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Sunday, June 14

FLAG DAY

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

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

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 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.

U14 Legion at Platte Tournament

Jr. Legion at Clark Tournament

U10 Baseball at Milbank Tournament (ALL)

Groton Daily Independent
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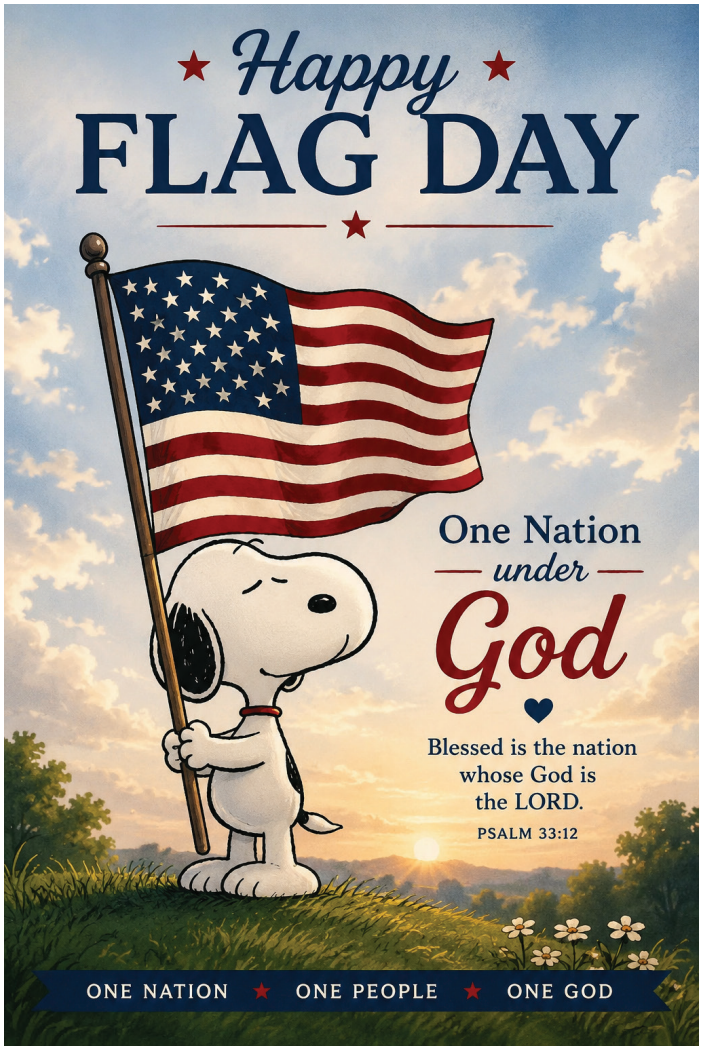

Monday, June 15

Senior Menu: Taco salad with chips, Mexican rice with beans, fruit, biscuit.

Groton 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

Sr. Legion at Watertown, 5 p.m.

Jr. Legion hosts Selby, 5:30 p.m.

U8 Baseball host Webster, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Red and Blue)

U12 Softball at Claremont, DH, 6:30 p.m. (W&G)

Newsweek
The Bulletin YOUR DAILY BRIEFING OF EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Why SpaceX Market Listing Will Affect You Whether You've Invested or Not

Elon Musk's SpaceX finally went public at a valuation of around $1.96 trillion Friday, a move that quickly pushed the aerospace company into major stock indexes—and into millions of Americans' 401(k) portfolios through index funds.

Because major index funds automatically track stock benchmarks like the Nasdaq-100, SpaceX becoming part of the public stock market will mean that everyday investors gain exposure to the company whether they choose to or not, through 401(k)s and other passive funds.

Index providers have recently eased long-standing eligibility rules that once limited how quickly newly public companies could be added to benchmarks tracked by retirement funds.

SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell (R) celebrates with colleagues during a bell-ringing ceremony for the SpaceX IPO at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York on June 12, 2026. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

How SpaceX Could Impact Your Retirement Portfolio

Benchmarks such as the Nasdaq 100 are built to track groups of publicly listed companies, and funds that follow them are required to mirror those holdings precisely. That includes exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and retirement products such as target-date funds and total-market index funds.

With SpaceX beginning to trade on Friday, its presence in retirement portfolios will depend less on individual investors' choices and more on how index funds replicate their benchmarks.

Scott Richie, an investing expert at Stoculator, told Newsweek that index funds are designed to "hold whatever the index holds, nothing more and nothing less," including broad retirement products that track the entire market.

Richie said funds tracking the CRSP US Total Market Index are designed to hold nearly all listed U.S. companies. Once SpaceX is added, "every fund that tracks CRSP buys it right alongside, weighted by its size," he said.

Richie added that this is not an active decision by fund managers but "the total-market index doing exactly what it's built to do: own the whole market, which will now include SpaceX."

SpaceX Prepares for Listing With Record-Breaking IPO

Ahead of Friday's trading, SpaceX set its price and valuation—and established itself as one of the world's largest companies—with a record-setting IPO.

A filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Thursday showed the company raised

$75 billion by selling 555.6 million shares at $135 each—a deal that valued SpaceX at around $1.77 trillion. This $75-billion sale surpasses the previous record, held by the energy giant Saudi Aramco, which raised just shy of $30 billion when it went public in 2019.

When the company began trading Friday, the shares were up 11 percent at $150 each, leading to a market value of $1.96 trillion.

With this market capitalization, SpaceX was already the eighth most valuable company on the planet even before trading began, narrowly beating Aramco and sitting behind Broadcom. However, share price fluctuations over the coming days and weeks could nudge it higher—or lower—in the rankings.

Is SpaceX IPO a Good Investment?

While trading appears heavily oversubscribed, some have questioned whether the loss-making company is as safe an investment as this enthusiasm would suggest, and whether its imminent inclusion in index funds can be justified given lingering governance questions.

According to an analysis by The Motley Fool, the rosiest scenario could see SpaceX deliver returns of up to 30 percent annually, provided its Starlink satellite services continue growing at a healthy rate.

In the prospectus filed in early June, SpaceX said that its revenues rose to $4.7 billion in the first quarter from $4.1 billion a year prior. In 2025, revenue rose 33 percent year-over-year to $18.7 billion. However, the company still recorded a net loss of $4.3 billion in the most recent quarter, comparable to the $4.9 billion it lost through the entirety of last year.

And given the earnings disparity with its trillion-dollar peers, some have doubted its appeal for retail and institutional investors.

Another idiosyncrasy is its pricing. The $1.8 trillion IPO valuation means SpaceX is valued at close to 100 times its yearly revenue. According to the financial services firm Fidelity, this is well above the norm for megacaps, with Nvidia valued at around 21.5 times its sales, Micosoft at 12.3 and Apple at about seven.

And earlier this month, Morningstar analysts said a more realistic valuation would be around $780 billion.

"The company faces substantial risks related to strategic execution, technological evolution, market dynamics, regulations, AI buildout, and key-person dependency," they wrote, adding that the share price would likely be "overvalued" while acknowledging the upside potential for Starlink.

And governance of the company has also emerged as a key issue. In a recent letter to SEC Commissioner Paul Atkins, Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren cited fears about SpaceX's structure, which she said could grant its CEO "an unprecedented level of power" and leave investors with "with significantly fewer rights than those traditionally offered to purchasers of public shares."

Warren said that SpaceX's IPO demanded "careful SEC review and attention to investor needs." She went on to request that regulars probe the disparity between its sales and valuation and whether this puts individual investors and those invested through index funds "at risk."

What Is Free Float?

SpaceX has already secured fast-track inclusion in major benchmarks, including the Nasdaq-100 and Russell 1000, meaning passive funds tracking these will, within days, feel the effects of its market impact.

However, the S&P 500 elected not to shorten its eligibility window for newly listed companies. This means those holding funds which track the world's largest stock index won't profit—or suffer—from SpaceX's

inclusion for a year.

But regardless of its inclusion, some say a detail about the portion of the company's shares actually available for public trading will limit its overall effect.

"A critical factor to keep in mind is free float," Alex Michalka, Wealthfront's vice president of investment research, told USA Today. "This measures the number of shares actually available for public trading, as opposed to total market capitalization, which counts every share in existence."

SpaceX is reportedly "floating" only about 5 percent of its shares, meaning its weighting in an index will be smaller.

"A good example is Saudi Aramco. When it floated less than two percent of its shares in 2019, it became the largest listed company in the world by valuation," explains Peter Wicks, a financial adviser at the U.K. accounting firm Cooper Parry. "However, because only a small proportion of shares were publicly available, relatively few investors saw the company appear among the largest holdings in their portfolios."

Richie told Newsweek most savers would not need to take any action, describing the exposure as "a very small part of what you own, not a big new bet." With only about 5 percent of SpaceX initially trading, he added that, "inside a broad index fund, it's a tiny piece, not a core holding."

Richie added that investors already hold similar indirect exposure across diversified portfolios. "You'll own a little SpaceX the same way you already own a little of hundreds of companies you've never thought about," he said.

"For most retirement savers it's neither a big positive nor a big danger," Richie added.

"A small slice of any single company, up or down, won't make or break your retirement."

Larger Market Impact

Even if retail investors see only limited exposure, the addition of a company the size of SpaceX can still trigger large-scale trading across index-tracking funds.

SpaceX is poised for inclusion in the Nasdaq-100 with a significant initial weighting once it becomes eligible. Funds that track that index must then buy shares in proportion to that weight.

Asher Rogovy, chief investment officer at Magnifina, LLC, told Newsweek this creates a chain reaction across portfolios. He said that "every index fund tracking it then has to buy a matching amount of the stock, simply because of their rules."

To fund those purchases, index managers typically sell small portions of other holdings. Rogovy said that means the impact is spread across the rest of the market, not just the new entrant.

"The bigger SpaceX is, the more they have to sell," he said. Because these adjustments follow public index rules, he added, the timing and scale of trading can be anticipated by other market participants

"Since the rules dictate what the funds must trade and when, their market activity is very easy to predict," Rogovy said.

"Earlier traders can step in ahead of the funds and obtain better prices.

"The net effect is upward pressure on SpaceX, and downward pressure on everything else in the index."

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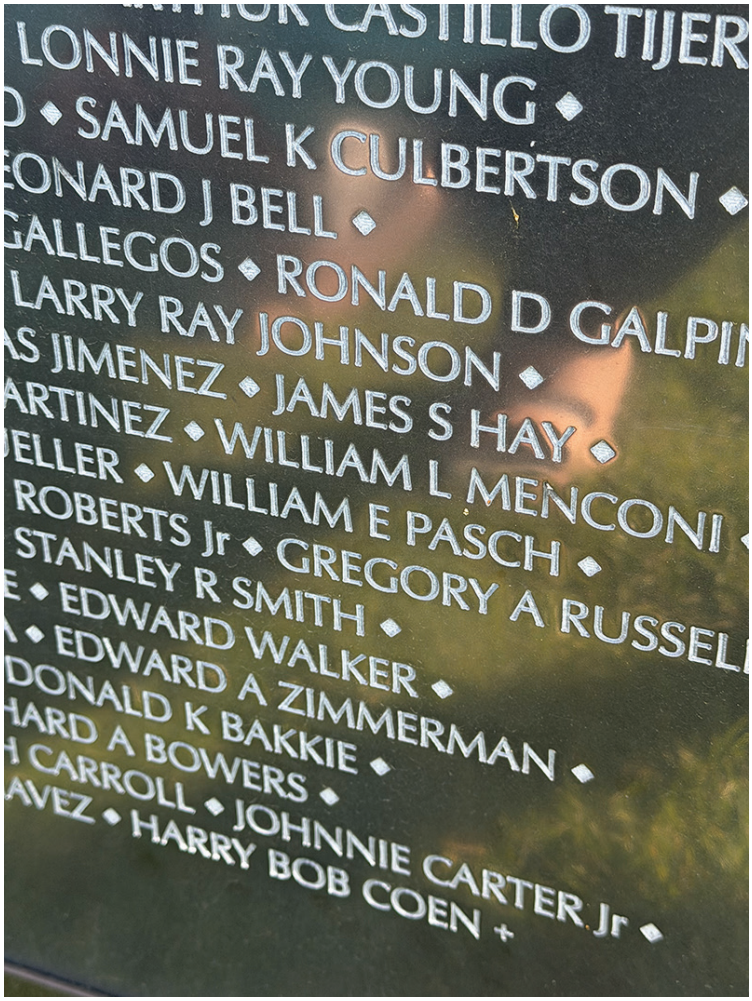
The Wall That Heals in Brookings

The Wall That Heals will conclude it's time in Brookings today as it will be dissembled this afternoon as it makes its next stop in Lacey, Wash. The Wall that Heals 3/4 replica will be making a 31-city tour through the United States. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



William E Pasch is a Groton resident that died in the Vietnam War and his name is etched on The Wall That Heals. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

SP4 William Ernest "Bill" Pasch

Panel 58E, Line 24
U.S. Army
H Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
Born: October 3, 1947
Home: Groton, South Dakota

Bill Pasch entered the Army on October 20, 1966, and completed basic training at Fort Hood, Texas. He arrived in Vietnam on January 22, 1968, serving with the famed Blackhorse Regiment. On May 11, 1968, while participating in a combat operation in Binh Duong Province, the armored vehicle in which he was riding was struck by hostile rocket fire. Pasch died from wounds and burns sustained in the attack. He was 20 years old. Following funeral services at St. John Lutheran Church, he was laid to rest with military honors in Groton Cemetery.

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A tour guide talked about the many aspects of The Wall That Heals. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Babylift Mission Casualty

Captain Mary Therese Klinker (1947–1975) was an Air Force nurse from Indiana who volunteered for the first Operation Babylift mission on April 4, 1975. She had already completed a tour caring for wounded service members in Vietnam, but when the call came to help evacuate Vietnamese orphans from Saigon, she stepped forward.

The huge C-5 Galaxy transport carrying more than 300 people, including infants, children, medical personnel, and flight crews, suffered a catastrophic cargo door failure shortly after takeoff. The pilots attempted an emergency landing, but the aircraft crashed in rice paddies outside Saigon. Captain Klinker was killed in the crash.

What makes her story so powerful at the Wall is that:

She was the last Air Force nurse to die in the Vietnam War.

She was the only member of the Air Force Nurse Corps to die in Vietnam.

Her name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Panel 1W, Line 94.

Many guides pause at her name because it reminds visitors that not everyone on the Wall died in combat. Some, like Mary Klinker, died while trying to save others.

There is also a touching tradition connected to her. Visitors often leave small baby items—booties, toys, pacifiers, and notes—near her panel in remembrance of the children she was trying to help. For many people, her story becomes one of the most emotional moments of a visit to the Wall.

As the inscription at the nearby Vietnam Women's Memorial honors the women who served, Mary Klinker's life stands as a reminder that courage in war can take the form of compassion just as much as combat.

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Late rally falls short as Groton junior legion suffers walk-off loss; senior legion drops road contest at Redfield

Groton's senior and junior legion baseball teams faced a busy Saturday, highlighted by a late-game thriller in Clark and a tough road test in Redfield.

At Redfield, Groton Legion Post 39 fell 7-2 to Redfield Clay Kiser Sr. Legion 18O. Redfield grabbed an early lead in the first inning when Noah Johnson stole home before Chase Odland added an RBI single in the third to make it 2-0.

Groton stayed within striking distance until Redfield broke the game open in the fifth inning. The hosts plated five runs on four hits, with Jet Kleinsasser delivering the decisive blow on a two-run home run to center field that pushed the advantage to 7-2.

TC Schuster gave Groton a strong start on the mound, working four innings while allowing two hits and two runs, only one earned. He struck out nine and walked two. Nick Groeblinghoff took the loss in relief, surrendering five runs, three earned, over two innings while striking out four. Redfield starter Chase Odland earned the victory after allowing just three hits and no runs over five innings with six strikeouts.

Alex Abeln accounted for two of Groton's five hits, finishing 2-for-4 at the plate. Kleinsasser and Jackson Rude each drove in two runs for Redfield.

Meanwhile, Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion experienced both frustration and excitement during tournament play in Clark.

The juniors nearly pulled off a remarkable comeback before falling 14-13 to Rattlers BR on a walk-off single by Koltyn Vetter in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Groton jumped ahead 3-0 in the opening inning as two runs scored on a wild pitch before Wesley Borg added an RBI single. Rattlers BR answered immediately, taking a 4-3 lead in the bottom half of the inning, then extended the margin with a five-run second inning.

Trailing late, Groton mounted an impressive rally in the fifth. Zach Fliehs singled home two runs, Lincoln Shilhanek delivered a two-run double, Trayce Schelle added an RBI double, and Xavior Ellenbecker contributed a two-run single as Post 39 scored seven times to tie the game at 13-13. The comeback ultimately fell just short when Vetter's game-winning hit ended the contest.

Groton collected 10 hits in the loss. Borg, Shilhanek, Schelle and Asher Zimmerman each had two hits, while Fliehs, Borg, Shilhanek and Schelle drove in two runs apiece. John Bisbee and Jordan Schwan each drew three walks.

Earlier in the day, Vermillion Jr. Legion Post 1 defeated Groton 9-1 behind a decisive five-run third inning.

Vermillion opened the scoring in the second before sending 10 batters to the plate during the third. Mason Nygren drove in a run on a groundout, Emerson Jarchow and Teddy Nesmith each added RBI singles, and Bennett Heine capped the rally with a two-run single.

Wesley Borg started for Groton and worked five and one-third innings, striking out five. Jackson Beacom earned the win for Vermillion, limiting Post 39 to four hits while striking out 10 over six innings.

Zach Fliehs drove in Groton's lone run, while Fliehs, Bisbee, Schwan and Zimmerman each recorded a hit. Groton also turned a double play defensively.

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Vermillion Jr. Legion Post 1 9 - 1 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

Home Saturday June 13, 2026

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
VRML	0	1	5	0	0	3	**9**	**14**	**1**
GRTN	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**	**4**	**1**

BATTING

Vermillion Jr. Le...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
K Beach #11 (SS)	4	1	2	0	0	1
M Nygren #15 (2B)	4	0	1	1	0	1
E Jarchow #19 (C)	4	0	1	1	0	0
T Nesmith #23 (3B)	3	1	2	1	0	0
B Green #8 (RF)	2	2	1	0	0	0
K Hans... #36 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Q Cogley #24 (1B)	2	1	2	0	1	0
B Heine #41 (DH)	3	1	2	2	0	0
M Watkins #1 (CF)	3	1	1	2	0	1
N Buckman #50	2	1	1	0	0	1
O Edelen #17 (LF)	0	0	0	0	0	0
S Vitt #9 (LF)	1	1	1	0	0	0
Totals	**29**	**9**	**14**	**7**	**1**	**5**

TB: S Vitt, N Buckman, M Watkins, Q Cogley 2, T Nesmith 2, M Nygren, E Jarchow, B Heine 2, B Green, K Beach 2, **SAC:** O Edelen, **CS:** S Vitt, **HBP:** S Vitt, N Buckman, **SB:** S Vitt, K Beach, **LOB:** 6

Groton Post 39...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Asher Zim... #9 (LF)	3	0	1	0	0	2
J Bisbee #15 (C)	3	0	1	0	0	1
J Schwan #11 (CF)	3	1	1	0	0	2
L Shilhan... #17 (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Z Fliehs #23 (3B)	2	0	1	1	1	0
Trayce S... #16 (SS)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Mason L... #14 (2B)	1	0	0	0	1	1
Owen #21 (DH)	2	0	0	0	0	2
X Ellenbe... #8 (RF)	1	0	0	0	1	1
CR: N Scepaniak #7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**21**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**10**

2B: J Schwan, **TB:** Z Fliehs, J Schwan 2, Asher Zimmerman, J Bisbee, **LOB:** 5

PITCHING

Vermillion...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Beacom #5	6.0	4	1	0	3	10	0
Totals	6.0	4	1	0	3	10	0

W: J Beacom, **P-S:** J Beacom 92-60, **WP:** J Beacom, **BF:** J Beacom 24, **E:** K Hanson

Groton Pos...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
W Borg #1	5.1	14	9	9	1	5	0
L Shilha... #17	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**6.0**	**14**	**9**	**9**	**1**	**5**	**0**

L: W Borg, **P-S:** W Borg 107-61, L Shilhanek 3-2, **WP:** W Borg 4, **HBP:** W Borg 2, **BF:** W Borg 32, L Shilhanek, **E:** X Ellenbecker

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 13 - 14 Rattlers BR

Away | Saturday June 13, 2026

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	3	0	1	2	7	**13**	**10**	**7**
RTTL	4	5	0	4	1	**14**	**6**	**2**

BATTING

Groton Post 39...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Asher Zi... #9 (CF)	5	2	2	0	0	0
J Bisbee #15 (C)	1	2	0	0	3	1
J Schwan #11 (P)	2	2	0	0	3	1
Z Fliehs #23 (3B)	3	2	1	2	0	1
L Shilhan... #17 (1B)	4	2	2	2	0	1
W Borg #1 (2B)	2	1	2	2	1	0
Trayce S... #16 (SS)	4	1	2	2	0	1
X Ellenbe... #8 (LF)	2	0	1	1	2	1
N Scepani... #7 (RF)	2	0	0	0	0	1
Mason Locke #14	1	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	**26**	**13**	**10**	**9**	**9**	**7**

2B: L Shilhanek, Trayce Schelle, **TB:** L Shilhanek 3, Asher Zimmerman 2, Trayce Schelle 3, Z Fliehs, W Borg 2, X Ellenbecker, **HBP:** N Scepaniak, J Bisbee, Z Fliehs, W Borg, **SB:** Mason Locke, **LOB:** 11

Rattlers BR	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Kiefer #1 (RF)	3	2	1	1	0	0
E Monson #29 (SS)	2	2	0	0	2	0
K Vetter #11 (CF)	3	2	2	2	1	0
C Martin #17 (1B)	2	3	2	1	0	0
B Goebel #5 (C)	1	2	0	1	2	0
C Muller #28 (3B)	2	1	1	3	0	0
K Rorhich #13 (LF)	3	1	0	2	0	2
M Wiest #12 (2B)	2	0	0	1	1	2
J Goehring #20 (P)	2	1	0	0	1	1
M Bertsch #0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	**22**	**14**	**6**	**11**	**7**	**6**

2B: L Kiefer, K Vetter, C Muller, **TB:** L Kiefer 2, K Vetter 3, C Muller 2, C Martin 2, **HBP:** L Kiefer, M Bertsch, C Muller, C Martin, **SB:** J Goehring, E Monson, K Vetter, K Rorhich, **LOB:** 6

PITCHING

Groton Pos...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Schwan #11	3.1	5	13	7	5	5	0
Z Fliehs #23	0.2	1	1	0	2	1	0
Totals	4.0	6	14	7	7	6	0

L: Z Fliehs, **P-S:** J Schwan 105-58, Z Fliehs 27-11, **WP:** J Schwan, Z Fliehs, **HBP:** J Schwan 3, Z Fliehs, **BF:** J Schwan 27, Z Fliehs 6, **E:** N Scepaniak 2, L Shilhanek, J Bisbee 3, Trayce Schelle

Rattlers BR	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Goeh... #20	3.2	5	6	5	5	6	0
C Muller #28	0.1	4	7	7	3	1	0
E Mons... #29	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	**5.0**	**10**	**13**	**12**	**9**	**7**	**0**

W: E Monson, **P-S:** J Goehring 100-52, E Monson 19-11, C Muller 27-12, **WP:** J Goehring 5, E Monson 2, **HBP:** J Goehring 4, **BF:** J Goehring 26, E Monson 5, C Muller 8, **E:** J Goehring, B Goebel

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then he took some
of the seed of the land
and planted it in
a fertile field; he placed
it by abundant waters
and set it like
a willow tree.

