

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, July 12

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
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.
Northern Plains Softball U14 Softball Tournament in Groton.
Historic 1912 Jail Open House, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 315 E. 4th Ave., Groton.

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

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Monday, July 13

Senior Menu: Ground beef stroganoff with noodles, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Junior Legion hosts Sisseton, 5:30 p.m., DH.
Senior Citizens meeting at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.
JVT Practice, 6 p.m., GHS Arena.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 14

Senior Menu: Egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, fruit, cookie.
Groton Legion at Milbank, 5:30 p.m., DH.
U10 Baseball (R&B) at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m., DH, North Complex.
T-Ball scrimmage, 6 p.m., Nelson Field.
Tiger Skills Workouts, GHS Arena, 7:30 a.m.
BB Open Gym, 6 p.m., GHS Arena.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.
United Methdosti: Bible study: Christmas in July!, 10 am.

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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— A MESSAGE BY PREACHER PAUL —

WHY *Parables?*

Why did Jesus begin
teaching in parables?

Discover the surprising answer in
— Matthew 13:10-17 —



“Though seeing,
they do not see;
though hearing,
they do not hear.”

MATTHEW 13:13



SUNDAY
JULY 12



9:00 A.M.



EMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

— Proclaiming Christ. Loving All. —

GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA



THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD. THE SOIL IS THE HEART.



Simon powers Groton Post 39 at Clark Tournament with three home runs in three games

CLARK, S.D. — Carter Simon delivered one of his strongest offensive performances of the season, belting three home runs over three games as Groton Post 39 finished play at the Clark Tournament with a 1-2 record.

Groton opened the tournament with a 3-0 shutout victory over Lidgerwood/Hankinson before dropping a heartbreaking 5-4 walk-off decision to Dell Rapids Post 65 and closing the weekend with a 5-4 loss to Huron Post 7 despite out-hitting its opponent 9-3.

Simon accounted for all of Groton's offense in the tournament opener against Lidgerwood/Hankinson, blasting a two-run home run to left field in the third inning before adding a solo shot in the sixth to provide all three runs in the victory.

Jarrett Erdmann turned in an outstanding start on the mound, allowing just three hits over 5¹/₃ scoreless innings while striking out six and walking four. Nick Groeblichhoff recorded the final out to preserve the combined shutout.

Groton collected seven hits in the contest and played flawless defense, committing no errors. Karsten Fliehs led the defensive effort with six chances.

The second game proved to be much more dramatic as Groton fell to Dell Rapids 5-4 on a walk-off play in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Groton grabbed an early 3-0 lead in the second inning when Alex Abeln singled home a run before Jordan Schwan and Simon were both hit by pitches with the bases loaded to force in two more runs.

Dell Rapids battled back to tie the game in the fourth before Simon delivered again, driving in the go-ahead run with a sixth-inning single to give Groton a 4-3 advantage.

The lead slipped away in the bottom of the inning, however, when Dell Rapids scored twice on an error to complete the walk-off victory.

Abeln led Groton offensively with two hits, while Simon drove in two runs. Gavin Englund started on the mound, allowing three runs over 4¹/₃ innings while striking out three. Groeblichhoff was charged with the loss after allowing the deciding runs, though both were unearned.

Groton wrapped up tournament play against Huron Post 7 and nearly erased an early five-run deficit before falling 5-4.

Huron capitalized on defensive miscues to build its lead, scoring twice in the first inning before extending the advantage to 5-0 in the third. Groton refused to fold, chipping away with timely hits and disciplined at-bats, but came up one run short.

Despite the loss, Groton outhit Huron 9-3. Simon paced the offense with three hits, while Ryder Schelle added a pair of hits. Fliehs drove in two runs from the seventh spot in the batting order and also drew three walks as Groton finished with six free passes.

TC Schuster took the loss after starting the game, but Abeln was outstanding in relief, tossing four scoreless innings while allowing no hits, striking out five and walking two to keep Groton within striking distance.

Over the three-game tournament, Simon was the offensive catalyst for Post 39, hitting three home runs, driving in five runs and collecting multiple key hits. Groton's pitching staff also turned in several strong performances, highlighted by Erdmann's shutout effort and Abeln's scoreless relief appearance against Huron.

Groton Post 39 returns to action Tuesday with a road game at Milbank.

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**



The Groton 10U Softball team took third place at the Northern Plains Fastpitch Softball Tournament that was held in Aberdeen on Saturday. Pictured in back, left to right, are Callie Wilkinson, Jason Hill, Preslee Giedt, Taya Swanson, Anna Fliehs, Baylin Taylor, Ava Strom, Hazel Hill, Brielle Dunbar, Sydney Kurtz; in front, left to right, are Aria Shellenberger, Kinzie Frost, Madison Richmond, Liv Huber, Ellie Lasse, Laker Hanson, Mya Fliehs, Railey Mulder.

(Courtesy Image)

EARTHTALK

Overfishing Affecting Evolution Of Marine Life

by Choyoung Kim

Dear EarthTalk: Is overfishing affecting the evolution of marine life? -- Katy, Y., Falmouth, MA

Overfishing happens when fish are caught faster than they can be replenished, resulting in an overall depletion of the fish population. This not only poses a threat to ocean health and biodiversity but also to the well-being of the people and communities that rely on fishing. A lesser-known consequence of overfishing is a phenomenon known as Fisheries-Induced Evolution (FIE).

FIE refers to the evolutionary pressure on marine populations resulting from excessively high fishing levels. Despite the deep-rooted assumption that evolution occurs over millions of years, FIE suggests that the gene pool of organisms can change in just a few decades. In fact, a recent study published in *Science* found that the average length of mature Eastern Baltic cod roughly halved from 40 cm in 1996 to 20 cm in 2019, suggesting that genetic changes have occurred over approximately 20 years. "When the largest individuals are consistently removed from the population over many years, smaller, faster-maturing fish gain an evolutionary advantage," says Professor Thorsten Reusch, senior author of the research and lead researcher in the marine ecology research division at the Geomar Helmholtz Centre.

Marine populations are particularly vulnerable to FIE due to the aggressive nature of exploitative fishing practices. Trophy hunting and trawling often target the largest and fittest specimens, impacting the long-term health of the population. Over time, this shifts the species' traits toward early maturation and reduced size, skewing the gene pool and thus accelerating genetic evolution.

The legitimacy of FIE is being widely contested in the scientific community, as not all scientists assign the same weight to overfishing in these genetic changes. Some researchers claim that it is unclear whether evolution occurs solely from human-driven pressures or an indirect effect due to changes in the environment. A Rutgers University study found no strong correlation between overfishing and the Atlantic codfish population. The findings suggest that environmental stressors, like climate change, pollution and habitat loss, may exert greater influence on the evolutionary changes of marine organisms than overfishing alone. Yet one fact holds: Fish are removed from oceans beyond sustainable levels. This alone bends the course of evolution—if not alone, then as a co-actor with the climate and pollutants.

Since human activity accelerates these harms, our collective action can also reverse these trends. Governments can enforce regulations like lowering fishing quotas and limiting destructive practices. Citizens can choose sustainably sourced seafood and supporting marine conservation organizations.



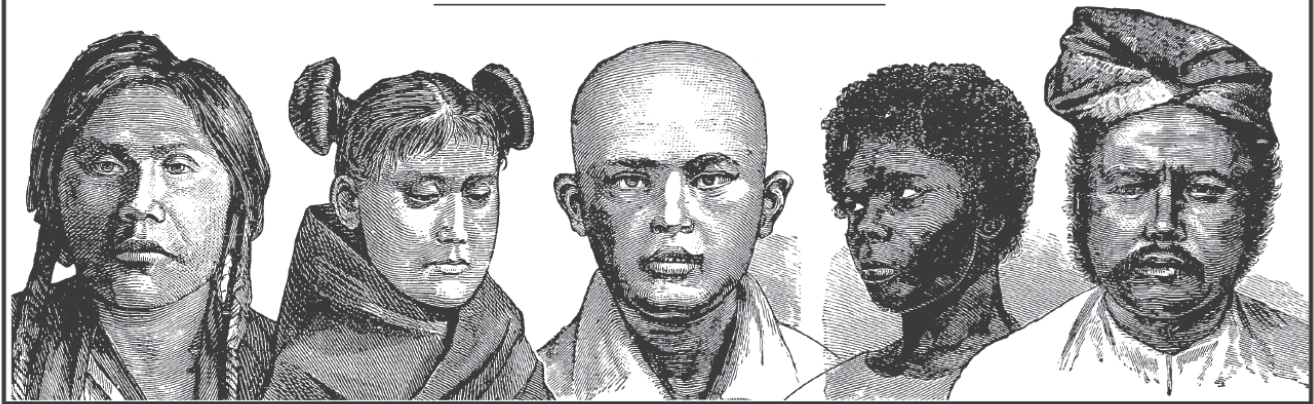
Overfishing not only poses a threat to ocean health and biodiversity but also to the well-being of the people and communities that rely on fishing. Credit: Pexels.com.



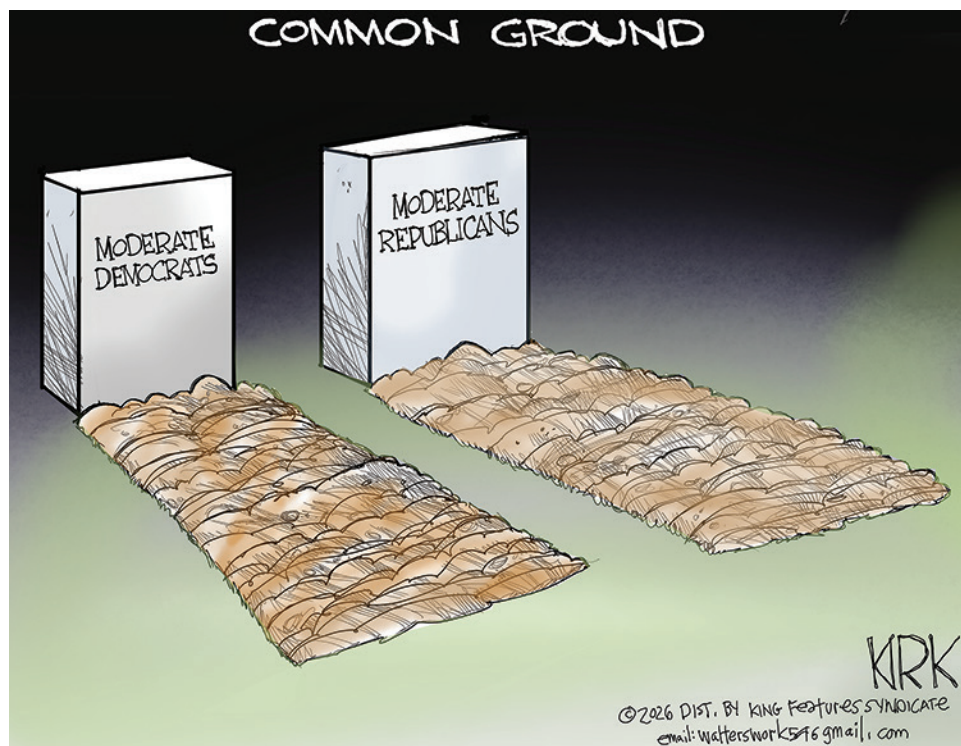
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

☞ GALATIANS 3:27,28 ☞



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? *Back, Stomach, Head, Legs*

3. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection? *3, 40, 100, 346*

4. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? *Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul*

5. What is the Hebrew word that's usually translated as "blessing"? *Berakah, Chosson, Chumash, Ducket*

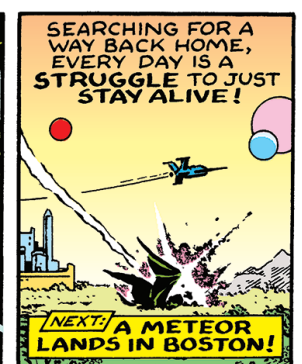
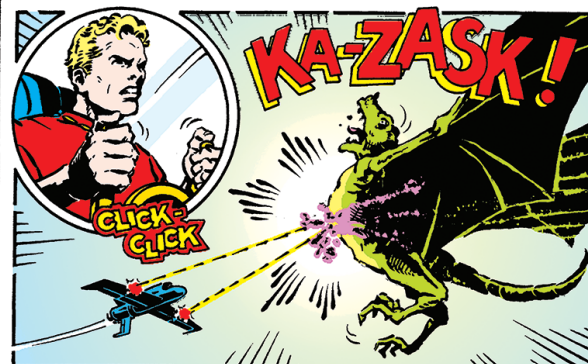
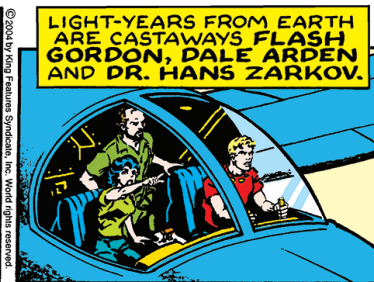
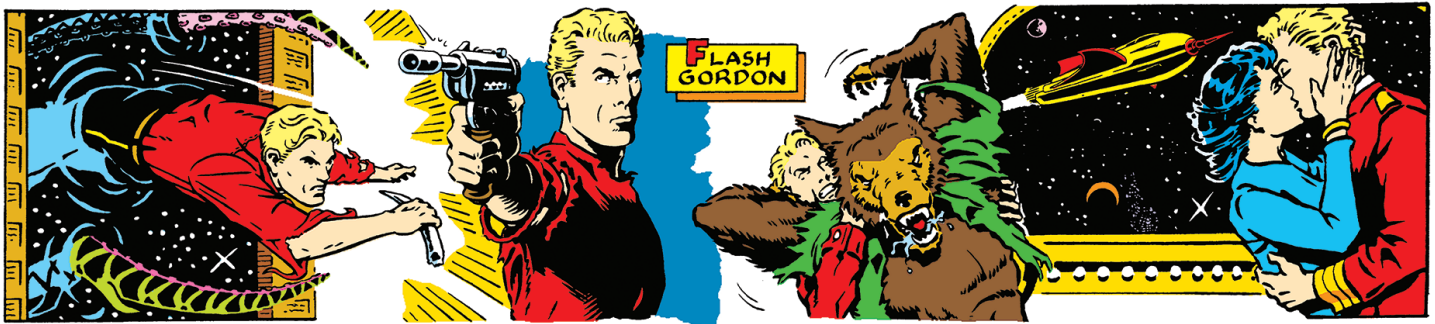
6. How old was Abraham when he died? *75, 175, 202, 256*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Stomach, 3) 40, 4) Philip, 5) Berakah, 6) 175

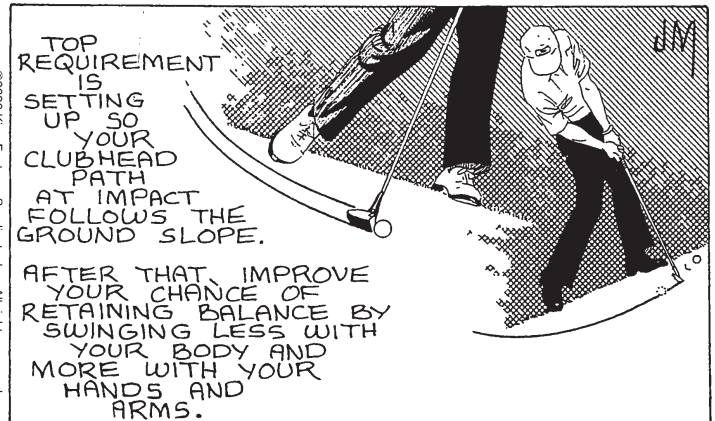
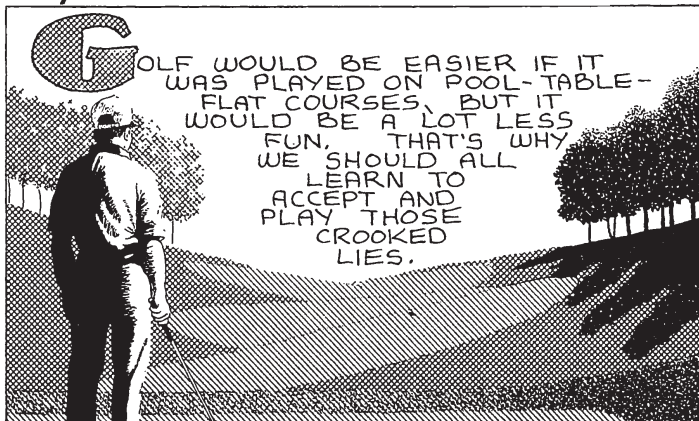
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Man With Hemicrania Continua Requires Indefinite Therapy

DEAR DR. ROACH: My future son-in-law was diagnosed with hemicrania continua several weeks ago by a neurologist and is responding to indomethacin. Could you provide a prognosis for this illness? The internet says that it can take anywhere from weeks to months to years. Is this likely the case? -- M.I.L.

ANSWER: Hemicrania continua is an unusual type of headache syndrome. It's often misdiagnosed, with 50% of people not receiving a correct diagnosis for eight years. The pain is on one side of the head (hence "hemicrania"), and the pain severity can be high, with over 70% of sufferers describing the pain as "excruciating."

Although the pain can come and go, most people have or develop continuous unrelenting pain (hence the "continua"). In some people, these episodes of continuous pain can last for weeks or months and are followed by a pain-free period. This condition is usually diagnosed and managed by a neurologist.

The bad news for your future son-in-law is that most people have this condition not merely for months or years but for the rest of their lives, so they need indefinite therapy. The good news is that people who respond to indomethacin tend to keep responding to it.

Almost 50% of people were able to decrease their dose of indomethacin -- a potent but somewhat toxic anti-inflammatory drug that can affect the stomach and kidneys. Many people need medicine (such as ranitidine) to protect their stomachs. People who can't tolerate indomethacin have other options such as melatonin, the anti-seizure drug topiramate, or nerve blocks.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column on dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and the AREDS2 vitamin and mineral supplement. I'm taking a generic version of them, even though my ophthalmologist (who's a board-certified retina specialist) says that mine's in the early stages and that AREDS are only useful in later stages. But he says that there's no harm in taking AREDS before then, and perhaps it'll do some good.

I'm also taking a saffron extract, which appears to be the only thing that clinical studies have found to help during the early stages. I wonder if you have any thoughts on this. -- B.S.

ANSWER: There was a randomized, controlled trial on saffron for mild to moderate AMD in 2019, and saffron did show modest but statistically significant improvements compared to a placebo. People who took saffron had small improvements with visual acuity (both people who were and weren't taking AREDS supplements benefited from saffron), as well as improvements with sophisticated measurements of retinal activity.

Since there weren't any significant side effects, and there's an added benefit on top of the AREDS supplements, saffron is a reasonable treatment. The dose that was studied was 20 mg per day, and I found it easily available at reasonable prices.

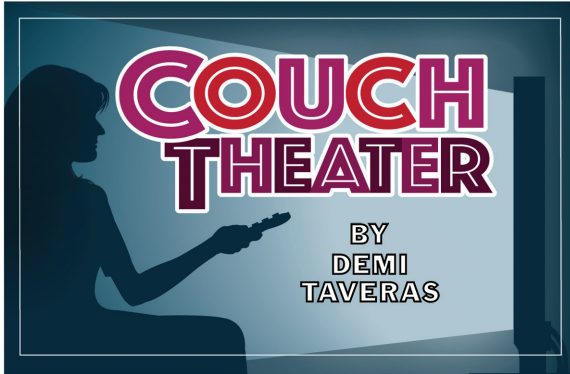
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Molly Shannon, left, and Will Ferrell star in "The Hawk."

(Courtesy of Netflix)

"The Hawk" (TV-MA) -- This absurd comedy series was co-created by and stars a comedic actor who's well-versed in absurdity, the fabulous Will Ferrell ("You're Cordially Invited"). Starring alongside another "Saturday Night Live" alum,

Molly Shannon, Ferrell plays professional golfer Lonnie "The Hawk" Hawkins, aka 2004's top golfer. Determined that he has what it takes to get back to the top, Lonnie signs on for a PGA tour with his son, Lance (Jimmy Tatro). With his can-do attitude, good humor, and awful fashion sense, nothing can stop Lonnie from redeeming his golf legacy. All 10 episodes premiere on July 16. (Netflix)

"Tron: Ares" (PG-13) -- The sequel to "Tron: Legacy" (2010) didn't quite make up its \$220 million budget in theaters, with only \$142.2 million recouped at the box office. It also failed to receive glowing reviews from critics, which is surprising considering its lead actor, Jared Leto ("Masters of the Universe"). Rounding out the rest of the cast are "The Morning Show's" Greta Lee, "Dahmer's" Evan Peters, and "The Abandons" Gillian Anderson. Taking place in 2025, the film follows two companies that are locked in a race to bring digital programs into the real world. One company, led by Julian Dillinger (Peters), introduces the "perfect expendable soldier" in his program Ares, but what Julian never expected is that Ares' self-awareness might overpower his expendability. Out now to stream! (Disney+)

"Reminders of Him" (PG-13) -- Romance and young adult novelist Colleen Hoover keeps cranking out books, and major studios keep adapting it into films for fans to enjoy! This latest adaptation out now is based on Hoover's 2022 novel and stars Maika Monroe ("Longlegs") as Kenna Rowan. After spending six years in prison for vehicular manslaughter that resulted in her boyfriend Scotty's (Rudy Pankow) death, Kenna plans to start anew in her hometown and meet the daughter she had while she was serving time. Coincidentally, she meets Ledger (Tyriq Withers), who just happens to be Scotty's lifelong best friend. The two have an instant connection, leaving them both with a choice to remain stuck in the horrors of the past or brave a different future together. (Peacock)

"Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro" (TV-PG) -- This new spinoff of the longtime competition reality show "Dancing with the Stars" is set to premiere on July 14. As the title teases, the spinoff will focus on finding the next dancer who'll join the "DWTS" cast as a pro. Hosted by reigning mirror ball champ Robert Irwin, the series features 12 contestants who will live and train together in a "grueling audition process" for the length of the eight-episode show. Additionally, the charming mom-and-son duo Shirley and Mark Ballas serve as judges for these 12 contestants, which is a treat for anyone who's seen them (or dad Corky!) as pros on the original show. Contestants hail from all over the United States, as well as Ukraine, England and Canada. (Hulu)

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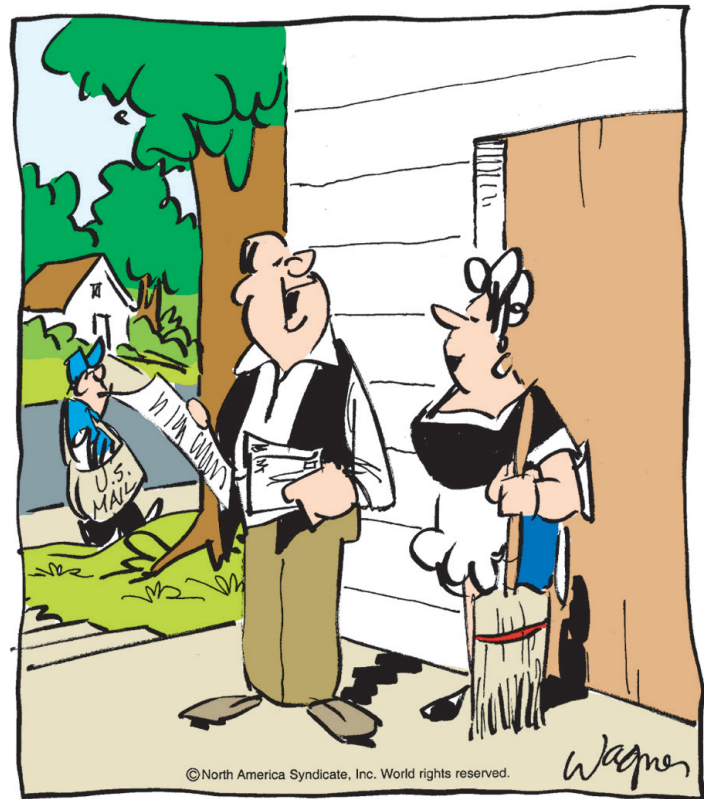
1. Name the artist that released "If I Could Turn Back Time."
2. Which group started out as the American Breed?
3. Who wrote and released "Puff, The Magic Dragon"?
4. "Up, Up and Away" was used for which company's television commercial?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Time, time, time, see what's become of me, While I looked around for my possibilities."

Answers

1. Cher, in 1989. The video for the song was recorded on the USS Missouri. The Navy had expected Cher to perform wearing a jumpsuit, as that was what had been presented to them. Instead, she came out in a fishnet outfit.
2. Rufus. They've also been known as Smoke, Ask Rufus and Rufus with Chaka Khan.
3. Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul and Mary. He based it on a 1959 poem by a college student, LEONard Lipton. When the song received royalties, Yarrow made sure Lipton got half of them, which he did until Lipton's death in 2022.
4. Trans World Airlines (TWA), in 1968, with slightly changed lyrics.
5. "A Hazy Shade of Winter," by Simon and Garfunkel, in 1966. In 1987, the Bangles released a cover that was used in the soundtrack of "Less Than Zero."

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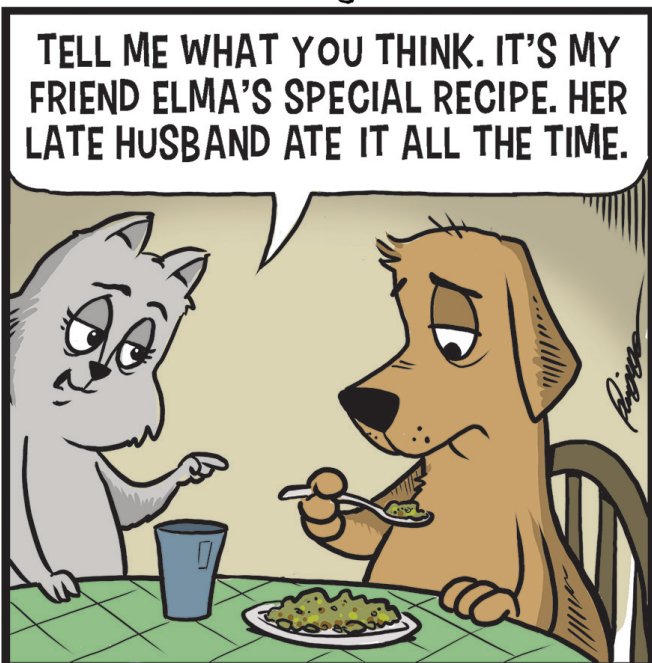
GRIN and BEAR IT *by Wagner*



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"Our once-in-a-lifetime offer has been extended!"

