

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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 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

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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

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JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena

United Methodist Bible study, 10 a.m.

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

## Wednesday, July 8

Senior Meal: Chicken alfredo, tossed salad, broccoli, fruit, breadstick

Legion Auxiliary Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar, 11 a.m., Groton Legion

Groton Junior Legion hosts Aberdeen Smitty's, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U12 Baseball hosts Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U8 Baseball (red) hosts Claremont, 6:30 p.m.

U12 Softball (B&W) at Faulkton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

TBall: hosts Claremont, 5:30 p.m., Nelson Field

JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Olive Grove: Men's League 3:30-9 pm

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# 1440

**Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.**

## Khamenei Funeral Begins

The dayslong funeral for Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei began on Saturday. Crowds of attendees gathered in Tehran to view his casket and those of several family members also killed in US-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28, which marked the start of the war.

Mojtaba Khamenei, the late ayatollah's successor and second-oldest son, was not present at the weekend's ceremonies. He has not been seen or heard from publicly since he was reportedly wounded in the strikes that killed his father. Khamenei's three other sons were in attendance, as were representatives of Hamas and Hezbollah. The procession continues today in Tehran, after which Khamenei's remains will be brought to Qom and then to two cities in Iraq with special significance for Shiite Muslims. Khamenei is due to be buried in his hometown of Mashhad on Thursday.

The 1989 funeral for Khamenei's predecessor, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, drew millions of attendees.

## Yanks vs. the Red Devils

The US men's national soccer team takes the pitch again this evening, facing Belgium in the World Cup's Round of 16 in Seattle (Fox, 8 pm ET). The victor faces the winner of tomorrow's Portugal-Spain matchup.

A victory tonight would propel the US to their second quarterfinals in modern history, and first since 2002. (They finished third in the 1930 tournament, which had 13 teams.) The Yanks—the squad's semiofficial nickname—will be with striker Folarin Balogun, whose suspension following a red card in Wednesday's victory over and Herzegovina was lifted yesterday (and follows a call to FIFA from President Donald Trump).

Balogun, born in Brooklyn by accident and raised in the UK, is the team's leading scorer in the tournament, with three goals on 11 shots. Despite his presence, betting odds have the match as a toss-up.

## Lost Byzantine City

Egyptian officials announced the discovery of a Byzantine-era city in the country's western desert on Saturday. The well-preserved city is located in the Dakhla Oasis and reveals scenes of daily life.

The city was organized by north-south and east-west streets, forming public squares. Many of the houses had vaulted roofs and reception halls, with researchers also uncovering bread ovens, kitchens, and stone grinding tools. Overlooking the city was a basilica-style church, alongside two watchtowers to protect the town. There was also a building fortified with thick defensive walls. The city dates back to the fourth century, with gold coins discovered from the reign of Roman Emperor Constantius II. Bronze coins were also found showcasing Byzantine emperors, Latin phrases, and Christian symbols.

Separately, Egypt revealed the discovery of 18 additional tombs at Marina el-Alamein, an archaeological site 62 miles west of Alexandria.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Charles Leclerc wins his first-ever British Grand Prix for Ferrari, defeating George Russell and Lewis Hamilton.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce tie the knot in New York City's Madison Square Garden in a ceremony reportedly attended by more than 1,000 guests and officiated by comedian Adam Sandler.

Serena Williams withdraws from Wimbledon doubles game with sister Venus due to knee injury, ending comeback early.

## Science & Technology

World's tallest tropical trees have evolved mechanisms to draw water to branches as high as 300 feet, protecting them from drought.

The breakup of Gondwana, an ancient supercontinent that saw massive tectonic rifts during the Jurassic period, may have led to the formation of the modern Antarctic ice sheet.

A Jupiter-sized gas planet closely orbiting a white dwarf—the remains of a low- to medium-sized star that exhausted its fuel—likely migrated to its position after the star died; findings shed light on solar system dynamics once stars burn out.

## Business & Markets

"Trump accounts," tax-favored investment savings accounts for eligible US children, launched July 4; kids born between 2025 and 2028 whose families enroll receive \$1K in seed funding.

OPEC+ countries agree to hike August oil production target by 188,000 barrels per day; increase comes in addition to a ramp-up of almost 800,000 barrels per day in April through July.

Alibaba bans employees from using Claude code after reports of undisclosed features meant to identify Chinese users; Anthropic accuses Alibaba of trying to train its own models on Claude.

## Politics & World Affairs

Death toll from Venezuelan earthquakes rises to nearly 3,000 people as search and rescue efforts continue.

Mallory McMorrow drops out of Democratic primary for Michigan's Aug. 4 Senate race, narrowing the field to Rep. Haley Stevens (Mich.-11) and former public health official Abdul El-Sayed.

President Donald Trump speaks to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, reportedly offers to help find an end to the yearslong war.

... and see highlights from Trump's July Fourth address.

Washington, Adams, Lincoln, oh my: Go down the rabbit hole with dozens of topics and all the best resources we've found on 1440 Civics.

## GROTON 1912 ★ HISTORICAL JAIL

★  
315 1<sup>ST</sup> AVE. E, GROTON

*Open House*

**SUNDAY,  
JULY 12,**

★  
**10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.**  
★



★ *Come see the  
newly restored jail* ★

## "Finding Balance in a World That Never Stops"

Stress surrounds us every day. We experience it in our personal lives, at work, in our relationships, and through the constant stream of information from the news and social media. We live in a world of endless notifications, growing expectations, and competing demands that pull us in multiple directions at once. We are often expected to be constantly available and do more than our time and energy allow. However, our body and brain were not designed to handle this level of continuous stress and demand. As a result, many people struggle to maintain balance, manage stress effectively, and protect their overall well-being.

In healthy amounts, stress can be beneficial. It can motivate us to try new things, work toward our goals, and overcome challenges. Our bodies and brains are designed to respond to stress by addressing a stressor and then returning to a state of balance and recovery. However, when stress becomes constant or overwhelming, the body may struggle to return to this balanced state. Instead, it can remain in a prolonged state of stress, which may have lasting effects on both physical and mental health, as well as overall quality of life.

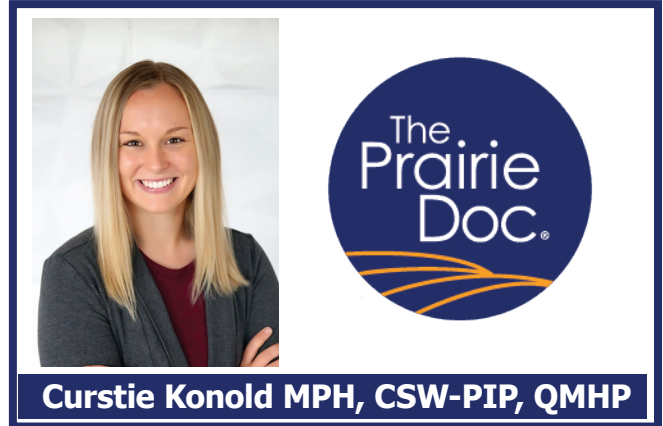
In a world of constant news, social media, and other sources of stress, it is important to be intentional about disconnecting from these influences and reconnecting with the habits and practices that support overall well-being. One framework for achieving balance is the eight dimensions of wellness identified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): emotional, spiritual, intellectual, physical, environmental, financial, occupational, and social wellness. By supporting each of these dimensions, individuals can build resilience, manage stress more effectively, and improve their overall quality of life.

Wellness is about creating balance between different areas of life. Being mindful of the dimensions of wellness can help you better understand where you are thriving and where you may need additional support. Taking time to reflect on each dimension individually by asking yourself what is going well and what feels challenging can provide valuable insight into your overall well-being. The dimensions of wellness are interconnected, and challenges in one area can impact other areas. For example, occupational stress may influence emotional wellness, while financial concerns can impact social relationships and physical health.

Regularly checking in with the dimensions of wellness can help you better understand what your mind and body need in a given moment. If you identify an area where you are struggling, consider what actions or resources might be helpful. Writing down specific, achievable steps can be an effective way to address your needs and restore a greater sense of balance.

Stress is a natural part of life, and it is not something we can eliminate completely. However, we can take intentional steps to care for ourselves while navigating life's challenges. The eight dimensions of wellness provide a practical framework for understanding our needs and identifying areas that may require additional attention.

Wellness is not about achieving perfection in every area of life. Instead, it is an ongoing process of self-awareness and growth. By making small, consistent choices that support our well-being, we can build resilience, find greater balance, and feel better equipped to meet the demands of everyday life.



Curstie Konold MPH, CSW-PIP, QMHP

*Curstie is a certified social worker in private or independent practice and holds a Master of Public Health degree. Curstie owns Mindful Matters, LLC, where she provides mental health services and promotes trauma-informed care to her clients. Curstie is also the Associate Director at the Center for Rural Health Improvement at the University of South Dakota, where she supports projects that advance rural health initiatives, strengthen community partnerships, and improve access to quality care across rural communities. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).*

## 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.

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## Amazon Reforestation An Uphill Battle

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine ~ by Rachel Berliner

### EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How are conservationists encouraging reforestation in the Amazon?

-- Peter Smyth, Tempe, AZ

The Amazon Rainforest covers eight million kilometers of land and spans nine countries across South America, making it the world's largest rainforest. The Amazon is home to 400 billion trees, contributing greatly to global carbon storage and climate regulation. In addition, 10 percent of the Earth's known species live in the Amazon, which also provides essential food and medicine to nearby communities. Despite such overwhelming benefits, the Amazon is gradually becoming barren land. According to Global Citizen, a leading international advocacy organization, 20 percent of the rainforest has been lost to mining, forest fires, agricultural expansion, land grabbing, and cattle ranching in the past 50 years.

