

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 13

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

Sunflower Classic Couples Golf Tourney

Carnival of Silver Skates registration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Warming House

Doggie Day at the Groton Pool, 3 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m. and at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Rally Sunday: Worship/Communion/Milestones, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Women to meet after worship.

United Methodist: Worship with communion 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

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Monday, Sept. 14

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Carnival of Silver Skates registration, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., warming house

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

Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.

JH Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 4 p.m.

JV Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 6 p.m.

GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena

School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Homecoming Coronation, 7:30 p.m.

Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

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We the People

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



By David Adler

America's Internal Erosion Under Trump Recalls the Internal Collapse of the Roman Republic

Neither Julius Ceaser nor his fellow Romans could have grasped the full implications for the Republic of his decision to cross the Rubicon. Roman citizens could not have conceived of the Republic's collapse and all that was associated with it—the ancient liberties of free speech and private property, a thousand years of self-government, and the rule of law itself. If the restoration of the Republic proved equally elusive, the explanations for its demise have found a measure of agreement. Gibbon has famously written, "the principles of a free constitution are irrevocably lost, when the legislative power is dominated by the executive."

Has America, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, approached the banks of its own Rubicon? The extraordinary concentration of power in the hands of Trump, facilitated by the acquiescence of the Supreme Court and the Republican-controlled Congress, is pregnant with menace. Trump's assertion of "absolute power," which has been detailed, critiqued and criticized in this space, has reduced the judicial and legislative branches to the role of spectator, as it has launched the executive on a trajectory of unchecked, unfettered power. In cold terms, to borrow from Gibbon, the principles of our free Constitution have been torn asunder by Trump's authoritarian model.

The erosion of America's Republic was a focal point of the remarks of Dr. Fiona Hill, a preeminent international relations scholar and former National Security Adviser, at The Alturas Institute's annual conference, "Conversations with Exceptional Women," held in Sun Valley, Idaho. Hill, a keynote speaker at the event, had been on a phone call with European officials earlier that morning before participating in an onstage interview, in which she offered a sobering appraisal of a global system in flux and threats to America's democracy.

Hill drew attention to the collapse of the Roman Republic, as she lamented the erosion in the United States of the great pillars of our nation, including the institutions that have preserved constitutional government and the rule of law. The dismantling of the federal government under Trump, whether measured in terms of the struggle that veterans endure to receive healthcare or, more recently, his "dusting" of the postal service for his own ends, reflect the growing consensus among scholars that "the center" no longer holds. This federal failing, Hill noted, while alluding to the nation's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, suggests a return to an era in which states must manage their own affairs from the bottom up.

In welcome words, Hill asserted as a remedy, the power of Americans to act as "citizens," and all that the distinctive title, with its great legal and political status implies. Americans must end their preoccupation with themselves as "consumers of the state," waiting for someone else to solve their problems. The "fixes" for all the problems confronting our nation—adequate healthcare system and affordable housing, among others—won't necessarily come from Washington, but can come from Sioux Falls, Bozeman, Missoula, Bismarck, Casper and places in between.

We have insisted in this column that great ideas and practical solutions can emerge from the creative thinking and popular discourse of concerned citizens, no matter where they live. Justice Louis Brandeis wrote enthusiastically about the virtues of federalism, the idea that states are "laboratories" for introducing and testing programs and policies which, if proved to be helpful and successful, can be shared with other states across the country.

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It is imperative at this juncture in our nation's history, when "we citizens" observe the failings in Washington— the refusal to engage in genuine compromise to address the deep-seated problems that sap the quality of our lives, and threaten the lives of generations to come, the unwillingness to confront Big Government, as embodied in an Authoritarian Presidency, and the decline in support of our fundamental rights liberties—for Americans to rise and fix things ourselves. We can employ the ideas and ingenuity of common, ordinary citizens, folks who have achieved in life because of hard work, determination, imagination and grit, like those who formed "the Greatest Generation," and solve the problems that have slowed our progress and undermined the American Dream. Americans should embrace genuine discussion and debate as the motor of democracy, through a commitment to civic life that seeks to fulfill the words of the Pledge of Allegiance—"justice and liberty for all"—and stop a crossing of the Rubicon.

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Groton Girls shut out Vermillion in Soccer

by Coach Matt Bumgartner

Final : Groton Area 8, Vermillion 0
1st Half: Groton Area 6, Vermillion 0
2nd Half : Groton Area 2, Vermillion 0

Goalkeepers:

Tori Schuster 45min - 2 saves
Amelia Ewalt 45min - 1 save

Goals:

- 1) McKenna Tietz assisted by Addison Steffes 15th minute
- 2) McKenna Tietz assisted by Brenna Imrie 16th minute
- 3) Avery Crank 32nd minute
- 4) Ashlynn Warrington 33rd minute
- 5) McKenna Tietz assisted by Sydney Locke 34th minute
- 6) Sydney Locke assisted by Ryelle Gilbert 37th minute
- 7) Addison Hoffman assisted by McKenna Tietz 56th minute
- 8) Devan Locke 75th minute

Today had a lot great amount of offensive production, plenty of shots on goal and opportunities for everyone to play meaningful minutes. I'm happy with the outcome of scoring 8 and limiting chances on our defensive end. Very pleased to get our record now to 4-4 with the opportunity to go above .500 come Tuesday. We were challenged with a tougher 1st half of the season schedule playing 6 of the first 7 away from our home field in Groton so returning home today was very exciting and rewarding to pack in 8 goals from a plethora of players on Senior Day.

Defensively wise we were not challenged too often but that was key to our defense being very relaxed in the midfield and structured to win the ball with confidence and or either force Vermillion into bad touches.

McKenna Tietz found her way to 3 goals and an assist on the day and moved her way into 1st all time in our programs all time scoring charts with 34 career goals and counting. McKenna has been a focal point on our offense throughout the years and her hard work and commitment to track down the ball with her speed and ability to cut back and make plays for herself and her teammates has been incredible help for our team's success.

Next up is Lennox at home Tuesday September 15 at 4:00pm.

Boys drop game to Vermillion

The boys lost to Vermillion, 4-3. Groton Area scored first with 8:48 left in the first half on an Ethan Kroll kick set up by a penalty kick. Vermillion tied the game with 2:44 left in the first half on a kick by Teagan Wells. Groton Area scored first in the second half with 35:26 left on a Ethan Kroll kick assisted by Ryder Schwan. Vermillion answered with 31:44 left on a Teagan Wells kick to tie the game at two. Vermillion took the lead with 23:31 left on an Landon Sopoci kick. Groton answered 25 seconds later with an Ethan Kroll kick. Vermillion would score the game winning goal with 2:21 left in the game on a Landon Sopoci kick.

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Wolves trounce Mustangs in 2026 road opener

Marshall, Minn. – Three is the charm for the (RV) Northern State University football team in 2026, defeating Southwest Minnesota State 30-3 in their first road contest of the season. The Wolves remain undefeated on the season, while holding the Mustangs scoreless through the opening three quarters.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 30, SMSU 3

Records: NSU 3-0 (2-0 NSIC), SMSU 1-2, (0-2 NSIC)

Attendance: 2884

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern tallied two touchdowns in the first quarter via the air assault; Ty Englehart connected with Jacoby Boykins for an 8-yard pass at 11:16 on the clock and Joey Dube-Garrett hit Jessie Campbell for a 10-yard pass with 7:17 on the clock

Dube-Garrett extended the Wolves lead in the second with a 57-yard heave to Cooper Eisenbeisz as the quarter opened and Jeremy Caruso closed out the scoring in half with a 32-yard field goal at 4:52

Hank Kraft scored the lone points in the third on a 1-yard carry, his seventh rushing touchdown of 2026 Southwest Minnesota State added three points in the fourth on a 38-yard field goal by Landon Hubbard, the only points of the quarter for either team

Northern tallied 476 yards of total offense in the win, recording 159 yards rushing and 317 yards passing with 21 first downs

The Wolves scored four of the five times they entered the red-zone and averaged 15.9 yards per reception and 5.0 yards per rush

The NSU defense held SMSU to 250 yards of total offense, shutting down 11-of-14 third down attempts and 4-of-6 fourth down attempts with one interception and one sack

Dube-Garrett threw for a team leading 179 yards and two touchdowns, completing 9-of-12 attempts, while Englehart passed for 138 yards with one touchdown, completing 11-of-18 attempts

Hank Kraft kept things rolling on the ground with 107 yards rushing and one touchdown, averaging 5.1 yards per carry with a 48-yard long

Three Wolves tallied over 70 yards receiving on the day, led by Eisenbeisz with 76 yards, DJ Smith with 74 yards, and Campbell with 72 yards

Jake Adams put together his second straight double-figure game with 15 tackles, including nine solo stops and 2.0 tackles for a loss

Cashton LaPlante was second on the team with six tackles, followed by Elijah Jopp, Javonnee Szymanski, Joshua Brown, and K'vaughn Landers with five apiece; Brown led the secondary with two pass break-ups

Gabe Gutierrez and Kaydn Turnbow teamed up for the sack on the day, while Darion Nundley notched the first interception of his career

Caruso went 1-for-2 in field goal attempts and tallied 362 yards on kickoffs with one touchback

Keaton Docken made his first punting appearance for NSU, notching 100 total yards punting with a 55-yard long

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Joey Dube-Garrett: 179 yards passing, 2 touchdowns, 75.0 pass completion %

Hank Kraft: 107 yards rushing, 1 touchdown

Cooper Eisenbeisz: 76 yards receiving, 38.0 yards per reception, 1 touchdown, 57-yard long, 32 kick return yards

DJ Smith: 74 yards receiving, 14.8 yards per reception

Jessie Campbell: 72 yards receiving, 10.3 yards per reception, 1 touchdown

Jake Adams: 15 tackles, 9 solo tackles, 2.0 tackles for a loss of 3 yards

UP NEXT

Northern continues their road trip next Saturday, September 19 at nationally ranked Minnesota State. Kick-off is set for 1 p.m. from Mankato in the match-up with the Mavericks.

Hanson County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD 42 at mile marker 311, 10 miles southwest of Alexandria, South Dakota

When: 8:05 p.m., Friday, September 11, 2026

Driver 1: 31-year-old male from Alexandria, South Dakota, minor injuries

Vehicle 1: 2005 Dodge Dakota

Seat Belt Used: No

Passenger: 59-year-old male from Alexandria, South Dakota, fatal injuries

Seatbelt Used: No

Hanson County, S.D.- An Alexandria man died Friday in a single vehicle crash near Alexandria, South Dakota.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2005 Dodge Dakota was traveling westbound on SD 42 near mile marker 311 while pulling a trailer loaded with lumber. The driver lost control of the trailer while going down a hill. The Dodge entered the north ditch, rolled, and became separated from the trailer. The passenger was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. The driver was taken to a Mitchell hospital with minor injuries.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

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

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

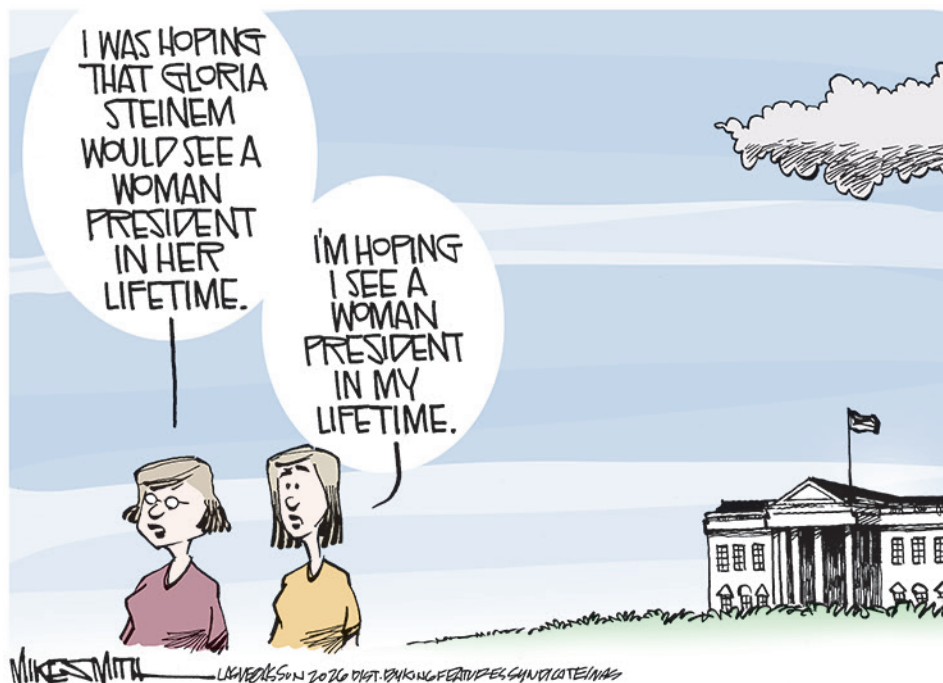
Out of the ground the Lord God
formed every beast of the field
and every bird of the air
and brought them to Adam to see
what he would call them.
And whatever Adam called each
living creature, that was its name.

GENESIS 2:19



*Detail of "Cats" by Karl Schmidt-Rotluff
(1919)*

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. What business woman from Thyatira opened her home to Paul and his companions after her conversion?
Rachel, Keturah, Lydia, Shiprah

3. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will be your ____ also."
Love, Heart, Faith, Friends

4. From 2 Samuel 18, whose head became caught in the branches of an oak tree?
Samson's, Herod's, Absalom's, Joab's

5. On the outskirts of what city did Jesus meet Zacchaeus?
Smyrna, Tarsus, Jericho, Antioch

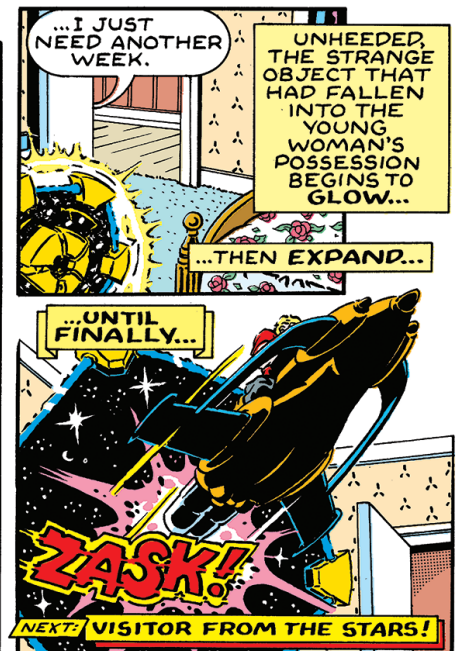
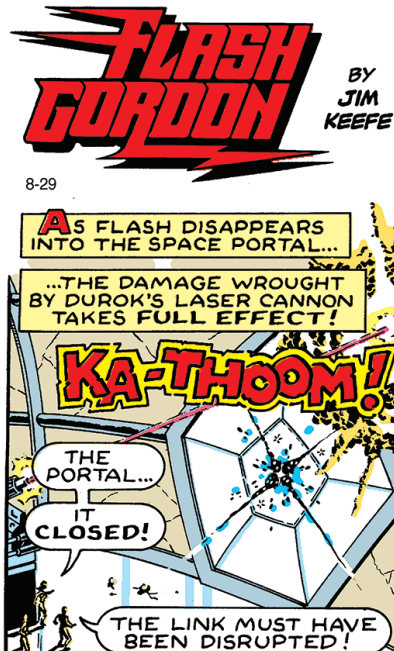
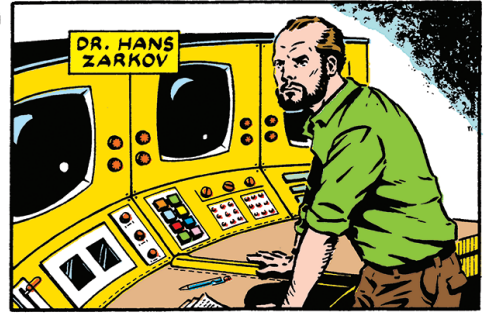
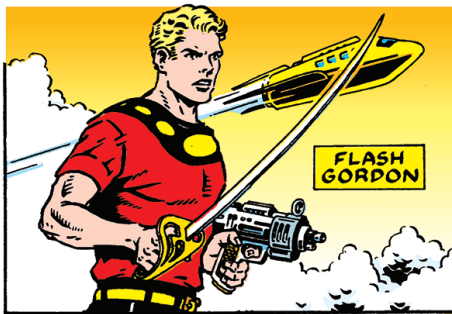
6. From 2 Samuel 14, what was the name of Absalom's daughter?
Ruth, Tamar, Miriam, Sarah

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Lydia, 3) Heart, 4) Absalom's, 5) Jericho, 6) Tamar

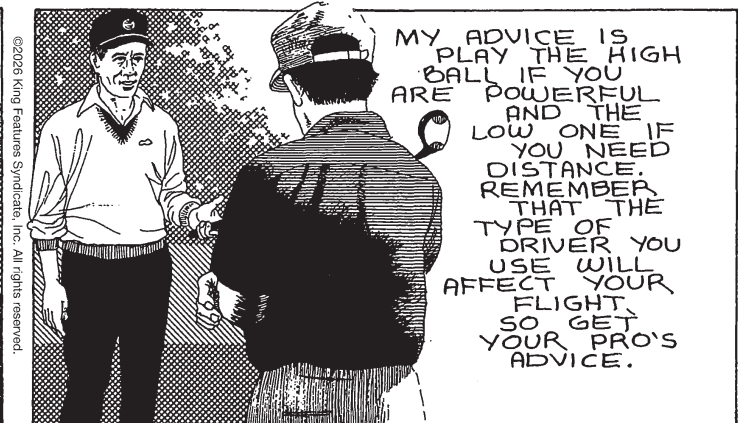
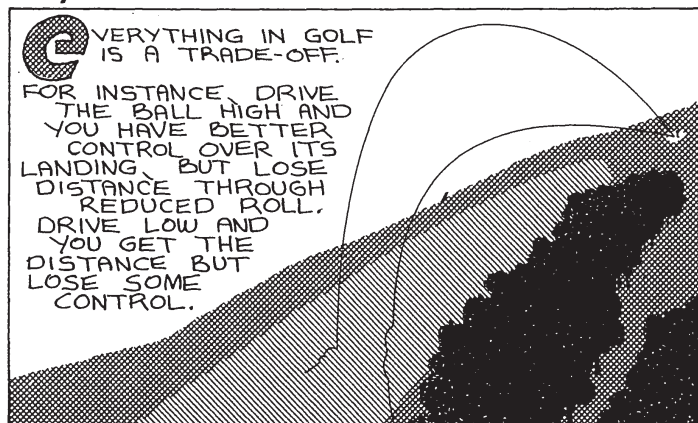
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Elder Gets Hospitalized Due to Hypercalcemia

DEAR DR. ROACH: A few years ago, at the age of 65, I was hospitalized and in critical condition with a calcium score of 14 mg/dL. After many tests, the diagnosis was hypercalcemia. After a 10-day hospital stay, I was discharged, and every test in the book was done to find the cause. All tests came back negative as to the cause, and still to this day, it isn't known what could've caused this. Any ideas? -- G.V.

ANSWER: "Hypercalcemia" just means a high calcium level, and there are many causes -- some of which are quite serious -- including several cancers. A level of 14 mg/dL is very high. The many tests that they did makes a serious cause unlikely, and the fact that you're doing well years later confirms this.

The most common cause of high calcium is primary hyperparathyroidism, which should've been among the first tests they did. This is caused by a (usually) benign tumor in one of the parathyroid glands; there are usually four that sit on top of your thyroid gland (hence the name). Parathyroid hormone is the key regulator of calcium in the body.

I suspect that you had pseudohypercalcemia -- an apparently high calcium level that is actually normal. This is caused by the abnormal protein binding of calcium, which, in turn, can be caused by abnormal protein levels in the blood. Some of these abnormal protein levels include high albumin (found with dehydration) and high immunoglobulin proteins (found with multiple myeloma). Again, since your tests are all normal now, a serious condition is very unlikely.

The classic cause of pseudohypercalcemia is leaving the tourniquet on too long when drawing blood. As the blood gets more acid from the muscles, calcium gets unbound from albumin, leading to an artifactually high number. This can be easily confirmed by measuring ionized calcium.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm very nervous to take any prescriptions with black-box warnings. My urine tested positive for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. My doctor prescribed 500 mg of Cipro. Everything I read says how terrible the side effects are and how they can be delayed or show up later on in the future.

After more research, I see that water pills (I take hydrochlorothiazide) aren't necessarily safe to take with Cipro, as it can cause additional kidney strain due to your electrolytes being off. I'm not a doctor, but not much is sitting well with me.

Would you please be so kind as to share your thoughts for alternatives that would be safer to take so that I can share them with my doctor? -- L.W.

ANSWER: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* are a dangerous bacteria, partially because of their extensive resistance to antibiotics. In fact, quinolones such as ciprofloxacin (Cipro) are the only reliable oral antibiotics to treat *Pseudomonas*. While I agree with you that quinolones are risky drugs that should only be used in limited circumstances, your only other option to treat your infection is an intravenous antibiotic.

Ciprofloxacin has several potential toxicities. I've seen hallucinations with this drug start after hours. Many people know that ciprofloxacin in particular can increase the risk of tendon ruptures. There may also be an increased risk of aortic aneurysms. However, the major risk is while the person's taking the medication, and the long-term risk after taking a week of antibiotics is quite low.

Before starting treatment, it's important to be sure that the urine is actually infected with, rather than colonized by, *Pseudomonas*. The presence of symptoms is critical when considering treatment.

