# Groton Daily Independent

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## Community Calendar

**Sunday, Sept. 6**

Cancelled: Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship 9 a.m.

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

Third Grade Basketball practice in the GHS Gym, 4 p.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.

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

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**Monday, Sept. 7**

LABOR DAY

No School

**Tuesday, Sept. 8**

Senior Menu: Lasagna bake, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast bento bag.

School Lunch: Scalloped potatoes with ham, bun.

Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

Cross Country at Britton-Hecla, 4 p.m.

Boys Soccer hosts James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.

JV Football hosts Waubay/Summit, 4 p.m.

Volleyball at Webster: JH at 5 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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We the People

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



**By David Adler**

## 'Catch Me if You Can:' Trump's Lawless Presidency

Donald Trump's conception of executive power, aptly characterized by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as a "Catch-Me-If-You-Can" presidency, previously described in this space as one grounded in the Machiavellian philosophy— "the ends justify the means"—violates every precept of the rule of law. For Trump, statutes, rules, norms and constitutional provisions don't exist. As restraints, they may as well be invisible. He does what he wants and truly believes, as he said, repeatedly, that he enjoys "absolute power under Article II." As he has told advisers and audiences, "I'm the President I can do whatever I want to do."

Trump's approach resembles what some readers will find familiar in the activities of their daily lives: "better to ask for forgiveness than permission." The difference is that Trump seeks neither permission nor forgiveness for trampling the Constitution and the framers stated aim of subordinating the presidency to the rule of law and rendering it amenable to the judicial process. He has demonstrated, repeatedly, a propensity to outrun the law and the reach of the courts. This is not what the framers had in mind when they wrote in Article II that "the president shall faithfully execute the law." It is not what the Oath of Office contemplates. It certainly is not what George Washington had in mind in warning presidents to avoid even the appearance of usurpation of power.

That was then, this is now. The most recent example of Trump's contempt for the law is reflected in his to build a huge ballroom, even though he is doing it in direct violation of the law, which requires congressional authorization. The Trump Administration makes no secret of its policy of "outrunning" the law. Solicitor General John Sauer has written that Trump "has raced to 'outrun" the extraordinary security threats facing this president." Nobody outside Trump's sycophantic circle has suggested that his erection of a ballroom meets national security needs.

The fact is, Trump has exploited the slow-moving pace of the deliberative legal process, fully recognizing that the courts cannot move fast enough to deny his every wish, even if his wishes violate the law. There is nothing in this approach that remotely satisfies the Article II "duty" to "faithfully" execute the laws. Thus, Justice Jackson's apt characterization of the Trump Presidency.

The framers of the Constitution, men of considerable experience and, as body, a good judge of character, and in possession of the prescience to anticipate an ambitious executive who would flaunt the Constitution and the nation's laws, supplied a remedy: impeachment. Benjamin Franklin, the oldest delegate in the Philadelphia Convention, and perhaps its wisest member, observed that without the authority to impeach the president, there would be no recourse, but "to assassination."

Alas, the impeachment power is granted to Congress which, these days, is controlled by a Republican majority, filled with Trump supplicants who would rather abide Trump's assault on the Constitution, the rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances and the Bill of Rights, rather than risk his wrath for daring to criticize him. The framers believed that they had created a constitutional system capable of constraining a "Catch-Me-If-You-Can" presidency, but the constraints require good men and women at the helm, those in possession of integrity and dignity, and ready to implement the legal machinery necessary to defend the republic, rather than facilitating its demise.

We are entitled to wonder at this juncture, whether the Madisonian Constitution has met its match in the authoritarian presidency of Donald Trump. Not since the Civil War, when the preservation of the republic was a real question, have Americans faced this existential threat. At that moment, when the North and South faced off, the country was fortunate to be led by Lincoln. Where is our Lincoln today?

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).




## Babcock at National Legion Convention

Bruce Babcock of the Groton American Legion Post 39 attended as a South Dakota Legion delegate to the 107th National Convention of the American Legion in Louisville KT. He is currently the District 4 Commander of the Department of South Dakota. His wife Karyn, traveled with him.

## Farmers & Ranchers Feed 1,000 Lunch for Only 47 cents During Farmers Union Farmer's Share Lunch at the South Dakota State Fair

by Lura Roti for South Dakota Farmers Union

A line several blocks long formed at the South Dakota State Fair today as fairgoers eagerly awaited entry to the South Dakota Farmers Union tent to enjoy a 47-cent-lunch – the share family farmers and ranchers receive for the meal's ingredients.

"The Farmers Share Lunch is a State Fair tradition and opportunity to let consumers know that the high prices they see in the grocery store are not what South Dakota farmers and ranchers receive," explained event organizer, Karla Hofhenke, Executive Director of South Dakota Farmers Union.

The fact that farmers and ranchers only receive 47 cents for ingredients that made up the filling meal of a pulled pork sandwich, cowboy beans, chips and carton of milk surprised Tom Lowin a retiree from Pierre.

"I had no idea what the share farmers received was," Lowin said.

It is important consumers understand the difference between what the farmer receives and what they pay in the grocery store, said fairgoer Nathan Crary. A supply chain analyst from Aberdeen, Crary shared his thoughts while he and his family waited in the Farmers Share Lunch line.

"It's important that people understand the farmers share because of the disparity between the amount of producers who actually produce the food we eat and the amount of consumers," Crary said. "Supply chains are global now and there are a lot of limitations and increases in costs due to those supply chains – so it's important that we understand not everything is going straight back to the farmer. There's a lot of people who take a share."

The meal is prepared by Polo crop and cattle farmer, Cheryl Schaefers. Schaefers runs a catering company to supplement her family farm income. Feeding 1,000 in less than an hour takes a lot of coordination – family members and two Hand County farmwives help out with meal prep, while Farmers Union teen leaders serve the lunch.

Even though there's a lot going on, Schaefers said she enjoys getting to visit with fairgoers.

"We're making sandwiches right outside the tent where the meal is served and people come back and talk to us while we're making sandwiches," Schaefers said. "The reality of what the farmers share is in that lunch, is an important point to get out to people. We as farmers get so little, and there are a lot of middlemen and people employed because of the crops and livestock we raise – we help create big business as part of South Dakota's number one industry."

This chance to connect with consumers during the Farmers Share Lunch is valuable, added Groton farmer Chad Johnson. Johnson is one of many family farmers and ranchers who belong to the state's largest agriculture organization and make time to visit with fairgoers as they wait in line or enjoy the meal.

"State fair brings people from all over the state to one place, so this meal is a great way to learn what people from other areas of the state are thinking about and concerned about," Johnson said. "And if they have a question about agriculture that I can't answer, I can always introduce them to another farmer who may be from their area."

Johnson is joined by his son, Porter. At 22, Porter is the fifth generation to farm the land. And passing a family farm on to the next generation is no small feat.

"Input costs are so high right now," Johnson said. "No one thought fertilizer and fuel prices would be as high as they are. But how do you plan for a war? Fuel used to be a smaller budget item and now it is expensive. And equipment parts, they are much more expensive because the supply chains have slowed down."

Clark farmer, Gail Temple said like all South Dakotans, high grocery store prices have a negative impact on their household budget. "Farmers have to shop at the grocery store just like everyone else. And even though the price of everything has gone up, my income has not."

A Farmers Union member since she was a child, Temple said attending Farmers Union Day at the State Fair has been a lifelong tradition. "Growing up, the State Fair was our annual vacation. It's where I get to reconnect with old friends," Temple said. "And during the Farmers Share Lunch I enjoy visiting with people

I don't know and learn about what they do and answer any questions they have for me as a farmer."

Temple and Johnson serve on the South Dakota Farmers Union board of directors. So, during Farmers Union Day, they get to hand out merch to fairgoers to celebrate farm and ranch families. "A cross section of the state comes out to the State Fair each year, so I enjoy the opportunity to visit with a whole bunch of people who may not know anything about farming or ranching," Temple said.

Education is a top priority for South Dakota Farmers Union. In addition to the Farmers Share Lunch, the organization is also hosting a Gubernatorial Debate and a Farm Safety Quiz Bowl Championship.

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**BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA**
**GENERAL MEETING**
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, 8:45 A.M.**
**COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS**
**COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

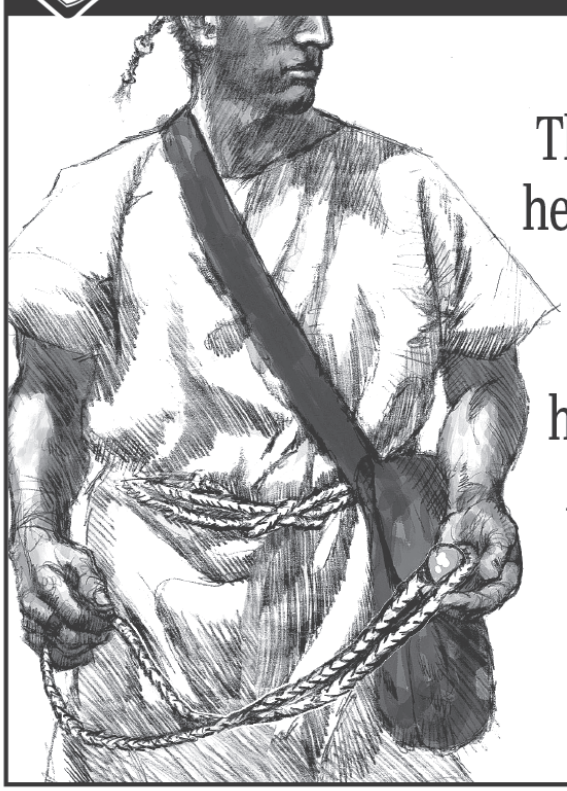
1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
   - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes*
4. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
   a. Bid Openings for Erickson Approach
   b. Bid Openings for Replacement of BR 350
5. David Ochs & Dennis Jones
   a. Discuss Women's Building at the Fairgrounds
6. Declare Women's/Home Arts/Competitive Exhibit Building at the Fairgrounds Surplus
7. Richmond Dam Update
8. 2027 Budget Hearing
9. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign the following:
   a. 2028 Signing & Delineation Project Agreement with S.D. D.O.T.
   b. Drawdown Request #1 SW Management Program Grant for Cell #5
   c. Lease Agreement for Elm Lake Solid Waste Container Site
   d. Agreements with Dakota Counseling Group
   e. Real Estate Purchase Agreement – 105 1st Ave SW, Aberdeen
   f. Post – Closing Occupancy Agreement – 105 1st Ave SW, Aberdeen
   g. Real Estate Lease – 115 1st Ave SW, Aberdeen
10. Consent Calendar
    a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2026
    b. Claims/Payroll
    c. HR Report
    d. Landfill Tonnage Report for August
    e. Auditor's Report of Accounts for July
    f. Lease Agreements
    g. Travel Requests
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
13. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone on the following:**
https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission
You can also dial in using your phone in the United States: +1 (872) 240-3311 - **Access Code: 601-168-909 #**
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: https://meet.goto.com/install

**Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at** Commission Meetings | Brown County

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

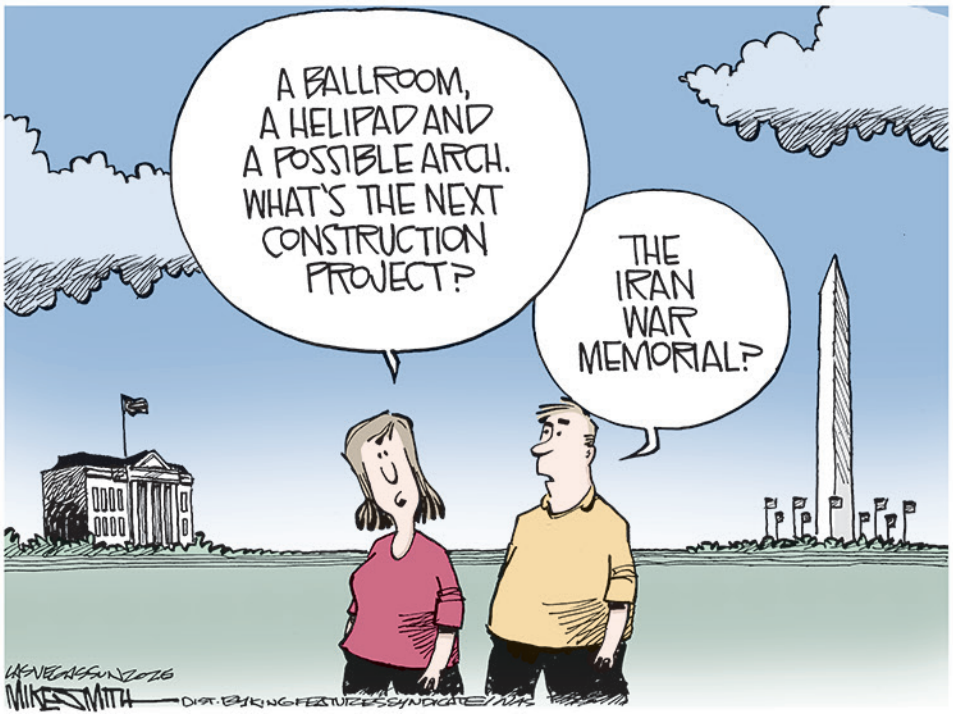


Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

1 SAMUEL 17:40

*Detail of "Slinger from the Balearic Islands" by Johnny Shumate (2005)*

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# BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Ecclesiastes 4, how many are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor? *1, 3, 5, 7*

3. In 1 Kings 5, how many thousand men comprised the labor force that King Solomon raised? *1, 5, 10, 30*

4. Which son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor in David's kingdom? *Baal, Adoniram, Cyrenius, Phaneul*

5. From Exodus 20, how many days shalt thou labor and do all thy work? *2, 4, 6, 7*

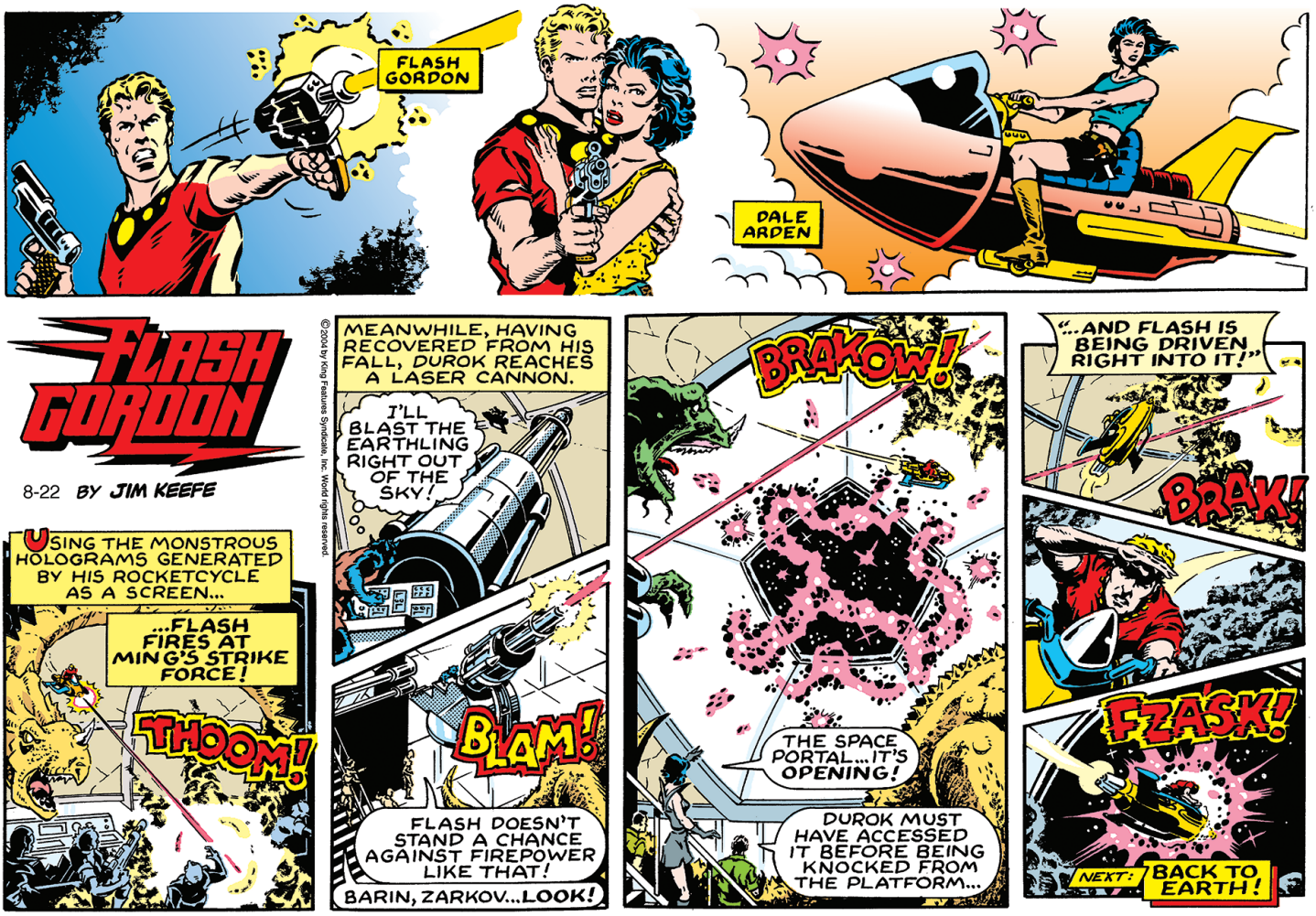
6. Proverbs 14:23 states, "In all labor there is ..." *Love, Hope, Light, Profit*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Two, 3) Thirty, 4) Adoniram, 5) Six, 6) Profit

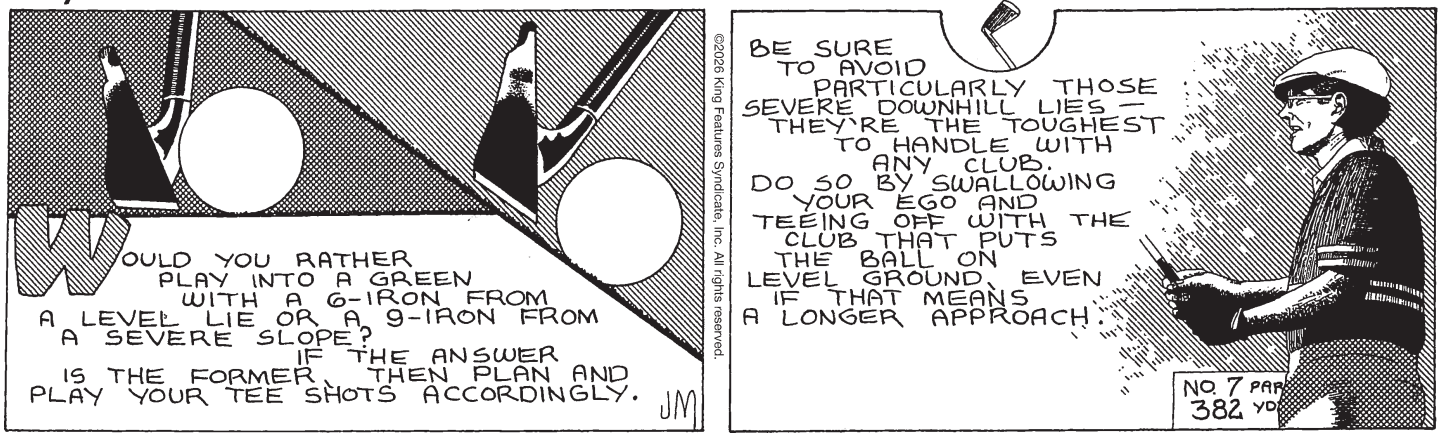
*Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!*

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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## RA Patient Hasn't Found a Medication That Alleviates Joint Pain

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but my rheumatologist hasn't been helpful in finding a medication that I'm not allergic to for alleviating joint pain. (I seem to be allergic to most meds that I've tried.) I'm only 68. I saw the phrase "biological medication" for RA in one of your recent columns. What is this, and do you have any advice? -- B.R.

ANSWER: RA is an autoimmune disease that may affect other organs besides the joints, including the heart and lungs. While initial treatment for RA may include powerful conventional medicines against the immune and inflammatory systems (such as methotrexate or hydroxychloroquine), a "biological" medication is made from live-cell systems. These medicines mostly include monoclonal antibodies that bind to active biological molecules (called "cytokines"), but they also include fusion proteins that block cytokines before they bind to their receptors.

For RA, the major biological medications bind to important cytokines such as tumor necrosis factor (TNF), interleukin-6, and interleukin-1. But they may also act on stimulants to antibody-producing cells ("B cells"), as well as T cells, which are the other major part of the immune system that's responsible for cell-based immunity.

Biologicals have the potential for serious side effects, including infections (especially tuberculosis but also pneumonia, skin infections, hepatitis B and sepsis). For this reason, biologicals are generally used after a person has failed other treatments. Allergic reactions are uncommon with biologicals.

RA requires an expert for treatment. I have great respect for RA, having seen terrible outcomes in people who weren't treated early enough. For this reason, I can't say whether a biological is appropriate for you. Your rheumatologist is monitoring your blood tests and clinical findings to balance the damage from RA against the potential side effects of treatment. It's really the disease activity that determines whether a powerful agent is necessary.

***

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 99-year-old man in good health who suffered a heart attack in 2014, which was caused by an artery blockage. After inserting a stent in my artery, my cardiologist recommended statin drugs. I tried a few, but they were so painful that my insurance company finally authorized me to use a PCSK9 inhibitor.