Indigenous communities have taken on initiatives to reforest and preserve the Amazon. Farmers have integrated agroforestry systems, a method of sustainable farming that preserves biodiversity. Local-led ecotourism is another way communities have worked to protect the Amazon's acreage. Sani Warmi, a Kichwa indigenous women's organization in Sani Isla, Ecuador, operates the Sani Lodge and leads traditional cooking and craft lessons for tourists, protecting 76,600 forest acres. And the U.S.-based Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon works with locals in Peru to re-plant native land species.

Others, like Brazilian parachutist Luigi Cani, have made it their mission to revitalize barren parts of the Amazon. In 2022, Cani completed his "100 Million Seeds Amazon Project" by skydiving while scattering seeds across parts of the Amazon. "... the seeds were released precisely where we wanted them to be," he says. "We need huge changes to make the world better than it is today. The possibility for growth is incredible, but more people need to be willing to learn and work together." The seeds germinated at a rate of 95 percent, making the project a successful and eye-catching demonstration of individual activism.

There are also larger global strategies protecting the Amazon. The Brazilian government launched the Amazon Fund, which has raised over \$1.4 billion dollars from contributing countries across the world. And experts are improving technology to monitor deforestation. The Colombian Amazon is being observed by an AI-powered satellite and drones to prevent illegal deforestation.

Readers interested in helping to reforest the Amazon, you can support Amazon Rainforest preservation organizations such as the Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon by donating on their website.



**Conservationists face an uphill battle in the fight against deforestation of the Amazon river basin.** Credit: Roddy Scheer

## **Land for Sale**

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

**For more info, visit:  
[www.keminklandco.com](http://www.keminklandco.com)**



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

## **Name Released in Beadle County Fatal Crash**

What: Single-vehicle fatal crash

Where: 411th Avenue and 199th Street, 4.5 miles north of Yale, South Dakota

When: 12:56 a.m., Saturday, June 13, 2026

Driver 1: Jimmy Lee Lloyd, 22-year-old male from Huron, South Dakota, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 1999 Ford F-350

Seat Belt Used: No

Beadle County, S.D.- A Huron, South Dakota man died Wednesday from injuries sustained during a June 13 single-vehicle crash near Yale, South Dakota.

Preliminary crash information indicates Jimmy Lee Lloyd, the driver of a 1999 Ford F-350, was traveling northbound on 411th Avenue near 199th Street when he entered a ditch, causing his vehicle to roll.

Lloyd was taken to a Huron medical center before being transported to a Sioux Falls Hospital. He died from his injuries on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

## **Names Released in Custer County Fatal Crash**

What: Two-vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 40 at mile marker 52, 2 miles east of Hermosa, South Dakota

When: 5:54 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Driver 1: Carlos Ray Cross, 18-year-old male from Rapid City, South Dakota, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2019 Toyota Camry

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: Alicia Nicole Hayden, 34-year-old female, serious, non-life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 1: 2021 Ford Explorer

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1: Tylar Elizabeth Causey, 35-year-old female from Hermosa, South Dakota, minor injuries

Passenger 2: 7-year-old female, minor injuries

Passenger 3: 7-year-old male, minor injuries

Custer County, S.D.- A Rapid City, South Dakota man died in a two-vehicle crash Wednesday near Hermosa, South Dakota.

Preliminary crash information indicates Carlos Ray Cross, the driver of a 2019 Toyota Camry, was traveling westbound on South Dakota Highway 40 near Hermosa, when he entered the eastbound lane. At the same time, Alicia Nicole Hayden, the driver of a 2021 Ford Explorer, approached the Camry from the eastbound lanes and tried to avoid a collision. The vehicles struck each other.

Cross sustained fatal injuries. Hayden was taken to a Rapid City hospital via Life Flight. Her passengers sustained minor injuries. SD Highway 40 was closed for approximately one hour following the crash.

The investigations are ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

## **Hughes County Fatal Crash**

What: Single-vehicle fatal crash

Where: Spring Creek Drive and Walleye Drive, 15 miles northwest of Pierre, South Dakota

When: 2:03 p.m., Saturday, July 4, 2026

Driver 1: 37-year-old male from Indianola, Iowa, no injuries

Vehicle 1: 2008 Polaris Ranger 700 Utility Vehicle

Seatbelt Used: No

Passenger 1: 9-year-old female from Waterloo, Iowa, fatal injuries

Seatbelt Used: No

Passenger 2: 16-year-old male from Des Moines, Iowa, minor Injuries

Seatbelt Used: No

Hughes County, S.D.- A Waterloo, Iowa girl died Saturday in a single-vehicle crash near Pierre, South Dakota.

Names of the those involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2008 Polaris Ranger 700 Utility Vehicle was driving south on Spring Creek Drive. He attempted to turn around and rolled the vehicle. One of the passengers sustained fatal injuries. The second passenger sustained minor injuries. The driver was not injured.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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



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Every NFL offseason brings optimism. Every fanbase convinces itself the rookies will hit, the free agents will work out, and this is finally the year everything comes together. But before the season starts and hope takes over, it's worth taking a hard look at the roster as it actually exists today.

Over the next ten weeks, we'll break down every position group on the Vikings' roster and rank them from the group I have the most confidence in to the one I trust the least entering the 2026 season. We'll look at the projected starters, depth pieces, offseason additions, and biggest questions each group faces.

We finally have our first defensive position group! The Minnesota Vikings' defense seems to always be in a state of flux, which makes it hard to feel confident in the position groups. However, one group surprisingly went from a huge question mark to quiet confidence, despite a 67% turnover rate.

Coming in at number 6: defensive line

Confidence level: 70%

Current projected starters: Jalen Redmond, Caleb Banks, Domonique Orange

Competing for a roster or practice squad spot: Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Isaiahh Loudermilk, Levi Drake Rodriguez, Taki Taimani, Eric Johnson II, Jahvaree Ritzie, Smith Vilbert, Elijah Williams

Why I'm confident: A year ago, the Vikings made a concerted effort to improve the defensive line, spending big money to bring in Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave. One year later, both of those players will be wearing different uniforms. Surprisingly, however, this didn't dampen the expectations of this group. In fact, this current defensive line combination might have the highest potential in many years.

It starts with Jalen Redmond. After beginning his career in the UFL, Redmond signed with the Vikings before the 2024 season. In 2025, he started 15 games and quickly became one of the most impactful defensive players on the team. Starting next to Redmond will be Caleb Banks, the Vikings' first-round pick a few months ago. Banks' potential is off the charts; the only question is whether he can stay healthy. The third member of the new-look Vikings defensive line is Domonique Orange, AKA Big Citrus. He might be my favorite addition to the team this year. If you've been reading my column for a while, you know how much I've been begging the Vikings to bring in an actual nose tackle. They finally listened.

Cause for concern: This group has a ton of potential, but also a ton of question marks. Will Jalen Redmond be able to sustain his high level of play now that teams are aware of how good he is? Can Caleb Banks stay healthy? How long will it take for Big Citrus to acclimate himself to the NFL? The Vikings currently have a ton of players listed as defensive linemen, which tells me they aren't confident in the depth at the position. Will the young players, like Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Levi Drake Rodriguez, and Taki Taimani step up?

Potential upgrades: The defensive lineman cupboard is pretty bare. The best names available are all over 30 years old, and none of them are clear upgrades over the backups already on the roster. So, unless the Vikings decide to make a trade, we're stuck with what we have.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Company proposing Black Hills uranium mine eyes state permitting restart after 13-year pause**

**BY MAKENZIE HUBER**

A company spearheading a long-lingering uranium mining proposal in southwestern South Dakota hopes to restart its state permitting process after a 13-year hold.

The Dewey-Burdock project — spanning nearly 20 square miles in Custer and Fall River counties — secured the last of its necessary federal permits for the project last month, according to the federal Permitting Council. The project was included last year in FAST-41, a federal process meant to improve coordination among permitting agencies and hold them accountable to deadlines.

The project, decades in the making, was added to the process in August of last year. Dewey-Burdock — named for rural locations near Edgemont along the southwestern edge of the Black Hills — requires numerous federal, state and local permits and has been mired in administrative and court appeals for years.

The mining method for the project is “in situ”: drilling wells to inject a water-based solution underground, dissolving uranium and pumping it to the surface. The water would be pulled from local aquifers and then treated and pumped back underground after being used for mining, causing opponents to fear pollution of local water sources.

Emily Domenech, Permitting Council executive director, said in a news release that the fast-tracking process advanced the project, which is “critical to national security and energy dominance.” Uranium is a metallic, radioactive element used as fuel in nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants.

EnCore Energy Executive Chair William Sheriff said in a news release that the company plans to begin the state permitting process next.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources confirmed that the company submitted new water-rights applications and supporting information. The company has not yet submitted new applications for mine or groundwater discharge permits, said Brian Walsh, department spokesman.

The timeline for processing state permits is “difficult to predict,” Walsh added, depending on the “level of public participation.”

The project’s state applications have been inactive since 2013, while the federal permitting process played out. The South Dakota Water Management Board rejected the company’s request to restart its water permitting process in 2021, due in part to outstanding federal permits and active litigation.

“I just don’t think it’s appropriate for the state of South Dakota and this board to spend millions of dollars once again on an issue and then have the rug pulled out from under our feet after we’ve made a decision,” board member Rodney Freeman said at the time.

Lilias Jarding, executive director of the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, has been a vocal opponent of the Dewey-Burdock project for years. She is concerned about potential water contamination and the amount of water needed for the project. She expects opponents to push back and attempt to appeal federal permits, which she said could affect the state process and overall project.

“The people don’t want this,” Jarding said. “There will be public pushback.”

The Oglala Sioux Tribe and NDN Collective, a Rapid City-based Indigenous advocacy group, have also opposed the project, citing concerns about potential impacts to historic and cultural sites in the Black Hills — land central to the spiritual beliefs and practices of many tribes.

The same groups also oppose a proposal to conduct exploratory drilling for uranium near Craven Canyon,

not far from the Dewey-Burdock project area. A hearing on the permit application for the drilling plan, from Canadian company Nexus Uranium, is on hold as a court considers a lawsuit from a project opponent.

