

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, July 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

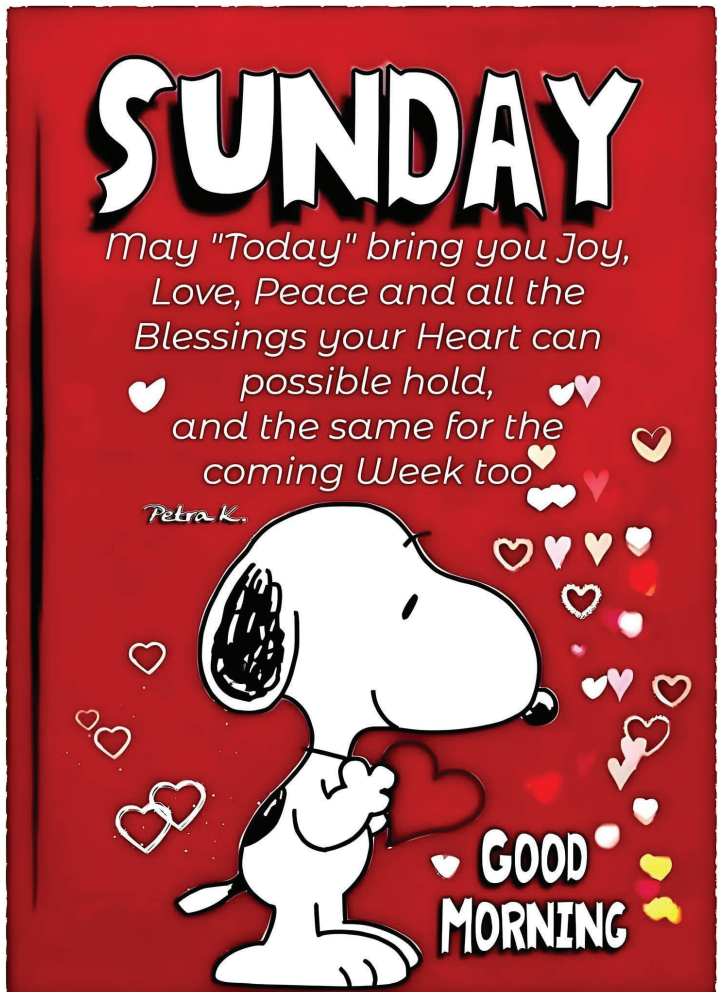
Monday, July 6

Senior Meal: Chef salad with deli ham, tomatoes and cucumbers, fruited Jell-O.

Groton Legion at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

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

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Groton 14U Legion at Webster, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U12 Baseball at Webster, 5:30 p.m., (DH)

U12 Softball (G&B) hosts Sisseton, 6 p.m. (DH)

BBB Open Gym, 6 p.m., Arena

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

Tuesday, July 7

Senior Meal: Sloppy Joe on bun, baked potato, baked beans, fruit.

Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

Groton Legion hosts Aberdeen Smitty's, 5:30 p.m.

Groton 14U Legion at Clark, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U18 Baseball (blue) at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U14 Softball at Mellette, 5:30 p.m.

U10 Softball hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball: at Columbia, 5:30 p.m.

Tiger Skills Workouts, 7:30 a.m., Arena

JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena

United Methodist Bible study, 10 a.m.

Olive Grove: Ladies Bridge/noon League, 6 p.m.

GROTON 1912 ★ HISTORICAL JAIL

★
315 1ST AVE. E, GROTON

Open House

**SUNDAY,
JULY 12,**

★
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
★



★ *Come see the
newly restored jail* ★

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Olive Grove Fire Cracker Tournament

Pictured left to right are Austin and Deb Schuelke, tournament sponsors; Championship flight winners: Susie Souza and Mark Papstein 68-2nd place, Lance and Sammy Bonn 66-Champions and Steve and Kathy Onkka 68-3rd place. (Courtesy Photo)

Championship Flight

66 – Lance & Sammy Bonn
68 – Steve & Kathy Onkka
68 – Susie Souza and Mark Papstein
69 – Connie & Dean Munsch
69 – Keith & Carla Johnson
73 – Ryan Yost & Andi Royal/caba
76 – Austin & Deb Schuelke
76 – Mike & Jeri Kline
77 – Steve & Betty Dunker

First Flight

72 – Ken Lynch & Erika Hunstad
74 – Tom & Pat Price
77 – Nicole & Liam Johnson
78 – Tom Mahan & Mavis Rossow
78 – Kyle & Tyhe Gerlach

Second Flight

77 – Josh Claymore & Madison
78 – Brad & Brenda Waage
80 – Spencer & Kellie Locke
83 – Torre & Denise Raap
83 – Shorty & Julie Fliehs

Third Flight

79 – Brad & Dar Larson
80 – Suzi & Evan Easthouse
82 – Dallas & Sadie Wulff
82 – Marve Bonnet & Barb Gillick
84 – Jon & Mandilyn Fliehs

Fourth Flight

84 – Chad & Michelle Johnson
85 – Jeff & Amy Ringgenberg
95 – Travis Johnson & Gabi Ferrell
96 – Lexi Ferrell & Matt Kinney
101 – Larry & Shirlee Frohling
102 – Porter Johnson & Lily Halling

Longest Putt #9: Ken Lynch

Longest Putt #8: Dean Munsch

Closest to the Star #6: Sadie Wulff

Women's Closest #4: Andria Ruualzaba

Effective Immediately

CITY OF GROTON WATER RESTRICTIONS

*We appreciate your immediate cooperation
to keep our water levels safe.*

If your house number is odd, you may only water
on odd days (& only before 11am or after 6pm).

If your house number is even, you may only water
on even days (& only before 11am or after 6pm).



**Absolutely NO WATERING
between 11am - 6pm.**

Failure to comply will result in fines.
After a warning is issued, fines will start
at \$50 and double with each offense.

Land for Sale

**800 Acres Spink
& northern
Clark County
646 tillable acres,
133 pasture**

**For more info, visit:
www.keminklandco.com**



**Rod Kemink, Broker
605-880-2112
Watertown, SD**

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Hot air balloons dotted the skies over Provo, Utah, the last few mornings. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Thousands of people were on hand to watch the parade in Provo, Utah.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Despite the fireworks ban in Utah, Provo had gotten special permission to have its show. Seven airplanes were constantly flying around the area in a circle monitoring the ground. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Life is messy,
wear an apron ♥

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.”
Psalm 34:8

❖ Ladies Luncheon ❖

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
By Bethesda Women of the ELCA



Silent Auction opens at 10:30



Guest Speaker: Tiffany Hoeft, Bristol
Graduate and owner of “Minds Matter”



Luncheon at Noon

TICKETS
\$15.00

Deadline to purchase
tickets is Friday, July 10



Kay Espeland 605-492-3507



Jane Goehring 605-290-1420



Or contact any WELCA member



Groton Daily Independent

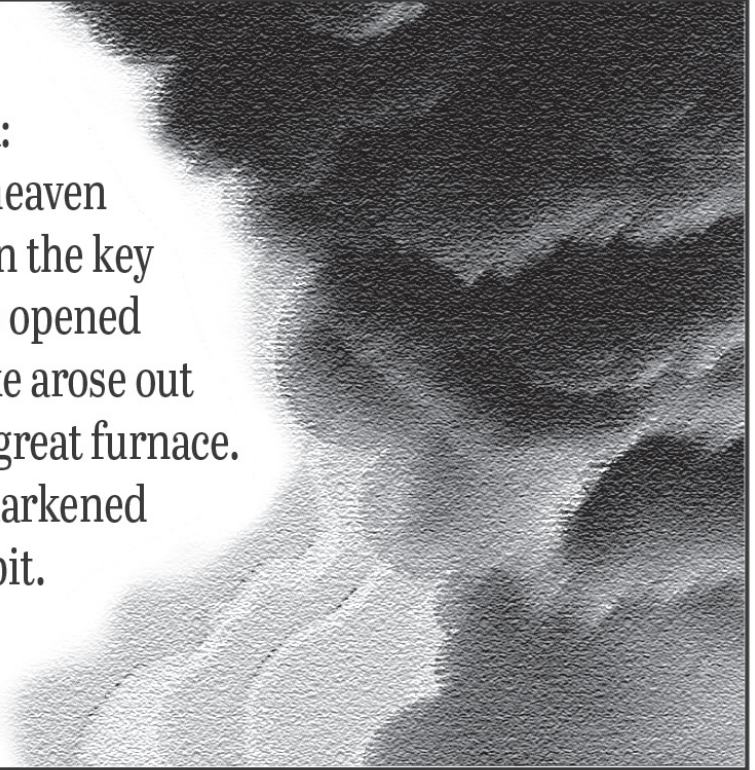
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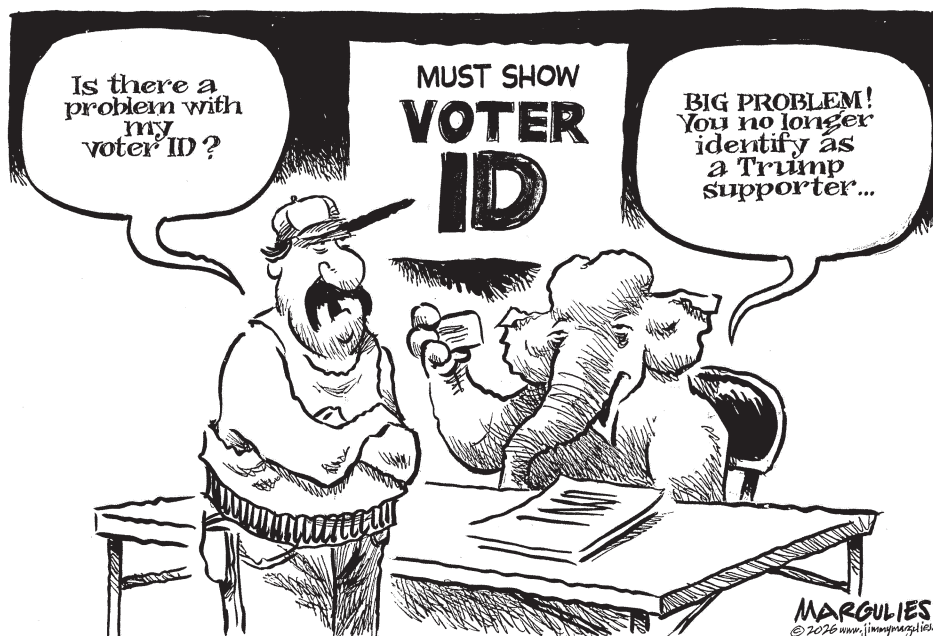
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then the fifth angel sounded:
And I saw a star fallen from heaven
to the earth. To him was given the key
to the bottomless pit. And he opened
the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out
of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace.
So the sun and the air were darkened
because of the smoke of the pit.

REVELATION 9:1,2 



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Nehemiah 10, what was the most common starting letter of the 87 names listing priests, Levites, chiefs and fathers? *C, B, T, H*

3. In Matthew 10:34, who said, "I came not to send peace, but a sword"? *Herod's guard, Judas, Roman centurion, Jesus*

4. Which prophet foretold about the ministry of John the Baptist? *Levi, Isaiah, Aaron, Mordecai*

5. What was unique about Balaam's donkey? *Fast galloper, Could speak, Turned to stone, 6-legged*

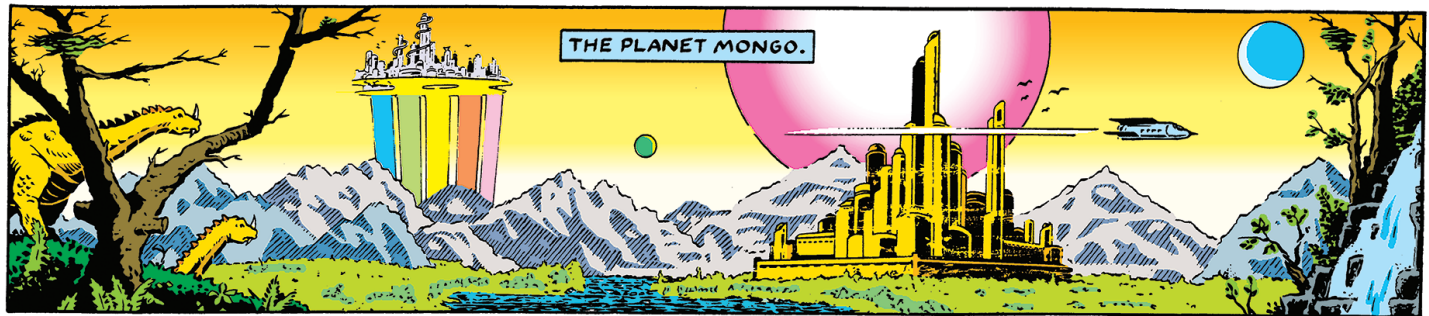
6. From 1 Chronicles 20, Elhanan slew Goliath's ...? *Father, Brother, Mule, Oxen*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) H, 3) Jesus, 4) Isaiah, 5) Could speak, 6) Brother

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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6-20 BY JIM KEEFE

AS THE DAYS PASS, DR. ZARKOV RECUPERATES UNDER AZURA'S CARE.

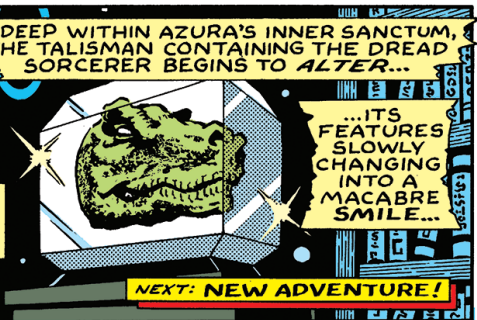
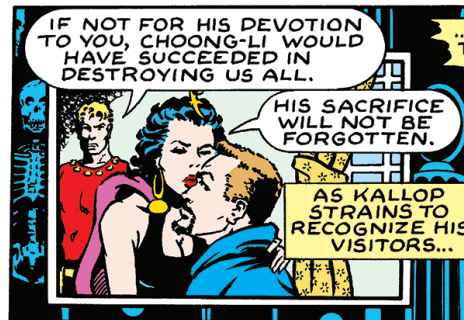
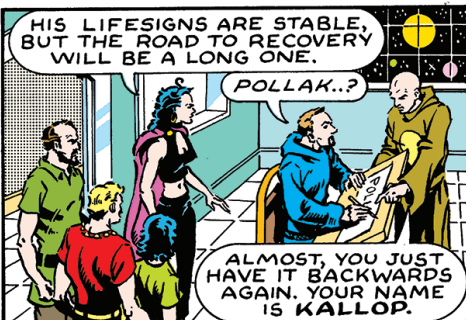
www.kingfeatures.com

NOW THAT ZARKOV HAS RECOVERED, I ASSUME YOU WILL BE TAKING LEAVE OF MY FAIR KINGDOM.

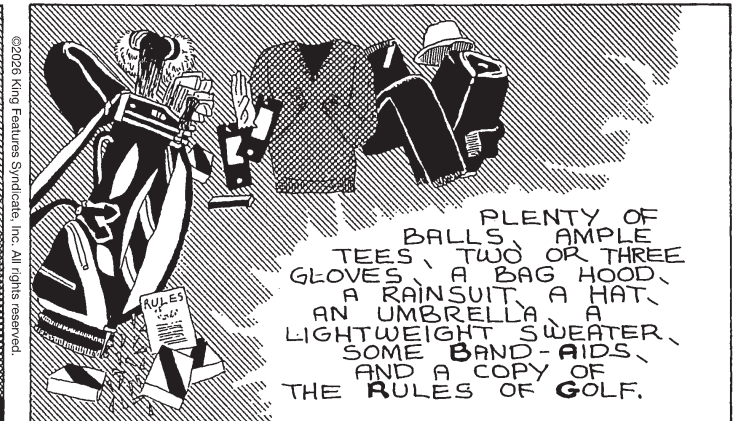
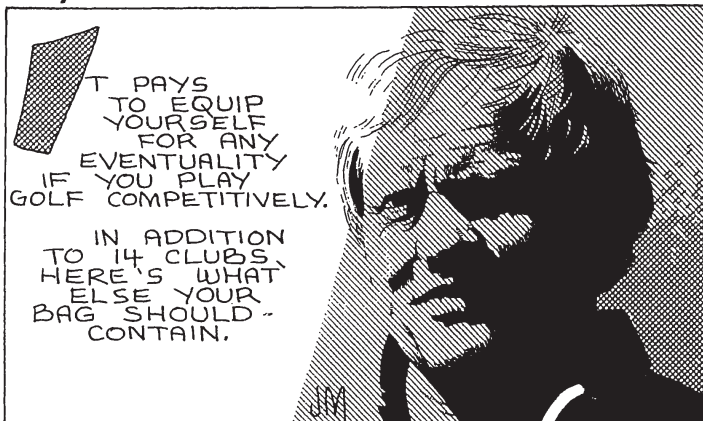
REGRETFULLY SO. I'VE CONTACTED KING BARIN AND WE'RE EXPECTED IN ALANIA.

