

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Volleyball **CHANGE!**

Sunday, Aug. 30

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
Airport Fly-In/Drive In at Groton Airport

Groton Daily Independent
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Monday, Aug. 31

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger on bun, tator tots, carrots, fruit.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
JH Football vs. Ellendale at Kulm, 4:30 p.m.
JV Football at Kulm, 5:30 p.m.
JH Volleyball hosts Redfield (7th and 8th at 6 p.m. on 2 courts in the Arena)

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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

Efforts to Rehabilitate Nixon Threaten Constitutional Democracy

The ongoing efforts to rehabilitate Richard Nixon by the MAGA Right and various commentators, as well as Vice President JD Vance, represents a brazen attempt to whitewash the stain on the American escutcheon inflicted by the Watergate President, for the purpose of "normalizing" his politics, his sweeping acts of usurpation and abuse of power, to furnish President Trump with a historical precedent to absolve him of his Nixonian assault on our constitutional system. This revisionism -- "Nixonmaxxing" -- should be understood for the menace that is, an exercise in constitutional strip mining.

If Nixon had succeeded in the implementation of his theory of the scope of executive power, he would have torn down the planks and pillars of America's constitutional democracy and laid waste to the rule of law. Those who "miss" Nixon and believe, like Vice President Vance, that he was "taken down by a deep state coup," precisely the sort that has sought, in his opinion, to take down Trump, are engaging in willful blindness or utterly oblivious to Nixon's existential threat to our constitutional democracy.

Nixon was riding the tendencies of the "Imperial Presidency," a term aptly coined by Arthur Schlesinger Jr., to describe Nixon's general indifference to constitutional restraints, his contempt for the rule of law and his belief in the investment of the sovereignty of the nation in the chief executive. Any doubts about the scope of the Nixon Doctrine were laid to rest by Nixon himself in the third television interview with David Frost that was aired on May 19, 1977.

In that interview, Nixon declared that the president, like the Stuart Kings of England, could do no wrong. He told Frost, "When the President does it, that means that it is not illegal." Not only is the president above the law, according to Nixon, but he could "authorize" staff members to violate the law as well. These are radical conceptions of executive power that turn the Constitution on its head. Certainly, they are contemptuous of all that the framers of the Constitution undertook to create in drafting Article II, and they find no footing in the Convention debates or the train of thought that ran through Philadelphia. No delegate even squinted in that direction. Nixon's revolutionary message ignored the framers' commitment to the subordination of the president to the rule of law.

Those who would rehabilitate Nixon's reputation minimize the core of his legacy: Watergate. They minimize it by claiming sweeping powers for the presidency, despite that fact that their views, like Nixon's, find no foundation in the architecture of the Constitution. They further minimize it through attacks on the "unrestrained" judicial system that, they claim, violated Nixon's due process rights, and aggrandized powers to examine and rule against Nixon's acts. Nixon's acolytes ignore the fact that the Supreme Court's unanimous, 8-0 opinion which rejected the president's claim of "absolute" executive privilege in *U.S. Nixon* (1974), was written by Chief Justice Warren Burger, whom Nixon nominated to the nation's High Bench. This was no judicial coup against the president, but rather a Court committed to preserving the rule of law and the framers' conceptualization of executive power.

Donald Trump is the second coming of Richard Nixon, but thus far Trump has succeeded, where Nixon failed. Trump's usurpations of core legislative powers have continued unabated. His view of executive power, which he has expressed as "absolute power under Article II," is an imitation of Nixon's. Nixon claimed that he could deputize aides and advisers to violate the law. Trump pardoned the 1,600 insurrectionists who sought to halt a fundamental constitutional process--the peaceful transfer of power. Nixon was stopped in his tracks, and forced to resign the Office of the Presidency, by a combination of judicial, legislative and popular power. Trump, on the other hand, has not been stopped by a similar combination but, indeed, has seen his power swell beyond limits, as the judiciary and Congress have become handmaidens to Trump's trampling of constitutional principles and the rule of law.

Trump's minions and acolytes, those who would normalize Trump's authoritarianism through an exercise in historical revisionism that would rehabilitate the only man ever to resign the presidency, have picked a lowly model for Trump's legacy. They are not defenders of the Constitution, but rather hatchet men who strike blow after blow to the law of the land.

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.

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EMPLOYMENT

Wanted full or part time help for harvest. Someone who can drive combine, semi or tractor. Housing available. Near Aberdeen call 605-380-4898. (0819.0909pd).

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.

Campus Kickoff

College football is one of the most popular sports in the United States, drawing over 30 million fans in stadiums each season and generating billions in annual revenue through ticket sales, media rights, and merchandising. College football's traditions and pageantry are as central to its popularity as the games themselves. Many teams feature a marching band and school fight songs.

- > See some of college football's most iconic game day traditions.
- > New rules introduced in 2021 allow college athletes to profit from their name, image, and likeness, now a \$4.5B industry.

Since the first game in 1869, the elite level of the sport has grown to 138 teams in Division I FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision)—essentially college football's top league. College football generates significant revenue for universities, with total FBS operating revenue exceeding \$13B in 2025.

- > Despite college football's large revenues, many programs run at a loss.
- > Princeton University was a college football powerhouse in the 19th and early 20th centuries, playing in the first-ever college football game in 1869.
- > Teddy Roosevelt helped save football, which previously had been a brutally violent game.

The athletes are enrolled as students at their universities while on the football team. College football blends school spirit, deep-rooted rivalries, and regional pride with high-stakes competition, shaping the culture and economies of college towns across the United States.

- > The Ohio State–Michigan rivalry has roots in a 19th-century border dispute.
- > See if your state's highest-paid employee is a college football coach.

Discover more:

- > College football bowl games boast some of sports' most absurd names and sponsors, including the Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl presented by Gin & Juice.
- > The Pop-Tarts Bowl ends with its mascot being eaten by the winning team.
- > A deaf college football quarterback may have invented the huddle to avoid teams stealing their hand signs.

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Groton goes 1-3 in Saturday volleyball action at Huron

HURON — The Groton Area volleyball team played four matches Saturday in Huron, finishing the day with a 1-3 record and closing the tournament with a three-set victory over Sturgis.

The Tigers opened the day against Brandon Valley and nearly forced a third set before falling, 26-24 and 25-20.

Groton recorded 22 kills and 35 digs in the match. Kella Tracy led the attack with six kills, while Taryn Traphagen, Chesney Weber and Abby Fjeldheim each had four. Tevan Hanson added three kills.

Sydney Locke paced the defense with 12 digs, followed by McKenna Tietz with eight and Weber with six. Hanson added four digs.

Groton then faced host Huron and dropped the match in two sets, 25-11 and 25-22. The Tigers battled much closer in the second set but could not extend the match.

Hanson led Groton with four kills against Huron, while Traphagen, Tracy, Fjeldheim and Neely Althoff each had two. Locke collected a team-high 11 digs, Hanson had six and Tietz added five. Groton finished the match with 38 digs.

The Tigers took the opening set against Brookings, 25-22, before Brookings came back to win the next two, 25-22 and 25-16.

Hanson led Groton's offense with seven kills, Traphagen and Tracy each had five and Fjeldheim finished with four. Locke turned in a strong defensive performance with 22 digs. Weber added eight digs, while Hanson and Kinsley Rowen had six apiece.

Groton recorded six service aces in the Brookings match. Weber and Fjeldheim each had two, while Makenna Krause and Liby Althoff each added one.

The Tigers finished their day on a winning note against Sturgis. After dropping the first set, 25-22, Groton responded with a 25-19 victory to force a deciding third set. The Tigers carried that momentum into the finale and won, 25-16, to take the match.

Tracy led a balanced Groton attack with seven kills against Sturgis. Hanson and Traphagen each recorded five kills, Fjeldheim had four, and Weber and Neely Althoff added two apiece as Groton totaled 25 kills.

Hanson had a team-high 19 digs, with Locke adding 17 and Tietz 12. Weber finished with seven digs. Groton also served seven aces, including two each from Hanson and Fjeldheim.

Makenna Krause handed out 18 assists in the victory, while Groton recorded eight blocks as a team.

The Tigers finished Saturday's competition with losses to Brandon Valley, Huron and Brookings before earning the victory over Sturgis.

The matches were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. Special thanks to Ryan and Carla Tracy for providing the commentary and for Savannah Bible for the technology expertise. Sponsors were Agtegra, Avantara-Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom Ts, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Insurance, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Heartland Energy, Jacobson Electric, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Cafe, Locke Electric, Locke Electric, Malpert Insurance, Poet, Rix Farms / R&M Farms, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting and The Meat House of Andover.

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Tigers roll past Dakota Valley, improve to 4-1-1

GROTON — The Groton Area boys soccer team continued its strong start to the season Saturday, pulling away from Dakota Valley for a 7-2 victory in Groton.

The win improved the Tigers to 4-1-1 on the season and kept them among the top teams in the Class A standings.

Dakota Valley actually struck first when Charles Bomgaars scored at the 31:48 mark of the first half to give the Panthers a 1-0 lead.

Groton Area did not trail for long.

Ethan Kroll scored the first of his three goals at the 28:31 mark to tie the match at 1-1. Less than a minute later, Trey Tietz found the net at 27:35 and suddenly the Tigers were in front, 2-1.

Groton continued to apply pressure.

Easton Weber put a shot toward the net that did not go in, but Ryder Schwan was in position to clean up the rebound and knocked it home at the 22:51 mark for a 3-1 Groton lead.

Kroll struck again on a corner play with 10:09 remaining in the half, pushing the Tiger advantage to 4-1.

Dakota Valley cut into the deficit when Bryan Cardona converted a penalty kick with 4:18 left before halftime, but Groton answered once again.

Weber scored with 2:48 remaining in the opening half, sending the Tigers into the break with a commanding 5-2 advantage.

Groton Area added two more goals in the second half.

Kroll completed his hat trick with 27 minutes remaining, giving the Tigers a 6-2 lead.

The final goal came following a penalty kick opportunity and a scramble around the Dakota Valley net. Weber won the battle for the loose ball and knocked it in with 20:09 remaining, completing the scoring in the 7-2 victory.

Groton Area coach Ryan Olson said the Tigers responded well after a difficult outing against Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley earlier in the week.

"Thursday we played Freeman. It was kind of our garbage game. We didn't play as what we should have played," Olson said. "So we had to really get on it this game and be ready to go, and they did a good job."

Olson said the Tigers are beginning to come together on both ends of the field.

"We got a really great defense. We got a new keeper this year, so our defense is pretty strong, and our offense is strong," Olson said. "We're just coming along pretty nicely. It's nice that we're starting to gel."

Groton Area's junior class has played a major role in the early-season success.

"Our juniors are doing a great job leading the squad," Olson said. "They're very strong."

The Tigers have only one senior on the roster, Xander, who Olson said was injured during Thursday's match and could be sidelined for a period of time.

Despite the young roster, Olson said the program has made significant progress from only a few years ago, when Groton Area struggled to have enough players to field a team.

Olson has worked with many of the current players since they were younger and said that experience is now paying off.

"I've coached them in rec league and in seventh grade," Olson said. "The freshmen now on down, I kind of coached them, and then with the juniors, as soon as I got on board I started coaching them too. They're great athletes. It's coming together. It's been a lot of fun."

Adding players to the program has also strengthened the Tigers.

Olson noted that after losing Gage from last year's squad, the players helped recruit TC Schuster, while JJ's arrival from Aberdeen last year provided another boost to the defense.

"They did a nice job recruiting TC. He's really helped us," Olson said. "And JJ coming over last year from Aberdeen really helped us solidify our defense even further."

Groton Area currently sits fourth in the Class A standings at 4-1-1. James Valley Christian leads the division at 6-0, followed by Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley at 4-0. Hot Springs is third at 2-1-2.

"We're in the top four right now," Olson said. "Hopefully we should be able to stay there. Freeman and James Valley Christian are the top teams right now, and Vermillion is another strong team, so we just have to stay on top of that."

Groton Area will return to action Saturday, Sept. 5, when both the Tiger boys and girls travel to West Central.

"It should be another good outing for us," Olson said.

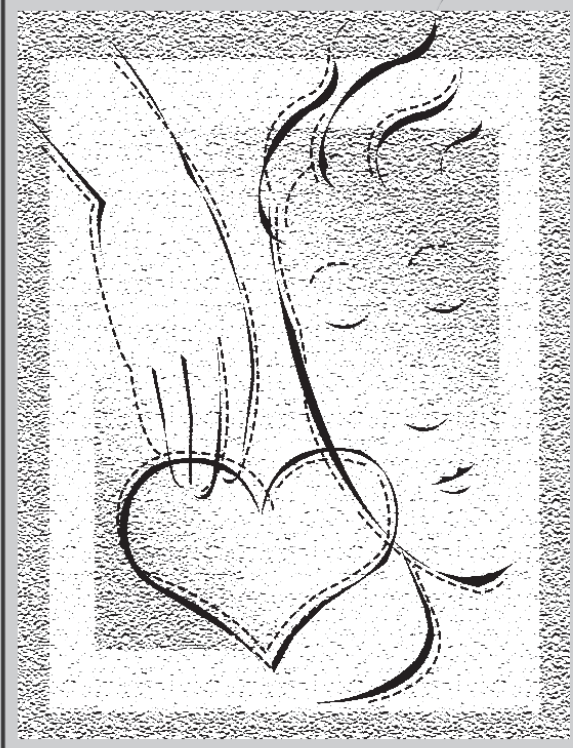
The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. Sponsors were Agtegra, Avantara-Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom Ts, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Insurance, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Heartland Energy, Jacobson Electric, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Cafe, Locke Electric, Locke Electric, Malpert Insurance, Poet, Rix Farms / R&M Farms, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting and The Meat House of Andover.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



My little children, let us not love
in word or in tongue,
but in deed and in truth.
And by this we know that we are
of the truth, and shall assure our
hearts before Him.

1 JOHN 3:18,19



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Proverbs 27:3, a stone is heavy and the sand weighty, but whose wrath is heavier than them both? *Fool's, Beggar's, God's, Wind's*

3. In the King James translation there are more than how many references to gems and precious stones? *100, 500, 1,700, 2,200*

4. From 2 Samuel 14, how many shekels did Absalom's hair weigh after he cut it off? *2, 10, 50, 200*

5. Where did Jesus attend a wedding where the wine was exhausted? *Sardis, Antioch of Syria, Joppa, Cana of Galilee*

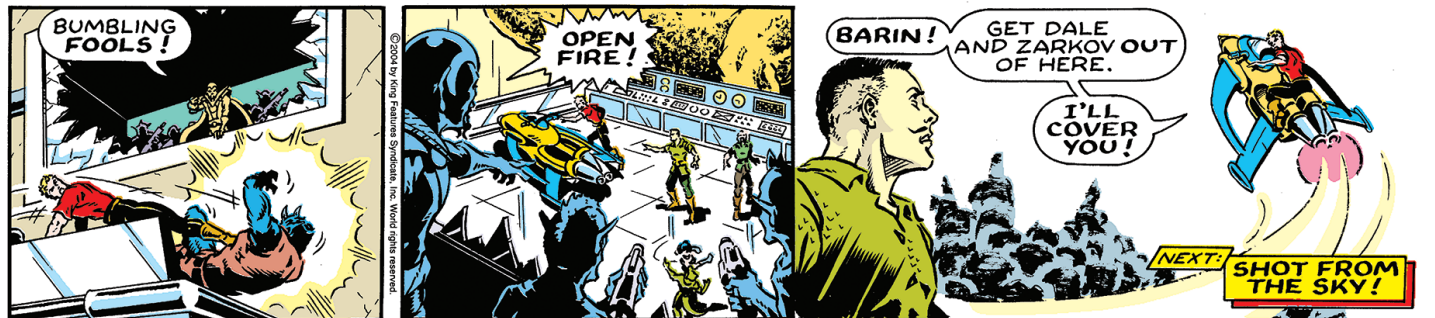
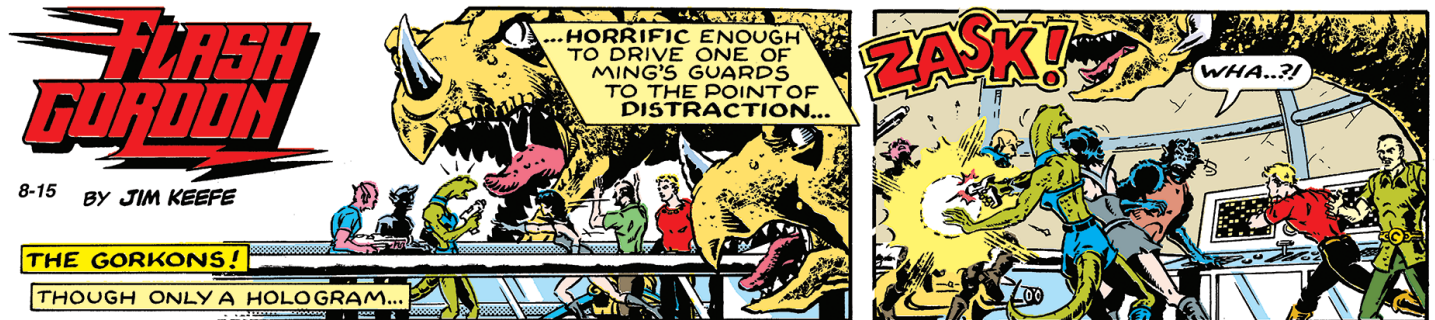
6. In Mark 6:9, Jesus tells his disciples not to put on two ...? *Sandals, Coats, Headdresses, Girdles*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Fool's, 3) 1,700, 4) 200, 5) Cana of Galilee, 6) Coats

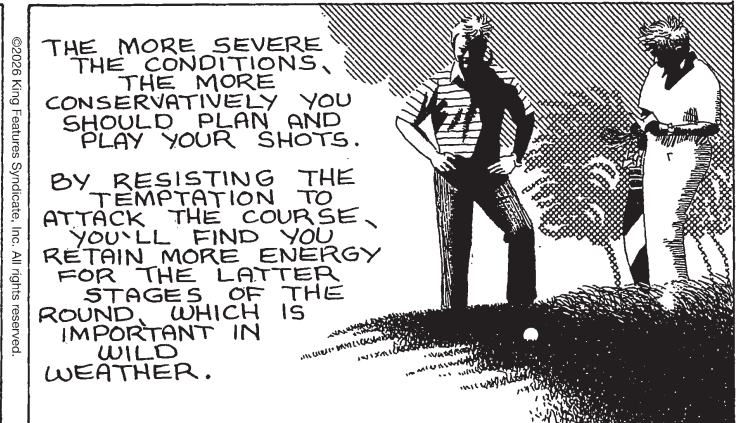
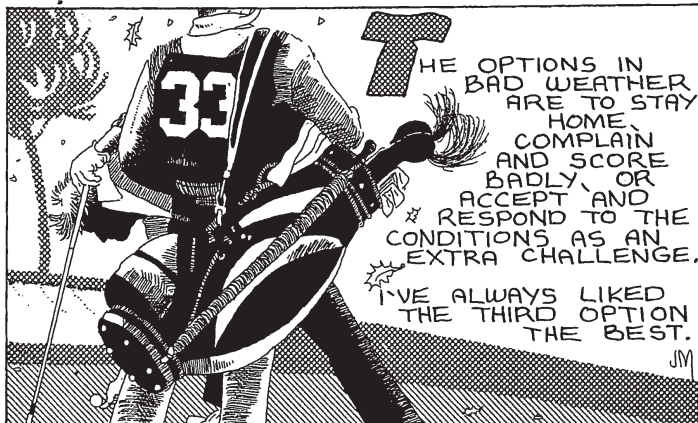
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Word-Recall Difficulty Causes Concern in 70-Year-Old Female

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a healthy 70-year-old female who still works full-time and plays tennis regularly. I'm 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh 140 pounds. My concern is my memory, especially my speech. English is my second language, but I've been in the United States for over 40 years. Words often disappear from me when I need them and come back later when the subject is closed.

When I shared my concern with my friend, I was told that nicotine patches are helpful for memory loss, even though I'm no longer a smoker. I quit smoking 15 years ago after decades of smoking. What's your opinion on nicotine patches for memory loss? -- M.M.

ANSWER: First, occasional word-recall difficulty isn't abnormal for healthy 70-year-olds, even native English speakers. Many people who are aging normally have tip-of-the-tongue word-recall problems and usually find the word that they're looking for later. Unless you have significant progression with this problem or have other memory or thinking problems, this may be nothing to worry about.

To answer your question, nicotine patches were shown to have small improvements in memory and attention in healthy older people and in people with mild cognitive impairment (some but not all of whom will develop dementia later). But they aren't approved by the Food and Drug Administration for this purpose.

These findings are small and aren't replicated. An ongoing trial is underway and may be published soon. In the meantime, I don't recommend nicotine patches for memory, attention or word recall.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 76-year-old man, and I have to urinate at least every 2 hours every night. My urologist did a digital check on my prostate and found that it was of normal size. He recommended a cystoscopy. He said that they numb the penis beforehand, but I'm concerned about the pain. I forgot to ask the doctor if I could be given a strong sedative. Can they give me a sedative before this procedure? -- K.O.B.

ANSWER: They absolutely can give you sedation for this procedure. I personally think that people shouldn't feel compelled to try to get through medical procedures without medication to make the procedure less painful, uncomfortable or scary, especially because procedures can sometimes seem this way.

Men in particular seem to have a hard time asking for relief. On the other hand, physicians are less likely to offer pain relief to women during procedures. Both men and women deserve a discussion about their options to reduce pain and discomfort.

You should discuss this well ahead of time with your urologist, who may want to have an anesthesiologist administer the sedative. People who undergo moderate sedation should have someone to help them get home and get information about how the procedure went. The sedative can make it hard for a patient to form new memories for a while, meaning that patients may forget some of the explanation they get after the procedure.

Additionally, your urologist can take steps to make the procedure more comfortable, such as adjusting the pressure of the fluid that flows through the cystoscope; allowing you to watch what's happening on the screen if you want; and allowing you to choose the music that you'd like during the procedure. These are relatively simple steps that have been proven to reduce pain, discomfort and anxiety.

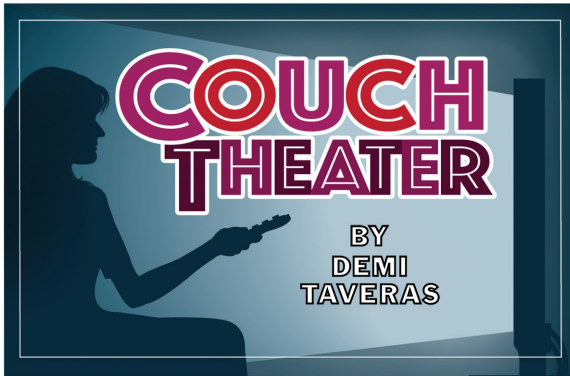
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Gal Gadot stars in "The Runner." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu" (PG-13) -- Sometimes a film can have a notable director such as Jon Favreau ("The Lion King"), popular lead stars like Pedro Pascal ("Fantastic 4: The First Steps") and Jeremy Allen White ("The Bear"),

and even a score composed by an Oscar winner like Ludwig Goransson ("The Odyssey") -- and still not meet box-office expectations! It certainly didn't meet Disney's, as it was the lowest-grossing live-action "Star Wars" film of all time. This sci-fi film is a continuation of the three-season series "The Mandalorian" (2019-2023), which follows bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pascal) and his foundling, Grogu. Instead of a fourth season, its creators decided to move toward a feature film about the duo, who get recruited by the New Republic to rescue Rotta the Hutt (White). Stream it on Sept. 2! (Disney+)

"Mayday" (PG-13) -- Ryan Reynolds is back on our screens after the successful third installment of his "Deadpool" franchise! Trading in his skintight red suit for a United States Air Force uniform, Reynolds plays pilot Troy "Assassin" Kelly in this action-comedy film out on Sept. 4. After ejecting himself from his plane to survive a head-on collision, Troy lands in the Russian wilderness and quickly encounters ex-KGB carpenter Nikolai Ustinov (Kenneth Branagh). Nikolai, who greatly admires the American government and culture, agrees to help Troy get outside of enemy lines. Of course, even with their combat skills and the power of their two heads combined, it won't be an easy feat. (Apple TV)

"The Runner" (PG-13) -- Having gone under the radar for a bit after the catastrophe that was "Snow White" (2025), Gal Gadot has found herself in a new lead role for an action thriller that's way more up her alley. Gadot portrays Maia, an attorney, mother and running enthusiast. In the middle of her normal run after dropping her son, Noah, off to school, she receives what she assumes is an ordinary call from him, until she hears a man on the other end of the line. Startled, Maia listens intently as the caller tells her that he has abducted Noah, and only if she follows each of the caller's rules will Noah get to live. Damian Lewis ("Pressure") and Alfred Enoch ("The Critic") co-star. Premieres Sept. 2. (Amazon Prime Video)

In Case You Missed It

"The Man Will Burn" (TV-MA) -- This four-part documentary series that's out now on streaming takes on the radical weeklong desert festival known as Burning Man. Originating in 1986 on Baker Beach in San Francisco, Burning Man has since evolved into a large-scale event consisting of more than 70,000 participants. Now held at its iconic venue of Black Rock City, Nevada, the festival brings together people from around the world with a foundation of 10 main principles: radical inclusion, gifting, decommmodification, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation, and immediacy. The series explores its history, the nonprofit that organizes the festival, and how celebrity culture has infiltrated Black Rock City. (HBO Max)

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1. How many Grammy awards did the Beatles receive?
2. Name the artist who released "Any Day Now" in 1962.
3. Who wrote and released "It's Your Thing"?
4. Which doo-wop group had their up-tempo "Unchained Melody" used in the film "Goodfellas"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Left a good job in the city, Workin' for the man every night and day, And I never lost one minute of sleepin', Worryin' 'bout the way things might have been."

Answers

1. Out of 28 nominations, they received eight Grammys. The first was for "A Hard Day's Night" in 1965. The most recent was for "Now and Then" in 2025, where they took a 1970s demo and finished it.
2. Chuck Jackson. Several artists released covers of the Burt Bacharach song, including Elvis Presley and Percy Sledge, but it was Jackson's version that was used in the 2014 film "Inherent Vice."
3. The Isley Brothers, in 1969. They won a Grammy for Best R&B Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group.
4. Vito & the Salutations.
5. "Proud Mary," by Creedence Clearwater Revival, in 1968. The Proud Mary was a ship officially named the Mary Elizabeth, working out of Memphis.

