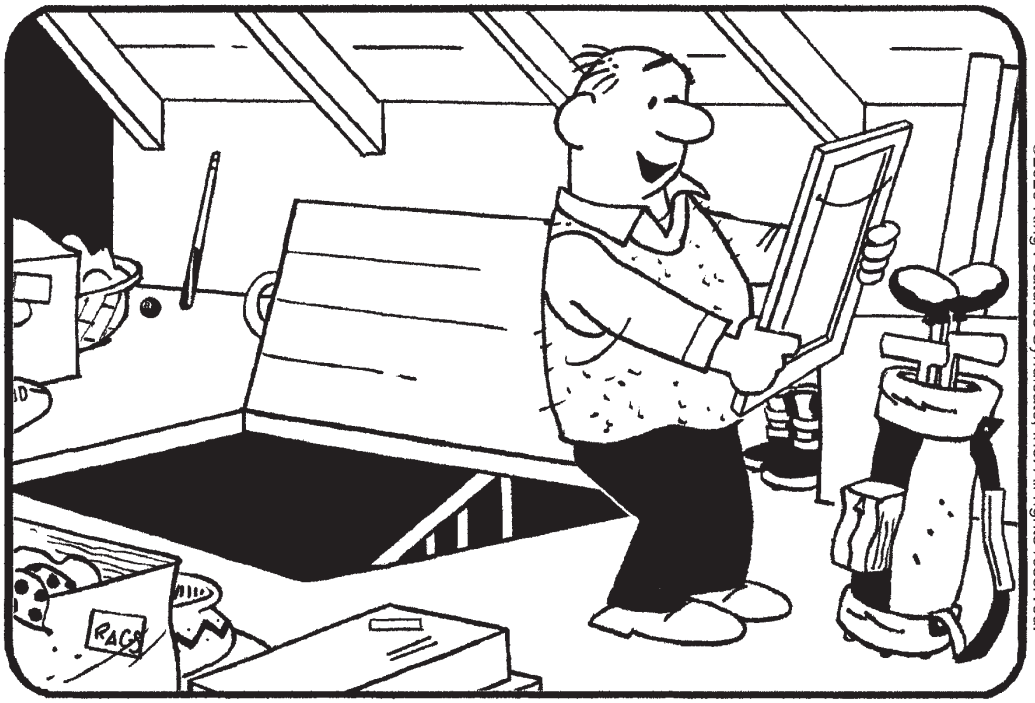
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# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF




Find at least six differences in details between panels.

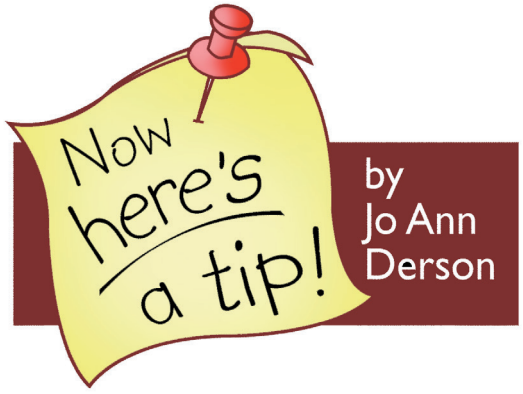



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Differences: 1. Strap on golf bag is different. 2. Box is thicker. 3. Stair railing is different. 4. Door opening is wider. 5. Pocket on golf bag is moved. 6. Mouth is open.

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* Save the peels from your oranges and dry them at a low temperature in the oven. You can add them to a pot of coffee or tea for a flavor boost that is refreshing and delicious.

* "If your tomato garden is experiencing caterpillars, try planting dillweed near to your tomato plants. It can provide a diversion, allowing your tomatoes to grow!" -- Y.F. in Florida

* Cure your color in new garments (especially dark-colored or bright-colored) by soaking the item in cold, salty water before washing. Make sure that the fabric will allow!

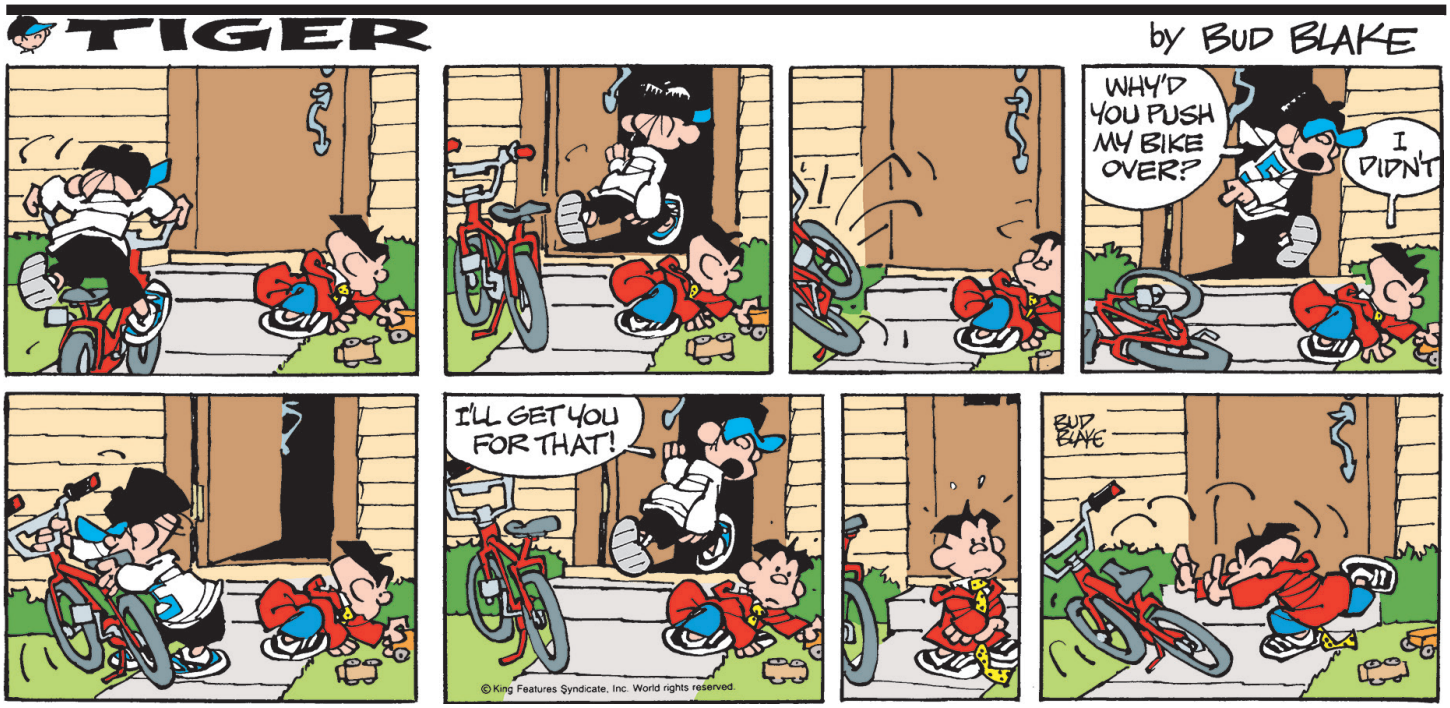
* "Take good care of quality paint brushes, and they will take care of you! Wash thoroughly in soapy water and be certain to rinse very well. After the brush is washed, combine enough water to cover the bristles and add 2 tablespoons of fabric softener. Swish for a minute or two, being sure to get it in the brush good, then hang to drip dry. Before you use the brush to paint, simply rinse the fabric softener away." -- M.E. in Washington

* Baking soda can be used as a tooth scrub, and it's particularly effective against stains, as it is a mild abrasive.

* "When you are dusting, don't forget the light bulbs. Dusty light bulbs can contribute to less-bright lighting and can shorten the life of your bulbs. Turn lights off when you are not using them. You will save electricity that way." -- A.L. in Oklahoma

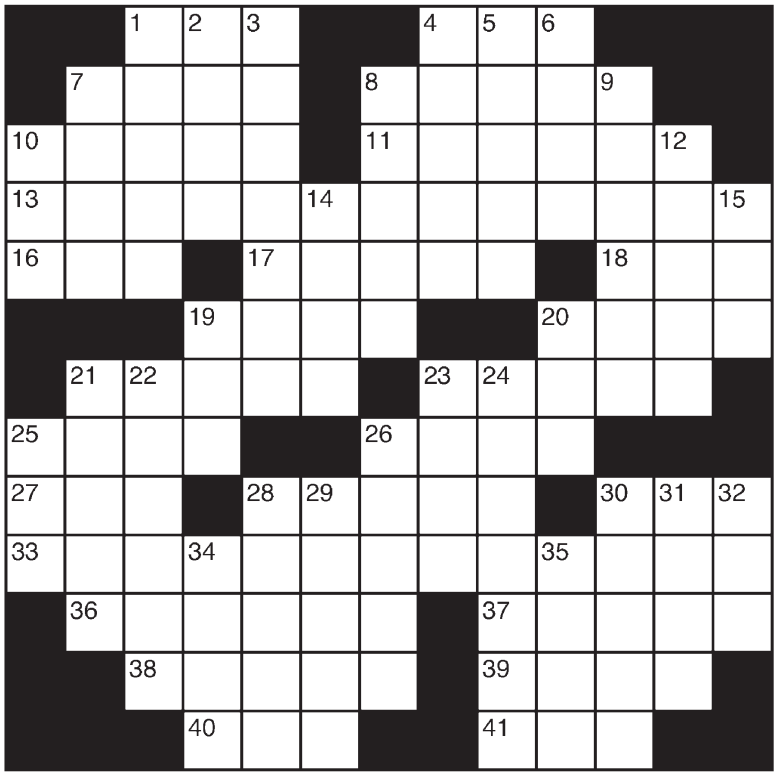
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembrook Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

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# King Crossword



**ACROSS**
1 Center
4 Solo in space
7 Lawn mower brand
8 Spoils, with "on"
10 Wanderer
11 Beethoven's Third
13 Time management aids
16 Citric beverage
17 Got up
18 Mosquito barrier
19 "— chic!"
20 Feel sorry for
21 Mom's sister, informally
23 "Time in a Bottle" singer
25 Impudent
26 Owl call
27 Solid-rock insert
28 Spine-tingling
30 Lupino of film
33 Commuters' buys
36 Turned to mush
37 Lounges
38 Egypt's neighbor
39 Sloth's home
40 Ballpark fig.
41 Even so

**DOWN**
1 Bro
2 Russian river
3 Tattoos, e.g.
4 Circle dances
5 Expiate
6 Dresden denial
7 Frog's kin
8 Apollo's birthplace
9 Picturesque
10 Secret protecting doc.
12 Mountain crest
14 Quarry
15 Farm pen
19 Stick with a kick
20 Cauldron
21 Greek storyteller
22 Faraway orb
23 Business abbr.
24 Author's payment
25 Actress Dawber
26 "Papa" of classical music
28 Molts
29 Traction aid
30 Archipelago part
31 Editing mark
32 Ninny
34 Verifiable
35 Harboring a grudge

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## King Crossword

### Answers

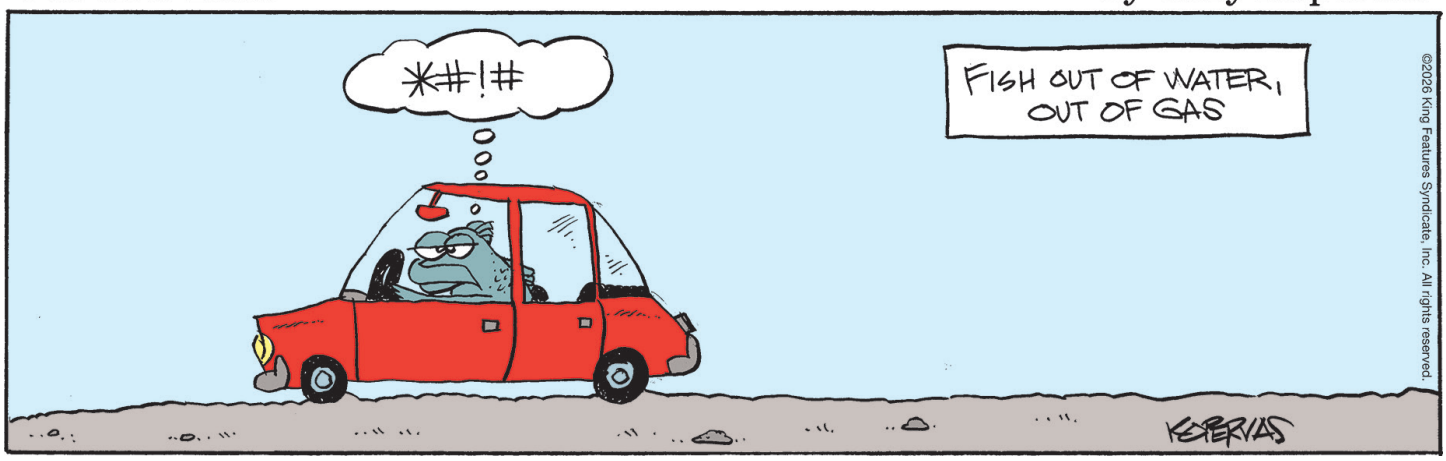
**Solution time: 24 mins.**

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| N | O | M | A | D | | E | R | O | I | C | A | |
| D | A | I | L | Y | P | L | A | N | N | E | R | S |
| A | D | E | | A | R | O | S | E | | N | E | T |
| | | | T | R | E | S | | | P | I | T | Y |
| | A | U | N | T | Y | | C | R | O | C | E | |
| P | E | R | T | | | H | O | O | T | | | |
| A | S | A | | S | C | A | R | Y | | I | D | A |
| M | O | N | T | H | L | Y | P | A | S | S | E | S |
| | P | U | R | E | E | D | | L | O | L | L | S |
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## Olive

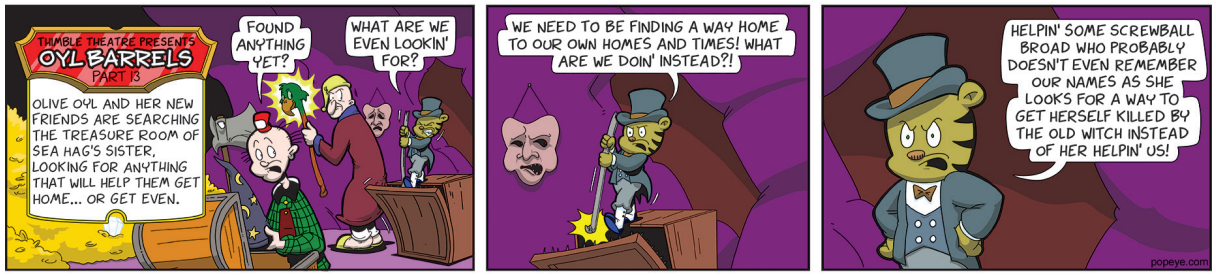



Out on a Limb — by Gary Kopervas



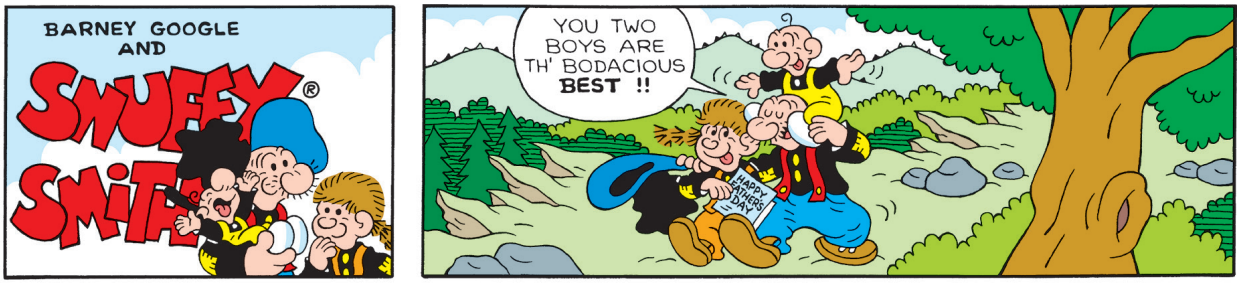
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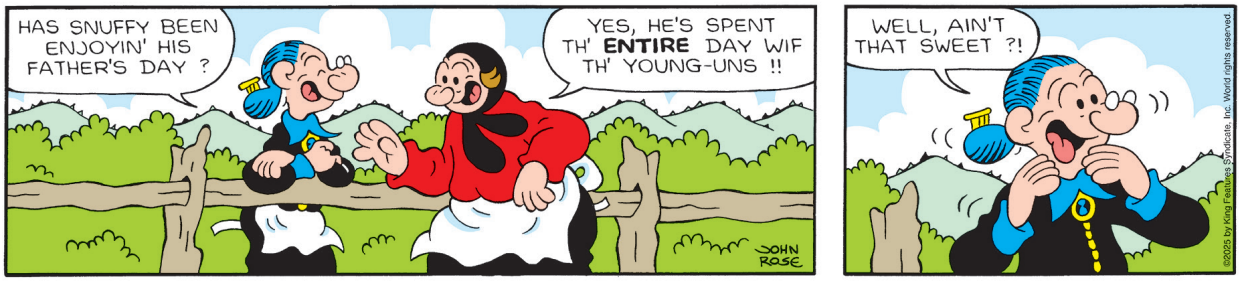


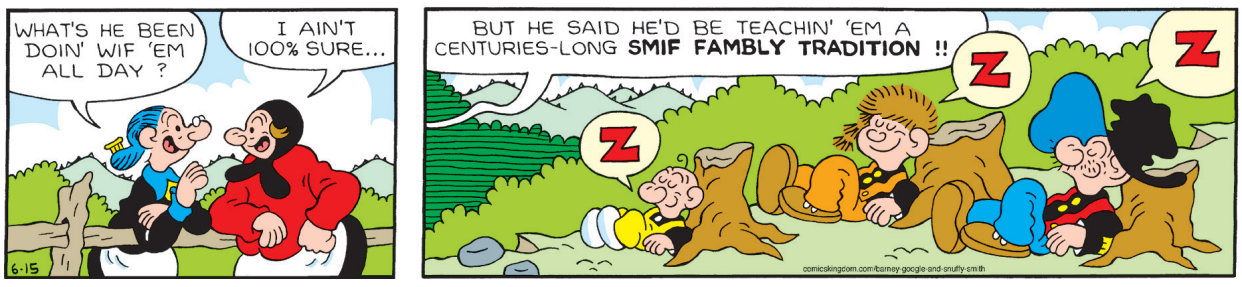







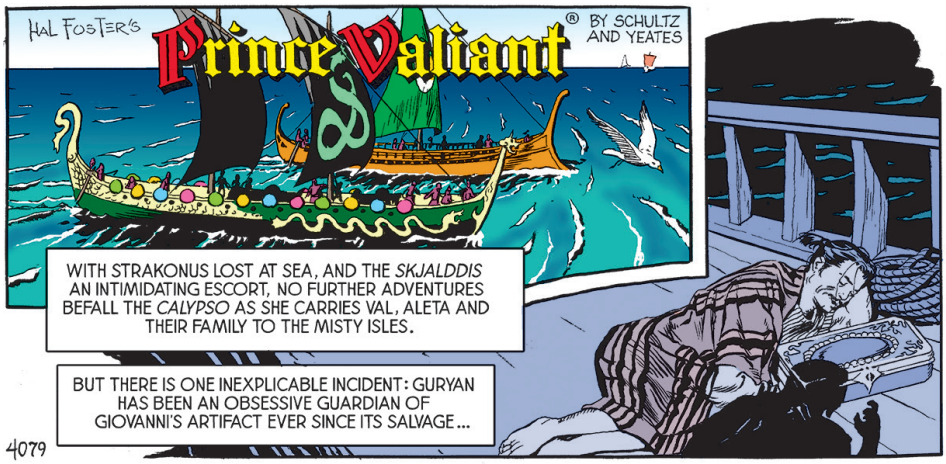


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HAL FOSTER'S Prince Valiant ® BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES



WITH STRAKONUS LOST AT SEA, AND THE *SKJALDDIS* AN INTIMIDATING ESCORT, NO FURTHER ADVENTURES BEFALL THE *CALYPSO* AS SHE CARRIES VAL, ALETA AND THEIR FAMILY TO THE MISTY ISLES.

BUT THERE IS ONE INEXPLICABLE INCIDENT: GURYAN HAS BEEN AN OBSESSIVE GUARDIAN OF GIOVANNI'S ARTIFACT EVER SINCE ITS SALVAGE...

4079

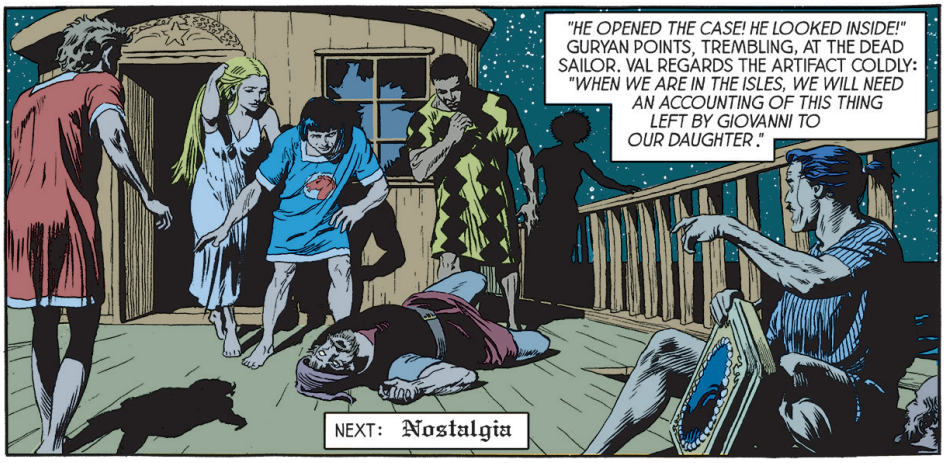



...BUT EVEN HE MUST EVENTUALLY SLEEP. ONE NIGHT, CURIOUS, PATIENT EYES NOTICE HIS LOOSENED GRIP. STEALTHY HANDS SLIP THE ARTIFACT AWAY, FORCE THE CASE'S CLASP...

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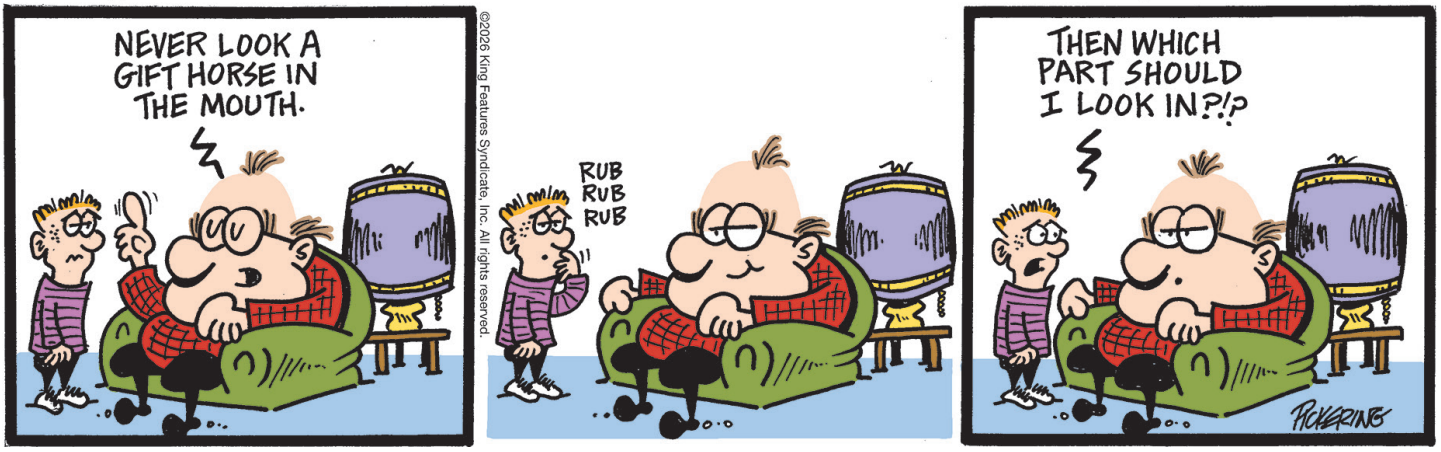


...AND PRY IT OPEN. A SPECTRAL LIGHT BLAZES FORTH, FOLLOWED BY A TERRIBLE, GURGLING SCREAM: "*THAT THING! THAT THING! MY EYES!*" ALL ABOARD START AWAKE AT THE AWFUL SOUND.