"URGENT MATTERS" I PRESUME?

HOW IS KALLOP FARING, AZURA? ANY BETTER?



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Gl-1 Agonists Might Help Obese Man With Drinking Habit

DEAR DR. ROACH: My brother-in-law is a lovely man, but for years, he's suffered from obesity. He also gambles and drinks alcohol too much. I hesitate to get too involved, but I recently read that the new weight-loss drugs based on GLP-1 agonists are also helpful in reducing alcohol and gambling addictions. This sounds too good to be true. Is it? -- D.N.A.

ANSWER: The evidence is very strong that GLP-1 agonists like tirzepatide (Zepbound) and semaglutide (Wegovy) help people lose weight. About 80% to 90% of people will experience a weight loss of more than 5% of their initial body weight. For people who are severely obese, people with obesity and metabolic complications (diabetes, prediabetes or metabolic

syndrome), and people with other weight-related complications (sleep apnea and arthritis), the benefits of these medicines probably outweigh the risks just for the weight loss.

The evidence for GLP-1 agonists helping with alcohol use disorder is now quite strong, with studies showing significant reductions in alcohol-related hospitalizations and a reduction in problem drinking. The evidence for gambling disorders is preliminary based on the understanding of how these drugs work in the brain. There aren't any strong clinical data at this time supporting the use of GLP-1 agonists for a gambling disorder.

Still, given the clear benefits in weight reduction and problem drinking, these drugs might be a good choice for your brother-in-law -- if both he and his physician agree. It might also help with his gambling problem, which I've seen take a terrible toll on a person's social and financial life.

Finally, I was supervising a medical resident yesterday when we discussed the effect of these drugs on heart health. The evidence is also strong that these medications decrease the risk of heart disease -- both in people with and without diabetes. Multiple mechanisms have been proposed for this heart protection, but it isn't exactly clear which ones are the most important.

For those of us who lived through the approval of previous weight-loss drugs, which were later found to cause heart damage, the news about heart protection is welcome. Still, we've been using these drugs for less than 10 years, and it's wise to use them only when there's a clear benefit in doing so.

DEAR DR. ROACH: What are the long-term health risks of being exposed to fumes, such as in hair or nail salons or automobile repair shops? Can these fumes affect your internal organs? -- C.R.C.

ANSWER: The primary organ affected by fumes during occupational exposure are the lungs. Chest tightness, wheezing and allergic symptoms are common after an exposure to benzene, formaldehyde, toluene, and other substances that are commonly used in hair and nail salons -- often at levels that exceed the safe thresholds. Half of technicians in one study were affected.

Auto body and paint workers are also exposed to the same (or very similar) chemicals, and they can develop asthma at a rate that is 80 times higher than the general population. In addition to effects on the lungs, occupational exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of some cancers, especially leukemia (benzene), sinus and nasal cancer (formaldehyde), and nervous system cancers (benzene).

Although personal protection equipment can reduce these exposures, many workers don't use them regularly. Improved ventilation and less-toxic chemicals are needed to protect workers.

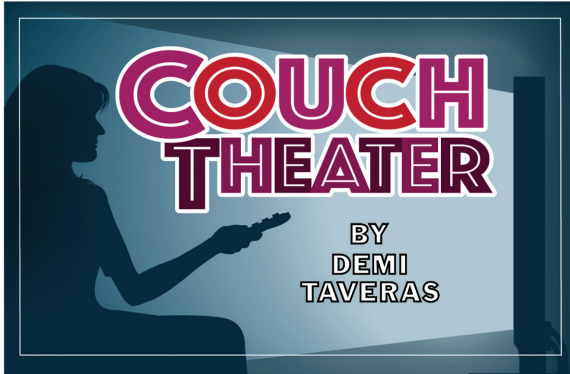
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"Obsession" (R) -- No doubt you've heard the buzz all over the internet about this supernatural horror film! Shot with a budget of \$750,000, this film became Focus Features' highest-grossing film of all time with grosses of \$371 million. "Obses-

sion" follows music store employee Bear (Michael Johnston), who has a crush on one of his co-workers, Nikki (Inde Navarrette). (Sounds normal enough so far.) Before hanging out with Nikki and a few other co-workers, Bear decides to buy her a novelty toy that grants one wish per person when broken. Later that evening, Bear breaks the toy himself in frustration and wishes that Nikki would "love him more than anyone in the world." Shortly after, their relationship finally turns romantic, but what follows isn't for the faint of heart. Out now to rent. (Apple TV)

"Backrooms" (R) -- Eating at the heels of the previous entry is this psychological sci-fi film starring Chiwetel Ejiofor ("The Old Guard 2") and Renate Reinsve ("Sentimental Value"). This film was produced with a budget of \$10 million and has grossed \$330 million, making it A24's highest-grossing film to date. Add on top of it that it was directed by 21-year-old Kane Parsons in his feature-length directorial debut, and it's nothing short of a filmmaking phenomenon. (Parsons also co-scored the film alongside Edo Van Breemen.) Taking place in June 1990, the film follows Clark (Ejiofor), the owner of a furniture store, who struggles with alcohol and marriage issues. While in his store, he encounters a glowing slit in one of the walls, where he's able to enter a chilling reality called "The Backrooms." Eventually, Clark fully disappears into The Backrooms, leaving none other than his therapist, Mary (Reinsve), to attempt to get him out. Available to rent on July 7. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Five-Star Weekend" (TV-MA) -- Jennifer Garner ("The Last Thing He Told Me") leads this heart-warming drama miniseries that drops on July 9, and it's based on the 2023 novel from Elin Hilderbrand. Garner portrays food influencer Hollis Shaw, whose world gets unexpectedly turned upside down when she receives news that her husband died in an accident. Ever productive and stuck in her domestic ways, Hollis decides to host a girls' weekend at her house with four friends from different chapters throughout her life. As Hollis tries to process her grief, each of her friends grapples with obstacles of their own. Regina Hall ("One Battle After Another"), Chloe Sevigny ("After the Hunt"), D'Arcy Carden ("Sunny Nights"), and Gemma Chan ("Josephine") co-star. (Peacock)

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Chiwetel Ejiofor stars in "Backrooms."

(Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

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1. Ian & Sylvia, We Five, Crispian St. Peters and Barry McGuire all recorded which song?
2. Name the group that released "My Eyes Adored You."
3. What was Elton John's first No. 1 song?
4. Who wrote "Billie Jean"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Too many long conversations and no one is hearin' a word, Just tryin' to escape the frustrations till a song in the night can be heard."

Answers

1. "You Were on My Mind." Written by Sylvia Fricker (before she became half of Ian & Sylvia), it was We Five's cover that

stayed at No. 1 of the Easy Listening chart for five weeks.

2. The Four Seasons, in 1974. Due to a record company dispute, only lead singer Frankie Valli's name appeared on the label, even though the whole group recorded the song. It went to the top of the Hot 100 chart.

3. "Crocodile Rock," in Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland and the U.S. in 1972.

4. Michael Jackson, in 1983.

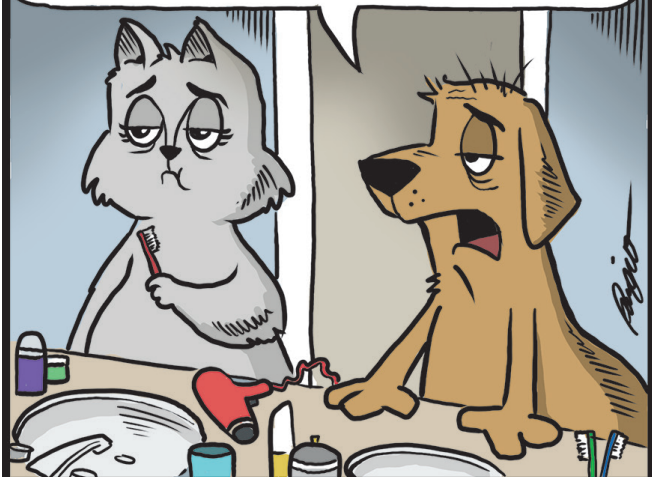
5. "Dancin' Shoes," by Nigel Olsson, in 1978 on his "Nigel" album. The song made it to the Year-End Hot 100 Singles of 1979. Covers were also released by Faith Band in 1978 and Hughie Thomasson in 1999.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

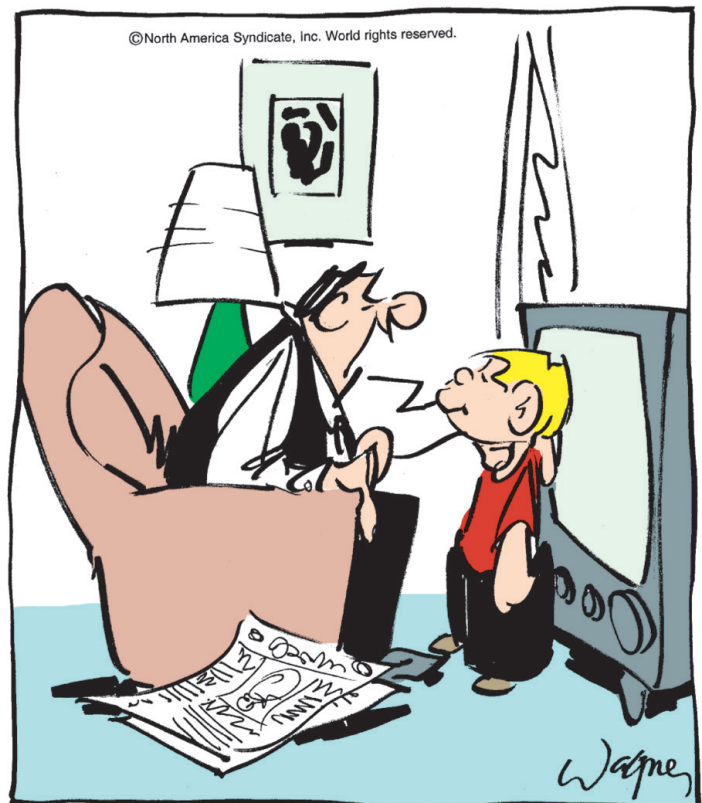
by Dave T. Phipps

I KNOW THEY SAY "YOU'RE ONLY AS OLD AS YOU FEEL," BUT THAT DOESN'T HELP ON MORNINGS LIKE THIS FEELING ABOUT 98.



GRIN^{and} BEAR IT[®] Wagner

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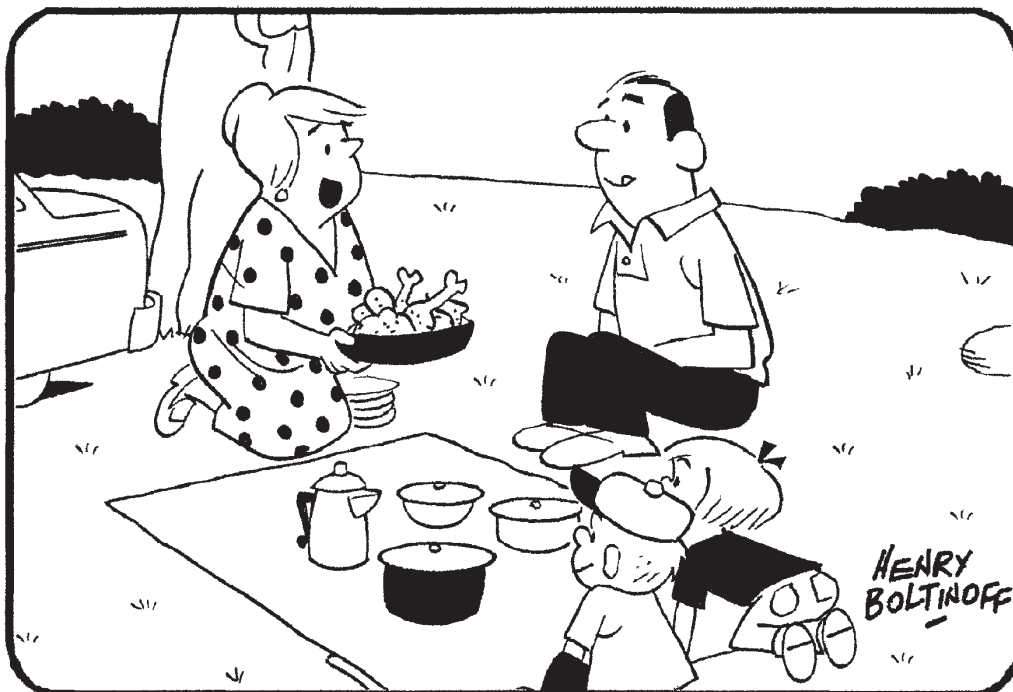
"I'll tell you about the birds and the bees if you'll help me with the computer."

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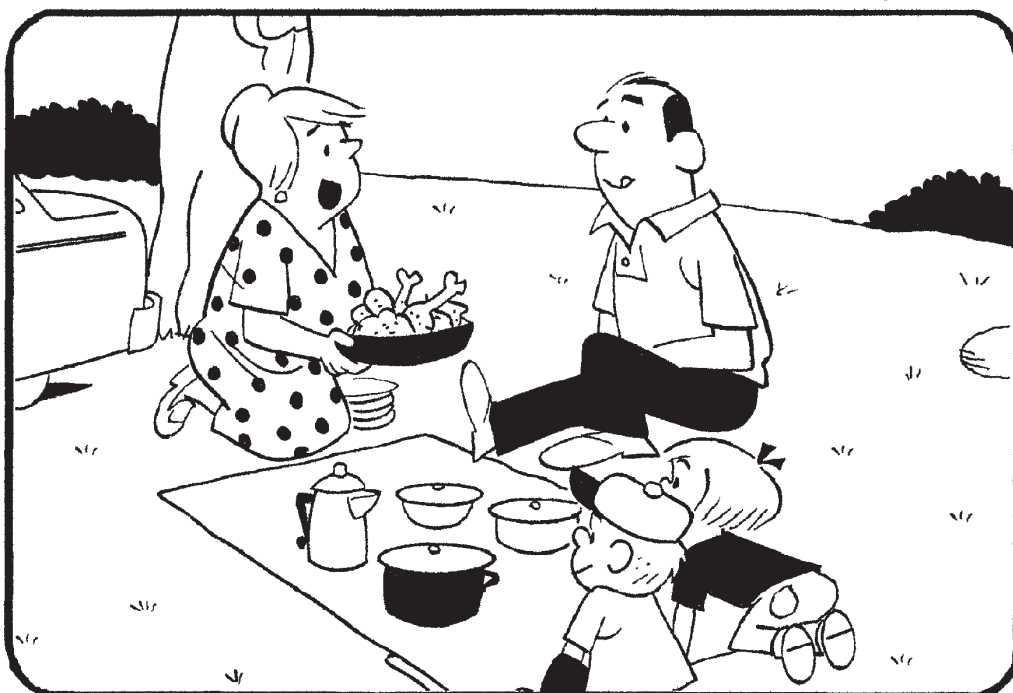
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Pocket is missing. 2. Ear is different. 3. Handle is added to pot. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Bush is smaller. 6. Blanket is smaller.

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* Honey has amazing properties, and one of them is its antiseptic powers. You can even use it on pimples. Just a tiny dab will help keep the bacteria responsible for breakouts from taking over.

* Here's a workout tip: Rotate among a few pairs of running shoes to get the best life out of them. Rotating gives them a chance to dry out between wearings, and runners who practice this have a 39% lower chance of injury, according to a Luxembourg research firm.

* Got poison ivy? The maddening itch might find relief from coffee grounds or a cooled cuppa. It contains anti-inflammatories.