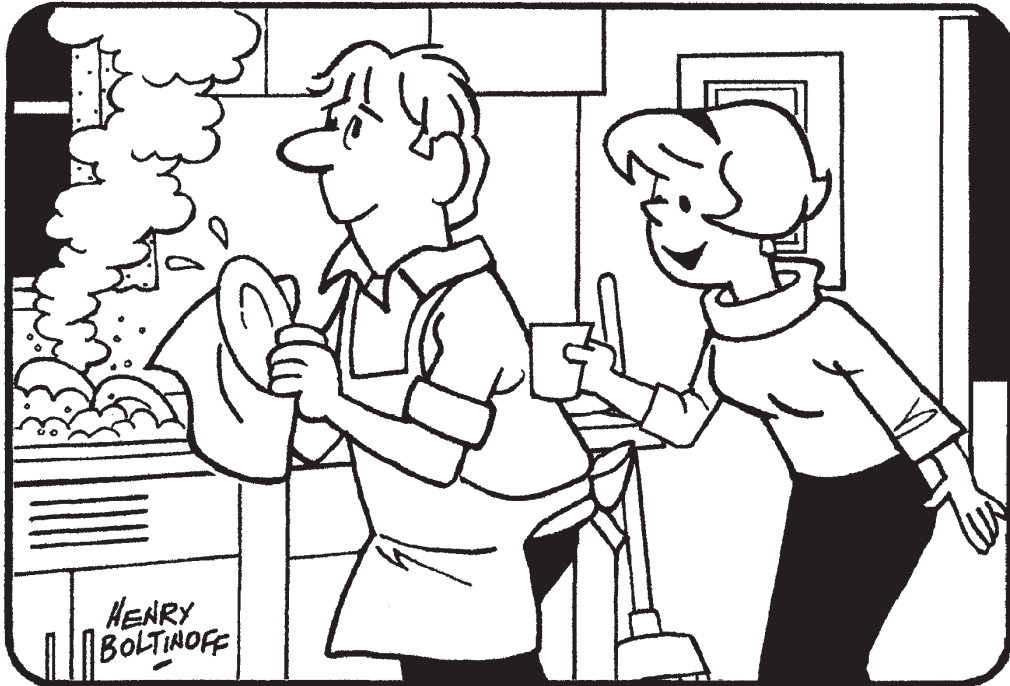
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



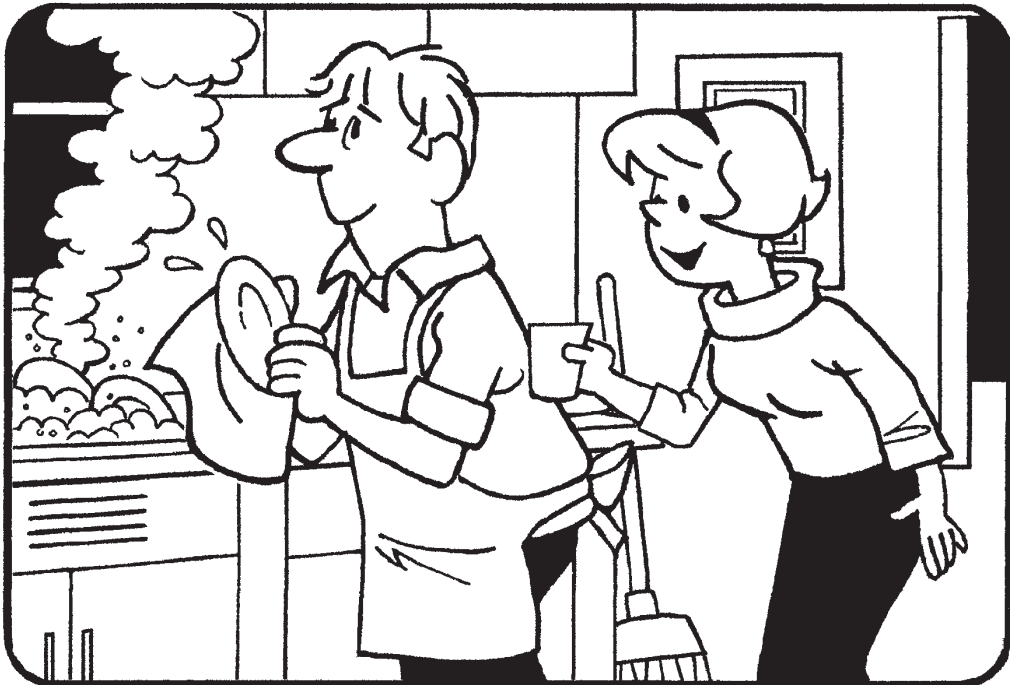
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cabinet is wider. 2. Apron is different. 3. Hair is different. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Curtain is missing. 6. Broom is different.

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* To keep the kids' sight word skills fresh over the summer, we are playing sight word bingo practically every day now. It was really easy to make and laminate bingo cards. And I use the flash cards we got from school to "call" the words. Bingo is a win-win!

* "Potluck parties and leftovers: Is there too much food left at the end of the party? When throwing a potluck, make sure you remind your guest to bring some take-home containers. Have them fix a few containers of "seconds" and store them in a big cooler by the front door. Hang a few take-out bags on the doorknob and your pals won't forget to take their goodies home!" -- M.W. in Florida

* Kids clamoring about whose turn it is? No fear. You've got the solution in your desk drawer. Simply write each child's name on a self-stick note, and stack them. The kid on top takes the first turn, and then peels his or her name off and moves it to the bottom. Easy peasy.

* Going on a road trip this summer? Check your tire pressure to save money. Maintaining the correct tire pressure can have a direct effect on how many miles you get to the gallon. It can save you in everyday driving, but it really adds up when traveling longer distances. Check your car's manual for the correct pressure. Or, some cars have a sticker in the door well or glove box with that information.

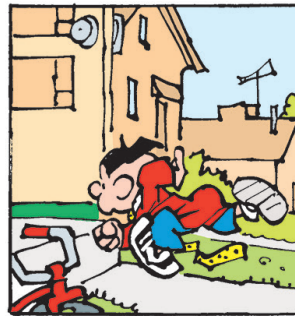
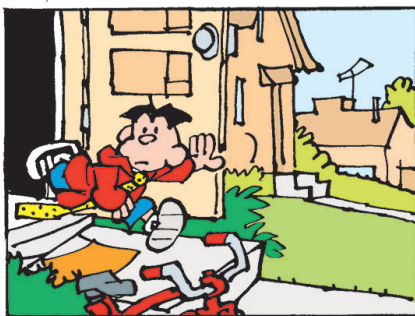
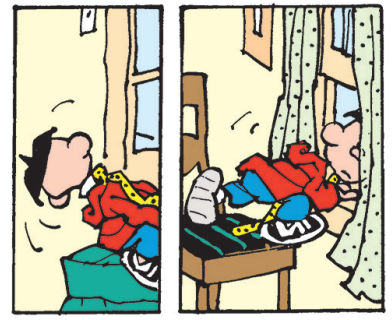
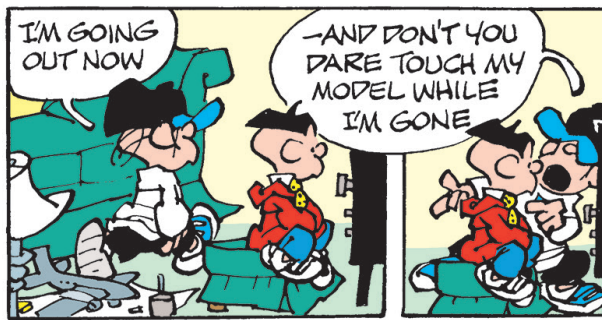
* "In my house, we love straws. Because we're into recycling, we make sure to get the most out of each one. Keep a small jar at the sink, where we rinse straws before setting them in the jar to dry. Reuse at will." -- F.O. in Pennsylvania

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 Valley
5 Unruly crowds
9 Dean's list stat
12 Pinnacle
13 Each
14 Science room
15 Show loyalty to
17 Mentalist Geller
18 Green land
19 Critic Roger
21 Finished
24 Love god
25 Parliamentarian
26 Raised children, say
30 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
31 Desert haven
32 Call — day
33 Native of Yerevan
35 Read quickly
36 Mast
37 Bracelet site
38 Pocket breads
40 Japanese soup
42 Hindu honorific
43 Street game
48 Pouch
49 Actress Fisher

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
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			36						37			
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

- 50 Party cheese
51 "For shame!"
52 Penn or Astin
53 Harvard rival
10 Henry VIII's Catherine
11 Slightly
16 Josh
20 "— voyage!"
21 First lady of scat
22 Dark film genre
23 Chicken choice
24 Actress Moran
26 Twosome
27 Botanist Gray
28 List-ending abbr.
29 "Great" dog
31 Jackie's Ari
34 Ecol. watch-dog
35 Stuck-up
37 Request
38 "Hey!"
39 Nest egg choices
40 "— 18" (Uris novel)
41 Optimist's credo
44 Mao — -tung
45 Celestial altar
46 Like Abner
47 Country music's Greenwood

DOWN

- 1 German article
2 Suitable
3 Floral garland
4 Surpass
5 Bryn —
6 Mayberry boy
7 Automaton, for short
8 Orbs
9 Crafter's adhesive

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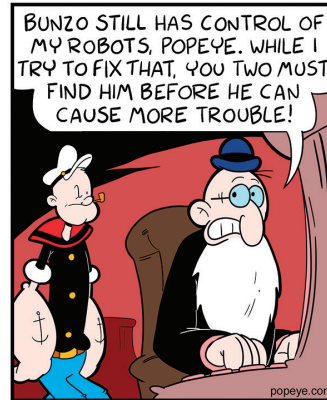
King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Olive



Out on a Limb

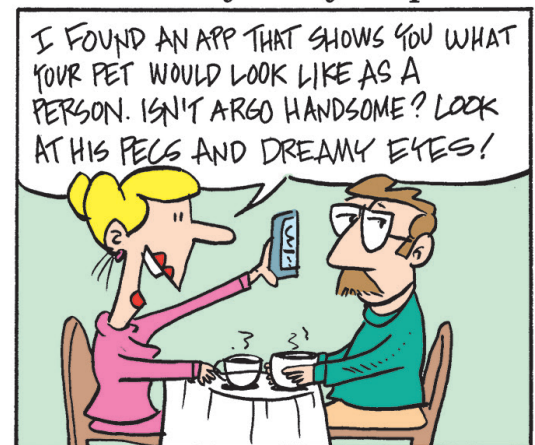


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ON SECOND THOUGHT...

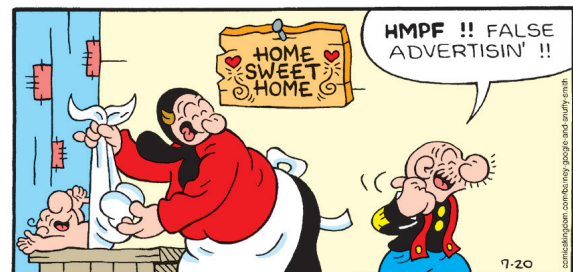
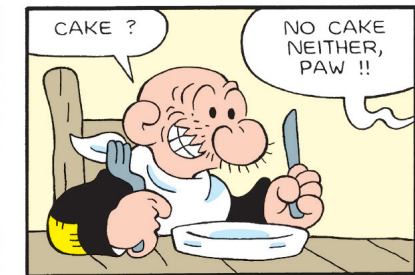
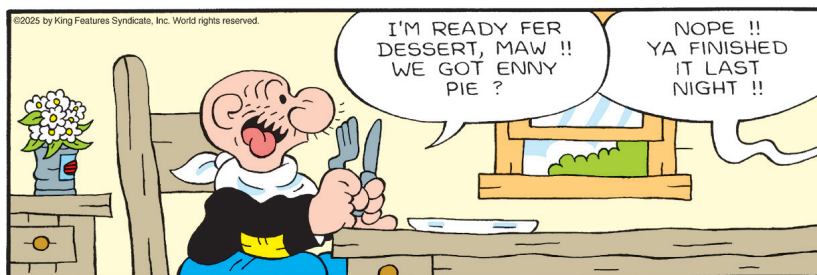
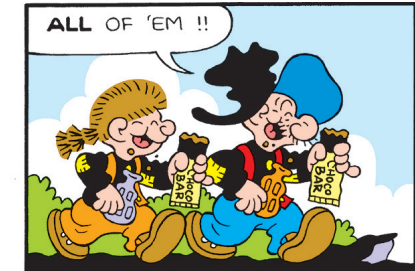
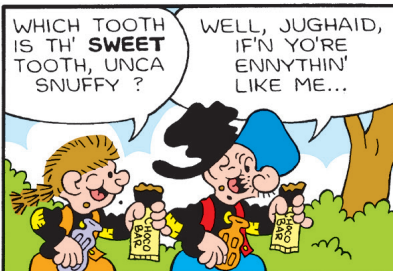
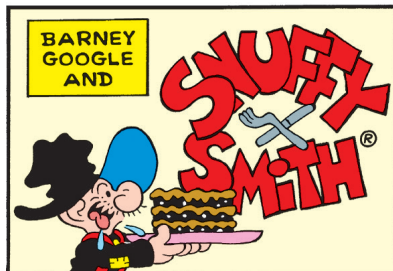
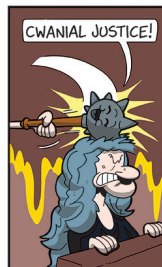
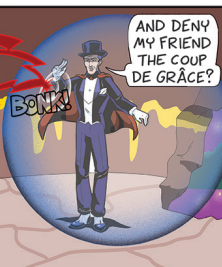
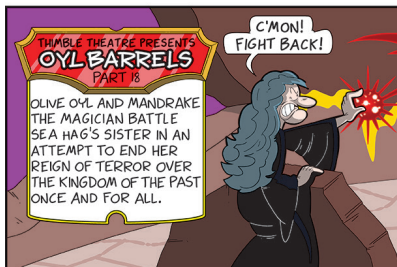
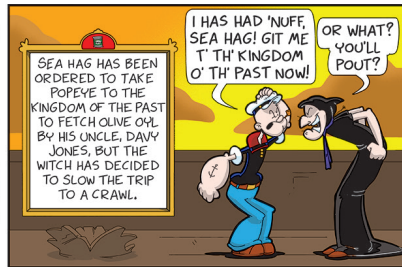
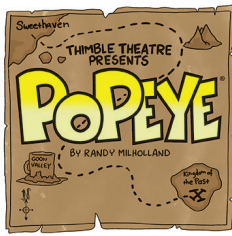
KOPERVAS

by Gary Kopervas



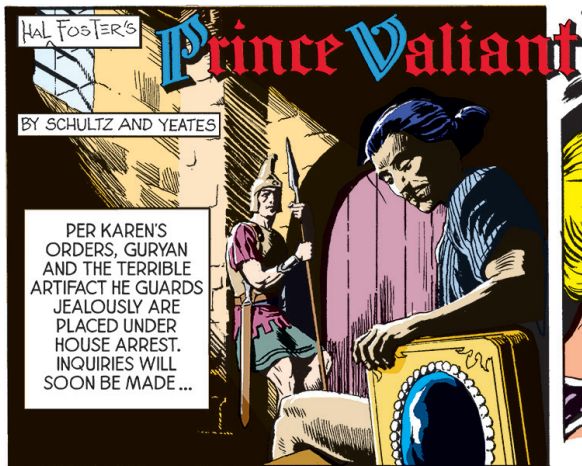
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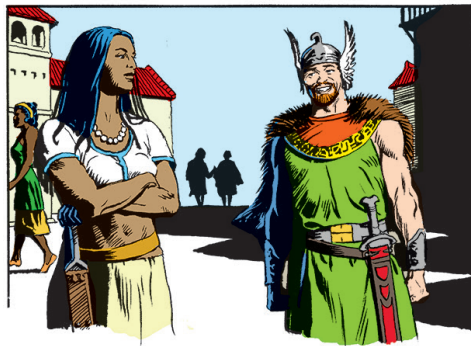


... BUT NOW KAREN APPROACHES PRINCE VALIANT WITH A MORE PRESSING PROBLEM: "MY SISTER, YOUR DAUGHTER, HAS GONE MAD."

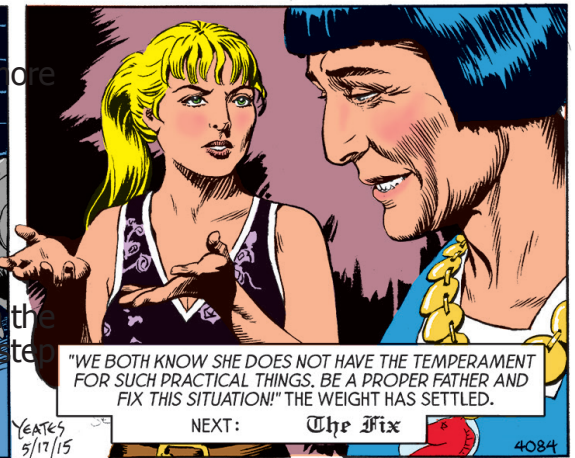


"IF YOU WERE A MORE OBSERVANT FATHER, YOU WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT VALETA HAS BECOME PATHETICALLY SMITTEN BY HARALDR, GUNDAR HARL'S PREENING WHELP," SHE SCOLDS.

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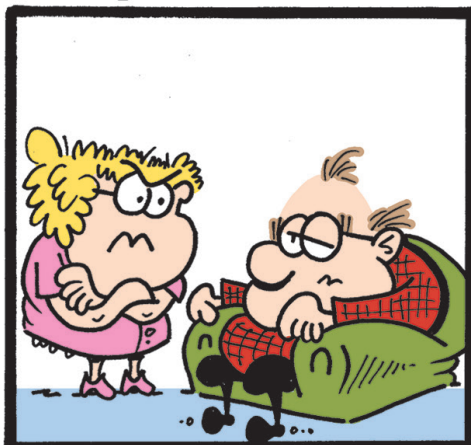


"BUT HARALDR HAS EYES ONLY FOR ZULFA - THESE NORSEMEN SEEM TO SEE MUCH OF THEIR HOMELAND WARRIOR WOMEN IN THE FIERCE IMAZIGHEN." VAL FEELS THE WEIGHT OF FAMILIAL EXPECTATION BEGIN TO SETTLE OVER HIM.



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Avoiding Covid ... still

"It's gone! There is no more Covid!"

"It's completely gone!"

Well, no.

I heard this exchange in the store today and had to step in. I'm probably the only one who is still, after six years, tracking local cases of Covid on a weekly basis. And the truth, as I explained to the two ladies in the store, is that Covid is still out there.

As of this writing, Covid is launching again in three states, declining in 34 states, and remaining the same in 12 states, while actually circulating to some degree in all 50 states.

It's not likely that a worldwide pandemic will explode again like it did in 2020. After all, so many people have taken the vaccines and still have a tiny bit of immunity left over from that.

The keyword there, however, is tiny. And that immunity is waning more by the month.

In other words, it is possible to get Covid now, despite prior shots and despite there not being a huge number of cases at the moment. It's summer, people are traveling and the three states with the growing number of cases are tourist hotspots.

While we don't need to monitor our potential exposure every single minute like we did when Covid was raging around the world, we do need to acknowledge that over 800,000 seniors died of Covid -- and take care of ourselves.

Some steps:

Identify which stores are likely to have test kits in stock should you need to replenish your supply.

Wear a mask if you're going to be in a crowd.

Ask your doctor whether you should have a booster.

Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer.

According to WHO (the World Health Organization), in the past four weeks there have been 246 Covid deaths around the world; 202 of them were here in the United States.

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Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month

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1. On Jan. 9, 2010, which Detroit Pistons player scored the 10-millionth point in NBA history?

2. Which two figure skaters appeared together on a February 1998 FOX TV special titled "Breaking the Ice: The Women of '94 Revisited"?

3. In 2024, endurance runner and activist Deo Kato completed a 518-day, 7,730-mile trek between which two cities?

4. Which stadium was home to the American Football League's San Diego Chargers from 1961 to 1966?

5. In December 1982, which team upset the No. 1 ranked Virginia Cavaliers, 77-72, in a college basketball game in Honolulu?

6. Name the West German boxer who was knocked out by Muhammad Ali in the seventh round of a 1971 non-title fight in Zurich, Switzerland.

7. Which Dallas Mavericks star scored the first 60-20 triple double in NBA history when he recorded 60-21-10 against the New York Knicks in 2022?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Ben Gordon.

2. Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding.

3. Cape Town, South Africa, to London, England.

4. Balboa Stadium.

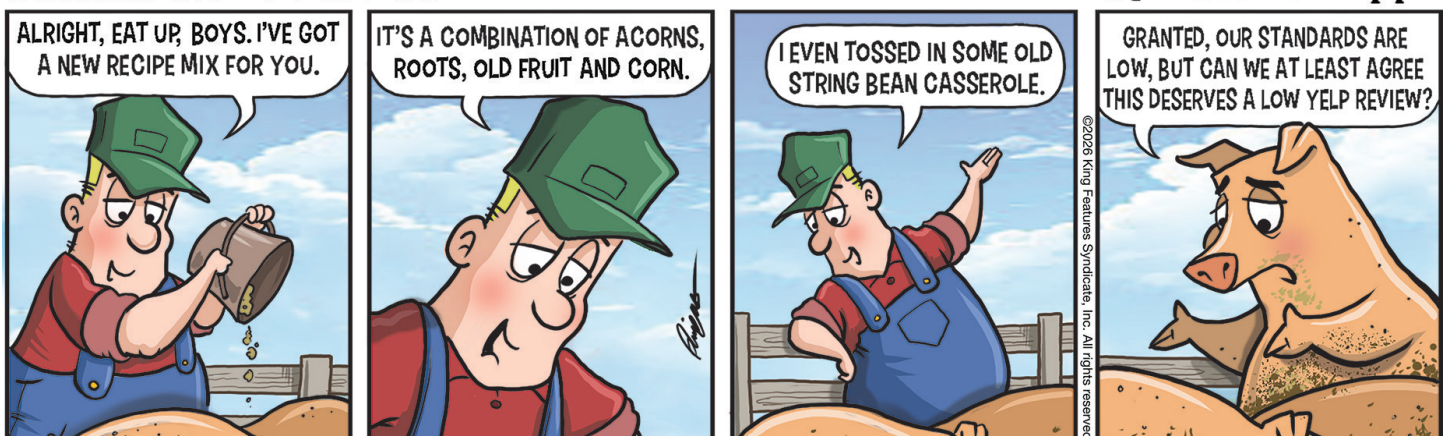
5. The Chaminade Silverswords.

6. Jurgen Blin.

7. Luka Doncic.

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Tips for hiking with your pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: How do I know if my 18-month-old dog is ready to tackle a moderate to difficult hike? I'd like to take "Tab" along on a hike in the White Mountains this summer. -- Jack T. in Boston

DEAR JACK: Every dog is different, even energetic dogs that love to be outdoors. Plus, there are other factors to consider before taking your dog on a hike.

Energy level: Is your dog an outdoorsy type who loves to romp and play? Does he already take long walks with you (2 to 3 miles)?

Training: Does your dog respond well to commands? Importantly, does he come immediately when called?

Is he well-trained to the leash or does he tug on it?

Socialization: How does your dog react around other dogs -- especially strange ones -- and people? If he's calm and friendly, that's a great sign. If he's defensive, reactive or aggressive, that's not good.

Health: Does your dog have any known health issues? Does he take medication regularly?

Tab sounds like a young, healthy dog, so the last factor may not be a problem at all. But you should evaluate his training, socialization and overall fitness before tackling a long, difficult hike.

He is at an age where you can start walking him longer distances. Younger dogs have hard limits on how far they can go because their bones are still developing. Start training for the hike by tackling shorter, easy trails in your area. Gradually increase difficulty and distance, and gauge how well he progresses.

Finally, check the rules for bringing dogs on trails in the White Mountains. Most allow them, but always on-leash and under control.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* The "Escape from Alcatraz Marathon," created in 1980, is an annual event designed to show that it is indeed possible to survive an escape from Alcatraz, and includes a 1.5-mile swim to San Francisco, an 18-mile bike ride and an 8-mile run.

* In the seventh century B.C., the North African Berbers played a soccer-like game as a fertility rite.

* Iceland had a cat reality show called -- wait for it -- "Keeping Up With the Kattarshians," in which four lucky kittens lived together in a furnished house and were filmed around

the clock.

* Minority children make up 65% of all non-family abductions.

* Some police forces purposely assign at least one woman to their SWAT teams so their male counterparts will have a "den mother" to counteract some of the men's more violent tendencies.

* The first arrest resulting from an emergency call occurred on July 8, 1937, at 4:20 a.m., when the wife of John Stanley Beard dialed 999 to report a burglar, Thomas Duffy, outside her home in England.

* It is illegal to ride an ugly horse in Wilbur, Washington.

* Of the roughly 300 million tons of plastic produced each year, half consists of single-use items.

* In France, citizens are automatically registered to vote when they turn 18 years old.

* Over the course of several decades, African American blues musician Daryl Davis made a point of befriending KKK members and questioning them about their beliefs. As of 2017, 200 of those Klansmen had given up their robes as a result.

* People who worked at soda fountains were called soda jerks due to the classic jerking motion they used to pump soda water.

