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Community Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 27

His Little Feet International Children's Choir, 6 p.m., Groton C&MA Church.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship/Milestones, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.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.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 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.

Sixth Grade GBB practice, 4 p.m., Arena

Third Grade GBB practice, 4 p.m., GHS Gym

Dance Team Practice, 5:30 p.m., Arena

Monday, Sept. 28

Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe on a bun, baked potato, baked beans, fruit.

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

JV Football at Milbank, 4 p.m.

Soccer hosts West Central (boys at 3:30 p.m., girls at 5 p.m.)

Third-Sixth Grade football hosts Redfield, 5 p.m.

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

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

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Senior Menu: Chef salad with deli ham, tomatoes and cucumbers, fruited Jello.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Groton Invitational Cross Country Meet, 2 p.m., Olive Grove Golf Course

JH Football hosts Milbank, 4 p.m.

JV Football hosts Milbank, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, broccoli, fruit, breadstick.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

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

School Picture Day!

Aberdeen Marching Band Festival, 9 a.m.

Fourth Grade GBB Practice, 5:30 p.m., elementary school

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460
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Northern State pulls out the Gypsy Days win over UMary

Aberdeen, S.D. – The (RV) Northern State University football team put together a Gypsy Days win over the University of Mary on Saturday in front of a sold out Dacotah Bank Stadium crowd of 7,714. The Wolves defense buckled down when it mattered most, holding the Marauders scoreless in the red-zone and to a conversion rate of 33.3% on third down.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 21, MARY 14

Records: NSU 4-1 (3-1 NSIC), MARY 2-3 (1-3 NSIC)

Attendance: 7714

HOW IT HAPPENED

Cooper Eisenbeisz opened the contest for NSU in dramatic fashion, running back to the opening kick-off, 87-yards to the house

The Wolves extended that lead in the second, via a 1-yard rush by Hank Kraft, diving over the blocking offensive line at 8:49

UMary answered on the following drive with a 41-yard receiving touchdown, the final score of the half

With just under five minutes remaining in the third, Kraft rushed for his second touchdown of the afternoon, this time a 2-yard carry

The Marauders continued the pressure into the fourth adding a 37-yard receiving score at 4:57 and threatened late in the quarter

Darion Nundley sealed the contest for the Wolves with his first interception of the season on the 13-yard line with 26 seconds to play

Northern led the contest with 226 yards rushing, averaging 5.7 yards per carry, while the Marauders tallied a game leading 372 yards of total offense

The Wolves notched 103 total return yards in the win, including their first special teams touchdown of the 2026 season

The NSU defense added a season high four sacks via Kegan Mountain, Javonnee Szymanski, Ayden Barnby, and Jayden Gournaris for a total loss of 21 UMary yards

In addition, Northern held the Marauders to just 71 yards rushing

The contest marked five straight games for Hank Kraft with over 100-yards rushing as he legged out 119 total and two touchdowns, averaging 4.8 yards per carry

Ty Englehart was second on the team with 59 yards rushing, averaging 7.4 yards per carry

Kegan Mountain and Cooper Logan led the team with nine tackles each and a combined 3.5 tackles for a loss; Mountain recorded a sack with a forced fumble, the first of his Northern State career

Jake Adams followed on defense with eight tackles and one pass break-up, while Gabe Gutierrez led the team with 2.5 tackles of a loss and six total tackles

Eisenbeisz tallied 93 total return yards in the game on both punt and kick returns

Keaton Docken averaging 39.6 yards per punt with a 52-yard long, while Jeremy Carauso added 168 yards on kickoffs, averaging 56.0 yards per kick

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hank Kraft: 119 rushing yards, 2 touchdowns, 13 receiving yards

Kegan Mountain: 9 tackles, 2.0 tackles for a loss, 1.0 sack, 1 forced fumble

Cooper Logan: 9 tackles, 1.5 tackles for a loss

Darion Nundley: 5 tackles, 1 interception, 1 pass break-up

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

The 7,714 fans in attendance at the contest broke the facility record for Dacotah Bank Stadium which was previously set on October 8, 2022 with 7,064 fans against Winona State

UP NEXT

Northern remains at home next Saturday, October 3 versus Bemidji State. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. against the Beavers from Dacotah Bank Stadium.

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HIS little feet
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR






LOCATION: GROTON CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH
706 N Main St
Groton, SD 57445

DATE & TIME: Sunday, September 27, 2026
at 6:00 pm

Love offering will be taken *(Proceeds go to His Little Feet)*
His Little Feet International Merchandise will be for sale!

HIS little feet
653 Southwood Lane | Windsor, CO 80550 | p. 866-252-3988
www.hislittlefeet.org | info@hislittlefeet.org | book the choir: booking@hislittlefeet.org

Dakota Valley beats Groton Area soccer teams

Girl's Game
Final:
Groton Area 0
Dakota Valley 2

1st Half
Groton Area 0
Dakota Valley 1
2nd Half
Groton Area 0
Dakota Valley 1

Goals:
DV - Isabel Bradshaw 16th min
DV - Mallory Riibe 64th min

Recap by Coach Matt Baumgartner:
We executed a game plan very well, played very smart soccer and some of the best movement soccer we have seen all season. We limited their main focal points of their offense to slim to none chances and moved the ball with true fluidity and craft. Credits do go out to the Panther defense that limited us from the final pass or shooting opportunity. Girls played with a lot of heart and worked extremely hard today. Today's game we be one to watch back the positives and find the small mis steps we need to correct up. We go right back to work and face a 9-win team in West Central Monday evening at 5:00 pm and after today's performance, we are all very pleased with our team is looking at this crucial last push time of the season.

Boys Game:
Groton Area 3
Dakota Valley 4

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT
https://southdakotasearchlight.com

New median household income number sets amount of South Dakota lawmakers' raises

Salaries will increase to nearly $16,500; average payment, including reimbursements, totaled about $27,000 last fiscal year

BY MEGHAN O'BRIEN

South Dakota lawmakers can anticipate a raise and a salary of nearly $16,500 next year; meanwhile, the average payout per legislator was $26,813 during the last fiscal year after accounting for mileage, an allowance for living expenses, and out-of-state travel to conferences, according to data obtained by South Dakota Searchlight from the state's Legislative Research Council.

During this year's annual legislative session, which ran from January through March, lawmakers earned a salary of $15,970. The salary is adjusted each year by the state's Board of Finance to 20% of the South Dakota median household income as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, according to state law.

The salary for lawmakers during the upcoming session will go up about 3% to $16,492, based on data released this month showing South Dakota's median household income to be $82,460. A committee of state senators and representatives endorsed a budget increase last month that would help cover the cost of the increase.

Legislators also receive other payments to help cover the expenses they incur while serving.

Lawmakers who reside more than 50 miles from the state Capitol receive additional payments of $178 per day to help cover their living expenses during the annual legislative sessions and during committee meetings held during the rest of the year. During annual legislative sessions, lawmakers receive reimbursement for their first trip at a mileage rate of 5 cents per mile, according to the state constitution, then each trip after at 70 cents per mile.

Additionally, lawmakers can receive reimbursements for out-of-state conferences. That typically includes airfare, lodging, meals and registration costs.

To cover all payouts to lawmakers, the state spent nearly $3 million in fiscal year 2026, which ended in June.

Meghan O'Brien is the audio reporter for South Dakota Searchlight where she covers the state government and its impact on South Dakotans. She's previously reported in Nebraska with a focus on health care and rural communities across the state.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

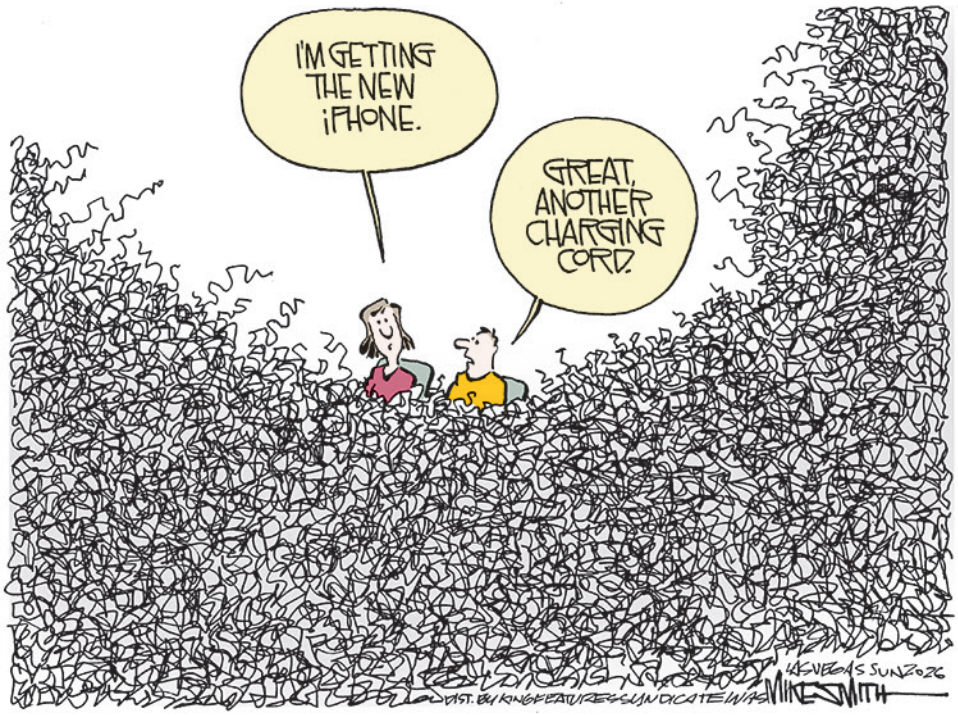


Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

JOSHUA 23:14

Detail of "The Exhortation of Joshua" by Marc Chagall (1956)

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Acts 10, who said, "Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean"? *Herod, Peter, Thomas, John the Baptist*

3. In 1 Corinthians 11, because of "what" did Paul say women should have a "symbol of authority"? *Life, Trust, Love, Angels*

4. From Hebrews 7, which king was said to have neither mother nor father? *Solomon, David, Melchizedek, Sargon*

5. Whose four daughters were considered prophetesses? *Gad's, Philip's, Jonah's, Noah's*

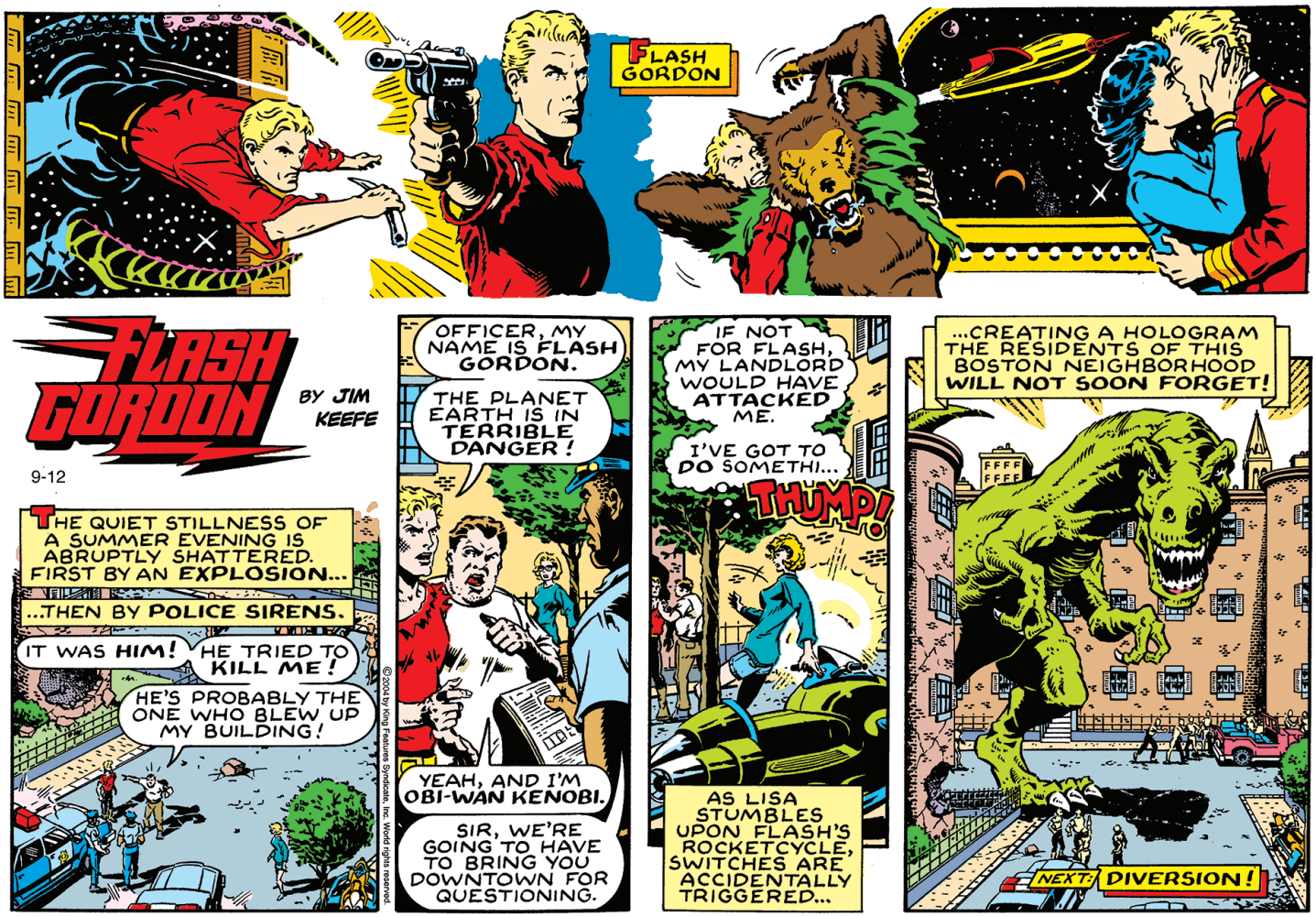
6. What biblical name meant "God has helped"? *Solomon, Paul, Lazarus, Amos*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Peter, 3) Angels, 4) Melchizedek, 5) Philip's, 6) Lazarus

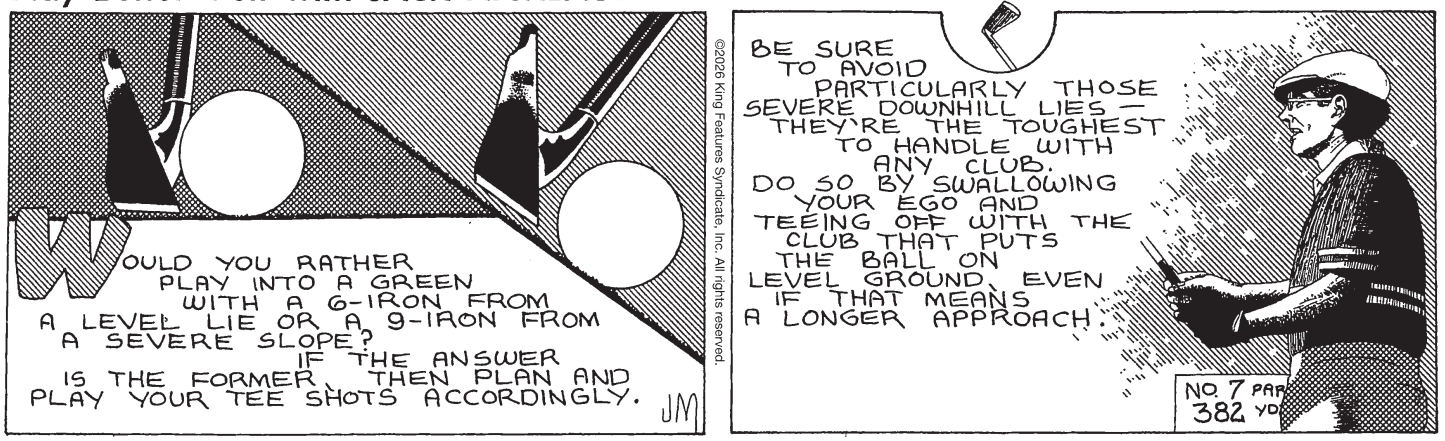
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Shingles Patient Doesn't Experience Pain Due to Vaccination

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was reading your recent column about shingles. Several years ago, I contracted shingles, even after getting the vaccine. It hit me in my left eye, so I went to my eye doctor. (I wasn't sure what the problem was.) He took one look at my eye and diagnosed me with shingles.

He gave me an antibiotic that cleared up the problem. At no time was I in any pain, which I attributed to my getting the vaccine. Do you concur with my observation? I'm aware that getting shingles can be very painful. -- L.J.

ANSWER: Shingles is caused by a reactivation of the chicken pox virus, which most older adults acquired as children with chicken pox. But it can also be acquired through the chicken pox (varicella) vaccine. Usually, shingles is painful as it grows in the nerve, causing inflammation and damage. The vaccine helps reduce the risk of getting shingles; however, it isn't perfect, and people can still get shingles despite being vaccinated.

Fortunately, the vaccine has two additional benefits. The first is that, as you correctly surmised, it reduces the pain of acute shingles. It also reduces pain medication use by 40% and the duration of pain meds by 50%. I think you're relatively fortunate to not have any pain at all. The second benefit is that vaccination reduces, by about 90%, the likelihood of getting continued pain for weeks and months after the infection -- a condition called postherpetic neuralgia.

Shingles is sometimes so obvious that any experienced clinician can make the diagnosis at a glance. However, it can be misdiagnosed as herpes simplex (and vice versa), other viruses, or even bacterial infections. The laboratory can be very helpful when the diagnosis isn't clear.

Antiviral medicines such as valacyclovir (Valtrex) are effective at reducing pain and inflammation, and it's best to begin them as soon as possible (ideally within 24 hours, but certainly within 72 hours of the onset of the rash).

Shingles of the eye should be urgently seen by an ophthalmologist, who has equipment and expertise that primary care clinicians don't. There are complications of the eye that may require intravenous antiviral medicine. All adults over 50 and immunocompromised adults of any age should get the shingles vaccine, unless there's a good reason for them not to get it.