The Spats

by Jeff Pickering




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# SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

## Playing games for brain health

Playing brain games can go a long way to helping us stay sharp, improve brain health, strengthen memory and slow cognitive decline. They can help us focus our attention, process information more quickly and recall facts. Whether they are logic, word, number, memory, card or any other type of game, playing can give our brains a boost — and we don't even have to leave home!

The AARP Games Center (www.aarp.org/games) is a great place to sample free games. There are various forms of solitaire, mahjong, lots of crossword and word games and trivia. If you're an AARP member and you sign in, there are even more games. Look for the Staying Sharp section for extra games.

Games for the Brain (www.games forthebrain.com) is an interesting site that doesn't require any registration. It appears that the games are created by a guy in Germany, but you'll also find familiar games like Chinese checkers and Minesweeper.

As a general rule, look for online games that don't require you to set up an account, where you can just play by going to that website. But if you really want to play the games on a certain site and signing up is required, take a look at their privacy policy to see what information they collect about you. Set up a new email address that you only use for games.

If you prefer to add a social aspect to your game playing, check your local senior center and library for game days where you can play against others. Ask about card games, bingo, chess and checkers, Scrabble or even jigsaw puzzles done as a group.

If money is not a concern, consider a membership at the BrainHQ site (www.brainhq.com). Their games are backed by years of research into improving cognitive function, but be sure to read their privacy policy.

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1. On Jan. 1, 2006, which New England Patriots player made the first successful drop kick in the NFL since 1941 when he scored an extra point in the final game of his career?

2. What NBA team defeated the Soviet Union national basketball team 127-100 in the final of the 1987 McDonald's Open tournament?

3. In September 1964, which National League team was in first place by 5 1/2 games, but went on a losing skid (including 10 straight losses) and ended up tied for second?

4. What award, first presented by the National Association of Sports Officials in 1988, honors an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the betterment of officiating?

5. What two players shared the United States Lawn Tennis Association's men's singles No. 1 ranking in 1973?

6. What Major League Baseball pitcher was also a medical student who twice (in 1976 and 1978) went into the stands to give aid to a fan suffering from a heart attack?

7. Name the two in-state college football rivals who played to a 0-0 tie in a rainy, turnover-plagued game in November 1983 known as the "Toilet Bowl."




Answers

1. Doug Flutie.

2. The Milwaukee Bucks.

3. The Philadelphia Phillies ("Phold of '64").

4. The Gold Whistle Award.

5. Stan Smith and Jimmy Connors.

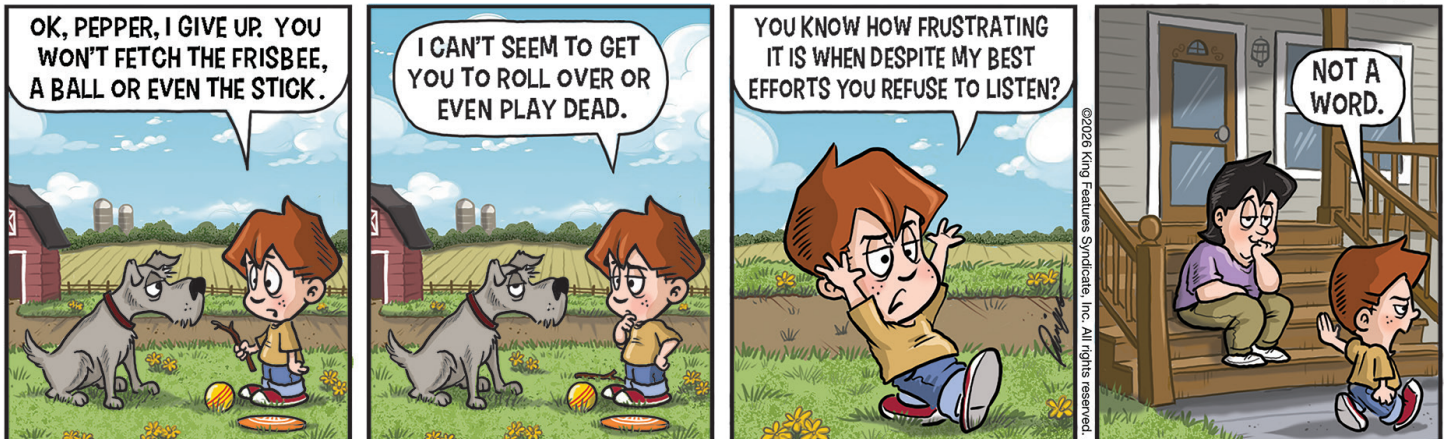
6. Doc Medich.

7. The University of Oregon Ducks and Oregon State University Beavers.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Can I bring my dog to a Pride parade?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I adopted "Allie," an adorable black-and-gold mutt, last fall. She trained wonderfully and does well with other dogs at the dog park. I'd like to bring her along to Pride celebrations this month, but I'm getting mixed information about whether dogs are allowed at parades and parties. Should I bring her at all? -- Gemma B. in White Plains, New York

DEAR GEMMA: What I'd recommend is to list which events you'd like to attend this month, and contact the organizers by email to find out their policy on bringing pets.

Most Pride parades allow owners to bring leashed pets on the sidelines as spectators, but not as parade participants. This could be due to insurance or permitting requirements.

On the other hand, many LGBTQ+ celebrants want to bring their pets to the festivities. So separate, pet-friendly events are now part of the celebrations, from big cities like Los Angeles to small towns like Springfield, Vermont.

Pets are such an integral part of our lives, and are especially important for the LGBTQ+ community. Their unconditional acceptance and love provide emotional connection and support for so many people. They can be a bridge to a greater community, helping their owners find social connection and develop new friendships.

I'm so glad you want to bring Allie along to celebrate. Because she is socialized and can handle a busy environment (thanks to regular trips to the dog park), she will probably do very well as a sideline spectator at parades or as a participant at a well-organized, dog-friendly event. Do plan to take breaks with her in a quiet spot, and bring plenty of cool water and snacks for her so she doesn't get dehydrated on a hot day.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

* Dark hair may turn red or blond in cases of severe protein deficiency.

* In the first half of the 20th century, cigarette makers touted the weight-loss aspects of their products, with one 1929 advertisement proclaiming, “Light a Lucky and you’ll never miss a sweet that makes you fat.”

* To escape predators, some sea cucumbers can eject their internal organs. Fortunately, they can also regrow them.

* The word Islam is often translated as “peace through submission to God.”

* In 1980, Shakuntala Devi earned a Guinness World Record for fastest multiplier when she correctly multiplied two 13-digit numbers in 28 seconds.

* After a few people showed up to conventions nude in the 1970s and 1980s, cosplay organizers created the “No Costume is No Costume” rule, under which attendees must have complete coverage equivalent to a standard swimsuit over their private areas.

* Mozart’s sister Maria Anna was a talented pianist in her own right, but after she reached marriageable age, she was not allowed to perform in public.

* In 2010, a NASA astronaut took a piece of Newton’s apple tree aboard the space shuttle Atlantis to celebrate the 350th anniversary of The Royal Society, a scientific organization Newton once led.

* The universe has no known center.

* Hungary’s post-WWII monthly inflation increased by 41,900,000,000,000,000% in July 1946. In other words, prices doubled every 13.5 hours.

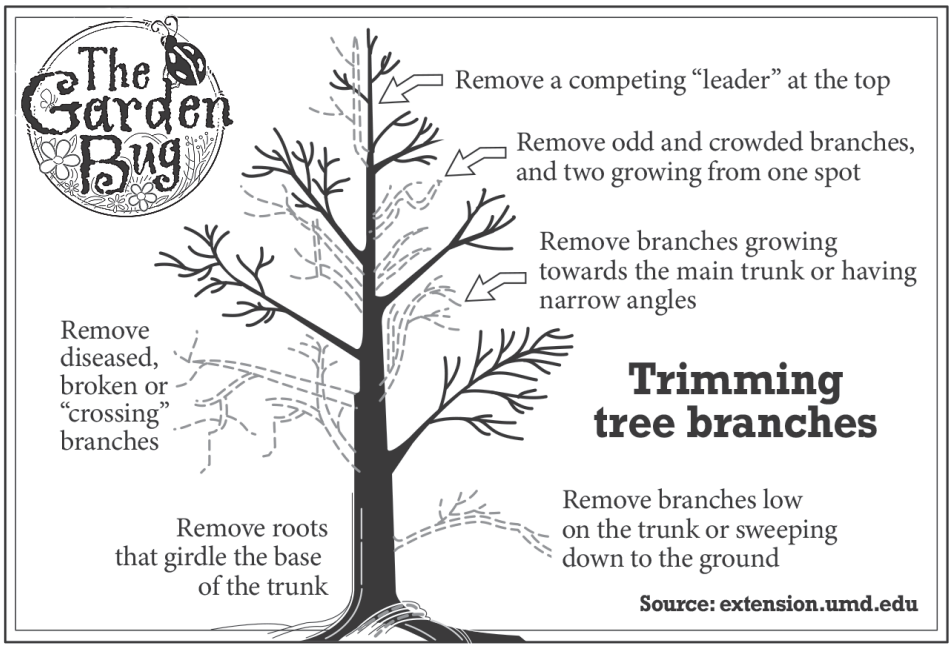
* In 1759, Methodist founder John Wesley published a treatise advocating the use of electricity for medicinal purposes. He also regularly electrified participants at the Methodist church headquarters.

* Paul McCartney agreed to do a voice-over on “The Simpsons” if Lisa became a vegetarian for the rest of the series.

***

Thought for the Day: “I have seen what a laugh can do. It can transform almost unbearable tears into something bearable, even hopeful.” -- Bob Hope

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

## Only 24 notes

There are over 400 funerals each day at the National Cemeteries. Depending on the veteran and the location of the cemetery, the honors are likely to include two uniformed members of the military, folding and presentation of the flag, three rifle volleys, a horse-drawn caisson and the playing of Taps. At a very minimum, we expect this. We expect to hear Taps at a veteran funeral. It's part of how we say goodbye, hearing the National Song of Remembrance.

In some parts of the country, however, especially in rural cemeteries, there aren't enough buglers, and Taps is played via a CD recording or a special electronic gadget inserted into a bugle that plays a prerecorded Taps. Live buglers are, of course, preferred.

Can you help? Are you willing to be a bugler at veteran funerals in your area?

Before you decline, consider: If you took a semester of band, even in junior high, you're halfway there. If there is a bugle (or trumpet) in your attic, you're halfway there. Is there a high school or college with a music department near you? The department head will help you fine tune the playing of Taps. Best of all, there are only 24 notes in Taps.

Take a look at the organizations that provide buglers for veteran funerals:

-- Bugles Across America (www.BuglesAcrossAmerica.org) has been providing this service for 26 years now. Read about Tom Day and why he started the group. According to the most recent Bugler's Post newsletter, last year the group's buglers provided 32,000 hours of their time. Members have provided Taps at 350,000 funerals since the group began in 2000. They have volunteer buglers in 49 states; only South Dakota is missing from the list.

-- Taps For Veterans (www.TapsForVeterans.org) is headed up by former military musicians. See the website for more information and how to audition.

At this point, one-quarter of living veterans are over the age of 65; the number of veteran funerals is not going to decline anytime soon.

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# Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
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| 8 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| I | E | E | S | S | Y | R | H | O | I | N | G | H |

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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# Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Who is the longtime host of the reality show "Survivor"?
2. MOVIES: What is the song playing when the lead characters dance the twist in "Pulp Fiction"?
3. U.S. STATES: The first president, George Washington, was born in which colony that would later become a state?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which South American country controls Easter Island?
5. MYTHOLOGY: To which mythological character is the Parthenon dedicated?
6. LITERATURE: Which war is the background for Anthony Doerr's novel "All the Light We Cannot See"?
7. MATH: What is the sum of the first five prime numbers?
8. INVENTORS: Which inventor developed more than 300 products from peanuts?
9. MUSIC: Who won Album of the Year at the 2026 Grammys?
10. HISTORY: In what year did U.S. women earn the right to open credit cards in their own names?

**Answers**

1. Jeff Probst.
2. "You Never Can Tell," Chuck Berry.
3. Virginia.
4. Chile.
5. The Greek goddess Athena.
6. World War II.
7. 28 (2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11).
8. George Washington Carver.
9. Bad Bunny.
10. 1974.

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South Dakota Governor

Larry Rhoden



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

# The 605 Way

South Dakota's legacy is rich. Our way of life was forged by resilient homesteaders, and we've become a beacon to the nation through the hard work and steadfast faith of our people. The first week of June brings "605 Day." South Dakotans have embraced June 5 (6/05) as a chance to celebrate our beautiful state and remind everyone that fresh air and freedom can be found in our single area code.

Last year on June 5, I wrote about the 605 as a little slice of paradise. From the Big Sioux to the Cheyenne River, from the Black Hills to the prairie lakes, we are blessed with a beautiful state united by shared values. This year I find myself thinking less about the place itself and more about the people who will inherit it.

Being Governor of South Dakota, where I was born and raised, is a true honor. After years of service to my community, state, and country, I have received much more than I've contributed. Each person I meet affords me a broader perspective and keener understanding of what makes our state tick.

And this week, I received another reminder of what matters most. I became a grandpa for the ninth time! If there's anything that can provide perspective, it is holding the miracle of a new life in your hands. What a reminder of God's blessings! And you begin thinking about the kind of world that child will grow up in and the values that will shape their life.

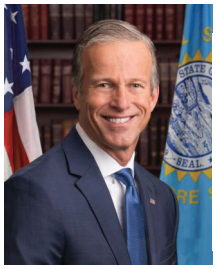
My faith has always helped me keep those priorities in perspective. Public service comes with challenges and responsibilities, but I have learned that the harder the challenge or the lower the moment, the closer I become to the Lord. Don't get me wrong, I love being South Dakota's Governor! But the weight of the responsibility is a lot for one person. My faith allows me to refocus on what's important – and this week God blessed our family with a powerful reminder of his goodness and love.

Seeing my family grow makes me more motivated to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free. The next generation deserves the same opportunities, freedoms, and way of life that previous generations worked so hard to build.

Growing up on a ranch taught me that hard work matters. I learned to be resourceful and responsible because the only priority is getting the job done right. You can't cut corners. You can't make plans that aren't practical. Growing up in South Dakota taught me that truth matters, and a strong community is what will make you rich in life. Serving my country taught me what it means to prioritize others over my own needs and to protect our freedoms.

Those lessons shaped me, and they are the same lessons I hope to pass on to my grandchildren and future generations of South Dakotans. To me, that's what the 605 is about. It's more than an area code – it's a way a life.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## Republicans Keep America Safe

If you ask most Americans whether they support secure borders and deporting criminal illegal immigrants, the answer is almost always an emphatic "Yes." But from Washington Democrats, the answer is much different. For months now, Democrats have blocked funding for border security and immigration law enforcement and staked out a most extreme position on immigration: defunding the agencies that keep America safe.

Echoing old and tired calls to "Defund the police," Democrats are refusing to fund law enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security. They won't agree to provide a single dollar for the agencies that protect our borders and take criminal illegal aliens off of our streets. They don't want there to be a single person stopping individuals from entering our country illegally or enforcing our nation's immigration laws.

If this sounds extreme, it's because it is. "Defund the police" and "Abolish ICE" were once fringe positions on the left; today they're basically the official position of the Democrat Party.

Republicans, however, remain committed to securing America and keeping Americans safe even if Democrats aren't. We recently passed the Secure America Act, a bill that funds Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the next three years, ensuring that Democrats can never again jeopardize Americans' safety by trying to defund immigration law enforcement.

Under President Biden, we saw Democrats' open-border policies in action: millions of illegal immigrants crossing the southern border every year, illegal drugs coming into our communities, and American citizens murdered by illegal immigrants living freely in our country. Compare that to today. The border is secure, zero illegal immigrants have been released from the border into the country for the last 12 months, and criminal illegal aliens are on notice that they will no longer be allowed to live freely in our country.

If it were up to Democrats, we would have completely open borders. Fortunately, President Trump and Republicans are standing in their way. We've cleaned up the mess of the Biden years, secured the border, and begun deporting criminal illegal aliens from our country. And now, with the passage of the Secure America Act, we've ensured that law enforcement can continue doing the important work of keeping America safe.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries
PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483
1-352-216-3025

## Monday's Here but Sunday's A-Coming

For many years, even before I became a pastor, Sunday was always a very special day. I lived in a rural community in Pennsylvania where they had what they called the "Blue Laws." No business was open on a Sunday, but churches were full.

In those days, Sunday was focused on church, gathering as a congregation, and worshiping the Lord.

Then came Monday.

Monday is the beginning of a new week. That means I need to get everything in order and get ready to do what needs to be done for the week.

Recently, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to my office on Monday and said, "Are you ready for the week?" Then she walked away laughing, knowing that Monday was my most difficult day of the rest of the week.

After the best day of the week comes this day, which is very difficult for me.

I looked at my calendar and couldn't believe I had so much work, which made me realize how Mondays can leave me feeling overwhelmed and questioning the simplicity of my retirement.

For me, Monday is hard to get started. After a wonderful weekend, I now have to get back in the saddle again and get into my routine. I guess as you get older, it's hard to get back in your routine after taking a day or two off.

As I was pouring coffee into my cup, she said, "Well, at least you got something done today," Then burst into laughter, making me realize even my coffee breaks are a comedy show, at least for her.

I slowly walked back to my office and got seated behind my desk. As I took a sip of coffee, I thought of all the stuff I needed to do this week. Why is it that on Monday, you have to start the week all over again?

A thought jingled in my mind at this time. What if I don't do anything today? After all, I am retired, so I do have charge of my time.

I leaned back in my chair and thought about what I could do today if I weren't working in my office. For the life of me, I couldn't think of anything to do. Looking at my desk, I saw everything I needed to do this week.

Even if I take Monday off, I still have to do the work that is needed for the week. That means my Tuesday is crammed with catch-up work. The only catch-up I like is on my hamburger.

I took a deep sigh, leaned back in my chair, and said to myself, "Self, you gotta get to work and Get'er done."

I can't remember the time I really listened to myself. I'm not sure today is going to be that time.

After some deep thought, I decided to get started. I looked through my desk to make sure I had a list of everything I needed to do this week. As I piled that list on the desk, I was amazed at all the work I had to do.

Looking at it, I couldn't help but think of how much work I was doing during the week.

Just as I was putting it all together, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to the office. She said, "You do know that you have a doctor's appointment on Thursday."

Of course, I didn't, and that changed everything I was working on today. All those doctor appointments eat up a lot of my week. I personally don't like going to the dermatologist because they always get under my skin.

Now I needed to reshuffle my week to fit in my doctor's visit, proving that Monday's chaos is as unpredictable as a sitcom plot twist.

Before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage left, I asked an important question, "I don't have any more doctors appointments this week do I?" She replied in the negative, which was a great relief to me.

Throughout the years, I have learned that my Monday determines my schedule for the entire week. If I screw up on Monday, I'm going to have a bad week for sure. And I know that from personal experience.

If I get Monday's work done today, the rest of the week will be more doable. The harder I work on Monday, the easier the rest of the week will be. If I slack on Monday, I'll have a terrible week ahead of me.

As much as I enjoy Sunday, I don't enjoy Monday. But I do know that my Monday will prepare me for the Sunday that's ahead. I'll get to work, no matter how long it takes, and finish Monday as best I can.

Nothing is more satisfying then finishing the week in the positive. That's my goal, and I'm getting close.

Thinking on this, I was reminded of what the Apostle Paul said. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

I must confess that I often procrastinate. Every time I do, it costs me and makes me look like a fool. Paul encourages us to "redeem the time."

Solomon understood this when he wrote, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

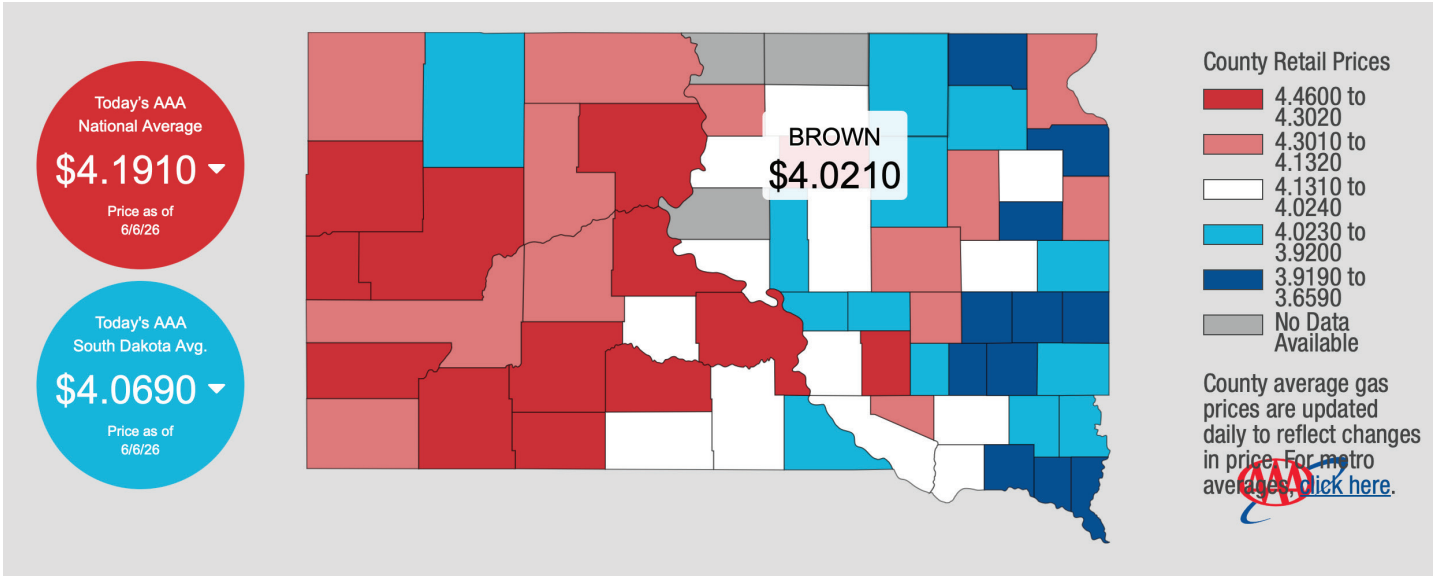
This is my challenge every Monday as I start a new week.