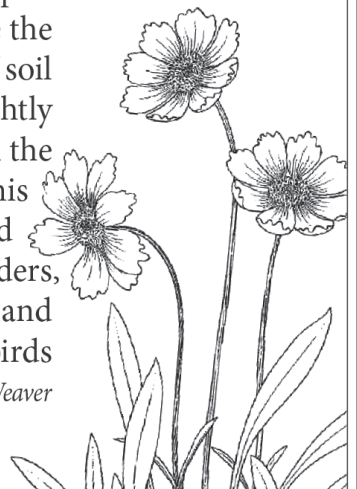
Thought for the Day: "It takes a moment to tell someone you love them, but it takes a lifetime to prove it." -- Erich Fromm

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Also known as "tickseed" or "pot-of-gold," coreopsis is easy to grow. Sprinkle the seeds over a prepared area of soil in a very sunny location, and cover lightly with soil. Keep this area watered until the seeds germinate in about 3 weeks. This plant tolerates heat, humidity, and drought. It is well suited to beds, borders, and containers. Not only do bees and butterflies love its nectar, but also birds like goldfinches love its seeds. -- Brenda Weaver

Coreopsis



Sources: linnet.geog.ubc.ca,
www.gardeningknowhow.com, almanac.com



by Freddy Groves

Getting community care

The VA spent over \$36 billion on community care in fiscal year 2025, and it appears to be money well spent.

The expenditures were courtesy of the 2018 MISSION Act, which lets veterans get their care out in the community from non-VA health care providers -- with the VA picking up the tab. Added to that in 2025 was the Dole Act (more specifically, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and

Benefits Improvement Act), which lets veterans seek care in the community without frequent medical reviews or permissions from VA medical staff.

It used to be that veterans had to get a new referral every 90 to 180 days to keep getting care out in the community. Now, for 30 categories of care -- pulmonary, dermatology, podiatry and endocrinology, as a few examples -- new referrals will only be needed once a year.

Veterans in three states in particular benefited from that money: Texas at \$3.3 billion, Florida at \$2.8 billion and California at \$2.1 billion.

If you've already been getting community care, find out from the community care office at your VA medical facility where in the permission and referral cycle you are so you know in advance when the next one will be required. Since most of the medical categories will only need a yearly referral, get your schedule in writing so there isn't a problem at the last minute with an expired authorization.

If you need medical treatment that the VA doesn't provide, or if the wait times at your local VA hospital are too long, or if the driving time to your VA hospital is too long, you might qualify for community care. To get specifics, call the community care office for an initial referral. If you already have a community care provider in mind, find out whether they are part of the VA network before you get care from them to be certain the VA will pay for it.

To learn more about getting medical care in your own community, go to department.va.gov/vha/community-care.

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Wishing Well®

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I	C	S	P	W	R	E	Y	T	U	I	N	O
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2	3	8	5	2	3	8	2	3	2	8	2	8
A	O	G	S	N	V	H	W	E	I	T	N	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. MOVIES: Which 1997 film features a villain named Dr. Evil?
2. HISTORY: When was the Declaration of Independence officially signed?
3. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Eritrea is located on which continent?
4. TELEVISION: Which 1980s-90s sitcom includes a neighbor named Winnie Cooper?
5. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States?
6. ANATOMY: What is the largest muscle in the human body?
7. SCIENCE: How much of Earth's water is saltwater?
8. MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces is 3/4 of a cup?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goose called?
10. MUSIC: When was Taylor Swift's first album released?

Answers

1. "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery."
2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.
3. Africa.
4. "The Wonder Years."
5. Bloomington, Minnesota.
6. Gluteus maximus.
7. About 97%.
8. 6 ounces.
9. A gosling.
10. 2006.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Responding to Devastation

Natural disasters are devastating, but they also provide opportunities for our state to show what we are made of. I've served as a volunteer firefighter my entire life, and my administration is ready to respond to any emergency.

Most recently, Sandy and I have been on scene in Hyde and Beadle counties after record setting straight line winds. Everywhere we looked, there were neighbors helping each other, folks from the next town bringing needed equipment, and businesses offering goods and shelter. The volunteer efforts have just been incredible.

I'm always amazed by how well our state agencies work together and with local officials to respond quickly. In both recent storms, state agencies responded within hours of the damage – and they stuck around for a week of long hours from seven agencies.

In both Huron and Highmore, our public safety officials are on the ground providing security and traffic control. Transportation crews are helping with road closures and heavy equipment. We have crews of inmates cleaning up debris at no cost to the communities. While all that is happening, the Department of Social Services is working with community partners to make sure residents have access to the resources and support they need, and the Department of Human Services is working with nursing homes across the region to place displaced residents in facilities that have offered to provide care.

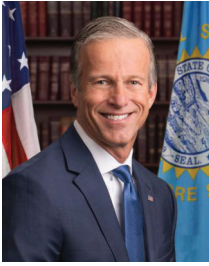
My immediate visits are always worth the time. It is important to me to look people in the eye and let them know we are doing everything we can to put their lives back together.

The National Weather Service has now confirmed a tornado touched down in Huron. Even before that confirmation, we were working with FEMA to receive a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, which will hopefully draw down federal support. These communities are continuing to assess the full extent of the damage and calculate recovery costs. Although it is too early to determine whether the disaster will meet the thresholds necessary for FEMA, we will continue to put in the work to help get these communities back on their feet.

There are many more heroes to mention, but a special thanks to our electric companies. A natural disaster often comes with loss of power for some of our citizens. This is when linemen become heroes. They are out at all hours and in all conditions getting power back to as many customers as possible as fast as possible.

In addition to the seven agencies responding to storm damage, we have National Guard and the Bureau Information and Technology helping Pennington County through a cybersecurity incident. The GRIT task force I created last year has had countless benefits for our preparedness as a state, including the strengthening of partnerships between state agencies and our communities. The investigation is still underway, but GRIT has laid a foundation for a faster and more robust response to these types of situations. I am proud of the work of our soldiers and technology professionals. Their specialized expertise in cybersecurity has been critical to this response.

South Dakotans always look out for one another, especially when times are tough. Thank you to everyone lending a hand and praying for those who have been impacted. We can be thankful that neither of these storms resulted in a loss of life. We'll continue working together to help our fellow South Dakotans rebuild.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

More Opportunities for the Next Generation

There's almost nothing parents won't do for their kids. From the moment they hand you that little bundle, your whole life becomes about giving them a better life. For many of us, that's the essence of the American Dream: to give your children a better life than you had.

Last year, in the Working Families Tax Cuts, Republicans worked to make it easier for parents to set their kids up for success. This bill opens new education pathways, helps parents save for their kids' education, and creates new investment accounts to empower parents to give their kids a nest egg for the future – money they can use down the road to get a head start on their American Dream.

Parents know that a good education is the foundation of their kids' success. For decades, the 529 savings plan has been a powerful tool for parents to save and invest in their kids' education. At first, 529s could only be used for college. Then, in 2017 Republicans expanded them to include K-12 expenses too. And in last year's Working Families Tax Cuts, Republicans again expanded 529s so parents can use them for things like tutoring, vocational education, homeschool materials, and continuing education. And in addition to these new flexibilities, we doubled the amount that you can withdraw from a 529 account to \$20,000 per year.

For postsecondary education, the Working Families Tax Cuts implements reforms and accountability measures to put downward pressure on the cost of college degrees. On top of those measures, it also makes permanent a policy I've long championed that allows employers to repay a portion of an employee's student loans each year without the employee having to pay federal taxes on that income.

The Working Families Tax Cuts also creates a new Workforce Pell grant program, which supports students pursuing shorter-term training programs that prepare them for in-demand jobs. This promising new program began just this month, and I'm proud that South Dakota has begun working to identify programs in our state that will be eligible for the Workforce Pell program and will enable South Dakotans to seize new opportunities and strengthen our local workforce and economy.

In addition to supporting education, the Working Families Tax Cuts created Trump Accounts, a new tax-advantaged investment account designed to allow parents to save for their children's future beyond their education: to give kids a nest egg, help them buy a home, or start a business. If they choose not to withdraw money once they reach adulthood, they can also use these accounts to kickstart their retirement savings. And to get savings started, parents can opt in for an initial deposit of \$1,000 from the government for kids born between 2025 and 2028. Millions of Americans have already signed up their children for Trump Accounts, and parents can enroll their kids online or by downloading the Trump Accounts app.

As we celebrate 250 years since our nation's founding, we're especially mindful that America is a land of opportunity. The Working Families Tax Cuts helps create new opportunities and empowers the next generation to seize them and enjoy even greater success. The Working Families Tax Cuts is about our country's future, and it's helping to strengthen the American Dream for the next generation.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

Is Crazy Contagious

Getting into trouble seems to be an ongoing habit of mine. It doesn't matter what the trouble is at the time; it somehow associates itself with me.

Whenever I think I'm perfect and everything is going fine, I'm set up for something to go horribly wrong. Believe me, it happens to me all the time. If I could accept the fact that I'm not perfect, maybe my life would be just a little bit better. I'm working on that.

Every once in a while, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say to me, "Are you crazy?"

The fact that she asks that question indicates that she doesn't really know the answer. Of course, I always answer in the negative. When I do, she looks at me, shakes her head, and walks away.

After all these years (we will celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary this year) she doesn't really know if I'm crazy or not. I'll give her another 55 years to figure that one out.

The other day, I began thinking about this idea of being crazy. I'm not quite sure I understand what "crazy" means, and I'm not going to look it up in the dictionary because you can't believe everything you read in that dictionary. At least I can't.

I began thinking of my relatives all the way back to my great-grandmother. We used to have yearly get-togethers, but that seems to have passed. I began thinking about those relatives of mine and realized that some of them actually were crazy.

I got up from my chair, went over to my library and pulled out my family photo album. I sat down and began to look through my album. I haven't done this in quite a few years, so I had forgotten a lot about my relatives. I looked at them and began to think about them and what I remembered about them.

The more I looked through my photo album, the more I saw that some of my relatives were actually crazy. There is no way I would have to ask them, "Are you crazy?" I knew they were crazy and remembered some of the evidence that proved it.

As I was looking at these photos, I was chuckling and sometimes even laughing aloud, and then The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked by. She looked at me and said, "What are you laughing about?"

I looked up and said, "Remember the other day when you asked if I was crazy?"

She nodded her head and said, "Yes, I remember that and I'm still asking that question today."

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Looking at her, I laughed some more. I said to her, "After looking at the photo album of my family I have come to the conclusion that crazy is contagious."

Then I showed her a couple of photos of one of my cousins and said, "This cousin is the model of what crazy is all about." Then I told her the story of that cousin and all of the crazy things he did back in "the day."

As I was explaining to her, she finally said, "Well, that sure does explain a lot of things."

I went on to show her other pictures of my relatives and told their stories and how crazy they really were, from my point of view. Although she did not know all of my relatives, she began to understand why I was so crazy.

"So," The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "when will this contagious craziness stop? With you?"

Thinking about that was a very serious consideration for me. Am I going to be the last of the craziness in my family, or will I pass it on to my children and grandchildren?

I looked at her and said, "Well, my dear, you married crazy I didn't."

"I know I did," she replied, "but at the time I didn't think it was so contagious."

Both of us laughed, realizing that craziness is quite contagious and runs in my family. It is impossible for one relative in a family to be crazy and not pass it on.

For a moment, I thought about asking about her family and whether there were any crazy people in it. However, I did not want to jinx my day. From my casual observation, a few of her relatives, including her siblings, showed signs of being crazy. I sure did not want to walk down that path of thorns.

I guess being crazy is inherited and in some cases, craziness is contagious among the people around.

My primary agenda in life is to use my craziness to my benefit. I'm not just going to be crazy and let it go. Rather, I'm going to use it to profit in any way I can. I can't profit from my intelligence, which isn't there, but I can profit from my craziness, which is there.

I'm not sure what that means, but I'll spend some time figuring it out and not waste any time.

I thought of some scripture along this line. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

This doesn't come automatically, I need to discipline myself along this line. The world is not on my side, it only contributes to my craziness. I'm going to trust God each day to walk in God's wisdom in such a way that He is pleased.

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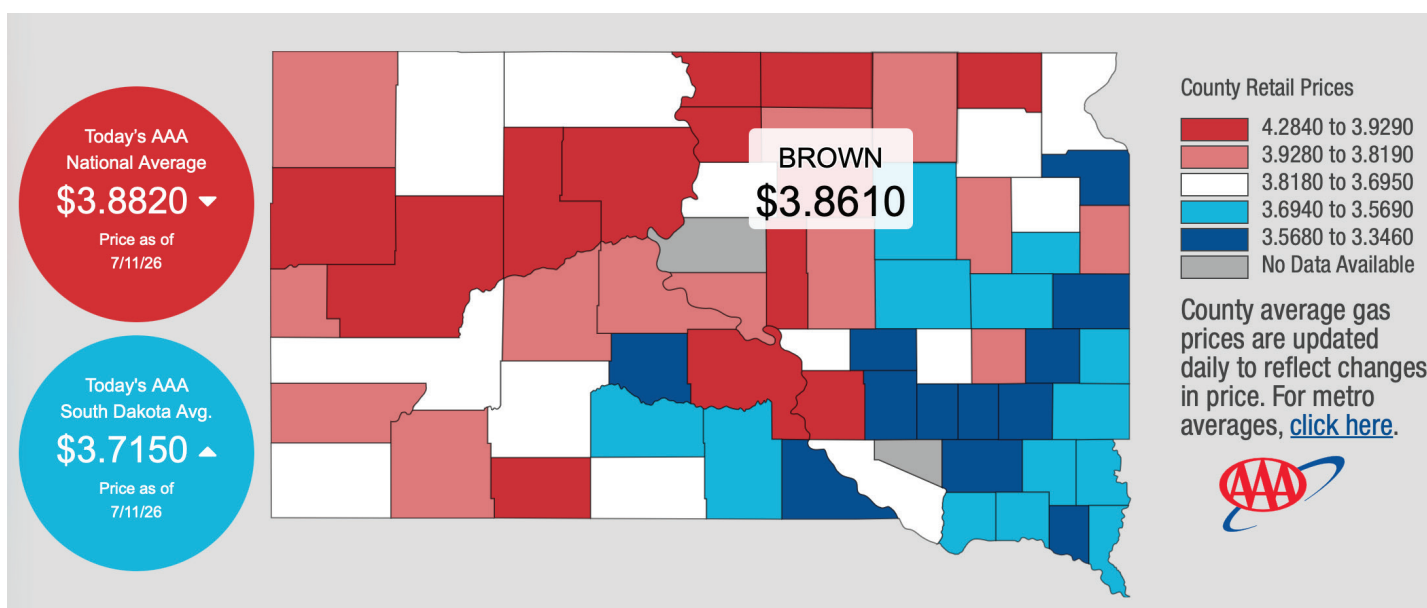
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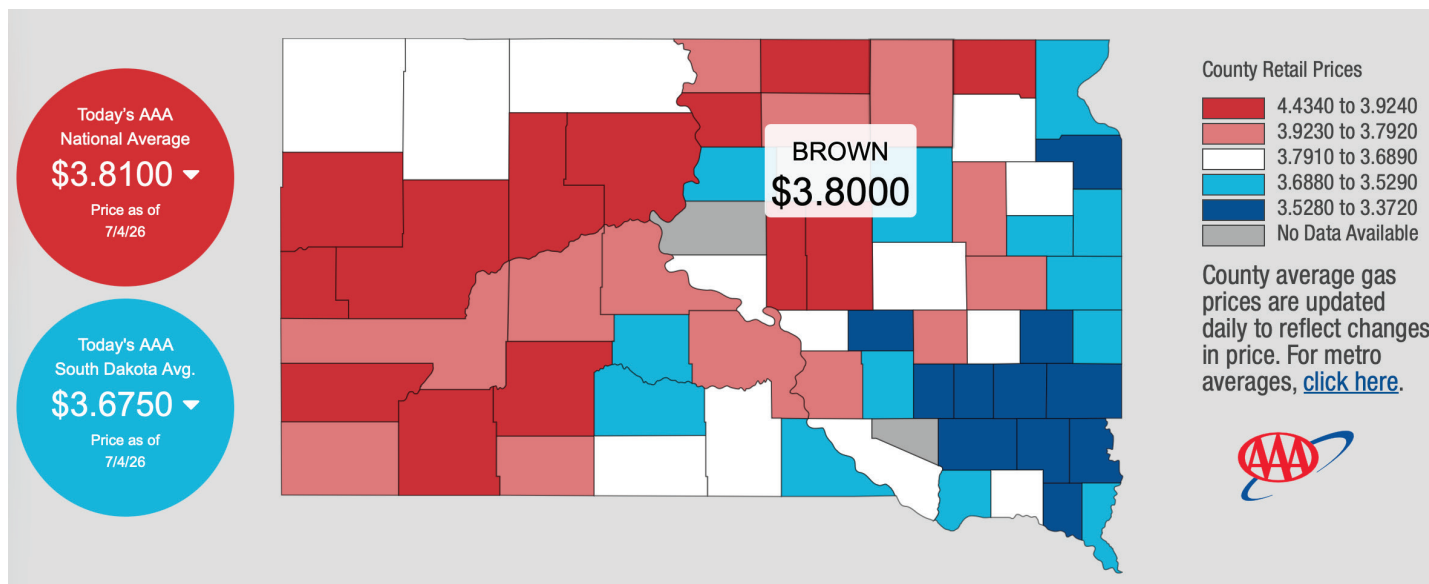
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.7150	\$3.9180	\$4.4140	\$4.3130
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.7060	\$3.9090	\$4.3970	\$4.2730
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.6750	\$3.9010	\$4.4030	\$4.1910
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.0110	\$4.2250	\$4.6920	\$4.7360
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.0160	\$3.1810	\$3.6430	\$3.3770

This Week



Last Week



Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

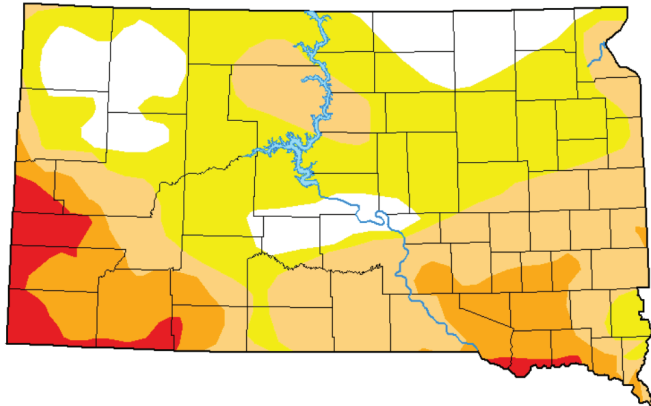
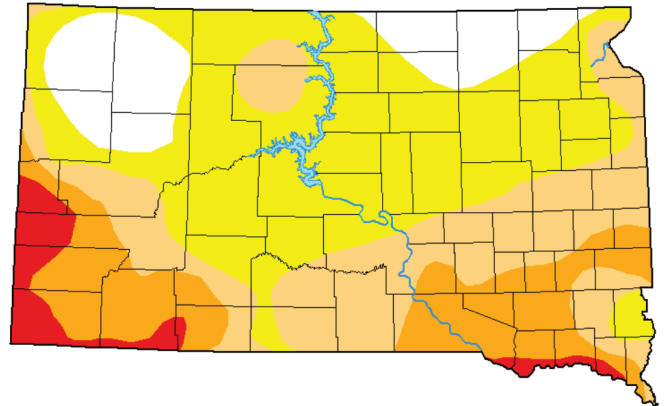
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

Drought Monitor

**July 7****June 30**

Temperatures in the High Plains region were mostly near- or warmer-than-normal this week, with temperatures in eastern Nebraska and eastern South Dakota ranging from 3-6 degrees above normal. (Temperatures west of the Continental Divide were mostly below normal, though conditions in Wyoming and Colorado will be discussed in the West section.) Deficits in precipitation and soil moisture grew in parts of eastern Nebraska, where abnormal dryness and moderate drought expanded. North-central and western South Dakota also saw expansion of abnormal dryness and drought as short- and long-term precipitation deficits grew amid declining soil moisture and streamflow. Parts of central Colorado, especially near and east of Denver and Colorado Springs, saw conditions degrade this week as precipitation deficits grew. Similar conditions in north-central Colorado and south-central and northwest Wyoming, leading to degradations there. A small area of improvement occurred in north-central Wyoming, where vegetation conditions improved after recent precipitation. Scattered heavier rains fell in showers and thunderstorms that moved across parts of the Great Plains of northeast Colorado, the northern half of Kansas, parts of southwest and southeast Nebraska, and the Missouri and Big Sioux River corridors in South Dakota and northeast Nebraska. These rains locally improved drought or abnormally dry conditions.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

SD court system eyes third circuit consolidation in 50 years, raising concerns about 'mega circuit'

Officials say the merger would increase efficiency, but skeptic says it could bury rural counties under Rapid City caseload.

BY MAKENZIE HUBER

South Dakota's court system intends to merge the Fourth and Seventh judicial circuits, creating one that will cover nearly a third of the state's land area.

The Fourth Judicial Circuit encompasses the northwestern quarter of the state, including Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins and Ziebach counties. The Seventh Judicial Circuit includes the southwestern corner: Custer, Fall River, Oglala Lakota and Pennington counties.

The merged circuit would have the largest population and geographic footprint of any in the state, and the second-largest caseload.

The merger of the Fourth and Seventh circuits would "increase operational efficiencies" within the system, according to a news release from the Unified Judicial System.

The merger would result in one presiding judge, one chief court services officer and one deputy chief court services officer for the combined circuit, said court system spokeswoman Alisa Bousa. Each county would retain its own clerk of court.

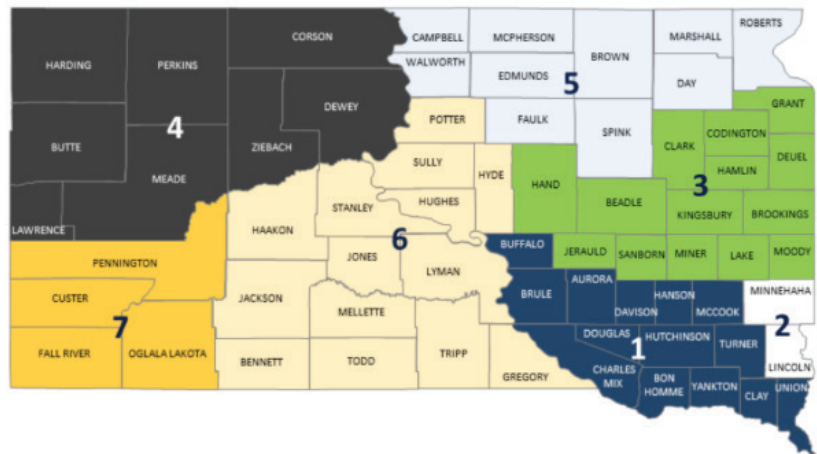
If approved by the state Supreme Court, it would be the third circuit consolidation since the system was implemented more than 50 years ago. At least one state's attorney in northwestern South Dakota worries the consolidation will hurt access to justice for rural residents.

"The way circuits are set up right now makes sure rural counties are always properly served with the right amount of resources so we can do what we need to do," said Shane Penfield, state's attorney for Perkins, Dewey, Ziebach and Corson counties. "I think there could be some potential pitfalls with a circuit that large in geographic size."

The system has not yet presented a formal rule proposal to the state Supreme Court, State Court Administrator Greg Sattizahn said in an email. Sattizahn declined an interview request. He said the system is "focusing on providing information to the public" through in-person forums planned for Aug. 26:

8:30 a.m. at the Pennington County Courthouse in Rapid City.

South Dakota Judicial Circuits



📍 Map shows South Dakota's seven circuit courts. The Unified Judicial System is proposing merging the Fourth and Seventh circuit courts in western South Dakota. (Courtesy of the Unified Judicial System)

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11 a.m. at the Meade County Courthouse in Sturgis.

3:30 p.m. at the Lonesome Dove Conference Center in Lemmon.

History of consolidation

The Unified Judicial System consists of the Supreme Court and seven circuits, each of which includes more than one county.

The term "unified" stems from the system's setup, in which the state serves as the administrative overseer while counties manage and fund many day to day operations. Prosecutors and public defenders are paid for by counties; judges, court services officers and clerks of court are paid by the state.

The system was established by constitutional amendment in 1972, originally with nine circuit courts and 37 judges. The Supreme Court reduced that number of circuits to eight in 1976 and to seven in 2000, after an internal report recommended equalizing court costs and workloads to balance declining rural populations with growing urban areas, according to Rapid City Journal reporting at the time.

Neil Fulton, dean of the University of South Dakota's Knudson School of Law, worked in the Sixth Circuit during the 2000 reorganization.

"In general, these have been responses to the balance of workload," said Fulton, who characterized the proposed consolidated operations for western South Dakota as a "mega circuit."

Some circuits, like the Second Circuit serving the Sioux Falls metro area, handle significantly higher caseloads than rural districts, which cover a larger geographic area that involves more travel time. Fulton said the allocation of cases among judges was more balanced after the 2000 consolidation.

"It makes the work of the judiciary more sustainable," Fulton said. "If we run our judges to the bone then they won't be able to do things. That consolidation made coverage more reliable and regular so you saw a more predictable schedule in those courthouses."

Balancing rural population shifts and representation

Currently, South Dakota's circuit court system has 46 circuit court judges among its seven circuit courts.

The Seventh Circuit has eight judges serving 144,356 residents and reported 21,042 criminal filings and 9,213 civil filings during fiscal year 2025, according to the annual report. The Fourth Circuit has four judges serving 84,181 residents. It had 11,185 criminal filings and 4,622 civil filings in fiscal year 2025 — the second-fewest in the state.

The proposed merger is a "reflection of reality," Fulton said.

"We have to consolidate services more in some areas to get judges, clerks and court service officers needed to deliver services," Fulton said. "You see that with a lot of stuff: healthcare and education, to a degree. I'm not surprised court services is in the same boat."