EZEKIEL 17:5

Detail of "Peasant with Hoe II" by Georges Seurat (1882)

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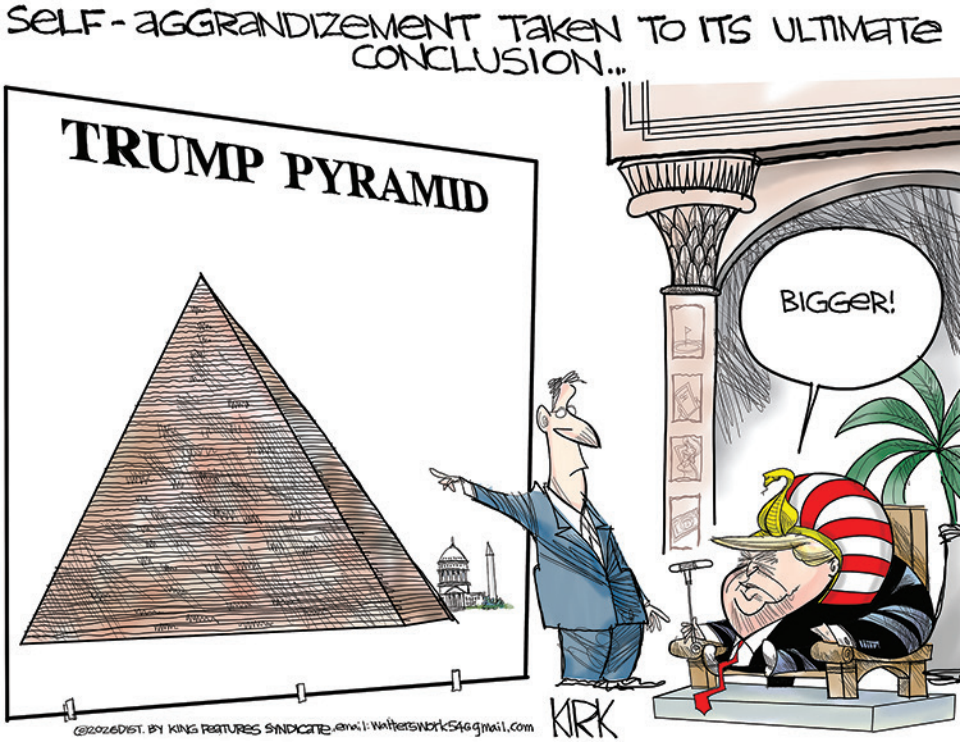

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Darius (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In biblical times, how long did the journey of Ezra ordinarily take from Babylon to Jerusalem? *3 days, 4 months, 2 years, 5 years*
3. From Philippians 4, what does the Apostle Paul instruct us to do rather than worry? *Cry, Pray, Love, Talk*
4. What creature(s) did the prophet Joel have a vision of? *Locusts, Flies, Vipers, Leeches*
5. From John 18, who asked, "What is truth"? *Moses, Paul, Pilate, David*
6. In what catastrophe were all of Job's children killed? *Flood, Fire, Wind, Stampede*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Four months, 3) Pray, 4) Locusts, 5) Pilate, 6) Wind

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

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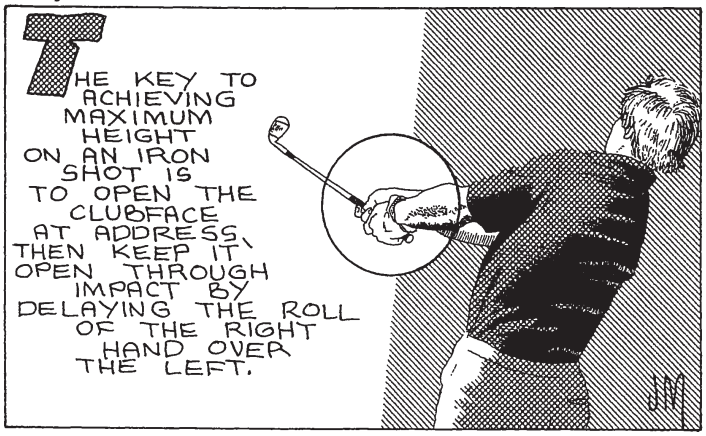
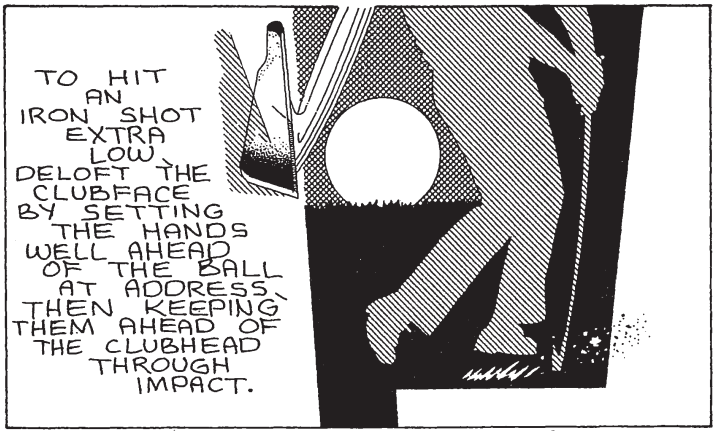
Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





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How To Help a Person Who's Experienced a Tonic-Clonic Seizure

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband suffered a grand mal seizure about six months ago. He was in the hospital for seven days. When he came out of the seizure, he was very combative and experienced memory loss. He still deals with short-term memory loss, and his neurologist says that it could take up to a year for him to get back to normal. Is there anything I can do to help him? -- L.H.

ANSWER: Seizures can happen for many reasons, and there are different types of seizures. When a person has the type of seizure that is often shown on TV or in movies, where they have uncontrollable shaking movements and aren't conscious, it's called a generalized tonic-clonic seizure, which used to be called "grand mal."

Most people have memory loss in the minutes before and after a generalized seizure, and they are often confused for a period of time afterward. However, prolonged memory loss and personality changes can happen due to damage to the brain during the time of the seizure, because of low oxygen and excess brain activity.

What happened to him is similar to a stroke, and the recovery period is variable. Being older and being male will cause him to have a slower recovery period, but I agree with the neurologist that recovery is possible for up to a year after the event.

You can help him recover by making sure that you discuss any treatment he might be getting for his seizures with his neurologist, as some treatments are more likely than others to cause memory problems. Of course, preventing further seizures is critically important. You can also ask about memory rehabilitation programs, although these are specialized and aren't easy to find.

***

DEAR DR. ROACH: You mentioned in a recent column that prospective randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are a powerful type of study. Can you tell me if the original COVID vaccine or any of the boosters were part of a trial like this? -- C.W.

ANSWER: There have been 33 RCTs that looked at the effectiveness of vaccines for COVID-19, including over 50,000 people who were given the vaccine and almost just as many who received a placebo. Studies on the initial vaccines and boosters are included.

A 2021 review of all trials that were published at the time found strong evidence that the vaccines had high efficacy and low rates of serious adverse effects. There's no such thing as a perfect vaccine, and the rate of mutation in the virus has led to challenges in making sure that the vaccines are effective against the types that are currently circulating.

It's the same case with the flu vaccine. However, public health officials have decades of experience predicting flu strains, whereas the changes in the COVID-19 virus are harder to predict.

An infectious disease doctor, Dr. Jake Scott at Stanford Medicine, and his colleagues have made an easily accessible list of RCTs of vaccines, a link to which is on my page at Facebook.com/KeithRoachMD. As of the day I write this, there are 1,683 vaccine trials on the spreadsheet, and all are available vaccines.

Not all RCTs are placebo-controlled. A placebo-controlled vaccine trial is ethical when a safe and effective vaccine doesn't exist (as was the case at the beginning of the pandemic). RCTs may also be ethical when populations who weren't included in the previous trials get tested or when there's limited access to the existing vaccine. In 2026, further placebo-controlled RCTs for COVID-19 would be unethical.

A new vaccine should be tested against the best available treatment, including any of the COVID-19 vaccines like Moderna or Pfizer.

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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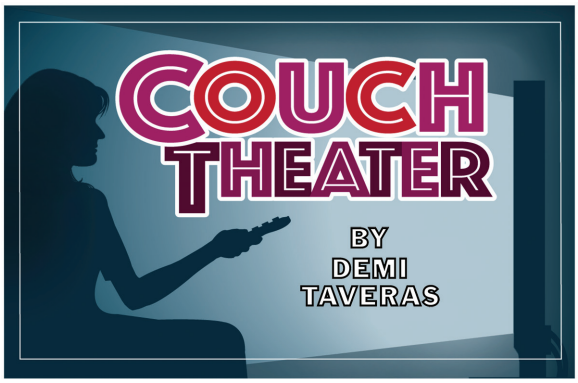

Glen Powell stars in "How to Make a Killing."
(Photo Credit: Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"How to Make a Killing" (R) -- Glen Powell ("The Running Man") leads this black-comedy thriller that also stars Margaret Qualley ("The Substance"), Topher Grace ("Flight Risk"), and Ed Harris ("Love Lies Bleeding"). It follows Becket Redfellow (Powell), who was born to an affluent family but was shunned due to his mother being a teenager when she had him. Stuck on the idea that he still deserves the life that his family has, Becket learns that he's still in line for the family fortune due to a loophole. So, he nefariously decides to murder the remaining living Redfellows so that he can claim the $28 billion jackpot. The film barely made up its budget in theaters and didn't generate much buzz from audiences, which could be because it leans into "American Psycho" territory without the actual allure of the film. Premieres June 19. (HBO Max)

"Voicemails for Isabelle" (PG-13) -- Netflix refuses to slow down on its genre of rom-coms. How are we supposed to keep up with the films that they keep cranking out when they all have the same poster, vibe, and type of actors? No offense to Zoey Deutch ("Anniversary") and Nick Robinson ("Love, Simon"), but what do they give that Jennifer Lopez and Brett Goldstein didn't in "Office Romance" or Rosamund Pike and Sacha Baron Cohen in "Ladies First"? (Both were just released on the platform earlier this year.) Deutch plays Jill, who recently lost her sister, Isabelle, and continues to send voicemails to her phone as a form of comfort. Little does she know that Wes (Robinson), a real estate agent from across the country, was assigned Isabelle's old number, and he's been listening to every confession Jill's been making. Premieres June 19. (Netflix)

In Case You Missed It

"Love Island USA: Season 8" (TV-MA) -- It's almost unbelievable to think that it's already been a year since the hot mess that was season 7 of "Love Island USA." This time around, we've got a new batch of (somewhat) normal contestants, as opposed to the influencer-heavy group we had last year. For example, Beatriz Hatz from San Diego, California, is a Paralympic athlete looking to find a man who matches her spiciness. Of course, there are a handful of models, and digital creator Zach Georgiou is the brother of Charlie from last season. (Hopefully, he has better luck!) But overall, "Love Island USA" is back to its usual fashion of stirring up crazy amounts of drama with regular folks like the ones who are watching at home. Almost a dozen episodes are out now to watch, but you'll have to catch up quickly so that you don't miss out on the finale! (Peacock)

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1. Name the group that wrote and released "Who'll Stop the Rain."
2. Name the three musicians who died in the 1959 plane crash that Don McLean wrote about in "American Pie."
3. Which artist wrote and released "Kodachrome"?
4. Name the duo that released "Let It Be Me."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Got to say a few things that have been on my mind, And you know where my mind has been."

Answers

1. Creedence Clearwater Revival, in 1970 on their "Cosmo's Factory" album. The song has been covered by several others, including Bruce Springsteen and Rod Stewart.
2. Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly and The Big Bopper. In the song, McLean called it "the day the music died." The song was added to the National Recording Registry in 2017 by the LIBRAry of Congress.
3. Paul Simon, in 1973. Kodachrome was a type of 35mm film.
4. The Everly Brothers, in 1960.
5. "A Little Bit More," originally released in 1973 by songwriter Bobby Gosh. The song didn't become a hit until covered by Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show in 1976. While not seeing a lot of No. 1 chart-toppers, the group's songs were hits nonetheless, getting significant airplay.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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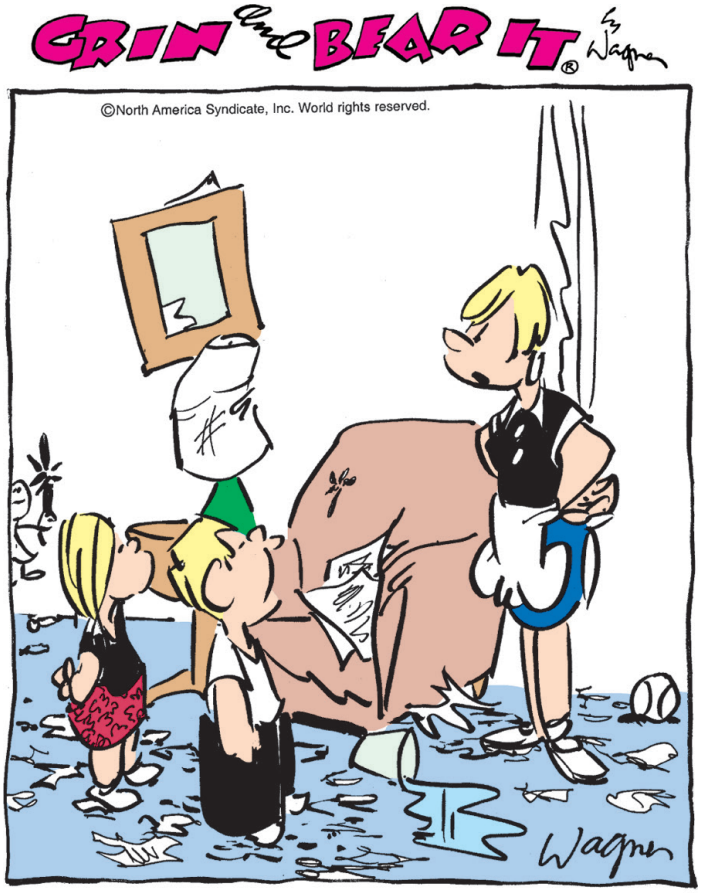

"We were going through a phase, Mom!"

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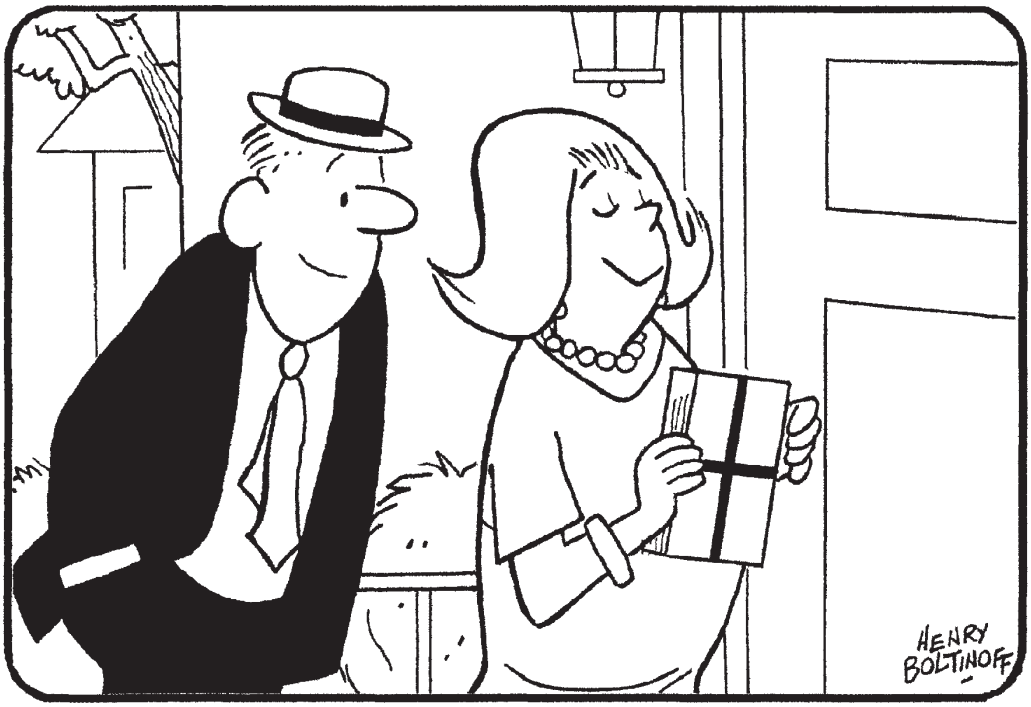
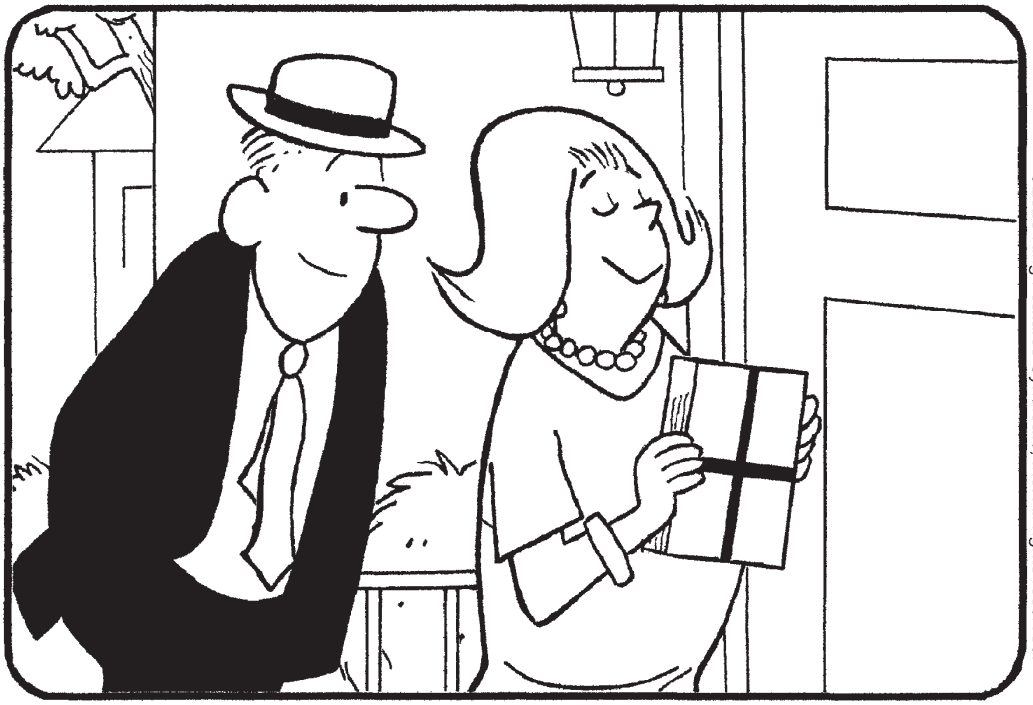
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Box is larger. 2. Tie is longer. 3. Railing is different. 4. Hat is larger. 5. House is wider. 6. Jacket sleeve is longer.

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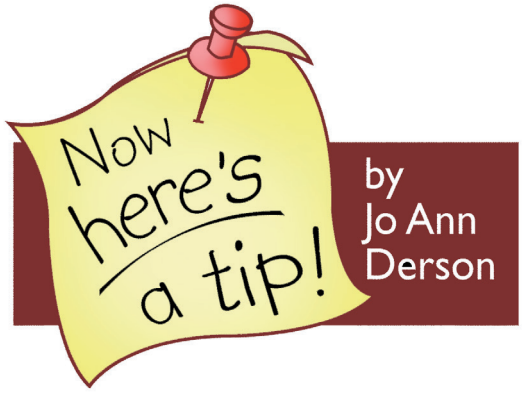

* "The best way to get a bloodstain out of clothing is by dousing the stain with hydrogen peroxide and washing as usual. For clay stains, you absolutely must have a Fels-Naptha bar. It looks like a bar of soap, and you wet the material and rub in the soap. It's magical. This, coming from a softball mom whose daughter loves to slide." -- A.A. in Florida

* Add these to the list of items to eliminate the odor of cooking cabbage: a heel of bread, a whole walnut or a pinch of baking soda.

* It's easy to make your own spreadable butter. Simply whip 1 pound of softened butter and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Slowly add 1 cup of olive oil. Beat up to 5 minutes to add air and increase volume. Pour into two 1-pint containers and refrigerate. It's economical, spreads like soft margarine, tastes great and you get the benefits of olive oil in a natural product.

* "Before I go to the beach, I freeze an ice-cube tray full of lemonade. Then, we use the cubes in our travel cups. It keeps the lemonade cool, and as it melts (which tends to be quickly), it doesn't water down the drink." -- K.H. in South Carolina

* To save money on electricity costs, hang jeans and other heavy clothing to dry first. White or light towels and garments especially love the sun. When it is mostly dry, pop it in the dryer to fluff.

* "Always be on the lookout for sale items that can be given as gifts. You can also check the sale rack for children's clothes. Sometimes, I buy up to a year in advance for my child, since the deals can be so good. Just be sure that the clothing is the right season when your child will be able to wear it." -- Matt in New Mexico.

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

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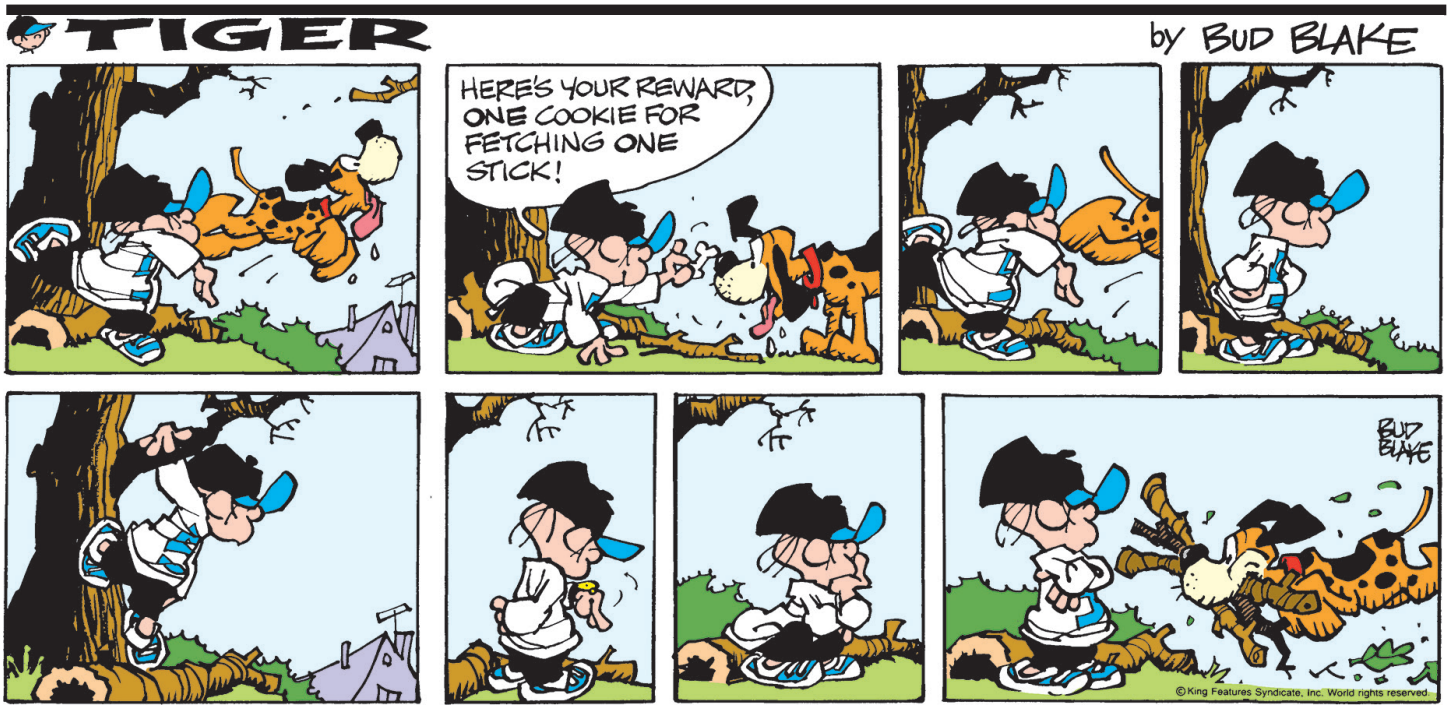

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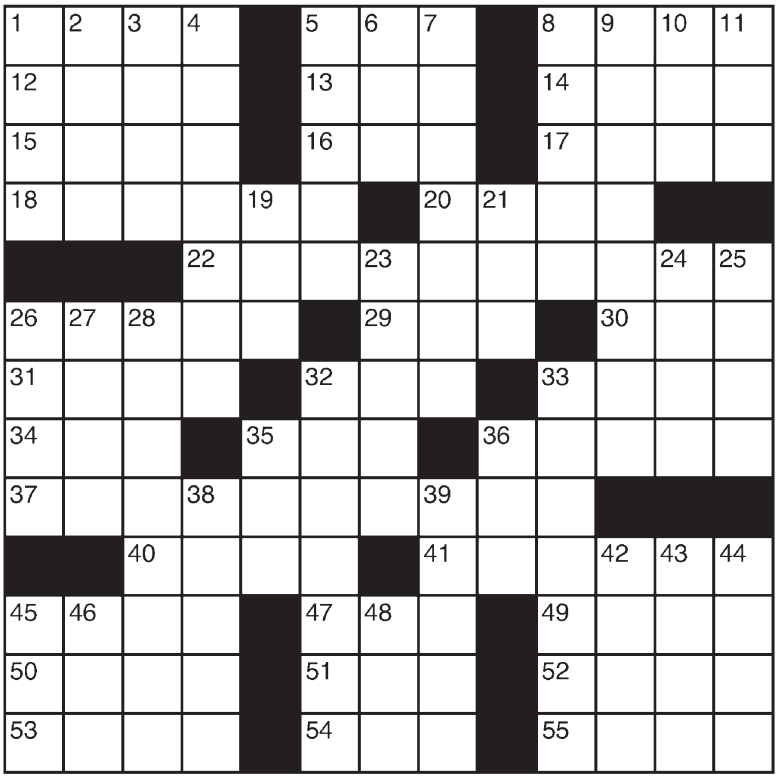
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Mule, for one
5 Unruly group
8 Bygone fliers
12 Lawman Wyatt
13 Stop — dime
14 Ornamental jug
15 Heart charts
16 Business card no.
17 Calf-length
18 Stop
20 Son of Erik the Red
22 "War and Peace" author
26 Violin stroke
29 Cyclades island
30 British verb ending
31 Subject, usually
32 Fellow
33 Healthy
34 Internet address
35 Continent north of Afr.
36 Disinfectant brand
37 Oscar-winning actress in "The Fighter"
40 Arizona tribe
41 Prisoner
45 Conspiracy
47 Corn core
49 Big-screen format
50 — song (cheaply)
51 Lincoln nickname
52 Zilch
53 Swindles
54 Dogpatch adjective
55 Musician's jobs

