

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Sunday, Aug. 23

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

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion 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.

Monday, Aug. 24

Senior Menu: Ground beef stroganoff with noodles, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, with potluck at noon

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

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Tuesday, Aug. 25

Senior Menu: Egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, fruit, cookie.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

NEC Boys Golf Meet, 10 a.m., Olive Grove Golf Course

Volleyball at Hamlin (C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)

Wednesday, Aug. 26

Senior Menu: Roasted chicken breast, roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

Thursday, Aug. 27

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger casserole, sweet potatoes, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Boys Soccer at Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley, 4 p.m.

Girls Soccer at Garretson, 4:30 p.m.

Cross Country at Whetstone Creek Golf Course, Milbank, 5 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 28

Senior Menu: Ham and cheese sandwich, potato salad, fresh celery, fruit.

Football hosts Beresford, 7 p.m.

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We the People

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



By David Adler

Blanche's Expansion of Executive Privilege Builds Moat Around White House

Amid headlines of failing health conditions—inadequate food and water-- on the U.S.S. Lincoln, President Trump's continued circumvention of Congress and the law while he erects monuments to himself, and his announcement that he will sell early access to his Truth Social Posts for \$100,000 per month, which is a likely means of knowing how the president will manipulate the markets, comes the news of the Trump Administration's latest maneuver to further undermine the rule of law and evade checks, balances and accountability.

Just 24 hours after being sworn in as U. S. Attorney General, Todd Blanche issued a memo that dramatically expands executive privilege, the purported authority, as he described it, of the president "to withhold certain sensitive information for the public good." According to Blanche, the president may now "shield presidential communications with private advisers so long as communications relate to presidential decision making." And, the memo says, a "private adviser is "anyone the President consults with outside the Executive Branch." This expansion of the presidential power of secrecy is executive privilege on steroids and it effectively builds a moat around the White House. Trump, alone, will decide what information about his acts, decisions and conversations with anyone, anywhere, anytime will be shared with Congress and the American people. A moat, indeed. So much for transparency, executive accountability and the quaint idea that the president serves the people.

This authoritarian curtain, a function of various motives, will be brought center stage soon and, certainly, if Democrats capture control of one or both houses of Congress and exercise legislative oversight and investigative powers, armed with subpoenas to the president while probing Trump's numerous illegal, unconstitutional and corrupt actions since assuming office for a second term. Trump will surely balk at surrendering anything—memos, emails, letters and briefs— and will denominate as "advisers," anyone with whom he conversed as pursuant to "presidential decision making." This assertion of unfettered power will render the president unaccountable to the rule of law and the American people. Of course, lawsuits will be brought by Congress, but Trump's stonewalling, bulked by a Department of Justice that exhibits no independence from the president, will stymie investigations and frustrate resort to the judiciary.

Blanche's perversion of executive privilege is an accelerant for the fire that is consuming the rule of law in America. Lost in the mists of the time is the fact that the framers of the Constitution, in Article 1, Section 5, granted to Congress, not the president, the sole authority to withhold sensitive information from the American people by refusing to publish matters in the Congressional Record. The rationale was clear: the president might have a self-interest in withholding information from the public and Congress, as an institution, would be a better judge of what could be shared with the citizenry. Blanche's expansion of executive privilege also flies in the face of his vow to Senate Republicans during his confirmation hearings that he would reduce, not enlarge, the scope of executive immunity.

For the Originalists among you, the concept of executive privilege is not mentioned in the text of the Constitution. It was never raised, discussed or debated in the Constitutional Convention. It was not the subject of consideration in the Federalist Papers, the Anti-Federalist Papers or any of the writings contemporaneous with the framing of the Constitution. All for good reason. If the framers had conferred upon the president the authority to withhold information from Congress, they would have granted to the president more power than that enjoyed by the King of England, who had a statutory duty to share all information with Parliament, whether requested or not. Imagine the outrage in the United States in 1787,

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if Americans, who had fought a war with England to free themselves of centralized executive power, had learned that the framers had created an embryonic monarchy at home.

President Eisenhower was the first to claim—on narrow grounds—the power of executive privilege, and Americans welcomed his assertion of power as a rebuff of the reviled Senator Joseph McCarthy. But national applause is not a substitute for constitutional authority. The Genie was out of the bottle. Subsequent presidents have invoked the privilege, often for less than meritorious reasons, and the Court, mistakenly, has blessed a “limited privilege.” Trump has eviscerated the boundaries, and we can see where the nation is headed.

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

1440

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

I Scream, You Scream

While ice cream's exact origins are hard to pinpoint, frozen dairy desserts have a history dating back to ancient China. Seventh-century documents refer to a frozen milk dish that eventually evolved into a soft blend, which many consider the earliest version of ice cream.

Around 800 CE, Arab conquerors of the Persian Empire began mixing dairy into the syrup-infused cold treat sharbat. In the 16th century, the Italians concocted their take on the dessert, leading to sorbetto. Around the same time, the royal court in India began freezing condensed milk, pistachios, and saffron in conical molds to create kulfi. In the late 1600s, Paris's Café Procope first began serving gelato, a frozen dessert similar to ice cream, to the public; the trend quickly spread, particularly in Italy, where some parlors have been open since the 1700s.

- > Kulfi, an ice cream predecessor that's still popular in India, dates back to the 16th century.
- > In 1694, a Sicilian in Paris opened the first gelateria, a precursor to the ice cream parlor.
- > Ice cream, gelato, sorbet, and Italian ice are all popular cold desserts, though they have many important differences.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, America was the center of ice cream innovation, inventing both the sundae and the cone. When home freezers became globally available post-World War II, people could easily store their favorite treat, cementing its worldwide popularity.

- > In the 19th century, ice-cream-related illnesses were somewhat common in America due to vendors' poor hygiene.
- > America's ice cream obsession began under Prohibition, with the street treat acting as a legal vice that helped ease the pain of the Great Depression.
- > During World War II, fighter plane turbulence was used to make ice cream.
- > Vanilla was originally used as an additive in chocolate rather than as a stand-alone flavor.
- > George Washington loved to serve ice cream while hosting guests and spent thousands of dollars on it in a single summer.

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Boys soccer teams wins, girls lose close one to St. Thomas More

Groton Area's boys soccer team finished its western road trip on a winning note Saturday, shutting out St. Thomas More, 3-0, while the Tiger girls dropped a close 1-0 decision to the Cavaliers.

In the boys contest, Groton received goals from Easton Weber, Ethan Kroll and Blake Malsam.

Logan Olson and Weber each recorded an assist as the Tigers spread the scoring among three players.

Groton goalkeeper TC Schuster turned in a strong performance in net, recording 11 saves to preserve the shutout.

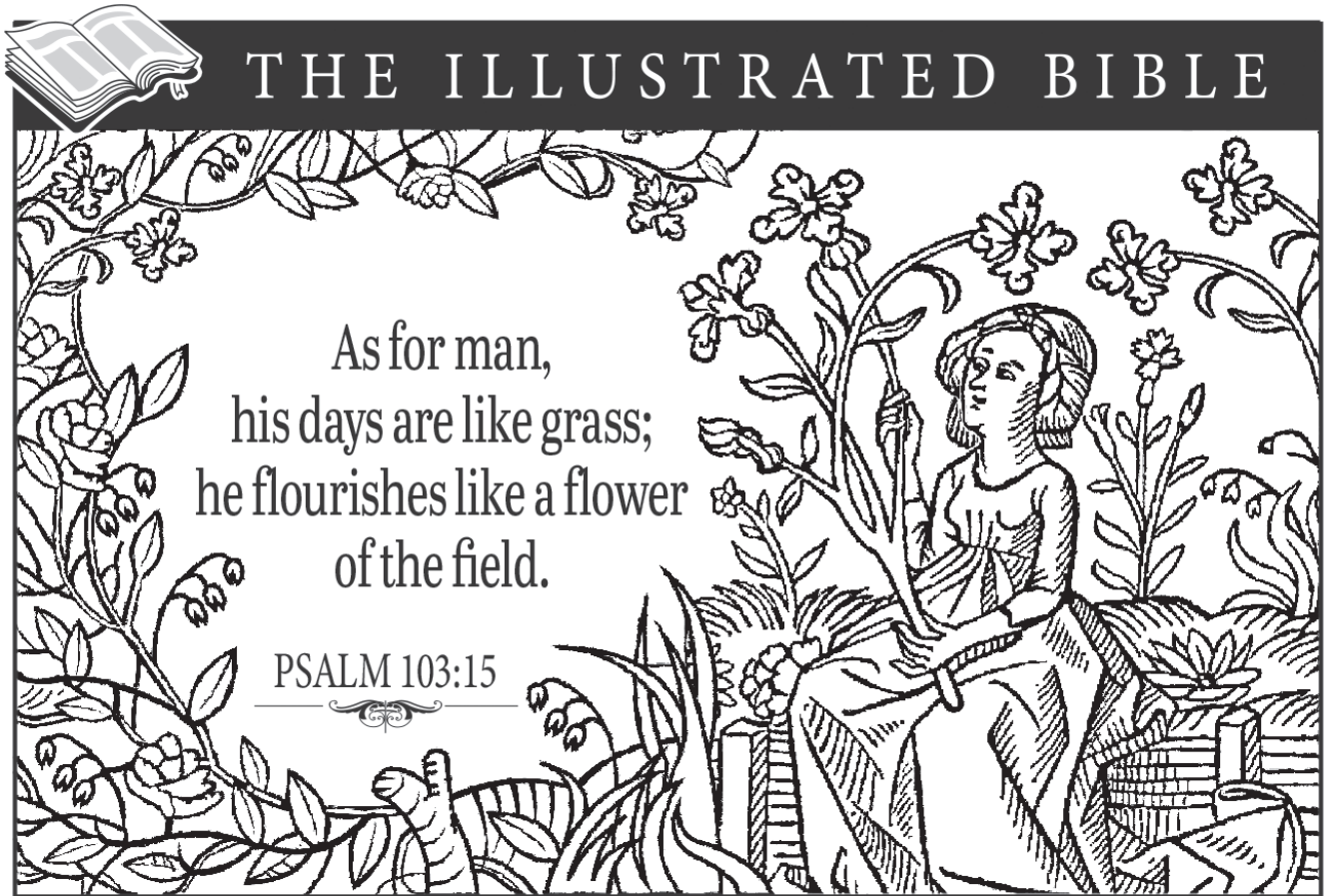
The Tigers' defense kept St. Thomas More off the scoreboard despite the Cavaliers generating enough pressure to force Schuster into double-digit saves.

In the girls matchup, Groton Area battled St. Thomas More throughout the contest before falling, 1-0.

The Tigers were unable to find the tying goal as St. Thomas More made its lone score stand up for the victory.

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. To whom did God say, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations"? *Daniel, Jeremiah, Noah, Thomas*

3. From 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David reign over Israel? *7, 33, 40, 57*

4. What do the seven lampstands represent in Revelation 1:20? *Continents, Angels, Seas, Churches*

5. What was Aquila's profession in Corinth? *Tentmaker, Harp player, Mapmaker, Servant*

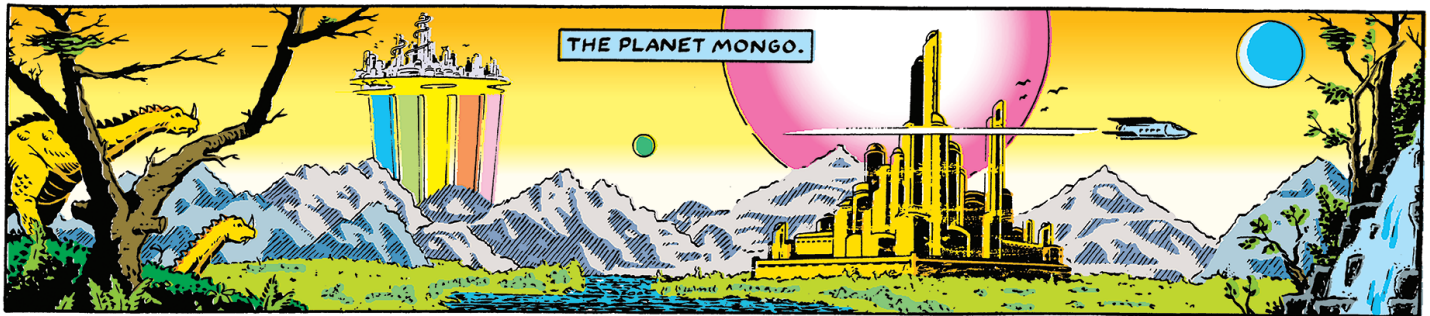
6. Manasseh was the elder of whose two sons? *Matthew, Joash, Joseph, Timothy*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Jeremiah, 3) Forty, 4) Churches, 5) Tentmaker, 6) Joseph

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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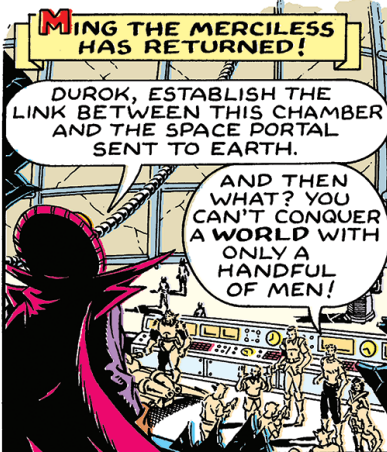
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FLASH GORDON

BY
JIM
KEEFE

8-8



IS YOUR
WHOLE RACE
AS DIM-WITTED
AS YOURSELF?

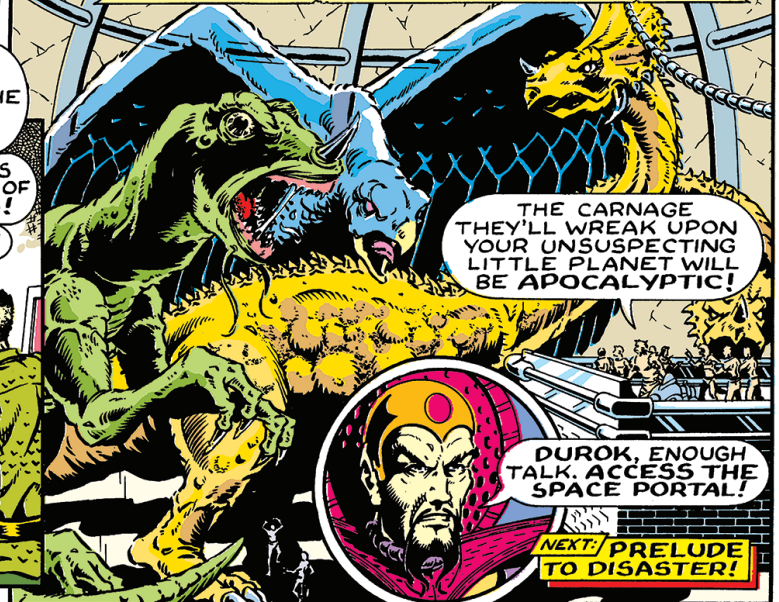
MING BUILT
THIS FACILITY
FAR BENEATH THE
PALACE FOR A
REASON...

...UNDERNEATH US
LIES THE CAVERN OF
THE GORKONS!

BY TAO!

"GORKONS"??

AS DUROK FLIPS A SWITCH ON HIS ROCKETCYCLE,
A HOLOGRAM SUDDENLY FILLS THE CHAMBER.

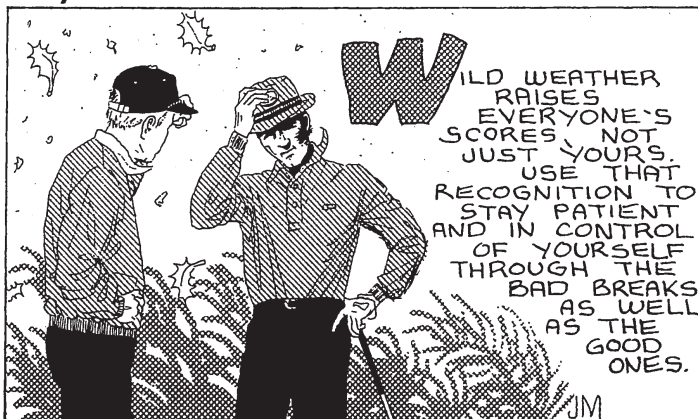


THE CARNAGE
THEY'LL WREAK UPON
YOUR UNSUSPECTING
LITTLE PLANET WILL
BE APOCALYPTIC!

DUROK, ENOUGH
TALK. ACCESS THE
SPACE PORTAL!

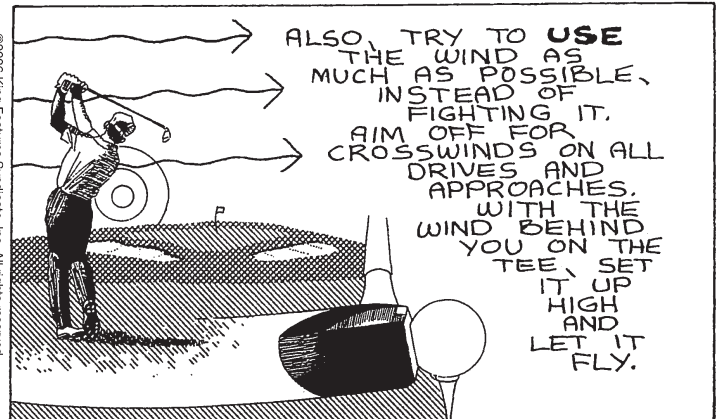
NEXT: PRELUDE
TO DISASTER!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



WILD WEATHER
RAISES
EVERYONE'S
SCORES, NOT
JUST YOURS.
USE THAT
RECOGNITION TO
STAY PATIENT
AND IN CONTROL
OF YOURSELF
THROUGH THE
BAD BREAKS
AS WELL
AS THE
GOOD ONES.

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ALSO, TRY TO USE
THE WIND AS
MUCH AS POSSIBLE,
INSTEAD OF
FIGHTING IT.
AIM OFF FOR
CROSSWINDS ON ALL
DRIVES AND
APPROACHES.
WITH THE
WIND BEHIND
YOU ON THE
TEE, SET
IT UP
HIGH
AND
LET IT
FLY.



Explaining the Significance of Z- and T-Scores in DEXA Scans

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a woman of 54 with somewhat limited mobility due to back pain. Perhaps for this reason, my primary care physician ordered a DEXA scan in 2023 and again in 2026. I was alarmed when the recent scan showed osteopenia in five of the six areas that were tested.

I thought the 2023 scan was normal, but when I revisited it, I saw that I had osteopenia then as well. But in the 2023 report, they had only looked for a Z-score of less than -2 as an indicator of a problem, whereas in 2026 they used the T-score.

Had I realized that I had osteopenia three years ago, I'd have started taking calcium (I get plenty in my diet and struggle with large pills) and weighed the risks of more vigorous exercise differently. (Perhaps I should be more willing to risk short-term flare-ups in the pursuit of long-term bone health.)

I'm not sure if this reporting method is standard, but perhaps physicians and patients should look at the T-score for an indication of osteopenia if the radiologist doesn't do so. -- J.F.

ANSWER: There are three numbers I look for when reviewing a patient's bone density scans. (DEXA, or dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry, is the standard screening and diagnostic test for bone loss.)

The first is the T-score, which compares my patient to a person of the same sex at peak bone mass. A T-score of zero means the person who's being scanned has the peak bone mass of a healthy young adult. (It's very unusual to see a positive T-score.) If a person has peak bone density, their T-score will be zero. A T-score of -1.0 is one standard deviation below peak bone mass; -1.1 to -2.4 is considered low bone mass or osteopenia; and -2.5 or less is considered osteoporosis.

The Z-score compares a person to the average score within their age group and sex. An older person might have a T-score in the osteopenia or even osteoporotic range, yet have a normal Z-score. The Z-score is most useful for alerting the clinician if a patient's bone density is lower than expected for their age.

A very low Z-score suggests a secondary reason for osteoporosis. This can include medications such as prednisone or anti-epilepsy drugs; celiac or other malabsorptive diseases; or hormonal conditions like excess thyroid hormone, hyperparathyroidism, or low sex hormones.

Finally, most DEXA scans now include the FRAX score, which is critical in communicating a person's risk of fracture and deciding whether to start them on medication to prevent a fracture.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Your column on hemicrania continua sounds a lot like cluster headaches, which are often described as the most excruciating headache. Are they the same? -- W.M.

ANSWER: There are definite similarities between hemicrania continua and cluster headaches. Both affect one side of the face and are associated with eye tearing and nasal congestion. However, cluster headaches happen in clusters -- brief but intense pain that occurs multiple times, then disappears entirely for weeks, months or years. I've seen people literally bang their head into the wall during an episode. Breathing 100% oxygen will often make the pain go away and is a useful diagnostic test.

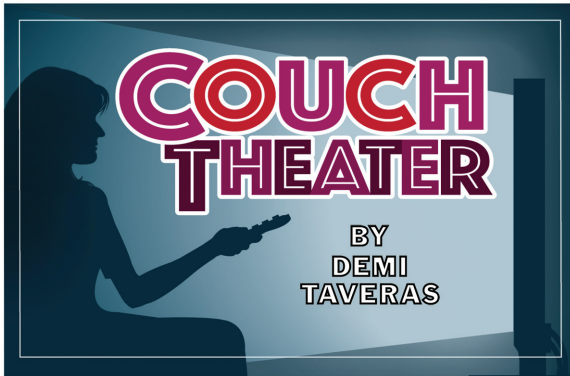
Hemicrania continua is continuous. The pain is constant, although not usually as intense as with cluster headaches. The pain can wax and wane during the day but is never gone. Most people respond to indomethacin, but some people can't tolerate it. One reader wrote in that with a relatively new medication called galcanezumab-gnlm (Emgality), they truly got their life back.