* "Lemon juice can bring out the flavor of mushrooms. I keep a little spray bottle that I found in the travel section of the drugstore to keep lemon juice accessible in the kitchen. I find it's good for all kinds of things, like avocados and apples. I spray the cut side to keep them from browning. It's also great for salad greens." -- T.T. in New Jersey

* "The liners from cereal boxes work really well to store pies in the freezer. They can be stapled shut." -- Y.L. in Indiana

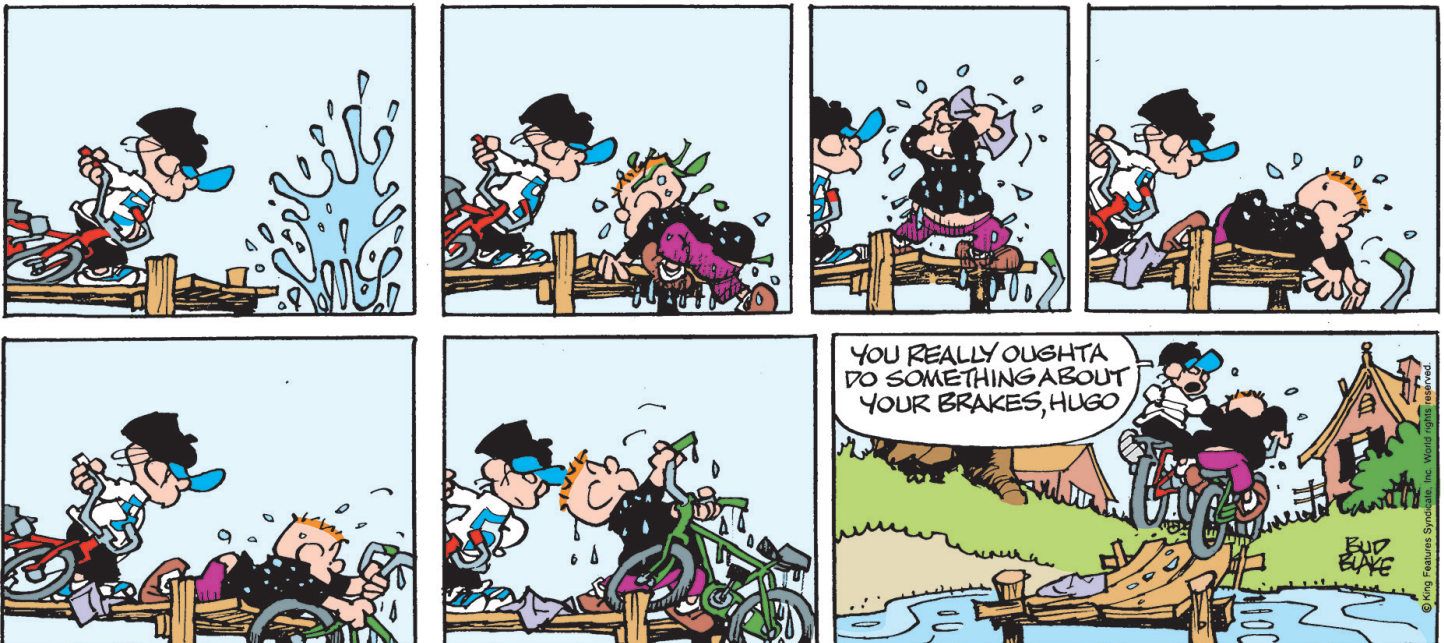
* "Polish wall tiles in the bathroom using car wax. They will repel water really well. Just be sure that you cover the floor before you apply any wax. You do not want to polish your tub, as that is a safety hazard for sure!" -- M.W. in Missouri

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

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 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gas station fixture
5 Doo follower
8 Rabbit's tail
12 Pantene's business
14 Peddled item
15 Figure out
16 "Das Lied von der —"
17 Indian lentil stew
18 iPod accessory
20 Cool veggies
23 1504, in old Rome
24 Fr. holy women
25 Evening affairs
28 Bit of ink
29 "SNL" segments
30 Wager
32 Stockings
34 Ham's dad
35 Resort near Snowbird
36 Tubular pasta
37 As a whole
40 Duo's pronoun
41 Hoopster Malone
42 Strongman of myth
47 Needle case
48 Implanted
49 Lavish affection (on)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15									16			
			17				18	19				
20	21	22				23						
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	32		33						34			
			35					36				
37	38	39				40						
41					42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49					50				51			

- 50 ACLU issues
51 Shakespeare title starter
10 Language of Pakistan
11 Ticked (off)
13 Tax prep pros
19 Broadcasts
20 Chicago winter hrs.
21 Beehive State
22 High-fat diet
23 Kelly of "One Tree Hill"
25 Courtroom artist
26 Black, in verse
27 Penn or Astin
29 Missile shelter
31 Chance — Rapper
33 — Mae (loan offerer)
34 Poet Pablo
36 Brownish purple
37 Scratched (out)
38 Post-WWII alliance
39 Very dry
40 Spheres
43 911 responder
44 "Bad" cholesterol
45 Sushi fish
46 Radical '60s gp.

DOWN

- 1 Third degree?
2 Dubai's country, for short
3 Amp plug-in
4 Lion packs
5 Wonka's creator
6 " — you awake?"
7 Geneticist's study
8 Veer
9 Sugar or starch, for short

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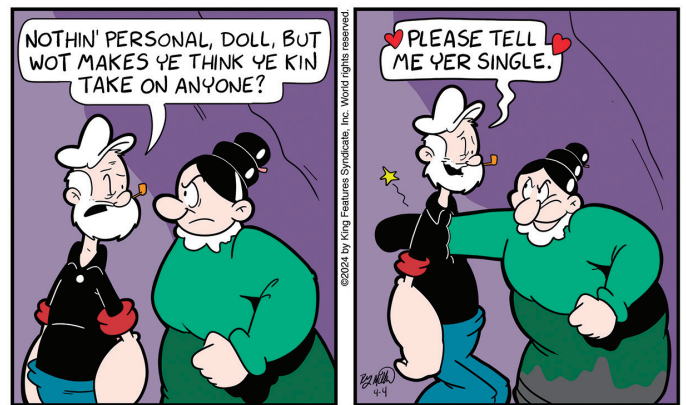
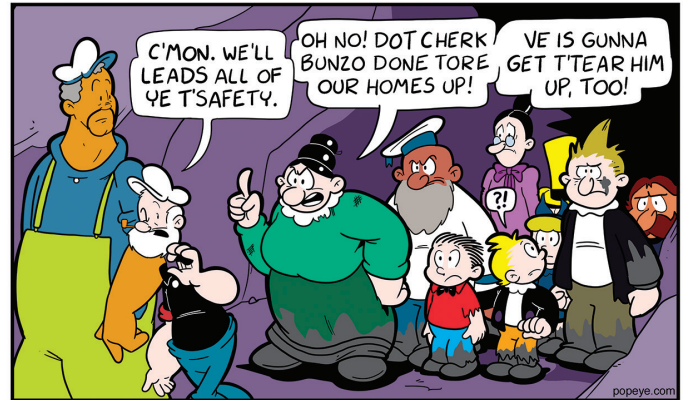
King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

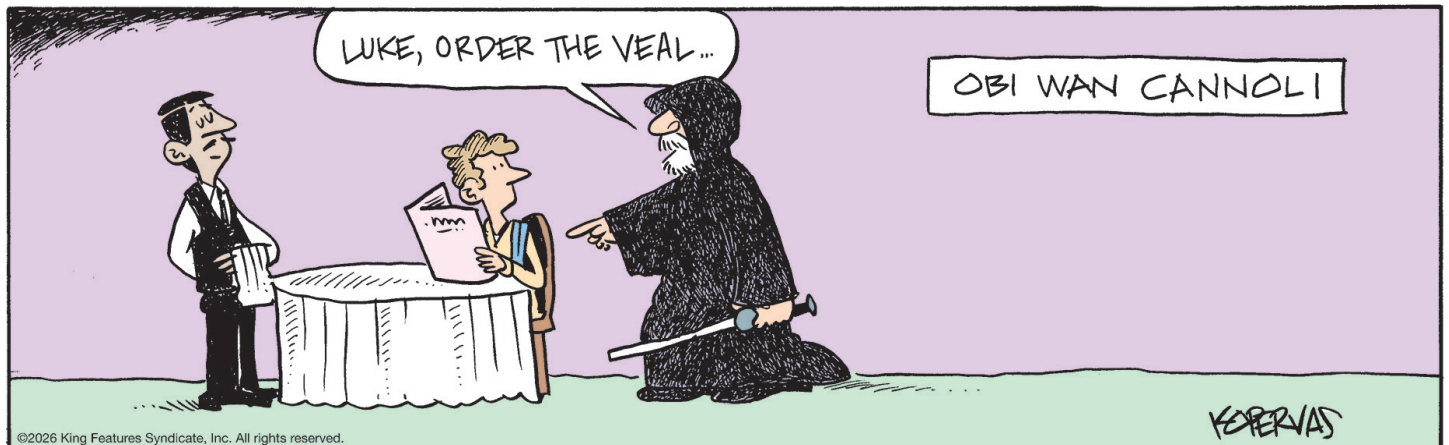
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			D	A	L		E	A	R	B	U	D
C	U	K	E	S		M	D	I	V			
S	T	E	S		S	O	I	R	E	E	S	
T	A	T		S	K	I	T	S		B	E	T
	H	O	S	I	E	R	Y		N	O	A	H
			A	L	T	A		P	E	N	N	E
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E	T	U	I		E	M	B	E	D	D	E	D
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Olive



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

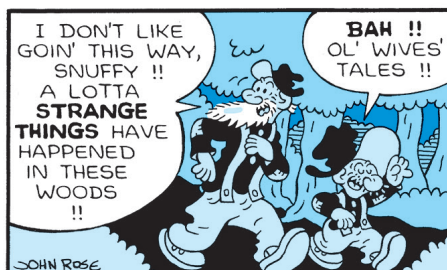
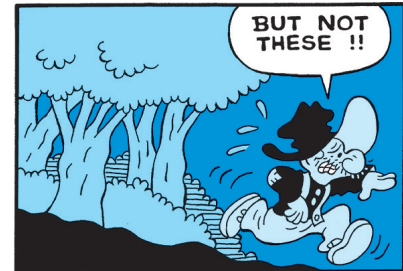
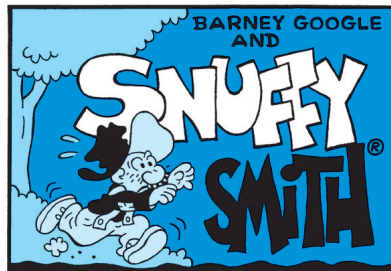
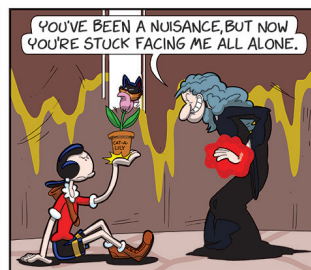
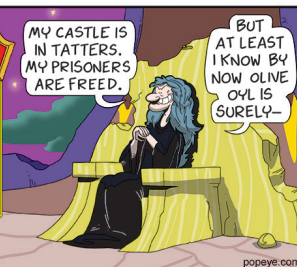
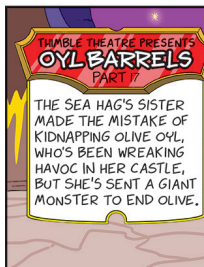
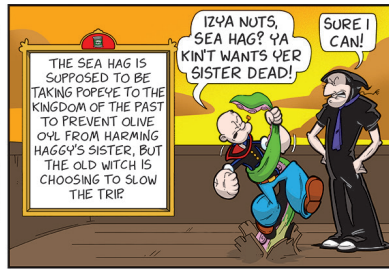
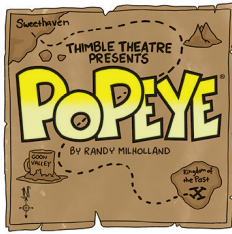


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KOPERVAS

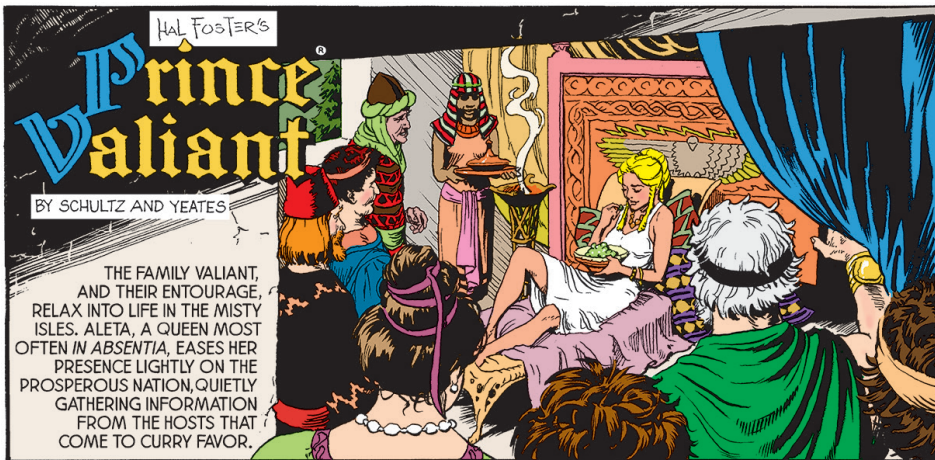
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VALETA AND KAREN ARE LEFT FREE TO TUTOR THE CASTAWAY IMAZIGHEN WOMEN. THIS SEEMS TO INVOLVE MUCH SHOPPING - THE ISLES SURVIVE ON TRADE, AND THE BAZAARS ARE ALWAYS FULL OF EXOTIC MERCHANDISE.



IT FALLS ON VAL TO SUPERVISE THE ACCLIMATION OF HARALDR'S NORSEMEN. THE COSMOPOLITAN ISLES HAVE SEEN MANY NORTHERN VISITORS BEFORE, BUT THESE PARTICULAR WARRIORS HAVE SEEN NOTHING LIKE THIS.

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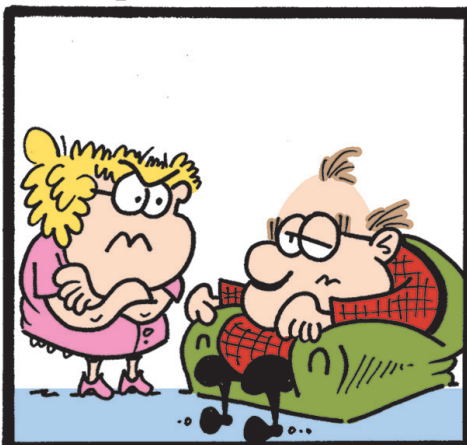


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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

1. Which team completed the largest comeback in NFL history after being down 33-0 at halftime to the Indianapolis Colts and winning 39-36 in overtime of a December 2022 game?
2. How old was PGA of America member Gus Andreone in 2014 when he recorded his eighth hole-in-one?
3. Who became the first woman to win a PDC World Darts Championship match when she bested Ted Evetts 3-2 at the 2020 World Championships?
4. Which Baseball Hall of Famer played shortstop for the New York Yankees (1941-1956) and went on to a 40-year career as a broadcaster for the team?
5. Which player scored a hat trick in a losing effort for France in the final match of the 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament?
6. In December 1976, a small private airplane crashed into the upper deck 10 minutes after the completion of an NFL game at which stadium?
7. Which right winger holds the NHL record for consecutive regular-season games played with 1,064 from 2009-2023?

Answers

1. The Minnesota Vikings.
2. 103.
3. Fallon Sherrock.
4. Phil Rizzuto.
5. Kylian Mbappe.
6. Baltimore Memorial Stadium.
7. Phil Kessel.

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by Ryan A. Berenz

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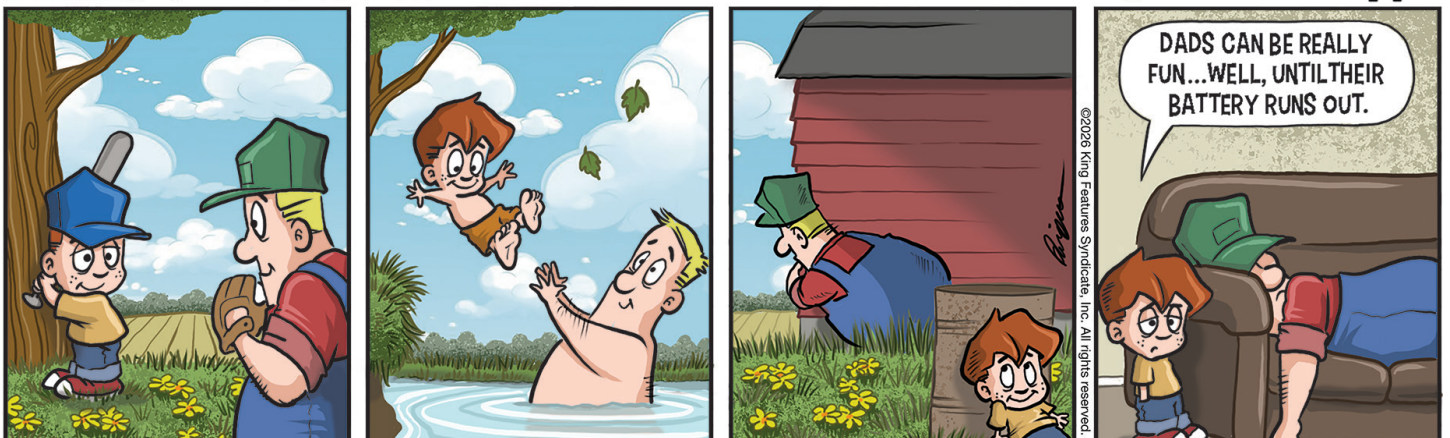
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Hydration Station: Giving electrolytes to pets

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I often see advice for humans about staying hydrated -- by drinking lots of water, adding electrolyte supplements and so on. But I see almost no advice about keeping pets hydrated, and that's so important. Is it enough to just give my dog water throughout the day? Are there electrolytes for pets? -- Danice G. in Cincinnati

DEAR DANICE: That's a great observation! While veterinarians always emphasize the importance of keeping pets hydrated -- it's an important way for them to stay cool in the summer and maintain body temperature in the winter -- the message doesn't always seem to make it into the social media algorithm.

