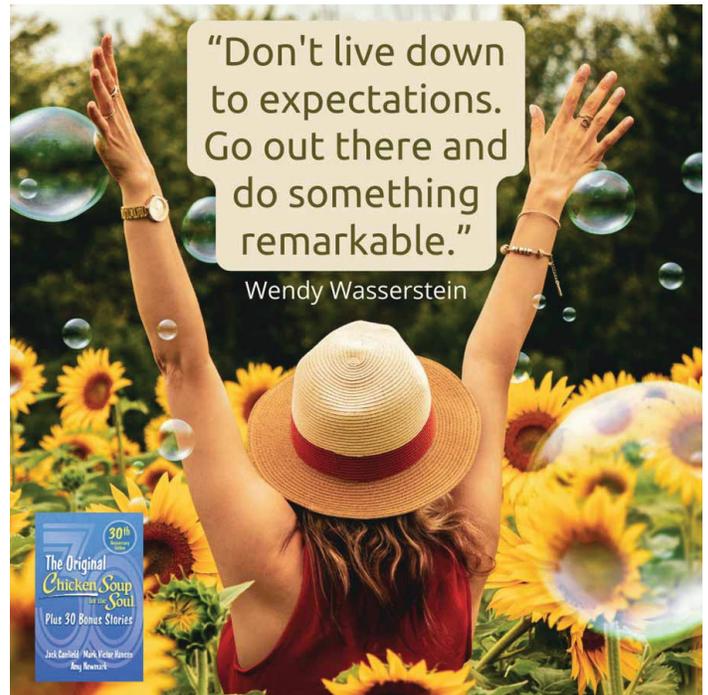


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Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, July 2

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion (Conde at 8:30 a.m., Groton at 10:30 a.m., coffee hour at 9:30 a.m.)

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

Monday, July 3

Senior Menu: Chicken and rice casserole, mixed vegetables, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

Food Pantry Closed

Tuesday, July 4

Olive Grove: His/Her Firecracker Tourney.

Wednesday, July 5

Senior Menu: Beef stew, biscuit, Waldorf salad, muffin, tomato juice.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Circles potluck and joint Bible study, 6 p.m.; Game/Project night, 7 p.m.

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

Chamber Meeting, noon, at City Hall

Olive Grove: Kid's Lessons

Jr. Legion hosts Watertown, DH, 5 p.m.

U12BB hosts Borge, DH, 5:30 p.m.

U10 R/W hosts Webster, DH, 6 p.m.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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

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Farm Hand Wanted

Farm hand (Groton, Brown, South Dakota): Plant, cultivate & harvest crops. Apply fertilizers & pesticides. Operate, maintain and repair farm equipment. Repair fences and farm buildings. Follow all work and food safety protocols. Req: 6 mns rel exp. Mail resume to Shawn Gengerke Farms, 12702 406th Ave., Groton, SD 57445.

Help Wanted

THE GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT has openings for the following certified positions for the 23-24 school year: K-12 Vocal Music Teacher, HS Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor. Applicants should complete and submit the certified staff application form along with a current cover letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation. All materials should be submitted to Joe Schwan, Superintendent PO Box 410 Groton, SD 57445. EOE

For Sale

2010 Hitchhiker Discover America 345 Uk 5th wheel trailer, 36 feet long, 3 slides, \$17,000 or best offer. Can be seen at 715 N 2nd Street, Groton by calling 605-216-6468.

GROTON'S EVENTS



July 4 Firecracker
Tourney at Olive
Grove Golf Course

July 9 Summer
Fest/Car Show at
the City Park



July 20 Pro Am
Tourney at Olive
Grove Golf Course

July 20 Summer
Downtown Sip &
Shop



Aug. 4 Wine on Nine
at Olive Grove Golf
Course

Aug. 10 Family Fun
Fest

COME SPEND A WEEKEND IN GROTON!

- 5 camping spots with full-service hookups
- play centers and permanent corn hole boards
- swimming pool with slide and diving board
 - 3 diamond baseball complex
- 9-hole golf course • bowling alley

GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

120 N Main St., Groton, SD 57445

605-397-8422

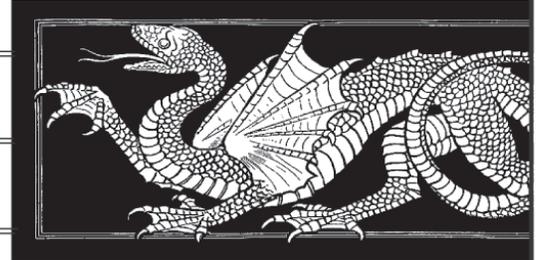
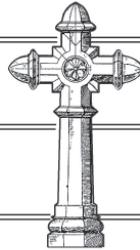
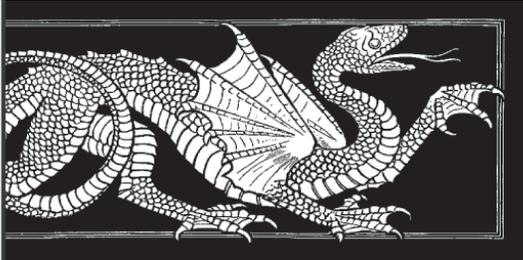
GrotonChamber.com

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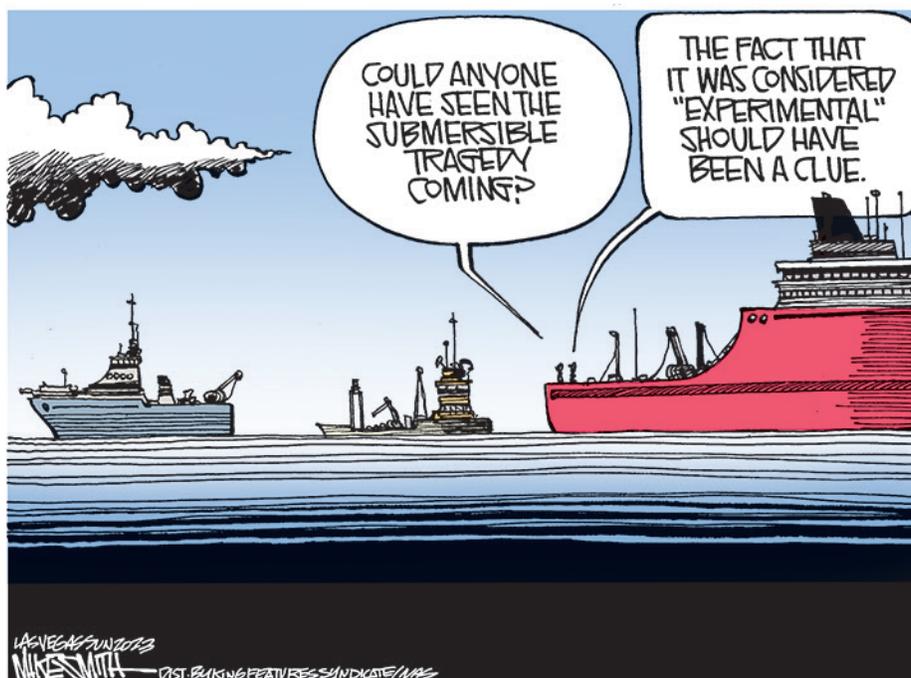
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

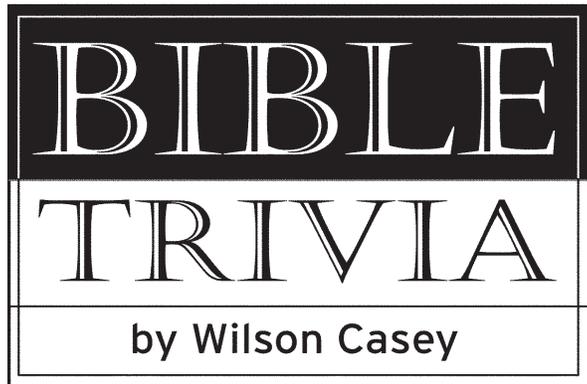


*For many deceivers have gone out into the world,
those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh.
This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves,
that you do not lose what we have accomplished,
but that you may receive a full reward.*

2 JOHN 1:7,8

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

2. From Galatians 5:13, “Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through _____ serve one another.” *Friendship, Honesty, Love, Hope*

3. From 2 Corinthians 3:17, “Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is _____.” *Hope, Freedom, Love, Liberty*

4. From John 8:36, “If the _____ therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” *Heart, Worship, Celebration, Son*

5. From what book’s 6:7 does it say, “For he that is dead is freed from sin”? *Isaiah, Daniel, Mark, Romans*

6. How many times is the word “independence” mentioned in the Bible? *0, 2, 11, 17*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Love, 3) Liberty, 4) Son, 5) Romans, 6) 0

“Test Your Bible Knowledge,” a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

7-2

AFTER HAVING STRUCK DALE...

...MING'S HENCHMAN FALLS UNDER FLASH'S BLISTERING ASSAULT!

WHAM!

DALE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

JUST A LITTLE GROGGY...

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME?

THE ROCKETSHIP WE FIRST CAME TO MONGO IN...

YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD... I HAD A HUNCH YOU'D COME DOWN HERE.

LOOKS LIKE YOU FAILED, MING. ONCE SOURPUSS HERE FESSES UP TO FRAMING US, WE'LL BE IN THE CLEAR.

I'LL NEVER BETRAY THE MASTER!

CLICK CLICK

YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT...

MY BELT, WHA... AAAAAH!

BZZZZZZ ZASK!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, GORDON...

CLICK CLICK

KA-BOOM!

THIS WHOLE PLACE IS WIRED!

DALE! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

NEXT: AFTERMATH!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

TODAY, LAY UP ON #4

DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL WHEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE.

FORMULATING A GAME PLAN AHEAD OF THE ROUND WHEN THERE'S NO PRESSURE AND YOU CAN BE REALISTIC, WILL HELP YOU STAY ON AN EVEN KEEL.

JM

PLAN YOUR PLAY MENTALLY HOLE-BY-HOLE, RELATIVE TO YOUR PRESENT SKILL LEVELS AND THE PERSONAL PAR THEY ADD UP TO THEN STICK TO YOUR PLAN AGAINST ALL TEMPTATIONS.

YOUR 18-HOLE SCORE COULD PLEASANTLY SURPRISE YOU.

4 410 YDS PAR 4



How Certain Diet Styles Work to Lower Heart Disease Risk

DEAR DR. ROACH: Which diet styles in particular are associated with a lower risk of heart disease? Many people get confused about what a healthy diet actually consists of. Is a Mediterranean diet easier than an extreme low-fat diet? — *D.H.H.*

ANSWER: There are several styles of diet that have been proven to be healthier than a typical North American diet. Two of the best that have been studied are the ones you mentioned — the extreme low-fat diet and the Mediterranean-style diet — but there are many others that show benefit and a few that show harm.

In a landmark study published by Dr. Dean Ornish in 1998, intensive lifestyle changes reduced the amount of heart disease (measured by blockages in the heart arteries) more than those in the control group without medication. This remarkable result required a diet that was mostly vegetarian (egg whites and only 1 cup of milk a day) and no more than 10% fat (the average American diet is 30% to 35% fat).

In addition to dietary changes, participants performed aerobic exercise (3 hours per week), stress management (1 hour per day) and group psychosocial support (4 hours twice a week), and they also had a 100% smoking cessation rate. It is unclear how much of the benefit in reversing heart blockages is due to diet and how much is due to other beneficial behavior changes, or whether they all worked together (which seems likely to me).

The Mediterranean diet, when studied, also reduced risk of heart disease, with a roughly 30% relative-risk reduction in heart attack, stroke or death due to heart disease. This diet is characterized by:

— High consumption of plant foods (fruits, vegetables, legumes, cereals, nuts and seeds)

— Frequent but moderate intake of wine (especially red wine) with meals

— Moderate consumption of fish, seafood, fermented dairy products (yogurt and cheese), poultry and eggs

— Low consumption of red and processed meat as well as sweets

There isn't a doubt that the Mediterranean diet is much easier for most to comply with. The two diets haven't been compared, so I can't say which is better, but I more commonly recommend the Mediterranean diet. However, I do not recommend drinking wine for any kind of health benefit. Exercise, stress management and psychosocial support would be likely to improve outcomes with any kind of favorable dietary change.

The DASH diet — a lower-salt diet with 4 to 5 servings of fruit, 4 to 5 servings of vegetables and 2 to 3 servings of low-fat dairy per day, with less than 25% of daily caloric intake from fat — has been shown to reduce blood pressure. Moreover, in people with high or normal blood pressure, this diet lowers risk of colorectal cancer, cardiovascular disease and premature mortality. It's also easy to maintain.

Many people ask me about ketogenic ("keto") diets, which typically involve large amounts of meat and, consequently, a high proportion of protein and fat. Although these types of diets can cause short-term weight loss, a recent study showed these diets unfortunately increased cholesterol levels and more than doubled the risk of adverse cardiovascular outcomes (heart attack and death).

So, I recommend against following this type of diet and remind readers that weight loss does not necessarily translate into better health. As the above studies have shown, a person of any weight can better their health by having a more plant-based diet, getting regular exercise, managing their stress and receiving psychosocial support. The changes you make do not need to be extreme in order for you to receive better health.

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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"Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody" (PG-13) -- The biographic film based on the life of music legend Whitney Houston is now out on streaming. Naomi Ackie ("Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker") portrays Houston as she gets her big break when a producer hears her singing at a nightclub. The film then walks viewers through Houston's greatest moments during the 1980s and 1990s, including her performance of the National Anthem at Super Bowl XXV as well as her roles in films such as "The Bodyguard." Even though the film digs deeper into her more personal relationships with notorious bad boy Bobby Brown and close friend/lover Robyn Crawford, the screenplay itself comes across a bit generic and surface-level. Ackie, and other cast members like Ashton Sanders and Stanley Tucci, do their best to make the script come to life. (Netflix)

"House of Hammer" (TV-MA) -- The past few years have been tumultuous for actor Armie Hammer ("The Social Network," "Call Me By Your Name"), after allegations of physical, sexual and emotional abuse came out against him from several women in January 2021. Even though the charges were recently dropped against Hammer due to insufficient evidence, a three-part documentary series breaks down the horrific allegations, tying Hammer's manipulative behavior back to the sociopathic patterns of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him. Casey Hammer, Armie's aunt, also appears in the documentary to give insight into the secrets of her family, spanning back to oil tycoon Armand Hammer (1898-1990), and how it all eventually trickled down to her nephew. Out now. (MAX)

"80 for Brady" (PG-13) -- Four elderly best friends -- Lou, Trish, Maura and Betty -- are die-hard fans of the New England Patriots football team, specifically Tom Brady, the team's quarterback. While making plans to watch Super Bowl LI, Lou throws around the idea of watching the game in-person. When Lou announces that they won tickets from a radio show giveaway, the foursome make plans to travel to Houston to watch their dream team play, but they soon lose the tickets, forcing them to find another way inside. Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field star in this playful comedy, with Brady, of course, making a few appearances. Premieres July 4. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Reality Check" (NR) -- Three years after his last comedy special that took place in the living room of his Los Angeles home, Kevin Hart is back with a new special -- this time with material from his "Reality Check" tour, which he embarked on late last year. In this special, Hart focuses on topics similarly covered in his past specials, like his family life and fame, but he claims to be even more unfiltered than he's been before. With no short supply of curse words or crude jokes, Hart takes the stage with a bat in hand, just in case he needs to "knock someone's head off." (Somewhere in the distance, you can hear Chris Rock quietly taking notes.) "Reality Check" premieres July 6, on the comedian's 44th birthday. (Peacock)



From left, Rita Moreno, Jane Fonda, Sally Field and Lily Tomlin star in "80 for Brady."
Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

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1. Which song includes the phrase, "I know" over 20 times?
2. Who wrote and released "Spirit in the Sky"?
3. Where did the Thompson Twins get their name?
4. Who sang "I'm Never Giving Up" in a Eurovision contest?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I will love you longer than forever, Promise me that you will leave me never."

Answers

1. "Ain't No Sunshine," by Bill Withers in 1971. He'd intended to write another verse instead of all the "I know" phrases but

was talked into leaving it alone.

2. Norman Greenbaum, in 1969. Greenbaum said he was inspired by watching Westerns on television to write the song.

3. From two detectives in the comic strip "The Adventures of Tintin," who looked alike but were not twins. The Thompson Twins group was never a duo, but ranged from three to seven members.