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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"The Whisper Man" (R) -- Based on the novel by Alex North, this crime thriller film, premiering Aug. 28, was produced by the Russo Brothers ("Avengers: Endgame") and stars Robert De Niro ("The Alto Knights"), Michelle Monaghan ("The White Lotus"), and Adam Scott ("Severance"). Although it's deemed a crime thriller, it's got the tone of a full-on horror flick, and with the dark subject matter at hand, it's sure to keep the hairs on your arms standing. Scott portrays Tom, a widowed father to an 8-year-old son, who decides to move his family to a quiet town named Featherbank to start anew. Featherbank, however, used to be tormented by a serial killer named the Whisper Man, and somehow, the killer has escaped. Tom's son is subsequently taken, leaving him with no choice but to reach out to his estranged father, a detective named Pete (De Niro), to help find the missing boy. (Netflix)

"The Last Sunrise" (R) -- Maia Reficco from the rebooted "Pretty Little Liars" series leads this steamy romantic drama premiering Aug. 26! Based on the 2025 novel of the same name, "The Last Sunrise" follows Ry, a young American woman who accompanies her mother, Isolde (Eva Longoria), on a business trip to Majorca, Spain. With health issues weighing her down mentally, Ry isn't expecting much out of this trip ... until she meets a local boy named Julian (Fernando Lindez). A passionate affair between the two is inevitable, but their romance gets threatened when Isolde reveals to Ry that she needs to buy out Julian's family's docks to bring her business deal to fruition. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Girls Like Girls" (R) -- Actress and singer Hayley Kiyoko got her start in the 2011 film "Lemonade Mouth," a Disney Channel original film. Since then, she's had a steady career in music, film and TV. In 2015, she released the song "Girls Like Girls" with a music video that's somewhat of a sneak peek of the new "Girls Like Girls" film, which just released on Peacock. This coming-of-age drama film is directed by Kiyoko and stars Maya da Costa ("Descendants: Wicked Wonderland") and Myra Molloy ("He's All That"). Da Costa plays 17-year-old Coley, who begins a new chapter of her life in rural Oregon with her estranged father, Curtis (Zach Braff). Soon after she moves, Coley meets another girl named Sonya (Molloy), and they form a deep emotional connection that's bound to leave one girl heartbroken. (Peacock)

"Desert Warrior" (R) -- AGC Studios made an interesting choice in producing a \$150-million historical-action film led by Anthony Mackie ("Captain America: Brave New World"). While Mackie is incredibly talented, his latest "Captain America" installment didn't fill theater seats like Chris Evans' previous three films, and "Desert Warrior" didn't even make \$1 million at the box office. Still, this film could be a great choice for those who enjoy period-piece action films. Mackie takes on the role of Hanzala, a legendary bandit in 7th-century Asia who agrees to assist an exiled princess in her revolution against a tyrannical empire. Not only must he unite tribes against Emperor Kisra (Ben Kingsley), but he must also face the emperor's ruthless soldier Jalabzeen (Sharlto Copley) in direct combat. Premieres Aug. 28. (Hulu)

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Aiysha Hart, left, and Anthony Mackie star in "Desert Warrior." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

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1. Carly Simon's 1977 hit "Nobody Does It Better" was used as the theme song for which James Bond film?
2. Which artist had a big hit with "Torn Between Two Lovers"?
3. Peter Noone was the lead singer for which group?
4. Which artist penned and released "King of the Road"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Wanted, young man single and free, Experience in love preferred, but will accept a young trainee."

Answers

1. "The Spy Who Loved Me," starring Roger Moore. In 1978 Simon received a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Vocal Performance at the same time the song received a nomination for Song of the Year.

2. Mary MacGregor, in 1977. It was written by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary and Phillip Jarrell.

3. Herman's Hermits, when he was 15 years old.

4. Roger Miller, in 1965.

5. "Want Ads," by Honey Cone, in 1971. The group, named for a favorite ice cream flavor, was named the Best Female Vocal Group by the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers that same year. The song topped the Hot 100 chart for a week and then stayed at the top of the R&B chart for three weeks.

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GRIN and BEAR IT 



"Didn't I warn you not to scrimmage the cheerleaders?"

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.

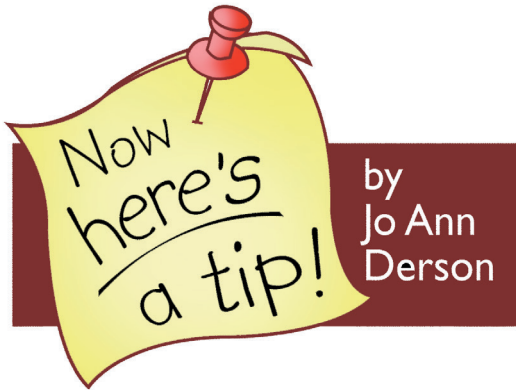


Differences: 1. Glass is larger. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Bow tie is missing. 4. Mug is reversed. 5. Arm is longer. 6. Lapel is missing.

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* Need to transport a bow while you are transporting a present? Place it inside a zip-top sandwich bag, close partway, fill with air and seal. The bow will make it to your destination uncrushed, and you can stick it on at the last minute.

* "The combination of one part warm water and three parts baking soda makes a great paste for removing rust spots. Simply use an old toothbrush in a circular motion to smear in the paste and wipe away rust." -- C.B. in Alaska

* Having trouble starting that backyard charcoal grill? Maybe you just need to head for the snack table. Potato chips and nacho tortilla chips (like Doritos) will burn bright and hot enough to cook your dinner, and certainly well enough to give your charcoal a great start.

* Make a floating noodle cooler for your pool with this easy trick: You'll need a plastic container, a bungee cord or length of rope that will wrap around the container and a pool noodle cut into four pieces, no longer than the sides of the container. Run the cord or rope through the noodle pieces, line noodle pieces along sides of container, and secure rope or cord tightly an inch or so lower than the container's lip. Toss in pool, fill with drinks and ice, and enjoy.

* Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.

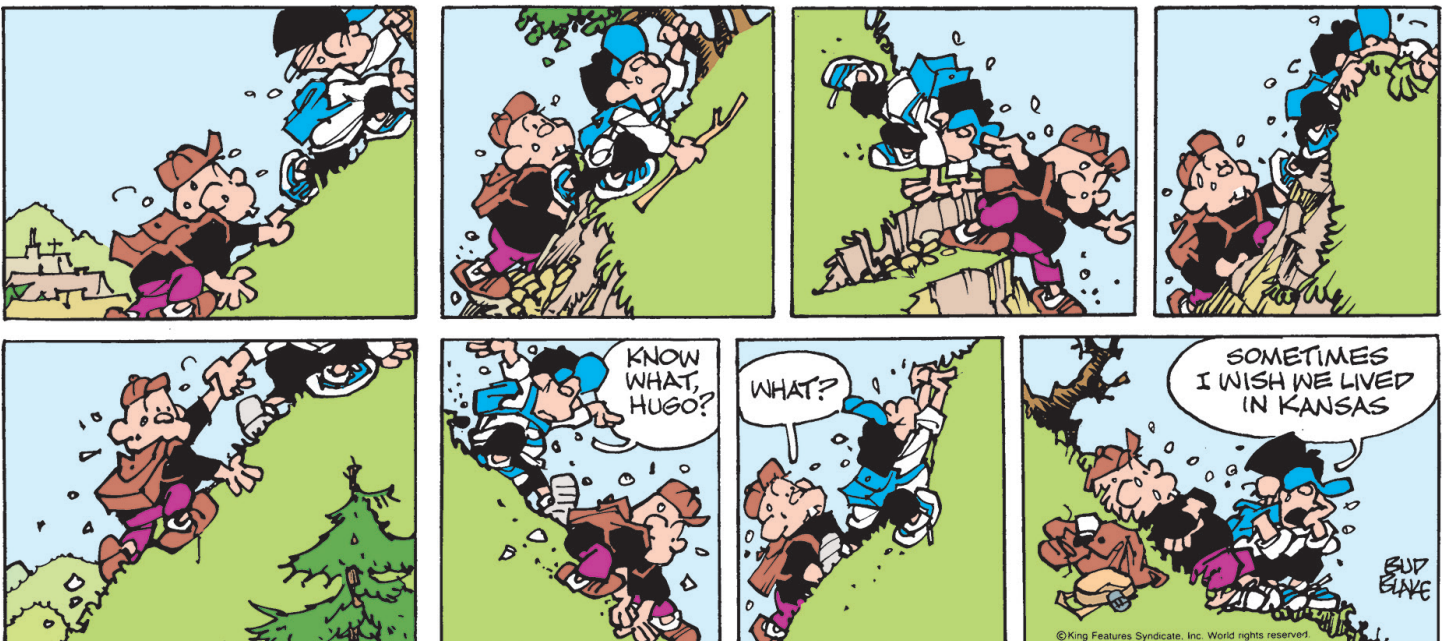
* "Small lids from plastic margarine containers can be used as a burger-patty size guide. And if you have more than a few around, you can use them to separate patties for the freezer. They make it easy to grab one or two patties for the grill right from the freezer. Otherwise, I find that I must defrost several that are stuck together." -- P.W. in Indiana

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

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by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Doves' home
5 Coach
Parseghian
8 Beach crawler
12 Pizza cooker
13 Greyhound vehicle
14 — Martin (cognac)
15 Bread sellers
17 Sheltered
18 Hogwash
19 Thespians
21 Sheriff's star
24 Hold sway
25 Jealousy
26 Stalks for soups
30 Finale
31 Give it a go
32 Man-mouse link
33 Sets of prayer beads
35 Big gulp
36 Eyeglass frames
37 Lake flock
38 Hoi —
41 Enjoy Aspen
42 Mayberry young 'un
43 Officials with seals
48 Ivy in Philly
49 Literary collection
50 Corporate symbol

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
			18				19	20				
21	22	23				24						
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			36					37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 51 Perimeter
52 Actress Myrna
53 Winter blanket
9 Move, in Realtor lingo
10 Pt. of U.S.A.
11 Tournament passes
16 Caviar base
20 "Pinocchio" fish
21 "Cheers" order
22 Part of A.D.
23 Film formats
24 Point — Peninsula
26 Record holder?
27 "The Music Man" setting
28 Ireland
29 Droops
31 Small combo
34 Dahl of films
35 Marble cake patterns
37 Reggae relative
38 Vatican leader
39 Pundit's piece
40 TV journalist Lisa
41 Remain
44 Lennon's partner
45 Charged bit
46 Conceit
47 Plant seeds

DOWN

- 1 Corn core
2 Eggs
3 Shatner's "— War"
4 Vigor
5 Slightly
6 Regret
7 Military attacks
8 Moon cavity

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Olive



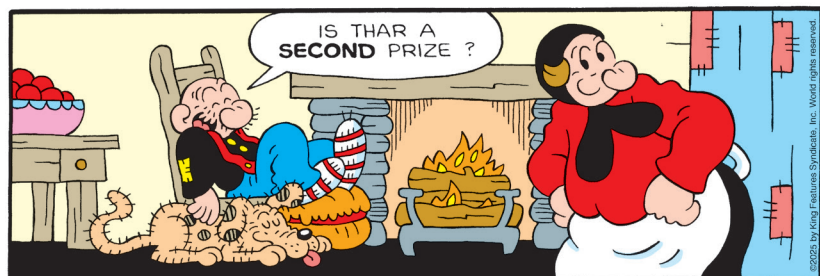
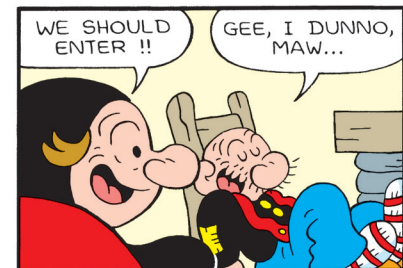
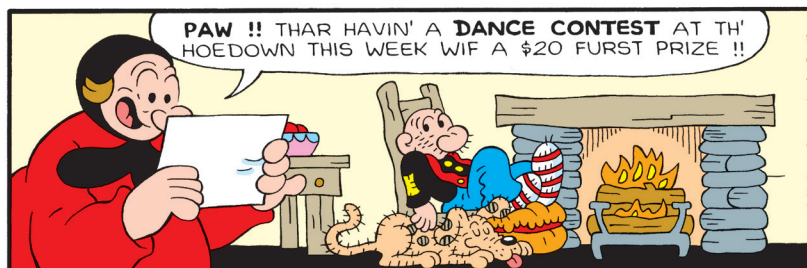
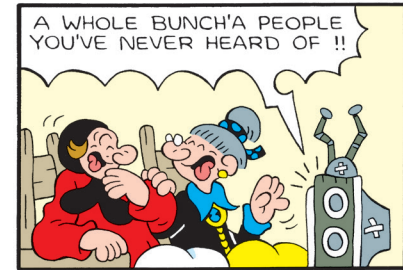
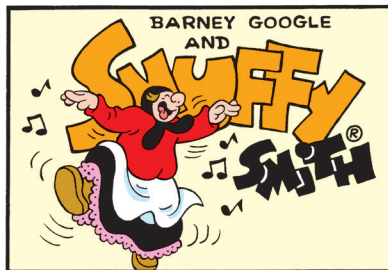
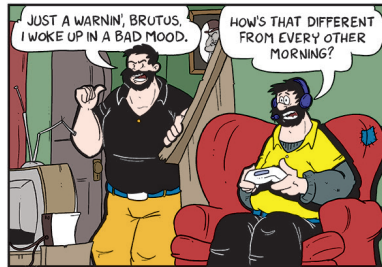
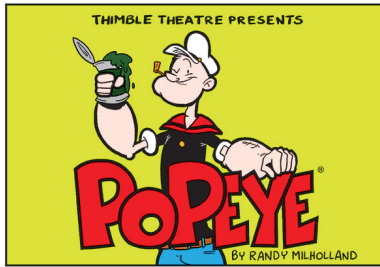
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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Hal Foster's **Prince Valiant** BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

NATHAN HAS FOUND AN OLD MAN WHO CLAIMS TO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTIFACT GURYAN GUARDS: "THE SOUL OF ASIA HAS RETURNED! GIOVANNI NEEDS IT!"



GURYAN IS VISIBLY MOVED:
"HE KNOWS THE TALISMAN'S NAME!
IT IS AS GIOVANNI PROMISED!"
KAREN INTERJECTS: "THEN TELL US!
WHAT OF MY HUSBAND?"



IT IS AS IF A
WEIGHT HAS
BEEN LIFTED
FROM GURYAN'S
SOUL:



"I HAD BEEN SWORN TO SILENCE,
BUT THIS MAN IS A SIGN THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO
SPEAK! LISTEN, LADY KAREN: WHEN GIOVANNI
ABANDONED HIS LATE FATHER'S KINGDOM TO BE
WITH YOU...



"...HIS DEPARTURE CREATED A VACUUM, ALLOWING A
DANGEROUS SORCERER TO COME TO POWER!
AZAR RASA IS A GROWING FORCE OF DESTRUCTION
AMONG PRESTER JOHN'S PEOPLES - HE THREATENS
ALL WITH HIS MAD AMBITIONS!"

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"MY BROTHERS AND I, LOYAL RETAINERS TO
PRESTER JOHN, KNEW THAT ONE POWERFUL
TALISMAN FROM HIS TREASURE HOARD MUST
NEVER FALL INTO AZAR RASA'S HANDS."



"WE CONTRIVED TO SPIRIT AWAY
THE SOUL OF ASIA, THE MYSTIC
ANTIDOTE TO CHAOS,
AND BRING IT TO GIOVANNI,
THE RIGHTFUL HEIR!"

NEXT: Giovanni's duty

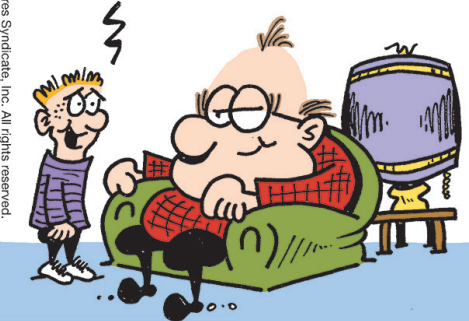
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

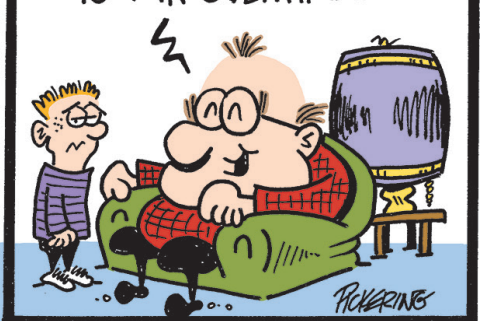
DO YOU WANT TO
HEAR ABOUT THE
BIRDS AND THE BEES?



YA!!



LAST NIGHT THE BIRDS
BEAT THE BEES
10-7 IN OVERTIME!!



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Getting ready for winter

We might be having heat waves now, but before we know it, the weather will turn and winter will be on its way. There are several steps we can take to get ahead and be ready before cold weather arrives.

Take care of draft control. Not only will we be more comfortable without cold air creeping into our homes, but our heating bills will be lower if the furnace isn't working so hard. Windows can have caulking or window stripping applied, or you can buy those insulation film kits. Buy your supplies now before everyone else has the same idea, and schedule someone to help you. Right after Labor Day is a good time to get the windows sealed.

Consider how many times you lost power last year and be ready for that. Bring in a supply of batteries for flashlights. Put them in your lights now so you're ready the minute the power goes out the first time. Have someone help you put new batteries in your smoke detector, if it hasn't been done in a while.

Make your list of three to four days' worth of food for emergencies such as storms when it's just not safe to go out, and start shopping for those items now. Put a jug of ice melt or cat litter on your list if your area is likely to get snow and ice.

Does your furnace need an annual inspection? Does your vehicle need antifreeze and new windshield wipers?

But we can't forget the fun stuff for those cold days! A stack of books for cold afternoons, a few small craft kits, ideas for a story to be written during the annual November novel writing month (nanowrimo2.com), several exercise videos for seniors on YouTube, recipes to try, new songs to learn on the piano or guitar ... the list is only limited by your imagination!

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15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

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. Which sportscaster retired in June 2026 after 34 years at ESPN and anchoring more than 5,500 episodes of "SportsCenter"?

2. In 2022, Alyssa Nakken became the first woman to coach on the field in a Major League Baseball regular-season game when she coached first base for which team?

3. Which Cleveland Browns running back fumbled on the Denver Broncos' 3-yard line in the 1987 AFC Championship, leading to the Broncos' 38-33 win?

4. Name the player who defeated Italy's Omar Camporese in the third round of the 1991 Australian Open tennis tournament in a match that lasted five hours and 11 minutes.

5. Who succeeded Bryan Murray as head coach of the NHL's Washington Capitals after he was fired in 1990?

6. Which footballer, known for his acrobatic strikes and volatile personality, is the all-time leading scorer for the Swedish men's national team with 62 goals?

7. IndyCar driver Rinus VeeKay hails from which country?



by Ryan A. Berenz

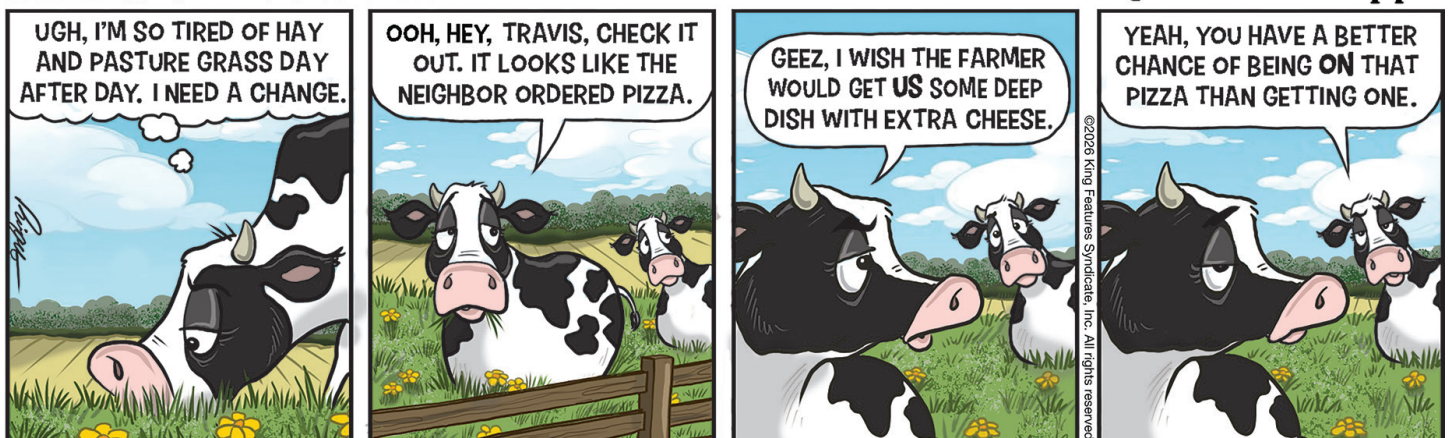
Answers

1. Linda Cohn.
2. The San Francisco Giants.
3. Earnest Byner.
4. Boris Becker.
5. His brother Terry.
6. Zlatan Ibrahimovic.
7. Netherlands.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Heartworm is a silent killer

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I adopted a beautiful dog a few months ago. "Oscar" was rescued from a home that was crowded with other neglected, starved dogs. He was treated for heartworms. It's been nearly four months now, and he is still testing positive for heartworm. What should I do next? -- Hayley G. in Mobile, Alabama

DEAR HAYLEY: Heartworms in dogs and cats is a very serious infection, so kudos to you for monitoring Oscar through his recovery.

Heartworm antigens can continue to show up in post-treatment testing for several weeks. These are proteins released into the bloodstream by adult female heartworms and are the best way for vets to identify

the presence of heartworms in a pet. After treatment, dead heartworms and their antigens take time to clear the pet's system -- and it can take as long as four months.

Dogs can harbor quite a few heartworms before showing symptoms. Cats are much more sensitive to the infection -- even a single heartworm can cause symptoms like coughing, appetite loss and lethargy. Internally, an active heartworm infection damages the blood vessels in the lung, causing circulatory and respiratory problems. Extended rest before and after treatment is essential to help heal the damage as much as possible.

Continue antigen testing with the vet on their recommended schedule. This will determine if Oscar's recovery is on track or if additional treatment is needed.

For healthy pets, prevention is the best way to protect them from heartworms. Their larvae are spread via mosquito bites. A heartworm preventive -- whether a pill, topical medication or an injection -- eliminates the larvae. But it does not eliminate adult heartworms. Annual testing for antigens is important to ensure that potential infections are detected and treated before they cause serious health problems.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

- * Women lie more than men in their online dating profiles.
- * Many quilts made by military soldiers were known as “convalescent quilts,” since they made them while recuperating from wounds received in the line of duty.
- * Nuclear rain from the Chernobyl disaster fell as far west as Ireland.
- * The word LEGO comes from the first two letters of the Danish words “leg” and “godt,” or “play well.”
- * More than half a million pet owners worldwide have chosen to implant their pets with “neuticles,” which are testicular implants for a neutered pet.

sen to implant their pets with “neuticles,” which are testicular implants for a neutered pet.