***

DEAR DR. ROACH: Should one get the COVID vaccine when they suspect that they have active long COVID? How can one rebuild a good immune system after long COVID? -- C.B.

ANSWER: Yes, a COVID vaccine is indicated. The vaccine is safe in people with persistent symptoms after a COVID infection, which is commonly called "long COVID." Most people don't see a change in their symptoms. About 20% of people experience improvement, while an equal number experienced a (usually temporary) worsening of their symptoms. The vaccine helps protect people against getting long COVID with future infections.

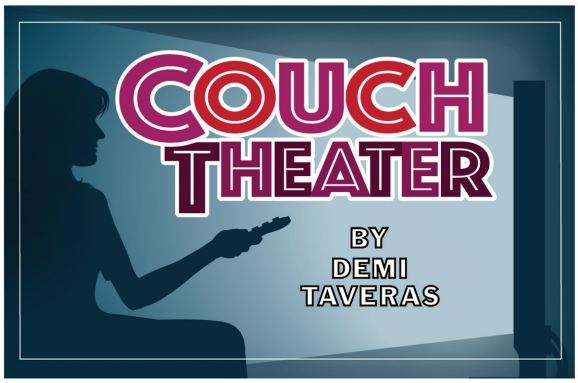
Regaining normal strength, vitality and resilience after long COVID takes time. The recommended interventions include a tailored exercise program, as people with long COVID have a reduced ability to exercise, and standard recommendations may be too strenuous. At least one study found a benefit for six months of probiotics and prebiotics helping people to recover. Proper sleep hygiene with a goal of 6-8 hours may help. Stress management and psychological support may also play important roles.

There's not a magic bullet when it comes to recovering from long COVID. I have several patients who continue to struggle after getting a severe infection during the beginning of the pandemic, which was more than six years ago now.

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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Nate Bargatze stars in "The Breadwinner."
(Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Tony" (R) -- Dominic Sessa, who had his breakthrough role in the comedy-drama film "The Holdovers" (2023), leads this biographical coming-of-age film directed by Matt Johnson ("Nirvanna the Band the Show the Movie"). Sessa plays the titular character Tony, aka Anthony Bourdain, but well before Bourdain ever became the celebrity chef many would come to know and love. Taking place in 1975, the film follows a 19-year-old Tony, who's a student in Vassar College with aspirations of being a writer. Life doesn't go exactly as planned, though, and he lands a job at a seafood restaurant in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Once there, however, Tony finds himself drawn to the atmosphere of the restaurant and starts working his way up, catching the attention of the head chef Jose (Antonio Banderas). "Tony" is out now to rent or purchase! (Amazon Prime Video)

"The 2026 MTV Video Music Awards" (TV-14) -- As MTV has become less of a staple in music lovers' lives, their VMA award show has admittedly lost its touch. Still, MTV always aims to recapture the magic of past award shows, and this time, they're doing so by bringing Madonna back to the VMAs after 23 years! Not only is she the opening performer, but she also leads the pack with 13 nominations for her recent album "Confessions II." Naturally, Taylor Swift follows her with 11 nominations for "The Life of a Showgirl," and Sabrina Carpenter trails Swift with nine nominations for her hit album "Man's Best Friend." Additionally, Nirvana will be honored with the legendary Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. If you missed the live event, it's available to stream now! (Paramount+)

"Saturday Night Live: Season 52" (TV-MA) -- It's crazy to think that it's already been two years since "SNL 50," but here we are, welcoming in the 52nd season of Lorne Michaels' late-night sketch-comedy show. Two new cast members have been announced since Chloe Fineman's ("Love Language") departure from the show after seven seasons -- the first being Saidah Belo-Osagie and Grace Reiter ("Run Amok"). Reiter is the first SNL cast member to be born in the 2000s. This season will feature hosts like New York Knicks MVP Jalen Brunson, "Obsession" star Inde Navarrette, and comedian Shane Gillis ("Madden"). Meanwhile, upcoming musical guests include girl group Katseye, Spanish singer and actress Rosalia ("Euphoria"), and pop star Gracie Abrams. The first episode is out now to stream! (Peacock)

"The Breadwinner" (PG) -- This family-friendly comedy film was co-written by Nate Bargatze and also features the stand-up comedian in his first feature-length starring role. Bargatze plays a family man, also named Nate, and he's the top employee at his car dealership. Meanwhile, his wife, Katie (Mandy Moore), is a stay-at-home mom who tends to their three daughters. But when Katie invents a product that lands a successful deal on "Shark Tank," their roles get reversed, as Katie must travel to South Korea for two weeks. Nate now takes on the role of a stay-at-home parent, and he quickly realizes that it isn't an easy feat. Colin Jost ("Saturday Night Live"), Kumail Nanjiani ("See You When I See You"), and Will Forte ("The Four Seasons") co-star in the film, which is out now to stream! (Netflix)

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1. What is the biggest selling single record of all time?
2. Dennis Yost was the lead singer of which group?
3. Which 1967 song was also the title track of a film by the same name?
4. Name the group that released "Be My Baby."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "When we're out together, everyone knows the way we feel."

Answers

1. Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," from 1942. It was written by Irving Berlin for the film "Holiday Inn," which won an Academy Award for Best Original Song.
2. The Classics IV, beginning in 1965. The group released "Stormy," "Traces" and "Spooky."
3. "To Sir, With Love," by Lulu. The film starred Sidney Poitier as a teacher in a London school. The song topped the charts and stayed there for five weeks, ending as the top selling song of the year. But to the shock of many, the song was not given a nomination for an Academy Award for Best Original Song.
4. The Ronettes, in 1963. The song was used in the opening scenes of "Dirty Dancing" in 1987.
5. "Candy Girl," by the Four Seasons, in 1963. A stereo version was released in 1975.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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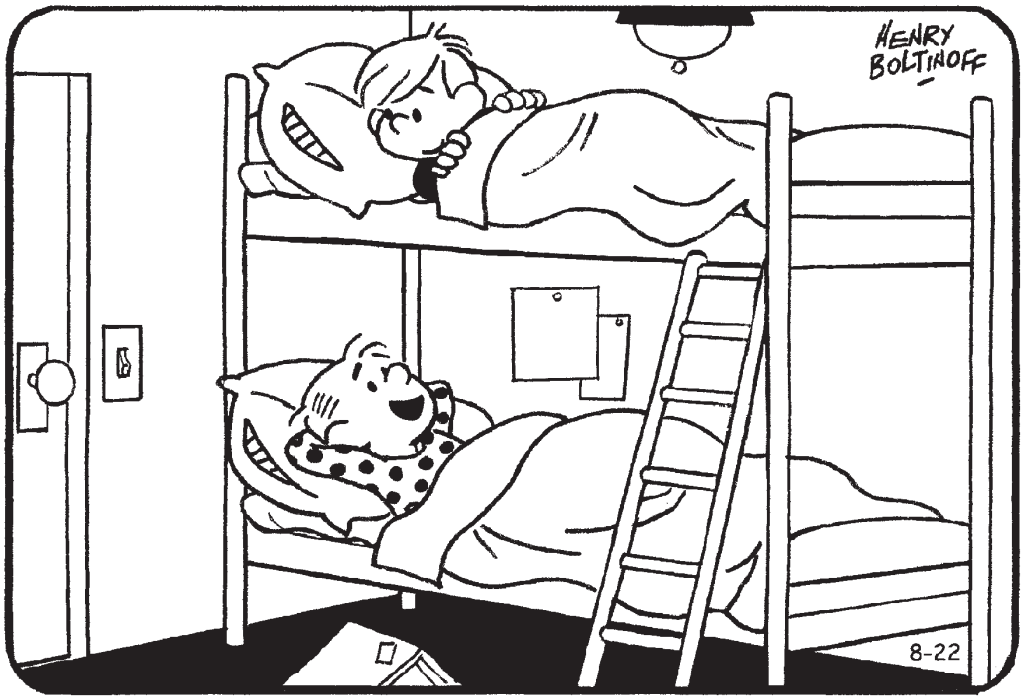


"Hmm ... I'm going to have to put you on no-comment for a few days."

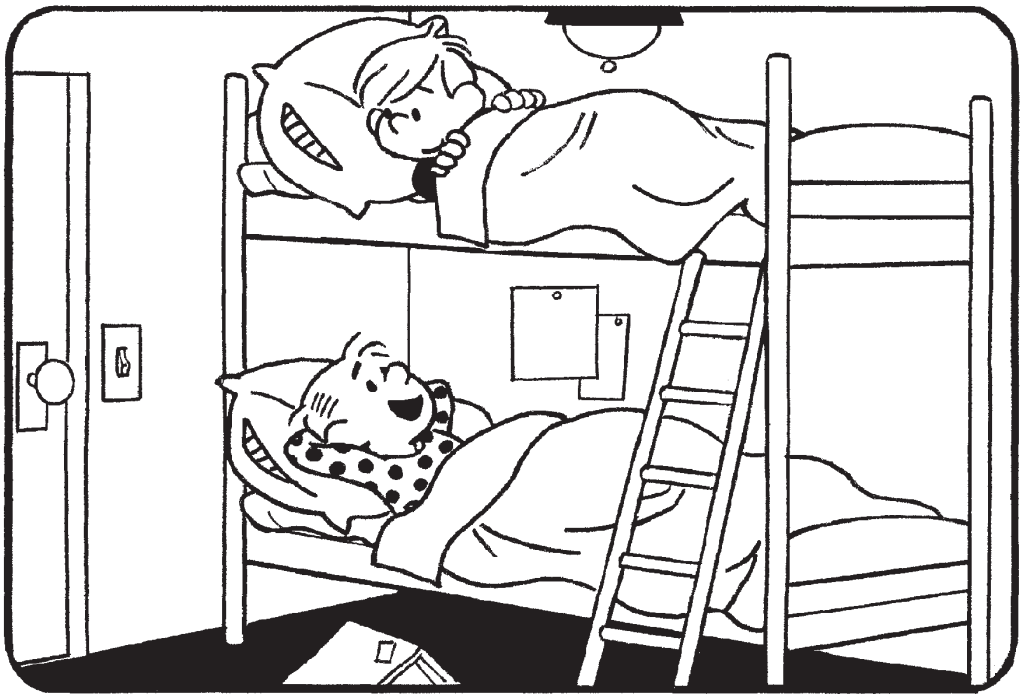
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Pillow is larger. 3. Top rung on ladder is missing. 4. Bedpost is taller. 5. Bedspread hangs down more. 6. Rear bedpost in corner is not seen.

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* Here's a tip for you waist-watchers out there: Wait until Halloween Day to buy the candy. The in-house sweets won't be haunting you throughout October.

* Update window treatments to compensate for dropping temperatures. Trade your sheers for sturdy, draft-blocking panels.

* Now's the time to install weather-stripping or caulk for the fall and the winter. To find drafts, try this trick. Light a taper candle and run it very slowly along the cracks of your windows. When you see the flame flicker, that's where you have a draft leak.

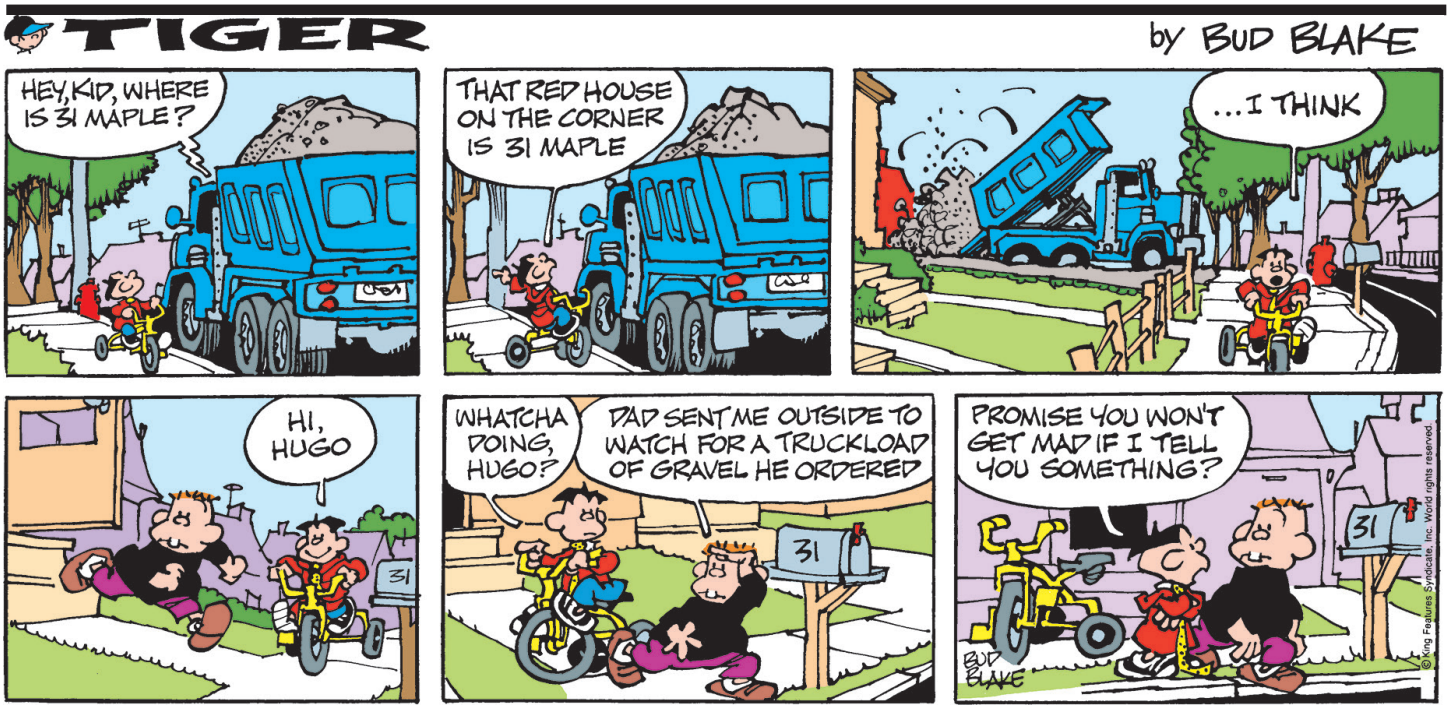
* Want to save money and be a good environmental servant? Get with the times -- the old times, that is. Buy secondhand items and have household items repaired instead of throwing them out. Good-quality clothes can be sold or donated to charity shops; furniture and household items can be sold or donated to charity as well, or repurposed into new rooms.

* "To keep sauces from splattering and dirtying the inside of your microwave, cover the food with a damp paper towel or a coffee filter." -- E.C. in Utah

* Now you can have your tea and clean something too. Teabags can be used to clean woodwork. Rub wood softly with a damp bag.

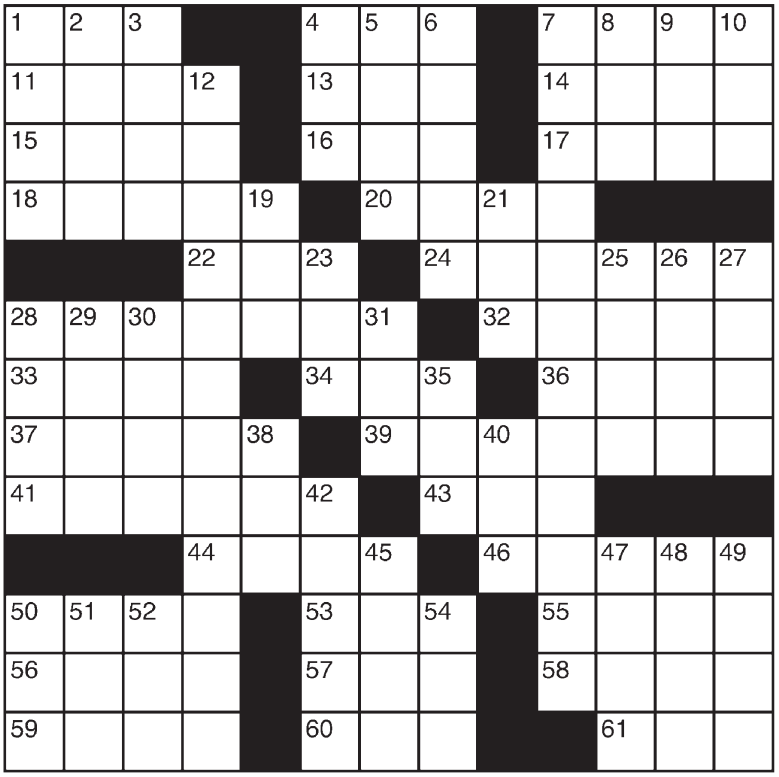
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembrook Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

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King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Hot tub
4 Gore and Pacino
7 Poet Teasdale
11 Sod
13 Architect I.M. —
14 Sty cry
15 Play opener
16 Up to
17 — Minor (bear constellation)
18 Bas-relief medium
20 Leave out
22 Grass shack
24 Paper fastener
28 Mosque tower
32 Florida game fish
33 Optimist's credo
34 Apprehend
36 harmaceutical
37 Transmits
39 Baking potatoes
41 Orders of pancakes
43 "Don't Start Now" singer Lipa
44 Intimate
46 Tactics
50 "Star Wars" knight
53 Resistance unit
55 "East of Eden" twin
56 At the summit of
57 Pint-sized
58 Belafonte song
59 Orange veggies
60 Matching pair
61 Arced tennis shot

DOWN

1 Men-only
2 Brownish purple
3 — and crafts
4 Likely
5 Floral rings
6 Sari fabrics
7 Light lunch order
8 Televise
9 ICU pros
10 Rap sheet letters
12 Popular British dish
19 Owned by us
21 The "I" of TGIF
23 Sawbuck
25 Skin opening
26 Lummox
27 Heart charts (Abbr.)
28 Avoid
29 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
30 "Peter Pan" pooch
31 Roofing goo
35 Future flower
38 Enjoy Vail
40 "How's it goin'?"
42 Bamboozles
45 Biblical pronoun
47 Exam format
48 Vacillate
49 Elitist
50 Comic Leno
51 JFK info
52 — Perignon
54 Bumped into