4. Sweet Dreams, in 1983. They represented the United Kingdom.

5. "The Hawaiian Wedding Song," by Andy Williams, in 1958. The song was also covered by Brook Benton, Elvis Presley and others. The original song, "Ke Kali Nei Aua" ("Waiting There for Thee"), was written in 1926 by Charles E. King, a Hawaiian legislator and songwriter.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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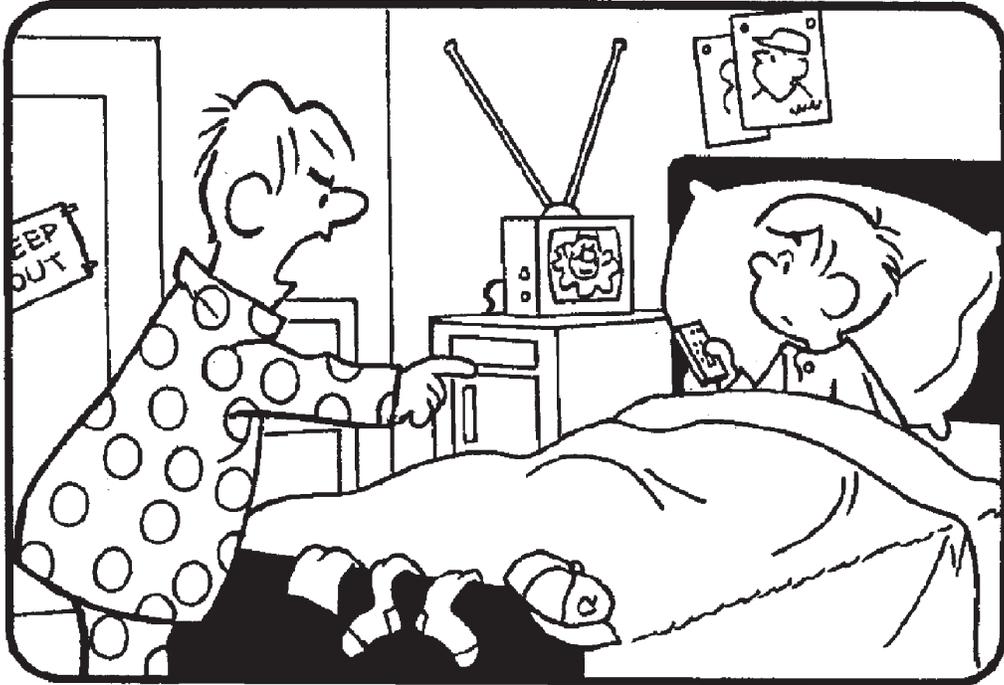


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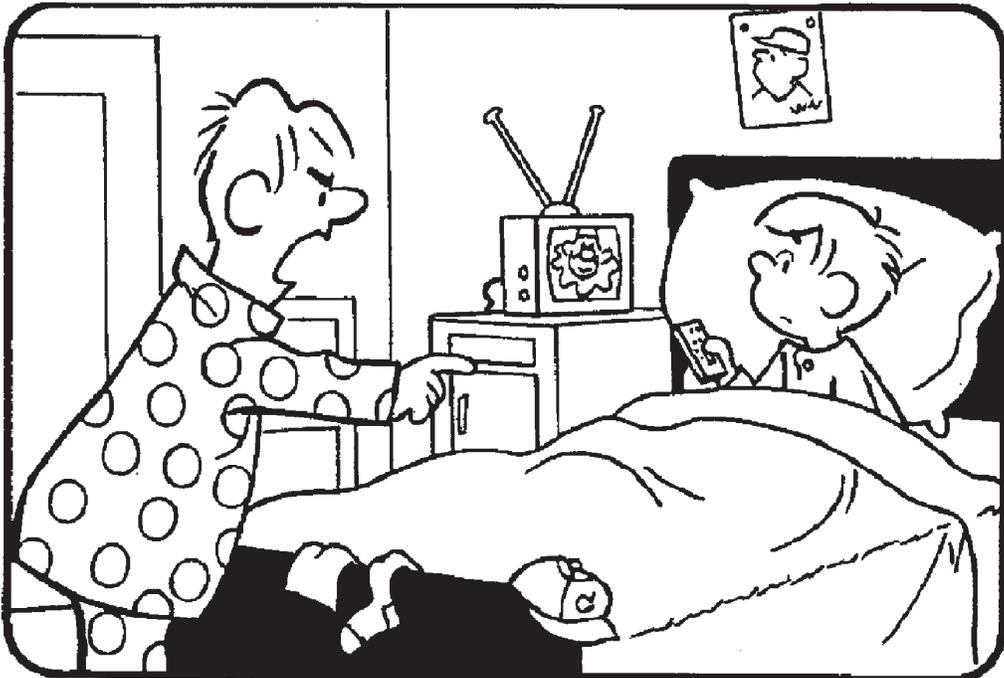
"I'll take the fifth. ... I need a drink!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Antenna is different. 3. Handle is smaller. 4. Sock is missing. 5. Cap is missing. 6. Picture is missing.

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* They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but in today's digital age, storing and displaying our treasure trove of images can take some craft work. For a lovely, cheap display, find frames of varying designs in secondhand stores. Remove the glass and lay them out on newspaper. Spray-paint them all the same color and, when dry, frame and hang your favorites in a very cohesive grouping!

* "When on vacation, it's really easy to take hundreds of pictures, but when you upload them to the computer, it's hard to find the gems in the mass of files. Spend some time each day reviewing the pictures on your camera, and delete the redundant ones and pics that are obviously not keepers." -- E.L. in Illinois

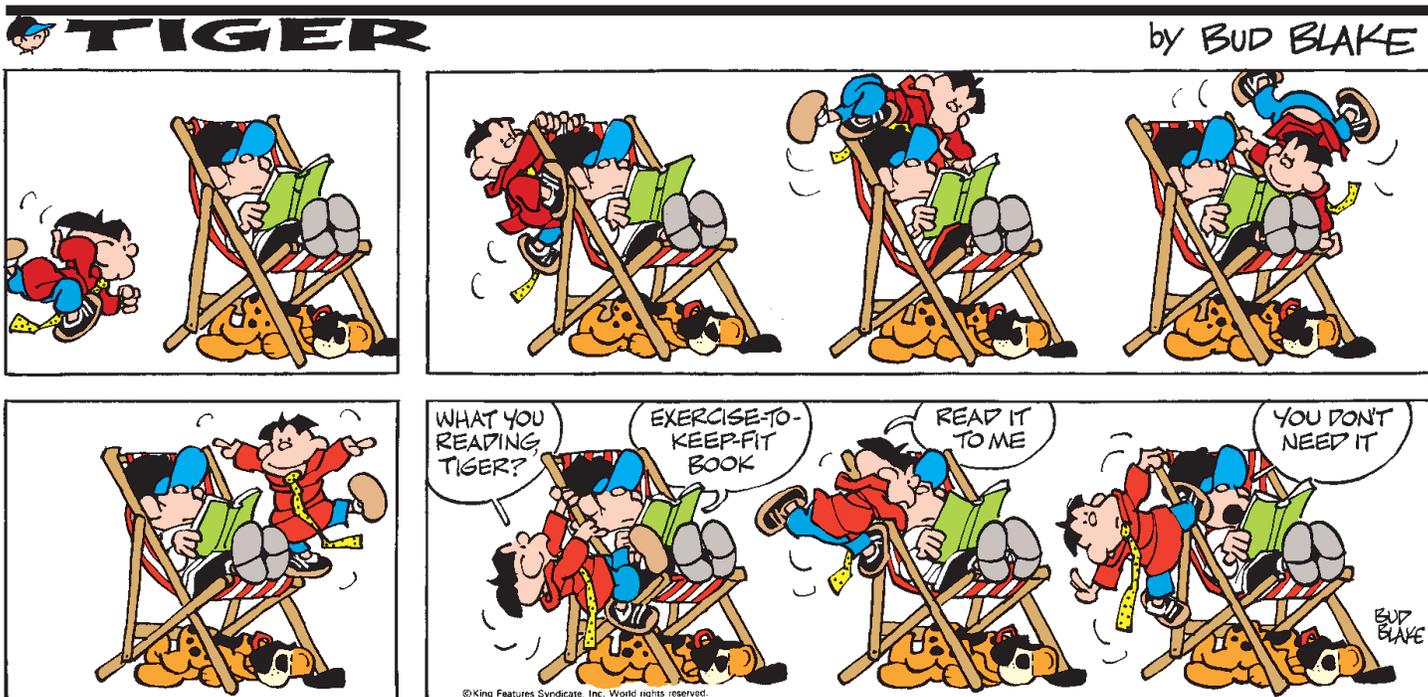
* "When my sisters and I get together (there are five of us), we each bring a flash drive with about 50 good, recent family pictures. One sister is a technical whiz, and she put all the pictures together and loads them back on the flash drives, labeled with the date. And then we all watch a picture slideshow together and share our stories." -- G.B. in Georgia

* Save your favorite family photos to a disk and give a copy to a trusted friend. That way, if anything should happen to your computer/home/etc., you'll still have those pictures.

* "My mother-in-law has a digital photo frame, and about every six months we send her a new flash drive to plug into the back of it. She does not have a computer, so she enjoys the picture show and can go back to the old pictures as well whenever she wants just by plugging a different drive into the frame. What a great way to share photos with a different generation." -- A.T. in Missouri

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Chewable stick
- 4 Parisian river
- 9 Chaney of horror films
- 12 Links org.
- 13 Leek's kin
- 14 Rage
- 15 Food's freshness period
- 17 Hardly any
- 18 Call — day
- 19 Papa Hemingway
- 21 Boot camp reply
- 24 Swelled heads
- 25 Curator's concern
- 26 Mayo ingredient
- 28 "Bullitt" director Peter
- 31 Leeway
- 33 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
- 35 Aspiration
- 36 Rapper's headgear
- 38 "Chandelier" singer
- 40 Stimp's pal
- 41 Christmas
- 43 Aged, in a way
- 45 As a whole
- 47 Perch
- 48 Zodiac feline

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
				18				19		20		
21	22	23						24				
25				26		27		28			29	30
31				32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40		
				41		42		43		44		
45	46							47				
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

- 49 Novel storage area?
- 54 Buddy
- 55 Kate's sitcom partner
- 56 Aussie hopper
- 57 Fine, to NASA
- 58 Property claims
- 59 Chopper
- 5 Blow up sword
- 6 Sundial numeral
- 7 Type of checking
- 8 Vigor
- 9 Biography
- 10 Raw materials
- 11 Salamander
- 16 Fleur-de- —
- 20 Ham's dad
- 21 Three feet
- 22 Slangy suffix
- 23 Tot's reading material
- 27 Baseball execs
- 29 Fencing
- 30 Fax
- 32 Manhandle
- 34 Football, slangily
- 37 Worldwide
- 39 Comes up
- 42 Dangerous bacteria
- 44 Sports fig.
- 45 Exile isle
- 46 Sleuth Wolfe
- 50 Flamenco cheer
- 51 Historic period
- 52 Bagel topper
- 53 Nemesis

DOWN

- 1 Family docs
- 2 "Yecch!"
- 3 Actress West
- 4 Sentimental sort

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— King Crossword —

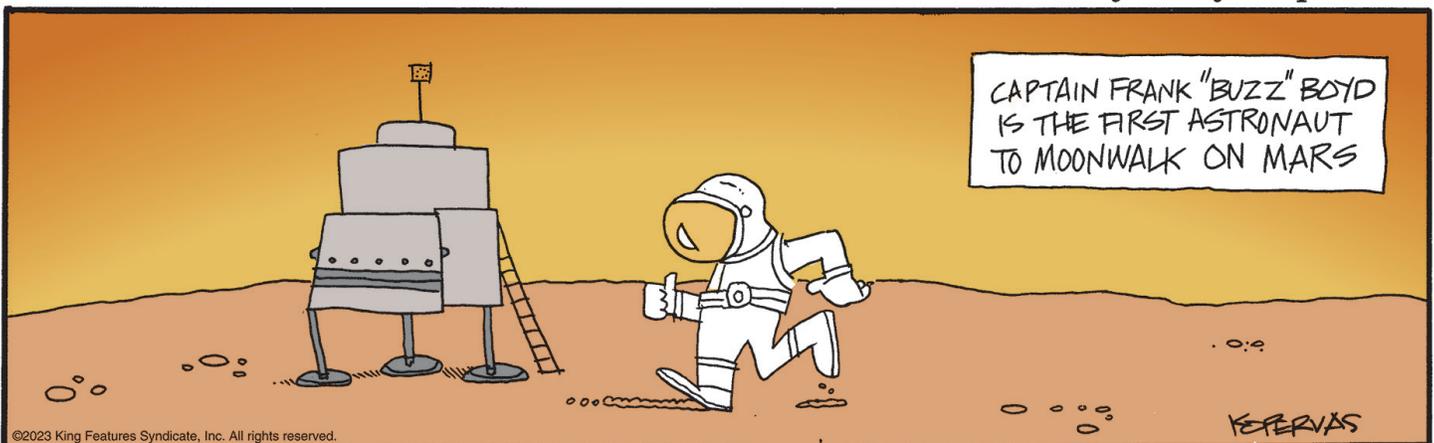
Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

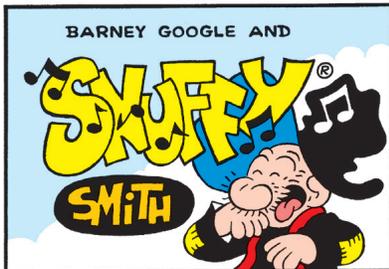
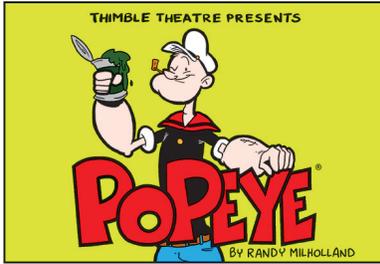
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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HAL FOSTER'S
Prince Valiant
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

EXCEPTIONAL NEWS INDEED! LADY GRUNYARD, FROM THE FAR NORTHEAST CORNER OF ARTHUR'S REALM, HAS COME FOR HER FIRST VISIT TO FAIR CAMELOT. GOSSIP AND SPECULATION HAVE PRECEDED HER AND HER RETINUE'S ARRIVAL - APPARENTLY, SHE HAS COME TO SEE HER HUSBAND.

THE LADIES OF CAMELOT ARE ALL ABUZZ WITH THE PROSPECT OF MAKING A NEW AND SOMEWHAT MYSTERIOUS ACQUAINTANCE ...

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... ESPECIALLY AS LORD GRUNYARD HAS BEEN RESIDING AT CAMELOT FOR NEARLY A DECADE, AND IS KNOWN TO BE AN ACCOMPLISHED DRUNK AND RAKE...

...WHO, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, IS AT THAT VERY MOMENT ENJOYING LIFE WITH VAL AND GAWAIN. "I HAVE COME TO COLLECT MY ERRANT HUSBAND," OFFERS A GRIM LADY GRUNYARD TO ALETA. "HIS MANOR HAS NEED OF HIM." NEXT: *The best intentions*

YEATES 5/16/12 3926

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I'M GREAT AT MULTITASKING...

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... I CAN PROCRASTINATE, BE UNPRODUCTIVE AND WASTE TIME, ALL AT ONCE.

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Are We Seniors Yet?

When do we actually become seniors? That varies, depending who we ask.

Is it age 50, when all the AARP ads come to our mailbox? Maybe it's age 60, when we can get food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or receive Meals on Wheels deliveries. Is it 62, when we can start to collect some of our Social Security? If we're taking a Gallup Poll, 65 is the starting senior age.

How about age 65, when we need to sign up for Medicare or pay a penalty later if we don't? Or is it 66 or 67, when we can collect more Social Security, or age 70, when we can collect even more? Are we finally seniors at age 73, when we need to take out some of our IRA or pay a penalty on our taxes?

Then there are those instances that vary by state or industry or location to determine if we are seniors yet: auto insurance, retirement homes or communities, cellphone service providers, restaurants, grocery stores, train travel, motels, senior low-income programs, museums, theaters and DMV in-person renewals.

Most disturbing, however, of all the senior-related numbers were the results of a poll that asked: At what age should women stop wearing jeans?

Stop wearing jeans? What kind of person even comes up with ideas like that?

It was decided, as a result of that poll, that age 53 is when women should hang up the denim.

I don't mind being asked if I'd like the senior discount in a restaurant. I don't mind being told I should apply for the local seniors electric bill help.

But I fear the day is coming when the pendulum swings in the other direction and we might have to prove we're young enough to buy a pair of jeans.

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1. What Basketball Hall of Famer was both head coach and starting point guard for the Seattle SuperSonics from 1969-72?

2. Left-handed pitcher Vida Blue won the American League Cy Young Award and was MVP in 1971 playing for what team?

3. Name the American track and field athlete who won two gold medals at the 1964 Tokyo Summer Olympics and played three NFL seasons with the New York Giants.

4. What British motorcycle race, first held in 1907, was described by Sports Illustrated's Franz Lidz as "a test of nerves and speed that may be sports' most dangerous event"?

5. Outfielder Pete Gray, who lost his right arm in a childhood accident, played one Major League Baseball season for what team in 1945?