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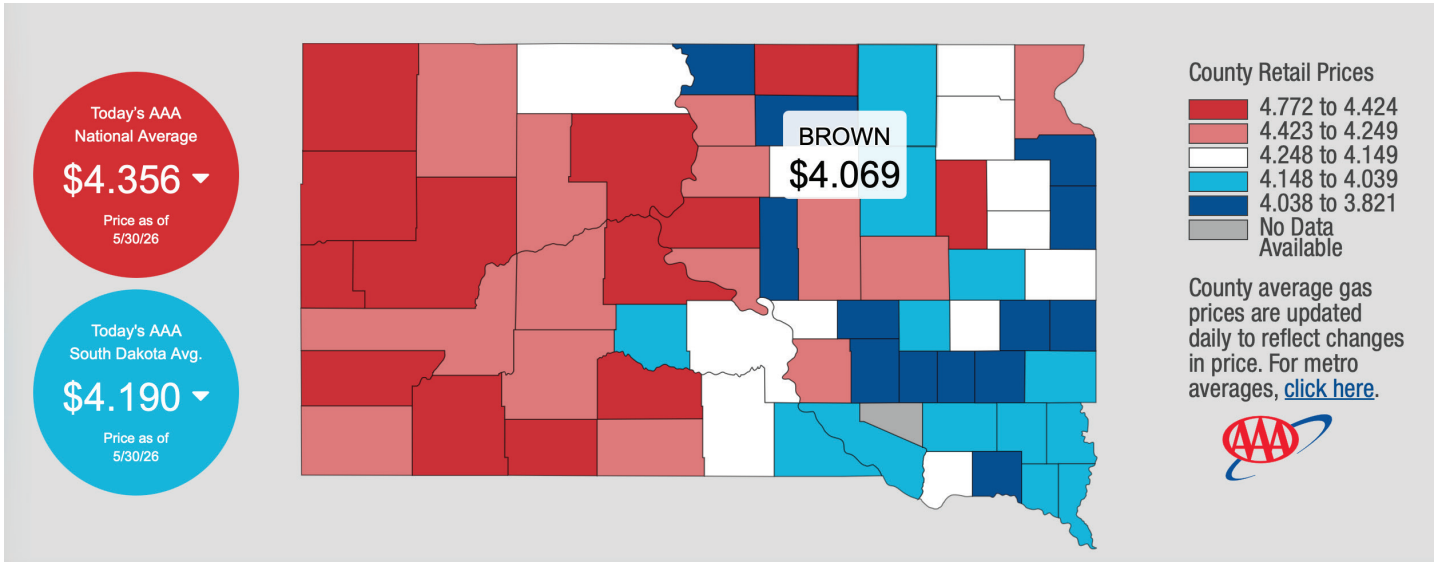
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

| | Regular | Mid-Grade | Premium | Diesel |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Current Avg. | $4.0690 | $4.2840 | $4.7700 | $4.8060 |
| Yesterday Avg. | $4.0770 | $4.3030 | $4.8010 | $4.8090 |
| Week Ago Avg. | $4.1900 | $4.3950 | $4.8900 | $4.9710 |
| Month Ago Avg. | $4.2180 | $4.3590 | $4.8510 | $5.2210 |
| Year Ago Avg. | $2.9530 | $3.1540 | $3.6270 | $3.1710 |

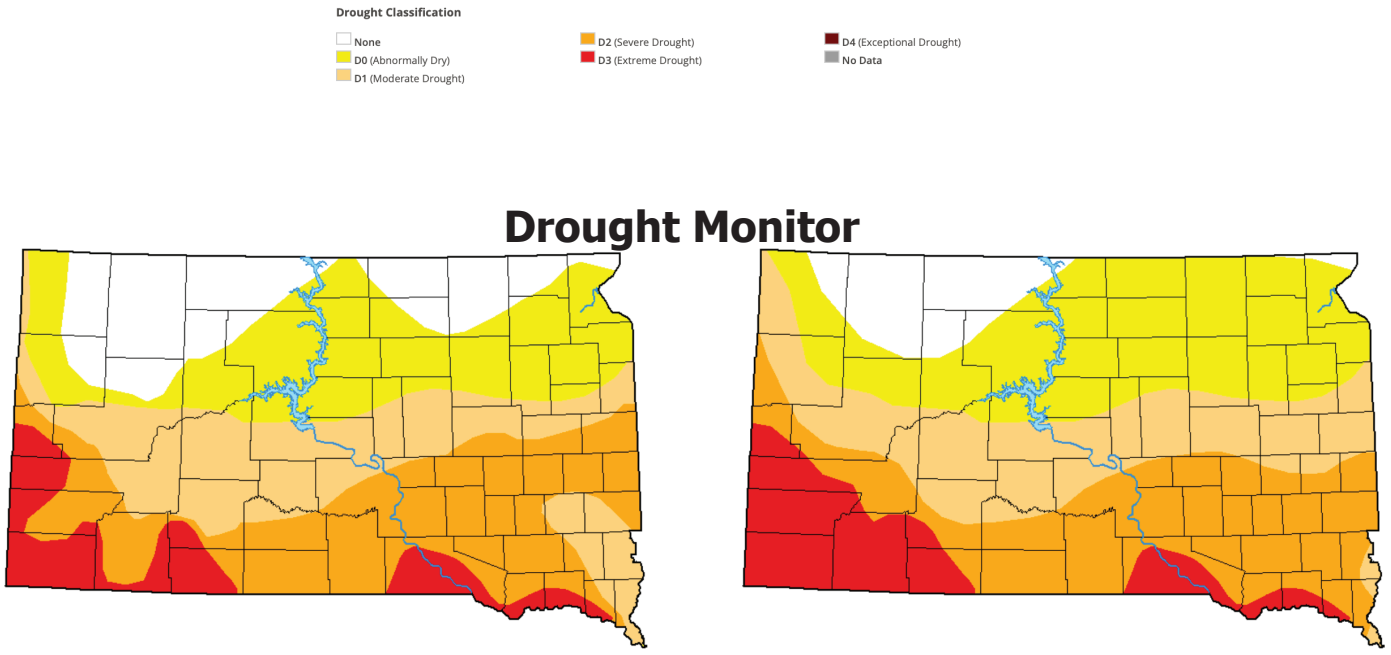
### This Week




### Last Week



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Stormy weather brought soaking rains across much of the High Plains, with the highest coverage and accumulations over Kansas and Nebraska. While beneficial, this precipitation competed during the week with much above-normal temperatures, which maintained high evapotranspirative demands. Accordingly, areas that missed out on significant rainfall, including portions of the Dakotas and far northern Nebraska, experienced some degradation, while reductions were noted across much of Kansas and eastern Nebraska. Further west, beneficial precipitation brought some relief to portions of the Colorado Plains and a few spots in Wyoming, while drier conditions resulted in deterioration in southwestern Colorado.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT
https://southdakotasearchlight.com

COMMENTARY

# South Dakota has a conservation priorities problem

## Hatchery fundraising points to flaws inherent in predator bounty program

**by Brad Johnson**

Gov. Larry Rhoden stood in Watertown recently asking South Dakotans to help raise $3 million for upgrades to the Blue Dog State Fish Hatchery.

The request itself is reasonable. Blue Dog is aging infrastructure, and fish production remains foundational to South Dakota's outdoor economy. Hatcheries are among the few state programs that simultaneously support tourism, local recreation and rural communities.

But the fundraising campaign exposes a contradiction state leaders would prefer not to confront: Would South Dakota even need private donations if the Noem–Rhoden administration had not spent years directing hunting and fishing license dollars into a $500,000-per-year predator bounty program that wildlife biologists warned was unlikely to deliver meaningful results?

This is not a question about one hatchery. It is a question about how South Dakota governs.

The Nest Predator Bounty Program, launched in 2019 by then-Gov. Kristi Noem, was marketed as aggressive wildlife management — paying bounties for raccoons, skunks, foxes and other nest predators in an effort to boost pheasant and waterfowl production. Supporters called it bold. Critics called it political theater.

By the 2025 and 2026 legislative sessions, skepticism had turned into open doubt. Lawmakers questioned whether the program produced measurable biological results. Opponents noted the state had stopped conducting the brood-count monitoring needed to demonstrate improved pheasant production in the first place — a striking omission for a program claiming biological success.

Wildlife experts were even more direct. Broad bounty systems rarely suppress predator populations enough to improve nesting success across large landscapes.

George Vandel, retired senior wildlife biologist with the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks and vice president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, summarized the issue during legislative testimony:

"Bounty programs can't work, never will work."

Research largely supports that conclusion. Predator removal can help in small, intensively managed areas, but statewide bounty systems have shown limited long-term results.

And by 2026, even the state appeared to recognize the program's political vulnerability. Rather than defend the original structure, the GF&P Commission split the initiative into separate trapping and coyote programs while preserving essentially the same overall spending level.

The structure changed. The spending — and the lack of evidence — did not.

And that spending choice carries a second, less discussed cost: Predator bounties are not eligible for federal Dingell-Johnson matching funds. If the same $500,000 in license dollars were directed toward eligible fisheries work — including hatchery upgrades — South Dakota could draw down an additional $1.5 million in federal matching dollars. That is a 3-to-1 return the state is currently walking away from. Blue Dog is exactly the kind of project that qualifies. The bounty program is not.

Which brings us back to Blue Dog. It's core fisheries infrastructure — precisely the kind of investment that directly supports South Dakota's outdoor economy. Healthy hatcheries do not just produce fish; they sustain the tourism, guiding, bait shop, campground and small-town business ecosystems that help keep rural communities alive.

Yet the state now finds itself struggling to modernize essential hatchery infrastructure while continuing to spend $500,000 annually on predator bounty programs whose biological effectiveness remains disputed.

The opportunity cost is not abstract — it is measured in potentially lost federal dollars, delayed infrastructure and a hatchery now forced to rely on private fundraising to cover basic modernization.

That is not a funding problem. It is a priorities problem — and a costly one.

Predator bounties fit neatly into modern political messaging. They generate headlines. They create the appearance of immediate action. They allow conservation to be framed as a simple battle between "good" wildlife and "bad" predators.

Real wildlife management is not that simple.

Habitat quality, wetland conditions, grassland preservation, drought cycles and landscape fragmentation play far larger roles in pheasant and waterfowl production than statewide bounty systems. Wildlife professionals understand this. But habitat work is slower, less dramatic and politically less rewarding than announcing another predator-control initiative.

South Dakota's outdoor economy deserves better than conservation by press release.

If the state truly believes that hatcheries like Blue Dog are essential infrastructure — and they are — then lawmakers should fund them directly and transparently instead of continuing to defend programs with uncertain biological returns.

Because conservation credibility matters.

Hunters and anglers will support serious investment when they believe license dollars are being spent strategically. Public trust weakens when those dollars appear increasingly tied to political branding exercises instead of measurable outcomes.

And that may be the larger lesson behind the Blue Dog fundraising campaign: South Dakota does not lack the money to do conservation right. What it lacks is the political discipline to stop chasing symbolic victories and start funding the work that produces measurable results.

Every year the state pours $500,000 into a program with no federal match, no measurable biological return and little credible scientific support while projects like Blue Dog — which do qualify for a 3-to-1 federal match — are left to pass the hat.

That is not stewardship. It is a political choice.

South Dakotans deserve an explanation for why state leaders continue prioritizing political symbolism over measurable conservation results.

*Brad Johnson is a certified general real estate appraiser and longtime journalist. He is past president of South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association, president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, a member of the National Wildlife Federation's board of directors, and served 16 years on the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources. He lives in Rapid City and Watertown.*

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# Podcast: Previewing South Dakota's first-ever statewide runoff election with journalist Kevin Woster

**BY: MEGHAN O'BRIEN**

O'BRIEN: Welcome back to Searchlight Report, a podcast from South Dakota Searchlight that brings you up to date on policy and politics in the Mount Rushmore State. I'm your host Meghan O'Brien. The state's primary election was Tuesday. For Republican voters, ballots were stacked with congressional candidates, hopefuls for legislative seats and four candidates for the Republican nomination for governor. The winner in the governor race needed 35% of the vote, which none reached Tuesday night. That means the top two candidates — current Governor Larry Rhoden and businessman Toby Doeden — will campaign for eight more weeks until a special election on July 28th. The winner will face Democrat Dan Ahlers in the November general election. Though Doeden didn't get enough support to win outright, he ended the night in first place at 31%. Rhoden finished second with 25%. The other two candidates were U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson, who was third with 23%, and state Speaker of the House Jon Hansen with 21%. I spoke with longtime South Dakota journalist Kevin Woster, who wrote a column about the race for South Dakota Searchlight. Woster grew up on a farm near Reliance and worked for decades in journalism, including stops at the Brookings Register, Sioux Falls Argus Leader, Rapid City Journal, KELO-TV and South Dakota Public Broadcasting, plus freelance assignments for outdoors and agricultural magazines. He lives in Rapid City.

O'BRIEN: So, just starting off, the results from the Secretary of State's office are pointing towards that runoff with current Governor Larry Rhoden and then businessman Toby Doeden. What are you making of, of just seeing those results right now?

WOSTER: Well, I was a little surprised that Dusty Johnson didn't make the runoff. I kind of expected he would be in that, although as I look back on it, sometimes I think his — the way that he kind of developed his standing as a politician, an officeholder, as a sort of a mainstream Republican and made some of those votes early on that Donald Trump didn't like very well that were votes of conscience, and I think any person in my situation will look on and say were pretty solid votes. And he then went, you know, really as the pressure came on him, he really went kind of hard MAGA for a while, in the last few years. And I think that maybe the Trump people never really bought that. I don't know that he was ever really fully accepted by the really fervent MAGA folks that are likely to turn out at a primary in really good numbers, and I think maybe he lost some of the mainstream folks that don't have a great passion for Donald Trump, mainstream Republicans, kind of the old school folks. So maybe I shouldn't have been as surprised as I was, but I was surprised that he didn't make the runoff. I was a little surprised that Doeden finished first, although again, maybe I shouldn't have been with a state that's three times voted for Donald Trump in the general election, that's 62 to 63%. Heavily favored in this state among Republicans, obviously Trump is. And especially early in his campaign, Doeden came out very much like kind of a Trump gone South Dakota as a candidate. He kind of backed off that a little bit as he got closer to the election. And you know, he has some similarities with Trump, in his size and his swagger and he's sort of the way he wants to burn down the establishment and everything, so, there was that type too, I think that probably maybe I should have seen the probability that he could, you know, get the first place spot.

O'BRIEN: Were you surprised at all by Rhoden being in?

WOSTER: Yeah, I've been surprised by Rhoden from the start. I've always liked Larry. When I worked with him, and it's been some years when I covered him, I should say, and he was in the Legislature. I considered him a very solid legislator and straight shooting, honest guy, likable guy, not a polished politician by any means, and I really thought he did an excellent job as, you know, suddenly to be elevated to the governor's spot or lieutenant governor in the year plus that he had. He did some good things, brought some normalcy back to the office after a kind of a turbulent six years or whatever it is under was under Kristi Noem and, ran a solid campaign with not very much money and, you know, cut some really good effective ads, I think, that showed his genuine South Dakota presence, as a rancher and welder and a guy

that really presents a position of a solid South Dakota man. So, I was, and, and I was a little impressed. Speaking to the other candidates, with Jon Hansen because he hardly had any money and, you know, for him to get 21%, I thought that was pretty good too.

O'BRIEN: Yeah, and so I wanted to kind of go back to you said that during during his time in the Legislature, Rhoden really wasn't much of a polished politician, but now it's kind of become – This runoff has become a contest between someone who's a pretty well-established political figure in South Dakota and someone who hasn't been elected to office. I mean, what do you make of that kind of contrast there, I guess?

WOSTER: Yeah, see, I mean, you can certainly argue that Larry Roden has been part of the political establishment, the Pierre establishment, and he has been, you know, he had a lot of years in Pierre in the Legislature and leadership positions. And then, of course, as lieutenant governor. He still doesn't have great polish. I think his – and I don't think he particularly wants great polish, and a lot of people, including me, kind of find that endearing, and he was just being himself in the advertisements, and I think that was really effective. It'll be interesting to see how the campaign plays out. I'm sure Rhoden is going to raise a lot more money very quickly than he did in the lead-up to the primary election when he had some trouble raising money. And Doeden, of course, has, by the sound of it, all the money he needs himself, so he can spend a lot on this runoff too. So, we're going to see a lot more ads.

O'BRIEN: And so going back to the start of campaigns to now. When Representative Dusty Johnson had announced that he was running, he was kind of that presumptive front runner, and then he ended up being kind of pushed out of that top two for the runoff. I guess what's kind of changed since the start of campaigning till now for those candidates?

WOSTER: Well, I, and I, I touched on this in something I wrote for you guys at Searchlight, that I think he had bad ads. I just don't think he could ever find an advertisement, a TV advertisement that presented him in a very effective way. He just didn't show very well in those ads, which seemed awkward and kind of stilted and… And you know, he did a – he's a good public speaker when he gets out and about and I think he was caught in a bad spot kind of between Trump and not being with Trump, which is – Which I'd say, I think his natural inclination, obviously, is to not be a big Trumper, and in a primary election, the votes that he had taken that were seen as going against Trump showed up in some of the attack ads, and they probably had an impact and just a lot of things went wrong with… And usually you have to blame the candidate. You have to blame the candidate and how he manages the campaign and the people that work on his campaign. So, I assume he's doing some soul searching now about what went wrong, and sometimes somebody that's perceived as the frontrunner early on, you know, that's a long time to hold that, and you can get kind of tense because you've started to assume that you're probably going to finish first. And then when you feel it slipping away, as perhaps he was starting to see some polling numbers in their internal polls that indicated that. I don't know that, but you have to wonder about that. It's, you can kind of tense up, and he was throwing a lot of ads out there, and I'm not sure they were doing much good.

O'BRIEN: And I want to kind of think about, too, what you'd mentioned about Speaker of the House, Jon Hansen. He had, from my memory, he was kind of one of the more underfunded candidates. And yet Tuesday night, he managed to pull off more than 20% of the vote. I guess, what does that mean? What do you think of that?

WOSTER: Well, I think he did well in the debates. And he's a lawyer, he's articulate. He's an experienced legislator. He's a speaker of the House. He's, you know, he knows how to speak in public and he knows how to debate issues, and that showed, and I think that that helped him, and I think what advertising he could run, the ads I saw by him, the mailers I saw by him seemed pretty effective. I think he has a strong base among kind of the evangelical community, the people that feel strongly about certain social, cultural issues, and I think he's, he's developed that and it is solid there, and I think he put together, without a whole lot of money, he put together a pretty effective coalition of voters that turned out for him and, you know, had really a respectable showing.

O'BRIEN: And what do you think worked well for, for the top two candidates for Rhoden and Doeden?

WOSTER: Well, I think with Doeden it's just, keep crashing it, and, you know, I'm going to cut your taxes, I'm going to cut government, I'm going to figure out a way to grow the economy, the insiders in Pierre have been in control long enough. I'm an outsider. I'm a self-made man. I've made a lot of money. I've created a lot of jobs. I know how to go in and fix all these things because I've had to fix them in, you know, in my businesses for years. And, you know, even the night of the election, he was getting that message out when people were talking to him about what's next, and he was going, what's next? I'm going to start working right away on fixing this election system that's taking so long to get these votes counted. That'll be different under me. And, you know, and I'm sitting there thinking, well, I don't know what you can do as governor about an election system that's handled by you know, the secretary of state and the local officials, but OK, I'm sure there's some people. And, you know, he doesn't ever explain really clearly how he's going to phase out the personal or the property tax in the state and, and still keep essential services and how you could do that and maybe cut sales tax too or something. But the, you know, effective campaign messages usually aren't about explaining how you're going to do something about it, they're usually about promising to do something, and he was pretty good at that, and, you know, I think that showed obviously with his finishing with the top percentage.

O'BRIEN: He was running on that platform, for quite some time, of phasing out property taxes. And obviously that was kind of the dominant conversation in the Legislature this year. How do you think that that issue impacted this race for governor?

WOSTER: Well, it certainly scared some people, and it may have gotten some people out to vote for the other candidates cause what was it 34 or 35% voter turnout, which is pretty good in a primary. I wonder if it will be that high in the runoff, if I remember right, typically it's not that. We've had that many in major races. And, I think, you know, there were a lot of skeptics and a lot of people just said, listen, it's time that even if he can't do exactly what he says he's going to do, I'd like somebody to be chipping away at that system of government that, you know, I've resented all my life and I don't think it served me very well, and he's the guy that I think it's going to go attack that problem.

O'BRIEN: Thinking too about the, I know that we'd kind of touched on with Hansen's financing and Johnson was probably one of the more well-funded candidates in this race. How do you think that campaign finances played a role for each of those that were running?

WOSTER: Well, money is messaging and messaging matters, especially if it's effective. I think it was definitely more effective for Doeden. He used his money pretty, pretty well. His campaign ads were pretty good, the ones with him in it. He was, you know, in situations with regular people that, you know, portrayed themselves as regular South Dakotans doing regular South Dakota jobs and work and facing regular problems and housing issues and affordability and work and then I thought, and his ads generally were quite good, I thought. And then I thought about the ad with his wife, Liz, I believe. It was very effective, where she just looked at the camera and spoke very effectively, I thought, about, "I will tell you what's in Toby's heart. I've heard all these things about him, and here's what I want to tell you that I know to be true about him, " and showed pictures of them when they were a young married couple and pictures of them and their kids, and I thought that was an excellent ad and very effective for him.

O'BRIEN: And his name recognition and polling seemed to grow kind of as we got closer to the primary election. Was that, do you think it was advertising? Do you think it was just getting out and shaking hands? What do you think kind of changed those numbers for him?

WOSTER: Well, certainly advertising, putting the ads out there, the debates certainly would have done that. He's a hard person to forget once you see him, you know, because he's big and he has a real presence and he speaks forcefully. And so I think those two, and then he had a bus, I think if I remember right, so with that, he got around, shook hands and did the work, you know, to try and increase that name recognition and seemed to get it done, at least with the Republicans willing to get out and vote in that primary.

O'BRIEN: And we also saw, I mean, all four of these candidates try to align themselves with Trump in one way or another, I guess, do you see that also playing a role in this race?

WOSTER: Yeah, and I, you know, and there was some question about with some of the things going on

right now in the Iran war and with the inflation impacts and with the, you know, the price of gas and the price of groceries and the other things that people, especially people of low and middle incomes, are, you know, challenged by. You wonder if Trump's popularity dipped at all in the state where he's really been popular again with the majority, not with some people, and it didn't seem like people were at all afraid to align themselves with the president, and I wouldn't have expected them to be. In fact, you know, when Larry Rhoden used a couple of attack ads on Dusty Johnson, it was about Dusty's votes that were contrary to what Trump wanted, and the ad and it ended with something like, if he's not for Trump, he's not for us. And so I think Trump was an obvious factor and player in this, as you would expect. I was a little surprised that Doeden used him so heavily early on, aligning himself in so many ways. I had a lot of mailers from Doeden early on, with him and Trump on the same mailer and "I'm the guy that's going to stand with the president, " and things like that. And I think he had, he probably felt like he'd established that as, "None of these candidates is more 'Trumpy, '" if you can use that word, "than I am. "

O'BRIEN: And so then looking forward, Dusty Johnson has had a lot of experience in state government. I mean, he worked with former Governor Dennis Daugaard. He served on the Public Utilities Commission, and he's on his fourth term in Congress. What do we kind of make of his legacy now?

WOSTER: I think it will be mixed. A lot of things became mixed when Trump got to be such a power-house, because you will look at some of the votes he cast, you look at the Big Beautiful Bill, and there are certainly some good things in there, especially by South Dakota Republican standards, but some bad things too, and, and some ugly things, as well as what some people might call beautiful things. And I think a lot of Dusty Johnson's work was not highly recognized. At his best, he was trying to be a decent politician, using reasonable rhetoric to try and get things done for a conservative state, and we always have to remember that when we disagree with some of the things that he was working on. Most of them probably were approved of by the majority of South Dakotans, which a majority of them are Republican, and, compared to Democrats and, and independents, and slim majority, maybe I haven't looked at the numbers, but certainly, you know, the dominant party is Republican. And so I think that there will be some things he will wish maybe he'd handled differently, but you know, it's, you look back on his eight years of Congress, I think it'll be overall respectable, some things he could have done better. His time with the governor, I think, taught him a lot, and I think he was, you know, as an outsider and somebody that worked with him as a reporter, not in any other way but that, pretty smart and effective in that way, and as a public utilities commissioner, so he had, he had experience. Is his career over, I guess is the question. That's a pretty stinging loss, and you have to look at it right now and think, man, I don't have nearly the support — which is the support you need in South Dakota among the Republican primary voters — as I thought I did, and you know, could he end up working for an administration in a cabinet level position, or will he go back to private business? Would he someday end up in D.C. as a lobbyist? I tend to think he'd want to be in South Dakota, but who knows? And I wouldn't rule out entirely another run for elected office someday. He's still a young guy.

O'BRIEN: What do you expect when it comes to where Johnson's supporters might go because of how Doeden's been speaking about his opponents?

WOSTER: Well, that's a good question. I can't imagine very many Johnsons are going to go to Doeden. Maybe it'll surprise me. I could see the Hansen supporters kind of, some of them go on to Doeden over economic stuff and his, they want tax cuts, they want, you know, they want something really, they want a real shakeup. And those that agree with Hansen on certain cultural social issues, which Larry Rhoden is also strong on, has proven that, and maybe they want a little more stability in the system and more of a regular, you know, traditional South Dakota conservative. You might see that split in the Hansen votes going. I would be inclined to say that Rhoden, who I assume is going to be surprised how much money he can raise now compared to the difficulties he had raising it before. I want to say that I think he's a favorite going in that, a very slight favorite, but boy, sometimes I wonder if I know anything about politics anymore.