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

## COMMENTARY

### 'Come fund our government' isn't likely to succeed as a tourism slogan

**Visitors can only be taxed so much before they start choosing other destinations**

**by Brad Johnson**

Some states treat visitors like guests. Others treat them like customers.

A proposal before South Dakota would create a third category: visitors as government revenue.

The theory is simple: If property taxes are unpopular, perhaps someone else can pay the bill. Preferably someone who doesn't vote here.

That is the theory underlying Republican gubernatorial candidate Toby Doeden's proposal to eliminate property taxes and replace them with what he has described as a tourism tax and other external revenue paid primarily by people who don't live in the state.

It's an attractive idea. Nobody likes paying property taxes, and everybody likes the idea of somebody else paying them instead. It's the fiscal version of hoping the neighbor who admired your lawn will also mow it.

Last year, visitors spent \$5.16 billion in South Dakota. They filled hotel rooms, packed restaurants, booked pheasant hunts, fished the state's waters, shopped on Main Streets and kept thousands of small businesses alive.

They supported nearly 60,000 jobs, generated more than \$406 million in state and local taxes, produced 16.5% of all state sales tax collections and reduced the average South Dakota household's tax burden by an estimated \$1,121.

That isn't a side business. It's one of South Dakota's economic engines. And it's enticing to think we could pull even more revenue from it to replace property taxes.

But South Dakota's tourism economy wasn't built by maximizing taxes. It was built by maximizing value.

Wall Drug became a roadside empire by offering free ice water and giving travelers a reason to stop. The Black Hills built destinations. Communities invested in parks, campgrounds, trails, boat ramps and attractions. Sportsmen's groups invested millions in habitat. Travel South Dakota markets experiences, hospitality and adventure.

No tourism campaign has ever succeeded by saying, "Come fund our government." Nobody plans a vacation around subsidizing the construction of roads, schools and jails.

The real formula for success has always been simple: Create enough interest that people want to visit, and enough value that they want to come back.

South Dakota doesn't compete in a vacuum. Every vacation dollar is also being courted by Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota and dozens of other destinations that understand visitors always have another option.

Tourism is a discretionary purchase. Families can shorten a trip, delay it, or choose somewhere else.

Which is why the idea of squeezing substantially more revenue from the same visitors feels less like innovation and more like testing how far you can lean on a fence post before it snaps.

Doeden argues South Dakota is leaving between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in potential tourism revenue on the table. Perhaps. But potential revenue is not actual revenue.

The question isn't whether visitors help pay for South Dakota. They already do. The existing \$406 million

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of revenue is already an enormous contribution.

The question is whether they can realistically replace \$1.9 billion in property taxes that fund schools, counties and other local governments.

If tourism is expected to replace property taxes, South Dakotans deserve to know exactly how.

What gets taxed? Hotels? Restaurants? Campgrounds? Retail purchases? Guided hunts? Fishing trips? At what rate? What happens if visitor spending declines?

When a proposal would fundamentally change how South Dakota finances schools, counties and local government, it deserves careful scrutiny.

Maybe visitors will gladly pay substantially more while continuing to choose South Dakota over every competing destination. That seems like an odd wager for a state whose most famous tourism success story began with free ice water.

Wall Drug is an example of the way South Dakota built its tourism economy on a simple idea: Make visitors feel like guests, and they'll come back.

That's a business model. Treating those same visitors like revenue is a different business model entirely.

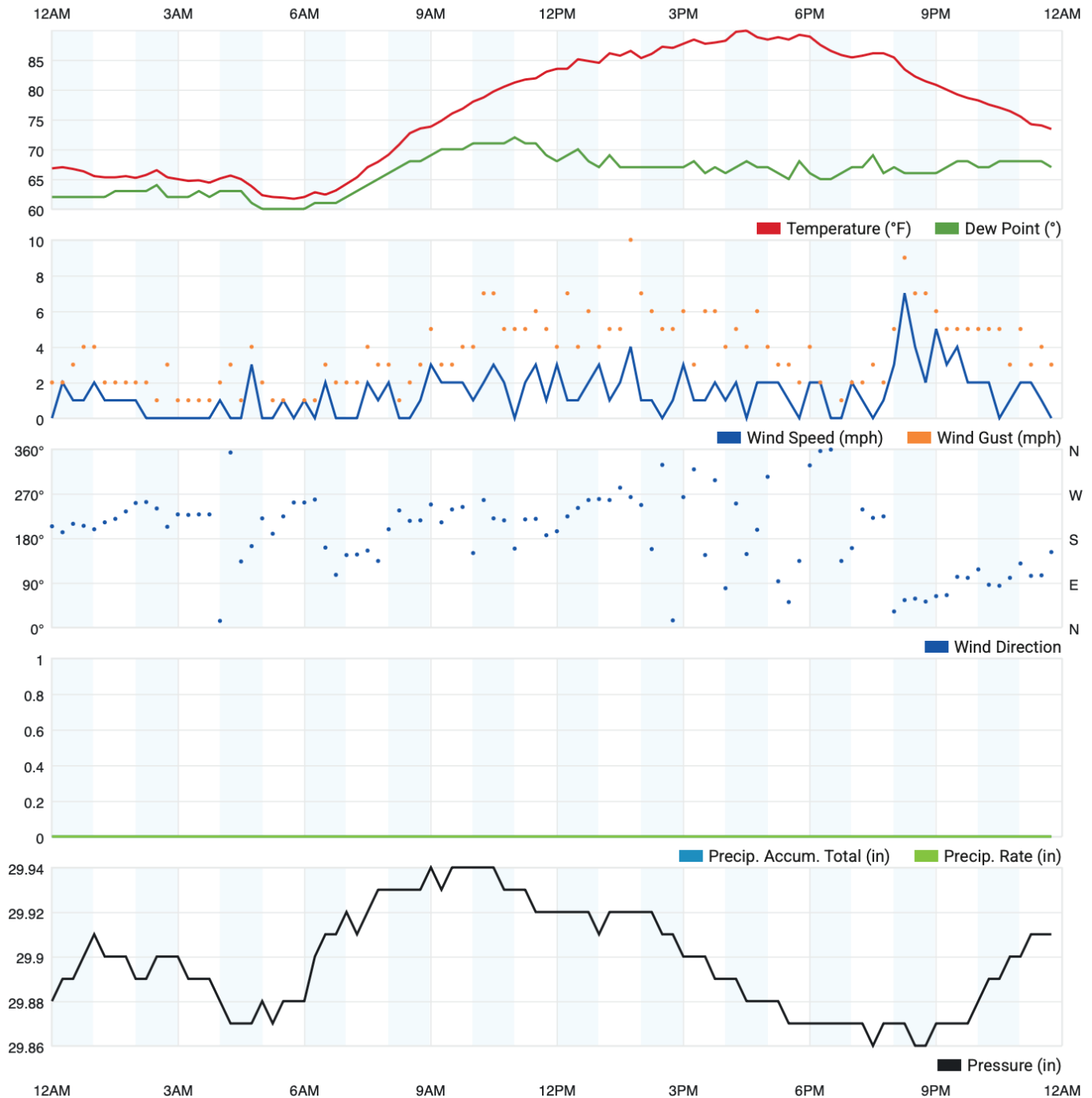
*Brad Johnson is a certified general real estate appraiser and longtime journalist. He is past president of South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association, president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, a member of the National Wildlife Federation's board of directors, and served 16 years on the South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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 5, 2026



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Today



High: 95 °F

Hot

Tonight



Low: 66 °F

Mostly Clear

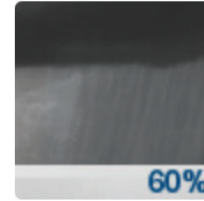
Monday



High: 95 °F

Sunny then  
Chance  
T-storms

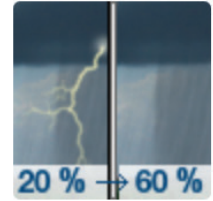
Monday Night



Low: 64 °F

Showers  
Likely

Tuesday



High: 88 °F

Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Showers  
Likely



## Heat Index Forecast Monday

July 6, 2026  
2:43 AM

→ Highest heat indices near or just above 100°F over south central South Dakota into the James Valley.

◆ Heat indices in the 90s or higher across most of the region today.

→ Temperatures will moderate from north to south on Tuesday into Wednesday.