6. Norway's Thor Thorvaldsen won gold medals at the 1948 and 1952 Summer Olympics competing in what sport?

7. What Italian racecar driver, winner of the first Formula One World Drivers' Championship in 1950, was killed in an auto accident in the French Alps while driving to the 1966 French Grand Prix?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Lenny Wilkens.
2. The Oakland A's.
3. Henry Carr.
4. The Isle of Man Tourist Trophy.
5. The St. Louis Browns.
6. Sailing.
7. Giuseppe Farina.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Please warn your readers to watch out for a new scam targeting pet owners. These despicable people look for "Lost Pet" signs and call the owner's number, claiming that they are a nearby shelter and that they've found their pet. But there's a catch: In order to get the pet back, the owner must pay the shelter using an online payment app or by sending gift cards. And here's the cruelest part: The scammers don't have their pet. They just take the money and disappear. Please sound the alarm. -- Denise O., San Francisco

DEAR DENISE: Absolutely, and thank you for this alert! Losing a pet is heartbreaking. Scammers always strike when we're at our most vulnerable, and it's easy to fall for their scheme when we would do

anything to get our pet back home.

More details on the rise of this scam in the San Francisco area can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/3dnmtsjs>.

And here's info on a similar scam in the Rochester, New York, area that targets your phone number: <https://tinyurl.com/yt96mhn9>.

If you're contacted by someone claiming to have found your lost pet, always use caution. Look for these red flags:

- The person claims you need to pay a fine to get your pet back, using an online payment service or gift cards.
- The scammer says they need to send you a Google verification code.
- The scammer refuses to send you a photo of your pet.

Here's what to do next:

- Call a friend and get their perspective. It's hard to think clearly when you're upset.
- Call the scammer's number back. If they don't answer, or it's a wrong number, it's a scam.
- Report the scam call to the local police department. They can't recover your pet, but they can alert others in your community.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* All the paint on the Eiffel Tower weighs the same as 10 elephants.

* The actual grave of Mumtaz Mahal, for whom the elaborate crypt known as the Taj Mahal was built, is the only undecorated part of the famous structure, due to a Muslim law dictating that graves cannot be adorned, as this is seen as an act of vanity.

* One ingredient in Ranch salad dressing is titanium dioxide, which is used to make it look whiter. It's also the same ingredient that's used in sunscreen and paint for coloring.

* George Washington celebrated July Fourth by giving his soldiers a double ration of rum.

* The Bagheera kiplingi spider, discovered in the 1800s, is the only species of spider that has been classified as vegetarian.

* William Moulton Marston, who created the superheroine Wonder Woman, also designed the first lie detector.

* The full name of the famous Chuck E. Cheese mouse is Charles Entertainment Cheese.

* After the release of the 1996 film "Scream," which involved an anonymous killer calling and murdering his victims, caller ID usage tripled in the United States.

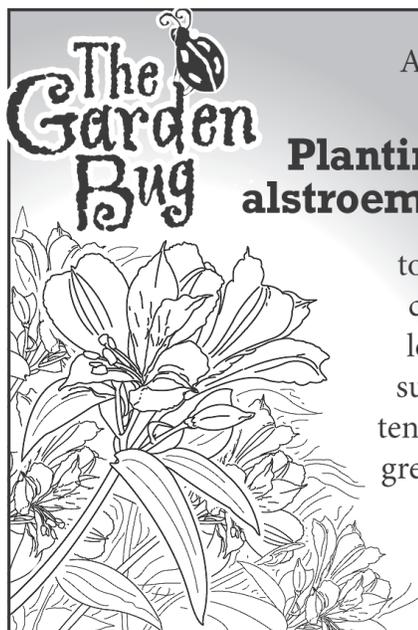
* The longest-ever cricket test match, between England and South Africa, lasted more than 12 days and finally came to a conclusion because the English team would have missed their boat home.

* There's very little evidence the TSA has ever stopped a terrorist or found a real bomb. When tested, they failed to find fake weapons and bombs 95% of the time.

* The island of Madagascar got its name when Marco Polo misspelled it.

* During the Second World War, German tank drivers would drive their vehicles over camel droppings, thinking it would bring good luck.

Thought for the Day: "In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit." -- Anne Frank
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Also known as Peruvian lily plants or "Lily of the Incas," alstroemeria like well-draining soil and lightly filtered sunshine. Whether you are adding these plants to your garden or placing them into a container, place them so that the soil level on the root ball is even with the surrounding soil. Alstroemeria plants tend to be a bit thirsty and produce the greatest number of flowers when given generous amounts of water.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.easytogrowbulbs.com



by Freddy Groves

Stolen Valor, Still

Right now in the U.S. Congress is bill S.1469 - Stop Stolen Valor for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Contractors. Its purpose is to require certification of small businesses applying for contracts. Ideally, this bill, if passed, would put more teeth into any punishment handed out for abusing the Department of Veterans Affairs small business and service-disabled veterans contract program.

Despite the laws about stolen valor, crooks still try to claim what isn't rightfully theirs.

In a recent case, a woman was sentenced to federal prison for, among other things, forging military discharge papers and claiming to have received military medals after being hit by IEDs. In this case, the woman actually worked at the VA and saw firsthand what kind of paperwork and information was required. She ended up grabbing \$250,000 from veterans charities, served as a VFW post commander and gave speeches wearing a uniform and medals she purchased online. She managed to keep up the fraud for five years. She'll be heading off to prison for six years (not nearly long enough) and will need to repay \$284,000.

Then there's the guy (a Canadian) who's been charged with violating the Stolen Valor Act by falsifying his discharge papers to indicate that he earned many medals and ribbons, including the Purple Heart. The guy did serve in the U.S. military, but he was bounced with a bad-conduct discharge and never earned a Purple Heart. He's incurred the wrath of several government agencies -- in addition to the U.S. attorney -- including Homeland Security, DMV, Border Patrol and the U.S. Air Force.

And there's the guy who claimed to be a former prisoner of war and a Navy SEAL to help him steal health care benefits and jump up a few priority groups ahead of real veterans. The thief never served.

If you suspect someone isn't who they say they are, check online databases. Look at the P.O.W. Network (www.pownetwork.org), the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (www.cmohs.org) and Home of Heroes (www.homeofheroes.com) with an alphabetical index of 120,000 actual recipients.

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Wishing Well®

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

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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1. TELEVISION: What is the name of Samantha's mother in the "Bewitched" comedy series?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the shark-hunting boat in the film "Jaws"?
3. SCIENCE: What is the most lethal consumed plant in the world?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a female goat called?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who served as vice president in Abraham Lincoln's first term as president?
6. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of alcohol is traditionally used in a drink called a sidecar?
7. LITERATURE: What city is the primary setting for Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"?
8. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system was the first to be explored by a space probe launched from Earth?
9. MUSIC: In what year did MTV launch?
10. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the famous St. Basil's Cathedral located?

Answers

1. Endora.
2. The Orca.
3. Tobacco.
4. A doe or nanny.
5. Hannibal Hamlin.
6. Brandy.
7. Verona, Italy.
8. Venus (Mariner 2).
9. 1981.
10. Moscow, Russia.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Too Great a Nation

During Ronald Reagan's first inaugural address in 1981, he spoke of the significance of American values. He said, "it is time for us to realize that we're too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams... Let us begin an era of national renewal. Let us renew our determination,

our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope. We have every right to dream heroic dreams."

This Fourth of July marks America's 247th birthday. And yet modern politicians too often struggle to rely on our founding values. They decide that small dreams are good enough – small dreams like simply throwing more government money at challenges that we face. But, as President Reagan said, America is too great a nation for that.

In South Dakota, we do not limit ourselves. We dream heroic dreams. We are the state that carved an entire mountain in dedication to America, our leaders, and our Freedom. And we continue to dream heroic dreams, today.

As Governor, it is my job to make sure that our kids and grandkids have the knowledge they need to continue the legacy of greatness we have in South Dakota. The best way to do this is to make sure we pass down our traditional American values.

South Dakota has embodied the American values of hard work and Freedom for generations. We do not need to renew our determination, courage, and strength because we have never lost it. We held true to that South Dakota grit and grind through a global pandemic, and we came out stronger than ever. We did not settle for the small dream of just surviving through the pandemic, we strived for the heroic dream of thriving through it.

Now, with the lowest unemployment in the history of the nation and open jobs to spare, South Dakota is dreaming big once again. We are showing the rest of America that Freedom Works Here. Keeping our state open worked, allowing folks to exercise personal responsibility worked, and staying true to traditional American values worked.

Since launching our nationwide workforce recruitment campaign just over a week ago, we've received more than 1,650 inquiries from folks who want to call South Dakota home. People are seeing South Dakota's success – and they want to be a part of it.

Our unique success is because of our unique people. South Dakotans haven't left tradition on the sidelines. Rather, we've embraced tradition and proven that true American values still have a place in modern society.

But what really sets South Dakota apart from the rest of the nation is our faith and our hope for the future. In Matthew 17, Jesus said, "if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Nothing can ever be impossible for South Dakotans because we have a strong faith. Our faith is what gets us through hard times – our faith in God, in people, and in the founding values of this nation. And our faith allows us to have such great hope for the future.

South Dakota will always dream heroic dreams – because America is simply too great a nation for us to offer anything less.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Believe in Freedom

In the summer of 1776, the Revolutionary War was in its second year, and the rag-tag Continental Army faced long odds for success against the British. It was under these circumstances that the delegates to the Second Continental Congress not only declared independence from Great Britain, they put forward a bold statement of self-government rooted in their belief in individual freedom. The ideas set forth in the Declaration of Independence would cement the American Revolution as a truly revolutionary moment in history.

In a world in which power was often concentrated in a single person, the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence committed to a very different idea. They said that all men are created equal, that our rights come from God, and that government's power comes from the people. These ideas are the cornerstone of our country, and they continue to inspire Americans and freedom-loving people around the world more than two centuries later. The signers could hardly have imagined at that time that their new nation would one day stretch from sea to shining sea. As the country grew, the millions of Americans seeking a new life on the frontier gave Jefferson's words in the Declaration an even greater significance.

Like many Americans, I can trace my roots to people who exemplify the idea of the pursuit of happiness. My grandfather, Nikolai, and his brother, Matthew, lived the American Dream, immigrating from Norway and finding work building the transcontinental railroad across South Dakota. They saved enough money and started a small merchandising company and, later, a hardware store in Mitchell. Like the founding fathers, these men understood that anything was possible in America.

While we celebrate our country and the freedom we enjoy, we should also take a moment to acknowledge that these freedoms have not come without sacrifice. Throughout our history, generations of Americans have left the comforts of home to fight for our country. Freedom has a special meaning to those who know what it takes to defend it. I recently had the privilege of welcoming dozens of South Dakota veterans to Washington, D.C., who were there to visit the memorials that honor their service in Korea and Vietnam. It was humbling to meet these South Dakotans and to be with them as they reflected on their service and what it has meant for our country.

On the Fourth of July, we celebrate the enduring nature of what began in Philadelphia 247 years ago. Our founding principles have been sustained by the patriotism of the American people who have fought for our country, taken risks in pursuit of a better life, and who pass our heritage of freedom on to the next generation. I'm grateful that America continues to be a beacon of hope and a bulwark for freedom.

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



The Best of the Best

This week, six proud South Dakotans began military training at their respective service academies. These young men are some of the most motivated and determined I've had the honor of nominating to the academies.

A leader in his local MCJROTC program, Jason Lenning of Harrisburg wants to major in Foreign Area Studies and Russian at the Naval Academy and then join the Marine Corps. Approximately thirty percent of Naval Academy graduates commission as Marines.

While the Kistner Family of North Sioux City was touring the Naval Academy, then-sixth-grader Lake was enthralled with the rich history and creed of the Midshipmen. He told his dad he would one day go to school there. Now he is living out his dream.

Kasey Broers of Pierre will be studying Mechanical Engineering at the Naval Academy and hopes to fly Navy jets. Ethan Fergel of Aberdeen has been preparing for West Point in the gym and is looking forward to basic training and starting his engineering program.

Dexter James of Sioux Falls and Anders Enga of Mitchell both aspire to study engineering and join the Space Force. Only about ten percent – that's about 100 people – of Air Force Academy graduates commission into the Space Force. These are not common ambitions for most eighteen-year-olds and are very inspiring.

A special hat tip to Anders for his perseverance. It is not unusual for it to take an additional year or two for students to be selected by an academy, and this was true for Anders. He decided to enroll at SDSU and the AFROTC in the interim, knowing that attending the Air Force Academy was his ultimate goal, even if it took him longer than he originally hoped.

These young men are the elite of the elite. They reaffirm that South Dakota will continue to have strong, smart leaders willing to protect and defend our great nation.

I also want to mention Maya Lee of Dell Rapids because the Air Force Academy has selected her for a prep school. This will be a great opportunity to prepare for the Academy next year.

If you know someone interested in learning more about attending a service academy, direct them to my website at dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/service-academy-nominations. Applications are due at the end of October for the Class of 2028.

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We Weren't Expecting That



Sometimes things happen that you never expected. When those unexpected things happen, if they are good, that is a blessing, if they are bad, that's a different story.

I learned this expectation of good from my good old Uncle Ted. He was a truck driver, and boy, did he have the stories to tell.

The one story I never believed was about him having lunch at a restaurant. According to his story, he would order a nice lunch, and when almost done, he would take out a hair he had brought along, put it on his plate, and called the waitress.

"Look at this hair on my plate," he said to the waitress.

Of course, she was surprised because that doesn't happen much in a restaurant. She was so frustrated that she called the manager and introduced him to my uncle. He didn't know what he was in for.

"There's a hair on my plate, which disgusts me."

The manager looked at it and did not know what to say, but finally, he said to my uncle, "I'm so sorry for this and to compensate your lunch is on the house today."

He had somewhat of a scow on his face. He looked at the manager and then looked back at the waitress and finally said, "Okay, I'll let it go this time, and I thank you for taking care of this for me. I appreciate that very much."

For many years I thought this was just one of his stories, but he, my father, and I went to a restaurant together once. I'm not sure of the occasion, but it was always fun to get together for lunch.

When Uncle Ted was just about done with his lunch, I saw him pull from his inside pocket an envelope, and when he opened it, there was a variety of hairs inside. He pulled a rather large one out and laid it on his dish. He didn't say anything but just called for the waitress.

"Look at this hair on my plate! Can you explain it?"

Of course, she couldn't, so she called for the manager to come to our table.

When he arrived, he said, "Is there anything I can do to help you men?"

"There sure is," my uncle said. "Look at this hair on my plate. Can you explain it?"

The manager was stunned when he saw the hair and, at first, did not know what to say.

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"I'm so sorry for this. Please accept my apology and lunch is on the house today."

With his familiar scow, my uncle looked at the manager, then looked back at the waitress, and then back at the manager and said, "Okay, I accept your apology and thank you for your understanding."

As my dad and I sat at that table, we did not know what to do. Was this a joke or what?

The waitress returned and told us that everything was taken care of and we didn't have to worry, and she apologized again.

When we got into our car to go home, my uncle gave a little snicker and said, "You know, that works all the time." And then he laughed.

I had forgotten about that until last week. Some of our family had gotten together to celebrate Father's Day at a very nice pizza restaurant. There were five of us plus the Princess of the Family, our six-month-old great-granddaughter. Of course, she was the center of our lunchtime, even though it was a Father's Day lunch.

We had a wonderful time, and the pizza was just delicious. It's one of our favorite pizza restaurants in town.

As we finished, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sighed deeply and said, "Oh no. It can't be?"

We did not know what she was talking about, and then she called the waiter over and showed him that in the crust of her pizza was a human hair. It was baked into the crust, and only The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would ever be able to see that.

The waiter came, and she showed him the hair, and he was rather stunned and said, "I'll go get the manager."

The manager came out, and we could tell the hair did not belong to him because he was bald. Not even facial hair.

He looked at the hair to ensure it was what she said it was. She turned out to be right, as usual.

"I don't know how that happened, and I'm very sorry. Could I bring you a free pizza?"

We told him we were full and could not eat any more pizza. Then he surprised us.

"I'm so sorry for this, and let me say right now that your lunch is on me today. This will not cost you anything."

He wouldn't take no for an answer, so we accepted his generosity.

I know The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can do anything and everything, but I never realized that she also could clone my uncle.

On the way home I couldn't help but think of Ecclesiastes 2:15, "Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity."

Instead of judging other people for what they do, I need to pay close attention to what I'm doing daily.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is it OK for the environment to use an electric bug zapper to keep the mosquitoes at bay in summer?

-- Beth L., Medford, MA

With summer comes, many of us seek solutions to combat the nuisance and potential health risks of mosquitoes. Electric bug zappers have gained in popularity, but while these little electrocution stations do kill some adult mosquitoes, many wonder what costs they may bring to ecosystems in general.

Electric bug zappers attract mosquitoes and other flying insects using ultraviolet light. Upon contact, they are electrocuted. By eliminating these pests, bug zappers help mitigate the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses like malaria, dengue fever and West Nile virus, while of course minimizing mosquito bites. Bug zappers do not rely on harmful toxins, offering a chemical-free approach to mosquito control. This is particularly significant where children, pets and beneficial insects like bees and butterflies are present.