The inhibitor worked well for a couple of years, but then I started experiencing terrible hip pain upon standing or walking. The good news was that there wasn't any pain when I was sitting or lying down. So, the question for me became: Should I keep using the PCSK9 inhibitor despite the hip pain, or should I stop using the inhibitor and risk another heart attack or maybe even a stroke? -- M.F.

ANSWER: Congratulations on doing so well at age 99! Because PCSK9 inhibitors rarely cause muscle or joint pains, I'd first try to be sure that the medicine really is the cause behind your pain. I hope your doctor did X-rays to look for arthritis or even an MRI, since conditions like a torn labrum should be considered.

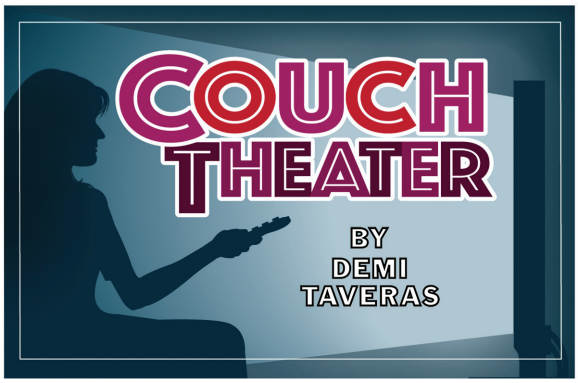
If there isn't another cause, and the pain stops when you pause the medication, then it'd be likely that the medicine is causing it. Since there are three PCSK9 inhibitors (evolocumab, alirocumab and inclisiran), I recommend trying a different one. If they still cause problems, then I recommend trying something else entirely.

At age 99, your quality of life seems to be the most important issue to me. I'd also give you a trial of bempedoic acid, which works similarly to a statin without the muscle aches that some people experience.

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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**Patrick Brammall stars in the six-episode series "Last Seen."** (Courtesy of Apple TV)

"Why Did I Get Married Again?" (PG-13) -- In 2007, Tyler Perry directed a cast featuring Janet Jackson ("For Colored Girls") and Jill Scott ("Outlaw Johnny Black") for a comedy drama titled "Why Did I Get Married?" In 2010, the cast reprised their roles for "Why Did I Get Married Too?" But for this new sequel that premieres Sept. 9, Jackson is notably missing. The show goes on, however, with the addition of Taraji P. Henson ("Straw"). This third film follows the longtime friend group in their overseas trek to Italy for the wedding of Marcus (Michael Jai White) and Angela's (Tasha Smith) daughter, who feels a great pressure to be perfect due to the images that the older couples perpetuate within their marriages. With her father and his friends also disapproving of her betrothed, it's bound to be a messy vacation! (Netflix)

"Scary Movie" (R) -- Die-hard Halloween fans know that the arrival of September signifies the start of everything spooky, and we're already kicking off the first week of September with an OG spooky-season franchise. Also known as "Scary Movie 6," this parody film was written and produced by the Wayans brothers (Marlon, Shawn, Keenen Ivory and Craig), and it's considered to be a "spiritual sequel" to the first two "Scary Movie" films. Marlon and Shawn Wayans star opposite Anna Faris ("I, Object") and Regina Hall ("The Sheep Detectives"), who reprise their respective roles of Cindy Campbell and Brenda Meeks. This sixth film features nods to the "Scream" franchise, "KPop Demon Hunters," and "John Wick." It's out now to stream after earning $231.4 million in box office grosses, making it the second-highest-grossing film in the franchise so far. (Paramount+)

"Last Seen" (TV-MA) -- This new suspenseful Australian series is led by Patrick Brammall, who you might've recently seen as Anne Hathaway's love interest in "The Devil Wears Prada 2." Based on the novel "The Dispatcher" by Ryan David Jahn, the six-episode series follows a police dispatcher named Ian, whose daughter went missing 11 years prior at only 3 years old. When he receives a distressing call from a confused and lost teenage girl, she mentions that her name could possibly be Maggie, which was his daughter's name. Ian becomes convinced that this teenager is his daughter, but with a serious lack of evidence and pretty much nothing to go on, he's urged to let it go by those closest to him. Still, Ian begins to abandon all logic to figure out her whereabouts. The first two episodes premiere on Sept. 9, with subsequent episodes releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV)

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1. Which group released "Rhythm of the Rain"?
2. Name the group that had a hit with "Jive Talkin'."
3. Who was the first to record "Three Coins in the Fountain"?
4. Which group released "Love Me Do"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I know there's something in the wake of your smile, I get a notion from the look in your eyes."

Answers

1. The Cascades, in 1962. In 1979 it was used on the soundtrack for "Quadrophenia," based on the 1973 rock opera by the Who.

2. The Bee Gees, in 1975. Demo records were sent to radio stations in plain white covers, with no clue what the song was until the DJ actually played it. It was originally titled "Drive Talking."

3. Frank Sinatra, in 1954. The song was written for the film of the same name, without the songwriters ever seeing the film or even the script.

4. The Beatles, in 1962.

5. "Listen to Your Heart," by Swedish duo Roxette, released in 1988 on the album "Look Sharp!" It reached No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 in 1989 and also topped the Cash Box Top 100, Gavin Report Top 40 and Radio & Records Contemporary Hit Radio charts.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps




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"It doesn't get any better than this ... unfortunately."

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# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF




Find at least six differences in details between panels.




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Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Paper on desk is missing. 3. Desk is not as wide. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Tie is different. 6. Blinds are higher.

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* Line junk drawers in the kitchen or bathroom with inexpensive sheets of cork board. Things don't slide around as much, and you can even use pushpins or finishing nails lightly inserted into the cork to make custom compartments in the drawers so things like pens don't roll around.

* "If your eyeglass screws tend to come loose, just unscrew, brush clear nail polish over the threads and rescrew tightly. As the polish dries (in seconds), it will form a tighter bond." -- I.D. in Oregon

* Shaving cream can be used as a spot cleaner for most carpets. Simply dab a bit of the cream into the stained area, scrape off any excess and wipe away dirt with a clean, damp washcloth.

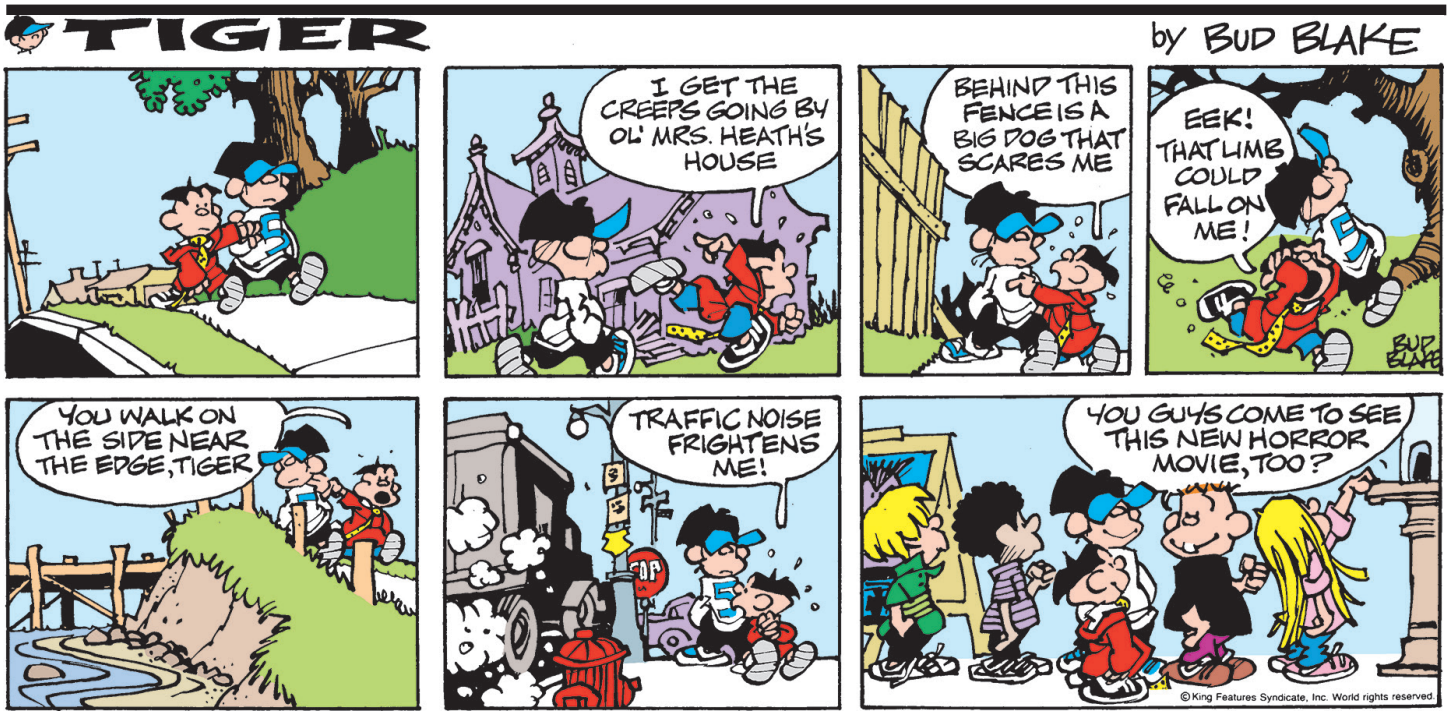
* Ways to remove gum from your child's hair: laundry pretreatment rubbed in with the fingers; ice cubes to harden the gum so that it can be picked out in chunks; and good, old-fashioned peanut butter and a comb.

* This one is an oldie, but a preschool goodie, from L.R. in Washington: "Use wide rubber bands around a drinking glass for children. It will provide a little non-slip protection, especially if the glass is filled with a cold drink. The rubber band is reusable, and you can write the child's name on the band with a ball point pen in order to identify his or her cup!"

* How do you keep cats away from your plants in the garden? One reader suggests strips of tin foil. Another mothballs (which can be toxic, so use carefully and follow all safety instructions).

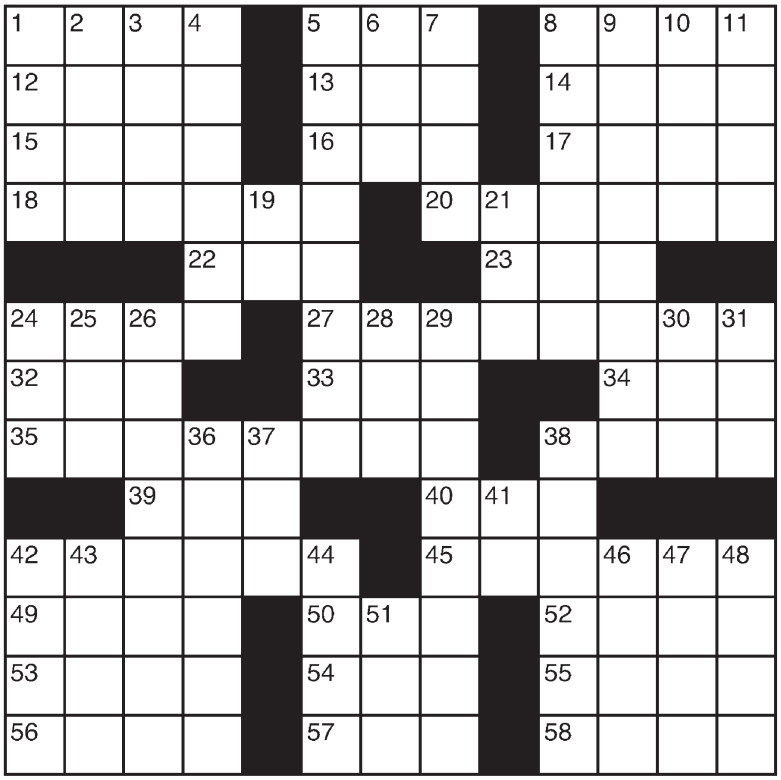
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembrook Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

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# King Crossword



**ACROSS**

1 Grass clump
5 Pampering, for short
8 Bay Area force, briefly
12 Beige
13 Taunting laugh
14 — Minor
15 Airline to Tel Aviv
16 Greek vowel
17 Endure
18 Lustrous fabrics
20 Ascribe
22 Soda
23 Abysmal
24 Fairy tale figures
27 Surname of Judas
32 Terre Haute sch.
33 From — Z
34 Ruckus
35 Element No. 78
38 Recognized
39 Train lines (Abbr.)
40 CBS logo
42 More like Unger
45 Signed over
49 China setting
50 Here (Fr.)
52 Mani counterpart
53 Not naked
54 Darjeeling, e.g.
55 "— to differ!"
56 Earth tones
57 Buddhist sect
58 Metal boxes

**DOWN**

1 Golf props
2 Golden State sch.
3 Dorm alternative
4 Dutch exports
5 Actor
6 Long. crosser
7 Spiced drink
8 Inferior
9 Follower of Sigmund's methods
10 Jr.-year exam
11 Challenge
19 Rejection
21 CEO's degree, maybe
24 Trendy
25 Visual communication syst.
26 Protector
28 "Rugrats" dad
29 Late-night host, usually
30 Poetic tribute
31 AAA job
36 Three-note chords
37 British verb ending
38 "Consider this a gift"
41 Old pronoun
42 Diplomacy
43 "La — Bonita"
44 Cracker name
46 Mazar of "Younger"
47 Idyllic place
48 Uses a shovel
51 Bee follower

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## — King Crossword —

*Answers*

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

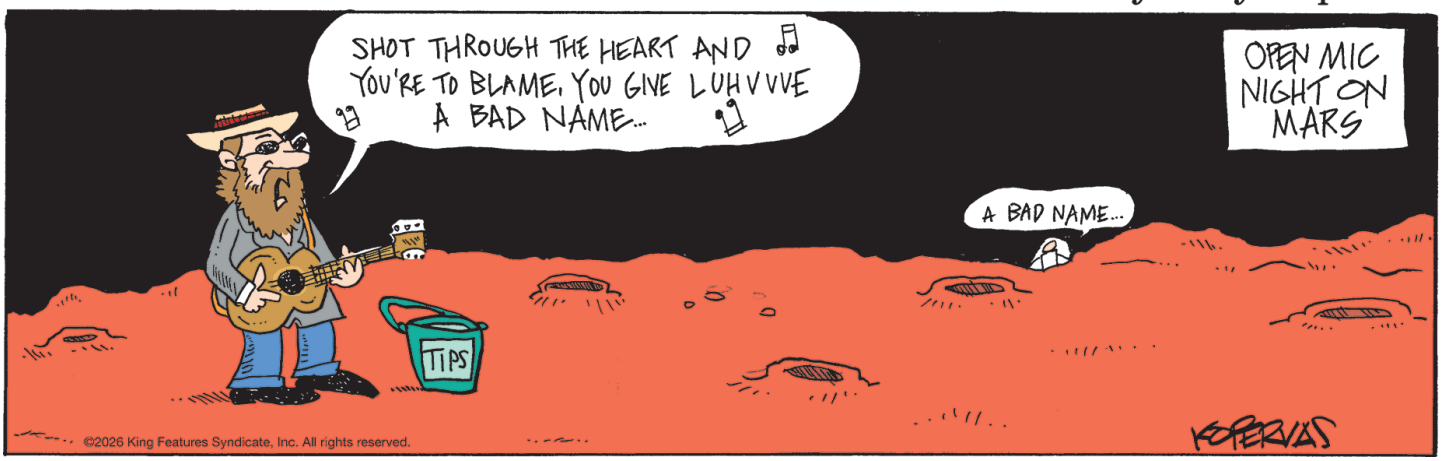
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## Olive

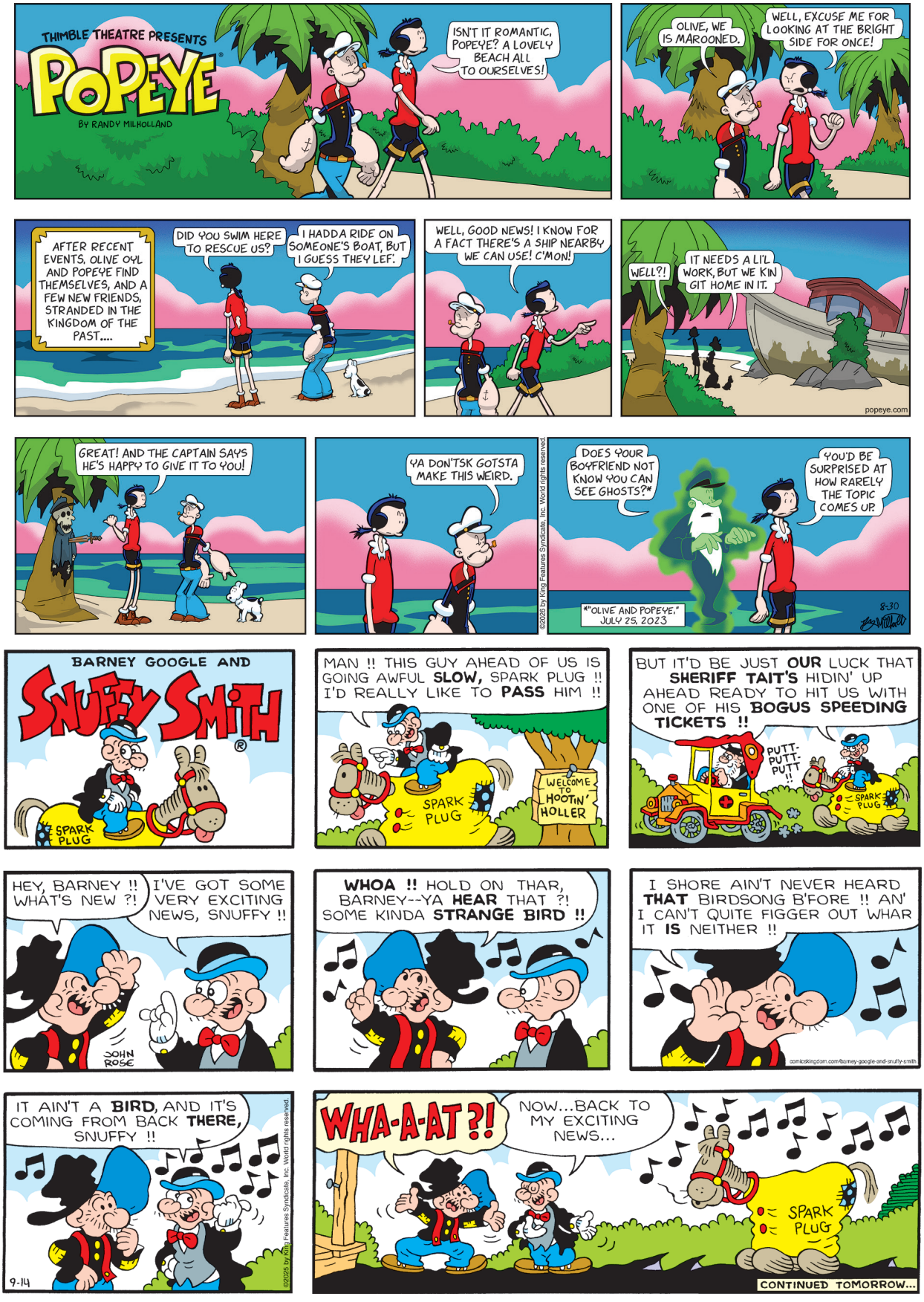



## Out on a Limb

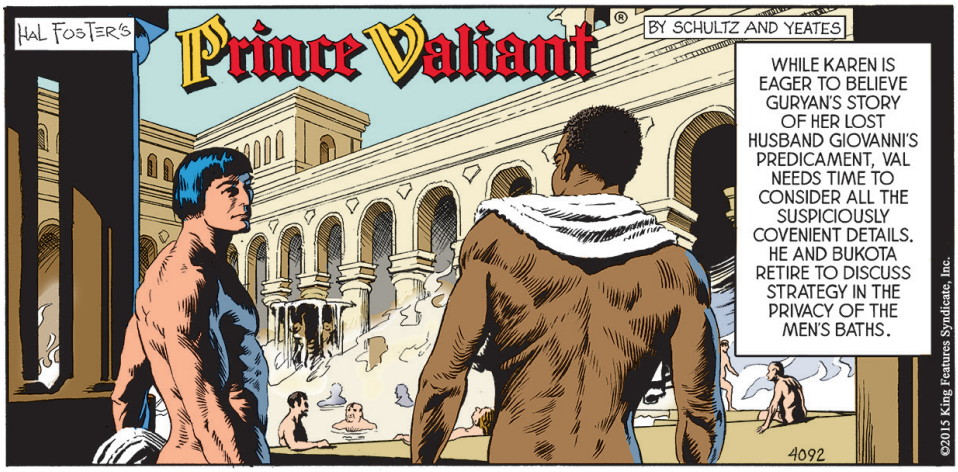
by Gary Kopervas

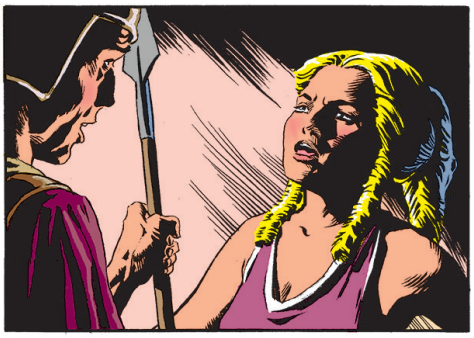


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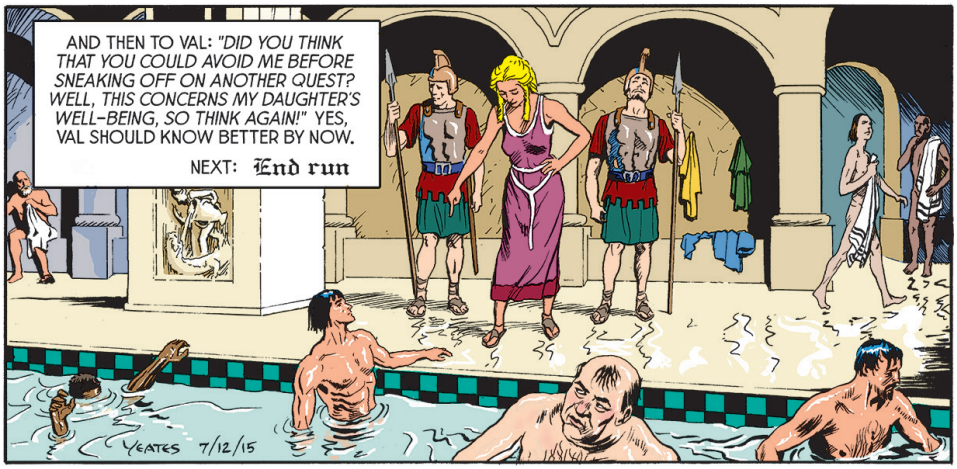


ALTHOUGH VAL AND KAREN HAD SWORN TO SECRECY ALL WHO HEARD GURYAN SPEAK, ALETA HAS A NOSE FOR INTRIGUE AND SOON DIVINES THAT HER OWN FAMILY IS EXCLUDING HER FROM SOME AFFAIR. GURYAN'S GUARD IS EASILY BROKEN...