Fulton added that the consolidation would expand the pool of potential judges, since there are more



Ziebach County Courthouse in Dupree, SD. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

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lawyers in Rapid City than in the rural northwest.

"I'm 100% confident that UJS's goal is to provide effective administration of justice for all South Dakotans," Fulton said. "I think everyone has a shared goal, so let's be patient working toward that."

Penfield is open, but more skeptical.

Rapid City may have more lawyers, but Penfield argues it is culturally and economically distinct from the northern Black Hills and northern plains. A larger Rapid City presence could mean more Rapid City-based judges, who he said have different perspectives than those from less populated counties.

"Combining those two would be a disservice not only to folks in the northern plains but to folks in the northern hills as well," Penfield said.

If finding lawyers to serve as judges is the issue, Penfield said, the court system should increase salaries and offer judges additional staffing.

The merger "sends a mixed message," Penfield said. The court system has invested in incentive programs to draw lawyers to rural areas for over a decade, through the Rural Attorney Recruitment Program and Public Service Pathway pilot program. But the rural-urban divide for South Dakota lawyers has worsened over the past decade.

When Penfield moved back to Lemmon from Rapid City in 2007, he was the fifth lawyer in town. When Lemmon had a circuit judge in the 1980s, there were more. Now there are two lawyers in town, he said.

"If there was still a judge seated in Lemmon, I'm guessing there'd be a few more lawyers in town," Penfield said. "There were other economic changes, but those things have impacts and send messages."

Penfield said he doesn't see "where the numbers justify" the consolidation.

The Fourth Circuit has a greater population than the Fifth Circuit, which includes Aberdeen, and a comparable caseload. Its workload and population also exceed those of the Sixth Circuit, which serves Pierre.

Penfield worries that the Seventh Circuit's existing criminal caseload could create problems for representation in smaller counties and result in reduced services.

"My criminal caseload in my four counties is just a blip — probably not even a week's worth of cases in Pennington County or a couple of days," Penfield said. "I see that getting lost."

Penfield plans to research the impact of the 1976 and 2000 consolidations, and said he plans to keep an open mind about the process.

Written comments on the proposed merger may be submitted by email to comment@ujs.state.sd.us or by mail to the State Court Administrator's Office. The comment period ends Oct. 1.

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.

Climate change could double household water costs in some cities, study finds

BY KEVIN HARDY

Household water costs could nearly double in some American cities, new research suggests, as climate change further stresses municipal water systems.

Researchers at Stanford University and other institutions studied how a hotter, drier climate is poised to spike water bills for residents of Santa Cruz, California, in a peer-reviewed study published this week in the journal *Nature Sustainability*. While the study focused on that coastal city, the outlook is similar for many cities that will be forced to make costly upgrades to water systems as climate change intensifies, said lead author Jennifer Skerker, who worked on the research while studying for her doctorate in civil and environmental engineering at Stanford.

Without significant government funding, the costs of new water transport systems, desalination plants and sewage water reuse systems are likely to be borne by individual water systems, which are expected to pass them onto consumers through water bills.

"So this really pits water affordability against water reliability, when in reality we need both of these to have safe, accessible and affordable water for everyone," said Skerker, who now works for a local water utility.

Though low-income residents use significantly less water, they will be hit hard by rising rates, which force them to spend a larger share of their resources, she said. Water rates have increased at three times the rate of inflation over the past two decades, as water providers updated aging infrastructure and addressed deferred maintenance backlogs.

The research comes as many Americans are already struggling with high energy bills: One in six American households are behind on utility bills, according to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association. While rising electric prices have sparked outrage among ratepayers, regulators and state lawmakers, relatively cheaper water has not always received the same level of attention.

"I think water affordability definitely needs to be part of the conversation with energy affordability," Skerker said. "...On the water side, households might be using less water than is healthy, or we can even see households making tradeoffs between paying for water or energy, or paying for groceries or medical bills."

Like other Western cities, Santa Cruz has implemented many water conservation practices: By 2021, locals had cut water use by nearly two-thirds over two decades. That leaves few low-cost options to increase water supplies in an area entirely reliant on surface water.

The study lays out several potential scenarios for local water bills depending on climate conditions and water investments. In one of the driest scenarios, researchers predict median water bills for the poorest residents could rise from about \$60 to \$111 per month (in 2026 dollars) by the middle of the century. That means more than one-third of households in Santa Cruz could struggle to afford water.

The study acknowledges that cities with larger reservoirs, more interconnected systems or access to lower-cost water sources may not experience the same acceleration in water bills. But it does envision "water affordability hotspots" across the country as more areas struggle to source and treat enough drinking water.

"It does seem unsustainable," Skerker said, "and I think cities really need more help from the state and federal government."

Stateline reporter Kevin Hardy can be reached at khardy@stateline.org.

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

Kevin Hardy covers business, labor and rural issues for Stateline from the Midwest.

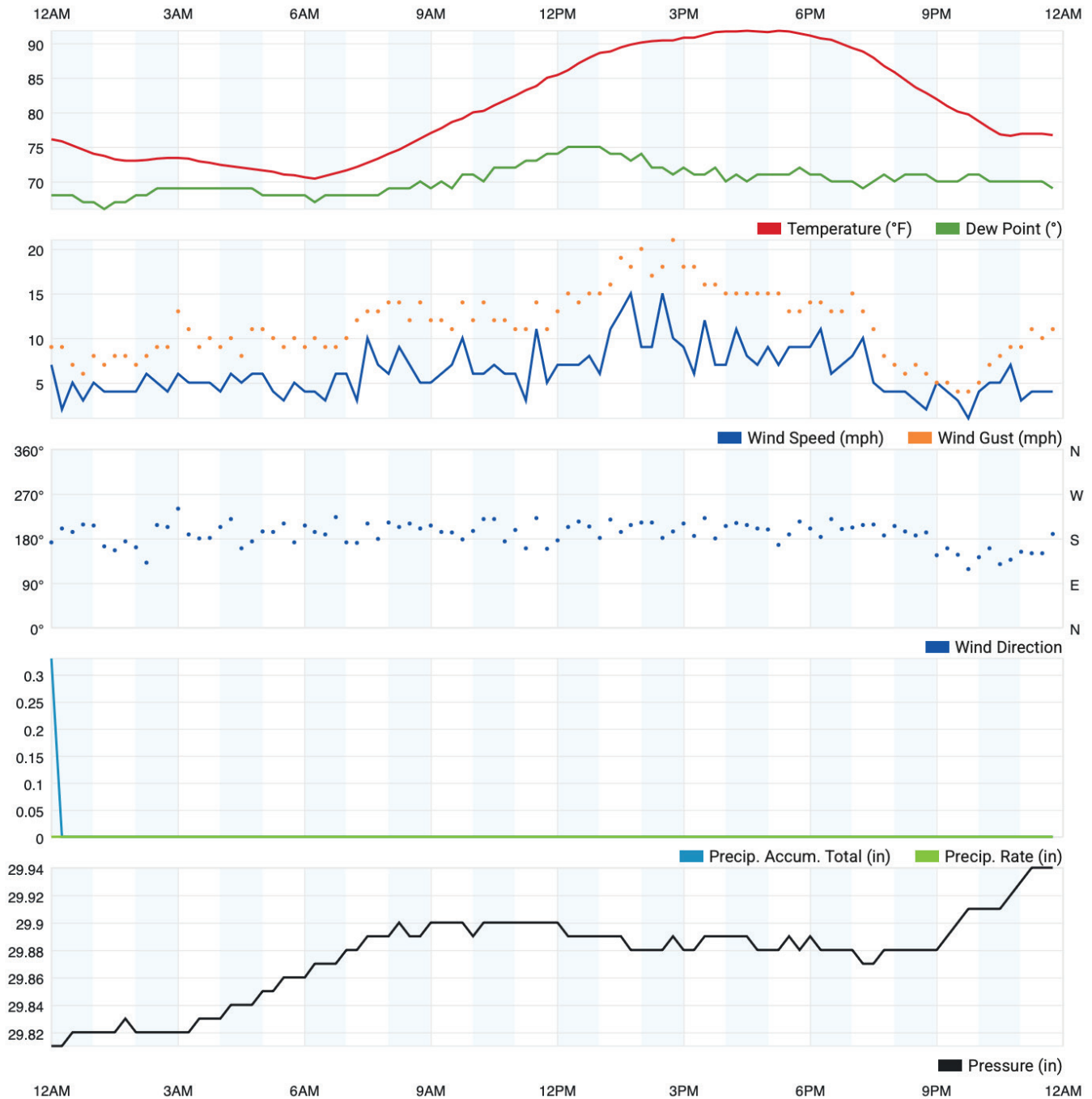
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

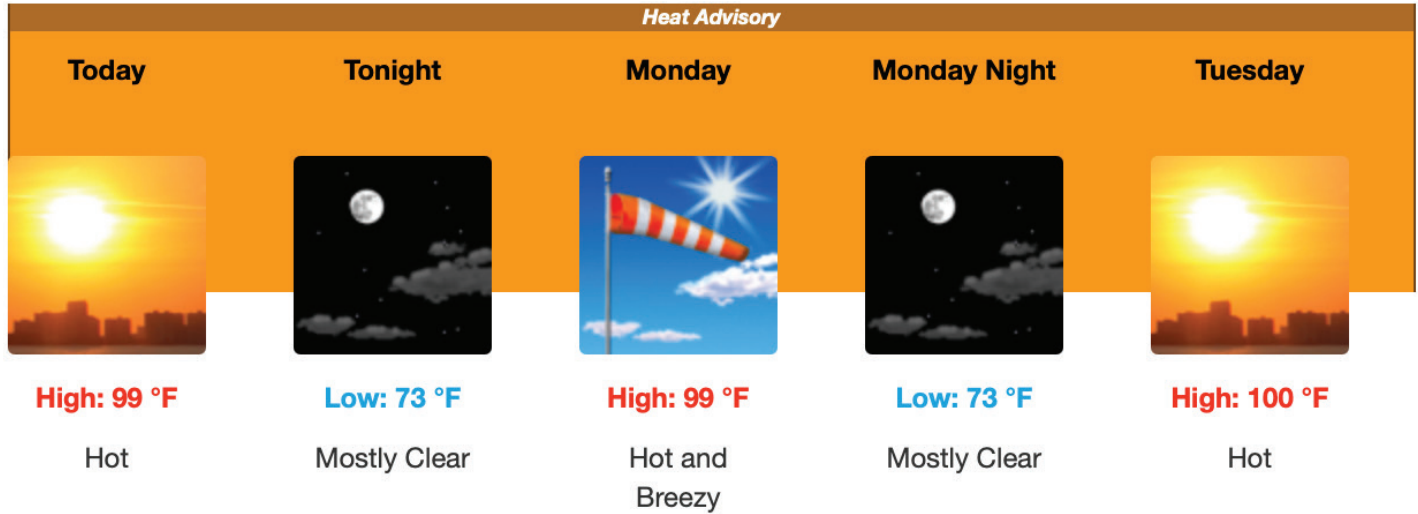
July 11, 2026



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Heat Advisory



Long Duration Heatwave

July 12, 2026
1:27 AM

Peak Heat Expected Sun - Mon - Tues

Key Messages

- Temperatures and humidity remaining consistent through the middle of the week.
 - ◆ **Hottest stretch of days will be Today through Tuesday!**
- Dewpoints in the 60s & low 70s. **Heat Index Values from 90s to low 100s.**
- **The *LONG DURATION* heat may cause widespread heat related impacts particularly for those without adequate cooling and/or those sensitive to heat!**

Maximum Temperature (°F)

Forecast						
7/12	7/13	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
Aberdeen	100	101	103	101	102	101
Britton	95	96	96	94	96	94
Clark	93	94	95	94	95	94
Eagle Butte	102	102	101	101	100	99
Eureka	101	101	100	99	100	99
Gettysburg	99	100	102	101	102	100
Kennebec	101	100	103	102	103	102
McIntosh	103	103	100	99	97	96
Milbank	95	95	96	94	96	95
Miller	97	97	100	99	100	99
Mobridge	103	103	104	102	102	101
Murdo	99	99	101	100	101	100
Pierre	103	104	105	105	104	103
Redfield	99	100	102	101	102	100
Sisseton	96	97	97	94	96	95
Watertown	95	95	96	95	97	94
Webster	93	93	95	92	94	93
Wheaton	95	95	97	93	95	94

Maximum Temperature Forecast (°F)

Maximum Heat Index (°F)

Forecast						
7/12	7/13	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
Aberdeen	101	101	104	100	101	100
Britton	98	97	97	93	95	94
Clark	94	93	94	93	94	94
Eagle Butte	101	100	99	98	98	97
Eureka	100	99	99	96	98	97
Gettysburg	99	99	101	98	100	98
Kennebec	101	99	101	99	101	101
McIntosh	102	101	99	96	95	94
Milbank	99	97	98	95	97	96
Miller	97	96	99	97	99	98
Mobridge	103	102	103	100	100	99
Murdo	100	98	99	97	98	98
Pierre	105	103	104	102	102	102
Redfield	99	99	101	99	100	99
Sisseton	99	98	99	94	97	96
Watertown	98	96	98	96	98	95
Webster	95	94	96	93	95	94
Wheaton	100	97	99	92	95	94

Maximum Heat Index Forecast (°F)



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

A heat dome will remain locked overhead through the rest of the weekend and into the upcoming work week. High temps and heat index values will be in the 90s to lower 100s. The long duration heat may lead to widespread heat related impacts especially for those without adequate cooling and those sensitive to heat.

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Long Duration Heatwave Headlines

July 12, 2026
1:27 AM

- **Extreme Heat Warning**- North central South Dakota.
- **Heat Advisory**- Central and portions of northeastern SD through west central MN.
- **Valid: through Tuesday evening CDT.**
- Uncertainty exists regarding how extreme the heat and humidity will get, therefore, changes in timing and intensity of heat are still possible.

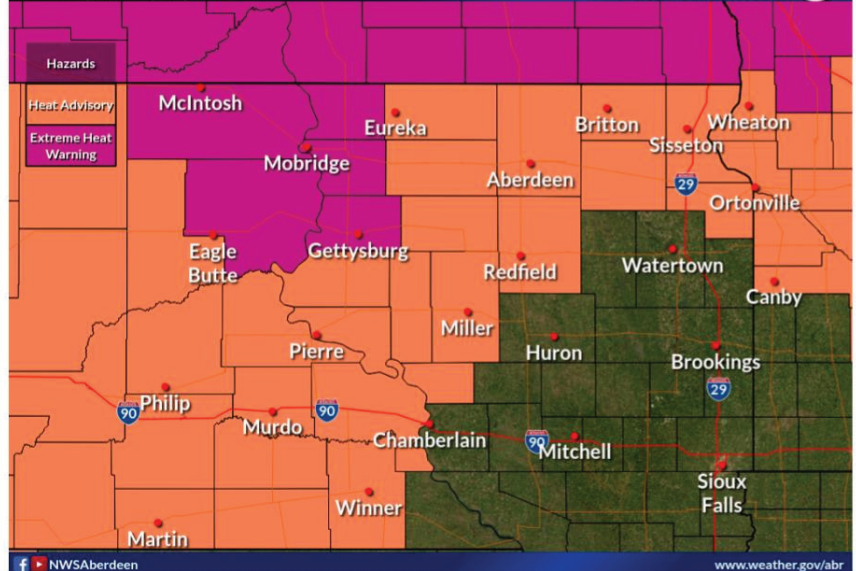
Heat Related Headlines

valid through Tuesday, July 14th

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Jul 12, 2026 2:22 AM CDT



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

An Extreme Heat Warning remains in effect for portions of north central SD with a Heat Advisory in effect for central SD and portions of northeast SD through west central MN. These headlines remain valid through Tuesday evening CDT.



Maximum HeatRisk

July 12, 2026
1:27 AM CDT

Key Messages

- Maximum HeatRisk is expected to be **High** to **Extreme**.
- This heat affects anyone without cooling/hydration and those sensitive to heat.
- **Don't forget about your pets!** Make sure to provide them with lots of water and shade. Bring them inside if possible. **Never leave pets in a hot vehicle!**

Orange 2	Moderate - Affects those who are sensitive to heat, especially those without cooling/hydration, and some health systems and industries.
Red 3	Major - Affects anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems and industries.
Magenta 4	Extreme - Rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with no overnight relief affecting anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems, industries, and infrastructure.

Maximum HeatRisk Forecast

	7/12	7/13	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Aberdeen	3	4	4	4	4	4
Britton	3	3	3	3	3	3
Clark	3	3	3	3	3	3
Eagle Butte	3	4	4	4	4	4
Eureka	3	4	4	4	4	4
Gettysburg	3	4	4	4	4	4
Kennebec	2	2	3	3	3	3
McIntosh	3	4	4	4	4	2
Milbank	3	3	3	3	3	3
Miller	3	3	3	4	4	4
Mobridge	3	4	4	4	4	4
Murdo	2	2	3	3	3	3
Pierre	3	4	4	4	4	4
Redfield	3	4	4	4	4	4
Sisseton	3	4	4	4	3	3
Watertown	3	4	4	4	4	4
Webster	3	3	3	3	3	3
Wheaton	3	3	3	3	3	3



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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 92 °F at 3:52 PM

Low Temp: 70 °F at 6:12 AM

Wind: 21 mph at 2:40 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107 in 1936

Record Low: 40 in 1941

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 1.37

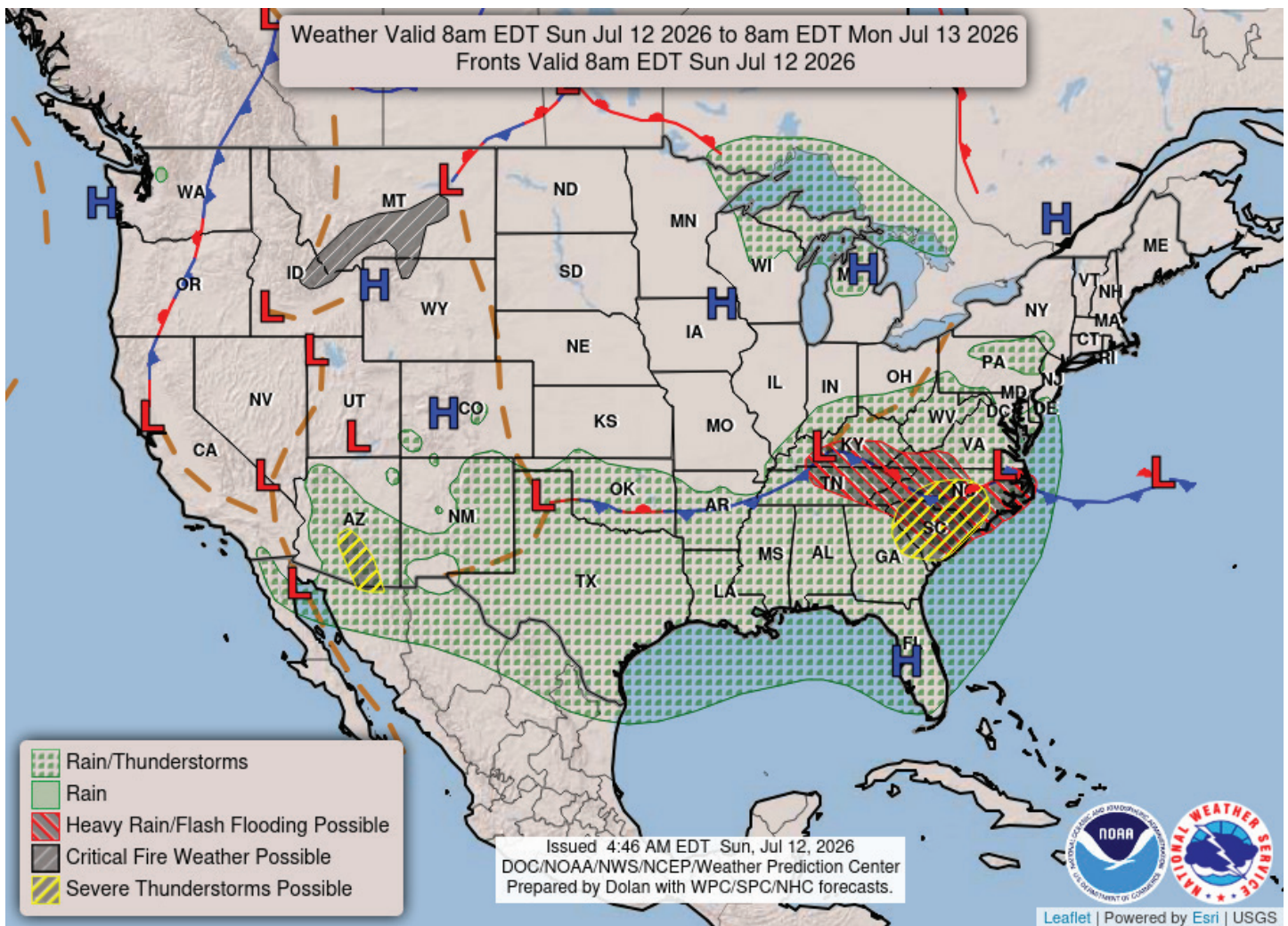
Precip to date in July.: 4.72

Average Precip to date: 12.38

Precip Year to Date: 14.19

Sunset Tonight: 9:20 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:56 am



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Today in Weather History

July 12, 1993: A thunderstorm dumped up to four inches of rain in 30 minutes, 25 miles west of Pierre. This storm washed hay into big blocks up to five feet high. The heavy rains also caused water to spill over an irrigation dam. Another severe thunderstorm occurred over Dewey County and produced strong winds, damaging hail, and flooding rains which destroyed crops and hay fields. The storm knocked out windows and screens in the Lantry area. Runoff from the storm rushed through the streets of Eagle Butte causing water damage to homes and businesses. Water was reported flowing four to five feet deep through a cafe. High winds also tipped over a house trailer.

July 12, 2004: Hail up to the size of softballs fell in and around Onaka, in Faulk County, damaging vehicles, farm equipment, and homes. Lightning struck a house in Britton starting a fire in the attic, which resulted in significant damage to the home. High winds along with hail up to the size of baseballs caused some structural, vehicle, crop, and tree damage in and around Astoria and Toronto in Deuel County.

1951 — The Kaw River flood occurred. The month of June that year was the wettest of record for the state of Kansas, and during the four days preceding the flood much of eastern Kansas and western Missouri received more than ten inches of rain. Flooding in the Midwest claimed 41 lives, left 200 thousand persons homeless, and caused a billion dollars property damage. Kansas City was hardest hit. The central industrial district sustained 870 million dollars property damage. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1980 — Lightning struck a large broiler house in Branford, FL, and the ensuing fire broiled 11,000 nearly ready broilers. Firemen were able to save a few thousand chickens, however. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Cool air invaded the High Plains Region. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Sheridan, WY, with a reading of 37 degrees. Thunderstorms developing along the cold front in the central U.S. produced 6.5 inches of rain at Fort Dodge, IA, and 2.5 inches in one hour at St. Joseph MO. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Dakotas, including baseball size hail at Aberdeen, SD, and softball size hail near Fullerton, ND. Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in Arkansas and northeastern Texas, with 6.59 inches reported at Mesquite, TX, in just an hour and fifteen minutes. Garland, TX, reported water up to the tops of cars following a torrential downpour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Early morning thunderstorms over eastern Kansas deluged McFarland with more than six inches of rain. Afternoon thunderstorms in Wyoming produced up to eighteen inches of dime size hail near Rock Springs, along with torrential rains, and a three foot high wall of mud and water swept into the town causing more than 1.5 million dollars damage. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Oklahoma and Arkansas, deluging Dardanelle, AR, with 3.50 inches of rain in less than twenty minutes. About seventy cows were killed when lightning struck a tree in Jones County, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995: An intense heat wave affected much of the Midwest for a 4-day period beginning on this day. The worst effects of the heat were noted in the Chicago metropolitan area, where 583 people died from the heat. Temperatures across the region reached as high as 104 degrees, overnight lows on falling to the upper 70s to low 80s. Dew point temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s created heat indexes peaking at 125 degrees. Electricity and water usage reached record levels, causing periodic outages.

1996: Hurricane Bertha makes landfall near Wrightsville Beach, NC with maximum winds of 105 mph, but the storm surge dealt the most devastation. The U.S. Virgin Islands, along with North Carolina, were declared federal disaster areas. Surveys indicate that Bertha damaged almost 2,500 homes on St. Thomas and St. John. For many, it was the second hit in the ten months since Hurricane Marilyn devastated the same area. The primary effects in North Carolina were to the coastal counties and included storm surge flooding and beach erosion, roof damage, piers washed away, fallen trees and damage to crops. Over 5,000 homes were damaged, mostly from storm surge. Storm total rainfall amounts ranged from 5 to 8 inches along a coastal strip from South Carolina to Maine. Overall, as many as 12 deaths resulted with 8 in the U.S. and territories.



The Power of Corporate Prayer

When we listen, fast, and pray, we may see God work in ways we didn't expect.

2 Chronicles 20:1-30: 1 Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

2 Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)."

3 Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court,

6 and he said, "O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.

7 "Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

8 "They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying,

9 'Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.'

10 "Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them),

11 see how they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance.

12 "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

13 All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives and their children.

14 Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph;

15 and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.

16 'Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."

18 Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

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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19 The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

20 They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, ``Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed.”

21 When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, ``Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

22 When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed.

23 For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying them completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

24 When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they were corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped.

25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, including goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much.

26 Then on the fourth day they assembled in the valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore they have named that place ``The Valley of Beracah” until today.

27 Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

28 They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the LORD.

29 And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.

When Jehoshaphat saw trouble looming, the first thing he did was turn to God. He proclaimed a fast throughout Judah, and people came from everywhere to seek the Lord together. By calling for both fasting and prayer, the king acknowledged that the crisis demanded complete dependence on God.