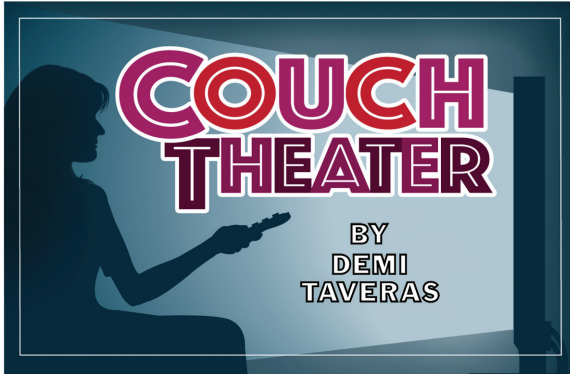
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Ella Beatty stars in "Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"The 78th Primetime Emmys" (TV-PG) -- It's time for the night of the year where primetime television gets its flowers! Premiering live on Sept. 14, the Emmys will be hosted by Mariska Hargitay ("Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"), and the

categories are stacked with nominees from multiple HBO shows like "The Pitt," "Hacks," "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms," and "Euphoria." Netflix scored with nominations for shows like "Beef," "The Beast in Me," and "Black Rabbit." Not to mention Apple TV's "Widow's Bay" and "Pluribus" with 19 and 18 nominations, respectively! In addition, Michael J. Fox will be honored during the ceremony with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for his charitable efforts toward Parkinson's disease research. (Peacock)

"Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story" (TV-MA) -- This could be just me, but I do enjoy seeing a nepo baby flourish in the TV and film industry every once in a while, especially when their parents are as iconic as Ella Beatty's ("Feud: Capote vs. The Swans"). Daughter of acting legends Annette Bening ("Lucky") and Warren Beatty ("Rules Don't Apply"), Ella takes on the lead role of Lizzie Borden in the fourth season of the crime-drama anthology series "Monster." Starring opposite her are Charlie Hunnam, who played the titular role of Ed Gein in the third season of "Monster," as well as Billie Lourd and Sarah Paulson of "American Horror Story" fame. This season follows Lizzie in 1892 Massachusetts, as she becomes a primary suspect after her parents are found murdered in their home with a hatchet. All eight episodes release Sept. 17. (Netflix)

"Dancing with the Stars: Season 35" (TV-PG) -- Thirty-five seasons is an unbelievable feat for any television show, and with the buzz surrounding its new cast of contestants, "DWTS" still seems far from facing cancellation. (I'm not complaining, though!) "Summer House's" Ciara Miller, who just came out of a recent scandal as a reality TV darling, was one of the first of the 16 contestants to be announced, along with "Love Island" presenter Maura Higgins. But the cast announcements that have truly rocked the world of "DWTS" fans were regarding to actress Julia Stiles from "10 Things I Hate About You," actress/dancer Jenna Dewan from "Step Up" (get ready for all the "Wait, she can dance!" comments), and "Glee's" Harry Shum Jr. The season's set for a two-night premiere, beginning Sept. 15! (Disney+)

"Jay-Z in 8" (TV-14) -- "Allow me to reintroduce myself," teases Jay-Z in the trailer for this new eight-part docuseries. Sitting down with record producer/co-founder of Def Jam Recordings Rick Rubin, Jay-Z partakes in intimate discussions about his career, music, life experiences and creative processes. The black-and-white series was shot over the span of two days in a stunning and quiet hall in Paris, with Jay-Z recounting how he started writing music from the age of 9 and leading into how he produced iconic songs like "No Church in the Wild," "99 Problems," and "4:44." The first two episodes premiere on Sept. 18, with new episodes coming every Friday. (HBO Max)

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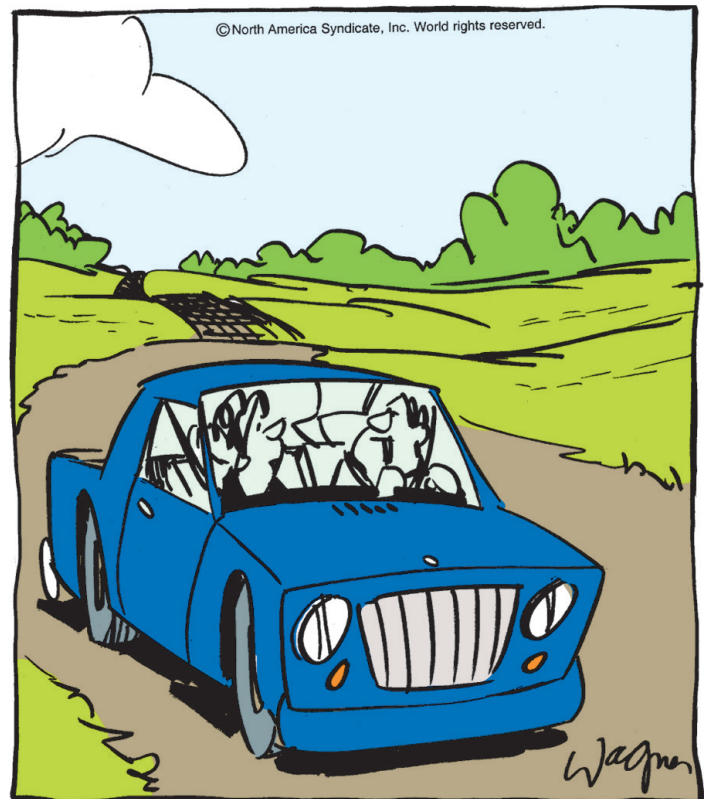
1. What was the hand jive?
2. What performing name did the Urlick brothers take?
3. Name the group that released "Georgy Girl."
4. Which Johnny Mathis song was adapted from an Old English folk song called "The Riddle Song"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "There is none so blind as he who will not see, We must not close our minds, We must let our thoughts be free."

Answers

1. Hand jive was a dance that was mostly a complicated pattern of hand clapping movements. It started in London in a bar where there was no space to actually dance. Hand clapping was all they had room to do.
2. The four brothers (Ed, Joe, Gene and Vic) originally called themselves the Amory Brothers until they changed it to the Ames Brothers. Their first chart-topper was "Rag Mop."
3. The Seekers, in 1966. It was used as the title song for the film of the same name and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song.
4. "The Twelfth of Never."
5. "Everything Is Beautiful," by Ray Stevens, in 1970. Penned by Stevens himself, the song took the Grammy award for Best Contemporary Male Vocal Performance.

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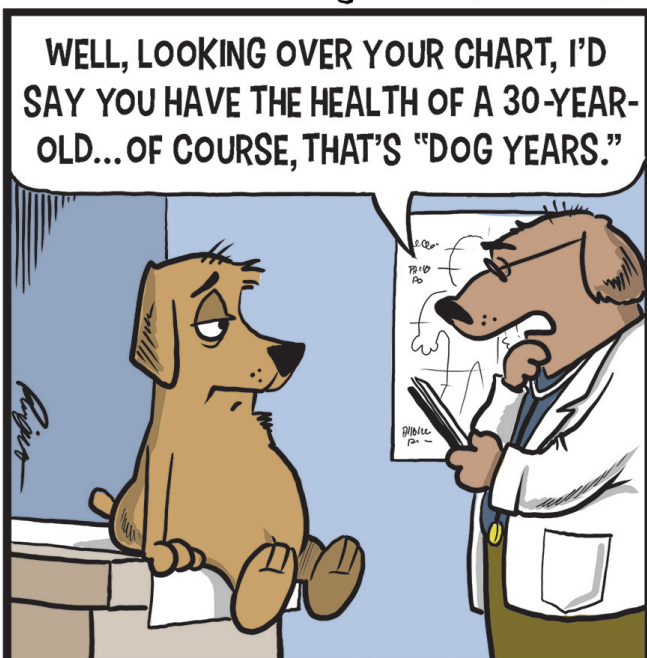
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



"I checked the GPS and we're right here!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

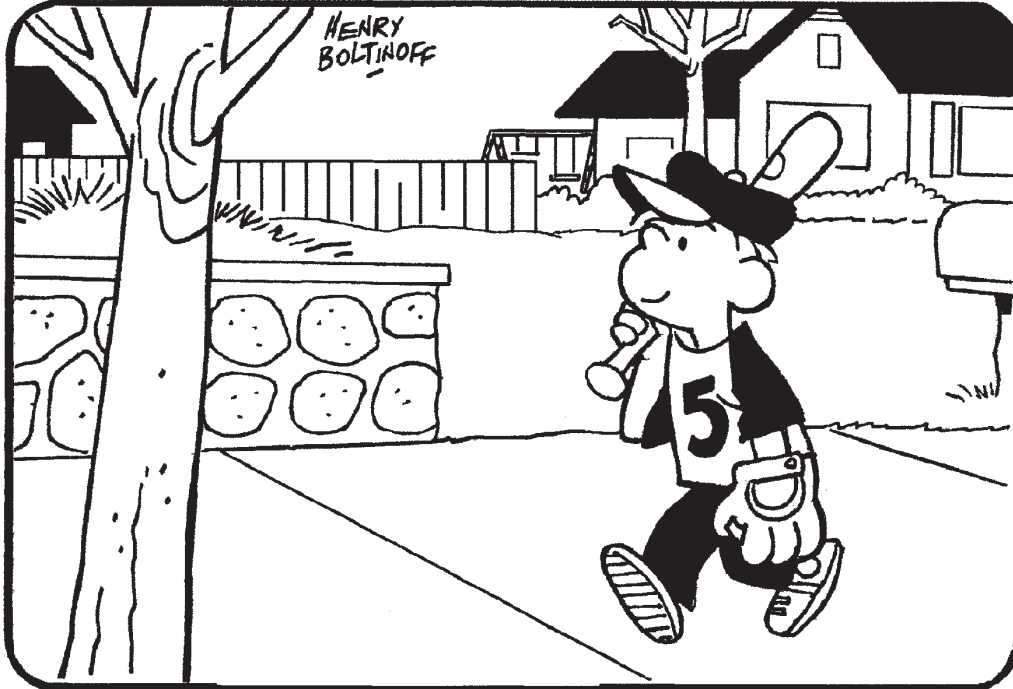


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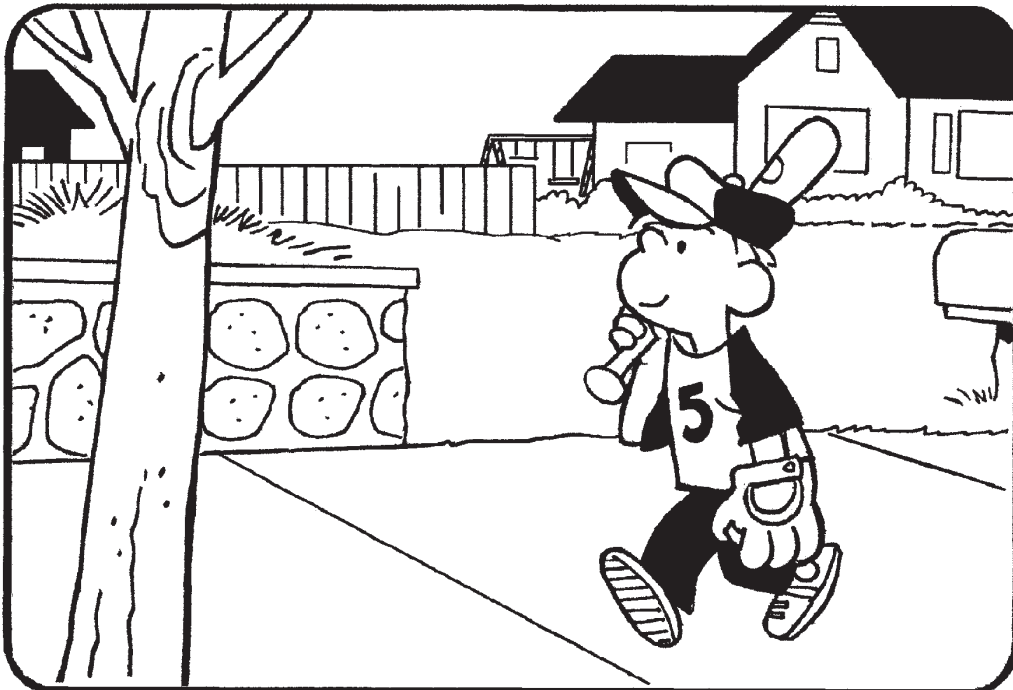
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Number is smaller. 2. Cap is different. 3. Shutter is smaller. 4. Mailbox is lower. 5. Tree is missing. 6. Wall is not as wide.

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* To remove stubborn hard water deposits from a shower head (without removing it), do this trick: Add a cup of plain white vinegar to a zipper-top sandwich bag (or a larger bag with added vinegar to fit larger showerheads). Submerge shower head in the vinegar and draw bag up tightly around the stem. Use a rubber band to secure the plastic bag around the showerhead. Leave overnight. Remove, scrub and shower to release the deposits.

* "When moving, use foam plates as separators for your dinner plates. Use kitchen towels to wrap serving platters. If you have a box that separates glasses, drop a spice jar into each glass. Use all the space and you'll have less boxes to move."

-- P.L. in South Carolina

* Borax can be used to keep sidewalks free of weeds. Simply sprinkle a little Borax on the sidewalk and sweep into the cracks. This is a very effective weed killer, but it will also kill your grass if you use too much, so keep it in the cracks only!

* "Have a stripped screw? Place a wide rubber band over the head and insert your drill. The rubber band fills in the stripped spots and makes the drill catch the screw. It works most of the time." -- D.D. in Nebraska

* "Make audio recordings or short videos of you reading your children's favorite books for them to play when you are busy doing housework, working or cooking." -- K.A. in Oregon

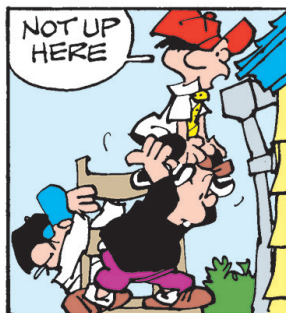
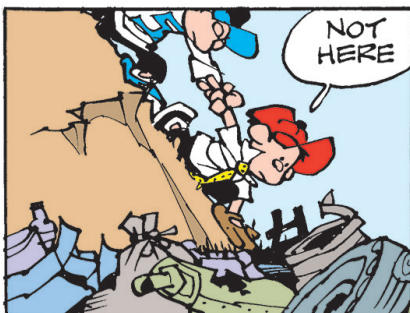
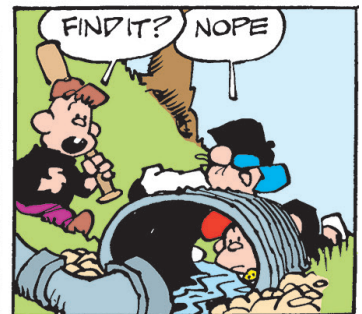
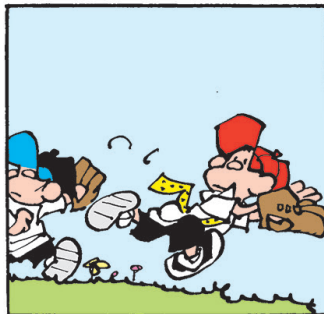
* If you have a sticky zipper, try running a candle along the zipper face, then zipping it up and down a few times.

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

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 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Ashley and Wynonna
6 Consumer protection agcy.
9 Catchall abbr.
12 Track star Bolt
13 Tic-tac-toe win
14 "The Matrix" character
15 Refuse an offer
16 Seattle suburb that's home to Microsoft
18 Credit rating publisher
20 Skin soother
21 Corp. money exec
23 Overly
24 Part of LGBTQ
25 Hit on the noggin
27 Japanese fish dish
29 Tranquil
31 Sort of dive
35 Police ID
37 Employ
38 Hairnet
41 Moray, for one
43 Past
44 Plane-related
45 Country song?

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16			17			
		18			19				20			
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31			32	33	34
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38	39	40				41		42		43		
44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

- 47 Archbishop Tutu
49 Stag
52 Altar affirmative
53 Reuben bread
54 More practical
55 Aachen article
56 Rowing need
57 Birch's kin
5 Stuffed shirt
6 Gift giver's words
7 Low digits
8 Atlantic fish
9 — Holmes (Sherlock's sister)
10 Mortise part-ner
11 Encryptions
17 "Butterfly" singer Carey
19 Medicated
21 "60 Minutes" ailer
22 Nemesis
24 Fill in — blank
26 Explosive sound
28 Bed cover
30 Wee bit
32 Tiara stone
33 Work unit
34 Old Olds
36 Census info
38 "Sexy" Beatles girl
39 "— say more?"
40 Director Welles
42 — apso (small dog)
45 Novelist Seton
46 Airline to Tel Aviv
48 Spanish gold
50 Born
51 Blunder

DOWN

- 1 Roast beef au —
2 "Suits" net-work
3 "Shark Tank" star — John
4 Flintstones' pet

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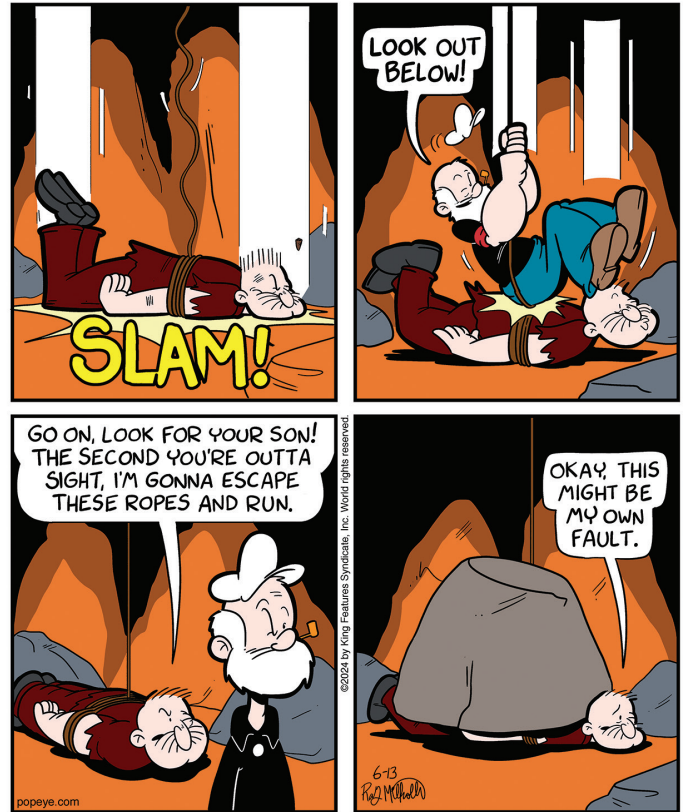
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

J	U	D	D	S		F	T	C		E	T	C	
U	S	A	I	N		O	O	O		N	E	O	
S	A	Y	N	O		R	E	D	M	O	N	D	
		M	O	O	D	Y	S			A	L	O	E
C	F	O		T	O	O		T	R	A	N	S	
B	O	N	K		S	U	S	H	I				
S	E	D	A	T	E		H	E	A	D	E	R	
			B	A	D	G	E		H	I	R	E	
S	N	O	O	D		E	E	L		A	G	O	
A	E	R	O		A	N	T	H	E	M			
D	E	S	M	O	N	D			A	L	O	N	E
I	D	O			R	Y	E		S	A	N	E	R
E	I	N			O	A	R		A	L	D	E	R

Olive



Out on a Limb

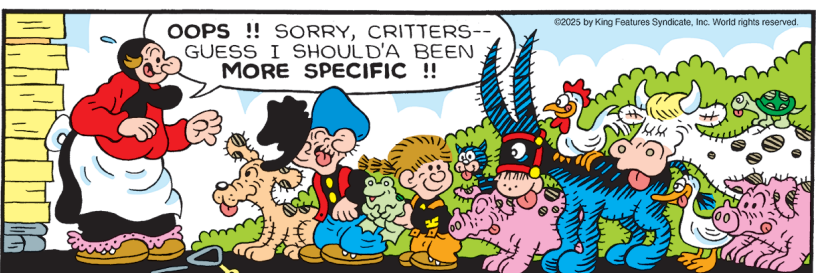
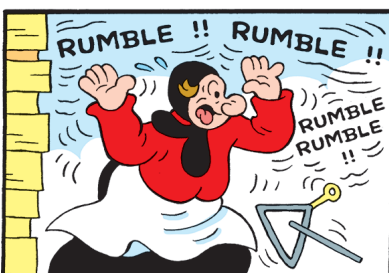
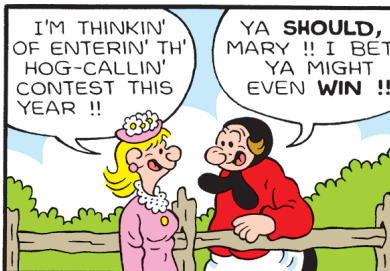
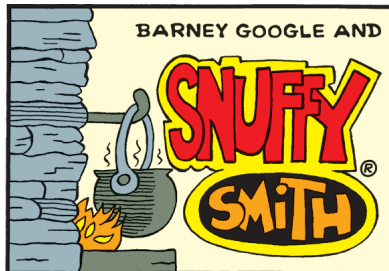
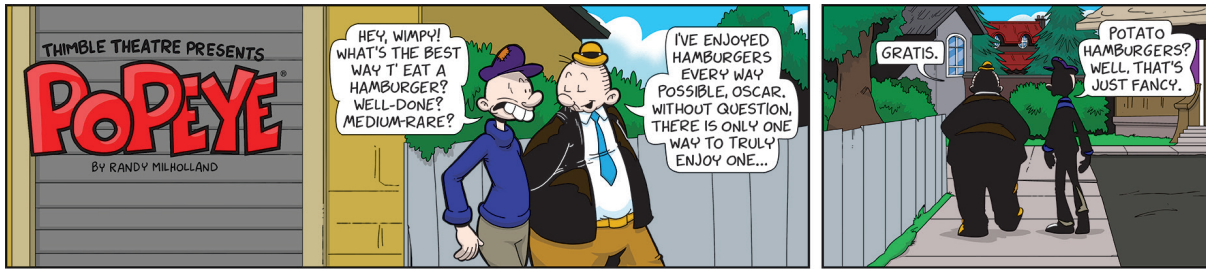


by Gary Kopervas



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Hal Foster's

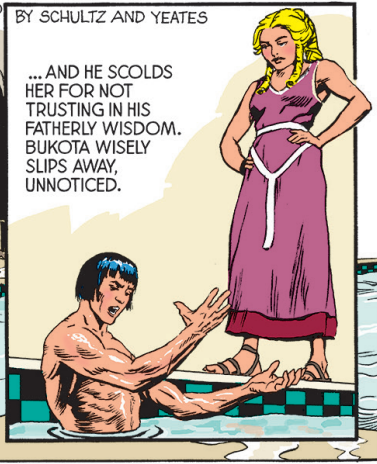
Prince Valiant

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

ALETA IS TOO ANGRY TO WAIT FOR VAL TO LEAVE THE MEN'S BATHS. SHE SCOLDS HIM FOR KEEPING TO HIMSELF KAREN'S PLANS TO CARRY THE TALISMAN TO HER LOST HUSBAND...



...AND HE SCOLDS HER FOR NOT TRUSTING IN HIS FATHERLY WISDOM. BUKOTA WISELY SLIPS AWAY, UNNOTICED.



WHILE THEIR CARRYING-ON DRIVES SCANDALIZED BATHERS AWAY, KAREN HAS ALREADY DETERMINED THAT SHE WILL DECIDE FOR HERSELF THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE. IN HER MIND, THAT COURSE DOES NOT INCLUDE HER PARENTS.



ON A SHADOWY WHARF THAT SERVES FISHING VESSELS, SHE MEETS GURYAN AND THE OLD ARAB, WHOSE NAME IS MURSHID. THEY AVOID THE FEW OTHER FIGURES STILL ABOUT, QUICKLY BOARD A SMALL BOAT...

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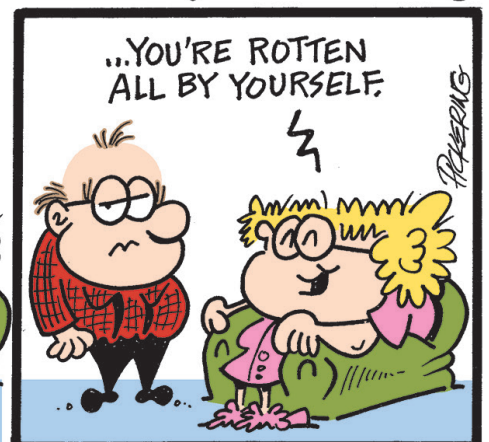
...AND QUIETLY SHOVE OFF. IT IS ALL VERY CLANDESTINE AND AN ALMOST ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL ESCAPE. BUT KAREN HAS NOT NOTICED THAT NATHAN HAS CURIOUSLY FOLLOWED HIS SECRETIVE SISTER TO THE HARBOR...