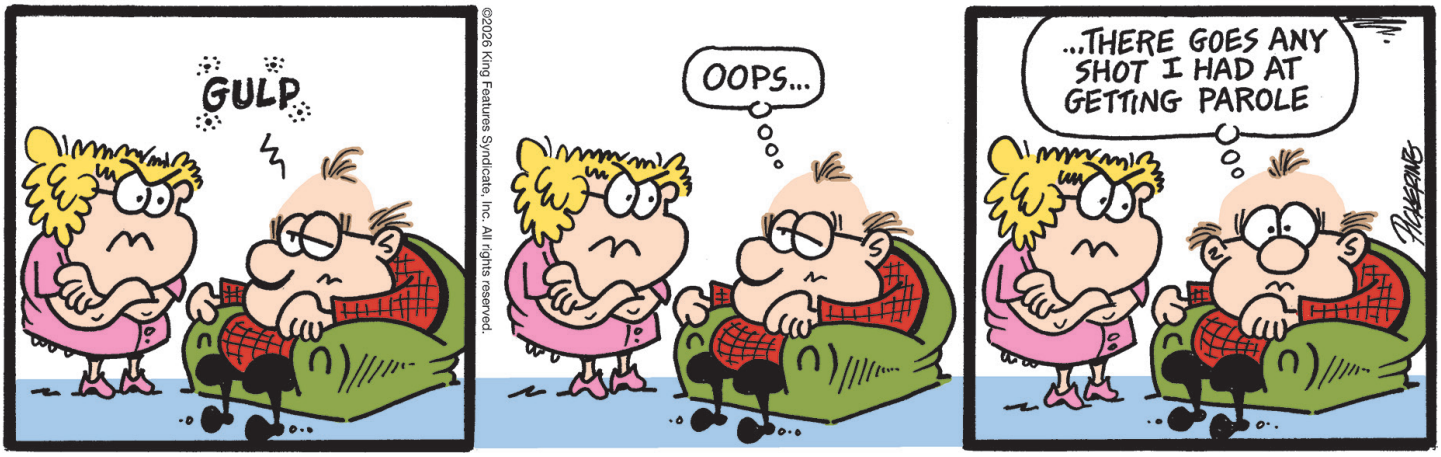


... AND THEN, SO IS THE PRIVACY OF THE MEN'S BATHHOUSE. THE QUEEN GOES WHERE SHE WILLS, AND ANSWERS FROM VAL ARE WHAT SHE WILLS. TO THE BATHERS: *"DON'T BE SUCH BABIES! I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF NURSERIES!"*




The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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# SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

## Loneliness

I don't think I've ever actually heard someone say the words "I'm lonely." But I heard it today, and it hit me hard. The words were spoken by a very elderly woman to her daughter.

The scene was the long checkout line at the store. The pair, the woman and her daughter, were ahead of me in line, and the mother was chatting with two people who were ahead of them. When the first couple checked out and left, the daughter quietly chastised her mother, saying, "You don't need to talk to people you don't even know," to which the mother replied, "I'm lonely."

The daughter could have had any number of replies. She could have said she'd be staying with her mother for the rest of the day. She could have mentioned an event at the senior center. She could have invited her mother to dinner. But what she said was, "Let's just get you home."

I could easily picture how it would go: The daughter would take her mother home, unpack the groceries and leave. This exchange was the saddest thing I've witnessed in a long time.

There are any number of ways to combat loneliness, but all of them require making an effort to change the situation. That elderly woman instinctively knew one of the steps to fight loneliness and she bravely acted on it: Talk to people around you, even if it's just briefly in a grocery checkout line.

I would hope she also knows, despite the daughter's restrictive attitude, that having a routine of calling or meeting with others is a good way to stay connected, as well as volunteering or taking a class.

A lesson for everyone: If an elderly person starts chatting with you in a grocery line, engage and talk to them. You might be the only person they talk to all week.

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GDI
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$20 a month

1. Linda Noskova defeated Karolina Muchova to win the 2026 Wimbledon ladies' singles title. Both players represented which country?

2. How many different Major League Baseball teams did outfielder Frank Huelsman play for in the 1905 season?

3. In May 2015, it was announced that an international bridge linking Detroit with Windsor, Ontario, would be named after which Hockey Hall of Famer?

4. From 1960-1964, Jeppesen Stadium was the original home for which American Football League team?

5. Name the Dutch speed skater who won three gold medals at the 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympics.

6. Which team won 11 NCAA national championships in women's field hockey from 1989 to 2023?

7. How many goals did Spain's men's national soccer team concede during its 2026 FIFA World Cup championship run?




Answers

1. The Czech Republic.

2. Four.

3. Gordie Howe.

4. The Houston Oilers.

5. Ard Schenk.

6. The North Carolina Tar Heels.

7. One, to Belgium in the quarterfinals.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Do dog parks breed bad behavior?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My community has a problem with dogs running off their leash in areas. They often leave "deposits" behind that their owners don't clean up. At a town hall session, a group of us proposed creating a dog park where off-leash activity could be allowed. Several people disagreed, including one woman who said that dog parks cause bad behavior. What alternative is there? -- Cliff T., via email

DEAR CLIFF: A decade ago, establishing a dog park was a popular option in cities and suburbs where dogs have little uncontrolled space to roam off-leash. But a number of factors immediately appeared. In addition to aggressive behavior that can cause lasting trauma to other dogs, there are health risks from dogs who aren't up to date on vaccinations, as well as from dog poop that isn't cleaned up.

These issues can be mitigated through good park design and cooperation from every dog owner who intends to use the park. Important questions to ask include:

-- How much space will the park actually have?

-- What is the recommended capacity?

-- Will there be shade, fresh water and waste pickup bags available?

-- Who will maintain and clean the park?

-- What rules will be established for use of the park? How will they be enforced?

An alternative to dog parks is forming a playgroup with other owners, so dogs can socialize with other dogs they're familiar with. But that doesn't solve the problem of finding a play space.

Keep a dialogue open with the town council and the community. Find examples of well-managed dog parks and discuss whether their solutions will work locally.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

* Some Los Angeles businesses famous for their amusing names include the Spearmint Rhino strip club, the Oops! Sushi restaurant, the Trashy Lingerie store, and an emporium called Wacko/Soap Plant.

* The most accurate way to determine a bear's age is to count the rings in a cross section of its tooth root under a microscope.

* Uranus' 98 degree axial tilt causes it to spin completely on its side while orbiting the sun.

* Google did an experiment with M&Ms at their headquarters. When they put the candy in containers instead of out in the open, people ate 3 million fewer pieces within one month's time.

* Prior to the invention of baking soda, cooks used fresh snow to make their pancakes fluffy, as it contains small amounts of ammonia that react with batter to rise.

* Approximately 50 million people worldwide suffer from stuttering.

* In 1907, when Australian swimmer Annette Kellerman wore a one-piece suit in Boston that revealed her arms and legs, she was arrested for indecent exposure.

* One of the most deadly airplane accidents actually happened on the ground in 1977, when two fully loaded planes collided head-on in the middle of the runway on Tenerife Island, killing more than 500 people.

* Four out of 10 workplace dating relationships result in marriage.

* The largest bacterium in the world is about the size of an eyelash and can be picked up with a pair of tweezers.

* Richard Nixon won thousands of dollars in poker while stationed in Green Island during World War II, which he later used to fund his first run for political office.

***

Thought for the Day: "Sports for me is when a guy walks off the court, and you really can't tell whether he won or lost, when he carries himself with pride either way." -- Jim Courier

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## The Garden Bug

### Not so heavenly!

*Ailanthus altissima*, known as Chinese sumac or Tree-of-Heaven, is native to China. In the late 1700s, it was brought to the U.S. as an attractive, fast-growing ornamental tree. Since then it has spread throughout North America and displaced many native species. Dense thickets of it entrench fields and forests, destroy habitats and crowd agricultural fields and roadsides. It regrows vigorously even when thought to be removed, and it is tolerant of poor soil and drought.

*– Brenda Weaver*



**Sources:**
**www.invasive.org**
**www.nature.org**
**www.lewisginter.org**

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

## Requesting records is easier now

Requesting your records from the VA used to be a nightmare requiring you to wade through text and instructions that were difficult to understand. FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests required you to understand the layout of government agencies and know in advance who specifically had the information you sought before you even started your request. Too often your request for one type of information could end up in a pile in the wrong office, which meant delays.

Now the whole process has been redesigned and requests that go astray have been reduced by 90%, which helps everyone from office staff who handle all the requests to the veterans who are waiting on their information. Everybody, in various departments across the VA, participated in creating the new request page to be sure it works well for all.

If you need to make a records or FOIA request, go to department.va.gov/foia. Scroll down the page and read the sample info for each VA department. Each has a long list of types of information you can get from that department. For example, if you want to know about home loans, click on the submit button for Veterans Benefits Administration. If you need to replace medals or a DD214, click on the submit button for Military Service Records and Next of Kin Requests.

There is a note on the page: "Submitting a FOIA request to obtain personal records could delay overall processing." Instead, locate the appropriate department on the page and use the link provided.

Additionally, at the bottom of the page is a drop-down menu of sample questions you might be asking, like "How do I appeal my FOIA response if I disagree with the results?" or "How do I get an employment verification from the VA?"

If you need it, there's a button called "Learn About Whistleblower Protection." The link goes to department.va.gov/accountability. Or call the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection at 855-429-6669.

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# Wishing Well®

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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. LITERATURE: Which author published his only novel in 1890, "The Picture of Dorian Gray"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What well-known scenic destination includes Horseshoe Falls and Goat Island?
3. MOVIES: Which animated movie features 10,297 balloons?
4. TELEVISION: What is Eleven's favorite food in "Stranger Things"?
5. LANGUAGE: What is a stannary?
6. ANATOMY: What is a pyrogen?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the fastest flying insect?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is carpaccio?
9. SCIENCE: What is the warmest ocean in the world?
10. CHEMISTRY: What is a common name for sodium bicarbonate?

**Trivia answers**

1. Oscar Wilde.
2. Niagara Falls, New York.
3. "Up."
4. Eggo waffles.
5. Tin mining district.
6. A fever-inducing agent.
7. Horsefly.
8. Seasoned slices of raw beef or fish.
9. Indian Ocean.
10. Baking soda.

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South Dakota Governor

Larry Rhoden



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

## Fairing Well

Summer is winding down. Folks are trying to capture the last days of warmth and long sunlight. Meanwhile, farmers are getting ready for their harvest, and ranchers are ready to show off the calves they've been raising this year. And it all culminates with our South Dakota State Fair!

The South Dakota State Fair always feels like home because of its focus on our state's number one industry: agriculture. Ag means everything to me and my family. My family has ranched for four generations, making our living off the land.

Similarly, the State Fair takes time to honor family farms that have stayed in the same family for generations. Every year, I make sure to attend the Century Farms program, where we honor family farms that have remained in the same family for 100 years or more. Approximately 95% of South Dakota's ag land is privately owned by family farms and ranches. That's huge! Those farms are key to passing down our South Dakota work ethic and values to our kids and grandkids. And they are a huge part of keeping South Dakota agriculture strong, safe, and free.

Through my adult life, I've focused on cattle ranching. But when I was growing up, we had a much more diverse farm operation. We grew crops. We raised cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, and more. It gave us kids plenty of chores to do, and that's where we learned the value of hard work!

At the State Fair, everywhere you look, you see young South Dakotans learning that same value. 4-H competitions and other youth competitions are teaching young South Dakotans the value of working with their hands and seeing a project through to fruition.

I joined many of those kids as we signed a ceremonial copy of the Declaration of Independence. It was the perfect way to celebrate America's 250th birthday! And it was a treat seeing excitement and wonder in the eyes of so many students!

But none of this – not our nation, not our strength, not our celebrations – would be possible without the sacrifice of the veterans who came before us. And our State Fair recognizes that truth, as well. The Salute to Veterans event takes time out of our day to recognize veterans across our state. It was humbling shaking the hands of so many brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform. Hearing their stories of sacrifice was a sobering reminder that freedom is never free.

It was my great honor to serve our nation in the South Dakota National Guard, and it's perhaps an even greater honor to serve as Commander in Chief of the National Guard today. My family has a long, storied history of military service to our nation, so it's humbling anytime we pause and honor the men and women who served.

Agriculture, family farms, youth involvement, rodeo, and military service are just a few of the incredible aspects of our great State Fair. I didn't even get into all the fried food or South Dakota ag products available to eat – my favorite is bacon-wrapped pork loin on a stick!

I hope you took the time to get out to the State Fair this year. And if you didn't, we'll see you next year. It's the place to be!

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries
PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483
1-352-216-3025

## A Fruitcake Isn't Always Sweet

When it comes to sweet items, I am a connoisseur with a delicate palate. All I need is something sweet set before me, and I can tell you how wonderful it is after the first bite. I may be a little addicted to sweet things.

After celebrating 55 years of marital bliss, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage makes some of the sweetest desserts I have ever tasted. Whether it's a pie, a cookie, or a cake, they are all the sweetest I have ever tasted.

Over the past few years, she has limited my intake of sweets for my health's sake, and I acknowledge her dedication.

After these years of marriage, I have noticed that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage comes up with names that confuse me. I try not to let it bother me, and I don't ask her to explain herself because I know what that would lead to. I take note of the words she uses, especially when she describes other people.

I'm not very good with these kinds of words; once in a while I will say to her, "You're as sweet as an Apple Fritter." Of course, she is not very appreciative of that name, which is why I use it as often as I possibly can. I don't know anything sweeter than an Apple Fritter.

Just recently, I heard her use a new name I'd never heard before. We were watching TV together, and I believe it was Judge Judy. If you ever watched that show, you know there are a lot of crazy people who come before that judge.

We were watching this program, and there was one guy who was really loopy in many regards. When Judge Judy announced her verdict, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "That guy was a real fruitcake."

I had never heard that word in that context. Yes, I've heard it referring to food, but never about a person.

Staring at her for a few moments, I said, "What do you mean he's a fruitcake?"

"Didn't you hear that guy? He was the most eccentric idiot I've ever seen. To me he is the face of a fruitcake."

That sorta hit me by surprise. I've never heard that definition before, or that word used to describe somebody. But if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage used it, it must be so.

That put me on guard because I was watching to see whether she would call me a fruitcake. If so, I knew it would not be in a very positive or nice way. Of course, I may be a fruitcake in that sense of the word, but I hope she doesn't use it to define me.

Thinking about that for several days, it came to my mind that the world is filled with fruitcakes. Everywhere I looked recently, I've been seeing fruitcakes all around me.

This is the election year in our country, so there are a lot of politicians on TV, and I hate to admit it, but many of them are fruitcakes in this sense of the word. It has nothing to do with their political affiliation and everything to do with being crazy.

I can think of a lot of relatives that would qualify for this definition. Thinking about it, I come from a family of fruitcakes. If that is so, it would explain a lot of things that happen in our family. I'm waiting for my children and grandchildren to realize that they have "Fruitcake" in their DNA.

I will not press the subject, but maybe The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me as a fruitcake. I look at her as an Apple Fritter, which is a whole lot different than a fruitcake.

There are a lot of people in this world that are eccentric in every sense of that word. Examining them, you can see that they are slightly strange in a lot of things that they do and say. I never thought of it this way before, but being a little strange is not that bad.

I may be a little strange to certain people, if that's what eccentric means, but I'm OK with it. I hope I never find out who those people are who think I'm a fruitcake. Most importantly, I hope I never hear The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage call me a fruitcake. I'm sure it's true, or she would not say it.

We were driving across town to do some shopping together, and as we were going, I happened to mention it. "Do you sometimes think that I'm a fruitcake?"

Without missing a beat, she said, "Look at the license plate on that car over there. They're from California. I wonder what they're doing here."

I knew exactly what she was doing, and it really got me out of trouble I might have gotten into. Sometimes it is best not to ask questions, particularly if I'm around The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

A verse from the Bible came to mind as I thought about this.

Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

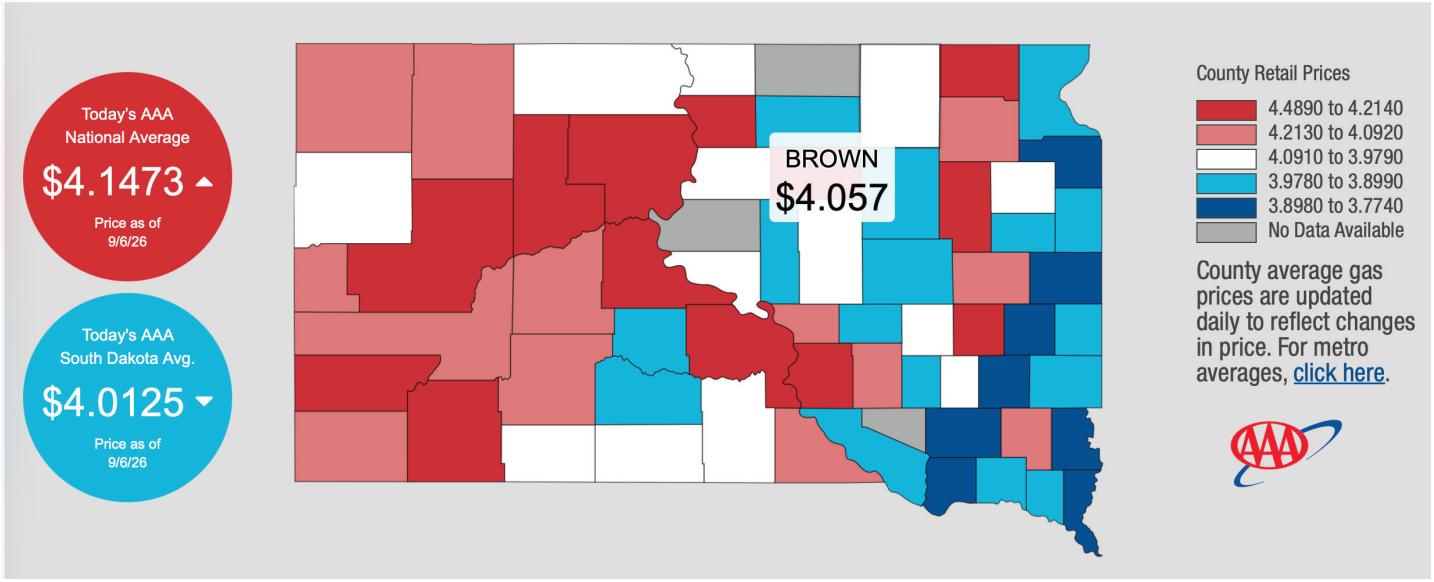
The troubling aspect of the verse is treating others as God has treated me. Reflecting on this I thought if God can do this to me, then I could do this to everyone around me.