Though Jehoshaphat was king, he recognized his limitations and sought help. He could have relied on his position or military might, but instead he called on his people for prayerful support. Sometimes we feel uncomfortable asking others to pray for us, but one of the wisest things we can do in difficult times is to come before the Lord with other believers. The body of Christ depends on this kind of cooperation.

When the people of Judah gathered, God provided a solution through a prophet. Jehoshaphat was humble enough to listen and wise enough to follow (vv. 18-20). As a result, the Israelites were saved without drawing a weapon. Because their humble king listened, they witnessed God’s remarkable victory (vv. 22-30).

We must attune our ears to God’s voice. Sometimes He speaks through unexpected people and says things we don’t expect to hear. But He will provide solutions if we’re willing to heed His words.

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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.11.26

4 13 14 30 39 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 46 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.10.26

2 39 44 46 56 23

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$637,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.11.26

15 17 29 44 46 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$33,480,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.11.26

1 2 10 18 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$183,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.11.26

5 7 17 26 28 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.11.26

8 10 14 45 59 5

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$478,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Dangerous heat wave threatens oppressive temperatures in much of the US

By PATRICK WHITTLE and TAMMY WEBBER Associated Press

A widespread and dangerous heat wave was building across the U.S. on Saturday, with triple-digit highs expected in the Southwest and Great Plains this weekend before spreading eastward under a dome of high pressure that meteorologists say could trap oppressive temperatures for a week or more.

Forecasters advised people to stay hydrated and find places to cool off, warning of temperatures 15 to 25 degrees Fahrenheit (8 to 14 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal in many areas, including at night — especially bad for people's health because their bodies won't have a chance to recover. The heat dome was expected to affect as much as two-thirds of the continental United States.

"The heat doesn't necessarily stop when it's dark out," said Josh Adam, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Bismarck, North Dakota, where temperatures will surpass 100 F (37 C) until Tuesday, a dramatic spike for a state where summer temperatures are typically in the 80s.

Tynika Smith of Bloomington, Minnesota, handed out frozen towels and wash cloths along with battery-operated fans at encampments of homeless people in nearby St. Paul and will continue next week, when temperatures are forecast to climb into the mid- to high 90s. The residents put the ice packs around their necks and on their heads.

"They can't get into a car with air conditioning or go into a house," said Smith, who also distributed water, freezer pops, food and hygiene supplies.

The encampments are so secluded that it's difficult for the residents to walk or bicycle to cooling centers, she said. There also is little outside shade, while the temperature inside their tents gets even hotter than outdoors.

"I can only do so much," Smith said, "but at least I can help them stay cool for a little bit."

Temperature records expected to be broken

The National Weather Service predicted that more than 90 U.S. local temperature records will be tied or broken through Wednesday — with two-thirds of those being overnight heat records. Temperatures were not forecast to drop below 80 F (27 C) at night in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Miami; Tampa, Florida; Galveston, Texas; and Charleston, South Carolina.

The heat dome — formed when high pressure traps hot air while blocking cooling winds and rain — is one of the strongest to affect the Dakotas in 25 years, said Chad Merrill, a senior meteorologist with AccuWeather.

Record triple-digit highs were forecast for the weekend in Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas.

In Helena, Montana, where temperatures were expected to creep above 95 F (35 C), Last Chance Splash Waterpark & Pool was holding a swim meet for hundreds of swimmers.

The timing couldn't be better, as it's uncommon for Helena to get so hot, said Sean Swingley, assistant manager.

"It's certainly a hot day, but the pool is nice and cool," Swingley said. "Usually in the summer we have a couple 95 degree days, but it mostly hovers around 85 to 90 in June and July."

Nevada, a state accustomed to hot weather, was even hotter than normal, said Andrew Gorelow, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Las Vegas. The temperature there was expected to hit 111 F (48 C) on Saturday, Gorelow said.

Hydrating and finding cool spaces is critical, experts said.

They also warned that the heat could spike fire risk in some parts of the country that already are dry, including the Rockies, where Merrill said dry thunderstorms could develop.

Climate change is supercharging heat

Climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is causing more intense and longer-lasting heat waves that cover larger areas, scientists say.

This year's temperatures also are expected to be affected by El Nino, a natural warming of the equatorial Pacific that alters weather patterns and spikes temperatures across the globe.

The current El Nino — which formed last month and is too young to have affected this heat wave much — is expected to rank as among the most intense since the weather service began tracking the phenomena in 1950, experts said.

By fall it has an 81% chance of becoming "very strong" — the top category — according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

US Sen. Lindsey Graham has died after a brief and unexpected illness, his office says

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of President Donald Trump's closest allies in Congress who traveled the globe to advocate for a more aggressive U.S. foreign policy, died Saturday evening after a "brief and sudden illness," his office said in a statement posted on social media. He was 71.

His office did not provide any additional details about the South Carolina Republican and said his family "appreciates prayers at this time and asks for privacy during this incredibly difficult period."

"Senator Lindsey Graham, one of the greatest people and Senators I have ever known, is dead!" Trump posted on social media early Sunday morning. "He was always working, and was a true American Patriot. Lindsey will be greatly missed!!! DETAILS AND ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW. So sad!"

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said "my heart is heavy this morning to learn the passing of my friend and colleague, Senator Lindsey Graham."

"Lindsey's long and dedicated service in the Air Force and in Congress carried him to far-flung regions of the world," Thune said. "He was a strong advocate for the United States and a strong ally to freedom-loving countries across the globe. He believed in the might of America to achieve good in the world and dedicated his life to advancing that cause."

Graham was close with Trump

First elected to the U.S. Senate in 2002 after serving in the House, the former Air Force lawyer long promoted a policy of robust U.S. military interventionism and strong national defense that in later years, would put him at odds with the growing isolationist wing of the Republican Party.

But in recent years, Graham also became well known for his close ties with Trump, whom he briefly ran against for the party's presidential nomination in 2016.

Graham and Trump's relationship would begin on a rough note, with the senator calling the then-businessman "unfit for office." Graham also used a profanity to describe Trump after he made disparaging comments about former Sen. John McCain, Graham's best friend in the Senate and a Vietnam War veteran. McCain and Graham, along with former Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., were known as the "Three Amigos" and frequently traveled to push their hawkish foreign policy views around the globe.

Not long after, Trump read out Graham's personal cellphone number during a campaign rally in South Carolina and continued to belittle him throughout 2016 as Graham made it clear he would not support Trump, even though he was the party's presidential nominee.

But Graham shifted significantly once Trump won the White House, emerging as one of Trump's top allies — speaking with him frequently and becoming a regular presence on the golf course alongside the president — even as McCain remained a critic.

In a 2018 interview with The Associated Press, Graham explained his pivot by saying McCain taught him that the country must move forward after elections and that meant "you have an obligation" to help the president. McCain ran twice for the White House.

"And I've tried to be helpful where I could because I think he needs all the help he can get," Graham said of Trump. "You can be a better critic when people understand that you're trying to help them be

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successful.”

Graham appeared to break with Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, saying, “Count me out. Enough is enough.” But the senator returned to the fold and remained close with the president during his second term.

Foreign policy was a focus for Graham

Graham especially advised Trump on foreign policy matters such as Iran and Russia, and had just announced an agreement on Friday with the Trump administration to move forward on a package of Russia sanctions. The senator had been in Ukraine to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who said that the senator visited his country 10 times during the years of Russia’s full-scale invasion.

“Lindsey was a true defender of freedom and the values that make our world safer,” Zelenskyy said.

His travels made him a familiar face to dozens of world leaders.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday mourned Graham’s death, calling him “a great friend of Israel” and “a cherished friend of mine.”

Netanyahu said Graham understood that the security of Israel and the United States is inseparable and devoted his life to defending America, strengthening the U.S.-Israel alliance and standing up for the free world.

“Israel has lost one of its greatest friends. America has lost a great patriot. I have lost a beloved friend,” Netanyahu said, extending condolences to Graham’s family and the American people.

The Republican had a prominent career on Capitol Hill

Graham had been serving as the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, giving him a central role during Trump’s second term as Republicans pushed major legislation on party-line votes with a slim majority in the chamber.

His committee oversaw a process called reconciliation, a Senate procedure that allowed Republicans to pass significant policies such as last year’s tax law without the threat of a Democratic filibuster.

He had previously led the Senate Judiciary Committee when Republicans confirmed Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court in 2020, and was in line to regain that gavel if the party kept control of the Senate after this year’s midterms.

Graham was a key player in the Senate’s efforts to craft a massive immigration overhaul in 2013 as a member of the so-called Gang of Eight, a bipartisan group that wrote a sweeping measure that would have altered virtually every part of U.S. immigration law. It passed the Senate with 68 votes but was never taken up by the House, so it did not become law.

But Graham’s views on immigration, particularly an endorsement of a pathway to citizenship for people in the U.S. without legal status, put him at odds with some Republican factions.

He sometimes faced primary challenges in his home state of South Carolina, but he won the nomination outright in June while running for a fifth term. Graham was slated to face Democrat Annie Andrews, a pediatrician from Charleston, in November’s general election.

The senator addressed the president in his victory speech last month, saying, “I’m going to help you change this world and change this country.”

Little explanation from Graham’s office

The sparse statement by Graham’s office, which did not explain his death, comes during a stretch of concern about a lack of transparency about lawmakers’ health.

Rep. Tom Kean Jr., a New Jersey Republican, was absent without explanation for months before returning to Congress and disclosing that he had been diagnosed with depression.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, was hospitalized weeks ago for undisclosed health reasons.

Republicans hold a narrow 53-47 majority in the Senate. Under South Carolina law, Gov. Henry McMaster, a Republican, will appoint a temporary replacement for Graham, and that person will serve until January.

McMaster said in a statement that Graham was “irreplaceable.”

“The fiercest of fighters for South Carolina and America — and a loyal and steadfast friend,” McMaster said. As he offered condolences to his family, he added: “We shall not see his likes again.”

Graham was not married and did not have children. His closest living relative is sister Darline Graham Nordone, whom he helped raise after both their parents died.

Vietnam police detain captain after speedboat capsizing kills 15 Indian tourists

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnamese police detained Sunday the captain of a speedboat that capsized off southern Vietnam, killing 15 Indian tourists.

The speedboat was carrying 32 Indian tourists and four Vietnamese crew members when it overturned less than half a kilometer (0.30 mile) from shore Saturday afternoon, shortly after leaving Hon May Rut Ngoai island near Phu Quoc, Vietnam's largest island, authorities said.

The captain, Nguyen Hong Hai, 57, is under investigation for alleged violations of waterway transport safety regulations, state media reported.

Sixteen survivors of Saturday's speedboat accident have been discharged from the hospital and are returning to India, the Indian Embassy in Hanoi said on social media Sunday. One remains in critical condition in a Vietnamese hospital.

The bodies of the victims were being transported to Ho Chi Minh City before being flown to India after official formalities, according to the embassy.

The boat capsizes moments after departure

All 15 victims were on a company trip organized by India's Lava International, a smartphone and consumer electronics manufacturer, for its employees, distributors and retail partners, the company said.

Ashish Kumar, a 48-year-old distributor for the company from the Indian city of Guntur who took part in the trip, said the party had split into three groups to travel between islands when he witnessed the accident from shore.

The first boat had already departed while the other two were still docked when it capsized.

The boat was relatively close to shore when it flipped, he told The Associated Press over the phone. "We screamed, 'Help! Help!'"

Nearby boats immediately rushed to the rescue. "But by then it was too late," he said.

Rough seas hamper rescue efforts

Ha Van Loc, piloting a nearby boat at the time of the accident, told state media VN Express that he spotted the overturned vessel at around 12:40 p.m. local time. He saw about a dozen people clinging to the boat's hull, while others — without life jackets — were struggling in the water.

"They were being submerged by the waves but still waving their hands for help," Loc said.

He said he couldn't get close to the upturned speedboat because of the rough seas and was afraid his boat's propeller could injure those in the water. He and his crew threw life buoys attached to ropes and pulled four survivors aboard within 10 minutes.

Realizing others were still trapped, Loc recorded a short video and alerted other boat operators in the area.

Within minutes, nearly a dozen boats and rescue teams arrived at the scene.

Rough seas with waves up to 3 meters (10 feet) high hampered the rescue. Jet Skis were able to reach survivors more easily than larger boats and brought them ashore one by one.

State media VN Express cited passengers as saying the captain told everyone to wear life jackets before departure, but many carried them in their hands. When the speedboat capsized, some passengers were trapped inside and had to escape through the bow or windows, the report said.

Kumar, the eyewitness, said that there was no emergency medical care available at the shore when survivors were brought back.

On shore, tourists and tour company staff took turns performing CPR and giving oxygen to the victims, state media said.

The 17 injured were admitted to Phu Quoc Sun Hospital after two emergency resuscitation doctors and

one nurse were dispatched.

The Indian Embassy in Vietnam said 10 of the dead were from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, three from Andhra Pradesh and two from Kerala.

Hundreds of thousands of Indian tourists visit Vietnam each year

Hon May Rut island is about 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of Phu Quoc, one of Vietnam's most popular beach destinations. Both are known for their white sandy beaches and clear waters, drawing millions of domestic and foreign tourists each year.

India is one of Vietnam's fastest-growing tourism markets. The Southeast Asian country welcomed about 750,000 Indians in 2025, up nearly 50% from the previous year.

Officials attribute the growth to an expanding network of direct flights between major Indian and Vietnamese cities and Vietnam's liberal e-visa policy.

US attacks Iran over ship being hit in Strait of Hormuz; Tehran lashes out again at Gulf Arab states

By JON GAMBRELL and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States attacked Iran early Sunday morning over an Iranian strike on a vessel in the Strait of Hormuz that set the container ship ablaze and forced its crew to abandon it. Iran responded with attacks targeting several countries in the Gulf, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman.

The outburst of fighting raised new questions about efforts to reach a permanent end to a war that began on Feb. 28. The strait, a key transit route for oil and natural gas, has become the key sticking point in negotiations, and repeated fighting over the past week has left negotiations in danger of collapse.

The U.S. military's Central Command said it hit some 140 targets in Sunday's strikes, far more than in the two previous rounds of attacks, and went after missile and drone launch sites, ammunition dumps, communication equipment and other sites. It said the attacks would weaken Iran's ability to threaten civilian shipping.

"Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay," U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth wrote online.

The U.S. has launched three rounds of airstrikes targeting Iran in the last week over Iranian attacks on ships heading through the strait using a route seeking to avoid the Islamic Republic's territorial waters. Iran retaliated by attacking nations in the region hosting U.S. military forces, while insisting it alone must control the strait and potentially charge vessels for traveling through it.

"The era of one-sided deals is OVER," Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the speaker of Iran's parliament and a main negotiator, wrote Sunday. "We told you: keep your word or pay the price. Reality is knocking."

About a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas passed through the strait before the war began. Iran's grip on it during the war led to a global energy crisis, though oil prices have sharply dropped since wartime highs of \$120 a barrel.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman get attacked

Missile alerts sounded across several Gulf Arab nations early Sunday morning.

Qatar's military said it intercepted incoming Iranian fire, with explosions heard in the neighboring United Arab Emirates. Three people, including a child, were wounded as a result of falling shrapnel from the interception of Iranian attacks, Qatar's Interior Ministry said, giving no further details on their conditions.

Meanwhile, missile alerts sounded for the third time on Sunday in Bahrain, an island kingdom in the Persian Gulf home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Kuwait's military also said it was intercepting incoming fire.

The Omani state news agency said drones struck sites in northeastern Oman, in the area that sits on the Strait of Hormuz. Iran had previously claimed attacks on Oman. The attack came after the two countries held talks on Saturday.

Sirens also sounded in the United Arab Emirates, but the government said missiles did not cross into UAE borders. The UAE so far hasn't been targeted in the most recent round of Iranian attacks. The last

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attack on the Emirates, home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, came in May when a drone sparked a fire on the edge of the country's sole nuclear power plant.

Iran also made a series of claims about attacks elsewhere that were not immediately confirmed.

In the Strait of Hormuz attack, a Cyprus-flagged container ship was hit by Iran and suffered "significant engineroom damage" and a civilian crew member was missing, U.S. Central Command said early Sunday morning. All of the crew, including the missing member, were Indian nationals, according to India's Ministry of External Affairs.

India condemned the attack and said it was working with Oman on a search-and-rescue operation. It called for "free and unimpeded" navigation through the strait.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center, overseen by the British military, said the ship had been traveling on a route hugging the shoreline of Oman. That's been the way ships have entered and exited the Persian Gulf while avoiding Iranian territorial waters.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said multiple vessels "disregarded our warnings and instructions to correct their course and proceed along the approved route." One of them "was struck by a warning shot and brought to a stop."

Iran said that the strait would remain closed "until further notice" and said it would consider targeting "additional enemy bases in the region" if it faced more attacks.

Iranian state media reported U.S. strikes across swathes of the entire country, including southern Iran in the province closest to the Strait of Hormuz, and military sites in a province near Tehran.

Attacks followed more diplomatic talks about the strait

The latest violence followed Iran and Oman's foreign ministers meeting on Saturday to discuss the strait. The narrow strait sits in both Iran and Oman's territorial waters, but has long been considered an international waterway.

Oman said it and Iran agreed to continue discussing the Strait of Hormuz "at the technical and political levels." However, Iran offered no statement about the strait being open to all — something sought by the Trump administration.

U.S. President Donald Trump suggested last week that an interim deal in the Iran war was "over." But mediators, including Pakistan, Qatar and Egypt, have continued efforts to reach an agreement.

Iran's new supreme leader, still unseen since the war began, also vowed in his first statement since the funeral of his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that Iranians would avenge his killing in the war's opening strikes on Feb. 28.

Such revenge "is the will of our nation and must certainly be carried out," Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei said in a statement carried on state television.

US questions who is in charge in Iran

U.S. officials, speaking Friday on condition of anonymity about the current situation with Iran, said the resumption of strikes even before the latest round came as a result of what they described as a rogue faction of Iranian hard-liners who were trying to sabotage the ceasefire.

Iran has insisted its theocracy is unified under the new supreme leader.

The strikes in Iran over two rounds of strikes last week killed at least 17 people and wounded 115 others, Iranian Health Ministry spokesperson Hossein Kermanpour said.

14 nations and the EU reaffirm 2016 ruling invalidating China's claims in South China Sea

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The United States, the United Kingdom and a dozen other Western and Asian countries reasserted on Sunday that China's expansive claims in the South China Sea are illegal based on a 2016 arbitration ruling.

A joint statement issued by the 14 nations said they rejected "destabilizing" actions in the disputed waters that threaten regional stability. The 27-nation European Union released a separate statement, reaffirming

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the ruling as a "landmark decision in the peaceful settlement of disputes."

The statements commemorated a July 12, 2016, arbitration ruling by a tribunal established in The Hague under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, saying the landmark decision is "is final and legally binding."

China reiterated Sunday that the ruling was "null and void and has no binding force" and Beijing "neither accepts nor recognizes it."

China refused to join the arbitration initiated by the Philippines in 2013 after a tense standoff in the contested waters a year earlier that ended with Beijing effectively seizing a disputed shoal.

Beijing rejected the 2016 ruling and continues to defend its claims to virtually the entire sea passage, a key global trade route that has long been feared as one of Asia's most active flashpoints. The areas has been the scene of repeated territorial standoffs involving China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

"We reaffirm the Arbitral Tribunal's decision that there is no legal basis for China's expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea, including those based on 'historic rights,'" the U.S.-led statement said.

The arbitration tribunal largely decided in favor of the Philippines, ruling then that under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, "there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources" in the South China Sea outside of its regular territorial areas recognized under the convention.

The convention, largely regarded as the treaty governing the world's oceans and seas, took effect in 1994 and has been ratified by more than 170 countries and parties, including China and the Philippines.

In addition to the U.S. and Britain, the other countries listed in Sunday's statement were the Philippines, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Italy, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia.

"We reiterate our strong opposition to any destabilizing or unilateral actions including by force or coercion that threaten peace and stability in the region," they said.

The nations stressed "our strong opposition to the use of coast guard, military and maritime militia forces to harass, obstruct, intimidate lawful operations by other states at sea or in the air and in so doing endanger the safety of personnel and fishermen and seriously degrade regional peace and security."

"Freedom of navigation and overflight as well as other internationally lawful uses of the sea as reflected in UNCLOS" must be upheld, the countries said, adding that the territorial disputes should be resolved peacefully based on the 1982 U.N. convention.

In Beijing, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the arbitration tribunal and its ruling "seriously contravene the general practice of international arbitration" and "gravely infringe upon China's legitimate rights as a sovereign state and state party to UNCLOS and are unjust and unlawful."

"China opposes and will never accept any claim or action based on those awards," the Chinese foreign ministry said, adding that Beijing "does not accept any means of third-party dispute settlement or any solution imposed on China."

Territorial confrontations in the disputed waters have become more prevalent in recent years, particularly between Chinese and Philippine and Vietnamese forces and fishing fleets.

Chinese coast guard ships and support vessels have used powerful water cannons, military-grade lasers and dangerous blocking maneuvers against Philippine forces and fishermen from rival claimant countries that have led to collisions in the high seas and high-risk encounters in the air.

The United States has repeatedly called on China to comply with the arbitration ruling.

The former Biden and current Trump administrations both warned that Washington is obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, vessels or aircraft come under armed attack in the disputed waters.

Conor McGregor suffers early knee injury in return, loses to Max Holloway at UFC 329

By W.G. RAMIREZ Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Conor McGregor's return against Max Holloway at UFC 329 ended unceremoniously at just 1:09 of the first round Saturday night because of a knee injury.

Fighting for the first time in more than five years, McGregor flew across the ring with a flying left roundhouse kick when the match started and landed awkwardly on his right knee.

After attempting to kick and strike Holloway (28-9-0) two more times, it was clear McGregor (22-7-0) couldn't finish the scheduled five-round welterweight bout.

"My head gasket is gone. Destroyed," McGregor said on social media. "I had no injury / injuries going into the fight. I was throwing kicks, planted and jumping, all throughout camp as well as backstage before the fight. This came out of nowhere. I am beyond dark here. I can only describe it as hell."

Asked if there may have been an existing injury, UFC President Dana White said there were no signs of it Friday at the ceremonial weigh-in.

"Five years off in this sport is rough," White said. "We're assuming a blown ACL. That's what I assumed when I saw it, and that's what the doctors think, too."

White added that with the millions of social-media views of McGregor rushing Holloway at the weigh-in, someone would have noticed if anyone was injured.

Holloway said he kept telling referee Mike Beltran to stop the fight because it was apparent McGregor was injured, but the former champion kept saying, "Fight!"

"During the fight, you could see his demeanor change," Holloway said. "When I saw him hurt, I said, 'Call this, he's hurt.'"

"I just hope for a speedy recovery."

Holloway closed a -300 favorite at Bet MGM Sportsbook, which means a bettor would have to lay \$300 to win \$100. McGregor was a +240 underdog, which means a bettor would win \$240 with a \$100 wager on the Irishman.

McGregor, who strolled to the ring to the sounds of Notorious B.I.G.'s "Hypnotize" and the roar of the sold-out crowd, last fought exactly five years and a day before Saturday night.

The fans were also treated to Indiana Fever player Sophie Cunningham serving as a guest ring girl before the first round of the main event. White said it was decided eight minutes before she strolled around the cage in a black top and sequenced shorts, stopping occasionally to replicate her highly popular finger point from the recent game against the Phoenix Mercury.

To the delight of a frenzied audience just hours after his home country of England won its quarterfinal match over Norway in the World Cup, Liverpool's Paddy Pimblett (24-4-0) made quick work of Benoit Saint Denis (17-4-0) with a first-round TKO. Pimblett, who closed a +120 underdog, blocked a roundhouse kick, shot in and quickly applied a D'Arce Choke to put Saint Denis to sleep for the win in 52 seconds.

"Light work," Pimblett said with a smile at the post-fight press conference. "Mother (expletive) got slept."

In a bantamweight battle, Mario Bautista (18-3-0) defeated Cory Sandhagen (18-7-0) by unanimous decision, after taking advantage of a first-round leg kick and applying pressure in each round after. A flurry of punches in the third round secured the decision.

In a scheduled three-round flyweight bout, Brandon Royval (18-9-0) applied a rear-naked choke on Lone'er Kavanagh (10-2-0) to win by submission at the 3:40 mark of the final round.

In an absolute shocker to start the main card, a bloodied King Green (36-17-0) overcame a beating for nearly the entire first round before landing a right hand to the jaw of Terrance McKinney (18-9-0) with roughly 20 seconds left, and then finished him off for a TKO at the 4:59 mark.

Qatar's former ruler Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani has died at age 74, state news agency says

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who as ruler of Qatar transformed the tiny Persian Gulf nation into a global player in diplomacy, media and investment, and then shattered tradition by voluntarily turning over power to his son, has died, state media reported. He was 74.

The state-run Qatar News Agency reported his death. It offered no cause.

Sheikh Hamad, who stepped down in June 2013 after 18 years as emir, was the architect of energy-rich Qatar's stunning ambitions that turned it from a backwater into an international crossroads in less than a generation. Qatar owns the Harrod's department store in London and founded the powerful Al Jazeera satellite news network.

Qatar's political reach today stretches from North Africa to Afghanistan and it hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the world's most-watched soccer event. Sheikh Hamad, though long out of power, received thunderous applause from Qataris attending its opening match.

But Qatar's rise under Sheikh Hamad also rankled regional and Western allies with its independent-minded policymaking, including its close ties to Shiite powerhouse Iran, the Palestinian militant Hamas group and Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

Al Jazeera's blunt reporting, though a much-praised departure from the traditionally deferential habits of Arab media, also was criticized and accused of slanting coverage to suit the views of Qatar's rulers.

"The future lies ahead of you, the children of this homeland, as you usher into a new era where young leadership hoists the banner," Sheikh Hamad said as he announced his abdication and the carefully crafted transition to his son, the British-educated crown prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who was then 33.