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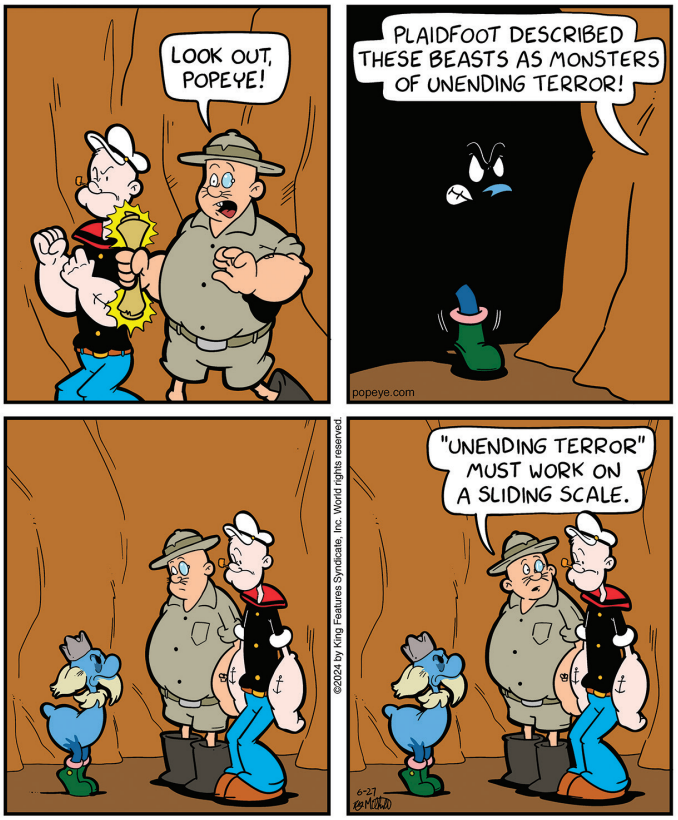
King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

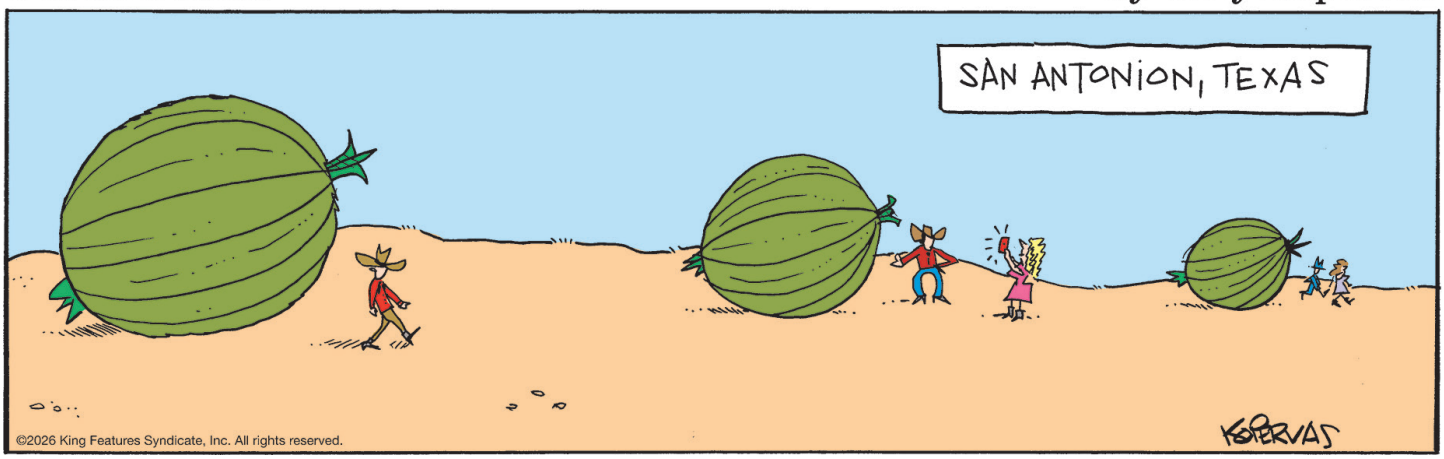
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A	C	T	I		T	I	L		U	R	S	A
G	E	S	S	O		S	K	I	P			
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Olive

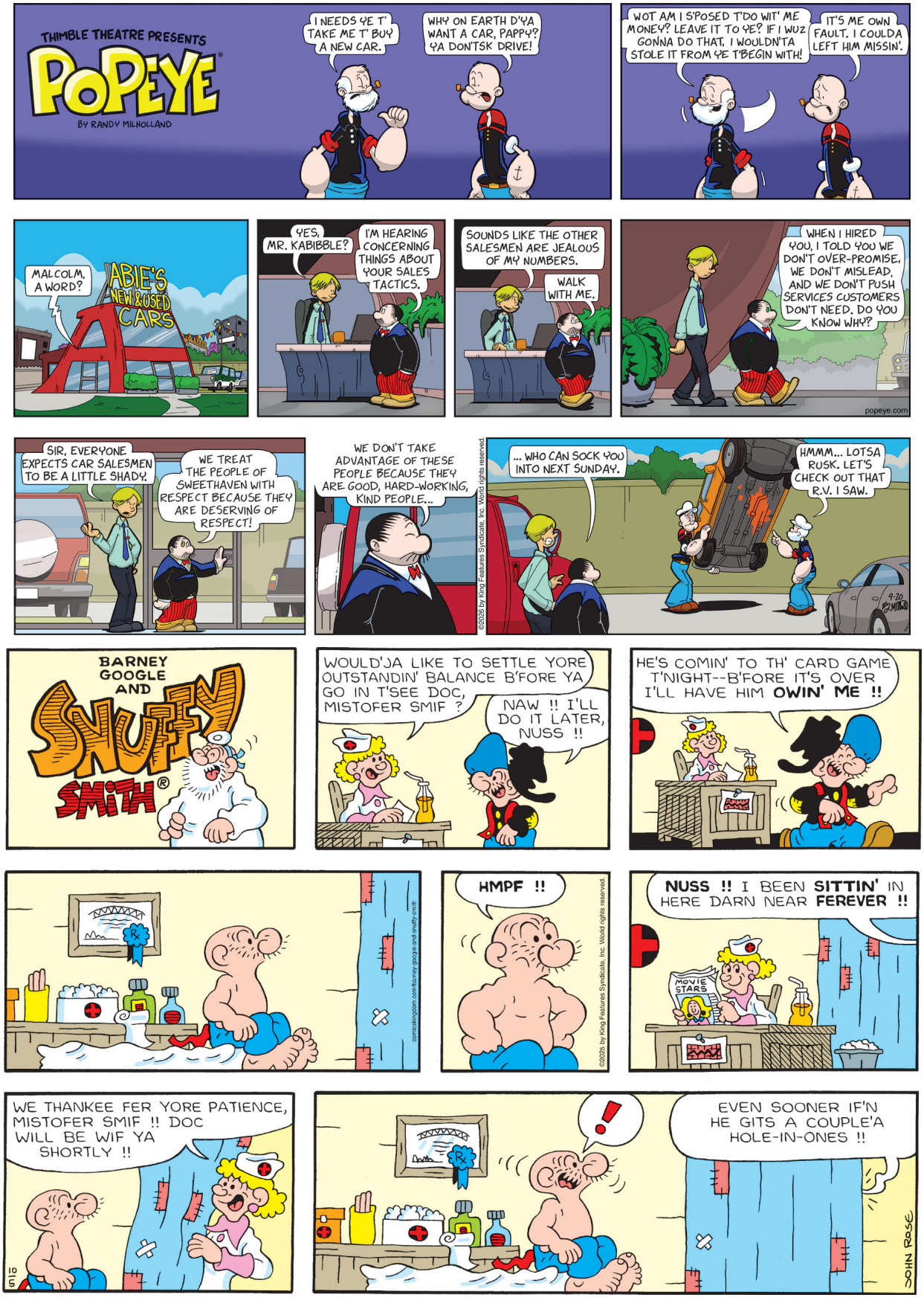


Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



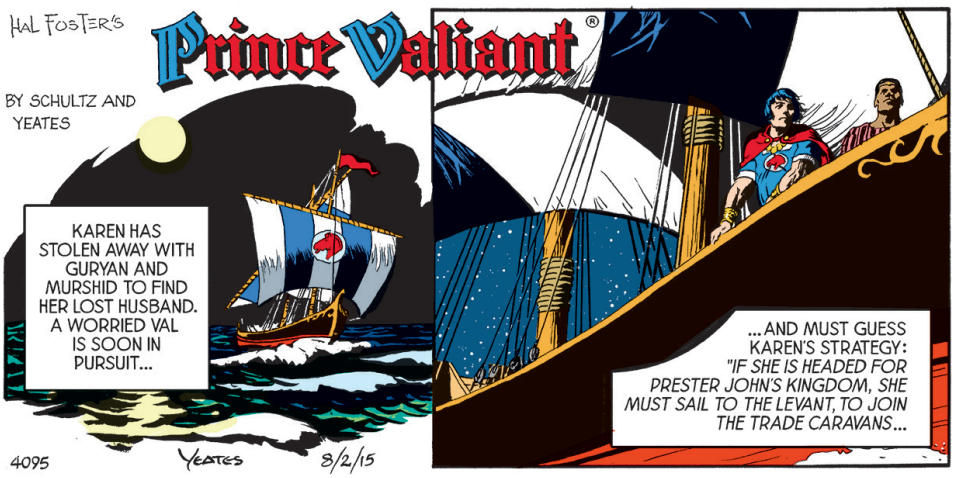
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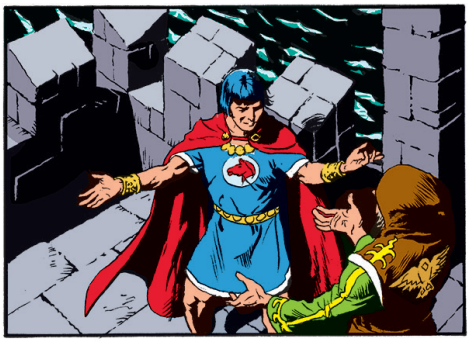


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HAL FOSTER'S Prince Valiant®

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES



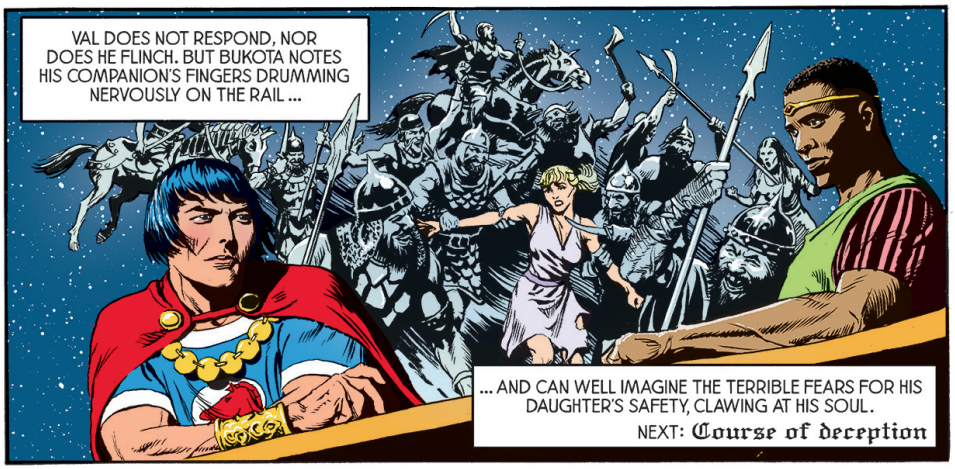


"... SHE'LL NEED TO EXCHANGE HER SLOW FISHING BOAT FOR A SURER, SWIFTER SHIP. THE HARBOR MASTER TOLD ME HE OVERHEARD HER SAY THAT THEY SHOULD 'ARRIVE BY NEXT SUNSET,' AND THAT LIMITS THE PORTS THAT THEY CAN REACH."



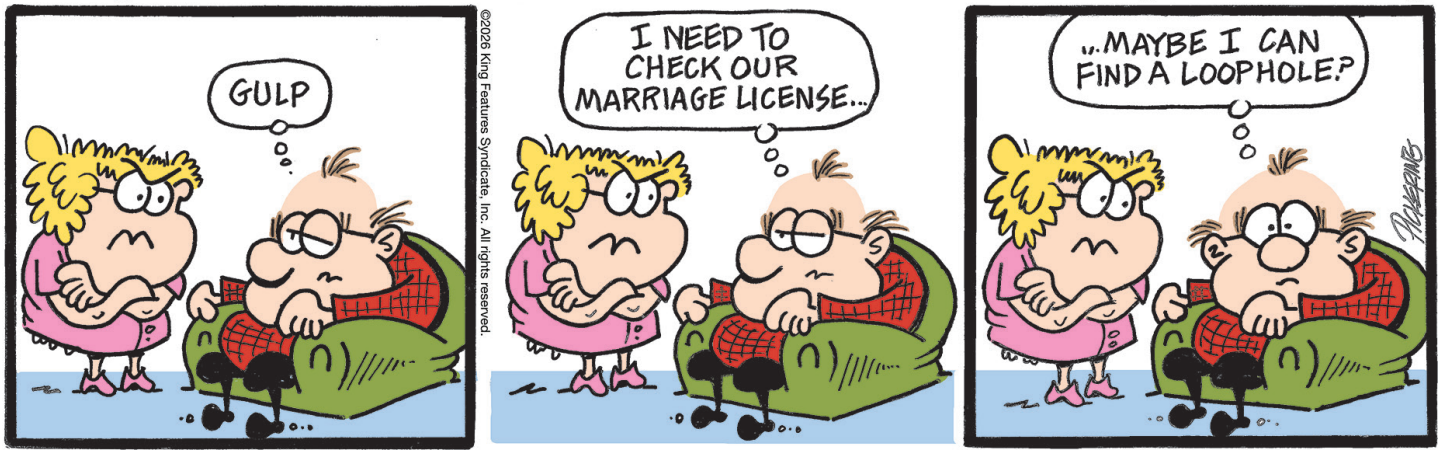
VAL SUDDENLY STRAIGHTENS AND SMILES: *"THERA! IT MUST BE! SET A COURSE FOR THERA, AND WE'LL OVERHAUL THEM BEFORE THEY SHIP OUT AGAIN!"* BUKOTA IS NOT SO SURE: *"UNLESS GURYAN HAS OTHER PLANS... "*

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Speeding up our walking

Is it 10,000 steps per day we need to walk? Or is it 6,000 to 8,000? Or can we get by with only 3,000 to 4,000 steps each day?

The answer, apparently, is that it depends on who is giving us those numbers.

That 10,000 number started as an advertising ploy. Back in 1965 a Japanese company created a pedometer (step counter), and the name of it was similar to the 10,000 number in Japanese. It caught on from there as a goal to strive for, without much (or anything) in the way of actual research behind it.

We've been faced with everybody throwing out a number they claim is the optimum one for us to lower our risk of heart disease and risk of death -- leaving us confused about our best number.

Now, however, there might be something much simpler: Instead of counting steps, a new study has shown that increasing our walking speed might be just as good as walking many thousands of steps each day at a slower speed.

Specifically, what they discovered is that walking fewer than 5,000 fast steps every day could be as good as walking 5,000-7,500 slower steps when it comes to lowering our risk of death.

And how fast is fast? According to the study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, aiming for 80 steps per minute for fewer than 5,000 steps is as good as 60 steps per minute for over 5,000 steps.

The study had tens of thousands of participants with their information pulled from the UK Biobank, a worldwide database with the information on a half million volunteers, so this was a significant study.

To quote one of the study reviewers, "The biggest health gains often come from going from no activity to some activity. Even a few minutes of movement a day can start to improve your overall health and longevity."

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GDI
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Living Heart Fitness Center
Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy.
$20 a month



1. Name the Italian driver who, at age 19, won five straight Formula 1 Grands Prix during the 2026 season.

2. At the 1924 Chamonix Winter Games, American Charles Jewtraw won the first gold medal in the first Winter Olympics competing in what event?

3. Nicknamed "The Nuke," which English teenager won the Professional Darts Corporation World Championships in 2025 and 2026?

4. Which Boston Celtics great missed all 14 of his field goal attempts and scored zero points in a 104-100 loss to the Philadelphia 76ers in January 1965?

5. Which Peruvian-born tennis player for the U.S. won the Australian Championships and the Wimbledon men's singles titles in 1959?

6. Name the PGA Tour player who was named captain of the U.S. Team for the 2026 Presidents Cup golf tournament.

7. Lawyer Elaine Weddington Steward was hired as assistant general manager of which Major League Baseball team in 1990?

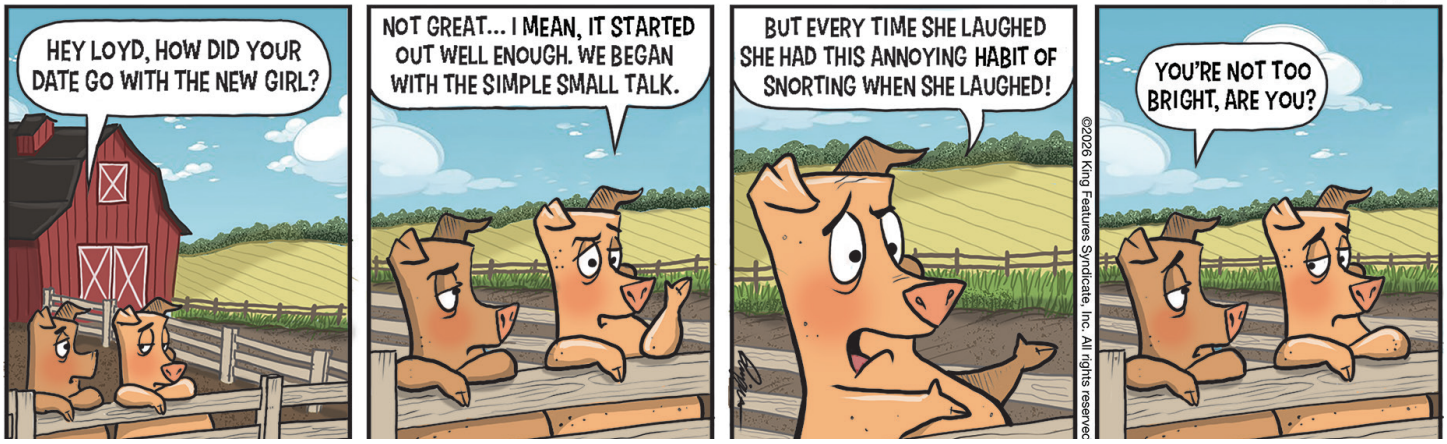
Answers

1. Kimi Antonelli.
2. The 500-meter speed skate.
3. Luke Littler.
4. Bill Russell.
5. Alex Olmedo.
6. Brandt Snedeker.
7. The Boston Red Sox.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Should my mother get a new puppy?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My mom, who's in her late 70s, told me that she wants a puppy. Her independent living community allows pets, but I think that she is a little too old to train and care for a new dog. How do I convince her to give up the idea? -- Janine in Ocala, Florida

DEAR JANINE: I put this question to my friend, R.A. Morean, author of "Your Last Puppy: A Practical Guide for Seniors and Their Families." Her reply:

I get this question a lot. And after interviewing nearly a hundred parents and their adult children, I am sorry to say your mother makes a good case.