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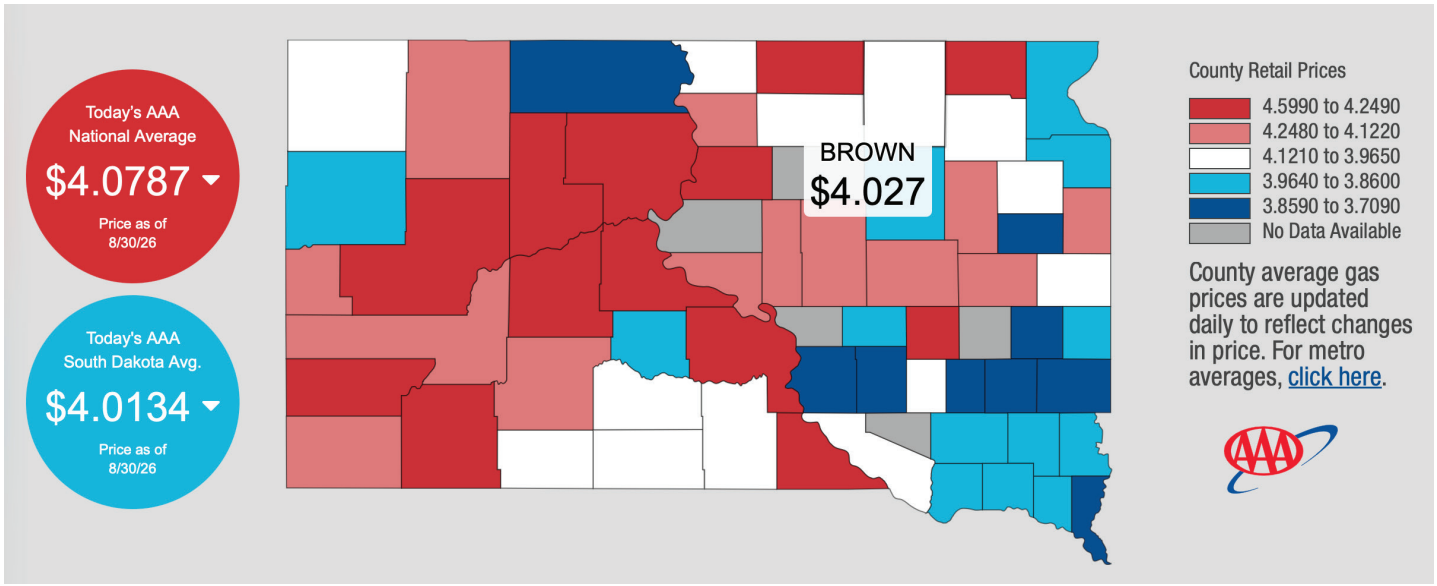
# South Dakota Average Gas Prices

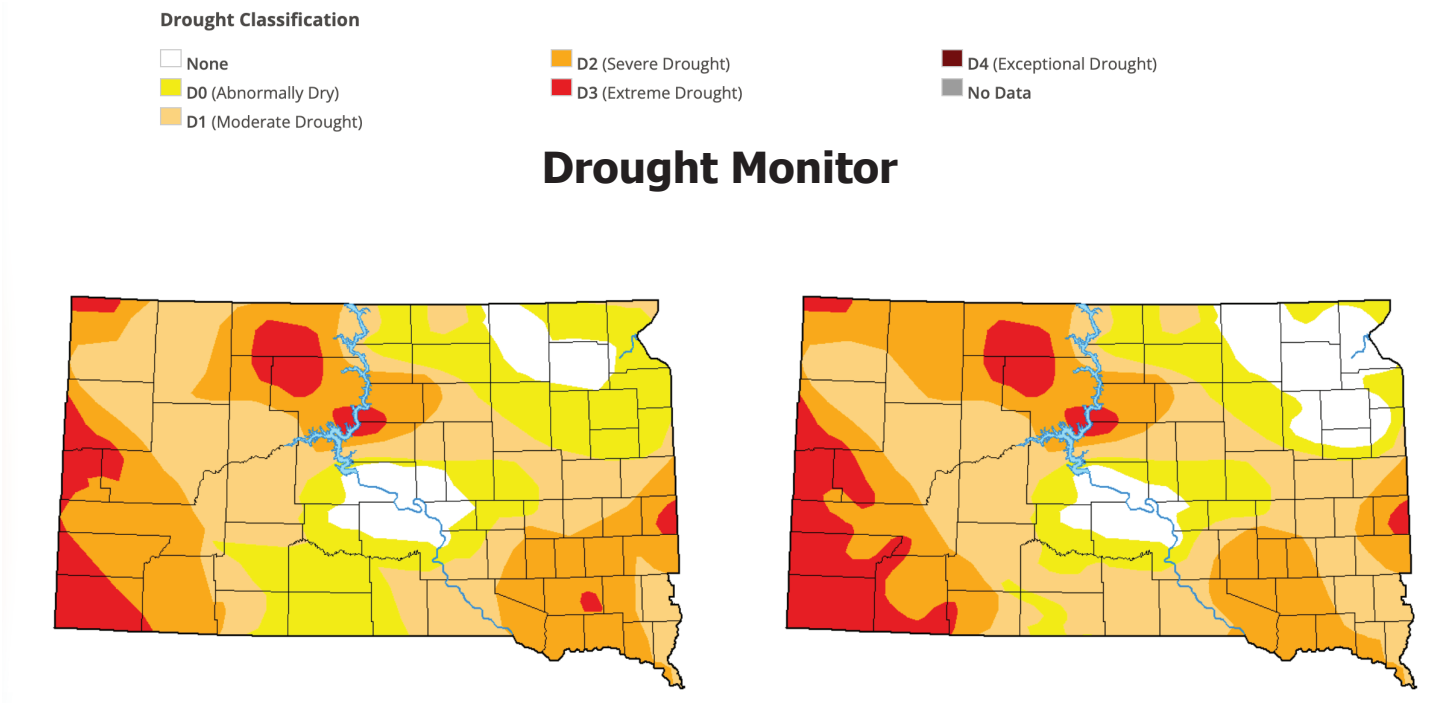
| | Regular | Mid-Grade | Premium | Diesel |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Current Avg. | $4.0125 | $4.2303 | $4.7303 | $5.5415 |
| Yesterday Avg. | $4.0163 | $4.2271 | $4.7134 | $5.5109 |
| Week Ago Avg. | $4.0134 | $4.2286 | $4.7243 | $5.2717 |
| Month Ago Avg. | $3.9881 | $4.1837 | $4.6897 | $4.9372 |
| Year Ago Avg. | $3.0326 | $3.1942 | $3.6636 | $3.4341 |

## This Week




## Last Week






**Sept. 1** **August 25**

A swath of 0.5-2 inches of rain fell from parts of western Nebraska and western Kansas into portions of Colorado and Wyoming. Scattered similar rain amounts also fell in portions of east-central and northern South Dakota, as well as in parts of central and western North Dakota. The impacts of recent rainfall in southern South Dakota and the Nebraska Sandhills were re-evaluated this week, and widespread improvements were made as soil moisture and streamflow locally improved, while short-term rainfall deficits were alleviated. Long-term precipitation deficits and their impacts continued across much of this region, and abnormal dryness and long-term moderate drought remained. Scattered improvements to drought also occurred from southern and eastern Wyoming into the western Dakotas and much of eastern Colorado. Short-term precipitation deficits improved in these areas, with some improvement in soil moisture and streamflow, leading to improvements in drought conditions. Streamflow still remains low across portions of the western High Plains region given the poor high elevation snows and warm temperatures during the water year. Temperatures across the region were hotter than normal, especially in Kansas, where temperatures ranged mostly from 6-10 degrees above normal, resulting in high atmospheric demand for moisture in southeast Kansas.

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# EARTHTALK



**Blue Frontier and other emerging companies are redesigning air conditioning systems to use less energy and operate greener and cleaner.**

Dear EarthTalk: Have there been any innovations in air conditioning technology in recent years to help mitigate climate impacts of staying cool? -- Jason Wilcox, via email

As global temperatures have risen and extreme heatwaves have become more frequent, the demand for air conditioning has surged dramatically. Staying cool is a critical health necessity, but it is a major resource challenge. Conventional cooling systems consume massive amounts of electricity, strain power grids, and release powerful heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, creating a complex environmental dilemma.

Traditional cooling units have effectively trapped society in a compounding environmental problem. As outdoor temperatures climb, people turn up their air conditioning, which spikes energy demand and increases fossil fuel emissions, ultimately driving further global warming. As Nicole Miranda, an engineer researching sustainable cooling at the University of Oxford, notes regarding this feedback loop, "We're in a vicious cycle," and "it's not only a vicious cycle, but it's an accelerating one."

To break this loop, climate innovators are developing next-generation technologies that rely on completely different principles. Emerging companies like Blue Frontier are redesigning systems using liquid desiccant dehumidification paired with integrated smart energy storage. These advanced systems store cooling capacity and dramatically reduce grid stress during peak heat periods. Dr. Daniel Betts, CEO of Blue Frontier, states, "We're looking at 50 to 90 percent reductions in energy consumption."

Academic and research institutions are pioneering low-carbon-footprint solutions that sidestep traditional vapor compression constraints entirely. Developers at Harvard's Wyss Institute have advanced innovative evaporative cooling configurations, known as cSNAP systems, designed to cool air without adding indoor humidity. Their technology employs a "specialized coating [that] isolates incoming hot air from outgoing wet air, allowing the hot air to be cooled by circulating water without adding humidity to the inside of the building." By using nanoscale surface treatments on materials like 3D-printed ceramic, these low-power heat exchangers deliver efficient thermal comfort while significantly reducing environmental footprints.

Researchers are also looking at physics-based solutions whereby specialized surfaces reflect solar radiation and emit thermal energy straight out into cold outer space. Urban planners are integrating AI-driven automated systems to lower microclimate temperatures and shield interiors from solar gain. By combining passive design with ultra-efficient mechanical cooling, cities can successfully mitigate the climate impacts of staying cool.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT
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# South Dakota governor, challenger both slam Trump on beef imports but clash on other debate topics

## Rhoden and Ahlers participate in their first debate of the general election campaign

**BY JOSHUA HAIAR**

HURON — Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden and Democratic challenger Dan Ahlers both criticized President Donald Trump on Saturday during a debate at the South Dakota State Fair, with Rhoden saying he agrees with Trump on other issues but could not support the president's decision to import more foreign beef.

"I thought he was wrongheaded in his logic, and the things that came out of that administration trying to defend it, I think, were weak," Rhoden said.

Trump endorsed Rhoden last month. Rhoden said he plans to press U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins to create an advisory committee so Trump has better information "before he makes decisions like that and then gets in front of a microphone."

"He's kind of an impulsive guy," Rhoden said.

Trump announced last month that he would pause tariffs on imported beef, which he said would bring prices down for consumers and allow U.S. ranchers to build up their herds from historically low levels. The backlash from U.S. cattle ranchers was swift.

Ahlers said the announcement was not the first time the Trump administration suggested importing more foreign beef, and Ahlers said the state has to be "a stronger advocate for our farmers and ranchers." He said that means working with South Dakota's congressional delegation to apply more pressure on Trump.

The two candidates disagreed on several other issues during the debate, which was their first since each of them won their respective party's nomination. The debate was hosted on the fair's Freedom Stage by the South Dakota Farmers Union.

### Economic development spending

Ahlers said the governor's economic development office has favored recruiting out-of-state companies over funding homegrown ventures. He said a Wakonda hemp producer built a hemp-based concrete plant in another state after failing to secure incentives to build it in South Dakota.

"Those are companies that are in our hometowns, that make our hometowns better, that pay better, and have people that invest right back here in South Dakota," Ahlers said.

Rhoden said roughly 85% of the office's economic development dollars stay in South Dakota. He said the department supported the three largest economic development projects in state history during the past several years: the Smithfield pork plant being relocated from downtown to northern Sioux Falls, CJ Schwan's breaking ground in that city on a food production plant, and a new soybean crushing plant in Mitchell.

"We do a lot to promote ag," Rhoden said.

### On Medicaid expansion

A state constitutional amendment placed on the Nov. 3 ballot by the Legislature would repeal the requirement to offer expanded Medicaid eligibility if federal funding for it drops below 90%.

Medicaid is a federal-state health insurance program for people with low incomes. In 2022, South Dakota voters expanded Medicaid eligibility from traditional coverage groups such as children, disabled people and the elderly to adults with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level. About 31,000 South Dakotans

are enrolled through the expansion, out of a total of about 143,000 South Dakotans enrolled in Medicaid, according to data from the state Department of Social Services.

Ahlers said that after voters approved Medicaid expansion, Republican lawmakers are trying to undo the people's will. He warned that rolling back Medicaid eligibility would threaten the financial viability of rural hospitals, maternity units and emergency rooms. He noted a majority of Medicaid recipients are children.

"We know that when we have healthcare, and everyone has access to it, we all do better," Ahlers said.

Rhoden said the ballot measure would only remove the requirement to continue with expanded eligibility if federal funding drops below 90%. He opposed expansion, he said, over concerns about the federal government one day pulling funding.

"When we have $40 trillion in debt in our nation, you can bet the feds are going to be kicking that down to the states," Rhoden said.

## Separating ag and environment departments

Former Gov. Kristi Noem merged the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by executive order, creating the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Ahlers said he would restore a standalone Department of Agriculture with its own secretary.

"These two departments have different missions, although they do work together on projects," Ahlers said. "It is important that each has their own voice and a seat at the table."

Rhoden defended the merger, saying criticisms that it supported agriculture at the expense of environmental protection were unfair.

"Nobody on the planet has a more vested interest in protecting our environment and our natural resources, and the sustainability of our ag land, than the people that are producing on that ag land," Rhoden said.

Rhoden, of rural Union Center, has been governor since early 2025, when he was elevated from lieutenant governor after then-Gov. Noem resigned to take a job in the Trump administration. Ahlers is a businessman and former legislator from Dell Rapids.

The two candidates will face each other in the general election Nov. 3. Advance voting begins Sept. 18, and the voter registration deadline is Oct. 19.

*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.*

**BY ARIANA FIGUEROA**

WASHINGTON — For years, Jose Palma has advocated for immigrants with Temporary Protected Status who hail from countries deemed too unstable for return.

But as the Trump administration has stripped those humanitarian protections for nearly a million people, the Salvadoran national is uncertain if his own legal status will remain in place next week.

"I'm going day by day," Palma, who lives in Texas, told States Newsroom in an interview.

Within two years under the Trump administration, the bipartisan humanitarian Temporary Protected Status program created by Congress in 1990 and signed into law by former Republican President George H.W. Bush has been nearly obliterated.

Palma first obtained TPS in 2001, along with roughly 170,000 recipients from El Salvador, due to several earthquakes that displaced more than one-sixth of the population and left thousands dead. The United States renewed protections over the years, citing continued displacement and ongoing violence.

But the TPS designation for El Salvador is set to expire Sept. 9, and the Department of Homeland Security has made no indication if protections will be renewed.

Under DHS policy, an announcement typically is made 60 days in advance of the date of a TPS expiration if a renewal is planned.

Democratic Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, who helped write the statute for TPS when he was

a congressional staffer, said he's asked Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin to renew protections for El Salvador.

"I still haven't received a response back," McGovern said during a Thursday press conference at the U.S. Capitol. He was joined by Nebraska GOP Rep. Don Bacon, who said many Salvadoran TPS recipients work and live in his Omaha district.

DHS did not respond to States Newsroom's request for comment.

The Trump administration's position on the program is that it's "temporary," and that country conditions have improved, despite warnings from the State Department to not travel to some of those countries where TPS designation has ended, such as Haiti.

If TPS for El Salvador ends, only 103,000 out of initially 1.3 million recipients from around the globe will have protections: 150 from Lebanon, 1,790 from Sudan and 101,150 from Ukraine.

## Supreme Court decision

TPS is granted to nationals who hail from a country experiencing a natural disaster, violence, or other extreme circumstances, allowing them to remain in the U.S. and obtain work permits.

Some protections can last through six-to-18-month cycles, and each renewal process requires a TPS holder to go through a background check and other vetting.

Before the second Trump administration, 17 countries were in the program. Only four, including El Salvador, remain as the White House has forged ahead aggressively on its mass deportation campaign.

The Supreme Court made the move easier after it ruled this summer that decisions from the executive branch to end TPS were not subject to judicial review. The order meant that lower courts that initially blocked the Trump administration from ending the designations had to reverse their decisions.

Now recipients face the end of TPS with just 60 days' notice.

"It's one of those things that is kind of cruel, to have families who are stable and have been stable for decades, to have people who have been doing everything the government asked them to do for 25 years, and suddenly, if the decision is to end TPS, provided only 60 days protection before forcing people to go back to a country they haven't been for decades," Palma said.

One of the first countries after TPS was written into law to receive the designation was El Salvador.

Stripping TPS from Salvadorans would not only harm the U.S. economy, but it would also negatively impact El Salvador's fragile economy, advocates predict. More than one quarter of El Salvador's Gross Domestic Product comes from family members sending money back to relatives in their country of origin, known as remittances.

"El Salvador's economy has been built thanks to all the remittances," said Ana María Méndez-Dardón, the director for Central America at the Washington Office on Latin America, or WOLA. "So if people are returning, that would have a huge impact because the economy depends on the money that people from El Salvador living in the U.S. send to El Salvador."

The spending also has an impact in the United States. Salvadoran TPS recipients contribute $5.4 billion to the U.S. economy and pay $1.5 billion in federal, state and local taxes, according to the immigration advocacy research group FWD.us.

About 152,000 TPS recipients from El Salvador are in the workforce, mainly in construction, manufacturing, building and transportation.

## Attempts in Congress

TPS does not create a pathway to citizenship and a recipient can only apply for it when the country receives its designation.

Some TPS recipients can apply for asylum if they qualify, or others could apply to adjust their status to that of a lawful permanent resident, or green-card holder, through a family-based or employer-based petition.

Congress has made some effort to extend TPS for some recipients. Earlier this year, the House passed a bill to extend TPS for up to 350,000 Haitians on a bipartisan basis, but it's stalled in the upper chamber.

Maryland Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen attempted to advance a bill in the Senate to create a legal pathway to citizenship for immigrants with TPS, but was blocked by Missouri Republican Sen. Eric Schmitt.

McGovern said Thursday that there is a bipartisan push to extend protections for TPS recipients. Proof of that was Bacon's presence at the press conference.

"What good is it to force out folks who've been here legally, who are working, who are part of our community?" Bacon said. "It does no one any good."

## Human rights in El Salvador

Many Salvadorian TPS recipients are worried about being forced back to El Salvador, where human rights groups have raised concerns about the authoritarian government of President Nayib Bukele, said WOLA's Méndez-Dardón.

WOLA is a research and advocacy group that aims to advance human rights in North and South America. It has documented how Bukele's political party has suspended due process rights and has carried out a mass incarceration of suspected gang members in an effort to reduce crime and murders.

More than 90,000 Salvadorans have been jailed without due process and hundreds have died in prisons and altogether disappeared, human rights groups have reported.

"So for Salvadorians who might be returned, the risk no longer are the criminal groups or the gangs because many of them fled the country because of the security situation," Méndez-Dardón said. "But although the gangs are no longer the threat, now the threat is the state."

Bukele has met with President Donald Trump several times at the White House and has a years-long working relationship with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who last year granted El Salvador the highest possible safety rating for travel, a level 1.

In 2024, the State Department gave El Salvador a level 3 advisory, warning people to reconsider travel because of security and safety concerns.

The Trump administration also last year made a deal with the Salvadoran government to pay up to $6 million to detain hundreds of Venezuelans at a brutal mega-prison. In the high-profile case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the Maryland Salvadoran who was mistakenly deported to the mega prison, lawyers documented mental and physical torture he experienced while there.

"People are basically under a constant fear of being detained by the security forces," Méndez-Dardón said.

## U.S. citizen children

Palma, who also attended the press conference, said he, along with other Salvadoran TPS recipients, are concerned about El Salvador's government.

"So crime has gone down, but now abuses to human rights have increased," he said. "That is concerning, because it's also the government is becoming more aggressive against opposition, public media."

Palma questioned if El Salvador would have the infrastructure to accept as many as 200,000 Salvadorans, made up of the TPS recipients and their families. Many have U.S. citizen children.

Palma, who has four U.S. citizen children, said two of his kids are still in primary school. One is 11 and another is 8 years old.

"This is their country," he said of his four children. "They are from here. But if I were to lose the TPS protection and I were to be forced to go back to El Salvador, it's not just affecting me. It's affecting the whole family. That's kind of like the situation that so many people across the country are going through right now."

## Supporting her mom

There are roughly 150,000 U.S. citizen children who have a parent who is a Salvadoran TPS recipient, according to the National TPS alliance.

Cristel Argueta is one of those children. At 20 years old, she's a college student at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. But on Thursday, she missed four classes relating to her criminology and criminal justice degree to travel to the nation's capital and advocate for an extension to TPS for El Salvador.

"I'm missing class to be here, but it's worth it because it's for my family," she said.

Her mother, a TPS holder from El Salvador, came to the U.S. when she was 19, fleeing the civil war that lasted from 1979 until 1992. Her mother was able to get TPS in 2001.

"She has been in this country longer than she has been in El Salvador," Argueta said. "TPS was started by Salvadorans, and I don't want to lose my mother."