- * Egyptian butchers wore high heels to keep their feet free of blood and debris on the floor.
- * Early in her career, model Gisele Bundchen was told she’d never achieve success without cosmetic surgery to decrease her nose size. She refused and later had the last laugh by becoming one of the most highly paid models in history.
- * It is thought that 80% of the world’s gold is still in the ground.
- * While screening around 2 million airline passengers per day, TSA officers are accustomed to confiscating items such as full water bottles and too-large toiletries, but their more astonishing finds include grenades, cannonballs and even a samurai sword.
- * The fear of vegetables is called “lathanophobia.”
- * Actor Daniel Craig, as a reward for playing James Bond, can choose any Aston Martin from the factory for the rest of his life.
- * All organ donations will inevitably fail, since transplanted organs “scar” over time, which eventually renders them unusable.
- * In 2019, Forbes named Kylie Jenner the world’s youngest self-made billionaire at age 21.
- * Around 400 B.C., the Greek inventor Archytas of Tarentum built an early “robot” -- a wooden pigeon that flew on a steam-powered arm.

Thought for the Day: “Don’t find fault, find a remedy.” -- Henry Ford

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Sweetspire

This shrub is found among wetlands and along stream banks. It can tolerate a wide range of soil and light conditions. Growing 4 to 8 feet tall, with graceful arching branches and fragrant bottlebrush-like flower clusters that appear in late spring, it boasts beautiful fall foliage. Its leaf colors range from copper to orange to gold, and last into winter. -- Brenda Weaver

Sources: plants.ces.ncsu.edu, mortonarb.org





by Freddy Groves

Veterans on the road again

The government is calling on veterans to consider careers in commercial trucking with the creation of the Freedom Haulers initiative, a new effort to help veterans move into civilian driving jobs.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), with its military driver program, is making it easy for experienced veteran drivers to get a commercial driver's license (CDL). In many cases you can get a waiver on both the skills and knowledge tests.

A few facts: Every state is part of the veteran skills-test waiver program and all have specific requirements. Seven additional states just joined the Even Exchange program, which allows qualified veterans with certain military driving experience to waive the knowledge test.

Eligibility: If you had a military driver's license for at least two years, with no suspensions or disqualifications, you can qualify if you apply within two years of leaving that position. (It used to be 12 months, but with the Freedom Haulers initiative, that's been extended.)

Benefits: Depending on the employer, jobs may offer travel, flexible hours, good pay, health and life insurance, and more.

For more information, see www.fmcsa.dot.gov/militarydriverprograms.

Check out the Even Exchange program at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/even-exchange-program. There you'll find a MOS list with the qualifying military occupations that can waive the knowledge test.

What if you didn't have a driving job during your active duty period and your MOS doesn't cover you for an automatic CDL? The GI Bill may cover up to 100% of commercial driver's license tuition at approved schools, depending on your eligibility and the program. In some cases that might include a housing allowance.

If you're starting from scratch (no military driving training) and want to go the GI Bill route, pick your school carefully. Federal regulators have recently removed or taken action against hundreds of CDL training providers that failed to meet requirements. Before enrolling, verify that the program is approved for your VA education benefits. Call the VA Education Call Center at 888-442-4551 (888-GIBILL-1) to verify a school's eligibility.

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Wishing Well®

4	6	5	6	2	3	6	3	4	7	5	7	2
A	D	L	E	F	A	V	L	C	A	I	T	O
8	4	7	8	2	7	3	7	3	6	3	2	5
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6	2	6	8	5	4	8	6	5	7	4	2	4
A	V	L	G	E	I	H	E	I	O	N	E	R
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4	2	3	2	8	3	5	2	7	4	8	4	5
T	T	V	H	R	E	O	E	E	I	V	N	O
8	4	2	7	5	7	8	3	8	3	2	8	8
A	E	R	R	D	S	L	N	U	T	S	E	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. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only mammal that can't jump?
2. MOVIES: Which movie has the tagline, "They're young, they're in love, and they kill people"?
3. HISTORY: When is Labor Day celebrated every year in the United States?
4. LANGUAGE: What's the name of a punctuation mark that combines a question mark and an exclamation point?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which country was called Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979?
6. ASTRONOMY: What are the names of the twin stars in the Gemini constellation?
7. MYTHOLOGY: What is the only thing left in Pandora's box after it was opened?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the fermented cabbage dish kimchi?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who is the first president to die in office?
10. TELEVISION: What are the Halloween episodes of "The Simpsons" called?

Trivia answers

1. Elephant.
2. "Bonnie and Clyde," 1967.
3. The first Monday in September.
4. Interrobang.
5. Cambodia.
6. Pollux and Castor.
7. Hope.
8. South Korea.
9. William Henry Harrison.
10. "Treehouse of Horror."

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Revitalizing Small Towns

There's something about a small town. You walk into a local restaurant, and they greet you by name. You know exactly what you're going to order without opening the menu. You make small talk with the folks at the next table over about the kids or about the pastor's sermon, and it's easy conversation because you've known them for years. That's the way of life that I grew up with.

But in recent years, our small towns have gotten smaller – too small in many cases. Those local restaurants and shops have been dying out. And in some places, the local hospitals and schools have followed suit. This seemed like a problem with no end in sight – until the COVID pandemic brought a surge of new folks to South Dakota. For the first time in decades, many of our small towns actually grew!

And now, the Rhoden-Venhuizen Administration is seizing on that momentum to make crucial investments in small town South Dakota.

It began with a couple key initiatives during the Noem-Rhoden Administration. South Dakota came out of COVID stronger than any other state because we were the only state that never shut down, and our strong economy led to record-breaking tax revenues. Well, we didn't spend that money frivolously. We invested it wisely.

Over the last several years, we've invested nearly \$400 million to wire every corner of South Dakota with high-speed broadband. Governor Janklow is famous for wiring our schools sooner than pretty much anywhere in the country – and we've gone far beyond that. Now, you can get high speed internet anywhere. And in the 21st Century economy, that means that anyone can run a small business out of their living room, whether they're in Sioux Falls or my hometown of Union Center. Too often, folks leave small towns because of loss of economic opportunity. That doesn't have to be the case anymore.

And the single biggest investment of the Noem-Rhoden Administration was in local water projects. We invested over \$900 million to modernize South Dakota's water systems, and much of that investment went to small towns who desperately needed a revitalization. I'm proud to have been part of that effort.

My administration is carrying this revitalization of our rural communities forward. Here's one thing I'm especially excited about: our Rural Health Transformation initiative.

We are building a stronger, more connected health care system for South Dakotans. In just the last few days, we announced an additional \$90 million in grants to modernize technology in rural health care. These investments will modernize our health care and make sure more of our citizens can access the very best care while keeping their data secure.

This opportunity goes far beyond just our rural hospitals. We're investing in dentists, mental health, and bringing health care professionals to rural communities. We're giving these rural health systems access to opportunities like cybersecurity. And this isn't a one-time flash in the pan – we received \$189 million from the Trump Administration this year, and we'll continue to see nearly a billion dollars over a five-year period.

The Rural Health Transformation initiative lays the foundation for healthier communities over the long term. More importantly, it helps revitalize our rural way of life. If folks can get the care they need in the small town they grew up in, why leave?

I will continue working to revitalize rural South Dakota. My team is already looking ahead to next legislative session and scoping out opportunities. I can't wait to keep working hard for you!

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

The Perks of Being Old and Ugly

Growing up, I never thought much about what my life would be like when I got old.

I observed my grandparents, and I'm sorry to say that I made fun of them at times, but always behind their backs. I never thought I would ever be in their situation.

It wasn't until recently that I realized getting old and ugly has some significant perks. When I was young, I never thought of it this way, but I am starting to realize it now. It makes me smile to see the perks I'm discovering.

I never in a million years realized that getting old and ugly wasn't as bad as I thought it was-especially when I consider the perks, like discounts or help from strangers, which I find amusing. I'm not sure how they handled their perks, but I'm beginning to learn that there are benefits to getting old and especially ugly.

Nobody wants to admit they are ugly. They don't spend enough time looking in the mirror to come to that universal conclusion. I have a relative, who shall be nameless, who is obsessed with their looks, especially the wrinkles on their face. As I have seen it, as you get older, wrinkles appear. But this relative truly does not like wrinkles.

I'm not sure how much money they spent on Botox and all that other stuff to get rid of their wrinkles, especially on their face. For me, I have saved that money for more important things, like Apple Fritters.

This relative who's obsessed with wrinkles is very tempting to me. Every time I see them, I look at their face and say, "Is that a new wrinkle on your face? It looks marvelous." It won't be long before they run to the bathroom and check out what I was talking about.

Some of the perks of getting old are the help sometimes people will give you. The other day, for example, I was walking to a store; I had hurt my leg a couple of days before. Because of that, I was using a cane, and I looked like I was limping. I felt grateful for the kindness I received, which warmed my heart.

When I came to the door, before I could even open it, someone was there to open it for me and invite me inside. I never expected that perk, but I'm coming to enjoy it. I must confess, I sometimes exaggerate my limping to get the attention I need. However, the attention always comes my way.

Perhaps the biggest perk in my life is being ugly-something I've come to accept and even enjoy. I realize that for some, aging might bring different perks. Still, for me, I like the way I look and the advantages it brings, like not being taken too seriously.

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The perk of being ugly is something I just found out. When I was young, I was very careful around people, especially women. I made it a rule not to talk to women I did not know. I know it can look a little suspicious, and I don't want that to go on my record.

But being ugly means that nobody is going to take you seriously. I can walk up to a group of women, for example, and begin a conversation, and nobody thinks anything about it.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can have the greatest confidence that wherever I'm at, and if I'm alone, no woman is going to hit on me. I just discovered that recently. I was so protective up to this point, but now that I'm old and ugly, I have nothing to fear.

It is a blessing to enjoy perks like this. I can be confident in some groups or on my own. I don't have to worry that someone would spread a rumor that somebody was hitting on me. People don't hit on ugly men.

It used to be that whenever I went on a trip by myself, I was very cautious. I made sure I had my wedding ring on and my cell phone with me so I could contact The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage several times a day to make sure I wasn't in any "situation."

Three weeks ago I was in a restaurant by myself, and when the waitress brought my bill to the table I said in a very joking way, "Do old and ugly men get discounts?"

We both laughed together, and when we were done laughing, she said, "As a matter of fact, we do give discounts like that. I can give you a 20% discount on your bill today."

At first, I thought she was joking, but when the bill came, I saw the 20% discount. Oh, what a joy it is to be old and ugly. It's surprising how many perks come with this stage of life, and I'm enjoying every one of them.

I want to get as old and ugly as I possibly can and live long enough to cash out on all the perks available.

The older and uglier I get, the more I understand the beauty of the life I'm living. That made me think of a wonderful Bible verse.

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

My grey hair reveals my beauty; I'm proud of it, and I don't care what other people think.

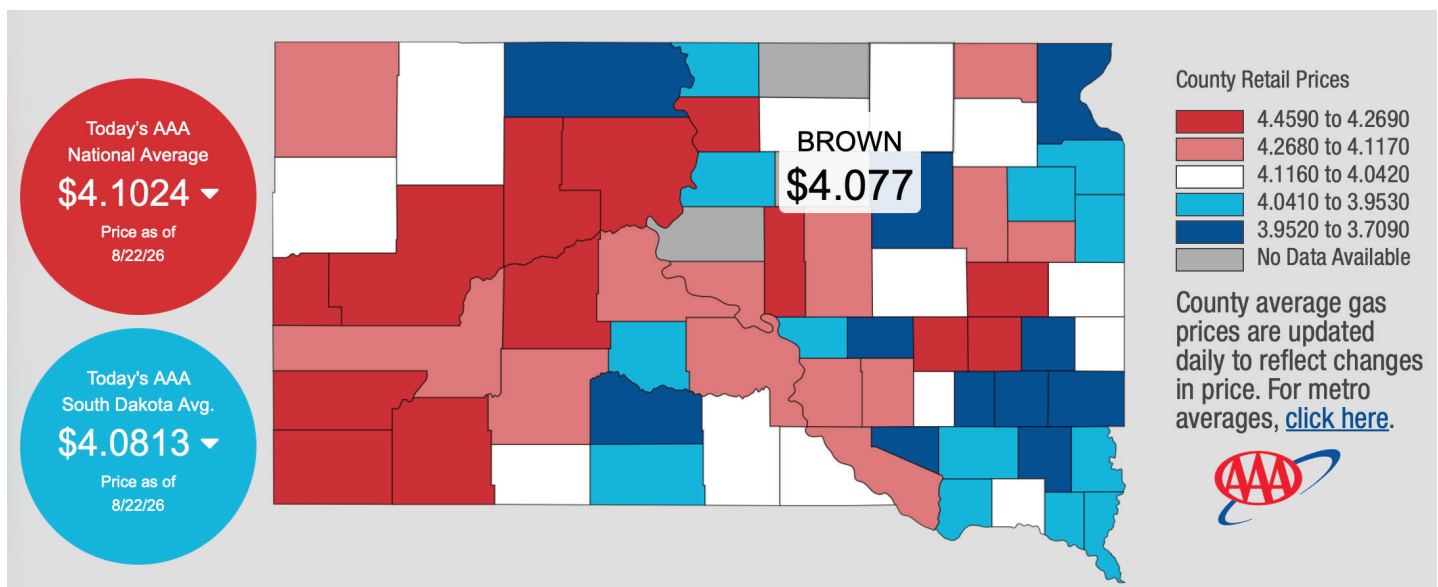
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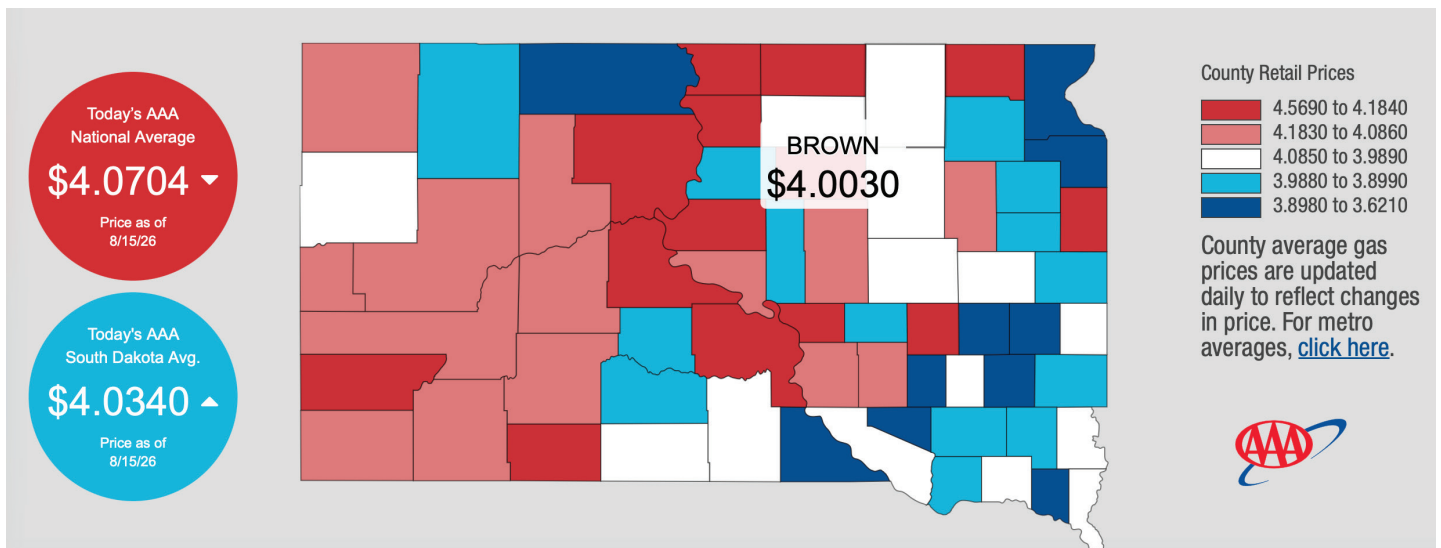
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$4.0813	\$4.2838	\$4.7633	\$5.2609
Yesterday Avg.	\$4.0821	\$4.2866	\$4.7755	\$5.2281
Week Ago Avg.	\$4.0340	\$4.2177	\$4.7388	\$5.0977
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.9831	\$4.1661	\$4.6776	\$4.7841
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.0073	\$3.1704	\$3.6534	\$3.3656

This Week



Last Week



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Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

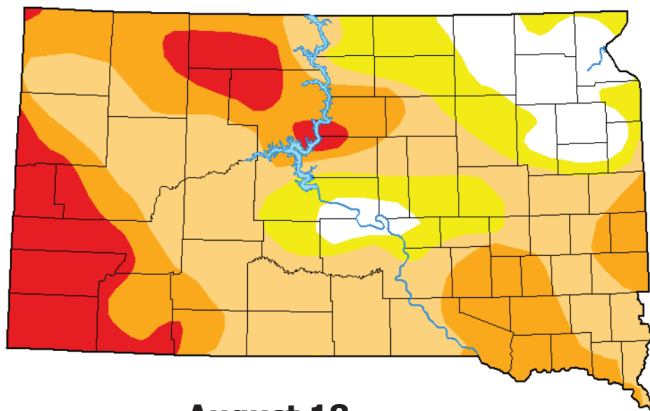
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

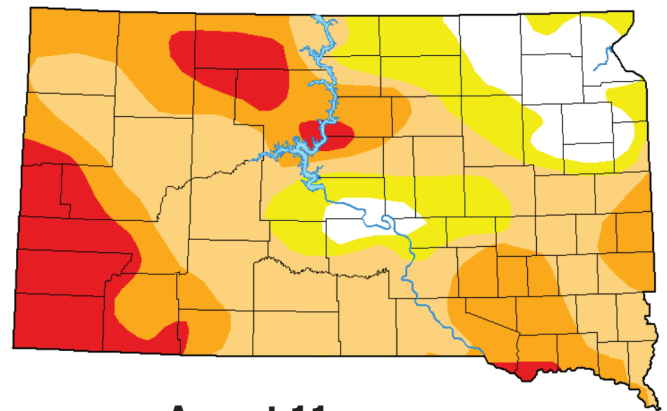
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

Drought Monitor



August 18



August 11

Southern Kansas had some drought degradations from the flash drought warm and dry conditions over the past week. However, eastern Colorado and Wyoming east through Nebraska and northern Kansas received welcome rainfall resulting in drought improvements in these areas. South Dakota was mostly status quo from the past week. North Dakota was mostly dry leading to degradation in drought. Two areas in the southwest and northwest of North Dakota received some rainfall and drought improvement. Extreme drought continues to be in place over western South Dakota and western Nebraska, extending into much of Wyoming and central/western Colorado. Exceptional drought locations are noted in western Nebraska and parts of Colorado.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What are the environmental impacts of the fast-growing tequila industry?

—Marcus Emilio, Albany, NY

For centuries, tequila has been a prominent symbol of Mexico, not only having originated there but also being consumed on Día de Muertos, the Day of the Dead, annually. In the late 19th century, tequila, which is primarily grown in Jalisco, Mexico, was branded for the global market. Over the past 25 years, the production and exporting of tequila have increased alongside its rise in global popularity.



Agave farmers are upping production in service of the fast-growing tequila industry, but at what cost to the environment? Credit: Pexels.com.

The process of tequila begins with harvesting and classifying blue agave plants, which are then stripped of their leaves, base, and tips. After the agave core is cooked, the plants' juices are extracted and mixed with yeast, kickstarting the process of alcoholic fermentation. Following, the liquid is distilled at least twice to purify by separating the alcohol from the water, increasing the alcoholic concentration. Then, the liquid is filtered and often aged in barrels before being bottled and corked.

While the tequila production process is streamlined, there are still significant environmental impacts, especially in terms of emissions. In the receiving phase, agave agriculture accounts for 99% of emissions due to fossil fuels, herbicides, and the addition of chemical nutrients. The conversion into juice results in 40% of the plant as bagasse, a fibrous material leftover after juice extraction. As a result, the juicing process creates nearly 350,000 tons of bagasse annually in the Jalisco region alone. Not to mention the illegal dumping of bagasse into waterways, polluting waters and harming aquatic life. In addition, much of the waste is burned, releasing matter and carbon monoxide, or thrown into landfills, which generates methane.

In terms of water use, cooking is among the steps using the greatest amounts of water due to the need to steam and soften the agave hearts. To condense and separate the alcohol from the rest of the liquid, lots of water is used in the distillation steps of tequila production. Additionally, the bottling of tequila consumes water both in its production and cleaning processes.

To minimize the environmental impact of tequila production, Ramón González, Director of the Tequila Regulatory Council, advises, "In the coming years, every agave beverage will have to demonstrate that its productive chain is free of deforestation, with a focus on emissions reduction."

Other methods include increasing recycling of glass tequila bottles and reusing water to reduce water usage, especially in distillation and cooking processes. The transformation of bagasse to methanol or biogas via fermentation or anaerobic digestion. The bagasse can become animal food thanks to its high lignin content, be made into adobe bricks, or be composted after being shredded and stripped of its moisture. A long-term improvement is more efficient technology and the use of clean energy throughout the entire tequila production process. However, financial investment may create initial challenges for the industry.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

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COMMENTARY

It's time for Noem to ride off into the political sunset

by Dana Hess

The latest addition to Pierre's Trail of Governors stands out. It's not because it's the only statue of a woman. It's not because it's the only one accompanied by half a horse. It represents a career of political tumult. A career from which it's unlikely there's a chance to bounce back.

Kristi Noem made a career out of overcoming adversity. Her book tour for "No Going Back" went horribly wrong from the start. She was forced to defend her decision to shoot an unruly dog and a smelly goat. She saw it as an example of her ability to make tough decisions. Others saw it as cruelty to animals.

She also had to explain how her book included a false story about her facing down North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. Putting the blame on her ghost writer didn't seem like an acceptable excuse. Where have all the proofreaders gone?

The book was written as a way for Noem to show off her conservative bona fides to Donald Trump in hopes that he would select her to be his running mate in 2024. With her book tour fast becoming a favorite topic of late-night comedians, it was easy to write off her chances at higher office.

However, after Trump was elected to a second term, he appointed Noem as his secretary of Homeland Security. That appointment, handled the right way, could have cemented her place among 2028 Republican presidential contenders. That may have been the case if she had approached border security and immigration control with a modicum of empathy and professionalism. Instead, she chose hubris and instilled in ICE a gunslinging mentality that led to the deaths of two American citizens in Minneapolis.