DOWN
1 Future flower
2 Cod cousin
3 PTA and NEA, e.g.
4 Delta follower
5 Slogan
6 Count starter
7 Inflated party prop
8 Big rigs
9 Fans of pop icon Taylor
10 — Talks (online lecture series)
11 Lanka lead-in
19 Stitch
21 Golf's Ernie
23 Pageant crown
24 City on a fjord
25 Holler
26 "E Pluribus —"
27 Skin opening
28 Megaphone's kin
32 "Suffs" or "Rent," e.g.
33 Cheyenne's state
35 Mentalist's gift
36 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
38 Smidgens
39 Slander in print
42 Mine, in Marseille
43 Tart flavor
44 Alimony recipients
45 USMC rank
46 Privy
48 Japanese sash

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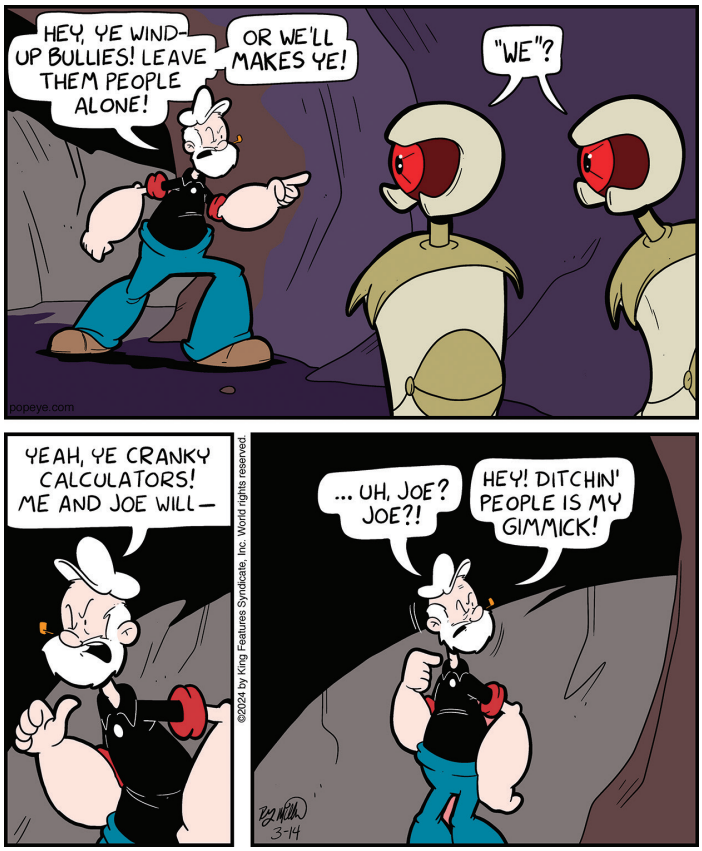
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

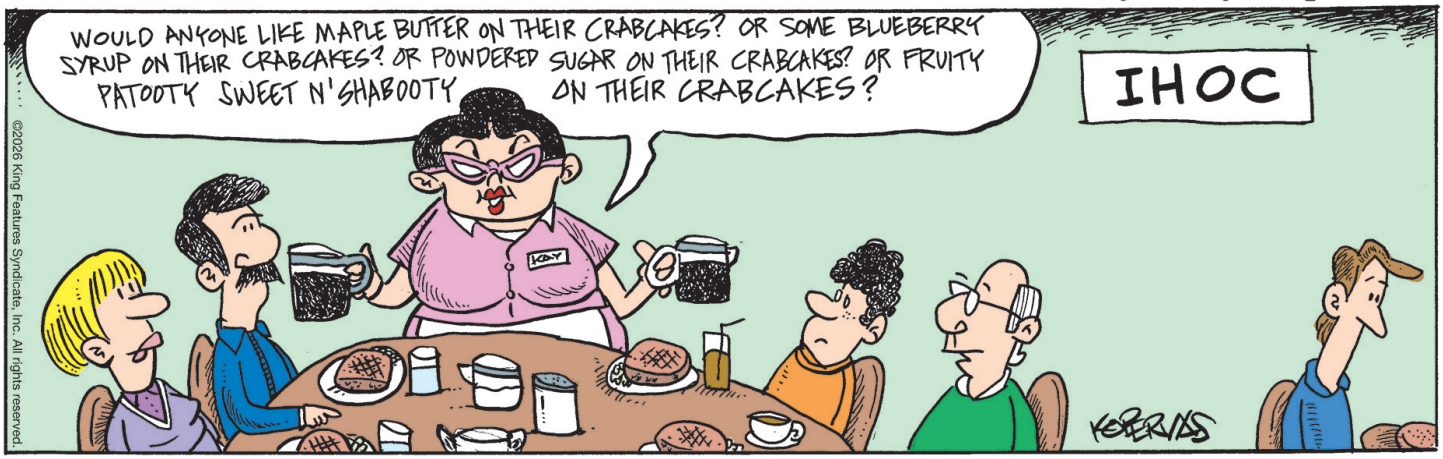
S	H	O	E	■	M	O	B	■	S	S	T	S	
E	A	R	P	■	O	N	A	■	E	W	E	R	
E	K	G	S	■	T	E	L	■	M	I	D	I	
D	E	S	I	S	T	■	L	E	I	F	■	■	
■	■	■	L	E	O	T	O	L	S	T	O	Y	
U	P	B	O	W	■	I	O	S	■	I	S	E	
N	O	U	N	■	M	A	N	■	W	E	L	L	
U	R	L	■	E	U	R	■	L	Y	S	O	L	
M	E	L	I	S	S	A	L	E	O	■	■	■	
■	■	H	O	P	I	■	I	N	M	A	T	E	
P	L	O	T	■	C	O	B	■	I	M	A	X	
F	O	R	A	■	A	B	E	■	N	O	N	E	
C	O	N	S	■	L	I	L	■	G	I	G	S	

Olive



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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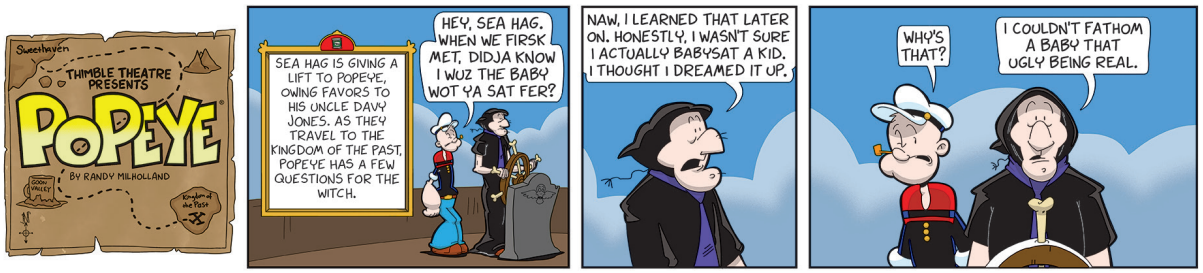

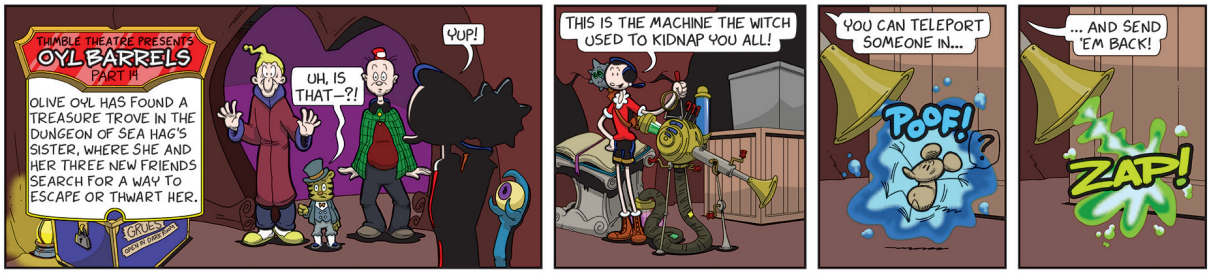

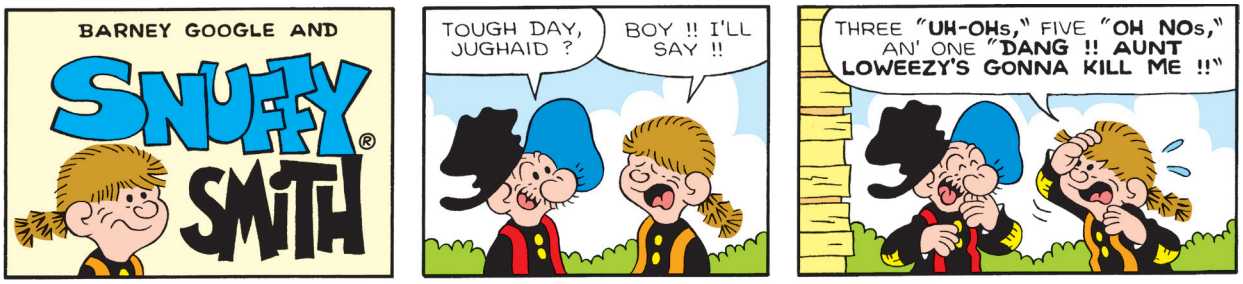

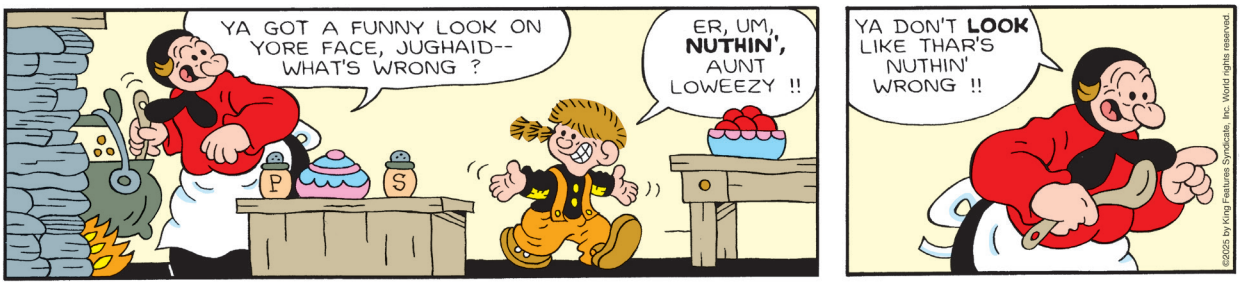

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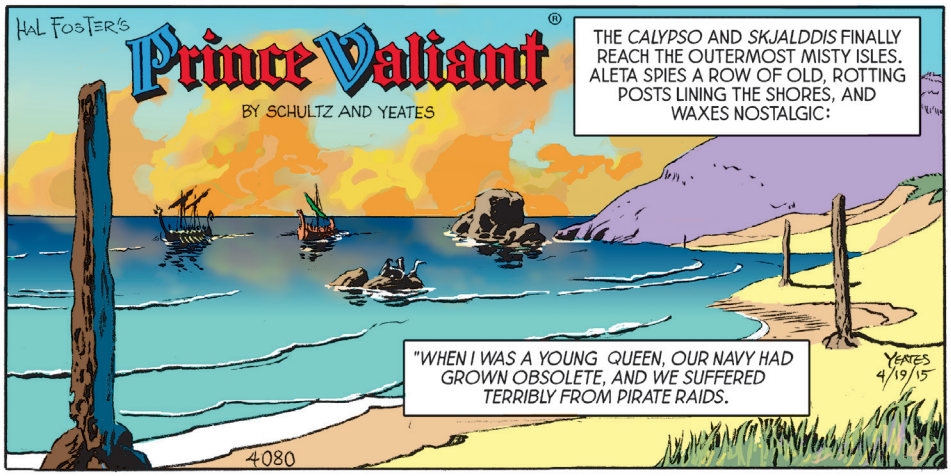

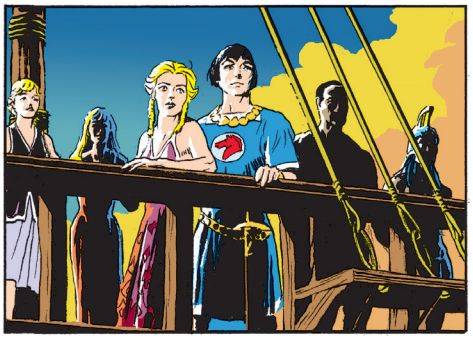

"THE CRIMES OF THE ATTACKERS WERE SO HEINOUS THAT WE RESORTED TO EQUALLY AWFUL REPRISALS. CAPTURED PIRATES WERE PEGGED TO THESE POSTS AND LEFT TO HANG AS WARNINGS!

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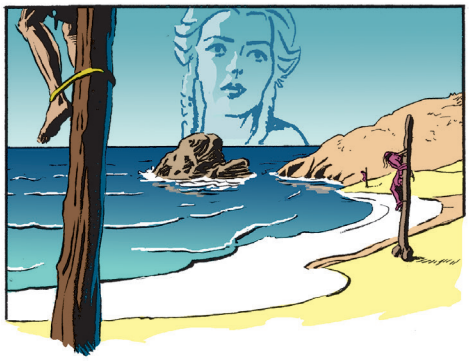
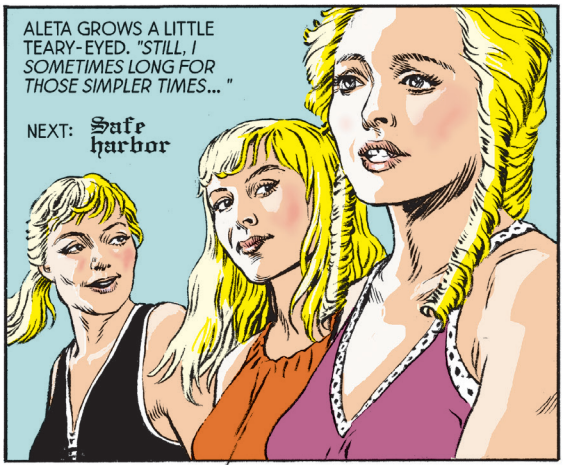
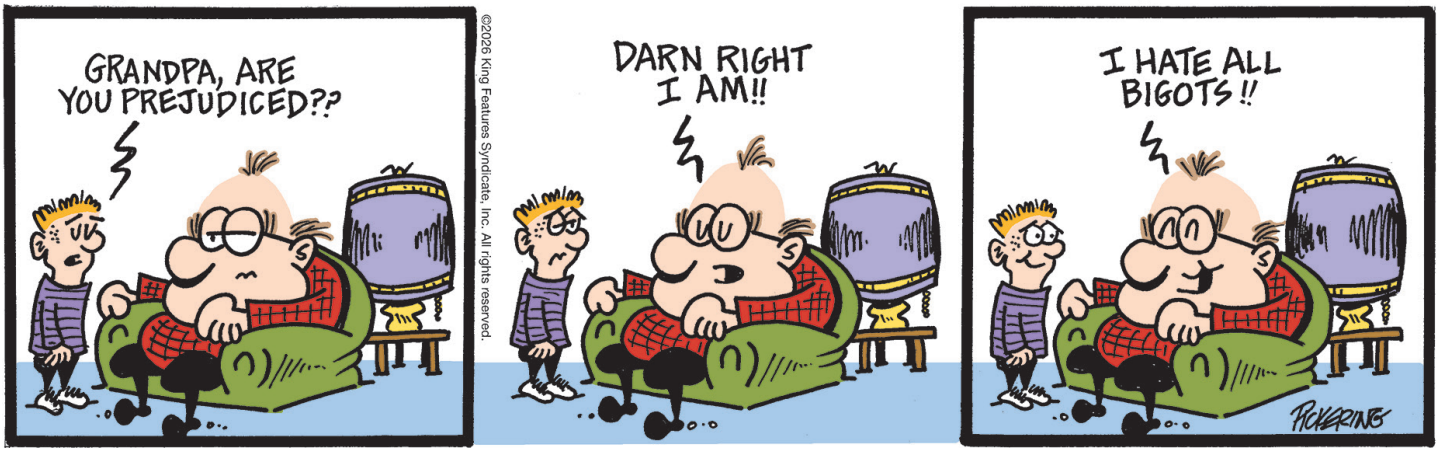


"MY BELOVED FUTURE HUSBAND, HAVING ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH A BAD LOT, WAS ALMOST LOST TO THIS FATE. I WAS SO FRIGHTENED BY THAT NEAR-TRAGIC MISTAKE THAT I SOON AFTER BANNED THE PRACTICE.



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Keeping cool

Here we are again, in the heat of summer. We seniors are the ones most at risk for serious health problems because of the high temperatures. Many of us take prescription drugs that can keep us from being able to regulate our body's temperature, and there are chronic medical conditions that do the same thing. Add to that our reduced ability to sweat and therefore keep cool.

It falls to us to take steps to be sure we stay cool enough.

Those of us lucky enough to have central air conditioning need to turn it on and leave it set between 72 and 78 degrees. This is not the time to worry about the electric bill! That temperature range is suggested by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as being one that can not only keep us cool but save money.

Humidity plays a part in our comfort level: Running the air conditioning can reduce the humidity in the air and help us to feel cooler. Even window air conditioners can go a long way to keeping temperatures down. If necessary, shut doors to block off an area that you can keep as a cool zone.

If you don't have air conditioning, call your town office to find cooling centers. They might be at the rec center, the library, the school gym or the senior center.

Meanwhile, keep the drapes closed, wear light clothing, drink plenty of water (ask your doctor how much), stay indoors during the hottest part of the day and keep an eye on the weather news to know what temperatures are expected.

This year LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) was allocated $4 billion for help with utility bills. In most states the qualifying income level is capped at 150% of the federal poverty level. Call the National Energy Assistance Referral at 866-674-6327 to find out how and where to apply in your area.

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1. A 1985 NHL game in which the Edmonton Oilers defeated the Chicago Blackhawks 12-9 has the record for total player points (goals plus assists) scored in a single game with how many?

2. Before it was renamed Connie Mack Stadium in 1953, the baseball and football arena in Philadelphia was known as what?

3. Kevin Mayer became the decathlon world record holder in 2018 competing for what country?

4. Name the New England Patriots linebacker who caught touchdown passes in Super Bowls XXXVIII and XXXIX.

5. What brand, established as a rubber tire manufacturer in Ireland in the 1890s, began making golf and tennis balls in the early 1900s?

6. Which Major League Baseball team fired manager Billy Martin after only one season despite winning 97 games in 1969?

7. Which Toronto Maple Leafs player had his No. 9 retired in 1934, the first time a professional athlete had a jersey retired in his honor?

by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. 62.

2. Shibe Park.

3. France.

4. Mike Vrabel.

5. Dunlop.

6. The Minnesota Twins.

7. Ace Bailey.

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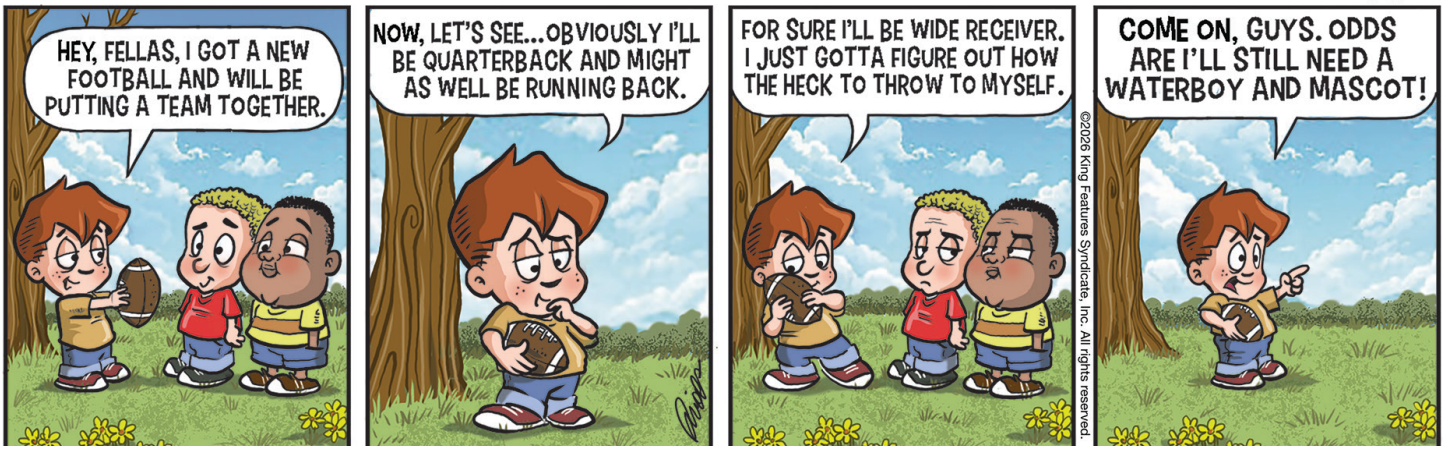
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Ten great reasons to adopt a shelter cat

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My partner wants to buy a purebred kitten over the internet. I think it's a terrible idea, and we would do just fine with a lovable cat from a local shelter. How can I change their mind? -- Janine L., Sherwood, Oregon

DEAR JANINE: I'll do my best!

-- You'll worry less about genetic conditions. Purebred cats are prone to inherited diseases.

-- You'll avoid scams. Internet-only purchases of "purebred" cats are notoriously shady. Reputable breeders often require potential owners to visit in person ... so they can evaluate you.

-- Shelter adoptions are affordable in comparison, averaging $150 to $300 for cat adoptions in the U.S. and Canada.

-- They'll throw discounts and swag at you. Annual exams with a participating vet clinic? Counseling and advice? Free tote bags? All this and more could be waiting for you with a shelter cat.

-- Their medical needs are already taken care of. Spaying/neutering, deworming, tests, vaccinations and microchipping are done before a cat is made available to adopt, saving you $600 or more in retail vet fees.

-- Health issues are more manageable. Crossbred cats have fewer genetic issues than purebred, and most "lifestyle" conditions like dental issues and skin conditions can be treated affordably.

-- Shelters will help match a cat to you and your partner. They want adoptions to succeed, and a good match increases those odds.

-- The breed your partner wants may be waiting at a shelter. All kinds of cats are accepted at local shelters, for many different reasons.

-- You'll get a socialized cat. Shelters evaluate rescues before placing them for adoption.

-- You'll love the heck out of a shelter cat. Whether you go home with a mixed-breed American shorthair or a yowling Siamese, your adopted cat will quickly become an inseparable part of your family.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Unlike some genocides in which victims could sometimes avoid persecution by converting to another religion, Nazi Germany generally defined Jews by ancestry rather than personal belief. Under the Nuremberg Laws, a person's classification depended largely on the religious affiliation of parents and grandparents, so conversion to Christianity usually did not exempt someone of Jewish ancestry from anti-Jewish persecution.

* Turtles can see well underwater, but on land they are nearsighted.

* In one of his occasional efforts to improve public relations, Chicago gangster Al Capone opened a soup kitchen during the Great Depression.

* During the pre-WWII drafts, an illiterate gentleman hoping to avoid military service asked his wife to write the draft board and explain how much he was needed at home. The plan backfired when his lady instead requested that her husband be taken because he was a "no-good" alcoholic who didn't help around the house.

* Beer is the third-most popular drink on Earth, after water and tea.

* An Ohio State University study found that women who reported stress in the previous 24 hours burned 104 fewer calories than nonstressed women after a high-fat meal.

* Geneticists believe that the same segment of DNA in the human genome is responsible for the development of both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

* The first female golfer was Mary, Queen of Scots (1542--1567).

* In the U.S., graduating nurses take an oath called the Nightingale Pledge, named after Florence Nightingale and adapted from the Hippocratic Oath taken by doctors.

* After his first son's birth, Claude Monet attempted suicide by jumping into the Seine. He was poor, estranged from his father and disappointed in the French art scene. Fortunately, he survived and later helped found the Impressionist movement.

***

Thought for the Day: "When obstacles arise, you change your direction to reach your goal; you do not change your decision to get there." -- Zig Ziglar

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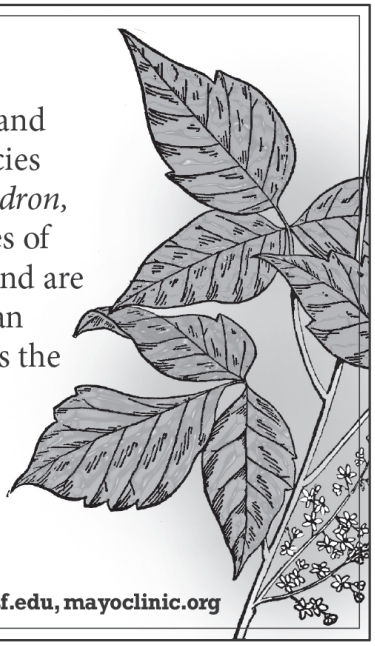
The Garden Bug

Urushiol oil

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac are all species within the genus *Toxicodendron,* which means "poison tree." These types of plants are native to the United States and are found in every state. They all contain an oily resin called **urushiol,** that protects the plant from fungal, bacterial and viral attacks. If urushiol touches your skin, it binds to proteins in your skin cells and can cause redness, itching, swelling and blisters. – *Brenda Weaver*



Sources: awaytogarden.com, etc.usf.edu, mayoclinic.org

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Fiduciary rules

Fiduciary fraud is one of the lowest scams that can be perpetrated against a disabled veteran. Not only is the thief taking taxpayer money, but he (or she) is stealing the money directly from the veteran.