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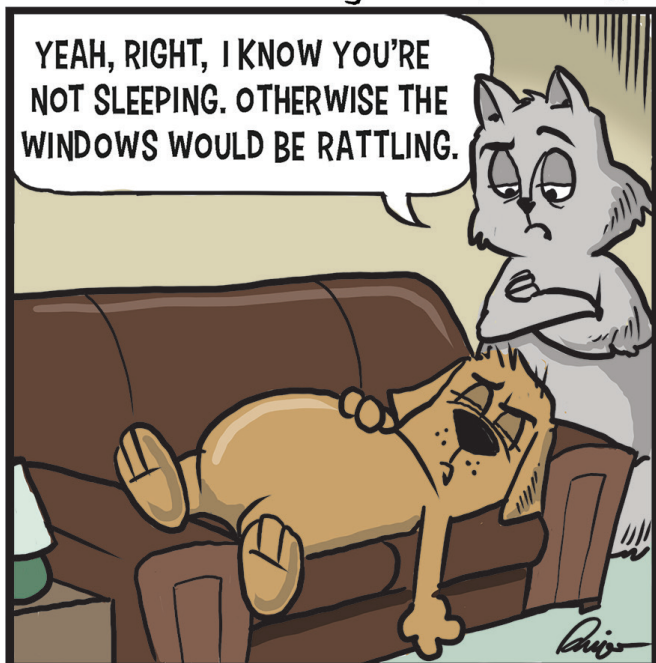
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



"He has been unusually pleasant lately.
... I don't like it!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

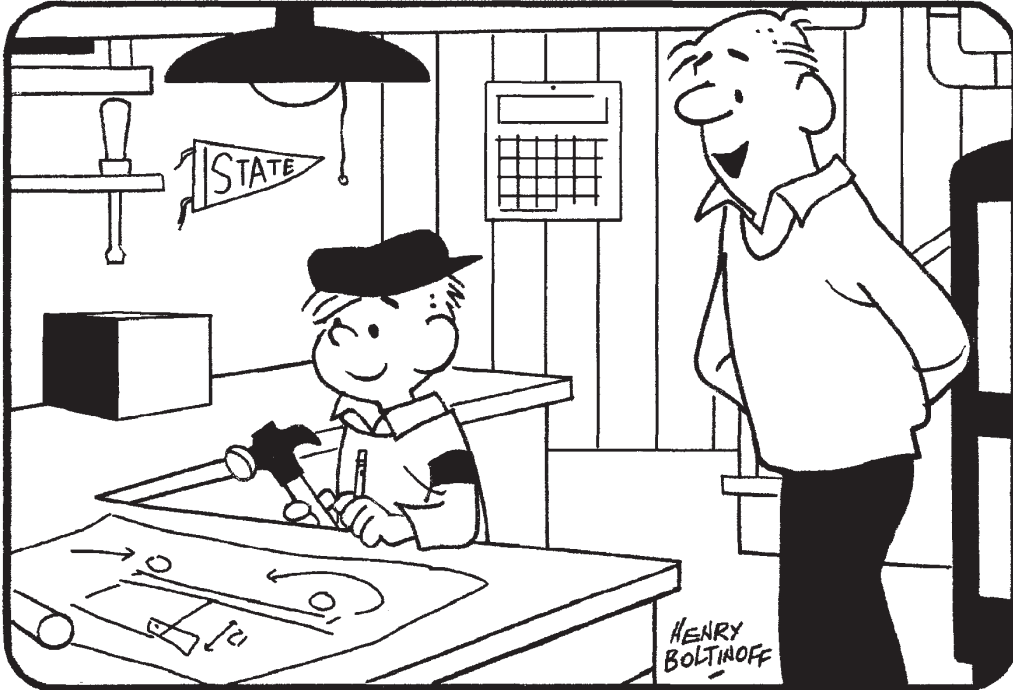


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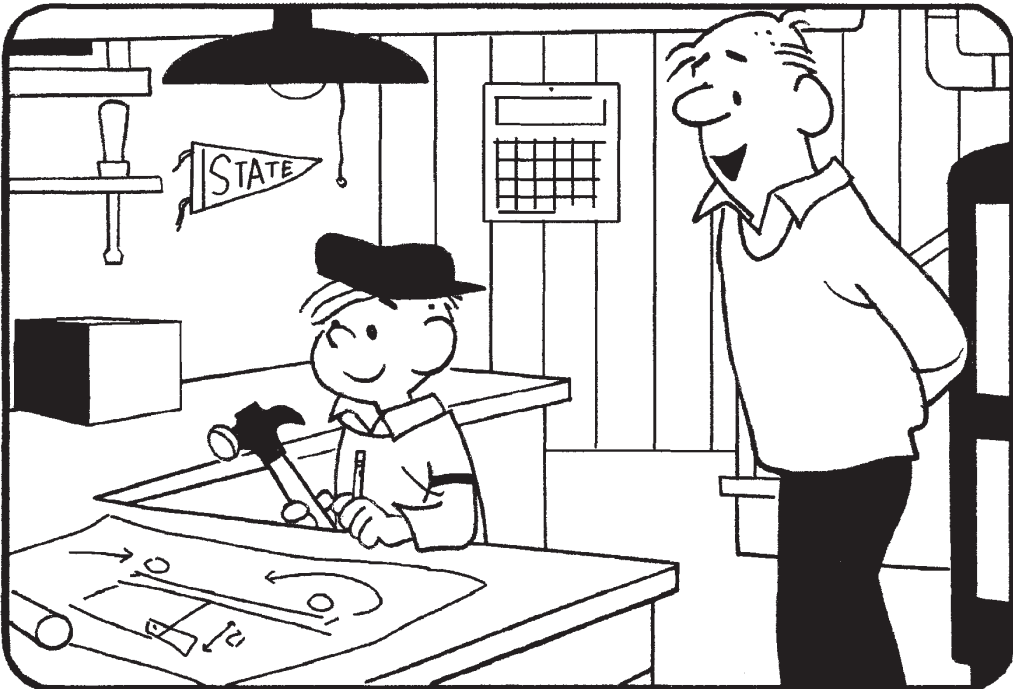
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Hammer is longer. 3. Box is moved. 4. Cap is tilted back. 5. Lightbulb is smaller. 6. Stripe on sleeve is smaller.

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* This facial mask is good enough to eat. You might have a hard time deciding whether you want the facial or the snack: Mix together one mashed ripe banana with 3 tablespoons of sugar, and apply liberally to face. Leave it on for about three minutes, and rinse with warm water. Follow with your favorite moisturizer.

* "The best way to soften butter is to let it stand at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes. But if you are in a hurry, you can slice it into 1/2-inch pats and roll it between sheets of waxed paper. It will only take a minute or so." -- I.V. in Connecticut

* Pet hair is best removed from upholstery with a squeegee. Drag over the upholstery or even your carpet to collect the hair into a ball. Dispose of the hair in the trash.

* "Here's my tip for using a pool noodle in the garage. We have a narrow parking area, so we cut a foam noodle in half lengthwise, then secured it to the wall where the door might hit when we get out of the car. No bumps, no chips. The noodle saves the day!" -- Y.I. in Maryland

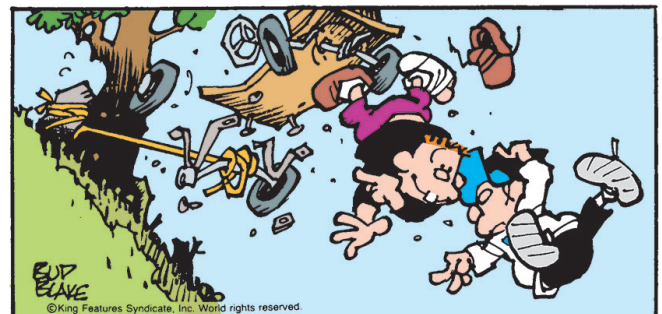
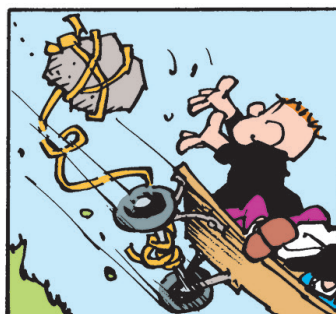
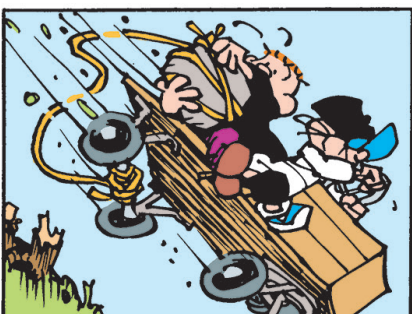
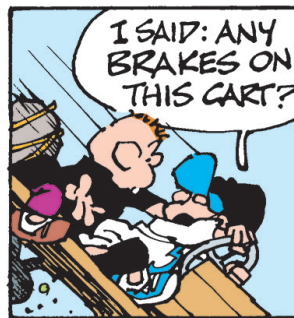
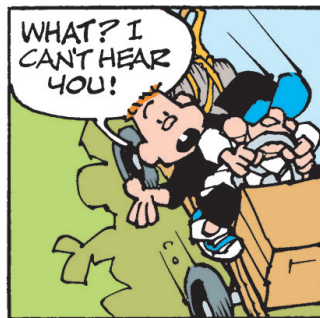
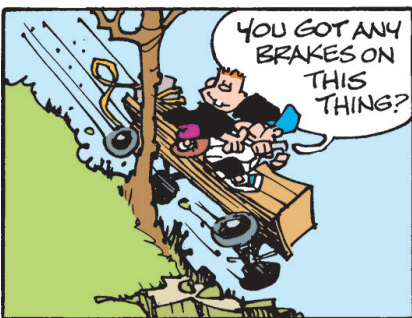
* "When you need to measure something that is sticky, like honey or peanut butter, try rinsing your measuring cup with oil, then hot water. The oily residue will make the sticky substance slide out, but it won't be oily, as the hot water rinses away any excess." -- E.R. in Arkansas

* If you are moving, use small pieces of plastic wrap to keep your toiletries from spilling en route. Simply unscrew the top, cover with the plastic and reattach the lid.

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

by **BUD BLAKE**



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Actor Sharif
 5 "Humbug!"
 8 JFK guesses
 12 Cape —, Portugal
 13 In the style of
 14 Seniors' gp.
 15 Manhattan, for one
 17 China (Pref.)
 18 "The Sopranos" restaurateur
 19 Brunch fare
 21 Thick chunk
 24 TV spots
 25 Ancient invader
 28 Uber competitors
 30 Mas' mates
 33 Chef Garten
 34 Bo of "10"
 35 Pen filler
 36 — chi
 37 Location
 38 — B'rith
 39 Young fellow
 41 "Absolutely!"
 43 Texas city
 46 Caravan stops
 50 Big rackets
 51 Pulled-back hairdo
 54 Icelandic epic
 55 Chang's brother
 56 "Andor" actor Diego —

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 57 Optimistic
 58 Tic-tac-toe loser
 59 Mountain ht.
 10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
 11 Espy
 16 Aviv preceder
 20 Mardi Gras wear
 22 Computer brand
 23 Exposes
 25 "Shoo!"
 26 — tear (rag-ing)
 27 Hindmost parts
 29 Boyfriend
 31 Comic Gasteyer
 32 Enjoy Aspen
 34 June honor-ees
 38 Ringo, for one
 40 Analyze
 42 Trigger's rider
 43 Baltic feeder
 44 Queen of Carthage
 45 Pinnacle
 47 Biblical king
 48 Aachen article
 49 Serb or Croat
 52 Musician Yoko
 53 Private aid gp.

DOWN

- 1 Sea predator
 2 Heath
 3 Ad agcy. client
 4 Debonair
 5 Sheep call
 6 Boxer Laila
 7 Angelic light
 8 Allayed
 9 Severe decline

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

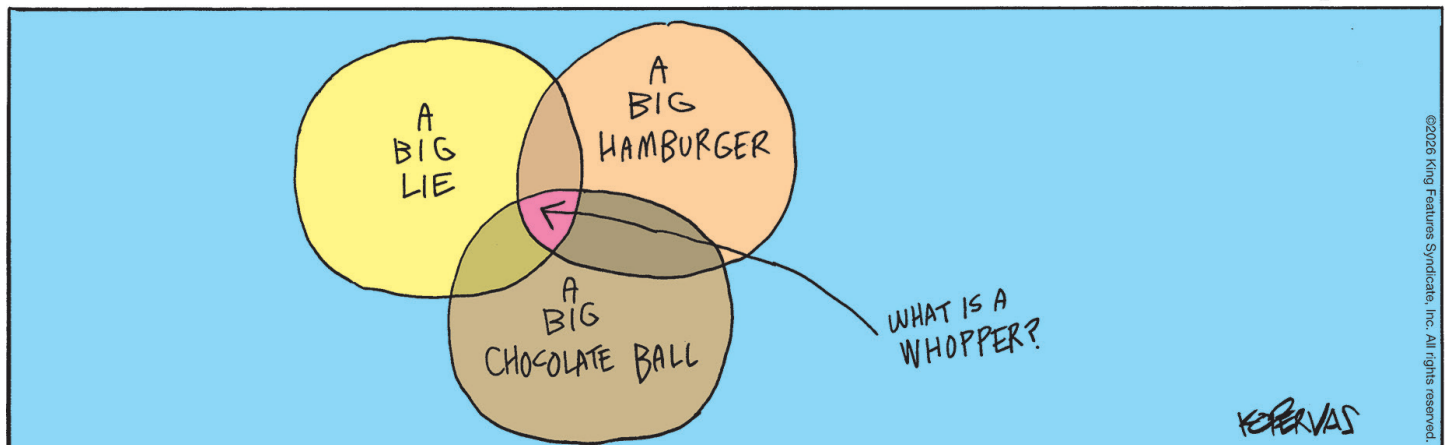
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I	N	A			D	E	R	E	K		I	N
T	A	I			A	R	E	A		B	N	A
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O	D	E	S	S	A				O	A	S	E
D	I	N	S			P	O	N	Y	T	A	I
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Olive



Out on a Limb

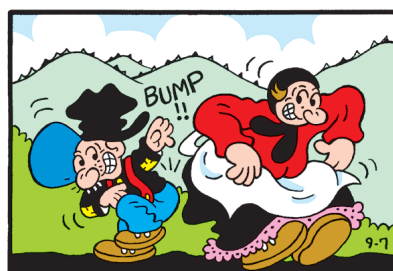
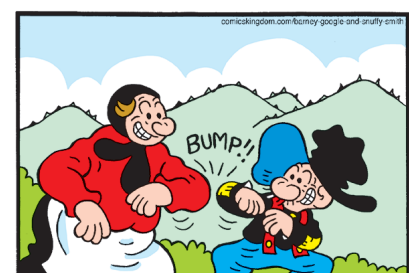
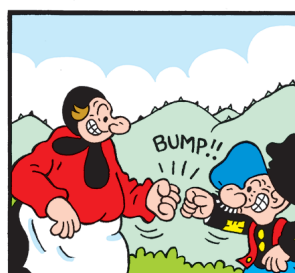
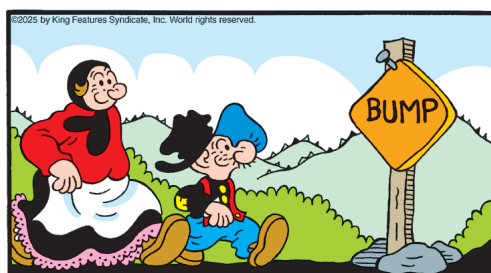
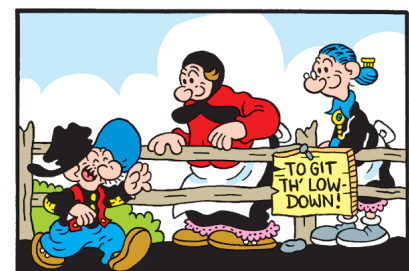
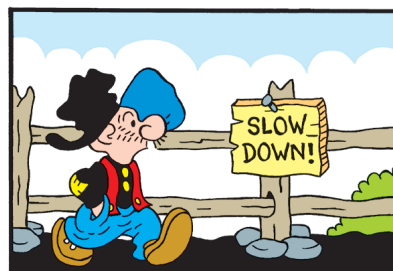
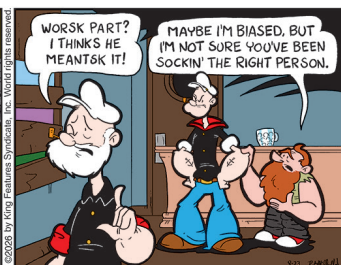
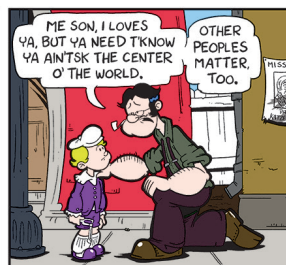
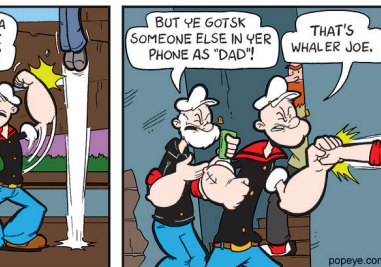
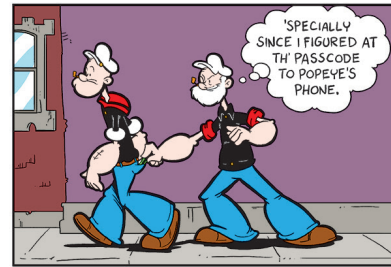
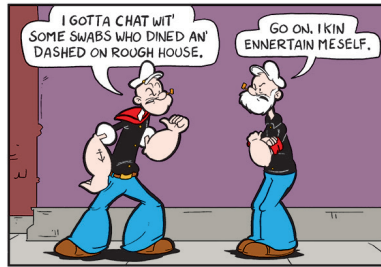
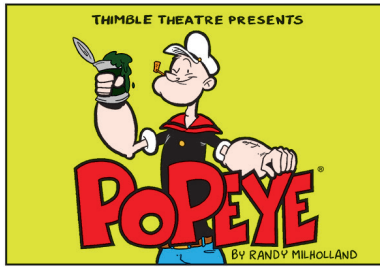
by Gary Kopervas



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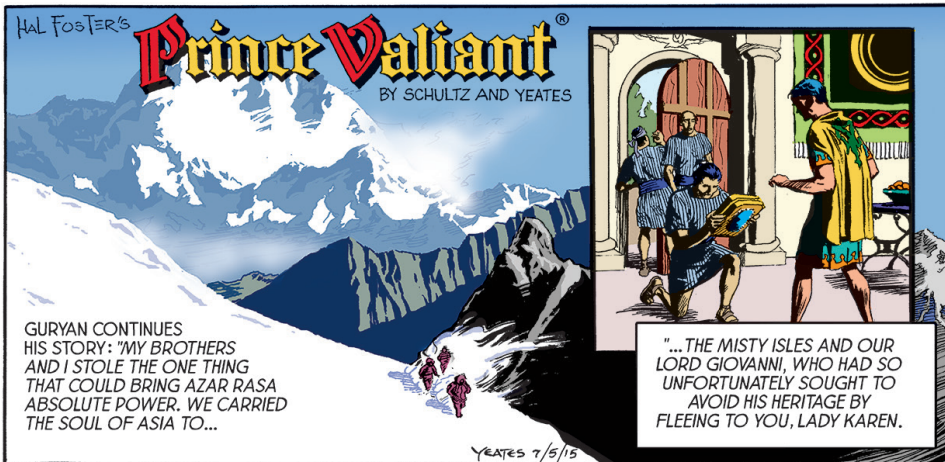
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"LORD GIOVANNI WAS, OF COURSE, MUCH TROUBLED, AS HE KNEW HIS RESPONSIBILITY ULTIMATELY LAY WITH HIS FATHER'S PEOPLE, AND HE KNEW THAT THE SOUL OF ASIA COULD NOT STAY WITH HIM..."

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Cutting expenses

Color me shocked when my most recent electric bill spiked nearly \$50 in one month. I immediately scrutinized the bill, wondering if they hadn't credited the previous check I'd sent. But no, it was listed -- and so was the increased cost of basic service, approved by the state's public utilities commission. Which only added to the cost of air conditioning during our heat waves.

Once again it's time to take a close look at ways I (and you) can save money.

Take a look through the list of TV streaming services you have and see if any are no longer worth keeping. I recently canceled a few services, while my library rents movies for free.

If you have a pet that's due for a rabies or distemper vaccine, ask the animal shelter if they have low-cost vaccination days.

No matter what drug plan you have, ask your pharmacist for the lowest possible price on your drugs. You might be surprised to learn that paying cash actually offers the lowest cost for your particular drug.

Cancel any credit cards that have a fee.

It's not too early to start thinking about holiday gift-giving. Begin by making a list and a budget. Keep an eye on sales (such as Black Friday) over the next several months.

Become familiar with senior discount days in your area. Goodwill and Salvation Army stores offer varying discounts depending on the day and location.

Apply for SNAP benefits to help with food costs. You could receive varying amounts per month, depending on your income and the number of people in your household.

And what might be the most beneficial: Ask for a senior discount anywhere you spend money. Grocery loyalty card, auto insurance, hardware store, pet store, YMCA, cellphone service ... it can all add up to significant savings.

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Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month

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1. In 1981, which world-famous athlete talked a man out of jumping from the ninth-floor fire escape of a Los Angeles office building?

2. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer who has his No. 00 retired by the Boston Celtics.

3. The Tartan Army is the name given to supporters of which nation's soccer team?

4. Which team, made up of Caribbean nation-states, won the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 1975 and 1979?

5. In 2018, Brazilian surfer Maya Gabeira set a Guinness World Record for the largest wave surfed by a female. How high was the wave's face height from trough to crest?

6. In January 1974, which team snapped the UCLA Bruins men's basketball team's 88-game winning streak?

7. Who scored more points in the 1970 NBA All-Star Game: Tom Van Arsdale (East) or his identical twin brother Dick (West)?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Muhammad Ali.

2. Robert Parish.

3. Scotland.

4. The West Indies Windies.

5. 68 feet (20.72 meters).

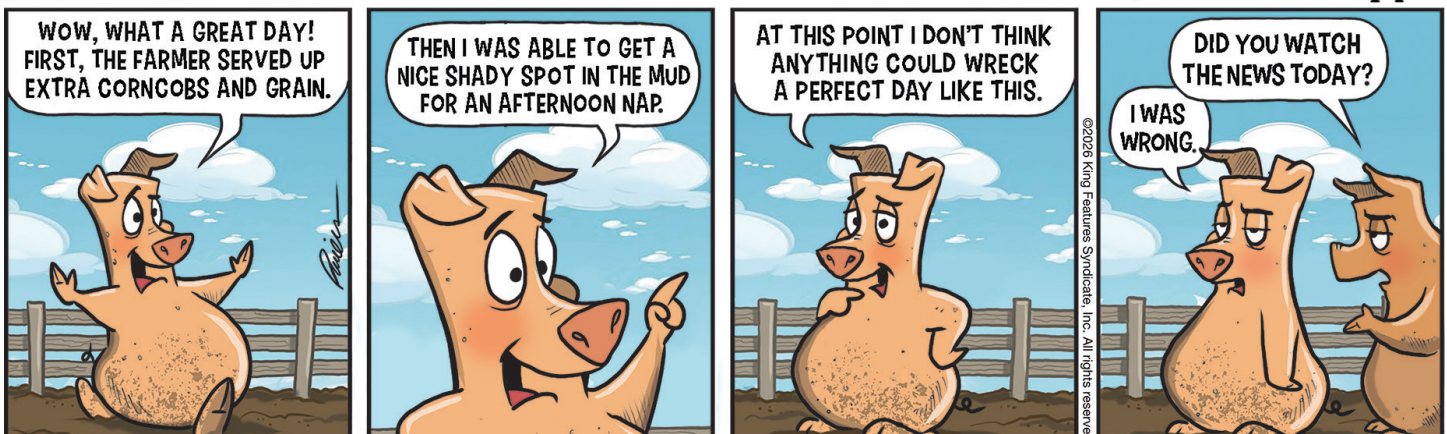
6. The Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

7. Dick, with eight points (Tom had five points).

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





When to stop hiking with your dog

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I recently read an article about a hiker who noticed another hiker's dog limping badly on a backwoods trail. The dog's paws were a mess, with long nails and pads that were scraped and tender. Yet the owner said that he and the dog were pressing on to the end of the trail, two days ahead. Can you please make your readers aware that dogs aren't as tough as people think they are? An injured dog can't just keep going, because minor injuries can quickly become major, life-altering injuries in the woods. Sign me -- Concerned in the Smokies

DEAR CONCERNED: I'm with you on this. While most dogs are energetic and agile on short walks around the neighborhood, long-distance hikes are a whole other

animal.

During any outdoor activity, your dog's well-being dictates when it's time to stop and go home. Owners should be attuned to their dog's behavior at all times. When they show early signs of getting tired, that's the time to call it a day -- before they begin limping or crying in pain.

Just as with human hikers, dogs need extensive physical conditioning before tackling a long hike. Start by gradually extending daily walks over several weeks or months. Take short day hikes so your dog becomes comfortable on uneven, variable terrain. After each hike, inspect their paws, brush debris and insects off their coat, and check their skin for ticks. Monitor them after hikes. If they seem unusually tired, give them a day off to recover.

Note that puppies up to 18 months should not be taken on walks or hikes of over 2 miles. Their bones are still developing, and overuse can cause permanent injuries. Senior dogs should also cut their mileage, and close attention must be paid to their hydration and energy levels.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* An isolated Israeli city with a high rate of deafness created their own sign language as a way of communicating.

* Pakistan was the first official Muslim nation in the world.

* An emoji of a building underneath a pink heart originally symbolized an invitation to meet at a Japanese “love hotel,” where rooms can be rented by the hour.

* At many European operas, whistling actually means boo.

* The Aetherius Society, a UFO religion, was founded by George King in 1955 after he claimed interplanetary sources

instructed him to become “the Voice of Interplanetary Parliament.”

* Cats have more bones than humans.

* According to several legends, if someone was bitten by a suspected vampire, he or she should drink the ashes of a burned vampire.

* Rock climbing can improve emotional or attention problems, such as anxiety and ADHD.

* First performed in 1999, the Sandpaper Ballet includes a musical number that sounds just like someone scratching sandpaper.

* An EF-3 tornado near Pampa, Texas, was so strong that it drove a corn stalk into a car’s radiator.

* A mother admitted to attending her clique’s “chickenpox party,” a social gathering where parents expose unvaccinated children to the virus, even though her daughter had been vaccinated, because she feared rejection by the group if she didn’t show up.

* Nearly 90% of London’s police officers don’t carry firearms.

* Before the invention of electricity, the only electromagnetic wavelengths present on Earth in any significant amount were those corresponding to the colors seen in a rainbow.

* In 2005, former Washington, D.C., administrative law judge Roy Pearson Jr. sued his neighborhood dry cleaners for \$67 million after a pair of his suit pants was accidentally sent to another location. (No, he didn’t win.)