Pets need plenty of fresh water to drink throughout the day. For healthy indoor pets, this is usually enough; no supplementation is needed.

Cats: 4 ounces of water per pound of body weight. A 10-pound cat needs 1 cup of water per day. Increasing their wet food also helps hydrate them. (Decrease dry food so their calorie intake doesn't go up.)

Dogs: 1 ounce of water per pound of body weight. A big dog needs a lot of water!

Outdoor pets, especially energetic dogs, need even more water, and an electrolyte supplement might be a good idea. Do not give them electrolytes formulated for humans! The amounts of sodium and potassium are far too high, and they taste terrible to pets.

Instead, look for pet-specific electrolyte supplements. Don't give more than one per day, usually in the evening. Do not mix the supplement into their food. Your veterinarian can give precise advice on the use of electrolytes for your species and breed of pet, so give them a call first.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Though cannibalism is, thankfully, no longer practiced, Fijians today have embraced this aspect of their history: You can buy cannibalism forks and humorous cannibal dolls in many Fijian gift shops.

* NASA defines an astronaut as someone who has flown 50 miles above sea level.

* People are more likely to die in house fires while sleeping because the sleeping brain responds poorly to smoke odors.

* The U.S. maintains a Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the

largest emergency oil stockpile in the world.

* When "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" made its debut in Great Britain, the publisher asked stores not to sell the book until schools were closed for the day, to prevent eager reader truancy.

* The first submarine used in warfare was the "American Turtle," a small submersible invented by David Bushnell, during the American Revolution, in 1776.

* Congress gave Native Americans the right to vote in presidential elections in 1924.

* During the Great Depression, many people tried selling apples to avoid the stigma of panhandling. In New York City alone, there were as many as 6,000 such vendors.

* Beatle George Harrison's song "Blue Jay Way" has led to the repeated theft of that street sign in Los Angeles.

* The science of kissing is called philematology.

* Flower girls traditionally threw flower petals in a bride's path to lead her to a sweet, plentiful future.

* After pirates kidnapped the entire male population of the Tongan island of 'Atu in the 18th century, the king of Tonga had the remaining women and children moved, and declared the island taboo.

* The mimic octopus can impersonate more than 15 different marine animals, including lionfish and flatfish, to fool predators.

Thought for the Day: "To change the world we must be good to those who cannot repay us." -- Pope Francis

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In ancient Egypt, brides carried sheaves of wheat, symbolizing fertility and prosperity. During the Middle Ages, brides carried herbs and spices to mask unpleasant odors and ward off evil spirits. In the

Elizabethan era, brides entwined their hair with flower garlands, and the Victorian era ushered in lilies, roses, and orchids adorned with ribbons, lace, and even jewels. Queen Victoria herself carried orange blossoms and myrtle stems in her wedding bouquet.

Source: parkchateau.com

Wedding bouquets



— Brenda Weaver

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by Freddy Groves

Fraud task force has been busy

You have to love it when criminals get caught after they think they've gotten away with their crimes. As part of the executive order (signed in March) calling for an interagency Task Force to Eliminate Fraud, the VA's Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) worked with numerous other government agencies to nail over 450 criminals. The total fraud for all the schemes was over \$6.5 billion.

Scammers on the newly created Most Wanted Fraudsters List included 90 doctors across 45 states, with authorities going as far as Cyprus, Estonia and the Philippines to bring back the thieves. In the case of the VA, the task force dismantled fraud schemes that were stealing education, health care and benefits from veterans.

Agencies that didn't talk to each other (and certainly didn't seem to cooperate with each other in the past) are now required to work together to rout out fraud and save money.

It's about time.

And ideally more agencies will take a look at the VAOIG and follow their lead, or at least learn from them.

I've been a big fan of the VAOIG, and over the years I've said more than once, "Whatever their agency budget is, double it!" While other agencies appeared (at least from a user's point of view when trying to get services) to struggle to do their jobs, the VAOIG just kept moving along, going after thieves, inspecting VA facilities and uncovering the deficiencies and making recommendations. In the past 12 months alone they've made 158 reports, 741 recommendations and saved \$3.9 billion.

If you want to report fraud, waste, abuse or illegal activity related to the VA, you can submit a complaint on the VAOIG website. See www.vaoig.gov/hotline/online-forms. Click on "Frequently Asked Questions" to be sure the issue you want to report is covered by the VAOIG. If it is, click on "Submit a Complaint." If you need whistleblower protection, there is a link for that as well.

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Wishing Well®

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2	4	7	2	7	2	4	3	7	4	3	4	3
E	T	Y	S	L	S	T	N	E	E	D	R	S

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

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1. TELEVISION: What is Walter White's codename in the drama "Breaking Bad"?

2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month of the year has the fewest letters in its name?

3. U.S. STATES: Which state is known as the Prairie State?

4. LANGUAGE: What is the British term for a bike's training wheels?

5. ASTRONOMY: What is the Earth's only natural satellite?

6. FOOD & DRINK: What is a more common name for the fruit sometimes called "alligator pear"?

7. MOVIES: What kind of creature is Thumper in the animated movie "Bambi"?

8. LITERATURE: What is the name of the python in "The Jungle Book"?

9. GEOGRAPHY: Which countries and islands make up the geographic area known as Oceania?

10. ANATOMY: What is a more common name for cerumen?

Answers

1. Heisenberg.

2. May.

3. Illinois.

4. Stabilisers.

5. The Moon.

6. Avocado.

7. Rabbit.

8. Kaa.

9. The four regions are Australasia (Australia and New Zealand), Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.

10. Earwax.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Two Hundred and Fifty Years of Freedom

Here in South Dakota, we still honor America, our freedoms, and our Founding Fathers. Proof of that can be found in places like Mount Rushmore. The four leaders are carved in granite – the images of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt are built to last for generations. Their leadership will not be forgotten. More importantly, the principles, the values, and the freedoms they stood for carry just as much weight today as they did 250 years ago. Because of their vision, America is not just a piece of land. America is an ideal. A set of values. A shining City on the Hill. An example to the world of freedom.

One hundred years ago, President Calvin Coolidge said, as he commemorated the 150th anniversary of America:

“About the Declaration, there is a finality that is exceedingly restful. It is often asserted that the world has made a great deal of progress since 1776... and that we may therefore very well discard their conclusions for something more modern. But that reasoning cannot be applied to this great charter. If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. If governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions. If anyone wishes to deny their truth or their soundness, the only direction in which he can proceed historically is not forward – but backward toward the time when there was no equality, no rights of the individual, no rule of the people.”

Those are powerful words from a great leader who loved the Black Hills of South Dakota!

Six years ago, On July 3, 2020, we were joined by the same kind of leader, President Donald J. Trump. President Trump helped bring back fireworks to Mount Rushmore. And when he took office again, we got right back to work. Under the Trump Administration, the lines of communication with Washington are back open. Our state can partner with federal agencies and influence change at the highest levels with just a phone call. We have a President who puts the American people first – American safety first – and American freedom first.

My mission as Governor of South Dakota is to keep our state strong, safe, and free. Like America is to the world, South Dakota has been a beacon of hope for what is possible when we keep government limited – when we remain true to America’s values and our freedoms. Here, we recognize that our rights, liberties, and freedoms are given to us by God – not by government – and government has no authority to take them away.

America isn’t perfect. Lord knows that challenges will arise. But America has overcome challenges for 250 years and turned them into opportunities. And we will continue to do that by holding true to the ideals of the four men on Mount Rushmore. They stand as a testament to leadership. To courage. To bold vision. And to an unshakable belief in the protection of our freedom.

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June 22-28, 2026



Back with another edition of the Weekly Round[s] Up! It was a full week here in Washington, D.C., with a packed schedule each day. I welcomed many South Dakotans to my office to discuss the issues that matter most to them. As I often tell constituents who visit, it's

important for South Dakotans to come to Washington and share their own experiences and perspectives because otherwise, someone else will tell their story for them. In addition to meeting with constituents, I attended several other meetings and briefings, spoke with witnesses at multiple hearings and cast 11 votes. President Trump also joined our Senate Republican lunch.

In addition, we continue to hear from South Dakotans who are having issues with mail delivery in South Dakota. As you may know, at my request, the Office of the Inspector General has opened an official investigation into South Dakota's postal service. We have heard your comments and concerns, but I urge you to share them directly with the OIG as part of its official investigation. Click [here](#) to submit your comments. Here's more on this past week in the Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota Groups I Visited With: South Dakotans from the National Audubon Society; Randall Community Water District; South Dakota farmers with the Clean Fuels Alliance; and the South Dakota Music Education Association.

Additionally, I met with students from the Huron and Harrisburg areas. Early summer is always a busy time of year in Washington as school groups visit our nation's capital. It's especially meaningful to welcome students this year as our nation celebrates its 250th birthday.

Met With South Dakotans From: Avon, Brandon, Centerville, Geddes, Harrisburg, Hartford, Highmore, Huron, Lake Andes, Miller, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Vermillion and White River.

Other Meetings: Lindsey Johnson, President and CEO of the Consumer Bankers Association; Kent Walker, President and Chief Legal Officer of Google and Alphabet; Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior, Andrea Travnicek ; Dr. Christopher Phelan, nominee to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; and Jason Droege, CEO of Scale AI.

I attended our weekly Senate Bible study hosted by Senator Steve Daines of Montana and I went to our weekly Senate Prayer Breakfast, hosted by Senator Bill Hagerty of Tennessee. I also stopped by the West Point Cadet Reception hosted by Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

On Thursday, I spoke at the 2026 Disclosure Symposium, where I discussed the future of the Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) Disclosure Act. I am once again cosponsoring as an amendment to this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Hearings: I attended three hearings this past week. On Tuesday, during a Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing, I questioned Lindsey Johnson, President and CEO of the Consumer Bankers Association. You can watch the full clip [here](#).

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On Wednesday, I attended a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing, where I questioned Mark Cruz, nominee to be Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Cruz visited my office for a meeting last week. [Click here to watch the exchange.](#)

On Thursday, I attended a second Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing, where I questioned Dr. Christopher Phelan, nominee to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers (who I also visited with in my office this past week). [Click here to watch the exchange.](#)

Briefings: I attended two closed briefings with the Select Committee on Intelligence this past week, in addition to one classified briefing as part of my work on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Legislation Introduced: June 24, 2026, marked the fourth anniversary of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision overturning Roe v. Wade. This past week, alongside Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), we introduced the Dismemberment Abortion Ban Act of 2026. This legislation would establish a federal prohibition on dilation and evacuation procedures, commonly known as dismemberment abortions, in which surgical instruments are used to extract an unborn child piece by piece. Under this bill, physicians who knowingly perform these procedures would face fines and/or imprisonment of up to two years. [Click the links to read the press release and the full bill text.](#)

Votes Taken: I voted 11 times this past week. I voted in favor of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, along with 84 of my colleagues. This bicameral, bipartisan housing reform bill which will modernize rural housing programs and cut red tape has officially passed Congress.

I also voted on multiple nominees, including Darrell Owens, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador; John George Edward Marck, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas; Michael J. Hendershot, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio; Arthur Roberts Jones, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas; and Matthew A. Schwartz, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Additionally, I voted against a resolution to block the Department of Education's new federal student loan regulations, as well as two efforts to remove U.S. Armed Forces from Iran. [Click here to read more about these votes.](#)

Steps Taken: 59,739 steps or 27.02 miles.

My Staff in South Dakota Visited: Dell Rapids and Miller.

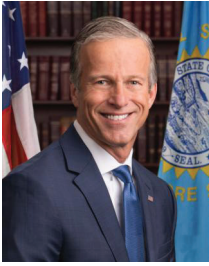
Survey Results: As some of you may have seen last week, I sent out a survey to my email list to get some feedback on what issues are most important to South Dakotans right now. Thank you to everyone who took time to share responses with me. Out of a long list of options, the top three issues were:

- (1) Social security and Medicare
- (2) Budget and deficit spending
- (3) Health Care

We will try to share more information on each of these topics on future editions of the Weekly Round[s] Up!

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Less for the IRS, More for You

One year ago, on July 4, 2025, President Trump signed the Working Families Tax Cuts into law. Thanks to this Republican tax relief bill, 97 percent of Americans who filed their taxes this year saw a tax cut. They saw larger tax refunds, smaller tax bills, and collectively saved \$82 billion that they would have otherwise had to send to the IRS if not for the Working Families Tax Cuts – and that’s just the beginning of its impact.

At the heart of this bill was making Republicans’ 2017 individual tax relief permanent. Without action from Congress, the tax savings hardworking Americans have enjoyed since 2017 would have expired, and a typical family in South Dakota would have seen a \$2,500 tax hike this year. That was unacceptable. Republicans were determined to prevent this tax hike, and more than prevent it, we made those lower rates permanent and delivered new tax relief that puts more money in Americans’ pockets.

The Working Families Tax Cuts delivers permanently lower tax rates across the board. After nearly doubling the standard deduction in 2017, the Working Families Tax Cuts made it permanent. And thanks to this bill, parents will benefit from an increase in the child tax credit to \$2,200 per child, which is now linked to the cost of living so it never loses its value.

We also created a number of new tax relief provisions. The senior deduction helped more than 35 million Americans over age 65 reduce their tax burden this year. No tax on tips and overtime allowed workers to keep more of their hard-earned money – from waiters and waitresses to firefighters and factory workers. All told, Americans earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000 last year who took advantage of this new tax relief saw an average tax cut of \$1,250.

The good news extends to small businesses, farms, and ranches too. Permanent pro-growth provisions in the tax code will help them invest more in their operations and employees – things like lower tax rates, the 199A small business deduction, and 100 percent immediate expensing. These permanent tax policies help free up cash for small businesses, encourage investment, and help them create more opportunity.

I’m also very proud that the Working Families Tax Cuts saves a lot more small businesses and family farms and ranches from the death tax by raising the exemption threshold. Family businesses, farmers, and ranchers who want to pass their operation on to the next generation can now breathe easier thanks to this bill, and they can avoid the costly estate-planning expenses that come with this unfair tax.

Republicans not only prevented a \$4 trillion tax hike, we provided additional tax relief that puts more money in hardworking Americans’ pockets and offers more breathing room for family businesses, farms, and ranches. For the past year, the American people have been seeing the benefits of the Working Families Tax Cuts, and this story continues to unfold throughout our state and across the country.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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Getting Old Is Not As Bad As I Thought

I was celebrating and eating an Apple Fritter. I'm not sure what I was celebrating at the time, but it doesn't matter as long as I'm celebrating with an Apple Fritter. Life has its way of opening up doors of celebration.

While I was in this celebratory mood, I happened to remember that I turn 75 years old this month.

Just the thought of that surprised me and made me pause while eating my Apple Fritter. I did not think I was that old, but reflecting on my journey filled me with gratitude and appreciation for how far I've come.

But 75? That has to be old. I never thought I would get old.

As a teenager, I often made fun of my grandparents because they were so old. Both my grandfathers experienced significant hair loss, while my grandmother's hair was turning gray. I can't tell you how many times I laughed at them, of course, it was always behind their back. I always wanted to keep in good standing with my grandparents.

As a young person, I always thought getting old was a terrible experience, and I was going to do everything in my power to avoid it.

As I watched my grandparents and saw all the difficulties they experienced with old age, I promised myself I wasn't going to walk down that same pathway. I was going to enjoy life to the very end. Of course, I had no idea what the end was.

I must say that I have enjoyed my life every step of the way. My birthday was just something I celebrated once a year and had nothing to do with my getting older. Occasionally, I forget what birthday I was celebrating.

Often, when scammers call and want to help with my medical insurance, they ask me how old I am. Usually, I answer, "I'm not quite sure how old I am because my age changes every year and I just can't keep up."

Then I hear the magical "click," and they are gone. Hallelujah!

However, as I look ahead to my 75th birthday, I must admit that getting old hasn't been nearly as bad as I had thought. When I was in my 20s, I assumed that when I got to my 70s, I would be in some nursing home and not even know where I am or who I am.

As I continued munching on my Apple Fritter, I just thought about my life, and here I am, soon to be 75, and I have everything I want.

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Yes, there are times when I can't walk as strongly as I used to. Sometimes my hip gives away a little bit. The only travel I can afford these days is to my doctor's offices. I did not know how many doctors I was supporting.

I've seen so many doctors in the last several years that I probably qualify for some doctoral degree.

When I see how some older people struggle to walk or talk, I feel thankful for my health and grateful for the family that supports me every day.

I remember a month or so ago, I was sitting in the doctor's waiting room when I noticed people walking past me. At the time, most of them were older people, and some were walking very slowly with canes. I noticed that most people, if they weren't older than me, at least looked and acted older than me.