That brings up the dark sides of electric bug zappers. For one, they can disrupt local ecosystems by indiscriminately killing various insect species, including beneficial ones. Aside from bees and butterflies, beetles and other insects that play vital roles in pollination and local ecological balance, also get destroyed, leading to overall negative consequences for plant reproduction and biodiversity.

Another drawback to electric bug zappers is that they need electricity to operate continuously. Depending on the model and usage, they can consume a significant amount of energy, thus contributing to climate change and environmental degradation if it is derived from non-renewable sources like coal or natural gas. If powered by renewable energy, such as solar or wind, their environmental impact can be mitigated.

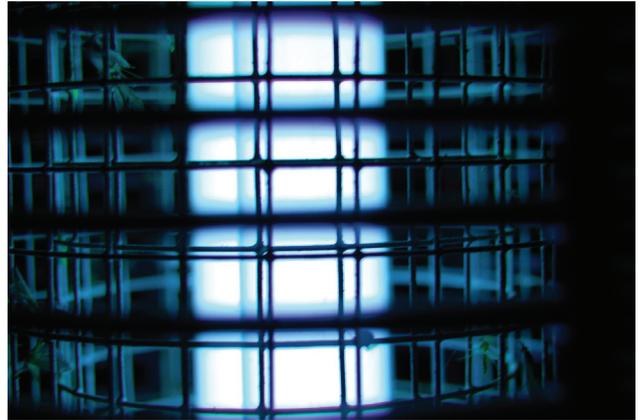
Another downside of bug zappers is their effectiveness. Studies have shown that they aren't highly effective in controlling mosquitoes. While they may attract and kill some adult mosquitoes, they do not address the root cause of mosquito infestations: breeding grounds. Mosquitoes primarily breed in stagnant water, thus eliminating these sources remains crucial for effective control. Relying solely on bug zappers may provide a false sense of security while neglecting essential preventive measures.

That said, adopting an integrated approach to mosquito control is essential. This includes eliminating standing water, using mosquito repellents and wearing protective clothing. By combining these measures, individuals can reduce their reliance on bug zappers while effectively managing mosquito populations.

Yet another way to marshal nature in keeping mosquitoes at bay is to use natural predators such as bats, dragonflies and birds to aid in mosquito control. Creating habitats that attract these beneficial species, such as water features for dragonflies or installing bat boxes, can provide long-term, sustainable solutions.

Don't have the time or wherewithal to invest in such holistic long-term solutions? Then smear on bug repellent or buy so-called mosquito control gear to keep an outdoor area the size of a typical deck or patio mosquito-free are options. Consider Thermacell's E90 Rechargeable Mosquito Repellent which runs off a rechargeable battery and can keep bugs away from small outdoor spaces as long as the wind is minimal.

• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



While electric bug zappers do kill some adult mosquitoes, at what cost to ecosystems? Credit:

David Keyzer, FlickrCC.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Starbucks union proposal arises as state's rate of organized labor hits historic low

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 2, 2023 6:00 AM

If Starbucks workers in Aberdeen succeed in unionizing, they'll achieve a rare victory in a state where the share of unionized workers has fallen to a historic low of less than 5%.

Some workers at the Aberdeen location say long hours and understaffed shifts pushed them to organize. "In the time that each of us has been on the Starbucks team, we have all seen egregious abuses of managerial and company power, in examples almost too numerous to count," workers said in a notice to Starbucks.

Starbucks' media relations department did not reply to a request for comment.

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, South Dakota's unionization rate dropped from 12.6% of workers in 1989 to 4.2% in 2022, currently standing at about 17,000 workers.

That reflects a national trend. In 1989, 16.4% of U.S. workers were in a union. In 2022, the number was 10.1%.

James Heeren is a South Dakota business agent with Teamsters Local 120, a union organization representing nearly 12,000 workers in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.

A national Starbucks movement fueled by young people who are "tired of getting the short end of the stick" is behind the unionization push in Aberdeen, Heeren said.

"The other side wants to say they're a 'woke culture,'" he said. "They're not. They're tired of working these long hours for little pay."

Heeren attributes the statewide decline in unions to a combination of factors, including a low unemployment rate and high demand for labor – which means workers can more easily leave poor working conditions to pursue work elsewhere.

"There are so many jobs out there," he said. "They can just go to a company in another state that's already organized."

South Dakota's labor laws, which are more employer-friendly, also play a role. They hinder collective bargaining efforts and weaken the overall influence of unions, Heeren said.

Jason George agrees. He's the business manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49. The union represents about 14,600 construction workers in Minnesota and the Dakotas, but only about 100 of those are in South Dakota.

"The reason for that is South Dakota's long history of anti-union sentiment," George said. "And the biggest part of that is right-to-work laws."

A right-to-work state

South Dakota is a "right-to-work" state. That means employees in unionized workplaces are not required to join or financially support the union representing them. George and Heeren said this weakens the financial stability of unions by allowing workers to benefit from the negotiated terms and conditions of the union without contributing to the union's funding.

State Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls, teaches economics at Augustana University and supports unions. He said the state's right-to-work laws are one of three main reasons unionization in South Dakota has waned in recent decades.

"It's a free-rider problem that's built into the way we negotiate, and it makes it really hard, almost impossible, to organize a union, because people can get the benefits without paying for it," Nesiba said. "And

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that was the intention.”

Nesiba said the other two factors are the large number of small firms in the state, which are “the least likely to organize,” and a “culture of work.”

“Rather than organize, South Dakotans will just go and get another job to make ends meet,” Nesiba said. “There’s a cultural commitment to rugged individualism and less of a commitment to solidarity.”

In 2021, of the state’s 461,000 workers, 33,000 (7.2%) held more than one job. Nationally, the rate was 4.6%.

David Owen is the chief lobbyist and president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He doesn’t describe himself as anti-union, but he disagrees with criticisms of South Dakota’s right-to-work laws. He said they ensure an employee is not compelled to pay dues to a union if they disagree with the union’s objectives or strategies.

“South Dakota has a rural work culture that’s more focused on the individual,” Owen said.

Owen also said many companies raised wages during the COVID-19 pandemic “like nothing I had ever seen,” which made unionization “less appealing.”

Heeren said unions are also hamstrung by South Dakota law saying an employer does not need a specific reason for firing an employee. State law says “an employment having no specified term may be terminated at the will of either party on notice to the other, unless otherwise provided by statute.” And South Dakota has limited protections for workers against employer anti-union tactics, Heeren said.

“It happens nine times out of 10: A group wants to organize, the company tries to find out who is the leader, and they try to find reasons to get rid of them prior to the election, or they try to find weak links who they can sway with more money,” Heeren said.

George said there’s another factor at play.

“You can win a union election,” he said. “But that doesn’t guarantee a contract with the employer.”

George calls that “the fundamental problem.” Unionizing means employees have the right to bargain with the employer, but George said all the employer has to do is bargain in good faith with the union for one year. He said employers sometimes “just stall it out” until that year ends, and then the employer has the right to call for a decertification vote.

“And in the eyes of the workers, they look around and go, ‘This union hasn’t done a damn thing for me,’” George said.

And while a union can strike, he said employers – particularly big corporations with shareholders – try to bring in outside labor to undermine the strike.

A bruised image in Sioux Falls

Another possible reason for the decline of unions in South Dakota is fallout from the John Morrell meat-packing strike of 1987 in Sioux Falls.

Dissatisfaction with wages, working conditions and safety problems led the plant’s union to call for a strike. But as approximately 2,500 workers walked off the job, the plant maintained operations by hiring replacements.

The strike lasted for several months, but the workers’ demands for improved conditions and wages were not met.

“Ultimately, the results of that broken strike was the beginning of the decline,” said Eric Ollila, executive director of the South Dakota State Employees Association. The group lobbies on behalf of state workers. “It was a spirit-breaker. It just felt different.”

Union-curious

George said more union interest is emerging among workers. A 2023 report by the Economic Policy Institute found an uptick in union-organizing activity nationally in 2022. The report says there is evidence many more workers would like to form a union but face barriers doing so.

George said the average heavy equipment operators building a road in South Dakota make \$25 per hour with limited benefits, while their unionized counterparts in Minnesota make \$60 an hour with a pension and family health care with no premiums.

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"These construction workers in South Dakota are suffering the anti-union sentiment, and wasting their careers," George said.

Over the past 50 years, the CEO-to-worker compensation disparity has widened. So has the country's wealth gap. Since 1980, real income of the bottom 50% of the population has grown about 20%, while the top 10% has had 145% growth.

The rising costs of having children, an education, health care and housing – plus Social Security and Medicare feeling less secure as the population ages – should all make collective bargaining in the workplace more appealing, according to Ollila, with the South Dakota State Employees Association.

"I think those concerns are driving the increased interest in unions that we've seen amongst places like the coffee shop," Ollila said. "They're looking to the future and see the value in rallying together."

Kory Rawstern, vice president of the AFL CIO South Dakota Labor Federation, echoed the point.

"We've got good working-class families where both mom and dad are working full time, and a part-time job between the two of them just to offset the cost of day care," he said. "That is not right."

Critics of unions argue they create rigid work structures and hinder the flexibility needed for businesses to adapt to changing economic conditions.

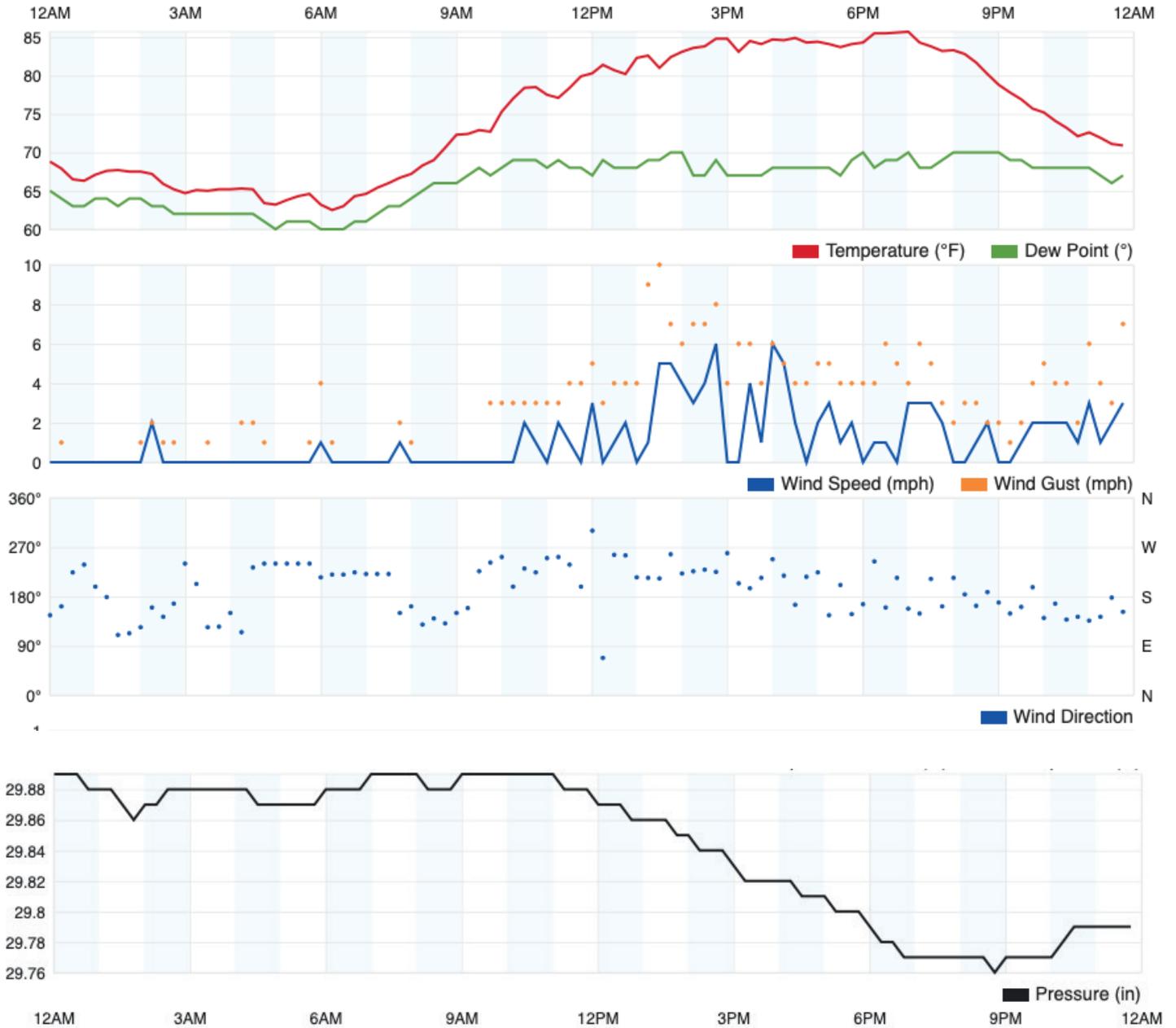
Additionally, some say unions foster an adversarial relationship between management and labor, leading to conflicts and tensions that can hinder workplace productivity.

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

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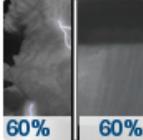
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Independence Day	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Clear	Sunny then Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely then Showers Likely	Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Showers
High: 94 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 90 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 72 °F



HOLIDAY FORECAST

Today



Highs: 88 - 94°F

Chance of afternoon/evening storms, no severe weather expected.

Monday



Highs: 83 - 93°F

Afternoon storms continuing into overnight hours, some storms could become severe.

Independence Day



Highs: 75 - 80°F

Storms continue into the morning, afternoon storms possible, marginal chance for severe weather.



The next few days will be warmer than normal. Please take precautions if you are spending time outside. Chances for afternoon and evening thunderstorms exist for the next few days with some possibly becoming severe on Monday afternoon and into Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 6:21 PM

Low Temp: 62 °F at 6:13 AM

Wind: 10 mph at 1:26 PM

Day length: 15 hours, 39 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1949

Record Low: 37 in 1945

Average High: 84

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in July.: 0.23

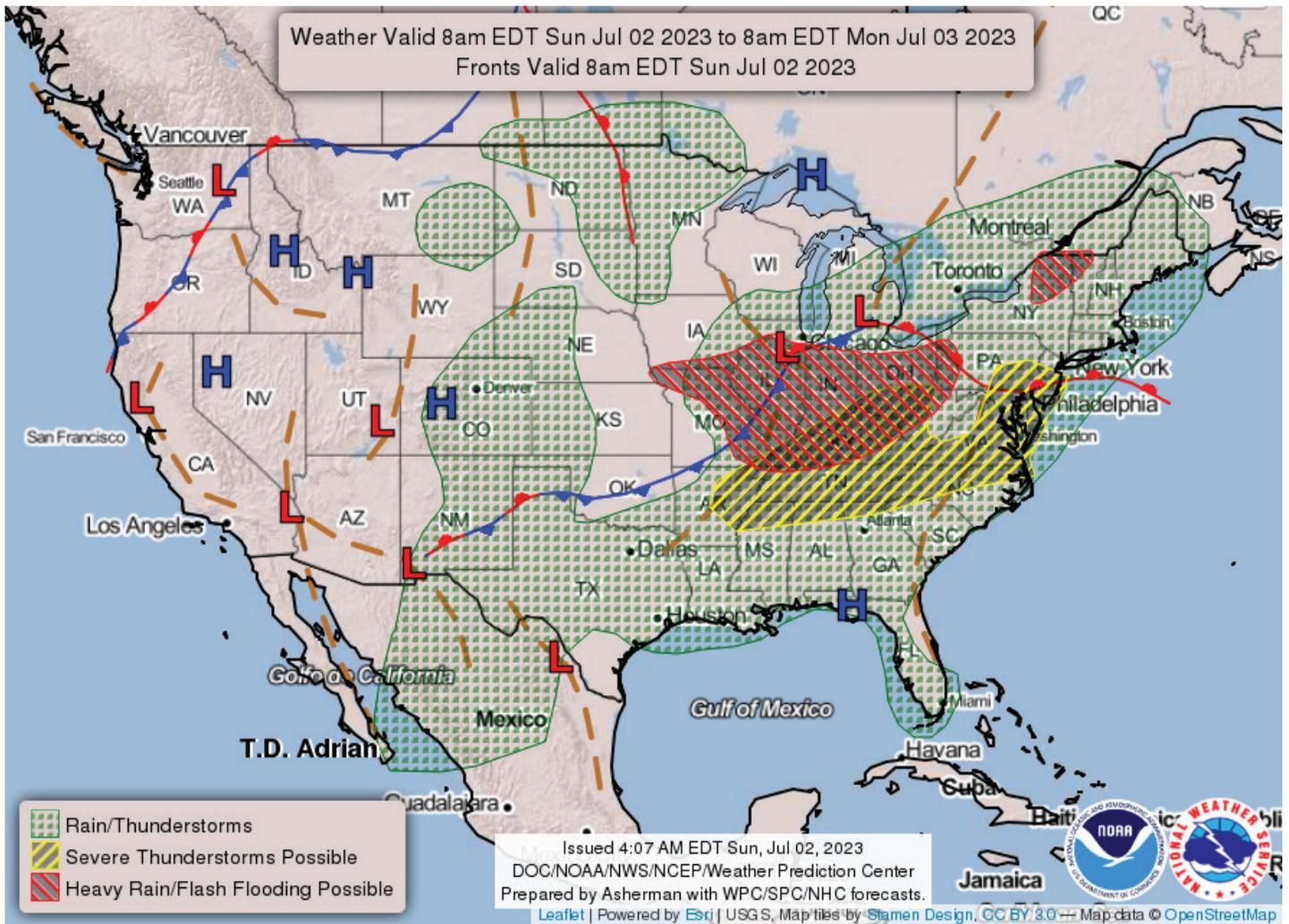
Precip to date in July.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 11.24

Precip Year to Date: 11.35

Sunset Tonight: 9:26:17 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47:18 AM



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Today in Weather History

July 2, 1921: Barns were destroyed on two farms near Frederick in Brown County. A boy who could not make it to the cellar was killed in the open near a barn. This death is one of the earliest known from a significant, estimated F2 tornado in Brown County.