In a presidential administration noted for sloughing off criticism as fake news, Noem's antics and the level of criticism she faced were too much even for Trump. She joined a long list of Trump Cabinet secretaries who have been sent packing. In Noem's case, when she was shown the door, a job was created for her as special envoy for the Shield of the Americas.

Maybe she's working hard to help other countries secure their borders. Maybe the job was created so that both she and the president could save face.



Former Gov. Kristi Noem speaks with attendees at the unveiling of her statue on the Trail of Governors on Aug. 7, 2026, in Pierre, South Dakota. (Photo by Meghan O'Brien/South Dakota Searchlight)

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At the unveiling of her statue, Noem told South Dakota Searchlight that she wasn't ruling out a political comeback. After all, she's undefeated when it comes to elections. "Oh, I wouldn't take it off the table," Noem said about running for office again. "I may someday, but you know, we ran 13 races and won them all, so campaigns don't scare me, but I've got a lot of other things to do, too."

There was speculation this year that Noem would challenge U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds for the Republican nomination for his Senate seat. Those looking ahead to 2028 see her as a possible primary opponent for Senate Majority Leader John Thune.

Perhaps it would be best for Noem if she just went back to the farm. Any attempt to get back into South Dakota politics would be met with a crowded field.

There's a trend in the state's Republican politics that no office should go unchallenged. Gov. Larry Rhoden just defeated three primary challengers. Rounds faced a primary challenger, too. Marty Jackley's record as a popular state attorney general didn't keep him from having to fend off a Republican challenger for the nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives.

These days, incumbency and name recognition aren't enough in Republican politics to keep challengers off the ballot. Potential challengers aren't all that Noem would be running against. There's also an internet full of memes chronicling her strained relationships with dogs, goats and her husband.

At this point, no one in politics is going to step aside just because she was once the governor or for a brief time the Homeland Security secretary. Challengers are going to see her as damaged goods. If she runs for office again, the internet will rejoice, handing her opponents a fresh round of memes and a backlog of comic monologues.

Challengers and dog jokes aside, Noem would also be running against her record as governor, a time when she didn't exactly cover herself in glory. She treated the National Guard like her private army, sending them to the southern border at taxpayer expense whenever it suited her political ambitions. She labeled it fake news when anyone pointed out that her pursuit of freedom during the pandemic caused South Dakota to lead the league in per capita COVID deaths. She failed to lead on property tax reform and wasted millions of dollars on a prison site that was abandoned. Unfortunately for the former governor, the list goes on.

Noem has bounced back from political adversity in the past, but there's likely no coming back from the ridicule that's been aimed at her from all directions and her sketchy record as governor. It's time for her to use that half a horse to ride off into the sunset.

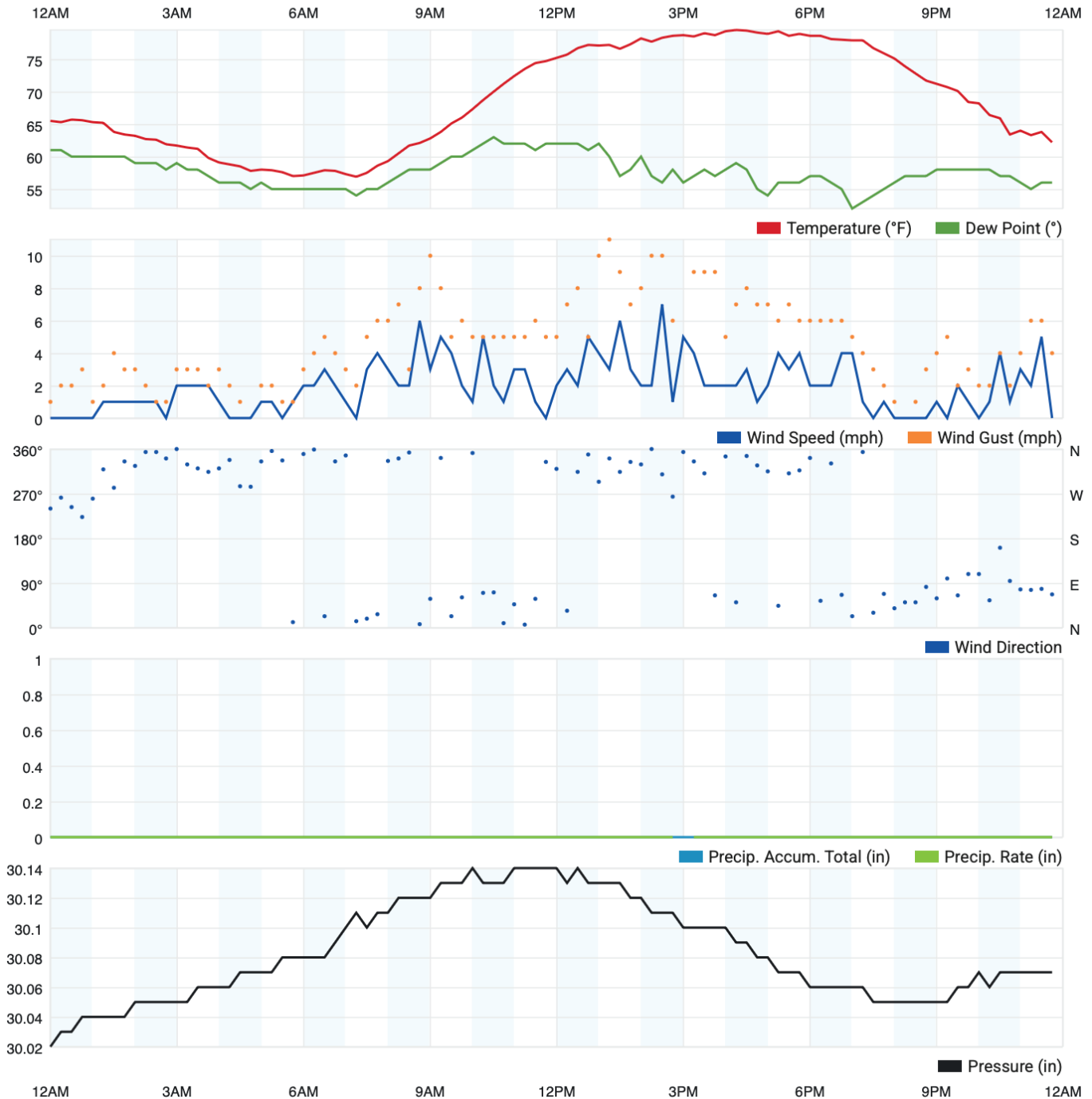
Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 22, 2026



Broton Daily Independent

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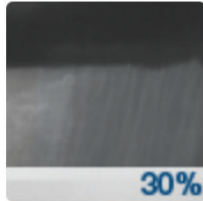
Today



High: 82 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Chance
Showers

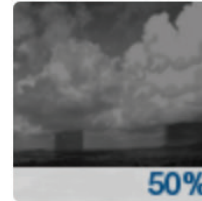
Monday



High: 83 °F

Decreasing
Clouds

Monday Night



Low: 61 °F

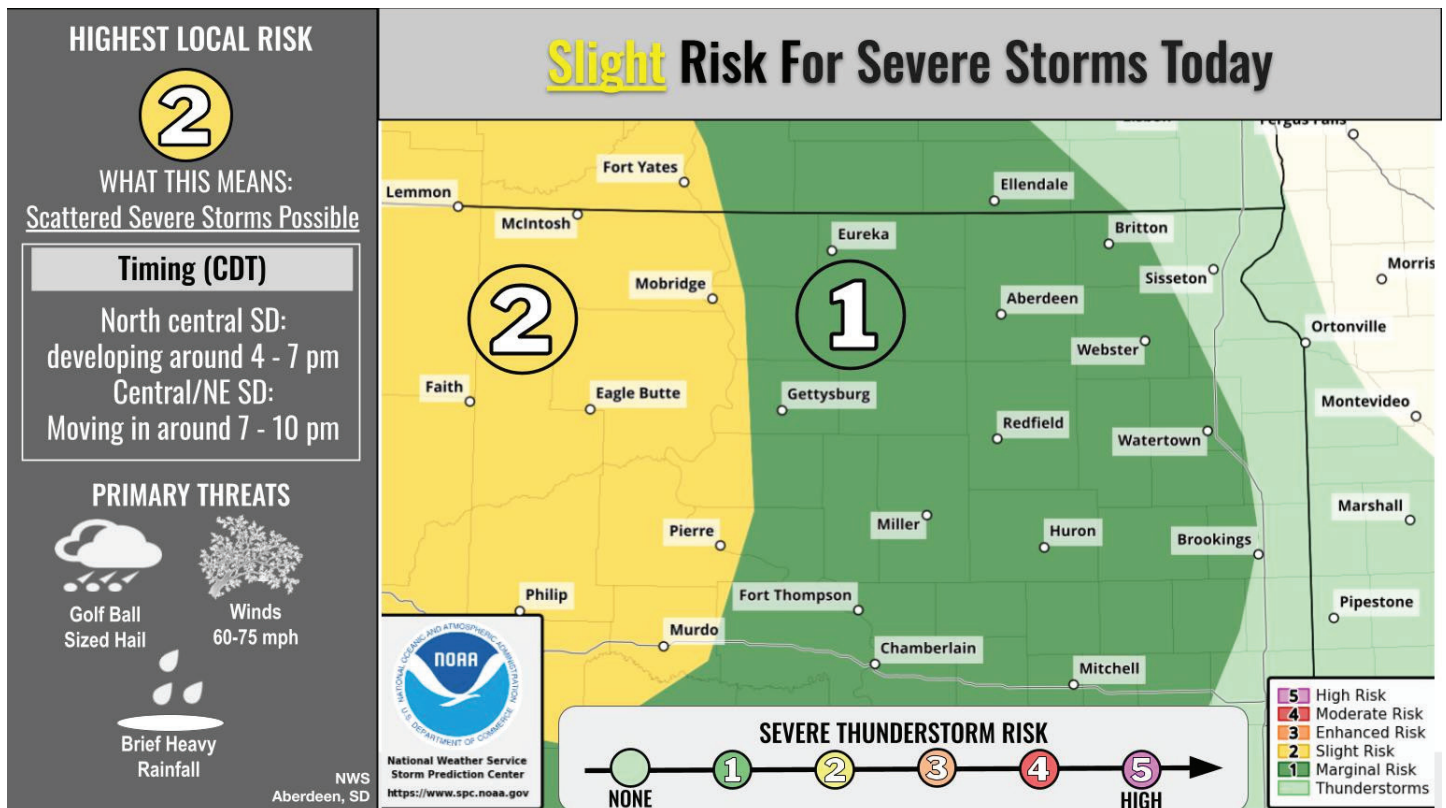
Chance
Showers

Tuesday



High: 84 °F

Sunny



There is a marginal to slight risk (1 to 2 out of 5) for severe storms late this afternoon through this evening with the highest risk remaining along and west of the Missouri River. Storms that may roll through central SD this morning are not expected to be severe. With the storms this evening, large hail and strong, gusty winds will be the main threats.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 4:24 PM

Low Temp: 57 °F at 7:09 AM

Wind: 12 mph at 1:11 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 2003

Record Low: 39 in 1987

Average High: 82

Average Low: 55

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.67

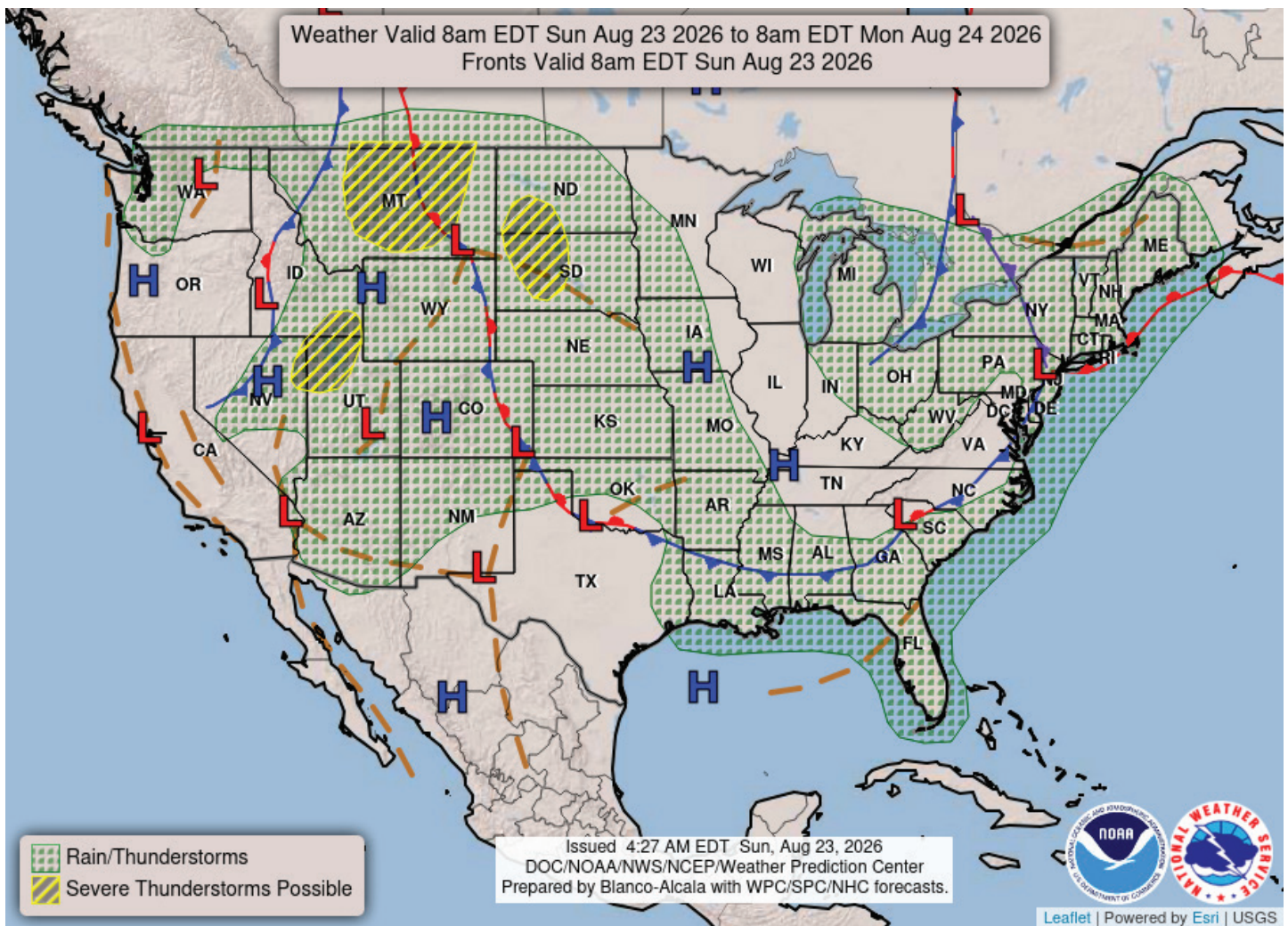
Precip to date in Aug.: 10.14

Average Precip to date: 15.77

Precip Year to Date: 19.61

Sunset Tonight: 8:27 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:44 am



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Today in Weather History

August 23, 1960: Lightning and damaging winds caused damage to occur from Hand and Sanborn Counties to Marshall and Roberts Counties. A small airplane was destroyed, and the high winds broke windows in Miller. Also, roofs, TV antenna, utility lines, and trees were damaged in Kingsbury and Marshall Counties.

August 23, 1998: Winds gusting to 65 mph in and around Milbank, in Grant County, took the roof off a mobile home and wrapped it around a utility pole. The people inside the mobile home were uninjured. The Summit Dairy Barn had sustained significant damage. The high winds also blew a shed and a large tennis court fence down. Several trees along with many large tree branches were down all over town. Strong winds were also reported in Day and Roberts Counties. Winds of 60 mph also downed many tree branches north of Watertown.

1724: An event is known as the "Great Gust of 1724" occurred on this day. Almost all tobacco and much of the corn crops were destroyed by this violent tropical storm, which struck the Chesapeake Bay. Intense floods of rain and a huge gust of wind were seen on the James River. Some homes were wrecked, and several vessels were driven ashore. The storm was likely followed by a second hurricane just five days later causing rain for many straight days that caused the Virginia floods of 1724.

1906 — Thunderstorms deluged Kansas City, MO, with six inches of rain during the early morning, including nearly three inches in thirty minutes. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1921 — Denver, CO, was drenched with 2.20 inches of rain in one hour, a record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1933: A hurricane made landfall near Nags Head, North Carolina and tracked up the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane moved over Norfolk, Virginia, and Washington, DC. A seven-foot tide flooded businesses in Norfolk, Virginia. Described in the American Meteorological Society's August 1933 weather review as "one of the most severe storms that have ever visited the Middle Atlantic Coast."

1970 — Dry thunderstorms ignited more than one hundred fires in the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests of Washington State. Hot, dry, and windy weather spread the fires, a few of which burned out of control through the end of the month. More than 100,000 acres burned. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — A cold front brought autumn-like weather to the Northern and Central Plains Region. Afternoon highs were in the 50s and 60s across parts of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska that just two days earlier were in the 90s or above 100 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Thunderstorms produced hail an inch in diameter, wind gusts to 64 mph, and 2.62 inches of rain at Tucson AZ resulting in three million dollars damage. Cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Hartford CT reported a record low of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Thunderstorms produced heavy rain with flash flooding in West Virginia. Pickens, WV, reported 4.80 inches of rain in 24 hours. Evening thunderstorms in Mississippi deluged Alta Woods with 4.25 inches of rain in less than an hour. Thunderstorms also produced heavy rain in southeastern Kentucky, and flooding was reported along Big Creek and along Stinking Creek. The Stinking Creek volunteer fire department reported water levels 12 to 14 feet above bankfull. Fort Worth TX hit the 100 degree mark for the first time all year. Strong winds ushering cool air into northwest Utah gusted to 70 mph, raising clouds of dust in the salt flats. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992 — While South Florida residents were preparing for Hurricane Andrew, folks in western Montana were dealing with early season snowfall. Some snowfall amounts include 8.3" in Great Falls, 6.2" in Helena, and 5.1" in Cut Bank. This snowfall is the first significant snowfall on record in western Montana in August.

2005 — Hurricane Katrina formed from Tropical Depression Twelve over the southeastern Bahamas. Katrina would become the costliest (\$81.2 billion) and one of the most deadly hurricanes (1,836 lives) in U.S. history.

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Daily Devotion

Confident About Salvation

Because of Christ's victory on the cross, we have the blessed assurance of joy, forgiveness, and eternal life with Him.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4: 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Salvation fills believers with joy! When we grasp what God has done, confidence becomes the foundation for a life of purpose and peace.

We all start in the same place—separated from God by sin, unable to bridge the gap (Ephesians 2:12). No amount of good behavior or sincere effort can reconnect us to God. We're spiritually dead, in desperate need of rescue.

And here's the staggering good news: Jesus shed His blood for our sins (Romans 6:23). His death on the cross wasn't a tragic ending—it was the victory over sin and death itself. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God declares us forgiven.

But God doesn't save us and then leave us to figure out the rest on our own. He sends His Holy Spirit to live within everyone who places faith in Jesus (Romans 8:11). The Spirit guides us into truth, transforms our desires, and empowers us to live in ways that honor God.

This is what salvation offers: forgiveness, new life, God's presence within us, and the promise of eternity with Him. Jesus is the way to eternal life (1 John 5:11-12), and the Holy Spirit provides everything we need in order to walk with Him. What blessed assurance!

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.22.26

7 17 27 36 39 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 25 Mins 54 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.21.26

1 25 34 48 57 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$130,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 15 Hrs 10 Mins 54 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.22.26

20 23 36 42 50 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,750,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 14 Hrs 25 Mins 54 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.22.26

5 7 11 23 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$36,000

NEXT DRAW: 3 Days 14 Hrs 40 Mins 54 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.22.26

4 18 29 47 53 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 9 Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.22.26

13 31 54 57 65 23

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$81,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 9 Mins 54 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Zelenskyy details rift with dismissed defense minister, saying some of his actions were misguided

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he believes actions taken by dismissed Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, including his involvement in mass protests and calls for elections, were misguided, as he publicly detailed their dispute for the first time.

Zelenskyy also alluded to problematic decisions over defense spending and said inaccurate information provided by the Defense Ministry contributed to an awkward encounter with U.S. President Donald Trump over the use of Starlink in Russia.

Zelenskyy disclosed figures showing Ukraine's growing shortage of Patriot air-defense missiles needed to counter Russian ballistic attacks, with deliveries from Western allies declining in the past three years even as Russian missile strikes intensified.

He highlighted battlefield gains, however, saying Ukrainian forces have almost completely recaptured the Dnipropetrovsk region, with only about 10 square kilometers remaining under Russian control.

He made the remarks during a two-hour off-the-record meeting with reporters on Saturday, with a transcript released publicly on Sunday.

Wide-ranging discussion included first public comments on Fedorov dismissal

His comments ranged widely, covering the latest battlefield developments, efforts to counter Russian ballistic attacks, the state of peace negotiations, Ukraine's budgetary challenges and the political turmoil surrounding Fedorov's dismissal.

"I really had and still have a very positive attitude toward Mykhailo. We have been through a lot together. But I believe that he himself goes, or is pushed, into the wrong things," he said.

Fedorov, a popular minister credited with modernizing Ukraine's armed forces and accelerating the military's embrace of technology and drone warfare, was dismissed last month after reportedly falling out with the country's top military commander. His removal triggered mass protests that lasted for weeks but ultimately failed to force a reversal of the decision. Fedorov later called for elections in a video address.

Zelenskyy said he had offered Fedorov four different options to continue working in government. Fedorov, he said, rejected all four proposals.

Inaccurate information led to uncomfortable White House situation

Zelenskyy appeared to link Fedorov to an awkward episode involving Starlink and Elon Musk. Zelenskyy said that earlier this year the Defense Ministry had told him that SpaceX had agreed to allow Ukraine to use Starlink over Russian territory to carry out deep strike operations, subject to political approval.

Acting on that, Zelenskyy said, he raised the issue directly with U.S. President Donald Trump. He told Trump that Musk had confirmed the proposed use. Zelenskyy said the two sides subsequently sought Musk's confirmation and discussed financing for the project.

But at a later meeting, Zelenskyy said Trump told him that Musk had rejected the proposal and accused him of having misled the U.S. president. Musk considered the move a dangerous escalation, according to Zelenskyy.