I let out a sigh of relief and said to myself how lucky I was not to be "that old."

As I finished my Apple Fritter, I continued thinking about my age and the benefits I have of being as old as I am.

First, I'm retired, and I don't have to go to work every day. For about 50 years, I pastored churches, which meant I was at church every day of the week. Now I'm retired, and I don't have to go to any office. My office is at home.

Also, I have Social Security and a retirement fund, so I don't have to worry too much about a weekly salary. I'm not rich, but I have enough to live on for the rest of my life as long as I live frugally.

But there is another benefit to getting old that I hadn't thought about. That benefit boils down to grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. I have nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren at my disposal. I mean, what can be better than that?

All I have to do is tell them Grandma has fresh cookies, and they come right over.

I haven't celebrated my 75th birthday yet, but in a few weeks, I will, and I'm going to celebrate as I've never celebrated any birthday in my life. I just hope I remember it. I am happy to be as old as I am, and I'm not sure how much older I'll get, but I'm always going to walk down that happy path.

As I was thinking about my upcoming birthday, I remembered a very interesting verse in the Bible.

"The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head" (Proverbs 20:29).

The older I get, the more wisdom I will have. There is no time in life where wisdom is more appropriate than old age. I'm going to examine my grey hair and see how much wisdom I have.

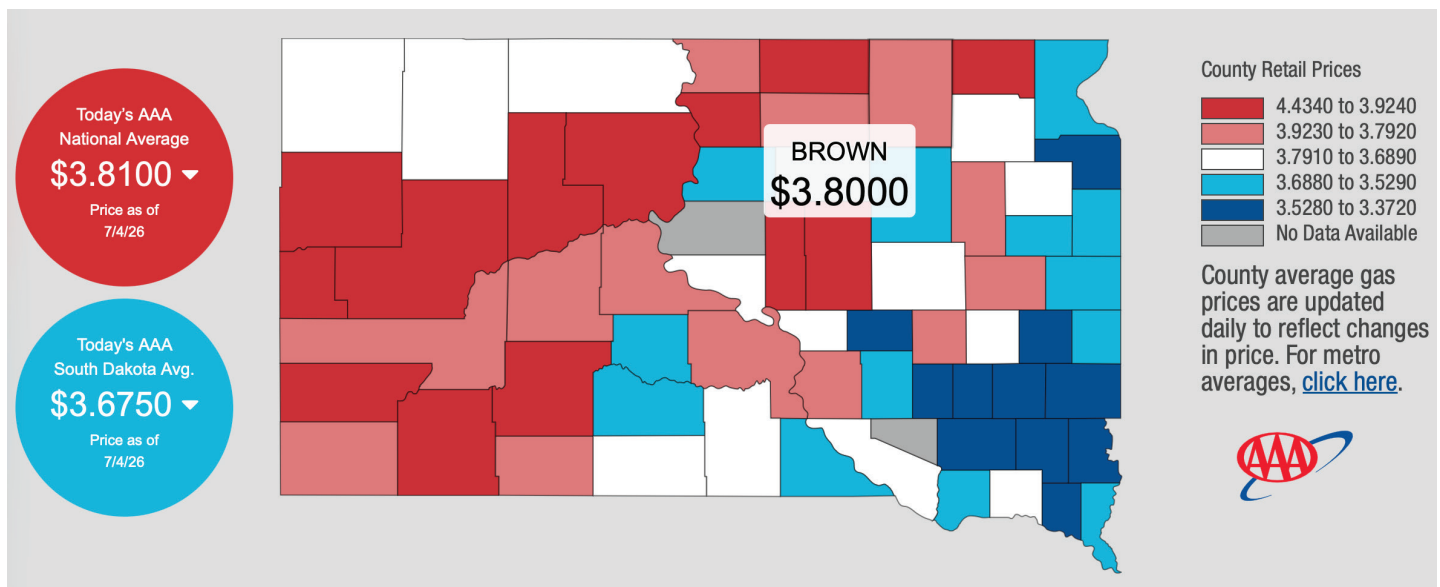
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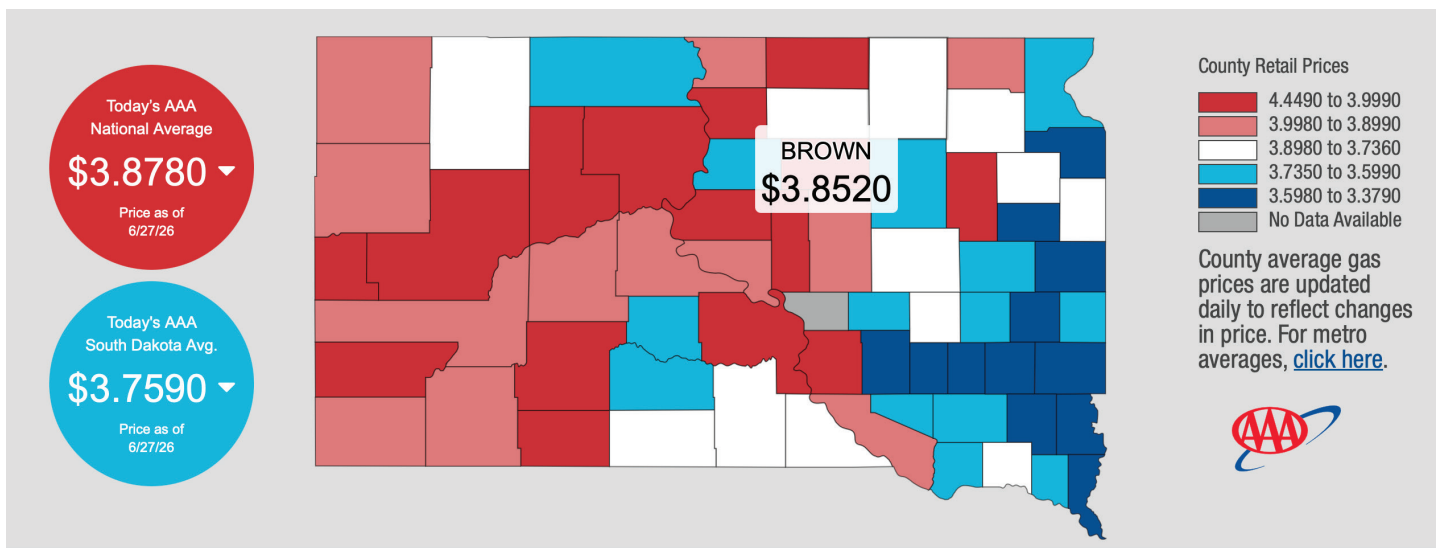
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.6750	\$3.9010	\$4.4030	\$4.1910
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.6890	\$3.9190	\$4.4000	\$4.2090
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.7590	\$3.9880	\$4.4450	\$4.3490
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.0940	\$4.3110	\$4.8120	\$4.8460
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.9750	\$3.1640	\$3.6180	\$3.3300

This Week



Last Week



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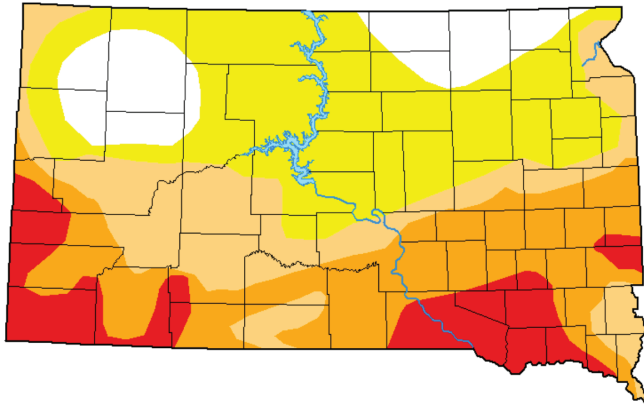
Drought Classification

None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)

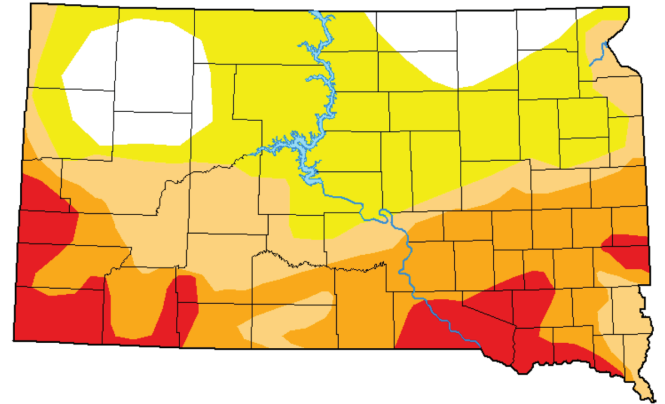
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

Drought Monitor



June 30



June 23

Like other areas in the central and eastern U.S., a patchwork quilt of showers provided drought relief in some areas. Some of the heaviest rain, occasionally accompanied by thunderstorm-driven high winds and large hail, fell in portions of all six states in the region. However, southeastern Nebraska was one area that missed all the rain. One of the most impressive outbreaks of severe weather occurred on the night of June 28-29, when a swath of wind damage stretched from northwestern Nebraska into southeastern North Dakota and beyond. An unofficial wind gust to 131 mph was clocked in Hyde County, South Dakota, while a gust to 112 mph was recorded at a mesonet station near Ree Heights in Hand County, South Dakota. Despite all the rain, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that rangeland and pastures continued to struggle. On June 28, statewide rangeland and pastures were rated 66% very poor in Nebraska, along with 63% in Colorado.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

America's 250th birthday celebrated, despite extreme heat, canceled events

BY ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — A large swath of America melted under record heat for the country's 250th birthday, including in the nation's capital, where despite being one of the hottest places across the globe Saturday, President Donald Trump planned a nighttime speech followed by a massive fireworks display.

Some major events were canceled. Organizers for the annual National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C., called off the event due to the extreme heat, as did organizers for the Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade in Philadelphia.

Forecasters predicted temperatures would reach around 100 degrees, with the possibility of an all-time record of 101 degrees in the nation's capital, according to AccuWeather. Heat indexes were expected to reach 110 to 115 degrees.

The neighborhood Capitol Hill Fourth of July Parade however, went on, though shortened to one hour, instead of the usual two-hour event.

Some high school marching bands that traveled across the country to perform in the national parade, including those from Minnesota and Nebraska, switched last minute to march in the community Capitol Hill event.

"We flew in on Wednesday and were able to go sightseeing, and then last night we heard that the parade was canceled," said Cassidy Moody, 28, the color guard coach for Grand Island Senior High School in Grand Island, Nebraska.

"When they found out this parade was happening, they were super pumped they could play their instruments in Washington," Moody said, adding their tour guide connected them to parade organizers.

"This is so fun. I'm trying not to cry."

Time capsule, concerts, block parties, ceremonies

Other events up and down the sweltering East Coast carried on, including the burial in Philadelphia of a congressionally mandated time capsule to be unearthed, and opened, in 2276.

The capsule, organized by the bipartisan America250 commission, contains contributions from each state and territory; sports memorabilia, including an Olympic gold medal; a 1GB digital archive from the Library of Congress; and a pocket Constitution signed by each Supreme Court justice, among hundreds of other items.

Congress commissioned America250 in 2016 to plan ways to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The commission is hosting events across the country Saturday, including block parties in Boston; Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Milwaukee and Philadelphia.

The famous Times Square New Year's Eve ball dropped eight times on Friday to ring in the Fourth of July, representing the eight time zones in the territories and continental United States. The first occurred at 10 a.m. Eastern Friday when midnight struck in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The America250 commission also scheduled an Independence Day benefit concert in Los Angeles, featuring Chris Stapleton, the Smashing Pumpkins, Chaka Khan and other artists. Tickets cost \$17.76.

Other events included the Virginia 250 commission's naturalization ceremony for immigrants from 36 nations. The ceremony took place at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello home in Charlottesville, Virginia, where

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there was also a live reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Not all were celebrating the ideals of the United States Saturday.

Hundreds of members of the neo-Nazi organization Patriot Front marched through the Capitol Hill neighborhood in Washington, D.C., holding upside-down American flags. States Newsroom also witnessed the masked men boarding the city's Metro while National Guard members looked on.

Military flyovers and another Trump speech

Trump promised his administration's Freedom 250 Salute to America events would go forward on the National Mall despite the heat, though organizers revised the schedule and publicized the presence of cooling tents and hydration stations. America250 and Freedom 250 diverged over the past year and each created dueling program offerings and merchandise to mark the semiquincentennial.

The Freedom 250 Great American State Fair on the mall shut down at 5 p.m. on Friday due to the heat and its Fourth of July opening was postponed from 10 a.m. to noon.

Military flyovers were scheduled to begin at 1:15 p.m. Eastern and occur several times an hour until nearly 8 p.m. Visitors and residents in D.C. can expect to see multiple different aircraft, including F-22 Raptors, a B-1 bomber and a MV-22 Osprey, an aircraft that takes off and lands vertically like a helicopter but flies like a plane.

The administration promised a world record-breaking fireworks display, set to begin at 10:30 p.m. Eastern, later than in other years. The Western Pennsylvania-based Pyrotechno is expected to shoot off more than 850,000 fireworks, according to local news reports. Some people already were in line at 3:15 p.m.

Air quality forecasters predict "unhealthy" levels of air pollution, including small particulate matter that can enter the bloodstream, until at least July 5.

Trump is scheduled to deliver remarks at 9:45 p.m. Eastern, one of numerous appearances the president scheduled tied to the holiday.

On July 1 in Medora, North Dakota for the opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library during his Freedom 250 tour, Trump said he planned a lengthy speech on Independence Day despite heat warnings.

"July 4, it's going to be approximately 107 degrees out, and I'm gonna go and I'm gonna make a really long speech just to show that I can do anything," he said.

Trump also spoke at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota Friday, on the eve of the semiquincentennial. Prior to a celebratory fireworks display, Trump focused his comments on labeling communism as a "mortal threat to American liberty."

Trump kicked off the state fair on June 24 on the National Mall with a another 25-minute speech that refashioned much of his 2024 presidential campaign rhetoric.

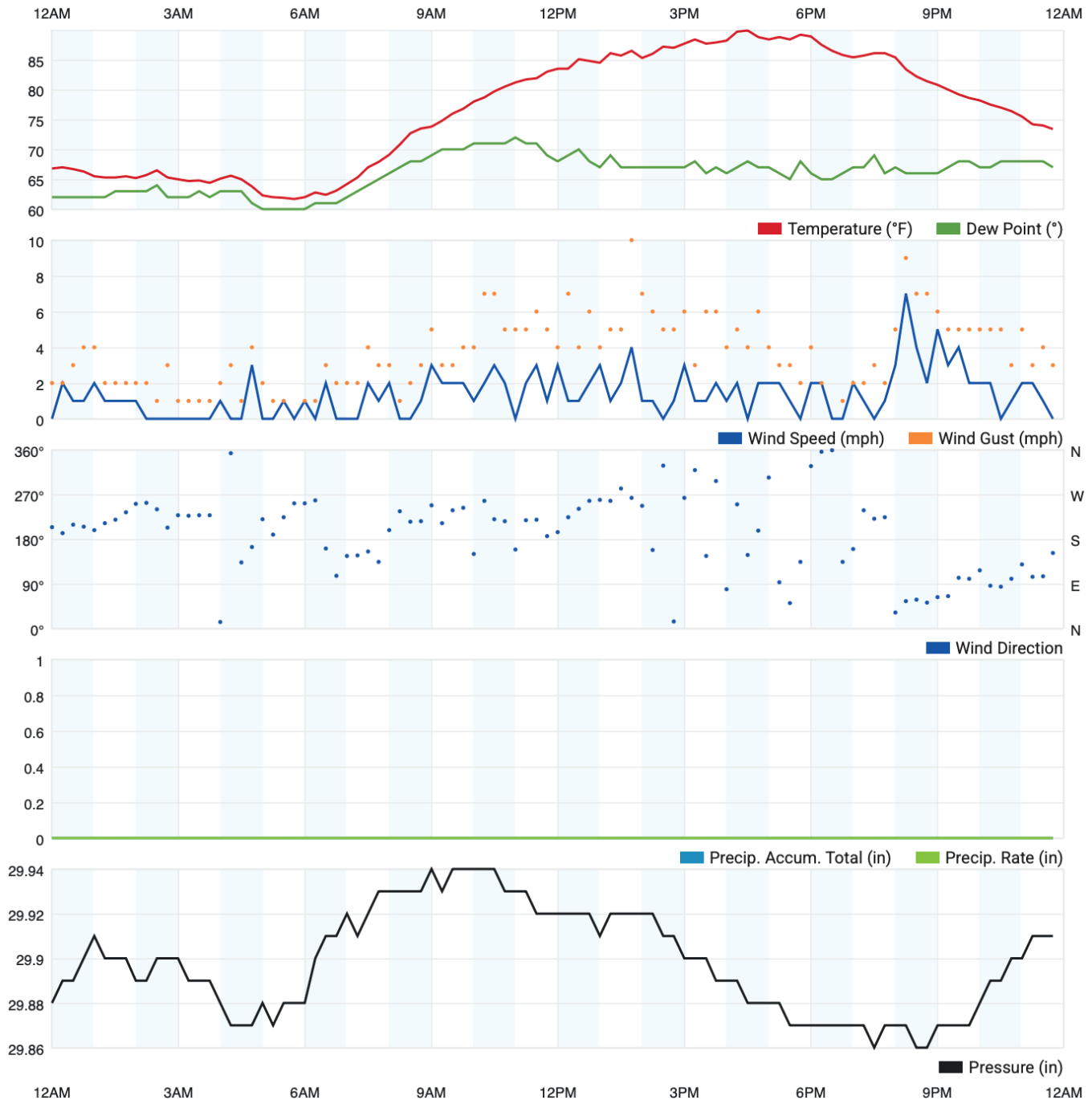
Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 4, 2026