### Staying Safe in the Heat

- ☀ Limit Outdoor Activities
- ☀ Drink Plenty of Water
- ☀ Avoid Alcohol
- ☀ Wear Light Clothing
- ☀ Wear Sunscreen
- ☀ Work Outdoors Early or Very Late in the Day

 [weather.gov/heat](https://weather.gov/heat)

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

### Heat Index (°F) Forecast

|             | 7/6<br>Mon |      |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      | HeatIndex |
|-------------|------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----------|
|             | 9am        | 10am | 11am | 12pm | 1pm | 2pm | 3pm | 4pm | 5pm | 6pm | 7pm | 8pm | 9pm | 10pm |           |
| Aberdeen    | 77         | 85   | 88   | 93   | 97  | 100 | 99  | 101 | 100 | 99  | 97  | 95  | 90  | 83   | 101       |
| Britton     | 77         | 84   | 87   | 92   | 94  | 94  | 95  | 97  | 96  | 96  | 94  | 91  | 85  | 77   | 97        |
| Chamberlain | 76         | 85   | 89   | 93   | 97  | 100 | 101 | 102 | 99  | 100 | 100 | 94  | 89  | 85   | 102       |
| Clark       | 75         | 78   | 83   | 87   | 91  | 93  | 93  | 94  | 93  | 94  | 93  | 89  | 85  | 79   | 94        |
| Eagle Butte | 73         | 77   | 82   | 86   | 88  | 90  | 91  | 92  | 92  | 92  | 90  | 87  | 83  | 77   | 92        |
| Eureka      | 75         | 82   | 84   | 89   | 92  | 93  | 94  | 96  | 95  | 94  | 92  | 88  | 84  | 78   | 96        |
| Gettysburg  | 75         | 83   | 85   | 89   | 92  | 94  | 95  | 97  | 96  | 94  | 93  | 90  | 86  | 77   | 97        |
| McIntosh    | 71         | 76   | 79   | 83   | 85  | 86  | 88  | 89  | 89  | 88  | 87  | 85  | 79  | 74   | 89        |
| Milbank     | 75         | 84   | 86   | 89   | 93  | 94  | 95  | 97  | 96  | 95  | 96  | 90  | 85  | 78   | 97        |
| Miller      | 76         | 84   | 88   | 92   | 96  | 96  | 98  | 98  | 96  | 97  | 97  | 92  | 87  | 82   | 98        |
| Mobridge    | 76         | 82   | 85   | 89   | 92  | 93  | 94  | 95  | 94  | 94  | 95  | 91  | 87  | 82   | 95        |
| Murdo       | 74         | 79   | 84   | 89   | 93  | 97  | 97  | 98  | 97  | 96  | 94  | 88  | 84  | 78   | 98        |
| Pierre      | 76         | 83   | 87   | 91   | 97  | 99  | 100 | 102 | 100 | 99  | 98  | 93  | 88  | 83   | 102       |
| Redfield    | 76         | 84   | 88   | 93   | 96  | 98  | 98  | 99  | 98  | 98  | 97  | 93  | 88  | 83   | 99        |
| Sisseton    | 76         | 84   | 87   | 92   | 94  | 95  | 96  | 97  | 96  | 96  | 95  | 91  | 87  | 79   | 97        |
| Watertown   | 75         | 79   | 85   | 88   | 94  | 95  | 95  | 97  | 96  | 95  | 94  | 91  | 86  | 82   | 97        |
| Webster     | 75         | 79   | 84   | 88   | 91  | 92  | 94  | 94  | 93  | 93  | 92  | 89  | 85  | 78   | 94        |
| Wheaton     | 75         | 83   | 85   | 89   | 92  | 93  | 94  | 95  | 94  | 94  | 93  | 90  | 86  | 78   | 95        |

6065707580859095100105110115

Heat Index Forecast (°F)

60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115  
Heat Index Forecast (°F)

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Hot temperatures will continue into Monday with high temperature readings a good 5 to 10 degrees above normal. This combined with high humidity values will push afternoon heat indices into the mid 90s to around 102 degrees.

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## THREAT ASSESSMENT

### HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

Isolated To Scattered Severe Weather Possible

### Timing:

5 PM To 11 PM

Central, North Central and Northeast SD / West Central MN

### PRIMARY THREATS

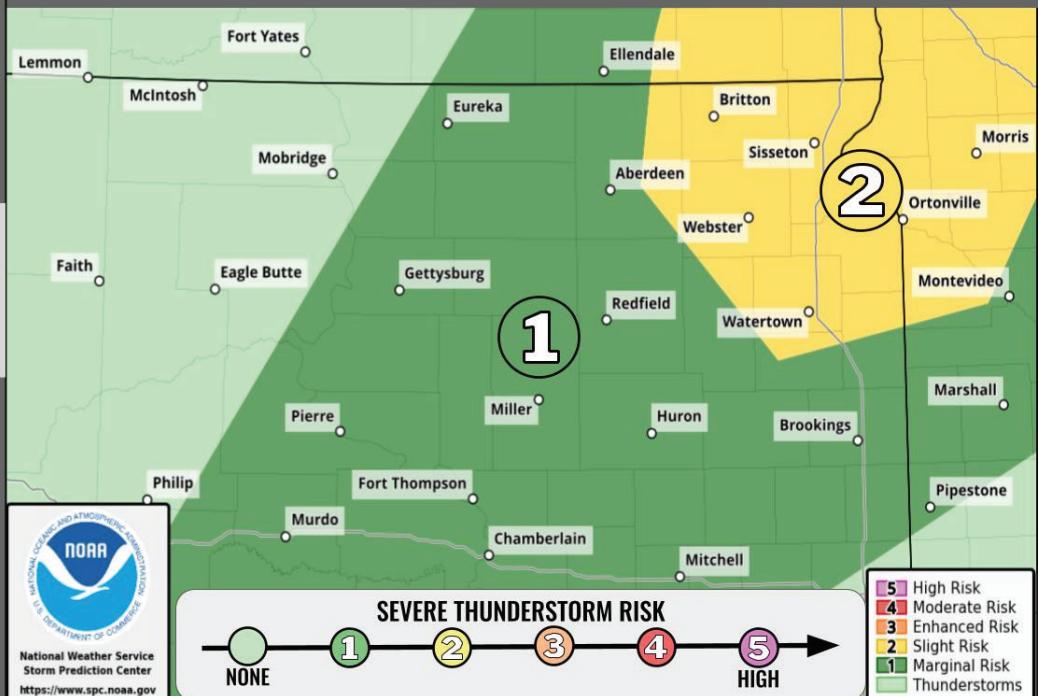


DAMAGING WIND GUSTS  
Up to 60-70 mph



HAIL up to 1" diameter

## Slight Risk For Monday Afternoon/Evening (July 6th)



A Slight Risk (level 2 out of 5) is in place across mainly northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota for afternoon and evening strong to severe thunderstorms. Hail up to 1 inch in diameter and thunderstorm wind gusts 60 to 70 mph will be possible.