There is clear, empirical evidence that having a dog or puppy actively promotes physical, mental and cognitive health, especially for those 60 and older. There is no doubt having a puppy or dog will promote longevity and quality of life.

Lean into the idea and then explore the question together. Your challenges when speaking to your mother should include a discussion of a succession plan, and clear-eyed responses to a set of questions ranging from "What is my energy level?" and "Do I have mobility issues?" to "Is there a trainer close by?"

Make your list and sit down with her and discuss. It will soon become clear to both of you if a puppy will be too much work. Then you can move on to the step: if not a puppy, then an older dog. There are many places to find older, well-trained dogs.

In the last 15 years of my mother's life, she adopted an older dog. And when Lettice passed, she adopted again. If your mother's community also offers assisted living, I would approach them now, because 75% of assisted living communities allow dogs. Some facilities are "pet friendly," which means they allow pets. Others are "pet inclusive," which means they monitor food, schedule veterinarians and groomers to visit on-site, and staff are trained to keep an eye out for both residents and their pets.

Good luck! The important thing is that you are listening to your mother.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* The first documented carrots were purple, yellow and white. Orange carrots became popular in Europe in the 1500s, and many food historians believe Dutch growers promoted them to honor the Dutch royal family, the House of Orange, during a politically charged period in the Netherlands.

* When resources were scarce during World War II, some German and Austrian banks printed emergency banknotes on wood, leather and playing cards.

* Electric eels and electric rays possess enough electricity to kill a horse.

* Swimmers, surfers and fishermen sometimes wear pantyhose under or instead of swimwear because their nylon mesh prevents many types of jellyfish stingers from touching the skin.

* The $2 bill was once considered unlucky due to its ties to gambling.

* The Latin phrase “Pecunia non olet” (“Money does not stink”) derives from a urine tax levied by Roman emperors Nero and Vespasian in the first century A.D.

* Studies show women are 18% more likely to be attracted to the color blue.

* Before founding Wendy’s, Dave Thomas helped struggling KFC franchises in Columbus, Ohio, turn themselves around in 1962. He was paid with 45% ownership. When he sold his share back, he used the money to open his first Wendy’s.

* In early Rome, Aulus Cornelius Celsus documented his attempts at straightening teeth by applying pressure with his hands at regular intervals.

* Sean Connery was once stopped for speeding by a policeman named James Bond.

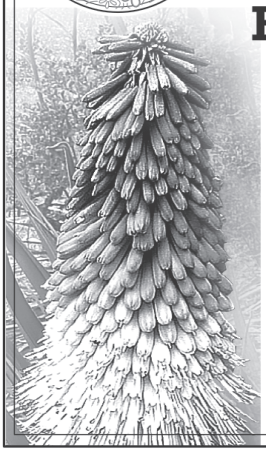
* According to NASA, autumn is “aurora season” because geomagnetic storms are about twice as frequent as the annual average during the fall.

***

Thought for the Day: “Everyone should have kids. They are the greatest joy in the world. But they are also terrorists. You’ll realize this as soon as they are born and they start using sleep deprivation to break you.” -- Ray Romano

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The Garden Bug



Red Hot Poker

Known as “Red Hot Poker” or “The Torch Lily,” this perennial is native to Africa. It thrives in well-draining soil, needs little care and resists pests. Each flower spike can grow 3-4 feet tall and displays brilliant yellow to orange to red petals. They are attractive to hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. Fortunately, deer don’t like them! Grow your red hot poker plants in full sun for the best blooms. They will tolerate some shade, and can benefit from it where summers are most brutal. – *Brenda Weaver*

Source: thespruce.com, greatgardenplants.com

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by Freddy Groves

Grants to address veteran homelessness

Beginning Oct. 1, the VA will give away $1.17 billion in grants to address the problem of veteran homelessness.

Of that amount, $855 million will go to organizations that work with the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families in the form of one-year grants. The SSVF works with low income veterans and veteran families who are either homeless or who are at risk for it. Their goal is to get veterans back into housing quickly and to prevent homelessness in the first place, working to provide permanent housing.

Of the $1.7 billion, $318 million will go to organizations through the Grant and Per Diem program via three-year grants. This program works to provide services and case management to help veterans stay in their current housing or to provide more appropriate housing for veterans who are elderly, frail, terminally ill or who have minor dependents.

The VA's Housing First philosophy, started in 2012, shifted away from the prior "treatment first" models that had kept too many veterans out of permanent housing. It had required sobriety first, or treatment first, or income first. Now, with the Housing First philosophy, homeless or at-risk veterans can determine for themselves which services they initially want, which lowers the barrier to getting them into actual housing and provides needed stability. Then other services can be offered -- healthcare, education, employment, legal -- to help maintain that permanent housing.

If you are a veteran who is either homeless or who is in danger of becoming homeless, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-424-3838. They're open 24/7. Or you can go online to www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp and start a chat there. Everything is confidential, but they will need to ask you a few questions to know which services you qualify for and how best to help you.

If you're facing eviction, don't wait, especially if you have a family. Connect with the call center as soon as you know so they can help.

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Wishing Well®

6	3	4	8	3	5	6	7	6	5	8	6	4
C	A	S	D	S	L	L	E	O	O	A	U	U
7	5	3	7	2	3	8	4	2	3	7	8	6
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C	E	N	M	S	L	E	O	I	S	O	I	G
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N	N	F	F	I	E	A	B	L	O	S	T	D
7	2	7	5	2	5	4	6	8	2	6	2	8
I	E	D	E	S	S	N	N	E	I	E	R	B
7	4	8	2	8	7	2	8	4	7	4	8	7
E	E	R	E	A	N	S	V	A	C	R	E	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. GEOGRAPHY: Almost 90% of the world's population lives in which hemisphere?
2. AD SLOGANS: Which major retailer uses the ad slogan, "Save money. Live better"?
3. MOVIES: Which district is Katniss from in "The Hunger Games"?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What was singer Elvis Presley's favorite sandwich?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the poem "Paradise Lost"?
6. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state is the only one with its own power grid?
7. TELEVISION: Where does Fred Flintstone work on the animated series "The Flintstones"?
8. MUSIC: Which band released the hit song "Don't Stop Believin'"?
9. HISTORY: What is the Code of Hammurabi?
10. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the two-faced Roman god?

Trivia answers

1. Northern.
2. Walmart.
3. District 12.
4. Peanut butter, bacon and banana.
5. John Milton.
6. Texas.
7. Slate Rock and Gravel Company.
8. Journey.
9. An early written legal code.
10. Janus.

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South Dakota Governor

Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Freedom and Fresh Air

There are many reasons to visit the Black Hills. The towering pillars of granite would be plenty enough on their own, and that's before you factor in the amazing monuments of Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse. But one of my favorite reasons to head for the hills happens once a year in late September: the Buffalo Roundup at Custer State Park.

Every year, a few dozen parks staff lead brave volunteers as we chase roughly 1,500 buffalo through the hills of Custer State Park. The thundering hooves, cracking whips, and the wild spirit of the American buffalo makes the tension thick enough to cut with a knife.

The spectacle is truly one-of-a-kind, and word has gotten out. Every year, 20,000 visitors join us to watch the display. We round up the herd so that we can tend to their health, brand the new calves, and auction off a portion to maintain the herd's stability. And the visitors come from across the country and around the world. This brings South Dakota's two biggest industries, agriculture and tourism, together.

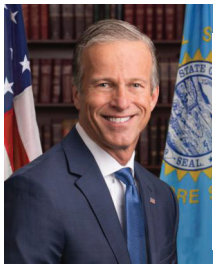
Every year when I'm breathing in the crisp morning air at Custer State Park, I stop to think about what makes this event so special. I go back to our state's western heritage. Most of us are descended from the homesteaders – or at least the tough few who were able to eke out a living on the untamed South Dakota prairie. Our state still reflects the American Wild West in many regards. Tourists come to Deadwood to get a glimpse into Wild Bill's life, hike through the wilderness trails in the Black Hills, and swing through 1880 Town along the way.

I think there's something about all those experiences that is so attractive to the 21st Century traveler. In a world that is increasingly online, it's nice to get our faces out of our phones for a few days and get back to our roots. And that's why they keep coming back to South Dakota. My wife, Sandy, has made it her mission to get South Dakotans of all ages off their phones – and I know the phone-free fellowship that happened at the Buffalo Roundup this year made her proud.

Our state is the freest state in a nation founded on the principle of freedom. And those Wild West experiences hearken back to a day when our nation was just a bit freer.

The late September Buffalo Roundup marks somewhat of a conclusion to the annual tourism season – though the orange jacketed pheasant hunters will be here in just a few short weeks. But it does not mark the conclusion of what makes South Dakota special. Our freedom and fresh air remain a tremendous draw year round.

Moments like the Buffalo Roundup are both a great opportunity to take a break from the daily grind and remember why I do what I do: to keep South Dakota the greatest, freest state in America – and to keep our future strong, safe, and free.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Democrats Just Say No

Soon after Republicans took control of Congress last year, it became clear that if we were going to accomplish anything for hardworking Americans, we would largely have to do it alone. There is always some partisanship in Congress, but Democrats took it to a new level since last year, and they have shown themselves to be completely out of step with the American people.

At the top of Republicans' priority list for this Congress was preventing a massive tax hike that was set to hit working families this year – a tax hike that would have cost a typical South Dakota family $2,500. But Democrats weren't interested in working with us, and every single Democrat in Congress voted against providing tax relief to the American people. They voted against no tax on tips and overtime, against cutting taxes for working people, and they even voted against an additional deduction for seniors and raising the child tax credit for working families.

Democrats have also opposed Republican-led efforts to reduce costs. They opposed our efforts to block a tax on natural gas that they imposed during the Biden administration, which would have contributed to higher household energy costs. They have also opposed legislation Republicans put forward to block Biden-era regulations that would have forced Americans into costly electric vehicles and raised the price of appliances. And just recently, they blocked progress on bringing down energy prices, including a bill to protect hardworking Americans from increased energy costs associated with data centers.

Democrats have said no to more money in Americans' pockets, reducing energy costs, and even to funding the basic functions of the federal government. One year ago, Democrats shut down the entire government for 43 days over a nonpartisan spending bill. At the beginning of this year, Democrats reprised that playbook and shut down the Department of Homeland Security over their refusal to spend even one dollar on Border Patrol and immigration enforcement. What was once a fringe position in their party – defunding law enforcement – is now an article of faith among Democrats.

It's clear that, for my Democrat colleagues, hardworking Americans take a backseat to their political agenda and opposing President Trump and Republicans. Democrats are blocking the farm bill and the annual defense bill, they opposed keeping men out of women's sports, and they rejected bipartisan efforts to bring down energy costs. What will it take for Democrats to put the American people ahead of their political interests?

Despite the incredible amount of obstruction from Democrats in this Congress, Republicans have managed to accomplish a lot these past two years – from regulatory relief to a secure border and the Working Families Tax Cuts. We have more work to do, and we'll continue our work this year and in the next as Republicans remain focused on making life better for working families.

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

I Used to Take Violin Lessons

When it comes to music, I am quite a fan. I enjoy all kinds of music, though some more than others. When I'm driving, I love having the radio on and listening to music. Sometimes I jump from station to station listening to different kinds of music.

Although I love music, I am not the person anyone would want to sing. If you ever heard me sing, you might have a little pause about music yourself.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has been playing the piano since she was a young girl. Her father played the piano, and she has followed in his footsteps. She is quite good at the piano, and she has been the pianist in all the churches we have pastored.

Even in retirement, she plays the piano at our Sunday morning service.

I don't know why this thought came to me. But when I was in first grade, I took violin lessons. That was in 1957. I don't quite remember why I took violin lessons. But everybody in first grade was invited to take some music lessons. One day, my first-grade teacher asked me, "Would you like to take violin lessons?"

Who in their right mind would ever say no to their first-grade teacher? So, I told her I would, and she set me up for my first lesson.

At the time, music wasn't part of my life. We didn't have TV, and at my age I rarely listened to the radio. The only music that I heard was in church on Sunday. What I brought to that violin lesson is beyond my comprehension.

My parents bought me a violin, and I practiced at home. At least I thought I was practicing. My music was so terrible, and it showed in my violin lessons, that the violin teacher called a meeting with my parents.

I was excited because I thought he was going to tell my parents what a wonderful violin player I was. However, when the meeting started, it was completely different from what I expected.

The teacher looked at my parents, then looked over at me, then back at my parents and said, "If you have any respect at all for music you will take your son out of these violin lessons. I've never had a worse student in my life."

Of course my parents were surprised, as I was. Out of respect for the violin teacher, they removed me from his class. On the way home, both my parents were silent. I never heard anything from them about that meeting. That week they sold my violin.

Nothing has changed throughout the years. I'm still as bad at music as I ever was.

It's good to know what you can't do so you can adjust your life.

As a pastor, I've had to lead the congregation in singing hymns. Fortunately, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was playing the piano and played it so loud nobody could hear me singing. I didn't catch up to that until many years later.

Some people are just gifted in music. I watched the TV show America's Got Talent and listened to all the music people auditioned. It's amazing how much musical talent they have on that show.

Even though singing is not my forte, I certainly enjoyed listening to music. Sometimes the ear is more profitable than the mouth.

I remember one time I was in the shower, and for some reason I began singing. A few moments later, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to the bathroom, knocked on the door, and said, "Are you okay? You sound like you're in pain."

I didn't know she could hear me singing in the shower. So, that was the last time I sang in the shower. Now I only sing when I'm driving across town by myself.

When I get to heaven, I hope I have a good singing voice. Until then, I'm going to keep my singing to myself.

We attend church on Sunday night, and they have a lot of music and singing. Older people getting up on the pulpit and singing like an angel impress me. No Sunday night goes by that I don't want to get up and sing myself. But out of great respect for the congregation's ears, I refuse that impulse.

Just because I can't sing doesn't mean I don't appreciate others who are singing. I enjoy listening to them, and after the service, I like to shake their hand and tell them what a good job they did.

It's not that I can't sing; it's just that I have a terrible voice. I do not know the difference between one musical note and another. To me, they're all the same. I guess I'm just a monotone.

Some award should be waiting for me because I haven't cursed the world around me with my singing. That should be worth something.

The Bible says something interesting along these lines.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19).

Many are swift to speak and slow to hear. If I would actually hear something, I would be slow to judge someone.

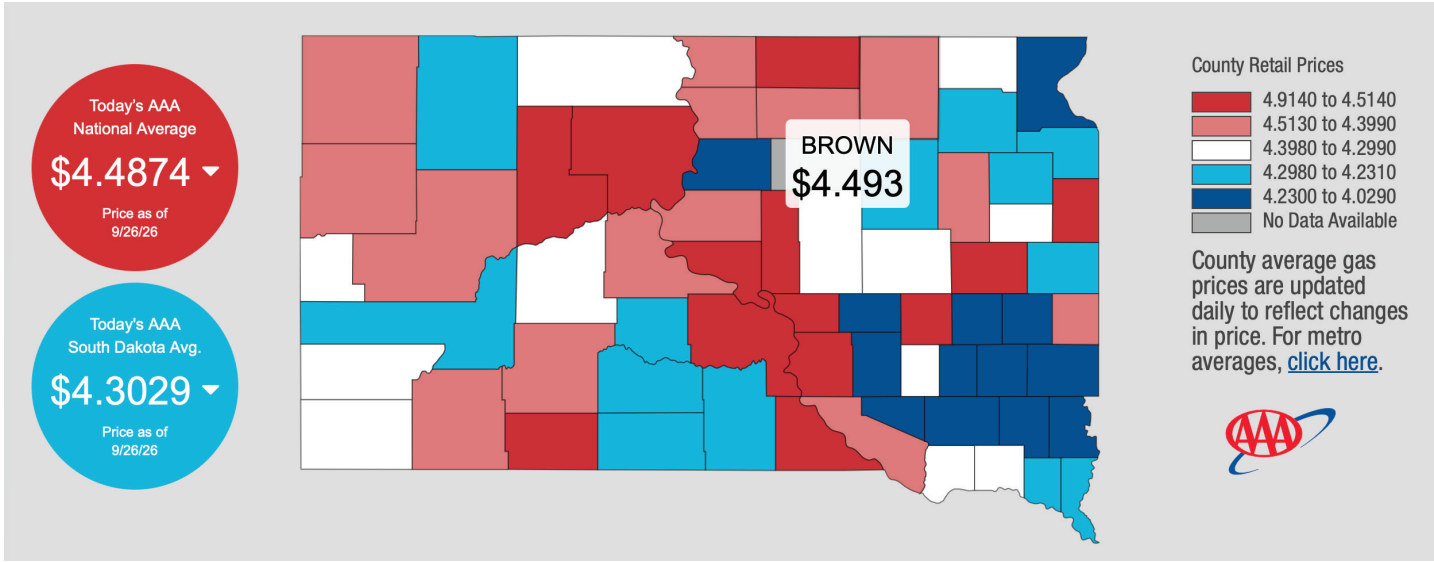
Like The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says to me, "God gave you two ears and one mouth for a purpose." In that light, I'm going to work hard at using my ears more than my mouth.