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Today



High: 95 °F

Hot

Tonight



Low: 66 °F

Mostly Clear

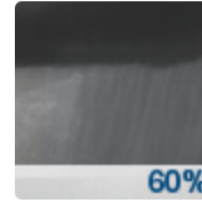
Monday



High: 95 °F

Sunny then
Chance
T-storms

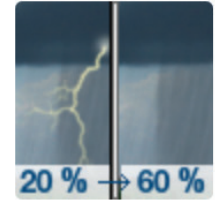
Monday Night



Low: 64 °F

Showers
Likely

Tuesday



High: 88 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Showers
Likely



Hot Today And Monday

Heavy Rain Potential Tuesday Night

July 5, 2026
3:07 AM CDT

Key Messages:

- Hot (upper 80s to upper 90s) Today and Monday;
Heat Indices 95-100F Monday afternoon
- **Marginal Risk** For Severe Thunderstorms over north central and northeast South Dakota / west central Minnesota Monday afternoon/evening
 - Storm threat:
 - Hail up to 1"
 - Winds up to 60 mph
- **Slight Risk** For Severe Thunderstorms throughout most of the forecast area Tuesday afternoon/evening
- **Excessive Heavy Rain** possible centered on Tuesday night across portions of north central and northeast South Dakota / west central Minnesota

Maximum Temperature (°F) & Precip Ranges (inches)

		Forecast						
		7/5 Sun	7/6 Mon	7/7 Tue	7/8 Wed	7/9 Thu	7/10 Fri	7/11 Sat
Aberdeen	Max Temp	96	95	88	81	84	87	91
	Precip	0	.1-.25"	.5-1"	.25-.5"	0	<.1"	0
Miller	Max Temp	91	93	89	80	82	86	91
	Precip	0	.1-.25"	.25-.5"	.25-.5"	0	0	0
Mobridge	Max Temp	96	93	87	81	86	89	95
	Precip	0	<.1"	.25-.5"	<.1"	0	0	0
Murdo	Max Temp	93	96	92	82	84	89	93
	Precip	0	<.1"	.25-.5"	.1-.25"	0	0	0
Ortonville	Max Temp	86	87	83	76	77	82	84
	Precip	0	.1-.25"	.5-1"	.5-1"	0	0	0
Pierre	Max Temp	96	98	93	84	86	91	96
	Precip	0	<.1"	.25-.5"	.25-.5"	0	0	0
Sisseton	Max Temp	90	91	85	78	80	83	86
	Precip	0	.1-.25"	.5-1"	.5-1"	0	0	0
Watertown	Max Temp	90	90	87	79	80	83	88
	Precip	0	<.1"	.5-1"	.5-1"	0	0	0

65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110
Maximum Temperature Forecast (°F)

0.01 0.10 0.25 0.50 1.00
Precip Forecast Ranges (inches)



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Turning up the heat for today and Monday. High temperatures are going to be a good 5 to 10 degrees above normal, with Monday afternoon heat index values up into the 95-100F range. There is a Marginal Risk for severe thunderstorms on Monday and a Slight Risk for severe thunderstorms on Tuesday. Heading into Tuesday night, some areas could experience excessive heavy rainfall.

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

Isolated Severe Weather Possible

Timing:

Late Monday Afternoon Through
Late Evening
North Central and Northeast SD/
West Central MN

PRIMARY THREATS

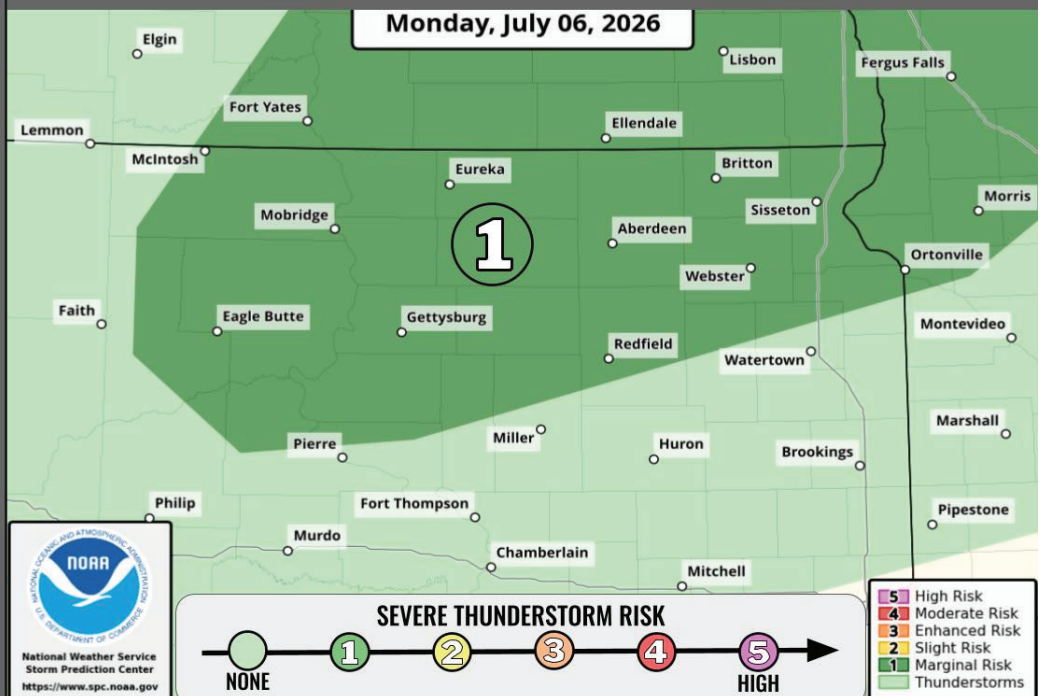


DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS
Up to 60 mph



HAIL up to 1"
diameter

Marginal Risk For Monday Afternoon/Evening (July 6th)



A Marginal Risk (level 1 out of 5) is in place across mainly north central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota for afternoon and evening thunderstorms. Hail up to 1 inch in diameter and thunderstorm wind gusts up to 60 mph are possible.

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

Scattered Severe Weather
Possible

Timing:

Tuesday Afternoon Through Late
Tuesday Night
Central, North Central and
Northeast SD / West Central MN

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS
Up to 60-70
mph



HAIL up to 1"
diameter

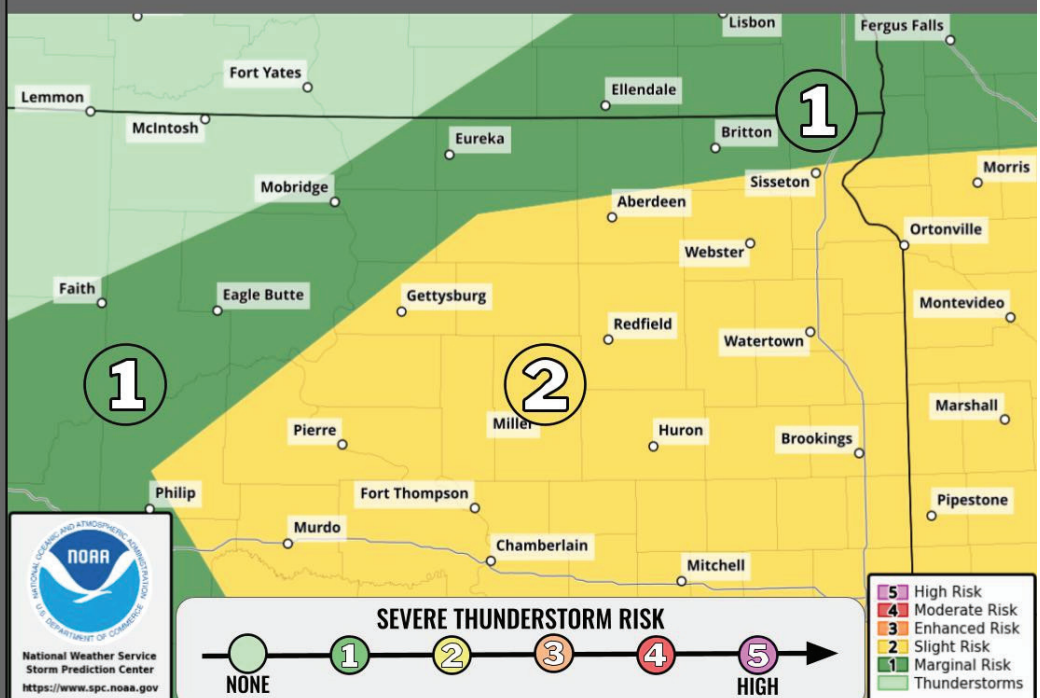


ISOLATED
TORNADO(ES)
POSSIBLE



HEAVY RAIN
POSSIBLE

Slight Risk For Tuesday Afternoon/Evening (July 7th)



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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 90 °F at 4:32 PM

Low Temp: 62 °F at 5:44 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 8:02 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 108 in 1936

Record Low: 35 in 1915

Average High: 84

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in July.: 0.59

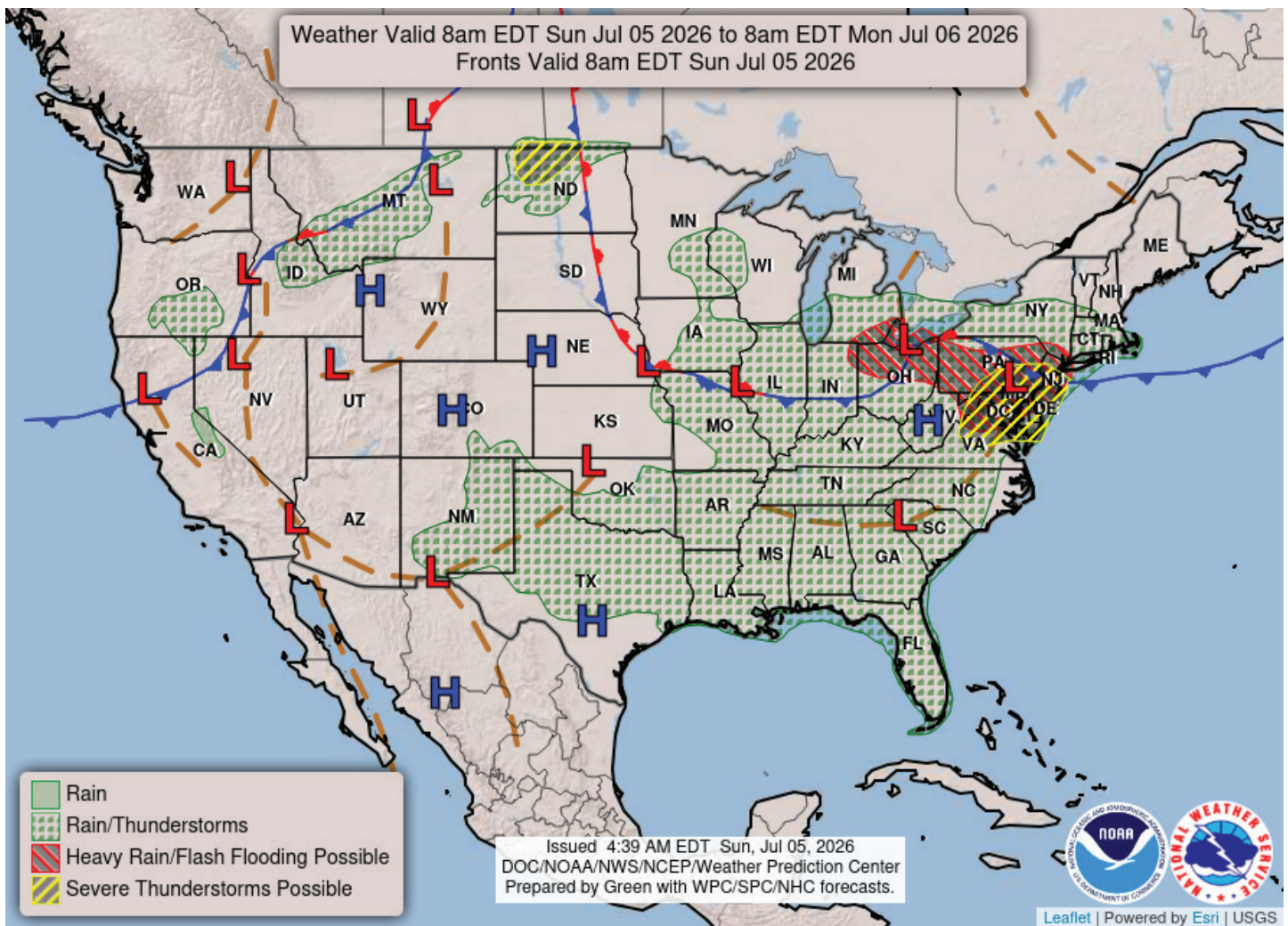
Precip to date in July.: 0.29

Average Precip to date: 11.60

Precip Year to Date: 9.76

Sunset Tonight: 9:23 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 am



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Today in Weather History

July 5, 1936: Three record high temperatures were set on this day. Near Gann Valley, the temperature reached 120 degrees, setting the state record. The state record was tied on July 15, 2006, at 17 miles WSW of Fort Pierre. Other record highs on this date include 119 degrees in Kennebec and 116 degrees in Murdo. The record highs near Gann Valley, Kennebec, and Murdo are all-time highs for each location.

July 5, 1996: A powerful thunderstorm packing over 100 mph winds and grapefruit-sized hail tracked from Belle Fourche Reservoir to Wall. The storm caused an estimated \$4.5 million in crop damage, killed numerous livestock, and stripped vegetation bare.

1891 — Sixteen horses were killed by hail, and many more have to be put to death due to injuries from a hailstorm at Rapid City, SD. (The Weather Channel)

1900 — A spectacular three day fire began when a bolt of lightning struck a refinery in Bayonne NJ. (David Ludlum)

1916 — A hurricane produced 82 mph winds, an 11.6 foot tide, and a barometric pressure of 28.92 inches at Mobile, AL. (David Ludlum)

1925: A large hailstone weighing a half pound fell at Plumstead, just outside of London, England. This hailstone was the heaviest hailstone ever recorded in the United Kingdom.

1937 — The temperature at Medicine Lake, MT, soared to 117 degrees to establish a state record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1937 — Midale and Yellow Grass in Saskatchewan hit 113 degrees to establish an all-time record high for Canada that same day. (The Weather Channel)

1970 — The morning low at Death Valley CA was 103 degrees, and the high that afternoon was 120 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1980: The "More Trees Down" started in western Iowa and tracked eastward affecting several states along its path before dissipating in eastern Virginia.

1987 — Severe thunderstorms raked south central Kansas for the second morning in a row. Thunderstorm winds again gusted to 80 mph at Clearwater, and in the Wichita area reached 100 mph. Twenty-five persons were injured at a trailer park at El Dorado Lake. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Afternoon and evening thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes in Montana and three in North Dakota. Baseball size hail was reported at Shonkin, MT, and wind gusts to 85 mph were reported south of Fordville, ND. Twenty cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Fargo ND with a reading of 106 degrees. Muskegon, MI, equalled their July record with a high of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Moisture from what once was Tropical Storm Allison triggered thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, which deluged Wilmington, DE, with a record 6.83 inches of rain in 24 hours, including 6.37 inches in just six hours. Up to ten inches of rain was reported at Claymont, northeast of Wilmington. July 1989 was thus the wettest month in seventy years for Wilmington, with a total of 12.63 inches of rain. Alamosa CO reported an all-time record high of 94 degrees, and Pierre, SD, hit 113 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotion

Seek Spiritual Discernment

Discernment, which is a gift from God, aligns our perspective with His truth.

Proverbs 2:1-7: 1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,
2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding;
3 For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding;
4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures;
5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God.
6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

At one time or another, we all feel confused, uncertain, or misled. In those moments, spiritual discernment becomes invaluable. The ability to see life from a godly perspective helps us navigate decisions with confidence. Through His Spirit, we can better distinguish between right and wrong, good and best, truth and error.