July 2, 1960: Hail shredded corn flattened grain and hay and pounded soybeans into the ground in a strip extending from Clinton to Montevideo in Minnesota. Leaves and bark were stripped from trees. Hailstones were reported to pile up to a depth of four feet in low spots. One farmer lost 2000 turkeys. Twelve barns demolished, many outbuildings destroyed and several homes damaged by winds. Near Appleton, 45 cars of a moving 174 car freight train derailed by the wind, one hanger destroyed, and two planes were damaged. In Big Stone County alone, the cost to repair power lines and poles estimated to be near 10,000 dollars. Total crop acreage affected was near 64,000 acres. The three counties of Big Stone, Swift, and Chippewa Counties, was designed a disaster area.

July 2, 2005: A line of severe thunderstorms with powerful straight-line winds moved from northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana across northwest South Dakota during the evening. Widespread wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph affected northwestern South Dakota; breaking tree limbs, downing trees, and knocking down snow fences. The high winds capsized a boat on the Belle Fourche Reservoir near Orman Dam. Five people, including an infant, were rescued by emergency personnel with no one injured. The strongest winds were reported north of Newell, near Castle Rock, where gusts estimated at 100 mph damaged a barn roof and ripped a chimney off a house. Hail to the size of quarters was also reported across parts of the area, and combined with the wind, caused some minor damage.

1833: The following is from the "History and Description of New England" published in 1860: "On the 2nd of July, 1833, this town (Holland, Vermont) was visited by a violent tornado, which commenced on Salem Pond in Salem, and passed over this place in a northeasterly direction. It was from half to three-quarters of a mile wide and prostrated and scattered nearly all the trees, fences, and buildings in its course. It crossed the outlet of Norton Pond and passed into Canada, and its path could be traced through the forests nearly to Connecticut River."

1843: An alligator reportedly fell from the sky onto Anson Street in Charleston, SC during a thunderstorm.

2001: In Michigan, frost and freezing temperatures were observed in some locations with Grant dropping to 29 degrees. Muskegon reported their coldest July temperature on record with 39 degrees. Other daily record lows included: Lansing: 38, Muskegon: 39, Flint: 40, Youngstown, Ohio: 40, and Grand Rapids, Michigan: 43 degrees.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

KNOWING AND DOING

Two men were enjoying the annual church golf tournament. While waiting for their turn, one said to the other, "There are times when I would like to ask God why He allows hunger and poverty to exist. If He is all-powerful, why doesn't He do something about it?"

"Well," asked his friend, "why don't you ask Him?"

"Because," he answered, "I'm afraid He might ask me the same question."

Many believe that we only sin when we do what we know is wrong: by not obeying the Word of God, its commands, and teachings. Not so, writes James. Listen carefully...

"Sin," said James, "is also not doing what we know to be the right thing to do." We would all agree that it is a sin to disregard and break the Ten Commandments. But it is also a sin if someone speaks evil of a brother or sister and remain silent. We sin if we do not speak up on behalf of others when they are being harmed by gossip and greed. God also expects us to do kind acts, serve those in need, be good stewards of His gifts, and protect others the way He protects us. Someday we will be judged by our standard of giving not our standard of living.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to do what we know is right, to avoid what we know is wrong, and always honor You as Your son honored us. May we follow His example each day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them. James 4:17



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

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2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
- 10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
- 12/02/2023 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.30.23

13 22 47 51 55 9

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$400,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.01.23

13 16 23 43 52 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$4,950,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.01.23

3 26 27 29 48 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 6 Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.01.23

14 19 20 26 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$130,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.01.23

13 24 49 54 60 17

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.01.23

4 17 35 49 61 8

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$522,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

The 2024 Republican presidential field keeps growing. So why aren't there more women?

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — As Republicans keep jumping into the 2024 race for president, one demographic group seems notably lacking: women.

More than a dozen candidates are seeking the nomination, including several long shots who announced their bids in recent weeks, in what is the party's most diverse presidential field ever. Yet Nikki Haley, a former U.N. ambassador and South Carolina governor, is the only woman among the bunch.

America has never had a female commander in chief and Republicans historically have focused less on electing female candidates in general than the Democratic Party. And while women make up more than 50% of the population, they are underrepresented in public office, whether at city halls, state legislatures or in Washington.

In recent years, multiple organizations have helped women win election in higher numbers and capture races at the same rate as men. But they are still much less likely than men to run for office, even if they are equally qualified, research shows.

Women accounted for roughly 21% of the major party candidates for U.S. Senate last year and about 31% of U.S. House candidates, according to the Center for American Women and Politics. That follows election cycles in which each party had a record number of women elected. Women constitute less than one-third of the U.S. House and Senate and 31% of statewide elected offices, even with a record 12 female governors after last year's midterms.

When it comes to the presidency, only five Republican women, including Haley, have undertaken prominent campaigns this century, compared with 12 among Democrats, including six in 2020.

Former tech executive Carly Fiorina was the lone top female candidate in the last open GOP presidential primary, in 2016. Republicans have taken steps to encourage more women to run for federal office since then, but the 2024 contest is unique in that it includes a former president, Donald Trump, who has not hesitated to make sexist attacks against women who challenge him, including Fiorina.

Trump's presence, along with the increasingly toxic and violent sexism that women face as candidates, may be the biggest deterrent.

"It really takes a particular personality to be willing to have that kind of fortitude, and I'm not sure that there are any examples of it being worth it," said Lauren Leader, the founder of All in Together, which works to get more women involved in the political process.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who was seen as a potential 2024 Republican candidate, said in a radio interview that she is focused on her job and that with Trump in the race, "right now I don't see a path for victory with anybody else."

That sentiment has not prevented long shots such as Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum from running.

Regardless of party, female presidential candidates face sexist assumptions about who is tough enough — or masculine enough — for the office, a theme that has surfaced repeatedly during the primary.

In the run-up to the Faith & Freedom Coalition gathering of conservatives last month, evangelical Christian leader Ralph Reed suggested that GOP presidential candidates need to take stronger positions on abortion restrictions, saying they need "a little bit of a testosterone booster shot."

Trump continues to be the favorite for the nomination despite his history of sexism toward women, a recent civil court verdict ordering him to pay \$5 million to a woman for sexual assault and defamation, and his other legal troubles.

Haley has both played down and leaned into her gender and race — she is of Indian descent and the daughter of immigrants — saying it is time to put a "badass woman" in the White House and that electing

the first female president is not front of mind.

Asked during a June CNN town hall what it would mean to achieve that historic first, Haley responded that she does not think about it much. If it happens, she said, "it will be nice to have that out of the way." She said that when she was elected the first female governor of South Carolina, she was "just kind of relieved that everybody would quit talking about it."

At a Friday gathering of conservative women, Haley praised women as results-oriented, able to prioritize and balance and not having "near the drama that the guys have." She repeated a campaign line about why Americans should elect a woman.

"Personally, I think to save the country we need to send a badass Republican woman to this White House," Haley said during the Moms for Liberty event.

When women do not run or even consider it, that's now the biggest challenge to more gender parity in public office, according to researchers and advocates. So some groups are trying new recruiting approaches.

One organization, She Should Run, conducted research about what might motivate more women to seek office. The group found that it was not enough to simply encourage women to run in order to close the gender gap. Instead, women were more motivated by the idea of shaping policy around issues that were disproportionately affecting them, such as reproductive rights and climate change, said Erin Loos Cutraro, the founder and CEO.

The group has held webinars for people who are passionate about those issues and worked to help them see how they might get involved, including by running for office. So far, a record number of people have participated in the sessions, the group said, with many attendees not having considered running for office when they registered. The goal is to help some of them see an opportunity, whether that is in 2024 or years from now.

"That's really the goal, is how do we find these women where they are and then bring them into the conversation?" Loos Cutraro said. She said it is often a yearslong process for women from the time they first think about running for office until they actually do so. The group, which has encouraged some 40,000 women to run for office since forming in 2011, has a goal of reaching 250,000 by 2030.

Republicans have long shunned so-called identity politics, while Democrats have worked for decades to see more women elected, through groups such as EMILY's List. That has meant GOP women's ranks are smaller in federal office, though there are organizations that formed in recent years and had success in both 2020 and 2022 in electing Republican women to Congress.

"There has definitely been much more energy and focus on supporting conservative women running. And they've had real successes," Leader said. "I think at the national level, it's just so much more complicated."

France has a 5th night of rioting over teen's killing by police amid signs of subsiding violence

By CARA ANNA, NICOLAS GARRIGA and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Young rioters clashed with police into early Sunday and targeted a mayor's home with a burning car as France saw a fifth night of unrest after the police killing of a teenager. Overall violence, however, appeared to lessen from previous nights.

Police made 719 arrests nationwide by early Sunday following a mass security deployment aimed at quelling France's worst social upheaval in years.

The crisis posed a new challenge to President Emmanuel Macron's leadership and exposed deep-seated discontent in low-income neighborhoods over discrimination and lack of opportunity.

The 17-year-old whose death Tuesday spawned the anger was laid to rest Saturday in a Muslim ceremony in Nanterre, a Paris suburb where emotions over his loss remain raw. He has been identified publicly only by his first name, Nahel.

As night fell Saturday, a small crowd gathered on the Champs-Elysees to protest his death and police violence but met hundreds of officers with batons and shields guarding the avenue and its boutiques. In a less chic Paris neighborhood, protesters set off firecrackers and lit barricades on fire as police shot back

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with tear gas and stun grenades.

A burning car hit the home of the mayor of the Paris suburb of l'Hay-les-Roses. Several schools, police stations, town halls and stores have been targeted by fires or vandalism in recent days but such a personal attack on a mayor's home is unusual.

Mayor Vincent Jeanbrun said his wife and one of his children were injured in the 1:30 a.m. attack while they were sleeping and he was in the town hall monitoring the violence.

Jeanbrun, of the conservative opposition Republicans party, said the attack represented a new stage of "horror and ignominy" in the unrest, and urged the government to impose a state of emergency.

Regional prosecutor Stephane Hardouin opened an investigation into attempted murder in the attack, telling French television that a preliminary investigation suggests the car was meant to ram the house and set it ablaze. He said a flame accelerant was found in a bottle in the car.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne went to l'Hay-les-Roses to meet Jeanbrun along with Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin and other officials, and promised that "we're going to do everything to bring order back as soon as possible."

Macron planned to hold a special security meeting Sunday evening with Borne, Darmanin and the justice minister.

Skirmishes erupted in the Mediterranean city of Marseille but appeared less intense than the night before, according to the Interior Ministry. A bolstered police contingent arrested 55 people there.

Nationwide arrests were lower than the night before. Darmanin attributed that to "the resolute action of security forces."

More than 3,000 people have been detained overall since Nahel's death. The mass police deployment has been welcomed by some frightened residents of targeted neighborhoods and shop owners whose stores have been ransacked — but it has further frustrated those who see police behavior as the core of France's current crisis.

The unrest took a toll on Macron's diplomatic standing. On Saturday, a day before he was scheduled to depart, he postponed what would have been the first state visit to Germany by a French president in 23 years.

Hundreds of police and firefighters have been injured in the violence, although authorities haven't said how many protesters have been hurt. In French Guiana, an overseas territory, a 54-year-old died after being hit by a stray bullet.

On Saturday, Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti warned that young people who share calls for violence on Snapchat or other apps could face prosecution. Macron has blamed social media for fueling violence.

While concerts at the national stadium and smaller events around the country were canceled because of the violence and some neighborhoods suffered serious damage, life in other parts of France went on as usual.

Fans tuned into the start of the Tour de France cycling race in neighboring Spain; Marseille hosted a championship in pétanque — a game involving rolling metal balls as close as possible to a small wooden or plastic one; and families who could afford it headed for summer vacation.

In the capital, tourists thronged to the Eiffel Tower, where workers set up a nearby clock counting down to next year's Paris Olympics. A short walk from Nanterre, a shopping mall bustled Sunday with customers from all walks of life.

Hundreds of mourners stood on a road Saturday leading to a hilltop cemetery in Nanterre to pay tribute to Nahel as his white casket was carried from a mosque to his grave. His mother, dressed in white, walked inside the cemetery amid applause. Many of the men were young and Arab or Black, coming to mourn a boy who could have been them.

Nahel's mother told France 5 television that she was angry at the officer who shot her son at a traffic stop, but not at the police in general.

"He saw a little Arab-looking kid. He wanted to take his life," she said. Nahel's family has roots in Algeria.

Video of the killing showed two officers at the window of the car, one with his gun pointed at the driver.

As the teenager pulled forward, the officer fired once through the windshield. The officer accused of killing Nahel was given a preliminary charge of voluntary homicide.

Thirteen people who didn't comply with traffic stops were fatally shot by French police last year, and three this year, prompting demands for more accountability. France also saw protests of police violence and racial injustice after George Floyd's killing by police in Minnesota.

The reaction to the killing was a potent reminder of the persistent poverty, discrimination and limited job prospects in neighborhoods around France where many trace their roots to former French colonies.

In 2005, France was shaken by weeks of riots prompted by the death of two teenagers who were electrocuted in a power substation in the Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois while fleeing police. Several buildings there were set on fire this week -- including the town hall, a high school, library and a supermarket.

"I feel hate toward the police officer who killed Nahel. He wanted to kill him," said 15-year-old Abdel Moucer, a Clichy resident. "In 2005 when Zyed and Bouna were killed, we had no video and no social media. Today we have all seen what happened."

But Moucer lamented the recent violence and the damage it has wrought on disadvantaged towns like his. "I feel sad, I don't know why they set the town hall on fire," he said.

At the foot of a bridge near the Eiffel Tower where generations of couples have attached padlocks to symbolize lasting love, a Senegalese man selling cheap locks and keys shook his head when asked if Nahel's killing and the ensuing violence would change anything.

"I doubt it," he said, giving only his first name, Demba, for fear of retaliation. "The discrimination is too profound."

Anna reported from Nanterre. Jade le Deley in Clichy-sous-Bois, France; Sylvie Corbet in Paris; Jocelyn Noveck in New York; and Helena Alves in Paris contributed.

Baltimore block party shooting leaves 2 dead and 28 injured, including 3 critically hurt, police say

By JULIO CORTEZ Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Gunfire erupted at a block party in Baltimore on Sunday, — killing two people, wounding 28 and leaving an extensive crime scene that marred the U.S. holiday weekend, police said. Three of the wounded were in critical condition.

Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Richard Worley told reporters there were a total of 30 victims during a press conference at the scene.

The shooting took place just after 12:30 a.m. at a block party in the Brooklyn Homes area in the southern part of the city, Worley said.

The shooting comes amid gatherings around the country leading up to the July Fourth holiday. Elsewhere, a shooting in Kansas left seven people with gunshot wounds and two more victims hospitalized after being trampled as people rushed out of a nightclub early Sunday morning, police there said.

All of the Baltimore victims were adults. Nine victims were transported by ambulance and 20 victims walked into area hospitals with injuries from the shooting, Worley said.

An 18-year-old woman was found dead at the scene and a 20-year-old man was pronounced dead at a hospital shortly after, police said.

"I want those who are responsible to hear me, and hear me very clearly," Mayor Brandon Scott said at the scene. "We will not stop until we find you, and we will find you. Until then, I hope that every single breath you take, that you think about the lives that you took, think about the lives that you impacted here tonight."

No arrests were made immediately after the shooting. Scott asked anyone with information to come forward to assist investigators locate the "cowards" who were responsible for the shooting.

Authorities said the crime scene was extensive and that it will take some time for detectives to work it.

"Treat this as if it were your family," Scott said. "How you would want people to treat it if you were

mourning, if this was your neighborhood, if this was an event in your community that this happened at. We want you to treat it that way because that's how we have to treat each other as Baltimoreans."

The violence comes as federal prosecutors in Baltimore this week touted their efforts to reduce violent crime in the city. Police have reported nearly 130 homicides and close to 300 shootings so far this year, though that's down from the same time last year. Authorities have vowed to crack down aggressively on repeat violent offenders.