There are so many examples of fiduciary fraud -- and when caught, the thieves end up in prison.

There's the woman who stole from her own disabled veteran son for five years. Against the rules, she commingled his VA money with her own bank account and proceeded to spend it on trips, bills and even a vehicle. And of course she didn't file the required paperwork.

Then there was the thief who swindled a very elderly disabled veteran, spending the money on himself for vacations, jewelry and more.

If you agree to become a fiduciary for a veteran, be sure you understand the rules. Here are a few:

That money is for the sole use and benefit of the veteran -- medical care, internet, taxes, travel, telephone, food, housing, clothing, monthly bills and anything else -- and that money is to be kept in a separate account.

You'll be expected to file paperwork and reports, keeping track of where every dime has gone and noting any changes to the circumstances such as a new address, medical condition or income. Keep all receipts and bank statements.

You may not pull cash out of an ATM or cash checks just made out to "cash."

You may be awarded a small fee for fiduciary duties. You cannot take more than that amount, and fees are not paid if you are related to the veteran.

If you're a fiduciary or if you've been asked to be one, be certain you know what you're doing. The rules are quite specific. If you have questions, call 888-407-0144.

To learn all that's involved in being a fiduciary, check benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/docs/fy-25-docs/va-fiduciary-guide-march-2025.pdf (or tinyurl.com/yrjskc8a), a 36-page VA file. Take a close look at the instructions for the accounting forms that you're required to fill out.

If you suspect fiduciary fraud, report it at 800-488-8244.

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Wishing Well®

4	5	8	6	5	8	4	2	3	4	3	5	7
Y	P	M	B	E	A	O	L	W	U	A	R	D
3	4	8	5	2	8	6	8	3	8	3	2	6
R	P	K	S	I	E	L	A	M	F	F	S	U
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4	2	7	2	7	4	5	4	5	6	7	5	6
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7	5	6	4	5	6	4	5	4	5	4	5	4
S	R	E	R	O	S	U	W	I	T	S	H	E

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

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which state has the most national parks?
2. ANATOMY: Which blood type is considered to be a universal donor?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three signs of the Zodiac are considered to be Earth signs?
4. ROYALS: What was Queen Elizabeth's favorite dog breed?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has a mountain range called The Great Rift Valley?
6. MONEY: What is the basic currency of Russia?
7. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV sitcom features a dog named Comet?
8. MUSIC: How many strings does a standard violin have?
9. GAMES: How many title deeds does the Monopoly game have?
10. SCIENCE: What is the main cause of ocean tides?

Answers

1. California.
2. Type O negative.
3. Capricorn, Taurus and Virgo.
4. Corgis.
5. Africa.
6. The ruble.
7. "Full House."
8. Four.
9. 28.
10. The gravitational pull of the Moon.

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South Dakota Governor

Larry Rhoden

South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Salute to Sound Structure

A few times a year, folks in Pierre wake up for morning walks through Hilger's Gulch to a sea of Old Glory that seems to have magically appeared. Each time, we are reminded to be grateful for our freedom, the Founders who had the foresight to enshrine it in our Constitution, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect it. This weekend for Flag Day, we celebrate the symbol of the Stars and Stripes that unite our country as one.

Although our colonists were united against the British, at the very beginning of the American Revolution in 1775, they were not fighting under one flag. It wasn't until two years later, on June 14, that Congress affirmed the 13 stripes and 13 stars "representing a new constellation." It is said that the Founders carefully chose this term "constellation" to send a message of political unity. Just like each individual star in a constellation works to form a unified and recognizable structure, so did the 13 stars on the sea of blue in the original flag. Today of course there are 50 stars, but the structure remains.

Our Founders also designed our tax structure. They envisioned limited, localized, and uniform revenue collection that restricted our federal government's power to tax citizens directly. Government works best when it is closest to the people, and in South Dakota, our tax structure still reflects that.

Working South Dakotans keep more of their money than almost any other state because we do not have a state income tax. Any suggestion to completely turn our tax system on its head should be met with skepticism that it could result in a state income tax. And state government does not keep a dime of property taxes – all money paid by the property taxpayer goes to the local governments – closest to the people – to support their safety, infrastructure, and schools. We have done good work in the last two years to cut property taxes, and we did it in way that doesn't hurt the ability of local governments to fund essential services.

Our citizen-legislature of 105 people come to Pierre each year with varying priorities, representing their own communities and voters. But each leave for home at the end of session with a balanced state budget. In fact, our state government spends $1,000 less per capita than any other state in our region. We have the second lowest total tax burden per-capita in the nation. We don't overtax. We don't overspend. And we've set an example for the nation of preventing waste, fraud, and abuse.

In South Dakota, we don't spend money we don't have or allocate one-time dollars for ongoing expenses. Every previous Governor and all those who served in our state House and Senate are unified by the 137 years of balanced budgets. Every former legislator that has voted to pass a budget is bonded together by their determination to solve problems and their focus on keeping our great state moving forward.

I am grateful for the Founders who went before us – the ones who created our stars and stripes and defended the freedom it stands for. As long as I am Governor, I will continue to do everything I can to keep our state strong, safe, and free under those same freedoms and principles so many have fought to defend.

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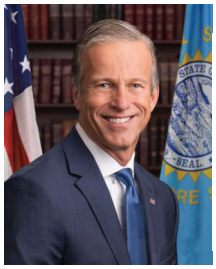

JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Working Families Get a Tax Cut

It's been almost one year since Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cuts and secured permanent tax relief for hardworking South Dakotans and families across the country. And after one year, it's clear that Republicans' landmark tax relief bill is delivering on its promise to put more money in Americans' pockets.

At the start of this year, Americans saw their take-home pay increase as the new tax law took effect. When they filed their taxes in April, many Americans saw a significantly larger tax refund. And we recently got data showing that 97 percent of Americans saw a tax cut this year, collectively saving $82 billion on their tax bills.

In many cases, the tax savings from the Working Families Tax Cuts is significant, and as this recent data shows, the overwhelming majority of people seeing tax relief earned less than $200,000 last year, and many earned less than $100,000. As its name indicates, the Working Families Tax Cuts is cutting taxes for Americans who get up every day and go to work to provide for their family and create a better life for their children. This bill lets these hardworking Americans keep more of their hard-earned money – money that they would otherwise be sending to the IRS without Republicans' bill.

Millions of Americans were eligible for additional tax relief this year thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts. Middle-income Americans saw tax relief in the hundreds of dollars, and many saw a tax cut greater than $1,000 this year. The new senior deduction helped 35 million older Americans reduce their tax bill. No tax on tips provided relief to 7.5 million workers, and 29 million workers took the new overtime deduction too.

This bill was designed to help make life easier for everyday Americans, and beyond lower tax bills, one of the ways it does that is through new investment accounts for American kids. The tax-advantaged Trump Accounts created in this bill allow parents to save for their children's future beyond their education: to give them a nest egg to help them buy their first home, start a business, and help them pursue their American Dream. For kids born between 2025 and 2028, parents can opt in for an initial investment of $1,000 from the federal government to get their savings started.

Republicans had working families in mind when we wrote this bill. We recognized that families' budgets have been stretched in recent years, and we were determined to let them keep more of their hard-earned money to make it easier to make ends meet and save for the future. There's a number of ways this bill does that, and the American people are seeing it with their own eyes.

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

Life Is Not a Soap Opera

When I was young, we did not have a TV in our home. My parents did not think it was important, so we listened to the radio instead. I love the Saturday morning radio shows, Popeye the Sailor Man, particularly.

Then something big happened that changed our lives. On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. This event changed everything for us.

My father was really concerned about the news, so he went out and bought our first TV. It was black-and-white, but he wanted to stay up to date on the news about the President. The news was on almost all the time.

It also changed my mother. She had two close friends from church that would get together and talk for hours. I never understood what they were talking about, and what I heard didn't make sense to me.

As time went on, I finally figured out they were discussing soap operas on TV. My mother started watching these shows with passion. When her friends came over, they would talk about the latest drama on their favorite soap opera. Even when they met in church, a soap opera was one of the topics they talked about.

I'm not sure which soap opera was her favorite, but she followed two or three of them very closely. She and her friends treated these shows as if they were real life.

The soap operas were on when I was at school, so I never got to watch them with her. Even if I had the chance, I'm not sure I would have wanted to watch them with her. If I had to choose between one of her soap operas and Popeye the Sailor Man. It would be an easy choice, I would choose Popeye.

People must have pretty boring lives if they watch soap operas so passionately every day.

As I got older, I realized that many people think their lives are like a soap opera. They think they're living in a drama every day.

After I got married, there was a popular TV show called "Dallas" that I never watched. I had more important things to do than watch a soap opera.

I remember everyone asking, "What happened to J.R. Ewing from Dallas?" This question was everywhere for a long time. I do not understand why people were so interested in a character that was not real. As far as I know, we never got an answer to that question.

I know some people, even in my family, think their lives are like a soap opera. They have so much drama in their lives that I wish there were a switch that I could turn off.

When I was young, I realized that life is real. I wish I could make my life into a soap opera with a happy ending, but thankfully, it's not like that.

Sometimes I make situations more dramatic than they need to be because I don't know what else to do. But that doesn't help the situation I'm facing. If my life were a soap opera, I would be able to change the channel to something more fun, like the Three Stooges. My life is more like theirs than any soap opera.

This year, my wife and I will celebrate 55 years of marriage. I never thought I'd live long enough to see this day. I'll be turning 75 just before we celebrate our anniversary.

I can honestly say that in those 55 years, I have not had a single bad day, and that is because I have been married the whole time and not single.

Yes, we have had our dramatic moments, like when my wife first introduced me to broccoli. That was a soap opera day for sure.

Another dramatic day was when my wife told me she was pregnant. I was not yet 21, and I didn't know if I could be a father.

It took me a while to work through that soap opera drama, but I finally did when our first daughter was born. I just did not know what other drama was coming my way as a father.

We ended up having two girls and a boy, and that was just the beginning of the drama-just have a bunch of grandkids come over for a party and you will see what I mean.

People often wonder why older people have gray hair. The answer is simple: the more grandkids and great-grandkids you have, the grayer your hair will get. Believe me, I'm proof.

Soap operas and real life differ because soap operas are carefully scripted and planned. They even redo scenes multiple times. In real life, there is no script, and every day is a surprise without a repeat. If only I could write my own scenes, I might handle things better. Also, you don't get to redo a scene.

Reflecting on this I remembered what The Apostle Paul said on this subject.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

My life is not a soap opera, but a life of reality through the Holy Spirit, who is always real.

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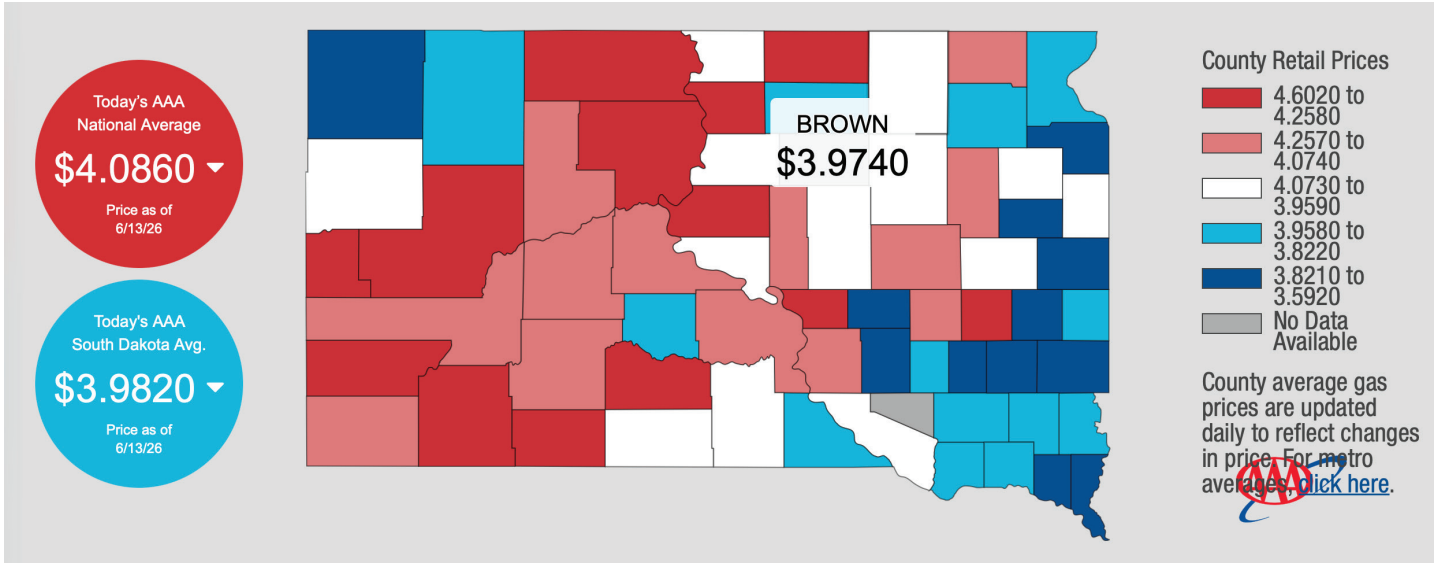
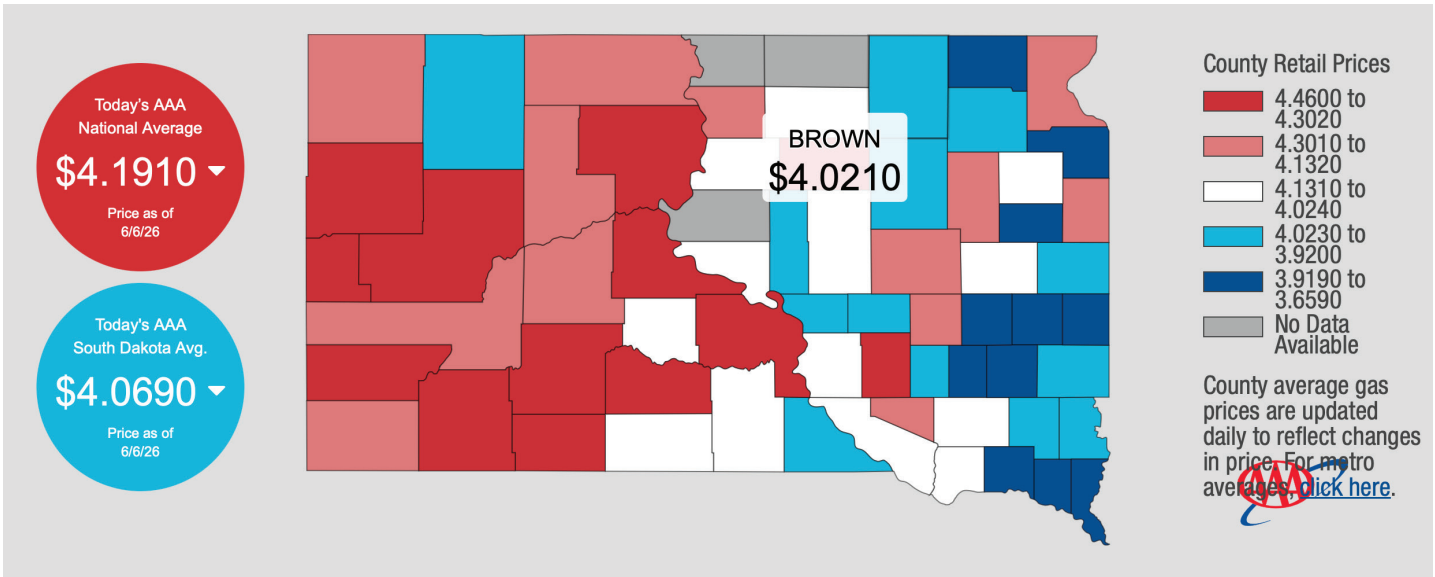
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	$3.9820	$4.1970	$4.6800	$4.6920
Yesterday Avg.	$3.9950	$4.2050	$4.6770	$4.7150
Week Ago Avg.	$4.0690	$4.2840	$4.7700	$4.8060
Month Ago Avg.	$4.2170	$4.4100	$4.8620	$5.1720
Year Ago Avg.	$2.9450	$3.1420	$3.5870	$3.1910

This Week



Last Week



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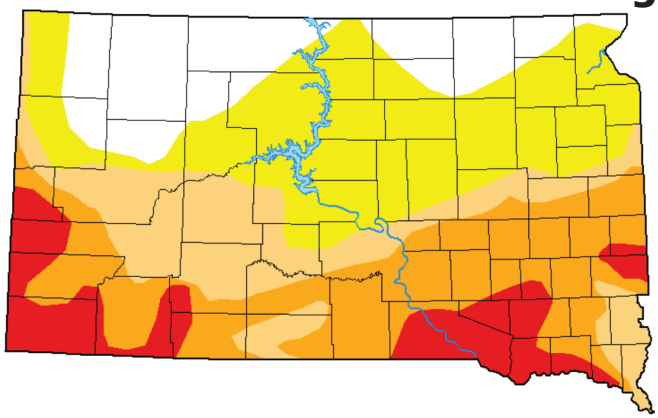
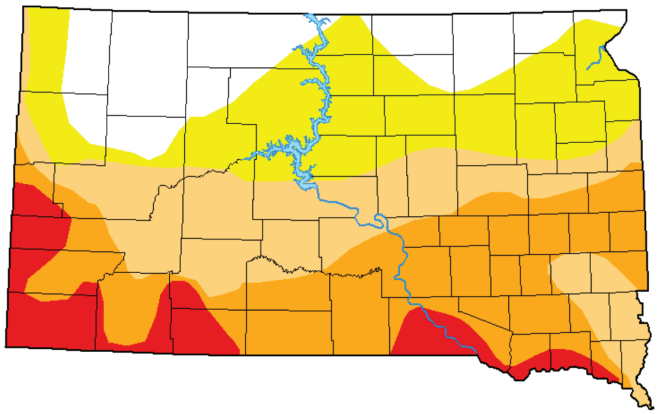
Drought Monitor



June 9



June 2

Temperatures were generally warmer than normal across the region, with portions of the Dakotas and western Nebraska averaging 9–12 degrees above normal. Above-normal precipitation occurred in southern Nebraska, northern Kansas, northern Nebraska into southern and central South Dakota, and across much of northern North Dakota. Areas along the foothills of the Rocky Mountains from Montana through Colorado remained largely dry.

Drought intensity eased where the heaviest rains fell in Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota, and drought was eliminated in portions of northern Kansas and southeast Nebraska. Southeast South Dakota continued to miss significant rainfall, and the combination of short- and long-term dryness allowed moderate and severe drought to expand. Degradation also occurred in eastern Colorado, where extreme drought expanded in the north and moderate drought expanded across east-central portions of the state. Extreme drought was reduced slightly in southern Colorado following recent rainfall.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT
https://southdakotasearchlight.com

Anti-tech push influences secretary of state race as conventions make state officer nominations

Party delegates decide who will run for six statewide positions

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR

Monae Johnson became South Dakota's top election official with the help of people who allege elections are rife with fraud and that ballots should be hand-counted, but they've been disappointed that she hasn't implemented some of their proposals.

Now they're trying to replace her with somebody else.

Their candidate is state Rep. Heather Baxter, a Rapid City Republican whose website says she "advocates for hand-counted paper ballots, no more voting machines."

Baxter is challenging Johnson for the South Dakota Republican Party's nomination for secretary of state. The nomination is one of several chosen by delegates at state party conventions rather than by voters in a primary election.

Republican secretary of state candidates Heather Baxter, left, and incumbent Monae Johnson will seek their party's nomination at its state convention. (Photos by South Dakota Searchlight/Illustration by Joshua Haiar)

The state Republican convention is June 25-27 in Rapid City, and the state Democratic and Libertarian conventions were already held. Democrats nominated Terrence Davis, a former Highway Patrol trooper, for secretary of state, and Libertarians nominated Tamara Lesnar, a former U.S. Senate candidate. The nominees will face each other in the Nov. 3 general election.

Johnson defeated incumbent Republican Steve Barnett at the 2022 convention. She ran as a candidate who shared concerns about tabulation machines and, during that campaign, refused to say whether the 2020 presidential election was legitimate. She went on to win the general election.

Some of Johnson's support came from members of South Dakota Canvassing Group, which advocates for policies including the elimination of electronic vote-counting machines and mandatory hand-counting. The group has alleged that voting machines are susceptible to fraud, even though in South Dakota the machines are not connected to the internet and have been proven accurate by recounts and post-election

audits.

In 2024, the group helped force questions onto the ballot in three counties that would have banned electronic vote-tabulation machines. Voters in all three counties rejected the proposals.

Tabulation-machine critics Rick Weible and Jessica Pollema were among Johnson's early supporters. Weible and his wife, Gretchen, worked on Johnson's campaign. Gretchen served as her campaign manager. They now work for Baxter's campaign, they told South Dakota Searchlight during a November 2025 event in Sioux Falls, where they were training people on how to hand-count.

During Johnson's tenure as secretary of state, some of her former supporters have turned against her. At a 2024 Board of Elections meeting, Pollema told Johnson, "Monae, we supported you. We campaigned for you. We donated money to you," before accusing her of broken promises.

Johnson did not respond to requests for comment from South Dakota Searchlight. Baxter declined multiple interview requests.

The convention nomination process

Any registered party member who runs for and wins an available precinct committee or at-large delegate spot may show up as a delegate at the state party convention. So can a county party officer. If a slot is vacant, county party officials can fill it.

Michael Card, professor emeritus of political science at the University of South Dakota, said delegates at Republican state conventions are "more right-wing, MAGA-type, than the traditional voter base."

Republican Lee Schoenbeck is a longtime former legislator. He said that in the last decade, as fewer people have gotten involved with local party politics, delegates became "whoever is willing to run."

"If your average voter attended, they would not feel represented," Schoenbeck said, describing the shift as going from reputable party activists and insiders to "zealots."

State Republican Party Chairman Jim Eschenbaum expects 600 to 800 voting delegates at the convention, "possibly more." Eschenbaum said the convention is far more representative of the average Republican voter "than it was before." He became chairmanin early 2025.

"The establishment can't manipulate the elections anymore. That's what their problem is," he said, responding to criticism about the convention.

Following are summaries of the positions and candidates up for nomination at the conventions.

Secretary of state

Baxter also sought the option of retaining her state House seat but lost in the June 2 primary election, meaning she's now only a candidate for the Republican secretary of state nomination.

Davis, the Democratic nominee, has a degree in criminal justice, a master's in public policy, and is pursuing a doctoral degree in law and policy. Davis' website says he wants transparent elections, voting-rights protections, modernized services, and an investigative division brought into the Secretary of State's Office.

Davis, speaking of the state's elections, told South Dakota Searchlight that "I have no concern in the system at all."

"No system in the world that has human hands on it is going to be perfect," he said. "But the overwhelming majority of voters here in South Dakota and throughout the United States are lawful and eligible voters. Sometimes people fall through the cracks, and I think we have to focus on balancing accessibility with the integrity of the vote — while ensuring that people who are not eligible to vote do not do so."

Lesnar, the Libertarian nominee, was the party's 2022 U.S. Senate candidateagainst incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. John Thune, and she ran for a state House seat in 2024.

Besides serving as the state's top election official, the secretary of state also manages business corporation filings, lobbyist disclosures, campaign finance reporting, and other matters.

State treasurer

Incumbent Republican Treasurer Josh Haeder is term-limited.

Republican candidate Heath Shields is from Texas and lives in Custer. The Dakota Scout reported in May that he has two bankruptcies and multiple criminal charges on his record. Shields defended his record in a phone call with The Scout, saying his criminal history stemmed from a rough upbringing and characterizing the bankruptcies as the result of building businesses that included auto dealerships, a gun range, and auto repair shops.

Republican candidate Melissa Hull is a longtime employee in the Treasurer's Office, serving as treasury manager since 2019. Hull's campaign site points to her "deep understanding of the Treasurer's office operations and outcomes."

Democratic nominee Margaret Kuipers of Sioux Falls served as treasurer for Sheryl Johnson's failed 2024 U.S. House campaign. She also served as the state treasurer for the Emergency Medical Services Association.

Attorney general

Republican Attorney General Marty Jackley is running for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Seeking the nomination to succeed him as attorney general is Republican Austin Hoffman, who interned with the Attorney General's Office, opened a private law practice in Eureka, served as deputy state's attorney and has been McPherson County state's attorney since 2020.

Republican candidate Lance Russell is in his fourth term as the state's attorney for Fall River and Oglala Lakota counties. He served 12 years in the Legislature and chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Republican candidate John Fitzgerald is a former Fourth Circuit Court judge and longtime former prosecutor. He served 42 years as state's attorney in Butte and Lawrence counties, and was elected in 2022 as a judge serving eight northwestern South Dakota counties.

Democrats do not have an attorney general candidate.

State auditor

Incumbent Republican Auditor Rich Sattgast is term-limited.

David Barranco is a Sioux Falls city councilor with over 25 years of legal experience. However, he recently dropped his state auditor campaign after a cancer diagnosis. His wife, Catherine Barranco, is seeking the Republican nomination in his place.