Instead of relying solely on appearances or human reasoning, we can invite the Holy Spirit to help us see the reality of each situation as God does. This doesn't mean abandoning common sense or wise counsel, but it does mean including God's perspective as we evaluate our choices.

The Father gives each of His children the capacity for spiritual discernment, yet many believers don't realize this gift is available to them. They do their best with the wisdom and knowledge they have but miss out on the deeper insight God offers. When we don't actively cultivate discernment through time with Him, this gift can remain undeveloped.

A discerning spirit begins with a humble, teachable attitude (1 Corinthians 2:12-13). If you've been handling decisions primarily through your own wisdom, acknowledge this to God. Then ask Him to reveal His viewpoint. As you practice inviting Him into your decision-making, your spiritual discernment will grow.

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.04.26

17 20 37 40 43 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 22 Hrs 12 Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.03.26

5 9 29 47 57 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$576,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.04.26

9 17 22 35 37 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$32,210,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.04.26

8 9 18 25 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$169,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.04.26

4 19 24 25 41 9

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.04.26

17 38 46 50 69 20

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$416,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Trump mixes patriotism with partisanship as he celebrates America's 'joyous' 250th anniversary

By STEVEN SLOAN and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump mixed partisan politics with patriotic appeals on Saturday as he commemorated the 250th anniversary of American independence, a moment he declared “one of the most joyous and glorious milestones of all time.”

Speaking in Washington after storms prompted a roughly two-hour evacuation of the National Mall, Trump honored veterans, including several from World War II and one of the first Black officers to lead a Special Forces team in combat in Vietnam. They appeared before flags that symbolized some of the most significant and challenging moments in American history, from the one that was draped over Abraham Lincoln's casket to the one that flew on the plane piloted by the Wright Brothers.

Yet Trump also leaned into partisan territory unusual for an Independence Day address, which presidents typically use as a moment to unify the country. Instead, he stumped again for the SAVE America Act, an elections bill that's encountering challenges even from Trump's fellow Republicans in Congress. He highlighted his support for the Second Amendment and revived denunciations of communism, which are becoming an increasingly central part of Trump's message ahead of the November midterms.

The speech capped a holiday that Trump has gone to great lengths to shape to his own tastes. He was introduced by two musical performers who often appear at his trademark rallies, including Lee Greenwood, who performed “God Bless the USA.” The event organizers were largely aligned with the White House, supplanting a bipartisan organization that was launched by Congress a decade ago.

“We will always be on top,” Trump said. “We will never let our country fall. We will always be the best.”

Trump didn't talk about himself as much as he does during his normal rally speeches. Still, he still found time to include a joke about seeking a third presidential term and about World War II's “greatest generation.”

“They are the greatest generation,” Trump said. “I hate to admit that, but they are.”

Anticipation for the milestone holiday has been building for much of the year, serving as an opportunity for Americans to reflect on their complicated history as onetime colonists of an empire who became a superpower of their own. Organizers of celebrations months in the making had to adjust or cancel activities entirely as much of the East Coast sweltered under heat that approached and in many cases surpassed triple digits.

Heat is defining the big weekend in many places

Severe weather prompted the cancellation of celebrations in Hartford, Connecticut, along with Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Spectators at Boston's fireworks and concert were told to briefly seek shelter before events later resumed. An evacuation was also ordered in Philadelphia. New York and Pittsburgh moved forward with fireworks but shifted the time to accommodate the shifting weather.

The disruption was particularly acute in Washington, where signs at the Great American State Fair posted an alert shortly after 7 p.m. ET encouraging participants to leave the area. Crowds gathered in museums, subway stations and federal buildings near the Mall. At the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center they waited in chairs and sat on the floor to cool off in the air conditioning.

Crowds were building in the area several hours before the evacuation. Tina Hale, 58, of Cohoes, New York, watched three of her grandchildren children dip their hands into a pool of water near a museum. Hale pointed toward the sky and urged them to look up as three military jets roared above the crowd.

“If that doesn't make you proud to be an American,” she said.

David Koshko, 42, and his wife, Jennifer Koshko, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, came to Washington for a baseball game but planned to stay for the city's fireworks show. After baking in the heat for hours during the Pittsburgh Pirates' win over the Washington Nationals, they took a break in the shade of an overpass

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near the National Mall to plot their next stop.

"Just to be a part of the 250 years (anniversary) is an amazing thing," said David Koshko, a commercial driver and veteran of the Marine Corps reserves.

In Philadelphia, fireworks began to crack as early as midday in the birthplace of the nation near the site where the Declaration of Independence was adopted by delegates to the Second Continental Congress. Hundreds of visitors were gathering at Independence Hall in the sweltering heat to await the celebrations coinciding with the France-Paraguay World Cup knockout game at Philadelphia Stadium, which began with commemorations of the holiday.

"It's one big party in here," Carlos Alban, who traveled to Philadelphia from Chicago to watch the match, said as he arrived at the stadium, adding that he spotted a fan in the parking lot dressed as one of the Founding Fathers.

In New York, tall ships, with their masts, rigging and white sails outlined against a blue sky, made a procession around the Statue of Liberty and up the Hudson River, recalling the fanfare around America's 200th anniversary in 1976.

The 43 ships were followed by a display of aerial might with a stealth bomber and the Navy's Blue Angels. Patrouille de France, the French Air Force's acrobatic teams, flew over New York Harbor with their red, white and blue trails, evoking images of the American flag.

"We got up early and just rode our bikes about a mile down here to come see the scene," said Oona Moore, a Jersey City, New Jersey, resident who took in the New York festivities. "We saw the tall ships and we saw the planes, you know, all different manner of military aircraft. I've never seen it so close and in the sky at the same time."

At George Washington's Mount Vernon, people took the Oath of Allegiance to become U.S. citizens. They stood with eyes closed and hands over hearts for the national anthem.

In Phoenix, Steven Dortch, 25, and his brother JayLn Dortch, 23, gathered at Granada Park to try to forge a new July 4 cookout tradition. JayLn Dortch said young people in the U.S. give him hope by thinking for themselves and not taking the words from older people at face value.

He said the country needs to keep in mind the everyday, hardworking people who "keep America going."

Paul Pelosi in hit-and-run in California, car left with major damage, authorities say

By SAFIYAH RIDDLE Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The husband of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was involved in a hit-and-run in California that left a parked car with "major" damage authorities said Saturday, and he could face misdemeanor charges.

Paul Pelosi was driving his brown convertible Friday in Yountville, a town in the heart of wine country, when he struck a legally parked car on the side of the road, briefly stopped and then drove away, the Napa County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. No injuries were reported.

A witness saw the collision and called 911. Shortly afterward sheriff's deputies found Pelosi with damage to the front of his car on a road roughly a quarter of a mile away. He reportedly told officers he knew he hit something but was not sure when or what caused the damage.

Pelosi, 86, did not have any alcohol in his system, according to the statement. The sheriff's office referred him to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a process to determine whether he may continue to drive — something that officials say is common for older drivers.

Pelosi was not arrested, and because no one was injured, the sheriff's office recommended a misdemeanor charge for fleeing the scene of an accident.

A staffer for Nancy Pelosi did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Paul Pelosi pleaded guilty in 2022 to misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence in Napa County and was sentenced to five days in jail and three years of probation. However, he served only two days in jail and received good conduct credit for two other days, leaving just one day to serve in a work program

at the courthouse.

As part of his probation, Pelosi was required to attend a three-month drinking driver class and install an ignition interlock device, which forces drivers to provide a breath sample to prove sobriety before the engine will start. He also was ordered to pay about \$5,000 in victim restitution for medical bills and lost wages, along with nearly \$2,000 in fines.

That same year he was attacked and severely beaten with a hammer at the couple's San Francisco home.

Iran's top officials attend prayer for the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's top officials and brothers of the country's new supreme leader emerged into public view Sunday to attend the funeral prayers for the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, signaling a new confidence in their safety as calls grew for the killing of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Their presence before hundreds of thousands of people in the capital Tehran would have been unthinkable during the Iran war, which saw airstrikes in its opening moments on Feb. 28 kill the 86-year-old Khamenei, his family members and other officials.

Israel also targeted others who appeared publicly during the war, in at least one case likely using their public appearance to fix their position for a strike.

But still unseen was Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei. He is believed to be in hiding after reportedly being wounded in the airstrike that killed his father. Israel has threatened to kill him as well as he leads a theocracy now negotiating with the United States over a permanent end to the war and over Iran strangling traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global energy supplies.

Ziba Naderi, a 42-year-old nurse attending the funeral Sunday, said Iran needed to follow whatever Mojtaba Khamenei commands in regards to the nation.

"I heard the call for revenge, but our leader should say what we need to do," she said. "And we must listen to him."

Funeral includes prayers and calls for revenge

Ayatollah Jafar Sobhani, a 97-year-old Shiite cleric, led the prayers at Tehran's Grand Mosalla for Khamenei and his late family members.

On hand were Khamenei's sons Masoud, Meysam and Mostafa, who haven't been seen since the war. Revolutionary Guard head Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, who only had been photographed for the first time since the war on Thursday, could be seen in the crowd by Associated Press journalists, flanked by plainclothes security forces as he wore a black baseball cap.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and Esmail Qaani, who leads the Guard's expeditionary Quds Force, also attended.

Their appearances came as posters and graffiti at the Grand Mosalla called for the killing of Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mohammad Rasouli, a poet who emceed the event prior to the prayers, drew calls of "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!"

Speaking to the crowd over loudspeakers at the funeral, Rasouli asked, referring to Trump, "Why is the most bastard man in the world still alive?"

The question drew cheers from the crowd, and again when Rasouli said "the world is no longer a good place for" Trump. It marked the first, direct threat to Trump's life by an official during the funeral.

Trump threats grow at funeral

The American president was giving a speech at the same time across the world in Washington, D.C., for the 250th anniversary of America's founding.

"We've had tremendous success," Trump said about the U.S. military. "You look at Venezuela, you look at Iran. We wiped it out, wiped out their military."

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A far-larger crowd for the funeral than the day before attended Sunday. Mourners dressed in black walked to the site, carrying banners and flags honoring Khamenei and also calling for Trump's killing.

"I came here to shout and seek revenge," said Gholamreza Sabooni, 29-year-old man who works in a grocery. "They killed our imam, we should kill their leader, Trump."

U.S. federal authorities have been tracking Iranian threats against Trump and other administration officials for years. That stems from Trump ordering the 2020 killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who had led the Quds Force. Iran repeatedly has denied plotting to kill Trump, though hard-line propaganda footage long has suggested Trump was in Tehran's crosshairs.

Trump meanwhile promised to destroy Iran's very civilization during the war among a variety of other threats.

Funeral postpones talks with US

Khamenei's body will be transported to cities in Iran and neighboring Iraq, with authorities planning to drive his casket and others through the streets of Tehran on Monday. Authorities have shut down streets, airspace and daily life for the mourning, which will end Thursday as he is buried at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, Khamenei's place of birth.

Authorities offered no attendance count for the event Saturday and Sunday. Other cities across Iran also held mourning ceremonies.

For now, talks over reaching a permanent end to the war are on hold until the end of the funeral. Having a major turnout could prove important as Iran tries to leverage its hold on the Strait of Hormuz in negotiations as concern lingers that Israel could attack again.

"Our foreign policy should not be shaped in a way that allows our martyred leader's blood to be dishonored and other countries can afford to do such things, without any serious response from our government and diplomatic system," mourner Mohammad Reza Sharifi said.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are married. What to know about the wedding

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Your English teacher and your gym teacher are married. And we finally know a few more details surrounding Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding at Madison Square Garden.

Adam Sandler officiated, which both delighted and confused those who had been guessing who would have the high honor. Swift's brother Austin Swift served as her man of honor, and Kelce's brother and podcast co-host Jason Kelce served as the groom's best man.

The event was attended by hundreds of celebrities, athletes and close friends and family, but even after the marriage announcement was made Friday evening, many of the wedding details remained hidden as photos remained elusive — including any hint of what Swift or Kelce wore.

Here is what we know (and still don't know):

A star-filled wedding at MSG

Swift once joked that anyone she had ever talked to would be invited to the wedding, and Friday's event appeared to make good on that promise.

Singer Camila Cabello, actors Hugh Grant, Ethan Hawke and Jason Sudeikis and models Karlie Kloss and Gigi Hadid were among the guests, as well as New York Giants wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster, Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Cooper Kupp and San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle. Actor Laura Dern was photographed leaving.

It may be easier to list those not in attendance, which apparently included Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, who previously had a close relationship with Swift but were reportedly seen in upstate New York over the holiday weekend.

Zoe Kravitz was in attendance, but her fiancé — Harry Styles, an ex of Swift — was in London on tour.

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How was MSG transformed? Stay tuned

The arena may have provided the privacy and secrecy that Swift and Kelce were looking for in planning a wedding, but that has also meant that those eager to look at how the couple transformed it into a bridal venue are continuing to wait.

Remarkably, even with the guest list listed as high as 1,000 people, no photos had been released or shared as of Saturday.

Yet hosts of "Good Morning America" who were invited confirmed Saturday that Stevie Nicks performed, the couple wrote their own vows.

"As intimate as it could possibly be given it was Madison Square Garden. Really this garden inside the garden, just so beautiful," George Stephanopoulos said. "It's hard to imagine a place that big and a wedding with such stars could feel so personal and so intimate."

Nicks and Swift have been close friends for years ever since the two performed a duet in 2010 at the Grammy Awards.

While many celebrities and other attendees shared their looks for the big day, it's still unknown what Swift or Kelce wore.

The only thing we do know is that their outfits came from Christian Dior Haute Couture and its designer Jonathan Anderson, with shoes custom-made by Christian Louboutin. Swift wore Cartier jewelry.

A spokesperson for Christian Dior Haute Couture confirmed that the wedding looks were designed by Anderson, saying they were created in Paris in "close collaboration with the couple."

Swift's publicist said it was the designer's first couture wedding dress for a high-profile celebrity. He previously designed a couture wedding dress for Chinese model Ming Xi, who was married in June.

Yet Anderson's avant-garde, edgy style is somewhat of a departure from the designers Swift has selected in the past, though both she and Kelce are both known for their love of fashion.

Anderson moved to Dior after more than a decade at the Spanish house Loewe, where he became known for his craft and wit and turned it into a highly admired label.

He also was behind the looks for the 2024 film "Challengers" and won praise for his costume designs.

Many rush to celebrate the happy couple

The Empire State Building said it lit up in blue to serve as Swift's "something blue" for the big day. Elmo posted a poem congratulating his friends for saying "I do." The global superstar and her star football player husband quickly received warm and joyous reactions to their marriage.

Dolly Parton jokingly teased before the wedding that she wanted dibs on their firstborn child while singing her famous lyrics "I will always love you." The couple donated \$2 million to Parton's Imagination Library earlier that week as part of giving \$26 million to local and national charities across the U.S.

Iran begins dayslong funeral for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, killed in war

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of mourners began a dayslong funeral on Saturday for Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, beating their chests in sorrow before the glass case containing his flag-draped coffin in Tehran and calling for revenge against Israel and the United States.

The funeral for Khamenei, who ruled Iran for decades before he was killed at age 86 in a Feb. 28 air-strike in the opening moments of the Iran war, could provide a boost for the country's theocracy and its new supreme leader, his son Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei.

That is important as Iran tries to leverage its hold on the Strait of Hormuz in negotiations with the U.S. over a permanent end to the war and as concern lingers that Israel could attack again. The funeral was delayed as the war raged, and talks appear to be on hold until it is over.

During the ceremony, Iran's top negotiator warned France and the U.K. over their comments about potentially launching joint patrols in the waterway, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a

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fifth of all oil and natural gas once passed in peacetime.

Mourners wept at the sight of Khamenei's coffin alongside those of his family members also killed in the airstrike, with some chanting: "Our word is one! Revenge! Revenge!" Some carried banners and flags. Billboards across the city bore Khamenei's image. Crowds of men rhythmically beat their chests in mourning, a common practice at Shiite funerals.

"Imam Khamenei was our heart, our father, our everything," mourner Masoumeh Mohammadi said. "I still can't believe they martyred him. We will not rest until we avenge his death."

Coffins on display at Grand Mosalla

An outdoor stage at the Grand Mosalla resembled the stage where Khamenei once gave his speeches at a husseiniyah, or congregation hall, at his compound in downtown Tehran. There was a chair like the one he once sat in while giving his sermons, complete with a microphone on a stand and a table next to it. Above it hung an image of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who died in 1989.

Khomeini's funeral saw chaotic scenes as millions thronged his mourning ceremony and trip to the cemetery. Khamenei's death was only the second time Iran has lost a supreme leader since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

On Saturday, volunteers sprayed cooling water on crowds in the summer heat. Men and women congregated separately inside the Grand Mosalla after being checked by metal detectors and body searches. Police with assault rifles stood guard on surrounding streets. Many people stayed outside in the street, lounging under the shade of trees because the city had shut down.