"He said that I had supposedly deceived him because Musk had denied Ukraine the use of Starlink on Russian territory. I went back to our Ministry of Defense and they said that maybe it was so," he said.

Zelenskyy did not explicitly accuse Fedorov of lying. He said this episode was among the reasons behind "some of the steps."

Zelenskyy also pushed back against protesters' vilification of former army chief Oleksandr Syrskyi, whom he dismissed, and current Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Yevhen Khmara, saying they had gone too far.

"Maybe someone doesn't like Syrskyi for one reason or another. But the slogans 'Syrskyi is the devil, Khmara is the devil,'" he said. "Listen, this is too much. Do you understand? In principle, you can't treat the

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military like this and tolerate it, especially when it was the military that made it possible for any peaceful protests to take place in the Ukrainian capital at all.”

Pressure on defense budget but military successes

The president also described severe financial pressure on Ukraine’s defense effort. He said the Defense Ministry faced a \$27 billion budget shortfall after spending decisions earlier in the year brought forward funds originally intended for the second half of 2026.

Touching on a corruption probe that led Zelenskyy to fire one of his most senior officials this week, he said anti-corruption investigators do not believe the president was involved. The investigators had named a deputy head of the presidential office among the suspects in a money-laundering case.

“The heads of anti-corruption agencies have zero questions for me. They understand perfectly well that I am not involved in anything like that. And this is important to me,” he said.

On the battlefield, Zelenskyy was optimistic, saying Ukraine had almost completely regained control of the Dnipropetrovsk region, with only about 10 square kilometers and three small villages remaining outside Ukrainian control.

He said another operation was underway elsewhere and that its results were expected by the end of August.

He also predicted that by the end of 2026 Ukraine could reach parity between the territory occupied by Russia since the beginning of the year and the territory retaken by Ukrainian forces. Zelenskyy said Russia had occupied about 990 square kilometers since the start of the year, while Ukraine had restored control over roughly 820 square kilometers.

The president said Russia’s principal objective remained the Konstantynivka-Sloviansk-Kramatorsk axis and that Moscow was still demanding Ukraine withdraw from the Donbas region as a condition for a settlement.

Still struggling for access to Patriot missiles

Zelenskyy said Ukraine was receiving substantially fewer Patriot interceptor missiles even as Russian ballistic attacks are increasing.

He said Ukraine received 675 Patriot missiles in 2023, compared with 364 in 2025 and an expected 264 in 2026. Zelenskyy said he wanted to secure 300 additional Patriot missiles for the coming winter, while Ukraine’s Air Force had requested 360.

The shortfall is particularly serious because the United States and European partners are struggling to expand production. Zelenskyy said he hoped Ukraine could obtain even 5% or 10% of U.S. reserves and was able to pay for them.

Zelenskyy said Russia could eventually produce up to 1,300 ballistic missiles a year, compared with an estimated current capacity of 600.

He said Ukraine was also preparing alternatives to Starlink, including a European communications project, as Russia and China work on their own competing system.

In other developments

— Debris from a Ukrainian drone hit two industrial facilities including a warehouse belonging to online retailer Ozon, local officials in Russia’s Orenburg region said Sunday.

As well as shifting the war onto Russian soil through long-range drone strikes on oil facilities that have caused fuel shortages across Russia, Ukraine has unsettled the Russian public by striking warehouses of online retailers, including the country’s biggest online retailer, Wildberries, and competitors such as Ozon.

— One person was killed and six wounded in Ukrainian drone attacks on Russia’s Belgorod border region, local authorities said Sunday.

Kazakhstan votes in a parliamentary election expected to strengthen president’s grip on power

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Kazakhstan was voting Sunday in a parliamentary election that is expected to further strengthen President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev’s grip on power in Central Asia’s largest nation.

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The pro-presidential Adilet party is widely predicted to win an overwhelming majority, with several smaller parties loyal to Tokayev also anticipated to enter parliament. The vote is the country's first election to a new, single-chamber parliament called the Kurultai.

The 73-year-old Tokayev, a former Soviet official and Kazakh diplomat who previously worked at the United Nations, has been in office since 2019.

Sunday's vote is the culmination of a constitutional overhaul that Tokayev initiated in March, when 87% of voters supported a referendum to merge the two chambers of parliament into one and grant the president authority to appoint key officials, subject to parliamentary approval, including reestablishing the vice presidency.

Tokayev, who has sought to maintain a delicate balance between Moscow and the West since sanctions were imposed on Russia over the war in Ukraine, has justified the changes by citing the need for rapid decision-making in a fast-changing world.

Last month, Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court ruled that the amendments effectively reset the clock on Tokayev's previous terms in office, opening the door for him to run for another seven-year term.

The election comes at a difficult economic moment for Kazakhstan: inflation hit 10.2% in February, and tax hikes have fueled public discontent.

Analysts say the economic strain has made authorities wary of a repeat of the unrest of January 2022, when fuel price protests spiraled into violence that left dozens of protesters and police officers dead — a scenario Tokayev is seeking to guard against by concentrating power in his own hands.

Tokayev said that the vote promises to be a "truly historic event."

"Without a doubt, these elections will be remembered as perhaps the most interesting in our country's history," Tokayev said on Friday. "Amid unprecedented geopolitical tensions and mounting global challenges, we must firmly and consistently implement our strategy to transform Kazakhstan into a truly developed state."

The vote is also taking place against a backdrop of intensifying crackdowns on media freedom. Media organizations have urged Tokayev to drop criminal charges against several journalists under house arrest and to revise the country's legislation to ensure media freedom. Authorities have opened roughly 10 criminal cases against independent journalists and popular bloggers.

The most recent case involves Lukpan Akhmedyarov, an independent journalist who hosts the YouTube project "Prosto Zhurnalistika," or "Simply Journalism." He told The Associated Press that a criminal case was opened against him in August on charges of "disseminating false information," after he published a list of Kazakhstan's citizens fighting in Ukraine. He faces up to seven years in prison.

"In the run-up to these parliamentary elections, repression has intensified sharply, with attacks on independent media, cyberattacks, and criminal cases launched against independent journalists and popular bloggers," Akhmedyarov told the AP from Almaty. "It feels like the authorities want to silence all media outlets they don't control — everyone they couldn't reach an agreement with or couldn't buy off."

Akhmedyarov said that the streets of Kazakhstan's major cities are "flooded with advertisements and posters for the pro-presidential Adilet party."

"It is not very difficult to predict the outcome of these elections," he said.

Iran's president says US memorandum is best path out of stalled war, and other Middle East news

By The Associated Press undefined

Iran's president defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way out of a stalled war.

Meanwhile, the new head of the Islamic Republic's top security body warned, in a more forceful tone, of retaliation if neighboring countries support U.S. threats to further sanction Tehran.

Pakistan's army chief planned to travel to Tehran on Monday, Iranian media reported.

A Palestinian man was beaten by an Israeli settler outside his home, and Israel's military said they were

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pursuing a stabbing suspect in a separate attack, the latest violence in the occupied West Bank.

Here's a look at the latest developments in the Iran war and the wider Middle East on Sunday. Full coverage can be found here.

Iran's president says his country needs to get past current stall

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian defended a recent memorandum of understanding as the best way for the country to move beyond what he described as a situation of "neither war nor peace."

In a speech published by state-run IRNA early on Sunday, he said members of Iran's Supreme National Security Council believed the memorandum represented the best possible agreement based on what he described as dignity, wisdom and the national interest.

"There is not a single provision in this agreement that amounts to capitulation," Pezeshkian said. "The supreme leader sets the policies, and we will follow that path."

The deal known as the Memorandum of Understanding that U.S. President Donald Trump signed in June set an ambitious 60-day deadline for ending the war with Iran and reaching an accord on its nuclear program. That period ended last week, but the two sides remain far apart, with no signs of compromise on the crucial issue of reopening the Strait of Hormuz, vital to global shipping.

Pezeshkian also linked the agreement to Iran's economic prospects, saying the country could not attract investment in this stalled phase.

"Capital and money are extremely sensitive to risk," he said. "We have to remove this risk from the country."

Nearly six months into the war with the United States and Israel, the Iranian economy is suffering under sanctions and a naval blockade.

Iran security chief warns neighbors against possible economic sanctions

Meanwhile, the hard-line new leader of Iran's Supreme National Security Council warned Tehran's neighbors against joining the new U.S. effort to hurt Iran's economy.

"If (Trump) wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner," Mohsen Rezaei said in an interview with the state broadcaster that aired Saturday.

Rezaei was named this month as part of senior appointments widely seen as hardening Tehran's political and military stance. His interview with IRIB is his most extensive public statement since then.

Rezaei said Iran would target oil-shipping routes out of the Persian Gulf — alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz — if neighbors join what he described as the economic war against Iran.

Trump in the past week has vowed to increase Iran's pain by imposing an "unprecedented" level of economic warfare and isolation. Iran has lived under sanctions for years.

Pakistan's army chief to visit Tehran

Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir will lead an official delegation traveling to Tehran on Monday, Iranian state television reported, citing Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmail Baghaei.

Baghaei said the visit aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and continue Pakistan's work to promote peace and security in the region.

Two regional officials said the visit was part Islamabad's ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions between the United States and Iran, and urge both countries to return to the negotiating table. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The trip announcement came after a phone call between Munir and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. There was no immediate comment from Pakistan, which has led several mediation efforts to end the Iran war.

Munir has made several visits to Iran since Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assigned him to help defuse tensions between the United States and Iran.

___By Munir Ahmed in Islamabad.

Iran executes man arrested during January's protests

The judiciary's Mizan news agency reported on Sunday the latest execution connected to the protests, identifying the man as Majid Adineh and saying he was arrested Jan. 9 in Mohammadshahr, near Karaj,

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west of Tehran. Authorities said he was carrying a handgun with 30 rounds of ammunition, two stun guns, two cans of tear gas and a battery-powered chainsaw.

The judiciary said forensic examinations indicated the handgun had been fired on Jan. 8 and 9. Mizan said Adineh had joined the unrest following calls by groups opposed to Iran's government and alleged that he had received training from groups outside the country.

A Revolutionary Court in Karaj later convicted Adineh under Iran's law imposing harsher penalties for espionage and cooperation with hostile states. Mizan said the verdict accused him of carrying out operations on behalf of Israel, the United States and other groups Iran considers hostile.

Palestinian amputee beaten by settler in the West Bank

A 61-year-old Palestinian man was struck by a young Israeli settler with a pipe outside his home in the occupied West Bank, leaving him with bruises and pain, a year after he lost a leg after being shot by a settler.

Saeed Muhammad Ibrahim Rabah told The Associated Press that two settlers arrived with a tractor at his home in Khirbet al-Rakeez in the southern West Bank on Saturday afternoon. One of them began moving stones the family had placed at the property entrance and tried to enter.

One settler struck him on his back with a pipe when he approached them to find out what they were doing, Rabah said. They then left, and he was taken for medical treatment and later returned home with bruising and pain. He said the violence is an effort to make families like his leave.

"We will remain, no matter what happens," he said after going to the police on Sunday to file a report. "This is our land and this is our homeland, and we must protect it."

Rabah said in April 2025, he confronted settlers on his land while his son filmed. One settler began choking his son as another settler grabbed the father, fired two shots into the air and then shot him in the legs, he said. After a delay, he was taken to a hospital where one of his legs was amputated.

Separately, Israel's military said Sunday they were pursuing the suspect in a stabbing attack that injured a 24-year-old Israeli man in the area of al-Auja, in the eastern West Bank. Israel's emergency services said the victim was taken to a hospital in moderate condition.

Violence has escalated in the West Bank, where at least 87 Palestinians have been killed in almost 1,500 attacks by Israeli settlers and soldiers this year, according to Palestinian officials. Three Israelis have been killed by Palestinians in 2026.

Dutch Grand Prix sees a potential path back to F1 amid Middle East uncertainty

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH AP Sports Writer

The Dutch Grand Prix is bidding goodbye to Formula 1 on Sunday but its organizers say it could potentially "serve as an alternative venue" in the future amid continuing uncertainty over next year's schedule.

Already this year, the security situation in the Middle East following the outbreak of the Iran war has meant Bahrain's race was moved to Malaysia and the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix was canceled.

F1 has indicated at least one extra event in Europe if the season-ending races in Qatar and Abu Dhabi can't take place as planned. One likely candidate could be the Imola circuit in Italy. There are more question marks over how the four contracted Middle East races could be included in the 2027 schedule.

"Circuit Zandvoort could serve as an alternative venue in the future if another Grand Prix were unable to take place due to geopolitical circumstances, for example. The circuit's FIA Grade 1 license will remain valid for another three years," the Dutch Grand Prix organization told The Associated Press in a statement Saturday.

"In practice, however, many factors would need to be considered, including the necessary permits, the availability of equipment and the required preparation time. Moreover, there are other venues on the Formula 1 calendar that would make more sense from a logistical perspective. At this stage, therefore, this is not a concrete scenario."

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F1 did not immediately respond to a request for comment Sunday.

What makes the Dutch Grand Prix different

The Dutch Grand Prix is a relative rarity in modern F1 as a privately run project that doesn't rely on government backing.

That makes it crucial to sell out tickets because hosting a race at Zandvoort requires spending around 75 million euros (\$87.6 million) to set up infrastructure, including temporary stands seating tens of thousands of fans around the seaside circuit.

The Dutch Grand Prix returned to F1 in 2021 for the first time since 1985 and the success of four-time champion Max Verstappen — who this week signed a new contract through 2030 — has been crucial to its success. Organizers declined a potential contract extension in 2024 citing “risks and responsibilities” and a desire to go out on a high.

Replacement venues come with challenges

Fitting in a race in Europe after the scheduled Las Vegas Grand Prix on Nov. 21 could mean F1 teams and spectators dealing with weather far colder than at most races.

“I think if it were to be Imola, and to be clear, that isn't confirmed or otherwise, the weather will be interesting and spicy, but it would still be nice to go back to a European race at the end of it,” Williams team principal James Vowles said Friday.

“I know F1 are working incredibly hard for that not to happen and for the calendar to continue as is.”

There's also the question of funding. F1's agreement to return to Malaysia in October for the first time in nine years involved working with the governments of Bahrain and Malaysia to agree a deal that keeps Bahrain Grand Prix branding and denotes Malaysia as “host venue”.

Drivers and teams don't know for sure where and when the season will end, but title contenders George Russell and Lando Norris said Thursday it isn't affecting their preparations.

“I'm not even thinking of what I'm going to do on Monday yet,” Norris joked. “Lack of clarity at the minute doesn't change anything.”

Russell added: “I prefer more races than less. That's the only thing I would wish for. But it's out of our control, it's out of Formula 1's control as well, so it is what it is.”

Milton throws 2 TDs in 1st half, makes case for Cowboys' backup job in 34-13 win over Cardinals

By DAVID BRANDT AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Joe Milton had another good day in his quest to become the Dallas Cowboys' backup quarterback. Coach Brian Schottenheimer says there's still work to be done.

The third-year player — who is battling Sam Howell for the No. 2 role behind Dak Prescott — threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score in a second straight impressive preseason effort, sparking the Cowboys to a 34-13 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Saturday night.

“This is long from over,” Schottenheimer said about the backup quarterback competition. “We're going back to Frisco, thankfully, get a chance to be home and put some more training camp days in. You've got to give Joe his credit, he's played really well the past two games, but we have a lot of confidence in Sam as well.”

Milton finished 9-of-13 passing for 176 yards, connecting on a 53-yard touchdown pass to Jonathan Mingo and a 70-yard strike to Camden Brown that set up Milton's 1-yard touchdown run a play later. The play to Mingo was perfectly executed, with the receiver making a double move before Milton hit him in stride down the left sideline.

“This game is about to being able to control the RPMs of the football and throw it with different speeds and touches,” Schottenheimer said. “He's done that at a very high level.”

Dallas built a 24-6 lead by halftime. Jaydon Blue ran for 75 yards on 15 carries.

The 26-year-old Milton was a sixth-round pick by New England in 2024. He played in four regular-season games with Dallas last season, throwing for 183 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions.

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Howell completed 7 of 10 passes for 65 yards in the second half, but also threw an interception in the end zone. He started all 17 games with Washington in 2023 and was with Philadelphia last season but didn't appear in any regular-season games.

Both teams rested most of their starters.

Arizona's Gardner Minshew completed 19 of 23 passes for 177 yards, playing the entire first half and the first series of the second half. He's expected to be Jacoby Brissett's backup this season.

Dallas defense shines early

Cowboys cornerback Shavon Revel picked off Minshew's pass midway through the first quarter after receiver Simi Fehoko slipped on the route. Revel returned the ball 22 yards to the Arizona 12.

Three plays later, Milton escaped from the pocket, rolled out to his left and hit Malik Davis for an 8-yard touchdown pass and a 7-0 lead.

Revel is in his second season after being drafted by the Cowboys in the third round out of East Carolina in 2025. He played in seven games last year, starting five.

Cowboys rookie linebacker Jaishawn Barham also had an early tackle for loss.

Penalty problems for Cardinals

The Cardinals had two touchdowns called back on the same drive when receiver Rivaldo Fairweather was flagged for a pair of penalties. Fairweather was called for offensive holding on the first play and offensive pass interference on the second.

Arizona had to settle for a 38-yard field goal from Chad Ryland, which cut the deficit to 14-3.

Later in the first half, the Cardinals were called for a false start at the Dallas 1-yard line. Minshew was sacked on the next play and Ryland kicked a 31-yard field goal.

"It was the culmination of our week — we had a sloppy week of practice," coach Mike LaFleur said. "I don't think we've practiced really well over the last week since Vegas. There have been individuals who have practiced well, there's been times where we've done good things, but overall it wasn't good enough.

"This — tonight — was a summary of that week in general."

Injuries

Cardinals safety Dadrion Taylor-Demerson (ribs) left late in the first quarter after delivering a big hit on Cowboys tight end Zack Kuntz. Taylor-Demerson was called for a personal foul on the play. ... Cowboys safety Julius Wood left in the third quarter with a concussion.

Up next

Cowboys: Host New Orleans on Friday night.

Cardinals: At Green Bay on Friday night.

The sunhat is everywhere in Athens as crowds grow larger at ancient sites

By DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Outside the Acropolis, a sea of hats bobs up and down the hill to the ancient site: straw boaters, Panama hats, baseball caps and bucket hats in the relentless heat.

Hat racks are hard to miss in central Athens this summer. Kiosks and stores keep outdoor stands piled high as more tourists seek relief from the midday heat.

The Acropolis drew about 4.6 million visitors in 2025, a record year for Greek tourism. Many spend hours in mid-30s Celsius (mid-90s Fahrenheit) temperatures with little shade. Even a carriage horse at the foot of the ancient monument has joined in, sporting a brown bucket hat with holes cut for its ears.

"You need a hat. I'm already red as it is," said Jack Yosif, an Australian tourist wearing a black baseball cap. "It's a bit more of a common thing nowadays, and people are a bit more aware."

Scorching temperatures didn't deter a record 38 million visitors last year, the most recent for which there is data. The combination of extreme heat and high demand for sites — which means not everyone can visit in the morning — is adding urgency to sun protection.

Greek health campaigners have welcomed a growing awareness of the dangers of ultraviolet exposure

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and risk of heat stroke. Red Cross volunteers at the Acropolis hand out kits with sunscreen, water, information leaflets and red caps.

On nearby Syntagma Square, kiosk owner Konstantinos Mallios says hat sales have risen in recent years. His stylish and souvenir models run up to 20 euros (\$24) while the cheapest costs 6 euros. Available elsewhere is semi-disposable headgear: mass-produced hats made using compressed paper pulp.

And there are more ostentatious options. At her basement workshop, hatmaker Lisa Sarigiannidou turns straw braids into boaters using century-old presses and molds in a matter of minutes. Her hats start at around 50 euros, with elaborate designs costing more than 100 euros.

"People's attitudes toward hats have changed," said Sarigiannidou, who was trained by her hatmaker father. "In the past, when a young woman tried on a hat and looked at herself in the mirror, she usually laughed. Now they try them on seriously ... and they wear them straight out the door."

Buc-ee's chain draws outcry in Ohio for launching fight over a mini mart's beaver logo

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio (AP) — A lip-licking alligator, a smiling moose and a hat-wearing bear are among the many cartoon animals to have found themselves in the crosshairs of Buc-ee's, the popular Texas convenience store chain that has a penchant for protecting its buck-toothed beaver.

But now Buc-ee's has set off a Buckeye backlash across Ohio and beyond after taking on a beaver in the city of Beavercreek.

It's yet another Buc-ee's Ltd. trademark infringement lawsuit. Supporters of Beaver's Mini Mart have attacked Buc-ee's online and boycotted the stores, and the mini mart's home city passed a resolution making the beaver an official part of its history. British comedian John Oliver has even weighed in on the kerfuffle.

On an episode of "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," the comedian detailed Buc-ee's aggressive history of trademark lawsuits targeting various woodland creatures and launched a website hawking merchandise bearing a knockoff "Buc-off" logo and a squirrel mascot named Mr. Nutterbutter. On X, #boycottbucees trended.

Buc-ee's sued Beaver's Mini Mart in late July, four months after the chain known for its extensive food offerings and massive restrooms opened its first Ohio store less than a half-hour's drive away.

Buc-ee's argues the shop's beaver logo too closely resembles the convenience store giant's branded Buc-ee ("Bucky") beaver. The Texas-based company asked for a jury trial in federal court in Ohio.

Buc-ee's claims a right to protect its valuable logo

Beaver's Mini Mart occupies a long, low building with a shingle roof at a suburban intersection. In contrast, the new 74,000-square-foot (6,875-square-meter) Buc-ee's off Interstate 70 near Dayton has more than 100 gas pumps, 24 electric vehicle chargers and 700 parking spaces. A second Ohio store has been approved to open in 2028.

While preparing to enter the state in February, Buc-ee's sued the northern Ohio holding company for Mickey Mart gas stations, arguing its Mickey the Moose logo could be confused with Buc-ee. (The company's response: "A moose is not a beaver.")

The Buc-ee's beaver logo features the face of a beaver with prominent buck teeth wearing a red ball cap against a yellow backdrop. The Beaver's Mini Mart mascot is a full beaver, unclothed, waving and smiling against a white background.

Customers have been critical of Buc-ee's decision to target the much smaller store.

"I love Buc-ee's, but I don't plan on going back until they start making better business decisions," Austin Collins, 32, a project manager from Fairborn, said outside Beaver's, where he was making his first visit to protest the lawsuit.