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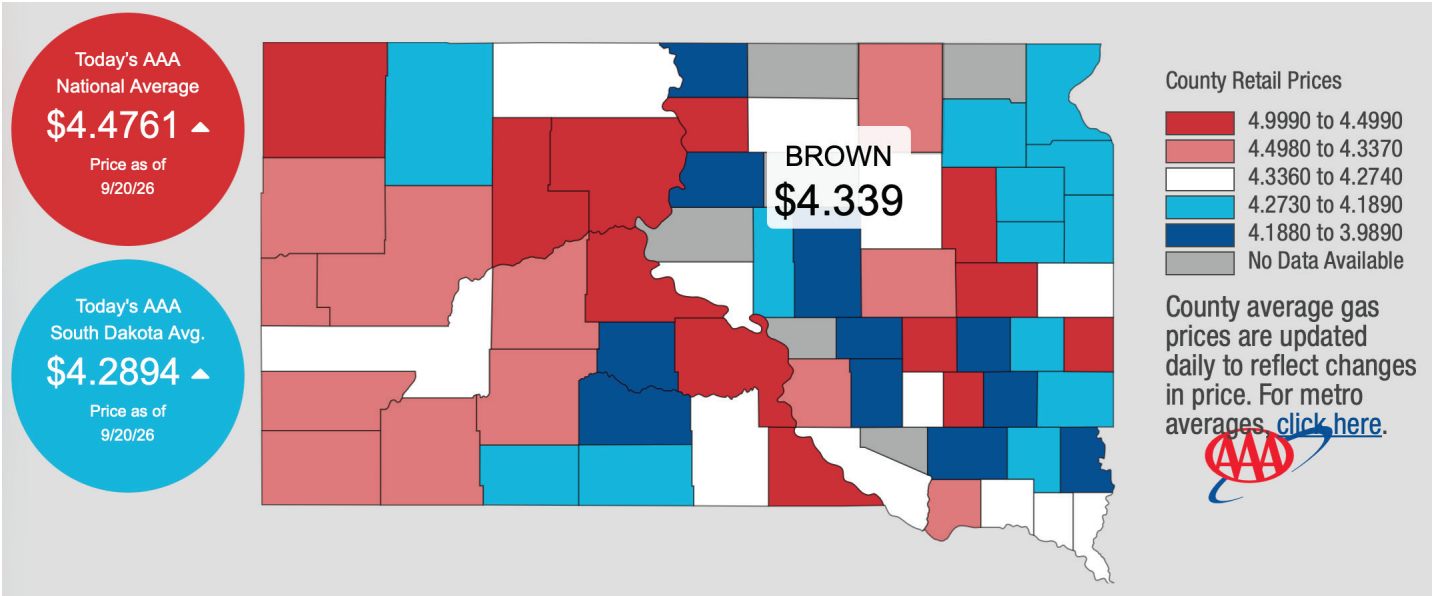
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	$4.3029	$4.4946	$5.0925	$6.1877
Yesterday Avg.	$4.3124	$4.5081	$5.0756	$6.2284
Week Ago Avg.	$4.2872	$4.4927	$5.0611	$6.2349
Month Ago Avg.	$4.0696	$4.2761	$4.7590	$5.3167
Year Ago Avg.	$2.9470	$3.1282	$3.5787	$3.3748

This Week



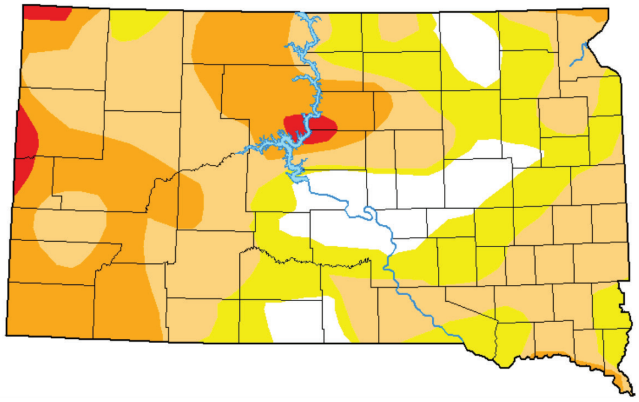
Last Week



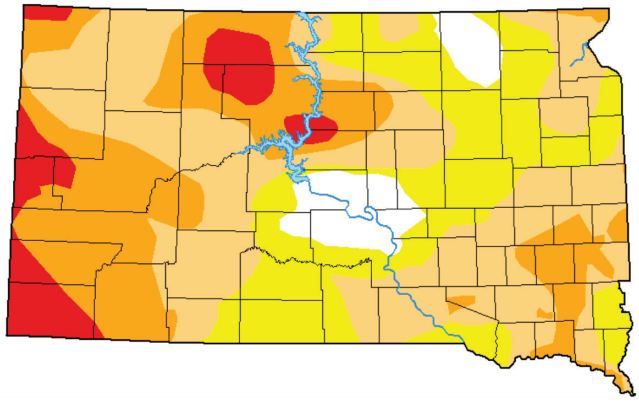
Drought Classification

None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)
D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

Drought Monitor



Sept. 22

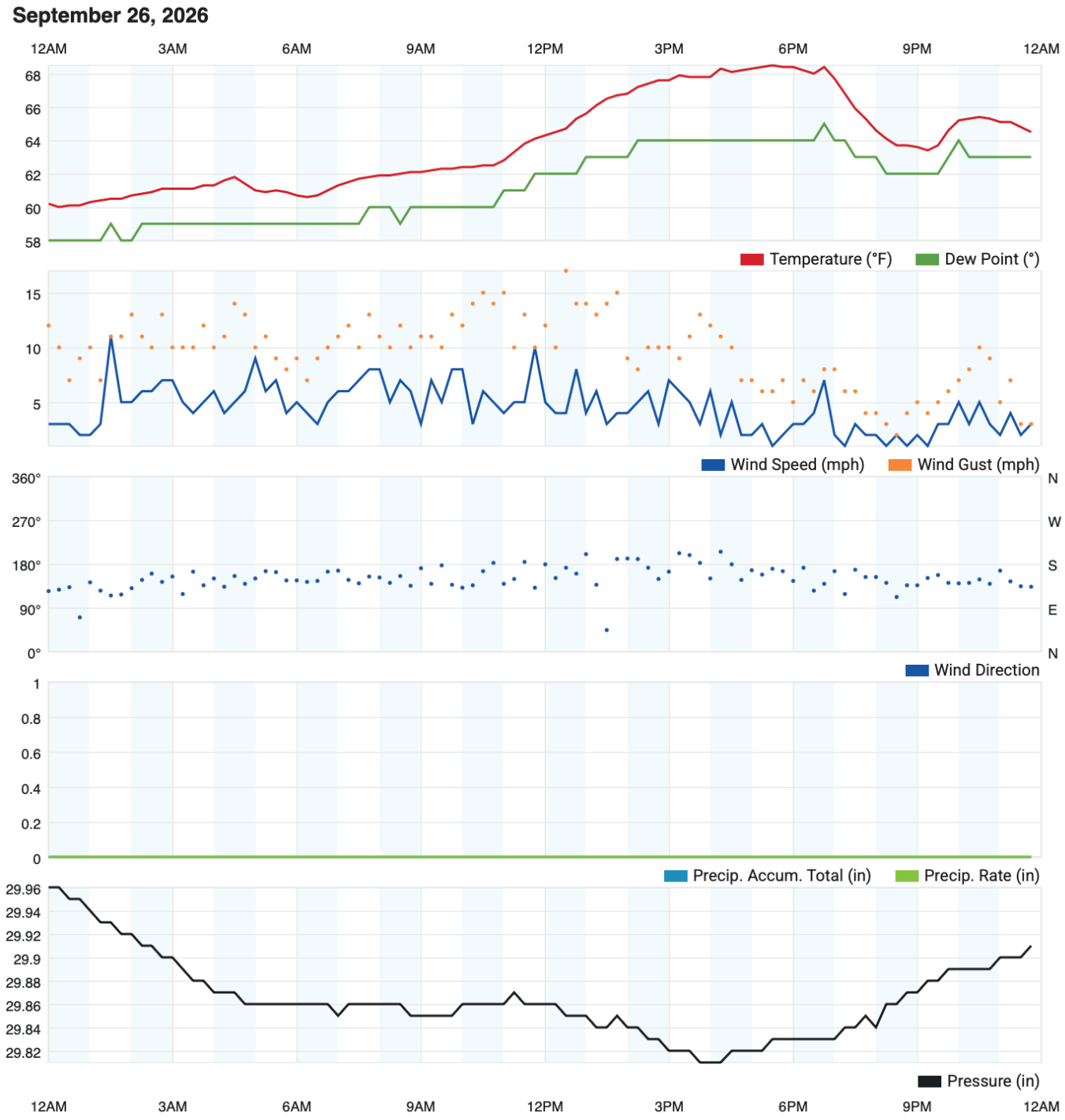


Sept. 15

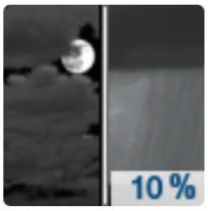
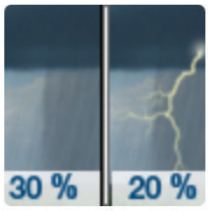
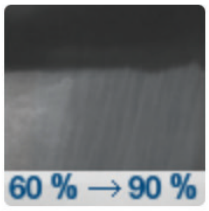
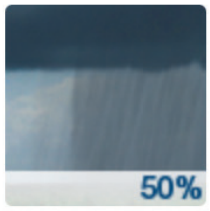
Most of the High Plains received beneficial rainfall, resulting in improvement to drought categories over parts of all states in the region. More precipitation will be needed, however, to ameliorate the continued extreme drought over much of Colorado and Wyoming as well as parts of Montana, North and South Dakota, and western Nebraska. Areas of exceptional drought are still shown in much of central Colorado and western Nebraska.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
High: 71 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 70 °F
Areas Fog then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers then Slight Chance T-storms	Showers Likely then Showers	Chance Showers





Fog this morning, dense at times, will clear by this afternoon leaving partly to mostly cloudy skies. Rain and weak thunderstorms return to central SD tonight and then gradually spread east Monday and Tuesday before exiting Tuesday afternoon.

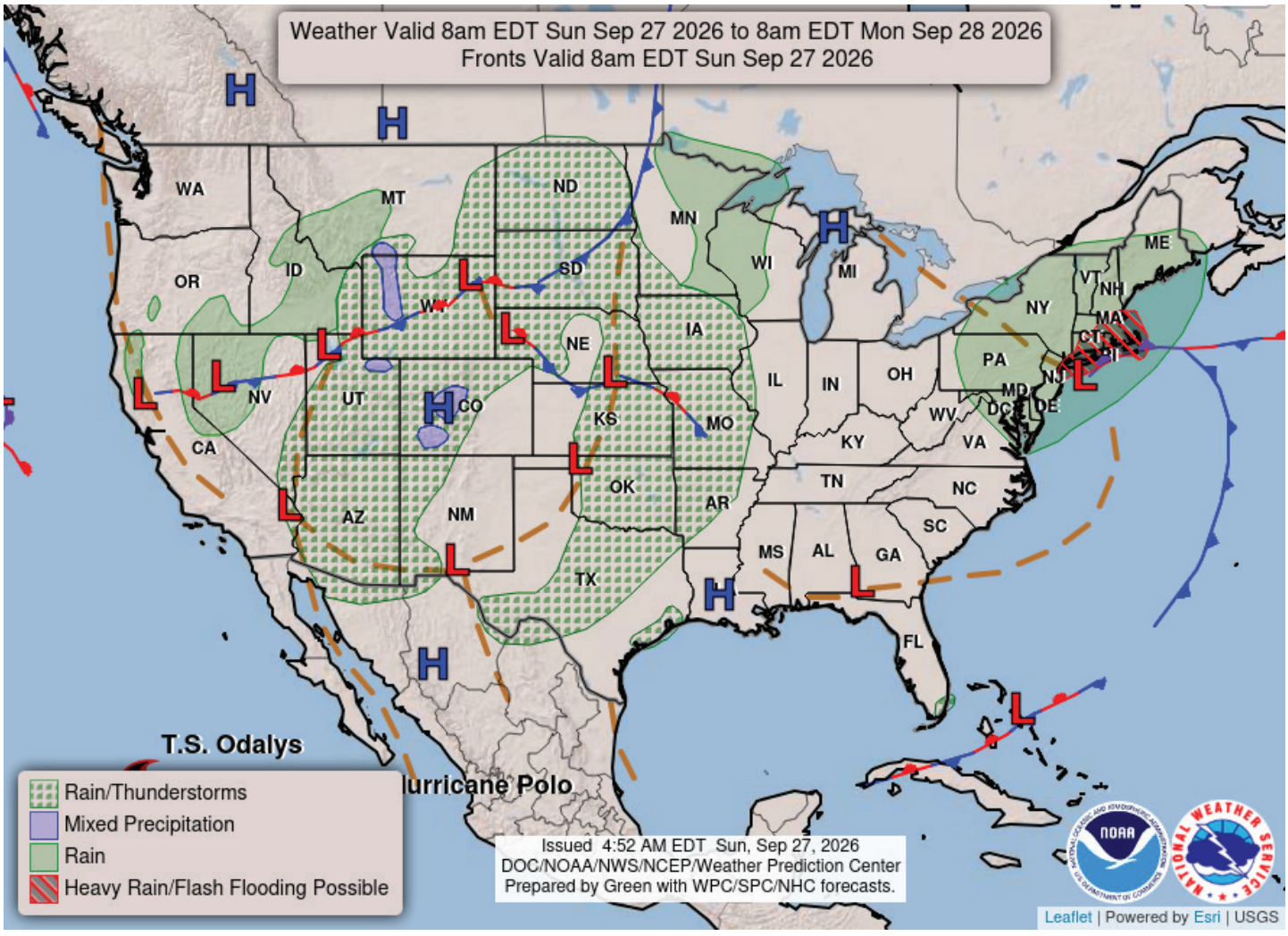
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 68 °F at 5:14 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 12:06 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 12:23 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95 in 1952
Record Low: 22 in 1900
Average High: 70
Average Low: 42
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.79
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.88
Average Precip to date: 18.13
Precip Year to Date: 21.74
Sunset Tonight: 7:21 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:26 am



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Today in Weather History

September 27, 1983: Lightning caused a grass fire which burned 25,000 acres northwest of Reliance during the evening hours. At its peak, the fire was four miles wide by ten miles long.

September 27, 1985: Snow fell across south-central South Dakota from the evening of the 27th until the early afternoon of the 28th. Three to five inches of snow occurred with up to 18 inches reported around Winner. Eight to 12 inches fell around Gregory and Burke.

1816 — A black frost over most of New England kills unripened corn in the north resulting in a year of famine. (David Ludlum)

1822: Using various documents and meteorological observations determined a hurricane moved ashore on this day in South Carolina. One account from Bull Island, South Carolina records the eye passing directly over that location.

1906: The second September storm of 1906 was one of great violence. On the 27th the hurricane reached the central Gulf Coast with destructive winds and unprecedented tides. At Pensacola, FL, the tide was 10 feet above normal. At Mobile, AL property damage was severe. An estimated 134 lives were lost from Pensacola, FL to Mississippi from this storm.

1911: The earliest photograph of a tornado in Australia occurred on this day. The estimated F3 tornado tore through Marong, Victoria, or about 150 km from Melbourne.

1959 — A tornado 440 yards in width traveled twenty miles from near Hollow, OK, to western Cherokee County KS. Although a strong tornado, it was very slow moving, and gave a tremendous warning roar, and as a result no one was killed. (The Weather Channel)

1959: Typhoon Vera was the strongest and deadliest typhoon on record to make landfall on the islands of Japan. Damage totals from this typhoon are estimated at $4.85 billion (USD 2015). An estimated 4,000 deaths occurred from Typhoon Vera. This Category 5 Typhoon first made landfall on September 26 near Shionomisaki on Honshu. Vera transitioned to an extratropical cyclone on September 27, which continued to affect the island for an additional two days.

1970 — Afternoon highs of 103 degrees at Long Beach, CA, and 105 degrees at the Los Angeles Civic Center were the hottest since September records were established in 1963. Fierce Santa Ana winds accompanying the extreme heat resulted in destructive fires. (The Weather Channel)

1985 — A record early season snowstorm struck the Central High Plains Region. The storm left up to nineteen inches of snow along the Colorado Front Range, and as much as a foot of snow in the High Plains Region. (Storm Data)

1985 — Hurricane Gloria swept over the Outer Banks then rushed across Long Island, New England, and Canada. It was the first significant hurricane to hit New England in twenty-five years and brought heavy rains and high winds to the Mid-Atlantic states as well.

1987 — While those at the base of Mount Washington, NH, enjoyed sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s, the top of the mountain was blanketed with 4.7 inches of snow, along with wind gusts to 99 mph, and a temperature of 13 degrees. Severe thunderstorms developed along a cold front in the south central U.S. A thunderstorm west of Noodle TX produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 70 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced large hail in southeastern Wyoming during the afternoon, with tennis ball size hail reported at Cheyenne. Strong winds ushering the cold air into the north central U.S. gusted to 59 mph at Lander WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Freezing temperatures were reported in the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley. Houghton Lake MI reported a record low of 21 degrees. Thunderstorms in the western U.S. produced wind gusts to 50 mph at Salt Lake City UT, and gusts to 58 mph at Cody WY.(The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2014: A squall line impacted central Arizona, including the Phoenix Metro area.

InTouch Ministries

Daily Devotion

Uniting Belief and Behavior

When genuine faith is the foundation of our belief and behavior, it becomes noticeable to those around us.