## THREAT ASSESSMENT

### HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

Scattered Severe Weather Possible

### Timing:

Tuesday Afternoon  
Through Late Tuesday Night

### PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING WIND GUSTS  
Up to 60-70 mph



HAIL up to 1" diameter

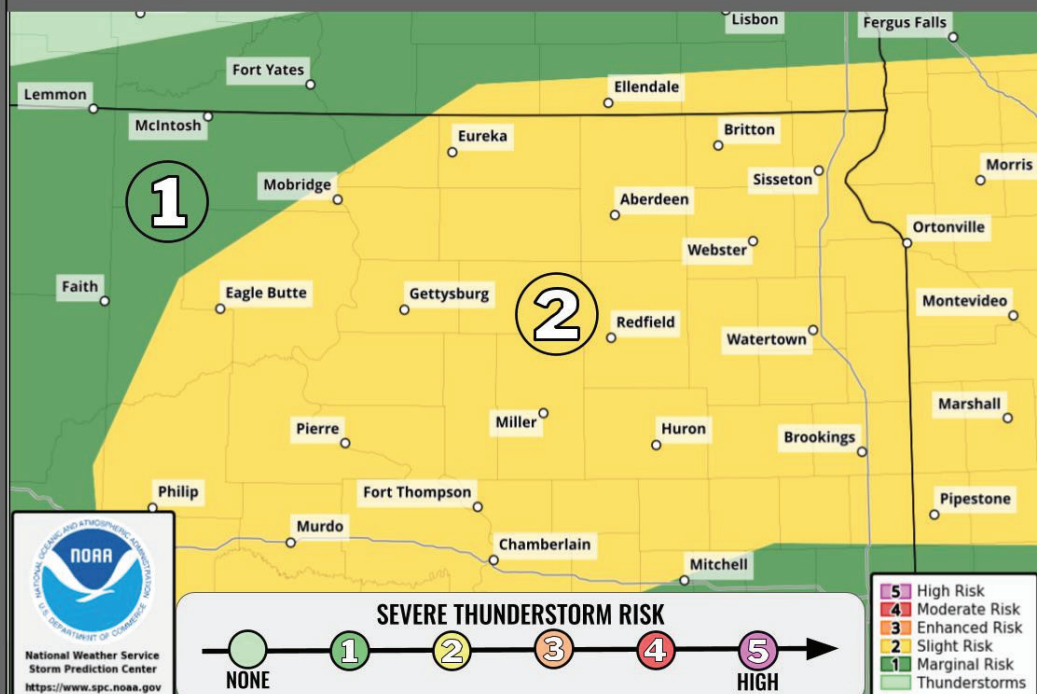


ISOLATED  
TORNADO(ES)  
POSSIBLE



HEAVY RAIN  
POSSIBLE

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



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 92 °F at 4:56 PM**

**Low Temp: 65 °F at 6:10 AM**

**Wind: 9 mph at 12:06 PM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 115 in 1936

Record Low: 42 in 1942

Average High: 84

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in July.: 0.70

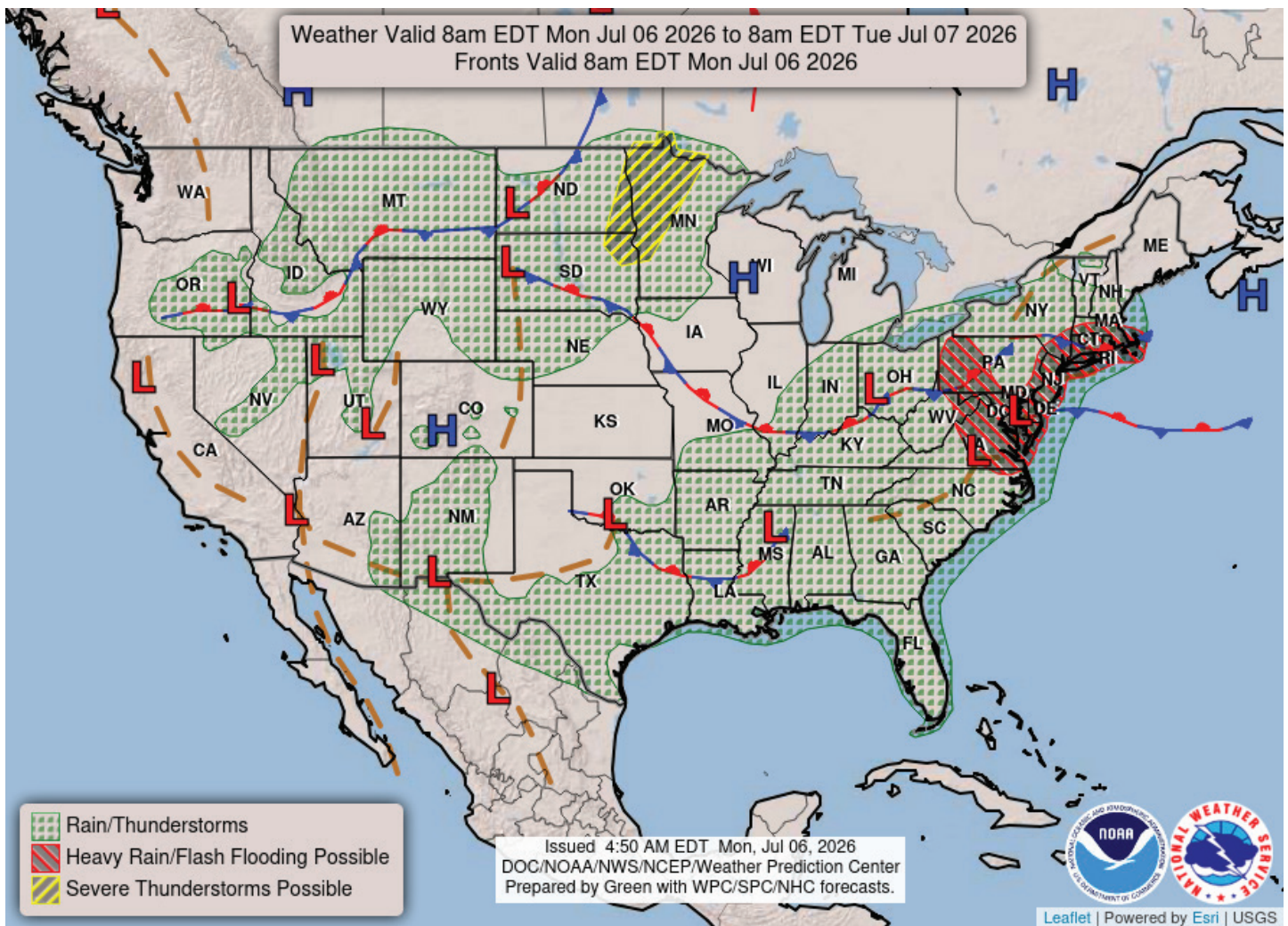
Precip to date in July.: 0.29

Average Precip to date: 11.71

Precip Year to Date: 9.76

Sunset Tonight: 9:23 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 am



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## Today in Weather History

July 6, 1963: A farmer died near Waubay, in Day County, when the barn was destroyed while he was inside. Winds of 110 mph were recorded at FAA in Watertown before the roof and wind instruments were blown away.

July 6, 1982: A severe thunderstorm produced a series of five microbursts over Sioux Falls. The microbursts caused extensive damage. Winds were estimated to have reached 125 mph, and the Airport recorded a peak gust of 82 mph. Damage, which was heaviest in the south-central and northeast sections of the city, included thousands of trees uprooted or damaged. Several semi-trailers were blown over, critically injuring one man and slightly injuring two others. Several other minor injuries occurred mainly from flying glass. Five cars were rolled over by the high winds, and several others damaged flying debris. Damage at the airport included a portion of a hangar roof blown off and three light aircraft flipped over.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some total storm amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1893: A violent tornado killed 71 persons on its forty-mile track across northwestern Iowa. Forty-nine persons were killed around Pomeroy, where eighty percent of the buildings were destroyed, with most leveled to the ground.

1928: A seven-inch hailstone weighing 1.5 pounds fell in Potter Nebraska. With a circumference of 17 inches, this appeared to be the largest hailstone in the world at that time.

1985 — Lightning struck a large transformer in Salt Lake County sending a 200 foot fireball into the air and blacking out almost the entire state for up to five hours. (The Weather Channel)

1986 — Thunderstorm rains during the mid morning hours, and again during the evening, produced major flash-flooding at Leavenworth, KS. The official rainfall total was 10.37 inches, but unofficial totals exceeded twelve inches. At nearby Kansas City, the rainfall total of 5.08 inches was a daily record for July. (Storm Data)

1987 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather in twenty-one states east of the Rockies, with severe weather reported in Kentucky and Indiana for the second day in a row. A thunderstorm produced more than five inches of rain in one hour near Reynolds, IL. Rochester, NY, was soaked with 3.25 inches, a record 24 hour total for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Thirty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at International Falls, MN, and 101 degrees at Flint, MI, equalled all-time records. Highs of 96 degrees at Muskegon, MI, and 97 degrees at Buffalo, NY, were records for July. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Las Vegas, NV, with a reading of 115 degrees. Hanksville, UT, reached 112 degrees, Bullhead City, AZ, hit 120 degrees, and Death Valley, CA, soared to 126 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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Daily Devotion

## The Basis for Discernment

**As we engage with Scripture, God reveals who we are and who He's called us to be.**

Hebrews 4:12-13: 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Spiritual discernment is the ability to see life from a godly vantage point. One of the primary ways we develop this perspective is through Scripture—God's reliable revelation of Himself. Throughout the Bible, He shows us who He is and how He works. Though the stories took place centuries ago, the principles remain relevant, offering discernment and guidance for today.

God's Word is living and active (Heb. 4:12). The words don't simply sit on the page; they illuminate our heart and reveal our thoughts and motives. When we approach Scripture with an open spirit, God gently brings to light things we might not see on our own—hidden motives, blind spots, and areas where we need to grow.

Spiritual discernment involves seeing not just our circumstances but also ourselves from God's perspective. As we regularly spend time in His Word, we gain insight into who we really are and who He's calling us to become.

Have you been avoiding deeper engagement with Scripture? If so, remember this: When God reveals something in us that needs attention, His purpose is always restorative—helping us become healthier, freer, and more like Christ (Romans 8:29). That kind of insight is a gift worth embracing.

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

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Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.05.26

8 40 41 46 51 1

TOP PRIZE:

**\$1,000,000/year**

NEXT DRAW: Stay Tuned

[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

### **Clashes in Sri Lankan prison leave at least 25 dead and over 100 injured**

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Clashes broke out inside a prison in the outskirts of Sri Lanka's capital, killing at least 25 people and injuring more than 100, officials and a TV station reported Monday.

Police said the unrest at the prison in Negombo, about 35 kilometers (22 miles) north of the capital, Colombo, began on Sunday and continued on Monday. Spokesman Chandana Herath said there were fatalities but could not immediately confirm the toll reported by local television station Hiru.

Victims include both inmates and prison officials, the TV reported.

The reason for the clash was not immediately known.

An official at the area's main state-run hospital said more than 100 people were admitted with injuries from the prison clash. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. He did not specify the injuries.

Sri Lankan prisons are highly congested, with more than 39,000 inmates crowded into a system with a total capacity of just 10,000.

### **China test-launches a ballistic missile in the South Pacific and raises regional concerns**

By HUIZHONG WU and CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-McLAY Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — China's navy test-launched a long-range ballistic missile Monday from one of its nuclear-powered submarines in the South Pacific in a rare move that drew protest and concerns from countries in the region.

The missile was launched at 12:01 p.m. and carried a dummy warhead, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. China last conducted a missile test in the Pacific two years ago, then firing an intercontinental ballistic missile with a dummy warhead. That previous launch in international waters was the first in decades since 1980.

The launch was part of routine annual training, complied with international law and practice, and was not directed against any country or target, according to a short statement from Xinhua, which was reposted by the Ministry of Defense.

The 2024 launch mirrored testing that the United States does for its own ballistic missile fleet, which experts viewed as an assertion of China's growing superpower status.

But Beijing's militarization has also drawn concerns, with Australia, Japan and New Zealand criticizing the launch.

The New Zealand government said it was informed of the planned launch hours beforehand and noted that the missile was fired into the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone.

The zone was established by the 1986 Treaty of Rarotonga, which prohibits nuclear weapons throughout the region. China ratified the protocols in 1987, pledging not to test nuclear weapons within the zone or threaten to use them against signatories with territory in the region.

"It appears that despite our long-standing concerns about this type of activity, China carried out the test within hours of informing us," Foreign Minister Winston Peters told The Associated Press in a statement.

The launch took place the same day Australia and Fiji signed a new mutual defense treaty meant to counter Chinese influence in the Pacific.

"Australia has been clear with China that we regard this as destabilizing to the region," Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong told reporters in Fiji in response to the test.

Japan's Defense Ministry in a statement conveyed its concern about China's increasing military activity

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and asked Beijing to “rethink” its missile testing so the projectiles would not fly over Japan or pose other security risks.

“China’s military activities, combined with its lack of transparency, have become a grave concern for Japan and the international society,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said in Japan, citing Beijing’s active military activities around Japan and its increased military spending.

Beijing brushed off the criticism Monday.

“We hope that the relevant countries will avoid overinterpretation,” a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said.

The concern is a result of lack of clear information, said Drew Thompson, senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. “China’s military modernization and buildup have occurred without concurrent increases in openness and transparency, resulting in uncertainty about China’s intentions.

China maintains a “no first use” of nuclear weapons policy, but is also actively pursuing nuclear technology and weaponry as part of its long-term strategy to modernize the People’s Liberation Army.

China has a fleet of six ballistic-missile submarines and 59 nuclear-powered attack submarines, according to the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a Washington-based think tank.

In its latest report to Congress on China’s military capabilities, released in late 2025, the Pentagon said China had an estimated stockpile of around 600 nuclear warheads in 2024, adding that the PLA remains on track to field more than 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030.