Thought for the Day: “The first wealth is health.” -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Gomphrena

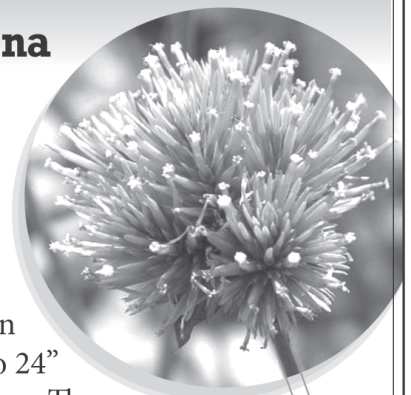
This compact and colorful plant produces flowerheads that brighten any garden. It is excellent for use in freshly-cut bouquets, or dried to use in dried flower arrangements.

Gomphrena likes well-drained soil in full sun, typically growing about 12” to 24” tall. It may need support for its stems. These

plants show good tolerance for drought and high heat, and do very well in borders, rock gardens or cutting gardens.

Source: www.gardening.cornell.edu

– Brenda Weaver



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by Freddy Groves

Successes at the VA

The VA is making great progress in serving veterans. The latest score card shows things going in the right direction.

For example, since the beginning of January 2025, they've opened 40 new healthcare facilities and completed 82 million direct care appointments. During that time they reduced the backlog of veterans waiting for benefits by over 70%.

When it comes to community care appointments, they completed 59 million in 2025. A big push, started at the end of 2025, cleared the backlog of healthcare applications for 900,000 veteran spouses, survivors, caregivers and dependents.

They managed to provide over 3 million appointments outside of normal hours, giving veterans the option of early morning, evening and weekend appointments.

Over 215,000 veterans have been enrolled in VA healthcare just this year alone.

For 2026 they've earmarked \$4.8 billion to fix and repair healthcare facilities, to include modernization of the electronic health record systems and building upgrades such as elevators and boiler plants.

More than 51,000 homeless veterans were helped into permanent housing last year.

The VA managed to save \$24 million per year just by centralizing the payroll system for VA employees, money that can now be spent in other areas.

But the big-ticket item, one that will have a major impact, is that the VA managed to get \$10.44 billion in drug price reductions this year alone -- the biggest price reduction they've ever had. This started with President Trump and his push for lower drug costs. For the civilian population, they just announced the largest drug price reduction in over 60 years after requesting the world's 17 largest drugmakers to lower prices to what they charge other countries. It's said this could save \$529 billion over the next 10 years.

I'll be the first in line to point the finger of blame at the VA for things that go wrong, but seeing this list, it's clear they're doing many, many things right.

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Wishing Well®



4	6	8	4	7	3	6	4	3	8	4	3	4
P	Y	P	R	K	C	O	O	H	A	F	E	I
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D	S	A	D	M	R	O	M	V	S	E	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. HISTORY: When did Labor Day become a federal holiday?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which animal can hop from side to side but can't walk forward or backward?
3. MOVIES: What is the only international (non-English) movie to date that has won the Best Picture Oscar?
4. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin word "alibi" mean in English?
5. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is known for the soup called pho?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest bay in the world?
7. MUSIC: What 1996 song by Los del Rio became an international dance phenomenon?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who is the only president to be elected unanimously by the Electoral College?
9. SCIENCE: How many times does the average human blink per minute?
10. TELEVISION: What is SpongeBob's pet named in the animated series "SpongeBob SquarePants"?

Trivia answers

1. 1894.
2. Kangaroo.
3. "Parasite," 2019.
4. "Elsewhere."
5. Vietnam.
6. Bay of Bengal.
7. "Macarena."
8. George Washington.
9. 15 to 20 times.
10. Gary.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Strengthening Tribal Relations

I enjoy meeting people where they're at. It's far easier to understand where someone is coming from if I can look them in the eye, see and hear their needs for myself, and gain a better appreciation for their perspective. It's just how I'm wired. And I've taken that approach to meeting with South Dakota's nine tribal nations.

When I took office, in my very first speech to the Legislature, I promised to "reset" relationships with our Tribes. In my first 18 months on the job, I've been very encouraged by the results.

This past year, on State-Tribal Relations Day in the Legislature, I had a scheduled meeting with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Well, other tribes heard about it, and suddenly, we had members of 8 tribes filling our conference room, including 6 tribal chairmen and presidents. The room was literally overflowing! We talked about challenges and opportunities. And there were some instances where we disagreed – but we did so agreeably.

The cornerstones of my Administration are openness, responsiveness, and civility. And I've especially emphasized that approach in my interactions with the tribes. They know that if they ever have any concerns, then can bring them to me, and I will do my best to help find a solution.

I recently visited the Pine Ridge Reservation to sit down with leaders of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Our conversation focused on economic opportunities. By visiting them where they're at, I gained a better sense of their challenges and opportunities for myself. It was a productive meeting!

I also recently met with tribal leaders to discuss public safety and law enforcement on our tribal reservations. That topic has been a key focus of mine in my first two sessions as Governor. Our law enforcement deserves respect – at all levels. But for too many years, tribal law enforcement officers have not had the full protection of South Dakota law. This year, we changed that. I supported the bill to recognize tribal law enforcement under the definition of "law enforcement officer."

On top of that, my Correctional Rehabilitation Task Force is hard at work. And that work includes some tribal-specific rehabilitation opportunities. If we can give inmates the opportunity for true rehabilitation, then we can end the revolving door in our prisons. And we can improve public safety on our tribal reservations.

When I met with our tribal leaders, I did make a couple requests. I asked them to continue working closely with my administration on public safety issues. That collaboration starts with communication, but it can go far beyond that. Tribes have the opportunity to sign Law Enforcement Agreements with my Administration, and I encouraged every tribe that has not yet done so to change that.

After all, crime does not recognize borders. Whether South Dakotans live in Onida or Oglala, Winner or Wagner, drugs are impacting every community.

To reduce crime throughout South Dakota and our reservations, we must look past politics. We must focus on working together. For as long as I am Governor, that is the approach I will take. It will always be my mission to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free. And that goes for every South Dakota community, including our tribal reservations.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

What It Was, Was a Boo-Boo

This week I experienced a little "situation." I was in the bathroom getting ready to take a shower when, for some reason, I slipped and went crashing to the floor.

At my age, this is a rather serious "situation." I fell on my left leg, and all I could think of was that I broke my hip, and now I'm going to have a hip replacement. I tried to get that out of my mind, but for some reason it lingered.

I'm not exactly sure what my problem was, but I could not get up. What bothered me was whether I should call for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to help me or lie there struggling to get up.

Of course, I chose the latter and tried my best to get up off that floor.

At that time, I was not feeling any pain, but I was worried that because of my fall I broke something. I knew I needed help, so after much thought I decided to call for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. That was the last thing I wanted to do, and I knew that I would live with that for the rest of my life. It may even leak into eternity; I'm not sure.

I threw my pride into the toilet and called out for her to come and help me. Believe me, I tried as much as possible to solve my problem. Over the years, I have discovered that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can solve any problem, so my choice was obvious.

She came and saw me splattered all over the bathroom floor and asked, "What happened?"

I knew an exposé on what happened in the bathroom wouldn't solve any of my problems. I just looked at her and said, "Can you help me get up?"

I was anxious to know the full extent of my injuries. Within 30 minutes of her helping me, I finally was able to get out of the bathroom and into the bedroom on my bed. That was the longest 30 minutes of my life.

I sat on the bed for a few moments, trying to assess my situation. I checked my leg for swelling or pain, and thankfully, I had no broken bones and my hip was working just fine. I sighed a deep sigh of relief at that point.

The only thing I had was some fatigue in my left leg. It wasn't anything serious; I felt confident I didn't need to go to the hospital for an examination. Every time I go to the hospital, they find six or more things wrong that I never even thought of. So, I decided to rest at home and work on my boo-boo, hoping it would heal on its own.

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For the last two weeks I've had to walk with a cane. That is not something I ever wanted to do. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Don't you know that a Cane can make you Able?"

I looked at her with a very suspicious stare because I remembered what Cain did to Abel. Oh boy, what am I in for?

I've had to face worse physical problems than this, and I was happy that I didn't have to go to the hospital. It just meant that I would have to slow down and let everything work out.

A lot of things in life really zap you of strength. I know I've been hit with a lot of "pie-in-the-face" stuff throughout life. Sometimes this stuff is exaggerated to make it seem worse than it really is.

I remember going to the hospital one time thinking I had a lot of health problems that I would have to deal with for some time. After a full examination, the doctor came back to my hospital room and said, "As far as I can tell, you don't have anything seriously wrong with you." He smiled and then walked away.

I had one doctor who said after every examination, "Someone your age should have something wrong with you." I kept that doctor for a short time and moved on to another doctor.

I know people take things seriously sometimes. Even things that aren't really important; they exaggerate, and I think sometimes they do it to get attention.

Over the past several weeks, I've been walking around with my cane, and each day seems better than the last. I don't know how long I'm going to keep my friend, the cane, by my side.

I noticed that when I go out somewhere, to some stores, when people see me coming, they open the door for me. That's because my friend is by my side. I sure would hate to give that up for the rest of my life.

Reflecting on this, I see that some boo-boos, like my fall, can surprisingly turn into blessings, reminding us to find hope in setbacks.

We find this in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

Sometimes it takes trouble to experience the comfort of God. So, when in trouble look for God's comfort because it's right in front of you.

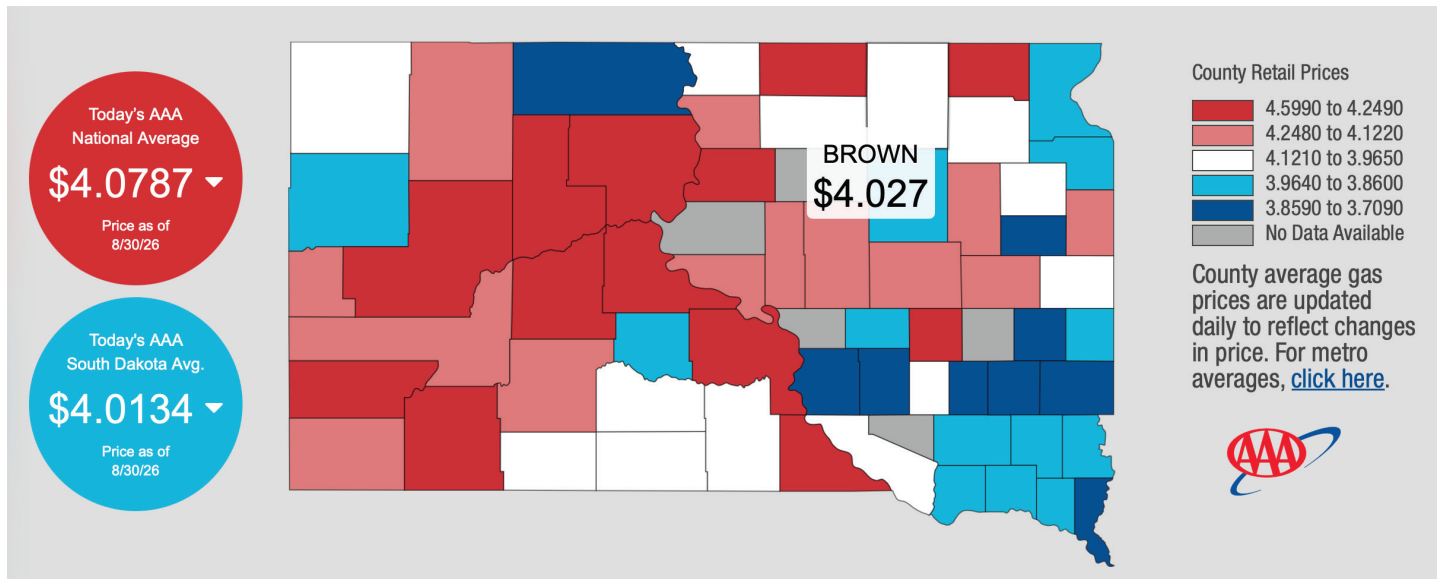
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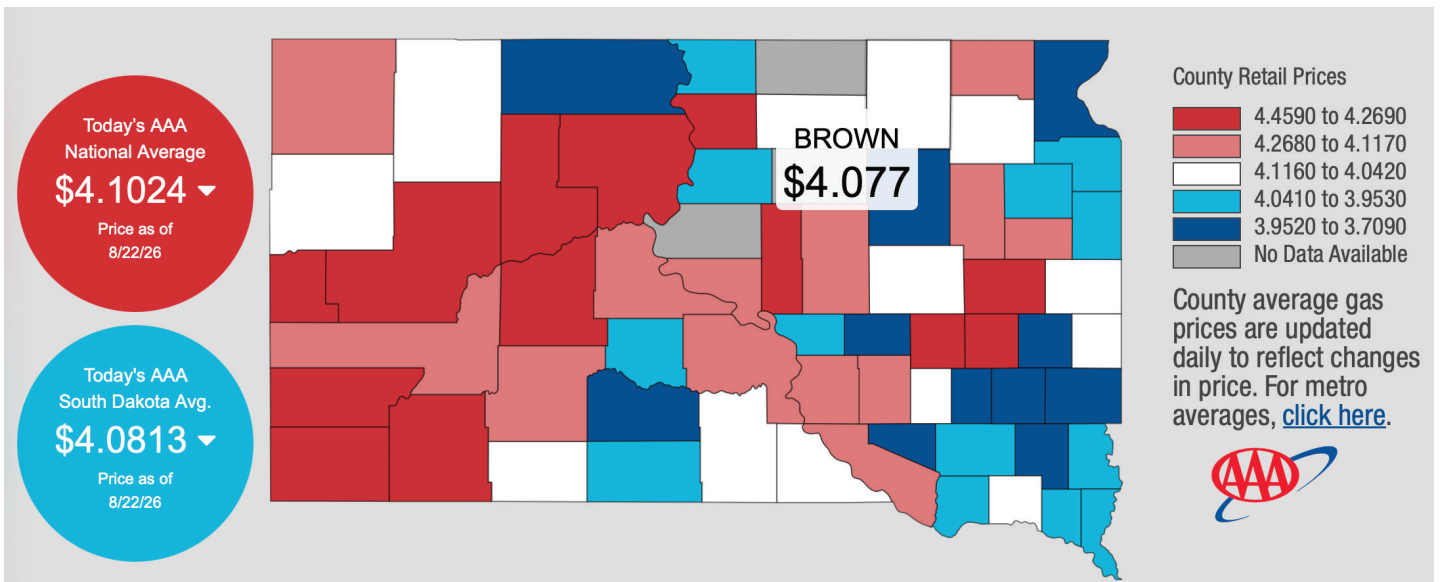
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$4.0134	\$4.2286	\$4.7243	\$5.2717
Yesterday Avg.	\$4.0228	\$4.2407	\$4.7258	\$5.2889
Week Ago Avg.	\$4.0709	\$4.2677	\$4.7796	\$5.2811
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.0113	\$4.2217	\$4.7001	\$4.8742
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.0031	\$3.1838	\$3.6538	\$3.3714

This Week



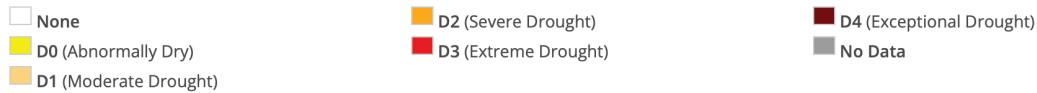
Last Week



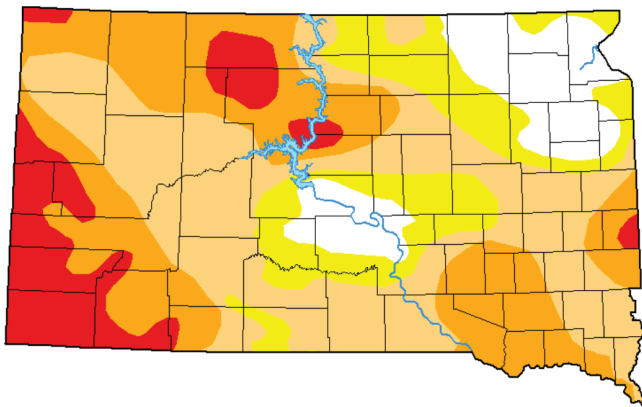
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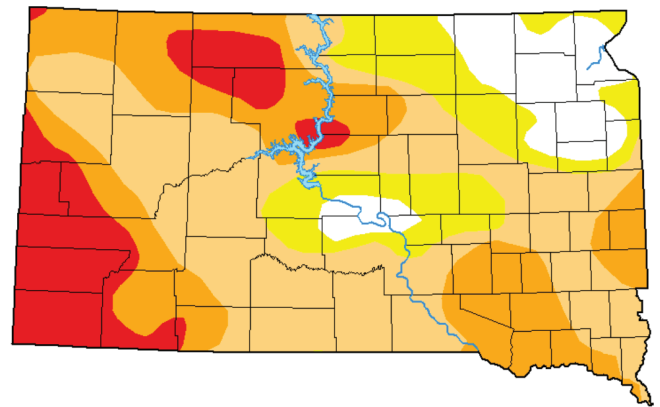
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



August 25



August 18

The High Plains saw a mixture of drought degradation and localized improvement. Rapid drought deterioration continued across southern Kansas and southeastern Colorado, where dry conditions and excessive heat aggravated agricultural impacts. Further north, widespread convection brought drought relief east of the Front Range across eastern Colorado, though some deterioration occurred in the Rockies of Colorado and Wyoming where water storage impacts from last spring's limited snow cover are beginning to mount. Organized convection along the northern periphery of the ridge promoted drought reduction in central Nebraska. Showers mostly maintained a status-quo depiction across South Dakota, save for small areas of degradation along its respective borders with North Dakota and Minnesota. More widespread drought degradation was noted across North Dakota, where precipitation was sparser outside of a single, narrow convective event that tracked across the northeastern corner of the state.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is owning a cat or dog bad for the planet?
—Missy Teahan, Acton, MA

While all cat and dog owners know the financial and time costs of caring for a pet, many do not know about or consider the environmental costs. As almost one-third of all households on Earth own at least one dog and nearly one-fourth of all households own at least one cat, the environmental effects of these pets have become incredibly significant and impactful globally. Specifically, an average-sized cat produces

around 310 kilograms of carbon dioxide annually, while an average-sized dog produces 770 kilograms.

One impactful factor of this phenomenon is pet food production. As pets often depend on other animals' protein as food to survive, producing pet food requires farming animals like cattle and poultry. This production adds up; in America, the production of dog and cat food leads to around 390 kilograms of climate pollution annually per animal, a number that is worsened by many pet food companies neglecting sustainable pet food ingredient sourcing.

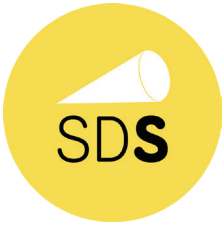
Beyond production, the overall consumption of pet food contributes to climate pollution. In fact, one quarter of the environmental impacts of U.S. meat production are tied to pet food, taking into account the use of land, water, phosphates, pesticides, and fossil fuels, according to UCLA geographer Gregory Okin. While some cat owners have tried to opt for a vegan diet, Alexandra Whittaker, an associate Professor at the School of Animal and Veterinary Science at the University of Adelaide, stated, "One challenge that isn't really addressed in this paper is how a vegan cat diet should be safely put together. Previous studies have shown cats on vegan diets to have severe deficiency disorders affecting the muscles."

The environmental effects of pets are also exacerbated by the lack of conscious decision-making from pet owners. For instance, many owners do not think twice about purchasing from breeders, as they do not consider how this contributes to overpopulation and can increase the impact of pet food production or animal care costs in animal shelters. Similarly, many of the pet toys that owners purchase are made with toxic dyes, and the pet waste that owners do not pick up can spread deadly parasites to wildlife.

Fortunately, there are various things you can do to mitigate these negative environmental effects. Owners could opt for sustainable food alternatives, such as pet food brands certified by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council or the Marine Stewardship Council, which indicate that the protein in this food is caught legally and produced responsibly, or insect-based food, which has a smaller carbon footprint. Pet owners should also manage waste responsibly to avoid spreading toxins to wildlife and to reduce plastic pollution by decreasing the number of unnecessary purchases. With these measures, pet owners can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of their pets.



Owning a pet might be good for the pet, but not necessarily for the environment. Credit: Pexels.com.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

South Dakota's housing affordability advantage has slipped

The state was once among the most affordable in the region; that advantage is gone, and today's buyers are paying 30% more for the same home they could have bought before the pandemic

by Nina Luz

Imagine two identical homebuyers: the same salary, the same city, the same goal of buying a three-bedroom house in South Dakota.

The first closed the deal in 2018. The second is trying to do the same today. The first homebuyer paid around \$296,000 and took out a loan equivalent to 2.5 times their annual income. The second homebuyer, seven years later, will need around \$390,000 and will carry a debt of 2.7 times their yearly earnings. The house is the same. What changes is the financial burden.

For decades, South Dakota held a comfortable place on the American housing map — cheaper than Minnesota, and comparable to Nebraska and North Dakota. It wasn't the most affordable state in the region, but it offered a reasonable combination of price and quality of life that attracted both local residents and newcomers. That position has shifted since the pandemic, and the data shows precisely how and by how much.

First, prices rose sharply but didn't come back down. Between 2018 and 2024, the median home price in South Dakota grew by about 30% in real terms — that is, adjusted for inflation. Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa all saw increases, but South Dakota's was sharper; it went from sitting in the middle of the regional pack to surpassing Nebraska and North Dakota, and pulling close to Minnesota.

By 2023, prices in several states had started to fall. Nebraska dropped 8.6% from its peak, Iowa nearly 12% and Minnesota 6.7%. South Dakota fell only 2.3% — meaning it gave back almost none of its gains. In real terms, prices across the region are still above where they were before the pandemic. No state fully reversed the course, but South Dakota reversed the least.

Second, homebuyers are having to take on more debt, and the recent relief is more of an illusion. To understand this, it helps to know what economists call the loan-to-income ratio — the relationship between the loan amount and the buyer's annual income. The higher that number, the more stretched the household budget is to service the debt.

In 2018, the typical South Dakota buyer took out a loan equal to 2.46 times their annual income. In 2021, that number climbed to 2.96 — the highest in the available historical record. It eased slightly to 2.70 in 2024. At first glance, that looks like an improvement, but it isn't necessarily.

This happens with higher interest rates; families can borrow less for the same home. So even though the loan amount fell on paper, household budgets got tighter. In Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota, prices also declined, so both the loan and the overall burden decreased. In South Dakota, prices stayed high, loans kept rising and higher interest rates made monthly payments more expensive.

Between 2018 and 2024, the average loan value in South Dakota grew by 21%. Buyer income, over the same period, grew by only 10%. In other words, debt grew twice as fast as income. That explains why the financial pressure on today's buyers is greater than it was a few years ago.

If houses had become larger, better finished or better located, part of the price increase would have a reasonable explanation. The data doesn't support that. The median square footage of homes sold in South Dakota remained unchanged between 2018 and 2024. The average number of rooms did too. Buyers are

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paying more to get the same space.

And of particular interest to those following the local political debate, building more homes didn't solve the problem. South Dakota leads the region in new construction per capita. For example, in 2024, it issued 6.49 building permits per thousand residents, compared to 5.22 in Nebraska, 3.88 in Iowa and 2.92 in North Dakota. And yet prices rose. This happens because construction takes time, and a permit issued today may result in a home becoming available months or years later. So, in that window, demand grew faster than supply could keep up.

That doesn't mean building more houses is irrelevant; it means that construction alone, without measures that also address demand or directly guarantee affordable housing, has clear limits. Candidates who promise to fix the problem through construction alone face the uncomfortable fact that South Dakota already did so more than any of its neighbors, yet housing costs still went up.

What emerges is a picture of a market that has shifted to a new level and a new position. South Dakota is still cheaper than Minnesota in absolute terms. But it is no longer the affordable middle ground it was before the pandemic. Today's buyers pay more, borrow more and get the same house as before. If population growth continues and supply doesn't accelerate significantly (through broader policies than simply issuing more permits) there is no reason to expect this situation to reverse on its own.

The source material for this commentary is from a June 19, 2026, research report by Dakota Institute Fellow Dr. Aaron Scholl: "Has South Dakota Lost Its Housing Affordability Advantage?"