Elon Musk imposes daily limits on reading posts on Twitter

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Twitter owner Elon Musk has limited the amount of tweets that most users can view each day — restrictions he described as an attempt to prevent unauthorized scraping of potentially valuable data from the social media platform.

The site is now requiring people to log on to view tweets and profiles — a change in its longtime practice to allow everyone to peruse the chatter on what Musk has frequently touted as the world's digital town square since buying it for \$44 billion last year.

The restrictions could result in users being locked out of Twitter for the day after scrolling through several hundred tweets. Thousands of users complained Saturday of not being able to access the site.

In a Friday tweet, Musk described the new restrictions as a temporary measure that was taken because "we were getting data pillaged so much that it was degrading service for normal users!"

Musk has pushed back on what he calls misuse of Twitter data to train popular artificial intelligence systems like ChatGPT. They scour reams of information online to generate human-like text, photos, video and other content.

Musk elaborated on the limits Saturday, saying unverified accounts will temporarily be restricted to reading 600 posts per day, while verified accounts will be able to scroll through up to 6,000.

After facing backlash, he tweeted that the thresholds would be raised to 800 posts for unverified accounts and 8,000 for verified accounts before later settling on 1,000 and 10,000 tweets, respectively.

The crackdown began to have ripple effects, causing more than 7,500 people at one point Saturday to report problems using the social media service, based on complaints registered on Downtetector, a website that tracks online outages.

Although that's a relatively small number of Twitter's more than 200 million worldwide users, the trouble was widespread enough to cause the #TwitterDown hashtag to trend in some parts of the world.

The higher threshold allowed on verified accounts is part of an \$8-per-month subscription service that Musk rolled out earlier this year in an effort to boost Twitter revenue. It has fallen sharply since the billionaire Tesla CEO took over the company and laid off roughly three-fourths of the workforce to cut costs and stave off bankruptcy.

Advertisers have since curbed their spending on Twitter, partly because of changes that have allowed more sometimes-hateful and prickly content that offends a wider part of the service's audience.

Musk recently hired longtime NBC Universal executive Linda Yaccarino as Twitter's CEO to try to win back advertisers.

An Associated Press inquiry about Saturday's access problems triggered a crude automated reply that Twitter sends to most media queries without addressing the question.

Israel's air force attacks Syria and Syrian air defense missile explodes over northern Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Israel carried out airstrikes on areas near the central Syrian city of Homs early Sunday causing material damage but no casualties, the Syrian military said in a statement.

A Syrian anti-aircraft missile exploded over Israeli territory, the Israeli military said, prompting another round of strikes.

Syrian state media quoted an unnamed military official as saying the air defenses shot down some of

the missiles fired by Israeli warplanes flying over neighboring Lebanon.

Israeli authorities did not comment on the airstrike on Homs. But the military said one of the Syrian air defense missiles exploded over Israeli territory without causing any damage. Israeli police said the rocket's remains landed in the southern Israeli city of Rahat.

In response to the rocket, Israeli jets struck the air defense battery from where the anti-aircraft rocket was launched. The military said it also struck other targets, without elaborating.

Israel, which has vowed to stop Iranian entrenchment next door, has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets in government-controlled parts of neighboring Syria in recent years, but it rarely acknowledges them.

The last suspected Israeli airstrike on Syria was on June 14, near the capital Damascus that left one soldier wounded.

Israel has also targeted the international airports in Damascus and the northern Syrian city of Aleppo several times over the past few years, often putting it out of commission.

After fall of Roe, emboldened religious conservatives lobby to restrict abortion in Africa

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Nowhere in the world has a higher rate of unsafe abortions or unintended pregnancies than sub-Saharan Africa, where women often face scorn for becoming pregnant before marriage.

Efforts to legalize and make abortions safer in Africa were shaken when the U.S. Supreme Court ended the national right to an abortion a year ago. Within days, Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio declared that his government would decriminalize abortion "at a time when sexual and reproductive health rights for women are being either overturned or threatened."

But some U.S.-based organizations active in Africa were emboldened, especially in largely Christian countries. One is Family Watch International, a nonprofit Christian conservative organization whose anti-LGBTQ+ stance, anti-abortion activities and "intense focus on Africa" led to its designation as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

In April, Family Watch International helped to develop a "family values and sovereignty" meeting at Uganda's presidential offices with lawmakers and other delegates from more than 20 African countries. The organization's Africa director also is advocating for his country, Ethiopia, to revoke a 2005 law that expanded abortion access and dramatically reduced maternal mortality.

"It's kind of like the gloves are off," Sarah Shaw, head of advocacy at U.K.-based MSI Reproductive Choices, an international provider of reproductive health services, said in an interview.

In a September speech to the African Bar Association, the president of Family Watch International, Sharon Slater, alleged that donor countries were attempting a "sexual social recolonization of Africa" by smuggling in legal abortion along with sex education and LGBTQ+ rights.

"Sexual rights activists know if they can capture the hearts and minds of Africa's children and indoctrinate and sexualize them, they will capture the future lawyers, teachers, judges, politicians, presidents, vice presidents and more, and thus they will capture the very heart of Africa," Slater claimed.

Her speech in Malawi was attended by the country's president, a former leader of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God movement.

After lobbying lawmakers in the southern African nation not to consider a bill that would have allowed abortion under certain circumstances, the U.S.-based Catholic group Human Life International told its supporters in March that "thanks to you, Malawi is safe from legal abortion."

The African Union two decades ago recognized the right to abortion in cases of rape and incest or when the life of the mother or fetus is endangered or the mother's mental or physical health is at risk.

A growing number of countries have relatively liberal abortion laws. Benin legalized abortion less than a year before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, though Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, allows abortion only to save the mother's life.

African experts say events in the U.S. could reverse gains in the availability of safe abortion procedures,

especially since the U.S. government is the largest global donor of international reproductive health assistance.

Such changes could deeply affect the lives of women of reproductive age in sub-Saharan Africa, where 77% of abortions, or more than 6 million a year, are estimated to be unsafe, the Guttmacher Institute, an international research and policy organization with headquarters in New York, said in 2020.

Unsafe abortions cause 16% of maternal deaths in the World Health Organization's largely sub-Saharan Africa region, the U.N. agency said last year, "with variations across countries depending on the level of restrictions to abortion."

Abortion opponents are especially outspoken in East Africa, where countries publicly wrestle with the issue of teen pregnancy but offer little sex education and access to legal abortions in limited circumstances.

A sexual and reproductive health bill introduced in 2021 is still under debate by the East African Community, whose member nations include Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Some Catholic and other conservative organizations have criticized a section that would allow a woman to terminate a pregnancy in cases of rape, incest or endangered health.

Earlier this year, the Protestant Council of Rwanda directed all health facilities run by its member institutions to stop performing abortions, although Rwandan law permits them in certain cases.

"We are having a very strong anti-rights narrative," Brenda Otieno, research coordinator with the Kisumu Medical and Education Trust in Kenya, said during a Tuesday webinar about the global effects of the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

Abortion providers are often harassed, Otieno said, and a year ago, Kenya passed a national reproductive health policy that paid little attention to safe abortion care.

In Uganda, one rights watchdog said the issue of abortion access is taboo, with advocates facing discrimination, even as some women resort to self-mutilation.

"We've seen a number of people losing their lives," said Twaibu Wamala, executive director of the Uganda Harm Reduction Network.

Abortion is illegal in Uganda, although it can be legally carried out by a licensed medical worker who determines that a pregnancy threatens the mother's life. But many doctors, fearing medical complications, only offer post-abortion care that may be too expensive or too late to save a woman's life.

In Ethiopia, civil society workers have asked the government to investigate what they fear is a new trend: fewer public health facilities providing abortions and more women seeking care after unsafe abortions.

Groups that oppose abortion in Africa's second most populous nation are mostly incited by outsiders and "consider the Supreme Court decision as fuel for them," Abebe Sibru, the Ethiopia director for MSI Reproductive Choices, said.

Associated Press writer Rodney Muhumuza in Kampala, Uganda, contributed.

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Mourners bury slain teen in France as 45,000 police are deployed and 5th night of unrest is quieter

By CARA ANNA, ANGELA CHARLTON and CHRISTOPHE ENA Associated Press

NANTERRE, France (AP) — Hushed and visibly anguished, hundreds of mourners from France's Islamic community formed a solemn procession from a mosque to a hillside cemetery on Saturday to bury a 17-year-old whose killing by police has triggered days of rioting and looting across the nation.

Underscoring the gravity of the crisis, President Emmanuel Macron scrapped an official trip to Germany after nights of unrest across France.

The government deployed 45,000 police to city streets across the nation to head off a fifth night of violence. Overnight, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted that the night had been calmer than previous

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ones, thanks to "the resolute action of security forces." He put the night's arrest toll at 427.

Some 2,800 people have been arrested overall since the teen's death on Tuesday. Darmanin tweeted late Saturday that 200 riot police had been mobilized in the port city of Marseille, where TV showed footage of police using tear gas as night fell.

Near the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, hundreds of police with batons and shields stood restlessly along the Champs-Élysées, several in front of the shuttered Cartier boutique. Posts on social media had called for protests on the grand boulevard but the police presence appeared to discourage any large gatherings.

Earlier in the day at a hilltop cemetery in Nanterre, the Paris suburb where the teen identified only as Nahel was killed, hundreds stood along the road to pay tribute as mourners carried his white casket from a mosque to the burial site. Journalists were barred from the ceremony and in some cases even chased away. Some of the men carried folded prayer rugs.

"Men first," an official told dozens of women waiting to enter the cemetery. But Nahel's mother, dressed in white, walked inside to applause and headed toward the grave. Many of the men were young and Arab or Black, coming to mourn a boy who could have been them.

Inside the cemetery gate, the casket was lifted above the crowd and carried toward the grave. The men followed, some holding little boys by the hand. As they left, some wiped their eyes. Police were nowhere to be seen.

The unrest was taking a toll on Macron's diplomatic profile. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's office said Macron phoned Saturday to request a postponement of what would have been the first state visit by a French president to Germany in 23 years. Macron had been scheduled to fly to Germany on Sunday evening for the visit to Berlin and two other German cities.

Macron's office said he spoke with Steinmeier and, "given the internal security situation, the president (Macron) said he wishes to stay in France over the coming days."

Nahel was shot during a traffic stop. Video showed two officers at the window of the car, one with his gun pointed at the driver. As the teenager pulled forward, the officer fired once through the windshield. This week, Nahel's mother told France 5 television that she was angry at the officer who shot her son, but not at the police in general.

"He saw a little Arab-looking kid, he wanted to take his life," she said.

Nahel's family has roots in Algeria.

Race was a taboo topic for decades in France, which is officially committed to a doctrine of colorblind universalism. Critics say that doctrine has masked generations of systemic racism.

The officer accused of killing Nahel was given a preliminary charge of voluntary homicide, meaning that investigating magistrates strongly suspect wrongdoing, but need to investigate more before sending a case to trial. Nanterre prosecutor Pascal Prache said his initial investigation led him to conclude that the officer's use of his weapon wasn't legally justified.

Hundreds of police and firefighters have been injured in the violence that erupted after the killing. Authorities haven't released injury tallies for protesters. In French Guiana, an overseas territory, a 54-year-old died after being hit by a stray bullet.

The reaction to the killing was a potent reminder of the persistent poverty, discrimination, unemployment and other lack of opportunity in neighborhoods around France where many residents trace their roots to former French colonies — like where Nahel grew up.

"Nahel's story is the lighter that ignited the gas. Hopeless young people were waiting for it. We lack housing and jobs, and when we have (jobs), our wages are too low," said Samba Seck, a 39-year-old transportation worker in the Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois.

Clichy was the birthplace of weeks of riots in 2005 that shook France, prompted by the deaths of two teenagers electrocuted in a power substation while fleeing from police. One of the boys lived in the same housing project as Seck.

Like many Clichy residents, he lamented the violence targeting his town, where the remains of a burned car stood beneath his apartment building, and the town hall entrance was set alight in rioting this week.

"Young people break everything, but we are already poor, we have nothing," he said, adding that "young

people are afraid to die at the hands of police.”

Despite the escalating crisis, Macron held off on declaring a state of emergency, an option used in 2005. But government ratcheted up its law enforcement response, with the mass deployment of police officers, including some who were called back from vacation.

France’s justice minister, Dupond-Moretti, on Saturday warned that young people who share calls for violence on Snapchat or other apps could face legal prosecution. Macron has blamed social media for fueling violence.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire promised government support for shop owners.

“There is no nation without order, without common rules,” he said.

Darmanin has ordered a nationwide nighttime shutdown of all public buses and trams, which have been among rioters’ targets. He also said he warned social networks not to allow themselves to be used as channels for calls to violence.

The violence comes just over a year before Paris and other French cities are due to host Olympic athletes and millions of visitors for the summer Olympics, whose organizers were closely monitoring the situation as preparations for the competition continue.

Thirteen people who didn’t comply with traffic stops were fatally shot by French police last year. This year, three more people, including Nahel, died under similar circumstances. The deaths have prompted demands for more accountability in France, which also saw racial justice protests after George Floyd’s killing by police in Minnesota.

Charlton reported from Paris. Associated Press writers Jade le Deley in Clichy-sous-Bois, France; Claire Rush in Portland, Oregon; Jocelyn Noveck in New York; and Geir Moulson in Berlin, contributed to this report.

After several turbulent days, flight disruptions ease despite worries about 5G signals

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

Airline passengers who have endured tens of thousands of weather-related flight delays this week got a welcome respite from the headaches Saturday, despite concerns about possible disruptions caused by new wireless 5G systems rolling out near major airports.

The number of flight delays and cancellations declined from the spikes recorded earlier in the week, according to data compiled by tracking service FlightAware. As of 10 p.m. EST, there had been at least 850 flight cancellations and more than 28,000 delayed flights Saturday. During the June 28-30 period, an average of 1,751 flights were canceled and more than 32,600 flights delayed, according to the FlightAware data.

The cancellation rate worked out to about 1% in the U.S. as of Saturday afternoon, according to FlightRadar24, another tracking service. FlightRadar24 spokesperson Ian Petcherik described Saturday’s conditions as “smooth sailing” in an email to The Associated Press, while adding inclement weather could cause problems at East Coast airports later in the day.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration also advised travelers that bad weather conditions on the East Coast could affect flights later Saturday.

Heading into Saturday, one of the biggest concerns had been whether 5G signals would interfere with aircraft equipment, especially devices using radio waves to measure distance above the ground that are critical when planes land in low visibility.

Predictions that interference would cause massive flight groundings failed to come true last year, when telecom companies began rolling out the new service. They then agreed to limit the power of the signals around busy airports, giving airlines an extra year to upgrade their planes.

The leader of the nation’s largest pilots’ union said crews will be able to handle the impact of 5G, but he criticized the way the wireless licenses were granted, saying it had added unnecessary risk to aviation.

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Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg recently told airlines that flights could be disrupted because a small portion of the nation's fleet has not been upgraded to protect against radio interference.

But the worst fears about 5G hadn't cropped up by mid-afternoon Saturday, prompting Transportation Department spokesperson Kerry Arndt to describe flight travel as being at "near-normal" levels. But Arndt also stressed that the Federal Aviation Administration is "working very closely with airlines to monitor summer pop-up storms, wildfire smoke, and any 5G issues."

Most of the major U.S. airlines had made the changes needed to adapt to 5G. American, Southwest, Alaska, Frontier and United say all of their planes have height-measuring devices, called radio altimeters, that are protected against 5G interference.

The big exception is Delta Air Lines. Delta says it has 190 planes, including most of its smaller ones, that still lack upgraded altimeters because its supplier has been unable to provide them fast enough.

The airline does not expect to cancel any flights because of the issue, Delta said Friday. The airline plans to route the 190 planes carefully to limit the risk of canceling flights or forcing planes to divert away from airports where visibility is low because of fog or low clouds. FlightAware listed nine Delta flight cancellations Saturday. None of them were tied to 5G issues, according to the airline.

The Delta planes that have not been retrofitted include several models of Airbus jets: all of its A220s, most of its A319s and A320s and some of its A321s. The airline's Boeing jets have upgraded altimeters, as do all Delta Connection planes, which are operated by Endeavor Air, Republic Airways and SkyWest Airlines, according to the airline.

JetBlue did not respond to requests for comment but told The Wall Street Journal it expected to retrofit 17 smaller Airbus jets by October, with possible "limited impact" some days in Boston.

Wireless carriers including Verizon and AT&T use a part of the radio spectrum called C-Band, which is close to frequencies used by radio altimeters, for their new 5G service. The Federal Communications Commission granted them licenses for the C-Band spectrum and dismissed any risk of interference, saying there was ample buffer between C-Band and altimeter frequencies.

When the Federal Aviation Administration sided with airlines and objected, the wireless companies pushed back the rollout of their new service. In a compromise brokered by the Biden administration, the wireless carriers then agreed not to power up 5G signals near about 50 busy airports. That postponement ends Saturday.