## Mourners throng funeral procession in Tehran for Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Mourners dressed in black flooded into Iran’s capital Monday for a procession as part of the funeral of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with throngs of people calling for the death of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Khamenei’s flag-draped coffin, and those of members of his family killed Feb. 28 in an airstrike at the start of the war launched by Israel and the United States, sat on board a truck decorated to resemble the ornamental grating that surrounds the shrine of an imam. The massive turnout, encouraged by Iran’s theocracy as a sign of strength, came as it negotiates with the U.S. over a permanent end to the war that killed the 86-year-old cleric.

Helicopter images aired on Iranian state television showed a massive crowd stretching from Tehran’s Azadi, or Freedom, Square for kilometers (miles) down a multilane street of the same name. The crowd appeared to be larger than the one that turned out for the 2020 procession for the late Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Solemani, which drew over 1 million people.

Authorities offered no immediate crowd count as the truck crept down the street. But people alongside the truck and elsewhere on the route carried placards, signs and banners calling for Trump’s death.

“Today that we are here for the funeral for our leader, it’s a very tough day,” mourner Fatima Hassan said. “We are not here to say goodbye to him, we are here for revenge. And we will take revenge.”

Sea of mourners greets Khamenei

Mourners reached out to touch the truck, and some threw scarves and other items for attendants to brush against the coffin, a common practice in Iran seen as a blessing. Attendants, some on the ladders of firetrucks, sprayed misted water across the crowds to cool them in the heat.

Authorities appeared concerned about the dangers of having a large crowd alongside the procession, with officials on loudspeakers urging the public to walk slowly, not to push and to stay to the edges of the street.

The coffins will be taken through the streets of Tehran on a 12-hour journey to Mehrabad International Airport, said Revolutionary Guard Gen. Hasan Hasanzadeh, who is overseeing the procession.

Authorities have shut down streets, airspace and daily life for the mourning, which began Saturday and

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will end Thursday as Khamenei is buried at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, his birthplace.

"This is the last time I am seeing him," said a weeping Maryam Alizadeh. "Our generation lived with him for decades."

Calls for Trump's death grow as funeral goes on

As the funeral has gone on, however, there have increasingly been calls from mourners to avenge Khamenei's death. Mourners and the signs they carry have called for the killing of both Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Such signs were seen again Monday along the procession's route, with one effigy of Trump being hanged.

"We are here to show that his path will continue, and every single one of these people will continue down his path with clenched fists and soon we will certainly avenge his death against the U.S and Israel," said mourner Sahar Zaratgar

U.S. federal authorities have been tracking Iranian threats against Trump and other administration officials for years, stemming from Trump's ordering the 2020 killing of Soleimani, who led the elite Quds Force. Iran has repeatedly 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 civilization during the war, among other threats.

Negotiations over war remain on hold

The U.S. is meanwhile eager to press ahead with negotiations with Iran aimed at fully reopening the Strait of Hormuz, rolling back its disputed nuclear program and reaching a permanent end to the war. Talks appear to be on hold until after the burial.

The funeral was in part a show of unity as Iran demands a measure of control over the strait, a vital waterway for global energy that it shut down during the war. The U.S. has rejected those demands, and the sides are divided on other key issues, including Iran's nuclear program and the conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, meanwhile has yet to make an appearance in the funeral ceremonies, which are unfolding over several days. He is believed to be in hiding after reportedly being wounded in the airstrike that killed his father.

At the height of the war before an April ceasefire, Israel targeted top leaders, in at least one case likely using their public appearance to fix their position. It has also threatened to kill the younger Khamenei.

## Russian missile and drone attack on Ukraine's capital kills at least 12

By HANNA ARHIROVA and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched waves of missiles and drones at Kyiv early Monday, killing at least 12 people in an attack that exposed widening gaps in Ukraine's air defenses, authorities said.

All of the ballistic missiles launched by Russia struck their targets, underscoring Kyiv's need for more Patriot interceptor missiles — a point Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will likely reiterate at a NATO summit in Ankara, Turkey, this week. The attack came hours after Zelenskyy warned that a large-scale attack was imminent.

A further 60 people were wounded, according to Zelenskyy, as emergency workers combed through rubble looking for survivors at residential high-rises in two locations that suffered direct hits.

Days earlier, on Thursday, a Russian strike killed 31 people in Kyiv, the deadliest for the capital this year. Russia's Defense Ministry said the bombardment was retaliation for Ukraine's recent long-range strikes, which have caused severe fuel shortages and pressured President Vladimir Putin.

More than four years after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbor, Ukraine's advances in drone technology have given it an edge in recent months, analysts and Western officials say. Strikes on supply routes behind the front line have stripped the Russian army of momentum on the battlefield, they say, slowing its advance and driving up the cost.

But Russia is now exploiting a different kind of momentum: vulnerabilities in Ukraine's air defenses, which

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remain heavily reliant on the U.S. Patriot systems to intercept ballistic missiles it can rarely shoot down any other way. The war in the Middle East has strained the global supply of Patriot interceptors, already produced in limited numbers — a shortage now most of all being felt in Ukraine.

Gaps in Ukraine's air defense

Ukraine's air force said Russia fired 351 drones and 68 missiles overnight, targeting mainly Kyiv, and all 29 ballistic missiles struck their targets.

"To intercept ballistics, we need the means for interception," air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said on national television. "Russians are certainly using the fact that there is a serious deficit of interceptor missiles now, in Ukraine and the world."

Ahead of the NATO summit in Ankara, Zelenskyy said on X that Ukrainian forces had performed well against drones and cruise missiles but not against Russian ballistic missiles — a shortfall he blamed on insufficient interceptor supplies. He urged U.S. and European partners to leave the summit with strong decisions to bolster Ukraine's air defense and protect civilian lives.

"As long as Patriot missiles remain in our allies' stockpiles, Russia is only encouraged to keep 'vanquishing' residential buildings. The United States and Europe have enough strength to stop this terror," he said in a statement following the attack.

Russia's Defense Ministry said the attack targeted weapons factories in Kyiv, including sites it said produce drones, sea drones, armored vehicles and missiles, as well as facilities repairing air defense systems and fuel and energy infrastructure in the city and surrounding region. The claims could not be independently verified.

Russia's aerial attacks on Ukraine have repeatedly hit civilian areas. More than 16,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed in the war, according to the United Nations.

"These are residential buildings. Places where people slept and lived their ordinary lives," said Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's Military Administration, in a post on Telegram.

A residential building in the Podilskyi district partially collapsed, he said. In the Darnytsia district, several multistory buildings were damaged and people were believed to be trapped under the rubble.

Witnesses recount harrowing escape

Khrystyna Piatetska, 20, a resident of Kyiv's Darnytskyi district, said she began screaming after the first strike, which was followed by a second blast that blew out the windows in her apartment building.

The lights went out, the smell of burning filled the air and the stairwell was thick with smoke, she said.

"When we were leaving the building, bodies were lying there," Piatetska said. "When we got downstairs, cars started exploding, and we came out from under the rubble straight into the fire."

Halina Ivanivna, 61, said she woke to the sound of the first strike at around 2 a.m. Moments later, her apartment building began to collapse around her. "Everything was falling down," she said. Water poured through the building as smoke filled the air while emergency crews rushed to evacuate residents.

About five minutes after the initial impact, a second strike hit, she said.

Ukrainian attacks in Russia and occupied Crimea

Meanwhile, an energy provider in Russia-occupied Crimea reported a blackout across the peninsula due to "external impact." The Moscow-appointed head of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said Ukrainian attacks cut power supplies to the city early Monday, but it was later restored using backup equipment.

Russia's Yaroslavl region Gov. Mikhail Yavrayev said two people were wounded in a Ukrainian drone attack on the city of the same name. He said over 70 Ukrainian drones were downed. Yavrayev didn't say if any facilities were damaged, but Astra online news outlet said the attack targeted an oil refinery, causing a fire.

Russia's Defense Ministry said that air defenses downed 519 Ukrainian drones overnight.

## Philippine Senate opens the politically volatile impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine Senate, acting as an impeachment court, opened the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday in a politically volatile event that will unfold with the backdrop of her bitter political feud with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

More than 6,000 police officers, including anti-riot squads, were deployed to secure the Senate, where about 400 anti-Duterte demonstrators converged, chanting “convict Sara now.” Duterte did not appear but was represented by her lawyers at the start of the trial, which will run for 92 days, according to a pretrial plan seen by The Associated Press.

If convicted of the charges, which include amassing unexplained wealth and publicly threatening to have Marcos assassinated, Duterte may be permanently disqualified from holding public office. She denies the charges.

A conviction would be a lethal blow to her announced plan to seek the presidency in mid-2028, when Marcos ends his six-year term. They were running mates in the 2022 elections in a whirlwind alliance that combined the vote-getting power of two of the country’s most formidable political dynasties, but the union rapidly fell apart.

The vice president is the daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, Marcos’ predecessor. He was arrested last year on orders of the International Criminal Court and flown to The Hague, where he remains detained and was scheduled to face trial over alleged crimes against humanity on Nov. 30.

The charges stem from the ex-president’s brutal anti-drugs crackdowns that left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead, alarming Western governments and human rights groups. Rodrigo Duterte has denied authorizing extrajudicial killings but repeatedly threatened suspects with death while in office.

The vice president has blamed Marcos for her 81-year-old father’s arrest and handover to the ICC.

Marcos and the Dutertes have contrasting geopolitical leanings. Marcos has expanded defense engagements with the United States, his country’s treaty ally, as his administration stood up to China’s increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea.

Rodrigo Duterte had nurtured cozy ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin while threatening to sever ties with Washington. The vice president has come under fire for not condemning China’s assaults, including with the use of powerful water cannons, against Filipino forces and fishermen in the disputed waters.

Last month, the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Marcos’ allies, voted overwhelmingly to impeach the vice president over alleged unexplained wealth, misuse of confidential state funds and a public threat to have the president, his wife and a former House speaker and ally assassinated if she herself were killed due to their political disputes.