He called targeting a beaver-named business in Beavercreek "a little spiteful." License plates from three states were visible in the parking lot.

Buc-ee's has defended the lawsuit as protective of its valuable trademark. In a statement on its website,

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the company said it first learned of Beaver's Mini Mart when its owner, Vic Boparai, filed a trade name registration on Oct. 23.

The small business, incorporated in 2017, changed its name from Hanes Road Carryout to Beaver's Mini Mart in January 2025, according to the paperwork. That was about four months after Buc-ee's broke ground near Dayton. Recognizing a conflict, the company said it repeatedly attempted to reach Boparai without success, so it was forced to sue.

Boparai has since issued a statement of his own, though without addressing the company's concerns nor the merits of the lawsuit.

"We want to say thank you to the community and the entire country for supporting us and our business," he said. "We are overwhelmed by your support for our business and other small businesses everywhere."

The Associated Press has been unable to reach Boparai at Beaver's Mini Mart or by calling the store.

Beavercreek adopts the beaver as part of city history

Beavercreek City Council responded to the dust-up by passing a resolution Aug. 10 making the beaver a permanent and official part of its 200-plus-year history. Bucky the Beaver, mascot of the Beavercreek Local Schools, visited the meeting ahead of the unanimous vote.

On social media, images lampooning the fight are rampant. One showed the Ohio State University football mascot, Brutus Buckeye, tackling Buc-ee the beaver.

Support has taken other forms, too. One was a GoFundMe campaign aimed at assuring that costs associated with the lawsuit don't put Beaver's Mini Mart out of business, as has happened to other establishments Buc-ee's sued. It had raised at least \$69,000.

The mini mart gave permission to The Original Goodie Shop bakery in Upper Arlington to use its logo on a signature cookie, with \$1 from each one sold going to support Beaver's legal fees. Cake, Hope & Love, a Beavercreek bakery, also is offering cookies adorned with buck-toothed beavers that urge shopping local.

Other Dayton-area businesses — including a Lego store and a root beer shop — temporarily altered their logos to include beavers in a show of solidarity. Dozens of businesses in Beavercreek already incorporate the city name or word beaver in their names.

Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who attended and praised the grand opening of the Dayton-area Buc-ee's store in April, described the lawsuit as "absurd."

"It is Beavercreek, for heaven's sake," the governor told reporters.

A moderate earthquake shakes Japan, injuring more than 30 people in the Tokyo region

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A moderate earthquake rattled eastern Japan, including the Tokyo area, early Sunday, injuring more than 30 people, most of them lightly, officials said. There was no danger of a tsunami.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 and its epicenter was in the southern Ibaraki prefecture with a depth of 70 kilometers (42 miles). The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude of 5.8.

At least 37 people were injured in five prefectures in the region — 15 in Tokyo, nine in Saitama, eight in Kanagawa, four in Chiba and one in Ibaraki — according to prefectural officials and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Most of the injured were hurt when they fell down or hit themselves against furniture or doors as they were caught off guard by the quake while sleeping and got out of bed in a panic, officials said. Among them was a woman in her 80s who fell off the bed and suffered a serious hip injury in Yokohama, in the Kanagawa prefecture, the Yomiuri newspaper reported.

A 23-year-old man told the Asahi newspaper that he felt a vertical jolt seconds after his earthquake alert went off when he was shopping in Tokyo's eastern district of Taito. He said he feared getting hit by merchandise that fell from shelves as the building shook.

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The quake caused delays to express trains serving Tokyo and Narita Airport and other local trains serving northeastern regions, but Shinkansen bullet trains were running normally, their operator East Japan Railway Co. said.

The government set up a task force to assess the extent of possible damage, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on X.

The Japan Meteorological Agency urged the residents in the area to use caution against another possible moderate earthquake for about a week.

The temblor set off emergency quake alerts on mobile phones and also significantly shook Tokyo. NHK public television showed traffic on roads in nearby cities, including Mito and Saitama, seemingly normal.

An underground water pipe ruptured in Tokyo's eastern ward of Koto, with water pouring onto the road, NHK footage showed. The pipe has been repaired and the leak stopped.

There were no reports of anomalies from about a dozen nuclear power plants and other facilities that handle nuclear materials, the Nuclear Regulation Authority said.

Last month, a magnitude 7.1 quake struck the Kumamoto area on Japan's southernmost island of Kyushu, killing 38 people and injuring 364.

Officials warn wildland firefighters about the risks of using a supplement for smoke exposure

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Fire and medical officials have issued warnings about a supplement offered to Western wildland firefighters who have been exposed to toxic chemicals while battling some of the country's biggest blazes.

The supplement glutathione, given through an IV or an inhaler-like machine called a nebulizer, has not been proven to be safe or effective and could expose firefighters to illness if there is contamination while it's produced, experts say.

At least two pharmacies recalled the supplement in August due to bacterial contamination found during testing at their labs, with one saying it had received reports of people suffering from fever, chills, severe headache and other symptoms.

"Because glutathione is not an FDA-approved drug, consumers should be cautious about product safety and claims that glutathione can treat or prevent diseases," said a safety advisory issued last week by the International Association of Firefighters, a labor union representing some 360,000 first responders.

Warning followed supplement's use during Spokane wildfires

Glutathione was offered to firefighters during recent blazes that destroyed hundreds of buildings in and around Spokane, Washington. During morning briefings, medical unit leaders on scene from California urged crews to check out a tent where a nonprofit run by licensed naturopathic doctors offered the supplement.

A group of naturopaths called The Integrative Health Action Network had previously provided the supplement to firefighters during the January 2025 wildfires that tore through Los Angeles County. The group's work with firefighters began following a 2017 blaze that destroyed thousands of homes in California's wine country.

Though there is no evidence to back its use, some firefighters have said the supplement helped them feel better after breathing toxic smoke and they have urged California pharmacy officials not to restrict access.

The supplement's promotion in Spokane prompted physicians and some members to contact the IAFF with concerns about health claims despite no research proving those claims or showing the supplement's safety, said Sean DeCrane, IAFF assistant to the general president for health and safety. Some doctors have warned of adverse effects.

The IAFF also received reports saying some firefighters felt worse or became sick after getting treated. Medical treatments being marketed to firefighters should be evaluated and tested to make sure there are no unintended consequences, DeCrane said.

In response to the safety advisory, Jen Riegler, a naturopathic doctor and co-founder of The Integrative

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Health Action Network, said the organization recognizes the need for peer-reviewed research on whether glutathione can reduce chemical burdens in firefighters and is "actively exploring partnerships to that end."

How inhaling wildfire smoke harms the body

More studies are showing the wide-ranging negative health impacts of inhaling wildfire smoke, which is especially toxic when blazes tear through urban areas and burn up household appliances, batteries and chemicals. Tens of thousands of people die annually in the U.S. from long-term impacts of wildfire smoke.

Firefighters work in extreme conditions that make it impractical to use a respirator with an oxygen tank. That means they are exposed to a "slew of chemicals" that have short and long-term impacts on their health, DeCrane said.

Pasadena Fire Captain Matt Caffey, also a paramedic for 28 years, helped fight last year's Eaton fire in Southern California and said the smoke exposure from burning neighborhoods brings on coughing, vomiting and brain fog.

"You can't remember things. You're just so behind the eight ball. You can't catch up. You're not recovering," he said.

Caffey is among the firefighters who say glutathione helps, and he urged Integrative Health Action Network providers to come to Spokane. The California Board of Pharmacy in 2025 reversed course on regulations that would have made the supplement more difficult to acquire after pushback from some firefighters.

Experts say health claims are not backed by evidence

Experts warn anecdotal claims of relief are not proof.

Such claims are "interesting and provocative and deserve further study," said Dr. Cora Sack, a pulmonary specialist with expertise in environmental and occupational lung disease at the University of Washington School of Medicine. But "we lack clinical evidence of its efficacy."

Glutathione is an antioxidant made primarily in the liver that neutralizes other unstable molecules that attack the body and cause cellular damage. Wildfire smoke creates oxidative stress in the body, and there is an "interesting biological plausibility" to think antioxidants could impact that, Sack said. But she does not endorse glutathione's use without clear evidence.

Taking glutathione through a nebulizer may constrict the airways of people who have asthma or chronic lung conditions. Glutathione is processed in sterile compounding pharmacies, and there have been cases of people getting poisoned due to contamination at these facilities, Sack said.

Injecting a contaminated product "could cause significant medical events including fevers, hypotension, inflammatory reactions, anaphylactic shock and death," according to the recent pharmacy recalls.

Luke Montrose, a professor at Colorado State University whose research focuses in part on the impact of wildfire smoke on disease risk, said glutathione has anti-inflammatory properties.

"But because it hasn't been studied, I'm hesitant," he said.

Trump will kick off the IndyCar race in the Beast before cars zoom through Washington's streets

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For once, things will be moving quickly in bureaucratic Washington, D.C., when the nation's capital hosts an IndyCar race through its streets.

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump are scheduled to watch Sunday's Freedom 250 Grand Prix as the cars whip through the city's downtown, including a stretch along Pennsylvania Avenue not too far from the White House.

"Their beautiful cars are going to make freedom roar. This will be a freedom that's roaring like never before," Trump said at the White House earlier this month as he promoted the event.

Before the race, Trump and his wife will lead a traditional prerace kickoff in his presidential limo, U.S. Ambassador Monica Crowley, Trump's liaison to the organizing group America250, said in an interview on Fox Business on Friday.

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The open-wheel race, with cars whizzing past Washington's monuments at speeds approaching 200 mph, is the latest of Trump's celebrations this year to mark America's 250th birthday.

Trump's other events to mark the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence's signing have included a UFC fight on the White House lawn, military aircraft flyovers, a massive July Fourth fireworks show on the National Mall and a Great American State Fair that the president headlined after scores of '90s-era musical acts dropped out. The events have all had a Trumpian flair, featuring appearances from his friends and the aim of showcasing spectacle, Americana and power.

In this latest case, it will be horsepower.

In addition to the main event, there will also be a prerace show and flyovers of military aircraft, which swooped and boomed over the city during the July Fourth celebrations.

The IndyCar race comes as Trump has been struggling to resolve the war he started nearly six months ago with Iran, a conflict that has driven up gasoline prices and exacerbated worries from officials in his Republican Party that voters in this November's midterm elections see the president as distracted and not focused enough on cost-of-living concerns.

Trump in his second term has increasingly seemed to focus on relishing the presidency's ceremonial aspects. That's included a healthy dose of visits to sporting events — including an appearance last month at the World Cup final, where he presented the trophy to winner Spain and lingered onstage with the team as its members jumped in a hail of confetti.

An executive order Trump signed earlier this year calling for the Freedom 250 Grand Prix declared that the "cars and drivers inspire awe and respect in all who watch this quintessentially American sport," and the event will "showcase the majesty of our great city as drivers navigate a track around our iconic national monuments in celebration of America's 250th birthday."

IndyCar series owner Roger Penske, a longtime friend of Trump's who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from him in 2019, helped lead the effort to bring the race to Washington.

Bud Denker, president of Penske Corporation and the race's chair, said that Penske is paying for the "vast majority" of the race, including building the track and road improvements, while the District of Columbia handled some repaving.

Among the changes needed on the city's streets was the welding of more than 200 manhole covers to ensure the race cars don't suck them up off the road.

Sunday's festivities are also the latest opportunity for Trump to revel in the way he's putting his mark on the nation's capital, including large banners showing his face on government buildings, the construction of a massive White House ballroom, a gold-adorned Oval Office and botched repairs at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

Pope Leo calls for dialogue over conflict, says young Catholics are a sign of hope

By GIADA ZAMPANO and NICCOLÒ LUPONE Associated Press

SAN MARINO (AP) — Pope Leo XIV used a visit to the tiny landlocked San Marino and a major Catholic gathering in the Italian city of Rimini on Saturday to issue one of his strongest appeals yet against war, polarization and social division, urging believers to foster dialogue and friendship in a fractured world.

Speaking to tens of thousands in Rimini, Leo warned against a culture that "rearms minds, words and nations" and argued that Christians must respond with mercy, encounter and a commitment to peace.

He also delivered a message of encouragement to young Catholics, telling them they are "a sign that the future is promising, and not a threat!"

Earlier, in San Marino, Leo addressed local authorities of the world's oldest surviving republic and reflected on the legacy of Saints Marino and Leone, whom he credited with helping create a society rooted in freedom, mutual respect and community.

The pope said the two saints translated the Christian message into "a new community and political model, strongly characterized by the Christian principles of freedom, mutual respect and communion" — a legacy

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that he said continues to shape the republic today.

San Marino, a nation of about 35,000 people completely surrounded by Italy, traces its origins to the fourth century. It is governed by a 60-member parliament that elects two captains regent every six months to serve jointly as heads of state, a power-sharing arrangement designed to prevent the concentration of authority.

Using the micro state as an example, Leo argued that small political communities can offer lessons in public service and social cohesion at a time of growing division and distrust.

Leo is the third pope to visit San Marino, after St. John Paul II visited in 1982 and Pope Benedict XVI came in 2011.

The American pontiff praised a society "built on respect for one's own freedom and that of others and above all on respect for the sacred Will of God."

He warned that modern societies face increasing threats from violence, social fragmentation and ideologies that put self-interest ahead of the common good.

"We live in a world wounded by many conflicts," the pope said, citing growing violence, closures and fear of others. He urged Christians to respond through forgiveness, solidarity and concern for the vulnerable.

Leo also described San Marino as a "laboratory of good politics" and called for public life to uphold the dignity of every human person "from conception to natural death" — language commonly used by Vatican officials and Catholic leaders when referring to church opposition to abortion and euthanasia.

In 2021, San Marino voters approved a referendum legalizing abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, overturning a decades-old ban. The referendum represented a significant change in law and public policy in a country with deep Catholic roots.

While Leo did not directly address the referendum, he repeatedly stressed the need for political, social and economic systems to place human dignity at their center. He warned against models that present themselves as liberating but ultimately fail to serve the human person and the common good.

A call for mercy in a divided world

Later Saturday, Leo addressed the annual Rimini Meeting — a major Catholic cultural festival organized by the Communion and Liberation movement — urging Catholics to respond to a world marked by war, division and inequality with dialogue, friendship and encounter.

He said peace is built by people "who love to encounter one another and are not afraid to engage with one another," arguing that human dignity must come before political, social and ideological divisions.

In some of his strongest comments to date on global tensions, he warned against what he described as a growing culture of confrontation and militarization.

Christians should recognize that "there can be no enemies," and that even opponents are "a brother or sister to be looked in the eye and encountered in truth," Leo added.

He urged Catholics to challenge systems that fuel poverty, inequality and conflict.

"Let us expose unjust structures of power that lie at the root of poverty, inequality, war and environmental disasters," he said, while urging believers to free "work from the idolatry of profit" and to "disarm technological development whenever it becomes invasive and destructive."

A significant portion of the pope's speech focused on young people, whom Leo portrayed as a source of hope at a time when many fear the future.

Encouraging young Catholics to engage with society rather than retreat into closed communities, he urged them: "Do not be afraid to give yourselves fully!" and "Go forth to meet everyone!"

Echoing themes championed by his predecessor, Pope Francis, Leo also encouraged Catholics to embrace listening and dialogue, arguing that the church grows through the attraction of authentic witness rather than proselytism.

Texas judge denies Karmelo Anthony's request for new trial in deadly stabbing at track meet

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas judge denied a new trial for Karmelo Anthony on Saturday in the stabbing death of a 17-year-old athlete at a high school track meet, a killing that drew national attention and led to harassment of the families.

Anthony, 19, was convicted of murder in June and sentenced to 35 years in prison for the April 2025 killing of Austin Metcalf.

Judge Michael Chitty denied the retrial motion in a half-page order following a two-day hearing this week near Dallas, citing a review of the evidence and arguments. He did not elaborate.

Russell Wilson, Anthony's attorney, said the defense would appeal.

"Our commitment to our client has not changed," Wilson said. "We will continue to advocate vigorously on his behalf through every lawful avenue available."

At the center of Anthony's retrial request was an off-the-record agreement between prosecutors and his trial defense team to keep damaging character evidence about both teenagers out of the proceeding. Both sides agreed to hold back evidence that risked further inflaming a case already boiling with racial tensions and death threats.

The case attracted widespread attention in part because of a flood of social media posts that amplified the killing in racial terms. Anthony is Black; Metcalf was white. Lawyers on both sides, however, told jurors that the case had nothing to do with race.

Worries that prosecutors would renege on the agreement as Anthony prepared to testify, his attorneys say, came after a heated argument between lawyers on both sides and changed their defense strategy at the eleventh hour. Anthony ultimately decided not to testify.

Prosecutor Bill Wirskey defended the trial as fair this week.

"We respect, and expected, the court's decision denying the motion for a new trial," Collin County District Attorney Greg Willis said after the denial was announced. "The jury's guilty verdict stands, and we remain confident in the process. Every defendant has the right to appeal, and our thoughts and prayers remain with the Metcalf family in the painful wake of last week's hearing."

Anthony's attorneys also demanded a retrial because they said trial judge John Roach's courtroom rules were so strict that they limited the public's access to the proceedings. And in asking for Roach's recusal, they noted that he gave a posttrial interview with a Dallas TV station in which he expressed agreement with the jury's decision.

"Whatever they say, they got it right," Roach said.

Roach said his rules were necessary for a fair trial, and prosecutors insisted he did nothing wrong.

Jurors rejected Anthony's claims that he was defending himself during a confrontation with Metcalf in the bleachers of the track meet.

Anthony and Metcalf were athletes for different high schools in the Dallas suburb of Frisco, where several teams were competing on the rainy spring day when the meet took place.

Anthony sat under the tent that belonged to Metcalf's team, and Metcalf and others repeatedly told him to leave, witnesses testified. That led to an escalating confrontation.

Prosecutors said Anthony provoked Metcalf, and witnesses identified Anthony as the aggressor.

At one point Anthony reached inside a bag and said: "Touch me and see what happens," according to a police report.

Witnesses said Metcalf pushed Anthony, who pulled out a knife and stabbed him in the chest.

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Tropical Storm Moke advances toward Hawaii as winds strengthen

HONOLULU (AP) — Tropical Storm Moke advanced toward Hawaii on Saturday, likely bringing more heavy rainfall and strong gusts to the Big Island, where residents are still dealing with the aftermath of heavy flooding and damaging winds from Hurricane Lala.

Moke, which formed Friday in the Pacific Ocean, was located about 425 miles (680 kilometers) southeast of Hilo and moving west-northwest at 12 mph (19 kph). Maximum sustained winds were around 50 mph (85 kph), the National Hurricane Center said.

As with Hurricane Lala, the Big Island was expected to bear the brunt of Moke's rain and heavy winds as it passes south of a direct hit late Saturday into early Sunday.

Moke was then forecast to continue its westward path near the islands through early Tuesday, said Casey Oswant, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Honolulu.

"There will still be impacts, especially to the windward and southeast sides of the Big Island, but it will probably be a little bit more limited than what we saw with Lala," Oswant said.

Lala downed trees, swept buildings off their foundations, damaged roads and bridges and left roads covered in mud and rocks. Two storm-related deaths were reported.

Weekend rainfall predictions for the southeast and windward sides of the Big Island were 5 to 10 inches (13 to 25 centimeters), with as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) in isolated areas, Oswant said. Across the rest of the island chain, 1 to 2 inches (2 to 5 centimeters) of rain was expected, though parts of east Maui could see up to 4 inches (10 centimeters).

There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect, but people were urged to closely monitor the storm's progress. The rainfall has the potential to cause dangerous rip currents, life-threatening flooding and mudslides, especially in steep areas and places where the ground remains saturated, the center said.

The northeast coast of the Big Island saw the heaviest total rainfall from Lala, at 43.54 inches (1.1 meters), according to the weather service. More than 8,000 customers on the Big Island remained without power, according to poweroutage.us.

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green and other state officials held a news conference ahead of Moke, urging people to prepare by restocking food, medicine and other essentials.

"There's definitely tension in the air" at the thought of more rain in communities that floodwaters turned into rivers, said Tiffany Edwards Hunt, a teacher living in Keaau, on the east side of the Big Island.

Drivers turn their attention from the buildings to the bumps while testing out DC's IndyCar track

By NOAH TRISTER AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Freedom 250 Grand Prix is largely about the visuals — the Capitol hovering behind Turn 1, the Washington Monument off in the distance.

Now, IndyCar drivers can finally evaluate the actual track.

"I didn't know if it was going to be fun or not to drive. It's a blast, super fun," series points leader Alex Palou said after a morning practice session Saturday. "Very bumpy, huge bumps heading into Turn 2 and Turn 6. Massive bumps that are going to spice things up."

The 1.7-mile street course in downtown Washington was an unknown commodity, set up for the first — and possibly the last — time for this event celebrating the country's 250th birthday. As these tracks go, it looks pretty simple with only seven turns, all but one to the left.

That doesn't mean the driving is smooth, though — even on the straightaway down Pennsylvania Avenue between Turns 1 and 2.

"We got quite a bit of bumps on the exit of Turn 1, quite a bit of bumps going into 2, the straightaway," said Pato O'Ward, who won last month at Mid-Ohio. "I would say that's taken over a little bit of what the characteristic of what this track is."

Pennsylvania Avenue is repaved often because of its role in presidential inaugurations. Race chair Bud Denker spoke highly of the area's roads in the run-up to the event, but at high speed, the slightest bump

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can make a difference. Louis Foster went over one near the end of the Independence Avenue straightaway and ended up going nose-first into the wall — in the area Palou was talking about before Turn 6.

"Going to try to see if we can get a better balance in the corners, not focus so much on the bumps. They're not going to disappear," Palou said. "I think if you move a little bit on lanes, might be a little bit better, but it's not going to completely go away from that."

Palou said Turn 2 — a severe bend at the end of the Pennsylvania Avenue straightaway — presents a good passing opportunity. Same for Turn 5 — a 90-degree left from 7th Street onto Independence Avenue.

"I think there's going to be a lot of action. I see that just having a wide track, it's just going to allow us to have more passing than, for example, Detroit," Palou said, referring to another downtown Indycar course. "It's so narrow that even if you are so much faster, you can just block so much easier. Here, if you're not going to have the pace, they're going to overtake you."

Palou had the top practice lap of 56.6145 seconds in the second session, then topped qualifying later in the day.

Although IndyCar owns the D.C. spotlight this weekend, NASCAR made its presence felt when four-time Cup champion Jeff Gordon swept Saturday's two-race IROC event in Washington. Kurt Busch was runner-up in both races.