Catherine has bachelor's and master's degrees in economics. She worked at Walmart's corporate headquarters, with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission assisting with financial fraud cases, and as the former president of the South Dakota Federation of Republican Women, former South Dakota Republican Party data director, and board member of various local Republican groups.

Democratic nominee Tom Cool of Sioux Falls was the Democratic nominee for secretary of state in 2022, losing to Johnson, and for state auditor in 2018, losing to Sattgast. Cool has a communications degree from the University of South Dakota, worked as a reporter in Indiana, administered the Arts in South Dakota Foundation, and served as executive director of the state's Council on College Admissions.

Public Utilities Commission

Republican Commissioner Gary Hanson is not seeking reelection.

Republican candidate Don Haggar is a former state legislator and former state director of Americans for Prosperity. He has a background in real estate, banking and insurance, and a master's degree in business.

Republican candidate Peri Pourier is a Democrat-turned-Republican state representative from Pine Ridge. She switched her registration last year, saying Republican principles such as decentralized government and self-determination align with tribal sovereignty goals. She was a vocal opponent of the Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline, which the Public Utilities Commission denied a permit.

Democratic nominee Frank Kloucek of Scotland is a farmer who served in the Legislature for over two decades. A 2025 legislative commemoration calls him the "oldest surviving" and "longest-tenured Democrat" to have served in the Legislature.

Commissioner of school and public lands

The Office of School and Public Lands manages state-owned land and mineral rights that generate revenue for public schools and universities. The office leases access for livestock grazing and mining, and appropriates trust earnings to schools.

Republican incumbent Brock Greenfield was elected in 2022. The former state lawmaker is also a past state director of South Dakota Right to Life.

Democratic nominee Raeann Mettler is listed as a lecturer at South Dakota Mines with a doctorate from the University of Freiburg, a public research university in Germany, and a master's from Black Hills State University. She has also taught at Crazy Horse Memorial University. She works as a research specialist for Missouri Breaks Industries Research Inc.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

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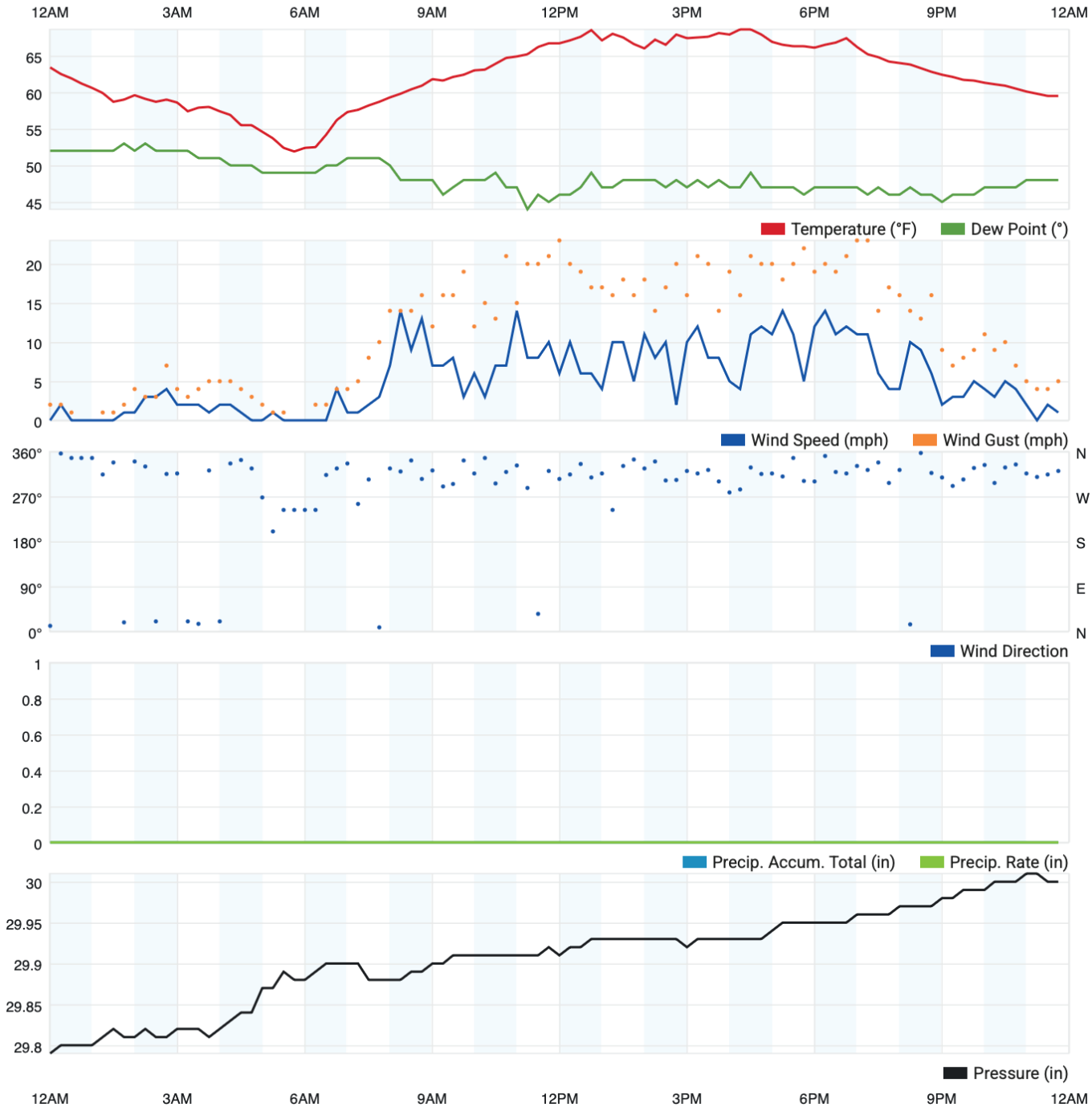
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

June 13, 2026



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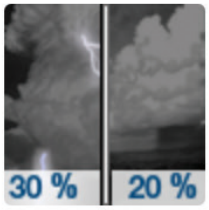
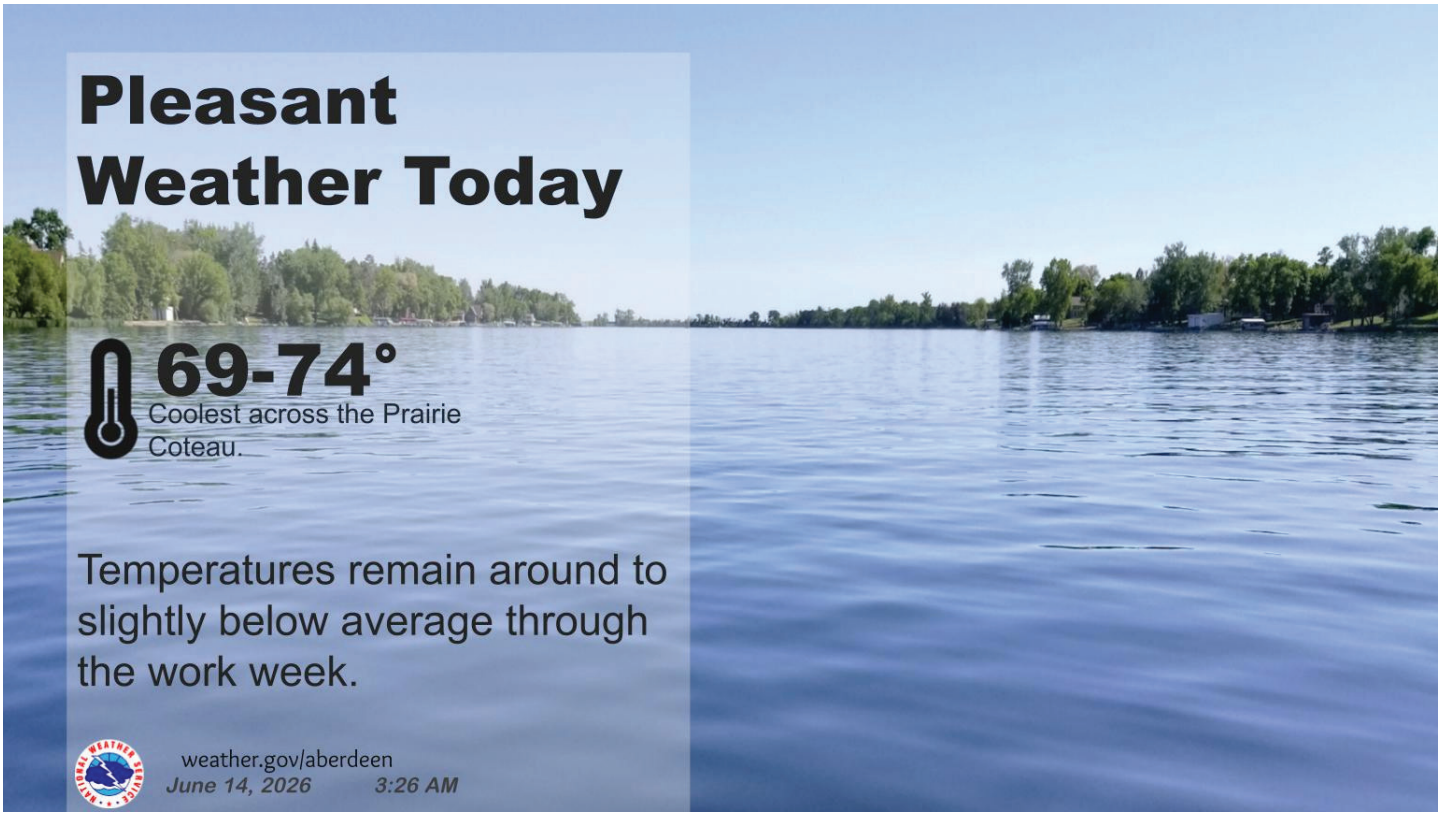
Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
High: 74 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 76 °F
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny



Cooler than average temperatures will persist through the upcoming work week, but highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s today will be some of the coolest this week. Northwest winds persist today with gusts of 15 to 25 mph.

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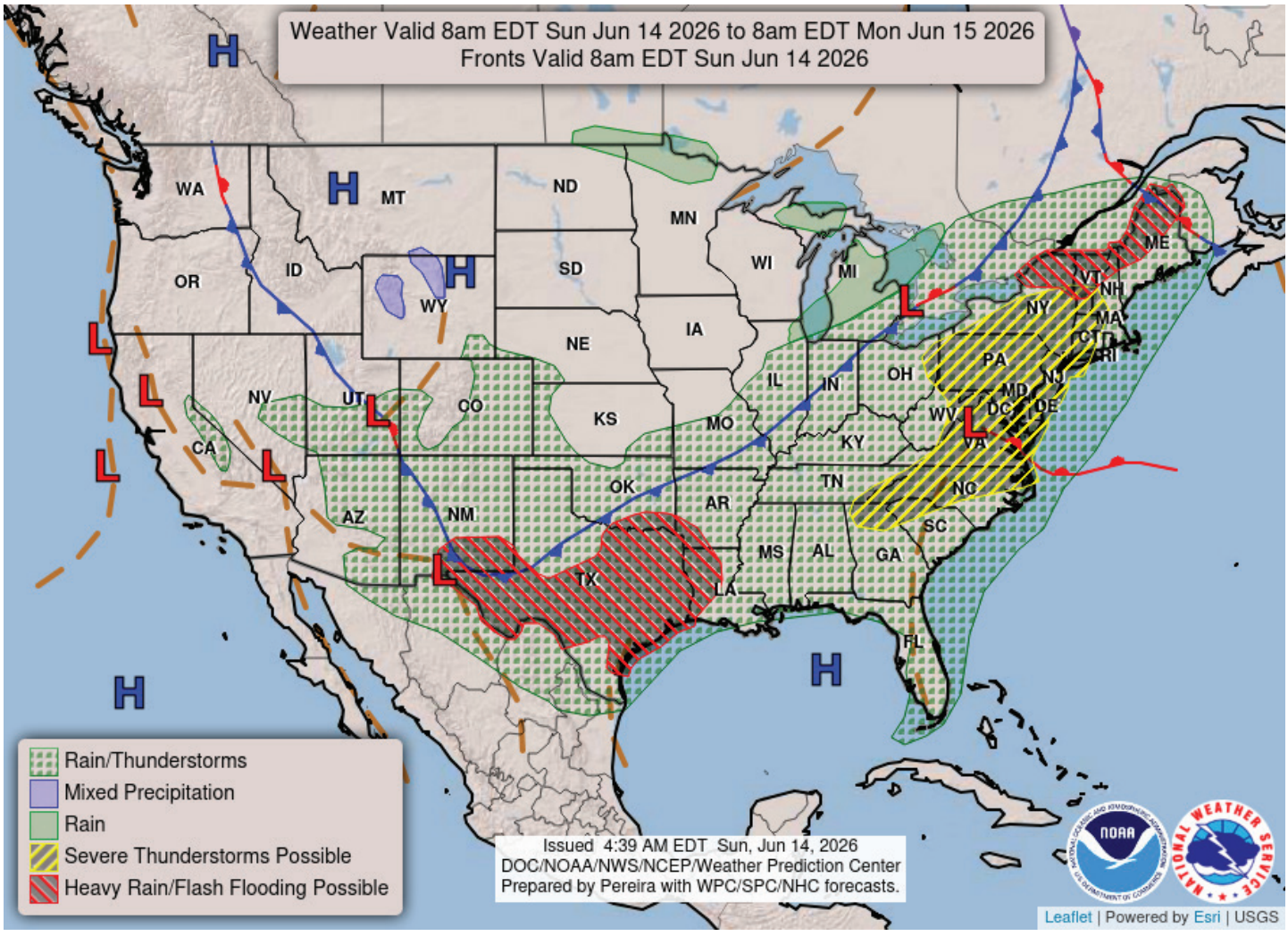
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 70 °F at 4:12 PM
Low Temp: 52 °F at 5:43 AM
Wind: 26 mph at 11:20 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1933
Record Low: 34 in 1969
Average High: 80
Average Low: 55
Average Precip in June.: 1.65
Precip to date in June.: 1.11
Average Precip to date: 8.90
Precip Year to Date: 7.47
Sunset Tonight: 9:22 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:43 am



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Today in Weather History

June 14th, 1970: An estimated F3 tornado moved northeast from just southeast of Mound City. The tornado blew away barns and sheds on three farms.

June 14th, 1985: A thunderstorm produced golf ball-sized hail in the Castlewood area, causing considerable damage to grain, corn, soybeans, and gardens. In some areas just south of Castlewood, hail piled six inches deep. Leaves were stripped from several trees. Wind gusts of up to 60 mph accompanied the hail.

Another thunderstorm produced high winds and damaging hail in Grant and Roberts Counties. Crops incurred considerable damage north of Milbank along both sides of Highway 15. Golf ball-sized hail damaged crops 17 miles northeast of Sisseton into Browns Valley, to Mud Lake.

June 14th, 2009: Severe thunderstorms impacted parts of central and north-central South Dakota. Hail up to the size of golf balls, flash flooding, and tornadoes occurred with these storms. Heavy rain caused flash flooding on the Moreau River, and the bridge on Route 14 was overtopped. The bridge had to be closed west of Green Grass. A basement was also flooded three miles east of Green Grass, along with several roads in the area in Dewey Country. A tornado touched down west of Hayes in Stanley County and traveled almost a mile before lifting. No damage occurred. A second tornado touched down east of Hayes, and no damage occurred.

1903 — The Heppner Disaster occurred in Oregon. A cloudburst in the hills sent a flood down Willow Creek, and a twenty foot wall of water swept away a third of the town in minutes, killing 236 residents and causing 100 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1961 — The temperature in Downtown San Francisco, CA, soared to 106 degrees to establish an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Thirty-two cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Flint, MI, tied their record for June, and the high of 101 at Milwaukee WI marked their first 100 degree reading in 32 years. Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to South Texas, drenching McAllen with 3.2 inches in one hour. A thunderstorm soaked the town of Uncertain with 2.3 inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Thirty cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central Gulf States to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region during the day and into the night. There were 62 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorm winds caused 28 million dollars damage in Montgomery County MD. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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InTouch Ministries

Daily Devotion

Complete Obedience

God desires complete obedience for our good, not to burden us.

1 Samuel 15:1-35: 1 Then Samuel said to Saul, ``The LORD sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the LORD.

2 ``Thus says the LORD of hosts, `I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt.

3 `Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

4 Then Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah.

5 Saul came to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the valley.

6 Saul said to the Kenites, ``Go, depart, go down from among the Amalekites, so that I do not destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the sons of Israel when they came up from Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 So Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

8 He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,

11 ``I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night.

12 Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, ``Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal."

13 Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, ``Blessed are you of the LORD! I have carried out the command of the LORD."

14 But Samuel said, ``What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 Saul said, ``They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed."

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, ``Wait, and let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, ``Speak!"

17 Samuel said, ``Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel,

18 and the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, `Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.'

19 ``Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?"

20 Then Saul said to Samuel, ``I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the

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

LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
21 ``But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal.''
22 Samuel said, ``Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.
23 ``For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.''
24 Then Saul said to Samuel, ``I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice.
25 ``Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.''
26 But Samuel said to Saul, ``I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.''
27 As Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.
28 So Samuel said to him, ``The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you.
29 ``Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.''
30 Then he said, ``I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.''
31 So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.
32 Then Samuel said, ``Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites.'' And Agag came to him cheerfully. And Agag said, ``Surely the bitterness of death is past.''
33 But Samuel said, ``As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.'' And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the LORD at Gilgal.
34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul.
35 Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

One of the most common ways we step out of God's will is through partial obedience—doing most of what He asks but holding back in other areas.

King Saul fell into this trap. After God ordered the Israelites to completely destroy the Amalekites and their possessions, they spared the best livestock and the leader, Agag. When Samuel arrived, Saul announced he'd done as commanded. But on further questioning, he shifted blame to the people (v. 15)—though he was king, and no big decision was made without his approval.

Then Saul offered what seemed like a reasonable explanation: The animals had been saved to be sacrificed to the Lord. It must have sounded righteous. But Samuel wasn't fooled. He identified Saul's action for what it was—rebellion (v. 23).

We can do the same thing. Our reasons for partial obedience may sound perfectly logical to us. We might even convince ourselves we're honoring God. But the Lord doesn't evaluate our obedience by our intentions or justifications.

Have you been rationalizing a decision that doesn't quite align with what God wants? Partial obedience may feel like a reasonable compromise, but it keeps us from experiencing the fullness of walking in His will.

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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.13.26

3 5 11 13 49 **1**

TOP PRIZE:
$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 13 Mins 41 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.12.26

9 17 24 39 51 **3**

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$430,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.13.26

6 13 31 35 48 **7**

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$29,610,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.13.26

4 10 18 28 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$134,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.13.26

24 55 56 57 67 **15**

TOP PRIZE:
$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.13.26

3 13 44 50 53 **2**

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$269,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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News from the AP Associated Press

Israeli military strikes Beirut suburbs in the lead-up to anticipated US-Iran deal

By JULIA FRANKEL, ABBY SEWELL, MUNIR AHMED and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military said it launched strikes on Beirut on Sunday targeting Hezbollah infrastructure, despite ongoing efforts to negotiate an end to the U.S.-Iran war. Smoke could be seen rising over the Lebanese capital.

The strikes threatened to hamper negotiations over a deal, which in its current form is a deep disappointment to Israel's government. The last time Israel struck the Beirut suburbs a week ago, it set off the most serious escalation of fighting between Iran and Israel since the tenuous ceasefire took hold April 7.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the strikes were in response to Hezbollah attacks on the north of the country. Israel's military said earlier in the day that Hezbollah had launched three projectiles into northern Israel, releasing footage where an audible boom was followed by a column of smoke rising above the tree line.

An Associated Press photographer at the scene in Beirut said the building struck was a five-story apartment building with shops on the bottom floor. The two lower floors were the most heavily damaged by the strikes. Residents of the southern suburbs, many of whom had returned to their homes after a period of relative calm in recent weeks, could be seen fleeing the area.

Hezbollah fired missiles into Israel on March 2, two days after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran, sparking war in the Middle East. Israeli troops have pushed their invasion of Lebanon deeper than at any point in over a quarter century.

Strike comes as mediators push Iran and the US closer to a deal

Iran wants a ceasefire deal to include the fighting in Lebanon and seeks the release of billions of dollars in frozen funds. But as talks continued, Israel has been sidelined in negotiations led by Pakistan and others.

"Israel will not tolerate firing into its territory," a statement from Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz said Sunday.

There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah.

Qatari mediators traveled to Tehran on Sunday to finalize the agreement, according to two regional officials.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, expressed cautious optimism that the U.S. and Iran were finally approaching an agreement that could halt hostilities that have killed thousands of people and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, whose closure has thrown world markets into disarray.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Saturday that the deal would be signed on Sunday, while Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said it could happen in the coming days. Trump said that the Strait of Hormuz would open immediately after the signing.

The deal is expected to be signed electronically, without an in-person ceremony, though it's unclear when or how the signing will take place.

Nuclear and other issues still to be finalized

The deal does not solve the thorniest issues between the U.S. and Iran, including Iran's nuclear program or its frozen assets, but offers a 60-day framework for technical discussions on those issues, according to Pakistani and regional officials familiar with the ongoing negotiations who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. The officials described Pakistan's monthslong effort leading the negotiations, struggling to keep both sides from walking out of the room and a total collapse of the negotiations on multiple occasions.

Under the current deal being discussed, U.S. and Israel appear to have fallen short of their original goals of destroying Iran's missile and nuclear programs and ending its support for proxies. It is not clear how

the deal will address these issues, or if they will be part of the final agreement.

Critics in Trump's own Republican Party, struggling with an unpopular war ahead of the midterm elections, criticized the deal. Some said it did not improve on the terms of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that Trump withdrew the U.S. from during his first term and which he still describes as "bad."

Meanwhile, Trump was expected to discuss demining the Strait of Hormuz during the Group of Seven summit that starts Monday. The waterway is crucial to significant shipments of oil, natural gas and related products like fertilizer, and its effective closure rocked the global economy.

Iran's nuclear program and highly enriched uranium have long been at the center of tensions with the U.S. and Israel and an international source of concern.

Trump on social media asserted that "when all is calm," the U.S. would go in and "downblend and destroy" the enriched uranium in Iran or in the U.S.

Iran has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran has long maintained its nuclear program is peaceful and has not publicly committed to giving up the enriched uranium, which is believed to be buried under three nuclear sites that were badly damaged by U.S. strikes last year.

Early results show Swiss voters reject right-wing's bid to cap population at 10 million

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Voters in Switzerland have cast their final ballots on Sunday on an initiative championed by the top right-wing party to cap the rich Alpine country's population at 10 million. Early results showed Swiss voters were leaning against it.

The populist Swiss People's Party, which has the most seats in parliament, has stirred up and fostered anti-migration sentiment over the years, notably about an influx of workers from the neighboring European Union.

Critics call the bid a self-inflicted wound, saying the boom in migration over the last generation has brought foreign labor and skills to sectors such as healthcare, finance, pharmaceuticals, and technology. Some also worry the proposal, if approved, will weaken critical ties with Brussels. The EU is Switzerland's top trading partner.

Recent polling from the gfs.bern agency suggested that it could be a close contest.

Preliminary results shared by the federal government showed that nearly 54% of voters rejected the proposal, with turnout exceeding 57% nationwide. Results were still pending from many of Switzerland's 26 cantons.

The Swiss People's Party put forward the "sustainability initiative" measure, saying Swiss infrastructure, housing, social programs, natural resources and way of life have been strained by demographic growth.

The federal government and Parliament oppose the idea.

Swiss democracy gives voters a direct say in policymaking through referendums typically held four times a year. Most ballots are cast through the mail, and in-person voting ends at noon local time on Sunday.

A "yes" vote would require the Swiss government to take action to cap the population by 2050.

If the population reaches 9.5 million before then, the government would be forced to restrict asylum, family reunification and residency permits, and may have to scrap Switzerland's EU deal on the free movement of people.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has reported that Switzerland had a foreign-born population of 32% as of 2024, behind only Luxembourg and Australia among the group's 38 member countries.

International migration has long been a sensitive issue in Europe, as nations grapple with an aging population and increasing anti-foreigner sentiment. While that sentiment in other European countries centers on migrants from the developing world, most foreigners in Switzerland are Europeans.

Since Switzerland and the EU eased restrictions on citizens living and working across their borders in 2002, the Swiss population has grown by 23%, to 9.1 million as of the end of last year. Economic output has also increased, up 24% over the same period, government data show.

Swiss voters have repeatedly tackled the immigration issue over the last half-century. Only one such referendum — "Against mass immigration" in 2014 — narrowly passed, after campaigners stoked fears about overpopulation and rising numbers of Muslims in the country.

While many countries have limits on immigration, none has ever voted to limit its population, Swiss experts say.

Ukrainian drone strikes kill 1 and spark fire at oil facility in Russia

By The Associated Press undefined

A Ukrainian drone attack killed one person in Russia's southwestern Oryol region, local officials said Sunday, while a separate strike hit an oil facility as part of Kyiv's campaign of strikes on military and energy targets deep inside Russia.

Oryol regional Gov. Andrei Klychkov said Sunday that one person died and nine were wounded when a Ukrainian drone struck a residential building overnight in the regional capital, also called Oryol.