She has generally denied the charges but has refused to publicly answer the allegations in detail ahead of the impeachment trial. Her supporters have accused Marcos and his key aides of politically persecuting the vice president and her senatorial allies to ensure her impeachment.

Two-thirds of the 24-member Senate, or 16 votes, are needed to convict the vice president.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who belongs to a Senate bloc backing the Duterte family, was arrested and detained last month on a nonbailable charge of plunder in connection with a flood-control project bribery scandal. Estrada denies any wrongdoing.

Another pro-Duterte senator, Rodante Marcoleta, was arrested Monday over a nonbailable charge of plunder, or largescale graft, for receiving huge campaign donations and failing to declare the funds in his assets declaration. Marcoleta has denied committing any irregularity.

A third senator, Ronald dela Rosa, has gone into hiding after the ICC issued a warrant for his arrest as a co-perpetrator in the Duterte-era killings. Dela Rosa served as Rodrigo Duterte’s national police chief, who first enforced the then-president’s deadly crackdown against illegal drugs.

## 3 firefighters killed in Colorado remembered for their bravery as wildfires churn in the West

By JESSICA HILL, WUFEI YU and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

With wildfires burning across many Western states, wildland firefighters gathered Sunday to pay tribute to three of their own who died after they were trapped by flames a week ago.

Emily Barker, Nick Hutcherson and Sydney Watson were remembered as courageous public servants who left a lasting impact on the communities where they worked.

"They showed up to make order out of chaos day after day with purpose, dedication and heart," U.S. Wildland Fire Service Chief Brian Fennessy said during a memorial service in Grand Junction, Colorado, near where the firefighters died while battling flames on the Colorado-Utah border.

While that fire is now almost entirely contained, nearly 40 large fires are still going strong across the West. Most of the current fires are scattered around Colorado, Utah and New Mexico while there are wildfires in eight other states — from Alaska to Arizona.

Over the holiday weekend, more evacuations in Colorado were ordered across four counties where the Aspen Acres fire had burned about 136 square miles (352 square kilometers) south of Colorado Springs.

The fire had damaged or destroyed more than 200 structures as of Sunday, authorities said. National Guard soldiers were sent in Friday to help with staffing checkpoints on roads near the fire zone.

Months of dry weather and a record lack of snow this past winter in some places along with erratic winds have been fueling the fires.

The three firefighters killed on June 27 in western Colorado were members of a Helitack crew that sometimes drops into remote areas by helicopters.

Barker, Hutcherson and Watson and two others who sustained burn injuries were overcome by flames from fast-moving fires in Mesa County. They had deployed emergency protective shelters, which are considered a "last resort" for firefighters when there is no other way out.

Fennessy, the Wildland Fire Service chief, said Sunday that "the weight of this tragedy is felt way beyond our wildland fire community."

Photos of the firefighters were set up on the stage at the memorial service alongside flowers and flags.

They worked jobs that require courage, selflessness, strength and heart, said Sarah Fisher, the U.S. Forest Service's deputy chief for fire and aviation management.

"The work demands long days, heavy burdens and quiet acts of bravery," she said. "We will remember them, we will honor their legacy and we will carry their light forward."

Emily Barker

Barker, 38, had so much spirit, and the people around her always strived to be a better person by her presence, said Sarah Brubeck Schnurbusch, a friend and former roommate.

Barker was from Clinton Township, Michigan, and liked hiking, skiing, dirt biking and playing hockey. She loved firefighting.

"I've never seen someone so excited to go to work," Brubeck Schnurbusch said. She added that her friend helped pave the way for many women in the industry.

Barker was a trailblazer, first working as a teacher "shaping young lives," Fennessy said.

"She didn't just live in wild places, she helped to shape them, care for them and make them better," he said.

Nick Hutcherson

Hutcherson, 27, served in the U.S. Navy and had plans to become a physical therapy doctor, according to the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona where he was assigned. He was also an active member of the Northern Arizona Deaf and American Sign Language community.

Hutcherson, who was from Glendale, Arizona, "embodied the spirit of public service" Fennessy said.

He was a dedicated practitioner of Muay Thai martial arts who trained in Flagstaff.

His favorite saying was "easy day," Fennessy said, "because Nick had an uncommon ability to face hard things with optimism, humility and a smile."

Sydney Watson

Watson, 27, was from Warrior, Alabama, and a graduate of the University of Tennessee Southern, where she was a pitcher on the softball team, the university said.

In 2023, she participated in a program in North Carolina organized by the Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges, the group said. In her application, she said she wanted to see more women on the fire line and to learn from other women in the field, the university said.

"From the time she was very young, she knew she wanted to be a firefighter someday," Fennessy said.

"I have no doubt she inspired many young women to become a firefighter," he said.

## **A new ICE facility could speed up deportations for families and kids**

By JACK BROOK Associated Press/Report for America

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Trump administration plans to open a 528-bed holding facility for migrant families and unaccompanied children next to an airport hub, positioning itself to speed up deportations.

The location in Alexandria, Louisiana, would remove logistical headaches caused by wrangling children from foster homes and shelters across the country and not having anywhere to put them during final preparations for flight. Those obstacles were apparent last year when Guatemalan children were awoken at night and given almost no time to get to Harlingen, Texas, where they waited on an airport tarmac for hours.

A federal judge prevented their deportation, but the chaotic episode illustrated the challenges authorities face because they don't have anywhere to put families and children near the airport. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is calling the Alexandria facility a "staging area," not a detention center, and says people would only be there a few days at most.

However, several immigration advocates expressed concern that children could be held at the new facility for weeks or months, which happened at other federal immigration holding sites. These advocates are also concerned about oversight, and say the facility represents a departure from how the government manages those children.

"It's an expansion of the deportation system in ways we haven't seen before," said Leecia Welch, chief legal counsel at the nonprofit Children's Rights. "There's just so much that could go wrong with this facility."

ICE has tapped a private prison company to run the deportation facility

Unaccompanied children who are in the U.S. without parents or close relatives are not taken to facilities overseen by ICE. Instead, the law says they must be swiftly placed in the care of state-licensed shelters and foster care programs.

Those are run by the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Services. However, that agency isn't involved in the Alexandria facility's operation, according to a spokesperson at the airfield where it's being built.

Instead, the facility would be run by a nonprofit arm of LaSalle Corrections, a private prison contractor, according to Ralph Hennessy, executive director of the England Airpark Authority. He said it could be operational as early as August.

ICE officials signed a contract late last month to build the facility at the former military base near Alexandria International Airport, roughly 175 miles (280 kilometers) northwest of New Orleans, Hennessy said.

It would operate as a 72-hour holding center for migrants awaiting deportation, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

Compass Connections, a Texas-based nonprofit that runs shelters for unaccompanied immigrant children, had originally been tapped to help operate the facility and laid out plans during a public presentation in February.

But the company's president, Sonya Thompson, told the AP last week that it was no longer involved. She did not elaborate.

Officials have said the facility is for 'self-deporting' families

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In public board meetings, airport officials said the facility is a “humanitarian effort” for families that are “self-deporting.” Immigration advocates say families and unaccompanied children sometimes make that decision under pressure or because they don’t understand their options.

“These are people that are volunteering to go back home and they’re going back home as a family unit,” Hennessy told the AP.

The facility would sit next to the nation’s largest hub for deportations. More than 4,400 immigration enforcement flights came into and out of the Alexandria International Airport in 2025, according to data from the ICE Flight Monitor, an initiative of Human Rights First. ICE planning documents say families and children at the facility “are in the legal custody of ICE and can only be released at the direction of ICE.”

The agency has instructed contractors that families at the facility cannot be referred to as prisoners, detainees or inmates, records show. The agency ordered contractors to not use bars or cages when transporting families and unaccompanied children. The facility will not be required to engage in headcounts and should allow families to “wear their own clothes,” the agency added.

The private prison company runs other ICE detention centers

Louisiana-based LaSalle Corrections runs a range of private prisons and federal immigration detention centers throughout the South, including the “Louisiana Lockup” inside the state’s maximum-security prison in Angola.

The official contractor for the new ICE holding facility will be the company’s nonprofit arm, the LaSalle Family Foundation. According to its tax records, the nonprofit provides chaplain services and educational programming in correctional facilities.

However, LaSalle Corrections itself will be involved in operating the holding facility and ensuring compliance, the company’s chief financial officer, Tim Kurpiewski, wrote in an email reviewed by the AP.

LaSalle spokesperson Scott Sutterfield declined to comment.

The deaths of two detainees have been reported since April at a LaSalle-run ICE facility in the state.

Winn Correctional Center was also found in June to have violated standards governing environmental health and safety, food service, use-of-force, medical care and other subjects, according to the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General.

## Trump won big spending promises from NATO last year. This week in Turkey, he’ll try to enforce them

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump got what he wanted from NATO at last year’s summit: an alliance whose members had largely acceded to his demands to step up their defense spending.

This week when he meets leaders in Turkey, his mission is to enforce that pledge.

The speed with which most NATO countries have tried to heed Trump’s call to spend 5% of their annual gross domestic product on defense over the next decade underscores how the U.S. president has reshaped the alliance and bent it to his will — even as he continues to spar with its members over the Iran war, his flirtation with annexing Greenland, and various personal tiffs.

“President Trump fully expects that all allies will step up immediately and get on the path to 5% and do it with urgency,” Matt Whitaker, the U.S. ambassador to NATO, told reporters in a preview of the administration’s message before this week’s summit in Ankara.

Trump leaves Monday evening for the summit, and for days leading up to the trip has been airing grievances about how much the U.S. spends on defense compared with other countries. That’s despite efforts from Mark Rutte, the alliance’s secretary-general, who tried to feed the ego of the tempestuous U.S. leader in an Oval Office meeting last month. There, he displayed large charts on easels showing what he called “The Trump Trillion” — how much allies had boosted their spending commitments since 2017.

Luke Coffey, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington, described the Ankara gathering as the “first report card” after last year’s summit in The Hague.