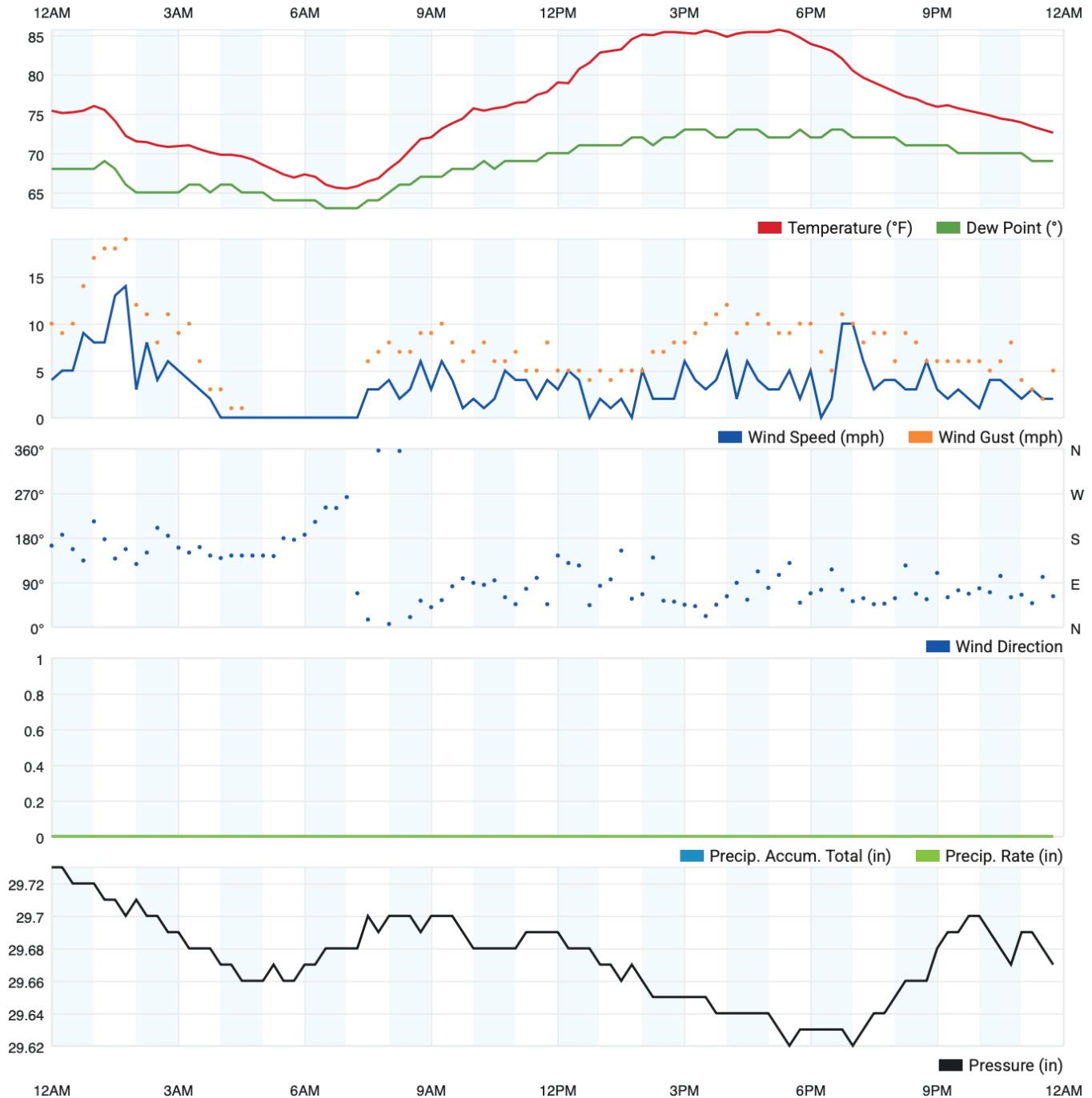
Nina Luz was an undergraduate intern at the Dakota Institute while pursuing a double major in government/international affairs and international studies with minors in journalism and economics at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. At the Dakota Institute, a nonprofit economic research and analysis organization, she supported communications strategy and website development, translating economic research into accessible content for broad audiences.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 29, 2026



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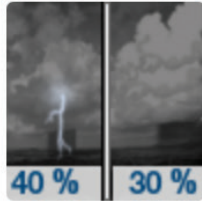
Today



High: 84 °F

Partly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 58 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers

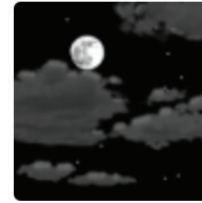
Monday



High: 83 °F

Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 57 °F

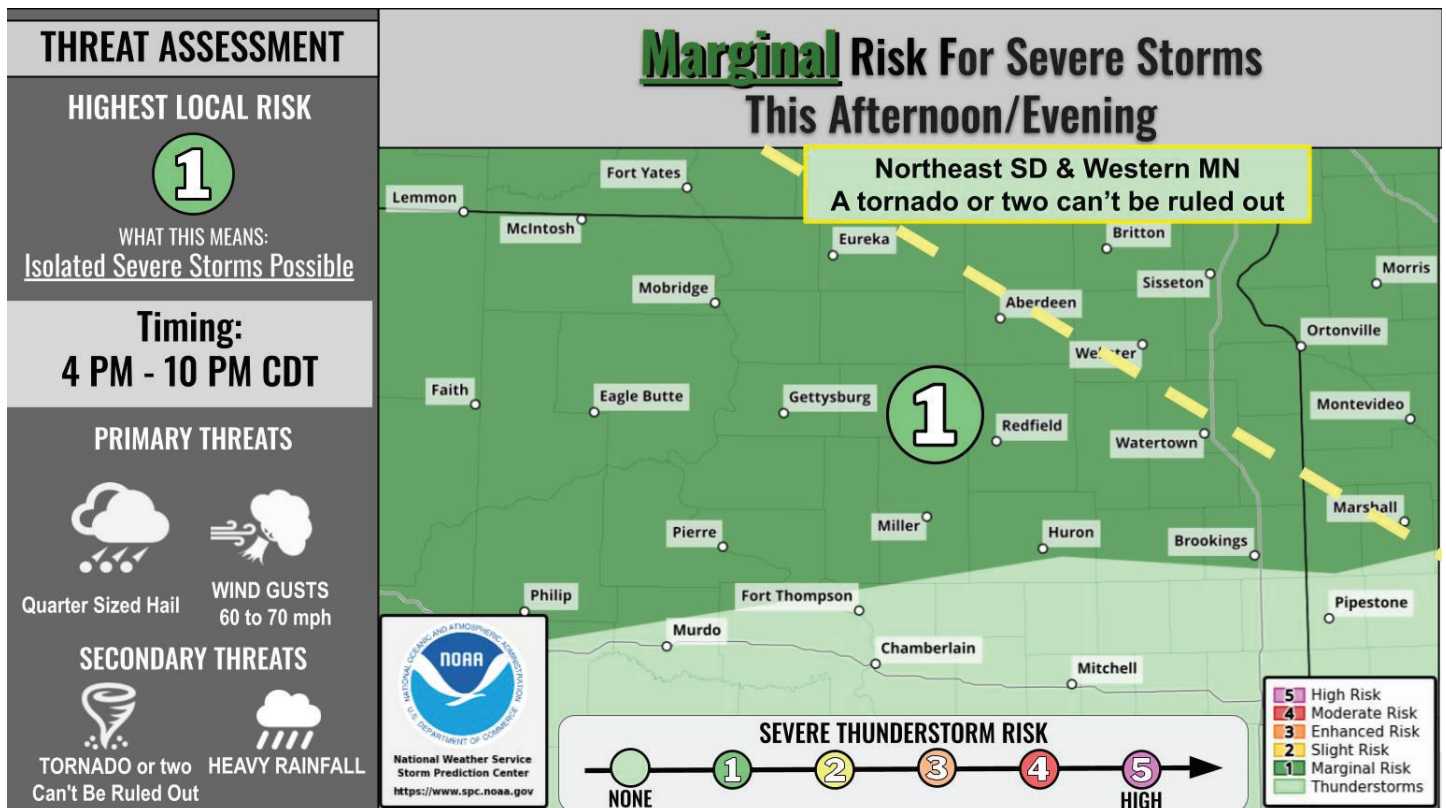
Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 82 °F

Partly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
Showers



The severe weather threat continues today (Sunday), with another round of storms possible in the afternoon and evening for just about everyone. The main threats are large hail and strong winds. We can't rule out a tornado in northeast South Dakota, southeast North Dakota and western Minnesota either.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 3:22 PM

Low Temp: 66 °F at 6:47 AM

Wind: 20 mph at 1:33 AM

Precip: 0.07

Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1898

Record Low: 37 in 2003

Average High: 80

Average Low: 53

Average Precip in Aug.: 2.17

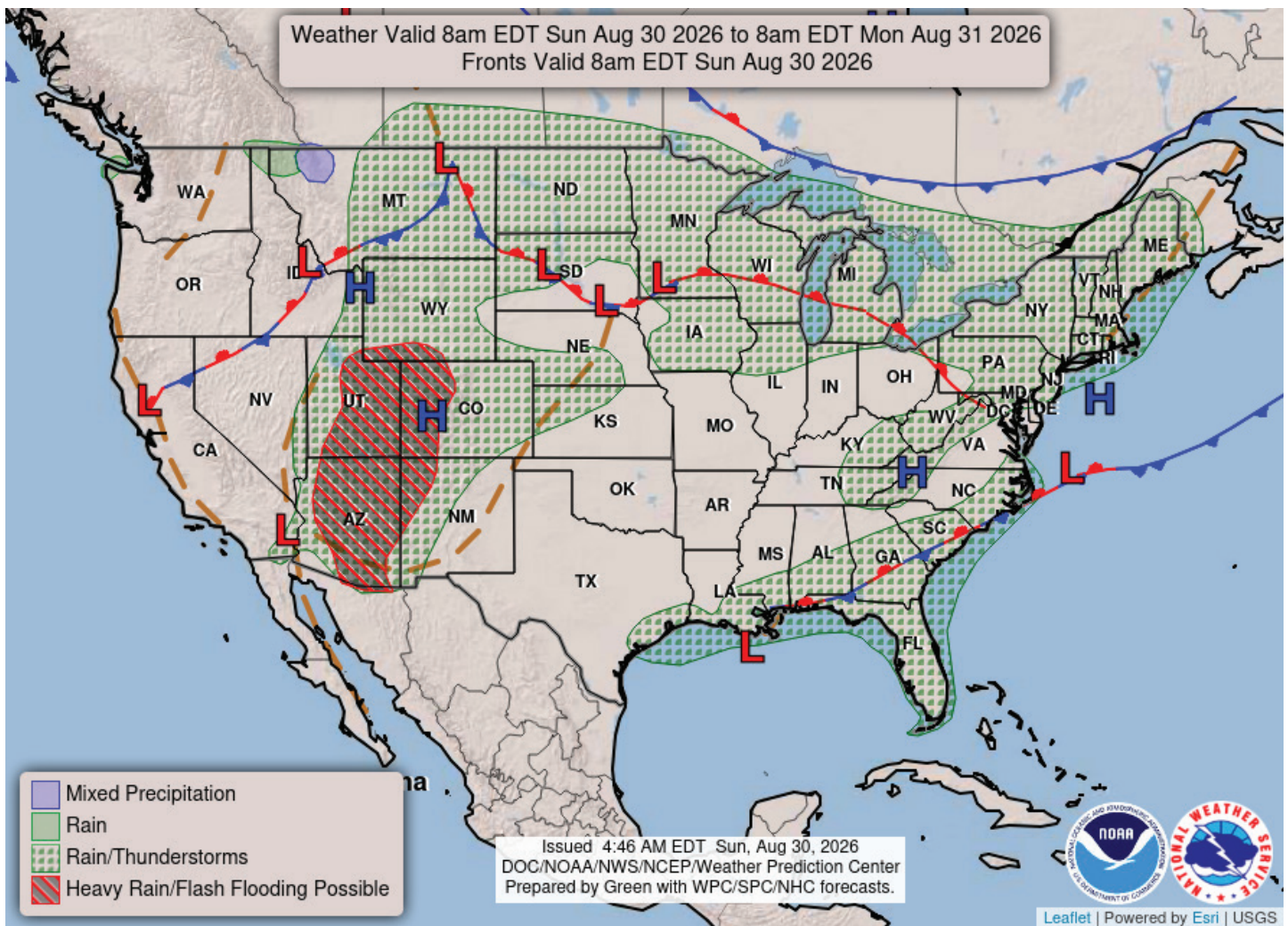
Precip to date in Aug.: 10.59

Average Precip to date: 16.27

Precip Year to Date: 20.06

Sunset Tonight: 8:14 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:52 am



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Today in Weather History

August 30, 1979: A thunderstorm rolled over Ellsworth Air Force Base bringing almost 60 mph winds to the area.

1776 — General Washington took advantage of a heavy fog to evacuate Long Island after a defeat. Adverse winds kept the British fleet from intervening. (David Ludlum)

1838: A major tornado, possibly the worst in Rhode Island history, passed south of Providence. It uprooted and stripped trees of their branches, unroofed or destroyed many houses, and sucked water out of ponds. The tornado barely missed a local railroad depot, where many people were waiting for a train. The tornado injured five people. Click [HERE](#) for an account of the storm from Robert Hare, M.D., Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, published January 1, 1839.

1839 — A hurricane moved from Cape Hatteras NC to offshore New England. An unusual feature of the hurricane was the snow it helped produce, which whitened the Catskill Mountains of New York State. Considerable snow was also reported at Salem NY. (The Weather Channel)

1982 — A tropical depression brought torrential rains to portions of southern Texas. Up to twelve inches fell south of Houston, and as much as eighteen inches fell southeast of Austin. The tropical depression spawned fourteen tornadoes in three days. (David Ludlum) Record cold gripped the northeastern U.S. Thirty-one cities in New England reported record lows, and areas of Vermont received up to three inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Eight cities in California and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date, including Redding CA and Sacramento CA where the mercury hit 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Thunderstorms drenched Georgia and the Carolinas with heavy rain, soaking Columbia, SC, with 4.10 inches in three hours. Fresno CA was the hot spot in the nation with a record high of 109 degrees. Duluth MN tied their record for the month of August with a morning low of 39 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced large hail in Montana and North Dakota during the evening and early nighttime hours. Hail three inches in diameter was reported 20 miles south of Medora ND, and thunderstorms over Dawson County MT produced up to three inches of rain. Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail at Roundup MT, Dazey ND and Protection KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002: Typhoon Rusa dumps torrential rains across South Korea, causing widespread flooding from the 30th through September 1st. Typhoon Rusa was the most powerful typhoon to hit South Korea since 1959. Nearly 90,000 people were evacuated. The province of Gangwon was hit the hardest, where an estimated 36 inches of rain fell in less than 48 hours. The torrential rains flooded nearly 36,000 homes. The Korean Defense Ministry reported flood waters submerged 16 jet fighters and 622 military buildings and facilities at Kangnung airbase.

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Daily Devotion

More Than Words

Following Christ means having an active faith and loving others without holding back.

James 2:14-17: 14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

In today's passage, James writes to a community that has lost sight of what it truly means to follow Christ. He paints an uncomfortable picture: A neighbor shows up hungry and cold but is sent away with platitudes: "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled" (v. 16). Yet nothing is done to actually help. The gap between what we say and what we do tells the truth about what we truly believe. James is not merely promoting ideas about faith. He's interested in faith that acts.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus never responded to human need with good intentions alone. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and restored the broken. He found the demoniac wild, naked, and cutting himself with stones. But by the time the Gerasenes arrived, the man was sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind (Mark 5:1-20). Our Lord's care is never simply words.

Active faith grows from knowing this God—the One who is always moving toward us, making all things new. The more we receive from Him, the less we can stay still when someone around us is in need.

Living faith looks like love in motion. And love, by its nature, never holds back.

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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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

2 7 26 45 52 4

TOP PRIZE:
\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 51 Mins 35 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.28.26

8 17 29 42 55 2

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$160,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 15 Hrs 36 Mins 35 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

7 10 25 30 33 2

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,230,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 14 Hrs 51 Mins 35 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

11 17 22 28 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$42,000

NEXT DRAW: 3 Days 15 Hrs 6 Mins 35 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

16 27 57 58 59 7

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 35 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

18 56 62 65 67 18

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$131,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 35 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-17, 25-18, 25-15
Jones County def. Bison, 25-18, 19-25, 25-19, 25-20
Mobridge-Pollock def. Chamberlain, 25-12, 25-21, 25-21
Sioux Valley def. Castlewood, 20-25, 25-17, 25-22, 25-16
Comet Invitational=
Chadron, Neb. def. Hill City, 25-11, 25-17
Chadron, Neb. def. New Underwood, 25-21, 25-12
Rapid City Christian def. Lemmon High School, 25-21, 20-25, 25-7
Rapid City Christian def. White River, 25-19, 25-11
Custer Volleyball Invite=
Edgemont def. Mahpiya Luta, 25-19, 25-19
Edgemont def. Newell, 25-11, 25-14
Hot Springs def. Edgemont, 25-16, 25-18
Huron Invitational=
Brandon Valley def. Douglas, 25-12, 25-11
Brandon Valley def. Groton, 26-24, 25-20
Brandon Valley def. Northwestern, 25-22, 25-16
Brookings def. Douglas, 26-24, 25-12
Brookings def. Chester, 21-25, 25-21, 26-24
Brookings def. Groton, 22-25, 25-22, 25-16
Chester def. Mitchell, 25-18, 25-13
Chester def. Spearfish, 25-16, 25-12
Chester def. Watertown, 28-26, 23-25, 25-21
Dell Rapids def. Brandon Valley, 17-25, 25-15, 25-19
Dell Rapids def. Mitchell, 25-23, 25-14
Dell Rapids def. Spearfish, 25-14, 25-18
Dell Rapids def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-20, 25-9
Groton def. Sturgis Brown High School, 22-25, 25-19, 25-15
Huron def. Douglas, 25-17, 25-17
Huron def. Groton, 25-11, 25-22
Huron def. Spearfish, 25-22, 25-20
Huron def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-19, 25-21
Mitchell def. Spearfish, 25-20, 25-14
Northwestern def. Brookings, 25-16, 25-20
Northwestern def. Mitchell, 25-17, 25-22
Northwestern def. Watertown, 24-26, 26-24, 25-19
Watertown def. Douglas, 25-10, 25-9
Irene-Wakonda Tournament=
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-16, 25-17
Gayville-Volin High School def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-14, 25-13
Irene-Wakonda def. Scotland, 25-20, 25-7
Madison def. Centerville
Menno def. Scotland, 25-12, 25-14
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Centerville
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Ethan, 25-23, 25-19

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Sioux Falls Lutheran def. James Valley Christian School, 25-18, 19-25, 25-22

Tri-Valley def. Centerville

Wessington Springs def. Scotland, 25-11, 25-18

Norfolk Invitational=

Norfolk, Neb. def. Yankton, 25-18, 25-19

Yankton def. Columbus, Neb., 26-24, 25-14

Yankton def. Kearney, Neb., 25-19, 25-17

Parkston Tournament=

Warner def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-14, 25-9

Warner def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-19, 25-9

Warner def. Parkston, 25-20, 25-21

Parkston Tournament=

Corsica/Stickney def. Parkston, 25-20, 25-22

McCook Central-Montrose def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-16, 25-21

Rapid City Central def. Riggs, 25-19, 14-25, 25-11, 27-25

Wagner def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-16, 25-23

Wagner def. Warner, 25-18, 13-25, 25-23

Redhawk Tournament=

Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Deubrook, 25-22, 27-29, 27-25

Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Estelline-Hendricks, 25-19, 25-17

Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-15, 25-14

Deubrook def. Ipswich, 25-18, 25-22

Deubrook def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-17, 25-15

Estelline-Hendricks def. Ipswich, 25-19, 25-18

Estelline-Hendricks def. Langford, 23-25, 25-20, 25-23

Great Plains Lutheran def. Wilmot, 25-21, 25-22

Ipswich def. Wilmot, 25-13, 29-27

Langford def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-16, 25-19

Langford def. Wilmot, 25-16, 25-11

Waverly-South Shore def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-18, 24-26, 25-23

Stanley County Triangular=

Bennett County def. Stanley County, 25-14, 25-14, 25-9

Bennett County def. Wall, 25-18, 25-19, 25-22

Wall def. Stanley County, 22-25, 25-16, 25-22, 13-25, 15-12

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

PREP FOOTBALL

Marty 54, Flandreau 0

Riggs 42, Sturgis Brown High School 6

Sioux Falls Jefferson 43, Harrisburg 20

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

South Dakota State routs Stetson 70-7

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — James Basinger and Corey Blair Jr. each surpassed 100 yards rushing and combined for three of South Dakota State's 10 touchdowns as the Jackrabbits routed Stetson 70-7 on Saturday in a season opener.

Basinger and Blair had eight carries apiece, with Basinger finishing with 110 yards rushing and Blair with

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107 and two scores. Blair's 52-yard touchdown run on the first play from scrimmage in the second half stretched the Jackrabbits' lead to 49-0.

Josiah Johnson added 63 yards on the ground and two touchdowns. Ramon McKinney and Josh Myers also had touchdown runs for South Dakota State. Myers' 27-yard touchdown run capped the scoring late in the third quarter.

Chase Mason completed 5 of 10 passes with a touchdown pass for the Jackrabbits. Josh Hoist threw one pass, a 78-yard TD to Landon Dulaney.

Tom von Grote was 17-of-26 passing for 95 yards to lead Stetson. Chris Stephenson ran 13 times for 69 yards and a score for the Hatters.

South Dakota State, ranked third in the Stats Perform FCS Top 25, played Stetson for the first time and the Jackrabbits are 9-0 against members of the Pioneer League.

Up next

Stetson: hosts Webber International on Saturday.

South Dakota State: at Northwestern on Saturday.

Modrzewski throws 6 TD passes in college debut and South Dakota beats Central Connecticut 59-20

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Austyn Modrzewski set the South Dakota single-game record with six touchdown passes in his first college game and the Coyotes rolled past Central Connecticut 59-20 on Saturday in the season-opener for both teams.

Modrzewski, a redshirt freshman, completed 16 of 20 passes for 304 yards and carried twice for 81 yards, which included another touchdown.

It was Matt Vitzthum's first game as coach of the Coyotes, who are ranked No. 12 in FCS.

South Dakota's Charles Pierre Jr., a Walter Payton Award candidate, returned from an injury that sidelined him for all but the first two games of last season. The senior running back gained 77 yards on 10 carries. Keyondray Jones-Logan caught two passes for 103 yards with one touchdown.

After going three-and-out on their first offensive possession, the Coyotes scored touchdowns on their next eight. Six of them came in the first half, leading to a 42-10 halftime advantage. The onslaught included Modrzewski's 68-yard touchdown run late in the first quarter that was followed by his 61-yard touchdown pass to Jones-Logan on the second play of the Coyotes' next drive.

The streak of touchdowns ended in the fourth quarter when South Dakota reached the 12-yard line before Bohdie Ing kicked a 30-yard field goal.

Connor Kenyon completed 9 of 18 passes for 81 yards with a touchdown for the Blue Devils.

Two-time defending NEC champion Central Connecticut is the conference coaches' choice again this season, the Blue Devils' fourth under coach Adam Lechtenberg.

Up next

South Dakota: at Northern Colorado on Saturday.

Central Connecticut: at Toledo on Sept. 12.

Nepal warns of possible fresh flooding as communities grapple with devastation

By VICTORIA MILKO and NIRANJAN SHRESTHA Associated Press

DHADING, Nepal (AP) — Authorities in Nepal warned of possible fresh flooding on Sunday and urged residents in flood-affected districts to remain on high alert after water levels rose in the Bhotekoshi River.

Flood warning notices were sent to people's phones early Sunday as rescue crews worked to clear a major highway connecting Kathmandu to one of the areas worst hit by Wednesday's catastrophic floods, which killed at least 800 people and left more than 3,000 missing in Nepal and Tibet.

In Dhading, one of the worst-hit regions in Nepal, some residents began returning to ruined homes to

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see what can be salvaged.

Residents sat in homes with walls washed away by the floods, shoveling sludge-like mud and rubble off balconies or window frames. Others scanned the ground for items they could pick out of the mud and rinse off. One man had returned for his chickens, which he found alive. He tied them up and put them in the cabin of his truck.

"Everything is finished. Nothing is left. Not even our home," Sharmila Tamang, a Dhading resident who was trying to salvage items from her home, told The Associated Press.

At a key power plant that was severely damaged by the floods, workers started inspecting the facilities Sunday to survey the destruction. The plant serves over 20,000 people across four districts.

In the town of Galchhi, a group of residents sought higher ground on a nearby bridge and watched as the river roared by. Some pointed to enormous rocks washed downriver during the earlier floods, while others standing on a suspension bridge were warned off with whistles.

Along the river, homes, vehicles and farm tractors could be seen jutting from the thick gray-brown sediment that enveloped entire villages in some areas. Parts of rice terraces along the riverside had dropped into the river after landslides hit them.

Nepal's disaster agency said Sunday the death toll had climbed to 788 with 2,502 missing, while Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 missing on the Chinese side of the border.

The missing include hundreds of people from over a dozen countries who were in the region to work, visit the mountains or make a pilgrimage to a sacred peak. On Sunday, Chinese state media said 261 foreigners were missing in Tibet, including over a hundred Nepalis and others from around the world.

Residents are receiving constant flood warnings

Homes and businesses left intact after the flooding were still without electricity on Sunday, as twisted power line poles and wires lay tangled in the mud.

Prithivi Highway is a crucial supply route for food, fuel and other goods entering Kathmandu from other parts of the country. While most of the highway is operational, other parts still face repair challenges.

The latest warnings came after Chinese authorities informed their Nepalese counterparts of increased water flow upstream, according to Dharam Raj Uprety, chief executive of Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

But residents of the flood-hit villages said they were struggling to make sense of near-constant alarms they've received since the initial floods.

"Sometimes they say a flood is coming, then we have to run again to higher ground, even at night. There is also rain," said Govind Shreshta, a resident. "It's really difficult for me. I have a 72-year-old father and 70-year-old mom. I must carry them and I am exhausted. It's going on like this for those who are still alive."

Large concrete and smaller suspension bridges were destroyed, leaving communities on the other side of the river with less easy access.

"Those who are there are now stuck there. Those who are here are stuck here. It's going to be very difficult," said Sattan Singh Tamang, 47, who was working near a bridge when Wednesday's floods came.

Minister says Nepalis have become victims of climate change

Wednesday's flash floods started after a glacial collapse high in the Himalayan region. Scientists who studied satellite images said bedrock underneath a glacier high in the Himalayan region had collapsed, taking part of the glacier with it. The rockfall was so extreme that it registered as magnitude 5.2.

The rocks and melted water then swelled the rivers in the valleys below, causing a torrent of water that swept buildings, bridges and earth downstream in Tibet and Nepal.

Nepal's foreign minister called for a global response to climate change, saying Nepal was bearing a disproportionate share of its impact.

"Despite having only 0.1 percent contribution to the global emissions, people of Nepal have become major victims of climate change," Shisir Khanal said Saturday.

Scientists have said it is too early to draw a direct connection between global warming and Wednesday's catastrophe. However, they said that as Earth's temperature rises because of human activities such as

burning oil, gas and coal, the chances of such disasters increase, especially in the Himalayan mountains, which are warming considerably faster than many other parts of the world.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Sunday his country will send a search-and-rescue team to Nepal to assist with relief efforts and help evacuate Malaysians affected by the disaster.

Malaysia has also pledged \$1 million in financial aid to Nepal, he said in a statement.

Death toll rises to 38 from Russia's deadliest attack on Ukraine this year

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The death toll from a Russian strike on a warehouse west of Kyiv, the war's deadliest attack so far this year, rose to 38 with four people still missing, President Zelenskyy said on social media Sunday.

The strike on Friday night on the warehouse — an ammunition storage facility according to Ukrainian officials — sparked massive explosions and fires that swept through dozens of nearby homes and buildings.

Emergency workers continued to extinguish fires and identify and neutralize explosive devices at the site in the village of Myla, Zelenskyy added. He said twenty people were injured, including two children.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said on Sunday it is preparing to launch "massive strikes" against Ukraine's energy infrastructure, following a Ukrainian drone campaign against a retailer dubbed "Russia's Amazon" as well as the country's oil and gas sector, which Kyiv says both funds and directly fuels Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The Russian ministry described the planned attacks as a response to Kyiv's "ongoing attacks on Russia's civilian infrastructure and fuel and energy sector."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Sunday vowed "an appropriate response" to what he said was Ukraine's "path of escalation" and targeting of Russia's civilian economy.

Peskov told Russian state media that Moscow has been launching "fairly systematic" strikes on what he called Kyiv's military and war-related infrastructure.

Ukraine launched deadly strikes in recent months on the facilities of Russia's biggest online retailer, Wildberries, saying the company sells dual-use goods that have aided the Kremlin's war effort. Ukrainian drones have also pounded Russian oil refineries and other energy infrastructure, prompting an unprecedented fuel crisis in a country that is one of the world's biggest energy producers.

During the war's previous winters, Russia systematically battered Ukraine's power grid, depriving thousands of heat and light in freezing temperatures. Ukrainian officials have repeatedly warned that the coming winter may prove the most challenging since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Also on Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces downed or neutralized almost 500 Ukrainian drones launched overnight.

Independent news channels on Russian and Ukrainian Telegram claimed the drone strikes set fire to a major oil refinery in Kirishi, southeast of St Petersburg. The facility, Kirishi Petroleum Organic Synthesis, is one of Russia's largest oil refineries and the only one in the country's northwest.

There was no immediate confirmation from authorities, but local Gov. Alexander Drozdenko on Sunday reported that a fire broke "at Kirishi's industrial zone" following the drone strikes. He said a total of 62 drones had been shot down over the surrounding region.