"I was like a kid in a candy store," Busch said. "It was like I was in a bowl of M&M's with all the colors and the banners. 'Where's my braking zone? I don't know — oh, that's a cool building.'"

The weather was mostly fine despite some threatening clouds. IndyCar drivers can expect humid conditions for Sunday's 147-lap, 250-mile race.

"It's going to be physical," O'Ward said. "Every challenge that a street course usually throws at you. It's bumpy. You got a bunch of sweat inside of the helmet. You're bouncing up and down in there. It gets pretty rough, gets pretty aggressive."

Iran security chief threatens neighbors against economic measures, and other Mideast developments

By The Associated Press undefined

The new leader of Iran's top security body is threatening neighbors against joining new U.S. efforts to squeeze Tehran's economy. Egypt is trying to revive Iran-U.S. negotiations. And Iraq and Iran say Tehran has helped some ships carrying Iraqi oil to transit the Strait of Hormuz. France and Saudi Arabia are expected to discuss plans to bypass the waterway.

Meanwhile, Israel has carried out strikes in Syria and in Gaza.

Here's a look at the latest developments in the Iran war and the wider Middle East on Saturday. Full coverage can be found [here](#).

Iran's new top security adviser issues threats

The hard-line new leader of Iran's Supreme National Security Council threatened Tehran's neighbors against joining the new U.S. effort to hurt Iran's economy, and accused the United States of increasing global nuclear insecurity with months of war.

"If (Trump) wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner," he said in an interview with the state broadcaster that aired Saturday.

Mohsen Rezaei was named this month as part of senior appointments widely seen as hardening Tehran's political and military stance. His interview with IRIB is his most extensive public statement since then.

Rezaei said Iran would target oil-shipping routes out of the Persian Gulf — alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz — if neighbors join what he described as the economic war against Iran. Those neighbors would be considered enemies and "we will target their interests," he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump in the past week has vowed to increase Iran's pain by imposing an "unprecedented" level of economic warfare and isolation. Iran has lived under sanctions for years.

Rezaei said discussions with Oman, located on the other side of the strait, over management of it were ongoing, and said fees would be imposed. Iran asserted control over what was seen as an international

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waterway shortly after the U.S. and Israel attacked on Feb. 28.

Rezaei also vowed to make changes to Iran's diplomacy and bring new capabilities to what he called the next war. He warned the U.S. against sending more military personnel to the region, and said the U.S. had increased nuclear insecurity because countries see that participating in international monitoring efforts, as Iran has done, is no protection against attack.

Egypt tries to revive US-Iran negotiations

The top diplomats for Egypt and Iran discussed efforts to bring Tehran and Washington back to the negotiating table to settle the war, Egypt's foreign ministry said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty also discussed the Iranian-Omani talks, the ministry said.

Araghchi briefed Egypt's foreign minister about "Iran's view of ongoing developments, the course of negotiations and their challenges," the ministry said, without elaborating. Araghchi confirmed the call. Separately, Araghchi said he had a call with Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir,

Iran and Iraq say some Iraqi oil is facilitated through the strait

The governments of Iraq and Iran said Tehran has helped some ships carrying Iraqi oil to transit the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for global oil, natural gas and other supplies, but there were few details.

"There is facilitation for some ships carrying Iraqi oil in the Strait of Hormuz," Iraqi President Nizar Amidi said in comments published Saturday by the state-run news agency, adding that Iraq doesn't have a national carrier for transporting oil.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said a number of Iraqi oil tankers have been permitted to transit. It was not clear how many or what Iran might have received in return.

Syria says an Israeli drone strikes inside a village

An Israeli drone strike on a vehicle wounded one person on Saturday in the southwestern Syrian village of Beit Jin, according to the Syrian state news agency SANA. Syria's foreign ministry said several civilians were injured and called the strike a flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty.

The Israeli military said it targeted a "terrorist who advanced terror attacks in final stages of preparation," without elaborating. It wasn't immediately clear if it was the same strike.

Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes around Syria after the ouster of former President Bashar Assad in late 2024, mainly destroying army assets to keep them out of the hands of his successors.

Messages differ on the Golan Heights

In an interview on Friday with Mario Nawfal, a Lebanese-Australian entrepreneur, U.S. Ambassador Tom Barrack said Israel "still" occupies the Golan Heights in violation of U.N. resolutions.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz on Saturday in a statement called Barrack's remarks "full of inaccuracies and positions that contradict Trump's own position."

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war and annexed it in 1981. The U.N. considers the territory occupied Syrian land. But in March 2019, Trump signed a proclamation recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, reversing decades of U.S. policy.

French president and Saudi crown prince will meet

French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman are expected to discuss plans to develop alternative routes to the Strait of Hormuz during the Saudi leader's two-day visit to Paris that starts on Sunday, according to officials in the presidency who weren't authorized to be publicly named.

Proposals include increasing trade through Omani ports outside of the Persian Gulf, expanding or doubling pipelines in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, and developing new rail links, the officials said.

France and Saudi Arabia have formed a task force on energy and logistics connections between the Middle East and Europe that is scheduled to meet at the ministerial level Monday. The officials said the work would focus on identifying the most strategic projects, securing financing and establishing roles for French companies.

— AP correspondent Angela Charlton in Paris

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An Israeli strike in Gaza kills 1 Palestinian

An Israeli strike on the backyard of a house in central Gaza killed one Palestinian and wounded another Saturday, according to health officials at Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital.

Israel's military said it targeted Sharif al-Hasanat, a Hamas commander who "advanced terror attacks and took part in efforts to restore Hamas' underground infrastructure." Days earlier, a U.S. negotiator reportedly asked Israel to draw down attacks while seeking to make progress on the ceasefire.

Israel's deadly Gaza strikes cast doubt on ceasefire progress days after Kushner visit

By WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Deadly airstrikes in Gaza on Wednesday cast more doubt on whether new U.S. efforts can advance a tenuous ceasefire in the Palestinian territory.

Just two days after U.S. negotiators reportedly asked Israel to draw down attacks in the Gaza Strip, at least 10 people were killed Wednesday in two strikes, according to local hospitals and the Palestinian Red Crescent. Israeli troops also crossed the ceasefire line in southern Gaza and detained a Hamas police colonel at dawn Wednesday, two witnesses and a Hamas official said.

Israel's military said one of the strikes on Wednesday, in the area of Nuseirat refugee camp, struck a Hamas commander who had participated in the Hamas-led attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed and 251 abducted. A second strike in the Tuffah area of Gaza City struck four Hamas militants gathering in a police station, the military said, claiming they were planning to carry out attacks against Israeli troops.

Israel's military said a strike the day before targeted a meeting of four Hamas commanders and additional militants.

The commanders killed included Muhammad Hamdi Ahmad Al-Masri, Muhammad Attar and Muhammad Fathi Hussein Nasser, all accused of carrying out terrorist attacks against Israeli troops, and Samed Samir Harb Abu Habal, who infiltrated Israeli territory during the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack, according to a statement from Israel's military.

The Hamas-run Interior Ministry said the Wednesday Gaza City strike on the police station killed eight police officers and a 13-year-old girl. Two officers were women, it said. One person was killed in Nuseirat. On Tuesday evening, an Israeli strike on a busy seaside cafe killed seven Palestinians, including a child, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Jared Kushner, a U.S. negotiator and President Donald Trump's son-in-law, held a marathon meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, in which he asked Israel's leader to draw down attacks on Gaza, a person familiar with the meeting said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief journalists.

Also on Wednesday, Israel's military said it had completed reviews of 150 incidents of troop conduct during the war in Gaza and would launch criminal investigations into the 2024 killings of a 5-year-old girl and her family, as well as of 15 Palestinian paramedics in 2025.

At least 17 killed in Israeli strikes

The deadly strikes in Gaza on Tuesday and Wednesday exacted more casualties even as a ceasefire that's been in place since October has significantly diminished the fighting in the tiny enclave where more than 2 million Palestinians live. Since the ceasefire, Israeli strikes have killed at least 1,273 people, according to health officials in Gaza.

The nearly three-year Israel-Hamas war has killed more than 73,400 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and international organizations. It doesn't distinguish between civilians and militants, but says women and children make up around half of the toll.

In the early hours of Wednesday, at least 15 Israeli troops entered the Muwasi coastal area, west of the city of Khan Younis, two residents and a Hamas official said.

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Accompanied by armed men, the troops stormed the tent of Sabri Abdel-All, a colonel for the Hamas-led Blue Police in Khan Younis. They also detained another resident identified as Nashat Ezzat Zaarab, they said.

The two residents and the Hamas official spoke on condition of anonymity for their safety.

Latest ceasefire negotiations offer few concrete commitments

On the diplomatic front, the ceasefire also appears stalled. Trump's initial ceasefire plan laid out a broad vision for ending Hamas' rule in Gaza and rebuilding the territory, much of which was reduced to rubble during the war.

But since last fall, major sticking points have emerged on the conditions of Hamas' disarmament and Israel's withdrawal — and which should come first.

Earlier this month, Trump announced that Hamas had agreed to disarm. But Hamas said it would begin to disarm if Israel halts strikes and withdraws, adding that laying down its heavy weapons would come later and be contingent on the creation of a Palestinian state — something Israel's government rejects.

Netanyahu also pushed back on the deal, saying Israel won't withdraw from its current lines in Gaza until Hamas has completely disarmed.

After Wednesday's strikes, Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem lashed out at the Board of Peace — the body Trump established to oversee the ceasefire — saying it has provided a "cover" for Israel to escalate its attacks in Gaza instead of pressuring it to abide by the ceasefire agreement.

What to know about Trump's 50% tariffs on Canadian goods that just went into effect

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — After trade negotiations crumbled at the eleventh hour, U.S. President Donald Trump's 50% tariffs on scores of Canadian imports kicked in Saturday.

The new levies are expected to affect about 5% of Canada's annual exports to the U.S., roughly \$20 billion in goods ranging from hockey sticks to agricultural products. Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney quickly promised Saturday that his government would roll out "dollar for dollar" retaliatory measures starting Sept. 8.

No further talks are scheduled. The latest escalation between the two countries — which once held one of the world's most durable trade alliances — plunges them deeper into a trade war that has kept both sides of the border on edge throughout Trump's second term in office. Experts warn steeper tariffs raise costs for businesses and almost always trickle down to households in the form of higher prices.

"Nearly all industries and professions are likely to see downstream effects from this spiraling trade dispute," said Augustine Lo, of law firm Dorsey & Whitney, whose work includes advising clients on international trade.

Here's what we know.

Which goods are affected?

Again, the 50% tariffs from the U.S. are set to affect \$20 billion of Canadian goods.

Canada sends the vast majority of its goods exports to the U.S. (72% last year), and Trump administration says the new taxes will be levied on products ranging from hockey sticks to wine and cement. The list is long. According to documents published by the White House, other goods subject to the tax include honey, seeds and agricultural products — as well as select makeup, perfumes, clothing, jewelry, furniture, cameras, fabric and more.

The 50% levy also applies to some products that were previously protected under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade pact from Trump's first term. That marks a shift from past levies — and further underlines questions around the future of the USMCA overall.

How is Trump imposing these tariffs?

To impose these 50% tariffs, Trump reached back to a long-dormant Great Depression-era law: Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930.

When the U.S. and world economies were in collapse nearly a century ago, Congress passed the 1930

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law as part of broader "Smoot-Hawley" legislation (named after its congressional sponsors). The act raised tariffs more generally across the board, and became notorious among economists for limiting world commerce and making the Great Depression worse. But Section 338 — which authorizes the president to slap import taxes of up to 50% on imports from countries that have discriminated against U.S. businesses — has never been used specifically to raise tariffs until now.

No investigation is required to justify the levies. Nor is there any limit on how long they can stay in place. Since there's no precedent, however, the latest tariffs may also see more legal challenges.

When announcing his planned tariffs last month, Trump claimed that Canada was unfairly discriminating against U.S. exports of automobiles, alcohol and dairy products. The president expressed anger over Canada's retaliation against his own tariffs last year — noting Canadian imports of American alcohol and cars started to fall last spring.

Is Canada retaliating?

Canada's Carney quickly promised to match the new levies "dollar for dollar" — later announcing retaliation would begin Sept. 8. He noted Canada's tariff increases would target steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper and electronics.

The prime minister said Canada was willing to drop remaining retaliatory tariffs on steel, aluminum and autos if the U.S. substantially lowered its own, and to encourage provinces to restore U.S. alcohol sales. But eventually, he said Washington's final demands went too far.

Carney accused Washington of using "economic integration as a weapon," and that Canada had been "attacked" by the latest U.S. tariffs. He said his country had the reserves and resilience to respond.

Trump's top trade negotiator, Jamieson Greer, pledged additional measures to respond to Canada's retaliation — without immediately specifying what that would look like. In a Saturday interview with "Fox & Friends Weekend," Greer also claimed the administration offered to cut tariffs on steel, autos and lumber, but Canada "didn't want" the deal.

What's next?

Tariffs are taxes paid by importers, or businesses that buy goods from abroad. That typically trickles down to consumers through higher prices — and, as seen over the last year, can also create uncertainty for workers across affected sectors.

North America now has a "new tariff landscape," Dave Townsend, a partner at law firm Dorsey & Whitney, said Saturday. He noted a big question is whether the latest levies prove to be temporary.

The 50% tariffs come on top of previously-imposed levies, including a 10% rate Trump slapped on Canada just last month ostensibly for failing to do enough to prevent imports produced by forced labor and separate sectoral levies impacting trading partners globally.

The growing trade sanctions on Canada underscore Trump's willingness to risk breaking established alliances. And Canada's reluctance to accept a deal may reflect recent experience.

Trump has repeatedly targeted Canada, even after instances where it made concessions following his demands. Some tolls on the newly opened Gordie Howe Bridge will be shared for 15 years, despite the fact that Canadians paid for the span linking Detroit and Windsor. Canada also withdrew a digital services tax last year. All the while, Trump has threatened more tariffs over everything from a TV ad criticizing his trade policies (later pulled by Ontario's government) to wildfires that blackened skies across North America.

Steeper tariffs have already contributed to higher inflation — but appeared to level off some in recent months, per researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, notably after the Supreme Court in February struck down some of Trump's most sweeping levies.

Still, Saturday's taxes against Canada mark the latest instance of Trump turning to other laws to impose tariffs. And more recently, Washington's war with Iran has driven prices even higher. With the cost of living at the center of many voters' minds in a midterm election year, political ramifications could mount for the Republican president in the coming months.

US and Canada fall deeper into a trade war with new tariffs as talks collapse and blame is spread

By PAUL WISEMAN and ROB GILLIES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Canada, historic allies along an undefended border, fell deeper into a trade war Saturday marked by angry recriminations and new tariffs that are expected to raise prices for products in both countries.

Each side blamed the other for the collapse of negotiations in Washington late Friday, leading the U.S. to impose 50% tariffs on \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods and Canada setting Sept. 8 as the start of its retaliatory penalties.

President Donald Trump's import taxes will hit about 5% of what Canada ships to the United States every year, ranging from hockey sticks to tongue depressors. Prime Minister Carney said Ottawa would respond with targeted tariff protection for industries exposed to the new U.S. duties, including some steel products. He also mentioned the dairy, appliance, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper and electronics sectors.

No further talks were planned. Whatever the eventual outcome, a loss of trust seems one of the earliest casualties.

Carney accused Washington of using "economic integration as a weapon" and said "its signature was written in pencil." Resorting to the language of battle, he said his country had been "attacked" by the new American tariffs. "You're at war when you get attacked," he said, adding that Canada had the reserves, resilience and plan to respond.

But to Trump's chief trade negotiator, Jamieson Greer, the U.S. was compelled to act after a year of retaliation by its longtime partner.

"We've said enough, and so we've taken countermeasures. Our interest is in protecting American workers and protecting American supply chains," the U.S. trade representative told "Fox & Friends Weekend."

Canada cites 'unacceptable demands' as US says it offered favorable terms

Carney said Canada had been willing to drop remaining retaliatory tariffs on steel, aluminum and autos if the U.S. substantially lowered its own, and to encourage provinces to restore U.S. alcohol sales. But he said Washington's final demands went too far. "They asked too much and offered too little," Carney said.

Greer said the Republican administration was offering to cut tariffs on steel, autos and lumber, "things that are sensitive for them. And they've always had the best deal, and they still would have an even better deal, but they didn't want that."

As a result, he said, "We're moving forward with measures that respond to Canadian retaliation."

Carney said the U.S. added last-minute terms that would have reduced tariff relief for Canadian-made vehicles, restricted Canada's ability to strike trade deals with other countries and weakened protections for language, culture and sovereignty.

He said such demands were "unacceptable."

The breakdown in negotiations marked a sharp reversal from two days earlier, when officials from the two countries sounded as if they were headed toward a compromise.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford, who leads Canada's most populous province, praised Carney for rejecting the deal, saying it would have hurt Ontario's auto, steel and manufacturing sectors. Ford urged Canada to use "every tool in our toolbox" to fight the U.S. tariffs.

The moves also call into question the future of a North American trade agreement covering the United States, Canada and Mexico that is crucial to industry in all three countries.

Carney said the breakdown was "certainly not good news" for the review of that agreement and that the failed negotiations had given Canada "a new perspective" on what Washington wants from the broader economic relationship.

A typically cooperative alliance goes sour

The political impact will likely be even bigger than the economic fallout. The countries sold each other \$880 billion worth of goods and services last year.

The tariffs were initially supposed to kick in at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday. Trump extended the deadline for

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three days to allow talks to continue, but the countries could not reach an agreement in time.

The U.S. and Canada have wrangled for decades over trade, poking each other over sore spots such as Canadian softwood lumber imports and U.S. access to Canada's protected dairy market.

Somehow, they still managed to remain friends, allies and trading partners. Canadian soldiers fought alongside Americans in Afghanistan after 9/11. The 5,525-mile U.S.-Canada border is undefended, and nearly 330,000 people and \$2 billion worth of goods cross it every day; 800,000 Canadians live in the United States.

Trump's approach to dealing with Canada marks an extraordinary departure from the traditionally cooperative relationship between the two countries. Trump has imposed tariffs on Canadian goods in a push to bring manufacturing back to the United States and made inflammatory comments about turning Canada into America's 51st state.

Carney said Canada had recognized that "America has changed" and that the two countries would "not return to our old relationship."

Canadians and Americans are frustrated

The Canadian public is fed up. A petition to expel U.S. Ambassador Pete Hoekstra, a Trump ally, has collected nearly 248,000 signatures since July 21. It accuses the former Republican congressman from Michigan of having "normalized" Trump's talk of annexing Canada, among other things.

The two countries had good reasons to find a compromise.

Nearly 72% of Canada's goods exports last year went to the United States. The Trump administration might be wary of imposing new tariffs — paid by U.S. importers who try to pass along the cost to consumers via higher prices — before the November midterm elections. American voters are already frustrated with the high cost of living.

"Both sides will be under immense pressure in the coming days to still find an off-ramp," said Ryan Majerus, a partner at King & Spalding and a former U.S. trade official.

Joshua Bolten, CEO of the Business Roundtable, which represents leaders of major U.S. companies, warned the tariffs and retaliation risk "raising costs for American businesses and families" and disrupting vital supply chains, and urged both governments to resume negotiations.

Trump has turned to Depression-era trade penalties

Trump has made tariffs the centerpiece of his second-term economic agenda. Last year, he imposed double-digit import taxes on almost every country, justifying them by declaring the long-standing U.S. trade deficit a national emergency. The Supreme Court in February ruled that he had overstepped his authority. The justices struck down the trade penalties and set the stage for the federal government to pay refunds to importers.

So Trump has looked for other legal authority to justify tariffs.

After the Supreme Court struck down much of Trump's earlier tariff program in February, the administration turned to other legal authorities. For Canada, Trump invoked Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930, a rarely used Depression-era provision allowing tariffs of up to 50% against countries deemed to discriminate against U.S. businesses.

The provision is part of the Smoot-Hawley tariff law, widely blamed by economists and historians for worsening the Great Depression by restricting global trade. Section 338 has never previously been used to impose tariffs.

The rift comes as the United States, Mexico and Canada are trying to renew a trade agreement that Trump negotiated in his first term and once praised as a triumph. The United States has begun formal talks with Mexico over revamping the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, known as USMCA. But talks with Canada have not begun and escalating trade conflict casts doubt on whether they will.

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A trade war between Canada and the US further ruptures a once-close and durable alliance

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — For decades, Canada built much of its prosperity on privileged access to the United States. Now, after the collapse of trade talks, one of the world's closest and most durable alliances has been fundamentally altered, with both countries facing the risk of a full-scale trade war.

Prime Minister Mark Carney acknowledged the break after last-ditch negotiations failed Friday, saying Canada had recognized that "America has changed" and that the countries would "not return to our old relationship."

The United States imposed 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods early Saturday. Carney said Canada would retaliate dollar for dollar beginning Sept. 8, targeting sectors including steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper and electronics.

Carney foreshadowed the shift at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January, declaring that the world was experiencing "a rupture, not a transition" and urging countries such as Canada to reduce their vulnerability to economic coercion by strengthening their economies at home and diversifying abroad.

He said in Ottawa on Saturday that warning had been borne out. He accused the U.S. of using "economic integration as a weapon" and said its "signature was written in pencil."

"The collapse of the tariff talks points to the fact that the old Canada-U.S. relationship is over and, for many Canadians, it also confirms the perception that Canada can't trust the Trump administration," said Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal.

The pressure from Republican President Donald Trump has gone well beyond tariffs.

He has questioned Canada's economic viability, repeatedly talked about making it the 51st U.S. state and used trade measures to encourage production to move from Canada to the United States. That has angered many Canadians and fueled a sense of betrayal in a country that had long regarded the U.S. as its closest ally.

Canadian travel to the U.S. remains sharply lower than before the dispute, with July return trips down nearly 29% by car and 27% by air from July 2024, Statistics Canada said.

The failed negotiations underscored how far the relationship had shifted. Canada had been prepared to accept some U.S. tariffs for market access and greater certainty — a break from decades of policy aimed at eliminating trade barriers.

For Canadians accustomed to preferential access under the 1989 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA and its successor, even reduced tariffs would mark a retreat from the old relationship.

The collapse also puts Carney's approach to Trump to the test.

The prime minister's "elbows up" posture — hockey shorthand for playing aggressively and refusing to be pushed around — has helped keep him popular at home. His decision to resist U.S. pressure could also resonate abroad with those impressed by his Davos call for countries to resist economic coercion and reduce dependence on great powers.