Acts 24:14-16: 14 "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;
15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.
16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.

In today's passage, Paul was pleading his case before Felix, the Roman governor. He based his defense on living a life of integrity shaped by two things: trust in God and a deep conviction in Christ's resurrection from the dead. Because of those beliefs, Paul claimed innocence, saying, "I … do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men" (v. 16). In this way, he shared how his conscience commended rather than condemned him.

What set Paul apart was his attention to both his beliefs and his behavior. He understood that our deeds flow from who we are on the inside. Jesus made the same point when He said, "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good" (Luke 6:45). That's why behavior change alone never lasts; in order to have long-term benefit, it must be rooted in something deeper.

Too often Christians focus on doing the right things without examining the underlying convictions. We can give, serve, and show up faithfully, but unless our deeds flow from genuine beliefs, we may be acting for the wrong reasons. If we submit and allow God to transform us from the inside out, then both our consciences and our testimony will be strong and clear.

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

The Groton Independent
Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

19 27 34 35 50 4

TOP PRIZE:
$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 37 Mins 59 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.25.26

25 57 58 67 68 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$300,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

22 27 31 49 51 3

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$5,630,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

10 11 17 29 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$70,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

9 23 31 59 69 12

TOP PRIZE:
$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

14 40 52 55 57 24

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$389,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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News from the AP Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brandon Valley def. Aberdeen Central, 25-20, 25-18, 25-21
Dell Rapids def. Clark-Willow Lake, 25-10, 25-17, 25-13
Douglas def. Mahpíya Lúta, 25-19, 25-11, 25-17
Todd County def. Little Wound, 25-12, 25-9, 25-10
Wakpala def. Oelrichs, 18-25, 25-22, 26-24, 23-25, 15-11
Belle Fouche Tournament=
Belle Fourche def. Wall, 25-17, 25-18
Belle Fourche def. New Underwood, 25-18, 25-18
Custer def. New Underwood, 25-23, 19-25, 25-16
Custer def. Bowman County, N.D., 25-21, 25-16
Edgemont def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-22, 25-22
Kadoka def. Edgemont, 25-15, 25-19
Kadoka def. Upton, Wyo., 25-16, 25-23
Kadoka def. Wall, 25-20, 25-16
Lakota Tech def. Bowman County, N.D., 25-15, 25-13
Lakota Tech def. Custer, 25-21, 25-12
Lakota Tech def. New Underwood, 25-16, 25-19
Lakota Tech def. Philip, 25-9, 25-13
Lakota Tech def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-17, 21-25, 25-15
Philip def. Belle Fourche, 25-20, 25-16
Philip def. Upton, Wyo., 25-19, 14-25, 25-16
Sturgis Brown High School def. Kadoka, 27-25, 25-20
Sturgis Brown High School def. Philip, 25-17, 25-22
Sturgis Brown High School def. Upton, Wyo., 25-17, 25-22
Sturgis Brown High School def. Wall, 22-25, 25-14, 25-19
Final=
Belle Fourche def. Edgemont, 25-21, 25-18
New Underwood def. Custer, 18-25, 27-25, 25-18
Gettysburg Tournament=
Faulkton def. Gettysburg, 25-16, 25-14
Faulkton def. White River, 25-13, 25-20
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Gettysburg, 25-23, 25-20
White River def. Gettysburg, 25-23, 19-25, 25-11
Wolsey-Wessington def. Faulkton, 22-25, 25-6, 25-23
Wolsey-Wessington def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-17, 25-23
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-14, 25-14
Great Plains Lutheran Tournament=
Britton-Hecla def. Freeman, 25-16, 20-25, 25-20
Britton-Hecla def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-23, 25-22
Castlewood def. Freeman, 25-14, 25-11
Castlewood def. Milbank, 25-21, 25-23
Deubrook def. Estelline-Hendricks, 25-23, 16-25, 25-22
Deubrook def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-17, 25-13
Deubrook def. Milbank, 25-12, 25-14
Estelline-Hendricks def. Castlewood, 25-18, 20-25, 25-21

Estelline-Hendricks def. Florence-Henry, 25-16, 25-12
Freeman def. Florence-Henry, 25-11, 25-21
Great Plains Lutheran def. Florence-Henry, 21-25, 25-20, 25-21
Milbank def. Britton-Hecla, 21-25, 25-16, 25-23
Pentagon Tournament=
Arlington def. Menno, 25-10, 25-9
Canton def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-20, 25-14
Canton def. Menno, 25-12, 25-10
Chester def. Sioux City, North, Iowa, 25-19, 25-16
Colman-Egan def. Miller, 25-13, 25-20
Colman-Egan def. Wagner, 25-22, 25-18
Dakota Valley def. Warner, 25-20, 25-22
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Rapid City Christian, 25-19, 25-20
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Gayville-Volin High School, 26-24, 25-13
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. St Thomas More, 25-23, 21-25, 25-23
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Winner, 25-16, 25-18
Ethan def. Menno, 25-15, 25-17
Gayville-Volin High School def. Hill City
Gayville-Volin High School def. Rapid City Christian
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Ethan, 25-16, 25-18
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Hanson, 23-25, 26-24, 25-16
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-22, 25-19
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. Chester, 25-14, 25-19
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. Dakota Valley, 25-8, 25-19
MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa def. Sioux Falls Christian, 25-23, 25-19
Miller def. Gayville-Volin High School, 25-23, 22-25, 25-19
Miller def. Hill City, 25-3, 25-19
Miller def. Rapid City Christian, 25-13, 25-23
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Menno, 25-15, 25-16
Parker/Marion def. Canistota, 25-8, 25-10
Parker/Marion def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-11, 29-27
Sioux Falls Christian def. Chester, 25-11, 25-13
St Thomas More def. Wagner, 22-25, 25-21, 25-17
Wagner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-22, 25-19
Wagner def. Winner, 25-22, 25-21
Warner def. Chester, 21-25, 25-23, 28-26
Warner def. Sioux City, North, Iowa, 25-15, 25-8
Western Christian, Iowa def. Dakota Valley, 25-15, 25-17
Western Christian, Iowa def. Sioux Falls Christian, 25-18, 25-14
Western Christian, Iowa def. Warner, 25-18, 25-20
Wessington Springs Tournament=
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Howard def. James Valley Christian School, 25-17, 20-25, 25-18
Howard def. Lower Brule, 25-23, 25-12
James Valley Christian School def. Lower Brule, 25-15, 27-25
Jones County def. James Valley Christian School, 25-21, 25-22
Jones County def. Wessington Springs, 25-21, 25-19
McCook Central-Montrose def. DeSmet, 21-25, 25-22, 25-17
McCook Central-Montrose def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 27-25, 16-25, 25-17
McCook Central-Montrose def. Wessington Springs, 25-18, 25-17

Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Lower Brule, 25-15, 25-18
Wessington Springs def. DeSmet, 25-22, 27-25
West Central def. Jones County, 25-21, 25-8
West Central def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-22, 25-14
West Central def. Wessington Springs, 25-19, 25-16

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

Johnson, Basinger combine for 4 TDs to help South Dakota State run over Eastern Illinois 42-7

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Josiah Johnson and James Basinger each had over 100 yards rushing and two touchdowns apiece to lead South Dakota State to a 42-7 victory over Eastern Illinois on Saturday night.

Johnson carried the ball 14 times for 121 yards and Basinger had nine totes for 116. Corey Blair Jr. added 80 yards rushing with a score for South Dakota State (4-1), ranked second in the Stats Perform poll.

Johnson had an 18-yard touchdown run in the first quarter and Basinger added a 39-yard TD run midway through the second as the Jackrabbits took a 14-7 lead into halftime.

Basinger broke loose for a 48-yard touchdown run, Blair scored from 61 yards out and Johnson's 55-yard run into the end zone made it 35-7 late in the third quarter.

Josh Holst's 16-yard touchdown pass to Ben Brooks ended the scoring with 10:33 left in the game.

The Jackrabbits generated 597 yards of offense, 408 on the ground, and held the Panthers to 196 overall.

Cole LaCrue completed 6 of 16 passes for 85 yards and had a 9-yard touchdown run in the second quarter for Eastern Illinois (1-4).

Up next

Eastern Illinois: At Gardner-Webb on Oct. 10

South Dakota State: At Illinois State on Saturday.

Brungard scores 3 rushing TDs and Wyche-El adds 2 in Youngstown State's 47-28 win over South Dakota

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Beau Brungard ran for 170 yards and three touchdowns, Lynn Wyche-El scored twice on the ground, and Youngstown State rolled past South Dakota 47-28 on Saturday.

The Penguins (2-2, 1-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked 11th in the Stats Perform poll, outgained the eighth-ranked Coyotes (3-2, 0-1) 502-332.

Youngstown State scored less than three minutes into the game, as Wyche-El scored his first touchdown from 10 yards out to cap a seven-play, 75-yard opening drive.

Brungard gave the Penguins the lead for good with 7:26 remaining in the first on a 2-yard rush, and Wyche-El tacked on a 41-yard dash to the end zone early in the second quarter.

South Dakota cut the lead to two points in the third on Jackson Proctor's 22-yard touchdown run, but Youngstown State answered with three second-half scoring drives to secure the win.

In addition to his rushing performance, Brungard threw for 159 yards and one touchdown on 13-of-17 passing.

Proctor ran for 36 yards and two touchdowns for the Coyotes, while Austyn Modrzweski was 16-of-22 passing for 147 yards and a score.

Graydon Rollins paced Youngstown State with 17 total tackles and 0.5 sacks. Cam Smith and Darvens Tunis each grabbed interceptions.

Up next

South Dakota: hosts Indiana State next Saturday.

Youngstown State: at Southern Illinois next Saturday.

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Hurricane Nolo skirts Hawaii but could still unleash powerful winds, flash flooding

By EUGENE GARCIA and GREGORY BULL Associated Press

HILO, Hawaii (AP) — Hurricane Nolo just skirted the Hawaiian Islands as it gained intensity on Saturday, but officials said it still posed a risk for flash floods, dangerous winds and extreme surf in areas recovering from previous storms.

Nolo was churning very slowly south of the Big Island with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph (150 kph). Its center was about 165 miles (266 kilometers) south-southwest of Hawaii's southernmost point and it was forecast to strengthen into a major hurricane late Sunday and early Monday while traveling westward to the south of the islands.

A hurricane watch was canceled and direct landfall by the storm's center was not expected. But forecasters said its outer bands could cause life-threatening flooding and mudslides, with parts of the Big Island expected to see rainfall totals up to 20 inches (51 centimeters). Heavy rain also was expected on the other islands.

"Don't venture out if you don't have to into the dangerous flooding environment, but also high winds. We can have trees and power lines down," said Michael Brennan, director of the National Hurricane Center.

Heavy rain continued to fall across the southern part of the Big Island in the afternoon, leading to partial closures of one of the main highways connecting Kailua-Kona in the west to Hilo in the east.

Near the community of Naalehu on the island's southern point, National Guard members were seen guiding a man who was driving across flooded streets as he tried to leave his home in the heavy downpour. More than 120 guard members were activated on the island, part of roughly 400 statewide after the governor issued an emergency proclamation.

The humanitarian nonprofit group CORE and other partners spent the week packing and shipping supplies like camp stoves and hygiene products by air cargo from Oahu to the Big Island for a community relief hub that has been active since August's Hurricane Lala.

Residents are still recovering from Lala, which produced heavy rain and winds strong enough to sweep about 100 homes off their foundations on the Big Island.

Hawaii prepares for northern edge of Nolo

About a dozen people were in the water Saturday morning at Carlsmith Beach Park in Hilo on the Big Island, despite signs saying the strand was closed. Andrea Gill was out for her regular swim before heading back home to hunker down with family.

Shop owners boarded up businesses, and events were canceled. Gill said storms are common, but hurricanes are rare. She was holding out hope that the islands might not get the full impact.

"We're used to lots of rain. We're not used to wind. So it's always a blessing when we don't get the wind from the hurricane," Gill said.

President Donald Trump approved an emergency declaration Friday, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate assistance and provide funding support.

Hawaiian Electric, the state's primary utility, said crews helping restore power in Kauai after this month's Hurricane Lowell returned to Oahu, Maui and the Big Island in response to the storm.

On Maui, a brush fire broke out on the west side of the island Saturday, prompting mandatory evacuations for some residents and shutting down parts of a highway. The fire was burning near the Olowalu area, about 7 miles (11 kilometers) south of Lahaina, the site of the 2023 deadly fires. County officials set up two evacuation centers to the north and south of the fire.

The weather service issued a high wind warning for parts of Maui Saturday evening, meaning winds could be at least 40 mph (64 kph) with gusts over 60 mph (97 kph).

The Pacific has been unusually active this season, according to National Weather Service lead forecaster Bob Oravec, with storm activity running above average during what is already the peak of hurricane season. He said that pattern is consistent with El Niño years, when the Pacific often sees more tropical storms and hurricanes.

Powerful Polo on forecast path toward Mexico

Meanwhile Mexico was under the threat of Hurricane Polo as it headed toward the Baja California Peninsula after bringing storm conditions to the southwestern coast. Polo had maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (220 kph), making it a Category 4 storm, but it was expected to weaken somewhat before making landfall Monday.

One of the towns in the hurricane's projected path is San Juanico, a small fishing community on Baja's Pacific coast where access to basic needs is already fickle.

"Our people are concerned about this event," said Gloriely Robles Meza, a manager at a small hotel. "We haven't faced such a worrying situation in many years."

The town has only had full-time electricity for a couple of years, and it still experiences frequent outages. Without power, residents can't refrigerate food or pump water. The closest gas station is so far away that fuel is stored in and sold from tanks, and supply frequently runs out if there is high demand.

Robles Meza said the community feels left to brace itself for the storm without the help of authorities.

"We must prepare on our own — each of us protecting our homes and belongings," she said, adding that she wished officials would preposition heavy machinery for clearing roads, along with emergency generators.

For now, she said, the only plan is to convert the local elementary school into a shelter.

"While this is important, we also have other impacts to consider," Robles Meza said, like what the town will do if it is cut off from help.

San Juanico has experienced late-summer storms, but Polo feels different, said Jeffrey Westman, an American who was first drawn to the town's world-class surf break 40 years ago and owns a property there.

Washed-out roads could block access to the closest medical facility, about 80 minutes away in Ciudad Constitucion.

Westman, 63, said he hopes Polo behaves as some past storms have, losing intensity before reaching the peninsula.

"A lot of times they do start petering out," he said. "I'm hoping that's the case."

Gunmen target ambulance in Pakistan after suicide bombing at checkpoint killed 12

By ISHTIAQ MAHSUD and MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP) — Gunmen opened fire on an ambulance attending the scene of a suicide bomb attack at a roadside police checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan that killed at least 12 people on Saturday and wounded about 35 others, officials said.

The attack involving an explosives-laden vehicle occurred in Dera Ismail Khan, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said Bilal Faizi, a spokesman for the provincial emergency service. Local police chief Safdar Baloch said most of those killed and wounded were security personnel and passersby.

The blast destroyed the sprawling checkpoint, and witnesses said gunshots were also heard after the attack.

Faizi said gunmen opened fire on an ambulance as emergency crews transported victims to a nearby hospital, killing a rescue worker and wounding two others. Two women and a child were among those killed in the suicide bombing, he said.

The Pakistani Taliban, formally known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan has experienced a surge in militant violence in recent years, much of it claimed by the TTP and the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, a separatist group primarily active in neighboring Balochistan province.

The TTP is separate from but closely allied with Afghanistan's Taliban, which returned to power in 2021.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack, offered condolences to the victims' families.

Zardari described the targeting of civilians and law enforcement personnel as "highly condemnable" and called for intensified action against the Pakistani Taliban, which he accused of carrying out "heinous and brutal acts" with foreign support.

Pakistani officials have repeatedly accused Afghanistan's Taliban government of allowing TTP members to operate from Afghan territory and have demanded that Kabul prevent cross-border attacks. Afghan authorities deny permitting their territory to be used for attacks against other countries.

Saturday's bombing came two days after fighting along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border killed at least 13 Afghan Taliban fighters, according to Pakistan's government. The clash followed Pakistani strikes this week on suspected militant hideouts inside Afghanistan.

The renewed hostilities threaten mediation efforts by China, Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia aimed at securing lasting peace between the neighboring countries.

Dera Ismail Khan is near South Waziristan, a former militant stronghold where Pakistan's military has conducted several operations in recent years.

Militants frequently target security forces in the region. In December 2023, a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the main gate of a police station in Dera Ismail Khan, killing at least 23 security personnel in one of the area's deadliest attacks. Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a small militant group believed to be an offshoot of the TTP, claimed responsibility.

A persistent nor'easter batters US Northeast, causing coastal flooding, outages and at least 1 death

By LEAH WILLINGHAM and DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A slow-moving, powerful storm crept along the coast of the U.S. Northeast on Saturday, producing high winds that caused power outages while whipping up big waves and heavy rains that created dangerous conditions.

The New York City Housing Authority said one of its employees was killed by a fallen tree in Brooklyn, as the storm pelted the city with rain and strong winds. Emergency crews in mid-Atlantic and New England states raced to restore power after downed trees contributed to outages for about 100,000 customers in the region.

Tens of millions of people remained in the path of the nor'easter for Sunday, with major flooding forecast for some coastal areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency said response coordination centers in impacted regions were operating at an "enhanced posture," and teams were on standby in New England in case of widespread outages.

The forecast showed no immediate reprieve. There will be "a lot of high winds, a lot of high tides and heavy rain possibility over the next few days for the northeastern U.S.," said Bob Oravec, lead forecaster with the National Weather Service in College Park, Maryland.

The highest tides were likely to occur north of Atlantic City, New Jersey, from Saturday night into Sunday, creating the potential for widespread road flooding in coastal and bayside communities, the National Weather Service said.

"Anyone who goes in or near the water this weekend is literally gambling with their life," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

In New Jersey and New York, some people kayaked down flooded streets. Others headed to beaches to try to surf the higher-than-usual waves. Emergency crews in Sea Bright, New Jersey, rescued a woman and her dog after their vehicle became trapped in floodwaters, ABC7 reported.