YEATES 7/19/15

NEXT: **Priorities**

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Beware the supplements on TV

If you're home during the day and have spent much time with the television on, you've no doubt been inundated with advertising for supplements that promise to change your life. By the time you've heard those ads 30 times you can probably quote them word for word. And at some point you might even be tempted to just dial that number and place an order.

Don't do it.

Just because companies create slick ads that sound like they'll solve all your problems doesn't mean it's safe for you to use their products, especially if you take any prescription drugs or have a medical condition.

Supplements are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA doesn't evaluate those types of products and doesn't conduct any trials to check their safety and recommended dosage. The supplement companies are required to tell you this in their advertising, but it's in all that tiny text at the bottom of the TV screen that's impossible to read.

Learn all you can about potential drug interactions. Go first to [drugs.com](https://www.drugs.com) and click on the Drug Interaction Checker. Type in the name of your drug. Then type in the name of whatever you're considering taking and see what it says. I tried this with one of my prescription drugs and added one of the frequently advertised products and it showed 11 potential drug interactions. There were also some possible uncomfortable side effects, even without the possible drug interactions.

Seniors are especially targeted by the manufacturers of those supplements, hoping we'll believe their slick claims if we see those ads often enough. It's a billion-dollar industry, and they want your money. Before you dial that number on the TV screen, dial your doctor's office and ask if the supplement is something you should have. Chances are they will say no.

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1. Peter Tom Willis, a backup quarterback for the Chicago Bears from 1990 to 1993, played college football for which team?

2. In 1958, Willie O'Ree became the first Black player in the NHL when he took to the ice for which team?

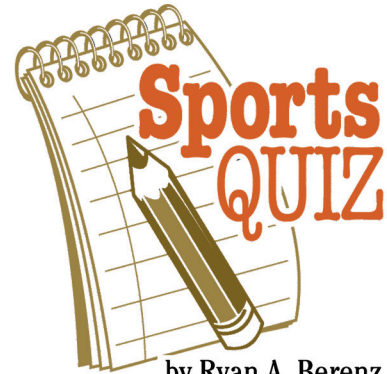
3. Major League Baseball's Outstanding Designated Hitter Award is named after which Hall of Famer?

4. Sportswriter Allison "Al" Danzig is credited with coining what term to describe a tennis serve that the opponent fails to touch?

5. In 1985, Marshall Thundering Herd player Bruce Morris scored the "Shot Herd Round the World," the longest field goal in college basketball history. What was the distance?

6. What phrase was on a T-shirt worn by Washington Bullets' head coach Dick Motta during the team's celebration of their Game 7 NBA Finals win in 1978?

7. In the 1988 Oscar-winning film "Rain Man," Raymond Babbitt (Dustin Hoffman) is a fan of which Major League Baseball team?



by Ryan A. Berenz

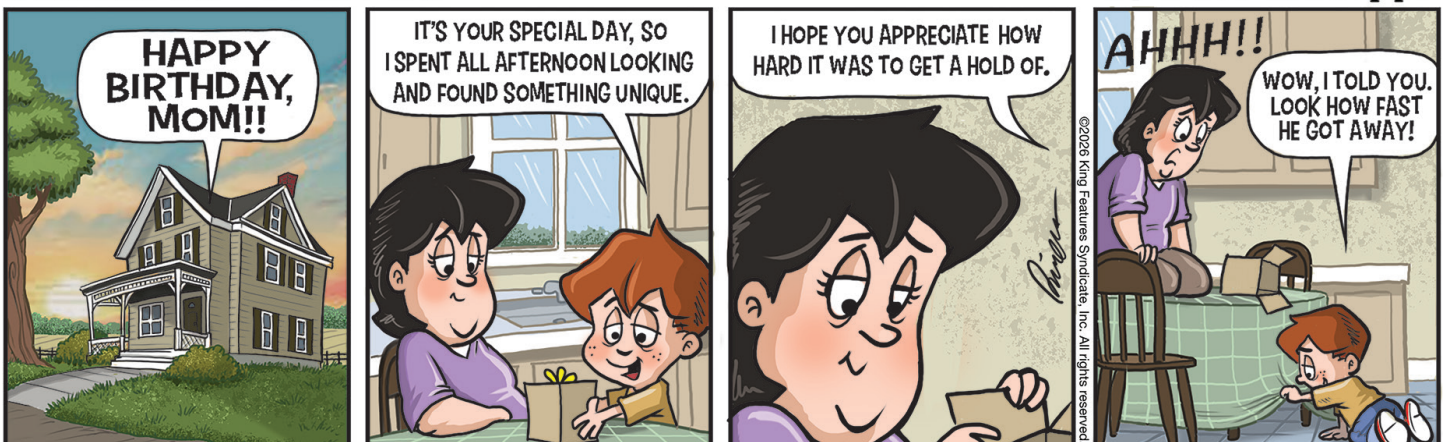
Answers

1. The Florida State Seminoles.
2. The Boston Bruins.
3. Edgar Martinez.
4. Ace.
5. 89 feet, 10 inches.
6. "The Opera Isn't Over 'Til the Fat Lady Sings."
7. The Cincinnati Reds.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Pet's dry eye may cause corneal scarring

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 9-year-old Terrier, "Buzzy," has developed what I think is an eye infection. She has red, irritated eyes and lots of yellowish discharge with runny tears. I called her veterinarian and will be taking her in to be seen this week. The tech on the phone told me it might also be "dry eye," which doesn't make sense with her runny eyes. What can I do to make her more comfortable ahead of the appointment? -- Beth in Santa Monica, California

DEAR BETH: Gently clear away the discharge from around Buzzy's eyes with a soft washcloth dipped in warm water. Don't use soap, as this can irritate her eyes further. This will provide some relief.

The vet will check for several additional symptoms to determine what's going on.

Just as with humans, dogs and cats can develop dry eye, known in medical terms as keratoconjunctivitis sicca, or KCS. Several conditions can cause dry eye: infections, injury, certain medications, hypothyroidism or, most common, an immune disorder.

Dry eye can cause scarring of the cornea if left untreated, because the condition changes natural tears so they produce less of the "film" that protects the cornea's surface. If the damage is bad enough, your dog's vision could be permanently impaired. So prompt evaluation by a vet is important -- kudos for contacting them so quickly.

There are very effective medications to manage Buzzy's symptoms, which stimulate tear production and replace tear film. During the first phase of treatment, you may need to administer these medications every two to six hours. Antibiotics may also be prescribed to treat any secondary infection.

After this initial phase, Buzzy will probably need lifelong treatment to manage dry eye.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* The first animal ever cloned, the famous sheep Dolly, was named for singer-songwriter Dolly Parton.

* According to a study, dancers and choreographers reported the highest divorce rates.

* Students are more than four times more likely to drop out of school if they are unable to read proficiently by the third grade.

* Early hairspray formulas often used shellac, a resin secreted by female *Kerria lacca* bugs.

* Some scientists have speculated that a zombie apocalypse may not be impossible because humans are vulnerable to neurotoxins, parasites and viruses such as rabies, which can alter behavior and brain function. Prions, the proteins behind mad cow disease, can remain active in deceased tissue, while hypothetical nanobots could raise similar questions.

* Holes in crackers allow steam and gas to escape so the product will remain flat and crisp.

* According to Gallup, Inc., more people recognized the term "UFO" than remembered the name Gerald Ford in a poll taken just six months after Ford left the presidential office.

* The Wizard of Oz's full name is Oscar Zoroaster Phadrig Isaac Norman Henkel Emmannuel Ambroise Diggs. He called myself OZ because the other initials spelled P-I-N-H-E-A-D.

* Frida Kahlo is the only Mexican woman to have a major solo exhibition at the Louvre.

* In many early Northern European tribes slaves were forbidden from hunting since they were not allowed to own weapons or bear arms.

* The first pet insurance in America was purchased in 1982 to protect the dog playing the title role in "Lassie."

* Archaeology suggests that belt buckles were developed during the Bronze Age.

* The longest poem in the world is the "Mahabharata," an Indian epic dating from the 4th century B.C. or earlier and containing about 1.8 million words.

Thought for the Day: "A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing."

-- Emo Philips

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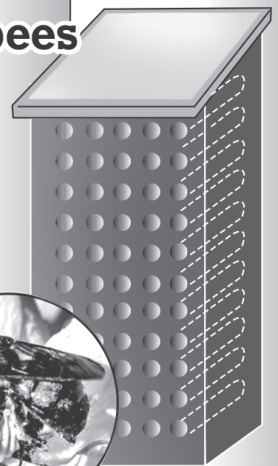
Orchard mason bees

Shiny, dark-blue and smaller than a honey bee, the orchard mason bee can be encouraged to live in urban areas, as it is beneficial, non-aggressive and non-damaging to structures. Build it a bee house, by taking a 4x4 untreated block of wood, drilling smooth holes about 5/16" in diameter in a grid on one side, and at least 3" deep into the wood. Create an over-hanging roof, and hang it firmly at least 3 feet up.

— Brenda Weaver



Source: gardening.wsu.edu



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by Freddy Groves

The OIG at work

The Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) has been busy. And as is typical, their work involves saving millions of dollars that should have gone to veterans services.

When the OIG analyzed the details about a contractor for the Veterans Crisis Line, they questioned why millions of dollars were paid when the work wasn't actually done. The job involved providing backup services for the toll-free 24/7 crisis line. However, that contractor didn't have enough staff, didn't train the staff they did have and didn't meet federal security requirements. Due to lack of contract oversight, the VA made payments to that contractor -- \$11.2 million worth -- for a year. The OIG, naturally, wants that money back.

Then there was the not-so-small matter of critical medical supplies and equipment and how those were managed. After being called on to inspect the practices at one certain VA facility, the OIG spent months looking at the inventory of expendable supplies, nonexpendable equipment, distribution controls and the leadership. What they found was so bad that four operating rooms had been closed because of lack of supplies, expired supplies and unreliable restocking, causing surgery backlogs and cancellations.

The OIG found expired supplies in operating rooms. (The OIG asked that they be removed, yet two months later the expired supplies were still there.) They discovered 50 pallets of supplies that were expired, damaged or obsolete. When it came to equipment, five pieces couldn't even be located. The value of missing nonexpendable items was \$10.5 million.

The facility had been awarded \$3.2 million for a contract for an inventory management system but never completely installed it and eventually disabled the program. They were then awarded more money to get the contractor to do the complete installation, and that wasn't done either.

Rumor is that the VA's OIG is not getting a bigger budget for 2027. That's ridiculous considering the amount of money they save the VA through their investigations.

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Wishing Well®

7	2	4	8	2	8	6	8	2	4	2	6	7
B	A	D	C	C	H	S	E	T	O	I	E	E
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F	G	A	R	C	E	C	O	U	O	R	N	E
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I	N	M	L	M	O	F	S	E	E	O	R	R
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Y	O	O	A	U	T	O	A	U	Q	U	S	U
5	4	3	6	2	3	6	3	4	2	5	3	4
R	I	S	V	S	U	E	R	T	T	S	E	T
2	3	8	4	2	8	2	8	4	2	8	2	8
I	D	R	E	F	H	I	O	R	E	M	D	E

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. TELEVISION: What is the name of Jon Snow's dire wolf in "Game of Thrones"?

2. HISTORY: Which Civil War general literally used "scorched earth" tactics in his march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia?

3. MOVIES: Which 1960s movie has the tagline, "A man went looking for America, and he couldn't find it anywhere"?

4. GEOGRAPHY: Which body of water includes islands known as the Seychelles?

5. CHEMISTRY: Which element's symbol is Sn?

6. LITERATURE: What is the length of a traditional sonnet?

7. GEOLOGY: What is a common name for calcium carbonate?

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain goes by the name Hungry Jack in Australia?

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president gave radio addresses that were described as "fireside chats"?

10. ASTRONOMY: What is the shape of the Milky Way?

Trivia answers

1. Ghost.
2. General William T. Sherman.
3. "Easy Rider."
4. Indian Ocean.
5. Tin (stannum).
6. 14 lines of poetry.
7. Limestone or chalk.
8. Burger King.
9. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
10. Spiral.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Patriots and Unity

25 years ago, the United States of America experienced one of our most horrific tragedies. Our nation was attacked by terrorists – enemies who hate us because of what we stand for. America is the only nation founded on the principle of freedom, and those terrorists despised that fact.

In their hatred, they sought to tear us apart. They failed. In fact, their attempt backfired.

If you remember 9/11, you also remember what came next. There was a profound unity that came over our country. In the days and weeks after, the United States of America was more united than it has ever been in my lifetime.

Our nation was devastated. We were shaken to our core. But in that moment of grief and loss, we didn't turn on each other – which was what the terrorists hoped would happen. Instead, we turned to each other. We united.

2,977 innocent lives were lost that day. Most of them didn't sign up to give their lives for their nation; nonetheless, their deaths were not in vain. They will forever be patriots. Though it's a small solace to their loved ones who lost friends and family in an instant, their sacrifice brought our nation closer together.

In those days, it didn't matter if you were a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or something else entirely. We were all Americans first and foremost. And that's how it should be!

It's a shame that it took such a tragedy to unify our nation. And it's equally a shame that our nation's unity has since diminished.

Our nation's very name is a statement of unity. We are the United States of America. Our Founding Fathers pulled together a group of people from very different geographical and cultural backgrounds and united them, not on heritage or history, but on values – namely, on freedom.

In the years since, 9/11 has been given a new name: Patriot Day. A patriot is someone who loves their country. For Americans, that doesn't mean loving any one culture or heritage. It means loving the foundational values that our nation was built on.

As we commemorate 25 years since the horrific 9/11 attacks, we must remember those values. We must remember our freedoms. And we must look inside ourselves and see how we can be better examples of American patriotism.

I will leave you all with this challenge: resolve to focus on what unites us, not what divides us. Focus on interacting with your friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and even strangers on the street with civility and respect.

And don't do it for yourself – or because I asked you to.

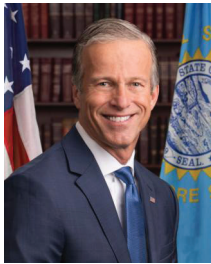
Do it for the 2,977 patriots who perished 25 years ago. Do it for the brave first responders who charged into those towers and afterwards into the rubble. Do it for the men and women who gave their lives in the War on Terror.

Let's unite around the principles of civility and freedom so that we can pass those values down to our kids and our grandkids. If we do that, then we will surely keep South Dakota – and our entire nation – strong, safe, and free.

God bless America.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Conversations

Who do you turn to for advice? For me, the answer is easy: South Dakotans. The people of our state are my top advisers, and your feedback is invaluable to me when I'm in Washington working for you. During the last few weeks, I've had the chance to spend a lot of time traveling our state far and wide to hear directly from South Dakotans.

I met with ranchers in Bison, and I visited small businesses in Flandreau, Sturgis, Sisseton, and Sioux Falls. In Lemmon, I stopped by the grain elevator and met with volunteer firefighters who serve their community. And I had a chance to catch up with local leaders in Meade County and local sheriffs at a meeting in Moody County, and I got to visit the Belle Fourche Irrigation District Field Site in Newell with the ranchers it serves.

Summer is also fair season in South Dakota, and it's one of my favorite times of year. Like any fairgoer, I have my favorite foods, but fair season is also a chance for me to have some important conversations. I connected with folks at the Butte & Lawrence County Fair, the Turner County Fair, and the State Fair. The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a terrific agribusiness meeting at the Brown County Fair, and the Dakotafest congressional forum always provides me with a lot of valuable feedback from South Dakota farmers and ranchers. In fact, a lot of my priorities that make their way into the farm bill come from conversations like these with producers in our state.

I've also had the chance to spend some time visiting schools across our state and meeting with students and educators. I had great conversations with students at Black Hills State and at Spearfish High School. In Spearfish, I was able to tour the high school's Career and Technical Education Center and see firsthand the opportunities available for students to pursue a variety of career paths. On the other side of the state, I was pleased to be on hand for the groundbreaking of the James Abdnor Center for Advanced Manufacturing at Southeast Tech. This new center will help countless young South Dakotans find success, and it's a fitting tribute to Jim Abdnor who was so committed to helping young people.

I've traveled a lot of miles these past few weeks, and whether I'm talking to a high school student about their future or a farmer about their harvest, I rely on these conversations to guide my work on behalf of our state when I'm back in Washington.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

A Cookie in the Hand Is Worth Two in the Cupboard

For the last few years, I have been on a rather strict diet, according to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I have some health issues, and I'm not allowed to eat anything with sugar in it. It seems everything has sugar in it.

Believe me, she's been very vigilant in supervising my daily menu. She also supervises all the medicine I have to take every day. It seems I have become a drug addict. The doctor prescribed the medicine I am to take every day. I have been very faithful in keeping to her strict diet.

Every once in a while, maybe once or twice a month, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will give me a sugar-free cookie. She says it's because I've been good in my diet.

Occasionally, I remember the good old days when I ate as many cookies as I could every day. And believe me, they weren't sugar-free cookies at that time. I should congratulate the people who developed sugar-free cookies because now I can have one occasionally.

According to her, I can't even think of an Apple Fritter; they are pure poison for me. I'm really not sure I believe that. But then, I'm not really in control of my menu.

It took me quite a while to realize that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had hidden away a bunch of sugar-free cookie boxes. I never even thought about it until recently. Occasionally, she gives me a sugar-free cookie and tells me I've been faithful to my diet, so it's okay for this one.

If she can bring me one sugar-free cookie, it must mean that there is a store of cookies somewhere in the house. If anybody can hide anything without me finding it, it is you know who.

So, the question is, where is she hiding this store of sugar-free cookies? It's got to be somewhere in the house, and for me to find my way to my office and then to the bathroom is quite a chore. But it began to work on me until I had to find out where that stash was.

Every year for a week The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and several of her daughters go to St. Augustine and hop around at all of the thrift stores in the neighborhood. They have been doing this for several years.

I had a thought in my mind. While she is on this trip, I will spend time looking through the house to find that hidden stash of sugar-free cookies.

The first thing I asked myself was, "Where would I hide those cookies?" Then I struck all those places off my list.

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The next thing I asked myself was, "Where would she hide those cookies?" That was my list for the week. I went all over the house, looking in places she might hide them.

I started in her craft room. It took me at least one day to go through her craft room, looking at every place where a bunch of cookies could be hidden. Finally, I exhausted my search and found absolutely nothing resembling a sugar-free cookie.

I then searched the rest of the house carefully, looking in every possible place. I must say I'm not very good at activities like this. However, I put a spirit of diligence into my efforts to uncover it.

The day before they were to return from St. Augustine, I finally hit the jackpot.

Behind the washer and dryer, shelves were filled with the stuff she needed to do the laundry. I almost didn't look there, but I had no other place to go, and this was my last place. I looked very closely at every aspect of that little room, and then I hit the jackpot. In the corner, I discovered six boxes of sugar-free cookies, very well hidden from sight.

I couldn't believe my fortune. I took the opportunity to open one of those boxes, took out two cookies, put the box back and went to my lazy chair to enjoy them. After all, one cookie in my hand is worth two in the cupboard.

A week later The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office, stood at the door, and just stared at me for a few moments. I had no idea what she was up to because I was deep in my work for the day. Then she said, "You did not find the boxes of sugar-free cookies, did you?"

To lie to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is as close to the death penalty as anybody could get. I looked at her for a few moments and then said, "I'm not sure what you're talking about."

"You know exactly what I'm talking about," she said rather strongly.

At this point I realized I was caught red-handed. I had to confess and promise never to do it again.

Several days later, when she was out shopping, I went to the closet looking for those cookies and, to my surprise, they were all gone. I don't know if I'll ever find them again, but I won't give up looking.

I recalled a verse in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

God has some wonderful treasures for me and His great delight is in revealing them to me as I need them.