Local authorities in Russia's Yaroslavl region, around 700 kilometers (440 miles) from the Ukrainian border, said fuel storage facilities caught fire after being hit by a drone.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country's forces had "struck an oil facility that was important for the reserve of the aggressor state" in the Yaroslavl region.

Ukraine has stepped up its attacks on Russia's oil and gas facilities in recent months, arguing the energy sector funds and directly fuels Moscow's more than four-year invasion.

Meanwhile, Britain is investigating a sanctioned tanker that is suspected of being part of the Russian "shadow fleet," shipping oil in violation of international sanctions over Moscow's war on Ukraine, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Sunday.

British armed forces boarded and detained the vessel, the Smyrtos, on Sunday in the English Channel, in what the country's Defense Ministry called "the first U.K.-led operation of its kind."

Russia is believed to be using a fleet of hundreds of ships to evade sanctions over its war against Ukraine.

"This operation delivers yet another blow to Russia and reminds those fueling Putin's war in Ukraine that they cannot hide," Starmer said.

Trump tried to block state AI regulations, but some states are forging ahead

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Six months after President Donald Trump warned states not to regulate artificial intelligence, they are increasingly doing just that.

Congress has stalled on producing federal regulation of artificial intelligence as states forge ahead and scrutinize how chatbots interact with children, how AI systems are used by employers and what developers must do to try to prevent an AI-caused catastrophe.

State lawmakers have stepped back from earlier, wider-ranging attempts to regulate AI that were vetoed or otherwise derailed by governors who viewed the measures as too onerous toward the industry's development, including efforts to hold developers accountable for bias in AI systems.

But they are returning with legislation that is more targeted and, often, probes the corners of life where Americans interact with AI but may not know it.

Presidential power versus state power

Trump's move to restrain states' actions on AI drew criticism from members of both political parties and civil liberties and consumer rights groups who worried that banning state regulation would amount to a gift to AI giants, who enjoy little to no oversight.

Trump has made AI a top national and economic security priority, and he said that letting states clutter the regulatory playing field for an industry that's spending trillions of dollars and driving the economy is too risky in the race with China for AI superiority.

Trump issued an executive order that directed the attorney general to create a task force to challenge state laws that are more than "minimally burdensome," and directed the Commerce Department to draw up a list of problematic regulations. It also threatened to restrict funding from a broadband deployment program and other grant programs to states with AI laws.

The White House said it wouldn't target state laws that seek to prevent fraud and protect consumers and children.

In the meantime, the Trump administration released a "national policy framework" in which it urged Congress to preempt state AI laws that are out of step with its regulatory worldview and to pass legislation to protect children, intellectual property rights and free speech. In recent days, a new bipartisan draft proposal in the House met withering criticism from key Democrats and Republicans.

The White House has given no indication that it has made good on its threat to enforce the president's executive order by going to court against a state's AI law or withholding money. In a statement, it said the Trump administration is "eager to work with partners" to enact its policy framework.

States seem largely unrestrained by Trump

Trump's executive order didn't seem to discourage states from trying to regulate how AI is used. More bills have been introduced this year than last, including by Republicans, said Justine Gluck, policy director of the Future of Privacy Forum, a nonprofit that advocates for data privacy in technology and whose members are from industry, academia and civic groups.

In Illinois, legislation on the desk of Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker piggybacked on elements of laws passed last year in California and New York that require developers of large advanced AI models to create protocols to prevent their systems from causing a catastrophe, such as a biological weapons attack, power outage or large-scale hack.

Illinois added a requirement that AI developers must get an independent auditor to review whether they are complying with their own policies. Analysts see it as a step toward requiring AI developers to take greater accountability for their products.

The bill's sponsor, Democratic state Sen. Mary Edly-Allen, brushed aside Trump's threat.

"I don't know if you've met Illinois, but we're pretty independent," Edly-Allen told The Associated Press.

The bill drew nearly unanimous support, signaling a willingness by members of Trump's party to cooperate with Democrats in filling the AI regulatory vacuum left by the federal government.

This kind of legislation is expected to expand to other states.

Regulating chatbots, especially for children

A growing number of states are imposing restrictions on how AI chatbots can interact with people, especially children. A mix of Republican- and Democratic-led states have passed such laws this year, including Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska and Oregon.

In many cases, states want companies to tell people when they are interacting with AI instead of a human. Many want chatbots to be restricted in how they interact with minors, parents to have control over their child's access, and data given to chatbots to be kept private.

In recent weeks, Connecticut enacted provisions for companion chatbots that sustain an ongoing relationship with a human. Under them, chatbots must not be able to interact with someone under 18, unless it is programmed against encouraging self-destructive behavior and provides parents with tools to manage the child's use.

Transparency in AI and decision-making

Colorado in May required companies that deploy AI systems in important areas such as employment, education, housing or banking to tell people when it's being used to influence a decision about them.

It was a stab at regulating what researchers say is the bias inherent in AI systems that sort through a consumer's data and render consequential decisions — including who gets hired, a home loan or medical

care. But it watered down a 2024 law aimed at preventing AI's penchant to discriminate, amid pressure from Democratic Gov. Jared Polis.

In Connecticut, lawmakers required employers who are using employment-related AI systems to tell employees or job applicants that they are interacting with AI.

Meanwhile, Connecticut, Washington and Utah required AI developers to embed data into digital content that will allow users to determine whether the content — such as photos or video — has been created or altered by AI.

More laws are possible this year.

In California, lawmakers are advancing the "No Robo Bosses Act of 2026" to prohibit employers from relying solely on AI to fire or discipline workers, and an expansion of how the state regulates AI chatbots, including banning chatbot outputs to children from being used for advertising.

Some Republican-led states have held back

In Florida, the state House refused to advance what Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis called his AI "Bill of Rights" legislation. It included provisions to give parents control over their children's access to companion chatbots and to require companies that use chatbots to tell consumers when they are interacting with AI instead of a human.

Florida House Speaker Daniel Perez said Trump had made it clear that the federal government should be in charge of AI regulation. DeSantis panned that idea, noting that the federal government isn't acting.

In Utah, progress stalled on legislation modeled on laws in New York and California after the White House sent a one-sentence memo to lawmakers there to warn that it was "categorically opposed" to the bill.

World Cup what to know: Curacao faces daunting first World Cup game against 4-time champion Germany

By JOHN MARSHALL AP Sports Writer

Qatar lost all three of its matches as a World Cup host four years ago and appeared to be headed toward another in its 2026 opener against Switzerland.

Boualem Khoukhi changed his country's course at the last possible moment, scoring a tying goal on a header in the fourth minute of stoppage time to give Qatar a 1-1 tie against Switzerland on Saturday.

The late equalizer gave Qatar its first World Cup point and left the mighty Swiss wondering what happened.

"We're looking at ourselves," Switzerland midfielder Granit Xhaka said.

Brazil managed to extend its unbeaten streak in World Cup openers to 21.

Morocco didn't make it easy.

Morocco controlled play early and took the lead in the 21st minute on a goal by Ismael Saibari. Brazil tied it on Vinícius Júnior's goal in the 32nd minute and ended up in a 1-1 tie to avoid its first loss since 1934 against Spain.

Scotland, making its first appearance in the tournament since 1998, beat Haiti 1-0 on John McGinn's deflected shot in the 28th minute. The win put the Scots atop the Group C standings.

Australia spoiled Turkey's return to the World Cup for the first time in 24 years as goals from Nestory Irankunda and Connor Metcalfe handed the Socceroos a 2-0 win in Vancouver.

The World Cup has its second full day of matches on Sunday, highlighted by four-time champion Germany opening against Curacao in Houston. There are at least four games scheduled each day until June 27.

The host countries fared fairly well in their opening matches.

Mexico kicked off the tournament Thursday with a dominant 2-0 win over South Africa in front of a boisterous crowd at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium.

Canada rallied for a 1-1 draw against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Toronto on Friday. The United State followed with a dominating 4-1 win over Paraguay in Inglewood, California, to match the biggest U.S. World Cup victory.

What to watch on June 14

Fox is the exclusive U.S. broadcaster of the World Cup with all 104 matches in English on Fox or FS1. All matches are also available on the Fox One app. Telemundo and Universo will broadcast all of the matches in Spanish. Peacock is the streaming home for Spanish-language broadcasts, while Telemundo also has an app that includes all the matches.

— Germany vs. Curacao, 1 p.m. EDT in Houston (FOX/Telemundo/Peacock)
— The Netherlands vs. Japan, 4 p.m. EDT in Dallas (FOX/Telemundo/Peacock)
— Ivory Coast vs. Ecuador, 7 p.m. EDT in Philadelphia (FS1/Telemundo/Peacock)
— Sweden vs. Tunisia, 10 p.m. EDT in Monterrey, Mexico (FS1/Telemundo/Peacock)

Daunting opener

Curacao made history by becoming one of four first-time World Cup qualifiers.

The tiny Caribbean nation faces a daunting task in its opener, taking on powerhouse Germany in Houston.

"Germany are of course clear favorites in the group," said Curacao's Dick Advocaat, the oldest coach in World Cup history at 78. "They are still a big footballing country. Starting off against Germany is fantastic. We will find out immediately where we stand."

Curacao is the World Cup's smallest country in terms of size — about the size of New Orleans — and population, with roughly 156,000 residents. It got into the 48-team bracket by going 4-0 in the opening round of qualifying and 3-0-3 in the next round.

Germany has plenty of motivation heading into this year's World Cup after failing to get out of the group stage in Russia and Qatar following its 2014 title.

High expectations

Sunday's match between the Netherlands and Japan in Dallas features two teams eyeing more than just a win in their openers.

The Dutch have the misfortune of being tagged with the moniker of best team to never win the World Cup.

The Netherlands has reached three World Cup finals and lost each time, most recently in 2010, when it lost to Spain in extra time. The Dutch reached the 2022 quarterfinals in Qatar, losing to eventual champion Argentina on penalty kicks.

"How far can we go? Yeah, hopefully all the way," Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk said. "We know how difficult it will be, but our full focus will be on Japan, first and foremost. That will get all our attention."

Japan is in its eighth straight World Cup and seeking a third straight run to the knockout round. The Japanese had two of the biggest upsets in Qatar, knocking off Germany and Spain before losing to Croatia on penalty kicks in the round of 16.

Ecuador's unbeaten streak

Ecuador arrives at the World Cup on a roll, carrying a 19-game unbeaten streak into Sunday's game against Ivory Coast in Philadelphia.

Not all the games were against high-level competition, but there's no doubting La Tri's ability to defend.

Ecuador allowed six goals during its unbeaten streak that dates to September 2024, and has one of the world's best defensive midfielders in Moises Caicedo, who plays for Chelsea. The back line is anchored by Willian Pacho, who helped lead Paris Saint-Germain to the Champions League title over Arsenal.

Ivory Coast has played a bit of defense in its build-up to the country's first World Cup appearance in 12 years.

The Ivorians didn't allow a goal through 10 qualifiers and stunned powerhouse France in a friendly earlier this month.

Ivory Coast also has what could be one of the breakout stars of this World Cup in Yan Diomande, a 19-year-old forward who played high school soccer in Florida and has thrived with Lyon in the French league.

Sweden's task

Sweden has something to prove in its opener against Tunisia in Monterrey, Mexico.

The Swedes failed to win any games to finish at the bottom of their qualifying group, earning their way into the World Cup on the strength of their performances in the 2024-2025 Nations League.

The qualifying issues were a bit surprising for a squad that includes two of Europe's top strikers in Alexander Isak and Viktor Gyökeres.

Tunisia nearly had a breakthrough to the knockout stage at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar with a win over reigning champion France and a draw against Denmark.

The Tunisians are in their third straight World Cup and play a packed-in style of defense that could make it tough on the Swedes.

More World Cup news

— Police investigate theft of England equipment at World Cup, 2 people in custody

— Ghana slams Canada's decision to deny World Cup visa for Partey, who faces rape charges

— AP photo gallery from Day 3 of the World Cup

— As Bay Area hosts World Cup, empty red seats are everywhere at Levi's Stadium

— 70 seconds, 26 passes and an iconic World Cup moment for the US and Gio Reyna

Stats of the day

— Breel Embolo's penalty kick against Qatar on Saturday was Switzerland's first non-shootout penalty kick attempt and penalty kick goal in its World Cup history.

Downtown Geneva boards up as drastic security tightens ahead of anti-G7 protests

GENEVA (AP) — Scores of shops and businesses in downtown Geneva boarded up their storefronts with wooden panels ahead of planned anti-G7 protests on Sunday.

French and Swiss authorities have imposed extensive security measures as U.S. President Donald Trump and other leaders attend a G7 summit of leading industrialized nations starting on Monday. There are concerns the gathering could trigger violent unrest.

The June 15-17 summit of some of the world's richest nations being held in the French town of Evian-les-Bains, on Lake Geneva, is meant to discuss the Middle East, Ukraine and global economic imbalances. Activist groups including environmentalists, feminists and foes of capitalism have called for a big demonstration later Sunday.

A flotilla of around 20 boats appeared on Lake Geneva off the coast of Evian on Saturday, displaying anti-G7 and pro-Palestinian banners. Some 20 protesters were detained on Friday evening, according to Swiss media reports.

Earlier, between 100 and 150 people had gathered in Geneva for a protest bicycle ride, slowing down traffic and chanting anti-G7 and pro-Palestinian slogans, public broadcaster RTS reported.

Business owners and local leaders are worried of a repeat of violent protests that smashed storefronts on the sidelines of the G8 summit in 2003, when Russia was in the club of nations.

Local resident Robin Hedz lamented the "mess" and expressed bafflement about the "wood-wall everywhere," while acknowledging the memories of the trail of damaged property at the summit over a generation ago.

The Swiss government said the army will deploy some 4,000 personnel to support police during the summit. Operations will include airspace and road restrictions as well as patrols on Lake Geneva. Seven of the 35 roadway border crossings will remain open. Geneva also is closing a major park where activists wanted to congregate.

France will deploy more than 13,000 police and gendarmerie officers to ensure security in the summit area just across the border. Over 800 French border control officers will be active, up from about 60 normally.

French gendarmes buzzed around in motorboats off the coast of Evian on Saturday, and one officer hoisted up a bulky drone-interception device in a display of the security measures being rolled out for the summit.

Protests are nothing new around such elite gatherings. This time, activists want to demonstrate frustration with Trump's leadership on issues as diverse as tariffs, the war in Iran and the climate, or even highlight his past ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

"We are very afraid of the policy and the politics of Mr. Trump and also of the other leaders of the G7, because they are fighting, making war all over the place," said Francoise Nyffeler, spokesperson for the

NoG7 coalition, which has organized the demonstration and march on Sunday.

"The planet is in danger and we are very scared about it and we want to protest and say that the people of the world are against their policies," she added.

The Comeback Knicks are the Champion Knicks. Brunson scores 45, and New York tops Spurs for title

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Jalen Brunson and the Comeback Knicks did it again. And now they're the Champion Knicks.

For the first time in 53 years, New York rules the NBA. Brunson scored 45 points, including 13 straight for New York in the fourth quarter, and the Knicks beat the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Saturday night.

The Knicks won the series 4-1, rallying from double-digit deficits in all four of those victories. The deficit was 16 on Saturday night. Brunson and the Knicks were never fazed.

"I have no words," Brunson, the NBA Finals MVP, said during the on-court celebration. "It's everything I ever dreamed of."

Brunson, fittingly, closed with a flourish. He set a Knicks record for points in a finals game; it had been 38 by Willis Reed against the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 3 of the 1970 series. It now belongs to the left-handed point guard who changed the franchise's fortunes when he arrived four years ago.

"It's surreal," Knicks coach Mike Brown, who was hired a year ago — making him the franchise's 24th coach since the franchise's last championship in 1973. "I still can't believe it's happened."

Mikal Bridges and Josh Hart — the other two parts of the "Nova Knicks" trio that also includes Brunson, three players who were NCAA champions at Villanova and teamed up in New York to try to do the same — combined to score 27 points. Bridges had 14, Hart 13.

"I don't know what I'm feeling," Brunson said. "I'm in awe. Whenever someone counted us out, we found a way to come back and do something about it."

Dylan Harper scored 25 for the Spurs, who got 19 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots from Victor Wembanyama.

"This is the biggest lesson of my life, the biggest learning moment," Wembanyama said. "I can't tell exactly what the lesson is, but we're learning."

The Knicks improved to 4-0 in closeout opportunities this season, winning them all on the road. It didn't feel like the road, though — not with thousands of New York faithful having made the trip to Texas to see a moment 53 years in the making.

And back home, on the streets of the Big Apple, celebrations broke out everywhere. Fireworks lit up the night sky, people honked horns on jampacked streets and firefighters — from their trucks — slapped high-fives with delirious fans.

"HISTORY," New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani wrote on social media, then added that the Knicks' championship parade will be Thursday.

New York got to the brink of this title by rallying from 29 points down in Game 4 to win 107-106 on OG Anunoby's tip-in with 1.2 seconds left on Wednesday night. It was the largest comeback in NBA Finals history and the biggest comeback in any game this season, regular season or playoffs.

By comparison, then, a 16-point rally in this one seemed easy. And San Antonio had to shuffle off into the offseason, listening to Knicks fans celebrating in their building.

"We weren't ready to win an NBA championship," Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said. "The better team won. We did a lot of good things, and we didn't finish the job. That's what it is."

The game followed the same script in the opening minutes as all the others in the series, with the Spurs taking a double-digit lead in the first quarter and then frittering most of it away in the second quarter.

The Spurs became the first team in the play-by-play era, which started in the 1996-97 season, to lead five finals games by 10 points or more in first quarters.

The Knicks simply could not make a shot, missing on 16 of their first 18 tries and each of their first 11 two-point attempts. There even was a point in the second quarter when Wembanyama had more blocked shots (five) than the Knicks had made shots (four). San Antonio's lead was as many as 10 in the first quarter, as many as 16 in the second.

Of course, none of it mattered much. As always, the Knicks came back.

A 22-9 run in the second quarter got New York within three, before Devin Vassell scored just before the halftime buzzer to give San Antonio a 42-37 edge at the break.

And that capped an opening 24 minutes of either offensive ineptitude or defensive prowess, depending on perspective. The 79 combined points in the first half were the lowest in a finals game since Game 7 of Lakers-Celtics in 2010, and the combined 31.8% field goals shooting by the Knicks and Spurs was the lowest in the first half of a finals game in the play-by-play era.

Brunson won NCAA crowns twice with Villanova — both in Texas, the 2016 one in Houston and the 2018 one in San Antonio, just a few miles away from the arena that the Spurs call home.

A Texas three-step of titles, and this one was surely the sweetest of all.

"It's why I came to New York," Brunson said.

Trump turns 80 with a showstopping spectacle of cage fights at the White House. But big issues loom

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump celebrates turning 80 on Sunday with a showstopping birthday spectacle that once would have seemed unfathomable: a cage-fighting show on the storied South Lawn of the White House.

This week, the hard realities of the office have threatened to overshadow the ostentatious UFC mixed martial arts extravaganza, where combatants sealed inside a wire-mesh octagon try to punch, kick, chop and pummel each other into submission.

Trump has found himself boxed into an unpopular and costly war he helped start in Iran. An agreement to end the conflict could be close, but the crucial details are still to be negotiated. Meanwhile, about a mile from Trump's birthday bash, crews pried the president's name off the Kennedy Center after a judge ruled naming it after Trump had gone too far.

Regardless, the president will walk out of the White House and be surrounded by Cabinet leaders, top administration officials, Republican lawmakers and 4,000-plus spectators screaming themselves hoarse in a temporary arena under " The Claw," a spaceship-like metal arch fitted with lighting, sound equipment and large screens. Thousands more will be watching on big screens from the nearby Ellipse.

"This event is a one of one event, incredible event. I love it," said UFC chief Dana White, a close friend of the president, during a Friday night hype session at the Lincoln Memorial where pairs of fighters shoved and scuffled for the cameras under the stoic gaze of Honest Abe's marble likeness.

The president has sought to tie Sunday's event — which features seven fights running past midnight — to larger, months-long celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

But it is much more geared toward feting himself, so much so that the G7 summit for leaders of industrialized nations pushed back their get-together so that the president could attend his cage-match party and then fly straight to France for the meetings.

The weather, though, could put a major damper on things. Strong thunderstorms and heavy lightning disrupted Friday's Lincoln Memorial event, and the forecast for Sunday evening also looks threatening.

"I'm sick and tired of hearing about the weather," White declared on Friday, before conceding that he'll prefer to hold future UFC events inside arenas only.

A dramatic departure from how the last president marked his 80th

When Trump's predecessor, President Joe Biden, turned 80 in November 2022, he celebrated with a private family brunch at the White House, laying bare just how much and how quickly things have changed.

Asked about the contrast, White House spokesperson Allison Schuster said that the fight "will be one of the most entertaining nights in American history" and said that the timing was appropriate. "Having this spectacle take place at the people's house on Flag Day during our nations' semiquincentennial anniversary is a fitting tribute," Schuster said in a statement.

When he turned 80, Biden was the oldest president in U.S. history, and was months away from launching a reelection bid that he would ultimately abandon after a disastrous debate against Trump and mutiny among Democrats concerned he was too old to handle a second term.

Trump has now supplanted Biden as the oldest person to be elected U.S. president. He's constitutionally barred from running again, yet constantly toys with the notion publicly. That's despite polls showing rising public skepticism about Trump's mental and physical health — recalling concerns Biden faced as he turned 80.

A Washington Post/ABC News/Ipsos poll conducted in April found that less than half of U.S. adults think Trump has the mental sharpness or physical health to serve effectively as president.

The White House countered with a lengthy statement from Trump's former White House physician, Texas Republican Rep. Ronny Jackson, saying Trump's "stamina, focus, and strength are exceptional and on display every day. Claims to the contrary are pure fiction." Jackson added that polling concerns were "being propagated by the same biased, liberal, Trump-hating press that completely ignored the absolute cognitive and physical disaster that was President Biden."

Trump has nonetheless undergone four publicly announced physical examinations this term alone, with White House physician Dr. Sean Barbabella recently declaring him in "excellent health."

'Bread and circuses' — Trump-style

The UFC event is an apt metaphor for Trump's pugilistic political style. He is as big a fan of cage-match-style politics as he is of cage-fighting itself.

But Trump has also long been a master of political misdirection, purposely presenting people with something other than his presidency to focus on when things aren't going well.

With the war in Iran grinding on despite weeks of assurances from Trump that its end is nigh, gas prices staying high, renewed concerns about inflation and plummeting job approval ratings for Trump — a White House birthday party unlike anything America has ever seen is definitely a diversion.

"This is all distraction," said Mike Fontaine, a classics professor at Cornell University, who likened it to the gladiatorial games of Imperial Rome, when combatants brutalized each other for public entertainment meant to bolster rulers' popularity and quell potential unrest.

"This is a classic strategy," Fontaine said. "In ancient Rome, the phrase would be, 'bread and circuses.'"

Trump says the UFC is paying for the event and while its full costs haven't been divulged, the National Park Service said in a court filing that $60-plus million and tens of thousands of hours of labor have gone into it, while seven government agencies have "allocated significant resources and manpower."

UFC also announced on Friday that it was adding as an official partner for the event World Liberty Financial to create a special $250,000 athlete bonus pool for Sunday night's winners. The cryptocurrency company is co-owned by the Trump family, founded with the president's special diplomatic envoy Steve Witkoff and run by his son, Zach. The arrangement further blurs lines between the Trump family's financial interests and the events and construction projects the president has prioritized and used government resources to pull off.

Still, Fontaine said that when it comes to a personal flair for pageantry, the president's second-term tendency to lean into "hardcore masculinity and brute fighting" is marrying the UFC's blood sport with Trump's trademark humor and enduring sense of showmanship.

"President Trump has a once-in-a-generation talent for this stuff," he said.

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Brazil rallies for 1-1 draw against Morocco in its World Cup opener behind Vinícius Júnior's goal

By RONALD BLUM AP Sports WriterBta

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Samba soccer this wasn't.

Facing pressure to win its first World Cup title since 2002, five-time champion Brazil was outplayed early and needed Vinícius Júnior's 32nd-minute goal to gain a 1-1 draw against Morocco on Saturday in a pulsating, high-profile group match.

"We started on a really bad note," Vinícius said through a translator. "For certain, we got to hold on to the ball. We have to move better."

A semifinalist four years ago, Morocco had 12 shots in the first 30 minutes and went ahead on Ismael Saibari's 21st-minute goal, a chip over goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

"The team was a bit anxious at the beginning. Nerves were all over the place," Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti said through a translator. "A very imbalanced team."

Brazil evened the score 11 minutes later. Vinícius exchanged passes with Bruno Guimarães on the left flank, took a few touches to cut around Neil El Aynaoui and rifled a right-footed shot past the outstretched arm of Yassine Bounou for his 10th international goal.

"We are satisfied with the draw," Morocco coach Mohamed Ouahbi said. "We are not euphoric."

Fans in Brazil's canary yellow dominated the crowd of 80,663 at MetLife Stadium — only about five sections near the south goal had fans in Morocco's red.

Seleção supporters expected the flowing, entertaining play of Pelé's era and were subdued before Vinícius evened the score with his spectacular angled effort.