O'BRIEN: He did say when I, when I spoke with him after at his watch party, he'd said that they're getting a lot more funding, a lot more, financial support from folks, kind of as they've gone to the end of this

and as they're going forward now with the runoff.

WOSTER: Sure, yeah, they could, they go from 4 to 2 and people who feel strongly one way or the other, you know, now they've got more people willing to open their checkbooks, provided they didn't…people still use checkbooks, right? Not just old guys like me?

O'BRIEN: They do. I'm sure people can at least imagine them in their head.

WOSTER: That'll be interesting to see how the fundraising comes in and what approach they take, you know, what approach are they going to take? It would be also interesting to see if there's any. I guess I don't see Dusty being a possible lieutenant governor, you know, Rhoden's already got one, and I certainly don't see Dusty being considered by Doeden or Dusty considering Doeden. Would Hansen consider it? Would Doeden consider Hansen? I don't know.

O'BRIEN: All interesting questions. And then as we go forward, what kind of topics do you anticipate becoming the focus of this runoff?

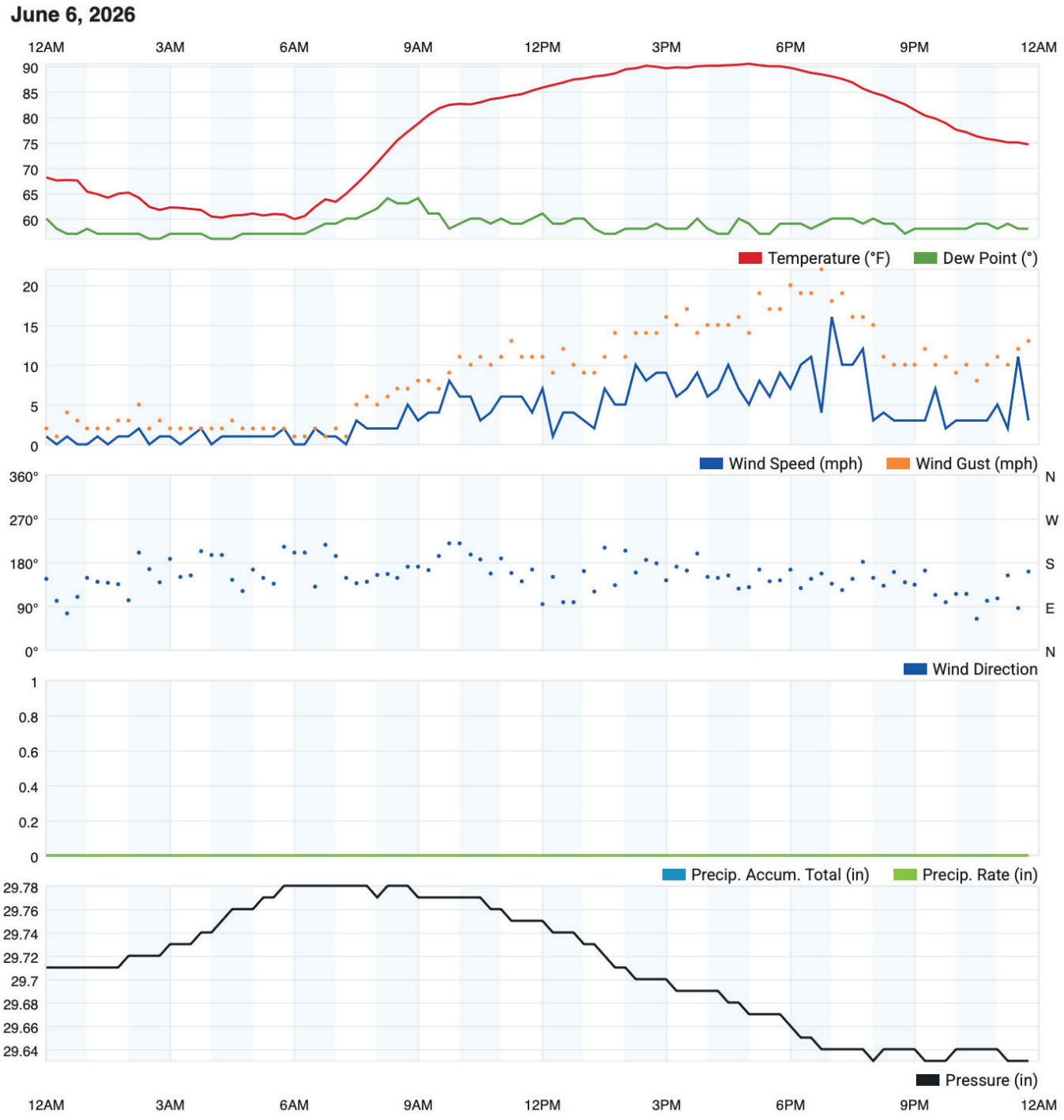
WOSTER: Well, you know, one of the things I wondered with the primary was why nobody was hitting Doeden. It seemed like he just kind of skated through hitting everybody else and nobody hit back to speak up. There was a little bit near the end, some text messages that I saw and some social media stuff questioning some of the federal money he had taken for his businesses and how that was handled. But I just, I mean, especially if it's as tight as it certainly could be, it's going to be hard cause, you know, he's going to hit Rhoden. So it's going to be hard for me that somebody doesn't have something or won't find something stronger than we saw against Doeden in the primary in this runoff, and that he's going to, he's going to get hit harder and more often.

O'BRIEN: To learn more about Doeden and Rhoden, check out our interviews with each of them in prior episodes. Kevin Woster's commentary about the race is also available at SouthDakotaSearchlight.com.

That's all we have for this episode of Searchlight Report. The podcast is based on reporting by South Dakota Searchlight's staff — editor Seth Tupper, senior reporter John Hult and reporters Joshua Haiar, Makenzie Huber and me. I write the scripts and produce the audio, with editing by Seth Tupper. South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest nonprofit news organization. Until next time, I'm South Dakota Searchlight's Meghan O'Brien with the Searchlight Report.

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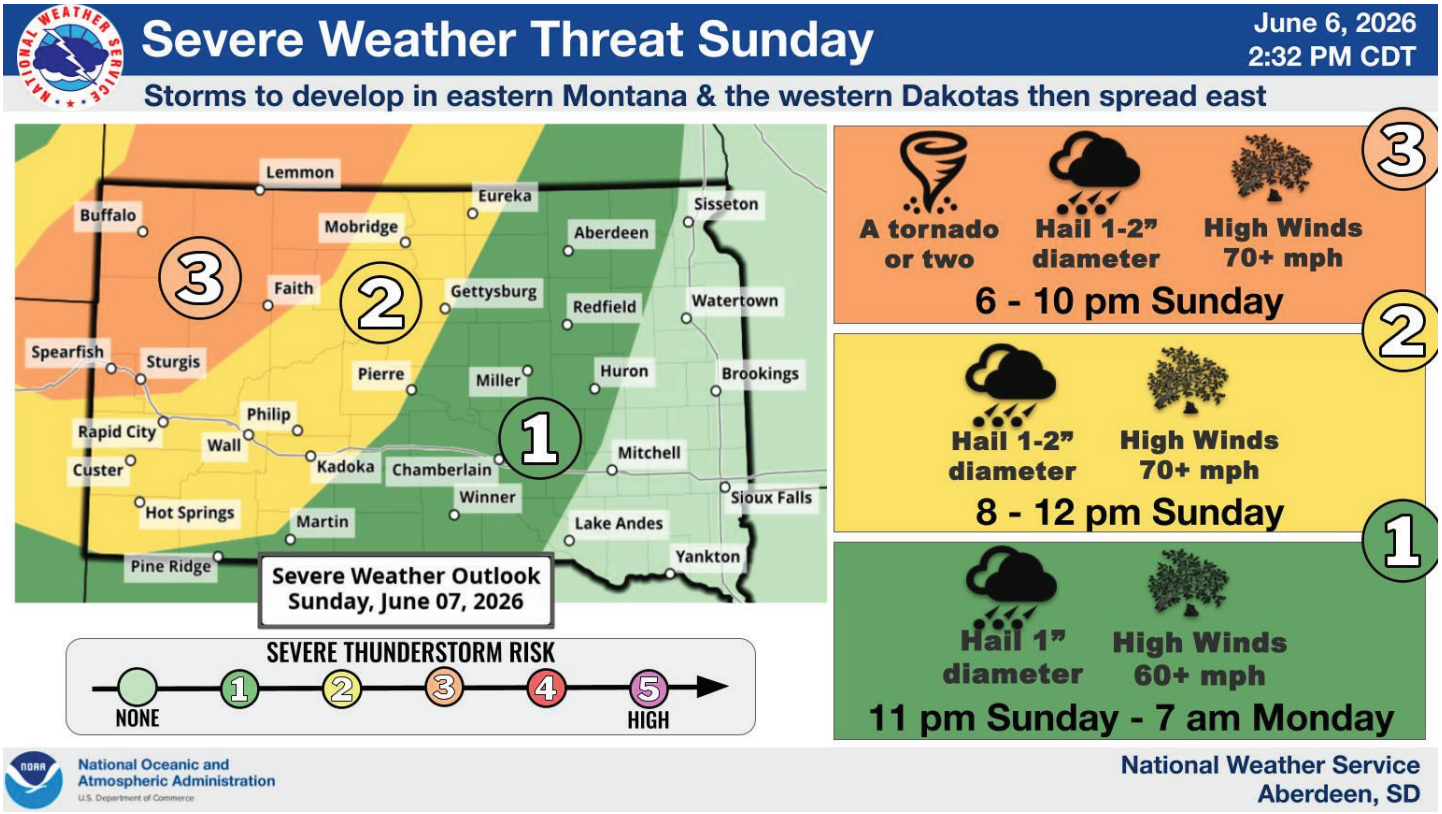
# Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

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| Today | Tonight | Monday | Monday Night | Tuesday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **High: 92 °F** | **Low: 63 °F** | **High: 86 °F** | **Low: 60 °F** | **High: 97 °F** |
| Hot and Breezy | Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Chance T-storms | Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms and Breezy |




We continue to monitor the potential for severe weather Sunday into early Monday across the state. Focus for storm development is the western Dakotas, then tracking east through the evening with threats of large hail, damaging winds and a tornado or two. Risk diminishes late evening/early morning as things move east to just pockets of hail and strong winds.

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## Storm Timing - Additional Details

June 6, 2026
2:40 PM CDT

| | 6/7 Sun | | | 6/8 Mon | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3pm | 6pm | 9pm | 12am | 3am | 6am | 9am | 12pm |
| Eagle Butte | 0 | 1 | 25 | 29 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eureka | 1 | 1 | 6 | 29 | 27 | 11 | 7 | 3 |
| Faulkton | 0 | 1 | 3 | 22 | 24 | 16 | 13 | 11 |
| Gettysburg | 0 | 0 | 10 | 24 | 21 | 12 | 4 | 3 |
| Kennebec | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Leola | 0 | 1 | 7 | 26 | 28 | 16 | 14 | 8 |
| McIntosh | 4 | 7 | 43 | 42 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Miller | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 8 | 8 |
| Mobridge | 0 | 0 | 14 | 33 | 20 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Murdo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pierre | 0 | 0 | 9 | 25 | 19 | 4 | 1 | 1 |

10 20 30 40 50
Probability of Thunder Forecast (%)

| | 6/7 Sun | | 6/8 Mon | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6pm | 9pm | 12am | 3am | 6am | 9am | 12pm |
| Aberdeen | 1 | 1 | 7 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 12 |
| Britton | 2 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 22 | 13 | 13 |
| Clark | 3 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 20 | 8 | 8 |
| Clear Lake | 6 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 10 |
| Frederick | 1 | 7 | 25 | 26 | 20 | 13 | 10 |
| Milbank | 6 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 15 |
| Redfield | 1 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 20 | 11 | 11 |
| Sisseton | 4 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 20 | 10 | 14 |
| Watertown | 5 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 12 |
| Webster | 2 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 20 | 12 | 15 |
| Wheaton | 4 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 22 | 12 | 14 |

10 20 30
Probability of Thunder Forecast (%)

### Key Messages Regarding Storms

- Forming in eastern Montana & western Dakotas Sunday afternoon
- Spread east through the afternoon and evening (Enhanced & Slight Risk areas). Main threats large hail and high winds
- Storms weakening overnight (Marginal Risk area). Diminishing risk for large hail/winds.
- Additional heightened risk for severe storms coming up Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

## Heat & Humidity Trends:

June 5, 2026
1:39 PM CDT

### Elevated Heat Risk This Weekend and for Next Week

| | 6/6 Sat | 6/7 Sun | 6/8 Mon | 6/9 Tue | 6/10 Wed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Britton | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Chamberlain | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Clark | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Eagle Butte | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Eureka | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Gettysburg | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| McIntosh | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Milbank | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Miller | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Mobridge | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Murdo | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Pierre | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Redfield | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sisseton | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Watertown | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Webster | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Wheaton | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

### Heat Risk: The likelihood that temperatures & humidity cause negative health impacts (ie heat exhaustion or heat stroke)

| Category | Risk of Heat-Related Impacts |
|---|---|
| Green 0 | Little to no risk from expected heat. |
| Yellow 1 | Minor - Primarily affects those who are extremely sensitive to heat and without cooling/hydration. |
| Orange 2 | Moderate - Affects those who are sensitive to heat, especially those without cooling/hydration, and some health systems and industries. |
| Red 3 | Major - Affects anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems and industries. |
| Magenta 4 | Extreme - Rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with no overnight relief affecting anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems, industries, and infrastructure. |

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

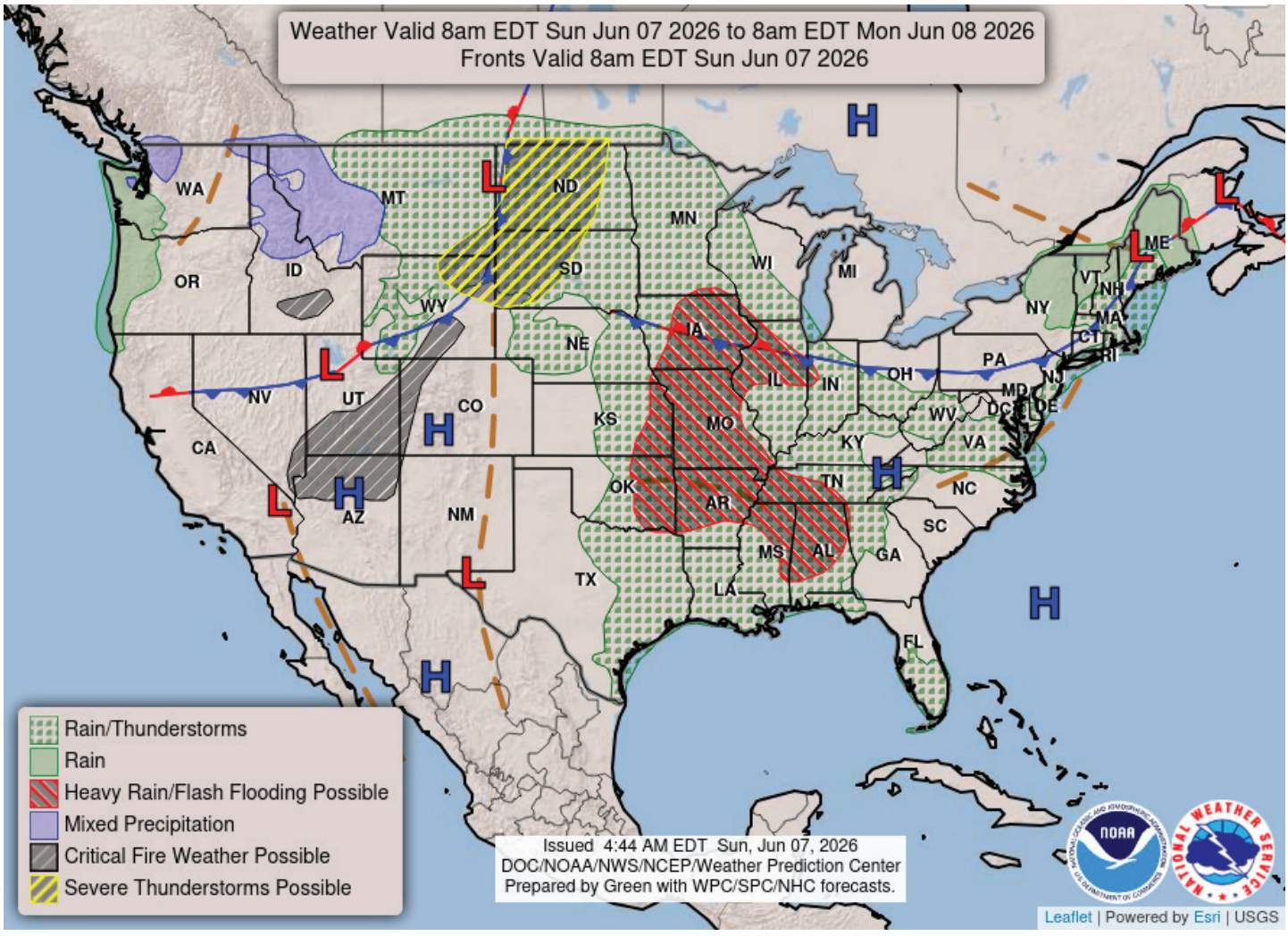
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# Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 91 °F at 5:01 PM**
**Low Temp: 60 °F at 6:02 AM**
**Wind: 23 mph at 6:19 PM**
**Precip: Total Rain: 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 2021
Record Low: 28 in 1901
Average High: 78
Average Low: 53
Average Precip in June.: 0.78
Precip to date in June.: 0.56
Average Precip to date: 8.03
Precip Year to Date: 6.92
Sunset Tonight: 9:178pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 am



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## Today in Weather History

June 7th, 1982: Lightning struck a house in Sunshine Acres, north of Pierre, and the ensuing fire destroyed the interior. One person received minor burns. Over two inches of rain fell in Pierre, raising Capital Lake four feet. Water and mud flooded the State Maintenance Building.

June 7th, 1993: A large F3 tornado destroyed a farmstead 9 miles southwest of Tulare. The tornado twisted the house on its foundation, virtually destroying it. This storm also destroyed a barn, three steel bins, three granaries, and two hog houses. The storm killed ten hogs.

At least three more tornadoes damaged several farms in the Tulare and Redfield areas. One tornado hit a farm northwest of Tulare, causing about 65,000 dollars in damage, and another damaged a farm five miles west of Redfield.

1816 — A famous June snow occurred in the northeastern U.S. Danville VT reported drifts of snow and sleet twenty inches deep. The Highlands were white all day, and flurries were observed as far south as Boston MA. (David Ludlum)

1972 — Richmond VA experienced its worst flood of record as rains from Hurricane Agnes pushed the water level at the city locks to a height of 36.5 feet, easily topping the previous record of thirty feet set in 1771. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Thunderstorms in the Laramie Mountains of eastern Wyoming produced golf ball size hail, and up to five inches of rain in just one hour. Half a dozen cities in the Upper Mississippi Valley reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse, WI, with a reading of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1988 — Snow whitened some of the mountains of northern California and northwestern Nevada. Twenty-six cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Rapid City SD with a reading of 104 degrees, and Miles City, MT, with a high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather from southern Oklahoma and eastern Texas to northwestern Florida through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes, including a dozen in Louisiana, and there were 119 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-2) tornado at Gross Tete LA killed two persons, injured thirty others, and another strong (F-2) tornado injured 60 persons at Lobdell LA. Softball size hail was reported at Hillsboro TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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InTouch Ministries

Daily Devotion

## Single-Minded Focus

**When we are focused on Christ, distractions lose their power.**

2 Timothy 2:4-5: 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

In verse 4 of today's passage, Paul warns against becoming "entangled" in the affairs of everyday life. The image is vivid: a soldier so wrapped up in civilian concerns that he can't move freely to serve his commander.

Paul wasn't telling Timothy to abandon all earthly responsibilities. After all, Paul himself worked as a tentmaker while carrying on ministry. Rather, he was cautioning against allowing daily pursuits to supersede a commitment to Christ. When our occupation, finances, or leisure consume us to the point that spiritual disciplines suffer, we've become entangled.

Growing wealth, providing for our family, and enjoying rest are all important—God encourages them. However, it's important to guard against letting these blessings become distractions that draw us away from church, prayer, or Bible study. And we should avoid compartmentalizing our life into "ministry time" and "regular life."

We are Christ's workmanship no matter where we are or what we're doing (Ephesians 2:10). Everything God gives—vocation, resources, leisure—is meant to be used for His glory. The question isn't whether we work or rest, but whether these good things keep us from serving our Leader freely.

*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:**
06.06.26

3 13 18 35 48 **4**

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

**NEXT DRAW:** 17 Hrs 48 Mins 44 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## MEGA MILLIONS

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
06.05.26

13 30 50 52 66 **2**

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$392,000,000**

**NEXT DRAW:**

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## LOTTO AMERICA

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
06.06.26

8 22 24 37 47 **5**

**All Star Bonus: 2x**

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$28,920,000**

**NEXT DRAW:**

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## DAKOTA CASH

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
06.06.26

5 9 13 14 23

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$124,000**

**NEXT DRAW:**

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## POWERBALL

**DOUBLE PLAY**

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
06.06.26

3 18 26 52 54 **8**

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

**NEXT DRAW:**

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## POWERBALL

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
06.06.26

16 32 55 59 64 **3**

**Power Play: 3x**

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$225,000,000**

**NEXT DRAW:**

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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## News from the AP Associated Press

# 1 million turn out for pope's Mass in Spain and iconic procession along flower-carpeted route

By NICOLE WINFIELD and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Pope Leo XIV honored Spain's centuries-old tradition of religious devotion on Sunday as a "school of faith" for today, as he presided over a Mass before a million people and a procession highlighting one of the most iconic expressions of Spanish popular piety: flower carpets.

The crowd cheered and shouted "This is the youth of the pope!" as Leo arrived for the Mass at a central Madrid plaza. He looped around the plaza and surrounding streets in his popemobile to a crowd packed several rows deep of people eager to witness the first papal visit in 15 years.

Sunday's Mass fell on the Catholic Corpus Domini feast day, which often features processions of faithful through towns and cities led by a priest carrying the Eucharist. In Spain as in other predominantly Catholic countries, the processions often feature elaborate floral carpets arranged along the route.

According to Spanish organizers, the 16 flower carpets decorating the half-kilometer (mile) procession route off Plaza Cibeles were prepared by a Spanish florists association from Galicia. Florists used more than 30,000 flowers, most the yellow and white colors of the Holy See flag, for the carpets that feature decorations such as the Holy See keys.

Leo, who arrived in Spain on Saturday at the start of his weeklong visit, has been keen to highlight the long tradition of Catholic devotion here to encourage especially young generations to find their faith.

In his homily Sunday, Leo honored Spain's tradition of the Corpus Domini processions, saying the floral carpets express the "spiritual sentiments of this country" through "altars erected in the streets."

"This is not an exhibition, a remnant of folklore or a simple display of beauty," he said. "It is a profession of faith in the presence of the risen Lord, who is alive and continues to walk among us."

He said the continued observance of such devotional practices points to what Spain can and should be for the world.

"Herein lies the task of Spain today and in the future: to ensure that the religiosity which has shaped and defined this country for centuries is not a museum of the past to be visited, but a school of faith from which to draw even today," he said.

A vigil draws huge crowds as Leo arrives

At a vigil service Saturday night, an estimated 600,000 young Spaniards knelt for several minutes in silent prayer alongside Leo, suggesting that there is indeed interest among young people despite Spain's heavily secularized society.

"Let me take the opportunity to tell all of you: Don't ever be afraid of thinking about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, or other services in the church!" Leo told the crowd.

Irati Valda and Javier Hormazal, a young couple, held up a cardboard sign announcing they are going to get married on June 13 and were ushered up close to receive Leo's blessing during the vigil.

"To see so many young people together, it's incredible. Half a million people in silence, this is something you will only live once," Valda said.

A form of popular piety dating back centuries

For Sunday's Mass and procession, local organizers said 1.2 million people had turned out on a brilliant spring morning at the central plaza and surrounding streets, with more trying to get in.

The tradition of laying flower carpets — and destroying them when the procession tramples them — dates back two centuries and is popular also in Latin America, where elaborate sand designs are also made. The painstaking displays are considered an offering to the Eucharist.