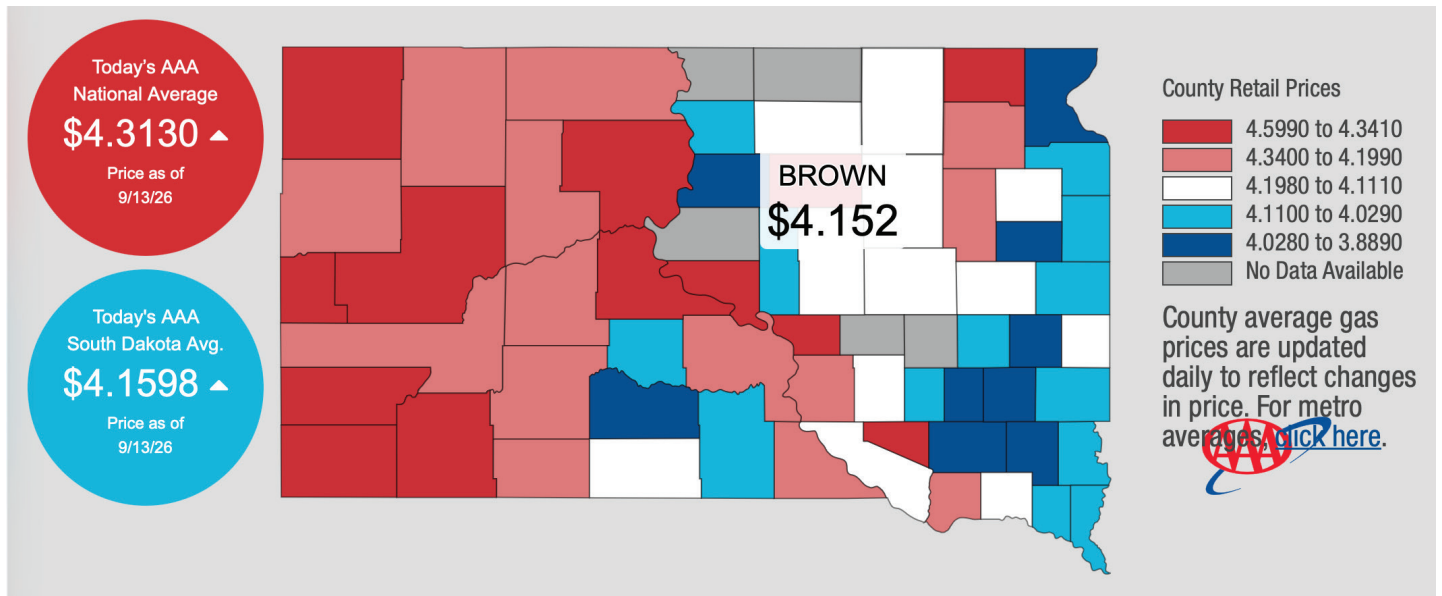
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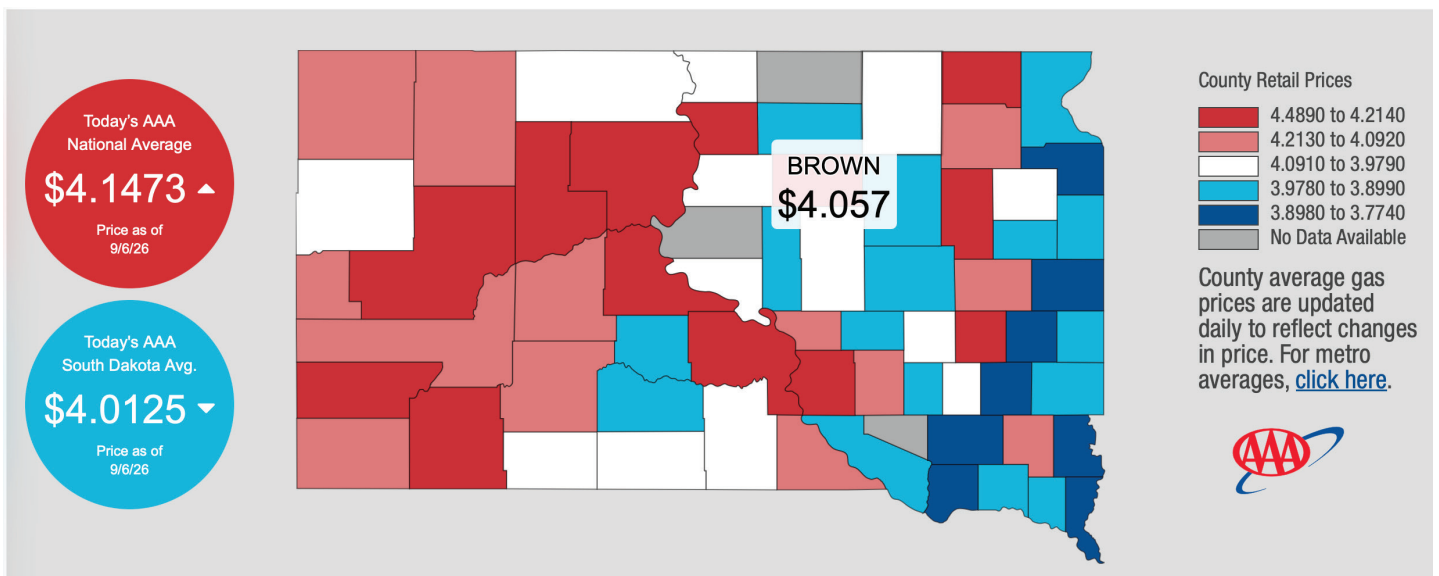
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$4.1598	\$4.3870	\$4.9273	\$5.8577
Yesterday Avg.	\$4.1535	\$4.3711	\$4.9029	\$5.8287
Week Ago Avg.	\$4.0125	\$4.2303	\$4.7303	\$5.5415
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.0162	\$4.1943	\$4.7139	\$5.0170
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.9918	\$3.1734	\$3.6370	\$3.4029

This Week



Last Week



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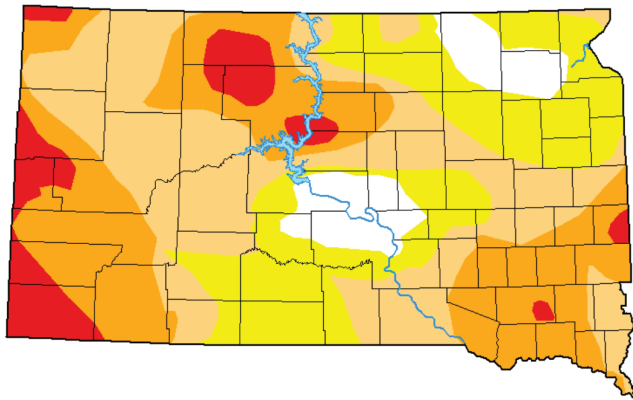
Drought Classification

None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)

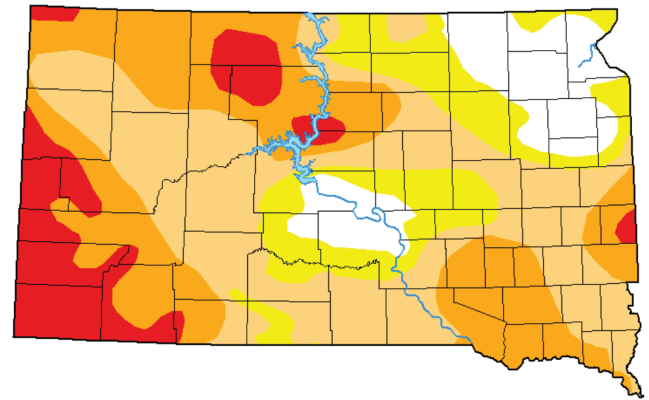
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

Drought Monitor



Sept. 8



Sept. 1

Conditions in the High Plains region this week were mixed. Scattered heavy rains fell in northeast and southwest Nebraska, southeast South Dakota, northern North Dakota and far southwest Kansas, leading to localized or widespread improvements in these and neighboring areas. However, temperatures across the region were warmer than normal, leading to abnormally high atmospheric thirst and widespread degrading conditions in parts of the region. Temperatures were mostly 10-15 degrees above normal in Kansas, eastern Nebraska and southeastern South Dakota. Eastern Kansas and southeast Nebraska were particularly hot and dry this week, leading to large expansions of moderate, severe and extreme drought in south-central and southeast Kansas, and the introduction of abnormal dryness in much of northeast Kansas. Unusually wet weather in August kept conditions in southeast Nebraska from drying as much as areas farther south and southeast. Severe and extreme drought also grew in coverage in southeastern North Dakota, where warm and dry weather this week worsened precipitation deficits and soil moisture conditions. Drought conditions improved in southeastern South Dakota, and adjacent far northeast Nebraska, where rain amounts of 2-5 inches fell. Similar amounts of rain fell in parts of northern North Dakota, leading to improvements in soil moisture and streamflow there and improving drought conditions. Heavy rain amounts of 1-3 inches fell in parts of southwest Nebraska and the Nebraska Panhandle, and adjacent northeast Colorado, lessening precipitation deficits and improving drought conditions.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota wildlife officials try to let anglers keep large muskies, but anglers say no thanks

BY JOSHUA HAIAR

When South Dakota wildlife officials tried to give anglers the freedom to keep their prize catches of a unique fish, something surprising happened.

Many anglers said no thanks and convinced a state commission to reject the proposal.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission's monthly meeting Thursday and Friday in Winner included consideration of a proposal that would have changed regulations protecting large, predatory freshwater fish known as muskellunge or muskies. The proposal would have changed the state's current catch-and-release requirement for muskies, which was put in place after muskie anglers advocated for it in 2018 to allow muskies to live longer and grow bigger.

The rule change would have allowed anglers to keep one of the fish per day, if the fish is at least 45 inches in length. Opponents feared the change would ultimately deplete the population of trophy-sized muskies.

Scott Vander Meulen, of Sioux Falls, pointed the commission to a petition signed by more than 650 people opposing the change, while noting the more than 50 people who submitted written comments on the matter were overwhelmingly against it.

"The opportunity to catch a trophy muskie already exists under current regulations," Vander Meulen said. "When a trophy fish is released, that fish can be caught again, allowing multiple anglers to experience that same opportunity. Once harvested, that opportunity is gone forever."

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation also testified against the change, with Executive Director Dana Rogers saying the group's members who fish for muskies were adamantly opposed.

According to the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks, the fish "are an ambush predator often found in vegetation or submerged trees," and they have a torpedo-like shape with a duckbill-shaped snout and sharp teeth. They feed on fish, insects, crustaceans, birds and small mammals.

Josh Karch, president of the Fargo-Moorhead chapter of Muskies Inc., submitted a letter opposing the change. He wrote that other states set the minimum harvest size for muskies at 50 inches.

"Anglers who wish to commemorate the capture of a trophy fish have excellent alternatives available, including high-quality replica mounts that preserve the memory of the catch without removing the fish from the population," Karch wrote.

Department fisheries biologist Brian Blackwell walked the commission through the science behind South Dakota's muskie program, which began in 1975 and now manages five stocked lake populations at roughly one muskie per 5 acres, while the fish are also found in several other lakes and the lower Missouri River. He said the program has struggled with low interest from anglers, and allowing anglers to keep a large fish could spur more interest.

Blackwell said relatively few muskies over 45 inches turn up in department sampling.

"The muskie anglers probably do to see some bigger fish than we're seeing," Blackwell said. "And perhaps partnering with them in the future would be a good thing to try to get our hands on some more information."

After hearing the public comment and the department's presentation, the commission voted to strip the muskie harvest provision out of a broader rule package, leaving the current muskie regulations unchanged.

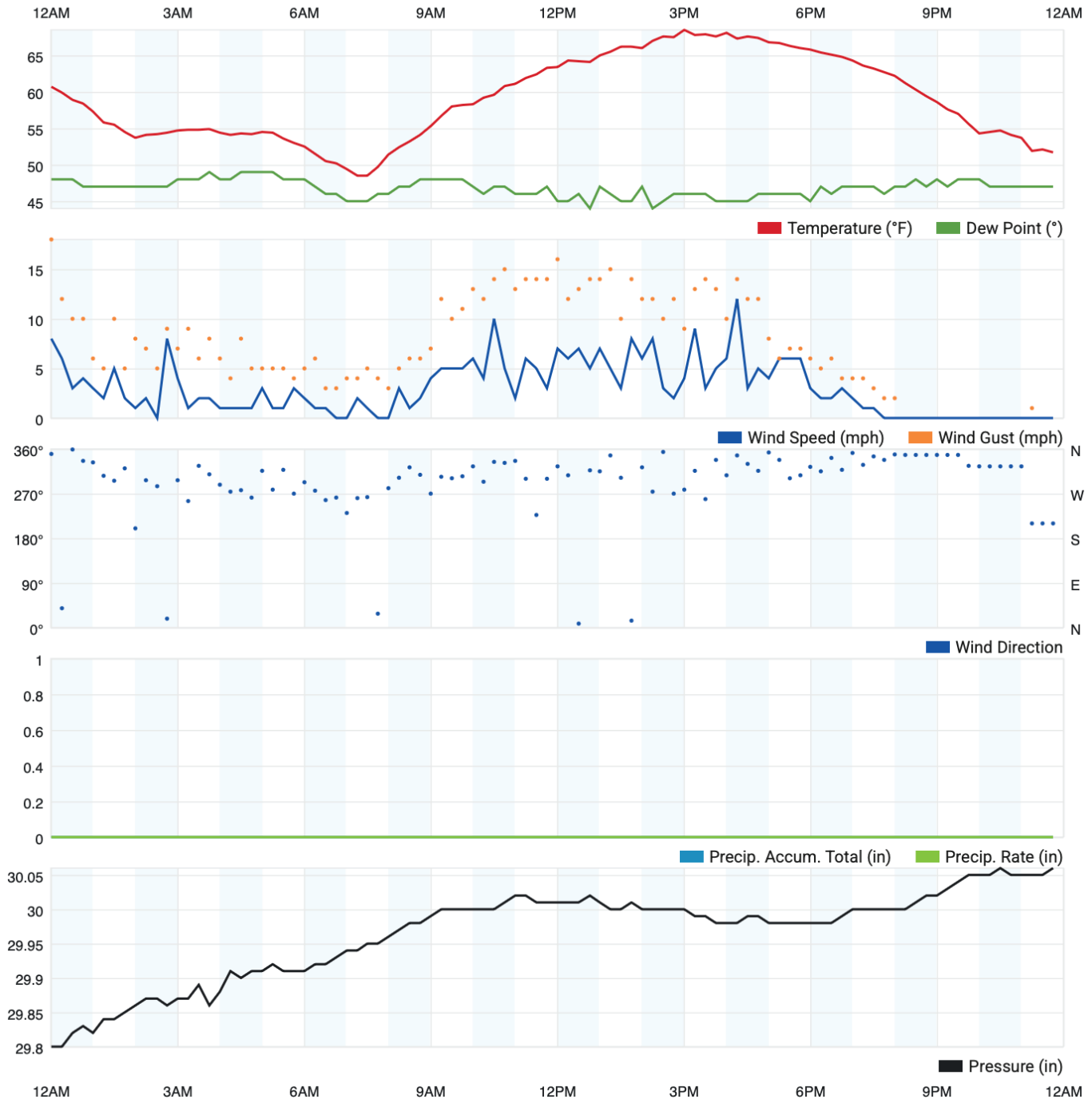
Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked as a multimedia specialist and journalist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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 12, 2026



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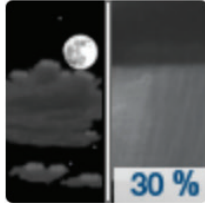
Today



High: 69 °F

Becoming
Sunny

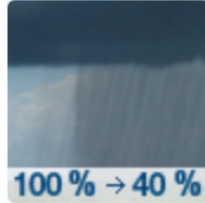
Tonight



Low: 51 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Chance
Showers

Monday



High: 70 °F

Breezy.
Showers then
Chance
Showers

Monday Night



Low: 47 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 66 °F

Sunny



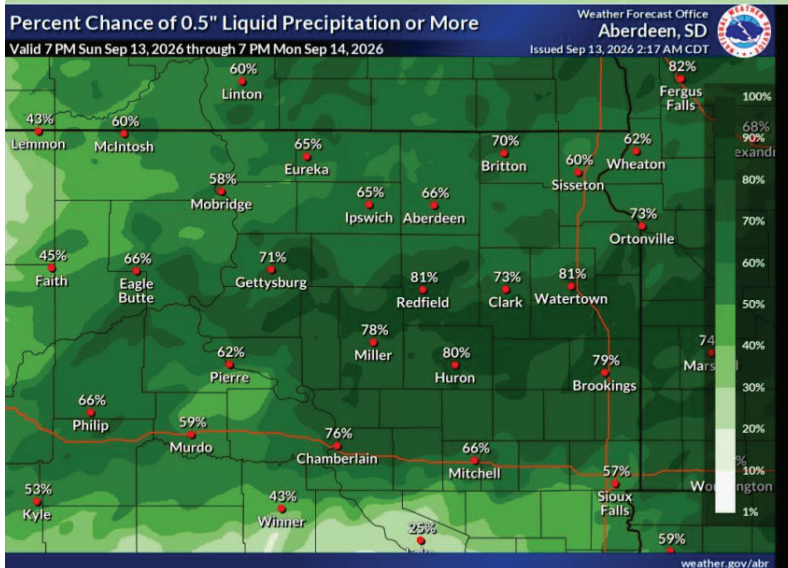
This Week In A Glance

September 13, 2026

3:24 AM CDT

Cooler Than Normal For Much Of The Forecast Period; Best Rain Chances Sunday Night Into Monday

- Several fast moving low pressure systems bring rain chances to the area.
- Humidity to return on Monday; otherwise cooler and less humid conditions should be maintained throughout this week.
- 50 to 80+ percent chance of at least 0.50in of rainfall between 7 PM CDT Sunday and 7 PM CDT Monday.



Maximum Temperature (°F) & Maximum Probability of Precipitation (%) Forecast

		9/13 Sun	9/14 Mon	9/15 Tue	9/16 Wed	9/17 Thu	9/18 Fri	9/19 Sat
Aberdeen	Max Temp	70	71	67	66	71	73	73
	Rain Chances	15	95	5	30	15	25	25
Miller	Max Temp	69	74	67	66	71	73	73
	Rain Chances	35	90	0	45	25	40	25
Mobridge	Max Temp	70	74	67	68	71	74	75
	Rain Chances	10	85	0	35	20	25	25
Murdo	Max Temp	71	79	68	74	73	74	75
	Rain Chances	20	95	5	20	35	40	25
Ortonville	Max Temp	70	67	66	63	69	71	71
	Rain Chances	15	100	10	25	15	30	20
Pierre	Max Temp	72	78	69	72	73	76	76
	Rain Chances	30	95	0	30	25	45	25
Sisseton	Max Temp	68	68	65	64	70	73	73
	Rain Chances	20	100	10	35	20	20	20
Watertown	Max Temp	70	70	67	65	71	72	73
	Rain Chances	15	95	10	30	20	30	20

Maximum Temperature Forecast (°F)

Maximum Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)

Except for Monday, cooler days are in store this week with highs in the 60s to low 70s. Monday will see temperatures warming into the 70s to low 80s with humidity making it's presence felt once more. The best chance for moderate rainfall will be later tonight through Monday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 68 °F at 2:59 PM

Low Temp: 48 °F at 7:17 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 11:52 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 97 in 1927

Record Low: 26 in 1902

Average High: 76

Average Low: 48

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.88

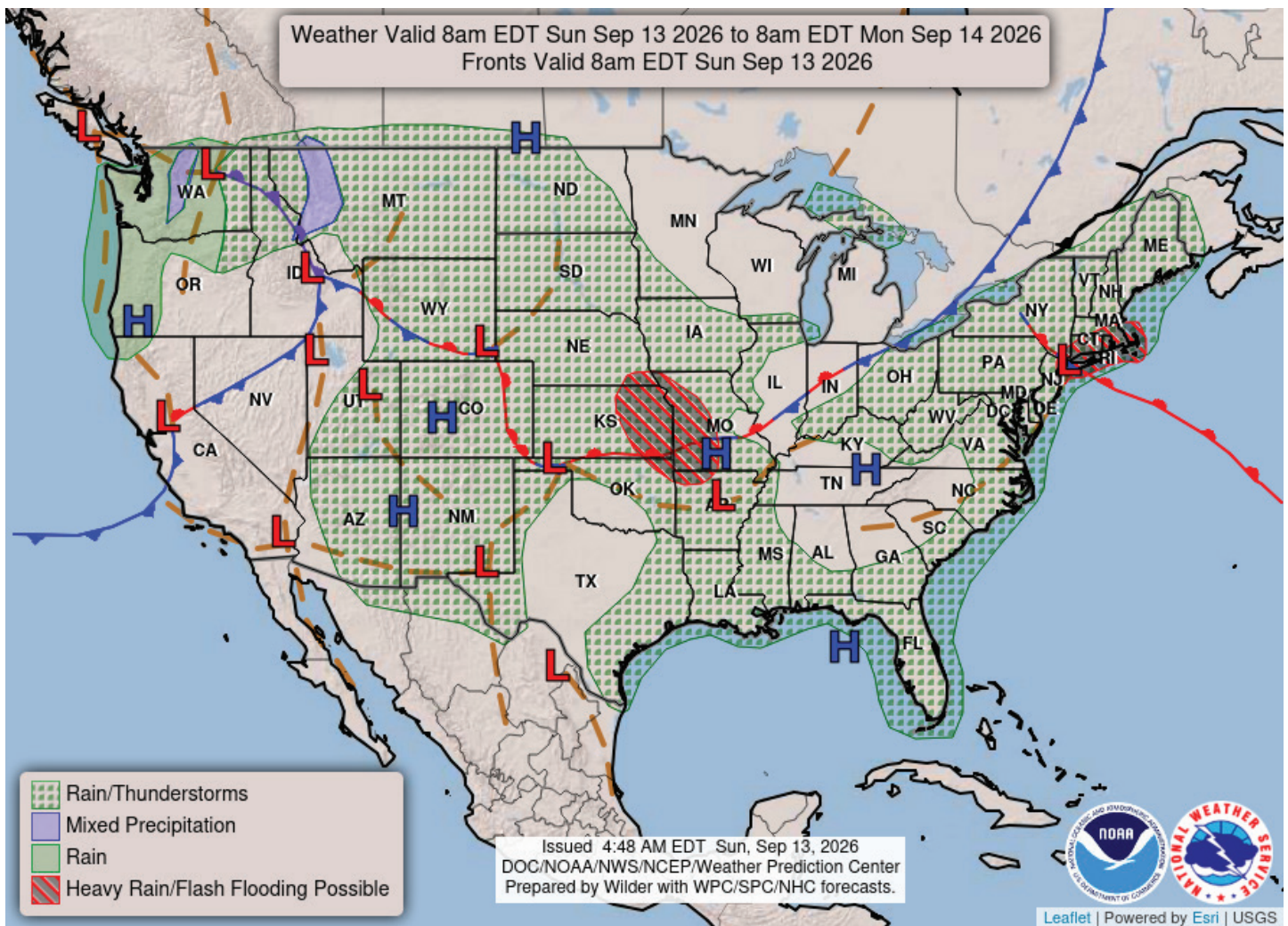
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 17.22

Precip Year to Date: 20.06

Sunset Tonight: 7:48 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:09 am



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Today in Weather History

September 13, 1928: An estimated F4 tornado traveled across Yankton and Turner County. An entire farm was swept away just as the family was about to enter the storm cellar. A man and his daughter were killed. A woman was killed in the town of Davis, in Turner County. Nine homes were destroyed, 52 were damaged, and 13 people were injured in Davis.

1823: A strong category 1 or low category 2 hurricane struck near New Orleans, Louisiana and went toward Baton Rouge. Its strongest impacts occurred west of New Orleans.

1922 — The temperature at El Azizia in Libya soared to 136 degrees to establish a world record. To make matters worse, a severe ghibi (dust storm) was in progress. (The Weather Channel)

1928 — Hurricane San Felipe crossed Puerto Rico resulting in the highest winds, the heaviest rains, and the greatest destruction in years. The hurricane produced much damage in the Virgin Islands, and later hit the Bahamas and Florida. (David Ludlum)

1944: The destroyer USS Warrington was sunk by the Great Atlantic Hurricane 300 miles east of Cape Canaveral, Florida. 247 men were lost in the tragedy.

1978: Little Rock, Arkansas saw 8.10 inches of rain which caused major flash flooding. Ten people were killed.

1984 — Hurricane Diana, after making a complete loop off the Carolina coast, made landfall and moved across eastern North Carolina. Diana deluged Cape Fear with more than eighteen inches of rain, and caused 78 million dollars damage in North Carolina. (Storm Data)

1987 — Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the northeastern U.S. Flooding was reported in Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Greenwood NY received 6.37 inches of rain. A dike along a creek at Prattsburg NY gave way and a two million dollar onion crop left on the ground to dry was washed away. The prolonged rains in the eastern U.S. finally came to an end late in the day as a cold front began to push the warm and humid airmass out to sea. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Hurricane Gilbert smashed into the Cayman Islands, and as it headed for the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico strengthened into a monster hurricane, packing winds of 175 mph. The barometric pressure at the center of Gilbert reached 26.13 inches (888 mb), an all-time record for any hurricane in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, or the Atlantic Ocean. Gilbert covered much of the Gulf of Mexico, producing rain as far away as the Florida Keys. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Unseasonably cool weather prevailed over the Central Plains Region, with a record low of 29 degrees at North Platte NE. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Pacific Northwest, with a record high of 96 degrees at Eugene OR. Thunderstorms over south Texas produced wind gusts to 69 mph at Del Rio, and two inches of rain in two hours. (National Weather Summary)

2008: Hurricane Ike made landfall as a Category 2 storm near Galveston, Texas.

2017: The NWS Office in Reno, Nevada, issued their first tornado warning since July 21st, 2014.

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Daily Devotion

Failure in Faith

Failure can be the turning point where we set aside our pride and follow God wholeheartedly.

Luke 22:31-34: 31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!"

Luke 22:54-62: 54 Having arrested Him, they led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance.

55 After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them.

56 And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too."

57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

58 A little later, another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

59 After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Every one of us will fail—sometimes in ways that cut deep. Peter knew exactly how it feels. Jesus warned him that Satan had asked permission to "sift" him like wheat (Luke 22:31)—to shake his faith so hard that he'd fall away like chaff. Peter was confident no such thing would happen: "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not" (Mark 14:29). But that confidence was rooted in his own strength, which is exactly where the Enemy struck.