Brazil extended its unbeaten streak in World Cup openers to 21, including 17 wins, since a 1934 loss to Spain. No. 6 Brazil and seventh-ranked Morocco are the only top 10 teams to meet in the first round of the expanded 48-nation World Cup tournament.

"We cannot lose heart," Ancelotti said. "You don't win a World Cup based on your first match."

Brazil plays Haiti on Friday in Philadelphia, then closes Group C against Scotland in Miami Gardens, Florida. Morocco faces Scotland in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on Friday, then meets Haiti in Atlanta.

Brazil star Neymar, recovering from a torn right calf, didn't dress for the game.

One hour before the match, an Uber from Times Square to the stadium, site of next month's final, was $126.95 — up from $83.95 for advance booking for the same time Sunday.

Ancelotti, the Italian who became Brazil's first foreign World Cup coach, wore a three-piece suit with a necktie on a sunny afternoon with a 88-degree Fahrenheit (31-degree Celsius) temperature for the 6 p.m. start.

Morocco went ahead after Lucas Paquetá lost control of a short pass from Roger Ibañez and knocked it off Bilal El Khannouss. It bounced to Noussair Mazraoui, who sent the ball to Brahim Díaz in the center circle.

His through pass split Gabriel Magalhães and Marquinho, and Saibari ran onto the ball at the top of the arc. Alisson was slow to come off his line as Saibari scored his 10th international goal.

Morocco nearly went back ahead in the ninth of 10 minutes of stoppage time. Alisson spilled Aynaoui's long-range shot, which was headed wide, then while on the grass leaned back toward the goal and used his right hand to block Ayoube Amaimouni's follow-up effort.

"We still have to improve," Morocco captain Achraf Hakimi said. "We have to keep the positive things. We're going to learn from the mistakes, for sure."

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Trump names James M. McDonald to lead powerful New York federal prosecutor's office

By FATIMA HUSSEIN and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he will appoint one of his personal lawyers to serve as the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, filling a pending vacancy after Trump tapped the man currently in the job to be director of national intelligence.

James M. McDonald, a former federal prosecutor in the office he had been picked to run, served as a financial regulator during Trump's first term and worked in the White House counsel's office in President George W. Bush's administration.

A partner at the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, McDonald is part of the legal team handling Trump's pending appeal of felony convictions in New York related to hush money payments to adult film actor Stormy Daniels as the Republican ran for president in 2016.

Trump said Saturday he would name McDonald to the role of U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, one of the most influential positions in the Justice Department. He would replace Jay Clayton, whom Trump put forward this week as his pick for the director of national intelligence.

McDonald's perch as U.S. attorney would give him oversight of arguably the most prestigious of the Justice Department's prosecution offices, with a vast portfolio ranging from terrorism and espionage cases to security fraud and public corruption.

McDonald was also part of the legal team that last month secured a favorable outcome for Indian billionaire Gautam Adani when the Trump administration Justice Department dropped a fraud and conspiracy case that had been brought under the Biden administration.

McDonald has also served as director of enforcement at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission during Trump's first term in office and was deputy associate counsel in the White House under Bush.

"I am confident that Jamie will deliver strong results for our Country," Trump posted Saturday about McDonald on the Truth Social platform.

Nicholas Biase, spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan, said it "welcomes the President's choice to lead the SDNY. Mr. McDonald is widely respected."

Trump's announcement on Clayton came as pressure increased from Congress to name a permanent replacement for Tulsi Gabbard, who announced her resignation as national intelligence director last month. Trump faced intense pushback over his decision to name Bill Pulte, head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, as acting director.

US strike against Tren de Aragua leader in Venezuela exemplifies Trump's approach to war on drugs

By MANUEL RUEDA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The U.S. military attack in Venezuela Friday that killed the leader of the Tren de Aragua gang reflects a strategic shift by U.S. President Donald Trump toward direct U.S. involvement in the war on drugs that began earlier this year, with a special focus this time on gaining access to Venezuela's lucrative mining sector, analysts told The Associated Press.

Trump announced Friday the death of gang leader Hector Rusthenford Guerrero in an airstrike on his compound in rural Venezuela. He has long accused Guerrero's organization, also known as TDA, of terrorizing communities across the United States, where it has been linked to extortion rackets, drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

The group was listed as a foreign terrorist organization by the State Department last year, with federal prosecutors accusing Guerrero of shipping drugs to the U.S. and organizing acts of terror across borders, including the murder of a Venezuelan dissident in Chile.

Venezuela's government said in a statement Friday that it worked with the U.S. to kill the gang leader, also known as El Niño Guerrero, and described the airstrike as part of a "joint operation" to fight organized

crime.

Strike in a key mining area

Venezuela's government said the strike occurred in southeastern Bolivar state, an area where various criminal groups, including Colombian rebels, have been running illegal gold mines for more than a decade.

Venezuelan authorities ramped up operations against illegal mining this week, with helicopters shooting at wildcat miners to try to get them to clear the area's open-pit mines.

Bram Ebus, a consultant for the International Crisis Group who researches organized crime in the Amazon basin, said that the recent operations, including the attack on Guerrero's compound, could be part of a broader push to pave the way for foreign investment in Venezuela's mining sector, which has long been hampered by the presence of criminal groups.

After the Trump administration arrested Venezuela's then-President Nicolas Maduro in January during a pre-dawn raid, Venezuela's interim government has passed laws that facilitate foreign investment in the oil and mining industries.

"We know that Venezuela's minerals, including gold and critical minerals, are on the menu of Trump," Ebus said. "This operation cannot be seen apart from Washington's bigger push to access Venezuela's natural resources."

Shifting US operations against foreign criminal groups in Latin America

The U.S. has long supported law enforcement agencies in Latin American countries, including Colombia and Mexico, with training, weapons and logistical support to fight drug cartels and organized crime.

"Instead of aiding other militaries to carry out operations, they are now happy to carry out these attacks on their own," said Adam Isacson, national security expert at the Washington Office on Latin America, a foreign policy think tank based in Washington, referring to the Trump administration.

The U.S. recently launched joint military operations with Ecuador's government against drug traffickers near the Colombian border, while Trump has repeatedly pressed Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to allow the U.S. to conduct strikes against drug cartels in Mexico. The New York Times reported in May that Guatemala agreed to let the U.S. conduct strikes on its territory, which the Guatemalan president denied.

Trump-aligned Latin American governments could allow direct U.S. strikes against criminal groups in their territory in the following months — if courts in those countries allow it, Isacson said. But this approach poses risks.

"U.S. personnel could be killed or hurt," he said. "There's also the risk that the U.S. could get its intelligence wrong and kill innocent citizens of other countries on their soil, or that U.S. personnel could be working hand in glove with militaries that are carrying out human rights abuses in the same operation."

Impact of El Niño Guerrero's death on the drug trade

Isacson explained that while killing Tren de Aragua's kingpin serves as a victory for the Trump administration, there is no clarity on how the group's finances or its links to corrupt officials have been affected.

"The kingpin strategy has been questioned for decades now," Isacson said. "U.S. prisons are full of cartel leaders, from 'El Chapo' Guzman to the leaders of the Cali Cartel, and the amount of drugs produced has only increased or stayed the same."

Tren de Aragua is a minor player in the global cocaine industry involved in drug shipments leaving Venezuela, so analysts don't expect the killing to drastically change the flow of drugs to the U.S. TDA also takes a cut from illegal gold mining.

Isacson said that outside of Venezuela, the group engages in less profitable crimes, such as extortion and human trafficking.

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Trump and Pakistan say Iran deal could be signed Sunday but Tehran signals more time is needed

By MUNIR AHMED, SAMY MAGDY and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Key mediator Pakistan on Saturday said a deal to end the Iran war was closer than ever and U.S. President Donald Trump asserted it would be "signed tomorrow," while Iran made some of its most optimistic statements yet but indicated a bit more time was needed.

Trump said the Strait of Hormuz would open immediately after the signing.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said a deal was expected to be finalized within 24 hours. Each side was expected to sign electronically. Pakistan's foreign ministry said the signing ceremony was scheduled for Sunday but did not provide details.

Iran foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei in statements carried by state media said the signing "will not happen tomorrow," but "the likelihood of finalizing the memorandum of understanding in the coming days is high."

A tenuous ceasefire has been in place since April 7. Trump has asserted multiple times in recent weeks the countries were on the cusp of a deal.

Iran has long expressed wariness in negotiations, pointing out that previous talks with the U.S. last year and early this year ended with attacks by the U.S. and Israel.

Trump to discuss demining the strait at G7 summit

Trump was expected to discuss demining the Strait of Hormuz during the Group of Seven summit that starts Monday.

A senior U.S. official, who briefed journalists on condition of anonymity under rules set by the White House, said Trump planned to meet on the G7 sidelines with the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and United Arab Emirates to discuss efforts to wind down the war.

G7 members Britain and France have expressed interest in assisting with demining once the conflict is paused.

It was not clear how many mines are in the strait that Iran has effectively controlled since shortly after the war began, virtually shutting down oil and natural gas shipments from the Persian Gulf. The U.S. has blockaded Iranian ports in response.

The nuclear issue remains elusive

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said the memorandum of understanding under discussion was focused on ending the war and "at this stage, it has been decided that there will be no discussion of the nuclear issue."

Iran's nuclear program and highly enriched uranium have long been at the center of tensions with the U.S. and Israel and an international source of concern.

Trump on social media asserted that "when all is calm," the U.S. would go in and "downblend and destroy" the enriched uranium in Iran or in the U.S.

The apparent breakthrough in negotiations came after Iran exchanged fire with the U.S. and Israel earlier in the week, threatening to rupture the ceasefire and push the Middle East back into full-scale war.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted on X on Friday that an agreement "has never been closer." Trump on Thursday claimed significant progress in negotiations, hours after he threatened to seize Iran's oil industry.

Iran's former supreme leader will be buried in July

Iran's state-run television said funeral ceremonies for former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, killed in the war's opening attack, will take place in July.

The funeral, burial and farewell events for Khamenei will occur between July 4 and 9 during Muharram, a traditional period of mourning in the Shiite Muslim calendar.

Khamenei is succeeded by his son, Mojtaba, who is considered less compromising and has not been seen publicly since the war began.

Funeral ceremonies are expected to begin in Tehran and move to Qom, a stronghold of many senior Shiite clerics, then to Mashhad, Khamenei's birthplace. He'll be buried there at the Imam Reza Shrine, considered the holiest place among Shiite devotees.

Khamenei remolded the Islamic Republic following the death in 1989 of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the fiery, charismatic ideologue who led the overthrow of the shah and installed rule by Shiite Muslim clerics.

Khamenei ruled far longer than Khomeini. He greatly expanded the Shiite clerical class and built the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard into the most important body underpinning his rule. The Guard became a military and business behemoth, the country's most elite force and head of its ballistic missile arsenal — a key target for Israel and the U.S. in the war.

A woman's hypothermia death in Pittsburgh after her release from ICE custody is ruled a homicide

By JACK DURA Associated Press

A medical examiner has ruled the death of a Haitian asylum seeker after being released from federal custody a homicide. An attorney representing her family said he expects her relatives to sue Immigration and Customs Enforcement in connection with her death.

Daphy Michel, 31, died March 2. She was found at a bus shelter in Pittsburgh. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office found her cause of death to be hypothermia and ruled the manner a homicide, "indicating the death was caused by the actions of another individual" and should not be interpreted as a declaration of criminal guilt, the office said in a statement. The office released its findings Friday.

Michel was a native of Haiti who was seeking asylum in the U.S. after arriving at the southern border in 2022, said Joseph Patrick Murphy, her family's attorney. She was granted humanitarian parole based on urgent humanitarian need, but she did not live to see a hearing scheduled for two weeks after she died, he said.

The medical examiner's office said Michel was a vulnerable adult "suffering from untreated severe mental health issues and a significant language barrier" at the time of her release on Feb. 27, the office said.

She was arrested last summer for yelling at imaginary people due to her psychiatric challenges, Murphy said. She spent six months in Washington County Jail, where she underwent multiple psychiatric examinations as she awaited her first hearing, he said.

A magistrate said he could not hold her for trial for threatening imaginary people, Murphy said. Afterward, ICE arrested her in her cell, put an ankle monitor on her and took her 25 miles (40 kilometers) away to Pittsburgh, where she sat at a bus shelter for days in winter, he said.

"She was in September clothes and it was February, and the weather overwhelmed her and she went into hypothermia," Murphy said.

The medical examiner's finding of homicide is different from a criminal charge, meaning "somebody did or failed to do something that brought about her demise," Murphy said. He said he expects Michel's family to file a lawsuit against ICE in connection with her death.

In an email, Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Lauren Bis said, "ICE had NOTHING to do with this woman's death. She passed away THREE days after ICE encountered her."

She called Michel "an illegal alien from Haiti" who was placed in removal proceedings after her arrest.

Michel had all her belongings and a fully charged phone when she was released, with public transportation available, Bis said. ICE learned the day after Michel died that her ankle monitor "had been tampered with," but county medical examiner staff "refused to cooperate or even talk with" ICE officials, she said.

ICE called the U.S. Marshals Service, who retrieved the ankle monitor but were refused information about Michel's condition, Bis said. ICE learned of her death via news media, she said.

In a statement, Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato called Michel's death "a tragedy and appears that with a little humanity, it could have been completely avoidable."

U.S. Rep. Summer Lee, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, said her death was preventable and that "she deserved care, shelter, language access, and medical support."

ICE is no longer reporting the deaths of detainees within 30 days of their release from custody, ending a 2021 Biden-era policy. Health experts say the change will reflect fewer deaths than actually occur without addressing issues in medical care.

70 seconds, 26 passes and an iconic World Cup moment for the US and Gio Reyna

By JAMES ROBSON AP Soccer Writer

It might go down as one of the iconic moments of the 2026 World Cup.

It will certainly take something special to eclipse it as the goal of the tournament, even only three days in.

Deep into added time at Los Angeles Stadium and with virtually the last kick of the game, Gio Reyna capped a spectacular 4-1 win for the United States against Paraguay on Friday with an exquisite finish to a wonderful team move.

This was Pochettino-ball at its finest.

"This might be one of the best back-to-front team goals this country and this team has ever put together," Fox TV analyst Stu Holden said.

It might've been even better than that.

Done in 70 seconds

With the clock on 96 minutes and 10 seconds, the U.S. just had to see out time and ensure a Paraguay team that had already pulled one goal back in the second half didn't spark a late rally.

Over the course of the next 70 seconds, Mauricio Pochettino's team put together a 26-pass move from left to right, through defense and attack and left Paraguay's players chasing shadows. Not one Paraguayan got a foot on the ball. Then it was over to Reyna, who went on for a cameo as an 82nd-minute substitute for the outstanding Malik Tillman.

Receiving a pass from Alexander Freeman outside the box, Reyna took one touch to control the ball and another to carry it into the area. Then, with the outside of his right boot and with a touch of curl, he swept the shot past Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill into the far corner to send the U.S. supporters wild one last time.

And they weren't the only ones going crazy. As Reyna wheeled away in celebration, hands covering his ears, he was mobbed by teammates, substitutes and even Pochettino, who raced across the field to join in the moment.

"There's not a whole lot of words to describe the feeling," U.S. captain Tim Ream said after the team's biggest ever World Cup win.

Just like watching Brazil

Such was the U.S. control of the ball that it brought back memories of what many believe to be the greatest ever team goal in the World Cup when Brazil's Carlos Alberto finished off a multi-pass move against Italy in the 1970 final.

That game also finished 4-1 and Carlos Alberto's strike, like Reyna's, came late, in the 86th minute.

A nine-pass move ended with Pele laying the ball off to Carlos Alberto, who drove a low shot into the corner.

The stakes were much higher for Brazil, but for the U.S. it was an opening statement performance against a Paraguay team that had one of the best defensive records among the South American teams during qualification. Pochettino's team already has more goals than the U.S. managed in the entire 2022 tournament where it scored just three and was eliminated at the round of 16.

"Congratulations to Team USA on their Big Win, 4-1, over a very good Paraguay team," President Donald Trump wrote Saturday on his social media site. "Keep it going!"

A taste of what's to come

The U.S. Men's National Team went big when it hired Pochettino, the former Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Tottenham coach in 2024.

There was a run to the Gold Cup final last year and he has not been shy about his ambitions at the

World Cup.

"Why not us?" has become something of a motto going into the tournament.

With extended time to work with the players ahead of the opening game, Pochettino believes the full potential of the team will be seen.

"When you only have few days, you know, to reunite and to play, you only select players, but you cannot coach players," he said Friday. "Only in this type of tournament like the Gold Cup or now the World Cup, because you have preparation, two, three, four weeks, I think that is the only moment that we can coach."

Reyna's goal was a perfect example of Pochettino's insistence of concentrating on the team over individuals.

"One thing we need to praise is the collective effort," the coach added.

Reyna erases pain of 2022

It was a triumphant return for Reyna after controversy in Qatar four years ago for alleged lack of hustle, which nearly got him sent home from that World Cup by then-coach Gregg Berhalter.

Pochettino made the bold call to include Reyna in his squad even though he made just four league starts last season for Borussia Mönchengladbach and none after Dec. 19.

Reyna also took the opportunity to announce that his wife was pregnant by putting the ball under his shirt and sucking his thumb.

"Celebration was for the little one on the way," he later posted on Instagram.

The US has had great goals in the past

Fans will debate whether this was the greatest goal by the USMNT.

In 1989 Paul Caligiuri struck a long-range volley against Trinidad and Tobago that qualified the U.S. for the World Cup for the first time since 1950.

In 1994, the last time America hosted the tournament, Eric Wynalda's free kick against Switzerland earned the U.S. its first point in the World Cup since 1950.

There was also Benny Feilhaber's volley that won the Gold Cup in 2007.

Lebanese army withdraws from southern village after Israeli troops advance nearby

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese army on Saturday withdrew its troops from a base in a southern Lebanese village after Israeli troops advanced in an area nearby, a military official said.

Israel's military appears to be trying to make as many gains as possible in case a U.S.-Iran agreement is reached to end the war in the region, which is likely to include Lebanon.

The departure from the army barracks in Kfar Tebnit came as the Israeli military issued an evacuation warning for about 20 locations, including the southern city of Nabatiyeh and nearby villages.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported airstrikes on Saturday on different villages near Nabatiyeh, including one that killed two people in Deir al-Zahrani. It added that Nabatiyeh was subjected to artillery shelling on Saturday.

A senior Lebanese military official told The Associated Press that the Lebanese army moved its forces from the Kfar Tebnit barracks following an incursion by Israeli forces into the area. The official, who did not elaborate, spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Israeli troops were likely trying to capture the strategic Ali Taher hill on the edge of Kfar Tebnit that overlooks large parts of Nabatiyeh and some of the roads that link the city with nearby villages.

Israeli troops held the Ali Taher hill for 18 years until they withdrew from Lebanon in May 2000.

Hezbollah said in statements that its fighters carried out several attacks on Saturday including a morning one that targeted Israeli troops on the edge of Kfar Tibnit with two drones.

Hezbollah has been using fiber-optic drones since the start of the latest war inflicting casualties among Israeli troops.

In late May, Israeli troops captured a nearby strategic mountain topped with the Crusader-built Beaufort

Castle in the deepest incursion into the country since 2000.

The Lebanese army said that later Saturday an Israeli drone targeted a soldier who was traveling near a hospital in Nabatiyeh, but missed. Later, however, another drone struck the soldier as he traveled on the road linking Nabatiyeh with the nearby village of Kfar Rumman, seriously wounding him.

The push on the edge of Kfar Tebnit came a day after Pakistan's prime minister said that the United States and Iran have agreed to wording of an agreement aimed at ending their war in the Middle East and that mediators are working with both sides to finalize a deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iranian state TV on Friday that both sides were working toward signing an initial agreement declaring an end to the war "on all fronts, including Lebanon."

Senior Hezbollah official Hussein Haj Hassan told Al Jazeera TV that they have been informed by Iranian officials that Lebanon will be part of a future ceasefire deal between the U.S. and Iran.

Iran is Hezbollah's main backer, supplying the group with different types of weapons over the past four decades as well as billions of dollars.

Attacks by Israel and Hezbollah have continued despite a ceasefire that went into effect on April 17 and was renewed several times but remains a ceasefire in name only.

Israel continues to occupy large swaths of southern Lebanon while battling Hezbollah fighters, causing civilian casualties and damage to infrastructure. Hezbollah, which is not part of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon, has launched frequent rocket and drone attacks.

The latest Israel-Hezbollah war began on March 2, when Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel two days after the U.S. and Israel began their attacks on Iran.

More than 3,700 people have been killed in Lebanon in the latest fighting, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. Also, 30 Israeli soldiers and a defense contractor have been killed in or near southern Lebanon, and two civilians have been killed in northern Israel, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

OpenAI hit with multistate probe into possible user harm as its IPO looms

By BERNARD CONDON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — OpenAI received a subpoena from several states as part of a probe into the safety of users of its chatbot as it prepares to offer stock to the public for the first time.

The company behind the popular chatbot, ChatGPT, said it will respond to the inquiry "constructively" and that it already has in place measures to protect its customers.

"AI is a new and powerful technology, and we work every day to safely bring its benefits to people in a responsible way," an emailed statement from a spokesperson said. "We take the concerns raised by state attorneys general seriously."

OpenAI has drawn criticism for ChatGPT allegedly offering encouraging words to users thinking of killing themselves or engaging criminal acts. It also has come under scrutiny for how its uses health data and other personal information of its customers.

On Thursday, the company was sued by a Canadian blaming the chatbot for her daughter's decision to hang herself. Earlier in June, the Florida attorney general sued the company after two separate shootings where alleged gunmen were reported to have asked ChatGPT questions while planning their crimes.

OpenAI said in a statement that its models repeatedly encouraged the individuals to seek real-world support, including from mental health professionals. The company also said it has cooperated with law enforcement in both shooting cases.

The new probe comes just a few day after it filed documents with U.S. security regulators for a highly anticipated initial public offering of stock. Artificial intelligence rival SpaceX celebrated its own IPO on Friday. The rocket maker founded by Elon Musk also runs an AI business responsible for a rival chatbot called Grok.

How governments should respond to the potential for good and possible dangerous of AI is becoming

a big political issue.

Regulators Europe opened investigations into Musk's Grok over antisemitic content and sexualized material, include deepfake nudes. And another chatbot company preparing an IPO, Anthropic, was directed by the Trump administration Friday to shut down two of its online models to users abroad for national security reasons.

The OpenAI subpoena was earlier reported by The Wall Street Journal.

The Associated Press sent emails to a dozen state attorneys general Saturday asking for details of the probe but has not received any responses.

In its statement, OpenAI highlighted measures it has taken to keep children using its chatbot safe.

"Today's ChatGPT includes a more protective experience for minors and people experiencing difficult situations, with safeguards that direct them to real-world resources and trusted human contacts," the statement read in part. "We believe kids should be treated like kids, which is why we built age prediction, released parental tools to guide their children's use of AI, and disallowed advertising that targets kids."

China opposes US move to list top firms as military companies

BEIJING (AP) — China said Saturday it firmly opposed the U.S. adding several prominent Chinese businesses to its list of military companies, and that the move ignored the consensus reached during U.S. President Donald Trump's summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping last month.

The Pentagon on Monday added several non-state-owned Chinese companies, including electric vehicle maker BYD, tech giants Alibaba and Baidu to its list that seeks to identify Chinese companies it deems to have ties to the Chinese military, preventing them from landing U.S. defense contracts.

By adding these firms to the list, "the U.S. side has ignored the consensus reached during the meeting between the heads of state of the two countries in Beijing," a Chinese Ministry of Commerce spokesperson said Saturday in a statement.

The U.S. has "disregarded the overall interests of bilateral economic and trade relations, continuously generalized the concept of national security, and abused state power to unjustifiably suppress Chinese enterprises," the spokesperson added.

BYD, Alibaba and Baidu said earlier there's no basis to include them in the list.

Trump in mid-May visited Beijing in a much-anticipated summit with Xi. The two leaders agreed to boost economic ties between the countries, including China's purchase of more U.S. agricultural products and Boeing jets, and the setting up separate boards of trade and investment.

What to know about a possible deal to end the Iran war

By MUNIR AHMED, WILL WEISSERT and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United States and Iran once again appear close to a deal to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Saturday that a deal aimed at ending the war in the Middle East is closer than ever before and expected to be finalized within 24 hours. Pakistan is preparing for the electronic signing of the agreement, followed by technical-level talks next week.

U.S. President Donald Trump said the deal was "scheduled to get signed tomorrow," and that the Strait of Hormuz would open immediately. But Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said no signing would occur Sunday and left the possibility open for the coming days.

Previous declarations of an imminent breakthrough failed to materialize.

Iran exchanged fire with the U.S. and Israel earlier in the week, threatening to push the region back into a full-scale war. The war launched by the U.S. and Israel on Feb. 28 has rattled the region and virtually shut down oil and natural gas shipments from the Persian Gulf. A fragile ceasefire has been in place since April 7.

Here's what to know:

A 60-day period would address Iran's nuclear program

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Friday the terms of dealing with Iran's nuclear program would be finalized in the 60 days after the initial agreement is signed and that the parties could decide to extend that period.