Separately, at least 3 people were injured in a Russian drone strike on Kyiv late Saturday, as air raid alerts continued throughout the day.

A fire broke out between the second and fifth floor of a 12-story residential building in the Obolonskyi district, and rescue workers responded to fires in another three districts of the capital, state emergency services said Sunday. Non-residential and administrative buildings in two locations were affected, they said.

Russia on Sunday said its drones struck a Kyiv plant making asbestos and cement products, claiming the site's warehouses were being used to store explosives.

Icelandic voters reject a proposal to restart negotiations to join the European Union

By KWIYEON HA and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's voters rejected a proposal to restart negotiations on joining the European Union more than a decade after previous talks ended, the national broadcaster reported Sunday. The vote will put the long-debated issue to rest more than a decade after a euroskeptic government ended EU talks.

Opponents defeated the measure by a margin of 52.8% to 47.2%, RUV reported. The capital of Reykjavik was the only area in the island nation of 400,000 people where a majority supported the referendum.

The vote Saturday was held in the shadow of U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated threats to control nearby Greenland, which drove some voters to favor the idea of European solidarity. Although Iceland is a NATO member, supporters said they would have greater protection from their neighbors if Trump ever made similar threats toward the volcanic island.

Iceland's left-leaning coalition government, elected in 2024, moved up the EU referendum it had planned for next year after Trump mistakenly named Iceland four times while speaking about his designs on Greenland.

Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir, who campaigned in support of the measure, said she hoped the result would not divide the nation.

"I don't feel that there is bitterness," she told RUV before the final results were tallied. "I know tempers run high for some people, but I have now spent time with a large group of people from all over the country and people are quite open to different outcomes."

It was a simple yes-or-no question for roughly 265,000 eligible voters: Should Iceland resume accession negotiations with the European Union?

The vote count through the night had the nation on edge as the "Yes" vote took an early lead before eventually swinging in favor of the opposition. By dawn, a margin of only a few hundred votes separated the two camps before the gap grew as more ballots were tallied in areas of the country where opposition was greater.

"This isn't the time to go. Maybe 10, 15, 20 years or more, like, we can take another look," said Daniel Bjarkason, who voted against the measure. "But for now we're too divided and that's not a good look, because it should be 70-30 Yes if we're going to do it."

Opponents rallied around fishing and the fact that Iceland already reaps benefits from being in the EU's frictionless single market and the Schengen free-travel zone without the sovereignty compromises that inevitably come with full membership. They argued that Iceland's voice would be muted in the large European Parliament and that it would be better off cutting its own trade deals, such as one with China.

Backers said EU membership would lower inflation and interest rates, and the euro would bring more stability than Iceland's volatile króna. They said it was also in the nation's interest to get closer to its European neighbors to tackle issues that don't respect borders, such as climate change.

If the proposal had been approved, it would have been a preliminary step to revive the lengthy negotiating process with the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, to discuss areas from the economy to human rights. Voters would have needed to approve any negotiated deal.

The influential fishing industry led opposition to the referendum out of fear that the bloc's common fisheries policy would allow Spanish, Dutch and other trawlers into its valuable waters.

Descendants of Vikings who settled in Iceland have lived off the sea for centuries and the bountiful catches of cod, haddock and capelin are central to its national identity. It won its independence from Denmark in 1944 and has a proud history of refusing to be pushed around by bigger and richer European nations, winning the so-called Cod Wars with Britain in the 1970s over its fishing grounds.

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1 dead and 5 wounded in a shooting at a rave in Switzerland

GENEVA (AP) — A shooting at a rave in the northern Swiss canton of Aargau left one person dead and five wounded early Sunday, local police and media reported. Police said they are still looking for a suspect. "The search for the unknown perpetrator is ongoing," police wrote on X. "Possible motives and the exact circumstances of the crime remain unclear."

Cantonal police wrote on X that a 22-year-old woman died of injuries at the scene. Four men and one woman, between 24 and 27 years old, were taken to the hospital with injuries ranging from minor to severe.

All of the victims are residents of Switzerland, police said. They did not release their names in line with Swiss privacy rules.

Public shootings are rare in the Alpine country despite relatively widespread gun ownership.

Authorities were alerted around 2:30 a.m. to the shooting in the canton's capital Aarau, 46 kilometers (29 miles) west of Zurich, Police spokesperson Pascal Wenzel told Swiss public broadcaster SRF.

At the time of the incident, the "Aarau Rave VOL. 7" was taking place at the horse racing track in Aarau's Schachen district, SRF reported. The fire department cordoned off a large area around the site.

A major police operation was underway and locals were asked to stay away from the area. Officers, fire-fighters and ambulances were on the scene in large numbers. Police in Freiburg, in neighboring Germany, also took part in search efforts for the suspect, the German news agency dpa reported.

Swiss daily Blick reported that rave visitors initially mistook the shots for fireworks until somebody shouted "everyone down."

The newspaper wrote that the shooting took place right after the event ended. Police later took all remaining visitors to a nearby gym, Blick reported.

Police asked any witnesses with videos or photos to share them with investigators.

The Aargau Racing Club, which runs the horse tracking track, expressed shock at the shooting.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to all those affected and their families, who are facing this difficult and trying situation," it said on its website. "We would like to thank the emergency responders and all others involved who worked professionally and with dedication on the scene."

Swiss DJ Tekibo, who performed at the rave, wrote on Instagram that "what happened at Aarauer rave is absolutely heartbreaking."

"Techno and raves are supposed to be a place for freedom and safety, never a place where something like this happens," he added.

Aarau has about 22,300 residents. It is about 30 km (18 miles) south of the German border.

Ontario premier answers Trump's 'Lake America' with giant 'Lake Ontario' sign

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Ontario Premier Doug Ford answered President Donald Trump's "Lake America" decree Saturday with a billboard-sized message on the Canadian shoreline — "Lake Ontario. Now and Always" — as Canadian leaders met the move with ridicule rather than outrage.

Wearing a Team Canada soccer jersey, Ford unveiled the sign near Grimsby, Ontario, and posed for photographs. The 24-by-12-foot (7.3-by-3.6 meter) sign stands on 6-foot (1.8-meter) legs, putting its top about 18 feet (5.5 meters) above the ground — roughly two stories high. The message is repeated in French.

The display followed Trump's executive order directing U.S. federal agencies to call Lake Ontario "Lake America." After months of tariffs, threats to make Canada the 51st U.S. state and personal attacks on its leaders, the reaction in Canada has mixed defiance with mockery.

Ford said Trump was trying to rename the lake because Ontario and Canada were "standing up for ourselves" and argued the name would outlast the president.

"Long after President Trump is gone, it will still be called Lake Ontario," Ford said in a video posted on social media.

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Canadians mock Trump

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew compared Trump to an aging rock band trying to revive an old hit.

"You know when, like, a rock band is really over the hill and you see them like in a casino playing some song from like 50 years ago, I think that's the part of Donald Trump's presidency we're at now — like he thought he had a real hit, a real golden oldie, with the Gulf of Mexico," Kinew said, referring to Trump's executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America. "And he's trying to bring back that, and he's trying to play the hits for his base. But I think everybody here thinks it's a little sad and it's not his best work."

The mockery was not limited to politicians. Canadian historian Robert Bothwell was even more scathing.

"The greatest country on earth takes this moron seriously?" Bothwell said.

But Bothwell said the dispute was more serious than the jokes, arguing Trump's broader aim was "to subordinate Canada and at best make it a colony, at worst absorb it into the United States."

Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, said Trump "would like Canada to act like a vassal state, but it refuses to do so. That irritates him."

Canada and the US trade barbs over collapsed talks

The dispute comes as relations between the longtime allies worsen over trade. Negotiations collapsed last week, both governments accused the other of making late demands, and Canada announced retaliatory tariffs set to take effect next month.

Trump's order also came amid an escalating war of words with Ford. In an interview with The Associated Press earlier this week, Ford said Ronald Reagan would be "throwing up" over Trump's tariff policies and "disgusted with President Trump."

Trump fired back by dismissing Ford's comments as "bluster," calling him Prime Minister Mark Carney's "flunky" and mocking him as the "less charismatic, intelligent, and overall unimpressive brother" of the late Toronto Mayor Rob Ford.

Trump continued promoting the new name Saturday, reposting a meme showing Canada geese with Trump-like blond hair firing rifles as they "protected" Lake America.

Trump has repeatedly used maps to make political points. A "Gulf of America" map was displayed for a time beside the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office, and Trump has posted images depicting Canada as part of the United States or as the 51st state.

Ontario name has Indigenous origins

The name Lake Ontario comes from the Huron Indigenous people's word "oniatarí:io," which means "lake of shining waters." The Canadian province of Ontario, founded in 1867, took its name from the lake.

Wendat Nation Grand Chief Pierre Picard, whose people historically lived from the St. Lawrence Valley to the Great Lakes and whose language gave Lake Ontario its name, called Trump's move an attempt to erase Indigenous history.

"I want to tell him that it is unacceptable for us, as a nation, to have a president who can eradicate our history, our culture and our identity," Picard said.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney rejected the move, noting the lake's Indigenous roots and that the name predates both the Canadian Confederation and the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Trump cannot require Canada to adopt the new name.

Norwegians line up at churches for emotional memorials remembering the late King Harald V

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Norwegians across the country lined up early Sunday in front of cathedrals and churches for memorial services held for the late King Harald V, who died at 89.

"This Sunday is different. His Majesty King Harald is dead. A family has lost their spouse, father, grandfather, father-in-law," said Dean Pål Kristian Balstad as he opened the funeral service in Oslo Cathedral, Norway's public broadcaster NRK reported.

The royal family attended the service at Asker Church, southwest of Oslo.

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Since Harald's death Friday morning, tens of thousands of Norwegians have expressed their grief by laying flowers, writing cards and lighting candles in front of the royal palace in Oslo, where the coffin arrived late Friday from the hospital.

A date for the funeral has not been set, but the country is in a state of mourning and some people decided to postpone celebrations such as weddings and baptisms until after the mourning period has passed, NRK reported.

Harald's son, who became the new King Haakon VIII, eulogized Harald on Saturday night. He expressed his pain over the beloved father's death and promised to lead the country with the same dedication.

"I'm going to miss him. I'll miss his laughter. His good-natured way of dealing with people and situations," Haakon said in his first speech as new king that was broadcast live on public Television.

Trying to hold back his tears, he vowed to give everything for the country in the future as its new king.

"That means — in the ultimate sense — being willing to risk everything, even one's life, for Norway's freedom and independence," Haakon said.

The new king adopted the motto "All for Norway," which dates back to his great-grandfather. His wife became Queen Mette-Marit, while his oldest child, Ingrid Alexandra, became crown princess and heir to the throne.

His tasks in the near future will include shoring up support for the monarchy following controversies over his wife's past contacts with deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and his stepson's rape conviction.

Norway's monarchy has old roots, tracing its origins to King Harald Fairhair in the ninth century. When Norway regained its independence from Sweden in 1905, three-quarters of voters in a national plebiscite approved restoring the monarchy. Today, the role is largely symbolic as power lies with an elected parliament, but the country's royal family retains celebrity and a role in promoting the wealthy nation around the world.

Pakistan will award nurse for saving the sole newborn survivor of a hospital nursery fire

By MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani nurse who rescued the sole surviving newborn from a hospital nursery fire that killed 14 other infants will receive one of the country's most prestigious civil awards.

Fire engulfed Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, a major government hospital in Islamabad, on Wednesday. A 51-second segment of CCTV footage, widely circulated online, captured Razia Noreen running into the burning nursery and emerging seconds later with the newborn in her arms. She tried to go back in, but couldn't because of the flames and thick smoke.

Noreen told private broadcaster Samaa TV on Sunday, while in tears, that she had merely done her duty.

"I did not do it for a reward. I love children, and caring for them is my passion," she said, adding that she wanted to save the others, but "the fire spread through the nursery within two minutes."

Noreen said she was heartbroken she couldn't save the others as the flames spread too rapidly for her to reenter the nursery after carrying the first baby to safety, and memories continued to haunt her. "I cannot sleep. Those babies do not let me sleep."

She will receive the Sitara-i-Khidmat, or Star of Service, which recognizes people who have rendered distinguished public service or made exceptional contributions to the nation, and about \$36,000. The announcement drew widespread praise online.

An inquiry requested by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Noreen entered the nursery and emerged eight seconds later carrying the baby. The nursery "deteriorated catastrophically within approximately two minutes," according to the report. Fifteen newborns were being cared for in the third-floor nursery when the fire broke out.

Sharif said Noreen displayed exceptional courage and devotion to duty by risking her life to save the newborn moments before the nursery burned down.

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Eight officials have since been suspended, and disciplinary proceedings initiated against them following the inquiry. Sharif also ordered criminal proceedings against those ultimately found responsible.

Investigators are yet to determine what caused the fire.

The deaths have prompted broader reviews of fire-safety measures at hospitals across Pakistan.

The fire was among Pakistan's deadliest recent tragedies involving children. In June, 14 schoolchildren were killed when the roof of a tutoring center under construction collapsed in the eastern city of Lahore.

Guinea-Bissau votes in a referendum to grant expanded presidential powers ahead of election

By ASSANA SAMBU and OPE ADETAYO Associated Press

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau (AP) — Guinea-Bissau is voting Sunday in a referendum to decide on granting new presidential powers ahead of December's general election, which will return the West African nation to democracy after its latest coup.

A military government seized power in November of last year following a disputed election in which former President Umaro Sissoco Embaló and opposition candidate Fernando Dias both claimed victory.

If passed, the new constitution by the self-styled National Transitional Council will grant more powers to the president and reduce parliamentary representation, among other issues.

The authorities argue that a parliament trimmed from 102 to 65 seats would allow for easier and more robust debates, while new presidential powers would underline the higher authority of the president over the prime minister, which they claim is a source of political instability in the country. Opposition groups reject the claim.

"In a community, there is only one leader. No community or village can have two leaders. We revised the constitution to avoid constant conflict between the president of the republic and the prime minister. We clarified the law and helped the public understand that the president of the republic is the national symbol. It is the president who stands for election in presidential polls," Gen. Tomás Djassi, the head of the armed forces, said.

Opposition urges boycott of referendum

But the opposition has called on voters to boycott the referendum, saying it is a path for the head of the military government to amass power and calling it a "source of political instability at all levels".

"This constitution significantly weakens the Prime Minister and the government, subordinates the National People's Assembly and political parties, and devalues—or even ignores the popular will expressed at the polls, carrying all the attendant risks of political and social division and tension," Muniro Conté, spokesperson for the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, told The Associated Press.

Last year's coup in Guinea-Bissau worsened West Africa's democratic crisis, adding it to a growing number of countries in the region under military rule.

Leaders on the continent branded it a "staged" takeover after the military allowed the former president to host a press conference to announce he was being deposed and allowed to leave the country in seemingly favorable circumstances. Skeptics say Embaló had given up the seat to the military after seeing he was losing the election.

Since it gained independence from Portugal in 1973, the only Portuguese-speaking West African country has been rocked by several coups and attempted coups. Before last year's coup, a failed coup was reported only a month before.

The tiny country of around 2.2 million people has the highest proportion of natural wealth per capita, according to the World Bank, but more than half of the country lives in poverty. The country is a hub for drug trafficking between Latin America and Europe, an issue experts say fuels its political instability.

Nearly 915,000 voters are registered to vote in the referendum, but the majority say the constitution is not a problem.

Widespread discontent among citizens over new constitution

Bacar Camará, a high school teacher in the capital, Bissau, said he would not be voting and disapproves

of the referendum, citing a fraught political and social environment.

"The transitional government should focus on creating conditions for better understanding and reconciliation among Guineans," he said.

Another resident in Bissau, Carolina Djeme, said the constitution is unfamiliar to her.

"I'll go vote on Sunday. However, I'll vote 'no' because — honestly, and I think this is the case for many other citizens — I don't know this new Constitution well, so I can't vote 'yes'," she said.

Analysts say the military government lacks the legitimacy to change the constitution, which has sparked discontent among the citizens.

"The fundamental question is: Who drafted this Constitution, and on whose behalf? To protect which interests or institutions? Who stands to benefit from this Constitution?" Paulino Quadé, a Guinean political analyst, said.

Investors prosper and consumers pay as the Iran war exacts an uneven economic toll 6 months in

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As the U.S. and Israel relentlessly bombed Iran in the opening days of war, the most dramatic predictions of the conflict's toll were unsparing: surging oil prices, worldwide recession and economic catastrophe.

But six months into the conflict, the direst predictions haven't come true even if no corner of the world's economy has been untouched.

"So far, the global economy has pulled off the financial equivalent of a 'Mission Impossible' scene," said Michael Ashley Schulman, an investment strategist with Certy Partners.

Here's a look at how the global economy has weathered the war, and who have been the winners and losers:

Winner: Investors who didn't panic

Stock markets hate uncertainty, and the decision by the U.S. and Israel to attack Iran on Feb. 28 delivered heaps of it. Columns of smoke rose from Tehran, frantic Iranians clogged roadways trying to escape, and mounting deaths, including of children, made headlines. It was enough for any investor to feel squeamish.

Oil prices surged and Wall Street began a retreat that would begin five consecutive losing weeks. The Dow and Nasdaq entered corrections. The S&P 500 had its worst month since 2022.

But a major turnaround has unfolded since the market bottomed in late March. The Dow has gained nearly 19%, the S&P is up almost 22% and the Nasdaq has surged 27%. If those gains survive the waning months of 2026, all three indexes would post their fourth consecutive year of gains.

The International Monetary Fund, in a July report, said the economy was "being shaped by two major forces, pushing in opposite directions." The war has strained growth, but enthusiasm over artificial intelligence has offset the drag.

Main Street may be paying more for fuel, food and travel. But Wall Street, so far, is shrugging it off.

Loser: Anyone on the move

The war's most obvious economic consequence has been its impact on oil. With tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz slowed to a crawl, the price of Brent crude climbed from a prewar close of about \$72 a barrel to as high as nearly \$120. Although prices have eased, they are still up about 20% from before the war.

Oil's price affects everything from crayons to cosmetics, but it hits anyone on the move especially hard.

Jet fuel is expected to cost, on average, 70% more than in 2025, according to the International Air Transport Association. Airlines, in turn, have raised ticket costs, hiked baggage fees and slapped on fuel surcharges while slashing flights or backing off from plans for added routes. Lufthansa Group, for one, cut 20,000 short-haul flights. Spirit Airlines, though troubled for years, evaporated.

"The likelihood that fuel surcharges are going to be rolled back and airfares are going to be brought

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down is very low over the next few months," said Brett House, a Columbia University economist. "There is less choice for consumers and less competition between airlines, and therefore, less pressure to rein in fare increases."

Winner: The case for clean power

With tankers at a standstill and fuel prices climbing, the war strengthened a clean-power sales pitch.

Sales of electric vehicles hit records in some parts of the world. In Singapore, year-over-year growth of EVs reached 110%. In New Zealand, the figure hit 180%. And in Colombia, EVs notched a 300% increase.

Worldwide, EVs are projected to account for 29% of total vehicle sales in 2026, according to an International Energy Agency outlook, up from 25% last year. That growth is even more impressive considering the world's two biggest economies, the United States and China, saw declining demand for EVs.

Countries that were particularly reliant on Persian Gulf oil have been spurred to action. In Southeast Asia, leaders have rolled out more use of renewable energy and researched deploying nuclear power. In Africa, countries have looked to expand domestic refining and accelerated the installation of solar panels.

Scott Lehmann, a supply chain expert at Sphera, an operational intelligence firm, counts 26 countries and regions that have announced clean energy and electrification measures in response to the war.

"The crisis is forcing investment faster than any policy framework would have," he said.

Loser: The fight against hunger

For the privileged, the costs brought by war may barely be a blip. For the poorest, it's a different story.

With the Gulf not just a leader in global oil production, but also of fertilizer, the war has dealt a blow to farmers. Just as many were making decisions about their crops, fertilizer prices soared, peaking in April at 44% higher than before the war, according to the World Bank's price index.

In response, some farmers trimmed their fertilizer use, potentially imperiling next year's harvests. "If you're reducing your fertilizer usage right now, it's in a way borrowing against next year's soil health," said Arif Gasilov, a natural resources expert with the Gasilov Group consultancy.

The United Nations World Food Programme has warned that tens of millions could be pushed into hunger. In testimony this week, its acting executive director, Carl Skau, said the "suffocation of fertilizer exports" had hit Asia and Africa hard. Higher transportation costs hindered the WFP's own humanitarian efforts, too.

"An oil tanker anchored in the Strait of Hormuz can mean one less meal a day for a child in Sudan," Skau said. "When oil prices go up, so does the price of flour, rice and vegetables."

Winner: The Trumps' businesses

The war has already cost the U.S. tens of billions of dollars and caused thousands in Iranian casualties. It has shaved an estimated hundreds of billions of dollars from projected global output.

But the family of the man at the center of it all, President Donald Trump, has been among the beneficiaries.

Military contractor Powerus, about to be taken public by Eric and Donald Trump Jr., won an Air Force contract worth as much as \$90 million to supply interceptors to shoot down Iranian drones. Similarly, the private equity firm 1789 Capital Management, which Don Jr. joined days after his father's reelection, owns stakes in several other military contractors profiting from the war. One of them, Anduril, won U.S. approval for up to \$2 billion in sales of drone interceptors to Kuwait. A second, Elon Musk's SpaceX, is providing satellite service to guide U.S. drones against Iran. And a third — rocket maker Firehawk Defense — won Pentagon contracts for propellants and warheads to replenish dwindling U.S. supplies.

A spokeswoman for 1789 Capital, Alexa Henning, said Don Jr. wasn't involved in the decision to put money in those companies, so there is no "nefarious connection."

The president himself has done well, too.

His investment portfolio run by outside managers has scooped up shares of U.S. military suppliers helped by the war, including Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman. Democrats released a report this week saying Trump's holdings in oil and gas stocks have soared by as much as \$15.5 million.

A White House spokeswoman, Anna Kelly, insisted "there are no conflicts of interest" and that "President Trump only acts in the best interests of the American public."

Even as Trump's personal finances have benefited, his political fortunes are another question. The conflict has been unpopular and could weigh on voters as midterm elections near.

An officer is dead and a second was injured in a shooting at South Carolina park, police chief says

By SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

A South Carolina police officer died and a second was injured in a "gunfight" Saturday in a park, following a call about a domestic dispute, Columbia police Chief W.H. "Skip" Holbrook said.

The suspect, a 33-year-old man with a lengthy criminal record, also died, Holbrook said at a news conference in the capital city.

The deceased officer, 29-year-old Christopher DeLong, had been with the police department for two years and leaves behind a wife and two young children, Holbrook said.

"Our hearts are broken this evening," he said, appearing choked up at times.

DeLong's wife, in a social media post, praised her husband as the "best dad to our babies" and said she was "living a nightmare."

After a Saturday night news conference, Holbrook and other law enforcement officials joined in a procession from the hospital. The second officer, David Dymock, was in stable condition, the chief said.

"I hope that our officers know that they're not alone in this. We will lean on each other in this tragic time," Holbrook said. "Let's pray for this department."

The shooting unfolded after a woman called police around 9:30 a.m. Saturday saying a man who she had a restraining order against was destroying property at her home.

DeLong quickly arrived on scene and learned the suspect had left the residence. The woman gave DeLong a description of the suspect and vehicle description, the chief said.

Around 10:30 a.m. DeLong left the home, but just minutes later he initiated a call about a suspicious person after seeing a man near a vehicle that matched the woman's description, Holbrook said.

Dymock arrived as backup and minutes later radioed that officers "were hit and a suspect was down," the chief said.

The suspect was Adam Tyler Dowdy, a man with a history of arrests across at least four states who had faced charges including disorderly conduct, contempt of court, public intoxication, possession of a controlled substance and probation violations, the chief said.

Holbrook, who did not take questions at the news conference, said the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division would investigate the shooting. A spokesperson for that agency said in an email that the investigation was ongoing.

Movie stars, timely documentaries and awards hopefuls convene at the Venice Film Festival

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

August can be a dreary month for Hollywood glamour, but the Venice Film Festival is on the horizon to kick off the busy fall film festival season in style.

There will be plenty of stars gracing the red carpets when the 83rd edition of the festival kicks off Wednesday on the Lido: Noel and Liam Gallagher, Robert Pattinson, Rooney Mara, George Clooney and Penélope Cruz are among those expected to attend. Some of the films may even become Oscar nominees.

But the mood feels a little different this year. There will always be a spotlight for the Hollywood contingent and the awards hopefuls posing on boats and docks in designer duds. Yet, in a lineup featuring Pattinson as "To Catch a Predator" host Chris Hansen, Dakota Johnson as Marilyn Monroe, Guy Pearce as Rupert Murdoch and Clooney as, well, himself (he's getting a lifetime achievement award, as is Ellen Burstyn), it's possible that much of the attention will be on a man who (probably) won't be there: Elon Musk.

Docs feature Musk, Russia and Gaza

Alex Gibney's nearly four-hour documentary about the world's richest man has been in the works for almost four years. The Oscar-winner wasn't sure about taking it on at first, but a good friend convinced

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him it would be a worthy portrait of 21st-century power — and this was before the 2024 presidential campaign and DOGE.

When the documentary was announced, Musk called it a “hit piece” on social media. Gibney replied, “How would you know?”

In fact, Gibney told The Associated Press he started off as a kind of admirer — as well as a Tesla owner — and sincerely wanted to talk to Musk for the film.

“Ultimately, he didn’t want to talk to me,” Gibney said. “But then you start, you know, digging into the facts and you follow them where they lead. And where they led, for me, was to a place that upended the myth, I would say, of Elon Musk as a kind of modern Leonardo da Vinci ... I think that the news in this film is that Musk isn’t an inventor. He’s a confidence man.”

The filmmakers talked to hundreds of people on and off the record to compile a sweeping picture of the Tesla and SpaceX CEO who, Gibney said, is not dissimilar to the guys at Enron or Elizabeth Holmes. He was most surprised by how many people seemed to be afraid to be on camera talking about Musk — even his admirers wanted permission first.

“I thought, wow, for such a big and powerful person, that seems awfully weak,” Gibney said.

But while it’s a “dark and dangerous topic,” Gibney said, the film is also a “fun ride.”

The same could be said of “My Undesirable Friends: Part II — Exile,” in which Julia Loktev continues her sprawling portrait of independent Russian journalists after the invasion of Ukraine.

“You see this group of young, very young journalists who’ve just fled their country, like, on a few hours’ notice. They had the choice of, you know, stop reporting the truth about the war, which didn’t seem like a choice at all, or go to prison, or leave the country so they can keep telling the truth,” Loktev said. “It was a question of how long do you keep following? Because this takes place over four years. And over that time, exile becomes, of course, indefinite.”

Similar to the first film, Part II runs nearly six hours. But, she said, “I hear it goes by easy.”