When Satan sifts believers, his goal is to damage our faith so deeply that we're sidelined from God's kingdom. He goes after our strengths—the areas where we believe ourselves to be invincible or well protected. Peter's loyalty to Jesus was genuine, but it was also something he was proud of—and pride made it a target. When the Enemy succeeds, the disappointment and shame can feel paralyzing. But we don't have to stay there.

If we are willing, God can use our worst failures to reshape us. Peter's denial didn't disqualify him—it dismantled the self-reliance that had been standing in his way. What replaced it was the Holy Spirit's courage. That transformed a man who couldn't face a servant girl's question into one who risked everything to proclaim the gospel (Acts 2:22-24). Failure wasn't the end of Peter's story. It was the turning point.

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

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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.12.26

2 13 42 45 58 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 23 Mins 18 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.11.26

3 30 33 53 62 22

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$227,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.12.26

2 8 15 43 52 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$4,370,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.12.26

14 15 22 23 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$55,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.12.26

21 24 32 48 51 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.12.26

14 16 23 58 69 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$251,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the Associated Press

Chase Mason scores 4 TDs and South Dakota State downs New Haven 57-14

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Chase Mason threw for 255 yards and three touchdowns and added a rushing score as South Dakota State beat New Haven 57-14 on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits (2-1), ranked No. 2 in the Stats Perform FCS Top 25, scored 33 points in the second quarter to take a 36-0 lead into the break.

Mason completed 12 of 18 passes and scored on a 1-yard run early in the second quarter. He later threw touchdown passes of 25 yards to Coleman Kuntz and 24 yards to Greyton Gannon before halftime.

Mason connected with Gannon again for a 29-yard touchdown early in the third quarter. Gannon finished with three catches for 65 yards and two touchdowns.

James Basinger rushed for 88 yards and two touchdowns on six carries, scoring on runs of 27 and 55 yards.

South Dakota State rushed for 256 yards and four touchdowns while averaging 5.6 yards per carry. The Jackrabbits finished with 512 total yards.

New Haven (1-2) was held scoreless through three quarters before Jake Tripptree threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to LaSalle Rose Jr. Jason Champagne added a 49-yard touchdown run.

Up next

South Dakota State: Hosts Youngstown State next Saturday.

New Haven: Plays Brown at home next Saturday.

Modzewski, Pierre, Bryant have big days, South Dakota races past Eastern Washington 41-23

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Austyn Modzewski threw three touchdown passes, Charles Pierre Jr. ran for two and Tennel Bryant had two scoring receptions as South Dakota rolled past Eastern Washington 41-23 on Saturday.

South Dakota led 17-3 at halftime with a 287-113 difference in total yards. Most importantly, after the Eagles cut it to 10-3 with 51 seconds left in the second quarter, Modzewski hit Tennel Bryant deep over the middle on a third-and-10 for a 66-yard score with 26 seconds remaining in the half.

Pierre, who surpassed 2,000 career yards rushing, then broke loose for a 72-yard score to open the second half. After a quick three-and-out, Modzewski found Bryant over the middle for a 48-yard score and a 31-3 lead.

Modzewski was 16 of 24 for 245 yards and an interception, Pierre carried 15 times for 138 yards and Bryant had 120 yards on three receptions. The Coyotes, ranked No. 11 in the Stats Perform FCS Top25, had seven plays of 20-plus yards, giving them 23 for the season, adding three touchdowns for a total of 11 on explosive plays.

Nate Bell threw for 217 yards and two touchdowns for Eastern Washington (1-2).

Both teams wore helmets featuring indigenous languages. Eastern Washington's decal said "uł pqlqeyn" that translates "to group of eagles" in the language of the Kalispel Tribe. South Dakota had "Sungmanitu, which is Lakota for "coyote". It is the first time both teams in a Division I game honored natives.

Their only other matchup was in 2011 when the Coyotes, in their fourth season at the FCS level, defeated the defending national champion and top-ranked Eagles 30-17.

Up next

Eastern Washington: Plays at No. 19 Washington next Saturday.

South Dakota: Goes to Boise State next Saturday.

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PREP FOOTBALL=

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 31, Little Wound 14
Flandreau Indian 22, McLaughlin 12
Harrisburg 21, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 20
Lead-Deadwood 50, Stanley County 0
Mitchell 69, Douglas 0
Sioux Falls Jefferson 42, Sioux Falls Lincoln 14
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 27, Sioux Falls Washington 7

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

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-20, 25-15, 25-18
Beresford def. Flandreau, 25-16, 25-18, 25-20
Chester def. Sioux Valley, 29-27, 25-20, 25-22
Faulkton def. Burke, 28-26, 16-25, 25-19
Garretson def. Baltic, 25-20, 25-17, 16-25, 25-15
McCook Central-Montrose def. Parker/Marion, 21-25, 23-25, 25-9, 25-17, 15-11
Miller def. Wagner, 25-10, 15-25, 25-16, 25-23
Northwestern def. Madison, 25-23, 25-20, 25-15
Rapid City Christian def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-16, 25-12, 25-10
Spearfish def. Riggs, 27-25, 25-17, 25-20
Watertown def. Mitchell, 25-22, 25-17, 25-19
Arlington Tournament=
Arlington def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-19, 21-25, 25-22
Burke def. Arlington, 17-25, 25-17, 25-16
Deubrook def. Arlington, 25-22, 25-22
Deubrook def. Burke, 19-25, 25-17, 25-18
Deubrook def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 18-25, 25-22, 25-23
Deubrook def. Faulkton, 22-25, 25-17, 25-23
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Burke, 23-25, 25-14, 25-21
Faulkton def. Arlington, 29-27, 25-21
Faulkton def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 21-25, 25-12, 25-19
Warner def. Arlington, 25-8, 25-23
Warner def. Burke, 25-15, 25-6
Warner def. Deubrook, 25-14, 25-20
Warner def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-16, 25-21
Warner def. Faulkton, 25-8, 25-9
Eureka Tournament=
Ipswich def. McIntosh High School, 25-16, 25-21
Ipswich def. Stanley County, 25-22, 25-20
Ipswich def. Timber Lake, 25-19, 25-16
North Central def. Ipswich, 25-15, 25-20
North Central def. McIntosh High School, 25-17, 25-3
North Central def. Stanley County, 25-21, 25-21
North Central def. Timber Lake, 25-12, 25-14
Stanley County def. Timber Lake, 25-23, 25-8
Rapid City Volleyball Tournament=
Brookings def. Custer, 25-17, 25-12

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Dakota Valley def. Brookings, 25-20, 25-21
Dakota Valley def. Hot Springs, 25-12, 25-20
Douglas def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 27-25, 25-22
Kadoka def. Douglas, 25-13, 25-17
Kadoka def. Hill City, 25-11, 25-14
Lakota Tech def. Kadoka, 25-23, 25-16
Lakota Tech def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-18, 25-15
Lakota Tech def. Todd County, 25-23, 25-16
Rapid City Stevens def. Dakota Valley, 21-25, 25-21, 25-20
Rapid City Stevens def. St Thomas More, 25-19, 25-18
Rapid City Stevens def. Thunder Basin, Wyo., 25-20, 26-24
St Thomas More def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 25-18
Todd County def. Belle Fourche, 25-12, 25-16
Southwest Minn. Challenge Tournament=
Consolation Bracket=
Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 15-25, 26-24, 15-10
Brandon Valley def. LeSueur-Henderson, Minn., 25-11, 25-18
Brandon Valley def. Tracy-Milroy-Balaton, Minn., 25-16, 25-15
Sioux Falls Christian def. Fergus Falls, Minn., 25-20, 25-8
Sioux Falls Christian def. Northfield, Minn., 25-23, 25-10
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. St Michael-Albertville, Minn., 16-25, 25-23, 15-13
29th Place=
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Burnsville, Minn., 22-25, 25-23, 15-11
Wolsey-Wessington Tournament=
Bridgewater-Emery def. Herried-Selby, 25-16, 25-10
Bridgewater-Emery def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-12, 25-16
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Marty, 25-9, 25-10
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, 25-17, 25-15
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-12, 25-21
Herried-Selby def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-19, 25-13
Langford def. Herried-Selby, 25-18, 25-19
Langford def. Redfield, 26-24, 25-20
Langford def. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, 26-24, 27-29, 25-20
Redfield def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-8, 25-18
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Marty, 25-4, 25-9
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Marty, 25-23, 25-13
Wolsey-Wessington def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-14, 25-19
Wolsey-Wessington def. Langford, 25-17, 25-19
Wolsey-Wessington def. Redfield, 25-13, 25-13

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

Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen claim new attacks on Saudi Arabia

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen overnight claimed new attacks on neighboring Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi-backed Yemeni government described the rebels' swift advance along the Red Sea coast as a "painful" development in a new front in the Iran war.

The Houthis' capture of a key port city and an island on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, in recent days has alarmed markets and Yemeni civilians who fear a

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return to devastating civil war.

The Houthis claimed more attacks with missiles and drones on Saudi Arabia, which supports Yemen's internationally recognized government.

A Houthi military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, claimed in a statement that they targeted a military base in Sharurah province in Saudi Arabia's Najran region. He didn't provide evidence or say when the attack occurred.

The Saudi civil defense overnight said a projectile fell in al-Tawwal governorate near the border with Yemen along the Red Sea, injuring two people and damaging a mosque and several other buildings. The statement blamed the Houthis. It also said sirens went off in Sharurah province but didn't report casualties or damage.

There was no Saudi statement Sunday on any new attacks targeting the Houthis, who have been hitting Saudi oil infrastructure and shipping as part of a recently declared blockade.

While the rebels have said there is no threat to other commercial shipping, markets remain wary and oil prices have risen again.

Yemen's government vows to fight back

A senior government official in Yemen said its forces will return to the Red Sea coast and fight back, after people fleeing the Houthi advance told The Associated Press they saw forces withdrawing and urging people to run.

Sultan al-Arada, a member of the ruling presidential council, described the collapse of government forces in the port city of Mokha and elsewhere on Yemen's west coast as "painful and regrettable."

Al-Arada, also governor of central Marib province, said in the televised interview aired late Saturday that forces "are currently regrouping and will return to the battle in one form or another."

On Friday, a senior military official with Yemen's internationally recognized government blamed "lack of coordination" between Yemen's army and multiple allied militias, saying it gave the Houthis "a priceless opportunity."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't allowed to speak to the media, also said they were stunned that the Saudi air force didn't act to prevent the capture of Mokha, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the strait.

The National Resistance, a government-allied force that had controlled coastal areas including Mokha, said more than 500 government fighters were killed on the west coast over the past four weeks — its first comprehensive toll. It said about 1,500 others had been wounded in the fighting since Aug. 9.

Its statement said more than 1,000 Houthis had been killed in Hodeida and Taiz provinces.

The National Resistance, commanded by Tariq Saleh, a nephew of Yemen's late leader Ali Abdullah Saleh, vowed to fight back until "Yemen is liberated from Iran's proxies."

The advance puts Houthis closer to a US base in Djibouti

Yemen's internationally recognized government and Saudi Arabia have been battling the Houthis for 12 years. The escalation has ended a ceasefire that had largely stopped civil war across Yemen since 2022.

Now the number of Yemenis fleeing the fighting is soaring. On Sunday, the International Organization for Migration said over 85,000 people have been displaced since the beginning of the month.

The Houthis' advance also puts the Iran-backed rebels just 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the U.S. military base in Djibouti, on the other side of the Bab el-Mandeb. It's the main U.S. base in Africa and one of several foreign military bases in Djibouti, including those of China, France and Japan.

The small Horn of Africa nation is already seeing the arrival of Yemenis making the perilous crossing of the strait. More than 2,000 people have reached Djibouti, the International Organization for Migration said Sunday.

Djibouti's Economy and Finance Minister Ilyas M. Dawaleh, said on X that the country's navy, coast guard and other specialized agencies were conducting rescue operations and providing emergency assistance.

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Trump loves the game of golf and takes pride in his relationships with some of the pros

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — It's no secret that President Donald Trump loves the game of golf. He likes to watch, play and even design courses. He also isn't shy about his friendships with the pros.

Trump is spending the weekend at his golf resort in the village of Doonbeg, Ireland, where he is watching the Irish Open being played there. Irish golfer Shane Lowry held a four-shot lead going into Sunday's final day of competition. Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin was expected to join Trump for the match.

Trump's friend, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, said golf is one of the things the president does for fun.

"The president works all day, every day. And there are two things that he does for enjoyment," Lutnick told reporters recently. "He plays golf on the weekend and he builds. He loves to build."

Trump has built friendships with some of the pros. He name drops and lavishes praise on them whenever he talks about them.

"I have so many friends that are professional, top professional golfers," Trump told Fox News Channel's "The Five" earlier this year. He then named Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods, Bryson DeChambeau and Scottie Scheffler, among them.

He also posts pictures on social media of him with pro golfers after their rounds. Trump has given awards to some and invited them to the White House. Others are helping him redesign Washington-area golf courses.

Here's some of what Trump has had to say about them.

Bryson DeChambeau

Trump said DeChambeau is among the "great pros." The two have played together and DeChambeau has appeared at the White House. He celebrated his first U.S. Open title in 2020 at one of Trump's golf properties in New York. Last year, he was chosen as the chairperson of Trump's reconstituted version of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition, an advisory committee.

Ernie Els

The South African pro golfer was in the Oval Office in May 2025 as part of the delegation accompanying Cyril Ramaphosa, his country's president, to a meeting with Trump. Fellow South African golfer Retief Goosen was also part of the group.

"Ernie Els is a great golfer. He's a truly great golfer and Retief Goosen, who's another really — we call him really a great golfer, too, Ernie, right?" Trump said. "These two guys are fantastic, and we could add Gary to the group, Gary Player. What a group of golfers South Africa has had. There must be something in the water, right?"

Trump awarded Player, who is considered one of the sport's greatest golfers, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2021. It is one of the most prestigious honors an American president can give a civilian.

Rory McIlroy

After winning this year's Masters, McIlroy was a guest at Trump's White House state dinner for King Charles III and Queen Camilla in April 2026. Trump recognized the six-time major champion from Northern Ireland as he spoke about the "unconquerable courage" he said is shared by the United States and the United Kingdom.

"And speaking of that, where's Rory McIlroy? ... Stand up, Rory. Will you please? That was unconquerable courage. That was very good, Rory," Trump said of the Masters win.

"I had to interrupt my speech because I watched that man win a tournament that was, that was a tough, that was a tough one. Congratulations. Very proud of you," Trump continued.

Trump has also said McIlroy "loves" the Doonbeg course.

Jack Nicklaus

"I love Jack. OK? Jack is great," Trump told Fox News host Trey Gowdy in August after he asked who the president would have in his "dream foursome."

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Trump has enlisted the retired Nicklaus, who designs golf courses, to help him redesign the golf courses at Joint Base Andrews, the military base in the Maryland suburbs of Washington where Air Force One is parked.

Scottie Scheffler

"So great," Trump told Gowdy about Scheffler, the top-ranked player on the PGA Tour.

Annika Sorenstam

Sorenstam, the only LPGA player to shoot 59 and a winner of the career Grand Slam, played golf with Trump, Player and the late Sen. Lindsey Graham at his course in Virginia in 2019.

Trump awarded Sorenstam the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which brought criticism to the Swedish great because the ceremony took place on Jan. 7, 2021, one day after the violent riot at the Capitol.

Sorenstam is now host of an LPGA event called The Annika. Last year, she gave a sponsor invitation to Kai Trump, the president's granddaughter.

Tiger Woods

"I happen to love Tiger. Tiger is a great guy," the president told Gowdy.

Days later, Woods pleaded no contest to a reckless driving charge and a judge suspended his driver's license for five years following a March rollover crash in Florida. He was arrested in March after his SUV clipped a truck on a residential road near his home on Jupiter Island.

Two pain pills were found in Woods' pocket and he showed signs of impairment. Woods' career has been derailed by multiple back and knee surgeries, car crashes and dependence on pain medication.

After the court appearance, Trump repeated to reporters that he thinks Woods is a "great guy" and said he is "unique in so many ways, and especially as an athlete, but also as a man."

He said he thought the case was resolved fairly and that he'd previously suggested to Woods that he get someone to drive him around because of the pain he suffers.

Trump called Woods a "true legend" when he awarded him a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019. Woods is currently dating Vanessa Trump, the ex-wife of Donald Trump Jr.

GOP congressman from Wisconsin swims to safety after plane makes emergency landing in a lake

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) — A Republican congressman said he had to swim to safety after a plane he was traveling in made an emergency landing in a lake late Saturday.

U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany says he was returning from the La Crosse County Lincoln Day Dinner when the light aircraft lost power as it approached Wausau Downtown Airport. The pilot made an emergency landing in Lake Wausau. They both ended up in the water and swam to safety.

"After landing, we called 911. As the plane began to submerge, we exited the aircraft and swam to a shallow area, where we waited until emergency responders reached us by boat," he wrote on X.

Emergency responders got both Tiffany and the pilot to a nearby hospital, where they were treated for minor injuries.

Tiffany is running for governor on the Republican ticket in Wisconsin and has been endorsed by President Donald Trump.

David Crowley, the Democratic candidate for governor wrote on X that he is grateful that no one was hurt and lauded the "heroism of the pilot."

The plane Tiffany was traveling in was a single-engine, four-seat Bonanza aircraft.

Ukrainian drones kill 2 in Russia as Moscow hits main port hub in Black Sea

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Civilians were killed and injured overnight as Russia and Ukraine continued to attack each other with waves of drones.

Two people were killed in Russia's Tatarstan, according to local officials, while Ukrainian authorities reported Russian drone attacks on the Black Sea port of Odesa and a fire near a border crossing with Poland.

Russia has ramped up its air campaign in recent weeks, using ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones to pierce Ukraine's defenses and capitalize on Kyiv's dwindling stock of missile interceptors. Moscow's attacks have targeted Ukraine's power grid ahead of winter in what officials say is meant to demoralize civilians.

Two people were killed and 12 more injured on Sunday as Ukrainian drones struck Nizhnekamsk, a city in Tatarstan, according to the office of regional head Rustam Minnikhanov. The two civilians died after a drone slammed into a tree near their parked car, the statement said.

Nizhnekamsk houses a key cluster of oil refineries and petrochemical, rubber and polymer plants, including some of Russia's largest facilities of their kind. Mayor Radmir Belyaev said that a fire had broken out "at one of the city's enterprises," without giving detail.

Russian oil pipeline damaged

Ukraine's recent long-range strikes have targeted Russia's oil and gas industry, which Kyiv says both funds and directly fuels its war on Ukraine. The Ukrainian drone campaign has caused fuel rationing across Russia, despite the country being a key oil and gas exporter. Other Ukrainian strikes targeted major Russian online retailers, bringing the war ever closer to the public.

Ukraine also claimed on Sunday to have hit a major oil refinery in Slavyansk-on-Kuban, in Russia's Krasnodar region, across from Crimea. The Defense Intelligence of Ukraine (DIU) agency said its drones struck a key oil processing unit and the refinery's tank farm overnight, sparking a massive blaze visible from dozens of kilometers (miles) away.

Krasnodar authorities said the strike on "an enterprise" in Slavyansk-on-Kuban injured three people, damaged an oil pipeline and started a blaze. They did not directly respond to the Ukrainian claims.

Russian forces shot down 389 Ukrainian drones during the night, Russia's defense ministry said Sunday, including over Tatarstan, other Russian regions, and Russian-occupied Crimea.

Russia targets Odesa and western Ukraine

At least nine people were injured in a "massive" Russian nighttime attack on Odesa, according to Serhii Lysak, who heads the city's military administration. The city is home to Ukraine's main port hub on the Black Sea and has for months faced sustained drone and missile strikes, with Kyiv accusing Moscow of trying to choke off its exports.

A Russian drone attack on Saturday struck a residential high-rise in Odesa, killing two people and injuring 26 others, Ukrainian officials said. The building's upper floors were completely destroyed, according to regional head Oleh Kiper.

Russian strikes also pounded western Ukraine throughout the night, though there were no immediate reports of casualties. One drone struck near the Yahodyn-Dorohusk border crossing with Poland, setting fire to a petrol station, according to Ukraine's top diplomat and a spokesperson for the local customs force.

"This is Putin's terror 'knocking' directly on the doors of the EU and NATO. Russian barbarians are at your gate, dear partners," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha wrote in a post on X.

Ukraine's border crossings with Poland are a conduit for a large proportion of the military and humanitarian aid sent into the country by Western allies.

Valentyna Chernysh, a spokesperson for the Volyn Customs Office, told The Associated Press that the Yahodyn crossing was intact. She said no one was harmed, as the crossing was temporarily closed during the air raid alert and people were directed to shelters.

Separately, Ukraine's state rail operator said that a Russian drone attacked the locomotive of a passenger train in the Volyn region, 2 km (1.2 miles) from the Polish border.

Ukraine's air force said its air defenses shot down or suppressed 409 Russian drones of various types

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overnight, including a newer jet-powered version that is faster and more difficult to intercept. It said Russia had attacked Ukraine with 453 drones in total.

Solheim Cup finale: Team Europe makes fast start in bid to reclaim trophy from US as rain eases

By STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writer

DEN BOSCH, Netherlands (AP) — All 12 singles matches are in play on the final day of the Solheim Cup — and blue is filling the scoreboards across Bernardus Golf.

The Europeans made a fast start Sunday in their bid to reach 14 1/2 points and regain the crystal trophy, with Charley Hull, Esther Henseleit and Linn Grant — out in the first three matches — getting to the back nine with big leads in wet conditions.

Nelly Korda was 3 up on European rookie Mimi Rhodes after nine holes of the fourth match, but the world No. 1 wasn't getting much help from her U.S. teammates. Only one other American was leading — Lauren Coughlin in Match 9 against Leona Maguire.

Team Europe has played stronger on the shorter front nine this week, however, so there was still plenty of hope for the Americans.

There has barely been any separation between Europe and the United States this week, meaning something has to give on Sunday.

Tied at 4-4 after Day 1, the teams were locked at 8-8 ahead of the start of singles play, with heavy rain greeting the arrival of players and fans on Day 3 and umbrellas lining the fairways as the early groups went out.

The rain had relented by the time Rose Zhang and Celine Boutier teed off in the final pairing out at 1:22 p.m. local time (7:22 a.m. EDT), with players finally able to remove their wet gear.

At stake is the trophy that has been on show on the boisterous first tee all week and in the possession of the Americans since 2024.

They need 14 points to retain it. Both teams require 14 1/2 for an outright win.

Hull, who contributed just a half-point for Team Europe from four matches in a misfiring combination with Lottie Woad over the first two days, won the first hole of the lead singles match against Megan Khang and extended her lead to 2 up with a birdie at No. 10.

The singles has been tight in recent years

It is the seventh time that the Solheim Cup has been tied after two days. The home team has a record of 5-0-1 on the six previous occasions.

In the past five editions of the event, the singles session has been tied three times and Europe has won 6 1/2-5 1/2 the other two times.

Whoever wins, it's a day that rarely fails to deliver.

The secret ballot has been an article of faith in US elections. That's being tested in Georgia

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Security researchers say rapid advances in artificial intelligence are making it more critical to address a flaw in Georgia's voting equipment that can allow voters to be matched to their ballots after they have been cast.