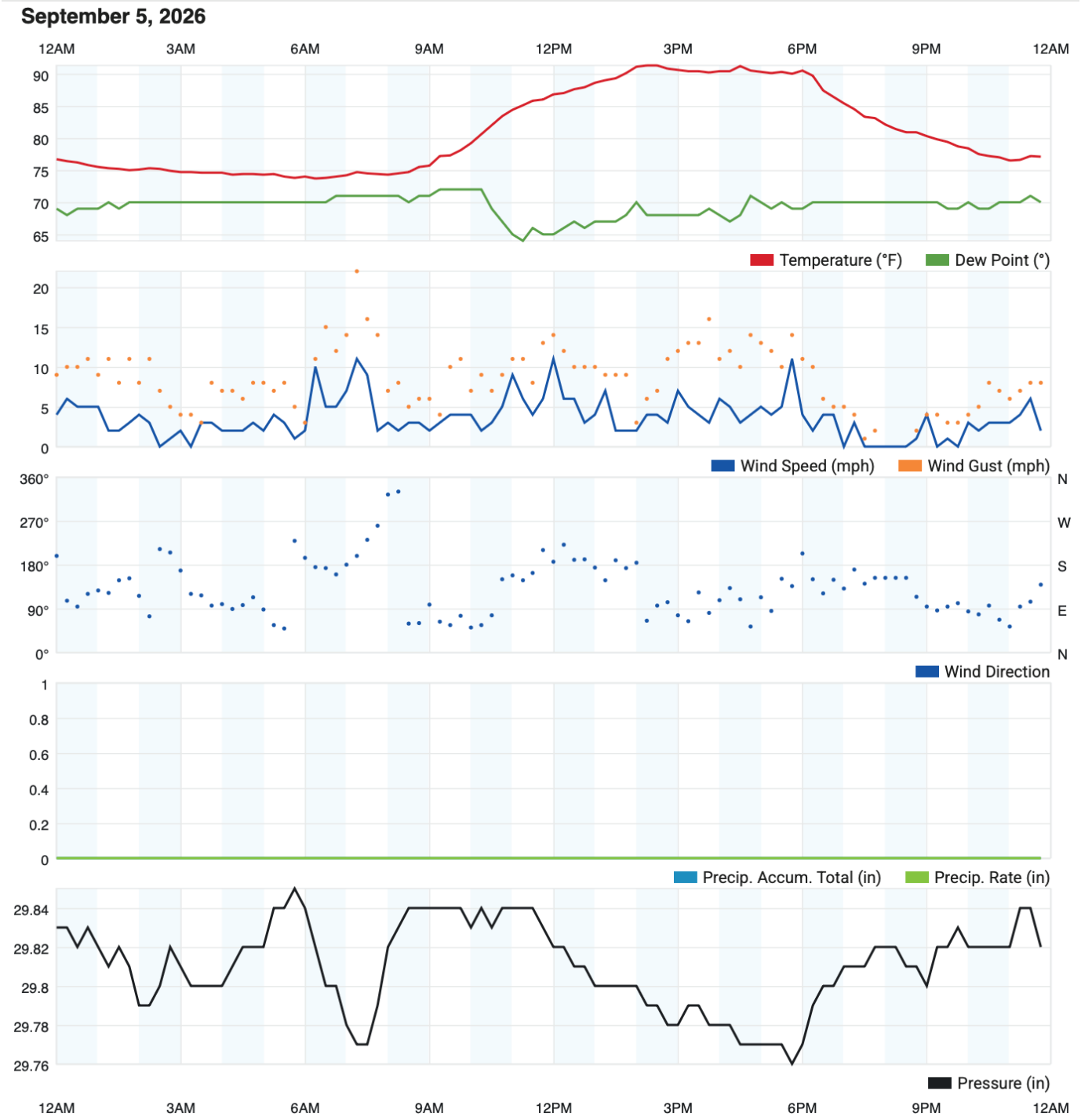
She's hoping her mother's TPS is extended until at least Argueta's 21st birthday, when Argueta will be able to become a sponsor and apply to change her mother's status to that of a lawful permanent resident.

"No one should be going through this at any age," she said. "Seeing the difference in my peers at school who are 20 years old, waiting to turn 21, to get that first legal drink or go party, but I want to turn 21 just to give my mom a legal status. A permanent legal status."

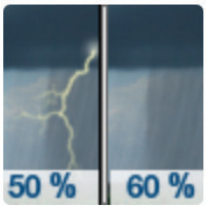
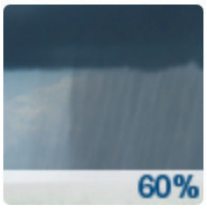
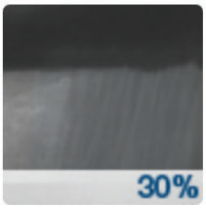
*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include immigration, congressional policy and legal challenges with a focus on how those policies impact the lives of immigrants and migrants coming to the U.S.*

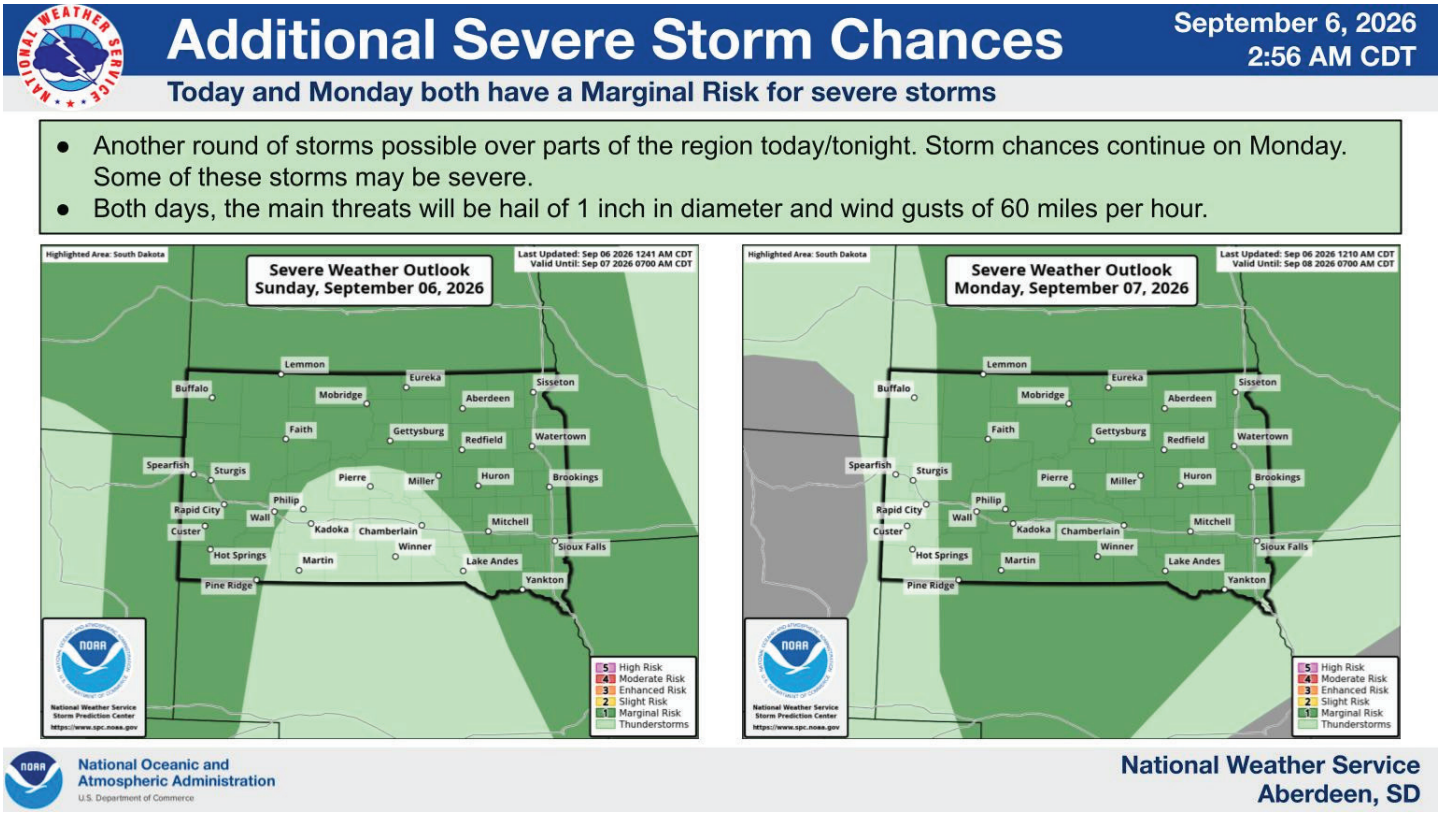
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# Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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| Today | Tonight | Labor Day | Monday Night | Tuesday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |  |
| High: 86 °F | Low: 67 °F | High: 85 °F | Low: 66 °F | High: 82 °F |
| Chance T-storms then Showers Likely | Chance Showers | Showers Likely and Breezy | Chance Showers and Breezy | Sunny |




A hot and humid air mass will remain in place over the region today into Monday, creating unstable conditions which may lead to additional periods of strong to severe thunderstorms. Timing and exact location of severe storms today are somewhat uncertain, but eastern SD may be a target.

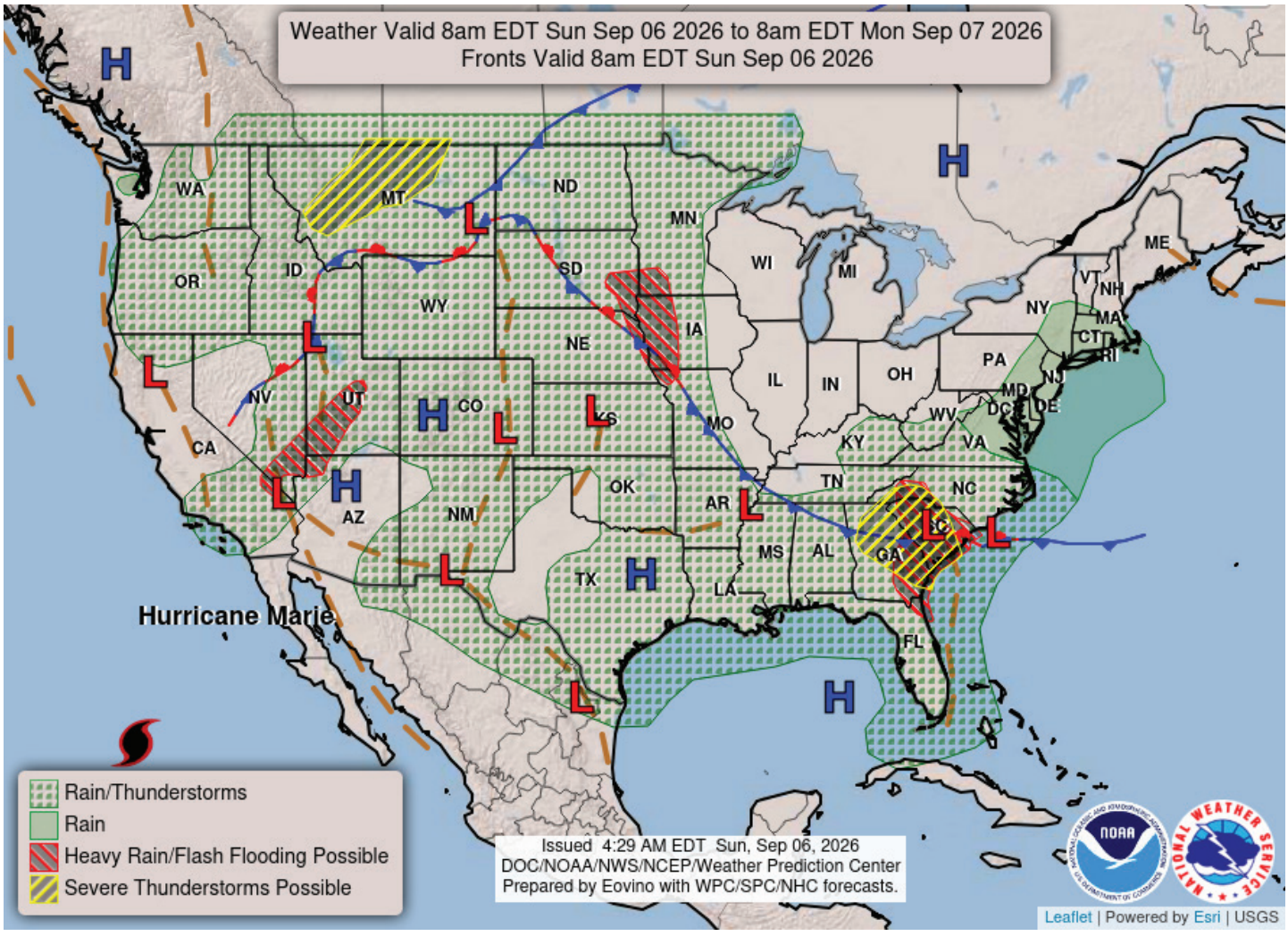
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# Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 92 °F at 2:12 PM**
**Low Temp: 74 °F at 6:21 AM**
**Wind: 23 mph at 7:14 AM**
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1970
Record Low: 32 in 1956
Average High: 79
Average Low: 51
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.41
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 16.75
Precip Year to Date: 20.06
Sunset Tonight: 8:01 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01 am



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## Today in Weather History

September 6, 2000: Eight miles southwest of Miller, ninety mph winds destroyed three barns and a small garage along with severely damaging a creeper feeder and an enclosed trailer. Another building was moved from its foundation and damaged. An empty school bus was rolled several times before it came to rest atop a fence. Also, a window was broken out of the house.

1667: The "dreadful hurricane of 1667" is considered one of the most severe hurricanes ever to strike Virginia. On the first, this same storm was reported in the Lesser Antilles. The hurricane devastated St. Christopher as no other storm had done before. The "great storm" went on to strike the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Area crops (including corn and tobacco) were beaten into the ground.

1776: Called the Pointe-à-Pitre hurricane, this storm is one of the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes on record. While the intensity and complete track are unknown, this storm struck Guadeloupe on this day, killing 6,000.

1881: Forest fires in "The Thumb" of Michigan and Ontario resulted in "Yellow Day" over the New England states. Twenty villages and over a million acres burned in Michigan. The smoke from these fires caused the sky to appear yellow over several New England cities. Twilight appeared at noon on this day.

1929 — Iowa's earliest snow of record occurred as a few flakes were noted at 9 AM at Alton. (The Weather Channel)

1933: The remnant low of the Treasure Coast Hurricane dumped 10.33" of rain in Charleston, which is the second-highest 24-hour rainfall total on record for the downtown station. The storm produced wind gusts of 51 mph and also spawned a tornado near the city.

1987 — Thunderstorms produced more than seven inches of rain in Georgia. Four persons drowned, and two others suffered injury, as three couples attempted to cross Mills Stone Creek at Echols Mill in their automobile. Smoke from forest fires in California and Oregon spread across Utah into western Colorado. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Joseph MO with a reading of 38 degrees. A low of 44 degrees at Indianapolis IN was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Hibbing MN and Philips WI. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — An early afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 104 mph at Winterhaven, FL, flipping over four airplanes, and damaging five others. The high winds also damaged a hangar and three other buildings. A cold front produced strong winds and blowing dust in the Northern High Plains, with gusts to 54 mph reported at Buffalo SD. Powerful Hurricane Gabrielle and strong easterly winds combined to create waves up to ten feet high along the southern half of the Atlantic coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003: Hurricane Isabel was first named on September 6th, 2003. It would reach Category 5 status and eventually make landfall in North Carolina as a Category 2.

2017: Category 5 Hurricane Irma affected the US Virgin Island and Puerto Rico. Maximum sustained winds were at 180 mph when the storm hit St. Thomas & St. John. Catastrophic damage was reported over the US Virgin Island & significant damage over Puerto Rico, especially over Culebra.

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InTouch Ministries

Daily Devotion

# A Call to Commitment

**The Lord will equip you with everything needed for carrying out His will.**

Exodus 3:1-15: 1 Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
2 The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.
3 So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."
4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
5 Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."
6 He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.
8 "So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.
9 "Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.
10 "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."
11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"
12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain."
13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, `The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, `What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"
14 God said to Moses, " I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, `I AM has sent me to you.'"
15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, `The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

How do you respond when God calls you to do something that seems beyond your capabilities? Do you hesitate—or give Him reasons why He must have picked the wrong person? That's exactly how Moses responded. But the exchange at the burning bush reveals two questions that can steady us when we feel overwhelmed by what God is asking.

Who is God? Presenting Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Ex. 3:6), the Lord called Himself by the name "I AM WHO I AM" (v. 14). The sovereign, self-existent, promise-keeping God wasn't introducing Himself to a stranger but was reminding Moses whose voice he was hearing.

Who am I? When Moses questioned whether he was the right man for the job, God didn't list Moses' qualifications. He gave him something better: "I will be with you" (v. 12). Moses' adequacy wasn't the point—God's presence was. And the same is true for us. Our sufficiency comes not from our own strength but from Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:5).

Has God given you a daunting task? He knows your limitations better than you do and has already accounted for them. So, instead of worrying whether you are enough, focus instead on the truth that He is.

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

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# WINNING NUMBERS

## MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
09.05.26

8 22 24 38 58 **3**

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

**NEXT DRAW:** 15 Hrs 54 Mins 16 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## MEGA MILLIONS

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
09.04.26

6 26 34 59 61 **24**

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$193,000,000**

**NEXT DRAW:** 2 Days 15 Hrs 39 Mins 15 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## LOTTO AMERICA

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
09.05.26

20 21 27 32 44 **3**

**All Star Bonus: 2x**

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$3,790,000**

**NEXT DRAW:** 1 Days 14 Hrs 54 Mins 15 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## DAKOTA CASH

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
09.05.26

6 9 26 27 31

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$49,000**

**NEXT DRAW:** 3 Days 15 Hrs 9 Mins 16 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## POWERBALL

**DOUBLE PLAY**

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
09.05.26

21 24 30 47 60 **5**

**TOP PRIZE:**
**$10,000,000**

**NEXT DRAW:** 1 Days 15 Hrs 38 Mins 16 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

## POWERBALL

**WINNING NUMBERS:**
09.05.26

15 40 47 53 59 **9**

**Power Play: 2x**

**NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:**
**$190,000,000**

**NEXT DRAW:** 1 Days 15 Hrs 38 Mins 16 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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# News from the AP Associated Press

## PREP FOOTBALL

Brandon Valley 34, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 21
Marty 52, Walthill, Neb. 0

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

## PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brandon Valley def. Brookings, 25-22, 25-16, 25-11
Jones County def. New Underwood, 25-17, 25-20, 25-21
Lead-Deadwood def. McIntosh High School, 25-14, 25-18, 25-16
Sturgis Brown High School def. Mahpíya Lúta, 25-14, 25-17, 25-14
Canton Invitatioal=
Baltic def. West Sioux, Iowa, 25-11, 25-19
Canton def. West Lyon, Inwood, Iowa, 25-20, 25-18
Garretson def. West Sioux, Iowa, 25-16, 25-6
Rock Valley, Iowa def. Garretson, 25-12, 25-21
Vermillion def. Canton, 23-25, 25-23, 25-14
Canton Invitational=
Baltic def. Canton, 24-26, 25-23, 25-23
Baltic def. Garretson, 25-17, 25-22
Canton def. Pipestone, Minn., 25-20, 21-25, 25-17
Garretson def. Pipestone, Minn., 25-18, 21-25, 25-22
Rock Valley, Iowa def. Baltic, 25-12, 25-23
Vermillion def. Pipestone, Minn., 25-13, 25-13
Vermillion def. Rock Valley, Iowa, 25-23, 20-25, 25-21
Vermillion def. West Lyon, Inwood, Iowa, 25-13, 25-5
Gillette Invitational=
Gold Bracket=
St Thomas More def. Sheridan, Wyo., 25-11, 26-24
St Thomas More def. Tongue River, Wyo., 25-19, 25-23
Silver Bracket=
Big Horn, Wyo. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-16, 25-21
Spearfish def. Campbell County, Wyo., 25-23, 26-24
Spearfish def. Newcastle, Wyo., 25-17, 26-24
Championship=
Spearfish def. Big Horn, Wyo., 25-17, 26-24
Gillette Tournament=
Silver Bracket=
Rapid City Christian def. Moorcroft, Wyo., 25-18, 25-17
Gregory Invitational=
Burke def. Edgemont, 25-21, 16-25, 25-17
Edgemont def. Gregory, 21-25, 25-15, 25-14
Edgemont def. St. Francis Indian, 25-13, 25-7
Platte-Geddes def. Edgemont, 25-14, 25-9
Millard West Invitational=
Elkhorn South, Neb. def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman

Lincoln North Star, Neb. def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-23, 29-27
Consolation=
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Fremont, Neb., 25-15, 25-20
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Bennington, Neb., 25-21, 25-18
___Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, https://scorestream.com/

## Aidan Chiles throws for TD in debut as Northwestern rallies past FCS South Dakota State 34-18

By SCOTT HELD Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Aidan Chiles threw for 273 yards and a touchdown in his debut, and Northwestern pulled away late to top FCS South Dakota State 34-18 on Saturday night.

Chiles, who made 20 starts for Michigan State before joining the Wildcats during the offseason, made it a two-possession game with a 14-yard draw-play touchdown with 4:34 to go.

South Dakota State's (1-1) Josiah Johnson scored with 8:16 left to cut the lead to 20-18, but a two-point try failed. Northwestern took the kickoff and burned off almost four minutes before Chiles scored.

"We got where we needed to get and did what we needed to do at the end," Chiles said.

Joseph Himon II (four carries, 87 yards) took off for an 80-yard touchdown run with 1:14 left to widen the final score.

The Wildcats' defense gave up 438 yards but kept the Jackrabbits out of the end zone on six of seven trips inside their 25-yard line.

"I thought we came up with a great plan and executed it well," Northwestern coach David Braun said. "We found a way not to break, and that was the difference in the game."

Chiles hit Griffin Wilde with a 71-yard pass on his first play from scrimmage, then found Alex Honing with an 11-yard touchdown pass less than four minutes into the game to give the hosts a lead they never lost.

Caleb Komolafe had a short touchdown run midway through the third quarter for the Wildcats, who've won four straight home openers.

Chase Mason was 23 for 48 for 285 yards with an interception for the Jackrabbits. Johnson had 79 yards on 19 carries and Tristan Alvano had four field goals.

South Dakota State drove deep into Northwestern territory twice in the second quarter but had to settle for a pair of Alvano field goals and trailed 10-6 at intermission.