Sheikh Hamad handed over power to his son

The peaceful, voluntary transfer of power was rare in a region where such change usually results from death or overthrow. Sheikh Hamad himself seized control after deposing his father, Sheikh Khalifa, in a bloodless palace coup in 1995.

His abdication was seen as Qatar's attempt to stay ahead of Arab Spring-inspired calls for reforms and leadership more attuned to the region's large and powerful young population. Qatar, a peninsula half the size of New Jersey, is believed to have around 300,000 citizens.

At the time, Sheikh Hamad also was thought to have been in poor health for years. In December 2015, Qatari officials said he was flown to Switzerland for surgery after breaking a leg while on holiday.

Sheikh Hamad attended Britain's military academy, Sandhurst, and became commander of Qatar's armed forces and defense minister. He was named crown prince in the late 1970s and gradually broadened his duties to include planning for Qatar's vast oil and gas reserves.

Sheikh Hamad created Al Jazeera, powerful voice in Arab media

After seizing power from his father, who then lived in exile for nearly a decade, Sheikh Hamad quickly moved to open an inward-looking nation to outside influences, epitomized by Al Jazeera, which became a major force in global media.

Its reporting not only angered other Arab leaders, sometimes to the point of diplomatic rupture, it also riled Washington. Al Jazeera aired statements from the terror network al-Qaida, even as Qatar hosted one of the key Pentagon logistical hubs following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Sheikh Hamad, meanwhile, aggressively sought international prestige through sports, an effort crowned by Qatar's successful bid to host the World Cup, though marred by accusations that it used its huge wealth to woo poor countries' support.

Qatar's brand is also prominent across the sporting world from sponsorship deals with the Spanish football giant Barcelona to a majority stake in the football club Paris Saint-Germain.

Sheikh Hamad also pushed Qatar Airways to expand into a major international carrier, trying to rival

neighboring carrier Emirates. The country's international airport in Doha, Qatar's capital, which cost at least \$15 billion to construct, also bears his name.

Qatar became a powerhouse for diplomacy

Sheikh Hamad had wide-ranging visions for Qatar's role as a diplomatic broker. Over the years, its mediation was brought to bear on the conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region, Lebanese factional feuding and the rift between the Palestinians' Hamas and Fatah factions.

In October 2012, Sheikh Hamad became the first head of state to visit the Gaza Strip since Hamas seized control five years previously, promising a total of \$400 million in projects and investments. During the visit, Gaza radio stations played a song entitled "Thank you, Qatar."

Qatar also reached out to Hamas' main foe, Israel. Sheikh Hamad met in 2007 with Israel's then-foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, at the United Nations General Assembly. Qatar allowed an Israeli trade office to operate in Doha until it was ordered closed in response to Israel's attacks on Gaza in late 2008.

While neighboring Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates diplomatically recognized Israel in 2020, Qatar maintained its distance. Israelis at the World Cup also faced a multitude of Palestinian flags and anger over its occupation of lands Palestinians claim for their future state.

During the Arab Spring, Qatar sent warplanes to the NATO-led missions in Libya against Moammar Gadhafi's forces and provided key military and financial aid to the successful Libyan rebels. In Syria, Qatar was a main political sponsor of the opposition to then-President Bashar Assad and led calls to increase the flow of weapons to the Syrian rebels.

However, its backing of Islamists like the Muslim Brotherhood has caused rifts with other nations in the region. Those tensions culminated under Sheikh Tamim, when Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE launched a yearslong boycott of Qatar, in part over the policies of his father that continued during his rule.

In one of the last initiatives before Sheikh Hamad's abdication, Qatar formally opened an office for Afghanistan's Taliban, which set the stage for talks between the United States and the Taliban that ultimately led to NATO and America's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

Alvarez's 112th-minute goal helps lift Argentina past Switzerland 3-1 and into World Cup semifinals

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Perhaps it is in Argentina's character that the reigning World Cup champion always finds a way to win.

Perhaps it is simply its ability to suffer.

Whether it was tiny Cape Verde taking them to extra time, or Egypt burying them in a two-goal hole late in their match, Lionel Messi and La Albiceleste have always been able to survive. And that was the case once more on Saturday night, when Julián Alvarez's long-range strike in the 112th minute and Lautaro Martínez's finish later in extra time sent them back to the semifinals with a thrilling 3-1 victory over Switzerland at raucous Arrowhead Stadium.

"We're among the best four," Alvarez said, "so we're meeting our objectives, and we knew it wasn't going to be easy. The whole match was hard, and we would have loved to have the win earlier, but we tried to get the win however we could."

"It seems like if there's no suffering, it doesn't count," Argentina's Leandro Paredes added, "but as long as the results come through."

Alexis Mac Allister had the other goal off a corner kick from Messi for La Albiceleste, helping to send them into a showdown with England on Wednesday in Atlanta. The Three Lions beat Norway 2-1 earlier in the day.

Messi's nine-game World Cup scoring streak ended, but his pursuit of a second World Cup title continues. With Argentina and England joining France and Spain in the semifinals, it's the first time the top four teams in the FIFA rankings have advanced that far.

"A match is coming up," Paredes said, "that every kid dreams of playing."

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The game against Switzerland swung on a call sure to rile up those who think Argentina has been favored by World Cup officials.

The Swiss had just tied the game on Dan Ndoye's goal in the 67th minute when Paredes was shown a yellow card for a tackle on Breel Embolo. But video showed the Swiss player falling before the Argentina midfielder made contact with him, and since Embolo received a yellow card earlier in the match, he was sent off and Switzerland was left to defend with 10 players.

It was the second time a yellow card has been overturned using the "mistaken identity" protocol at the World Cup. The rule allows the video assistant referee to intervene when an incorrect player is shown a yellow or red card.

"We were punished because of a rule that in my opinion is completely unacceptable," Switzerland coach Murat Yakin said. "I don't understand. It's very painful that we were eliminated that way. I don't think we deserve that today, in my opinion."

It was a maddening end to the Swiss' first World Cup quarterfinal appearance since 1954. They still have never made a semifinal, nor have they beaten Argentina in eight meetings — three of those in the tournament that matters the most.

"It was just a disaster," Switzerland's Remo Freuler said of the red card.

Argentina has made its base for the past month in Kansas City, training at the home of Major League Soccer club Sporting Kansas City while winning over thousands of new fans. And on Saturday night, they filled Arrowhead Stadium for the second time this tournament, hoping to see Messi make more magic after his hat trick against Algeria in the same building a few weeks ago.

It was brutally hot and humid throughout the day, but the temperatures began to fall with the setting sun, producing a picturesque setting for the 100th match of an expanded World Cup, and the final match of the quarterfinal round.

The defensive-minded Swiss had only conceded three goals in five games, and they dominated the ball in the opening minutes. But leave it to Messi, whose eight goals in the tournament are tied for the most with France's Kylian Mbappé, to send a jolt through that heavily pro-Argentina crowd which included Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

He helped to earn an early corner kick with some nifty footwork, then delivered the ball that Mac Allister turned into a 1-0 lead.

For most of the match, the Swiss struggled to break down an Argentina back line that had conceded two goals apiece in its last two games. And it didn't help their cause that they were playing without Johan Manzabi, one of their best goal-scorers, who remained out with a knee injury after missing their round of 16 penalty shootout win over Colombia.

But after forcing Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez into making a couple of tough second-half saves, the Swiss broke through when Ricardo Rodriguez slipped a tidy pass to Ndoye and he easily found the back of the net.

Whatever momentum the equalizer gave the Swiss disappeared with Embolo's red card a few minutes later.

Argentina turned up the pressure with Mac Allister missing wide with a header in the 89th minute, and Messi creating an opportunity in front of the goal that he sent just wide in the second minute of stoppage time, leaving the game tied into extra time.

There, just as they have all tournament, La Albiceleste found a way to keep their quest for back-to-back championships alive.

"We knew this could happen," Argentina midfielder Thiago Almada said. "They have top players, very good position, they were trying to find people inside. We knew how to hold up and we made it through."

Focus turns to building stronger institutions in Africa to speed shift to renewable energy

BY ALLAN OLINGO Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Africa's biggest clean energy challenge is shifting from building projects to building the institutions, markets and regulatory systems needed to deliver them at scale, experts say.

That challenge is emerging even as clean energy reaches a historic milestone globally. Renewables generated 34% of the world's electricity in 2025, overtaking coal's 33% share. Together with nuclear power, renewables are expected to provide half of global electricity by 2030.

As industrialization, artificial intelligence and electrification push demand higher, experts say the bottleneck in transitioning to cleaner energy has shifted from technology to the systems supporting it, including funding. Overcoming such obstacles is vital for securing access to power for the 600 million people in Africa who are yet to be connected.

"Clean energy is now cheaper than fossil fuels in virtually every part of the world," former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, said in late June while announcing a new \$285 million Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative to strengthen clean energy industries in emerging and developing economies.

"But fixable obstacles are still slowing down deployment, and with energy demand rising at an unprecedented speed, we can't allow those obstacles to continue standing in the way," he said.

Rather than financing solar farms or wind projects directly, the initiative will invest in strengthening market design, regulatory capacity, technical expertise and industry institutions, areas increasingly viewed as essential for attracting private investment and accelerating use of renewable energy.

It reflects a growing consensus that Africa's energy transition is constrained less by a lack of renewable resources or viable technologies than by the institutional capacity needed to turn those advantages into financially viable projects and electricity on the grid.

Many projects remain delayed by weak market design, limited grid planning, slow permitting processes and fragmented regulatory systems.

"What has been missing is not the potential, but the institutional infrastructure and capabilities to unlock it," said Saliem Fakir, executive director of the African Climate Foundation. "Philanthropy that targets those gaps directly is the kind of intervention that can shift the trajectory of a continent's energy system."

Across Africa, renewable energy costs have fallen sharply while investment appetite continues to grow. However, investors say policy uncertainty, slow permitting processes and limited regulatory capacity are hindering projects.

Wangari Muchiri, founder and chief executive of RE.Think Energy, said the commitment signals that "the next phase of the energy transition is not about proving clean energy works, it's about removing the barriers preventing it from scaling fast enough."

The Bloomberg initiative is looking beyond ambitious renewable energy targets to focus on helping projects attract long-term investments and connect to national grids.

"The next chapter of Africa's renewable energy story will not be only by the projects it builds, but the institutions that make these projects possible," Muchiri said.

Typhoon Bavi weakens but brings strong winds and rain to China as more than 2 million evacuated

BEIJING (AP) — Typhoon Bavi weakened to a severe tropical storm after making landfall in eastern China's Zhejiang province but was still bringing strong winds and heavy rain to eastern China on Sunday.

It weakened early Sunday with maximum sustained winds of around 101 kph (63 mph) near its center, according to China's national weather center, and is expected to move northwestward across eastern China.

Bavi passed north of Taiwan on Saturday but did not make a direct landfall. Taiwan's fire department said at least 134 people across the island were injured as of 7 a.m. Sunday, some sustaining injuries while

riding motorcycles or bicycles under strong winds or due to slippery road surfaces.

Strong winds and heavy rain are expected to impact many eastern Chinese cities on Sunday, China's National Meteorological Center said.

Shanghai evacuated more than 290,000 people from at-risk areas, state media reported. Authorities in Zhejiang evacuated about 2.2 million residents, while Fujian province evacuated over 180,000 people.

Shanghai's Pudong International Airport and Hongqiao International Airport were expected to cancel around 653 inbound and outbound flights due to Bavi, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

In the coastal city of Yueqing in Zhejiang province, more than 1,300 trees were toppled, including at least 700 uprooted, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Bellingham scores twice to lift England past Haaland and Norway 2-1 and into World Cup semifinals

By ALANIS THAMES AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Jude Bellingham locked arms with teammate Harry Kane as England fans belted out the Beatles' "Hey Jude."

Bellingham certainly earned the serenade.

He scored twice on Saturday — an equalizer in the first half and the go-ahead goal in the third minute of extra time — to lift England past Norway 2-1 and into the World Cup semifinals for the first time since 2018.

The Real Madrid star has now matched Kane with six goals in this tournament, two behind France's Kylian Mbappé and Argentina's Lionel Messi and one shy of Norway's Erling Haaland, who was held scoreless by England. Bellingham also scored twice in the round of 16 as England beat co-host Mexico.

England, winner of the 1966 World Cup and facing pressure to return to the title match, is now one win away from getting there. The Three Lions will face Argentina in the semifinals.

"The game is split into loads of different facets. Some of it is technical, tactical," Bellingham said. "For me, the biggest one is psychological and how you can manage setbacks, how you can manage adversity. This team showed yet again that they can do it and that's a really valuable skill and trait to have."

Not everyone was thrilled with England's performance.

"We made life very, very difficult for ourselves today," coach Thomas Tuchel said in a contentious interview with Fox Sports. "The result is fantastic. We're in the last four. It's amazing, but not happy with the performance ... in every sense."

Tuchel clarified in his news conference that he was "proud and happy" with how his squad has overcome adversity, but added, "I'm also a football coach and I also have demands. ... I think we can play faster. I think we can play more clinical."

Bellingham seemed to disagree with his coach's critique after England prevailed in the heat and humidity of South Florida, with temperatures reaching 92 degrees Fahrenheit (33 Celsius) at the start of warmups.

"Well, whatever," Bellingham said, shaking his head. "It's difficult out there. It's a tough shift. My thoughts and appreciation goes to the players out there who put in a great shift."

Andreas Schjelderup scored in the 36th minute for Norway, a squad that reached its first quarterfinals and took the internet by storm with its "Viking row" and the charisma of Haaland, their fearsome 6-foot-5 striker.

Haaland was kept off the scoresheet for the first time in this World Cup. The Manchester City star sat dejectedly on the bench after he was subbed out for Jorgen Strand Larsen in the second half of extra time.

"It was not a tough decision to take him out," Norway coach Ståle Solbakken said. "He was finished. Maybe I should have taken him out 10 minutes before. ... He also got a dead leg in the second half, so that combined with the fatigue. He did everything he could."

Norway nearly went ahead 2-1 in the 56th minute when Torbjørn Heggem put a rebound past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford after a corner kick. Following a video review, the goal was disallowed because of a foul by Haaland in the box. Haaland was also denied by Pickford on a point-blank header in the first half.

Schjelderup, making just his second start of the tournament, fired a shot that caromed off the right post and into the net to stun an England team that had dominated possession to that point. Bellingham's equalizer from close range elicited a roar from that crowd that included Mick Jagger and England great David Beckham.

Schjelderup, who set up both of Haaland's goals in Norway's round of 16 win over Brazil, celebrated by stretching his arms wide and looking at the crowd as his teammates lifted him onto their shoulders. Meanwhile, Kane sat near midfield, grabbing his leg and looking toward the officials. No foul was called.

Moments before Bellingham evened the score, a Norway goal kick resulted in the ball appearing to make contact with an aerial camera cable before landing at the feet of England's Elliot Anderson. The ball was eventually played to Bellingham, who beat Ørjan Nyland with a low shot to the far post. By rule, if the ball had been noticed hitting the cable, play would have stopped and a drop ball would have been utilized to determine possession. FIFA later said the sensor in the ball indicated it did not touch the cable.

There was a brief moment of silence before the match in honor of Jayden Adams, the 25-year-old midfielder for South Africa whose death was announced earlier Saturday.

Shooting near Toronto street festival kills 2 people and wounds 4, police say

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — A shooting near a Toronto street festival killed two men and wounded four other people Saturday evening, police said, adding that what initially prompted an active-shooter warning was an exchange of gunfire between two people targeting each other.

Toronto Police Deputy Chief Frank Barredo said investigators recovered two firearms after the shooting that was reported at 8:12 p.m. near St. Clair Avenue West and Arlington Avenue, where the Salsa on St. Clair festival was underway.

No suspect or suspects had been arrested by the time of a late-night news conference, where Barredo confirmed both of the deceased victims were men.

Officers initially urged the public to avoid the area before later announcing the scene had been secured. "There was some concern about an active shooter. That turned out not to be the case," Barredo said. But the two gunmen involved in the shooting "indiscriminately put vast numbers of people in danger."

Valerie Rodriguez said she was sitting outside a nearby restaurant when people suddenly began screaming and running.

"A bunch of people ... told us to lay down onto the floor," she said. "We got scared because we didn't know exactly what was happening."

Festival vendor Patsy Gutierrez said she was serving customers when she saw "a huge wave" of people fleeing.

"Everybody started getting frantic and then we stopped serving," she said. "I don't think it should be something that's happening at these types of events."

A large police presence remained around the festival, an annual celebration of Latin American culture that draws thousands of people to Toronto's St. Clair West neighborhood for live music, dancing, food and cultural performances.

"I'm deeply disturbed and angry about this reckless and irresponsible act of violence right in the middle of a festival attended by families," Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow said.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said in a social media post that his thoughts were with the victims, families and others affected by the shooting.

"I am devastated by the senseless violence at the Salsa on St. Clair Festival that has claimed two lives and injured others," Ford said.

Toronto, Canada's largest city, is among North America's safest major cities. Fatal shootings, particularly those involving multiple victims in public places, are relatively rare.

"Toronto is one of the safest cities in the world but we are 3 million people and unfortunately we are not immune," Barredo said.

Mexican builder fatally shot by an ICE officer is mourned after making a life in the US

By TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

The builder got up every morning long before dawn, left home to pick up his construction crew and then headed out to work on yet another house somewhere across the sprawl of Houston.

Fourteen hours later, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo would return to the wife he'd met as a teenager in Mexico and the modest house he'd built for his family on the city's east side.

It's what he'd done for decades, according to Ronaldo Salgado, his oldest son. He said his father built hundreds of houses over 35 years, creating a life for his family and watching as his three sons headed off to college.

On Tuesday, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer fatally shot Salgado Araujo, 52, after he was pursued by federal agents driving unmarked vehicles while he was taking his crew to their latest job site. The shooting has outraged Houston leaders and renewed public scrutiny over ICE and Trump's immigration crackdown.

Four Democratic members of Congress who represent the Houston area said at a vigil Saturday that they would push for an independent investigation into the shooting.

"We are never going to forget that his blood is on Donald Trump's hands," Rep. Christian Menefee said. "We are not at war. Lorenzo Salgado Araujo was not a casualty. He was a human being who was murdered by our government."

Salgado Araujo was not the target of ICE's operation

Federal agents were looking for someone else when they tried to stop Salgado Araujo's white van, Democratic U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia said, citing a briefing she received from ICE's acting director. The Department of Homeland Security has said an ICE officer fired at the van in self-defense after Salgado Araujo, who officials described as an "illegal alien," rammed an ICE vehicle. They have provided no evidence.

The three men that Salgado Araujo was driving said he was shot through a passenger window and that the ICE officer who fired was not in front of the van or even in danger, a lawyer who has spoken with them said Friday.

His family has also disputed the account from ICE. They said lawyers, who were helping him apply for a work permit, had explained how he should behave if immigration agents stopped him. Salgado Araujo was close to obtaining legal status when he was killed, they said.

"He knew what to do," Ronaldo Salgado told reporters this week. "He knew not to sign anything. He knew that the first phone call he should make should be either to myself or to my mom. So that way we can get the process started of getting him out."

He believes his father may have been scared that he was being followed by unmarked vehicles, worried someone was planning to steal his van or his tools.

The shooting in the heavily Hispanic neighborhood is at least the eighth death during the Trump administration's immigration enforcement campaign.

A kind, present husband and father

Salgado Araujo entered the U.S. more than 30 years ago, settling in Houston with his wife where they raised their three children.

Education was a constant focus in the house, said Ronaldo Salgado, who is now a teacher. One of his brothers is an engineer. The other is in college studying engineering.

Several childhood friends of Salgado recalled that his father was kind and soft-spoken, always inquiring about his wife's day and how his sons' friends were doing after a long day at work.

"We didn't really see him until the end of the day when he came home to have dinner, but that just shows how much of a hard worker he was," said neighbor Jessica Alanis Magdaleno. "Everything they

have now is thanks to the dedication to that.”

Josué Flores, a friend of Ronaldo Salgado since their freshman year of high school, said he first saw Lorenzo Salgado Araujo at his son’s football game.

“I think it speaks volumes of the kind of person that he was,” Flores said, recalling how Salgado Araujo showed up for his son even after an arduous day of work.

Salgado Araujo’s wife, a relative said, is “inconsolable.”

“She is very upset ... angry, sad, disoriented,” Jose Torres Ramon, a nephew who lives in Mexico, told The Associated Press in a Facebook message.

Ronaldo Salgado, his oldest son, said at the Saturday vigil that he hoped he was making his father proud.

“I’ll keep fighting for him,” he said.

His brother Lorenzo Salgado Jr. said the shooting of his father was “a hard moment to be an American.”

“Even though my government, my federal government took away my father, we the people will bring justice,” he said. “We the people are America.”

After coming home in the evening, Salgado Araujo liked to listen to music on the porch and pet the family dog. His family has described him as a simple man of routine.

“He did not deserve to die,” Ronaldo Salgado said. “He dedicated his life in the United States to giving his family the American dream.”

New York Times reporters are subpoenaed after Air Force One stories, raising press freedom concerns

By WILL WEISSERT and ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Justice has subpoenaed New York Times journalists after they reported on security concerns involving the new, Qatari-gifted Air Force One, marking a dramatic escalation of President Donald Trump’s campaign against the media that has drawn condemnation for eroding a fundamental freedom of American democracy.

The new jet, a present from the U.S. ally that the administration spent \$400 million on to retrofit and upgrade, entered service last week. But Trump used an older model Air Force One jet to leave a NATO summit in Turkey and later referenced threats against him made by Iran.

The subpoenas seek to force the reporters to testify before a federal grand jury in Manhattan next week, the Times said, adding that federal agents delivered some subpoenas to the reporters at their homes.

They were issued after FBI Director Kash Patel and other Justice Department officials met at the White House on Friday to talk about the matter, according to a person familiar with the discussions who was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The journalists subpoenaed included Julian E. Barnes, Eric Lipton, Tyler Pager and Eric Schmitt, the Times reported.

It also said that before its first story was published, a senior official at the FBI contacted a reporter and editor to ask that the article be held, citing national security issues. The newspaper said that the FBI official declined to explain the security issue but asked The Times to disclose its sources for the story, which the Times said it refused to do.

“The appearance of federal law enforcement agents on the doorstep of news reporters should shock the conscience of any American who believes in the Constitution and the press freedom it protects,” David McCraw, a lawyer for the Times, said in a statement.

The White House did not answer messages seeking comment about the subpoenas of the Times journalists.

Bruce D. Brown, president of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said Trump’s “war on the press is looking for another victim.”

He said in a statement that the subpoenas “break from longstanding Justice Department practice to protect the public interest and press independence by requiring prosecutors to only seek information from reporters as a last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted.”

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The Justice Department said that "to be clear, reporters are not the targets, those leaking classified information are."

Its statement said "we value and appreciate the important role that the press plays in this country, but DOJ also plays an important role to make sure that the people entrusted with our nation's secrets do what they're supposed to do with that information, which means not sharing classified information."

While recognizing "there may always be natural tension there," the department said "we are not going to ignore the law and stop investigating the people who work in the administration and think it's okay to leak classified information impacting national security."

Part of a pattern of anti-press actions

Issuing subpoenas represents further ramping up of Trump's effort to threaten independent news organizations by leveraging the power of the federal government against them. It is also part of a systematic pattern by the Republican president to attempt to undermine press freedom in order to shield him from negative coverage.

Earlier this year, the Justice Department issued subpoenas seeking to compel testimony from reporters at The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal. In both cases, the department later withdrew the subpoenas, though.

In January, FBI agents searched the home of Washington Post reporter Hannah Natanson, who has been covering Trump's transformation of the federal government, as part of a leak investigation into a Pentagon contractor accused of taking home classified information.

Adam Steinbaugh, senior attorney for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, said Friday's subpoenas and the prospect of "hauling reporters before grand juries sends a chilling message to journalists and whistleblowers alike: Watch what you say, or expect a knock on the door."

"These tactics are becoming more common," Steinbaugh said in a statement. "That doesn't make them normal."

During his first term, Trump suggested that the press constituted an "enemy" of the American people. Since returning to the White House, he has waged an aggressive campaign against the media unlike any in modern U.S. history.

Trump's attacks against news outlets and media figures he believes are overly critical of him has included filing lawsuits against outlets whose coverage he dislikes, threatening to revoke TV broadcast licenses and seeking to bend news organizations and social media companies to his will.

The Justice Department over the years has developed and revised internal policies governing how it will respond to news media leaks.

Though the department across presidential administrations has periodically seized the phone records of individual journalists in hopes of identifying sources for national security stories, it is extremely rare for the government to attempt to compel reporters to reveal their sources before a grand jury.

In April 2025, then-Attorney General Pam Bondi rescinded a policy from President Joe Biden's Democratic administration that protected journalists from having their phone records secretly seized during leak investigations — a practice long decried by news organizations and press freedom groups.

Doing so again gave prosecutors the authority to use subpoenas, court orders and search warrants to hunt for government officials who make "unauthorized disclosures" to journalists.

A memo Bondi issued said members of the press are "presumptively entitled to advance notice of such investigative activities," and subpoenas are to be "narrowly drawn." Warrants must also include "protocols designed to limit the scope of intrusion into potentially protected materials or newsgathering activities," the memo stated.

Trump didn't use his new Air Force One while leaving Turkey

The president flew the new Air Force One to Turkey during this week's visit. But he departed Wednesday on one of the older-model Air Force One jets for Mildenhall, a Royal Air Force base in Suffolk, England.

The newer plane also flew to Mildenhall. Trump then switched to that plane for the flight home to Joint Base Andrews.

The abrupt swap came as a shaky ceasefire with Iran had collapsed, with the U.S. launching airstrikes on Iran and Tehran attacking three Gulf Arab states. Iran and Turkey share a border, sparking speculation that the new jet lacked certain sophisticated security and countermeasure systems.

The Times, citing anonymous sources, reported the switch had come at the urging of the Secret Service, and that the newer plane lacked some of the advanced security features of the older aircraft, including antimissile capabilities.