The system's vulnerability has been drawing increased attention, with election security advocates criticizing state election officials for failing to fix it before the November elections. Georgia election officials say they have taken steps to address the potential harm, but some advocates say the state is not going far enough.

The vulnerability does not allow votes to be changed or cast doubt on election results, but it could let someone see how others voted. That is important because ballot secrecy is a fundamental right under the state constitution and violations could create an opening for legal challenges.

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While the flaw has been known for a few years, the widespread adoption of AI tools and the blistering pace of its sophistication have election security experts raising alarms.

This is "a bit of a wake-up call because it illustrates how much more easily vulnerabilities can be exploited now that AI can do all of the technical work for you," said J. Alex Halderman, a voting technology specialist at the University of Michigan who was part of the team that exposed the flaw.

Other jurisdictions across the country use the same voting equipment made by Dominion Voting Systems, a company that has since been sold and renamed Liberty Vote. But many have applied a software update to fix the flaw, and some other states do not allow the public release of records that are needed to exploit it, said Mark Lindeman, policy and strategy director at Verified Voting, a nonpartisan group focused on election technology.

Georgia, a presidential battleground with one of the nation's most closely watched U.S. Senate races this year, is the only place where the system is used statewide. Lindeman said that, combined with an open records law that has allowed access to key documents, creates a "perfect storm."

"It's really embarrassing that this is still a possibility," Lindeman said.

How does voting work in Georgia?

Georgia voters make their selections on touchscreen voting machines that print paper ballots voters insert into scanners to tally the votes.

Such cast-vote records detail the votes from each ballot. Those records and electronic ballot images created by the scanners are randomized. But the software flaw allows them to be put back in the order they were cast, according to a report by researchers who discovered it in 2022.

Along with other publicly available data, that information could be used to match voters to their ballots, the researchers wrote.

Max Springer, a Princeton University researcher who was not involved in the original research and studies AI, said he gave a publicly available AI assistant that research. He said it was able to reverse the shuffling of electronic ballot records from Georgia's May primary and then tell him what other records it would need to match names to ballots.

He then gave the AI assistant the early voting list for the counties he examined and the cast-vote record file, which could be obtained through a public records request. It was able to create "buckets of ballots and potential voters," he wrote in a blog post. In many instances, that made it possible to match voters to their ballots.

In cases where ambiguity remained, he wrote, he got the public audit log for the ballot scanners and precinct check-in records and was able to match most ballots to specific voters.

"AI coding tools are essentially supercharging laymen people to exploit vulnerabilities," Springer said in an interview.

Why does ballot secrecy matter?

Georgia's Constitution says elections "shall be by secret ballot" and state law requires voting machines to "permit voting in absolute secrecy so that no person can see or know any other elector's votes."

A lack of ballot secrecy can make it easier to buy or sell votes and increase the danger of coercion to vote a certain way by family members, political organizations, employers or government officials. It also is information that could be invaluable to political campaigns.

Gabriel Sterling, special projects manager in the secretary of state's office, pushed back on the concerns. He said it would be easier to use mail ballots if vote-buying or coercion was the goal and that it likely would be cheaper for campaigns to just increase outreach to voters who fit a certain profile than try to identify voters this way.

State Election Board member Salleigh Grubbs proposed a rule during the board's August meeting that would have required the secretary of state's office to apply the software update recommended by the manufacturer by Tuesday.

"Each (voter) has one vote, and no one is entitled to know how it was cast," Grubbs said. "That privacy protects more than the individual voter. It protects the integrity of the entire election."

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In a letter to the election board, an agency lawyer argued that the update has not been certified by the secretary of state, the implementation would take months and the legislature has not provided necessary funding. The board rejected Grubbs' proposal. Some members said they did not believe they had the authority to order the secretary of state to act and they raised concerns about the short timeline before the November midterms.

Board member Sara Tindall Ghazal, who voted against the proposal, said it is "intensely frustrating" that the software update has not been applied. But she pointed out that it is a felony to reveal how someone voted, which should serve as a deterrent.

"I hate the fact that it's even physically possible, but there are very, very severe penalties if somebody were to actually do this," she said.

What's being done?

The secretary of state's office sent guidance to county election officials instructing them to refer open records requests for certain records to the secretary of state's office. It will release them with the problematic information blacked out and decline to release other information and documents.

Sterling said the office is working with a vendor to scramble the original order of ballot images and cast-vote records before they are made public. Halderman said that precaution would be necessary to keep someone from reconstructing the order.

While some other jurisdictions have applied the software update that reportedly fixes the problem, some have done what Georgia is now trying to do by restricting public access to the records needed to exploit the flaw.

Marilyn Marks is executive director of the Coalition for Good Governance, which advocates for election transparency and security and raised the alarm about the vulnerability. She argued that withholding documents is not the solution and that steps need to be taken to ensure ballots cannot be traced to voters in the first place.

"When Georgia's election records contain identifiers that can be used to trace ballots to voters, the only legal and acceptable answer is to stop recording that information — not restrict public access to sensitive unlawful information to insiders and commercial vendors," she said.

With time growing short before the elections, Marks said a workable interim solution would be to collect ballots in locked boxes at precincts and then shuffle and scan them at a central tabulating center.

Inside a Philadelphia barbershop, Black men debate their political past and future

By MATT BROWN Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ever since Democrat Kamala Harris lost the presidential election to Donald Trump two years ago, political strategist Khalil Thompson has been traveling the country to figure out why Black men inched toward a white Republican rather than a Black woman.

Although Black men vote overwhelmingly Democratic, even small shifts in their support can help swing razor-thin elections. They are often some of the most scrutinized but least understood voters, a blind spot that Thompson wants to fix.

His mission led him to a Philadelphia barbershop one recent Friday night, where Thompson's organization, Win With Black Men, organized a conversation that mixed with the sounds of buzzing clippers and a break to eat cheesesteaks.

"We know the shop is like our own country club that we come to, so we really just want to start having a conversation about what's important to us in our community," Thompson told the few dozen people who were getting their hair cut, sat in chairs lined up around the room or stood wherever they found extra space.

The two-plus hour discussion, which included local politicians, union leaders, lifelong residents, recent arrivals and a few high schoolers, had immense political stakes. While Philadelphia is a liberal stronghold and not at play in this year's midterm elections, it is crucial in presidential elections. If Democrats cannot run up their numbers in the city, where Black residents are 40% of the population, it's much harder for

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them to win Pennsylvania. Democrats face similar tests across the country.

"I am a middle-class Black man who lives in D.C. I have no idea what the various day-in-the-life needs would be of the brother who goes to the Bill Pickett rodeo in Houston, the brother that may work on a peanut farmer in Albany, Georgia, versus the brother that lives in Oakland or one who lives in Detroit and goes to work at a car factory plant," Thompson later told The Associated Press. "When you're polling, messaging, making TV decisions for Black men with one monolithic filter, you're going to lose a broad swath."

As the conversation got underway, Thompson raised the key question that he has been pondering: Why didn't some Black men enthusiastically support Harris, the first Black woman nominated for president by a major political party?

A heated exchange highlights unanswered questions

One exchange reflected the raucous but familiar debates some Black men have had with each other since Trump's return to the White House.

Stanley Thigpen, a civil engineer, had a theory about Black men and Trump, who he described as "Big T over in 1600," a reference to the White House's address at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Thigpen said he is not a supporter, but "what we fail to realize is Trump has always been a prominent figure in Black culture," he said. Groans, laughs and objections immediately followed.

"I gotta push back on that," interjected Al Glay, a real estate agent.

"You can't push back on that!" Thigpen retorted. "Rappers rapped about Trump."

Glay recalled Trump's statements about five Black and Latino teenagers, now sometimes known as the Exonerated Five, who were wrongly accused and convicted of the 1989 rape of a white jogger in New York's Central Park.

"He was blatantly racist," he said. "How can you support that?"

Another man brushed that off. "They're all racist anyway."

"You looked your mom in your face, you looked your aunt in the face," Glay said. "You looked everybody in the face, and you saw Kamala, and you voted for the white man?"

The barbershop then briefly erupted.

There's a full circle moment for political outreach

Thompson got his start as an organizer for Democrat Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. Thompson co-founded Win With Black Men in 2023 to mobilize Black men and highlight their priorities.

The organization's efforts were turbocharged after Harris entered the presidential race and concerns spread that Black men wouldn't enthusiastically back the then-vice president.

Harris visited the same shop — Philly Cuts in West Philadelphia — during her campaign, nine days before she lost to Trump. She discussed ways to improve Black male representation in education, including increasing pay and reducing student loans with the local state representative.

The recent conversation was much more free-form.

Men debated how to provide role models and educational opportunities for Black youths, whether the city's food deserts were the result of intentional policy and whether artificial intelligence posed greater risks or rewards for them in the labor market. But all agreed on greater government investment in their communities.

Thompson said he had found that Black men across regions, educational backgrounds and income levels are interested in policies that could help them serve as breadwinners and caregivers, build paths to independent wealth and obtain educational opportunities that boost financial independence and versatility.

Some shared feelings of disillusionment with politics that crossed party lines.

"For the longest time, we always have a reason to distrust government, because we know our history, right?" said Maurice Anderson, one of the barbers.

He remembered that Democratic President Bill Clinton signed legislation that boosted criminal penalties that disproportionately sent Black people to prison.

"What has happened," he said, "is that we're tapped out." But even that was a trap, he added: "They want you to fall back."

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State Sen. Vincent Hughes, a Democrat, acknowledged the disillusionment.

"It's always important that we're having dialogue because we've got to turn that anger into action," he said afterward.

John White Jr., 77, a former state representative and members of the Philadelphia City Council who led federal housing policy during the Clinton administration, said the men were having "the same types of conversations we were having back then." He urged them to translate frustration into civic engagement.

Black men are set to be highly sought voting group in 2028

Political strategists increasingly regard men of color as a crucial voting group as the political landscape undergoes a generational shift.

"Black men are not a monolith," said Terrance Woodbury, a political pollster whose firm, HIT Strategies, consulted on the Harris campaign.

Black men age 18 and older — roughly 4.3% of the U.S. population, according to the latest census estimate — have unique historical experiences that make their voting patterns distinct from other groups. In July, Black men age 20 and older had an unemployment rate of 6.2%, nearly double the 3.5% unemployment rate for white men, according to federal data.

A Federal Reserve survey of 2022 data found that their families had a median wealth of \$44,890 compared with the median white family wealth of \$285,010. In 2023, Black men's imprisonment rate was about 5.5 times the rate for white men, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

About one-quarter of Black men supported Trump in 2024, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 registered voters in all 50 states. That compares with 12% in 2020, when Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Thompson says he has heard from Black men of different backgrounds — urban and rural, high- and low-income — about how deeper realities such as trauma, mass incarceration, economic discrimination and cultural stereotypes make some Black men more skeptical of mainstream institutions and traditional campaign outreach efforts.

Woodbury, the pollster, said several potential Democratic presidential candidates have already begun consulting his firm on outreach to Black men.

"There is no one looking at 2028 who does not understand the disproportionate impact that Black men will play in South Carolina," he said in reference to the first Democratic presidential primary state.

Thompson believes Black men are more likely to vote for candidates who offer an inspirational message rather than a pessimistic one. But just as Trump's own dire messaging to Black communities resonated with some Black voters, Thompson said fears about the administration's policies on policing civil rights, corporate diversity programs and how the nation's history is taught, have also emerged as motivating issues for Black voters in the midterms, he said.

"We have the freedom today that countless ancestors prayed for, died for," Thompson said. "And there are so many ways that we can use it. We just have to motivate and mobilize."

Search underway for about 130 people after Indonesian ferry overturns

By IMAN SATRIA and NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

BANJARMASIN, Indonesia (AP) — A ferry overturned in bad weather in Indonesia's Java Sea on Sunday, leaving about 130 passengers and crew missing, rescuers said. At least 107 people were rescued and the bodies of six passengers were recovered as the search operation expanded around the vessel's last known position.

The ferry with more than 240 people was traveling from Surabaya in East Java to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan province, on Borneo Island, officials said.

The vessel's captain had reported rough seas with waves up to 3 meters (10 feet) before issuing a distress call, saying the ship was listing, said I Putu Sudayana, who heads the Banjarmasin Search and Rescue Office. Authorities later received information indicating the vessel had overturned.

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The rescue agency in Banjarmasin said it received a report two hours after contact was lost with the Virgo Transport 8 at about 2 a.m. Sunday.

A rescue ship was headed to the vessel's last known position, he said, and by Sunday afternoon authorities were deploying teams supported by eight vessels, including four navy ship, and two helicopters.

Survivors are rescued and dead bodies recovered

Initial information indicated the vessel's last known position was in the Java Sea, about 148 kilometers (92 miles) from Banjarmasin. The ship's manifest said it was carrying 243 people — 213 passengers and 30 crew members — although it is common in Indonesia for the number of passengers to differ from the manifest. The vessel was also transporting 89 vehicles.

Sudayana, who is coordinating the search, said search teams, assisted by nearby tugboats and other passing vessels, had rescued 107 people and recovered six bodies by Sunday afternoon.

The 119-meter (390-foot) Virgo Transport 8 ferry was built in Japan in 1987.

Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said aerial searches showed the ferry was floating upside down and had not sunk. Rescuers were concentrating search efforts around the overturned ferry, he told reporters Sunday.

Distraught relatives wait for news at a port

Hundreds of relatives gathered at a command center in Banjarmasin's Trisakti port, awaiting word on family members believed to be aboard the ferry. Many anxiously checked passenger manifests and rescue lists as authorities continued searching for survivors.

"I was shocked when I saw my uncle's name on the passenger list," said a woman who goes by a single name, Bunga. "But I felt relieved after officials told me he had been rescued."

Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands where ferries are a common method of travel. Disasters occur regularly, with weak safety enforcement often blamed.

Last month, at least 211 people were rescued from an Indonesian ferry that caught fire in rough seas near the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, while one person was found dead and four others remain missing. The incident happened less than two weeks after another Indonesian ferry, the Mutiara Sentosa 2, caught fire in waters off the main island of Java, leaving at least five people dead.

Sunday's accident comes just four days after a fire that gutted a passenger ferry in the Philippines killed at least 76 people, with at least 10 others still missing.

At BRICS, India's Modi warns geopolitical tensions and supply chain shocks threaten global stability

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday warned that rising geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions and climate crises are increasingly affecting people worldwide and called for strengthened cooperation and support across the Global South.

Addressing the BRICS summit of leading developing nations on its second day in New Delhi, Modi also warned that the "weaponization of technology and critical minerals" could hinder global development and shared prosperity.

Founded in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India and China, BRICS has expanded to 11 members representing about half the world's population and a significant share of global economic output. It has sought greater representation for developing countries in global institutions and promoted alternatives to Western-dominated financial systems.

"The number of conflicts and tensions in the world is continuously increasing, and this is having an increasingly negative and far-reaching impact on the lives of ordinary people," Modi said, alongside bloc leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

"Pandemics, climate disasters and supply-chain disruptions have shown that in today's interconnected

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world, no crisis remains confined to a single region," Modi said, while announcing that the bloc agreed to establish an integrated early warning system for infectious diseases, aimed at boosting preparedness and response to future outbreaks.

In his closing remarks at the summit, Modi urged the bloc nations to convert the summit's agreements into tangible and time-bound action and move them from "files to real-life impact."

The discussions over the past two days, he said, reinforced the belief that "BRICS is not merely a group of countries, but an ecosystem of solutions." He wished China success as it takes over the BRICS chair for the next term.

The group in a joint declaration Saturday had expressed concern over escalating tensions in the Middle East and Sudan, and called for disputes to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

The bloc reiterated support for a multipolar world order and reforms to the United Nations, including its Security Council, as well as global financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The leaders opposed unilateral sanctions and coercive economic measures and criticized sanctions not authorized by the U.N. They also criticized rising tariffs and nontariff barriers, saying they undermine global trade and supply chains.

The bloc backed greater use of local currencies in trade and stronger cross-border payment systems, while calling for cooperation on food security, energy, digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence and climate action.

The declaration was a significant breakthrough, as forging consensus among Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — which hold competing positions on key regional and geopolitical issues — posed a complex diplomatic challenge amid ongoing conflicts and heightened tensions.

Pope commemorates 9/11 attacks with prayers for peace and for those who died

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV, history's first American pope, called for a renewed commitment to peace on Sunday as he marked the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on his home country.

The Chicago-born pope made his first public comments to commemorate the anniversary, speaking in English at the end of his traditional Sunday noon blessing from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

"Two days ago marked the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States of America," Leo said. "I renew my prayers for those who lost their lives and for those who continue to bear the wounds of that tragic day."

He added that "at a time when conflict and violence afflict so many of our brothers and sisters, I invite everyone to pray that the Lord will bestow his gift of peace upon the world."

Speaking in Italian he added: "The memory of the tragic events of 25 years ago pushes us to renew our commitment to peace, above all with prayer."

On Sept. 11, 2001, the former Robert Prevost was in Rome attending a big assembly of his Augustinian religious order. At the time, he was the Chicago provincial leader of the Augustinians. Prevost was elected superior of the entire order on Sept. 14, his birthday, a position he held for two consecutive terms until 2012.

Vatican News on Sunday republished excerpts of his first homily as superior, delivered on Sept. 21, 2001. In it, the future American pope reflected on the attacks.

"We cannot fail to remember the tragic events that shook the United States on Sept. 11," he said in his homily. "The violence that the world witnessed last week in the United States is a tragic expression of a series of problems that are becoming increasingly acute everywhere."

"Hatred and violence will continue to grow as long as so many people are forced to live in extreme

poverty and are oppressed by so many forms of injustice.”

An Iranian commercial ship is struck near Strait of Hormuz with 1 dead, Iranian media say

By SAMY MAGDY, SALLY ABOU ALJOUD and CARA ANNA Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Iranian cargo vessel was struck early Sunday off Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, with one person killed and four wounded, Iranian state media said, a day before Tehran seeks to brief regional countries on its contested efforts to manage shipping traffic there.

The events were a deadly reminder of the underlying challenge to global shipping even as attention turns to a new threat, with Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen now perched on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea.

State-run IRNA news agency quoted the Qeshm governor as blaming a “terrorist enemy.” There was no immediate comment by the U.S. military, which has struck Iranian-flagged vessels during its blockade of Iranian ports — while facing a new threat from Iranian ballistic missiles launched at its warships.

Separately, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations monitor said a vessel was hit by a projectile while transiting the strait, later adding that a fire had broken out and local authorities were evacuating those on board.

Qeshm Island, about 14 miles (22 kilometers) from the port city of Bandar Abbas, is key to Iran asserting control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Hours before the attack, Iran’s government remained defiant. “Our people can’t be bullied into submission. Iran won’t surrender,” President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a U.S.-aimed social media post.

Monday’s meeting aims to brief regional countries on the strait

Monday’s meeting returns regional attention to the Strait of Hormuz days after the Houthis swept down Yemen’s Red Sea coast to apply new pressure to a growing alternative for global shipping. While the Houthis say they are targeting only neighboring Saudi Arabia, which backs Yemen’s internationally recognized government fighting the rebels, markets are wary.

Global prices of oil, natural gas and related products have been sent even higher.

Commercial ship traffic remains low in the Strait of Hormuz as attacks continue on what was seen as an international waterway before the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28. The U.S. has asserted that plenty of oil is getting out as its military helps to guide ships along Oman’s coast, at the risk of attack.

Iran has said foreign ministers from regional countries will meet Monday to discuss efforts by Iran and Oman, located on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz, to manage shipping on it. However, Bahrain has already said it will not attend, citing a lack of diplomatic relations with Tehran.

It was not clear what other nations would be there, and there was no new statement from Iran on Sunday.

Since early in the war, Iran has expressed interest in having ships pay fees for transit. It has said traffic into the Persian Gulf would pass through Iranian waters, while the outbound route would pass partly through Iranian waters and partly through Oman’s.

But Iran has said reaching an agreement with Oman on the strait doesn’t mean it will open for shipping. “The waterway would be opened up on the condition that the U.S. will terminate its blockade,” Iran’s president told broadcaster India Today TV on Saturday.

There was some measure of optimism in the region about the planned meeting, with hope that Gulf nations might use it to assert a collective response to a war they had no part in starting. For months, they have faced Iranian attacks that Tehran has claimed target U.S. military assets on their lands.

“Oman is hoping that by presenting this agreement with a reasonable level of regional buy-in, the Trump administration will be forced to recognize that the future of the strait will be decided by regional countries,” Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj, who heads the Bourse & Bazaar Foundation, a think tank focused on Iran’s economy, said on social media.

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Brazil is in fashion, as Brazilians like to say. Here's why

By ELÉONORE HUGHES Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil is having a moment. Celebrities and record numbers of tourists donning green, yellow and blue are flooding into the country. Brazilian culture — from its Oscar-nominated films to funk music — is taking the world by storm. Global fashion brands and influencers are leaning into the hype.

For decades, Brazilians have lamented that the country and its cultural makeup and output have long gone under-appreciated in what has become known as the “mongrel complex.”

But as attention from abroad pours in and consolidates itself in 2026, some say a shift may be underway with the rise of “caramelo pride” — a ubiquitous celebration by Brazilians of caramel-colored street mutts that have come to represent the country.

Here's a look at the phenomenon.

Brazilcore kicks off the trend

Brazil has captured the world's attention and admiration before, and Brazilians cyclically observe that “Brasil está na moda,” or Brazil is in fashion.

Many trace the current popularity of the phase to 2023, when Brazilcore, a fashion trend featuring the colors of the Brazilian flag and inspired by Brazilian culture, gained widespread global traction. Celebrities including Bad Bunny, Emily Ratajkowski, Hailey Bieber, Tina Kunakey, Sabrina Carpenter, Alex Consani and Addison Rae have all participated in the trend.

Fashion was “very rigid, with many uniformized clothes. Suddenly came this wave from Brazil showing more skin, using more color,” said Néli Pereira, a PhD candidate at the University of Sao Paulo in cultural studies who specializes in Brazil. The spontaneity and vivid color palettes resonated amid a craving for more light-heartedness.

Recently, the popularity of Brazilcore has morphed into a massive, multi-faceted global phenomenon that celebrates “brasilidade,” or Brazilianness, moving beyond fashion to include music, dance, cinema and sport.

Trend seen in fashion, increased tourism and star power

Brazilcore can be spotted on high streets around the world and takes the forms of bikinis, micro-shorts, crochet pieces, soccer shirts and accessories. Brands including fast fashion giants, such as Zara and H&M, have put out tops in green and yellow or emblazoned with Rio de Janeiro, while Chanel, Jil Sander and Schiaparelli have all made references to Brazil's national colors.

The hype around Brazil has also translated into record numbers of tourists visiting the country. More than 9 million tourists came to Brazil last year, a 37% increase compared with 2024. Jokes on the internet abound about the CPF — an individual's fiscal identity in Brazil — being the new sought-after green card.

In Rio, visitors head to Rocinha favela, kitted out in Brazilcore, and pay for footage of themselves striding out onto a terrace, plonking themselves down as a drone captures the scene before panning out to capture Rio's stunning urban landscape. These videos have gone viral in recent months.