AT&T declined to comment. Verizon did not immediately respond to a question about its plans.

Buttigieg reminded the head of trade group Airlines for America about the deadline in a letter last week, warning that only planes with retrofitted altimeters would be allowed to land under low-visibility conditions. He said more than 80% of the U.S. fleet had been retrofitted, but a significant number of planes, including many operated by foreign airlines, have not been upgraded.

"This means on bad-weather, low-visibility days in particular, there could be increased delays and cancellations," Buttigieg wrote. He said airlines with planes awaiting retrofitting should adjust their schedules to avoid stranding passengers.

Airlines say the FAA was slow to approve standards for upgrading the radio altimeters and supply-chain problems have made it difficult for manufacturers to produce enough of the devices. Nicholas Calio, head of the Airlines for America, complained about a rush to modify planes "amid pressure from the telecommunications companies."

Jason Ambrosi, a Delta pilot and president of the Air Line Pilots Association, accused the FCC of granting 5G licenses without consulting aviation interests, which he said "has left the safest aviation system in the world at increased risk." But, he said, "Ultimately, we will be able to address the impacts of 5G."

Associated Press Business Writer Michael Liedtke contributed to this story from San Ramon, California.

An anti-Trump video shared by the DeSantis campaign is 'homophobic,' says a conservative LGBT group

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A prominent group that represents LGBT conservatives says a video shared by Ron DeSantis' presidential campaign that slams rival Donald Trump for his past support of gay and transgender people "ventured into homophobic territory."

The "DeSantis War Room" Twitter account shared the video on Friday — the last day of June's LGBTQ+ Pride Month — that features footage of Trump at the Republican National Convention in 2016 saying he would "do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens." Trump had been pledging protection from terrorist attacks weeks after the shootings at the Pulse Nightclub, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, that was the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history at that time.

The video also highlights "LGBTQ for Trump" T-shirts sold by the former president's campaign and his past comments saying he would be comfortable with Caitlyn Jenner, the former Olympic decathlete who came out as a transgender woman in 2015, using any bathroom at Trump Tower and OK with transgender women competing one day in the Miss Universe pageant, which Trump owned at the time of those remarks.

The video then suddenly veers in a different direction, accompanied by dark, thumping music and images of DeSantis, the Florida governor who is trailing Trump by wide margins in the polls for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

It promotes headlines that DeSantis signed "the most extreme slate of anti-trans laws in modern history" and a "draconian anti-trans bathroom bill." The images are spliced together with footage of muscular, shirtless men and several Hollywood actors, including Brad Pitt, seen wearing a leather mask from the movie "Troy."

"To wrap up 'Pride Month,' let's hear from the politician who did more than any other Republican to celebrate it," the DeSantis campaign tweeted.

The video drew immediate criticism from prominent LGBTQ+ Republicans, including the Log Cabin Republicans, which bills itself as the nation's "largest Republican organization dedicated to representing LGBT conservatives."

"Today's message from the DeSantis campaign War Room is divisive and desperate. Republicans and other commonsense conservatives know Ron Desantis has alienated swing-state and younger voters," the group said in a tweet, adding that DeSantis' "extreme rhetoric goes has just ventured into homophobic territory."

The group said his "rhetoric will lose hard-fought gains in critical races across the nation. This old playbook has been tried in the past and has failed -- repeatedly." The post said DeSantis' "naive policy positions are dangerous and politically stupid."

Jenner accused DeSantis' campaign of using "horribly divisive tactics!"

"DeSantis has hit a new low," Jenner wrote on Twitter.

Representatives of the DeSantis campaign did not immediately respond to requests for comment Saturday.

But Christina Pushaw, the campaign's rapid response director, said in a tweet Friday night that, "Opposing the federal recognition of 'Pride Month' isn't 'homophobic.' We wouldn't support a month to celebrate straight people for sexual orientation, either... It's unnecessary, divisive, pandering."

The video comes as Republicans have been wading into increasingly hostile anti-LGBTQ+ territory, attacking Pride month celebrations, trying to ban displays of rainbow Pride flags and passing legislation to limit drag shows, along with broad attacks on transgender rights.

That rhetoric has seeped into the GOP presidential campaign, taking a prominent role that had been absent during recent past competitive primaries, including in 2016, when Trump, a New York reality TV star, generally presented himself as a supporter of LGBT rights.

DeSantis leaned in on anti-LGBTQ+ legislation as he prepared to jump into the 2024 White House race. He signed legislation banning classroom instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity in all grades,

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under wraps. In general, the string is made of a polymer resin, a substance that makes the resin foam up, a solvent, some coloring and the propellant that forces the chemicals out of the can.

Authorities in Los Angeles decided to ban aerosol party streamers in 2004 on Hollywood Boulevard every Halloween because partygoers were using the empty cans as projectiles and many were left littering the streets and clogging gutters.

Towns in Massachusetts and Alabama also have adopted ordinances restricting the use of the string, pointing to problems during special events. In one New York town, firefighters who participated in a parade complained that the string was damaging the paint on their trucks.

Rebecca Sobel with the group WildEarth Guardians said party string is just one of the hundreds of seemingly benign products that pervade daily life.

"We have to be more vigilant about the chemicals in 'everyday' things," she said. "Maybe the Forest Service should have known better, but it's also hard to know what chemicals some products contain."

She pointed to recent headlines about 'forever chemicals' found in firefighting foam and other common products, saying consumers have a responsibility to be aware of threats but they can't do that if regulatory agencies aren't being transparent or reading labels themselves.

Some consumer product sites say party string is not biodegradable. While many cans are labeled as non-toxic, the string can damage vinyl surfaces or the clear coat on vehicles.

The labels also suggest that if ingested, medical attention might be in order. That goes for humans and pets, as some of the ingredients can contain gastrointestinal irritants.

"All of this makes it inappropriate for use at our national forest recreation sites," says Madeleine Carey, WildEarth Guardians' Southwest conservation manager. "Many seemingly fun party products like Silly String are extremely harmful to our forests and wildlife. Mylar balloons, noisemakers and glitter are also on the list."

The bottom line for state and federal forest managers is to prevent human-caused wildfires, Ducker said.

While some parts of the West had record snowfall over the winter and enjoyed a wet spring, forest managers said it's uncertain whether the monsoon will keep fire danger at bay. For that reason, the messaging will continue, Ducker said.

"All it takes is a couple of weeks of really hot, dry weather and all of that stuff gets desiccated and it just becomes fuel," he said of the vegetation that sprouted in the spring.

Overall, more than 22,000 fires have burned nearly 1,000 square miles (2,590 square kilometers) in the U.S. since the start of the year, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Satellite photos, reports suggest Belarus is building an army camp for Wagner fighters

By The Associated Press undefined

Satellite images analyzed by The Associated Press on Saturday showed what appeared to be a newly built military-style camp in Belarus, with statements from a Belarusian guerrilla group and officials suggesting it may be used to house fighters from the Wagner mercenary group.

The images provided by Planet Labs PLC suggest that dozens of tents were erected within the past two weeks at a former military base outside Osipovich, a town 230 kilometers (142 miles) north of the Ukrainian border. A satellite photo taken on Jun. 15 shows no sign of the rows of white and green structures that are clearly visible in a later image, dated Jun. 30.

Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and his fighters escaped prosecution and were offered refuge in Belarus last week after Minsk helped broker a deal to end what appeared to be an armed insurrection by the mercenary group. The abortive revolt saw Wagner troops who had fought alongside Russia forces in Ukraine capture a military headquarters in southern Russia and march hundreds of kilometers (miles) toward Moscow, seemingly unimpeded.

Belarus' authoritarian president, Alexander Lukashenko, said his country, a close and dependent ally of

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Moscow, could use Wagner's experience and expertise, and announced that he had offered the fighters an "abandoned military unit" to set up camp.

Aliaksandr Azarau, leader of the anti-Lukashenko BYPOL guerrilla group of former military members, told The Associated Press by phone on Thursday that construction of a site for Wagner mercenaries was underway near Osipovichi.

Up to 8,000 fighters from Wagner's private military force may be deployed in Belarus, a spokesperson for Ukraine's border force told Ukrainian media Saturday. Speaking to the Ukrainska Pravda newspaper, Andriy Demchenko said Ukraine would strengthen its 1,084 kilometer (674 mile) border with Belarus in response.

Lukashenko previously allowed the Kremlin to use Belarusian territory to send troops and weapons into Ukraine. He has also welcomed a continued Russian armed presence in Belarus, including joint military camps and exercises, as well as the deployment of some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons there.

Demchenko told Ukrainska Pravda on Saturday that as of this week, some 2,000 troops from regular Russian army units remained stationed in Belarus.

At a Friday evening gala marking the Belarusian Independence Day, Lukashenko said that the Belarusian armed forces could benefit from training by Wagner members, and asserted that the mercenaries were "not a threat" to Belarusians.

He also declared that he was "sure" Belarus would not have to use the nuclear weapons deployed to its territory, and would not get directly involved in Moscow's war against Ukraine.

"The longer we live, the more we are convinced that (nuclear weapons) should be with us, in Belarus, in a safe place. And I am sure that we will never have to use them while we have them, and the enemy shall never set foot on our soil," Lukashenko said.

Follow AP's coverage of the war in Ukraine: <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

Venus Williams is back at Wimbledon at age 43 and ready to play on Centre Court again

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Asked two days before her 24th Wimbledon begins whether she's still excited to play tennis at this level, Venus Williams quickly answered: "It's so much fun."

The next question Saturday was about being on tour without her younger sister, Serena, who wrapped up her career at last year's U.S. Open. The reply: "Not as much fun."

There is still a big-swinging, Grand Slam-winning member of the Williams family in women's tennis, and it's 43-year-old Venus, who recently returned to action after about five months away with a hamstring injury she called "a nightmare."

That followed a 2022 in which she participated in just four contests — all in August or September, meaning she missed the season's initial three Grand Slam tournaments, including Wimbledon — and a 2021 in which she accumulated only a dozen.

"I haven't played a lot of matches in the last few years, and not by choice. I wanted to be here and I couldn't," said the elder Williams, who will meet two-time major semifinalist Elina Svitolina of Ukraine at Centre Court on Monday, Day 1 at the All England Club. "So I just put my head down and put even more work in and got myself in a much better position — and that's life. And you've got to deal with life. And I've dealt with my life and, most of the time, I come out on top."

In tennis terms, that means reaching the No. 1 ranking, winning seven major singles titles, the most among active women — and five came at Wimbledon, the first in 2000, most recent in 2008 — and another 14 in women's doubles — all with her sibling. Away from the court, she learned to live with Sjögren's syndrome, an energy-sapping auto-immune disease that can cause joint pain; she announced her diagnosis in 2011.

"The most inspiring thing about her is the love that she has for tennis. I don't think that love has swayed over the course of her career. I think you can see players who are older now (and) you can have a feeling they probably don't love it as much as they did when they started it. I don't have that feeling with Venus.

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I hope I'm the same way," said Coco Gauff, who burst onto the scene at age 15 by beating Williams in the first round at Wimbledon as a qualifier in 2019.

"Obviously, just her grit for every match, every ball. I watched a couple of her matches last week," Gauff said. "Just the will to want every point is something that's inspiring."

Monday's match will be Williams' first in Wimbledon's main stadium since 2017, when she reached the final before losing to Garbiñe Muguruza.

Williams made her debut at the All England Club in 1997, shortly before Svitolina turned 3.

"Venus loves to play here," said Svitolina, who returned to the tour in April after having a baby last year. "It's just really impressive. She's a great champion. She achieved so much in her career. I don't know if I will be playing at (that) age and would be in this great shape, playing with such a passion. So lots of respect to her in so many ways."

The lack of wins in recent times dropped Williams out of the top 500 in the rankings; Svitolina has been as high as No. 3 and is now 75th.

Both women received wild-card invitations for Wimbledon.

The inevitable questions arose Saturday about whether Williams has planned when she might walk away from the sport ("If I did, I wouldn't tell you," came the reply) and whether she could see herself on tour at age 50 ("It's never been done before, so if there was one to try it, it would be me," she said).

One more try: Might there be the sort of announced farewell a la Serena's, allowing for a collective goodbye?

"Like I said: If I knew I wouldn't tell you," she answered with a hearty laugh.

AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

European telescope launched to hunt for clues to universe's darkest secrets

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A European space telescope blasted off Saturday on a quest to explore the mysterious and invisible realm known as the dark universe.

SpaceX launched the European Space Agency's Euclid observatory toward its ultimate destination 1 million miles (1.5 million kilometers) away, the Webb Space Telescope's neighborhood. It will take a month to get there and another two months before it starts its ambitious six-year survey this fall.

Flight controllers in Germany declared success nearly an hour into the flight, applauding and shouting "Yes!" as the telescope phoned home after a smooth liftoff.

"I'm so thrilled, I'm so excited to see now this mission up in space, knowing it is on its way," the European Space Agency's director general, Josef Aschbacher, said from the Florida launch site.

Named for antiquity's Greek mathematician, Euclid will scour billions of galaxies covering more than one-third of the sky. By pinpointing the location and shape of galaxies up to 10 billion light-years away — almost all the way back to the cosmos-creating Big Bang — scientists hope to glean insight into the dark energy and dark matter that make up most of the universe and keep it expanding.

Scientists understand only 5 percent of the universe: stars, planets, us. The rest is "still a mystery and an enigma, a huge frontier in modern physics that we hope this mission will actually help to push forward," the European Space Agency's science director, Carole Mundell, said just before liftoff.

The telescope's highly anticipated 3D map of the cosmos will span both space and time in a bid to explain how the dark universe evolved and why its expansion is speeding up.

The lead scientist for the \$1.5 billion mission (1.4 billion euros) said Euclid will measure dark energy and dark matter with unprecedented precision.

"It's more than a space telescope, Euclid. It's really a dark energy detector," Rene Laureijs noted.

Fifteen feet (4.7 meters) tall and almost as wide, Euclid sports a 1.2-meter (4-foot) telescope and two

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scientific instruments capable of observing the cosmos in both visible light and the near infrared. A huge sunshield is designed to keep the sensitive systems at the properly frigid temperatures.

NASA, which contributed Euclid's infrared detectors, has its own mission coming up to better understand dark energy and dark matter: the Roman Space Telescope due to launch in 2027. The US-European Webb telescope can also join in this quest, officials said.

Euclid was supposed to launch on a Russian rocket from French Guiana in South America, Europe's main spaceport. The European and Russian space agencies cut ties following the invasion of Ukraine last year, and the telescope switched to a SpaceX ride from Cape Canaveral. Waiting for Europe's next-generation, yet-to-fly Ariane rocket would have meant a two-year-plus delay, according to project manager Giuseppe Racca.

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Summer movie season is in full swing. Here's what's coming through Labor Day

By The Associated Press undefined

The summer movie season goes into high-gear in July, with the arrival of the seventh "Mission: Impossible" movie followed by the "Oppenheimer" and "Barbie" showdown on July 21.

Not that you have to choose one or the other — as Tom Cruise said on Twitter, "I love a double feature, and it doesn't get more explosive (or more pink) than the one with Oppenheimer and Barbie."

August also promises a new take on the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and introduces a new DC superhero, Blue Beetle.

Here's a month-by-month guide of this summer's new movies. Keep scrolling for more info and review links for May and June's releases.

July 7

"Insidious: The Red Door" (Sony, theaters): Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne are back to scare everyone in the fifth edition.

"Joy Ride" (Lionsgate, theaters): Adele Lim directs this raucous comedy about a friends trip to China to find someone's birth mother, starring Ashley Park, Stephanie Hsu, Sherry Cola and Sabrina Wu.

"The Lesson" (Bleecker Street, theaters): A young novelist helps an acclaimed author in this thriller with Richard E. Grant.

"Biosphere" (IFC, theaters and VOD): Mark Duplass and Sterling K. Brown are the last two men on Earth.

"Earth Mama" (A24, theaters): This acclaimed debut from Savannah Leaf focuses on a woman, single and pregnant with two kids in foster care, trying to reclaim her family in the Bay Area.

July 14

"Mission: Impossible-Dead Reckoning Part I" (Paramount, theaters, on July 12): Tom Cruise? Death-defying stunts in Venice? The return of Kittridge? What more do you need?

"Theater Camp" (Searchlight, theaters): Musical theater nerds (and comedy fans) will delight in this loving satire of a childhood institution, with Ben Platt and Molly Gordon.

"The Miracle Club" (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Lifetime friends (Kathy Bates, Maggie Smith, Agnes O'Casey) in a small Dublin community in 1967 dream of a trip to Lourdes, a town in France where miracles are supposed to happen. Laura Linney co-stars.

"20 Days in Mariupol" (in theaters in New York): AP's Mstyslav Chernov directs this documentary, a joint project between The Associated Press and PBS "Frontline," about the first weeks of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in which Chernov, photographer Evgeniy Maloletka, and field producer Vasilisa Stepanenko, became the only international journalists operating in the city. Their coverage won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

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" Afire " (Janus Films, theaters): This drama from German director Christian Petzold is set at a vacation home by the Baltic Sea where tensions rise between a writer, a photographer and a mysterious guest (Paula Beer) as a wildfire looms.