The conflict in Gaza will also take center stage in the documentary “NAZA,” a late addition to the competition, from two of the filmmakers behind the Oscar-winning “No Other Land.”

Unlike last year, no large-scale protests are planned, but the group Venice4Palestine did call on the festival to “suspend all agreements with entities and institutions linked to the Israeli government.” It also asked that the Palestinian flag be flown throughout.

Hollywood eyes awards in Venice

Part of the intrigue of Venice is how it might play into the Oscar race — it’s usually good for a best picture nominee or two.

Martin McDonagh’s “Wild Horse Nine,” starring John Malkovich and Sam Rockwell as 1970s CIA agents, seems like a promising candidate after his last two films debuted at Venice and went on to nominations. “The Father” filmmaker Florian Zeller returns with “Bunker,” a psychological thriller with Cruz and Javier Bardem. Danny Boyle looks at a turning point in tabloid media in “Ink.” And there’s much curiosity around Lance Oppenheim’s “Primetime,” for Pattinson’s performance and for its examination of reality television culture in the early 2000s.

Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda is also debuting “Look Back,” about two small-town girls who aspire to be manga artists. And Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong examines themes of labor and freedom through two married couples in “Possible Love.”

This is also a year in which big Hollywood hasn’t needed the sheen of the international film festival. Cannes was bereft of a big blockbuster, and the industry went on to have one of its highest-earning summers ever. The reigning best picture winner, “One Battle After Another,” skipped festivals entirely.

Venice might have more Hollywood films than Cannes did, but following several years in which fates might have been prematurely decided for both would-be contenders, like “After the Hunt” and “The Smashing Machine,” and blockbusters like “Joker: Folie à Deux,” it too seems a bit more muted — at least on paper.

Venice fails in its pledge to women

And then there is the subject of women, specifically those behind the camera. There is only one in the

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main competition: Danish-Egyptian director May El-Toukhy. The same thing happened in 2018, prompting the festival that year to sign a pledge to have at least half of the films in competition be directed by women by 2020, which they have yet to achieve.

Adding more insult to injury is the fact that Maggie Gyllenhaal, whose first film "The Lost Daughter" won Venice's best screenplay prize in 2021, is presiding over a jury which includes Kaouther Ben Hania, whose film "The Voice of Hind Rajab" won the Silver Lion last year when there were six female-directed films in the competition.

Only seven women have won the Golden Lion, including Laura Poitras with "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed," who is returning this year with a short film she co-directed with Rachel Lauren Mueller about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Minneapolis. "They're Here" is part of the Venice Open section, which also includes Gyllenhaal's Marilyn Monroe short "Flesh Impact."

Outside of the main competition, there are also documentaries from Loktev, Barbara Kopple and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi. There are several others in the Horizons sections as well, including a short from Saoirse Ronan.

Opening Venice Days on Wednesday is Hungarian filmmaker Lili Horvát's English-language debut, "My Notes on Mars," about a couple — Rupert Friend and Mackenzie Davis — whose marriage is in trouble when the wife, a scientist, mysteriously disappears and then reappears the day of her memorial service.

"The story argues for great love," Horvát said. "Yet it shows the eternal limits of knowing the person we are in love with."

Venice Days is an independent sidebar in which more than half the selections are by women, including several high-profile shorts from filmmakers like Mona Fastvold and Claire Denis.

"It's good to be in a progressive section," Horvát said.

Olivia Rodrigo's festival is uniting women and girls behind nonprofits promoting their well-being

By JAMES POLLARD Associated Press

Evoking the same do-it-yourself pop-rock feminism of her '90s musical influences, Olivia Rodrigo raised \$20 million for women's well-being with a benefit show that activated her young audience.

Daisy Chain Fields united a women-led lineup boasting queer pop star Chappell Roan, breakout rapper Doechii and riot grrrl pioneers Bikini Kill behind issues of women's health, workplace protections and legal rights. Ahead of Saturday's festival in Irvine, California, Rodrigo announced the show had already raised enough to make a \$10 million donation to 10 nonprofit partners including Planned Parenthood, National Women's Law Center and Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

Philanthropist Melinda French Gates pledged another \$10 million through her Pivotal Ventures in a surprise appearance at the start of Rodrigo's set, calling her "a force" and praising her for "showing a new generation how much their voices matter."

Speaking Friday alongside the beneficiaries, Rodrigo said the festival's artists and activists give her hope despite the "regression of women's rights" today.

"That's actually why I fell in love with the name 'Daisy Chain,'" she said Friday. "It served as a reminder of how individual parts can come together to create something strong and unbreakable."

Rodrigo, 23, has made a name channeling the rage and dissatisfaction of modern romance into chart-topping songs that are equal parts Taylor Swift and Alanis Morissette. Few superstars are better suited, then, to bridge the gap between Gen Z and nonprofits, which have struggled to build relationships with younger donors who tend to prefer informal ways of giving.

The connection is not lost on Daisy Chain Fields attendees.

"People don't join together and mobilize unless they feel connected to the group that is mobilizing," said Grace Slevin, 24. "What's better than music?"

All-star benefit concerts have long been popular for driving millions of dollars toward everything from refugee aid and famine relief to pandemic response and natural disasters. But it's been decades since a

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young artist with Rodrigo's following brought her peers together for gender justice.

That focus comes as President Donald Trump attempts to overhaul family planning grants that reproductive health clinics use to provide birth control and treat sexually transmitted infections. His administration paused \$27.5 million last year for such organizations, including some Planned Parenthood affiliates, before officials agreed to restore the money.

For Slevin, an Orange County, California, resident who does anti-sex-trafficking advocacy, Daisy Chain Fields embodies the sentiment of "be who you needed when you were younger." She loves that attendees are welcome to learn about the beneficiaries' work in addition to donating.

Daisy Chain Fields invited nonprofit partners to engage with fans in its "philanthropy village." Festivalgoers can collect pins from each booth as they learn about health services from Planned Parenthood's local partners or pay tribute to caregivers through the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Younger generations expect that authenticity, Slevin said, something beyond what she called a "pseudo-sort-of-progressiveness."

"They can see just how deeply intertwined the music is with the cause," she said. "It's not just, like, a second thought."

Do you get déjà vu? Rodrigo's effort recalls '90s feminist push

Rodrigo took inspiration from Lilith Fair, the all-women festival that raised \$10 million for charity from 1997 to 1999. Sarah McLachlan, who founded the show to dispel the music industry's notion they couldn't book women consecutively, is listed as a special guest of Daisy Chain Fields.

Planned Parenthood National Director of Arts and Entertainment Caren Spruch recalled working on Lilith Fair. Concert outreach has long been an important tool to reach people "where they are," she said.

That culture-shifting work grows more important during times like this, she acknowledged, when abortion clinics are closing in restrictive states and anti-abortion groups are pushing the courts to limit access to the drugs used in the most common method of abortion.

Rodrigo, Spruch said, talks about those topics with "no shame or stigma." As she did with other nonprofits, the three-time Grammy winner appeared in informational videos on Planned Parenthood's social media.

"All of that does so much to help us normalize the whole range of reproductive health and rights," Spruch said.

Intergenerational change

Melissa Shaw, 33, is driving to the festival from Tucson, Arizona, with her 8-year-old daughter.

They didn't plan to spend the day camped out for close-up views. Shaw wanted to let her daughter ask questions as they explored the nonprofits and visited art installations. She appreciates that Rodrigo is not only promoting well-known organizations such as Planned Parenthood, but also groups focused specifically on Black maternal health or baby formula access.

Shaw said it "definitely makes me a bigger fan knowing that they're dedicating their time to causes like these."

"It's really important for me as a parent to expose my daughter to celebrities who set that example," she said.

Her daughter loves Rodrigo and Roan, and she herself grew up listening to Bikini Kill and fellow performer Santigold. The lineup seemed intentionally curated to attract multiple generations, she said. She's seen many mother-daughter duos sharing their festival plans online.

The festival's nonprofit partners were eager to join that multigenerational community of women, too. National Domestic Workers Alliance President Ai-jen Poo said the festival's joyful atmosphere serves as a "powerful reminder to women everywhere of all ages that, no matter what, we have each other."

Her organization works to ensure federal workplace protections for domestic workers, who are disproportionately women and immigrant women. She wants to recruit more young people, many of whom she said are worried they can't afford to take care of their loved ones or start families.

"The only way change happens is through intergenerational connection and movements in our country," she said. "This generation of young people has the opportunity to really change how we support caregiving for future generations."

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Philanthropy takes center stage

Just as notable as the fundraising total is the type of donation made by the festival.

Charitable partners applauded the grants for general operating support — meaning the nonprofits decide how to spend the money.

Black Mamas Matter Alliance co-founder Angela Doyinsola Aina said that support “is often the hardest kind of funding to raise and the most useful kind to receive, because it sustains the training, convening, and advocacy that make everything else possible.”

For the National Women’s Law Center, the gift offers flexibility to plug their own budgetary holes as they litigate sex discrimination cases. Uma Iyer, the nonprofit’s chief external affairs officer, said the support also boosted staff morale.

“We work on really hard things every day,” she said. “It was really energizing for us and it’s been really uplifting.”

Including both everyday audiences and front line workers in benefits is key, according to Farm Aid co-executive director Jennifer Fahy. The annual fundraising concerts — launched by Willie Nelson, Neil Young and John Mellencamp to raise awareness of family farmers’ challenges — celebrated their 40th anniversary last year.

Fahy noted it is less common nowadays to see artists donate their performances for free.

“It’s just wonderful to see an artist of that generation, that new young generation, who is embracing that opportunity that exists to do these kinds of events, to share the stage and microphone to highlight issues that are important to the artist,” Fahy said.

Africa’s male midwives are rare but increasing in the fight against pregnancy deaths

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

MOHALE’S HOEK, Lesotho (AP) — On a cold morning, Ntlhane Sehloho grabbed his backpack containing medical equipment and embarked on a three-hour journey, navigating the curving gravel roads leading to a clinic nestled in a valley of mountainous Lesotho.

Sehloho has an almost unheard-of role in this part of the world: male midwife.

His arrival at the Mpharane Health Center in the southern African kingdom is met with a sigh of relief from several women, some of them pregnant. Others carry crying babies on their backs.

Midwifery has been traditionally viewed as women’s work in Lesotho, but a growing number of men are joining the profession as the country tries to bring down its high rate of deaths around childbirth. For every 100,000 live births, about 530 women die, the United Nations says. That’s far above the global average of about 200.

This is part of a series on maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, which has the world’s fastest-growing population and accounts for 70% of global maternal deaths. Around 180,000 pregnancy deaths are recorded every year across the continent.

Lesotho, like many African nations, is a society with largely conservative views. The idea of a man who isn’t a doctor dealing with a woman so intimately still can make many hesitant, if not uncomfortable.

World Health Organization figures estimate that men make up less than 1% of all midwives around the world. Organizations like the WHO and UNICEF have called for more people, male and female, to become midwives and address shortages in childbirth responders.

He wanted to be a nurse and was steered into this job

Sehloho is one of about 300 male midwives in Lesotho and has been doing the work for two decades. The exact number of male midwives is not available as the government does not keep the data according to gender.

Talkative and ready with a joke, he seeks to put women at ease from the first of their prenatal visits.

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He had good grades in school and wanted to become a nurse to help address the difficulties he had witnessed for pregnant women in his rural community.

"Our village was far away from the health facility, so most women who would be pregnant, some were delivering at home. We were still young, we were not supposed to see that, as some were dying," he said. He didn't understand how far they had to travel for care.

Health authorities later encouraged him and other male nurses to train as midwives to help address deaths around childbirth in a country with poorly staffed rural health posts and a population of just over 2 million people.

Now, after efforts to bring care closer to rural communities, UNICEF data show that 92% of births in Lesotho are now attended by a trained health care provider.

The government says gender shouldn't matter

"I think the system and the community is starting to slowly accept that gender should not matter when it comes to this issue of delivery," said Dr. Llang Maama, acting director of health services at Lesotho's Ministry of Health.

There are still a small number of cases where the mother says she isn't comfortable with a male midwife, she said. "But the system allows them to register their discomfort and get treated by a woman." In the urgency of childbirth, however, there isn't always time to choose.

Sehloho acknowledged that it is a matter of gaining women's trust. He tries to put them at ease by explaining how he has delivered babies for years and how he grew up in similar rural circumstances.

"We are a very cultural and traditional African society," he said.

There are usually mixed reactions to male midwives, said Blandina Motaung, a representative of the United National Population Fund, which works extensively with midwives in Lesotho.

The positive remarks include praise for how the men appear to be more gentle and less strict when working with pregnant women. During consultations, Sehloho checked women's blood pressure and measured their progress, asking from time to time whether they were comfortable.

Most female midwives have given birth themselves, "but for the men, because they have not been through the process, they become more vigilant and more attentive to the nitty gritty, and that in itself improves the quality of care that they provide," Motaung said.

Pregnant women are learning to adapt

One of the clinic's patients, Mpolokeng Mafereka, 21, said she was more comfortable being treated by a woman, but sometimes a male midwife is the one available.

"I'm used to being treated by women," she said.

But another patient, 21-year-old Bonolo Tebello, said she has never had a problem being treated by a male midwife.

"I'm happy to be treated by a male because they still provide the same level of care," she said.

"Even when one arrives late for a check-up, they just treat you like any other person who arrived on time," she added.

USS Abraham Lincoln sails past Singapore on its way home from Middle East

By DITA ALANGKARA and FADLAN SYAM Associated Press

BATAM, Indonesia (AP) — The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln sailed past Singapore early on Sunday as it headed home after a grueling deployment in the Middle East. It's expected to stop in Thailand for a port visit.

Associated Press journalists on the Indonesian island of Batam, across the Singapore Strait, spotted the massive vessel as it transited waters near Singapore just after 1 a.m. local time.

The Lincoln, one of the U.S. Navy's largest warships, was supporting the U.S. war against Iran. Its deployment included a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea of more than 250 days. Concerns have grown about the Lincoln's lengthy deployment following reports of deteriorating mental health among the crew

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and shortages of supplies including food and hygiene products.

Thai officials have said the Lincoln will stop in Thailand for rest and recovery before returning to its U.S. base.

Spinning and dipping, Minnesota fairgoers delight in the classic Tilt-A-Whirl ride as it turns 100

By ELLEN SCHMIDT and MARK VANCLEAVE Associated Press

FALCON HEIGHTS, Minn. (AP) — With screams and giggles, whipping ponytails and white-knuckle grips, Minnesota fairgoers are taking delight in the magic of the Tilt-A-Whirl ride as it turns 100 years old.

The iconic ride and its brightly colored cars debuted at the Minnesota State Fair in 1926, and it has been a mainstay at fairs across the country ever since. Riders who stumbled off the ride on Thursday spoke with The Associated Press about the ride, which is a favorite for many.

Valerie Nelson, a Minnesota native who returned to her home state to visit the fair, said she first rode the Tilt-A-Whirl as a child in the 1970s.

"It's my favorite ride forever and ever," she said. "Whenever I see it, I try to get on. I love the spin when it pushes you back into the chair."

"It's the only ride I'll go on," said Sherri Gray, of Stillwater, Minnesota, who joined Nelson on the ride.

Samuel Mishek, 7, of Minneapolis, also said the Tilt-A-Whirl is his favorite fair ride, and he rode it twice in a row Thursday — screaming while riding alone in a car as it twirled and jerked. "I like when there's little bumps because you can get ready and you know when it's going to turn really fast," he said.

The Tilt-A-Whirl has been a tradition at fairs around the country since 1926. Herbert Sellner, an inventor for a manufacturing company in Faribault, Minnesota, created it after attempting to make a water ride with spinning boats — which failed and was destroyed in a storm. After that, his brother Martin Sellner suggested he make a land-bound version, according to Rice County Historical Society curator Jenna Nelson.

Nelson, who has sifted through the Sellner family's history, said the longevity of Sellner's invention can be attributed to its design.

"It really has stood the test of time in terms of how they machined it," she said, adding that only about 1,000 cars were ever sold, and "all of that equipment is largely the same today."

The ride is powered by seven individual motors around a circle — and gravity makes the car spin around its dips. Weight from the riders shifts the cars' positions as they lean, sending the cars off balance, said ride operator Thomas Lauthier, who brings his Tilt-A-Whirl to fairs around the country.

Lauthier has been operating the Tilt-A-Whirl at the Minnesota State Fair for the last 12 years. He said Midwesterners have a particular affinity for the ride.

And many riders said the Tilt-A-Whirl has become a family tradition.

"As long as I can remember, when I was young my parents and my grandparents took me to the fair, we rode the Tilt-A-Whirl every time. We love to bring our kids and do the same thing," said Mike Pream-Anderson, a Minneapolis native. "It's definitely a family tradition. Knowing that it's 100 years old this year is pretty crazy, but I'm glad that we get to be a part of it."

Friends Riley Lovett and Molly Rossbach relived their ride with giggles and nostalgia, talking about the "butterflies" they got Thursday afternoon, and remembering the Tilt-A-Whirl rides of their past. Upon learning the ride was 100, Lovett high-fived her friend Rossbach, who proclaimed: "Happy birthday Tilt-A-Whirl!"

Roger Federer brought to tears during his induction into International Tennis Hall of Fame

By KEN POWTAK Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Roger Federer was brought to tears numerous times during his induction speech at the International Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday.

As sunset crept in at Newport's grass horseshoe court at the entrance of the Hall, the 45-year-old Fe-

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derer, dressed in a tan suit, strolled up to the stage for his speech, kissed and hugged his wife, Mirka, who had just introduced him, and realized what a challenge it was going to be.

"Oh man," were the first words from the first man ever to win 20 Grand Slam singles titles. "This is very high level and a tough act to follow."

He joked: "I don't know if you have been practicing secretly" before praising his wife's presentation of the 272nd Hall of Famer.

Federer was inducted along with Mary Carillo, a broadcaster and former player, who was presented by Hall of Famer Billie Jean King.

Federer, called the "Swiss Maestro" during the Hall's first red-carpet show, which began on center court about 90 minutes before the start of the induction ceremony, told the crowd that he "was a little stressed to be honest."

During his nearly 30-minute speech, Federer, who showed fluid movement and a quick approach to the net with a solid one-hand backhand that earned him a record 237 consecutive weeks as the world's No. 1 player in the ATP rankings, chocked up a handful of times.

It began to get tough for him about halfway through, when he talked about his childhood hero, Stefan Edberg, when he said these are "happy tears."

Then he was brought to tears again when he spoke about his longtime coach Severin Luthi, before he wanted to thank Mirka for helping him on his journey.

"Now the Mirka part," he said, pausing before breaking into tears. "Oh gosh, this such a mess."

He tried to joke, but the tears took over like a quick return at the net.

"I need tissues and sunglasses, everything to protect me right now," he told the crowd, fighting back more tears.

But, like rallying in winning one of his five consecutive U.S. Open titles from 2004-08 or reaching 10 straight Slam finals, which he won eight, Federer closed by thanking the ball boys and encouraged players to keep taking the game new levels.

Federer, who celebrated his 45th birthday three weeks ago, won eight Wimbledon titles and is only one of eight men with a career Grand Slam. He captured six Australian Opens and one French Open, in 2009.

"I'm thrilled to have made the journey here," he said. "It's amazing to see yourself in a place like this. To immerse yourself in the history of the sport means a lot to me."

Carillo, inducted as a contributor, is a member of the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

King said: "She has earned her spot in sports journalism and she has earned her spot in Newport."

Carillo, 69, was touched standing in front of a handful of Hall of Famers.

"To walk through these gates here in the company of you people, that was beyond my dreams," she said.

Ryan Preece wins at Daytona to take the final playoff spot in NASCAR's Cup Series

By MARK LONG AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Known for two violent wrecks at Daytona International Speedway, Ryan Preece experienced a much different ride at NASCAR's hometown track Saturday night: a trip to victory lane.

Preece won the Cup Series regular-season finale at Daytona in overtime to secure the final playoff spot for Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing.

Preece, who ferociously flipped cars at Daytona in 2023 and again in 2025, moved to the front during a green-white-checkered finish when leader Zane Smith got bumped, started spinning and slammed into other cars on the last lap. Preece took the checkered flag under caution and edged Shane van Gisbergen for the 16th and final berth in the postseason finale.

"This is redemption," said Preece, whose victory landed two RFK cars into the 16-driver Chase for the championship. Chris Buescher is the other.

"I'm just speechless right now," Preece said. "Those guys, that 60 (car), we're fighters. When you put

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our back against the wall, we swing hard. ... Last year, there were a lot of keyboard warriors saying I was nothing. Well, we just kicked their butts tonight."

Preece expressed confidence all week, but he found himself needing a victory late to pass Shane van Gisbergen for the last playoff spot. Van Gisbergen finished 27th after pitting during the final caution and taking four tires.

"Shame we're not in it," said van Gisbergen, who won twice during the regular season but missed the playoffs under NASCAR's new format that puts more emphasis on season-long results than victories.

Bubba Wallace and Austin Cindric locked up the other two available spots. Wallace, Cindric, van Gisbergen, Preece and Brad Keselowski started the night vying for the final three spots in the 10-race Chase.

Wallace, who was nearly a lock to make the 16-driver field when the green flag dropped, claimed his spot with a seventh-place finish in the opening stage. Cindric avoided trouble all night, finished sixth and advanced without much fanfare.

Daniel Suarez finished second in the race, followed by Michael McDowell, Tyler Reddick and Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

Van Gisbergen won Stage 1 and created more of a cushion on Preece, who was caught up in a three-car crash as he neared the finish line. Preece raced his way back to the front in Stage 2 and picked up much-needed points with a second-place finish behind Ryan Blaney.

But it came down to the final lap. Preece needed to win to get in — and he pulled it off in dramatic fashion.

"I'm a racer. I know what it takes to build speed," Preece said. "So every man and woman at RFK, thank you for giving me a rocket ship so I could go to the moon tonight."

Cruise planning 'Days of Thunder' follow-up

Tom Cruise is getting back behind the wheel for a follow-up to "Days of Thunder." The 64-year-old Cruise announced Saturday at Daytona he will reprise his role as NASCAR driver Cole Trickle.

He said he wants to show audiences "the speed, the excitement and all that danger and stuff."

Anne Hathaway will co-star as a team owner and engineer in the film scheduled to be released by Paramount Pictures on June 2, 2028.

Jimmie Johnson unveils paint scheme for final Daytona 500

Seven-time Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson will drive a familiar-looking No. 48 in his final Cup Series start. Johnson unveiled his paint scheme for his Toyota in the 2027 Daytona 500 by driving a ceremonial lap around the track before Saturday's race. The gray-and-blue scheme melds the three main sponsors during Johnson's record-setting racing career: Lowe's, Ally and Carvana.

Johnson's final start will come in the 69th running of the Daytona 500, scheduled for Feb. 21, 2027. Hendrick Motorsports loaned Johnson the No. 48 for his last ride.

"Seeing this car for the first time brings back a lifetime of memories," Johnson said.

Riley Herbst sits because of "lingering effects" from crash

Riley Herbst was scratched from the race because of "lingering effects" from a crash last weekend. Harrison Burton replaced Herbst in the No. 35 Toyota and finished 12th.

Herbst was involved in a crash at New Hampshire Motor Speedway last Sunday, with his car backing into the outside barrier before being struck again.

Up next

The 10-race Chase for the championship begins at Darlington Raceway next Sunday.

Nepal-China flood survivors reach safe areas as families await news of nearly 3,000 missing

By VICTORIA MILKO and SHRISTI KAFLE Associated Press

NUWAKOT, Nepal (AP) — As rescue efforts in communities buried by catastrophic flash floods along the Nepal - China border entered their fourth day Saturday, authorities were still finding survivors and transporting them to safety.

At relief centers, families of missing people waited anxiously for news of their loved ones as the death

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toll and the number of people unaccounted for continued to rise.

The combined toll in Nepal and Tibet rose to 691 dead and over 3,000 people missing after China's latest update on Sunday. Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 missing, while Nepal's disaster agency said late Saturday that the death toll had climbed to 675 with 2,498 people missing.

More than 3,700 people have been rescued in Nepal so far.

In Nuwakot, one of the Nepali districts devastated by the floods, helicopters arrived loaded with boxes and bags of aid, including clothes, instant noodles, crackers and rice. Others returned from the flood-hit areas carrying survivors.

An older man was carefully helped off one helicopter, while a soldier carried an older woman on his back to a medical tent. Most arrived with nothing except the clothes they were wearing.

About a dozen people emerged from another helicopter. Soldiers carried several babies who had been evacuated.

The evacuees had been brought from the nearby community of Trishuli.

Villagers return to devastated homes

As people were still leaving Trishuli, some village residents were returning to see what could be salvaged from their decimated homes.

One boy walked out of the village carrying muddy sandals from his house. Another woman, Shoba Shretha, returned to find Sweetie, the dog she was forced to leave behind when the floods came. Shretha sat on the ground petting her and feeding her water from a bottle.

At some point, relief coordinators cleared villagers, reporters and volunteers from the entrance to Trishuli, as excavation equipment drove into the flooded village to dig.

Families begin to lose hope

In Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, relatives and friends gathered outside the main government hospital from early morning, desperately searching for news of missing loved ones.

Many shuffled between the help desk and the hospital notice board, clutching photographs and scanning injured patients' lists in the hope of finding them.

Dil Maya Lama stood weeping outside the help desk at the hospital, searching for information about her missing 26-year-old brother, a driver for a hydropower company in Rasuwa. She had traveled from Ramechhap, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) away.

"I came here with the hope that I might find him," she said. "There is no information about him."

Nelza Moktan anxiously sought information about her missing cousin, who also worked as a driver in Rasuwa.

"I feel hopeless. It has already been four days," she said.

Families covered hospital walls with posters showing missing relatives, photographs and contact numbers in a desperate appeal for any clue that could bring them home.

Families search paper lists for any clue

Back in Nuwakot, military personnel taped sheets of paper listing dozens of missing people to a wall at a relief center.

Families crowded around to scan the names of the missing and dead, taking photos and wiping away tears.

Rajesh Kumar Ram desperately searched through a list for his son's name.

"I'm hopeful, by chance, that my son is somewhere," he said, crying as he spoke. "Maybe they find him stuck somewhere. I'm waiting for that moment only."

Outside, people walked along mud-covered streets past signs of the disaster. On one street, a truck was stuck in the mud with its bed raised in the air.

Priti Kharel stood outside the entrance to the army barracks, holding a poster with a picture of her brother, Milan Kharel, who works as an engineering geologist at Doosan Enerbility. His family hasn't heard from him since the floods.

"It's already four days," said Kharel, who believes his brother could be one of the people trapped inside

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the tunnel of a hydropower construction site, where authorities have rescued some people.

"We want the government to rescue him as soon as possible," she added.

Rescuers battle to find survivors in disaster-hit areas

Search and rescue efforts continued at several locations in Nepal and China's Tibet, including the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project in Nepal's Rasuwa district and the severely damaged Gyirong border crossing on the Chinese side.