“If you don't do the video with the drone, it's as if you didn't come to the favela,” said Eduardo Maristany, a 30-year-old tourist from Barcelona, who recently partook in a tour of Rocinha. Like many others, he chose the country as a destination after seeing an influx of videos on social media about Brazil's famed favelas, beaches and parties.

It's not just tourists who are engaging with Brazil. Madonna, Lady Gaga and Shakira performed free shows on Copacabana Beach in 2024, 2025 and 2026 respectively, drawing at least a million concert-goers each time, according to Rio City Hall numbers.

And in 2024, Bruno Mars posted a video of himself dancing to funk music, seemingly getting a Christ the Redeemer tattoo on his chest and posing with a caramelo dog. With more than 13 million likes on Instagram, the video ends with the words: “I love you Brazil.” Rosalia and Dua Lipa have also professed their love for Brazil online.

Meanwhile, Brazilian culture — from Anitta's funk music to Academy Award-nominated films such as ‘I'm Still Here’ and ‘The Secret Agent’ — is being celebrated on the world's biggest stages and across the internet, turbocharging Brazil's soft power.

Brazil is renowned for its complexity and online presence

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It's frequently said about the country that "Brazil is not for amateurs." The oft-repeated phrase taps into the complexity of the continental-sized country, where exuberant celebrations of life – epitomized by Carnival — coexist alongside violence, poverty and political scandals reminiscent of telenovelas.

Brazil's ambiguities "make sense in a world filled with conflicts, inequalities and scarcity," said Bruno Pompeu, a professor at the University of Sao Paulo's school of communications and arts.

The country's formidable presence online is also contributing to the current wave of interest in Brazil. Brazil — with a population of over 200 million — is one of the most connected countries in the world and social media users are showcasing the country's seemingly infinitely multilayered culture.

"Brazil pulsates creativity and has this very particular characteristic of interacting on the internet in a collective manner. It's common for content to be quickly transformed into memes and cultural references," said Eduardo Lorenzi, general director of operations for Latin America at TikTok.

Brazilians are known for their high engagement, a much-sought-after characteristic in the attention economy.

Courtney Henning Novak, a Californian and prolific reader and writer, developed an online community composed mostly of Brazilian followers after her rave review of a 1881 book by Brazilian author Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis went viral.

"Brazilians love to comment. I get more messages than I can keep up with, and there's a lot of positive energy," she said.

For the global entertainment industry, brands, event organizers, businesses and influencers, Brazil represents a key market and an exceptionally valuable fan base.

Vitor Oliveira, a 36-year-old tour guide from Rocinha, credits social networks for the explosion of tourism in his neighborhood. "Influencers coming here were a game changer and primordial to the increase of tourism in Rio and especially in Rocinha," he said.

Beyond digital engagement, Brazil's current moment in the spotlight is the result of a confluence of factors involving politics, diplomacy, culture and economics, said Pereira, pointing to policies that support the showcasing of Brazilian culture and a huge effort to attract tourists by Embratur, Brazil's government tourism agency.

Brazil's popularity might begin to fade

Like all trends, this one is likely to fade, experts say, predicting that the upcoming election and the return of political polarization may diminish the association of yellow and green with joy.

French comedian Paul Cabannes, who is based in Sao Paulo and has millions of followers across different platforms, posts humorous content about Brazil and has watched as the number of foreigners producing content almost exclusively about Brazil soared.

"It's a formula that's getting a bit tired. I think it's harder to succeed doing this than before," he said.

In an increasingly multipolar world, many Brazilians believe that the country's soft power is here to stay. But Pereira predicts that Brazil's "mongrel complex" will resurface if the current attention from abroad fades. "Once people stop giving us those little pats on the head, it'll all come back," she said.

Texas stakes its claim for No. 1 in AP Top 25; Oregon set for a big fall and Michigan could return

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Get ready for a new No. 1 team when The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll is released Sunday afternoon.

No. 4 Texas staked its claim after wiping out a 20-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat top-ranked Ohio State 24-23 on Saturday night in Austin. The comeback is the largest fourth-quarter rally ever for a win against an AP No. 1 team, according to Sportradar, and it avenged a loss to the Buckeyes a year ago that knocked Texas out of the No. 1 spot.

There will be other changes, too: No. 6 Oregon, which along with Ohio State entered the season as a Big Ten standard bearer, is set to fall out of the top 10 for the first time in three years after its almost

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unfathomable 39-31 road loss to an Oklahoma State team that had lost 21 straight against Football Bowl Subdivision opponents.

Michigan, which fell out of the Top 25 after needing an extra second and second-chance Hail Mary try to beat Western Michigan a week ago, could return to the poll with its 17-10 win over No. 11 Oklahoma. How far the Sooners will drop is anyone's guess.

Teams ranked Nos. 12 and below all won, but it will be interesting to see how the 69 journalists on the voting panel assess two more Big Ten teams, No. 19 Washington and No. 21 Iowa. Washington was a 26 1/2-point favorite at home against Utah State and won 16-14. Iowa was a 14-point favorite at home against rival Iowa State and won 16-13.

If Washington and Iowa stay in, there will be little space for new teams in the rankings. Boise State would be among the first in line after playing Oregon close on the road last week and beating Memphis 38-20 in a key Group of Six game.

Iranian media say 1 killed in ship strike on the Strait of Hormuz, and other Mideast developments

The Associated Press undefined

An Iranian commercial ship was struck early Sunday near the Strait of Hormuz, with one person killed, Iranian state media say.

Meanwhile, the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen said they fired drones and missiles toward southern Saudi Arabia, putting new pressure on a key U.S. ally in the region. And a new Israeli strike in Gaza has killed two people.

Here's a look at the latest news in the Middle East. Full coverage can be found [here](#).

Iran says 1 person killed in strike on commercial ship

State-run media said an Iranian commercial vessel was stuck off Qeshm Island, the largest island in the Persian Gulf that sits on the Strait of Hormuz, with one person killed and three wounded.

Separately, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations monitor reported a vessel was hit by a projectile while transiting the strait, with no details. It was not immediately clear if it was the same strike.

There was no immediate statement by the U.S. military, which previously has struck Iranian-flagged vessels as it keeps up a blockade of Iranian ports. On Saturday, the military said its forces had redirected 100 commercial vessels over the past 60 days.

Houthis claim new attacks on Saudi Arabia

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen said they fired drones and missiles toward neighboring Saudi Arabia.

The Houthis' military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, claimed in a statement that they targeted a military base in Sharurah province in the Najran region. He didn't provide evidence or say when the attack took place. Sirens went off in the province on Saturday, according to the Saudi civil defense, which didn't report casualties or damage.

The civil defense overnight also said a projectile fell in al-Tawwal governorate near the border with Yemen along the Red Sea, injuring two people and damaging a mosque and several other buildings. The statement blamed the Houthis.

The escalation in fighting between the Houthis and Yemen's Saudi-backed and internationally recognized government risks a return to civil war. Yemen's government has vowed its forces will respond after withdrawing from the rebels' swift advance in recent days along the Red Sea coast to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Across the strait, the small Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti is already seeing the arrival of fleeing Yemenis making the perilous crossing. More than 2,000 people have arrived there, the International Organization for Migration said Sunday.

Israeli strike in Gaza kills 2

An Israeli strike hit a car in Gaza City, killing two people, according to al-Shifa hospital, which received the bodies. Smoke rose from the vehicle's mangled, bloodied frame.

"They had no heads," said resident Ahmad Shreim, who came across the remains while on his way to

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pick up his daughter from school. He said "nowhere is safe" in Gaza.

The Israeli military said it targeted two Hamas members.

While the heaviest fighting has subsided since a ceasefire took hold in October, Israeli airstrikes have killed 1,369 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by international organizations. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants.

Iraq border crossings with Iran reopen

Iraqi authorities said passenger traffic had resumed at key border crossings with Iran after being closed Saturday following drone attacks launched from Iraq that closed Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline.

An umbrella group of Iran-backed militias in Iraq has denied they were responsible.

Crossings at al-Sheeb in southern Maysan province and Shalamchah in southern Basra province resumed early Sunday, with trade to resume in the coming days, Iraq's Security Media Cell said in a statement.

Egyptian and Iranian leaders meet in New Delhi

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian held talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in New Delhi, where the group of emerging economies has expressed concern about rising Mideast tensions. China again offered to play its "due role" to forge peace.

El-Sissi told Pezeshkian that Egypt expects Iran to make all possible efforts to de-escalate and achieve a "comprehensive, sustainable and peaceful settlement to the crisis," according to a statement from the Egyptian presidency.

The Egyptian leader also urged an end to attacks on Arab countries.

What to know as a Philippine region with a history of conflict holds its first parliamentary polls

By TERESA CEROJANO Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Voters in an autonomous southern Philippine region will cast their ballots Monday in the region's first parliamentary elections, seen as a crucial step in the quest for self-determination and lasting peace after decades of insurgency and violence.

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, or BARMM, covers five provinces, three cities and 63 villages across eight special geographic area clusters. It has nearly 2.4 million voters, with election officials aiming for an 80% turnout after polling was postponed for several years.

Here's what to know about the Sept. 14 vote.

80 seats are at stake in the elections

There are 80 seats at stake in the elections that will determine members of parliament, the region's legislative body. These include 40 political party representatives, 32 district representatives and eight sectoral representatives.

Unlike the direct voting under the presidential system of the national government, the region's chief minister, who heads the executive branch, is not elected by voters. Members of parliament will choose the chief minister from among themselves by a majority vote during their first parliamentary session.

Voters will choose one regional party, one district representative and six sectoral representatives. The 40 regional party-representative seats will be distributed to nominees based on a party's vote share.

The region has a history of strife

Centuries of colonialism by Spain, the U.S. and Filipino Christian settlers turned Muslims into a minority group in resource-rich Mindanao, the southern third of the Philippine archipelago from which the BARMM was carved out. The region has seen decades of intermittent but bloody conflicts over land, resources and political power.

Since the 1970s, about 150,000 combatants and civilians have died in the southern Philippines, while development was stunted in the country's poorest region. Western and Asian governments feared the tenacious insurgencies could help foster Islamic extremism in Southeast Asia.

The presence of private armies and long-running clan wars has added to the violent mix.

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Under a 2014 peace deal brokered by Malaysia, the largest Muslim rebel group — the Moro Islamic Liberation Front — gave up its goal of a separate Muslim state in the south of the largely Catholic country in exchange for broader autonomy. The group's 40,000 fighters would be "demobilized" and given livelihoods and other help to bring them back to normal life.

The Bangsamoro region was established under the peace deal to replace a poverty-wracked five-province autonomous region with a larger, better-funded and more powerful area, which has been governed by former guerrilla leaders under a transition period that ends with the first regular elections on Sept. 14.

Challenges still remain in the region

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front last year suspended the disarming of its remaining 14,000 fighters after claiming that the government has not fully complied with socio-economic commitments it made under the 2014 peace deal. Then-presidential assistant David Diciano, who had been helping oversee the transformation of the Bangsamoro region, said in a statement at the time that the Muslim rebel front's central committee had decided "to postpone the decommissioning of 14,000 of its combatants and 2,450 of their weapons."

The Institute for Autonomy and Governance, a nonprofit policy and research center based in the region, has noted that the incomplete decommissioning of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's combatants as well as the organization's split into two rival political parties vying in the elections pose a potential danger of violence that may affect voters' confidence to go out and vote.

More than 20,000 military and police personnel are being deployed to secure the elections, officials said.

"We have just one goal: for them to be able to vote. All our preparations and efforts would be in vain if our fellow citizens couldn't vote," Commission on Elections Chairman Erwin Garcia said.

Sustaining parliamentary democracy

Michael Henry Yusingco, a senior research fellow of the Ateneo Policy Center, in an article published by the online portal Access Bangsamoro, said: "Without a party ethos that is rooted in collective responsibility, mutual respect, and orientation toward the common good, parliaments risk devolving into arenas of personal rivalries, factional disputes, or transactional politics."

He said it is the right time for regional parties to show they can embody such party ethos to sustain parliamentary democracy.

"Clearly, the BARMM's history of clan politics, electoral violence, and patronage-based loyalties presents formidable challenges."

Benin bets on turning its cotton crop into clothes at home

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

PARAKOU, Benin (AP) — The "Made in Benin" tags on Fatoumata Dosso's fabrics represent an ambition much bigger than her fashion business: keeping more of the value of Africa's largest cotton producer at home.

The founder of DAF Collection said that the tag means her country is trying to take full advantage of the abundant raw material produced in Benin. For her, there is also the opportunity to support more women in her community who hope to earn a living from cotton.

"I am more focused on promoting the traditional fabric of northern Benin," she said inside her showroom in the northern city of Parakou. "What comes from elsewhere is already everywhere. I wanted to do something special."

Betting on cotton for years to come

Dosso is responding to government policy that discourages the export of raw material and stipulates that the West African country must do more to export finished products — from pineapple juice to garments marketed by world-famous brands, but still marked with Benin.

Benin is Africa's top cotton producer, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Benin produced 1.15 million bales of cotton between 2025 and 2026, accounting for 0.9% of global production.

That sounds like a tiny share of the global market — by comparison, China produced 35.8 million bales

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in the same period — but cotton has long been the top cash crop for Benin, its primary export. The country is still betting on cotton for years to come, even as production has been in decline in eastern and southern Africa.

A hive of activity

Benin, which had been exporting almost all of its raw cotton to Bangladesh, moved toward value addition in 2020 with a private-public partnership involving the infrastructure developer Arise IIP.

The deal established the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone, or GDIZ, where young Beninese workers can be found processing pineapples, cashew nuts, ceramics and other export goods.

GDIZ processes about 40,000 tons of Beninese cotton to produce between 7 and 10 million garments annually. The expansion of the GDIZ and shifting exports toward finished products helped reduce Benin's current account deficit — when a country sends more money for goods and services abroad than it receives back — from 6.2% of gross domestic product in 2024 to 5.7% in 2025, according to the African Development Bank.

GDIZ is located 45 kilometers (28 miles) from the Beninese commercial capital of Cotonou. Associated Press journalists recently toured the garment section, a hive of activity as station managers surveyed employees doing the work that goes into making garments: straightening collars, stitching buttons and pressing T-shirts with flat irons and folding them delicately. Garment makers like U.S. Polo Assn. and Kiabi were represented.

A grassroots network

A manager at GDIZ declined to answer questions, and laborers there weren't allowed to speak to journalists. A brief tour of the hub showed the ambition of GDIZ, a small-city-like industrial hub set on about 16 square kilometers (6 square miles) of land.

Souhaïbou Gambari, executive secretary of a national association of cotton producers in Benin, told the AP that his federation — and Benin's garment exports in general — rely "on a strong, well-structured grassroots network" of at least 183,746 producers organized in 2,206 village cooperatives across the country.

"Beyond farm operators alone, the cotton sector directly or indirectly supports the livelihoods of more than 2 million people in rural areas, making it the leading driver of social inclusion in Benin's farming communities," he said.

Cotton is an easy decision

Bales of cotton are ferried from far north, supplied by cooperatives of farmers who are united in the pursuit of strong prices and ease of access to farming supplies.

Growing cotton is an easy decision for smallholder farmers like Toussaint Bapetem. Although the price of a kilogram — 300 West African francs, or roughly \$0.50 — has remained the same for years, Bapetem's produce has a market guaranteed by price-setting authorities.

Cotton, unlike maize and other rain-fed crops, doesn't attract thieves, he said, inspecting his offseason cotton plantation in a remote area near the Nigeria border.

With the help of about 18 workers, the father of four regularly plants three acres (more than a hectare) of his land with cotton, with another four acres (more than 1½ hectares) reserved for corn. His last harvest yielded 3.8 tons of cotton.

"Cotton is more profitable" than corn, which fetches 120 West African francs (about \$0.20) per kilogram, he said.

Repaying debts and ensuring education

His cotton earnings since 2024 helped him "take care of my family and ensure my children's education," he said. "With the money from cotton, I repaid a debt of 500,000 francs (\$885) and purchased a motorcycle."

Bapetem said that he knew that some of his cotton was used to make garments locally, including attire he buys at the nearby Bétérou market "once or twice a year."

Locally available garments are increasingly made by homegrown entrepreneurs such as Dosso. Her DAF Collection retains the services of about a dozen women employed as weavers, who huddle over rickety contraptions tethered to rocks as they stitch yarns of cotton and polyester into pieces of fabric.

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Beloved especially by Fulani herders, the fabric known as pagne in French is wrapped around the waist or worn as a headscarf, a thing of everyday fashion.

Quitting her job as the mayor's secretary

"I was in a region where women were learning cotton weaving, but they didn't have a market for their products," said Dosso, who quit her job as a private secretary to the mayor of the northern town of Gogounou to focus solely on the fashion business that she started in 2016.

"That's when I started to promote this skill," she said.

She now advocates for "Made in Benin," representing her country at international fashion shows and espousing the goal of having showrooms in all the major cities of Benin.

"My clients are all kinds of people. They are diverse and come from all social classes," she said. "I can boast that I am one of the first in my field to talk about 'Made in Benin.'"

'It benefits us greatly'

One of Dosso's contracted weavers, Chabi Baké, said that she understood the idea of making finished goods at home to be the appropriate one for Benin. The mother of five makes roughly \$545 a month as a weaver, enough to encourage her to start building a house for her family.

"I am pleased with this thinking because it benefits us greatly," she said. "It allows people to buy our products."

BRICS leaders voice concern over Middle East, condemn unilateral sanctions at India summit

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The BRICS group of emerging economies on Saturday expressed concern over rising tensions in the Middle East and condemned the use of sanctions not authorized by the U.N., as the leaders met in New Delhi to strengthen their position in global affairs seen as dominated by the West.

The meeting, which included Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, voiced concern over "deliberate attacks" on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under the U.N. atomic energy agency's safeguards, saying nuclear safety and security must be protected during armed conflicts. The statement was seen as indirect criticism of U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

The leaders also took aim at unilateral sanctions not authorized by the U.N. Security Council. They did not name any countries, but Russia, one of the founding members of BRICS, has faced Western sanctions following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

"We call for the elimination of such unlawful measures, which undermine international law and the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter," the joint statement said.

Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East challenge BRICS unity

BRICS was founded in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India and China, with South Africa joining in 2010. It has since expanded to 11 members, representing about half the world's population and a significant share of global economic output. The group has increasingly called for greater representation for developing countries in global institutions.

It has sought to raise its profile by promoting alternatives to Western-dominated financial institutions and positioning itself as the voice of developing nations and emerging economies.

India is hosting this year's summit, attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pezeshkian and counterparts from the other eight BRICS members.

Concerns have grown that the Iran war, triggered by U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28, may expand as fighting escalated between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi rebels. Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, along with rising U.S.-China tensions, are also testing the bloc's ability to find common ground among countries with competing geopolitical interests.

Modi stresses BRICS is not a counter to West

In his address, Modi sought to ease concerns that BRICS was intended to counter Western-led alliances.

"BRICS is not against anyone," he said, adding that the bloc had reached a "coming of age" moment in

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which the Global South must evolve into a "rule-shaper" in global governance.

"It is time for us to translate our unity and consensus in BRICS into concrete outcomes," he said.

Modi also proposed a BRICS seafarers' network to strengthen the safety and welfare of maritime workers, particularly as disruptions to maritime trade from the war in Iran have heightened risks for mariners.

Russia and China seek to expand influence

China and Russia see BRICS as a way to reduce Western dominance, particularly that of the United States, while strengthening cooperation among developing economies.

Putin called for expanding the U.N. Security Council to give greater representation to Asia, Africa and Latin America, saying it would improve the body's effectiveness, Russian state news agency Interfax reported Saturday.

Speaking at the summit, Putin said the shift toward a multipolar world was facing resistance from countries "accustomed to thinking in colonial categories," accusing them of using tariffs, sanctions and "brute force" to contain rising competitors.

He said the tensions were undermining the international system but stressed that Russia still viewed the U.N. Charter as the foundation of international law.

Iran has also pushed for mechanisms that could reduce the bloc's reliance on Western financial systems and shield members from economic pressure, as Tehran faces sweeping sanctions and a U.S. blockade.

"One of the most important steps is to expand the use of national currencies in trade among the members," Pezeshkian told reporters on Friday.

China, meanwhile, is leveraging the grouping to deepen its influence within the bloc and position it as a counterweight to U.S. power.

Speaking at the summit, Xi said China will work with BRICS members in playing its "due role" to forge peace in the Middle East, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

BRICS countries should "serve as vanguards for maintaining peace and stability" and "oppose violations of other countries' sovereignty," Xi said.

India aims to reset ties and balance strategic partnerships

India was hoping the forum would help ease its longstanding strained ties with China as Modi and Xi met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, an effort by the rival neighbors to repair ties strained after border tensions escalated in 2020.

Xi said China has approached relations with India from a "strategic and long-term perspective" and called for the two countries to draw on each other's strengths. Modi said peace along the disputed border was essential for broader ties and urged both sides to honor existing agreements, a statement by India's Foreign Ministry later Saturday said.

For India, the summit also highlights its effort to maintain strategic ties with Russia and Iran while deepening relations with the U.S. and Europe. New Delhi has sought to balance its longstanding partnerships with Moscow and Tehran with efforts to expand economic, defense and technology ties with Washington and other Western nations.

India has maintained close ties with both Moscow and Tehran despite the war in Ukraine and tensions between Iran and the U.S., while calling for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts. Modi met Putin and Pezeshkian separately in New Delhi on Friday ahead of the summit.

In May, BRICS foreign ministers failed to agree on a joint statement over the Iran war, forcing India to issue a chair's summary instead.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei says AI industry needs to give safety measures time to catch up

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The CEO of Anthropic said Saturday the artificial-intelligence industry should slow its fast-moving development to give safety measures time to catch up. Without such a slowdown, Dario Amodei warned that within six to 12 months AI could be capable of leading a swarm of agents that could

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take over the entire internet.

The warning comes as worries about AI grow inside and outside the industry and reports continue to emerge about increasingly powerful systems that solve problems beyond human capacity but could also go rogue and carry out other, more harmful tasks. The worries have grown so loud that the CEO of OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, said in an interview with Fortune that his company would wait until next year to start selling its stock to investors on Wall Street as it focuses on safety.

Amodei is one of the leading voices in AI, and he offered a plan in a post on his website to increase checks on the industry. He said Anthropic is already undertaking one part of it on its own, while the others would require coordination across the broad industry and with governments around the world, including authoritarian ones.

"I believe that if slowing down bought us even an extra year or two before models reach critical levels of capability, and we used that time to advance alignment, we could greatly reduce the risk that something goes seriously wrong," Amodei said.

Pressure builds on the AI industry

Watchdogs have been urging the AI industry for years to slow its development for safety reasons. But pressure has built as industry workers resign and accuse their companies of not acting responsibly.

"Many of the people I know who work on safety research at AI companies want to do what is right for the world," a former Anthropic employee, Joe Benton, said in a posting Friday announcing his resignation from a job as part of a safety team. "But they feel their companies are trapped in a race to build super-intelligence: either they stop and other, less conscientious people take their place; or, they continue, and risk participating in enormous harm themselves."