Trump denied any security concerns, posting on social media that the stop in Mildenhall was so that service members there could view the new jet. During the flight, Trump denied to the reporters accompanying him that security concerns involving Iran were a factor in flying two planes home.

Still, asked if he was aware of any credible threats against Air Force One by Iran, Trump responded, "I have a threat all the time. I'm No. 1 on their list."

US military says it is striking Iran in response to attack on civilian vessel in Strait of Hormuz

By JON GAMBRELL and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran said the Strait of Hormuz was closed once again after a warning shot fired by its military struck a vessel using an unauthorized route in the critical waterway, further jeopardizing the already tenuous ceasefire agreement with the United States.

U.S. Central Command said a short time later that its forces began a third round of strikes against Iran. There were explosions in Bandar Abbas and Sirik, two towns along the shores of the strait, Iran state media reported.

"The United States is imposing a heavy cost by continuing to degrade Iran's ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the strait," the American military said.

A Cyprus-flagged container ship was hit by Iran and suffered "significant engine room damage" and a civilian crew member is missing, U.S. Central Command said.

Senior U.S. officials had previously said in Washington that negotiations to further cement last month's deal to end the war will be unable to progress without the strait being secure — and even said they wanted Iran to offer public statements to that effect.

Instead, the Revolutionary Guards Corps said multiple vessels "disregarded our warnings and instructions to correct their course and proceed along the approved route." One of them "was struck by a warning shot and brought to a stop."

Iran said that the strait would remain closed "until further notice" and said it would consider targeting "additional enemy bases in the region" if it faced more attacks.

A little more than an hour later, the U.S. announced its own new round of strikes.

"Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth posted on social media.

Attacks followed more diplomatic talks about the strait

The latest flurry of shots from both sides followed Iran and Oman's foreign ministers meeting on Saturday to discuss the strait that lies between them, after days of Iranian attacks on ships and U.S. retaliation that dealt a blow to the interim deal to end the war.

Iran's new supreme leader, still unseen since the war began, also vowed in his first statement since the funeral of his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that Iranians would avenge his killing in the war's opening strikes on Feb. 28.

Such revenge "is the will of our nation and must certainly be carried out," Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said in a statement carried on state television, hours after President Donald Trump threatened more missile attacks.

Oman said it and Iran agreed to keep talking about the Strait of Hormuz "at the technical and political levels."

Iran accuses Washington of violating ceasefire deal

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said before the new round of strikes that he met with his coun-

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terpart in Oman to discuss "appropriate mechanisms for ensuring the safe passage of ships."

The world for decades has considered the strait an international waterway. Iran has insisted that the strait now remain under its control and that it be allowed to charge ships moving through it, a stance it took after the war began. The U.S. urges mariners to transit on a southern route through Oman's territorial waters.

About a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas passed through the strait before the war began. Iran's grip on it during the war led to a global energy crisis, though oil prices have sharply dropped since wartime highs of \$120 a barrel.

Iran's top diplomat also accused the U.S. of violating the interim deal by ending waivers allowing Iran to sell crude oil on the open market in U.S. dollars. Washington ended them in response to the attacks on ships in the strait.

"Reality check: There can only be mutual compliance," Araghchi wrote on social media.

Trump says he responded to threats to kill him

Trump said he's personally been the target of an Iranian plot, and he said the U.S. military would automatically retaliate if he was killed.

He wrote on social media early Saturday that "1000 Missiles are Locked and Loaded and aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran, with thousands of more to immediately follow, should the Iranian Government act on its threat."

However, such retaliation would have to be ordered by Vice President JD Vance, who would become commander-in-chief if Trump were to be killed.

Trump said he was responding to threats "to assassinate, or attempt to assassinate" him. During Khomeini's funeral, mourners held posters or banners calling for Trump to be killed along with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The U.S. president has declared the ceasefire over but said the U.S. would continue negotiations.

U.S. officials, speaking Friday on condition of anonymity about the current situation with Iran, said the resumption of strikes even before the latest round came as a result of what they described as a rogue faction of Iranian hard-liners who were trying to sabotage the ceasefire.

Iran has insisted its theocracy is unified under the new supreme leader.

After the U.S. wrapped up strikes on Thursday, more attacks reportedly hit Iran, raising questions about who else may be targeting the Islamic Republic.

Israel didn't claim them, meaning the Gulf Arab states may have launched them, likely as a means to deter Iran from attacking them again. Iran on Thursday retaliated for U.S. strikes by targeting Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar.

The strikes in Iran over two days — and prior to the ones in the wake of the warning shot — killed at least 17 people and wounded 115 others, Iranian Health Ministry spokesperson Hossein Kermanpour said.

Khosla family agrees to purchase defending Super Bowl champion Seattle for \$9.612B, AP source says

By STEVE REED and ANDREW DESTIN AP Sports Writers

The Seattle Seahawks are being sold to the Khosla family, including Vinod Khosla, in accordance with the wishes of late team owner Paul Allen, the team announced on Saturday.

The Khosla family entered into a formal agreement to purchase the defending Super Bowl champions for \$9.612 billion, according to a person familiar with the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal is still subject to approval by the NFL.

The Khosla family will become the team's controlling owner, according to a social media post by the Seahawks.

"We are honored to be entrusted as the next stewards of the Seattle Seahawks," Vinod Khosla said in a statement. "We look forward to building on the winning legacy Paul Allen created and to earning the trust of the Seahawks organization and fans everywhere."

Allen's estate announced on Feb. 18 it had begun the process of selling the team, which is coming off its second Super Bowl victory in franchise history. Investment bank Allen & Company LLC and law firm Latham & Watkins led the sales process, which was estimated in February to continue through the offseason.

Vinod Khosla is the founder of Khosla Ventures, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm.

His current net worth is \$13.7 billion, Forbes reported this month.

The company invests in experimental technologies such as biomedicine, robotics, and was the first venture firm to invest in OpenAI, per Forbes.

The Khosla family will be required to relinquish its ownership stake in the San Francisco 49ers as part of the deal. Khosla joined 49ers ownership group as a minority owner in 2025, purchasing 3.1% of the team.

NFL owners still have to ratify a final purchase agreement and they are expected to meet in August to approve the deal, ESPN reported.

The Seahawks have been in the Allen family since 1997, when Paul Allen bought the team for \$194 million from then-owner Ken Behring. Allen was critical in keeping the Seahawks in Seattle, which is where the team is expected to remain after the sale is finalized.

The Seahawks have a lease at Lumen Field that runs through 2032 with three 10-year options.

Since Allen, cofounder of Microsoft, died in 2018 from complications of non-Hodgkin lymphoma at 65, the Seahawks and the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers have been owned by his sister, Jody.

The estate agreed in September to sell the Trail Blazers to an investment group led by Carolina Hurricanes owner Tom Dundon. The Trail Blazers will remain in Portland as part of the deal, which is awaiting final approval from the NBA Board of Governors.

The last NFL team to be sold was the Washington Commanders in 2023. A group led by Josh Harris that includes Magic Johnson bought the team from longtime owner Dan Snyder and his family for a record \$6.05 billion.

The Seahawks beat the New England Patriots 29-13 in the Super Bowl in February.

Missouri flooding leaves one dead, while rescuers helicopter more than 200 to safety at summer camp

By HALLIE GOLDEN and KRISTIN HALL Associated Press

A woman was found dead in Missouri on Saturday after heavy rainfall battered parts of the state the previous day, forcing numerous emergency rescues and evacuations, including at a summer camp with more than 200 children.

Several other states also faced the potential for severe thunderstorms and flash flooding as the slow moving storms moved southward.

The National Weather Service said the severe weather impacted a wide region stretching from the Ozark Mountains in southern Missouri eastward into much of the Ohio and Tennessee river valleys.

The service said the storms could bring damaging winds, heavy rainfall and scattered flash flooding to the multistate region, with some places seeing impacts into Sunday. In eastern Tennessee, flooding closed some roads and downed power lines, and authorities from Kentucky to West Virginia told people to be ready to seek higher ground.

Missouri's Emergency Management Agency warned that while the storms move south and out of the state, further thunderstorms could still bring additional flash flooding, especially in areas that have already received 6 and 12 inches (15 and 30 centimeters) of rain.

Summer campers rescued as floodwaters rose

Friday's drenching rains washed away roads around Camp Taum Sauk, trapping children and staff at the site in the small southeastern community of Lesterville, according Sgt. Eddie Young, with the state's highway patrol. The Army National Guard used Black Hawk helicopters to fly them to a nearby elementary school and reunite them with their families, he said.

The camp thanked emergency crews in a post on Instagram, saying, "We are beyond thankful for your

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help keeping our camp community safe.”

Meanwhile campers at the Bearcat Getaway campground near the Black River, about 85 miles (140 kilometers) south of St. Louis, climbed onto a building to get away from the raging waters but it then collapsed, Young said.

“Between the weight and the constant waters underneath it, it just gave away on them,” he said.

Three other people were trapped on trees on the Black River in Reynolds County and were rescued, Young said.

Missouri woman swept away in floodwaters

The body of Faith Gregory, who went missing in Crawford County after her home was swept away from its foundation, was found by volunteers late Saturday morning. Her body was discovered about 1.8 miles (3 kilometers) downstream from her residence in Huzzah Creek, according to the county sheriff’s office.

“This is not the outcome that any of us were hoping for. Our thoughts and prayers are with Faith’s family, friends, and all those affected by this tragic loss,” the sheriff’s office said in a statement.

There was no longer anyone still unaccounted for in the county, which is about 70 miles (110 kilometers) southwest of St. Louis.

The weather service issued flash flood warnings for the area as thunderstorms piled on one after another.

“It’s very, very popular place for recreation,” Matt Beitscher, a lead meteorologist with the NWS office in St. Louis, said of the affected counties. “So there are campgrounds there. There are float trip locations there. A lot of vulnerable populations that would be susceptible to flash flooding.”

Recovery efforts underway

Gov. Mike Kehoe declared a state of emergency Friday and activated a search and rescue team to assist. He said late Friday that hundreds of people were saved from floodwaters, trees, rooftops and stranded vehicles.

Several major roads were impassable due to flooding and damage, Kehoe said, warning that the Black River continued to rise and was expected to crest at more than 28 feet (8.5 meters) near Annapolis in southeastern Missouri, which would be a record.

“As recovery efforts continue and additional rain is expected, I urge everyone in flood-prone and low-lying areas to stay weather-aware, have multiple ways of receiving alerts, and be ready to take protective action,” Kehoe said in a statement.

In Reynolds County, two rescue boats capsized in the flooding, but other emergency personnel safely recovered the responders, the sheriff’s office said.

Trump suggests a standing order to attack Iran if it assassinates him. But Vance would make the call

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is suggesting he has left standing orders for the U.S. military to destroy Iran “at levels they’ve never seen before” if Tehran follows through on its long-standing threats to kill him.

But the U.S. government has no way to create an automatic, preauthorized “dead man’s switch” that would prompt immediate retaliation.

Instead, if Trump were killed, the transfer of power to his successor is governed by the 25th Amendment and the Presidential Succession Act of 1947. Vice President JD Vance instantaneously would become commander in chief and have authority for any retaliation.

Under such a scenario, Vance could do exactly what Trump called for, though there also is a chance he could decide not to follow his predecessor’s orders — or offer a direct response in a different way.

“The U.S. has, for a whole variety of reasons, never utilized a technical ‘dead man’s switch,’” said Garrett M. Graff, author of “Raven Rock: The Story of the U.S. Government’s Secret Plan to Save Itself -- While the Rest of Us Die.”

The United States does have extensive contingency plans for continuity of government in the event of

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a nuclear attack or other major catastrophe that wipes out most or all of Washington. But those plans also do not allow for immediately launching retaliatory strikes upon the death of a president, even if that president had demanded that the military be ready to do so.

Trump nonetheless posted on his social media website Saturday that Iran had made threats "to assassinate, or attempt to assassinate" him and he said 1,000 "missiles are Locked and Loaded and aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran, with thousands more to immediately follow, should the Iranian Government act on its threat."

Iran's supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, said hours later that Iranians would continue to avenge the killing of his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The elder Khamenei died in the initial U.S. and Israeli strikes that started the war in late February, and he was mourned in funeral events throughout Iran this week. His son said retaliation "is the will of our nation and must certainly be carried out."

"We pledge to take revenge for the pure blood of you and all the martyrs of these two wars from the criminal and disgraceful killers," he said on remarks aired on state television. "This revenge is the will of our nation and must certainly be carried out."

The White House on Saturday did not immediately answer questions about what would become of Trump's military orders should he be killed.

During those recent funeral events, mourners repeatedly held posters or banners calling for Trump to be killed along with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Wall Street Journal reported this week that Israel alerted U.S. officials to fresh Iranian plots to kill Trump. The White House has refused to comment, but Trump appeared to reference to such threats in comments during this week's NATO summit in Turkey, saying, "They want to take out the U.S. leader — me."

Sabrina Singh, former Biden administration deputy Pentagon press secretary, said "Iran wanting to target senior American leaders is something that we know is happening."

"You have to take these as credible threats," Singh said.

US retaliations would almost certainly come, just not automatically

Trump was targeted in two domestic assassination attempts during the 2024 presidential campaign and saw a gunman storm the White House Correspondents' Association dinner he was attending in April.

The president flew part of the way back to Washington from Turkey this week aboard an older Air Force One jet rather than a new Qatari-gifted aircraft, raising fresh security questions about the newer plane. Images of the jet, which was retrofitted at an estimated cost of \$400 million, show it is not equipped with some of the same missile detection and countermeasure systems as earlier versions.

The swap occurred as the U.S. and Iran once again began trading strikes, jeopardizing last month's initial deal to end the war. Asked about Iranian threats, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One, "I'm No. 1 on their list."

Graff said the U.S. prepared years of plans for how nuclear launch authority would devolve in the event of a surprise attack. That included, during 30 years of the Cold War, the country keeping fleets of airborne command posts flying 24 hours a day with a general aboard one of them who could take over nuclear launch orders in the event Washington was lost.

"What I believe Trump is saying is that he's left standing orders to attack if he's killed, e.g., that the Pentagon should proceed with standard launch protocols," Graff said. "There's a lot of reason to doubt the legality of such standing orders, since in the event of a president's death, the nuclear launch authority would immediately pass to the vice president or designated successor — and ultimately it would be up to him or her to determine whether to proceed."

Trump's post only refers to firing missiles at Iran, which the U.S. has done scores of times since its war with Iran began. He did not expressly threaten involving nuclear weapons.

Graff said that, in addition to leaving standing orders in case of his death, Trump also might say "something to Vance like, 'If I'm killed, nuke Iran,'" and that would make "more sense and would be absolutely legal"

Biden administration once warned Iran about Trump, too

Washington receiving credible threats against the president and top U.S. leaders from Iran and other

foreign adversaries is not uncommon and is often disclosed via national security briefings or other classified means. But far less common is Trump declaring publicly that he personally has been targeted by Iran. Still, this is not the first time Washington has threatened Iran over threats against Trump.

In 2022, the Biden administration warned Iran against attacking U.S. citizens after the Justice Department's disclosure that a member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had planned to assassinate John Bolton, Trump's first-term national security adviser. Now a Trump critic, Bolton last month pleaded guilty to illegally retaining classified documents in a case led by Trump's Justice Department.

President Joe Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in 2022 that "should Iran attack any of our citizens, to include those who continue to serve the United States or those who formerly served, Iran will face severe consequences."

Two years later, in the heat of Trump's campaign against Democrat Kamala Harris, Biden's vice president, the Biden administration again quietly warned Iran. This time, officials made clear that an attack on Trump would be considered an act of war.

South Africa World Cup midfielder Jayden Adams dies at the age of 25

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa midfielder Jayden Adams, who played at the World Cup, has died. He was 25.

His death was confirmed by Gayton McKenzie, South Africa's minister of sport, arts and culture, in a statement on Saturday.

"It is with profound shock and a heavy heart that I have learnt of the passing of Jayden Adams, midfielder for Mamelodi Sundowns and Bafana Bafana, at the age of 25," McKenzie posted on X.

"South African football has lost one of its brightest young talents, and our nation mourns alongside his family, his team-mates and the millions of supporters."

Adams helped South Africa reach the World Cup knockout stage for the first time.

Further details of his death were not given.

"The cause of Jayden's passing has not yet been confirmed," McKenzie said. "I wish to appeal to members of the media and the public to exercise restraint and compassion, and to refrain from speculation."

A moment of silence in honor of Adams was held ahead of the World Cup quarterfinal between Norway and England in Miami Gardens, Florida, on Saturday.

Adams started in South Africa's first Group A games against Mexico and Czech Republic. McKenzie said Adams played the second game only hours after learning that his grandmother had died. He came on as a second-half substitute in the third game against South Korea.

Adams played several seasons for Stellenbosch before joining Mamelodi Sundowns last year. He helped the club win the CAF (African) Champions League this year.

"Death has cruelly stolen one of our own. It has robbed our nation of a remarkable footballer," the South African Football Players Union posted on X. "We will forever remember his humility, his extraordinary talent and the pride with which he represented South Africa. Rest in eternal peace, Jayden. You will never be forgotten."

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and the South African Federation of Trade Unions also expressed their condolences.

Noskova's glimpse of Wimbledon trophies on bathroom break helped her regroup to claim 1st Grand Slam

By ANDREW DAMPF AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Linda Noskova placed fingers in both of her ears to drown out the noise from the Centre Court crowd.

She draped one of Wimbledon's strawberry-red towels over her head.

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And eventually — after she had wasted five match points and a 5-2 lead and conceded the second set of a drama-filled final — she left the court completely for a bathroom break.

During Noskova's brief time off the court, two shiny objects caught her attention: the Venus Rosewater Dish that is awarded to the women's champion and the smaller dish for the runner-up.

"I was like, 'I'm not going to take the small one. I'm taking the big one. I have been so close. This will probably be the heartbreak of my life,'" Noskova said. "I'm going to leave my soul on court in the third set, whatever that be."

The 21-year-old Noskova did just as she promised herself, overcoming her second-set meltdown to beat Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in an all-Czech final for her first Grand Slam trophy on Saturday.

When Noskova finally finished it off with a service winner on her sixth match point — and first of the third set — she covered her face and dropped down to the grass on her back.

Minutes later, Noskova was being awarded the Venus Rosewater Dish by Kate, the Princess of Wales.

"It's never easy to get the last point," Noskova said during her victory speech. "Karo, you really made me work for it."

Noskova became the third Czech woman in four years to win the grass-court major, after Marketa Vondrousova in 2023 and Barbora Krejčíková in 2024.

Muchova and Noskova played doubles together at the 2024 Paris Olympics and finished fourth.

"I am so glad that I could play my first Grand Slam final with you," Noskova told Muchova during her speech. "We made history today. All our Czech fans at home are proud of us no matter the result. It was a good day for both of us."

Petra Kvitová, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014, was in attendance, as was the greatest Czech-born player of them all, Martina Navratilová — who won a record nine singles titles at the All England Club and was seated next to Princess Kate in the Royal Box; and Jan Kodes, the 1973 champion.

Kipling's poem

An excerpt of the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling that was placed above the players' entrance to Centre Court more than a century ago summarizes the challenges Noskova had to overcome.

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster," the excerpt says. "And treat those two imposters just the same."

It's not the first time that Noskova has had to overcome adversity at Wimbledon.

Her mother died just before she played the tournament two years ago.

"I definitely would not be standing here without her, so thank you," Noskova said in a dedication to her mother during her speech when she blew a kiss skyward.

Navratilová wiped away tears listening to Noskova's tribute.

Moments earlier, Muchova began her runner-up speech by calling Noskova "my ex-friend."

"I'm kidding, obviously," Muchova quickly added. "You're so young and this was your first final of a Grand Slam and the way you handled it ... was really unbelievable. ... You deserve it."

It was the 29-year-old Muchova's second Grand Slam final after getting beat by Iga Świątek at the French Open in 2023.

Wasted chances

Blasting aces and winners from all over the court early on, Noskova looked like she was going to run away with it almost like Świątek's 6-0, 6-0 rout of Amanda Anisimova in last year's final, which lasted all of 57 minutes.

Saturday's match was just 68 minutes old when Noskova earned her first match point — which ended when she landed a backhand into the net.

Two points later, there was another backhand miss from Noskova; then Muchova took advantage of a net-cord shot on Noskova's third match point in the same game.

Serving for the title in the next game, Noskova double faulted on her fourth match point. And then on the fifth occasion to end it, Muchova produced a big serve and forehand winner.

In all, Noskova lost five straight games.

"It's hard to watch," Tracy Austin said on the BBC as she called the match alongside John McEnroe. "We know what that feels like when you start to get tight and you can't loosen up and then the lead starts to unravel."

Noskova said, "Winning it this way, really having to fight for it, having all these ups and downs, it matters a lot. I have to learn a lot from this match."

Czech success

It's Noskova's second grass title of the season after beating Jessica Pegula in the Berlin Open final.

But as this match displayed, it hasn't been all straightforward. Noskova saved a match point in the third set of her third-round match against Sorana Cirstea.

The 12th-ranked Noskova will climb to No. 7 — a new career-high — when the next rankings are released on Monday.

She's the youngest woman to win Wimbledon since Kvitova was also 21 in 2011.

Jana Novotna, one of Noskova's first coaches, also won Wimbledon (in 1998).

How to explain all the Czech success?

"They play on clay in the summer where you have to out-manuever your opponent and then in the winter they go indoors and it's first-strike tennis," Austin said. "The best of both worlds to create an all-court player."

In the men's final on Sunday, top-ranked Jannik Sinner will attempt to defend his title against French Open champion Alexander Zverev.

Students abducted in May by Islamic militants in Nigeria are rescued, government says

By DYEPKAZAH SHIBAYAN Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Students abducted in May by Islamic militants in Nigeria's southwestern Oyo state have been rescued, the government said Friday.

Government spokesman Bayo Onanuga did not specify the total number of students rescued, but authorities said at the time of the abductions on May 15 that more than 40 people had been abducted. One of the teachers abducted alongside the students was killed shortly afterward.

Eight militants were arrested as part of the operation, while an unspecified number of the militants were killed, Onanuga said.

The abductions in a southern state had represented an escalation of the country's security crisis because most such abductions previously had taken place in the north.

"This successful military operation has ended the siege and standoff of over 50 days and has brought relief to the entire nation and the affected families in particular," Nigerian President Bola Tinubu said in a statement.

In the same week as the Oyo abduction, dozens of children were kidnapped in Borno, the epicenter of Nigeria's security crisis.

Abductions at schools are common in Nigeria, where militant groups target them to put pressure on the government and extract ransoms.

Guggenheim Museum among NYC buildings that tested positive for Legionnaires' amid disease outbreak

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

New York City's famed Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum was among a number of Manhattan buildings that recently tested positive for the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease amid the city's latest outbreak.

The city health department on Friday released a list of 31 buildings on the Upper East Side that have been ordered to clean and disinfect their cooling towers as the city deals with the latest outbreak of the disease, which is a serious form of pneumonia.

The distinctive, cylindrical-shaped art museum was among 19 that have already completed the remediation, according to the department's list. The rest were expected to complete the work by Saturday.

City officials stressed the positive test results do not confirm any of the buildings as the source of outbreak as the tests conducted could not distinguish between live and dead bacteria.

The museum was also not shuttered at any point because of the positive test or remediation work, they said.

"The city has confirmed that there is no additional action needed at this time, and this poses no risk to anyone inside the building," the museum said in a statement Saturday, noting that it has an outside company that conducts regular monthly testing and treating of its cooling tower.

The Guggenheim was designed by the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site as one of the defining architectural works of the 20th century.

More than 50 people have been diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease in connection with the Upper East Side cluster, of which less than 20 remain hospitalized, according to the most recent data from the city health department. No deaths have so far been reported.

Seven people died and more than 100 were sickened during a major outbreak in the upper Manhattan neighborhood of Harlem last year that was ultimately traced to cooling towers atop Harlem Hospital and a nearby construction site where the city's public health lab is located.

Legionella bacteria generally grow in warm water and can spread in building water systems such as showerheads, hot tubs and cooling towers.

The structures are usually found on the top of buildings and control the temperature of systems such as refrigeration, but they do not affect drinking water or the building's indoor air or air conditioning.

Legionnaires' disease is also not transmitted person-to-person. People often contract it by breathing in tiny droplets of contaminated water.

Symptoms usually develop two days to two weeks after exposure and include cough, fever, headaches, muscle aches and shortness of breath, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People are at an increased risk for Legionnaires' disease if they are age 50 or older, smoke or vape, have a chronic lung disease or have a weakened immune system.

The respiratory ailment's name comes from an outbreak that hit attendees of an American Legion convention in Philadelphia in 1976.

Hundreds of firefighters battle wildfire in southern Spain that killed at least 12

By SERGIO RODRIGO and SERGE CARTWRIGHT Associated Press

BEDAR, Spain (AP) — Hundreds of firefighters backed by helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft struggled on Saturday to contain one of Spain's deadliest wildfires that erupted earlier this week and killed at least 12 people.

The blazes, which also lashed France this week, came as parts of Western Europe are facing their third heat wave in six weeks. Europe is the world's fastest-warming continent, with temperatures increasing twice as fast as the global average since the 1980s, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

In Spain's Andalusia, a combination of light winds and high humidity are helping crews but the sheer size of the fire still poses challenges, Antonio Sanz, head of the region's emergency services, said. The fire has so far scorched some 66 square kilometers (25 square miles) of forest and farmland — about the size of Manhattan.

Sanz said fire crews carried out controlled burns overnight around the perimeter of the fire, which broke out late Thursday in a semi-arid area near the Sierra de Los Filabres mountains in Almería province, just as Spain was sizzling.

Favorable weather conditions were expected into Sunday, which could help firefighting efforts, Spain's official EFE news agency reported. Justice Minister Félix Bolaños said nearly all homes on the fire front's

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perimeter were undamaged.