Nepali Army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet said rescue efforts would continue at the hydropower construction site, where authorities believe more than 100 people are trapped in a tunnel filled with thick mud.

Rescuers had been on high alert for more flooding from a new lake that formed high up in the Himalayan mountains after the initial floods Wednesday.

Monitoring data from the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources showed late Friday that the lake had dwindled in size. The water level dropped by 10 meters (32 feet) from the high point on Thursday morning, Chinese broadcaster CCTV said.

The Chinese broadcaster showed images Saturday of rescuers arriving at Gyirong Port, the hard-hit border crossing with Nepal. "Anyone, anyone?" rescuers yelled.

It was not immediately known how many people were at the border checkpoint building when the floods hit.

Hundreds of the missing are foreigners who were in the area to work, trek or make a pilgrimage to a sacred peak.

Chinese state media reported Sunday that the 261 missing foreigners include 104 people from Nepal, 49 from India, 33 from Latvia, 18 from the United States, 15 from Britain and several dozen from other countries.

Steep mountains and narrow gorges hamper rescue operations

In a news briefing Saturday, Nepalese Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said authorities have mobilized all available resources with support from international assistance for search, rescue, relief and recovery operations, with a particular focus on locating those still missing.

"This is currently our national priority," he told reporters Saturday.

He said rescue operations are challenging because of steep, tall mountains and narrow gorges in the disaster-hit region.

Khanal said the government has sought specialized support from Nepal's neighbors in tunnel rescue, survivor-detection technology, rapid forensic and DNA analysis, as well as morgue refrigerators.

An 11-member tunnel rescue reconnaissance team from India has been deployed while a similar rescue team from China is expected shortly, he added.

The minister said Nepal has received over 57 metric tons of relief supplies from India, with additional aid arriving from China, Japan, Australia and other countries. He added that further support will be sought as need assessments continue.

What we know about Trump's deal giving US access to vast oil reserves in Venezuela

By COLLIN BINKLEY and JUAN PABLO ARRÁEZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Besides a social media post from President Donald Trump, the White House has said little about what he is calling "THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY" in Venezuela.

Trump said the agreement announced Friday night would give the United States a stake in Venezuela's vast oil reserves, a step toward his goal of extracting energy from the country after American forces captured then-President Nicolás Maduro in a middle-of-the-night raid in January and brought him to New York to face federal drug trafficking charges.

Venezuela's acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, described the deal as a step toward economic recovery that will modernize the country's oil industry. She said Saturday that the oil reserves would "cease to be

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an inert, cold statistic and will instead become concrete solutions. Housing is one of them."

She spoke while touring reconstruction efforts following the deadly twin earthquakes that hit in late June, noting that thousands of families were left homeless.

"What we are doing is for the development of the country, but above all, to serve the Venezuelan people, to provide them with more jobs, better wages, and access to public services such as water, electricity, hospitals, schools and adequate food," she said.

But the answers to many questions, including how soon the reserves could be drilled and who will pay to make it happen, were not immediately clear. No text of any agreement has been released.

A look at what is known and unknown:

What are the terms?

The U.S. government and an unnamed private operator in Venezuela formed a new company that was given the rights to untapped oil fields for 100 years.

A statement from Rodríguez said the deal involves the development of 17 fields with a proven potential of 65 billion barrels. It said the agreement could draw \$100 billion in investment into Venezuela's oil industry and yield over \$209 billion in taxes for Caracas.

Trump said the agreement was negotiated by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Rodríguez.

The deal gives the United States 55% effective output of the new private company, including an ownership stake and rights to buy oil at cost. American purchases of the oil will go toward the U.S. strategic oil reserves along with the military, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The company would be the second largest corporate holder of proven reserves after Saudi Aramco, according to the official.

Will gas prices go down?

Probably not any time soon.

Trump says the deal will help lower gas prices for Americans. That is an important objective for the Republican president as the Iran war slows the shipping of Persian Gulf oil and keeps prices elevated months before November elections in the United States.

But experts have repeatedly warned that Venezuela's dilapidated oil infrastructure will take years and billions of dollars to repair. A substantial boost in production is not expected to happen quickly.

The deal could be "helpful in the long run, but it's not going to do anything to change the price of gasoline at the retail station for Labor Day weekend," said Amy Myers Jaffe, director of the Energy, Climate Justice and Sustainability Lab at New York University.

Neither side made clear who would pay for infrastructure investments and at what cost.

The average price of gas in the U.S. stood at about \$4.08 a gallon on Saturday, according to AAA. The average price was \$3.20 at the same time last year.

Kevin Book, managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, said the oil industry is awaiting clarity on the deal's details. Venezuela has room to increase its oil production, he said — in the past it produced more than 2.5 million barrels a day above current levels — but investments of this scale don't happen quickly.

"It's going to take time — many years — to deploy that much capital and produce the kind of incremental results that history suggests possible," Book said.

How will Venezuelans react?

Some in Venezuela considered it a betrayal of what their government has stated repeatedly for decades: Venezuelan resources are for Venezuela, and leaders would not allow the U.S. government access to those resources.

At a market in eastern Caracas on Saturday, Douglas Borjas said he was upset about the announcement.

"I think they're doing it to cling to power," he said of Venezuela's leaders. "It's like, 'I'm giving you a vast amount of petroleum as long as you leave me alone here in power.'"

He added: "The Venezuelan people deserve better. Venezuela has resources that can be exploited, but

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for the benefit of the people, not for the benefit of the corrupt elite.”

Harvard University professor Ricardo Hausmann, a former Venezuelan planning minister, called it a “shameful deal.”

“Venezuelans will not respect this illegitimate deal and no major US oil company will take it seriously because they know it will not last,” Hausmann said on social media, adding that Rodríguez “has no legitimacy or constitutional power to commit Venezuela to any such deal.”

What’s the reaction on Capitol Hill?

It is unclear whether Congress will play a role in the arrangement, but lawmakers from both parties were quick to weigh in.

Trump allies called it a win.

Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio, said it was a historic deal that helps both countries. “If it were up to DC Democrats, Maduro would still be in power, Venezuelan oil would be going to China at half price, and the people of Venezuela would be getting robbed by a corrupt regime,” Moreno wrote on social media.

It was condemned by Democrats who said Maduro’s capture was a means to this end.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., said Trump was always after Venezuela’s oil, branding it “corruption at epic scale.”

“Will prices come down for Americans? Who knows but likely not as much as Trump has forced them up thru his idiotic Iran War,” Kaine said on social media.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., said Trump “put our service members at risk to get Venezuelan oil for his billionaire buddies.”

What questions remain?

Many important details remain unclear, including who will cover necessary investments, the identity of the private operator and how America’s stake in the company breaks down.

The U.S. will get 55% of the company’s effective output, but it was not clear what portion of that comes from an ownership stake and how much comes from the right to buy oil at cost.

It also is unclear how the industry will react. Persuading big American oil companies to return to the region could prove a challenge given the political uncertainty and damaged infrastructure.

Chevron, the only U.S. oil company actively producing in Venezuela, declined to comment. Separately from Trump’s announcement, Chevron already had been in talks to expand investment in the country. Exxon Mobil also declined to comment.

David Oxley, chief climate and commodities economist at Capital Economics, said that on its face, the deal could double U.S. oil reserves and reduce dependence on crude oil from Canada and Mexico. But Oxley, writing in a commentary, cautioned that there are logistical hurdles and said the value of Venezuela’s reserves may have been exaggerated under former President Hugo Chavez.

Even with legal and security guarantees, it is not clear that U.S. oil companies “would be eager to invest,” he wrote, noting that “there simply might be more enticing commercial opportunities on offer elsewhere.”

Dozens of soldiers killed or arrested after an apparent mutiny in Niger’s capital, state TV reports

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Dozens of soldiers were killed or arrested after a group of young troops attempted a mutiny in Niger’s capital in what was seen as a major threat to the country’s ruling junta, according to a state television broadcast and analysts.

It was the culmination of nearly 24 hours of unrest that appeared to be staged by young soldiers aggrieved over the worsening militant violence under the country’s military junta. Russia’s Africa Corps provided aerial and ground support to local forces to resist the rebellion, according to analysts and diplomats.

State broadcaster RTN showed footage of dozens of mostly young soldiers being paraded in public after sustained gunfire and explosions were heard overnight into Saturday at a key military base located within Niamey’s main airport and near the presidential palace.

“The fighting lasted a few hours in several places, which allowed (security forces) to gradually control the situation, arrest and incapacitate these moody soldiers,” state TV reported.

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The whereabouts of military leader Abdourahamane Tchiani were unclear.

Senior Nigerien military officers visited the Africa Corps base at the airport "and expressed gratitude to its servicemen for their assistance in suppressing the rebellion," Russian media quoted Moscow's Ambassador to Niger Viktor Voropayev as saying.

The rebelling soldiers had camped at the military base until late Saturday while the presidential guard secured the presidential palace and was deployed to regain control of the base, analysts and diplomats said.

The loyalist forces have regained the "upper hand at least at the airport (and base)," according to Wassim Nasr, a senior research fellow at the Soufan Center. Some forces were, however, heading to the capital and it remained unclear if they were coming to support the mutiny or the junta, Nasr added.

The Associated Press could not independently confirm whether the Nigerien security forces regained full control of the base.

Unrest started with a hostage situation

Some of the mutinous soldiers came from the southwest of the country, among the regions worst-hit by insecurity, diplomats and analysts said.

The state broadcaster stopped its live transmission for some time on Saturday morning before it resumed. It broadcast a statement from Niger's Defense Minister Gen. Salifou Mody saying a group of soldiers took some officers hostage at the base and shot at "sensitive sites" in a "break with the discipline and military regulations."

The airport is a strategic hub that hosts a Nigerien air force base as well as the headquarters of the joint Niger-Burkina Faso-Mali military force. All three neighbors are now under military rule, following a string of coups in Africa's Sahel region, but are struggling with insecurity.

Niger's junta came to power after a 2023 coup which it said was prompted by the elected government's inability to stem armed violence. Since then, the impoverished West African country of more than 25 million people has severed ties with longtime Western security partners, turning instead to Russia. But the junta has been unable to stem militant violence and rampant killing of security forces, fueling unrest within the military, observers say.

The ruling military council, known as the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, called for unity. "Our Defense and Security Forces are mobilized for the Defense of the Fatherland. Let us remain united, vigilant and supportive," it said in a Facebook post.

Algeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the country has assured Niger, its southeastern neighbor, of its "full solidarity and firm support, with a view to overcoming this ordeal and promoting a rapid return to stability."

Niger's military junta has struggled to stem violence, fueling unrest

It is the third time this year that the base at the Diori Hamani International Airport has been attacked, after two earlier assaults by jihadi rebels.

The attacks are "becoming commonplace and will continue to fuel unrest and aggravate tensions within the army ranks," said Heni Nsaibia, West Africa senior analyst at Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, a conflict monitor.

"Deteriorating insecurity drove the coups that swept across the central Sahel, and the latest events show how these same pressures are now fueling unrest within the militaries that seized power," Nsaibia said.

The mutiny adds to pressure on the military authorities, which have been unable to contain deadly jihadi violence.

Before the 2023 coup, Niger had been the West's last reliable partner in the region in battling jihadists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in the Sahel.

However, the country's security forces, aided by Russia's Africa Corps, have been overstretched on multiple fronts by jihadi groups whose repeated attacks in the last year have resulted in mass casualties within the military.

Russian strike on a Ukrainian warehouse kills 37 in the war's deadliest attack this year

By KATIE MARIE DAVIES, DAN BASHAKOV and VOLODYMR YURCHUK Associated Press

MYLA, Ukraine (AP) — A Russian drone struck a warehouse west of Kyiv that Ukrainian officials say was storing shells, mines and other ammunition, sparking massive explosions and fires that swept through dozens of nearby homes and buildings and killing 37 people.

The Friday night attack on the warehouse in Myla, a village in the Bucha district, was the war's deadliest attack this year and came on the second of three days of nearly round-the-clock Russian strikes that have severely disrupted life in and around the Ukrainian capital.

Attacks on the capital and, to a lesser extent, the rest of Ukraine have been nearly constant since Thursday. Kyiv officials say Russia builds up missile stocks and launches major attacks every few days, hoping to exhaust Ukrainian defenses through the sheer weight of numbers.

The warehouse strike sparked fires that raced through homes and damaged at least 50 residential buildings, said Tymur Tkachenko, who heads the local regional military administration. He was later cited by local media as saying 34 of the people killed were residents of a care home for elderly and disabled people. More than 370 people were evacuated.

The blasts rocked Myla, causing people to frantically seek cover.

"At about 8 p.m., the drone hit a warehouse somewhere and then the detonation began," Oleksandr Vodolaz, a village resident, told The Associated Press. "No one knew that weapons were stored there."

Another local, Zhanna Kravchuk, said she had so many questions about what happened.

"Why are weapons like this ... in warehouses and not on the front lines where they would help?" she said.

As crews raced to get people to safety and extinguish blazes, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the attack as a "terrible situation" and said it appeared to be the result of "terrible negligence on the part of those who stored explosives right next to people."

He noted that Ukrainian law forbids the storage of ammunition close to people's homes and said criminal proceedings had been opened.

"Those who allowed this to happen must be held accountable for their decisions," the president said.

Kyiv investigates warehouse targeted in attack

In a social media post Saturday, Zelenskyy shed more light on the situation.

"The first strike was on an ammunition storage site that definitely shouldn't have been there — a Defense Forces storage facility. Shells, mines, other ammunition, and drones detonated."

Ukrainian Prime Minister Serhii Koretskyi didn't specify what was in the warehouse, but he referenced a July attack on the Kyiv suburb of Vyshneve that struck an ammunition depot, killing 22 people and triggering detonations and fires that tore through nearby homes.

"Unfortunately, we can already see that the terrible tragedy in Vyshneve did not become a lesson," Koretskyi said. "In the fifth year of a full-scale invasion, making the same mistakes is criminal negligence. And all those guilty, without exception, must be severely punished so that such situations do not happen again."

The 37 killed surpassed the 31 who died in a July 2 strike on Kyiv, which had been the war's deadliest attack of 2026.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it hit a warehouse in Myla that was storing components and launch boosters for long-range drones. It also said it attacked the ports of Mykolaiv and Izmail, and a logistics center and warehouse facilities storing parts for Ukraine's Flamingo cruise missiles in the Kyiv region.

Russian jet-powered drones pose a problem for Kyiv

Russian strikes damaged homes and apartment blocks in the southern Kherson region on Saturday, killing two people and wounding 27 more, including a child, Oleksandr Prokudin, head of the region administration, said in a statement.

Prokudin said earlier in the week that Russia had intensified its attacks on critical infrastructure in the region, which is about 70% under Russian control. He also urged tens of thousands of residents to move to safer regions because of the possibility of prolonged power and heating outages this winter.

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Although officials haven't said whether they were used in the warehouse attack, Russia has significantly increased its use of jet-powered drones, and their numbers will keep growing as Moscow sees their effectiveness, Pavlo Palisa, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, told reporters Friday.

"Means of attack always outpace means of defense. We will certainly need to adapt. It will take time," Palisa said. He said interceptor drones currently available to Ukraine, which could theoretically intercept jet-powered drones, have not yet demonstrated the expected effectiveness, though Ukraine is working on solutions.

Ukraine vows to increase long-range strikes

Meanwhile, Ukraine has stepped up its long-range attacks on Russian military industries and energy facilities in recent months. The attacks, which use domestically made drones, are meant to cut into a source of Moscow's war funding and make Russians feel the consequences.

In his evening statement to the nation Friday, Zelenskyy said Kyiv hoped to increase its long-range strikes to reach 1000 drone launches every day.

"Right now, we average over 300 of our long-range sanctions," Zelenskyy said, his preferred term for Kyiv's long-range attacks that have also lately targeted Russian large-scale online retailers. "There must be more. We have a very specific goal, and we will achieve it."

Moscow's forces destroyed 313 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's Defense Ministry said Saturday.

Ukrainian drone attacks wounded 11 people in Russia's Rostov region, Gov. Yuri Slyusar said. Writing on social media, he said that nine people were hospitalized, including four children.

Netanyahu condemns rioters after weeks of West Bank settler violence, and other Middle East news

CAIRO (AP) — Israel's prime minister has spoken out after weeks of settler violence in the occupied West Bank and condemned the actions of a "handful of rioters." Israeli strikes and fire have killed three Palestinians in Gaza. And Iran's leadership now centers on military generals and clerics who are long entrenched in the ruling theocracy.

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

Netanyahu condemnation follows unrest in West Bank town

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned criminal acts by a "handful of rioters" in the occupied West Bank that he said do injustice to the "law-abiding settler public."

His statement follows over two weeks of unrest in the town of Qusra, where settlers have surrounded several homes including one owned by a Palestinian American. In an unusually sharp statement, U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee referred to the settlers as "terrorists," a word U.S. officials usually reserve for Palestinian militants.

Earlier on Saturday, Israel's military and police said Israeli rioters arrived in the Qusra area and violent clashes followed. They said dozens of rioters barricaded themselves in a Palestinian home while residents were inside. They said the groups were separated and rioters' vehicles were confiscated.

The Associated Press saw ambulances carry away injured Palestinians. Qusra Mayor Abdel Azim Wadi told AP that two inhaled tear gas and two others were hurt when settlers threw stones. He said the house targeted was no longer under siege.

"The actions of these violent extremists are a disgrace and stand in complete contradiction to the values of the State of Israel," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The statements did not mention any arrests.

Netanyahu's government, the most ultranationalist and religious in Israel's history, has presided over a surge of settlement construction in the West Bank. Most of the international community views settlements as illegal, and Israel has been seeing an erosion of support in the United States.

4 Palestinians killed in Gaza, health officials say

Israeli strikes and fire in central Gaza killed four Palestinians and wounded others on Saturday, accord-

ing to local health officials.

In Gaza City, two Palestinians were killed and another was wounded in an Israeli strike on a motorbike, according to officials at Shifa hospital. The Israeli military said it struck a "military operative," without elaborating.

Tank fire killed a farmer in the eastern part of Deir al-Balah, according to officials at Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital, where the body was taken. A strike in southern Gaza killed one and wounded others, Nasser hospital said. The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

And the latest airstrike on the compound of Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital wounded three Palestinians, officials with Gaza's health ministry said. Israel's military said it "struck a Hamas commander who planned to execute terror attacks" adjacent to the compound.

The military statement accused the commander of hiding in the compound. It said medical authorities in Gaza were warned on Thursday that medical facilities should not be used for "terrorist purposes" and that Israeli forces would act on any threat if it continues. Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital did not comment on the strike.

A fragile ceasefire in Gaza has continued since October. While the heaviest fighting in Gaza has subsided, Israel's military has killed at least 1,313 Palestinians since then, according to Gaza's health ministry. The ministry, part of the Hamas-led government, maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. It does not give a breakdown of civilians and militants.

Iran's new leadership signals no tolerance for dissent

After six months of war, Iran's new leadership appears ready for a potentially long confrontation with the United States and determined to prevent any unrest at home.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi reiterated Tehran's stance that the Strait of Hormuz would not open until the U.S. meets its agreements under the memorandum of understanding the countries signed in mid-June, state media reported. The strait has become a source of leverage for Iran after it asserted control of the waterway early in the war.

The new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, still has not been seen publicly since his father and other senior leaders were killed in the war's opening strikes on Feb. 28, when the U.S. and Israel attacked.

With appointments announced Aug. 11 and 12, Khamenei has surrounded himself with longtime personal allies like the new secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, and the new head of the Basij, the Revolutionary Guard's volunteer street force, Hossein Taeb.

Far-right British provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos has been deported after his immigration arrest in US

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

British far-right commentator Milo Yiannopoulos was deported to the United Kingdom after his arrest by American immigration authorities, U.S. officials said Saturday.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said Yiannopoulos was returned to his home country Friday after being accused of overstaying after entering the U.S. legally in May 2019. An immigration judge issued a final order of removal July 22 after he failed to show up for an immigration hearing, a Homeland Security spokesperson said.

Yiannopoulos was arrested Thursday at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport in Louisiana and detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"He chose to overstay his welcome in violation of our nation's laws," a Homeland Security spokesperson said in a statement.

Yiannopoulos and his representatives did not respond to requests for comment, and he has not posted on the social platform X since Thursday.

Yiannopoulos backed President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown

Yiannopoulos is a well-known champion of conservative causes and has frequently taken provocative public positions criticizing feminism, Islam and immigrants. He has been especially supportive of President

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Donald Trump's aggressive immigration enforcement policy, aimed at people in the country illegally.

"Zero immigration for the next 20 years. No ifs, no buts," Yiannopoulos said on X last year.

The British national has most recently worked for the rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, who performed in New Orleans on Friday evening.

Yiannopoulos rose to fame in the early 2010s as an incendiary writer for the conservative website Breitbart News. He resigned in 2017 after a video of him endorsing pedophilia resurfaced online. He later apologized for the remarks and said he himself was a victim of sexual assault as a minor.

Yiannopoulos' arrest and deportation come amid a nationwide uptick in detentions as part of Trump's immigration crackdown.

In social media posts, the Department of Homeland Security touted Yiannopoulos' arrest and posted a booking photo of him. It added that it encourages people in the country illegally to leave voluntarily, saying the U.S. offers "\$3,000 and a free flight to self-deport."

"We encourage every person here illegally to take advantage of this offer and reserve the chance to come back to the U.S. the right legal way to live the American dream. If not, you will be arrested and deported without a chance to return," the department said.

The department did not respond Saturday to questions seeking more details about Yiannopoulos' legal entry into the U.S. in 2019, including whether he was granted a visa.

Controversy has swirled around the provocateur for years

Far-right conservative activist Laura Loomer swiftly took to social media to applaud Yiannopoulos' arrest after years of public feuding between the two personalities.

"I was the first person to report on the fact that Milo was in the US illegally where he incited violence against President Trump and worked for Marjorie Traitor Greene," Loomer said on X.

Controversy around Yiannopoulos ballooned in 2017 when he carried out what he called his "Troll Academy Tour" across college campuses nationwide. Fights broke out when some students protested his appearances and accused him of hate speech, while others celebrated him as a champion of free speech. Around that time BuzzFeed reported on Yiannopoulos' cozy relationships with self-proclaimed white nationalists.

In recent years Yiannopoulos continued to work in the orbit of conservative activism. In 2022 he was an intern for former U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, according to the Washington Post. He subsequently ran the short-lived 2024 presidential campaign for Ye.

Most recently, Yiannopoulos has worked as a spokesperson for Ye, who has been beset by controversy of his own following antisemitic comments that the rapper has since apologized for.

Trump cannot deport students for criticizing Israel, judge rules

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Citing the importance of the First Amendment, a federal judge in California says the U.S. government is unconstitutionally silencing critics of Israel's war in Gaza and others as part of the Trump administration's quest to deport noncitizens who it says disrupted college campuses while expressing their views.

Judge Noël Wise, in a ruling Friday, delivered a victory for The Stanford Daily, the student newspaper at Stanford University, which has said some international students were afraid to speak out because of the deportation threat.

"Freedom of speech is illusory if we are only 'free' to express complementary views about the government and its leaders," the judge wrote.

The decision largely piggybacks on findings from nearly a year ago by a U.S. district judge in Boston, who ruled that the Trump administration violated the Constitution when it targeted people who are not citizens for deportation solely for supporting Palestinians and criticizing Israel.

Wise wrote that the freedoms of speech and the press are "foundational to America's enduring democracy." The judge cited free-speech and vagueness flaws that violate the First Amendment and Fifth Amendment as she struck down portions of the provisions that the federal government follows regarding deportations.

Wise cited retaliation in March 2025 by U.S. immigration authorities against people who engaged in

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speech supporting the Palestinians and against Israel's actions — which a growing number of experts, including those commissioned by a U.N. body, have said amount to genocide. The judge also cited retaliation against people who were critical of Charlie Kirk after the Turning Point USA co-founder was assassinated last September.

"Tomorrow, or perhaps even today, targets may include anyone in the United States who exercises their freedom of speech to simply express opinions the government does not like," the judge in San Jose said.

"This downward spiral is antithetical to our Constitution that recognizes our right to speak freely," she added. "Here you can simultaneously hate the content of a person's speech and love the country that cherishes the freedom to allow it. Zealous protection of our Constitutional right to free speech is a provocative demonstration of our country's powerful lack of fear."

The Justice Department did not respond Saturday to a message seeking comment on the decision.

George Porteous, the editor-in-chief of The Stanford Daily, responded to the ruling by saying on X: "The reporters in our newsroom shouldn't have to fear that writing a story will result in their deportation. Today's victory means they won't have to."

Conor Fitzpatrick, an attorney with the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, which brought the lawsuit, praised the ruling.

"In America, free speech doesn't just belong to the people who say things the government agrees with," Fitzpatrick said in a release.

In her decision, Wise said it was clear that the government's tactics has had an effect on college campuses.

"The government has offered a chilling message regarding protected speech — speak out against Israel or in support of Palestinians and we will revoke your visa and deport you. Behave. Noncitizen students heard the warning and heeded. And, as the idiom goes, the silence is deafening," the judge wrote.

At The Stanford Daily, lawfully present noncitizens at the paper have quit, withheld articles, refused assignments, requested articles be taken down, and asked for anonymity due to fear of adverse immigration consequences, Wise noted.

She said noncitizens have the same First Amendment rights as citizens and yet were left to guess what the U.S. foreign policy was at any given moment and on any given subject.

"This is an incomprehensible standard," she said. "While the Court understands that the government has been granted considerable discretion on foreign policy and immigration matters, that discretion must nevertheless still ensure that ordinary people can understand what the law permits and prohibits."

Wise added: "Our Constitutional right to freedom of speech guarantees people the right to express — through their words, actions, or assembly — opinions that may be repugnant, views that run counter to prevailing political norms, or beliefs that otherwise challenge the country's domestic or foreign policy, military engagement, or war."

Trump's Greenland threats cast a shadow on Iceland's vote on whether to trigger EU membership talks

By KWIYEON HA and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Voters in Iceland went to the polls Saturday to decide whether the country should resume long-stalled negotiations to become a member of the European Union, in the shadow of U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to control nearby Greenland.

The yes-or-no referendum question is simple enough for the 265,000 or so eligible voters: Should Iceland resume accession negotiations with the European Union?

A yes vote would trigger negotiations with the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, covering 35 areas, from the economy to human rights. Some supporters believe the European Union could offer protections if Trump ever made similar threats against Iceland. They also see economic stability in joining the bloc.

If voters reject the proposal, that's it, for a generation at least. Opponents have rallied around the threat EU membership would pose to Iceland's rich fishing stocks and the fact that Iceland already reaps benefits

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from being in the EU's frictionless single market and the Schengen free-travel zone.

Experts expect a close vote.

More than 20% of voters cast early ballots in advance of election day, Iceland's national broadcaster RÚV said.

"This has been a tight race, extremely exciting," said Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir, whose platform was based in part on rejoining the EU, after she voted. "It's lifted discussions about the EU, about Iceland's place in the world, about our general geopolitical situation and status to a higher level."