Poland has already had its tradition of Corpus Domini flower carpets recognized by UNESCO, and Spain's Galicia region is trying to have its tradition listed along with other countries as part of the world's intangible cultural heritage.

Wildly popular religious processions, pilgrimages and feasts continue to be held in most Spanish regions. The most recognizable are Holy Week processions during the final week of Lent where brotherhoods and robed penitents parade ornate statues of Christ and the Virgin Mary through cities, towns and villages alongside marching bands. Such processions draw the faithful as well as droves of non-believers and tourists.

Spanish towns and cities also regularly honor local patron saints with fiestas. Religious pilgrimages to local shrines mix piety with communal festivities and music. In Andalusia, the El Rocío pilgrimage fetches a million people that make a long, dusty journey over the Pentecost weekend on horseback and decorated covered wagons to venerate an icon of the Virgin Mary.

Leo arrived in Spain on Saturday and urged its people to put an end to polarization and work for unity. Later Sunday he is to meet privately with members of his Augustinian religious order and address cultural leaders.

## Kosovo voters return to the polls after parties fail to agree on a new president

By ZANA CIMILI Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Voters in Kosovo headed to the polls Sunday for an early parliamentary election, the third in less than 18 months, in an attempt to unlock a political impasse in the small Balkan nation that is striving to join the European Union and NATO.

Sunday's ballot was scheduled after the main political parties failed to agree by a March deadline on who should replace former President Vjosa Osmani. The first inconclusive election in February 2025 left the country without a functioning government for much of last year, forcing a second election in December.

The prolonged crisis has negatively affected Kosovo's economy, already hit hard by the global energy crisis and rising fuel prices. One of the youngest and poorest countries in Europe declared independence from Serbia in 2008, after a 1998-99 war that ended in a NATO bombing that forced Serbia to withdraw.

Prime Minister Albin Kurti's center-left Vetevendosje party has held a clear parliamentary majority since the early election in December. But Kosovo's president is elected by at least 80 lawmakers in the 120-member assembly, requiring a broader political consensus.

Kurti is being challenged by the two main opposition parties, the Democratic Party of Kosovo and the Democratic League of Kosovo, which have accused him of seeking to impose full control over all political institutions in the country.

"Today is a sunny Sunday, a very important day for democracy in Kosovo," Kurti said after voting. "I hope the people of Kosovo once again will show their maturity as always, with a very high turnout."

Osmani is running on the opposition LDK list in the election, having turned against Kurti after he refused to back her for a second term. Osmani on Sunday expressed "great optimism" that the election will "take us out of the repeated crisis that has damaged our country, both domestically and beyond our borders."

While the key players blamed each other for the crisis, their inability to reach a compromise has fueled disappointment among Kosovo's around 2 million voters, who want the government to focus on the economy and living standards instead.

Analysts still don't expect major changes in the election outcome compared to the previous vote in December.

Arton Smajli, 42, a resident of the capital, Pristina, said that "we are tired, but the will for change is greater than that."

Sejdi Shala, 73, is also optimistic the election will bring "stability of the institutions and the society."

The institutional vacuum, without a stable government, has delayed access to the EU and other international funds available to the country. European Council President Antonio Costa, during a visit last week, urged Kosovo to end the political stalemate and unite over the goal of EU integration.

Kosovo has been recognized by the United States and most EU countries, but not by Serbia and its allies, Russia and China. Pristina and Belgrade have been told they must mend relations to move forward with their EU membership bids.

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# Armenians go to the polls under Russian pressure aimed at preventing a drift toward West

By AVET DEMOURIAN Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Armenians are voting Sunday in parliamentary elections as the incumbent government, under mounting Russian pressure, seeks to loosen ties with Moscow and deepen cooperation with the West.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his ruling Civil Contract party are looking for a strong mandate for a new geopolitical course. The opposition they face includes some parties that are vocally pro-Russian.

Casting his vote on Sunday, Pashinyan said that Armenia would continue strengthening its independence, statehood, democracy and rule of law. "The European Union is our main partner in democratic reform implementation and we will continue that path," he said.

However, he also stressed that there were no tensions between Armenia and Moscow, saying, "our relations with Russia are institutional and based on mutual respect," the Armenpress news agency reported.

Russian officials have hit Armenian exports with a barrage of restrictions in recent weeks, while high-ranking officials, including President Vladimir Putin, have made thinly veiled threats comparing Armenia's path to that already taken by Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Armenian investigators said they issued six arrest warrants for members of the opposition Strong Armenia party the day before the vote, accusing them of buying votes. The nation's Central Election Committee confirmed Saturday that the party could run after a member of another opposition party, Republic, appealed for Strong Armenia to be barred over corruption allegations.

Trump offers support as Putin urges caution

Armenia's Parliament, the National Assembly, must consist of at least 101 members who are elected for five-year terms. Parties must win at least 4% of the vote to take a seat, while blocs made up of three or more parties must hit 8%.

Two political blocs and 17 parties are taking part in Sunday's election. Most pollsters and experts have predicted Pashinyan, who came to power in 2018 following sweeping street protests, will come out ahead.

"I think Armenians expect, first of all, a peaceful, independent and prosperous Armenia from this election, as we have today," said Hripsime Grigoryan, a Civil Contract member of the outgoing Parliament.

Pashinyan has spoken on several occasions about the need for a balanced foreign policy ensuring Armenia maintains good relations with the United States, Europe and Russia, as well as regional powers such as Turkey and Iran.

Despite this, Pashinyan has attracted far more enthusiasm in the West than in Moscow. He has been endorsed by several European leaders, as well as U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, of Armenia, a great friend and Leader, is making his Country strong, wealthy, and very secure," Trump wrote on social media, urging Armenians to "Make (Armenia) Great Again."

This has displeased the Kremlin. Speaking to journalists after Russia's Victory Day parade on May 9, Putin said if the Armenian people saw benefits in joining the European Union then "we will certainly have nothing to say against it."

Yet he also reminded reporters, "We are currently living through everything that is happening in respect of Ukraine. And how did it start? It started with Ukraine's joining or attempting to join the EU."

Opposition wants closer ties with Russia

Unlike the Civil Contract party, most of Armenia's opposition supports building stronger relations with Moscow.

The Strong Armenia party seeks to develop business ties with Russia and has accused Pashinyan of attempting to start a war with Moscow. Party leader Samvel Karapetyan is on trial for allegedly advocating for the government's overthrow, which the Armenian-Russian billionaire has rejected as a politically motivated case. He has coordinated the party's campaign while under house arrest, aided by his nephew Narek Karapetyan.

Other potential contenders include former President Robert Kocharyan, who leads the Hayastan bloc and has accused Pashinyan of "seriously undermining" relations with Russia, and the Prosperous Armenia Party led by pro-Russian business owner Gagik Tsarukyan.

These parties also have strongly criticized Pashinyan for attempting to normalize relations with neighboring Azerbaijan. The Armenian leader and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev initialed a document on moving toward a peace deal at the White House alongside Trump in August.

The two countries were locked in a decades-long conflict over the fate of Karabakh, a breakaway region that had been controlled for decades by ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia. Azerbaijan took control of the entire Karabakh region during a rapid offensive in 2023.

"I want this government to change because the condition of our country is getting worse," Sahakyan Elina, a supporter of the Prosperous Armenia Party, told The Associated Press at a rally Thursday. "I don't want to live with my enemies in unity."

EU criticizes Moscow's pressure

Russian officials have slapped new restrictions on Armenian produce in the run-up to the parliamentary vote, banning the import of Armenian flowers, certain types of cognac and wine, eggplants, potatoes, dried fruits, fish and more.

Russia says the bans are related to violations of agricultural import rules.

The European Commission on Thursday described the move as "nothing short of economic coercion."

"By extending export restrictions on Armenian products, Moscow is weaponizing economic relations for political pressure. We know this playbook all too well," the commission said in a statement.

Moscow also controls a significant portion of Armenia's energy and infrastructure and supplies it with cheap gas, which is a point that Putin has been quick to drive home in his meetings with Pashinyan.

Putin also has stressed that Armenia cannot join the EU and remain within the Eurasian Economic Union, a Russian-led customs bloc.

"Being in a customs union with the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union is impossible," Putin said. "It's simply impossible by definition."

## Kimi Antonelli aims for 5th win in a row at Monaco Grand Prix to extend his F1 lead

MONACO (AP) — Kimi Antonelli is aiming to continue a remarkable rise to the top of Formula 1 as he starts on pole position for the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday with a chance to further stretch his standings lead.

Monaco is the glamorous traditional high point of the F1 season and the 19-year-old Mercedes driver could join some of the sport's greatest names as a winner.

It's almost impossible to overtake on the narrow, twisty street circuit, so his pole position is especially valuable. He starts ahead of two of the most successful F1 drivers ever, with Max Verstappen second for Red Bull and Lewis Hamilton third for Ferrari.

"I just need to get a clean start, don't try to do the magic start," Antonelli said Saturday. Hamilton said that to have a shot at winning, he might need rain, which is unlikely to affect the race.

After a winless rookie season, Antonelli took his first F1 victory at the Chinese Grand Prix in March and has followed up with wins in Japan, Miami and Canada to lead teammate George Russell by 43 points. He would be the youngest champion in F1 history.

Mercedes has won all five Grand Prix races so far this year and is aiming for a sixth. Russell hasn't won since the opening race in Australia and starts sixth for Sunday's race after admitting he was "bamboozled" by how the Mercedes car better suited Antonelli's driving style.

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# Golden Knights beat Hurricanes 5-4 in 2OT in Game 3 after blowing 4-goal lead

By MARK ANDERSON AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A four-goal lead in what has been a wacky, compelling and highly entertaining Stanley Cup Final nearly wasn't enough for the Golden Knights on Saturday night.

A four-goal, third-period rally by the Hurricanes nearly made NHL history and in process sent shockwaves through T-Mobile Arena.

And this game ended in a way perhaps befitting all the craziness, a shot from Vegas defenseman Shea Theodore off the skate of Brandon Bussi — the backup goalie put in the game in the third period after not playing for two months — that went into the net at 5:38 of double overtime to give the Golden Knights a 5-4 victory over Carolina.

"I have experienced a lot of games in playoffs," Golden Knights coach John Tortorella said. "I haven't experienced one like this."

Almost overlooked was the four-point night by Vegas' Mitch Marner, who also produced the fastest hat trick in Cup Final history.

The Golden Knights took a 2-1 series lead. The teams take two days off before meeting in Game 4 on Tuesday night in Las Vegas. Teams with a 2-1 series lead went on to win the Cup 46 of 57 times, or 80.7%.

Carolina had been 6-0 in overtime this postseason. The Hurricanes were trying to become the first team to win after trailing by at least four goals in the third period, but now clubs in that situation are 0-109.

"We just left our foot off the gas," Theodore said on the ABC broadcast. "I think we have to be sharper in the third, but I liked the resiliency out of our group. I liked the way we started that second overtime, and I felt like we were more on our toes."

This was the 10th time the first three games of a Cup Final were decided by a point. The last time was in 2016 between Pittsburgh and San Jose.

The Golden Knights seemed to have it in hand after scoring four times in the second, including a natural hat trick by Marner.

But Jordan Martinook, Taylor Hall and Jordan Staal scored goals for the Hurricanes. Their goals, occurring 39 seconds apart, are the fastest three in a Cup Final game.

Andrei Svechnikov jammed in a puck on a six-on-four power play with 1:42 left to force overtime.

"I love that we feel like we can come back from anything, but you can't put yourself in a hole like we did," Martinook said. "The second period, for them to come out like that and take total control of the game, it's something that can't happen, especially this time."

Marner's scoring outburst came over a 6:10 stretch of the second period, and he had four points in the period. He had the secondary assist on Tomas Hertl's goal midway through the period.

The last time a player had four points in a period of the Cup final was in 1919 when Frank Foyston of the Seattle Metropolitans pulled off that feat.

Marner nearly added to the total in the third period, but failed to capitalize on a breakaway and a penalty shot. Those missed chances came back to bite the Golden Knights.

The Hurricanes made the comeback after changing goalies to open the third, going with Bussi, who made 18 saves. Frederik Andersen had given up those four goals on 16 shots.

Carolina also rallied without forward and former Golden Knight William Carrier, who had an upper-body injury in the second period.

Vegas' Carter Hart stopped 29 shots.

Vegas twice thought it took the lead early in the second period, but the Hurricanes successfully challenged both goals to keep the game scoreless.

The Golden Knights received a major boost when defenseman Brayden McNabb took the ice. He took a puck in the face in the first period Thursday night at Carolina and didn't return to the game. McNabb, who had on a cage to protect his face, is Vegas' best defensive defenseman. He was on the first defensive pair with Theodore.

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# Pope Leo XIV urges Spain to stop fanning flames of polarization on first papal visit in 15 years

By NICOLE WINFIELD and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Pope Leo XIV urged Spaniards on Saturday to stop "fanning the flames of polarization" as he arrived in Spain at a moment of political turmoil for the Socialist-led government and a credibility crisis for the Catholic Church.

The American pontiff traveled to Spain dozens of times as a priest, but this is the first visit here by a pope in 15 years. And Spaniards turned out in droves to welcome Leo, with an estimated 500,000 people — many of them young — cheering "This is the youth of the pope" at a raucous evening prayer vigil in Plaza de Lima in Madrid, where Leo was treated to a rock star's welcome.

Leo's visit signals a return of papal attention to Europe's Christian roots after Pope Francis largely stayed away from the traditional centers of Christianity in favor of smaller Catholic communities farther away.

Leo is seemingly keen to bring his message of peace, unity and human dignity to a continent sorely polarized over migration, the Russia-Ukraine war and anxiety over artificial intelligence.

The pope, known as León XIV in Spanish, opened his weeklong trip in Madrid, greeted at the airport by the country's Catholic monarchs, King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, and Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. He told reporters, while traveling, that he was particularly heartened by reports of a spiritual awakening among young people in the once staunchly Catholic but now secularized country.

During his welcome address, Leo appealed to Spaniards, especially political leaders, to put polemics aside and invest in educating young people to appreciate diversity and complexity rather than shunning them.

"Today, the temptation to gain popularity by fanning the flames of polarization seems to have grown rather than diminished, and human dignity continues to be violated," Leo said.

He appealed to Spain's place at the heart of Christian Europe to serve as a model for the rest of the continent, while also recalling the country's 800-year Moorish past, when cities like Toledo and Córdoba became, he said, "centers of dialogue between languages, religions and knowledge."

"For the love of truth, I invite everyone to set aside the divisive and polarizing narratives of your societal reality and history," he said. Doing so will help Europe "overcome sterile simplifications through the fruitful appreciation of complexity."

Spaniards find themselves increasingly divided over issues including immigration, feminism and political corruption, while historically Spain was riven by territorial and independence movements.

Spain's parliament prepares for first-ever papal speech

The highlight of Leo's visit to Madrid will be his speech on Monday to a joint parliamentary session of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate — the first by a pope. Such speeches are rare and often become one of the most important of a pontificate.

But Leo will find a highly polarized legislature, with the government Socialist party hammered by a series of corruption scandals. Conservative parties, including the Popular Party and Vox, have called for Sánchez to step down before a general election due by next year, and have roundly criticized his government's migration policies.

Spain's Socialist-led government has bucked a general trend in Europe and the United States by announcing it will grant legal status to potentially hundreds of thousands of immigrants living and working in the country without authorization. Sánchez has highlighted the benefits of legal migration to the Spanish economy with an aging workforce and low birth rate.

Despite some expected protests of Leo's visit, his speech to parliament in particular is something of a milestone for Spain's Catholic Church. Shaped by the anticlerical violence of the country's 1936-1939 civil war, the church has dealt more recently with a credibility crisis over revelations of decades of clergy abuse and cover-up.

And yet there are signs of renewed interest in all forms of spirituality, Christian and otherwise, especially among young Spaniards, said sociologist Narciso Michavila Núñez, president of the GAD3 consulting firm that polls young people about their faith, among other things.

In recent surveys, he said, pollsters are registering newfound interest in faith among Gen Z Spaniards. Michavila and others cite the popularity of Spanish pop star Rosalía's new hit album "Lux," which is overtly spiritual.

"The truth from a common view is not that God is in fashion. What is new in this moment, in this visit of the pope, is that God in the Spanish society is not a taboo anymore," he said.

Leo pointed to the signs of a spiritual awakening in comments to reporters en route to Madrid. But he also acknowledged that he's facing stiff competition from Bad Bunny, who is holding two concerts this weekend.

"If they are confronted with the question 'Do you want to go see Bad Bunny or do you want to go to see the pope?' I think many will see Bad Bunny," Leo said. "But I think there will also be a few here to see the pope. And that says something, you know."

Pope to meet with abuse victims and migrants

In a sign that the clergy sexual abuse crisis continues to overshadow papal trips, Leo confirmed he would meet with survivors during his visit. The Spanish Catholic hierarchy is belatedly reckoning with decades of abuse and cover-up.

"Abuses are still an open wound," he told reporters.

Spain's king also cited the church's sexual abuse crisis in the country in his welcome speech, but he insisted such cases "neither are nor can be representative of the immense ecclesial community."

"Your clarity and firmness, which I also wish to acknowledge, are essential in the process of healing and repairing the harm inflicted: they are essential for the victims, for the faithful, for the church, and for society," Felipe told Leo, in an apparent reference to a recently launched church-state reparations system for some victims of clerical abuse.

Leo's trip is the first papal visit to Spain since Pope Benedict XVI came in 2011 for World Youth Day.

After Madrid, the other highlights of the trip include Leo's visit midweek to Barcelona, where he will celebrate Mass in the Sagrada Familia basilica on the centenary of the death of its famed architect, Antoni Gaudí.

Leo will also fulfill a wish of Francis by ending his visit with a two-day stop in the Canary Islands, the Spanish archipelago closer to Africa than the Iberian Peninsula and a key destination for migrants leaving West Africa.

Leo will meet with migrants and the humanitarian organizations providing care for them. He is expected to toss a wreath of flowers into the sea, in memory of migrants killed during the treacherous Atlantic crossing. He'll do so from the port in Las Palmas that in 2020 earned the nickname the "Dock of Shame" because thousands of migrants were forced to sleep in the open for weeks on end during a spike in arrivals.

Francis had made reaching out to migrants and refugees a hallmark of his papacy, and Leo has followed suit by demanding dignified treatment of migrants, especially in his native U.S.

"For those of us who are immigrants and find ourselves in this situation of having family far away, someone like the pope — who is an important figure for the entire world — coming here is truly something that makes me say 'wow,'" said Constantina Nchama, an immigrant from Equatorial Guinea.

"It's something that happens once in a lifetime," she said. "I'm very, very excited about that, truly."

## North Korea calls the US push for its denuclearization 'anachronistic dream'

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called a U.S. push for the denuclearization of North Korea an "anachronistic dream," saying Sunday the North will steadily expand its nuclear arsenal in the face of U.S.-led threats.

The statement came a day before Chinese President Xi Jinping visits North Korea for talks with Kim Jong Un, in his first visit to the country in seven years.

"The U.S. assertion to backbite the status of the DPRK as a nuclear weapons state has no legally binding

force and no one will be bound by the U.S. unilateral rhetoric," said Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, using the abbreviation for North Korea's official name.

She dismissed as "false information" a U.S. announcement that President Donald Trump and Xi confirmed their shared goal to denuclearize North Korea in their summit in Beijing last month.

"Some officials in the United States have failed to wake from their escapist and anachronistic dream," Kim Yo Jong said.

North Korea has been focusing on enlarging its nuclear arsenal since Kim Jong Un's high-stakes diplomacy with Trump collapsed in 2019. Experts say the North Korean leader wants an international recognition as a nuclear state so that he could demand lifting of international economic sanctions on North Korea.

During a visit to a new nuclear materials production plant last week, Kim Jong Un said North Korea would bolster the country's nuclear forces "at an exponential rate." On Sunday, North Korea's state media reported Kim Jong Un visited a weapons factory the previous day and called for increasing the country's missile production capacity 2.5 times under a five-year plan period.

In her statement, Kim Yo Jong accused the U.S. and South Korea of pushing for "ceaseless arms build-ups," saying her brother's push for "steadily beefing up the nuclear war deterrent for self-defense" is "an irreversible final conclusion to be carried out unconditionally."

Analysts say Xi's visit to North Korea is largely meant to reassert China's influence over North Korea, whose foreign policy priority has shifted to Russia in recent years. They say Xi will likely refrain from directly raising the denuclearization issue and offer economic assistance programs during his meeting with Kim Jong Un.

North Korea has sent troops and conventional weapons to Russia to back its war efforts against Ukraine. South Korean and U.S. officials say North Korea has received economic and other assistance from Russia in return.

## What to know about a rare visit by China's Xi to North Korea for talks with Kim Jong Un

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — China's Xi Jinping is traveling to North Korea for the first time in nearly seven years in a trip that offers North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a stage to showcase an increasingly assertive foreign policy anchored by closer ties with his country's former Cold War allies.

China, the North's economic pipeline, is expected to reassert its influence over a traditionally allied government that has grown closer to Russia in recent times.

The meeting between the two leaders is their first since Kim traveled to Beijing for a World War II event in September 2025.

Here is a look at what they may be seeking from their upcoming meeting:

What Kim wants

After years of prioritizing Russia — dispatching thousands of troops and munitions to support Moscow's invasion of Ukraine — North Korea's leader is now seeking stronger ties with China to break further out of isolation, embracing the idea of a "new Cold War" and projecting Pyongyang as part of a united front against Washington.

Since the era of its previous leaders, North Korea has long maintained an "equidistance" approach toward Beijing and Moscow, playing its two main benefactors against each other to maximize its gains.

While he is receiving crucial support from Russia for backing its war effort, likely including military technologies and aid, Kim cannot fulfil his promise to improve the living standards of his populace without greater economic assistance from China, according to Koh Yu-hwan, a former president of Seoul's Institute of National Unification.

"North Korea vows to maintain a self-reliant economic system and focus on advancing its nuclear capabilities, but in reality it's nearly impossible to raise living standards by mobilizing internal resources alone," Koh said.

The Kim-Xi meeting could include discussions on resuming Chinese tourism to North Korea and opening a bridge over the Yalu River that has remained unused years after its completion, Koh said. The leaders could also discuss joint economic development projects in border regions shared by North Korea, China and Russia.

It remains to be seen whether Kim at some point will use his increased diplomatic footing to reengage with Washington after his talks with U.S. President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019 over disagreements about sanctions on North Korea.

Pyongyang has so far rebuffed Trump's offers to resume talks after the American president entered his second term, insisting that Washington first drop its demand for North Korea's denuclearization as a precondition for negotiations. Kim also met Xi before traveling to Singapore and Vietnam for his summits with Trump in 2018 and 2019, moves widely interpreted as efforts to bolster his bargaining position. "From North Korea's perspective, there's belief that having China's backing provides a sense of security and confidence when seeking to improve relations with the United States," said Park Won Gon, a professor at Seoul's Ewha University.

What Xi wants

For China, the visit is a chance to bring back a traditional ally closer into its orbit, by offering possible economic incentives and food aid, traditional assets it has given to North Korea.

"I think the Chinese are privately a little uneasy at the embrace of Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin, that the North Koreans have really gravitated towards very heavily towards the Russians. Part of Xi Jinping's goal is to correct the balance," said Mike Chinoy, a former CNN journalist and author of an upcoming book about the insular country.

Xi is making his first overseas trip in 2026 after become increasingly selective about making state visits since the pandemic. Coming on the heels of separately hosting both Trump and Putin, the choice is strategic.

"The trip ensures no one can reshape the peninsula's security architecture without his concurrence," Seong-Hyon Lee, a senior fellow at the George H.W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations, said.

Beijing is also realistic in response to Kim's clear nuclear ambitions.

In April, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Pyongyang and met with Kim. Observers noted the absence of the word "denuclearization" from the statement on the visit, a departure from the standard line that China usually deploys which calls for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

"The most telling sign of the visit may be a silence: if China's official readout omits the word 'denuclearization,' Beijing has effectively accepted North Korea as a nuclear state, folding the issue into its broader buffer strategy against the U.S.," said Lee.

In exchange, China could seek greater access to the estuary of the Tumen River, which forms part of the border between the two countries, and navigational rights in waters off the Korean Peninsula's east coast.