"Too many missed opportunities," Jackrabbits coach Dan Jackson said. "I thought we had opportunities to really punch some things in when we had the ball in the red zone and make a statement, but we didn't do it."

The Takeaway

South Dakota State: Give Northwestern's defense credit, but the Jackrabbits had seven drives deep into the hosts' territory but came away with just one touchdown. The loss left the program 2-12 against FBS opponents.

Northwestern: Former Oregon and NFL coach Chip Kelly is the new offensive coordinator, and his unit amassed almost 500 yards Saturday night. The Wildcats have just one more game to keep fine-tuning before a Sept. 25 trip to reigning national champion Indiana.

Scary Moment

The game was delayed several minutes early in the third quarter after Northwestern offensive lineman Jackson Carsello appeared to take a teammate's knee to his helmet at the end of a play. The 6-foot-4, 300-pound Carsello was fitted with a head-and-neck stabilizer and placed on a stretcher, but appeared conscious and repeatedly gave a thumbs-up sign as he was taken off the field.

Braun did not update Carsello's condition after the game, but said the player was in "good spirits."

Up next

The Jackrabbits host New Haven on Sept. 12.

The Wildcats get an early bye next weekend and welcome Colorado on Sept. 19.

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## Pierre Jr. scores twice in South Dakota's 38-23 win over Northern Colorado

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — Charles Pierre Jr. rushed for two touchdowns, Tennel Bryant took his only carry for a score, and South Dakota defeated Northern Colorado 38-23 on Saturday.

The Coyotes (2-0) won their first road opener in a full season since 2017, and their fifth straight against Northern Colorado.

After the Bears (1-1) started the scoring late in the first with a 54-yard touchdown pass from Kenny Lueth to Trey Olsen, the Coyotes answered with three touchdowns before the break.

Bryant took the ball on a reverse and easily broke free for a 46-yard touchdown run late in the first, Pierre ran it in from 11 yards and Austyn Modrzewski passed to Brayden White for a 10-yard score and a 14-point lead.

Northern Colorado got within four points thanks to a first-half-ending field goal and a seven-plus-minute scoring drive, but Pierre scored again to increase the lead to 11.

Bryce Cohoon reeled in a 22-yard pass in the fourth to further extend the cushion.

Lueth threw for 201 yards on 19-of-29 passing for the Bears. Olsen caught three passes for 61 yards.

Up next

South Dakota: host Eastern Washington next Saturday.

Northern Colorado: visit FBS member Wyoming next Saturday.

## German region votes in election that could bring first far-right state government to power

By GEIR MOULSON and KERSTIN SOPKE Associated Press

MAGDEBURG, Germany (AP) — An eastern German region was voting Sunday in an election that could bring to power the first far-right state government in the nation's post-World War II history.

The vote for the state legislature in Saxony-Anhalt, a region of 2.1 million people west of Berlin, has gained outsized prominence because it represents the best chance yet of a governor's post for the far-right, anti-migration Alternative for Germany, or AfD.

That would be the biggest prize in the party's 13-year history, at a time of widespread discontent with an unpopular national government that has yet to persuade voters it can get the country's sluggish economy moving. It would be at least a symbolic blow to Chancellor Friedrich Merz, whose center-right party has led Saxony-Anhalt for 24 years.

AfD is aiming for an absolute majority

AfD is the biggest opposition party in Germany's national parliament and is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, where Saxony-Anhalt is located. Its candidate for governor, Ulrich Siegmund, declares that "we will write history here."

Despite consistently strong support, though, its chances of taking power are uncertain even if it finishes well ahead of its opponents.

On Sunday, AfD hopes to win an absolute majority in the state legislature. That would overcome the so-called "firewall" of mainstream parties' refusal to work with AfD, whose regional branch is one of several classified by the domestic intelligence agency as a proven right-wing extremist group. AfD vehemently rejects accusations of extremism.

The party's national co-leaders, Alice Weidel and Tino Chrupalla, said this week that AfD "wants to implement the law of the land — for example with a view to illegal migration — and ensure that Germany remains worth living in." They decried other parties' records and argued in a statement that an absolute majority for AfD is "almost the only chance to change course."

Merz said an AfD government would be an economic own-goal. "If there were to be an absolute majority for a right-wing populist party next Monday, then international investors will think three times about whether they still invest in Saxony-Anhalt," he said.

On Saturday, thousands of people gathered in the state capital, Magdeburg, against the prospect of a far-right regional government.

The outcome could be complicated

Siegmund says he will only seek election as governor by state lawmakers if AfD wins an absolute majority, arguing that it needs to break a pattern of parties breaking their preelection promises.

Whether it can win that majority is expected to depend in part on whether parties such as the center-left Social Democrats and Greens top the 5% support needed to keep parliamentary seats. If there is no absolute majority for AfD, the party is unlikely to find a coalition partner.

Incumbent governor Sven Schulze, from Merz's Christian Democratic Union, says he won't work with the far-right party and his own CDU is "100%" behind him. But, if AfD finishes first yet short of a majority, he's likely to face a difficult task to put together a stable government.

There has already been one case in which AfD finished first in a state election but didn't end up governing. That was two years ago in neighboring Thuringia, where a CDU governor took power with a minority government.

Schulze could, in similar circumstances, try to put together some kind of alliance with smaller parties. It's likely to be a delicate exercise, because it would probably require at least some tacit support from the Left Party, a hard-left party with which the CDU refuses to form coalitions.

Sunday's vote will be followed on Sept. 20 by two more tricky tests for Merz's CDU and its main partners in the national government, the Social Democrats.

There are state elections that day in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, an eastern region where a center-left government faces a strong challenge from AfD, and in Berlin, currently led by Merz's party.

## Early Emmys ceremony could bring many trophies for 'The Pitt,' 'Hacks' and 'Pluribus'

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Top nominees "The Pitt," "Hacks," "Pluribus" and "Widow's Bay" will have chances to stock up on Emmys Sunday at an early ceremony eight days before the main awards show and telecast.

The Television Academy hands out well over 100 primetime Emmys, and most of them will be presented this weekend in a pair of ceremonies at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. They were previously known as the Creative Arts Emmys but have now been rebranded as simply the first two nights of the 78th Emmy Awards.

The two nights will be edited together to air Sept. 12 on FXX and stream on Hulu the following day. The primetime Sept. 14 ceremony, also at the Peacock Theater and hosted by Mariska Hargitay, will air live on NBC and stream live on Peacock.

Bad Bunny won his first career Emmy Award Saturday for his Super Bowl halftime show, which was awarded home seven trophies.

"The Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show Starring Bad Bunny" won the Emmy for outstanding variety special, beating out the telecasts for the Oscars, the Grammys and the Tonys. Bad Bunny, nominated under his birth name Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, gets an Emmy as a producer-performer. It was his first nomination.

"The Pitt," HBO Max's day-in-the-life medical series, won best drama for its first season and is this year's top overall contender with 25 nominations. It could win as many as nine on Sunday. "Hacks," also from HBO Max, got a record-tying 24 comedy nominations for its fifth and final season and could win as many as a dozen Sunday.

Most of the awards presented this weekend are for behind-the-scenes crew, but big names may also have big moments, especially in the guest acting categories.

Rob Reiner, who was killed along with his wife Michele Singer Reiner in December, could win a posthumous Emmy. He was nominated for guest actor in a comedy for "The Bear," about 50 years after winning two Emmy Awards for his acting on "All in the Family."

Five-time Emmy winner Michael J. Fox is also nominated in the same category for playing a patient on "Shrinking" who has Parkinson's disease, which the actor was diagnosed with in the 1990s.

The evening's star power will be increased by the academy moving five categories from the Sept. 14 telecast to Sunday. They include best supporting actor and actress in a limited series, with nominees such as Jason Bateman, Charles Melton, Dakota Fanning and Laurie Metcalf.

"The Pitt" dominated the drama acting nominations and has two performers up for best guest actor in a drama along with three up for best guest actress. They include Tal Anderson, an autistic actor and an advocate for neurodivergent performers and portrayals. She got her first Emmy nomination for playing Becca King, the younger sister of Taylor Dearden's Dr. Mel King.

Dearden, one of four women from "The Pitt" nominated for best supporting actress this year, will be among the presenters Sunday as will Noah Wyle, the star of "The Pitt" who is nominated for four Emmys at the main ceremony.

Five of the seven nominees for best guest actress in a comedy come from "Hacks," including Leslie Bibb and Metcalf, who could take home two Emmys.

A pair of rookie series from Apple TV could make major marks on the Emmys with a head start Sunday. The horror comedy "Widow's Bay" could win as many as 10 this weekend. And "Pluribus," the one-woman-against-the-hivemind drama from "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan, which stars best-actress favorite Rhee Seahorn, could also win 10 at the early ceremony.

"Pluribus" acting nominees Karolina Wydra and Jeff Hiller are also among Sunday's presenters.

Saturday's first day of the Emmys saw awards presented to unscripted series, variety shows and specials shows and variety specials, while Sunday's show focuses on dramas, comedies and limited series.

## Iran claims strike on US ship in Strait of Hormuz as fighting escalates

By SAMY MAGDY and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Iran said Sunday it struck an unmanned U.S. vessel trying to enter the Strait of Hormuz, the latest salvo in a new flare-up of fighting between the two countries.

The U.S. did not immediately confirm the purported attack, which came a day after the U.S. military said forces struck three Iranian oil tankers in response to a missile attack on Navy warships.

The war began with U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran on Feb. 28. But since a ceasefire agreement was announced in June, on-and-off fighting has persisted with both sides trying to inflict military and economic pain as negotiations have collapsed.

Strikes come about a week after fighting resumed

The U.S. and Iran resumed attacks last week, following a month of relative calm, with the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian communities along it again being targeted. At least five people were killed earlier in the week during a U.S. bombardment of southern Iran.

The Trump administration appears to have adopted a dual-prong approach to the conflict, responding militarily to attacks on the strait while going after foreign financial institutions that handle Iran's money.

But Tehran's hard-line new senior leaders have signaled the willingness to dig in after weathering decades of sanctions.

Iran has found ways over the years to circumvent sanctions, and now the U.S. blockade, and get its oil to buyers to help ease growing economic pressures. That relies in part on a shadow fleet transporting its oil.

Meanwhile, Iran's nuclear program, the issue that contributed to the outbreak of the war, was meant to be addressed in negotiations that fell apart soon after the U.S. and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-June.

Diplomats say the U.S., Britain, France and Germany seek to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for failure to comply with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

Instead, Tehran's new leverage focuses on the Strait of Hormuz that is crucial to global oil and natural gas shipments and was seen as an international waterway before the war began.

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# Putin meets with US envoys at the Kremlin for renewed talks on ending the war in Ukraine

By KATIE MARIE DAVIES undefined

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner at the Kremlin on Saturday for renewed talks on ending Russia's war in Ukraine.

The meeting that lasted more than three hours behind closed doors ended without announcements of any breakthroughs. Putin's foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov described them as constructive, frank and useful to journalists afterward, but didn't talk about specific outcomes. Witkoff and Kushner are expected in Kyiv on Sunday.

The talks come as both sides continue to escalate aerial attacks. Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy both agreed to pause strikes on each other's capitals while the talks took place.

Washington's push to end the fighting has lost momentum as U.S. attention has been focused for the past six months on the Iran war. The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, was in January, when they also held talks with Putin at the Kremlin.

A first trip to Kyiv for the American emissaries

Both U.S. envoys will also visit Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, for the first time in the peace process on Sunday, Ukrainian officials said.

At the start of the meeting in Moscow, Putin asked Kushner and Witkoff to pass on his warm wishes and gratitude to Trump, and described the situation in Ukraine as "not simple." Russian forces launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

"(Russian President Vladimir) Putin has ordered that no strikes be carried out against Kyiv for three days, starting at midnight today," presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russia's Tass news agency.

Zelenskyy said that Ukraine was prepared to halt strikes on Moscow until Monday. He said he spoke on Saturday afternoon with the U.S. delegation after their arrival in Moscow.

"From now through the end of Saturday, as well as on Sunday and Monday, Ukraine is ready to refrain from strikes on Moscow, and we expect the Russians to do the same regarding Kyiv," he said.

The U.S. envoys were met at the airport in Moscow by Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev, Tass reported. Dmitriev shared photos of him meeting with the U.S. delegation as they disembarked, alongside the caption, "Welcome to Moscow Peacemakers."

After the talks in the Kremlin, Ushakov described the talks as constructive and carried out with the utmost openness and trust. He said Moscow offered its "comprehensive assessment" of the battlefield situation in Ukraine, but also that the conversation was not purely focused on Russia's invasion.

"Economic issues and potentially large, mutually beneficial joint projects for Russia and America were discussed in considerable detail," he said.

Peace process has been at a standstill

With peace efforts stalled, Russia has intensified its attacks on Kyiv and other cities with relentless bombardments stretching into daylight hours, taking advantage of Ukraine's shortage of air defense systems.

On Friday, a Russian drone hit one of the most important government buildings in Kyiv — the headquarters of Ukraine's Security Service, known as the SBU, which is one of the agencies involved in carrying out deep-strike operations inside Russia.

The long-range strikes by Ukraine have hit Russian military facilities, oil refineries and e-commerce hubs, seeking to undermine the Kremlin's war effort and economy, as well as make ordinary citizens feel the consequences of the war.

Zelenskyy links Russian strikes to envoys' visit

The air war between Russia and Ukraine has intensified as troops have struggled to make progress along the 1,250-kilometer (775-mile) front line. Russia has recently been using fast-flying, jet-powered drones, and the recurring wail of air-raid sirens has become part of daily life in Kyiv.

In a social media post on Saturday, Zelenskyy said that Russia had carried out overnight strikes on Kyiv and Boryspil international airports, and linked the attack to the planned U.S. visit.

"Clearly, these Russian strikes on the airports are a reaction to the discussions and preparations for the possibility of the U.S. side using an aircraft to travel to Ukraine," he said.

"We have taken note of this Russian move, and next week we will adjust our operation accordingly regarding Russian airspace, which has become dangerous because of our drones and missiles in the sky. Of course, there are and will be no threats to diplomacy from our side."

Russian strikes kill multiple civilians in Ukraine

Russian attacks killed five people and wounded five others at an industrial facility in Ukraine's southern Dnipropetrovsk region, local military administration head Oleksandr Hanzha said. He described those killed as employees at the site.

"A locksmith, an electrician, a plumber and a machinist. People of peaceful professions. They were simply working their shift. They were doing their job when enemy missiles cut off their lives," he said.

A 62-year-old man was wounded, and several homes and an apartment building were damaged, in a separate attack on the region's Nikopol district, Hanzha said.

In a statement on Saturday, Russia's Ministry of Defense said that it had carried out strikes on two metallurgical plants in the region, describing them as "major suppliers of metal products for Ukraine's military production."

The city of Dnipro and the nearby Pidhorodne community were among the areas hit. One person died and five other were injured, including two men who were hospitalized in serious condition, Hanzha said. A service station, supermarket, industrial facility, apartment buildings and vehicles were damaged. A sixth civilian was injured in an attack on the Nikopol district.

A Russian drone also struck a house in Chuhuiv in Ukraine's eastern Kharkiv region, killing at least three people and wounding a 40-year-old woman, regional administration head Oleh Syniehubov said.

The victims were a 19-year-old woman, an 11-year-old boy and a 45-year-old man. The strike destroyed a residential building, an outbuilding and a garage, Syniehubov said. Firefighters were battling a blaze as local authorities searched the area for any additional casualties.

Two people were killed and another person was wounded in a Russian drone attack on the Bucha district of Ukraine's Kyiv region on Saturday, local officials said. Earlier on Saturday, head of the regional military administration Tymur Tkachenko said that two people were wounded in an overnight attack on the region.

As of Saturday evening, 28 facilities in five districts of the region had been damaged, Tkachenko said. These included private and apartment buildings, warehouses, railway tracks, the territory of an agricultural enterprise and vehicles, he said.

Russian forces also repeatedly struck a shopping center in the southern Mykolaiv region with drones overnight, damaging retail premises and sparking fires, Ukraine's state emergency services said. A 72-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl were wounded.

Emergency crews responding to the attack were repeatedly forced to withdraw to safety because of the threat of further strikes, returning whenever conditions allowed, the emergency services said.

Russia launched ballistic missiles from its Rostov and Voronezh regions and deployed 167 attack drones overnight, Ukraine's air force said. The drones included Shahed-type aircraft — around half them jet-powered — as well as Geran and decoy drones. Ukrainian air defenses shot down or suppressed 128 drones, according to the air force.

In Russia's Belrogod region on the border with Ukraine, two people were killed and three others were wounded by Ukrainian attacks on Saturday, local authorities said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that its forces had shot down 53 Ukrainian drones overnight.

## In 'Primetime,' Robert Pattinson takes on the 'irresistible' role of Chris Hansen

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Robert Pattinson didn't set out to play Chris Hansen in "Primetime." But somewhere along the way, it just became "irresistible."

"I was trying to mold the part to be the best part to play for somebody else, and then I got more and more attached to it," Pattinson said Saturday at the Venice Film Festival, where the film had its world premiere and sparked a 9-minute standing ovation.

The 40-year-old English actor started out as a producer on the film about the NBC Dateline show "To Catch a Predator." But while he and his collaborators found that they couldn't help but imitate Hansen while chatting about the project, he "found his accent very difficult."

"This more than any other part that I've done, just grunt work," Pattinson said.

He was also part of the reason directing duties went to Lance Oppenheim, who had only directed documentaries up until this point. Oppenheim knew of Chris Hansen and was interested in the phenomenon he'd created. However, something clicked into place when Oppenheim's wife gifted him a Cameo video and he saw Hansen performing as himself.

"To me this was a great character, a great subject," Oppenheim said. "A person who became a persona … a person who embraced the meme of himself."

"Primetime," which was written by Ajon Singh, has already inspired discourse and headlines with just its trailer and subject matter. It's based on journalist Luke Dittrich's "Esquire" article "Tonight on Dateline This Man Will Die," which explores a 2006 sting operation on Texas assistant district attorney Bill Conradt. He died by suicide as police officers descended on his home with the show's television cameras outside.

Oppenheim, in his director's statement, said that he "wanted to trace the disparate ambitions of people who existed inside this apparatus — a journalistic crusader, a mercenary TV producer and a wide-eyed Hollywood dreamer — converging into a moment of crisis."

Hansen was not involved in the making of the movie and has made several public comments about it, including that he had always thought Denis Leary should have played him and questioning the motives of the filmmakers. He was invited to see the movie before the festival, but took issue with the NDA he was asked to sign beforehand. There are also reports that he's bought advertising to play in front of "Primetime" theatrical showings when it's in theaters starting Sept. 25.

When asked to comment on the ads, Pattinson said he just hopes that Hansen likes the movie.

"The more you watch the show, there's something magnetic about his presence," Pattinson said. "Something he's doing is the reason why people are still talking about that show 20 years later."

The film also marks the acting debut of singer Phoebe Bridgers, who found it challenging.

"It was certainly super intimidating," Bridgers said. "At first when Lance asked me I was like, 'no way dude.'"

For Pattinson, "Primetime" is one more buzzy performance in a banner year that's already included memorable performances in hit films from "The Drama" to "The Odyssey" and with "Dune: Part Three" still to come.

With his schedule booked for about two years straight and a new baby at home, Pattinson went straight "The Drama" to "Primetime" and then to "The Odyssey."

"I definitely can hear a little Chris Hansen in 'The Odyssey' when I watch it," he laughed.

But, he added, "once you get the momentum going, it's actually, strangely, not that hard."

Pattinson isn't the only famous Brit on the Lido Saturday. Oasis members Noel and Liam Gallager are also around for the world premiere of their reunion tour documentary "Oasis: Don't Look Back in Anger."

With many movie star moments already in the rearview, from George Clooney's lifetime achievement award to the emotional ovation for John Malkovich's performance in "Wild Horse Nine," the combination of Pattinson and Oasis on the same day is shaping up to be a high-wattage pinnacle for this year's festival.

## US strikes 3 Iranian oil tankers after saying warships were targeted with ballistic missiles

By AMIR VAHDAT, TOQA EZZIDIN and CARA ANNA Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. forces struck three Iranian oil tankers after Navy warships were targeted with ballistic missiles, the American military said Saturday, warning that it would "if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and

exposed oil fleet." Experts called it a dangerous escalation after Iran's previous attacks at sea targeted commercial shipping.

The strikes — a day after U.S. President Donald Trump sought to minimize the conflict as "small potatoes" — keep up a new tilt back toward fighting after six months of on-again, off-again war that began with U.S. and Israeli attacks on the country on Feb. 28. Both sides have sought to inflict both military and economic pain, and negotiations have collapsed.

The military's statement said an American aircraft carrier and a destroyer evaded "multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks" while patrolling in the region and no U.S. personnel were hurt. It wasn't clear when the Iranian missiles were fired. The statement said that two Iranian oil carriers were "permanently disabled" and the third, unladen one, was destroyed.

The U.S. statement called the tankers part of a shadow network helping to fund Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard and its armed proxies in the region.

Iran says it struck back in response

Iran's state broadcaster said later Saturday that Iran targeted three oil tankers and three American vessels in response to the U.S. strikes. This couldn't be immediately confirmed.

A spokesperson with Iran's joint military command warned that strikes against U.S. military ships would be more severe if the U.S. continues to interfere with Iranian shipping, the state broadcaster reported.