Provincial and conservative leaders broadly backed Carney. Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said "the old status quo is not possible," while Ontario Premier Doug Ford praised Carney for rejecting what he called a bad deal for the auto, steel and manufacturing sectors.

Ford said Trump "is not to be trusted whatsoever."

Former Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said Canada was "not cravenly surrendering in the face of constant economic and political aggression."

Lana Payne, national president of Unifor, Canada's largest private-sector union, accused Trump of trying to weaken Canada's industrial base.

"What we have seen from the U.S. administration, or Donald Trump, is this consistent attempt to try and destroy the industrial economy of Canada with tariffs that have been strategically designed to attack us," Payne said.

The economic risks of fighting back and a shift seen as perhaps lasting beyond Trump

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Nearly three-quarters of Canada's goods exports go to the United States. The U.S. economy is roughly 10 times larger than Canada's, limiting Ottawa's ability to retaliate dollar for dollar without inflicting disproportionate damage at home.

Royal Bank of Canada economists estimate the tariffs directly affect about 0.4% of Canada's GDP because they cover only about 5% of Canadian exports to the U.S. The damage could grow if retaliation broadens, more sectors are targeted or the dispute curbs investment and disrupts supply chains.

Carney himself acknowledged the cost of retaliation, saying the Canadian measures would "raise costs and reduce choice for Canadians." He said his government would announce additional assistance for affected businesses and workers.

Béland said the countries were witnessing "the beginning of a full-scale trade war," though he cautioned that the situation could change rapidly.

The dependence is not one-sided.

Carney said Canada supplies 99% of U.S. natural gas imports, 85% of its electricity imports and 60% of its crude oil imports. Trump has focused much of his pressure on autos, steel and aluminum, fueling resentment among Canadians who see the push as an effort to hollow out key industries.

Goldy Hyder, president and CEO of the Business Council of Canada, said businesses still view the U.S. as Canada's most important trading partner but increasingly see the shift as lasting beyond Trump.

"There is a new trade and investment model, one that could well be kept in place by future U.S. administrations whether Democrat or Republican," Hyder said.

Canada looks beyond the United States because 'things will never be the same'

The breakdown adds urgency to Carney's push to diversify beyond the United States. He has traveled abroad seeking investment and new trade ties, aiming to attract \$1 trillion Canadian (US\$730 billion) by 2030 and double non-U.S. investment over the next decade. Canada has signed more than 20 trade and security agreements across five continents in the past year.

That made Washington's effort to restrict Canada's ability to negotiate trade agreements with other countries particularly significant.

In July, Ottawa and Alberta advanced plans for a new Pacific Coast oil pipeline to give Canadian crude greater access to Asian markets and reduce reliance on U.S. buyers.

The immediate question is how long the latest tariff confrontation will last.

Béland said the deeper change probably will, partly because U.S. protectionism is likely to remain influential under future administrations.

"The idea that things will return to 'normal' once Donald Trump leaves the White House is probably just wishful thinking," Béland said. "It doesn't mean the relationship might not improve in the future but that things will never be the same."

Former Hong Kong vigil organizer strives to mark Tiananmen crackdown despite convictions

By KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Tang Ngok-kwan still occasionally visits the places where Hong Kong once publicly remembered Beijing's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Though Tang's fellow activists were locked up in prison, accused of inciting subversion, and an annual candlelight vigil they previously organized to mourn the crackdown's victims vanished, the 58-year-old continues to personally and discreetly remember the event, which is a political taboo on mainland China.

At Victoria Park, where tens of thousands of people once gathered for the only large-scale public commemoration of the crackdown in China, Tang bowed on the eve of the anniversary and read off a list of the victims in a low voice. He sometimes returns to two university campuses where commemorative sculptures once stood, even though most traces of their existence already have vanished.

Two of Tang's former colleagues were convicted Friday under a Beijing-imposed national security law, facing a maximum prison term of 10 years. Their vigil organizing group also was found guilty. Government-

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approved judges ruled the pair had incited others to overthrow the leadership of China's Communist Party through unlawful means.

Many observers say the convictions were the latest case reflecting the decline in freedoms in the former British colony that returned to Chinese rule in 1997. But the Hong Kong government Saturday condemned "baseless slanders" against the city, insisting that the court only considered the laws and evidence and that many rights and freedoms are not absolute.

Tang told The Associated Press that the arguments in the verdict did not convince him and he felt wronged on behalf of those convicted.

"After the alliance was convicted, I feel that whenever people bring up the alliance, there'll be a sense of wariness around it," he said.

Decades dedicated to remembering the crackdown

Tang was an ordinary young man when he joined a wave of people who marched in Hong Kong in support of Beijing's student-led, pro-democracy protests in May 1989.

When tanks rolled into the heart of Beijing on the night of June 3-4 to quell the protests, Tang didn't sleep. Hundreds, possibly thousands of people, were killed during the crackdown.

Shortly after the bloody event, some members of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, along with others sympathetic to the protesters, mobilized to help bring those wanted by authorities to safety. The group also ran the massive public candlelight vigil that attracted tens of thousands of people annually for three decades.

Tang says he feels a moral burden because he believes Hong Kong's support might have left the students in a position with no easy exit in 1989. That kept Tang, who turned from a volunteer to a core member of the alliance, working behind the scenes for years.

Activism leads to convictions and jail terms

Authorities banned the annual vigil in 2020, citing risks to public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Weeks later, Beijing imposed the security law, saying it was necessary for the city's stability following massive protests in 2019.

The alliance's fate was called into question in 2021. A mainland Chinese official criticized those chanting "end one-party dictatorship," without naming the group. Police also sought details about its operations and finances in connection with alleged links to pro-democracy groups overseas, accusing it of being a foreign agent.

But the group refused to cooperate and told reporters in September 2021 that the request was an "abuse of power." Tang knew by then he would be imprisoned for not handing in the information. He recalled he was frightened when he saw a large crowd of reporters at the venue.

"It really feels like everyone is watching how you die and then coming to see you off on your way," he said.

Days later, Tang was arrested over the refusal, alongside several other core members. The alliance's chair and vice-chairs, Lee Cheuk-yan, Chow Hang-tung and Albert Ho, were charged under the security law. The group voted to disband soon after and two commemorative statues and one relief were removed at university campuses in late 2021.

Tang, Chow and another core member were sentenced to 4 1/2 months in prison each in 2023 for failing to provide authorities with information. Tang's prison term overlapped with the 35th anniversary of the crackdown. To remember it, he ran 35 laps barefoot.

The trio's convictions were quashed in 2025 by Hong Kong's top court, though they had already served their terms.

Engaging in quiet acts of remembrance

The legal battle involving the vigil organizers did not end there. The trial for Lee and Chow began in January and Tang was a regular presence in the courtroom's public gallery. Ho entered a guilty plea, a move that typically results in a sentence reduction.

Before their trial, commemorating the crackdown publicly had already become politically sensitive. Police took away some people who tried to do so near the former vigil site on the crackdown anniversary. After

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the lifting of pandemic restrictions, an annual carnival occupied Victoria Park on every anniversary.

Police wouldn't let Tang enter court Friday if he insisted on bringing along "sensitive" materials, including bookmarks printed with the words "vindicate June 4," he said.

He has walked repeatedly between a subway station and the trial court to remember the years Lee and Chow spent in custody awaiting trial, he said, noting there are 64 steps leading up from the subway station exit, a number echoing the June 4 anniversary.

Tang has an eye for details like that. He joked it was "pathological."

"When there's nothing concrete you can do, the only option, to put it bluntly, well, it's just another kind of way to balance your psychology," he said.

Russian and Ukrainian attacks kill 10 people, a day after deadly shopping mall drone strike

By VOLODYMYR YURCHUK Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian drone and missile strikes killed at least seven people in Ukraine, officials said Saturday, while a Ukrainian drone attack on Russia's Krasnodar region killed three people there.

The attacks came a day after a Russian strike on a Ukrainian shopping center killed at least 16 people and wounded some 130.

Moscow's forces have recently intensified their ballistic missile attacks on Kyiv, exploiting Ukraine's chronic shortage of U.S.-made Patriot air defense interceptors, the sole weapon in its arsenal able to shoot down the missiles.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that one person was killed and another wounded in the latest attacks when ballistic missiles hit railway infrastructure in the capital, Kyiv, overnight.

Russia's Defense Ministry said that its forces had hit a locomotive depot.

In a separate attack, local authorities said two people were killed Saturday afternoon in a Russian ballistic missile strike on the Kyiv region, which surrounds the capital.

Russian drone strikes also killed one person overnight in the Zaporizhzhia region, local officials said Saturday, and a daytime attack killed three others and wounded 15. Zelenskyy said that three people were also wounded in an attack on a minibus in the regional capital, also called Zaporizhzhia.

In Russia's southern Krasnodar region, authorities said that three people, including two children, were killed and two adults were wounded in a Ukrainian drone strike.

A day on from a deadly attack on a shopping center

The latest attacks came a day after Russian drones struck a shopping center in the city of Kryvyi Rih in central Ukraine.

Dnipropetrovsk regional head Oleksandr Hanzha said in the early hours of Saturday that the death toll had risen to 16. Later on Saturday he said four people remain missing after the attack, which wounded a further 130.

Kryvyi Rih is the hometown of Zelenskyy, who described the attack as a double-tap strike, in which an initial wave of drones hit the area followed by a second wave as rescue workers responded. The Ukrainian leader said the fire, which spread across 9,000 square meters (around 97,000 square feet), had been extinguished and rescue efforts were underway.

Kryvyi Rih has been hit multiple times during the 4½-year all-out war between Russia and Ukraine, with one of the deadliest occurring in April 2025, when 20 people were killed, including nine children.

Large-scale Russian strikes have become a regular occurrence this summer, with Friday's attacks landing just 24 hours after Russia pounded Kyiv with scores of missiles and drones in a nighttime assault that killed 16 people. The United Nations said last week that Kyiv was one of the hardest-hit cities in July, with at least 54 civilians killed and 202 wounded.

Ukraine pounds Russia with long-range strikes

At the same time, Ukraine has shifted the war onto Russian soil through long-range drone strikes on oil facilities that have caused fuel shortages across Russia. It also has unsettled the Russian public by striking

warehouses of Wildberries, the country's biggest online retailer.

The Russian online news outlet Astra reported Saturday that a Ukrainian drone set ablaze an oil refinery in the Samara region. Local officials said that damage was recorded at an unidentified "industrial facility" and a logistics center for Ozon, a competitor to Wildberries.

Zelenskyy said Saturday Ukrainian forces struck the Novokuibyshevsk oil refinery in Samara, noting it is some 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) from the front line.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in remarks to state TV reporter Pavel Zarubin, who posted them Saturday on his Telegram channel, that strikes on civilian targets "cause economic damage to our country" and "lead to losses," but that "no turning point" in the conflict had been reached and that Kyiv "will never gain any advantage."

Federal judge vacates Trump policy that suspended processing of immigration visas from 75 countries

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

A federal judge in New York has vacated a Trump administration policy that suspended the processing of visas from 75 countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, Russia and Somalia, whose nationals the Trump administration deemed likely to require public assistance in the United States.

U.S. District Judge Jeannette Vargas, an appointee of former President Joe Biden, set aside the policy Friday as "contrary to law and in excess of statutory authority."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio exceeded his authority by issuing the policy, which "runs afoul" of the Immigration and Nationality Act by mandating "the refusal of visas to eligible applicants without any basis in law," the judge ruled.

Judge says power lies with consular officers

Vargas said the policy also undermines the congressional requirement that puts consular officers at the forefront of any visa decision.

"Congress imbued these officers with exclusive authority and discretion to determine if an immigrant is eligible for a visa based upon review of specific and detailed criteria set forth in the statute," she wrote. "The Policy, which categorically prohibits the issuance of immigrant visas based upon the nationality of the applicant, represents a direct abrogation of this statutory scheme."

The policy was challenged by two nonprofit organizations along with 11 individuals, including six whose family members had been refused visas. The remaining five are outside the country and had filed "employment-based petitions" to come to the United States.

Advocates say keeping families apart is cruel

"We welcome this ruling because, at its heart, this case is about keeping families together," said Anna Gallagher, the executive director of CLINIC, a national nonprofit that provides training, resources, and support to a network of immigration legal service providers and was one of the plaintiffs.

"Catholic social teaching calls us to uphold the dignity of every person and recognize the family as the foundation of society," she said in a statement. "This decision affirms both those values and the rule of law, allowing families to once again move forward toward reunification."

Another plaintiff is African Communities Together, a Harlem-based nonprofit. One of its leaders called the ruling "a tremendous victory for the rule of law."

"This unlawful and racist ban caused immeasurable harm, cruelly keeping families and loved ones apart," Diana Konate, deputy executive director for policy and advocacy, said in a statement. "Today, we are elated to tell our community members: this ban is no more."

Trump expands his anti-immigration agenda

President Donald Trump has imposed a growing list of immigration and travel bans mostly for people from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The State Department said Saturday that the Trump administration is "protecting the American people by upholding the highest standards of screening and vetting of visa applicants," and that it would not comment on pending litigation.

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At the time the policy was issued, the State Department said it had instructed consular officers to halt immigrant visa applications from the 75 countries in accordance with a broader order in November that tightened rules around potential immigrants who might become "public charges." Relying on Council of Economic Advisers data, the State Department said that more than 30 percent of households with immigrants from these countries received some form of public assistance.

A separate notice sent to all U.S. embassies and consulates said that non-immigrant visa applicants also should be "fully vetted and screened" for the possibility that they might seek public benefits in the United States.

The cable, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, noted several times that the applicant must prove they won't apply for public benefits while in the U.S., and that consular officers who suspect the applicant might apply should require them to fill out a form proving their financial bona fides.

The ruling is the latest example of the courts upending Trump's immigration agenda. In June, a federal judge struck down a Trump administration policy that made it harder for immigrants from dozens of countries to enter and stay in America — affecting elements like asylum, work permits, green cards, and citizenship applications. That judge said the policy threw countless immigrants' lives "into indeterminate legal limbo," and accused the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of ignoring the law.

This rare Nebraska district backed Harris but sent a Republican to Congress. Can Democrats win here?

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — "Do they still like Trump in Nebraska? I think so," the president said during a recent event in Washington.

Given that the state easily backed Republican Donald Trump three times and hasn't supported a Democrat for the White House since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, the answer may seem obvious.

But in Nebraska's largest city, it's an open question and could decide one of the country's most-watched congressional races. Retiring Rep. Don Bacon's open seat pits fellow Republican and Omaha City Councilmember Brinker Harding against Democratic activist Denise Powell.

The district encompasses an increasingly Democratic-leaning Omaha metro area of 1 million-plus and its more conservative suburbs — famous for steaks and the Reuben sandwich's birthplace, though New York disputes that.

It's one of just eight districts nationwide that elected Republicans in House races while supporting Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris over Trump two years ago.

Harding and Powell have been making the rounds at parades and festivals where meat raffles offer oversized sausages as prizes. However, those on-the-ground appeals could be drowned out by Trump who, like most things in politics, has moved to shape November's midterm elections in his own image.

The president is organizing a Republican midterm convention in Dallas next month that will serve as much a two-day rally for him as a boon to party candidates nationwide. Trump is also frequently visiting tightly contested districts, despite his low approval ratings and the unpopular war in Iran.

While Trump centers himself, Democrats are happy to oblige.

When Powell knocks on doors to talk to voters, she asks, "What's keeping you up at night?" On a sweaty Saturday afternoon, John Rosseter responded without hesitation. "Well, Trump."

"I want to see the history books written years from now," said Rosseter, 67, who owns a carpentry business. "They won't be pretty."

The 'Blue Dot' hasn't helped Democratic House candidates

Nebraska splits its presidential electoral votes, and the 2nd Congressional District's delegate has gone to Democrats three out of five times since 2008, making it a "blue dot" in an otherwise Republican red state. But a Democrat has won the House seat just once since 1994.

Harding plays up Trump's primary endorsement, and House Speaker Mike Johnson and Majority Leader Steve Scalise campaigned for him. Harding said he has "the full confidence of, not only the White House,

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but leadership in the Congress.”

He has also tried to appeal to swing voters and says he knows the district better than does Powell, co-founder of Women Who Run Nebraska, which supports female candidates.

Two possible Democratic 2028 presidential candidates — ex-Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Rahm Emanuel, an ex-Chicago mayor who was President Barack Obama’s first White House chief of staff — have campaigned with Powell.

She talks about how Medicare cuts have increased anxiety about affordability. Powell also points to Trump and his family’s business dealings as an example of “the choices that they have made while people on the ground are struggling” and she says that resonates with Republicans.

“Even the ones who aren’t necessarily anti-Trump,” Powell said, “understand the need for checks and balances.”

Some Democrats want a ‘Blue Dot Wave’

Jason Brown and his wife, Ruth Huebner-Brown, caused a sensation in 2024 by spray painting about 50 reused lawn signs with blue dots and distributing them around Omaha’s Dundee neighborhood. The couple has since expanded to professionally produce signs promoting a “Blue Dot Wave.”

Brown said the Republican-controlled Congress has capitulated on “every Trump nominee, every Trump policy, all the way down to putting gilding gold on statues.”

Supporters of Harding have countered with red “Brinker Dot” signs.

“We need to make sure that we keep this country on the track to being even better,” Harding said.

Jack Hosking, the 90-year-old retired former head of a title insurance company, organizes a weekly coffee to discuss political and community issues. He estimated that about 70% of attendees are Trump voters and “maybe even more so lately, because of the crap that the New York mayor started,” referring to Zohran Mamdani’s efforts at pushing the Democratic Party to the left.

Both Powell and Harding have addressed Hosking’s group, though, and he predicted that as much as half will support the Democrat.

“She spoke well enough that, my sense is, a lot of them will cross over,” Hosking said, noting that when it came to campaigning, “Brinker’s not doing much.”

The president seen as a base motivator

The Republican National Committee views Trump as a national asset, betting he can prevent complacency in a year without a presidential race, when enthusiasm for the party in power typically wanes.

The committee rebranded its “Young Guns” program for key candidates to “MAGA Majority” in deference to Trump’s “Make America Great Again” movement, and many congressional candidates will be at the Dallas convention with Trump.

Others aren’t waiting that long.

Republican Reps. Mike Lawler of New York and Tom Barrett of Michigan, whom Democrats are aiming to unseat, both appeared with Trump during his rallies in their districts. When the president visited Macungie, Pennsylvania, in June, he joined Republican Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, saying, “I’m here for him.”

Trump also traveled to the Wisconsin district of Republican Rep. Derreck Van Orden, as have Cabinet members.

Rep. Juan Ciscomani, facing a reelection fight, appeared with Trump during an April event in Arizona. Two Iowa Republicans in what could be toss-up reelection contests, Reps Zach Nunn and Mariannette Miller-Meeks, both were by Trump’s side when he kicked off his midterm campaign outside Des Moines.

Bacon sometimes defied the White House in his final term. He criticized Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and tried to curb Trump’s ability to impose tariffs and was the only House Republican who opposed renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

Mary Jane Truemper, who heads the Nebraska Republican Party, said Powell and the state’s Democrats have moved too far to the left. She called Harding “a steady force” and said the nominee is not as fond of picking high-profile fights the way Bacon sometimes was.

“I think he speaks to the moderate Democrats as well as the Republicans,” said Truemper, who man-

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aged Bacon's reelection campaign in 2018 and also worked for an unsuccessful primary challenger to him.

Even Powell said, "Don Bacon was a good representative of this district, and I think that there are a lot of people drawn to a pragmatic style of leadership in a state like ours." But that may not be enough this year.

"People are worse off than they were before," Powell said.

A local race may expose a wider party divide among neighbors

In the Elmwood Park neighborhood, Andy Maxwell, a 58-year-old pediatrician, said he likes to find the middle ground in politics and his community. But he recalled that, after putting up a Biden sign in his yard in 2020, his neighbors erected a Trump one.

"We don't like all the turmoil part of it," Maxwell said of politics nationally.

Nearby, 80-year-old Jerard Pearson called Democrats "feckless," but said of Trump's base supporters, "I've always been curious about this one-third level of crazy out there, a third of the population." He is also no fan of a neighbor's large "Harding for Congress" sign.

Truemper said Harding appreciates Trump's endorsement but Nebraskans like to be wooed "person-to-person, rather than a national entity coming in."

"Is that going to be the deciding factor?" she asked of Trump. "I don't know."

Today in History: August 23, farmworkers' 'Salad Bowl strike'

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Aug. 23, the 235th day of 2026. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 23, 1970, the Salad Bowl strike began, organized by farm labor leader Cesar Chavez; between 5,000 to 10,000 laborers walked off the job, leading to the largest farmworker strike in U.S. history.

Also on this date:

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1927, amid worldwide protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (On the 50th anniversary of their executions, then-Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis issued a proclamation that Sacco and Vanzetti had been unfairly tried and convicted.)

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in Moscow.

In 2000, a Gulf Air Airbus crashed into the Persian Gulf near Bahrain, killing all 143 people aboard.

In 2003, former priest John Geoghan (GAY'-gun), the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church nationwide, died after another inmate attacked him in a Massachusetts prison.

In 2011, a magnitude-5.8 earthquake centered near Mineral, Virginia, the strongest on the East Coast since 1944, caused cracks in the Washington Monument and damaged the Washington National Cathedral.

In 2013, a military jury convicted Maj. Nidal Hasan in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that claimed 13 lives; the Army psychiatrist was later sentenced to death.

In 2020, a white police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, seven times as officers tried to arrest Blake on an outstanding warrant; the shooting left Blake partially paralyzed and triggered several nights of violent protests.

In 2022, a jury convicted two men of conspiring to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2020, a victory for prosecutors in a plot that was broken up by the FBI and described as a rallying cry for a U.S. civil war by anti-government extremists.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Vera Miles is 97. Actor Barbara Eden is 95. Ballerina Patricia McBride is 84. Singer-songwriter Linda Thompson is 79. Author and motivational speaker Rudy Ruettiger is 78. Actor

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Shelley Long is 77. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 77. Noor al-Hussein (Queen Noor of Jordan) is 75. Film composer Alexandre Desplat is 65. Actor Jay Mohr is 56. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is 55. Actor Ray Park is 52. Actor Scott Caan is 50. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 48. Actor Joanne Froggatt is 46. Olympic gold medal swimmer Natalie Coughlin Hall is 44. Musician Lil Yachty is 29. NBA basketball player Devin Vassell is 26.