Ultimately Kim is likely to give Xi a grand and lavish welcome at the symbolic level, but China may not be able to extract much from an increasingly confident Kim, experts say.

"He's going to give Xi Jinping a welcome befitting of the head of state of their giant neighbor, but he's not going to play the pliant 'little brother,'" said Chinoy. __ Wu reported from Bangkok.

## First came Congress. Now a national redistricting battle may turn to statehouses and city councils

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

After a blitz of congressional redistricting ahead of the midterm elections, a national battle for partisan control is about to enter a new phase that could affect representation on everything from tax rates to social safety net programs, teacher salaries, housing regulations and local road repairs.

Georgia's Republican-led Legislature will convene June 17 for a special session focused on redistricting for the 2028 elections. The agenda includes new voting districts not only for Congress, but also for the state House and Senate — and potentially even the state's utility regulatory commission.

It will mark the first time since a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling weakened minority voting protections that a state legislature will attempt to redraw its own districts. Mississippi Republicans and New York Democrats also could undertake legislative redistricting before their 2027 and 2028 elections, respectively.

Ir remains to be seen, though, how many legislatures will follow, and whether the outburst of mid-decade redistricting will extend down to county commissions, city councils and school boards that make myriad decisions affecting people's lives. The impact could be widespread.

"The stakes here are not political, they are deeply human," said Joe Kennedy III, founder of Groundwork Project, a nonprofit that supports local civil rights and democracy organizations.

What's fueling the redistricting movement?

Voting district boundaries typically are redrawn once a decade after each U.S. census to account for population changes. But last summer, President Donald Trump urged Texas Republicans to redraw congressional districts to try to win additional seats in the midterm elections. Other states followed with their own partisan gerrymandering.

Then a 6-3 Supreme Court ruling in late April jumpstarted even more redistricting. The court struck down a majority-Black congressional district in Louisiana as an illegal racial gerrymander, providing grounds for Republicans in other states to reshape districts with large minority populations that have elected Democrats.

Why is Georgia redrawing its districts?

A federal judge ruled in 2023 that some of Georgia's congressional, state Senate and state House districts were drawn in a racially discriminatory manner. The Legislature quickly approved revised maps with new majority-Black districts, though they resulted in little change to Republican majorities in the 2024 elections.

Republican Gov. Brian Kemp has called lawmakers into special session to again redraw districts in light of the Supreme Court's decision in the Louisiana case. That could allow Republicans to undo the court-ordered changes they made in 2023 and potentially redraw other Democratic-held minority districts to the GOP's advantage.

Republicans have yet to unveil details of their plans. But Democratic state Rep. Tanya Miller, who is running for attorney general, denounced the upcoming redistricting as a means of "rigging maps to maintain power."

How many seats are at stake?

Several months before the Supreme Court ruling, a report by Fair Fight Action and Black Voters Matter forecast that Republicans in 10 Southern states could eliminate 191 Democratic-held legislative seats — including 140 districts with Black or Hispanic majorities — if the Supreme Court gutted federal Voting Rights Act protections for minorities.

"If anything, our report was an understatement," Cliff Albright, co-founder and executive director of Black Voters Matter, recently told The Associated Press. "What's at stake is the future of this democracy."

Other analysts don't expect that many seats to be redistricted. But they do expect the Supreme Court's decision to ripple through states.

"We're going to potentially see a lot of frenzied efforts at every level, including at the local level, to try out undoing district maps and configurations that have performed quite well in providing improved representation for communities of color," said Kareem Crayton, vice president of the Washington office of the Brennan Center for Justice.

What states have pending court cases?

The precedent from the recent Supreme Court decision already is being applied in several states. In light of the ruling, a federal appeals court is allowing Alabama to use a state Senate map approved by Republican lawmakers in this year's election instead of one imposed by a federal judge who found the state had diluted the voting power of Black residents. The change affects two state Senate districts in the Montgomery area.

The Supreme Court has sent legislative redistricting cases filed on behalf of Black voters in Mississippi and Native Americans in North Dakota back to lower courts for further consideration in light of its Louisiana decision. The Washington attorney general has asked the Supreme Court to do the same for legislative redistricting cases involving Hispanic voters in that state.

What's stopping states from redistricting?

About half the states have provisions in their constitutions prohibiting mid-decade redistricting of state legislative seats, said Justin Levitt, a law professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles who runs the "All About Redistricting" website.

But even in states where it's allowed, lawmakers may have fewer reasons to redraw their own districts than those for Congress, Levitt said. Politicians who promoted congressional redistricting for the 2026 midterms often justified it as a way to counter gerrymandering in other states and win as many seats as possible for their party. They had extra motivation because a swing of only a few seats nationally in the November elections could affect control of the closely divided U.S. House.

By contrast, most state legislative chambers already are dominated by one party.

"There's a lot less incentive, if you already control the state legislature by 10 or 12 seats, to eke out an incremental one or two at the expense of really ticking off your own party membership, or at the expense of maybe risking losing seats in a broader way," Levitt said.

Could local governments also redraw districts?

The Supreme Court decision making it more difficult to prove Voting Rights Act violations already has affected some local governments.

Plaintiffs have voluntarily dismissed a challenge to commission districts in Meriwether County, Georgia. A federal court has accepted new legal briefs in a challenge to Board of Supervisors districts in DeSoto County, Mississippi. And Indiana's attorney general has asked a federal appeals court to take note of the Louisiana case when deciding a challenge to how judges are selected in Lake County.

Over roughly the past four decades, data from the University of Michigan shows that cities, counties and school boards have been involved in more than three-fifths of the 466 lawsuits alleging violations of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which forbids providing minorities less opportunity than other voters to elect the representatives of their choice.

But that doesn't necessarily mean local governments will rush to redistrict as a result of a weakened Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court decision cleared the way for officials to justify redistricting based on partisan ambitions. But many local offices are officially nonpartisan.

## From unfilled gas tanks to fewer frills, retailers see US consumers rethink their spending

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. consumers haven't stopped spending money since the Iran war drove up fuel prices, but many shoppers are reassessing what they buy and where, according to company executives and retail analysts.

The behavior changes observed so far are subtle, such as altered routines for buying gasoline and fewer visits to clothing and furniture stores. They also are uneven across the population. During recent earnings calls with analysts, executives from American mainstays like Walmart, McDonald's and Dollar General cited overall shopper resilience as well as noticeable cutbacks by lower-income customers.

But the new signs of strain cited by major retailers as generous income tax refunds helped shore up their sales make some economists and analysts think they will see a wider retrenchment when the refunds are gone and consumers face the cumulative impact of more expensive gas and higher prices for food, clothing, insurance and other goods and services.

Trevor Chapman, a communications executive in West Hills, California, said that instead of going to a local independent gas station, he and his wife now plan their fuel stops around Costco stores with filling stations. The couple also is doing more online food shopping to avoid impulse buys, he said.

"Gas is a kind of catalyst," Chapman said. "It trickles down into the entire budget. We're trying to keep everything as normal as possible. But it's starting to feel like it's adding up more and more."

Well before the U.S. and Israel launched the war, many consumers already were being more choosy

with their discretionary purchases, fatigued by several years of stubborn inflation and tariffs on imported goods imposed last year.

The U.S. Commerce Department reported last week that higher prices, not more purchases, accounted for most of the growth in Americans' spending in April, when a key inflation gauge reached the highest level since October 2023.

Topping up instead of filling up

Members-only warehouse stores like Costco, Walmart's Sam's Club and BJ's Wholesale Club have seen more traffic at their fuel pumps since the war began in late February, according to the companies. Fuel typically costs less at the wholesale clubs.

But many drivers are not filling their tanks up, Walmart Chief Financial Officer John David Rainey told analysts late last month. For the first time since 2022, Walmart customers and Sam's Club members are buying an average of less than 10 gallons per trip, he said.

"That's an indication of stress," Rainey said.

Costco members also are making changes. They are visiting store gas stations more frequently to "top up in between what would have normally been a gap between getting the tank to empty because of the concern about what might the gas price be tomorrow," Chief Financial Officer Gary Millerchip said in late May.

Meanwhile, the gas price surge has hurt convenience stores, where 80% of all fuel is sold in the U.S., according to Jeff Lenard, a vice president at the National Association of Convenience Stores.

A sales analysis by the trade group found that the number of pump transactions at the properties of 130 convenience store companies fell by nearly 10% across March and April compared to the same two months last year. The number of sales inside the companies' stores dropped by 10.4%, according to the analysis.

"When you lose gallons to the big box, you also lose in-store sales," Lenard said.

Changing eating habits

Higher gas prices did not stop many Americans from dining out in the first two months of the war with Iran. Tax refunds helped, the National Restaurant Association said. Customer traffic at U.S. restaurants in April was unchanged from the same month last year, although a 2.6% increase in restaurant spending resulted largely from higher menu prices, according to market research firm Circana.

But cracks are starting to form as budget-conscious U.S. residents shoulder the combined weight of paying more for gas and other consumer goods on top of increasing costs in other areas from inflation past and present.

The price of gas won't help bring customers with household incomes of $45,000 or less back to U.S. fast-food restaurants, McDonald's Chairman and CEO Chris Kempczinski said last month. People in that income group began scaling back their fast-food purchases after the period of inflation that accompanied the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the trend picked up speed last year.

U.S.-based restaurant consulting firm Revenue Management Solutions analyzed 14.6 billion restaurant transactions from the last four years and found that as gasoline gets more expensive, restaurant visits gradually decline, according to Chief Research Officer Sebastián Fernandez. The analysis indicated the impact doubles when gas hits the $4 mark, which it did as a nationwide average on March 31.

Consumers also are making concessions when they shop for groceries, according to Stew Leonard, president of an eight-store supermarket chain his father founded, Stew Leonard's. He's noticed customers buying meat in bulk to freeze and being less tempted to buy the products showcased during live food demonstrations or offered for sampling.

"It's telling me that people are sticking more to their shopping list," Leonard said.

Dollar General CEO Todd Vasos also cited $4 a gallon gas as a tipping point that had more consumers with household incomes above $100,000 frequenting the discount chain. Vasos told analysts Tuesday that many of Dollar General's core shoppers, who have mid-to-low incomes and live in rural areas, were paring back their food spending.

Sophie Tolsdorf, 29, of La Grange, Kentucky, said she is one of the consumers stocking up on meat when the price is reasonable. She also switched to buying whole fruit instead pre-cut fruit in containers and cut

back on the rawhide bones for her dog that cost $40 a pack.

"He might have noticed," Tolsdorf said. "He's definitely a little bit bored during the workday now."

Needs versus wants

Before the war, retailers had spent multiple earnings seasons highlighting consumer caution and selectivity as factors that could weigh on sales of nonessential products. Shoppers appear to have curbed their discretionary spending even more as the cost of buying gas went up, said Marshal Cohen, chief retail advisor at Circana.

Between April 25 and May 23, U.S. retailers sold 6% fewer non-grocery products than they did during the comparable four-week period of 2025, Cohen said. Housewares, clothing, footwear and sports equipment had the biggest declines, anywhere from 5% to 7%. Circana reported that toys and beauty items remained bright spots, registering at least an 8% increase in the number of units sold.

Location intelligence company Placer.ai, which tracks people's movements based on cellphone usage, saw visits to the gas stations of BJ's, Costco and Sam's Club stores start to accelerate in early March, aligning with a sharp rise in fuel prices, according to R.J. Hottovy, the company's head of analytical research.

By early May, Placer.ai's data showed four consecutive weeks of reduced foot traffic at clothing, electronics and home furnishing stores, and more trips to grocery stores and dollar stores.

"Consumers are prioritizing value-oriented retailers like warehouse clubs, superstores, and off-price chains," Hottovy said.

## Rob Sand to rally in Iowa governor bid with Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear as Democrats eye a flip

By HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Rob Sand will rally a crowd for the first time as the official Democratic nominee for Iowa governor on Sunday, kicking off a countdown to November with the support of Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear.

The race for governor between Sand and Republican Zach Lahn stands to be one of the most competitive in the country as Iowans face a state budget deficit, struggling agricultural economy and cancer crisis.

Even as Sand downplays party politics, Democrats are putting faith in him to blaze a trail in the state after struggling electorally in recent cycles.

"We are all in on flipping Iowa," said Beshear, chair of the Democratic Governors Association and a potential presidential candidate in 2028. "It's certainly time for a change, and I think the people of Iowa know that Rob Sand will always put them first and lead in a way that lifts families up and doesn't leave them out."

Sand, who was unopposed on the primary ballot, learned who his opponent would be after Tuesday's primary settled an unpredictable five-way Republican contest.

Little known before his bid for governor, Lahn made a splash as a business owner criticizing farm consolidation and tax breaks for corporate giants, a regenerative farmer who subscribes to Robert F. Kennedy's "Make America Healthy Again" movement and a former political operative who galvanized Iowa's conservative grassroots.

Iowa has open races for both governor and U.S. senator for the first time since 1968, plus three battleground congressional races. National attention on the state has soared in recent months, drawing President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance to Iowa.

Democrats will have an uphill climb with a 200,000-person deficit in statewide voter registration, and they are outnumbered in every House district. Sand, along with Senate candidate Josh Turek, say they can win over independents and Republicans who are frustrated with party politics and a Republican trifecta in Washington and Des Moines that they blame for the state's challenges.

Turek will face U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson, who already has portrayed Turek as a liberal puppet for party leader Sen. Chuck Schumer.

Lahn has also rejected Sand's nonpartisan pitch.

"Rob Sand is not a moderate," Lahn said in his victory speech Tuesday. "He's a liberal career politician pretending to be someone he's not."

Sand says divided government is a good thing

Sand is vocal about his dislike of partisanship, his distrust of both political parties and his desire for divided government in Iowa. He says he thinks most Iowans feel the same.

Even if Sand is elected governor in November, he will likely have to work with Republican majorities in the state House and Senate, which recently passed bills to restrict the executive's power that outgoing Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds signed into law.

"I'm not here to tell you that the answer to 10 years of one-party control is to give the other party 10 years of one-party control. I don't think that's right," Sand said Tuesday after casting his primary ballot. "But I do think that it's time to say enough to the people who have had 10 years of one-party control. It's time for balanced government in Iowa."

Neither Sand or Lahn use their party's traditional blue or red in campaign materials, opting instead for green. They both say they aren't beholden to their party establishments and that Iowans want a new direction, though Lahn's Republican Party has held a statehouse trifecta for nearly a decade.

Sand's campaign has given about $750,000 to the Iowa Democratic Party already this cycle, funding that Republicans call hypocritical for a candidate who claims he is not a party man. The Sand campaign says that sum reflects his investment in a state party-run coordinated campaign that will help him get elected as governor, even as it also supports candidates up and down the ballot.

Beshear brings national support as he considers his own future

As Democrats continue to debate what went wrong in 2024 and the direction of the party, Beshear has offered up his own example as the leader of a red state for lessons on how the party can go forward.

Beshear said he is trying to be a "voice of reason in the chaos" of Trump's administration and that he is comfortable being listed among the names of Democrats considering a presidential bid in 2028, even as he said he is focused on the critical midterms.

In addition to rallying with Sand, Beshear will also be at a "Beers with Beshear" fundraiser for congressional candidate Sarah Trone Garriott, who wants to unseat Republican Rep. Zach Nunn in the competitive House district that includes Des Moines. Beshear said he will see Turek too.

The Democratic Governors Association, which Beshear chairs, gave the Iowa Democratic Party about $140,000 so far this cycle, according to filing reports.

## Palestinians suffer from lack of proper toilets across Gaza's vast tent cities

By WAFAA SHURAFA and TOQA EZZIDIN Associated Press

Khan Younis, Gaza Strip (AP) — In their bare-bones tent in southern Gaza, Mostafa Shaaban built his family's makeshift toilet behind a curtain in a corner. He dug a shallow pit in the sandy soil, poured a concrete slab around it, fixed a bottomless bucket over the hole, then topped it off with a battered, plastic toilet seat.

It reeks with a foul odor and buzzes with flies and mosquitoes only a few feet from where they sleep and prepare meals. Every week, Shaaban has to dig the sewage sludge out of the pit. But at least it's more private than the fetid communal latrines used by hundreds of other people in their sprawling tent camp.

"I did not want the kids and my wife to use any public toilet. It is humiliating," said the 38-year-old Shaaban, who was driven from his home city of Rafah by Israeli forces two years ago and eventually settled in a tent camp in Khan Younis.

"The situation is revolting," he said of having the toilet inside the tent, "but at least it has more dignity."

There is not a single proper toilet across the vast tent cities housing most of Gaza's 1.7 million Palestinians left homeless by the war. Displaced families have largely been left on their own to dig their own latrines, some shared by extended families.

At communal camp toilets, men, women and children wait in long lines then do their business behind a thin cloth or sheet of metal separating them from the crowd of strangers outside. Women fear walking to the communal toilets at night.

The result is a hygienic nightmare as horrible smells drift among the tightly packed tents and pools of sewage collect from leaking cesspits or from people dumping the contents of their latrines. More than 80% of the sewage pumping stations in Gaza have collapsed under Israel's bombardment and offensives over the past 2 ½ years, rights groups say.

Some aid groups have carried out projects to improve family toilets, but they have been small scale and supplies are limited. It remains far from certain when reconstruction of Gaza will begin.

The U.S.-backed official overseeing the ceasefire in place since October has blamed Hamas for holding up the process by failing to reach an agreement on disarmament. The ceasefire deal calls for the entry of major construction and repair equipment into Gaza even before disarmament, and so far little has entered.

"It's the most basic right. Making a toilet is more important than food and water, because you see the insects everywhere, the smell covers everyone," said Shaaban's wife, Iman Mansour, who is pregnant with their third child. "We want something clean."

Building a latrine is not cheap. Shaaban said it took him a long time to set up his toilet because he had to buy the pipe for the latrine hole and the concrete to seal around it. The concrete often crumbles, so he has to buy more when he can afford it.

A porcelain toilet seat runs from 1,700 to 2,000 shekels ($500 to $680), out of reach for most families. In any case, a seat in a tent latrine would simply be set over the hole to provide a more comfortable seat, unable to flush. So people improvise, using chairs or buckets with the bottom knocked out. Or they just squat over the hole.

One vendor working out of a tent in Khan Younis makes metal sheets to fit around a latrine hole that at least are easier to clean, selling them for 100 shekels ($34).

In one of the camps around Khan Younis, Khaled Kollab laboriously cleared the sewage drain and pools of untreated wastewater next to his tent. His tent latrine is a simple squat toilet with no seat, which he said was made of ramshackle supplies because he couldn't afford anything better. His 3-year-old daughter, Sila, stood nearby, her body covered in lesions.

"You go into this toilet and feel humiliation and shame," Kollab said.

## At least 12 people shot at an Ohio festival and a search for suspects is still ongoing, police say

By JAIMIE DING and THOMAS PEIPERT Associated Press

Gunfire erupted Saturday near a busy street festival in Ohio, wounding at least 12 people and sending some eventgoers scrambling for cover while others rushed to help the victims.

No suspects were in custody hours afterward, Toledo Deputy Police Chief Joe Heffernan said, and officials urged people who were at the festival to come forward with any photos or videos on their phones for possible leads.

The shooting happened near the Old West End Festival, an annual gathering of live music and home tours.

Heffernan said it appeared that at least two people fired weapons and they were "probably shooting at each other."

Two of the victims were in critical condition, Heffernan added. The ages of the victims ranged from 14 to 61, with most of them in their early 20s.

"I am deeply concerned about the situation in Toledo tonight," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said in a statement. "Summer festivals should be safe spaces for families to spend time together without fear of violence."

Multiple videos posted to social media showed people running amid the sound of gunshots and emergency officials tending to others who appeared wounded.

Fire Chief Allison Armstrong said it was difficult to get to the hospital due to closed roads and traffic from people leaving the festival, but emergency responders were able to transport all patients from the

scene within an hour.

Kevin Berry was sitting in the neighborhood arboretum listening to live music with friends when he heard a handful of gunshots ring out.

"Everybody hit the deck," he said.

When Berry looked back up, he saw a gun being tossed to the ground less than 50 feet (15 meters) away from him. Officers who were already on site for the festival responded immediately.

Berry, who has medical training and served in the Navy, walked around looking for anyone who might need help and saw at least five people with gunshot wounds.

"The folks who were hit were spread out around the arboretum area," he said.

The Old West End Festival is a two-day celebration in Toledo's historic district that includes live music, food vendors, home tours and shopping. Berry described it as the "kick-off to Toledo's summer festival season."

George Kral, safety director for the city, said officials were discussing with organizers whether it would continue through the weekend.

"This is one of the most iconic festivals in Toledo," he said, "and it's a shame that something like this had to ruin it."

## A new exchange of fire with Iran in the Gulf tests the fragile ceasefire

By SAMY MAGDY and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Iran fired ballistic missiles and drones toward Bahrain and Kuwait that were intercepted early Saturday, Bahrain's government said, and called on Tehran to halt attacks on Gulf neighbors that test a fragile ceasefire in the Middle East conflict.

Iran said that it targeted American military assets in both countries, after the U.S. attacked surveillance facilities on Qeshm Island and near Sirik that Iran said were used to protect borders and "ensure the security of navigation in international waters." Tehran called the attack a ceasefire violation.

Later Saturday, U.S. Central Command said U.S. forces had shot down two Iranian attack drones over the Strait of Hormuz.

The latest exchanges came as the Trump administration presses Iran to make a deal to end the war, which has strained the global economy and threatened a hunger crisis in some of the world's most vulnerable countries.

Pakistan's interior minister, Mohsin Naqvi, arrived in Iran on Saturday as part of mediation efforts.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is seeking to ratchet up economic pressure on Iran. The U.S. Treasury Department is considering allowing Gulf allies to tap into frozen Iranian assets to pay for damages they sustained in the war, according to a person familiar with Secretary Scott Bessent's thinking who spoke Saturday on condition of anonymity to share internal deliberations.

Iran says it targeted US air base and Navy

The U.S. military said earlier that it had shot down several Iranian missiles and drones launched toward the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf Arab allies, and struck some of the Islamic Republic's coastal surveillance radar sites in response.

"The attack drones posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic," U.S. Central Command said.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard said it had targeted the Ali Al Salem air base, which hosts U.S. forces in Kuwait, and the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

The U.S. military said there were no reports of harm to U.S. personnel.

Earlier in the week, Iranian drones heavily damaged a passenger terminal at Kuwait's main airport, killing one person and wounding dozens.

The U.S. military kept up its blockade on Iranian ports in response to Tehran's grip on the strait, a crucial corridor for global oil and natural gas shipments. Energy prices have spiked, posing political problems for U.S. President Donald Trump's Republican Party before the midterm congressional election.

Deals remain elusive

Trump increasingly appears to be boxed in. U.S. and Iranian negotiators reached a tentative agreement a week ago to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and start a new round of talks on Iran's nuclear program. Trump, however, has called for unspecified changes, and Iranian officials have shown no public sign of agreeing to the deal.

The fighting in Lebanon, where Israeli forces have seized large swaths of the south while saying it targets the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group, also challenges efforts to end the Iran war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has demanded that any lasting truce extends to Lebanon.

The Trump administration has touted the latest ceasefire agreed to earlier in the week by the Lebanese government and Israel after U.S.-brokered talks in Washington. However, Hezbollah has rejected the agreement.

Ratcheting up financial pressure

Miad Maleki, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and former Iranian sanctions expert at the Treasury Department, said it's significant that the U.S. is signaling it could allow Gulf countries to access some of the $24 billion in frozen Iranian assets stored abroad.

Iran had been seeking some of the funds as part of a deal, and rather than offering Tehran that concession, the U.S. is pressuring them to move quickly.

"So the U.S. government is saying: 'Hey, not just that we're not going to give you these funds. As a matter of fact, we're going to take these funds from you, and we're going to help Gulf states to take it," Maleki said.

Allowing Gulf states to use the frozen assets would also bolster U.S. ties there, he said. It would send a clear signal that America is sticking with its partners as they've sustained attacks and repercussions from the war.

However, Maleki said some Gulf states may be reluctant to use the funds out of concern that they could face retaliation from Iran for doing so.