That Iran targeted a U.S. aircraft carrier with a ballistic missile "indicates that Tehran is becoming increasingly willing to accept risks it previously sought to avoid, including directly threatening some of the most important U.S. military assets in the region," Danny Citrinowicz, an Iran expert at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, said on X.

Earlier, Iranian state television had said that four U.S. missiles struck a tanker about 6 miles (10 kilometers) from Kharg Island, home to a terminal through which the country exports most of its oil. Kharg Island has been repeatedly targeted during the war, including in U.S. strikes on military sites there in March.

The U.S. said that one tanker was struck off Kharg Island and another was struck near Jask, east of the Strait of Hormuz. The unladen tanker was hit in the Gulf of Oman, and the U.S. said its crew had been "directed to abandon ship." The statement shared what it called video footage of the strikes.

After the U.S. statement, Iran's state broadcaster reported the attack of the two other tankers, saying their crews had evacuated.

"We will not hesitate to defend American forces, and if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and exposed oil fleet," said Adm. Brad Cooper, the head of U.S. Central Command.

Iran's Foreign Ministry called the attacks a war crime, and said that the consequences for continued U.S. aggression, including "economic warfare," would rest with Washington and its allies.

Between the war and the disabling of ships during the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, it's not immediately clear how many Iranian oil tankers have been targeted. On May 8, the U.S. military said that it fired "precision munitions" into the smokestacks of two Iranian oil tankers, both unladen.

Strikes come a week after fighting resumed

The latest strikes came nearly a week after the U.S. and Iran resumed attacks following a month of relative calm, with the Strait of Hormuz, and Iranian communities along it again, being targeted. At least five people were killed earlier in the week during a U.S. bombardment of southern Iran. One strike hit a wedding.

Masoumeh Zarei, 13, was wounded in the attack. She spoke to The Associated Press at a hospital while being treated for injuries to her abdomen.

She said the wedding celebration had already begun when she set out to join it. She never made it there. She was knocked unconscious when a telecommunications tower was struck. Her next memory was of waking up in a hospital.

"The party had just started, and we wanted to go there," Zarei said, her voice hoarse. "I had made my nails really pretty for the party, but everything changed."

Her friend, 14-year-old Kiana Karimi, also was wounded and in intensive care. She told the AP that she

heard five explosions.

"The first three explosions at the telecommunications tower threw us to the ground," Karimi said. "I quickly got up to pick my brothers up off the ground. Then there were two more explosions, and after that I don't remember anything."

U.S. had tried to turn to economic pressure

The Trump administration appears to have adopted a dual-prong approach to the conflict, responding militarily to attacks on the strait while going after foreign financial institutions that handle Iran's money. U.S. Vice President JD Vance on Thursday said that there was no prospect for renewed talks as long as Iran goes after ships, while noting that major military operations ended in July.

But Tehran's hard-line new senior leaders have signaled the willingness to dig in after weathering decades of sanctions. The elected government of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, however, has said that it favors a negotiated end to the war.

Iran has found ways over the years to circumvent sanctions — and now the U.S. blockade — and get its oil to buyers to help ease growing economic pressures. That relies in part on a shadow fleet transporting its oil.

Meanwhile, the issue that helped lead to the war — Iran's nuclear program — was meant to be addressed in negotiations that fell apart soon after the U.S. and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-June. Now diplomats say the U.S., Britain, France and Germany seek to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for failure to comply with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

Instead, Tehran's new leverage focuses on the strait that is crucial to global oil and natural gas shipments and was seen as an international waterway before the war began.

The U.S. military has been helping to guide ships through the strait as Tehran asserts control and targets some vessels, but overall traffic remains low.

## US hits Iranian oil tankers, and other key Mideast developments

By The Associated Press undefined

The U.S. military said it hit three Iranian oil tankers, after accusing Iran of targeting its warships. The past week saw the first exchange of fire after a month of relative calm.

Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador to Israel has again condemned settler violence in the occupied West Bank. Iranian-backed Houthi rebels accused Yemen's government of killing three people in attacks. Israeli strikes killed three people in southern Lebanon.

Here's a look at the news in the Middle East. Full coverage can be found here.

US forces hit Iranian oil tankers

The U.S. military said in a statement that the three Iranian tankers were part of a shadow network helping to fund Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard and its armed proxies in the region.

Iranian state TV said earlier that four U.S. missiles struck a tanker about 6 miles (10 kilometers) from Kharg Island, home to a terminal through which the country exports most of its oil. It said there were no casualties.

Kharg Island has been repeatedly targeted during the war, including U.S. strikes on military sites there in March. The latest report comes almost a week after the U.S. resumed strikes on Iranian targets following a monthlong pause, as fighting around the Strait of Hormuz has intensified.

The U.S. military said that an American aircraft carrier and a destroyer evaded "multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks" while patrolling in the region and no U.S. personnel were hurt.

Here is our full story.

US ambassador calls violent Israeli settlers 'terrorists'

The U.S. ambassador to Israel has again spoken out against Israeli settler violence in the occupied West Bank, calling their behavior an "act of terror."

Ambassador Mike Huckabee on Saturday referred to the settlers as "terrorists," a word U.S. officials usually reserve for Palestinian militants. He was speaking to Palestinian American residents in the village

of Turmus Ayya.

"If there are squatters that come in and put up their own flags and take possession of something that does not belong to them, if they burn a car, if they torch a mosque, if they go into someone's home and vandalize it, paint graffiti on the walls, that's a criminal act. But it extends beyond a criminal act. It's an act of terror," Huckabee said.

The ambassador last month spoke out sharply after weeks of unrest in the town of Qusra, where settlers surrounded several homes including one owned by a Palestinian American. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the actions of a "handful of rioters" and the foreign ministry called the settlers' actions "a disgrace."

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.

Here is our full story.

Houthis accuse Yemen's government of killing 3 people

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels said government forces in western and southwestern Yemen killed at least three people. The attacks Friday in Hodeida and Taiz provinces came as Yemen's military said it launched more than 15 airstrikes on the Houthis.

The Houthi authorities in Hodeida said a father and daughter were killed in an attack on their house in southern Jarahi district. In Taiz, shelling killed a man and wounded another, according to the Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel.

Fighting has intensified recently along Yemen's west coast near an important supply route.

The SABA news agency, controlled by Yemen's internationally recognized government, later reported that the Yemeni military had taken control of Hais district in Hodeida, citing an unidentified military source as saying dozens of rebels were killed or wounded. There was no immediate Houthi comment.

Israeli strikes kill 3 people in Lebanon

Lebanon's Health Ministry said Israeli strikes killed three people and wounded nearly two dozen in southern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Israel's army said it struck positions of the Hezbollah militant group late Friday in response to a drone launched toward Israeli forces in southern Lebanon. The drone was intercepted and no soldiers were injured, it said.

In June, Lebanon and Israel signed a U.S.-mediated framework deal under which Israeli forces are to withdraw from areas they occupy in southern Lebanon in exchange for disarmament of the Iran-backed Hezbollah, but little progress has been made. Hezbollah has vehemently opposed the direct Lebanon-Israel talks.

The latest Israel-Hezbollah war began when Hezbollah fired rockets into Israel days after Israel and the U.S. attacked Iran on Feb. 28. Israel invaded Lebanon and has since occupied a large swath of its south.

Egypt's top diplomat discusses regional de-escalation

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on Saturday called for the U.S. and Iran to return to the negotiating table. The comments came in separate phone calls with the foreign ministers of Bahrain and of Oman, which sits across the Strait of Hormuz from Iran.

Abdelatty urged prioritizing de-escalation, the Egyptian ministry said, and called for maintaining the safety of shipping through the strait, where traffic remains at reduced levels as Iran continues to assert control over the waterway.

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# Trump's first major midterm money move: A $10M Texas Senate ad blitz

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — The political group associated with President Donald Trump is spending $10 million on television and digital advertisements in the Texas Senate race, according to a Saturday filing with the Federal Election Commission.

This is the first significant spending in a premier general election contest by MAGA, Inc., and reflects how a once-safe Republican seat in Texas may be viable for Democrats with the candidacy of James Talarico, a 37-year-old state representative.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is the Republican nominee in the race. Trump's endorsement helped Paxton to defeat the incumbent, Sen. John Cornyn, in a May primary runoff election.

Public disapproval of Trump over the economy and the Iran war has been a headwind for many Republican candidates. Voters generally go against the party in control of the White House in midterm elections and Democrats are hoping to gain control of the House and Senate — with Texas being a symbolically powerful indication of how the political map might be expanding this year.

The ads seek to highlight taxes as a dominant issue at a time when many voters have expressed concerns about continued inflation. Talarico has favored higher taxes on wealthier households and the two ads seek to portray him as seeking tax hikes more broadly while claiming that Paxton would give tax breaks to first-time homebuyers and families with children.

The key piece of legislation signed into law by Trump last year enhanced and extended many of his expiring tax breaks from his 2017 overhaul. But that measure also increased budget deficits, which has contributed to higher interest rates on the national debt. Trump has also hiked tariffs, which are taxes on imports, to try to raise revenue.

"High Tax Talarico wants to take money out of Texans' pockets. MAGA Inc. is going to ensure Texas knows about Talarico's radical policies and elects Ken Paxton to the U.S. Senate," Alex Pfeiffer, a spokesman for MAGA, Inc., said in a statement Saturday.

Talarico campaign spokesperson JT Ennis pushed back against the ads' claims that the Democrat seeks broad tax hikes.

"Billionaire-backed dark money groups are lying about James Talarico because they're scared of the people-powered movement we're building to fix this broken, corrupt political system," Ennis said in a statement. "James was proud to vote for the largest property tax cut in Texas history and has consistently voted to cut taxes for working Texans."

MAGA, Inc., has at least $400 million in campaign funds that GOP candidates have been waiting for the president to deploy.

"I'm going to spend whatever amount of money necessary to try and help us," Trump told reporters on Friday.

The president stressed that these were his funds to spend as he sees fit.

"This is my money," Trump said, adding that it was "separate" from funds controlled by the Republican National Committee.

The president also said he could hold some of the funds until the 2028 elections "if that's what I want." Trump is constitutionally barred from running for a third presidential term.

Trump backed Paxton despite the Texas politician's public scandals, but he has acknowledged this past week that Paxton is not the most telegenic candidate.

"It's so insulting to him, but I might as well say it: You might not like the way he looks, you might not love his look, you might not love his television interviews, but he was the best attorney general in the country, perhaps," Trump said Wednesday at a White House event on the midterm elections.

Republicans in battleground states have been clamoring for the president to open his wallet and spend some of the enormous war chest he has amassed.

James Blair, who runs the president's midterm political operation, had tried to tamp down growing con-

cern and impatience earlier this week.

"When it's all said and done, all Republicans, at least, will be quite pleased and relieved at the support they find," he said at an Ohio energy summit.

## Even snakes have to audition for the opera at the Met. Princess the boa constrictor got the part

By DAVID R. MARTIN and JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Pretty much everyone on stage at the Metropolitan Opera in New York must audition — even the snake who will briefly take center stage in an upcoming adaptation of a Mozart classic.

In charge of deciding who gets the s-s-s-s-starring reptilian role is Zoe Ziegfeld, a carnival performer-turned-opera actor cast as the snake handler in the Met's version of "Così fan tutte," inspired by Coney Island in the 1950s.

Ziegfeld takes each snake, lets it slither and wrap around, then hoists the animal over their head, rehearsing what they will do under the bright lights at center stage for each performance. Ziegfeld looks each one in the eye, almost face-to-face as they evaluate the snake's demeanor.

"I need to know that the animal is comfortable with people and with what we are doing," Ziegfeld said.

Princess slithers into her big role

In the cold-blooded competition, a boa constrictor named Princess won. She is a larger snake with a better visual presence on stage.

"We will be moving forward with Princess (the big sun-glow boa constrictor who is yellow-peach) in rehearsals on a trial basis! She is a wonderful snake, and the trial is not about her, but rather about me and my strength," Ziegfeld wrote in an email after the auditions were over.

A slightly smaller brown boa constrictor named Nala from a second audition will be Princess' understudy.

A Mozart opera set at a 1950s Coney Island carnival

This is the third time Ziegfeld has played the role of the snake charmer in the Met's adaptation of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 1790 opera.

In Mozart's original, two Italian soldiers decide to test their lovers' fidelity by pretending to head off to war. They then disguise themselves and try to seduce each other's girlfriends. In this version, the plot remains mostly the same, but the setting is a 1950s Coney Island carnival complete with vibrant scenery and sideshow performers.

Carnaval snake charmer turned opera performer

Ziegfeld came to the role honestly. They spent a couple of seasons on Coney Island doing eight snake-charming shows a day.

When they tried out several years ago, live snakes weren't allowed in the audition space. So instead, Ziegfeld brought video of their snake-charming act, then hammered home their carnival sideshow bona fides by knocking a nail into their own nasal cavity in what was called the Human Blockhead act.

"The music's different. The money is different. It's a pleasure to entertain. And with snakes, it's a delight to know that there are people watching who are in awe and people who are terrified. And those things happen at the Met and at Coney — so I would say they are more alike than different, to be honest," Ziegfeld said.

Animals are important characters at some Met operas

The snakes came to their audition thanks to Nancy Novograd and her company All Tame Animals.

She got into the business when her horse appeared onstage at the Met in a production of "Carmen," and now she provides the opera house with everything from elephants to insects.

The first two snakes to audition were a bit small. One might have clashed with Ziegfeld's top. But the key is personality, Novograd said.

"Animals have to perform as do human talent. Sometimes they have a set type of behaviors that they have to demonstrate. And sometimes they just have to get along with the talent," Novograd said. "So in this case, they have to be the right color, size, and Zoe has to like them."

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# Robin Morgan, poet and feminist whose allies included Jane Fonda and Gloria Steinem, dies at 85

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Robin Morgan, a wholesome child star of the 1940s and '50s who grew up to become an all-American radical as a poet, essayist, editor and second-wave feminist, has died. She was 85.

Morgan, who was still working on new books and poems, died Saturday in New York after suffering a series of health problems in recent weeks, said her son, Blake Morgan. Her death came just days after that of her close friend and fellow activist Gloria Steinem.

During the 1960s and '70s, Morgan embodied and inspired historic changes in how women lived and thought. As she was happy to point out, the onetime "Ideal American Girl" and adored "Little Robin Morgan" was a rule breaker and justice seeker with a notable list of achievements, along with a prison record and an FBI file.

Morgan was at the center of some of the defining moments of what came to be called second-wave feminism, expanding upon the achievements of the suffragists a half-century earlier. In 1968, she was among the organizers of the first protest against the Miss America pageant, joining fellow activists in tossing their bras (soon mythologized as burning) into a "Freedom Trash Can." The 1970 essay anthology she edited, "Sisterhood is Powerful," is considered one of the essential texts of the modern women's movement.

Yet she considered herself primarily a poet and artist, and that work fed into her activism, her son said.

"She was someone who was able to take very big ideas and distill them succinctly, like a poet, into a few words," said Blake Morgan, pointing to such quotes of hers as "hate generalizes, love specifies."

Morgan was credited for coining "herstory"

Her legacy was one of deeds, words and images. Morgan is widely credited with coining the term "herstory," the feminist reworking of "history," and popularizing the clenched fist/female symbol icon of the liberation movement. Her poem "Monster," with such lines as "I want a women's revolution like a lover/I lust for it," was quoted at feminist rallies and beyond. Her poem "Arraignment" helped capture the movement's embrace of the late Sylvia Plath and condemnation of her husband, poet Ted Hughes, whom Morgan and others blamed for Plath's suicide in 1963. Morgan's rhyming couplet "I accuse/Ted Hughes" inspired the title for Sonic Youth's "J'Accuse Ted Hughes."

Labeled an "anarchist housewife" in one government report, Morgan confronted the establishment, left and right. In 1970, she and fellow protesters were arrested and jailed after occupying the offices of the avant-garde Grove Press, whose owner, Barney Rosset, was fighting employees' efforts to unionize. In the widely reprinted 1970 essay "Goodbye to All That," she called out libertines and activists from Hugh Hefner to Abbie Hoffman, the latter of whom she likened to "any other up-and-coming movie star who ditches the first wife and kids."

She led an unconventional personal life

In her personal life, Morgan had male and female lovers and was married for more than 20 years to the gay poet Kenneth Pitchford, with whom she had her son, a musician, producer and record company founder. She once described her marriage as a "two member commune" and was so resistant to labels that she remembered being "straight-baited" by feminists who thought she should be a lesbian and chastised by conservatives who assumed she was a lesbian.

In her 2001 memoir "Saturday's Child," she expressed joy and amazement at how her life turned out and how she was able to retain "a threadbare, somewhat surreal sense of humor."

"Put that in your apple pie and smoke it," she wrote.

She wrote more than 20 books, including a memoir

Besides "Saturday's Child," she completed more than 20 books, including "The Word of a Woman: Feminist Dispatches," and the poetry collections "Monster" and "Dark Matter." She followed "Sisterhood is Powerful" with "Sisterhood is Global" (in 1984), and "Sisterhood is Forever" (2002), featuring such contributors as Steinem, Simone de Beauvoir and Eve Ensler. For several years, she was editor-in-chief of Ms. Magazine.

Steinem would call her an ideal "utility player," gifted in almost every way a protest movement might require. As an organizer, she helped found such 1960s feminist groups as New York Radical Women and Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell (W.I.T.C.H.). She was part of the Youth International Party, the left-wing "Yippies" led by Hoffman and Jerry Rubin among others, but soon became disgusted with how the group treated women and left.

In 1984, she was a founder of an early feminist think tank, the Sisterhood Is Global Institute. In 2005, she, Steinem and Jane Fonda launched the Women's Media Center, which has a mission to support "the visibility, viability and decision-making power of women and girls in media."

More recently, she hosted a syndicated radio show and remained active despite being diagnosed 16 years ago with Parkinson's disease, which inspired several poems and a TEDWomen talk in 2015.

She became a child star in the '40s

In a different era, she might have been just another forgotten child star. Born in 1941 in Lake Worth, Florida, and raised in New York, she never saw her father while growing up and was told — falsely — by her mother that he was dead. Her mother also shaved a year off her age, claiming she was born in 1942, to make her early public career seem even more impressive.

The blonde, talented Robin was modeling by age 3, hosted her own "Little Robin Morgan" radio show at age 5 and around the same time was featured on the radio (later television) game show "Juvenile Jury." From 1949-57, she appeared in the hit TV domestic comedy series "Mama" and made appearances on "Robert Montgomery Presents," "Kraft Theater" and other shows.

She would meet some of the era's biggest stars, from Abbott and Costello to Sal Mineo, and was popular enough to inspire such commercial tie-ins as Robin Morgan dolls. Magazines described her as "unspoiled" and "courteous" and "the ideal girl-next-door," immune from "violent outbursts of antagonism against established society."

But off camera, and sometimes on, she was so apart from her image that her first "serious" childhood poem began: "Go, rage, winter the world with despair." During one broadcast of "Juvenile Jury," the question was whether a boy deserved to be spanked. Morgan was supposed to joke that he should wear padding under his pants, but she instead declared that all physical punishment was wrong.

As she recalled in "Saturday's Child," producer Dan Ehrenreich squeezed her shoulder so hard that Morgan could feel his fingernails. He turned her microphone away and eventually placed his hand over her mouth.

"I realized that I loved and respected that child who fought back in what was the first political act I recall ever daring to make," Morgan wrote.

Her political activity began in her late teens

Once in her late teens, she began taking classes at Columbia University, attended poetry workshops and became politically active. She marched for civil rights and ending the Vietnam War and met protesters, artists and such poets as W.H. Auden and Anthony Hecht, who gave her a man's eye view of the creative process, "But, my dear, women should be poems, not write them."

In 1962, she met Pitchford at a Manhattan party. Once the other guests ("boozy bikers" and "stoned, hallucinating Joffrey dancers") had left and the host urged her to go with them, Pitchford lit candles, put Dvorak's "New World" symphony on the record player and became her "First." They later walked for hours and ended up on a downtown park bench.

"You have such an air of possibility about you, Robin" he told her. "It makes me believe anything can happen."

## Kennedy Center renews call for Trump-backed shutdown after part of a ceiling collapses

By STEVEN SLOAN, GARY FIELDS and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A chunk of ceiling fell inside a main hallway of the Kennedy Center, according to a spokesperson who said the damage underscores the need to shut down the historic arts venue for renovations sought by President Donald Trump.

No one was injured when a piece of the ceiling inside the Kennedy Center's grand foyer collapsed Friday evening, said Roma Daravi, the center's vice president for public relations.

Photos provided by the center showed a large hole in the high ceiling and debris littering the red carpet in part of the hallway that connects the Kennedy Center's three main performance auditoriums. The damage occurred during stormy weather in Washington.

The Kennedy Center's Trump-aligned board is fighting in court to move forward with plans to add Trump's name to the building's facade and to close the center for two years as it undergoes $250 million in renovations.

Daravi called the partial ceiling collapse Friday "another example of the urgent need to close for renovation and revitalization, as our Chairman President Trump has championed."

"This structural failure stems from decades of neglect and deferred maintenance by the previous leadership, and there's no justification for further delays in restoring America's cultural center," Daravi said in a statement.

Trump's efforts to add his name and make other big changes to the center established to honor President John F. Kennedy following his assassination are just part of Trump's broader second-term agenda to reshape Washington.

Trump already has demolished the East Wing of the White House to make way for a ballroom. He also plans a triumphal arch near Arlington National Cemetery and a renovated golf course along the Potomac River.