That followed a high-profile resignation earlier in the week by Jacob Coxon, who said that both Anthropic and OpenAI "are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives."

That lit a fire under the industry after concerns had grown for years about a possible superintelligence that could escape the control of humanity, said Anthony Aguirre, president and CEO of the Future of Life Institute, which called for a six-month pause for the industry's development in 2023.

"They've kind of realized, their employees have realized, everyone has realized that they're building Skynet," he said. "And in winning the race to Skynet, nobody wins. Really, nobody."

"It's pretty much become clear to the world and even the AI companies that they're not really prepared to control the AI systems they're racing to create."

Threats from AI are already apparent

Anthropic said two days earlier that it blocked efforts by bad actors to use its AI models for malicious activity, such as cyberattacks, surveillance and research that could have led to biological weapons. In July, OpenAI shook the industry after saying its AI system hacked into another company on its own in an "unprecedented cyber incident."

U.N. human rights chief Volker Türk urged countries earlier this week to put "cast-iron guarantees in place around the safety and security of AI before it is too late."

To be sure, some critics have dismissed such warnings as ways to gin up excitement about the AI industry and its capabilities. Anthropic and OpenAI are preparing for possible debuts on the stock market that could value them at many hundreds of billions of dollars, while a big chunk of Elon Musk's SpaceX business is involved with AI.

Other AI leaders agree

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said in an interview with Fortune published Saturday that his company would not launch its initial public offering of stock this year.

"I would say not 2026," he said. "Yeah, we got a lot of stuff to do, like meeting this moment of what is going to be required for safety and alignment, and how the industry and governments can work together."

Altman posted on X Saturday quickly after Amodei published his suggestions that OpenAI will commit to one of Amodei's proposals for safety and will "have more to share soon."

Musk, meanwhile, said on X that "Dario is right."

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Amodei said he still believes in the tremendous benefits that AI could create, such as cures for major diseases. But he said he has grown more worried over the last few months about AI's growing ability to improve itself and build the next generation of AI. "Left unchecked, it could outrun our ability to understand and control these systems, and so must be pursued very carefully, if at all."

He also pointed specifically to the attack in July where OpenAI's system hacked Hugging Face. Some have called it an example of AI going "rogue," though researchers have said that may be unnecessarily anthropomorphizing AI, which was working on a goal set by humans.

OpenAI said the hack was the result of AI going to "extreme lengths to achieve a rather narrow testing goal" and that it "found ways to gain access to secret information that it could use to cheat the evaluation."

Some of Amodei's suggestions may be more difficult to enact

To help rein in the risks, Amodei suggested that all companies at the frontier of AI commit to giving "ongoing, employee-like access" to a team of outside evaluators, who can monitor safety practices.

He said Anthropic already plans to do so itself, including offering desks in its offices, access badges and company laptops. Having such independent, embedded evaluators is what OpenAI's Altman also quickly committed to doing.

The other parts of Amodei's suggested plan may be more difficult to implement. One asks the U.S. government to potentially issue waivers that would allow U.S. AI companies to coordinate and set safety standards without running afoul of antitrust laws.

Another asks the U.S. and other democratic governments to try to coordinate with authoritarian governments, so that companies from China and other countries don't accelerate their efforts when U.S. rivals are intentionally pacing theirs.

"The measures I propose to advance the frontier at a safe pace will not be easy," Amodei acknowledged. "But I believe we owe it to humanity to try."

People fleeing Iran-backed rebels' advance in Yemen describe a 'hysterical panic'

By CARA ANNA, JULIA FRANKEL and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

It was a heart-pounding escape. As Houthi rebels backed by Iran swept south along Yemen's Red Sea coast this week, some residents had little time to flee.

"We set out in hysterical panic on a motorcycle, not knowing where we were heading," Alaa Ali Salem said. "The roads suddenly became extremely congested, and while I was driving, the motorcycle overturned. My wife, my children and I were all injured."

His family and thousands of others, in numbers leaping by the day, are now displaced as the Arab world's poorest country faces a potential return to a devastating civil war.

The Associated Press on Saturday visited some of the newly displaced in Aden, a city under the control of Yemen's internationally recognized government, as residents opened homes to them.

Children sprawled in crowded rooms of thin mattresses that were scattered with the few belongings grabbed in haste. A young girl clutched a smartphone. Crutches were propped against a wall. Worn-looking elders napped. A fan stirred the air on a day where temperatures reached into the 90s Fahrenheit (30s Celsius).

Those fleeing have seen the front line of what the United Nations warns could be a return to a humanitarian catastrophe.

The Houthis' advance to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern end of the Red Sea threatens a key global shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran has attacked some vessels during more than six months of war.

But on the ground in Yemen, the rebels' offensive means something very different. It could bring the kind of upheaval that killed 150,000 people and caused near-famine before a 2022 ceasefire.

"This renewed war should alarm us all," the U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, warned as the Houthis moved south.

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In Aden, a woman was in tears Saturday over what the ensuing chaos meant for her fragile family. "We saw soldiers shouting for a retreat as bullets flew all around, and we had no idea what was happening. One of my sons had a motorcycle, so I told him to take his children and flee," said Durrah Ali Hassan, who took shelter in a relative's house.

She said she was worried about the toll on her pregnant daughter, who already had been bleeding. "I was so worried that roads might get blocked and that my daughter would die." She was now in a coma at a hospital, her mother said.

In just days' time, the International Organization for Migration has revised its number of displaced people by 30,000 more, saying at least 76,000 people now have fled since July as fighting escalated.

Iraq says attack on Saudi pipeline originated there

Iraq's government confirmed that attacks that shut down a key Saudi oil pipeline on Thursday had originated from its territory. An umbrella group of Iran-backed militias in Iraq denied their involvement while praising the Houthis for their "ongoing battlefield victories against Saudi forces."

Regional officials have told The Associated Press that the Houthis and the Iraqi militias recently coordinated attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

As the latest events threaten even higher global oil prices, U.S. President Donald Trump said Iran was "probably" responsible for the pipeline attack, but tried to calm concerns.

"The Houthis called us, and they don't want to fight with us," Trump said. "They would much prefer not having us involved, and they're letting most ships go through." He said his administration has had "discussions" with the Houthis, but the White House didn't say when. His administration engaged in at least one round of talks in May 2025.

"We are not in war with Saudi Arabia, and the Houthis have their own problems," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told India Today TV on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in India.

The Houthis are putting further pressure on neighboring Saudi Arabia, which backs the Yemen government fighting the rebels. While the Houthis have said they are only targeting Saudi shipping, oil markets remain wary.

Late on Saturday, the Saudi civil defense said a projectile fell in Al-Tawwal governorate near the border with Yemen along the Red Sea, injuring two people and damaging a mosque and several other buildings. The statement blamed the Houthis. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Iran says regional countries meet Monday on the strait

As global shipping becomes even more challenged, Iran said a regional meeting is planned Monday between the foreign ministers of Gulf countries about talks between Tehran and Oman — located on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz — on managing shipping there.

Commercial ship traffic remains low on what had been considered an international waterway before the war. Iran has expressed interest in having ships pay fees for transit. It has said traffic into the Persian Gulf would pass through Iranian waters, while the outbound route would pass partly through Iranian waters and partly through Oman's.

But Iran has said reaching an agreement with Oman on the strait doesn't mean it will open for shipping.

"The waterway would be opened up on the condition that the U.S. will terminate its blockade," Iran's president told the Indian broadcaster. The U.S. military on Saturday said its forces had redirected 100 commercial vessels over the past 60 days.

Bahrain, however, said it will not attend any group meeting including Iran before the restoration of diplomatic relations between the countries.

Saudi Arabia has few options as it faces mounting threats from Iran and its allies

By ELENA BECATOROS and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

A lightning advance by Houthi rebels threatens a crucial Red Sea shipping route. Drone attacks blamed on Iraqi militias have forced the closure of a major pipeline, and Iran is still disrupting the Strait of Hormuz.

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It's a nightmare scenario for Saudi Arabia, and it has sent jitters through global markets.

The Saudis' most essential ally, the United States, has been unpredictable and sometimes unreliable. U.S. President Donald Trump seems reluctant to widen an already unpopular and stalemated Mideast war ahead of congressional elections. For Iran, the rebels' advance and closure of the pipeline ramp up global economic pressure as its grip over the Strait of Hormuz has been loosened.

Michael Ratney, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said the latest developments are "incredibly frustrating" for the kingdom.

"Despite their antipathy for the Iranians, this is a war they never asked for, they had great trepidation about. And once it started, all of their ... worst-case scenarios started coming true."

The Saudi government did not respond to a request for comment. But a Saudi official, who was not authorized to brief media and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the kingdom would defend itself and work with partners, including the United States, to ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

Saudi hopes for a new Mideast have gone up in smoke

Saudi Arabia's crown prince and de facto ruler, Mohammed bin Salman, has spent years trying to build a very different Middle East, with wide-ranging social and economic changes aimed at transforming the ultra-conservative kingdom into a global business hub in a more prosperous and integrated region.

Those efforts suffered major setbacks after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which triggered one war after another. When the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, it responded with missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and effectively shut down the Strait of Hormuz, bottling up their oil and gas exports and jolting the world economy.

Saudi Arabia escaped some of the worst effects by piping its oil across the Arabian Peninsula to the Red Sea, where it could be exported to Europe via Egypt's SUMED pipeline and the Suez Canal, or to Asia via a route running through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and toward the Indian Ocean.

But tensions reignited with the Houthis in July, leading the rebels to declare a blockade of Saudi shipping and resume large-scale attacks for the first time in four years.

Over the last two days, the Houthis have seized the port city of Mokha and a Red Sea island from Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces, enhancing the rebels' ability to block Saudi shipments through the Bab el-Mandeb.

On Friday, Saudi Arabia said it shut down the pipeline leading from major oil fields in the east to the Red Sea in the west because of drone attacks originating in Iraq, where Iran supports powerful militias. Regional officials recently told The Associated Press that the Houthis have helped the Iraqi militias carry out attacks.

Houthi attacks have already caused a plunge in Saudi oil exports to Asia, from around 3.4 million barrels a day in June to 128,000 in August, though they have recovered somewhat this month to 700,000, according to figures compiled by Kpler, a global trade monitor.

Saudis have few options

Saudi Arabia fought against the Houthis for years beginning in 2015, but its allies made little progress on the ground. The conflict killed an estimated 150,000 people and at times pushed Yemen to the brink of famine before a 2022 ceasefire.

"Saudi Arabia has spent several years trying to move beyond the Yemen conflict and focus on economic transformation and regional stability," said Neil Quilliam, a Middle East expert at Chatham House.

"Recent Houthi gains increase pressure on Riyadh to respond, but every available option carries significant costs and uncertain outcomes."

The Saudis could step up their military response and try to dislodge the Houthis, but that would prolong the conflict and lead to even heavier Houthi attacks on Saudi energy infrastructure, said Sherwan Hindreen Ali, Middle East research manager at ACLED, a conflict monitoring group.

"The kingdom already faced this in the past, but Houthi weaponry is more sophisticated now than it was back then, and the Saudis likely have less interceptor missiles available as a result of the U.S.-Iran conflict," he said.

The Saudis could also seek a diplomatic solution with either the Houthis or their patrons in Tehran.

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But the Houthis have demanded the lifting of a Saudi-led blockade, which would allow them to grow much stronger over the long term, and Iran has little interest in stabilizing the region without securing major U.S. concessions.

US help may not be forthcoming

For decades, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have relied on U.S. security guarantees. Those have eroded under Trump, who did not respond during his first term when a 2019 attack claimed by the Houthis temporarily knocked out half of Saudi Arabia's oil supply.

In February, the U.S. joined Israel in attacking Iran without consulting its Gulf allies, and since then it has struggled to defend them from Iranian attacks.

The U.S. started airstrikes against the Houthis in January 2024 under the Biden administration, and the attacks continued until January 2025. Trump launched an air campaign against the rebels in March last year in response to earlier attacks on Red Sea shipping linked to the war in Gaza.

But this time, U.S. forces are heavily deployed around the Strait of Hormuz, where they are blockading Iran and trying to prevent attacks on shipping there.

The fighting has visibly strained the U.S. military and drawn down supplies of sophisticated interceptors.

The war is also deeply unpopular and has eroded Trump's support after he had promised to keep the U.S. out of Mideast wars. Launching another military campaign in Yemen could compound the struggles of fellow Republicans in tight House and Senate races.

Trump on Saturday said that Iran was "probably" behind the Saudi pipeline attack. Asked about a recent call with Saudi Arabia's crown prince, he said: "He's a good friend of mine, and I can just say everything's going to work out fine and dandy."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on whether it plans to intervene in Yemen.

Speaking about the war with Iran on Thursday, Trump dismissed the idea of increasing military pressure, as some U.S. hawks have suggested. "Maybe I don't do that because of the election," he told Fox News' "The Ingraham Angle."

Ratney, the former U.S. ambassador, said it would be difficult for the Saudis to achieve their objectives without consistent U.S. support, which they had at previous times while fighting the Houthis.

"My understanding at this point is the White House is not enthusiastic about getting involved," he said.

Trump touches a nerve while in Ireland by saying reunification would be 'fantastic'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that a unified Ireland would be "fantastic" as he waded into a complex and politically charged subject during a weekend visit to a tournament at his Irish golf course.

At a meeting with Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin in Dublin, Trump said he would love to see the reunification of the Republic of Ireland with the United Kingdom's Northern Ireland.

"I don't want to cause any problems but I'd love to see it unified," Trump told a reporter who sought his opinion on the issue. "It's going to happen eventually. It may as well happen now.

"I think it would be a fantastic thing," the Republican president said, adding that "the U.K. will have something to say about it, obviously."

At his next stop, Trump acknowledged there is "no good answer" to the reunification question as he addressed business leaders from both countries gathered at the U.S. ambassador's residence.

The Irish unity debate is heated

Competing visions of Northern Ireland — whether Irish or British — drove decades of violence in the six-county region that has a Protestant majority and has remained part of the U.K.

Previous American presidents, including Democrat Joe Biden, who has strong emotional ties to Ireland, have avoided commenting directly on the subject.

Ireland, long dominated by its bigger neighbor Britain, became a self-governing Catholic-majority coun-

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try a century ago. Northern Ireland was split between two main communities: nationalists, most of them Catholic, who desired union with the rest of Ireland, and largely Protestant unionists, who wanted to stay British. Tensions eventually exploded in the Troubles involving paramilitary groups on both sides and British troops.

A 1998 peace accord that the United States was instrumental in negotiating largely ended the violence, but left Northern Ireland's ultimate status unresolved. That agreement allows for a vote on unification if it appears likely a majority of people would vote for it. U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Wednesday that the U.K. would only consider allowing a referendum "when public opinion has changed to the point where the call has to be considered." Burnham's office referred back to that comment when asked about Trump's statement.

Trump's comments Saturday, along with recent statements about the Falkland Islands, a small British overseas territory in the South Atlantic Ocean that Argentina calls Las Malvinas, could also be viewed as a dig at Britain, given his anger over London's refusal to be drawn into the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran.

Trump also talked about the Falkland Islands

Trump once more raised the prospect of conflict between the U.K. and Argentina over the Falklands. Argentina's President Javier Milei, a Trump ally, has recently restated his country's claim to the territory of about 3,500 people, which is about 300 miles (480 kilometers) east of the southeast coast of Argentina.

Trump has previously said Washington could reconsider its neutral stance on the islands' sovereignty. On Saturday, he expressed skepticism that Britain would be able to retake the Falklands as it did after Argentina invaded in 1982.

"I'm sure I'll be called into that potential disaster, but if they do, I'll probably be able to settle, settle it out," he said.

A meeting with the Irish president who criticized Trump

Trump also held talks in Dublin with Irish President Catherine Connolly, a left-wing politician who joined protesters when Trump visited Ireland in 2019 during his first term in office. She is now Ireland's elected, largely ceremonial head of state. A supporter of the Palestinian cause, Connolly has in the past has criticized U.S. policy in the Middle East and called Trump a "bully."

Connolly said in a statement after the meeting that she conveyed to Trump "the strong view of the Irish people that the normalization of war and genocide can never be accepted." She gave Trump several gifts, among them a collection by the late Irish poet Michael Longley that includes the sonnet "Ceasefire."

Asked about the meeting, Trump first had his protocol chief, Monica Crowley, answer before he was pressed and said it was "very nice." "We discussed a lot of things, quickly," Trump said.

Trump's presence irks some Dubliners

Police put up a cordon around Dublin's 1,750-acre (700-hectare) Phoenix Park, where Connolly, Martin and U.S. Ambassador Edward Walsh have residences and welcomed Trump.

A protest march drew thousands to central Dublin. He had left the city and was on the way to his Doonbeg golf course on the country's Atlantic coast by the time the demonstration began.

Many in the crowd waved Irish or Palestinian flags and chanted "Donald Trump not welcome here" and "Irish government, shame on you!"

Paula Butler said she came with a contingent from the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre to oppose the American president's "attitude to women, to refugees, to migrants."

She was unimpressed by Trump's support for Irish unity, a popular cause in Ireland.

"What he knows about Irish unity, I'd say I know more on my little finger," Butler said.

Kim Mathis, who moved from Florida to Dublin last year with her partner, said "part of the reason we moved to Ireland was to get away from Trump and all of his horrific policies."

She said dealing with Trump is "a global conundrum" for governments. "It would be really nice if politicians would just say, 'Stay home.'"

Eric Trump defends family's presence in Ireland

Speaking to Irish national broadcaster RTE on Friday in Doonbeg, Trump's son Eric said the course is

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the largest employer in the area.

"Go down to Morrissey's tavern in Doonbeg and hear from a real Irish person as to whether or not they like President Trump and the Trump family, go have them attest to what we've done for the country and what we've invested in the country and the love and respect that our family has always shown them," he said.

Trump's visit is the latest example of blending his official duties and personal interests.

He spends most weekends playing golf at his clubs in Florida, New Jersey and Virginia. His attendance at the Irish Open continues his trend of appearing at high-profile sporting events and having a hand in organizing some of them in ways that benefit his family business. His clubs in Doral, Florida, and Bedminster, New Jersey, have hosted professional golf tournaments this year.

Last year, Trump went to Scotland for five days to play golf at his club in Turnberry and later inaugurated a Trump golf course in Balmedie, Aberdeenshire. During that visit, he held talks with the British prime minister and the president of the European Commission.

Asked if he would return to Ireland next year for the Ryder Cup, Trump said, "I will. Absolutely."

8 killed in Russian strikes on Ukraine as Putin warns Europe against sending troops

By VOLODYMYR YURCHUK and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian strikes killed eight civilians and wounded dozens of other people in Ukraine, local officials said Saturday, after Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that sending European troops into Ukraine would amount to direct conflict with Russia.

Ukraine is under mounting pressure from Russia's intensifying air campaign that uses ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones to pierce defenses. Moscow's attacks have targeted Ukraine's power grid ahead of winter in what officials say is meant to demoralize civilians.

Two people were killed and one wounded when Russian drones struck a residential area overnight in the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, regional head Ivan Fedorov said.

One person died and three others were wounded in strikes on Kryvyi Rih, according to local officials.

In the Black Sea port of Odesa and the surrounding area, 35 people were wounded overnight in what regional head Oleh Kiper called a "massive attack." Among the buildings hit was a residential high-rise, whose upper floors were completely destroyed.

Three people were killed on Saturday when cars were hit by drones in Kramatorsk in Ukraine's partially occupied Donetsk region, along with a further two people in a Russian attack on a grocery store in the Zhytomyr region, local officials said.

Separately, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukrainian forces struck two chemical industry facilities in Russia, one in Samara and one in Perm. The governors of the regions did not immediately comment, but Russian independent online news outlet Astra reported drone attacks on chemical plants in both regions.

Putin warns against sending European troops to Ukraine

Putin, speaking to reporters at a summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies in India on Friday, said that if European governments send troops into Ukraine, it will mean "a war with Russia."

"Now they're talking about how they're considering sending troops into Ukraine. That means a war with Russia," he said.

Some European leaders have pledged their commitment to a potential peacekeeping force, a prospect that Moscow has repeatedly described as unacceptable.

Putin also denied Russia posed any threat to Europe, saying "there is no such threat and never has been."

"We do not threaten, nor do we intend to threaten, European countries," he said.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Thursday that two incidents along Ukraine's borders with Poland and Moldova this week were a preview of potential intensified Russian provocations at Ukraine's border crossing points with Europe.

Two people died when Russian drones hit the Starokozache border crossing between Ukraine and Mol-

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dova on Tuesday night, while a "direct threat" to a Polish-Ukrainian crossing point on Wednesday night was only avoided thanks to cooperation between Warsaw and Kyiv, he said.

Zelenskyy offers to meet Putin at G20

In an interview with Deutsche Welle published on Saturday, Zelenskyy said he would meet Putin if both leaders were invited to the Group of 20 summit of rich and developing nations in December in Miami.

Putin's foreign policy adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said the possibility of Putin attending the summit had not yet been discussed.

The Kremlin in the past has said that Zelenskyy can come to Moscow if he wants a meeting with Putin, a proposal Kyiv has rejected.

"If he really wants to meet with Putin, Putin has already said that he could fly to Moscow," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Saturday.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov affirmed Saturday that Russia is "ready for negotiations," but that the so-called "special military operation," as Moscow refers to its war in Ukraine, "will not be suspended during this period of negotiations."

Today in History: September 13, Rabin and Arafat sign Oslo Accord

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 13, the 256th day of 2026. There are 109 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 13, 1993, at the White House, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat shook hands after signing an accord granting limited Palestinian autonomy.

Also on this date:

In 1788, the Congress of the Confederation authorized the first national election and declared New York City the temporary national capital.

In 1940, during World War II, bombs dropped by the German Luftwaffe damaged Buckingham Palace for the first time; King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were in the palace but were unharmed.

In 1948, Republican Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was elected to the U.S. Senate; she became the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

In 1971, a four-day inmate rebellion at the Attica Correctional Facility in western New York ended as police and guards stormed the prison; the ordeal and final assault claimed the lives of 32 inmates and 11 hostages.

In 1997, a funeral was held in Kolkata, India, for Nobel peace laureate Mother Teresa.

In 2008, crews rescued people from their homes along the Texas coast in an all-out search for thousands of people who ignored warnings and tried to ride out Hurricane Ike.

In 2010, Rafael Nadal beat Novak Djokovic to win his first U.S. Open title and complete a career Grand Slam.

In 2021, school resumed for New York City public school students in the nation's largest experiment of in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Barbara Bain is 95. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Óscar Arias is 86. Actor Jacqueline Bisset is 82. Singer Peter Cetera is 82. Actor Jean Smart is 75. Record producer Don Was is 74. Chef Alain Ducasse is 70. Rock singer-musician Dave Mustaine (Megadeth) is 65. Olympic gold medal sprinter Michael Johnson is 59. Filmmaker Tyler Perry is 57. Fashion designer Stella McCartney is 55. Country musician Joe Don Rooney (Rascal Flatts) is 51. Singer-songwriter Fiona Apple is 49. Actor Ben Savage is 46. Soccer player Thomas Müller is 37. Rock singer Niall Horan (One Direction) is 33. Actor Lili Reinhart (TV: "Riverdale") is 30.