“If NATO members play their cards right — if the leaders show up demonstrating a commitment and a

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reasonable plan to meet these spending targets — then it'll allow President Trump to take a victory lap," Coffey said.

Trump will meet with Ukraine's Zelenskyy

Trump left last month's G7 summit in France buoyed by support from his counterparts for his interim agreement to end the war with Iran. He praised unity among leaders — who also worked to bring Trump onside to boost security assistance for Ukraine in its fight with Russia.

That war, now in its fifth year, is expected to be a key focus at the Ankara summit. The White House said Trump will meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday. Trump spoke with both Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin on July 4.

Trump also plans to meet on the sidelines of the summit with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa. The White House has not provided goals for that discussion, but it comes as Trump has publicly mused about Syria playing a bigger role fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon. Al-Sharaa, who led an Islamic insurgent group and whose rebel forces ousted former Syrian President Bashar Assad, has said he has no interest in doing so.

The U.S. president also plans a separate meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the host of the summit whom Trump counts as a close friend.

But he has no bilateral meetings planned with other leaders. Despite the positive tone of the G7 summit, Trump resurrected feuds as soon as he returned stateside.

He proclaimed that Keir Starmer would resign as British prime minister before the embattled leader made it official, arguing that Starmer "failed badly" on immigration and energy. Meanwhile, Trump asserted that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had begged him for a photo, prompting a ferocious denial by her and the cancellation of a U.S. visit by the country's foreign minister.

Despite the fallout, Trump egged it on further on Sunday when he posted a photo on social media of Meloni smiling at him, along with the words "RESTRAINING ORDER NEEDED."

Trump has remained on tense terms with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, and while French President Emmanuel Macron charmed Trump with a lavish dinner at the Palace of Versailles last month, it hasn't always been smooth between the two leaders.

Aware of those tensions, a bipartisan group of senators is again headed to the summit this year, trying to represent the broad support for the alliance on Capitol Hill and to serve as a counterweight to Trump's often caustic attitude toward NATO.

"They are our best allies, they are our best trading partners, they are critical to our national security, to our economic success, and we need to encourage those relationships," said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., who is leading the delegation to Ankara. "That's part of what Congress understands that the administration doesn't seem to."

Trump's team is making the case for more NATO changes

The summit comes as Trump's administration makes the case for what it calls "NATO 3.0," which envisions an alliance that has Europe taking on more of its security needs, allowing the U.S. to shift its focus elsewhere.

The strategy was outlined by Elbridge Colby, a U.S. undersecretary of defense, earlier this year at a gathering of NATO defense ministers.

Then, in a scathing speech to other NATO defense ministers last month, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth added to the pressure by announcing that the U.S. will conduct a six-month review of its forces in Europe. This surprised countries in the alliance that had anticipated coordinating with the Trump administration through the transition.

Trump himself sparked much confusion earlier this year when he seemed to send conflicting signals on the issue, announcing that he would send 5,000 U.S. troops to Poland weeks after ordering the same number of forces pulled out of the continent.

Shaheen said the NATO 3.0 concept "fails to understand -- as this administration has consistently failed to understand -- the threat that Putin and Russia are to Europe and subsequently to the United States."

Europe is boosting spending, but still counts on the U.S.

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The U.S. president last year was the driving factor in a broad target reached in The Hague for NATO countries to spend 5% of their GDP on defense over the next decade.

Of that, 3.5% would be for core defense spending and the rest would be related expenses, such as infrastructure. Spain said at the time that it couldn't meet those levels, and some others have voiced reservations about the ambitious goal.

Despite the increased pledges and spending, experts say many parts of the continent are nonetheless reliant on the U.S. for their defense should they come under attack. The defining feature of the NATO alliance is the view that an armed attack on one member is an attack on all.

"This is the reality for most Europeans," said Liana Fix, senior fellow for Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations. She said most are far from being able to defend themselves without the United States, "even if they're starting to develop all that."

Apart from the spending pledge, NATO has worked to accommodate Trump in other ways.

The alliance earlier this year introduced "Arctic Sentry," a NATO-led military exercise aimed at countering Russian and Chinese activities in the region. It's also meant to address Trump's repeated threats to seize Greenland, since the Republican president has insisted the U.S. needs to acquire the semiautonomous territory of Denmark for strategic security reasons.

## Khamenei's other sons appear at his funeral in Iran as new supreme leader remains in hiding

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's top officials and brothers of the new supreme leader emerged into public view Sunday to attend funeral prayers for Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Their appearance projected unity, defiance and confidence in their safety as Iran pushes back on U.S. demands in negotiations to permanently end the war.

Crowds of hundreds of thousands chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel," as they called for revenge over the Feb. 28 attack that killed the 86-year-old supreme leader and other top officials, triggering the war. Some hard-liners called for the assassination of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, has yet to make an appearance in the funeral ceremonies, which are unfolding over several days. He is believed to be in hiding after reportedly being wounded in the airstrike that killed his father.

At the height of the war, before an April ceasefire, Israel had targeted top leaders, in at least one case likely using their public appearance to fix their position. It has also threatened to kill the younger Khamenei.

The U.S. is meanwhile pressing ahead with negotiations with Iran aimed at fully reopening the Strait of Hormuz, rolling back its disputed nuclear program and reaching a permanent end to the war. Talks appear to be on hold until after the burial.

Ziba Naderi, a nurse attending the funeral Sunday, said Iran needed to heed Mojtaba Khamenei's commands. "I heard the call for revenge, but our leader should say what we need to do," she said. "And we must listen to him."

Top officials appear as the crowd size swells

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

On hand were Khamenei's other sons, Masoud, Meysam and Mostafa, who had not been seen since the war. Revolutionary Guard head Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, who was 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 and wearing a black baseball cap.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf — who has led the negotiations with the U.S. — and Esmail Qaani, who leads the elite Quds Force of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, also attended.

The crowd had grown from the day before. Mourners dressed in black carried banners and flags honor-

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ing Khamenei.

Some mention Trump by name as mourners call for revenge

Posters and graffiti at the Grand Mosalla called for the killing of Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Why is the biggest bastard in the world still alive?" Mohammad Rasouli, a poet who emceed the event before the prayers, said to the crowd over loudspeakers, referring to Trump. "The world is no longer a good place" for Trump, he added as the crowd cheered.

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

The U.S. 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."

U.S. federal authorities have been tracking Iranian threats against Trump and other administration officials for years. The threats stem 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 civilization during the war, among 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.

The funeral was in part a show of unity as Iran demands a measure of control over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global energy that it shut down during the war. The U.S. has rejected those demands, and the sides are divided on other key issues, including Iran's nuclear program and the conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The U.S. assisted 70 transits of the Strait of Hormuz over the past 72 hours, including 18 on Saturday, a multinational maritime body overseen by the U.S. Navy said Sunday. It called traffic steady along routes near Oman and Iran but still below prewar levels. The threat level remained "substantial" and mine clearance and surveying work continued.

"Our foreign policy should not be shaped in a way that allows our martyred leader's blood to be dishonored," mourner Mohammad Reza Sharifi said. He said he expected a "serious response" from Iran's government.

## Today in History: July 6, Althea Gibson wins Wimbledon

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 6, the 187th day of 2026. There are 178 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 6, 1957, Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title as she defeated fellow American Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2.

Also on this date:

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Ticonderoga (ty-kahn-dur-OH'-gah).

In 1885, French scientist Louis Pasteur tested an anti-rabies vaccine on 9-year-old Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by an infected dog; the boy did not develop rabies.

In 1933, the first All-Star baseball game was played at Chicago's Comiskey Park; the American League

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defeated the National League 4-2 behind winning pitcher Lefty Gomez of the New York Yankees.

In 1942, Anne Frank, her parents and sister entered a "secret annex" in an Amsterdam building where they were later joined by four other people; they hid from Nazi occupiers for two years before being discovered and arrested.

In 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order establishing the Medal of Freedom.

In 1967, Nigerian forces invaded the Republic of Biafra, sparking the Nigerian Civil War.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform.

In 2013, an Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 from Seoul, South Korea, crashed while landing at San Francisco International Airport, killing three passengers and injuring 181.

In 2016, Philando Castile, a Black elementary school cafeteria worker, was fatally shot during a traffic stop in a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota, by St. Anthony Police Officer Jeronimo Yanez. (Yanez was later acquitted on a charge of second-degree manslaughter.)

In 2018, six followers of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult were hanged along with its leader, Shoko Asahara; they had been convicted of crimes including a 1995 sarin gas attack that killed 13 people and made thousands of others sick on the Tokyo subway system.

In 2020, the Trump administration formally notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the World Health Organization; President Donald Trump had criticized the WHO's response to the coronavirus pandemic. (The pullout was later halted by President Joseph Biden's administration but was formally completed in 2026 during Trump's second term.)

In 2024, Sonya Massey, a Black woman who had dialed 911 to report a possible prowler outside her Springfield, Illinois, home, was fatally shot by Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson; Grayson, who testified at trial that he feared Massey was about to scald him with a pot of steaming hot water that she had removed from the stove, was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is 91. Singer Gene Chandler ("Duke of Earl") is 89. Actor Burt Ward (TV: "Batman") is 81. Former President George W. Bush is 80. Actor-director Sylvester Stallone is 80. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 75. Retired MLB All-Star Willie Randolph is 72. Former first daughter Susan Ford Bales is 69. Actor-writer Jennifer Saunders ("Absolutely Fabulous") is 68. Actor Brian Posehn is 60. Political reporter/moderator John Dickerson is 58. Rapper Inspectah Deck (Wu-Tang Clan) is 56. Rapper 50 Cent is 51. Actors Tia and Tamera Mowry (MOHR'-ee) are 48. Comedian-actor Kevin Hart is 47. Actor Eva Green is 46. San Diego Padres infielder Manny Machado is 34. NBA power forward Zion Williamson is 26.