Nearby Greenland casts a shadow over referendum

When Trump talked about U.S. control of Greenland, particularly at the start of this year, he shifted the mood in Iceland, just 180 miles (290 km) from the self-governing territory of Denmark, a longtime U.S. ally.

Iceland is a NATO member, but nonetheless some of its citizens were particularly alarmed when Trump mistakenly named their country four times while speaking about his designs on Greenland.

Though Trump has indicated he won't use force to seize Greenland, his interest doesn't appear to have cooled.

The underlying worry among many in Iceland is clear — if Greenland is seized, is Iceland next?

The ensuing question is clear too: if yes, does EU membership provide a bulwark against any new Trump ambition in the North Atlantic?

Iceland's left-leaning coalition government, elected in 2024, certainly thinks so, and that's largely why it moved forward with the EU referendum that it had planned for next year.

After more than a decade, EU membership is back on the agenda

EU talk is nothing new in Iceland, which formally ended its previous effort to join the bloc in 2015, largely over concerns about what membership would mean for its rich fish resources.

The hefty cod and haddock catches from the chilled Arctic waters around Iceland are central to the national identity too. Descendants of Vikings who settled in Iceland have lived off the sea for centuries.

With much of the country's economy geared toward its lucrative and well-managed fishing industry, fishing rights have been a talking point in the run-up to the referendum.

Joining the 27-nation EU would require Iceland to be part of the bloc's common fisheries policy that would allow Spanish, Dutch and other trawlers into its waters. The government has indicated it would seek a special arrangement, potentially a full opt-out from the policy.

If the vote is approved, it would not be the final say for Iceland. Voters would then have to either approve or reject the membership agreement it negotiates.

Fish is not just an economic matter; it's part of the national identity

For many, Iceland's national identity and ultimately its culture is on the ballot too.

Iceland, which gained independence from Denmark in 1944, has a proud history of refusing to be pushed around by bigger and richer European nations. It even fought — and won — the so-called Cod Wars with Britain in the 1970s over its fishing grounds.

Backers of EU membership say it's best for Iceland to get closer to its European neighbors to combat issues that don't respect borders, such as climate change. They also say the euro would bring more stability than Iceland's volatile króna currency and EU membership would lower inflation and interest rates.

"Being in good connection and good relations with Europe is absolutely the best thing that Iceland has ever done and should continue," Haukur Hallsson said after voting in favor of EU discussions. "Iceland should definitely look more to Europe than the White House at this moment."

Opponents say the current setup is just right and that Iceland already enjoys all the benefits of European integration without the sovereignty compromises that inevitably come with full membership. They say their vote in Europe's Parliament would be small and they prefer to cut some of their own trade deals, such as one with China.

Agust Hallvardsson said he voted against the measure because the independence of Iceland's fisheries and agriculture is vital.

"What's happening in the EU is not to my liking," Hallvardsson said. "It's like a big burning ship. I think

they need to, you know, put their things right before we join them. And I think we're better off alone."

Alex Eala returns to the US Open with a roaring fan base and on a path to stardom

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 8,000 fans packed the Grandstand at the U.S. Open last year to witness Alex Eala rally from down 5-1 in the third set to upset 14th-ranked Clara Tauson. The crowd went crazy, waving Filipino flags to celebrate the comeback.

Eala is now up to a career-best 18th in the world, and at just 21 appears to be on a trajectory to stardom that has outgrown all but the biggest venues at Flushing Meadows.

"The crowd is going to be wild for her," ESPN's Patrick McEnroe said. "Better make sure they don't put her on one of those side courts early in the tournament."

Eala is back in New York for the latest stop on the whirlwind tour that has her on a path to being one of the future faces of tennis. She is less than a month removed from winning in Washington for her first WTA title, and her popularity is exploding in the process.

Back at a Grand Slam after reaching the round of 16 at Wimbledon, she called herself "a drop in the ocean" while downplaying her impact on the sport.

"At the forefront of everything is gratitude: I'm very grateful for the support that my fans give me and that my supporters give me," Eala said Friday. "Every single WTA player and every single ATP player has contributed to the world of tennis and its history just by being here and by putting in the work every single day."

Part of what grounded Eala, she believes, is partnering with Venus Williams in doubles a couple of times this summer. She has also studied tennis history along the way and realized how much work it takes to get to the top.

"That really keeps me humble," Eala said. "It keeps me motivated to work harder and stay among these incredible people."

One of those incredible people is third-ranked Jessica Pegula, who was up a set in the final in Washington. Eala came back to become the first player from the Philippines to win a singles title on the tour.

"I've gotten to compete against the best of the best a lot more frequently," Eala said. "I have experienced so much growth in the past year, and so many milestones in my career."

Eala practiced Saturday with former No. 1 player Naomi Osaka. Unsurprisingly, the pair drew an audience.

"She brings such a amazing crowd, even for practice," Osaka said. "I really like her. I think she's got a really solid head on her shoulders. She seems so grateful for everything. Obviously, she's a great player."

Mary Joe Fernandez, who once was ranked as high as fourth, called Eala "a big star to highlight" at the U.S. Open.

"Her game's really good," Fernandez said. "She backs it up. She's improved tremendously, I think, in the last 12 months when we saw her break through. She's getting better and better."

Fernandez, now an ESPN analyst, marvels at Eala's "off the charts" fan following that she saw firsthand last year in Miami.

"It's just gotten bigger and bigger everywhere she goes," Fernandez said. "Every point is loud. Every point she wins, it feels like she's won more than a point. It's remarkable."

Eala is scheduled to play her first-round match against American qualifier Mary Stoiana. She would need to win three in a row to potentially set up a showdown with fourth-seeded Coco Gauff, which would almost certainly put Eala on center stage at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Norway's new king pays tribute to his late father as tens of thousands mourn

OSLO, Norway (AP) — King Haakon VIII of Norway used his first speech in his new role to eulogize his father, King Harald V, as a loving parent and dedicated monarch a day after he died at 89.

"We are in mourning. At the same time, it brings us comfort and strength to know that so many are mourning with us," the king said wearing a black suit as his speech was shown live on public television.

After Harald V's death on Friday morning, the crown prince became King Haakon VIII immediately.

He thanked the people for their outpouring of compassion and remembered what a loving father and husband Harald had been.

Tens of thousands of mourners paid their respects, placing flowers and condolence cards outside the royal palace in Oslo, where the coffin arrived late Friday from the hospital.

Across the country, churches and city halls opened specially so people could light candles, and write their thoughts about the deceased king in condolence books.

"It has been a powerful and moving experience to see the Palace Square filled with people, flowers, messages of condolence, and candles. Thank you so much," 53-year-old Haakon said, sitting on a wooden desk next to his father's portrait and two white candles.

"As king, my father represented Norway and the Norwegian people with pride and joy, through visits around the country, at events here at the royal palace, and while working on Norway's behalf around the world," Haakon said.

"I'm going to miss him. I'll miss his laughter. His good-natured way of dealing with people and situations," he added, trying to hold back his tears as he vowed to give everything for the country in the future as its new king.

"And that means — in the ultimate sense — being willing to risk everything, even one's life, for Norway's freedom and independence."

Haakon adopted the motto "All for Norway," which dates back to his great-grandfather. His wife became Queen Mette-Marit, while his oldest child, Ingrid Alexandra, became crown princess and heir to the throne.

Earlier on Saturday, the new king and Crown Princess Ingrid Alexandra welcomed Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and the presiding bishop of the Lutheran Church of Norway to the palace where King Harald's coffin was lying in state, the royal palace said in a statement.

On Sunday morning, the Church of Norway is holding memorial services across the country, with the royal family expected to attend the service at Asker Church, southwest of Oslo, the palace said.

Haakon is well acquainted with his royal obligations. As his father aged and his health declined in recent years, Haakon stepped in as regent on several occasions.

His tasks in the near future will include shoring up support for the monarchy following controversies over his wife's past contacts with deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and his stepson's rape conviction.

A date for the funeral has not been set, but the country is officially in a state of mourning and some people decided to postpone celebrations such as weddings and baptisms until after the mourning period has passed, Norwegian public broadcaster NRK reported.

Norway's monarchy has old roots, tracing its origins to King Harald Fairhair in the ninth century. When Norway regained its independence from Sweden in 1905, three-quarters of voters in a national plebiscite approved restoring the monarchy.

Today, the role is largely symbolic as power lies with an elected parliament, but the royal family retains celebrity and a role in promoting the wealthy nation around the world.

Warsh raises stakes for Fed's next meeting and other takeaways from Jackson Hole conference

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh renewed his inflation-fighting credentials in a speech Friday that opened the door to potential rate hikes in the coming months.

In doing so, Warsh has put more pressure on the central bank to increase interest rates when it next meets in mid-September if inflation doesn't improve. The government's next price report, to be released just days before the meeting, could play an outsized role in determining whether the central bank acts.

Warsh's high-profile speech at the Fed's annual Jackson Hole economic conference was mostly praised afterward by economists and other Fed policymakers in attendance. Still, there was also some pushback and criticism during the first day of the conference. It ends Saturday.

Here are some takeaways from the conference so far:

Hawkish comments raise pressure for September rate hike

While Warsh opened the door to raising borrowing costs, he did not commit to any particular timing. It's not surprising given his aversion to sending signals about the Fed's next moves the way his predecessors did, which Warsh felt boxed the Fed in to a preset path.

Some analysts, however, saw strong hints that a rate increase in September is a real possibility. Warsh noted that he and other Fed officials who supported keeping rates unchanged at their July 28-29 meeting "thought the wiser course was to await new information in the intermeeting period ... before deciding whether a change in interest rate policy was advisable."

That suggests that Warsh wanted to see clear evidence of cooling inflation after the July meeting to remain on hold. Yet elsewhere in his remarks he said that such evidence hasn't emerged — even as gas prices have come down somewhat, underlying inflation hasn't "meaningfully improved."

By sending such signals, Warsh has raised expectations for a hike next month. If inflation remains high and he doesn't follow through, his credibility could take a hit.

"You are basically setting yourself up so that if you don't hike in September, people may ask what's going on," said Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

A September rate hike would be politically awkward

The Fed is scheduled to meet twice before the upcoming midterm elections, in September and late October. Any decision to lift interest rates at those meetings could spark a response from President Donald Trump, who has often accused the Fed of having political motivations. He claimed the Fed's half-point rate cut in September 2024, for example, was intended to help Democrats in that year's election.

Posen said that if the Fed ultimately skips a rate hike in September, it would raise questions about whether it did so to avoid attacks from Trump.

"You never raise rates to spite elected officials," Posen said. But doing so would also demonstrate the Fed's independence, which depends on the ability to "raise rates when it's justified, over the president's loud objections."

Austan Goolsbee, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, said "I don't think about" the elections.

In an interview on the sidelines of the conference, he added that Fed officials focus on "what is the state of the economy, and what do we need to do to stabilize prices and maximize employment?"

A Fed rate hike may — or may not — lift mortgage rates

When the Fed raises its benchmark interest rate, it often can boost interest rates for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and business borrowing.

Yet in this case it isn't as clear. Longer-term interest rates — including those on the 10-year Treasury note, which strongly influence mortgage rates — barely rose after Warsh's comments. Analysts said that suggested that investors were reassured that the Fed would bring down inflation over time. Otherwise, they would have pushed longer rates higher.

In short, longer-term rates don't always follow the Fed's lead, so even if there is a rate hike in September, it may not push up consumer borrowing costs. As it is, the average rate for a fixed 30-year mortgage is

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6.66%, according to Freddie Mac, slightly higher than a year ago.

All-in on AI

Much of Warsh's speech actually focused on the potential for artificial intelligence to strongly boost the economy. He has spoken previously about the possibility that AI could increase the economy's efficiency, which would enable it to expand without creating inflationary pressures. That would, in turn, reduce pressure on the Fed to lift rates.

"We've come to a hinge point in history," Warsh said. "The potential for substantially higher growth is on the rise."

But in a luncheon speech Friday, Kenneth Rogoff, a Harvard economist and former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, expressed a much more cautious take on AI's potential. He wasn't responding to Warsh's comments specifically.

"I think the idea that AI magically solves everything is a bit overblown," he said, adding that if it does sharply boost growth, that would likely lead to higher interest rates, which typically rise in a healthy economy.

Fed independence worries remain but have cooled since last year

A year ago, then-Fed Chair Jerome Powell received a standing ovation from the roughly 120 or so attendees before he even delivered his speech. It was a clear sign of support as Trump ramped up its attacks on Powell and the Fed for not cutting rates as much as he wanted.

Trump tried to fire Fed governor Lisa Cook on the first day of last year's conference, in an effort to gain a majority on the Fed's board. Cook sued to keep her job and the Supreme Court ruled in June she could do so while the case played out in court.

Cook attended this year's conference, just days after her lawyers argued the administration has no legal basis for removing her.

Rogoff, in his remarks, expressed concern about Fed independence but didn't get into details.

Warsh suggests inflation is broad and stubborn

Since taking office in late May, Warsh has largely avoided commenting on where inflation might be headed or what is keeping it elevated. On Friday, he provided his most extensive comments yet about an inflation surge that has soured most Americans on the economy and kept price increases above the Fed's 2% target.

He noted that inflation has been broad and not just a result of higher gas prices stemming from the Iran war. More than half the goods and services the government tracks have seen their prices rise 3% or more from a year ago, he said. That's "well above" the roughly one-third that saw such increases in the two decades before the pandemic.

Warsh also argued that inflation wouldn't necessarily fall back to 2% on its own, a comment that suggests he doesn't consider inflation to be a result of just one-time shocks, such as tariffs, that will fade over time.

That is a view shared by the three Fed officials who voted in favor of rate hikes at the central bank's last meeting in July.

Noncitizen voting claims animate Trump's attacks on midterms and set up potential result challenges

By MIKE CATALINI and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

The drumbeat by President Donald Trump and his allies about the perceived threats of voting by people who are not U.S. citizens is getting louder as the November election approaches.

He is pushing to have the U.S. Postal Service send mail ballots only to voters verified as U.S. citizens. The Census Bureau promoted a dubious report about thousands of noncitizens voting in 2020, an election that the Republican lost to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump's Department of Homeland Security is claiming without providing evidence that 250,000 noncitizens might be on the rolls in just four states.

This week, the Republican candidate for governor in Maine confirmed an audio recording in which he said he plans to ask Trump's border czar to send U.S. marshals and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to polling places in the state to ensure that only legal voters are casting ballots.

Evidence of noncitizens voting is continuing to "pile up," White House spokesperson Lauren Bis said when

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asked about the census report.

In fact, voting by noncitizens is extremely rare and is punishable as a felony that carries the potential for deportation. Even so, opponents say the hyperfocus on the issue by Trump and his allies is setting the stage for legal challenges to outcomes he may not like during the midterms in which control of Congress is on the line.

"Throw out these deceitful, deceptive claims as an excuse for disruptions," said Alexandra Chandler, director of impact programs, free and fair elections at the nonpartisan Democracy Project. "You can deny the results later."

Census report methodology is flawed, but it could help sow distrust

The census report, which the president cited in a Truth Social post, said it found in a "beginning analysis" that 24,000 noncitizens voted illegally in 2020. It cited data from a commercially available voter file, which was checked against federal records.

Experts say the methodology might have created false positives. For example, if a person's name was linked to the wrong address or someone's citizenship status had not been updated in a particular database.

Details that typically would be included in such a report about error rates were missing, said Justin Levitt, a Loyola Marymount University law professor. Nevertheless, election experts say it could help generate distrust among certain voters during this year's general election.

"This is an empty manila folder that the administration will wave around when it says the elections were fraudulent, noncitizens voted," Levitt said.

Election heads puzzled by claim of 250,000 noncitizens on voter rolls

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin's July letter to California, Nevada, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, alleging that as many as nearly 250,000 noncitizens were registered in those states, was met with skepticism and requests for more information.

"I have serious doubts about the reliability of your data and accuracy of your claims, since my office has not shared our statewide voter registration list with DHS or any other federal agency or official," California's secretary of state, Democrat Shirley Weber, said in response.

In New Jersey, Mullin's department indicated as many as 35,000 noncitizens were registered. Shortly after the letter, the Democratic-controlled state disclosed that about 6,600 noncitizens were improperly registered through its motor vehicle system in 2023 and 2024.

Democratic Gov. Mikie Sherrill said those people answered "no" when asked whether they were citizens, but were registered anyway. The governor said her administration found that "fewer than 400" of them had voted and that it has begun replacing the vendor involved in the improper registrations.

Pennsylvania's secretary of the commonwealth, Republican Al Schmidt, said in a letter this week that DHS officials acknowledged during a recent meeting they did not have high confidence that the 14,576 people referenced in the initial letter were in fact noncitizens improperly registered to vote. He said federal officials said they would provide a methodology and that Pennsylvania officials were awaiting that information.

Nevada Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar, a Democrat, said he did not understand the methodology the federal government used.

"All I can say is we have done significant work to make sure our voter rolls are as clean as possible," he said.

Messages from The Associated Press seeking comment from DHS were not immediately returned.

Tightening election security or interfering in the midterms?

The relentless attention on claims that noncitizens are marring elections in the United States comes as Trump continues to pressure Republican senators to pass a bill that would require people to show documented proof of American citizenship when they register to vote for the midterms, even though millions of people do not have ready access to such records.

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility, or SAVE America Act, has passed the GOP-led House but is stalled in the Senate, where even some members of the president's party are skeptical of its provisions.

Kathy Boockvar, former Democratic secretary of state of Pennsylvania who now runs a nonpartisan election security firm, said she viewed the administration's release of the census report as part of a "doing

everything it can" strategy to pass the legislation.

Republican supporters say the bill would improve the integrity of elections, including the requirement to show a photo ID. Gathering the documents necessary to prove citizenship would be difficult for many would-be voters. A 2025 University of Maryland study estimates that 21.3 million people in the U.S. who are eligible to vote do not have, or do not have easy access to, documents proving their citizenship.

Trump's opponents say his raising the specter of noncitizens voting leading to fraudulent results is less about maintaining the integrity of elections than it is about him doing whatever he can so his party retains power in Washington after November.

On Friday, the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles used the arrest of a Honduran national on charges alleging he fraudulently registered to vote as a signal that more attention on the issue was coming for California, a state that has a handful of important U.S. House races in November. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli said the arrest was "the first of many to come" while warning "there's no telling how many noncitizens are currently registered to vote" in the state.

"Trump is trying to lay the groundwork to reject the '26 election," said Colorado's secretary of state, Democrat Jena Griswold. "He's trying to destabilize both confidence and actual election administration. His efforts to destabilize election information, administration are not working."

Colorado River plan to cut water amid drought brings uncertainty for cities and farmers

By WUFEI YU and DORANY PINEDA Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — On the outskirts of Phoenix, a small town with a huge reliance on the Colorado River has capped growth, revived old wells and struck water deals.

But Cave Creek Mayor Robert Morris can't shake the real possibility that it's not enough to keep the desert community of about 5,000 people afloat well into the future. And a recent federal plan to address a deepening crisis in the river basin won't help.

Cave Creek gets nearly all of its water from the river, which serves 40 million people across the U.S. West and has been dwindling because of climate change, demand and overuse. The town already was forced to make cuts this year and it stands to lose more under a new federal plan.

Morris likened the situation to planning for a meteor strike.

"You can see it coming, but you can't get out of the way and you don't know what the damage is going to be," he said.

The uncertainty stretches across seven U.S. states, tribal nations and Mexico. Farmers are deciding which crops are worth the investment. Phoenix could lose some municipal and industrial water for the first time and turn to backup supplies. And residents could face even more costly water.

Nevada raised the stakes this week by suing the Interior Department and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, saying basic needs in the Las Vegas region will go unmet if the area has to absorb planned reductions of up to 70% of its Colorado River water in the next decade.

The bureau said Thursday it does not comment on litigation.

"The uncertainty is going to continue to build in the wrong direction," said Tom Buschatzke, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Western reservoirs see record lows

In the U.S. West, water is stored primarily in reservoirs, aquifers and snowpacks. But a record snow drought means there's far less water to recharge those sources.

The two largest reservoirs in the country serve as barometers of health for the Colorado River system: Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Both hit record lows this month.

Eight other reservoirs operated by the Bureau of Reclamation recently recorded the lowest levels in at least the last 30 years. Among them is Elephant Butte Lake in New Mexico that's critical for supplying water for crops in southern New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. The Green Mountain Reservoir serves the western part of Colorado, and the Guernsey Reservoir in Wyoming funnels water to farmers in the eastern part of

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the state and western Nebraska.

Under the Bureau of Reclamation's plan, California, Nevada and Arizona will collectively reduce water use by 1.25 million acre-feet (about 1.54 billion cubic meters) — enough to fill over 600,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools — annually in the next two years, with the possibility of larger cuts depending on conditions. Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico are not required to make cuts for now but could voluntarily reduce water.

While El Niño could bring intense moisture to the northern Rockies and the Southwest in the coming months, it won't erase decades of drought.

"Drought is a slow-moving phenomena and it can take some time to come into it and also come out of it," said David Mocko, senior research scientist who authored a recent U.S. Drought Monitor map.

Farmers are reluctant to plant

John Boelts grows vegetables, melons, durum wheat and other crops in Yuma, Arizona — a region that produces about 90% of leafy greens eaten in North America during the winter.

Farmers there have high-priority rights and may avoid cuts to their Colorado River supply over the next two years but, Boelts said, the reprieve isn't enough to make longer-term plans. That makes farmers reluctant to plant new acreage.

Citrus, date and other orchard crops that thrive in the region take years to become commercially productive, he said.

"There's no food that we grow in a hurry," said Boelts, the Arizona Farm Bureau president. "Beef takes years to produce. The lettuce you eat today? A farmer was working on how they would grow that crop six plus months ago."

Ray Martinez grows alfalfa on a reservation that's home to the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The tribe holds some of the river's oldest rights, and while its Arizona allocation is huge, an old irrigation system and the lack of infrastructure have kept much of the water out of reach.

Martinez and the water department are concerned about having enough water to finish this growing season. He has left some fields unplanted for years to help prop up Lake Mead. If the reservoir keeps dropping, he said, surface water coming to him and neighboring farms will be further limited.

"Unfortunately, Mother Nature has its own way of doing things, and we have no control of that," he added.

Far-right British provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos arrested by US immigration enforcement

By SAFIYAH RIDDLE Associated Press

U.S. immigration officials arrested controversial British far-right commentator Milo Yiannopoulos on Thursday in New Orleans, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Immigration officials announced on Friday that Yiannopoulos was arrested at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and accused him of overstaying after entering the United States legally in May 2019 through New York City. An immigration judge issued a final order of removal on July 22 after Yiannopoulos failed to show up for his immigration hearing, a DHS spokesperson wrote in an email.

"He chose to overstay his welcome in violation of our nation's laws," a spokesperson for DHS wrote in an emailed statement.

ICE's online detainee locator did not say where Yiannopoulos was being held, but directed family and legal representatives to the agency's office in Alexandria, Louisiana, a deportation hub for international flights.

Representatives of Yiannopoulos did not respond to a request for comment. It was unclear whether he has legal representation.

The British national has most recently worked for the rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, who was scheduled to perform in New Orleans on Friday evening.

Yiannopoulos is a well-known champion of conservative causes and has frequently taken provocative public positions criticizing feminism, Islam and immigrants. He has been especially supportive of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

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"Zero immigration for the next 20 years. No ifs, no buts," Yiannopoulos wrote on the social platform X last year.

Yiannopoulos rose to fame in the early 2010s as an incendiary writer for the conservative website Breitbart News. He resigned from the company in 2017 after a video of him endorsing pedophilia resurfaced online. He later apologized for the remarks and said he himself was a victim of sexual assault as a minor.

Yiannopoulos' arrest Thursday comes amid a nationwide uptick in detentions as part of Trump's immigration crackdown.

Far-right conservative activist Laura Loomer swiftly took to social media to applaud Yiannopoulos' arrest after years of public feuding between the two personalities.

"I was the first person to report on the fact that Milo was in the US illegally where he incited violence against President Trump and worked for Marjorie Traitor Greene," Loomer wrote on X.

Controversy around Yiannopoulos ballooned in 2017 when he carried out what he called his "Troll Academy Tour" across college campuses nationwide. Fights broke out when some students protested Yiannopoulos' appearances and accused him of hate speech, while others celebrated him as a champion of free speech. Around that time, BuzzFeed reported on Yiannopoulos' cozy relationships with self-proclaimed white nationalists.

In recent years, Yiannopoulos continued to work in the orbit of conservative activism. In 2022, he was an intern for former Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, according to the Washington Post. He subsequently ran the short-lived 2024 presidential campaign for Ye. Most recently, Yiannopoulos has worked as a spokesperson for Ye, who has been beset by controversy of his own following antisemitic comments that the rapper has since apologized for.

Today in History: August 30, Shackleton's Endurance crew rescued

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Aug. 30, the 242nd day of 2026. There are 123 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 30, 1916, on his fourth attempt, British explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton rescued all 22 remaining crew members stranded for more than four months on Elephant Island in Antarctica after the sinking of their ship, the Endurance.

Also on this date:

In 1941, during World War II, German forces approaching Leningrad cut off the remaining rail line out of the city.

In 1945, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan to set up Allied occupation headquarters.

In 1963, the "Hot Line" communications link between Washington and Moscow went into operation.

In 1967, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Thurgood Marshall as the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2005, a day after Hurricane Katrina hit, floods covered 80% of New Orleans, looting continued to spread and rescuers in helicopters and boats picked up hundreds of stranded people.

In 2021, the United States completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war with the Taliban back in power as Air Force transport planes carried a remaining contingent of troops from Kabul airport. After watching the last U.S. planes disappear into the sky over Afghanistan, Taliban fighters fired their guns into the air, celebrating victory after a 20-year insurgency.

In 2022, Mikhail Gorbachev, who was the last leader of the Soviet Union, and waged a losing battle to salvage a crumbling empire but produced extraordinary reforms that led to the end of the Cold War, died at age 91.

In 2023, mutinous soldiers in Gabon proclaimed their republican guard chief the country's new leader after placing the just-re-elected President Ali Bongo Ondimba under house arrest, alleging massive embezzlement was committed during his longtime rule over the oil-rich Central African nation.

Today's Birthdays: Investor and philanthropist Warren Buffet is 96. Actor Elizabeth Ashley is 87. Actor

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John Kani is 84. Cartoonist Robert Crumb is 83. Olympic gold medal skier Jean-Claude Killy is 83. Comedian Lewis Black is 78. Basketball Hall of Famer Robert Parish is 73. U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., is 66. Actor Michael Chiklis is 63. Actor Cameron Diaz is 54. TV personality/journalist Lisa Ling is 53. Former MLB pitcher Adam Wainwright is 45. Former professional tennis player Andy Roddick is 44. Singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha is 37. Actor Sean Ryan Fox is 25. Singer Capri Everitt is 22.