Most of the victims, who are believed to be foreign nationals, died after ignoring shelter-in-place instructions, authorities said. Seven people died while on foot after abandoning their cars.

Four of the dead were believed to be British because the steering wheel of their burned-out car was on the right side, as with British vehicles, regional authorities said.

Sanz said Saturday that authorities had completed autopsies and DNA samples were collected to identify them.

Spain's Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares has spoken with his counterparts from the U.K., Belgium, Canada and the Netherlands about the fire, EFE reported. Almería is home to one of the largest communities of foreign nationals in Andalusia.

Authorities proactively evacuated 1,448 people from some 11 areas.

Many are fleeing the flames

Jeffrey Kember and his wife, Christine, were watching a favorite TV show in their Los Pinos farmhouse when the blare of a siren alerted them to the fire. The couple jumped into their respective cars while also trying to help a neighbor with two toddlers.

The husband described how they got separated and how he was unable to speak to his wife because she didn't have a phone on her.

"I'm driving through the flames. It was actually flames. I thought, 'I can't stop, I just gotta go,'" he told The Associated Press, his wife now next to him outside an evacuation center. "It was eerie because all of a sudden I came out of the flames and it was all bright sunshine. It was like surreal."

Meanwhile, Spanish authorities arrested two people for ignoring evacuation orders and returning to a high-risk area, according to EFE. Authorities are still combing through the Bédar area in search for any victims.

Europe withers in intense heat

Spain has battled frequent and severe heat waves in recent years, with temperatures often exceeding 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit). Wind, high temperatures and little rainfall help small wildfires grow into unchecked blazes.

Bolaños, the justice minister, on Saturday attributed the ferocity of the Almeira wildfire to a "climate emergency." He said the fire, at its most intense, advanced as fast as 100 meters per minute (328 feet per minute.)

Spain's Meteorological Agency warned that the wildfire risk over the weekend will remain very high.

In June, Spain experienced several days of record-setting heat, with over 1,000 excess deaths. Globally, 2025 was the third-hottest year on record, bringing several intense heat waves across Europe.

Wildfires lash France

Several wildfires remained active across France on Saturday as temperatures soared. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said that 32 people have been arrested across the country since the beginning of the summer in connection with wildfires.

"Those unacceptable acts, which have disastrous consequences and mobilize our firefighters at the risk of their lives, now fall into the hands of the justice system," he said. "We will continue our determined action and will not let anything slide."

French President Emmanuel Macron also weighed in, recalling in a post on X that nine out of 10 wildfires start because of human activity. More than 25,000 hectares (62,000 acres) of land have burned in France since the start of 2026, roughly double the area compared to the same period last year.

France is experiencing the peak of its third heat wave this summer, with temperatures reaching 40 C across western and central areas and around 37 C (98 F) in Paris. In the French capital, the Eiffel Tower will close in the afternoon over the weekend instead of late at night, as it usually does. The Louvre and Orsay museum have also announced reduced opening hours because of the heat wave.

Last month was France's hottest June on record, with deaths surging by nearly a third during the hottest week.

Spain and Portugal have faced deadly fires before

Spain is no stranger to wildfires, with last year's fire season burning more than 393,000 hectares (971,000 acres). according to the European Forest Fire Information System, an area twice as large as London. Four people died.

Spain's deadliest wildfire was in 1979, when 21 people perished in Lloret de Mar, a coastal town about an hour north of Barcelona.

In 2017, a wildfire in neighboring Portugal left 66 people dead in Pedrogao Grande, located 200 kilometers (120 miles) northeast of Lisbon. In that blaze, 47 people died on one road while similarly attempting to flee in their cars.

Typhoon Bavi makes landfall in eastern China as more than 1 million are evacuated

BEIJING (AP) — Typhoon Bavi made landfall in China's eastern province of Zhejiang late on Saturday night and was expected to gradually weaken, according to China's national weather center.

Bavi previously brought strong winds and rain to Japan's southern islands and Taiwan. It was the second typhoon to impact China in just over a week's time. The first, Maysak, made landfall in southern China on July 3.

Chinese authorities have evacuated more than 1.7 million people as of Saturday and issued high alerts while eastern China braced for Bavi, which had maximum sustained winds of 144 kph (89 mph) near its center.

After passing north of Taiwan on Saturday and making landfall in the coastal city of Yuhuan in Zhejiang, Bavi is expected to move northwestward inland, the National Meteorological Center said.

Earlier, at least 17 people were killed in the southern Philippines, mostly due to landslides that were set off by seasonal monsoon rains that Bavi intensified before the typhoon blew away toward Taiwan, Philippine officials said Saturday.

China evacuates over 1.7 million people

Authorities in Zhejiang had evacuated more than 1.7 million people by Saturday morning, the official Xinhua News Agency said. By noon, Shanghai, also on China's eastern coast, relocated around 34,000 residents from high-risk areas, according to Xinhua.

Southeastern Chinese cities near the coast prepared for the impacts. In Ningde in Fujian province, more than 3,700 people were relocated from high-risk onshore areas as of Friday evening, Xinhua said. Authorities in Fujian province placed over 17,000 emergency rescue workers on standby.

China's weather center issued an orange typhoon alert, the second-highest on a four-tier level, with many schools and ferry services suspended. Hundreds of flights have been canceled, and some high-speed railway services halted.

The center on Saturday also issued the first red alert for rainstorms of the year, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Chinese authorities said Saturday they have allocated 40 million yuan (\$5.9 million) in central natural disaster relief funds to support Zhejiang and Fujian provinces' typhoon prevention and emergency rescue and relief efforts.

Landslides kill more than a dozen in the Philippines

In the Philippines, a landslide set off by monsoon rains that Bavi intensified hit a village before dawn Friday in the coastal town of Malapatan in southern Sarangani province, killing at least 10 villagers and leaving three others missing, Office of Civil Defense spokesperson Diego Mariano said.

A separate landslide in Calanogas town in southern Lanao del Sur province before dawn on Friday killed five people, with six others missing, he said.

Two people drowned in floodwaters Wednesday in the southern province of Bukidnon, Mariano said without providing other details.

Office of Civil Defense deputy administrator Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV said about 11,000 villagers moved to 77 emergency shelters mostly in southern Philippine provinces in recent days due to the stormy

weather.

More than 110 people injured in Taiwan as high winds hit Japan

As of Saturday at 7 p.m., Taiwanese authorities registered at least 113 injuries from Typhoon Bavi, some sustained while riding motorcycles in rain and winds on slippery roads.

More than 14,200 people had also been evacuated around the island, including from the eastern county of Hualien and the central city of Taichung. Schools and offices in most parts of Taiwan were suspended Saturday.

Across Japan's southern islands in the prefecture of Okinawa, local authorities earlier warned of high waves, strong winds and storm surges, with more than 200 flights canceled across the region, according to Japan's public broadcaster NHK. Strong winds and rain had hit islands including Ishigaki.

Russian attacks kill 6 and wound 29 as Ukrainian forces target oil tankers

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian attacks on Ukraine killed six people, including a child, and wounded 29, officials said on Saturday, adding that Ukrainian forces damaged more than two dozen Russian tankers and other vessels in the Sea of Azov.

The exchange came as Ukraine's drones have lately been hitting oil refineries and other infrastructure across Russia to undercut its war effort, triggering a widespread fuel crisis with gasoline shortages. Moscow has responded by intensifying its bombardment on Kyiv and other cities, exposing Ukraine's vulnerability to ballistic missile strikes.

Ukraine's General Staff said 21 tankers used to transport oil and petroleum products were damaged overnight, in addition to four tugboats, two cargo ships and a dredging vessel. Russian officials said one person was killed in the Ukrainian drone strikes and that only four ships came under attack.

In Ukraine's northeast Sumy region, four people were killed, including a child, and 17 people were wounded when two aerial glide bombs hit a crowded area where civilians were present, said Sumy regional head Oleh Hryhorov.

Eleven people, including one child, were wounded in missile and drone attacks overnight on Kyiv, the State Emergency Service reported. In the southern region of Odesa, two people were killed after a Russian missile struck a building, said regional head Oleh Kiper. Another man was wounded by shrapnel.

Explosions and fires were reported across Kyiv's Solomianskyi, Darnytskyi and Dniproviskyi districts, the emergency service said.

Russia launched 12 missiles, including six ballistic missiles, along with 121 drones against Ukraine overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. He said most of the drones and some of the missiles were shot down, but the ballistic missiles reached their targets, reiterating Ukraine's dire air defense gaps.

Ukrainian air defenses said they shot down or electronically suppressed two missiles and 111 drones. The air force said direct hits were recorded at 11 locations.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces targeted drone production facilities in Kyiv, as well as the ports of Izmail and Chornomorsk in the Odesa region.

The ministry also said Russian air defenses destroyed 178 Ukrainian drones overnight over eight Russian regions, as well as over the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula and the Black and Azov seas.

Judge tosses remnants of Proud Boys seditious conspiracy case after Trump's broad clemency

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed the remnants of the government's landmark case against far-right Proud Boys members who were convicted of seditious conspiracy for plotting to attack the Capitol to keep President Donald Trump in the White House more than five years ago.

The case's dismissal late Friday became a foregone conclusion when Trump last year used his pardon

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powers to erase every case that the government prosecuted after a mob of his supporters stormed the building on Jan. 6, 2021. The judge who presided over the Proud Boys leaders' trial saw no basis to preserve the convictions after Trump's sweeping act of clemency last year.

U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, whom Trump nominated during his first term, said there is "little mystery" about why the second Trump administration decided to abandon this case and every other Jan. 6 riot case.

"President Trump's views about the prosecution of those who attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6 — whether those views are based on fact or fiction — are well known, as is his intention to extend clemency to them," Kelly wrote.

The judge stressed that his order should not be mistaken as an endorsement of the Department of Justice's decision to abandon the case. He referred to the Capitol riot as "a perilous event" and an assault on the constitutional imperative for a peaceful transfer of power between presidents.

"Moving forward, if this Nation's experiment in self-government is to last another 250 years, the American people — no matter their partisan preferences — will have to act together to preserve, protect and defend that miracle through our constitutional framework," Kelly wrote.

Juries in the nation's capital separately convicted leaders of the Proud Boys and another extremist group, the antigovernment Oath Keepers, of orchestrating violent plots to keep Trump, a Republican, in power after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden.

A different judge has not ruled yet on the Justice Department's related request to throw out Oath Keepers' seditious conspiracy convictions.

Friday's ruling applied to four of five Proud Boys members who were convicted after a jury trial: Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl and Dominic Pezzola. Trump commuted their prison sentences, but they were not covered by the president's mass pardons.

Former Proud Boys national chairman Enrique Tarrio was convicted at the same trial but received a pardon from Trump. Kelly had sentenced Tarrio to 22 years, the longest prison term in any Capitol riot case.

A July 4 boat trip, an 18-year-old's death and a family's search for answers in the Deep South

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A week ago, 18-year-old Nolan Xavier Wells took a boat trip with friends to celebrate the Fourth of July on an island off Mississippi's Gulf Coast. He never came back.

Two days later, he was found dead. What happened, Wells' parents say, is a mystery riddled with conflicting stories, implausible explanations and missing details. It is a case shadowed by the state's fraught racial history and lingering distrust in law enforcement.

At a news conference Friday in New York City, Christine and Elmore Wonsley called for a thorough and transparent investigation into their son's death, skeptical of claims that Wells told his friends to leave the island without him and suggestions that he, an elite athlete who knew how to swim, had accidentally drowned.

Wells' body was found early Monday along the shore of Horn Island, about 7 miles (11.2 kilometers) off the Mississippi coast, more than a day after he was last seen alive. The roughly 11-mile long (17.7 kilometer) spit of land is near the Alabama state line. The island is uninhabited and accessible only by boat. About 200 people were there on July 4, the family's lawyers said.

"We just want to know what happened and why our baby didn't come home," Christine Wonsley said, looking upward several times as she stood alongside her lawyer, Ben Crump, and the Rev. Al Sharpton, who will officiate Wells' funeral.

Family commissions independent autopsy

Crump said Wells' family has commissioned an independent autopsy, performed by a forensic pathologist in Washington, D.C. with no ties to Mississippi law enforcement, while they await the results of an official autopsy, which could take weeks. They also plan to employ experts to recover messages that appeared to have been deleted from his cellphone, Crump said. They will eventually turn the device over to authori-

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ties, he said.

Wells' family also encouraged witnesses to come forward and asked people to submit any video they recorded that may show him on Horn Island, echoing a call by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office to help shed light on the moments before Wells' disappearance and death.

A photo posted on social media, purportedly from the boat ride to the island, shows Wells with his arms around three white male friends. Sheriff John Ledbetter said Wells' friends were cooperating and that investigators don't suspect foul play. Crump said those friends now have lawyers and that his investigators haven't attempted to speak with them yet.

Wells' death has led to rampant speculation and suspicion as people grapple with Mississippi's history of racial tension and what it means to be a Black person in a majority white space.

Actor and producer Tyler Perry is helping pay for Wells' funeral, former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick is helping pay for his independent autopsy, and filmmaker Spike Lee showed up to the news conference to show support for Wells' family.

Family doesn't trust Mississippi authorities, Crump says

Crump said Wells' parents hired him to conduct an independent investigation into their son's death because they don't trust that law enforcement officials will perform a fair inquiry in a state still reckoning with its Jim Crow past, including the 1955 lynching of Emmett Till and the murders of three civil rights workers in the 1960s.

"The history of Mississippi is something that they don't just read about in books," Crump told reporters at Sharpton's National Action Network headquarters in Harlem. "It's a lived experience for many Black Americans that oftentimes when our children are killed in highly questionable situations that there is this notion that 'Oh, there was nothing wrong, no foul play, let's just sweep it under the rug.' Well, we refuse to sweep it under the rug."

It is the second case that Crump has taken on in the state in recent months. He also was recently retained by the family of a Mississippi 1-year-old who was killed when police fired into a moving car.

Ledbetter told The Associated Press this week that investigators suspect that Wells "chose to stay on the island with the assumption that he was going to ride back to the mainland with someone else."

Wells didn't have his cellphone or keys

But Wells didn't have his cellphone or his keys — his friends did.

"What teenager would leave their phone behind if they're going to stay on this island? What teenager wouldn't take their phone?" Crump said. "It's not adding up at all."

Crump said bystander video from the island showed a person he said was Wells arguing with someone to give him his phone back. In another discrepancy, Crump said that a witness reported Wells had planned to leave on the boat with his friends, contradicting the sheriff's theory.

"The friends come back and he's left there with some story about how he said leave him behind," Sharpton said. "But then by some magic one of the friends has his keys and his phone."

The sheriff did not return The Associated Press' messages seeking his response to the family's concerns.

Parents try to track down their son, then report him missing

Wells' mother, Christine Wonsley, said she started to worry when a friend of his called her just after 11 p.m. on July 4.

After trying to track him down on her own, she reported him missing to police and went with her husband to meet an officer in a McDonald's parking lot, she said, a process exacerbated by a dispute over which law enforcement agency had jurisdiction over the island. One of Wells' friends had also reported him missing to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Wells' father, Elmore Wonsley, said he went out on a boat on the morning of July 5 looking for his son near Horn Island. Crews from multiple local and state agencies began an extensive search, and his body was recovered early Monday, family members confirmed.

"If he's drowning, nobody sees him drown? Nobody offers assistance? Nobody tries to help? I mean, obviously he stands out," Crump said. "I think he's the only Black person I saw when I'm looking at the videos."

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Christine Wonsley said she used an app to track his phone and, after a friend went to where it was on land to pick it up, noticed that some of his messages appeared to be deleted. Wells, a shutterbug at social and family events, had two Snapchat accounts — but both were devoid of pictures or saved messages, she said.

As they searched for their son, Elmore Wonsley went to retrieve Wells' keys from the home where he stayed with his friends from the boat the night before their island trip. He said his son's car was still parked in the yard.

A peacemaker with football aspirations

Wells, who would have turned 19 next month, played wide receiver on the football team at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Mississippi, and had aspirations of playing at a high-level Division I program.

His coach, Les George, told WAPT-TV that Wells "was a guy that never had a bad day. Never."

"He was very sociable with everyone, didn't meet a stranger," George said. "He would pop up at my office and come sit on the couch just to hang out and talk."

Christine Wonsley said she and her husband schooled Wells in history and talked to him about navigating the racial tensions that still permeate the South.

Wells was a peacemaker who didn't like division, once breaking into a dance while still in diapers to ease tensions while his parents were arguing, they said. He wanted everyone to be included and shied away from confrontation.

"Nolan is a person with a big heart," Elmore Wonsley said.

Wells' parents said they last saw him the night before the boat trip. He came to their house, baked them salmon for dinner and hugged his mother goodbye.

As people mourn and protest Wells' death, Christine Wonsley urged them to follow his example.

"Please be peaceful," she said. "Nolan was not someone who liked fights, physical fights. He didn't even really like arguments. Don't go out there trying to be tough. Think about what Nolan would want, and he wouldn't want that type of behavior."

To the GOP, he's a sham candidate. At home, he's Mr. Sullivan, ex-teacher and Alaska Senate hopeful

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

PETERSBURG, Alaska (AP) — On Independence Day, as second-term Republican Dan Sullivan and his chief rival in Alaska's U.S. Senate race Democrat Mary Peltola headlined parades, the other Dan Sullivan seeking the seat was happily on the sidelines of festivities in this small fishing community he long has called home.

He blended in as well as one can in a town where everyone knows just about everyone else. He was not campaigning. "I didn't want to turn it into something that was about me rather than about the celebration," he said.

This Sullivan — Dan. J — has been an unconventional candidate from the start. He drew intense, immediate blowback for having the same name and party affiliation as the senator — Dan. S. — in a race that could help decide control of the Senate in November. The incumbent and GOP allies accused the same-named challenger in the Aug. 18 primary of being a sham candidate working with Democrats to sow confusion and help Peltola. Dan. J. Sullivan and the Peltola campaign have denied that claim.

A top state elections official booted Dan J. Sullivan from the ballot. The Alaska Supreme Court later ordered that he be included.

All candidates, including independents, run in one primary in Alaska. The top four vote-getters advance to the ranked vote general election in November. Primaries in the top races can be crowded, with more than a dozen candidates. Dan. J. Sullivan is among 16 hopefuls in the Senate race. The incumbent and Peltola are the highest-profile candidates and the only ones so far to report raising money.

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Petersburg, where the challenger has lived for decades, is an island community of about 3,000 people in southeast Alaska that is accessible only by air or water. Many longtime residents find it hard to believe claims that their Dan Sullivan, a retired elementary and middle school teacher, is a dirty trickster.

"You really have to do a lot of mental gymnastics to suddenly not respect Dan Sullivan, because he's honestly a very stand-up human being," said Orin Pierson, publisher of the Petersburg Pilot newspaper.

Petersburg residents reflect and weigh their choices

Even some who do not know how they will vote, or declined to say, criticized the state's attempts to block the political novice, saying he met the age, residency and citizenship requirements set out by the U.S. Constitution.

"To say somebody can't run — that he's fake — that's fear," said Linda Bunge, who attended a community potluck at a park where yellowish seaweed carpeted the beach at low tide. Bunge said she probably will vote for Peltola, a former congresswoman, but would consider Dan J. Sullivan.

Jeigh Stanton Gregor, a borough Assembly member who worked with him years ago at the local elementary school, said he was somewhat surprised Sullivan was running because people previously tried to recruit him for local offices. He called Sullivan's character "unimpeachable."

Stanton Gregor said he wants to see how the campaign plays out before deciding which candidate to support. Dan J. Sullivan's concerns about healthcare costs resonate with him, but Stanton Gregor also has found the senator easy to work with and respects Peltola. A registered Democrat, Stanton Gregor said he generally votes for the person, not the party.

"Being a good human carries a lot of weight with me," he said.

Sullivan regroups after successful court fight

Last month, Republican Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom, who oversees elections, announced an investigation into Dan J. Sullivan's run. She cited "credible allegations" that he ran in coordination with another candidate and campaign in an effort to "manipulate voters." The announcement came after a lawyer for the National Republican Senatorial Committee asserted that Dan J. Sullivan's work with a consultant who has worked with Democrats was evidence of an attempt to confuse voters and "rig the election" for Peltola. It is an assertion that the Republican Senate campaign arm has continued to make.

Dan J. Sullivan argued the state had no legal basis to block his candidacy. He said the allegation he worked with Peltola was "entirely false" and that the prior work of a consultant was not a legitimate reason to investigate him. The state Democratic Party and campaign groups denied recruiting Dan J. Sullivan or having any affiliation with him. The director of the state Division of Elections, Carol Beecher, in disqualifying him, did not mention finding any evidence of coordination.

But she determined he had not filed a "good-faith candidacy." She cited factors such as his lack of affiliation with the Republican Party before filing and having a campaign site similar in appearance to the senator's.

A state court judge voided her decision, ruling it was not based on constitutional or legal requirements and that there was not enough evidence to support her conclusion that Dan J. Sullivan aimed to confuse voters. The state Supreme Court affirmed placing him on the ballot but left to the Division of Elections to figure out how to do that.

While the challenger sought to appear as Republican Dan J. Sullivan, he is listed as Daniel J. Sullivan Jr., with no party affiliation. The senator is listed as Republican Dan S. Sullivan and as "incumbent," a title not included for other candidates seeking reelection.

Dan J. Sullivan said he does not think that is fair, but if the agency's concern "is truly that I'm going to confuse people, then this certainly will be a way that people should not be confused."

He acknowledges his name gives him an advantage over the 13 candidates with little to no name recognition or campaign support. He is now trying to figure how to make the most of the limelight and deal with the scrutiny. He plans to take steps to fundraise and may campaign in other communities and participate in forums. Sullivan has a Facebook page and a basic campaign website.

"I want something to change, and it's my right to do that," he said. "I could put up a yard sign; I could

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write letters. In this case, I thought, wow, this would reach a lot more people."

Trump's compensation fund was a motivation to run

There was not one issue that prompted the Petersburg Sullivan to run, but he said he had grown frustrated by a senator he sees as unresponsive to constituents. He also wanted the incumbent to join Alaska's senior senator, Republican Lisa Murkowski, in speaking out against a compensation fund proposed by the Trump administration and the possibility rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, could benefit from it.

Dan J. Sullivan said he worries President Donald Trump's tariff policies and the war with Iran are driving up costs for Alaskans. He does not see the rural healthcare funding approved by Congress last year and promoted as transformational by the senator as helping address immediate needs.

Petersburg, like many small Alaska communities, has limited healthcare options. Residents needing specialized care must travel to larger cities. Residents will often maximize a trip to Juneau, the nearest city of size, by taking their vehicles on the state-run ferry and stocking up at Costco on cheaper groceries and supplies.

Resident Grace Wolf said she appreciates what the senator has done, saying he is fiscally responsible and that she likes his military background. The senator was a long-serving Marine and retired as a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. But "I feel like this time around, grassroots might be the way to go," she said.

She plans to vote for Dan J. Sullivan, whom she knows as Mr. Sullivan.

Wolf worries about people being able to afford to stay in or move to the area and about protecting the health of local fisheries so important to the economy. Having people in office who can relate to those challenges is important, she said.

"I think we stand a better chance with having them at the helm and protecting our interests. It doesn't matter if they've got a 'D' or an 'R' by their names. They're our neighbors and they know what we're going through."

Today in History: July 12, Disco Demolition Night

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 12, the 193rd day of 2026. There are 172 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 12, 1979, as an angry reaction to the popularity of disco music, the Chicago White Sox held the "Disco Demolition Night" promotion, in which a crate of disco records was blown up on the field between games of a doubleheader; the ensuing riot and damage to the field caused the White Sox to forfeit the second game.

Also on this date:

In 1543, England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and final wife, Catherine Parr.

In 1812, U.S. forces led by Gen. William Hull entered Canada during the War of 1812 against Britain. (Hull retreated shortly thereafter to Detroit.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Army Medal of Honor.

In 1909, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, allowing for a federal income tax, and submitted it to the states. (It was declared ratified in February 1913.)

In 1962, the Rolling Stones played their first show, at the Marquee Club in London.

In 1967, rioting erupted in Newark, New Jersey, over the police beating of a Black taxi driver; 26 people were killed in the five days of violence that followed.

In 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced his choice of U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running mate; Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

In 1991, Japanese professor Hitoshi Igarashi, who had translated Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses,"

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was found stabbed to death, nine days after the novel's Italian translator was attacked in Milan.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, visiting Germany, went to the eastern sector of Berlin, the first U.S. president to do so since Harry Truman.

In 2003, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first aircraft carrier named for a living president, was commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 2012, a scathing report by former FBI Director Louis Freeh said the late Joe Paterno and other top Penn State officials had buried child sexual abuse allegations against Jerry Sandusky more than a decade earlier to avoid bad publicity.

In 2022, Twitter sued Elon Musk to force him to complete the \$44 billion acquisition of the social media company after Musk said he was backing off his agreement to buy the company. (He would eventually become Twitter's owner three months later.)

Today's Birthdays: Writer Delia Ephron is 82. Singer Walter Egan is 78. Writer-producer Brian Grazer is 75. Actor Cheryl Ladd is 75. Gospel singer Ricky McKinnie (The Blind Boys of Alabama) is 74. Gospel singer Sandi Patty is 70. Actor Mel Harris is 70. Boxing champion Julio Cesar Chavez is 64. Rock singer Robin Wilson (Gin Blossoms) is 61. Actor Lisa Nicole Carson is 57. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 55. Actor Anna Friel is 50. R&B singer Tracie Spencer is 50. Actor Topher Grace is 48. Actor Michelle Rodriguez is 48. Country singer-musician Kimberly Perry (The Band Perry) is 43. Actor Natalie Martinez is 42. Actor Ta'Rhonda Jones is 38. Actor Rachel Brosnahan is 36. Olympic gold medal gymnast Jordyn Wieber is 31. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai is 29. NBA guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is 28.