High waters overtake roads and businesses

In the coastal New Jersey borough of Surf City, Kenny Formica sat at home watching surveillance cameras showing water rising inside the marina he owns. Water getting inside the building is rare, Formica said. The last time he remembers it happening was during Hurricane Sandy in 2012, which he said caused more than $4 million in damage to his business.

Ahead of the storm, workers secured dock lines, moved loose items and equipment out of harm's way

and parked the marina's trucks and forklifts at the highest point of the property.

Formica said he awoke to messages from customers reporting missing boats and Jet Skis. One customer sent him a video around 4 a.m. showing his 25-foot (7.6-meter) boat after it had blown off its lift.

Farther south, in Norfolk, Virginia, Ellie Hodge watched from her front stoop as passing vehicles left wakes. The coastal city saw isolated flooding all week because of the nor'easter.

"We've seen cars get stuck on the road, going up the sidewalks," Hodge said. "It's been pretty bad this time around."

Flights, concerts and sports events scrapped

The storm forced a change of plans for many people. Hundreds of flights were canceled at Boston Logan International Airport, as were the vast majority of flights at the popular Massachusetts tourist destinations of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

Farther south, a flooding-related highway closure on North Carolina's Hatteras Island scrambled Jayden Sink and Kimberly Laprad's wedding plans. The Virginia couple made it onto the island before the storm, but most of their roughly 45 guests were stranded on the other side of the closure, the Island Free Press reported. A local campground offered a new venue, cabins and an officiant, and a DJ volunteered to provide music.

The road to the island remained closed, and a ferry also was out of service, leaving boat travel through bad weather as the only option, said Drew Pearson, emergency management director for North Carolina's Dare County. The island has a year-round population of about 5,000 that swells much higher in warm weather, he said.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation said it would soon begin emergency ferry service between Hatteras Island and the mainland.

"To folks on Hatteras, you are not on an island all alone," Gov. Josh Stein said on social media. "North Carolina and county emergency responders are working hard to keep you safe and reconnected as quickly as possible."

Officials urge caution

Nor'easters are not unusual as New England moves into the fall season, but "this might be a little earlier than average for a big storm," said Oravec, of the National Weather Service.

The storm's slow movement could worsen beach erosion by subjecting the coast to a prolonged period of strong winds and waves, he said.

Hochul said coastal flooding was the biggest threat, but heavy rains, powerful winds and waves as high as 20 feet (6 meters) were also expected.

In Long Island, ferry owner Stephanie Sherman paused operations between Patchogue and the barrier island of Fire Island.

"It's been a pretty wild storm," Sherman said. "But nothing that we haven't experienced in the past. These happen every so often."

Trump attends Texas-Tennessee game with no apparent disruption to coaches' communications

By JIM VERTUNO and TERESA M. WALKER AP Sports Writers

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Encouraging fans to get inside Neyland Stadium earlier than usual with President Donald Trump coming to Tennessee's college football game against Texas sure worked Saturday.

Security checks on the stadium's perimeter went relatively smoothly with Tennessee officials opening the stadium 30 minutes earlier than normal. Fans got half-price off concessions as a reward for showing up early, and Tennessee faithful had the stands half full 90 minutes before kickoff and nearly packed an hour before.

Those in their seats were treated to a low-altitude flyover by Air Force One as the president came into town with the Volunteers and Longhorns warming up on the field below. Trump landed at 11:28 a.m. EDT ahead of the noon kickoff, according to reporters traveling with the president.

Trump's motorcade arrived at Neyland Stadium just as the national anthem was being sung at 11:59 a.m. Trump pumped his fist a couple of times when shown in his seat on the videoboards with Tennessee's U.S. senators on either side. One of them, Marsha Blackburn, is running for governor of Tennessee.

The president's motorcade left at 2:07 p.m. with the game in the second half.

The president's visit didn't appear to affect communications between coaches and players on the field thanks to some coordination before Saturday's game.

Longhorns coach Steve Sarkisian said earlier this week that teams had to be ready to lose all communication on their headsets between coaches on the field and the players "anytime (Trump) enters the stadium, leaves the stadium or changes locations within the stadium."

ABC/ESPN reported Saturday that both schools worked with the Secret Service on audio channels in hopes of keeping communications clear, noting an official timeout for a serious disruption could be an option.

The Southeastern Conference matchup between the No. 1 Longhorns and No. 14 Volunteers in Knoxville already was one of the biggest games in the country this weekend. Trump came to watch Texas quarterback Arch Manning play for the first time in the stadium where his uncle Peyton became famous.

How a presidential visit can affect radio communications

Trump has attended more college football games than any recent sitting president, and he arrived in Knoxville in the midst of a midterm election season and a heated debate over the role of money in college sports that Congress is trying to resolve. He has attended national championship games and regular season contests in the SEC and Army vs. Navy.

He also attended Game 3 of the NBA finals between the New York Knicks and San Antonio Spurs in June, went to the 2025 Daytona 500 car race, and presented the World Cup trophy to Spain at the final in July. And last year, he was the first president to attend a Super Bowl. He left the Super Bowl after halftime.

Headset communications emerged as the latest subplot surrounding this presidential visit. Coaches communicate with each other on their headsets throughout the game and also call in plays to the quarterback. Disruptions to those communications, from a deafening crowd, technical glitch or presidential security measure, can present problems for coaches and teams.

Coaches involved in last season's College Football Playoff championship between Miami and Indiana in New Orleans cited that game as an example of how Trump's movements affected them.

Trump left in the fourth quarter of a tense Indiana 27-21 victory. Sarkisian said Miami coach Mario Cristobal told him Trump's leaving at that point disrupted communications on the Hurricanes' final possession, which ended with a game-clinching interception.

Indiana coach Curt Signetti disputed Sarkisian's version of events around the final drive. But Cignetti noted communications briefly cut off in a key moment of the fourth quarter as Indiana was trying to protect its lead.

In his weekly radio show on Thursday, Cignetti recalled that when Trump left the game "around the 7-minute mark … there were two or three plays we couldn't hear at all."

That included a misdirection touchdown run by Miami's Malachi Toney.

"Communication device came back right after the (Toney's) touchdown," Cignetti said. "And we had no problem the rest of the game."

According to the media pool report of Trump's movements at the game, the president left the stadium with "with just under 8 minutes left in the 4th quarter."

The White House on Friday insisted Trump's departure caused no problems for the teams.

"No, President Trump's departure from the CFP championship in January did not cause headset or comms issues for the teams," the White House posted on X.

It's unclear if Trump's presence at other games like the Super Bowl have created issues. An NFL spokesman declined to comment Friday when asked if league officials work with the Secret Service when a president attends a game like the Super Bowl to minimize any impact on team communications.

Trump's visit to Neyland Stadium

University of Tennessee officials sent a midweek advisory encouraging fans to arrive "significantly earlier" than for a typical game. Neyland Stadium has an official capacity of 101,915 with this game the 30th

consecutive sellout.

Fans were warned of the Secret Service conducting enhanced screening at the stadium gates and to "expect increased wait times as kickoff approaches."

Russian and Ukrainian strikes leave 10 dead as Trump calls on Zelenskyy to 'settle with Putin'

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian attacks killed four people across Ukraine, officials said on Saturday, while Ukraine continued to target Russian oil refineries and industrial sites with long-range drones.

The intensifying aerial war between Moscow and Kyiv came as U.S. President Donald Trump said he hoped Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy would "settle" with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia has struck Ukraine with cruise and ballistic missiles, glide bombs and jet-powered drones while front-line progress has slowed, some 4½-years after Moscow launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

"It is essential that our partners not forget: Russia is escalating every single day. If the Russians have chosen to make their strikes even more brutal, the world must choose stronger responses to keep the war from spreading further," Zelenskyy wrote on Saturday.

He listed "numerous strikes on residential homes" in the cities of Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia, and the Odesa, Sumy, and Kharkiv regions.

Two women in Zaporizhzhia died when they were trapped beneath the rubble of their home, Zaporizhzhia's regional military administration said. A separate Russian attack on the city of Sumy also killed two people, local officials said.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, two people were injured overnight in the Kyiv region after a Russian drone strike sparked a fire at a warehouse in the Boryspil district. Russian drones also struck several districts of the capital, injuring four people and damaging residential and office buildings, officials said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Saturday that the attack on Kyiv damaged a data center supporting mobile internet services and Starlink satellite communications.

Drones target Russian refineries

Separately, Ukraine continued to target Russian oil refineries and industrial sites with long-range drones. A Ukrainian drone attack in Russia's southern Krasnodar region killed three people and wounded two, local officials said Saturday.

Regional Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev said in a post on Telegram that the attack sparked fires at two industrial sites but provided no further details.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later said that Kyiv had damaged the region's Ilsky oil refinery.

Ukrainian attacks also killed three people overnight in the Russian-occupied part of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, Moscow-installed regional head Yevgeny Balitsky said Saturday, according to Russian state media.

Trump says he hopes Zelenskyy will 'settle' with Putin

Trump commented on Saturday on his meeting with Zelenskyy at the U.N. General Assembly, saying that he hoped the Ukrainian leader would "settle" with Putin.

After Tuesday's meeting, Zelenskyy told journalists that he trusted the White House could help end Russia's invasion of his country, even as attacks by both sides intensified.

While campaigning for reelection in 2024, Trump claimed he could broker an end to the war almost immediately. The conflict has continued, but Trump said Saturday that Zelenskyy and Putin were "going along" and that "someday, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, maybe before the heavy winter, they'll make a deal."

"You know what I want him to do? Make a deal," Trump said, referring to Zelenskyy. "I want him to settle with Putin, and I want Putin to settle with him."

While in New York, Zelenskyy also appealed to the United Nations for countries to deprive Russia of revenue through sanctions and trade restrictions, denying Moscow the money it needs to prolong the war. Despite years of diplomatic efforts, however, there has been no breakthrough toward ending the conflict.

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China and US agree to establish AI safety channel and continue trade and military talks

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — China and the United States agreed to establish a channel for handling AI-related incidents and accelerate work on military crisis communications following a three-day summit between President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump in Washington, the two governments said Saturday.

They also agreed to continue cooperating through a Board of Trade focused on selected bilateral issues. The White House said the board began operating this week.

The summit produced no major breakthroughs, but analysts said the steps toward greater cooperation were important because they established working groups that could help prevent disputes from escalating.

Xi returned to Beijing on Saturday, according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency. During the visit, Trump displayed unusual warmth toward Xi, despite having escalated a trade war with China the previous year that had global repercussions.

The two sides agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding on strengthening crisis communications and preventing crises between the two militaries, China's Foreign Ministry said Saturday in its readout. The one-page statement from the Chinese side was light on details.

Both sides will set up a communication mechanism for artificial intelligence -related incidents, to discuss related risks and benefits, with an AI-specific dialogue scheduled for November.

Trump indicated on Saturday that there would be limits on what the U.S. would share with China and said that Washington would not slow its AI efforts.

The "United States of America is not going to be putting on brakes," Trump told reporters outside the White House. "They want to stop our progress because we're leading China by a lot and we're going to keep it that way."

He added: "I would rather not integrate because we're leading by a lot. When you're leading, you don't open it up to each other. We're leading by at least a year, maybe a year and a half. Some people say two years. I'm not looking to open it up."

The statement from China said both sides will continue to work together on the pledge to reduce reciprocal tariffs on roughly $30 billion worth of goods. During the summit, the two leaders agreed to extend a trade truce by two months. The White House statement said China agreed to import at least 10 million metric tons of coal from the U.S. in 2027 and 2028.

Most of the reduction in tariffs is aimed at non-sensitive goods, such as agricultural products or holiday decorations.

The statement from the White House also said the two sides continued to work on American concerns about rare earths supply, "with the goal of ensuring shipment levels return to appropriate levels." China put export controls on rare earths last year in response to the U.S. tariffs, cutting the supply sent to the U.S. and other countries.

Both sides agreed to meet at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen, China, in November, and then later at the G20 at the Trump National Doral Miami golf club in Florida.

Both governments said Iran should honor its stated commitment not to develop nuclear weapons. They also said no country should charge tolls on international waterways, an apparent reference to the Strait of Hormuz, where traffic has fallen significantly since the U.S. war with Iran began.

The U.S. statement welcomed China's decision to impose export controls on two additional precursor chemicals used to produce fentanyl. Both sides also noted recent arrests in fentanyl-related cases.

Although the summit did not resolve the countries' fundamental differences, analysts said the incremental progress was noteworthy.

"Personal diplomacy between the two leaders is important, but the emphasis on working-level engagement, military-to-military dialogue and crisis-management mechanisms suggests an effort to make that stability more durable and institutionalized," said Wang Zichen, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing-based Center for China and Globalization.

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Kennedy Center put off planned repairs despite known structural issues, former employees allege

By ALI SWENSON Associated Press

Kennedy Center officials were long aware of serious structural issues that they cited as new problems after the abrupt decision to close the performing arts venue this month, a group of former employees allege in a letter to Congress.

The center's executive director and chief operating officer, Matt Floca, did not treat the roofing issues as priorities and in April halted a funded plan to address them, according to the letter Thursday signed by David Seide, a lawyer representing the anonymous whistleblowers.

Floca denied their allegations, saying recent investigations of the leaks exposed new hazards at the building.

In a September court declaration, Floca noted there were "acute risks to public safety" when the aging building temporarily closed its doors after an inspection of a deteriorating roof terrace canopy and a partial ceiling collapse. The former employees, however, claim those "acute" issues were known previously by Floca, who joined the Kennedy Center as vice president of facilities in 2024.

"More than one year ago, Mr. Floca had requested and received the needed funds to remediate the New Problems he references," Seide wrote, citing President Donald Trump's tax cut and spending bill that he signed in the summer of 2025. "Yet six months ago – with the funds in hand – he stopped the remediation process from moving forward." In the legislation, Congress earmarked $257 million for the Kennedy Center.

The letter, first reported by The New York Times, is the latest in a series of tensions over an iconic Potomac River waterfront building that has become a focus of the Republican president in his remaking of the nation's capital in his second term. Trump has installed his own leadership to the center's governing board and had his name placed on the building before a judge ruled the new lettering was illegally added and ordered it removed.

The Trump-aligned board voted earlier this month to close the center indefinitely for repairs hours after U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper blocked its plans to return Trump's name to the building.

Cooper has told the center that it must give 30 days' notice before making any major physical changes to the building, including demolishing it, as Trump has threatened. The Kennedy Center leadership also must file a status report no later than Friday on the temporary closure and emergency repairs.

Asked for a response to the whistleblowers' claims, a Kennedy Center spokesperson sent a written statement from Floca, who said the safety of patrons, artists and staff is his priority.

"The Kennedy Center has known for years that the roof overhang leaked," he wrote. "What we did not know until this summer was how far the damage had spread inside it."

Floca added that rather than halting design plans in April as the whistleblowers alleged, he had reassigned the work to a more comprehensive plan because the contractor's quote for the initial plans were nearly three times the expected cost.

"That was a change in the approach to procuring and delivering the work, not a determination that the work was unnecessary," Floca wrote.

Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, the top Democrat on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, wrote Floca on Thursday after receiving the whistleblower letter. Whitehouse said the documents showed Kennedy Center leadership had "hoarded" congressionally appropriated funding for repairs "while blaming previous leadership for the state of repairs."

"My initial investigation into misconduct at the Center focused on cronyism and corruption, with documents demonstrating considerable excessive and self-serving spending under President Trump's chairmanship," Whitehouse said. "The documents that I attach today seem to reveal deeper financial mismanagement."

A spokesperson for the committee's Republican majority did not immediately reply to a request for comment Saturday.

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House Democrats plan vast oversight of Trump administration. Impeachment is an option

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats are preparing a vast oversight agenda, with investigations of President Donald Trump, his family and his administration if the party sweeps control of the chamber from Republicans in the November elections.

The undertaking is as robust as it is daunting, spanning several House committees. With majority power comes bigger budgets and staff, and the ability to investigate, subpoena and potentially course-correct what the Democrats say are widespread corruption and abuses of power. Impeachment of the Republican president and Cabinet officials is not off the table.

"There is a cost to the American people of the out-of-control corruption," said Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, who is in line to become House speaker if Democrats win control at the Capitol.

"If folks have been stealing from the American people, shortchanging the American people or screwing over the American people," Jeffries said, "we are going to hold the crooks accountable."

Congress has enormous ability to conduct oversight of the executive branch as part of its power as a coequal branch of government, and a road map for the Democratic-run investigations has already been set by the almost daily letters lawmakers send to the administration and in amicus court filings.

Democrats are asking about the money-making by Trump and his family, whose wealth has grown dramatically since he returned to the White House in January 2025. They are investigating the potential civil rights violations of Americans killed protesting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations and of detained immigrants being deported to faraway countries. They have fought the closing of the Kennedy Center, launched investigations into private funding of the America at 250 celebrations and tracked the shuttering of federal operations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development.

New questions emerge daily, including the Trump family's recent acknowledgment that a weekend wedding party for the president's son Donald Trump Jr. was partly funded by a Russian oligarch, with reportedly close ties to the Kremlin.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., who is in line to become the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, characterized the issues involved as "gargantuan."

"We need to zero in quickly on the forms of systemic corruption that have cost the public huge amounts of money," Raskin told The Associated Press, "and where there are legislative cures available."

Trump impeachments made history then. Could it happen again?

Jeffries will almost certainly be under pressure from the far left to move more swiftly to articles of impeachment against Trump, who during his first became the first president to be twice impeached by the House. Both times, he was acquitted by the Senate.

Impeaching the president a third time may not hold the currency that it once did. Democrats will more likely focus their impeachment efforts on Cabinet members. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth already faces articles of impeachment from a Republican, Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, over his leadership at the Pentagon and his management of the Iran war.

"We haven't ruled anything out," Jeffries said recently about the tools available to Congress, "and we haven't ruled anything in."