The U.S. and Israel fear Iran's nuclear program could lead to an atomic weapon — a main reason their leaders cited for going to war. Tehran has insisted its nuclear efforts are for peaceful purposes.

A senior U.S. administration official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said Friday that the emerging agreement would begin the process of destroying or removing Tehran's highly enriched uranium.

The official said the 60-day period after both sides sign the deal would be used to work out technical details for removing the uranium. The official did not say who the U.S. envisions taking charge of removing the uranium, which is believed to be entombed under three nuclear sites battered by U.S. strikes last year.

The deal may include addressing reopening the Strait of Hormuz

The U.S. official said the emerging agreement includes provisions for reopening the strait.

Araghchi said Iran wants a deal that allows Tehran to charge ships "for services rendered" when they transit the strait. Iran imposed a toll system during the war, which the U.S. and other nations have said violates international law.

Transit through the strait, a vital shipping lane for oil and natural gas, has disrupted global energy supplies, driven up fuel prices and made food and other basics like fertilizer more expensive well beyond the region.

The agreement would include Iranian sanctions relief

Three regional officials said the emerging deal was expected to include the phased lifting of sanctions on Iran and the release of frozen Iranian assets. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the negotiations.

They said they expect a signing ceremony for the agreement in the coming days after officials in Washington and Tehran approve it.

What will happen to Lebanon remains unclear

Iran has insisted that any deal must also include a ceasefire in Lebanon, where Israel has been fighting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz warned Friday that Israel could still act independently toward Iran and that the country would not pull out of the zones it is occupying in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza, nor would it withdraw from the northern refugee camps of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Fighting continued in southern Lebanon on Saturday.

Judge orders Trump administration to restore National Park changes at sites that 'disparaged' US

By HALLIE GOLDEN and KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

A federal judge on Friday ordered the Trump administration to restore sites changed under an executive order calling for the nation's museums, parks and landmarks to not display elements that "inappropriately disparage Americans past or living."

The preliminary injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Angel Kelley in Massachusetts also orders a pause on any additional changes, writing that the plaintiffs have shown that these efforts are meant "to rewrite the Nation's history with a white-out pen."

"History cannot be faithfully told while excluding the experiences of communities whose contributions, struggles, and achievements form an important part of our Nation's story," the judge wrote.

The Trump administration must also provide a status report every week describing the progress they've made with these changes, the judge wrote.

"Under the guise of promoting American dignity, this Administration seeks to share a limited history by ordering the removal of all signs, displays, and interpretive exhibits at National Parks that do not align with its preferred narrative, thereby telling half-truths," Kelley wrote.

The order comes in response to a February lawsuit filed by conservation and historical organizations over National Park Service policies that the groups say have forced park service staff to remove or censor dozens of exhibits that share factually accurate and relevant U.S. history and scientific knowledge, including about slavery and climate change.

Many of the changes were at Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park, where the administration removed exhibits on the lives of nine people enslaved at the site in the 1790s under George Washington, the first U.S. president. Other changes included removing a sign at Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument in Arizona describing basalt bubbles because it had an image of a visitor holding a Pride flag while films on labor history were removed from the Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts.

President Donald Trump signed the executive order "restoring truth and sanity to American history" at the nation's museums, parks and landmarks last year. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum later directed removal of "improper partisan ideology" from museums, monuments, landmarks and other public exhibits under federal control.

An email seeking comment from the Interior Department was sent Saturday.

Alan Spears, senior director for cultural resources for the National Parks Conservation Association, one of the organizations that brought the lawsuit, said the ruling will help protect national parks from the administration's effort "to erase history and science at these one-of-a-kind places."

"National parks belong to the American people and censorship of any kind goes against the values these places represent," he said.

Bill Wade, executive director for the Association of National Park Rangers, another organization that brought the lawsuit, said this is especially good news for National Parks employees who "have prided themselves for being able to provide truthful, accurate and unbiased information."

Some people are making guns with 3D printers. A new law seeks to cancel their print jobs

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

A first-of-its-kind law in New York could force 3D printers sold for homes and business to come equipped with technology blocking them from making guns.

The new requirement, also under consideration in California, attempts to thwart the latest technique for producing untraceable "ghost guns" that have turned up in crimes. But there are questions about whether the technology can work and concerns about its effect on personal privacy and constitutional rights.

About one-third of U.S. states already have taken steps to ban or regulate build-it-yourself firearms that lack serial numbers and evade the background checks required to purchase guns from federally licensed dealers. What makes the new effort unique is that it targets the equipment used to produce the firearms, not the people who make them.

The blocking technology being pushed in two of the nation's most populous states has the potential to set industry standards for 3D printers. It also could serve as a model for other Democratic-led states wanting to add to their gun regulations, which often already ban certain semiautomatic weapons and allow firearms to be temporarily confiscated from people deemed to pose a threat to themselves or others.

More privately made guns are being used in crimes

Three-dimensional printers have become increasingly common over the past couple of decades.

Since 2012, the number of 3D printers worldwide has grown from an estimated 30,000 to over 3 million while the industry's value has multiplied from around $2 billion to $26 billion annually, said Bill Decker, executive chairman of the Association of 3D Printing. Though high-end printers cost thousands of dollars, some 3D printers now can be bought for as little as several hundred dollars.

The devices can make toys, prosthetic limbs and even airplane parts. They also can make firearms — or the pieces necessary to assemble them — using digital designs available online. Homemade guns that lack serial numbers often are called "ghost guns," because they are hard for law enforcement officers to trace.

Firearms made with 3D printers are increasingly being used in crimes, according to a U.S. Department

of Justice report released last year. The number of privately made guns recovered in crimes and submitted to federal authorities rose from about 1,600 in 2017 to nearly 27,500 in 2023, though the report didn't specify how many came from 3D printers.

In a high-profile New York case, police say a 3D-printed gun likely was used to kill UnitedHealthcare's CEO in 2024.

How 3D printers could refuse to make gun parts

A New York law signed last month and a bill in the California Legislature both would direct panels of experts to come up with standards for firearm blueprint detection algorithms. The technology would analyze every design submitted for 3D printing, compare it to a digital library of firearm parts, and reject those that are similar.

Though the study process would start now, the mandate that 3D printers come equipped with firearm blocking technology wouldn't begin until 2029 — or later, in New York's case, if the study group determines it's not yet feasible.

The concept is a bit like a smartphone app that identifies trees or flowers from an uploaded photo, said Solomon Diamond, an associate engineering professor at Dartmouth College who was among several experts at a recent online seminar about the legislation.

For 3D printers, one possible method could use a geometric analysis of shapes, dimensions and other structural features to reject print projects that closely resemble firearm parts.

"Geometric search is mature, it's deployed, it is ready to be applied to this problem," said Julian Chultarsky, a technical account manager at Physna, a Columbus, Ohio-based company that develops such technology.

Could 3D printers block both too little and too much?

The Association of 3D Printing supports the legislation in New York and California, but "it's not going to work," Decker said. "It's more of a political statement than anything else."

Criminals still will come up with ways to make guns from 3D printers, either by altering their designs or taking their printing projects elsewhere, Decker said.

The more aggressive the technology becomes, the more likely that it also blocks unintended items, said Rory Mir, director of open access and technology community engagement at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit digital rights group. Some harmless pipes might look like gun parts, or an S-shaped wall hanger might resemble an auto sear trigger used to modify a semiautomatic weapon into a machine gun.

"These sort of censorship algorithms don't work, and they wind up capturing and blocking a lot of lawful speech," Mir said.

If print instructions are submitted for a cloud-based artificial intelligence search, it also risks the privacy of people's artistic and proprietary creations, Mir said.

Does the right to bear arms extend to making them?

Gun safety advocates say 3D printers have created a new pathway for people who cannot legally purchase firearms — like children or convicted felons — to nonetheless obtain them. Eleven states already generally prohibit 3D-printed guns, and six additional states require them to receive serial numbers, according to Everytown for Gun Safety.

Blocking the actual 3D printing of firearms could make it harder for people to ignore such laws.

"3D printing really is the new frontier of the fight against ghost guns," said Samuel Levy, director of policy advocacy at Everytown for Gun Safety.

The National Rifle Association might partly agree with that assertion, though it disagrees with the policy.

"Despite desperate fear-mongering campaigns, homemade firearms are nothing new — they are a proud, time-honored American tradition dating back to the founding of our Republic," John Commerford, executive director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action, said in a statement. He added that "these measures only restrict responsible Americans — who do follow the law — from participating in constitutionally protected activities."

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Ukrainian drone strike kills 1 in southern Russia and triggers fire at sea terminal

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A Ukrainian drone attack killed one person and injured three in Russia's southern Krasnodar region, local officials said Saturday, as part of Kyiv's campaign of strikes on military and energy targets deep inside Russia.

Drone debris sparked a fire at a sea terminal, local Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev said. He did not give details, but Russian news outlets reported that a Black Sea export terminal transporting terminal crude oil, petroleum products and liquefied gas in the village of Volna was damaged.

Ukraine's General Staff did not comment on the Krasnodar strike Saturday, but said that its forces had hit an oil preparation and pumping station overnight in Russia's Volgograd region, as well as Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine's Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

The attack comes after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country's forces had struck several military and energy infrastructure sites deep inside Russia, including a military factory that he said supplied components for Russian drones and missiles.

He said Wednesday that Ukrainian FP-5 Flamingo long-range missiles had hit the facility in Cheboksary, in the Chuvashiya region, more than 900 kilometers (560 miles) from the front line.

At the moment, he's not scheduled to hold one-on-one talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, who will be in Evian-les-Bains for the Group of Seven summit, according to a senior U.S. administration official who briefed reporters on planning for the summit. The official spoke on the condition anonymity on ground rules set by the White House.

Trump and Zelenskyy last met in December, when the Ukrainian leader visited Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida.

The U.S.-Israeli war with Iran and the resulting global energy disruptions have overshadowed the conflict in Ukraine and pulled much of Trump's attention away from the conflict in Europe that he vowed to quickly bring to an end during his 2024 White House run.

More than four years since the start of Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine, the more than 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line has remained largely static as swarms of drones hinder advances. As a result, both sides have increasingly relied on long-range strikes.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to strengthen air defenses after Ukrainian attacks set ablaze an oil terminal in St. Petersburg and also hit a nearby naval base, casting a cloud over a showcase economic forum in his hometown.

Elsewhere, Russian attacks injured nine people in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region, setting fire to a local marketplace, regional authorities said.

Russia attacked three districts of the region more than 20 times with drones and aerial bombs, according to regional head Oleksandr Hanzha in a Telegram post on Saturday. Six were hospitalized including a man in critical condition, he added.

Gilgo Beach killer writes to other jailed murderer, reads crime novels behind bars, sheriff says

By PHILIP MARCELO and JULIE WALKER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Manhattan architect who lived a secret life as the Gilgo Beach serial killer has spent the past three years alone in a segregated cell, reading crime novels and occasionally being visited by his lawyers or family, according to the sheriff who oversees the jail.

Rex Heuermann also struck up a brief correspondence with Keith Hunter Jesperson, the infamous "Happy Face Killer " who confessed to killing eight women across the country in the 1990s, said Suffolk County Sheriff Errol Toulon.

The sheriff said it was Jesperson, who is serving multiple life sentences without the possibility of parole in Oregon, who wrote first to Heuermann at the jail in Riverhead, New York, where he's been held since

his arrest in July 2023.

Heuermann wrote back, but hasn't responded to several follow-up missives from Jesperson, according to Toulon, who spoke to The Associated Press ahead of Heuermann's sentencing Wednesday.

He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole after pleading guilty to murdering seven women and admitting in April that he killed yet another woman.

Toulon said "other fanatics" have also tried to reach out, but Heuermann has denied "all visits or any communication," including from news outlets seeking interviews.

Gloria Allred, a lawyer for some of the Long Island victims' families, dismissed Heuermann and Jesperson as "losers" and "cowards" and urged people to commit to ending violence against women.

"They both murdered someone's daughter, someone's mother, someone's sister," she said in a statement. "They chose the most vulnerable victims."

Most of Heuermann's victims were female sex workers whose dismembered remains were found off a remote ocean parkway near Gilgo Beach, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Manhattan.

Jesperson met many of his victims while working as a truck driver. He was dubbed the Happy Face Killer because he drew smiley faces on taunting letters he sent to media and police.

Macabre reading list gives insight to mindset

Heuermann has been a voracious reader in jail, but Toulon said the inmate's preference for violent crime and mystery novels -- some about serial killers -- concerns him.

Some of the works he's recently borrowed from the jail library include J.D. Robb's "Portrait in Death," John Sandford's "Secret Prey," Heather Graham's "Picture Me Dead," Sue Grafton's "N is for Noose" and Lisa Jackson's "Chosen to Die," according to Toulon.

"He's not taking out sports books or cooking books, you know," the sheriff said. "He's choosing to read about this."

Toulon, who was elected in 2017 after decades working for the New York City corrections department, said Heuermann's demeanor has remained unchanged through more than 1,000 days of incarceration.

"He doesn't seem uncomfortable in his cell," the sheriff said. "No emotion, no despair."

"Every time you see him, it's the same stoic look that he has when you see him in the courtroom," Toulon continued. "There's no remorse."

Days spent under close supervision

The large, hulking Heuermann is housed in a standard, 6-by-9-foot cell equipped with a metal sink, a metal toilet and a bed with a "very thin mattress," according to Toulon.

Cells in the unit are all in view of correction officers, he said. The department also beefed up staff after Heuermann's arrest, but purposefully did not assign any female correction officers to the unit, and no staff is allowed in unless authorized to work there.

"One of the things that we wanted to ensure when he came into our custody is that justice was served in the courts and not in our jails," Toulon said.

Inmates in the unit are served three meals a day, all in their cells, Toulon said. There's no common area, and they can only see the communal television through the bars of their cells.

Heuermann remains segregated anytime he leaves his cell — officers pause all other inmate movement to avoid interactions, he said.

He showers alone, and while he gets fresh air in the jail yard up to six days a week alone, he isn't particularly active, according to Toulon.

"He does not play basketball, doesn't do any sprints. He does not do any dips, pullups, or situps or pushups," the sheriff said. "He just basically just walks around in circles in the yard."

Heuermann sees visitors in a designated meeting area where his handcuffs are removed and where inmates are allowed to embrace or kiss their visitors once at the beginning and end of the meeting. He's sat face-to-face with his ex-wife Asa Ellerup, their grown daughter Victoria, his attorneys, his therapist and a few others.

"He does not have an extensive visit list," said Toulon.

Heuermann's family won't attend his sentencing

Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney's office, which is prosecuting the case, declined to comment on Heuermann's life behind bars. Nor did his family.

His ex-wife and two grown children said through their lawyers that they won't be attending the sentencing, where some of the victims' families are expected to face Heuermann and deliver emotional statements.

"Out of respect for those who have endured unimaginable loss and suffering, she does not wish her presence to distract from the purpose of these proceedings," said Robert Macedonio, Ellerup's attorney. "Her thoughts remain with the victims and their loved ones as they continue their pursuit of justice, healing, and closure."

America In Focus: Inflation hits 3-year high, Wall Street rallies and Musk becomes a trillionaire

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

The economy, inflation and how those forces could impact the lives of Americans were front and center over the past week. Trips to the grocery store or gas station are more painful than they were last year, and rising costs are impacting the decisions of both households and businesses.

Here's a snapshot of prominent economic data and news that occurred over the past week and what it potentially means for you.

Elon Musk becomes the world's first trillionaire

The world's richest man has become its first trillionaire.

Shares in Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX soared 25% after opening for trading Friday, an auspicious start for history's biggest initial public offering and enough to push the net worth of its founder and CEO over the trillion dollar mark.

That price gave the company a market value of $2.21 trillion. Musk, who also is a major shareholder and CEO of Tesla, is now worth an estimated $1.1 trillion, according to Forbes.

Inflation hits 3-year high

Rising gas prices pushed inflation to its highest level in three years last month, a headache for the Federal Reserve and a potential political challenge for the Trump administration as midterm elections near.

Consumer prices rose 4.2% in May from a year earlier, the Labor Department said Wednesday, up from 3.8% in April and the third straight increase. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.5% last month, after big gains of 0.6% in April and 0.9% in March.

Outside energy costs, price increases were not as dramatic, a sign that inflation hasn't yet spread throughout the economy. Should the Iran war end and oil and gas prices decline, headline inflation could begin to cool. Gas prices have fallen this month.

US producer prices spike in May at fastest pace in more than 3 years

U.S. producer prices climbed last month at the fastest pace since November 2022, fueled by a surge in energy prices after the start of the Iran war.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that its producer price index — which captures inflation before it reaches consumers — jumped 6.5% from May 2025. It rose 1.1% from April, as it did the previous month. Wholesale gasoline prices surged by more than 23% from April to May, and nearly 70% from a year earlier.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core wholesale prices rose 0.4% from April and 4.9% from May 2025.

Social Security's retirement trust fund faces funding shortfall one year earlier than expected

Social Security's retirement trust fund is projected to face a funding shortfall in 2032, a year earlier than last year's projections, according to an annual report released Tuesday, while Medicare's hospital insurance trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits in 2033, which is unchanged from last year's estimate.

Rising healthcare costs and government spending have contributed to a projected depletion date that is less than 10 years from now.

The looming challenge for the programs is a partial funding gap, not a collapse. Even after trust fund depletion, the system will continue issuing benefits, albeit at reduced amounts.

Last year, Medicare's hospital insurance trust fund go-broke date was pushed to 2033 from 2036 the year before that, according to the report from the programs' trustees.

Meanwhile, Social Security's combined trust funds — which cover old age and disability recipients — will be unable to pay full benefits beginning in 2034, unchanged from the 2025 report. After that, incoming revenue would cover about 83% of scheduled benefits.

May home sales surge to fastest pace this year

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes accelerated last month to their fastest pace since December, a sharp turnaround in demand after a lackluster start to the spring homebuying season.

Existing home sales rose 3.2% in May from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.17 million units, the National Association of Realtors said Tuesday. Sales also rose 3.2% compared with May last year.

Home sales increased from a year earlier in the Midwest, South and West, but fell in the Northeast, NAR said.

The latest sales figure topped the roughly 4.07 million pace economists were expecting, according to FactSet.

Home sales have been mostly hovering close to a 4 million annual pace going back to 2023, far short of the historic norm that is closer to 5.2 million.

Average US long-term mortgage rate rises to just below high for the year

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate ticked up this week to just below its high for the year, the latest sign that borrowing costs on home loans remain elevated relative to where they were before the war with Iran started.

The benchmark 30-year fixed rate mortgage rate rose to 6.52% from 6.48% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. Despite the increase, the average rate remains below 6.84%, where it was a year ago.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, often sought by borrowers refinancing a home loan, also rose this week. That average rate climbed to 5.84% from 5.79% last week. A year ago, it was at 5.97%, Freddie Mac said.

When mortgage rates rise they can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, reducing their purchasing power.

Unemployment claims climb modestly

U.S. applications for jobless aid rose modestly last week, but remain at a historically low level despite economic headwinds brought on by the war in Iran.

The number of Americans filing for unemployment aid for the week ending June 6 rose by 4,000 to 229,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's the most since early February, before the U.S. and Israel launched attacks on Iran, but still considered a healthy level. It's also more than the 216,000 new applications forecast by analysts surveyed by the data firm FactSet.

Weekly filings for unemployment benefits are considered a proxy for U.S. layoffs and are close to a real-time indicator of the health of the job market.

Wall Street drifts as oil declines

U.S. stocks rose this week as oil prices continued to retreat.

The S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average both rose. The Nasdaq composite was lower.

Stocks got a lift from a dip for the price of Brent crude oil, deepening its loss for the week. Oil prices have come down since President Donald Trump on Thursday called off his threat to launch strikes on Iran and said a potential deal with Iran may be imminent.

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From rockets to brain implants, here's a look at Elon Musk's vast empire

NEW YORK (AP) — Elon Musk, the world's richest man and now first-ever trillionaire, controls a lot of different businesses.

Electric vehicles. Brain implants. Underground tunnels. A social media platform once called Twitter. And a rocket maker that blasted off its trading from Wall Street this week.

Over time, more and more of these ventures have found themselves under the same roof. Musk merged SpaceX — which went public on Friday — with his artificial intelligence company xAI just earlier this year. But he still holds the CEO role at several corporations today, in addition to other various executive titles or ownership stakes.

Here's a look at Musk's vast business empire.

SpaceX

Musk is CEO of SpaceX, which he founded in 2002. The company has grown far beyond rockets. It owns satellite communications service Starlink, a big source of cash for the company that generated $4.4 billion in operating income last year. SpaceX also houses social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, which Musk bought for $44 billion in 2022 and parked it under xAI, the maker of the Grok chatbot.

Both xAI and X are money losers (the AI business lost $6.4 billion in operations last year). Nonetheless, SpaceX — which lost $2.6 billion overall from operations last year — was able to whip up enough market hype to debut with the biggest initial public offering in history on Friday, closing at just below $161 per share, or a total market value of $2.1 trillion.

Some think that price tag significantly overvalues the company. SpaceX has promised it will become a leader in AI and one day help make human life multiplanetary — with lofty, and at times sci-fi sounding, goals that range from putting data centers in space to colonizing Mars. But the bulk of that hinges on unproven technology and massive capital needs.

Tesla

Musk is also CEO of Tesla, a role he has held at the electric car maker since 2008.

Tesla has struggled with rising competition in the EV space. Last year, the company lost its crown as the world's largest EV maker to China's BYD. Sales were also bruised during boycotts over Musk's politics. Those numbers have since rebounded some, but Musk has repeatedly shrugged off troubles — emphasizing that Tesla's future lies less in car sales than getting people to take rides in them as self-driving taxis.

Beyond the road, Tesla has been upping production of robots for homes and businesses. And it's also been in the solar energy business for about a decade with it purchase of SolarCity, which was founded by Musk and two of his cousins. Tesla went public in 2010, and went on to join the trillion dollar club on the S&P 500. Its market cap currently stands around $1.5 trillion.

Neuralink

Musk has also the CEO title at Neuralink, a brain-computer interface company he co-founded in 2016.

Neuralink is one of many groups working to connect the human nervous system to machines. It's launched clinical trials for people who have spinal cord injuries, ALS and other conditions. The company (and sometimes Musk himself) has announced a handful of brain implants over recent years. In January, Neuralink said it had 21 trial participants worldwide.

The Boring Company

Musk also founded The Boring Company, a decade-old tunnel digging and underground transportation business.

The Boring Company is behind projects like the "Vegas Loop" — a network of underground, Tesla-hailing tunnels that first opened around around the Las Vegas Convention Center in 2021. It's promised to deliver a network of high speed transit — with plans to also make tunnels in Dubai and Nashville. Still, pushback has piled up along the way. The company has been accused of breaking multiple safety and environmental requirements in Las Vegas, where its full route is still unfinished, and other criticism from some local officials in Nashville.

Paypal and other previous endeavors

Musk made his initial fortune by creating two companies, Zip2 and PayPal (once X.com). Those then-startups were sold to new owners decades ago — but netted him about $200 million at sale, which Musk used to later start SpaceX and invest in Tesla.

Today in History: June 14, German troops occupy Paris

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, June 14, the 165th day of 2026. There are 200 days left in the year. This is Flag Day.

Today in history:

On June 14, 1940, German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis transported their first prisoners to the Auschwitz concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

Also on this date:

In 1775, the Continental Army, forerunner of the United States Army, was created by the Second Continental Congress.

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the design of the first "stars and stripes" American flag.

In 1846, a group of U.S. settlers in Sonoma proclaimed the breakaway state of the California Republic, declaring independence from Mexico.

In 1919, British aviators John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown embarked on the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. They flew a twin-engine biplane more than 16 hours and 1,890 miles (3,041 kilometers) from Newfoundland, Canada, to Ireland.

In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court, in West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, ruled 6-3 that public school students could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1972, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered a ban on domestic use of the pesticide DDT, to take effect at year's end.

In 1982, Argentine forces surrendered to British troops on the disputed Falkland Islands, ending the 74-day Falklands War and returning the islands to British control.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced his nomination of Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2005, Michelle Wie, 15, became the first female player to qualify for an adult male U.S. Golf Association championship, tying for first place in a 36-hole U.S. Amateur Public Links sectional qualifying tournament.

In 2017, fire ripped through the 24-story Grenfell Tower residential building in West London, killing 72 people.

In 2018, a Justice Department watchdog report on the FBI's handling of the Hillary Clinton email probe criticized the FBI and its former director, James Comey, but did not find evidence that political bias tainted the investigation.

In 2025, former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband were gunned down at their suburban Minneapolis home in what authorities called a politically motivated killing. Before that, authorities say, the gunman wounded another Democrat, Sen. John Hoffman, and his wife a few miles away. (Vance Boelter has pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder charges in the shootings.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Marla Gibbs is 95. U.S. President Donald Trump is 80. Olympic speed skating gold medalist Eric Heiden is 68. Jazz musician Marcus Miller is 67. Singer Boy George is 65. Tennis Hall of Famer Steffi Graf is 57. Classical pianist Lang Lang is 44. Actor J.R. Martinez is 43. Actor Lucy Hale is 37. Actor Daryl Sabara is 34. Rapper Gunna is 33. Singer Ayra Starr is 24. Actor Tamara Smart is 21.

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