U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper ruled in May that Trump's name had been added to the Kennedy Center illegally and ordered that it be taken down. He also blocked the administration from closing the venue for renovations.

Now before the judge is an August vote by the Kennedy Center's board to return Trump's name to the facade so reads: "The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Restored and Renovated By President Donald J. Trump." Justice Department lawyers have argued donations for renovations will dry up without Trump's name on the building.

Other changes have moved forward. Last week, the Kennedy Center took down a large stick figure sculpture known as Blue that had stood outside the center in 2019. The Kennedy Center gave no reason for its removal, but said in a statement "we are honored to have been stewards" of the late sculptor Joel Shapiro's work.

Grace Terpstra of Keep the KC, a community group fighting the Kennedy Center's closure, said she suspects the board will seize on what appears to be limited ceiling damage "to make the point that the whole thing needs to be shut down, that it's going to fall on everybody."

"I think they'll try to make it into a bigger thing and show that they've found a lot of other things," said Terpstra, the group's founder.

## Masked men block roads into Dover port in England in apparent anti-immigrant protest

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Hundreds of masked anti-immigration protesters blocked roads leading to Britain's busiest ferry port on Saturday, clogging traffic and disrupting travelers and cargo vehicles heading for France.

The U.K. government condemned the action, saying it went well beyond peaceful protest.

The Port of Dover said Saturday morning that all traffic in and out was "stopped due to an ongoing public order incident," and police said they were "engaging with the protesters."

Video posted on social media showed several dozen men in black, their faces covered, standing across a major road near the port. One clip showed demonstrators linking arms across a main road and shouting "stop the boats."

Far-right activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, who uses the name Tommy Robinson, wrote on X that "patriots have mobilised to close down the port."

Chris Vinson, a Conservative Party local councilor, said the demonstration involved several hundred people and appeared to be "illegal migration-related."

"I'm not aware that there's been any violence, although clearly, having the path of your vehicle blocked by men wearing black paramilitary gear and balaclavas is extremely intimidating," he said.

The Labour Party government said "the right to peaceful protest is fundamental to our democracy, but we condemn the behavior in Dover and the travel disruption it has caused."

"We appreciate the frustration of those who have been impacted today," it said in a statement.

The National Highways agency said the protest blocked all routes to the port and caused a 4-mile (6.4-kilometer) traffic jam.

Police were later filmed following protesters toward Dover's railway station. P&O Ferries said just before midday that "access to the Port of Dover has now been restored."

P&O, which runs services between Dover and Calais in France, said passengers who missed their ferry would be offered the next available crossing.

Dover, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) southeast of London, dealt with more than 9 million passengers and 2 million freight vehicles in 2025, according to the port's website.

The town has been the site of previous anti-immigrant protests focused on migrants who cross the Channel from France in small boats. Successive U.K. governments have struggled to stop people — more than 40,000 last year — making the dangerous journey across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. The issue has been depicted as a crisis by politicians including Nigel Farage of the hard-right party Reform UK. He branded the asylum seekers "an invasion" in a Friday speech.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham's government says stepped-up law enforcement cooperation between Britain and France has helped reduce the number of people making the crossing so far this year by more than 40% compared to 2025.

Mike Tapp, a Labour lawmaker who represents Dover in Parliament, criticized "idiots coming to Dover to cause disruption."

"I bet if you asked any one of those 'protesters' they wouldn't know small boat crossing(s) are down by 40% and we are working hard to fix the mess," he wrote on Facebook on Saturday. "Go home, enjoy your weekend/get a job."

## Trump keeps heralding an economic boom, but even a solid jobs report is causing problems for him

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has spent 20 months promising that America was on the cusp of an economic boom. But Friday's surprisingly positive jobs report ultimately provoked frustration from Trump.

The August job numbers might have been a welcome break from after months of sluggish hiring and concerns about inflation that have been weighing on Trump and his party two months from Election Day. But speaking from the Oval Office, Trump instead launched into a grievance session about inflation and interest rates. His anger was aimed at the financial markets, the Federal Reserve and U.S. trade partners. He objected to the commonly accepted notion in economics that the surprise gain of 162,000 jobs in August could contribute to inflationary pressures.

"Success does not cause inflation. Stupidity causes inflation," Trump vented in the Oval Office, as he declared it "crazy" that the stock markets fell Friday on inflation concerns.

The combination over his second term of a drop-off in hiring and higher prices has dogged Trump and his pledge to instantly unleash historic levels of growth. "When I win the election, we will immediately begin a brand new Trump economic boom," Trump said at an August 2024 rally in North Carolina. But so far, the economy has grown at roughly 2% annually, slower than the gains during the Biden administration.

Trump blamed his inability to deliver stronger growth on higher interest rates for U.S. government debt, saying on social media that America could retaliate by stopping trade with foreign countries. Rates have

been climbing in response to persistently high inflation fueled by Trump's tariffs and oil shortages from the Iran war. The national debt has now crossed the daunting threshold of $40 trillion and rates on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note on Friday rose to 4.79%.

Trump has lost some of his credibility on the economy

As the promised growth has yet to materialize, the president has lost some of the public's trust in his ability to steer the world's largest economy. His own policies have enabled, in part, the inflation and high interest rates that he wishes to blame on others.

"The administration's credibility on growth, inflation, rates, debt and deficit dynamics have taken a hit given the outsized predictions that are not aligned with economic reality," said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM US.

If the Fed did as Trump wanted and cut its benchmark rate so that more money could flow into the U.S. economy, the potential influx of cash could make inflation even worse and only add to his political and economic headaches.

But the president disputed this foundational concept in monetary policy. He said Friday that gross domestic product would grow at "12, 13, 14, 15%" if the rates were lower as he seemed to shrug off the inflation risks.

"We could have a GDP that would break every single record," Trump said.

The president's approval rating on the economy was a lowly 32% in the middle of the summer, according to polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. When Republicans were last facing midterm voters in 2018 under Trump, his economic approval rating was 50%.

Trump's threat to cut off foreign trade could endanger growth, further hurting his ratings. His recent levying of tariffs against Canada have become problems for Republicans in the Maine and Michigan Senate races.

Trump aides see a brighter future because of AI, tariffs and tax cuts

Trump officials say their policies are working as intended. They say the development of artificial intelligence will lead to more productivity to boost growth. They say that last year's tariffs should ultimately bring more factory work to America, while Trump's tax cuts will create more business investment and his administration's efforts to identify fraud will create savings for taxpayers.

"I expect higher growth," said Christopher Phelan, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. "We're doing stuff to make good things happen."

Phelan said recent job gains have been about two times larger than what's needed to match population growth. He considers it as entirely possible that productivity gains could push up overall growth for the next several years, even as he acknowledged that growth alone might not be enough to solve all of the country's financial challenges.

Because the costs of Social Security and Medicare are rising faster than revenues, growth alone is unlikely to meaningfully reduce budget deficits.

Growth is not enough to fix budget deficits

If U.S. economic growth could exceed 3% growth annually for the next decade, that would only be enough to stabilize the government's already high debt load, according to an analysis by Ernie Tedeschi, head of economic insights and research at Stripe, the financial technology company.

Tedeschi said he would be "thrilled" if AI could help to deliver those kinds of gains for 10 straight years, but history shows that growth that large due to advancements in computers were likely "wildly optimistic."

"We should absolutely not be planning for the optimistic scenario," Tedeschi said.

Up until the president's comments about interest rates on Friday, the Trump administration has spent the past week trying to make voters feel more confident about the economy.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent specifically promoted the benefits of stronger growth at the G20 summit for finance ministers in North Carolina. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick did so as well as part of G20 meetings about innovation.

Still, Bessent told AP in an interview that he's also working with White House budget director Russ Vought to announce a plan to "bring down the level of the debt, deficit."

There is political risk in trying to meaningfully reduce a year budget deficit of roughly $2 trillion that is slated to exceed $3 trillion a decade from now. Lowering the path of budget deficits would likely help with interest rates, but there could be political pain points in the form of spending cuts and tax hikes.

Brusuelas, the chief economist at RSM US, stressed that Trump would likely need to make sacrifices to meaningfully address the debt and reassure financial markets.

"We need a period of slower growth in government spending — that includes outright reduction in spending in addition to tax increases that all would reduce deficits and interest rates," he said.

## After years of defying the odds, California's David Valadao faces new test as Latinos turn on Trump

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

HANFORD, Calif. (AP) — For years, Rep. David Valadao benefited from voting patterns that shifted toward Republicans in his rural, heavily Latino district in Central California, deep in the state's farm belt where highways crisscross boundless stretches of almond groves, cornfields and dairy feed lots.

This time, that could change.

Across the country, there are signs that Latinos have grown disenchanted with President Donald Trump, especially as the price of gas, fertilizer and groceries keep climbing while funding for healthcare services is declining.

It's Republican lawmakers like Valadao that could pay the price. He's no Trump acolyte — if reelected, Valado will be the last member of his caucus who voted for Trump's impeachment after the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol — but his fortunes are inevitably tied to the leader of his party.

Two out of three voters in Valadao's district are Hispanic, and AP-NORC polling shows that Trump's national approval rating among Hispanic adults fell by 18 percentage points between March 2025 and July 2026. By comparison, approval among U.S. adults overall dropped 9 points.

Valadao said he isn't panicking.

"I've won in these types of races. I can win again," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I think we should be fine."

Valadao is trying to maintain a strategic distance from Trump to defy political gravity. His campaign literature says he will "put people before political parties." At the same time, volunteers at a phone bank in his hometown of Hanford asked wavering voters if it was important to complete Trump's agenda in Washington, a pitch clearly aimed at partisans.

Few Republicans have frustrated Democrats in election after election like Valadao, a dairyman whose family emigrated from Portugal's Azores Islands. He's routinely overcome steep voter registration deficits by honing an independent streak and focusing on local issues like water for farmers. Valadao won a congressional seat in 2012, lost it in 2018, then won it back in 2020.

Last year's redistricting made his swing district even more blue, and national organizations are pouring in money, making it one of the five most expensive races in the country in terms of advertising. Republicans have spent or booked more than $13 million of airtime and digital messaging through Election Day, while Democrats are slightly behind at $12.6 million, according to data compiled by AdImpact.

To win, Valadao is trying to portray his Democratic challenger — Randy Villegas, a progressive endorsed by Sen. Bernie Sanders — as too extreme to represent California's 22nd Congressional District. He said many of his constituents are immigrants that fled countries with socialist-leaning governments "and you are seeing him run on these same kind of policies."

At a town hall in Bakersfield, where U.S. and Mexico flags adorned the walls, hands shot up in the audience when Villegas asked how many people used Medicaid or crossed the border to get less expensive medical care and drugs.

"This should not be happening in the richest country in the history of the world," said Villegas, who is campaigning on Medicare for All, a universal healthcare concept popularized by Sanders. "Nobody should have to choose between groceries and seeing a doctor."

Voters have warnings for incumbents

In a year when control of the House could come down to a single district, Valadao can't afford to lose voters like Scott Alcoser.

A parts manager at a farm equipment retailer in Hanford, where children ride a 1930s-era carousel under towering palms and trendy coffee shops dot downtown streets, Alcoser is a Republican who has backed the Valadao in previous elections.

But this year he's undecided. Alcoser said he wants to hear more from Valadao about how he will "care for the community" at a time when working-class families are struggling. According to census data, nearly one in four people in the district live below the poverty line.

"He can understand the times people are going through right now," Alcoser said. "Any politician should just be really honest with you."

Valadao has already lost Elena Van Overbeek.

Although the Republican law enforcement retiree has voted for him before, she's disappointed that prices haven't come down and she's worried that health care cuts supported by Valadao "would hurt too many people."

She plans to cross the aisle to back Villegas.

Valadao still remains popular with some longtime voters in his hometown. Seated in a downtown salon getting her hair styled, retired nurse Margie Lopez called him "a decent man."

"I don't trust Democrats," said Lopez, a Trump supporter.

The salon's owner, Celestina Rodriguez, is a registered Democrat who describes herself as conservative and plans to vote for Valadao.

"He's from the area and I know some of his family," she said.

The Democratic state of play

Villegas prevailed in a caustic primary over state lawmaker Jasmeet Bains, a moderate who was backed by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

The son of Mexican immigrants who grew up on Medicaid, Villegas accuses Valadao of betraying the district by voting last year for Trump's "big beautiful bill," which delivered $4.5 trillion in tax breaks but also cuts more than $1 trillion over a decade from federal health care and food assistance, largely by imposing work requirements on those receiving aid and by shifting certain federal costs onto the states.

Valadao's district has one of the highest Medicaid enrollment rates in the nation, and Democrats in Congress have estimated that as many as 57,000 of his constituents could lose coverage once new requirements go into effect. Valadao calls such projections "overstated."

Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, an outspoken progressive who is considering a 2028 presidential run, said a Villegas victory in a swing district would be a potent national statement that could ripple across the country.

"Everyone understands that the Latino vote is the swing vote," Khanna said before a rally for the candidate in Bakersfield. "We win the swing vote of the Latino vote, we win Arizona, we win Nevada, we win Georgia."

Mike Madrid, a Republican strategist who is an expert on Latino voting trends, said the political climate might be impossible for Valadao to survive.

"That district has pretty much everything you could imagine working against the Republican," Madrid said. "The fundamentals of the race point toward an anti-incumbent mood based off of souring economics."

A Democratic district with Republican instincts

On paper, Valadao's district should be a Democratic cakewalk — there is a 16-point registration edge for the party after voters in 2025 approved Gov. Gavin Newsom's blueprint for redrawing the state's congressional map.

But the region is far from the coastal metropolises that have made California synonymous with liberal governance.

The Central Valley is known as America's salad bowl, for its vast production fruits, vegetables and nuts that stock refrigerators and kitchen tables across America. Virtually all the pistachios grown in the country

come from California.

"Analysts often underestimate what the people who live and work in the Central Valley of California are about," said Republican consultant Cathy Abernathy of Bakersfield, who thinks Valadao will prevail. "They think differently than the metropolitan Southern California and San Francisco Bay Area Democrat voters."

While many receive government assistance, "most think about keeping the job they have, keeping their family lifestyle going and not rocking the boat just to throw their fist in the air," she wrote in an email.

Valadao didn't support Trump in 2016, backed him 2020 and declined to say how he voted in 2024.

He demurred when asked about his impeachment vote in 2021.

"I'll let history decide on how to interpret anything I've done," he said. "I've got nothing more to add to that."

Jeffrey Cummins, who teaches political science at California State University, Fresno, said Democrats will need to closely tie Valadao to Trump to defeat him in a toss-up race.

If they don't succeed this year, Cummins said, they "may lose hope of ever knocking off Valadao."

## Endometriosis can elude diagnosis for years. What to know about the disease and new ways to find it

By LAURA UNGAR AP Medical Writer

When Zoë Armstrong got an ultrasound report showing signs of endometriosis, she called her mom and cried. After years of suffering and seeking help from doctors, she finally had an answer.

"To see it on paper, I was like, 'I'm not crazy,'" the 31-year-old recalled. "I very much knew what I was feeling in my own body."

Armstrong's experience is not unusual. The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists says people can wait a decade or more after the onset of symptoms to receive a diagnosis of endometriosis. The painful condition, which causes tissue similar to the lining of the uterus to grow on other parts of the body, afflicts 1 in 10 women worldwide.

New tests being used in other countries aim to help address the issue. And while they're raising hopes among doctors and patients, they're not currently available in the U.S., and some experts expect them to be a useful tool but not a complete solution.

Endometriosis can cause debilitating pain

Research suggests endometriosis is a type of chronic inflammatory disease. The exact cause is unknown, although experts say genetics plays a part.

Symptoms vary depending on the extent of the disease and where the tissue appears. Usually, it's found on organs such as the bladder, bowel or ovaries, but in rare cases it can even be outside the pelvis. Symptoms may include bloating, fatigue and infertility – and most commonly pain that can strike during periods, intercourse and bowel movements.

"It can be debilitating pain that makes you not be able to go to school or work or be in bed for days at a time," said Dr. Drorit Or at Mount Sinai West in New York.

Armstrong's first symptoms, at age 11, were stabbing pains on her left side that repeatedly sent her to the school nurse. As an adult, she was also wracked with severe pain as well as nausea, heavy periods, acne and rupturing ovarian cysts.

Shortly after getting married a couple of years ago, she experienced pain she likened to having a tiny fencer inside her "just stabbing me incessantly for hours at a time."

There are many reasons for a delayed diagnosis

Armstrong was finally diagnosed at 29 by a doctor who also had the disease.

An ultrasound found an endometrioma, a fluid-filled cyst. She Googled the word, which is when she first cried with her mom. She also cried when a nurse diagnosed her verbally and when surgery formally confirmed the diagnosis.

One reason diagnoses can take so long, experts said, is that patients and doctors often normalize period pain. Symptoms also can overlap with those of other conditions, and not all health care providers have

knowledge or expertise in endometriosis, said Dr. Megan Billow at the Cleveland Clinic.

One helpful step patients can take, Or suggested, is to keep a diary tracking when pain occurs, where it's located and how intense it is.

"Then when you come to the doctor, you come prepared," she said. "You can definitely ask: Do you think I have endometriosis?"

New endometriosis tests are used outside the U.S.

New diagnostic tests are now available in some other countries, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration hasn't approved them.

One is a half-hour test called EndoSure, which detects endometriosis by measuring electrical signals in the gut using sensor pads on the abdomen, with results available to the physician afterward. Another, Endotest, analyzes a saliva sample for microRNAs that can indicate whether the condition is present, providing patients with results in two to three weeks.

In the United Kingdom, an institute that provides national health advice recently published draft guidance recommending both be used by the National Health Service for three years while more evidence is collected on how well they work. The goal is to speed up diagnosis in primary care.

Dr. Mark Noar, founder of Maryland-based EndoSure, said the company is in the process of submitting its application to the FDA in the U.S., seeking approval for the test to be used as an aid to help doctors make the diagnosis.

Meanwhile, the French company Ziwig is taking final steps to make Endotest available to U.S. patients through another pathway that allows lab-developed tests to be made available through certain certified laboratories without FDA approval. Ziwig's Dr. Andrew Spiers said the diagnostic test is a starting point. Once the doctor knows there's endometriosis, he said, that would be the time to do imaging if it hasn't already been done.

"I would not say that it's the only tool that a patient would have in their diagnostic pathway," Spiers said.

U.S. doctors agree that such tests wouldn't replace other diagnostic tools and methods, but may be helpful. One thing they won't do, however, is solve the persistent problem of normalizing period pain.

Various endometriosis treatments are available

Armed with a diagnosis, women can work with their doctors on treatment plans.

Treatments for endometriosis pain include pain relievers such as ibuprofen and a prescription medicine specifically for endometriosis; hormone therapies such as birth control pills, progestin therapy and medications that cause periods to stop temporarily; and surgical treatments including hysterectomy in some severe cases.

Armstrong underwent excision surgery, a procedure to remove endometriosis lesions and scar tissue. She said she still sees about three doctors a week for pelvic floor therapy and other issues. She also visits middle and high schools around New York City with the Endometriosis Foundation to educate students.

"They need to know what to look out for — not just for endo, but for other women's health conditions in general," she said.

Or, the Mount Sinai doctor, said young women should know there's help available — and hope.

"You don't have to live in pain," Or said. "You can have a very, very good life managing this disease."

## Today in History: September 6, President McKinley fatally shot

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 2026. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later and was succeeded by his vice president, Theodore Roosevelt.)

Also on this date:

In 1522, the Victoria, commanded by Juan Sebastian de Elcano, arrived in Spain, completing the first circumnavigation of the globe on an expedition launched in 1519 by Ferdinand Magellan; Elcano and 21 others were the only survivors of the expedition, which set out with five ships and 270 men (Magellan was killed in the Philippines a year earlier.)

In 1781, British Brigadier General Benedict Arnold, a onetime American officer, ordered British forces to burn New London, Connecticut.

In 1914, in World War I, the first Battle of the Marne began as French and British troops attacked advancing German forces, stopping the advance and avoiding the capture of Paris.

In 1949, Howard Unruh, a resident of Camden, New Jersey, shot and killed 13 of his neighbors. (Unruh, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, was incarcerated for 60 years until his death in 2009.)

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis that left 11 Israelis, five Arab abductors and a West German police officer dead.

In 1975, 18-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova of Czechoslovakia, in New York for the U.S. Open, requested political asylum in the United States.

In 1995, Baltimore Oriole Cal Ripken Jr. played in his 2,131st consecutive game, breaking Lou Gehrig's 56 year-old MLB record; Ripken's streak would ultimately reach a still-record 2,632 games.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris.

In 2006, President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said "tough" interrogation techniques had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

In 2018, the Supreme Court of India decriminalized consensual sex between adults, legalizing homosexuality in the country.

In 2022, Liz Truss began her tenure as U.K. prime minister; she would resign just 49 days later.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 89. Cartoonist Sergio Aragonés is 89. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 83. Comedian-actor Jane Curtin is 79. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 68. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 64. Country singer-songwriter Mark Chesnutt is 63. Actor Rosie Perez is 62. R&B singer Macy Gray is 59. Actor Idris Elba is 54. Actor Justina Machado is 54. Actor Anika Noni Rose is 54. Actor Naomie Harris is 50. Rapper Foxy Brown is 48. Actor/singer Deborah Joy Winans is 43. Actor-comedian Lauren Lapkus is 41. Actor Asher Angel is 24. Actor Pearce Joza is 24.