## Golden Tempo wins the 158th running of the Belmont Stakes after winning the Kentucky Derby

By SPENCER RIPCHIK Associated Press

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP) — Golden Tempo showed exactly why he is a great closer, and his stretch run at the Belmont Stakes on Saturday delivered more history for trainer Cherie DeVaux.

Ridden by jockey Jose Ortiz from 12 lengths off the lead, Golden Tempo surged from the back of the pack to win the 158th rendition of the race. The victory came five weeks after his last-to-first charge to win the Kentucky Derby.

"Golden Tempo is amazing. Jose is amazing," said DeVaux. "I think he needed to do this to kind of show that he was meant to win the Derby and that he is a horse that belongs in that conversation of being one of the top 3-year-olds."

Golden Tempo held off Commandment to win by a length and a quarter at odds of 6-1. Commandment was second and favorite Renegade placed third.

"I followed them closely in the second turn," Ortiz said. "They started to pick it up, so I did as well. I was just waiting for the right time to go all in. When I asked him to go, my horse responded."

DeVaux, after becoming the first woman to train a Kentucky Derby winner, is the second in four years to do so at the Belmont. Jena Antonucci won it with Arcangelo in 2023. DeVaux is the first woman to win multiple Triple Crown races.

"It's overwhelming," DeVaux said. "All the credit goes to Golden Tempo, who won the race, and Jose did a wonderful job of making it happen. But I'm just so fortunate to be in this position. It's history-making, and I've kind of shied away from it, but I'm really grateful that I am that person."

DeVaux was born in Saratoga Springs and began her training career there, but she doesn't call herself a Saratoga native. She spends most of her time in Kentucky now and said she grew up in southern Florida.

But after all the support she's received from the town, she has started to embrace it.

"Everyone is kind of calling me the hometown girl," DeVaux said. "So that's kind of fun. I'm going to miss our appetizer (at) Saratoga, as we call it, the 'Bellatoga.'"

Golden Tempo was the third choice in the race. There were concerns about whether he could pull off another big comeback win in a field that included Renegade. The Todd Pletcher-trained horse finished second to Golden Tempo by a neck in the Derby.

The pace was not nearly as fast as it was at Churchill Downs, yet Golden Tempo still was able to close in time to win the 1 1/4-mile race in 2:03.49. It didn't matter, as he was the best in the field of nine horses.

"He wasn't going to get that setup as he did in the Derby," Ortiz said. "We all knew that, and I was a little worried about it. He needed some kind of setup. But today, there wasn't one and he showed up today and won."

Golden Tempo won two-thirds of the Triple Crown after DeVaux and owners decided to bypass the Preakness. He is the second horse in as many years to win the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont after not running in the middle jewel.

"We made our decision, and we won today and we're going to be happy about that," DeVaux said.

This was the third and final time for the Belmont at Saratoga in upstate New York, while its traditional home on the border of Queens and Long Island is getting demolished and rebuilt. Run at 1 1/4 miles because of the track at Saratoga, the race is set to return to Belmont Park next year when it will return to its traditional 1 1/2-mile distance.

"It's so meaningful," DeVaux said. "A lot of family here. Saratoga, it's been wonderful to have such a historic race here. ... It's so meaningful because the town gets to have this and celebrate it along with us."

Golden Tempo paid $14 to win, $7.32 to place and $3.88 to show. Commandment paid $7.02 to show and $4.08 to place, while Renegade paid $2.52 to place.

Ortiz followed Renegade, ridden by older brother Irad, just as he did in the Derby. It worked out just the same in the first Saturday in June as the first Saturday in May.

"He was bouncing a bit today, which made me very happy because I wanted him to be a little bit sharper today," Jose Ortiz said. "You can see him, he's very relaxed. He does what I ask him to do. That's the main thing."

Co-owner Vinnie Viola dedicated the race to his late friend Dominic DiPrisco, who died Wednesday at age 70. Viola prayed to DiPrisco Saturday morning, hoping for an extra push in the Belmont Stakes.

"I know you're in heaven, and I love you, and this race is for you," Viola said. "It means more than I can express in words right now."

Ortiz won the Belmont Stakes for the second time, nine years after his first aboard Tapwrit in 2017.

"We just wanted him to get better and keep winning these kinds of races," Ortiz said. "We're very happy with him. It's all about him."

## What to know about the ongoing protests and arrests outside a New Jersey detention center

By PHILIP MARCELO and CLAIRE GALOFARO Associated Press

Clashes between demonstrators and law enforcement outside a New Jersey immigration detention center since late May have become the latest flashpoint for protests against President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

More than 80 people have been arrested following a series of protests at Delaney Hall in Newark, where demonstrators say they are showing up in solidarity with detainees over accusations of poor living conditions.

The Trump administration has defended the treatment of detainees at the 1,000-bed facility.

Here's what to know:

Accusations of neglect at Delaney Hall

The facility is owned by Geo Group, a private prison contractor that runs multiple detention centers across the country.

Detainees launched a hunger strike last month, according Cosecha, an immigrant advocacy group. They issued a number of handwritten letters from inside with their demands, including improved living conditions and better medical care, as they say some are being denied medication.

Detainees across the country have alleged medical neglect for serious and chronic conditions, and they have announced hunger strikes at other facilities.

The Delaney Hall detainees say they are being given moldy and expired food, some of it with maggots, and are housed in overcrowded cells that lack air conditioning. Democratic members of Congress from New York City visited the facility early in the protests and said the detainees' accounts are credible.

Trump administration defends conditions

President Donald Trump and his deputies have defended the center's operations and denied there is any hunger strike, abuse or poor conditions inside.

"The fact is, we're giving them the calories they want," Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said recently. "This isn't Holiday Inn."

Tom Homan, Trump's border czar, praised the food after a recent visit. "The spaghetti was good," he told CBS News.

GEO Group has dismissed the criticisms as "a politically motivated campaign by outside groups to dismantle ICE and federal immigration detention by targeting the government's facility contractors."

Arrests and protesters try to stop vehicles

The protesters, some wearing gas masks and helmets, have used traffic cones, trash cans and other items as makeshift shields, and they tried to block vehicles from entering or leaving the facility.

Acting U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche shared images online of bloody wounds and bruises sustained by officers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Videos on social media show officers in riot gear deploying tear gas and using batons to beat back the demonstrators. Some videos have shown police on horseback marching into the crowds.

On Friday night, ICE officers arrested four on charges of assaulting law enforcement officers, obstruction and threats, Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said on X. Newark police, meanwhile, said they a Seattle man was charged with criminal mischief for smashing car windows.

"No one has the right to come into our city, destroy personal property, or incite violence," Newark Public Safety Director Emanuel Miranda posted on social media. "Think twice before coming to Newark with any other agenda than to protest peacefully."

One law enforcement official was charged with stealing $10,000 worth of camera equipment from an Associated Press photojournalist who had been injured while covering the standoff. The journalist, Angelina Katsanis, was struck in the knee by a wood beam during a clash between police and demonstrators. She sought medical attention and used a geo-tracking device to trace her missing gear to his home, the state's attorney general said Thursday.

New Jersey leaders and local officials take action

Democratic Gov. Mikie Sherrill was initially reluctant to intervene in the growing protests. But as the violence intensified, she declared the situation had "grown unsafe" and "unacceptable" and called in the state police to restore order.

State troopers set up designated protest zones and vehicle checkpoints as ICE officers who had been stationed in front of the detention center agreed to stand down.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, meanwhile, imposed a 9 p.m. curfew and sent in city police to enforce it.

But just a week later, the Democrat said the city would scale back its police presence, saying arrests had dropped and he was reluctant to continue spending tax dollars to guard a privately owned facility.

The state's attorney general filed a lawsuit this week against Geo Group, alleging that the facility denied state health inspectors "full access" to investigate allegations.

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## Israeli airstrikes kill 9 including Lebanese army officers after ceasefire deal

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon on Saturday killed nine people including three members of the Lebanese military, the Lebanese army and state media said, days after the two sides reached a new ceasefire deal.

Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun called the strike against its military a "flagrant violation" of the country's sovereignty and international law during an "ongoing escalation that threatens stability and security in the south."

An airstrike on a vehicle on a road linking Nabatiyeh city with Marjayoun town killed a brigadier general, a captain and another soldier, the army said, without releasing their names. Another airstrike on Saksakiyah village killed six people and wounded four, the state-run National News Agency said.

Lebanon's army said the "continued, deliberate, and repeated Israeli aggression" aims to thwart efforts toward a solution "that would restore stability, establish a comprehensive ceasefire and lead to the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories."

The Israeli military confirmed hitting a vehicle and said it was "moving suspiciously" toward soldiers near Kfar Tibnit village, after the military received "concrete indications" that the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group would direct fire toward Israeli soldiers from the same area.

The military said it operates against Hezbollah and not against the Lebanese army.

Meanwhile, Israel's military announced the deaths of two soldiers in southern Lebanon, without the dates they died.

The latest ceasefire, announced in Washington, came through U.S.-brokered talks between Israel and Lebanon's government, which accuses Hezbollah of dragging the country into war and made efforts to disarm it before the latest hostilities. Hezbollah has refused the truce.

Israeli troops have seized around a fifth of Lebanon, pushing farther into the country's south than at any time since the end of Israel's 1982-2000 occupation. More than 3,500 people have been killed in Lebanon since the war began March 2 when Hezbollah fired rockets at northern Israel, two days after Israel and the U.S. began attacking Iran.

Israel has since launched a ground invasion of Lebanon and carried out attacks that have displaced more than 1 million people. The fighting has killed at least 31 Israeli soldiers and three civilians.

On Friday, Aoun and Lebanon's prime minister criticized Iran for opposing the latest ceasefire deal, saying Tehran should not use their country as a "bargaining chip" in its talks with Washington. Iran wants a ceasefire deal with the United States to include the situation in Lebanon.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi responded Saturday on X, saying that after Aoun's comments, "one would think it's Iran that has occupied a fifth of Lebanon, displaced a quarter of Lebanese and is bombing his country on daily basis."

"Had Lebanon been a bargaining chip for Iran, we'd have a deal long ago. Save Lebanon from your real foe, Mr. President," Araghchi added, in reference to Israel.

## Israeli troops kill 7-month-old baby in West Bank, Palestinian officials say

By MAHMOUD ILLEAN, SAMY MAGDY and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops shot at a car in the occupied West Bank, killing a 7-month-old Palestinian baby and wounding his parents, the Palestinian health ministry said, with the bullet striking the boy in the face.

The Israeli military said that soldiers shot at a vehicle perceived to be accelerating toward them near Hebron. It said an initial inquiry found that the three Palestinians wounded were uninvolved civilians.

Israeli military activity, and settler violence against Palestinians, have surged in the territory since the

war in Gaza began in October 2023.

The baby's father, Bethlehem University lecturer Fahd Abu Haikal, told The Associated Press that a bullet struck the windshield before piercing his right hand and striking his son and wife in the back seat Friday evening. Another bullet struck the hood, according to AP journalists who saw the car.

The bullet passed through Sam Fahd Abu Haikal's face.

"He was the entire world," Haikal said of the boy, who turned seven months on Friday.

The mother was in critical condition, with shrapnel close to her heart.

The baby's body was wrapped in a Palestinian flag. His father carried him. The men placed the small bundle at their feet and bowed in prayer.

The father demanded justice. "At the end they tell you it was a mistake," he said. "Nothing is called a mistake."

The baby's grandmother, Feryal Abu Heikal, was also in the car. She said that they were driving near a checkpoint and stopped when they saw Israeli military vehicles and soldiers in the distance. She said she initially thought the gunfire was warning shots.

"The scene was horrific to see a 7-month-old baby with a smashed face," she said. "What kind of army in the world does this?"

Israeli soldiers are rarely punished in such cases

Israeli soldiers accused of harming Palestinians are seldom penalized, and were indicted in fewer than 1% of cases based on 2,427 complaints alleging wrongdoing between 2016 and 2024, according to Israeli rights group Yesh Din.

On Saturday, the Palestinian Red Crescent said that eight people were wounded in settler attacks on the town of Huwara, near Nablus, including from tear gas inhalation and rubber-coated metal bullets.

Israel's military said that riots broke out between Israelis and Palestinians, with rocks and batons, after a reported theft of livestock and soldiers dispersed them. The military said that it was aware of footage showing a soldier using violence against a Palestinian and it was under review. Images appeared to show someone being thrown to the ground and beaten.

Huwara has seen numerous attacks in recent years. In February 2023, scores of Israeli settlers rampaged there, burning dozens of cars and homes, after a Palestinian gunman killed two settlers.

The United Nations said last month that more than 1,000 Palestinians including at least 240 children have been killed in the West Bank and east Jerusalem since the war in Gaza began with the attack by Hamas-led militants on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

More than 700,000 Israelis live in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in 1967 from Jordan and sought by the Palestinians for a future state. The international community overwhelmingly considers Israeli settlement construction in these areas to be illegal and an obstacle to peace.

Strike kills at least 7 in Gaza

An Israeli strike on Saturday in Gaza City killed at least seven people, including two women, a girl and her father, all from the same family, according to Shifa Hospital. Director Mohamed Abu Selmiya said that a tent near the Rimal school was struck.

Israel's military said that it attacked what it called militants in the area.

Meanwhile, Hamas said that negotiators chaired by Khalil al-Hayyah began a new round of talks in Cairo with mediators from Egypt, Qatar and Turkey, in an effort to break a deadlock and move forward in implementing the Gaza ceasefire deal that took effect in October. The previous round of talks was a month ago.

Spokesperson Hazem Qassem said the talks were aimed at fully implementing the ceasefire's first phase and ending Israel's near-daily attacks in the territory. The fragile ceasefire began in October. While the heaviest fighting has subsided, the truce has seen almost daily Israeli fire.

Nickolay Mladenov, the head of the U.S.-created Board of Peace that oversees the ceasefire, acknowledged last month that the truce has stalled over the key issue of disarming Hamas.

Qassem said the talks will discuss "approaches acceptable to all parties" to implement the second phase,

including addressing weapons of Palestinian militant groups and the entry of an international stabilization force.

## Traders face big losses after Uganda closes Congo border over Ebola contagion fears

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

MPONDWE BORDER, Uganda (AP) — Leah Masika was on the verge of tears as she thought of her valuable consignment of plantain stuck in a long convoy of trucks on both sides of the Uganda-Congo border. Her cargo, destined for Uganda, was starting to leak water, and would go bad within hours if there was no movement.

The Ugandan trader was awaiting clearance from authorities for trucks to pass through the Mpondwe border post on Thursday after they were prevented from entering or leaving Uganda as part of escalating measures to prevent cross-border Ebola contagion.

"Our things are here rotting," she said.

On May 28, about two weeks after Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola in the eastern Ituri province, Uganda closed its western border in a decision that reflected growing fears of cross-border contagion. Exceptions were made only in emergency cases, including for the outbreak response, humanitarian, cargo or security reasons.

But in recent days, as the spread of Ebola in eastern Congo appeared to outpace the response, authorities in the Ugandan frontier district of Kasese have tightened the measures.

Traders say they are frustrated by the slow movement of cargo trucks. Some at the Mpondwe border post told The Associated Press that while they knew the tough measures are provoked by fear of Ebola contagion, they felt that holding up the trucks was excessive.

Sylvia Asiimwe, a clearing agent, pointed to the queue of trucks stretching over a mile on the Ugandan side. At least seven were carrying fish imported from China and destined for the Congolese cities of Beni and Butembo.

Asiimwe was adamant those Congolese towns are in the province of North Kivu, not the Ebola epicenter of Ituri. "The fish is going to spoil," she said. "So much money."

'Ebola has wasted our work'

The Uganda-Congo border is several hundred miles long and crossed by numerous footpaths beyond formal border posts. Trade is often booming along the route up to Mpondwe, and there is kinship between the Bakonzo people on the Ugandan side and the Banande on the other side.

Mpondwe is Uganda's top border post for informal exports that were valued at an estimated $131 million in 2023, according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

After the recent border closure, some shops were shuttered and young men, deprived of casual work, sat on stools dolefully.

"The situation is bad," said Ismail Mumbere, who often works as a vendor of roadside snacks on the Ugandan side. "A lot of people earn from here, in many businesses. But now the government has told us there is Ebola. Ebola has wasted our work."

The current outbreak in Congo is suspected to have infected over 1,000 people. The number of confirmed cases is much lower because many suspected victims succumb to their symptoms outside hospitals and without firm proof they had Ebola.

Congolese authorities, as of Thursday, have confirmed 452 cases with 82 deaths in total. Seventy-one new cases were confirmed within 24 hours, which the authorities said is a sign of "active community transmission".

The World Health Organization, while declaring the current outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, discouraged border closures. But the U.N. agency also acknowledged that neighboring countries are at high risk of contagion.

"With movement of cargo, and maybe trucks, is mobility of people, and we want to reduce that," said

Arafat Bwambale, a surveillance officer for Kasese, defending the measures.

Officials were trying to stop Congolese nationals from crossing to Uganda by way of more than two dozen footpaths along the Mpondwe border, he said.

All available vaccines and treatments for Ebola don't work for patients with the rare Bundibugyo type spreading in Congo, making the outbreak worrisome.

Ugandan authorities are cautious after 19 confirmed cases

Uganda has confirmed 19 Ebola cases, all linked to the outbreak in the neighboring country after some Congolese nationals sought treatment in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, before it was known there was an outbreak.

The disease was believed to have been spreading for days or weeks before the outbreak was declared May 15.

Uganda has had multiple Ebola outbreaks of its own since 2000, when the disease killed more than 200 people.

Ebola, named for a tributary of the Congo River, was first discovered in 1976 in simultaneous outbreaks in Congo and present-day South Sudan. Outbreaks are believed to start with the virus spilling over into humans from an infected animal such as a fruit bat. These cross-species infections often happen when people handle and eat wild meat, according to experts.

Once Ebola has infected one person, the virus then spreads through close contact with sick or deceased patients' bodily fluids, such as sweat, blood, feces or vomit.

Tracing and isolating contacts is seen as key to stopping the spread of Ebola, in addition to getting medical workers proper protective equipment.

Bwambale, the surveillance officer, said the nearest referral hospital in Kasese has an isolation center and is equipped with a lab that can return results on a sample within six hours. In recent days, samples taken from 41 people in the Kasese area tested negative for Ebola, which manifests as hemorrhagic fever.

Still, authorities appeared to be planning more restrictions.

A meeting of the local Ebola task force was likely to come up with "a more restricted way on how both the cargo or the trucks get into the country in a systematic way," Bwambale said.

That alarms traders for whom the Mpondwe border post is the primary route of business.

Masika, the plantain dealer, said she would not order more goods from Congo until the current outbreak was over. But she would be in trouble if the cargo already in transit didn't reach various locations in and around Kampala, where the fruits, deep fried or boiled, are a staple of breakfast menus in restaurants.

Masika said she couldn't countenance a loss of 50 bags, each worth roughly $44.

"We are begging them to help us and open (the border)," she said. "We will not go back to Congo."

## Russian teen Mirra Andreeva says she had to overcome so many demons inside to win the French Open

By ANDREW DAMPF AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Bent over with her hands covering her face, her knees getting dirtied on the red clay court, Mirra Andreeva was celebrating — processing might be the more appropriate word — how she had finally overcome "so many demons inside" that came with being a teenage tennis phenom.

After bursting onto the scene at 15, Andreeva became a Grand Slam champion at 19 when the Russian ended the run of 114th-ranked Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska with a 6-3, 6-2 victory in the French Open final on Saturday.

"I've done a lot of visualizations before. Not just this tournament, but I've had dreams, I've had a lot of thoughts on how it's going to happen, if it's going to happen, when it's going to happen, where," Andreeva said, still hardly breathing as she talked quickly in true teenage style. "The feeling in real life is so much better than in your dreams.

"I can call myself a Grand Slam champion," Andreeva added.

The biggest challenges for Andreeva have not been on the court — she already has one of the best

attacking baseline games in the sport — it's been the mental side. And her stubbornness.

"Her attitude is difficult," said Conchita Martinez, Andreeva's coach and a former Wimbledon champion. "You tell her something, and maybe she's not open to listening. ... When she works hard and when she listens and she does everything, she has no limits."

Andreeva acknowledged as much during the trophy ceremony.

"I know I can be a tough cookie sometimes and it's pretty hard to put up with me," Andreeva said.

The victory took Andreeva one step further than Martinez, who lost the 2000 French Open final to Mary Pierce.

Pierce presented the winner's trophy to Andreeva, who became the youngest woman to win the clay-court Grand Slam since Monica Seles was 18 when she claimed her third straight French Open in 1992.

"You're so young and talented. It's so annoying," the 24-year-old Chwalinska told Andreeva.

Andreeva took the unusual step of thanking herself "for believing in myself, always giving my 100%, even when it's tough, trying every day to be better as a person and as a player, believing that I can do this, fighting so many demons inside of me.

"Only I know how tough it was for me," Andreeva added. "How nervous I was throughout these two weeks."

Andreeva also thanked her psychologist, who she said was watching from Florida: "Everything that you've told me I've been trying to use these two weeks."

Chwalinska opens up about depression

Chwalinska was attempting to become the first qualifier to capture the Roland Garros title. She was a promising junior alongside four-time Roland Garros champion Iga Swiatek before she began struggling with depression in 2019.

"Tennis is such a tough sport. It's so individual. We start so early. We are basically kids when we start," Chwalinska said. "People are expecting that we are going to behave like adults already and we are just kids really. So the pressure is huge."

Andreeva was born in Siberia and moved to Sochi and eventually France to develop her tennis career.

She drew a loud applause from the crowd on Court Philippe-Chatrier when she spoke a few words of French during the trophy presentation.

"Thanks for your support today and over these past two marvelous weeks here in Paris," Andreeva said in French. "It was very important for me."

Breakthrough at 15

Andreeva has been considered a Grand Slam contender since she burst onto the scene as a 15-year-old at the 2023 Madrid Open, where she became the third-youngest player to win a main draw match at a WTA 1000 tournament and made the quarterfinals.

Lately, Andreeva has had to contend with playing under neutral status and without her country's flag because of the war with Ukraine.

When she beat Marta Kostyuk in the semifinals, Kostyuk refused to shake her hand, as has been the custom for Ukrainian players facing Russians ever since the war started in 2022.

"Every person doesn't want to have a war in the world," Andreeva said. "I never think about those things when I play."

Mastering the wind

The final was played under a mostly sunny sky, though wind was a factor in the first Grand Slam final for both players.

Chwalinska double-faulted on the opening point of the match, but she was the first player to hold serve in the fifth game for a 3-2 lead.

But then Andreeva won nine stright games to take control as she found a way to hit through the wind and answer Chwalinska's array of spins and drop shots.

Whereas Chwalinska would retreat to handle high balls in the wind, Andreeva often would move forward and take balls on the rise.

"She definitely handled wind much better than me," Chwalinska said. "She was not running away from the ball."

Andreeva produced 25 winners to Chwalinska's 10 and also had fewer unforced errors: 26 to 29.

There was a strong Polish presence in the crowd.

When Chwalinska was introduced, fans held aloft red-and-white Polish flags and chanted her name: "Ma-ja, Ma-ja."

Andreeva had little support from the crowd, although there was a shout of "Davai, Mirra!" ("Go, Mirra") in Russian late in the match.

Alexander Zverev plays Flavio Cobolli in the men's final on Sunday to conclude the wildest Grand Slam in recent memory.

## Female Navy officers say they fear a career cap after Hegseth cuts women from promotions list

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth cut nine Navy officers, including all the women, from a promotion list, several female officers say they see the unusual intervention as a sign that their careers now have a ceiling and worry for the future generation of female military leaders.

The Navy had selected 31 sailors to promote from the rank of captain to one-star admiral, but Hegseth recently intervened to strike nine people from the list, including three women and two Black men, according to a defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss information not permitted to be released publicly.

As a result, the Navy is not promoting a single woman to the one-star admiral rank this year even though women make up about one-quarter of all Navy officers and nearly one-third of the sea service's midgrade ranks, according to military data from 2024.

The Associated Press spoke with eight female Navy officers of varying ranks and time in service after Hegseth's cuts, which were reported earlier by The New York Times, became public. They spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retribution from their superiors.

The more junior officers said they saw the development as a sign that their careers would become politicized if they rose too far in the ranks, and some said they felt they now had a limit on how far they could be promoted. Some said it made them feel less valued within the military and wondered whether that wasn't part of the intent.