The White House is likely to play hardball if confronted with investigations, and Democrats are bracing for an administration that potentially ignores subpoenas or refuses to turn over paperwork that lawmakers are demanding.

The Democrats are also reaching beyond the administration into various corporate and business entities for potential wrongdoing.

'We'll act like the Congress,' says one Democrat in line to lead a committee

Ranking Democratic lawmakers who are in line to lead committees if power shifts are beginning to chart the investigations they plan to tackle.

Rep. Robert Garcia of California, the top Democrat now on the Oversight and Government Reform Com-

mittee, has outlined five priorities, including Trump family business dealings, the administration's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein investigation and ICE operations.

"We're already doing work," Garcia told the AP.

He also mentioned the Department of Health and Human Services under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., as well as broader allegations of corporate corruption.

The top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, whose jurisdiction includes the State Department, said the committee plans to investigate Trump's international dealings, including around the Iran war.

He expects the committee will also look into the administration's Venezuela operations — from the military strikes on alleged drug boats in the Caribbean and Pacific waters to the U.S. partnership with a private company to develop and access the South American country's oil.

Rep. Jared Huffman of California, the ranking Democrat at the Natural Resources Committee, which overseas the Interior Department and its National Park Service operations, has begun digging into Trump's "vanity projects," including the demolition of the White House's East wing for a new ballroom and the president's proposed arch.

Huffman and other committee members have also been eyeing the Trump family's role in various minerals deals.

At the committee's last session before lawmakers recessed to campaign for the midterm elections, Huffman said that if Democrats take charge, he plans to call witnesses, put them under oath and follow the evidence where it leads.

"When people ask what will we do," he said he responds, "My answer is simple. We'll use those tools. We'll act like the Congress."

One shot or two?
What to know about HPV vaccination recommendations

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Preteens may soon have something to celebrate: Medical experts are discussing the possibility that one dose of a life-saving cancer vaccine, instead of two, may be enough to protect them.

U.S. vaccination recommendations have become splintered in the past year, with federal officials and doctors' organizations disagreeing over guidance and even battling each other in court. But both sides have been exploring revisions in longstanding HPV vaccine recommendations.

"This would be a significant shift in terms of what has been communicated for many years about the best way to protect adolescents against HPV," said Jason Schwartz, a Yale University vaccine policy researcher.

Here's a look at HPV shots, which debuted 20 years ago and may now be approaching a crossroads.

HPV is linked to thousands of cancer cases

HPV, human papillomavirus, is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S.

More than 40 HPV types can infect the genital areas of men and women, plus the lining of the mouth and throat. Certain strains are responsible for most cases of genital warts.

HPV also is a leading cause of the nearly 50,000 cancer cases diagnosed in the U.S. each year that affect those parts of the body. Indeed, about 90% of cervical cancer and anal cancers are attributed to HPV infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2006, federal health officials approved the first HPV vaccine, Merck & Co.'s Gardasil. A second vaccine was approved in 2009, GlaxoSmithKline's Cervarix.

Both vaccines are approved for use in males and females, available for kids as young as 9 to adults in their 20s. But they were prioritized for 11- and 12-year-olds, because the shots work best if given before someone is sexually active.

HPV vaccination recommendations have changed before

Initially, in 2006, HPV vaccinations were recommended only for girls and given as a series of three shots

over six months. Boys were added in 2011, a move largely intended to stop them from spreading a virus to girls that could cause cervical cancer.

Ten years ago, the government changed the dosing recommendations. It dropped the number of recommended doses from three to two after studies showed that amount offered sufficient protection. Research also suggested two doses worked better when spaced six to 12 months apart, meaning they could be given at annual checkups.

Since then, studies in multiple countries have shown dramatic decreases in infections, genital warts cases and precancerous cervical lesions.

In 2020, the American Cancer Society updated its guidelines for women, raising the age at which screenings should start to 25, from 21. The organization attributed the change to data indicating vaccinations had led to a drop in rates of cervical changes that are seen as precursors to cancer.

Evidence has continued to be favorable.

The University of Minnesota's Vaccine Integrity Project this year published a research review that found that HPV vaccines had lowered the risk of genital-area cancers in women. And a study published in April in the journal JAMA Oncology found vaccinated males are nearly 50% less likely to develop cancers of the head and neck, esophagus, anus or penis.

What's more, "the duration of protection is long," said Angela Ulrich, who led the Vaccine Integrity Project review. "We have people who are 20, 30, 40 years old who are seeing protection from the HPV vaccine."

HPV vaccination rates are lower than for other vaccines

A recent CDC report found vaccination rates against HPV were lower than the rates for some other shots adolescents get, at least partly because most states don't require HPV vaccinations as a condition of school attendance.

Still, the HPV vaccination rate has been flat for four years in a row, with about 63% of teenagers getting both doses.

It doesn't help that HPV shots are known to have a sharper sting. (Doctors have noted fainting is more common after HPV shots.)

Questions about pain are common, said Dr. Scott Hadland, who works at a Boston clinic that treats adolescents and young adults.

"Some of my patients tell me it hurts more than other vaccines they've received, but only for a moment," he said.

Also not helping lately, perhaps, is the elevation of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to U.S. health secretary. Before he was appointed to oversee federal health agencies last year, Kennedy was an attorney and consultant in lawsuits against Merck over the Gardasil vaccine, and falsely claimed the vaccine increases cervical cancer risk.

Research suggests one shot may be enough for girls

In January, Kennedy ordered the number of recommended HPV doses to be reduced to one, as part of a unilateral reduction of the childhood vaccination schedule.

That change was blocked by a federal judge's order, but it actually is something that medical experts had been considering for some time.

The idea gained attention late last year with the publication of a study in Costa Rica that tracked more than 20,000 girls over five years. It found a single HPV shot provided about 97% protection against cervical cancer, similar to two doses.

A year earlier, in 2024, research developments prompted a CDC advisory committee to form a work group to explore the possibility of a revised recommendation. That work was interrupted when Kennedy dismissed the members of the committee.

The American Academy of Pediatrics — one of the medical groups that sued Kennedy — makes its own vaccination recommendations. It has been considering a guidance change, exploring questions such as whether one dose is sufficient for at least some people and at what age vaccination should begin, said Dr. James Campbell, chair of the organization's committee on infectious diseases.

Should kids get one shot or two?

Recommendations are evolving. But right now, experts advise that kids get two shots.

While there is evidence showing one shot was sufficient for girls in preventing cervical cancer, there is less evidence about other kinds of cancer in girls. Also lacking is data on whether one shot is sufficient protection for boys against the HPV-related cancers they are at risk for, according to the Vaccine Integrity Project review.

Whether the recommendation remains two shots or is changed to one, it's important that kids get vaccinated, Hadland said.

"The benefits are very clear. It prevents cancer," he said.

Roads flood in New Jersey, inundate some homes, as major signs of nor'easter take shape

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI and LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — More than 70,000 customers were without electricity in the U.S. Northeast on Saturday, the sign of a powerful nor'easter expected to create dangerous conditions through the weekend. Forecasters warned of gale winds that could down trees and heavy inundations that could put roads underwater.

Tens of millions of people are in the path of the storm already beginning to lash the region with strong winds and rain as the region braces for much more. Dangerous flooding is expected along the Mid-Atlantic coast, particularly near New Jersey and Delaware, according to the National Weather Service.

"This storm is expected to bring major coastal flooding to the Mid-Atlantic Coast over multiple high tide cycles through the weekend," the weather service said Saturday. "Prepare immediately for significant inundation in low-lying areas near the shore, including roads underwater and impacts to homes and businesses."

In the coastal New Jersey borough of Surf City, water, with waves rippling along its surface, flooded the streets, inundating some homes. About 34 miles (54.7 kilometers) up the coast in the borough of Manasquan, where some roads were also flooding, Mayor Mike Mangan said he expected "a lot of water in the streets for a long time." A voluntary evacuation had been issued earlier in some low-lying areas of the community.

Concerts were canceled, along with dozens of flights going into airports in Boston, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard on Friday and Saturday. Several airlines were offering to waive some change or cancellation fees for some East Coast flights through the weekend.

New Jersey communities prepare for major flooding

Brian Kelly, the mayor of the tiny New Jersey beach community Sea Bright, said the borough is bracing for winds up to 50 mph (80 kph) and flooding that could reach up to 6 feet (1.8 meters) on some streets. Officials expect the flooding to start Saturday and worsen by midday.

"It's going to be worse than average. We do have probably one or two flooding events a year, sometimes more, sometimes less, but I think this one will be closer to an Irene-scale flooding event," Kelly said, referencing the 2011 storm that caused major flooding in the Northeast. "I hope I'm wrong, but that's my gut feeling."

Kelly hopes hundreds of residents living in low-lying areas will consider evacuating. He said the town will open its recreation center for evacuees.

Damaging winds threaten coastal New England

Peak wind gusts could approach 60 to 65 mph (97 to 105 kph) on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket on Friday night and Saturday, compared with about 50 to 55 mph (80 to 89 kph) around Boston and 35 to 40 mph (56 to 64 kph) farther inland, according to Matthew Belk, a meteorologist with NWS in Norton, Massachusetts.

"It's definitely going to be a case of the closer to the coast you are, the more impacts from the storm you're likely to see," Belk said.

Belk said nor'easters are not unusual as New England moves into fall, but one concern this early in the

season is that leaves remain on the trees, creating more wind resistance. That could increase the risk of downed limbs, which in turn can cause power outages and leave debris in roads, he said.

Along the Atlantic coasts of New Jersey and Delaware, wind gusts could reach 60 mph (96.6 kph), according to NWS. In southeastern Connecticut and eastern Long Island, New York, gusts could get almost as high, potentially downing tree limbs and power lines.

Storm disrupts concerts, baseball and flights

More than 200 flights to and from airports in Boston, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and New York had been canceled Friday, and more cancellations were already in place for Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Red Sox announced their weekend series against the Chicago Cubs would be adjusted. The team moved the Sunday afternoon game to Friday to create a split doubleheader. Separately, Ed Sheeran announced that his high-profile Friday and Saturday shows at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, would be canceled due to the storm.

The public ferry service connecting Cape Cod with the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard was experiencing widespread cancellations Friday due to strong winds and choppy water.

In Rhode Island, ferries were also canceled for Block Island. The disrupted ferry service was expected to also spill into Saturday.

For people who regularly travel to and from the islands, the possibility of getting stuck on one side or the other is "part of life," said Sean Driscoll, a spokesperson for the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority. Most people have backup plans in place for when boats are canceled.

"It's a nuisance, but you know, we know what to do with this kind of stuff at this point," he said. "This is not out of the realm of ordinary."

Ashley Destino of Gloucester, a coastal city in northern Massachusetts, enjoyed a stroll along the beach with her two young children before preparing to hunker down at home during the storm.

"We came to the beach on Friday afternoon because we knew we were going to be inside all weekend," said Destino, who has Legos and arts and crafts activities prepared to entertain her two children, ages 7 and 4.

She also prepared by securing her boat with additional lines, and her husband pulled out a generator in case the electricity goes out.

As work requirements kick in for Medicaid, some states are taking a tougher stance

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Work requirements for some Medicaid beneficiaries begin across the U.S. in January, the result of President Donald Trump's big 2025 tax cut and policy law, and a handful of Republican-led states are imposing tougher rules than the law requires.

At issue is how someone can prove they are too medically frail to work. While federal regulations say the state can take the recipient's word for it for the first year, at least six states are requiring documentation immediately. There is a continuing push in other states to follow suit eventually.

Advocates say that could create problems, especially for new applicants to the joint state-federal health insurance program for lower-income people.

"Someone may not be able to work, but they can't see a doctor because they can't afford it. So they're now applying for Medicaid," said Jennifer Tolbert, director of state health policy and data at the research organization KFF. "But Medicaid is saying you need documentation from a provider."

As some Republican-led states take a tougher-than-required approach to implementing the federally mandated changes, Democrats in 25 states are suing and asserting that the rules are too harsh.

Some say documentary evidence is necessary to avoid fraud

The Medicaid changes are projected to save the federal government $887 billion over the next decade and result in 7.5 million fewer people with health insurance, according to the Congressional Budget Office's 2025 estimate.

The conservative Foundation for Government Accountability has been pushing states not to make it too easy for people to avoid work requirements, saying able-bodied adults are pushing enrollment and costs higher.

Jonathan Ingram, vice president of research and policy at the group, has been encouraging states not to take a beneficiary's word for it, a process known as self-attestation.

"Self-attestation is fraud-by-design," he said via email. "It is a policy developed by bureaucrats to maximize enrollment at the expense of program integrity."

Self-attestation comes under penalty of perjury, so people who lie can be subject to criminal charges — though such charges are rare.

Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Ohio all have laws or policies that bar self-attestation to qualify for the work requirement exception starting next year.

Republican Missouri state Rep. Darin Chappell said he worked with the Foundation for Government Accountability to craft a proposed amendment that would have enshrined Medicaid work requirements in the state constitution. It would have required "documentary evidence" of work or reasons for exemptions, specifically prohibiting self-attestation.

The amendment passed the Missouri House but died without a vote in the Senate. Chappell plans to try again next year.

"If someone has a debilitating physical ailment — or mental ailment for that matter — something that prohibits them from working, that's totally legitimate," he said. "But we're not taking anybody's word for it. I don't mean to shock you none, but people do tend to lie about such things."

Most nondisabled beneficiaries under 65 already work

The new mandate applies to up to 20 million lower-income adults without children at home who are enrolled in Medicaid through an optional expansion in 40 states and the District of Columbia. The requirement does not apply in the 10 states, mostly in the South, that did not expand Medicaid.

Beneficiaries will have to work or volunteer at least 80 hours each month or be in school at least half-time to qualify, with exceptions for situations including medical frailty.

The law had said medically frail people include those who have substance use disorders, disabilities or serious medical conditions. But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published a rule in June that went further and was stricter than states and providers expected, saying someone's condition must "significantly impair" their ability to work, volunteer or attend school as required for an exemption.

Currently states generally decide once a year whether Medicaid recipients still qualify for benefits. The new law will require it to happen twice for most enrollees.

States will be allowed to accept self-attestation just once each time a person enrolls starting in 2028. After that, documentation would be required at least every 12 months to verify that they still have the condition and that it still prevents them from being able to work.

The government expects states to rely increasingly on third-party data — on things such as workers' compensation claims or prescription information — to help make determinations. For conditions that do not show up in the databases, states can require a doctor's certification, a disability award letter or other proof.

While states have been ramping up the use of this information, the work requirements are still a big change, and many will first have to spend millions of dollars improving their computer systems.

States are already struggling in some cases to make changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance food program, or SNAP, that are required under Trump's law, including an expanded work requirement.

In Arizona, for example, enrollment plummeted by 55% from April 2025 to April 2026 — the biggest drop in the country — with more than 400,000 fewer people getting benefits now. Last month, the state said that was largely due to difficulties in putting in place new federal requirements that resulted in higher call volumes and additional verification.

Patient advocates worry aid will be denied to qualified people

Ingram said some of the concerns about ending self-attestation are overblown and people can get diagnoses to support their inability to work at many places, including charitable clinics and federally quali-

fied health centers. He also noted that Medicaid allows retroactive coverage for doctor visits that happen before enrollment.

Patient advocates say it's not that simple.

"The added paperwork, the hoops you have to jump through lead to coverage loss," said Nate Crippes, a lawyer at the Disability Law Center in Utah, where a law allows self-attestation to qualify for the work requirement exception on a provisional basis.

An added challenge is that most people in the Medicaid expansion group in his state have a mental health or substance use disorder diagnosis — or both.

"We're choosing to make people with health conditions jump through a bunch of hurdles," said Camille Richoux, health policy director at Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

It can be tricky if states decide to rely partly on patient diagnosis codes to determine whether recipients are able to work.

Lucy Dagneau, senior director of the state and local campaigns team at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said the codes do not indicate the severity of a condition. For example, some patients with a specific cancer can continue working, she said, but others who are in more advanced stages cannot.

"Our fear is by that banning self-attestation, unfortunately, the state lawmakers who pass those laws are going to have a hand in more people losing coverage in their state than would have," she said.

Today in History: September 27, Taliban take power in Afghanistan

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2026. There are 95 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 27, 1996, the Taliban, the extremist Islamic movement in Afghanistan, drove the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani out of Kabul, the capital, and executed former President Najibullah.

Also on this date:

In 1779, John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War's peace terms with Britain.

In 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1940, Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact, formally allying the World War II Axis powers.

In 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

In 1979, Congress gave its final approval to forming the U.S. Department of Education.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a televised address that he was eliminating all U.S. ground-launched battlefield nuclear weapons and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture.

In 2013, President Barack Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani spoke by telephone, the first conversation between American and Iranian leaders in more than 30 years.

In 2018, Christine Blasey Ford testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that she was "100 percent" certain that she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh when they were teenagers, and Kavanaugh then told senators that he was "100 percent certain" he had done no such thing. Kavanaugh was confirmed on Oct. 6 of that year.

In 2021, R&B singer R. Kelly was convicted in a sex trafficking trial in New York after numerous allegations of misconduct with young women and children; a federal appeals court upheld the convictions and his 30-year prison sentence in 2025.

In 2023, NASA astronaut Frank Rubio set a U.S. record of 371 days in space, returning to Earth from the International Space Station with Russian cosmonauts Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin.

In 2024, an Israeli airstrike killed one of the founding members of Lebanon's Iranian-backed militant and political group Hezbollah. Hassan Nasrallah was killed in a precision attack as Hezbollah leaders were meeting at their headquarters in a suburb south of Beirut.

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Today's Birthdays: Musician Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 83. Actor Liz Torres is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is 77. Singer and actor Shaun Cassidy is 68. Comedian and podcaster Marc Maron is 63. Actor Gwyneth Paltrow is 54. Actor Indira Varma is 53. Musician-actor Carrie Brownstein is 52. Actor Anna Camp is 44. Rapper Lil Wayne is 44. Musician Avril Lavigne (AV'-rihl la-VEEN') is 42. Actor Jenna Ortega is 24. Actor Janice LeAnn Brown is 16.