The caskets of his dead family members sat beneath Khamenei's, which had his black turban atop it, identifying him as a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. The dead included the wife of Mojtaba Khamenei, whose possible appearance at the funeral remained unclear. He reportedly was wounded in the attack that killed his father and has not been seen publicly since the war began.

"We attended the funeral to show that we are all committed to defend our country and religion," said one mourner, Ali Kazemi.

As sunset approached, the streams of people continued. "Authorities advised not to rush to the sites," said a later visitor, Mohammad Barati. Mourners had also been advised not to stay too long, to allow others to come.

Funeral starts as US marks its 250th anniversary

Iran chose July 4, the 250th anniversary of the creation of the U.S., to begin the funeral. While authorities did not acknowledge the timing, crowds at the ceremony in Tehran chanted: "Death to America!" The refrain has been common in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis. They also cried: "Death to Israel!"

"We knocked the hell out of Iran," U.S. President Donald Trump said in a speech at the same time in South Dakota in front of Mount Rushmore. "They want to settle so badly. We gave them a week off for a funeral."

The U.S. president was not forgotten in Tehran. In the crowd in Grand Mosalla, several mourners held a large flag that read: "#KillTrump."

As the ceremony went on, Iran's chief negotiator Kazem Gharibabadi criticized a joint statement overnight from British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron which suggested their militaries stood ready to patrol the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has suggested it wants to charge vessels passing through the strait, upending decades of it being widely considered an international waterway.

"The security of Hormuz lies with the coastal states — the crisis-makers will be held accountable for the consequences of their adventurism," Gharibabadi wrote on X. "This is a serious warning."

Khamenei to be buried in Mashhad

Khamenei's body will be transported to cities in Iran and neighboring Iraq. Authorities have shut down streets, airspace and daily life for the mourning, which will end Thursday as he is buried at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, Khamenei's place of birth.

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Authorities offered no immediate attendance count for the event Saturday. Other cities across Iran also held mourning ceremonies.

On Sunday, a prayer for the dead is planned at the Grand Mosalla. On Monday, Khamenei's body and those of his family will be taken through the streets of Tehran, which likely will draw large crowds.

"I am here to say goodbye to my beloved leader Ali Khamenei," said a weeping Hananeh Mousavi, 27, who attended alongside her mother. "I never expected to see such a day. I wish I had died before this tragedy."

Egypt's coach waved Palestinian flag after winning World Cup game

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt coach Hossam Hassan waved a Palestinian flag on the pitch after his team's victory over Australia in the World Cup, saying he was dedicating it to both Egyptians and Palestinians.

"My heart and soul are with them," he said in an emotional postgame interview.

Egypt won its debut in the elimination round of the World Cup by beating Australia 4-2 on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw in the round of 32 Friday.

The victory comes in Egypt's fourth World Cup.

A video of Hassan on social media shows him walking around the pitch holding the flag as people chanted "Free, free Palestine!" The video went viral.

"It was the most significant scene," Yahia Qalash, former head of Egypt's Journalists' Union, said of Hassan's move. "It was a telling scene in an exceptional moment."

The fate of more than 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, largely displaced and living amid ruins, remains uncertain after a war that began when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Israel's retaliation has killed a total of 73,066 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The war has sparked pro-Palestinian protests around the world, with some athletes also expressing solidarity.

Earlier this year, Lamine Yamal waved a Palestinian flag during celebrations of the Spanish league title. The act caused backlash from Israel's defense minister, who criticized Barcelona's teenage star and said his action "incites hate."

Hassan is not known to be religious or connected to any political group. In the 1980s and 1990s, he was adored by the youth, a street footballer who played in the slums.

He said Friday he was dedicating the game to the "good and noble" Egyptian and Palestinian people.

Asked about the Palestinian flag, FIFA said it is permitted to display it at the World Cup. There was no indication of any action being taken against Hassan.

"Flags representing all 211 FIFA Member Associations are permitted at FIFA tournaments, and supporters are welcome to display them in accordance with stadium regulations and the FIFA Stadium Code of Conduct," the governing body told The Associated Press in a statement.

The Palestine Football Association is one of FIFA's member organizations.

In other contexts, FIFA has previously sought to restrict what it sees as political statements on the pitch.

During the Qatar World Cup in 2022, some European teams were prevented from wearing armbands in support of the "One Love" campaign, an international anti-discrimination initiative.

During Iran's matches in this World Cup, some Iranian Americans in Los Angeles sought to display the country's pre-revolutionary flag and block a FIFA ban on that flag. They lost in court, and the ban was upheld.

Ukrainian drones hit St Petersburg oil terminal in latest long-range attack on Russia

By The Associated Press undefined

A Ukrainian drone attack struck an oil terminal in St. Petersburg on Saturday, Russian officials said, as Kyiv presses on with bombardment of Russia's oil infrastructure.

Almost daily long-range attacks on Russian oil facilities have created a fuel crisis and heaped political pressure on the Kremlin as its all-out invasion of Ukraine stretches into its fifth year.

Gov. Alexander Beglov said the city's Kirovsky district on the Baltic Sea was hit. He also said that air defenses shot down 72 Ukrainian drones across Russia's second-largest city and the surrounding region.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the attack as part of Ukraine's "long-range sanctions" against Russia. He said that Ukrainian forces also hit a military target on the island of Kronstadt, just off the coast of St. Petersburg.

"The Ukrainian defense forces hit the port oil infrastructure, which earns money for the Russian war, and there were also hits on Kronstadt — an important military target," he said in a post on Telegram.

St. Petersburg's Kirovsky district was previously hit in June, ahead of Russia's flagship St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

The Crimean peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, has suffered particularly from heavy strikes, causing local authorities to suspend gasoline sales to civilians. A Ukrainian attack on Saturday killed one person and injured two more, including a 10-year-old child, the Moscow-installed Gov. Sergei Aksyonov said.

Ukrainian attacks bring the war home

Russian President Vladimir Putin has shrugged off Ukraine's strikes on Russia's energy facilities as "not critical," and insisted the war will continue until his goals are met.

He has described the attacks on Russian energy as an effort by Ukraine to distract attention from its losses on the battlefield, although analysts say the advance of Russian forces has been stymied in recent months.

On Friday, Putin visited the Russian military headquarters directing the war in Ukraine and received a report on the capture of the city of Kostyantynivka, after weeks of intense street battles. He hailed it as a key step toward capturing the nearby cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, the key remaining strongholds in the so-called "forest belt" of heavily fortified cities in the Donetsk region that remain in Ukraine's hands.

The capture of Kostyantynivka, a big transport and industrial hub, is of "major strategic importance," Putin, clad in military fatigues, said in televised comments.

In a briefing Saturday, Col. Gen. Sergei Rudskoy, the first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, said that Ukrainian troops had been pushed back several kilometers (miles) and that fighting was taking place on the outskirts of the nearby town of Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka.

"The city is now under our full control. Units of the Southern Army Group are completing the clearance of city blocks, rooting out small groups and individual Ukrainian fighters who may still be hiding in basements and ruins," he said.

Zelenskyy denied that Russia took control of the city. "It is just another Russian lie, an attempt to generate some kind of a news story," he wrote on social media Saturday. "If Kostyantynivka were under Russian control, then perhaps Putin would have no problem meeting me there to find a diplomatic way to finally end this war. But the fact is, he won't cross the front line — reality is very different from Putin's words."

But the Kremlin quickly dismissed Zelenskyy's offer, with Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov telling Radio Komsomolskaya Pravda on Saturday evening that Putin would meet the Ukrainian leader in Moscow once Kyiv was ready to make "important, consequential decisions."

Putin appears to believe his government can keep the fuel crisis from eroding his authority and support for the war he launched more than four years ago. At the very least, the attacks have brought the war home even more poignantly for millions of Russians, shattering Putin's narrative of the conflict as something that doesn't affect the lives of ordinary people in his country.

The border city of Belgorod, which Ukrainian drone strikes have also repeatedly targeted, was left almost

completely without power on Saturday due to overnight attacks, local media reported.

Meanwhile, eight people were wounded after a Russian attack struck residential buildings in Ukraine's southeastern region of Zaporizhzhia, including two children, local authorities said on Saturday.

Mali government reports rebel attacks targeting northern towns

Associated Press undefined

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — The Malian army said Saturday that several northern towns, including Gao and Sévaré, were targeted by rebels. The statement came as a rebel group announced a new offensive to capture a northern town.

Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadane, a spokesperson for the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA), said in a Facebook post that the town of Anefis was being targeted by the separatists.

Mohamed Cissé, a resident of Gao, told The Associated Press that the army is going door to door searching for attackers who are still in the city.

"For the moment, the calm has returned. But I learned that the attackers are still in a part of the city, so I stay inside the house with the family," said Ousmane Maiga, another resident.

In a later statement, the Malian army claimed that "the situation is completely under control." It added that in Sévaré, "20 terrorists on motorcycles and equipped vehicles were neutralized."

But Rawani Ahmed Bouya, a member of the FLA and head of the National Office of the Azawad diaspora, told the AP that Anefis was under FLA control and that the fighting was almost over. His claim could not independently verified.

In late April, a coordinated attack by the FLA and the regional al-Qaida affiliate JNIM killed the defense minister in his home and took control of several key towns in the north of the country.

Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim, deputy project director for the International Crisis Group think tank, said that while the latest attacks are "nothing comparable" to those in April, reports of attacks across the border in Burkina Faso as well as across Mali could indicate an attempt to divert the attention of the army to secure more limited gains in northern Mali.

Wassim Nasr, a senior research fellow at the Soufan Center, said the targeting of Anefis was strategic because any Malian attempt to reverse the territorial gains from April would have been staged in Anefis.

Mali has previously faced insurgencies by militants affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, as well as a separatist rebellion in the country's north. The separatists have been fighting for years to create an independent state in northern Mali.

Along with Mali, neighboring Niger and Burkina Faso have also been battling al-Qaida and IS affiliates.

Following military coups, the juntas in the three countries turned from Western allies to Russia for help combating Islamic militants. But the security situation has worsened with a record number of militant attacks. Government forces have also been accused of killing civilians they suspect of collaborating with militants.

Far-right Alternative for Germany party reelects leaders as protesters and police clash

By DAVID KEYTON, PIETRO DE CRISTOFARO and EBRAHIM NOROOZI Associated Press

ERFURT, Germany (AP) — Delegates at the national convention of the far-right Alternative for Germany party on Saturday overwhelmingly reelected its leaders, including Alice Weidel, as tens of thousands of protesters aimed to disrupt the meeting and some clashed with police.

Alternative for Germany, or AfD, sought to show unity as it voted to extend the terms of Weidel and Tino Chrupalla, who have headed it for four years as co-leaders and ran unopposed Saturday. Weidel was reelected with 81% of the vote, while Chrupalla earned 70%. German parties elect their leaders every two years.

The demonstrations outside the convention in the eastern city of Erfurt reflected how AfD has divided

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Germany even while becoming the biggest opposition party nationally and the strongest political force in Germany's formerly communist east.

Saturday's event was able to start on time despite the protests, which party officials hailed their "fundamental, legally guaranteed right to hold party conventions."

"There are no peaceful seated blockades. There are no democratic roadblocks. Nor are there any gangs of thugs who deserve the harmless label 'civil society.' These troublemakers are the last resort of our political rivals," Chrupalla said.

The weekend convention drew additional controversy by coinciding with the 100-year anniversary of a Nazi Party meeting held nearby that consolidated Adolf Hitler's power over the fascist movement. Historians and political opponents say the timing carries powerful symbolism, an accusation the AfD rejects.

AfD fights 'firewall' as its support rises

AfD achieved second place in the February 2025 national election with 20.8% of the vote, the best showing by a far-right party since World War II. Since then support has risen to first among the nation's political parties.

Despite the growing support, some want to see the party banned and protesters this weekend are likely to underline those calls. But Germany's supreme court previously has set a very high bar for banning parties.

Although Weidel said recently that "2026 is a year of destiny for AfD," mainstream parties say they won't work with AfD in a stance often referred to as a "firewall" against far-right parties.

Police said some 31,000 people attended Saturday's protest rallies, German news agency dpa reported. The demonstrations were largely peaceful, with protesters holding signs such as "Stop AfD Nazis" and "For Diversity, Against Nazis."

Lena Raupach, spokesperson for widersetzen, an anti-fascist alliance whose name translates to "resist," said the group had hoped to block the convention.

"The AfD pursues fascist policies: It wants mass deportations and terror on the streets. At the same time, however, it doesn't solve a single real problem," she said. "It pursues policies that benefit the rich, not ordinary citizens. And we at widersetzen want a society in which all people have equal opportunities and equal security. We want a society based on solidarity."

The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, Germany's domestic intelligence agency, announced last year that it had classified AfD as a proven right-wing extremist group, but suspended the designation after a legal challenge. In February, a Cologne court said the agency can't use the designation while the court evaluates the party's lawsuit.

AfD vehemently rejects accusations of extremism and argues the agency is being used as a political instrument by mainstream parties.

Upcoming state election could bring a major win

AfD is capitalizing on the unpopularity of a government that is trying to reform the sluggish economy. The party has become adept at harnessing discontent with issues well beyond its signature theme of curbing migration, which powered its rise in the mid-2010s.

AfD hopes to win 40% or more of the vote in a Sept. 6 state election in the eastern region of Saxony-Anhalt. That could put the party on course for an absolute majority or in a position where it might try to attract defectors from other parties, paving the way for its first state governor.

"We will win. Maybe we'll be able to govern alone soon," Chrupalla said. "That would send the right message to the enemies of democracy out there who wanted to prevent our party convention from taking place."

The party, which has long called for lifting sanctions against Russia and opposes weapons deliveries to Ukraine, also has supported the general approach of U.S. President Donald Trump while criticizing the war in Iran launched by the Trump administration and Israel.

Björn Höcke, one of the party's regional leaders, repeatedly said in his speech Saturday that AfD wants to make Germany great again, a reference to Trump's MAGA platform, and at least one attendee wore a hat with a "Make Germany Great Again" logo.

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Today in History: July 5

Dolly the sheep born in cloning breakthrough

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 5, the 186th day of 2026. There are 179 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 5, 1996, Dolly the sheep, the first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell by scientists at the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh, was born.

Also on this date:

In 1687, Isaac Newton first published his Principia Mathematica, a three-volume work setting out his mathematical principles of natural philosophy.

In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.

In 1852, Frederick Douglass delivered his speech "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" at Corinthian Hall in Rochester, New York.

In 1865, the Secret Service Division of the U.S. Treasury Department was founded in Washington, D.C., with the mission of suppressing counterfeit currency.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act.

In 1937, Hormel introduced a canned meat product called Spam; more than 9 billion cans have been sold since.

In 1940, during World War II, Britain and the Vichy government in France broke off diplomatic relations.

In 1943, the Battle of Kursk began during World War II; in the weeks that followed, the Soviets were able to repeatedly repel the Germans, who eventually withdrew in defeat.

In 1946, the modern bikini, designed by Frenchman Louis Reard, was first modeled in Paris.

In 1947, Larry Doby made his debut with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first Black player in the American League three months after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the National League.

In 1954, Elvis Presley recorded his first single, "That's All Right," at Sun Studio in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon certified the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which lowered the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.

In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first Black man to win a Wimbledon singles title, defeating Jimmy Connors.

In 1977, Pakistan's army, led by General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, seized power from President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZUL'-fih-kahr ah-LEE' BOO'-toh).

In 1980, Bjorn Borg became the first male player to win five consecutive Wimbledon singles titles.

In 1994, Amazon was founded by Jeff Bezos as an online marketplace for books.

In 2011, a jury in Orlando, Florida, found Casey Anthony, 25, not guilty of murder, manslaughter and child abuse in the 2008 disappearance and death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee.

In 2013, Pope Francis cleared two of the 20th Century's most influential popes to become saints in the Roman Catholic Church, approving a miracle needed to canonize Pope John Paul II and waiving Vatican rules to honor Pope John XXIII.

Today's Birthdays: Julie Nixon Eisenhower is 78. Rock star Huey Lewis is 76. Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Rich "Goose" Gossage is 75. NFL Hall of Fame receiver James Lofton is 70. Cartoonist Bill Watterson (Calvin and Hobbes) is 68. Singer-songwriter Marc Cohn is 67. Actor Edie Falco is 63. Actor Kathryn Erbe (er-BEE') is 61. Actor Michael Stuhlbarg (STOOL'-bahrg) is 58. Rapper RZA (RIH'-zuh) is 57. Author Gary Shteyngart is 54. R&B singer Joe is 53. Rapper Royce da 5'9" is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Amelie Mauresmo is 47. Actor Ryan Hansen is 45. Country musician Dave Haywood (Lady A) is 44. Actor Danay Garcia is 42. Retired soccer player Megan Rapinoe is 41. Actor Jason Dolley is 35. Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher and designated hitter Shohei Ohtani is 32.