The Pentagon has not offered any rationale on why the women, or any of the other six people, were removed from the promotion list.

The Pentagon says promotions are based on merit

Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's top spokesman, said on social media this week that "military promotions are given to those who have earned them" and that the Pentagon "will never consider the color of a service member's skin or their gender as a factor in promotions." The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request seeking further comment.

The Navy's process for choosing which officers to promote to the one-star rank has been relatively constant and transparent over the years. The service convenes a group of officers, called a promotion board, that examines the records of eligible officers and chooses the most qualified.

The board that selected the initial slate of 31 officers for promotion was directed by then-Navy Secretary John Phelan, an appointee of President Donald Trump, to "recommend for promotion the best qualified officers within their respective competitive category."

The order from Phelan, who later abruptly departed his post in April, said the board should consider an officer's performance, competence and character, among other traits, as part of those qualifications.

It also said that given China's prominence in the Trump administration's National Defense Strategy, "special consideration shall be given to officers who have excelled in their knowledge of the political military affairs and U.S. strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and operational contingency planning for

Indo-Pacific war plans."

Hegseth has long argued, without offering evidence, that women in the military benefit from preferential treatment and are not suited for combat roles.

"For too long, we've promoted too many uniformed leaders for the wrong reasons based on their race, based on gender quotas, based on historic so-called firsts," Hegseth told hundreds of military leaders in September.

The approach, he asserted, made the Pentagon "less capable and less lethal."

Navy leaders and other top officials had approved promotion list

Phelan's order said the Navy cannot discriminate based on criteria such as race and sex, and it specifically noted that "this guidance shall not be interpreted as requiring or permitting preferential treatment of any officer or group of officers on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex."

The full list of 31 people to be promoted was approved by Phelan, other Navy leaders and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Dan Caine, before it reached Hegseth, who chose to make the changes, the defense official said.

While Hegseth is within his rights to intervene in the list, "it's just not the norm" and its "a break from tradition" said Katherine Kuzminski, a researcher specializing in military recruiting and retention at the Center for New American Security think tank. She said that promotions historically have been seen "the services' business."

Kuzminski noted that "this is a decision that's not being made by the U.S. Navy — it's being made by the secretary of defense" and said Hegseth's growing interference in operational aspects of the military services such as promotions is creating "tension" about what "normal" will look like going forward.

Some of the more senior Navy officers who spoke with the AP expressed concerns about the message it sends to the next generation of young sailors.

In addition to pulling the recent promotions of three women to admiral, Hegseth shortly after he took office fired Adm. Lisa Franchetti, the service's top officer and the first woman to hold the job. He never explained his rationale.

Since then, he also has fired two other female three-star admirals without explanation.

Some of the officers who spoke to the AP said that while they were encouraging female sailors to stick with the Navy, they acknowledged that message is coming at a difficult time.

Kuzminski said the rhetoric and actions surrounding women in the military "affects individual service member decision-making and it also affects family unit decision-making," including whether people make a career of the military.

Kuzminski said that following the monthslong hold on military promotions by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., during the Biden administration, surveys showed that partisan politics spilling into the day-to-day lives of troops affected their decision-making.

One officer said this impact was not confined to women.

In conversations with other sailors in her unit, she said that male sailors were hesitant to deal with what appears to be a growing politicization of simply following the orders of previous administrations.

## Trump issues pardon to former Republican congressman convicted of insider trading

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has issued a pardon to Stephen Buyer, a former Republican congressman from Indiana who served nearly two years in prison for making illegal stock trades based on inside information after he left office.

Buyer was sentenced to 22 months in prison in 2023 for trades made while working as a consultant and lobbyist. He was ordered to forfeit more than $350,000, representing the amount of the illegal gains, and pay a $10,000 fine. He was released in 2025.

The Supreme Court in May rejected Buyer's appeal without comment or noted dissent.

In granting "a full, complete, and unconditional pardon," Trump cited Buyer's career as a judge advocate

general in the Army and in the House that was "distinguished and highly productive." The pardon was dated Thursday and released by the White House late Friday.

Buyer said the pardon "corrects a politically motivated prosecution" and that it was "horrific to be imprisoned for a crime that I did not commit." He maintains that he is innocent.

Trump used his Truth Social media platform on May 31 to share a pair of letters requesting a presidential pardon for Buyer, a lawyer and Gulf War veteran who left office in 2011. He was a House prosecutor at Democratic President Bill Clinton's 1998 impeachment trial and in 2016 he served on Trump's transition team focusing on veterans' issues.

A letter signed by more than 40 former Republicans in Congress said Buyer was "targeted by the deep state" because of his involvement in Clinton's trial.

"Like you, Mr. President, Steve has been the victim of lawfare conducted by the Biden Administration," they wrote in the April 2025 letter.

A second letter, from five current House Republicans, said pardoning Buyer would bring justice to his case. The June 2025 letter was signed by Tom Cole of Oklahoma, Ken Calvert of California, Marlin Stutzman of Indiana, Jack Bergman of Michigan and Pete Sessions of Texas.

Buyer, 67, was convicted in connection with insider trading involving the $26.5 billion merger of T-Mobile and Sprint, announced in April 2018, and illegal trades in the management consulting company Navigant when his client Guidehouse was set to acquire it in a deal publicly disclosed weeks later.

The Constitution gives a president broad power to grant pardons for federal crimes. The pardons do not erase a recipient's criminal record but can be seen as act of mercy or justice.

## Knicks, up 2-0 in NBA Finals, say the job is far from over. And the Spurs aren't conceding anything

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

The New York Knicks are up 2-0. They say they're unfazed.

The San Antonio Spurs are down 0-2. They say they're unfazed.

Such is the state of things in the NBA Finals, where both teams were taking a travel day on Saturday. Practices resume Sunday and Game 3 of the title series is Monday night at Madison Square Garden, where President Donald Trump will be watching alongside fans who are willing to pay nearly $10,000 for seats so far from the court that 7-foot-4 Spurs center Victor Wembanyama will look tiny.

The Knicks insist they're not celebrating yet. The Spurs insist they're not defeated yet.

"Every single day, we chip away and try to be the best that we can be. ... Even with the series it is now, next game, mindset has to be 0-0 again," said Knicks guard Jalen Brunson, the late-game hero in both the Game 1 and Game 2 wins that New York got in San Antonio to take an absolute stranglehold on the series. "It's just how it has to be. You can't be comfortable. You can't be satisfied with anything. Just got to continue to push forward."

That's all they've done for a month and a half now.

They've won 13 consecutive games, the second-longest single-season playoff run in NBA history behind only a 15-game winning streak by Golden State in the 2017 postseason. They have a chance to be the first team in NBA history to make it through the last three rounds of the playoffs — the conference semifinals, conference final and NBA Finals — unbeaten.

"One of the things that we preach is being present," Knicks coach Mike Brown said. "In order to be present, you can't think about the past, you can't think about the future. For all of us as humans, that's hard as heck to do. I constantly, boom, flick myself in the head, tell myself, 'Be present, be present, be present.' I obviously mention it to the group, too. With those guys being who they are, they've really embraced it, and they're really trying to live it every single moment during this run."

They don't get rattled, even on this stage. Counting the NBA Cup final, which isn't recognized in standings or official league stats, the Knicks are 4-1 against the Spurs this season. The four wins by New York all have something in common: the Knicks trailed by double digits in each of those games.

— Cup final in Vegas, the Spurs led by 11 (and lost by 11).
— Regular-season game at MSG, the Spurs led by 12 (and lost by 25).
— Game 1 of the finals, the Spurs led by 14 (and lost by 10).
— Game 2 of the finals, the Spurs led by 12 (and lost by one).

"We just need to figure it out," Wembanyama said. "We need to keep working on it."

The only Spurs win over New York was the regular-season game at home, where they won by two after trailing by 19 and never leading by more than six.

Go figure.

"It was going to take everything to win the series anyway," Spurs guard Stephon Castle said. "Putting ourselves in this type of predicament is going to be tough, but I don't think it's anything we can't handle."

The Knicks have an idea of what's coming on Monday.

The Garden will be shaking to its core, since people who spent the kind of money that they're spending to come see a basketball game likely won't decide to sit quietly in their seats. The energy in the city will be beyond compare, with a 53-year wait for another NBA championship now just two games away and oddsmakers — who have the Knicks at -550 to win the series — basically saying it's inevitable. And the Spurs will come out throwing whatever punches they have left to throw.

"Knowing them, there's going to be another level," Brunson said. "We have to be prepared and be ready to match it and play for 48 minutes. No matter what goes on in the game, we have to have each other's back, what's going on, who is on a run, what's not, who is up, who is down, making sure we are playing together for 48 minutes is really important."

If the Knicks could use a cautionary tale, they need look no further than Mikal Bridges. He was with Phoenix when the Suns took a 2-0 lead in the 2021 finals against Milwaukee. The Bucks and Giannis Antetokounmpo won that series in six games. It's a different situation now — those two Suns wins were in Phoenix, not on the road — but it is a reminder that two wins aren't enough.

"It's still 0-0 as far as we're concerned," Knicks forward Josh Hart said. "Being up 2-0 means really nothing. This (San Antonio) team is going to come out on Monday with an unbelievable amount of energy and desperation, and we've got to be better."

## The World Cup poses an unprecedented security challenge at a fraught moment. Is the US ready?

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ, MICHAEL R. SISAK and REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The World Cup, a 48-team, 104-match behemoth kicking off next week across 16 cities in the United States, Mexico and Canada, presents an unprecedented security challenge, with more countries, games and a larger footprint than ever before.

It also comes against the backdrop of the U.S. and Israel's war with Iran, mounting political violence in President Donald Trump's orbit and growing fears of artificial intelligence-fueled disruptions, creating a complex threat environment for authorities.

Overseeing the sprawling security apparatus is a legion of federal agencies, state and local police departments and private entities. Their responsibilities range from securing stadiums and fan zones to escorting teams and protecting dignitaries.

Their tools include hunter drones that can shoot nets over objects in restricted airspace, bag-inspecting robot dogs, giant X-ray trucks and thousands of AI-powered cameras trained on public spaces soon to be thronged by fans.

In the U.S., it's "78 Super Bowls over 39 days," said Andrew Giuliani, executive director of Trump's World Cup task force, which is overseeing the multiagency effort.

"There's never been a summer like this in American history from a security angle," said Giuliani, son of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

"We're as prepared as we can be."

An unprecedented security collaboration

The tournament has the same high-level federal security designation as the Super Bowl, just below a presidential inauguration or a national political convention, ensuring federal, state and local coordination. It coincides with other major events linked to the 250th anniversary of America's founding.

So far, Giuliani said, there are no credible threats.

The Department of Homeland Security, focused on Trump's immigration enforcement crackdown and hit by a funding lapse only recently resolved, estimates up 7 million people will visit the U.S. for the World Cup.

The U.S. Secret Service, under scrutiny after security breaches and attempts on Trump's life, is in charge of protecting world leaders who show up to cheer on their countries. Trump has expressed interest in attending a match.

"I feel very comfortable where we're at, and we feel like we have a zero-fail mission," Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told Congress this week, noting that the Secret Service was understaffed by about 860 agents. "But it's going to be complicated."

Officials have indicated they are confident they can keep Trump safe because they will be integrating his usual security into the robust World Cup plan on days he may watch a match.

The FBI has spent two years developing its security plan, incorporating lessons from other major events such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and New Year's Eve ball drop in New York and testing them at smaller ones, including last week's Israel Day parade in the city.

"We prepare for the worst day," FBI Special Agent in Charge Amit Kachhia-Patel in New York told The Associated Press. "And that's how we go into any single event."

To help cover security costs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has distributed $625 million to the 11 U.S. host cities. An additional $250 million is being directed toward tracking and neutralizing suspect drones.

The disbursement of those funds was held up by the department's funding delay, which the Republican administration has argued hindered security planning.

Others involved in the planning effort said the federal government could have played a more hands-on role even before the shutdown.

John Cohen, a former senior DHS official who has been briefing state leaders before the matches, said the government was largely absent from planning meetings last year and did not begin sharing threat intelligence with host regions until recently.

"With an event of this magnitude, one would expect the federal government would've played a more active role," Cohen said. "It felt like a missed opportunity to showcase that collaboration."

Evolving threats from drones and AI

In January, thousands of officials involved in World Cup security gathered for exercises simulating crowd surges, vehicle attacks and mass shootings.

A month later, the U.S. and Israel launched a war with Iran.

"The security picture fundamentally changed," said Stefano Ritondale, chief intelligence officer at Artorias, a defense intelligence company not involved in the security preparations. "There's a major difference in preparing for a lone wolf radical who rams his car into a public place and a terrorist who is bankrolled by a foreign country we're at war with."

Among the greatest concerns are drones.

Since the last World Cup in Qatar in 2022, drones have become a prominent weapon in conflicts including Russia's war in Ukraine and Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

"If there is one threat that keeps me up at night, it is from drones," said New York City Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, whose department is partnering with the FBI on drone mitigation.

Drones are prohibited over stadiums and fan zones, and Kachhia-Patel said the FBI has a "full suite of options" to thwart incursions. They include agents monitoring the sky and a "variety of means" to safely down the devices, he said without elaborating.

Before this year's World Cup, the growing sophistication of AI videos was a particular concern, with officials warning that state actors can harness the technology to sow misinformation and panic.

On match days, the FBI will activate joint operations centers in each host city, bringing together local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to monitor and investigate threats.

"If there's a video that shows an explosion going off at a site, and it's AI generated, we have people on the ground who can validate whether or not that's true," said Kachhia-Patel.

A scoring opportunity for private tech

Some AI companies have pitched themselves to police departments in host cities, promising to comb through data and surveillance on game days to prevent threats, including unruly fan behavior.

"We know sports fanaticism around here in terms of the NFL and baseball to some extent, but nothing like international soccer," said Jake Becchina, a police spokesperson in Kansas City, Missouri, which is hosting six matches.

The department has contracted with Peregrine Technologies, which promises to sift through police data and publicly available information such as team practice locations and the country affiliation of popular bars, to get ahead of possible conflict.

In Dallas, a recent $120 million tech upgrade will give local police body cameras capable of real-time translations, helping law enforcement communicate with international visitors soon to descend on the region.

Several drone detection and mitigation companies are joining efforts to help federal agencies secure the skies.

One of those companies, Fortem, has claimed to have signed a multimillion-dollar contract with DHS before the World Cup for an unusual drone mitigation strategy: quadcopters that can shoot nets at encroaching drones to trap them in midair. A spokesperson for DHS declined to discuss the contract.

Just as the teams will aim to perform their best on the pitch, Giuliani said the security planning was a unique chance to "show off American exceptionalism."

"If we do our job right," Giuliani added, "nobody will be talking about security at the World Cup."

## Fuel prices are shaping summer plans as US boaters get ready to hit the water

By DEE-ANN DURBIN Associated Press

DEXTER TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — On the kind of warm, bright afternoon that Michigan boaters wait all year for, Malik Amine and his brother readied their family's pontoon boat for the summer.

The cover was off and Portage Lake sparkled in the sun. But before the brothers could leave a narrow wooden dock, they had a decision to make: how much gasoline to put in the pontoon's 52-gallon engine.

Recreational boaters, like motorists, are feeling a pinch from the Iran war. U.S. gas prices have come down in recent weeks, but a gallon of regular gas still cost an average of 34% more Friday than it did a year earlier, according to motor club AAA. The price of diesel fuel, which is also used by some boaters, is up 53% from last year.

Ethanol-free gas, which many boaters, classic car owners and lawn mower users prefer, is anywhere from 20 cents to $1 per gallon more than regular fuel, according to the National Association of Convenience Stores, which also represents fuel retailers.

One gas station near Portage Lake, which is 60 miles west of Detroit, is selling ethanol-free fuel for $7 per gallon. Amine said he didn't plan to fill the boat's tank ahead of Memorial Day weekend.

"The cost is going to be a lot more than it was last year," Amine said. "I think it's probably a little bit smarter to do what you need and fill it as much as you need, because who knows when this conflict's going to end."

The National Marine Manufacturers Association estimates that 100 million Americans go boating each year, contributing to an industry worth $230 billion annually. The trade group, which represents companies that make boats, marine engines, boating equipment and accessories, said its conversations with boaters indicate that most still plan to head out on the water this year, but in some cases, gas prices are curtailing their plans.

"There were a number of people within that who said, 'I am going to have to change my behavior'," said

Ellen Bradley, the association's chief brand officer. "I may not go as far. I may not as fast. I may spend more time anchored and swimming. I may spend more time at the dock."

Neil and Kathleen Donohoe sold their home in Colorado and now live aboard a 50-foot, diesel-powered boat dubbed the Granuaile, which is the Gaelic name of Grace O'Malley, a 16th century sea captain known as Ireland's pirate queen. They've spent the last seven years cruising up and down the East Coast and to the Bahamas.

Maintenance on the boat – not fuel – is typically their greatest expense, Neil Donohoe said. But lately, the cost to fill up the boat — which can hold 1,500 gallons — is eye-popping. They talk to other boaters and use various marine apps to find the cheapest gas.

"It's not driving us not to cruise, but it's making a difference," he said.

This summer, the couple plan to stick around the Chesapeake Bay area instead of heading further north. They've already been to Maine and to Canada, they reasoned, and they don't feel the urge to go again while gas prices are so high.

"It seems a little gross to spend that kind of money when so many people are struggling," Kathleen Donohoe said.

Gas prices are also impacting boating-related businesses. The Seattle Sailing Club, which offers lessons, chartered cruises and rentals, said its fuel bill has gone up 10.7% since the beginning of the war.

Lindsey Brown, the club's office manager, said its fleet of 30 boats usually rely on wind power, but they all have gas or diesel backup engines. In April, the marina where the boats are docked charged $6.50 per gallon for diesel, she said. By late May, that had risen to $7.99 per gallon.

"We are just heading into our busy season, so we may see a more dramatic effect on our business if the price of fuel doesn't change or continues to increase," Brown said. Brown, who lives on a sailboat at the marina, said the service she uses to pump out wastewater just added a fuel surcharge to her bill.

It's also the busy season for Melissa Kunnert, who owns NautiMi On the River, an ice cream and gift shop near Portage Lake. She rents out a tiki-themed pontoon boat for parties and hosts three-hour evening cruises for $50 a person starting after Memorial Day.

Kunnert decided not to raise her prices this summer even though it costs more to fill up the pontoon. She wonders if the higher gas prices affecting all forms of travel might benefit her business by keeping more potential customers closer to home.

"I'm interested to see if we'll have the same amount as previous years (or) if we will have more because people don't want to use their gas, they want ours," Kunnert said.

In Traverse City, Michigan, a few hours north of Portage Lake, Robert Hinds decided to add a $50 fuel surcharge to the fishing trips he offers as the owner and operator of Central Coast Angling. He tows his 22-foot boat from port to port on Lake Michigan depending on where the fishing is best, so he has to fill up his truck in addition to his boat.

Hinds said he's had multiple cancellations as customers do their own math on gas prices. One regular customer from Nebraska didn't make the trip this spring.

"It's really tough. People do want to get out and I still believe people will," he said. "But everybody comes from different walks of life."

Hinds recently ruled out his own fishing trip to Wisconsin after figuring out it would cost him $400 in diesel fuel for the truck that tows his boat.

"I can just stay home and fish here," he said.

## Ukraine targets St. Petersburg again after Putin rejects Zelenskyy's offer for direct talks

By The Associated Press undefined

Residents of St. Petersburg were told not to leave their homes after a large-scale Ukrainian drone attack targeted Russia's second-largest city Saturday morning, underscoring Kyiv's growing ability to hit deep inside Russia.

The attack came a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin refused an offer to meet his Ukrainian counterpart.

St. Petersburg Gov. Alexander Beglov said three people sustained minor injuries in the attack. He advised residents not to go outside and warned of possible disruptions to mobile internet service, while regional Gov. Alexander Drozdenko said 141 drones were shot down over the surrounding Leningrad region in what he called an "unprecedented attack."

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 376 Ukrainian drones.

"Last night, our drones covered a distance of about 1,000 kilometers to the St. Petersburg region — to the enemy navy's arsenals and a base in Kronstadt," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on X, adding that drones also hit an oil depot in Russia's southern Krasnodar region.

The renewed attack on St. Petersburg is the latest embarrassing blow to Putin's efforts to cast the conflict as a distant event that doesn't affect Russian daily life.

A Ukrainian drone strike set ablaze an oil terminal in the city and hit a nearby naval base Wednesday, hours before the opening of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin's annual showcase for investment.

Speaking at the forum, Putin said Thursday that Russia will strengthen its air defenses to counter recent Ukrainian drone attacks, which have reached deep inside his country and cast a cloud over the event in his hometown of St. Petersburg.

Putin on Friday rejected a proposal by Zelenskyy for a face-to-face meeting on the 4-year-old conflict, saying he sees "no point" in it. Thursday's letter, the first public message Zelenskyy has written directly to Putin since Russia sent troops into Ukraine in 2022, was a sweeping critique of the Russian leader's 26 years in power, as well as some taunts about his age.

Responding to Putin's dismissal of the proposed meeting, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Saturday that things would "only get worse for Russia."

"Failures will get more humiliating," he wrote on X, warning that there are "no safe places in Russia that can be exempt" from Ukrainian long-range attacks, and that the intensity of attacks "will continue to grow."

With the front line barely moving as swarms of drones hinder advances, both sides have sought an edge by launching long-range strikes.

In Ukraine, one person was killed and three wounded overnight into Saturday in the Dnipropetrovsk region, as Russian forces struck three districts nearly 30 times with drones and artillery, regional head Oleksandr Hanzha said.

In Zaporizhzhia, seven people sought medical care after a Russian drone strike started a fire at a parking lot, according to regional head Ivan Fedorov.

Russia targeted Ukraine overnight with 272 strike drones, and air defenses shot down 249 of them, the Ukrainian air force said Saturday.

## Today in History: June 7, James Byrd Jr. killed in hate crime

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, June 7, the 158th day of 2026. There are 207 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 7, 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation and led to stronger state and federal hate crime laws, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old Black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death and executed for the crime; a third was sentenced to life in prison.)

Also on this date:

In 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent States."

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a Creole of color, was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (In an 1896 ruling on his case, Plessy v. Ferguson, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld

"separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1929, the sovereign state of Vatican City formally came into existence as the Italian Parliament ratified the Lateran Treaty in Rome.

In 1942, the Battle of Midway ended in a decisive victory for American naval forces over Imperial Japan, marking a turning point in the Pacific War.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Griswold v. Connecticut, struck down by a 7-2 vote a Connecticut law used to prosecute a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Haven for providing contraceptives to married couples.

In 1976, New York magazine published an article by journalist Nik Cohn entitled "The Tribal Rites of the New Saturday Night," that inspired the 1977 film "Saturday Night Fever" and sparked a nationwide disco craze. (Cohn admitted in 1997 that the article was actually a work of fiction.)

In 1979, Texas became the first state to recognize Juneteenth as an official state holiday. (Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021; the June 19 holiday marks the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston at the end of the Civil War and brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Texas.)

In 1982, Graceland, Elvis Presley's Memphis mansion, was opened to the public as a tourist destination, five years after Presley's death.

In 2006, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of al-Qaida in Iraq, was killed by a U.S. airstrike on his safe house.

In 2021, Maggie Murdaugh, 52, and her son Paul Murdaugh, 22, from a prominent South Carolina legal family, were found shot and killed on their family's property. (In 2026 the South Carolina Supreme Court overturned the murder convictions of Alex Murdaugh, Maggie's husband and Paul's father.)

Today's Birthdays: Filmmaker James Ivory is 98. Singer Tom Jones is 86. Actor Liam Neeson is 74. Author Orhan Pamuk is 74. Author Louise Erdrich is 72. Music producer L.A. Reid is 70. Musician Juan Luis Guerra is 69. Former Vice President Mike Pence is 67. Rock musician-TV host Dave Navarro is 59. Sen. Ben Ray Luján, D-N.M., is 54. Actor Karl Urban is 54. TV personality Bear Grylls is 52. Basketball Hall of Famer Allen Iverson is 51. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 48. Actor Michael Cera is 38. Rapper Iggy Azalea is 36. Actor-model Emily Ratajkowski is 35. NFL running back Christian McCaffrey is 30.