" They Cloned Tyrone " (Netflix): John Boyega, Teyonah Parris and Jamie Foxx lead this mystery caper.
July 21

" Oppenheimer " (Universal, theaters): Christopher Nolan takes audiences into the mind of the "father of the atomic bomb," J. Robert Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) as he and his peers build up to the trinity test at Los Alamos.

" Barbie " (Warner Bros., theaters): Margot Robbie plays the world's most famous doll (as do many others) opposite Ryan Gosling's Ken in Greta Gerwig's comedic look at their perfect world.

" Stephen Curry: Underrated " (Apple TV+): Peter Nicks directs a documentary about the four-time NBA champion.

" The Beanie Bubble " (in select theaters; on Apple TV+ on July 28): Zach Galifianakis stars as the man behind Beanie Babies in this comedic drama, co-starring Elizabeth Banks, Sarah Snook and Geraldine Viswanathan.

July 28

" Haunted Mansion " (Disney, theaters): A Disney ride comes to life in with the help of Rosario Dawson, Tiffany Haddish, Owen Wilson and Danny DeVito.

" Talk to Me " (A24, theaters): A group of friends conjure spirits in this horror starring Sophie Wilde and Joe Bird.

" Happiness for Beginners " (Netflix, on July 27): Ellie Kemper is a newly divorced woman looking to shake things up.

" Sympathy for the Devil " (RLJE Films): Joel Kinnaman is forced to drive a mysterious gunman (Nicolas Cage) in this thriller.

" Kokomo City " (Magnolia): A documentary following four Black transgender sex workers. One of the subjects, Koko Da Doll, was shot and killed in April.

August 4

" Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem " (Paramount, theaters): This animated movie puts the teenage back in the equation with a very funny voice cast including Seth Rogen and John Cena as Bebop and Rocksteady.

" Shortcomings " (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Randall Park directs this adaptation of Adrian Tomine's graphic novel about Asian American friends in the Bay Area starring Sherry Cola as Alice, Ally Maki as Miko and Justin H. Min as Ben.

" Meg 2: The Trench " (Warner Bros., theaters): Jason Statham is back fighting sharks.

" Passages " (Mubi): The relationship of a longtime couple (Franz Rogowski, Ben Whishaw) is thrown when one begins an affair with a woman (Adèle Exarchopoulos).

" A Compassionate Spy " (Magnolia): Steve James' documentary about the youngest physicist on the Manhattan Project who fed information to the Soviets.

"Dreamin' Wild" (Roadside Attractions): Casey Affleck stars in this film about musical duo Donnie and Joe Emerson.

" Problemista " (A24, theaters): Julio Torres plays an aspiring toy designer in this surreal comedy co-starring Tilda Swinton that he also wrote, directed and produced.

August 11

" Gran Turismo " (Sony, theaters): A gamer gets a chance to drive a professional course in this video game adaptation starring David Harbour and Orlando Bloom.

" The Last Voyage of the Demeter " (Universal, theaters): This supernatural horror film draws from a chapter of "Dracula."

" Heart of Stone " (Netflix): Gal Gadot played an intelligence operative in this action thriller, with Jamie Dornan.

"The Eternal Memory" (MTV Documentary Films): This documentary explores a marriage and Alzheimer's

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banned gender-affirming care for minors, targeted drag shows, restricted discussion of personal pronouns in schools and forced people to use bathrooms that align with the sex assigned at birth. DeSantis also went after President Joe Biden for prominently displaying the Pride flag at the White House last month.

Trump himself pledged in a speech Friday that if elected, he would sign executive orders on his first day in office to cut federal money for any school pushing "transgender insanity" and to instruct federal agencies "to cease the promotion of sex or gender transition at any age." Hospitals and health care providers offering gender-affirming care for minors should be deemed in violation of federal health and safety standards and lose federal funding, he said.

Both Trump and DeSantis have also railed against transgender women participating in women's sports and have referred to gender-affirming care for minors as "mutilation."

At Trump's rally in Pickens, South Carolina, on Saturday, the crowd booed when Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., referenced to Pride month.

"The rainbow belongs to God," she said.

While such rhetoric appeals to the party's conservative base, it risks alienating the more moderate and swing voters who generally decide the outcomes of general elections.

The video, originally posted by the pro-DeSantis "@ProudElephantUS" account, was shared hours after the Supreme Court's conservative majority ruled that a Christian graphic artist who wants to design wedding websites can refuse to work with same-sex couples.

The decision marked a major defeat for gay rights, with one of the court's liberal justices writing in a dissent that the decision's effect would be to "mark gays and lesbians for second-class status."

US forest managers urge revelers to swap fireworks for Silly String, but some say not so fast

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Smokey Bear said it best: "Only you can prevent wildfires."

Following in the footsteps of their famous mascot, U.S. Forest Service managers in the drought-stricken Southwest are urging people to swap their fireworks this Fourth of July for glow sticks, noisemakers and cans of red, white and blue Silly String.

Not so fast, say some environmentalists. While it's worth encouraging folks not to use fireworks amid escalating wildfire danger, they say it's kind of silly that federal land managers would suggest using aerosol cans of sticky party string out in nature.

The advice began to pop up in recent weeks, with regional forest officials and the New Mexico State Forestry Division pumping out public service announcements offering alternatives aimed at curbing human-sparked blazes.

They used a template that echoed similar advice from the National Fire Protection Association and even American Red Cross chapters in other states.

"These are alternatives for children and young people to do in lieu of fireworks in their neighborhood or on their property. That way we'd like to keep things contained to your property and your neighborhood," said George Ducker, a spokesman for the State Forestry Division. "We're certainly not advocating folks go out into the forest and, you know, shoot off Silly String."

But if they do, the Forest Service has one request: Leave no trace.

However people choose to celebrate, the rules and regulations need to be followed if they are on national forest land no matter if it's July Fourth or any other day, said John Winn, a spokesman for the federal agency.

"That includes but is not limited to the restricted use of fireworks, properly disposing of garbage in garbage bins, maintaining quiet hours and cleaning up after camping or day-use activities," he said.

Cleaning up spray streamers fits in that category, he added.

While the spray can party favors have been around since the 1970s, manufacturers keep their recipes

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disease.

"The Pod Generation" (Vertical, theaters): Emilia Clarke and Chiwetel Ejiofor star in this sci-fi comedy about a new path to parenthood.

"Jules" (Bleecker Street, theaters): Ben Kingsley stars in this film about a UFO that crashes in his backyard in rural Pennsylvania.

August 18

"Blue Beetle" (Warner Bros., theaters): Xolo Maridueña plays the DC superhero Jaime Reyes / Blue Beetle in this origin story.

"Strays" (Universal, theaters): Will Ferrell and Jamie Foxx voice dogs in this not-animated, R-rated comedy.

"Birth/Rebirth" (IFC, theaters): A woman and a morgue technician bring a little girl back to life in this horror.

"White Bird" (Lionsgate, theaters): Helen Mirren tells her grandson, expelled from school for bullying, a story about herself in Nazi-occupied France.

"Landscape with Invisible Hand" (MGM, theaters): Teens come up with a unique moneymaking scheme in a world taken over by aliens.

"The Hill" (Briarcliff Entertainment): This baseball drama starring Dennis Quaid is based on the true story of Rickey Hill.

August 25

"They Listen" (Sony, theaters): John Cho and Katherine Waterston lead this secretive Blumhouse horror.

"Golda" (Bleecker Street): Helen Mirren stars in this drama about Golda Meir, the Prime Minister of Israel during the Yom Kippur War.

"Bottoms" (MGM, theaters): Two unpopular teenage girls (Rachel Sennott and Ayo Edebiri) start a fight club to impress the cheerleaders they want to lose their virginity to in this parody of the teen sex comedy.

"The Dive" (RLJE Films): In this suspense pic about two sisters out for a dive, one gets hurt and is trapped underwater.

"Scrapper" (Kino Lorber, theaters): A 12-year-old girl (Lola Campbell) is living alone in a London flat until her estranged father (Harris Dickinson) shows up.

"Fremont" (Music Box Films, theaters): A former army translator in Afghanistan (Anaita Wali Zada) relocates to Fremont, California and gets a job at a fortune cookie factory. "The Bear's" Jeremy Allen White co-stars.

September 1

"The Equalizer 3" (Sony, theaters): Denzel Washington is back as Robert McCall, who is supposed to be retired from the assassin business but things get complicated in Southern Italy.

ALREADY IN THEATERS AND STREAMING

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" (Disney/Marvel): Nine years after the non-comic obsessed world was introduced to Peter Quill, Rocket, Groot and the rest of the Guardians of the Galaxy, the misfits are closing out the trilogy and saying goodbye to director James Gunn, who is now leading rival DC. (AP's review.)

"What's Love Got to Do with It?" (Shout! Studios): Lily James plays a documentary filmmaker whose next project follows her neighbor (Shazad Latif) on his road to an arranged marriage in this charming romantic comedy.

"Book Club: The Next Chapter" (Focus Features): Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen travel to Italy to celebrate an engagement.

"The Mother" (Netflix): Jennifer Lopez is an assassin and a mother in this action pic timed to Mother's Day. (AP's review here.)

"Love Again" (Sony): Priyanka Chopra Jonas plays a woman mourning the death of her boyfriend who texts his old number not knowing it belongs to someone new (Sam Heughan). Celine Dion (and her music) co-star in this romantic drama.

"Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie" (AppleTV+): Davis Guggenheim helps Michael J. Fox tell his story, from his rise in Hollywood to his Parkinson's diagnosis and beyond.

"Monica" (IFC): A transgender woman, estranged from her family, goes home to visit her dying mother in this film starring Tracee Lysette and Patricia Clarkson.

"The Starling Girl" (Bleecker Street): Eliza Scanlen plays a 17-year-old girl living in a fundamentalist

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Christian community in Kentucky whose life changes with the arrival of Lewis Pullman's charismatic youth pastor.

" Fool's Paradise " (Roadside Attractions): Charlie Day writes, directs and plays dual roles in this comedic Hollywood satire.

" Hypnotic " (Ketchup Entertainment): Ben Affleck plays a detective whose daughter goes missing in this Robert Rodriguez movie.

" It Ain't Over " (Sony Pictures Classics): A documentary about Lawrence Peter 'Yogi' Berra.

"Blackberry" (IFC): Jay Baruchel and Glenn Howerton star in this movie about the rise of the Blackberry. (AP's review.)

" Fast X " (Universal): In the tenth installment of the Fast franchise, Jason Momoa joins as the vengeful son of a slain drug lord intent to take out Vin Diesel's Dom. (AP's review.)

" White Men Can't Jump " (20th Century Studios, streaming on Hulu): Sinqua Walls and Jack Harlow co-star in this remake of the 1992 film, co-written by Kenya Barris and featuring the late Lance Reddick.

(AP's review.)

" Master Gardener " (Magnolia): Joel Edgerton is a horticulturist in this Paul Schrader drama, co-starring Sigourney Weaver as a wealthy dowager. (AP's review.)

" Sanctuary " (Neon): A dark comedy about a dominatrix (Margaret Qualley) and her wealth client (Christopher Abbott).

" The Little Mermaid " (Disney): Halle Bailey plays Ariel in this technically ambitious live-action remake of a recent Disney classic directed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago") and co-starring Melissa McCarthy as Ursula.

(AP's review.)

" You Hurt My Feelings " (A24): Nicole Holofcener takes a nuanced and funny look at a white lie that unsettles the marriage between a New York City writer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and a therapist (Tobias Menzies).

(AP's review.)

" About My Father " (Lionsgate): Stand-up comic Sebastian Maniscalco co-wrote this culture clash movie in which he takes his Italian-American father (Robert De Niro) on a vacation with his wife's WASPy family.

(AP's review.)

" Victim/Suspect " (Netflix): This documentary explores how law enforcement sometimes indicts victims of sexual assault instead of helping.

" The Machine," (Sony): Stand-up comedian Bert Kreischer brings Mark Hamill into the fray for this action-comedy.

" Kandahar " (Open Road Films): Gerard Butler plays an undercover CIA operative in hostile territory in Afghanistan.

" Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse " (Sony): Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) is back, but with things not going so well in Brooklyn, he opts to visit the multiverse with his old pal Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld), where he encounters the Spider-Society. (AP's review.)

" The Boogeyman " (20th Century Studios): "It's the thing that comes for your kids when you're not paying attention," David Dastmalchian explains to Chris Messina in this Stephen King adaptation.

" Past Lives " (A24): Already being hailed as one of the best of the year after its Sundance debut, Celine Song's directorial debut is a decades and continent-spanning romance about two friends separated in childhood who meet 20 years later in New York. (AP's review.)

" Transformers: Rise of the Beasts " (Paramount): Steven Caple Jr directs the seventh Transformers movie, starring Anthony Ramos and Dominique Fishback. (AP's review.)

"Flamin' Hot" (Hulu, Disney+): Eva Longoria directs this story about Richard Montañez, a janitor at Frito-Lay who came up with the idea for Flamin' Hot Cheetos. (AP's review.)

" Blue Jean " (Magnolia): It's 1988 in England and hostilities are mounting towards the LGBTQ community in Georgia Oakley's BAFTA-nominated directorial debut about a gym teacher (Rosy McEwan) and the arrival of a new student. (AP's review.)

"Daliland" (Magnolia): Mary Harron directs Ben Kingsley as Salvador Dalí.

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“ The Flash ” (Warner Bros.): Batmans past Ben Affleck and Michael Keaton assemble for this standalone Flash movie directed by Andy Muschietti and starring Ezra Miller as the titular superhero. (AP’s review.)

“ Elemental ” (Pixar): In Element City, residents include Air, Earth, Water and Fire in the new Pixar original, featuring the voices of Leah Lewis, Mamoudou Athie and Catherine O’Hara. (AP’s review.)

“ Extraction 2 ” (Netflix): Chris Hemsworth’s mercenary Tyler Rake is back for another dangerous mission. (AP’s review.)

“ Asteroid City ” (Focus Features): Wes Anderson assembles Tom Hanks, Scarlett Johansson, Jason Schwartzman and Jeffrey Wright for a stargazer convention in the mid-century American desert. (AP’s review.)

“ The Blackening ” (Lionsgate): This scary movie satire sends a group of Black friends including Grace Byers, Jermaine Fowler, Melvin Gregg and X Mayo to a cabin in the woods.

“ No Hard Feelings ” (Sony): Jennifer Lawrence leads a raunchy comedy about a woman hired by a shy teen’s parents to help him get out of his shell before Princeton. (AP’s review.)

“ Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny ” (Lucasfilm): Harrison Ford puts his iconic fedora back on for a fifth outing as Indy in this new adventure directed by James Mangold and co-starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge. (AP’s review.)

“ Every Body ” (Focus Features): Oscar-nominated documentarian Julie Cohen turns her lens on three intersex individuals in her latest film. (AP’s review.)

“ Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken ” (Universal): Lana Condor (“To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before”) lends her voice to this animated action-comedy about a shy teenager trying to survive high school as a part-Kraken. (AP’s review.)

Climate change keeps making wildfires and smoke worse. Scientists call it the ‘new abnormal’

By SETH BORENSTEIN and MELINA WALLING Associated Press

It was a smell that invoked a memory. Both for Emily Kuchlbauer in North Carolina and Ryan Bomba in Chicago. It was smoke from wildfires, the odor of an increasingly hot and occasionally on-fire world.

Kuchlbauer had flashbacks to the surprise of soot coating her car three years ago when she was a recent college graduate in San Diego. Bomba had deja vu from San Francisco, where the air was so thick with smoke people had to mask up. They figured they left wildfire worries behind in California, but a Canada that’s burning from sea to warming sea brought one of the more visceral effects of climate change home to places that once seemed immune.

“It’s been very apocalyptic feeling, because in California the dialogue is like, ‘Oh, it’s normal. This is just what happens on the West Coast,’ but it’s very much not normal here,” Kuchlbauer said.

As Earth’s climate continues to change from heat-trapping gases spewed into the air, ever fewer people are out of reach from the billowing and deadly fingers of wildfire smoke, scientists say. Already wildfires are consuming three times more of the United States and Canada each year than in the 1980s and studies predict fire and smoke to worsen.

While many people exposed to bad air may be asking themselves if this is a “new normal,” several scientists told The Associated Press they specifically reject any such idea because the phrase makes it sound like the world has changed to a new and steady pattern of extreme events.

“Is this a new normal? No, it’s a new abnormal,” University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann said. “It continues to get worse. If we continue to warm the planet, we don’t settle into some new state. It’s an ever-moving baseline of worse and worse.”

It’s so bad that perhaps the term “wildfire” also needs to be rethought, suggested Woodwell Climate Research Center senior scientist Jennifer Francis.

“We can’t really call them wildfires anymore,” Francis said. “To some extent they’re just not, they’re not wild. They’re not natural anymore. We are just making them more likely. We’re making them more intense.”

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Several scientists told the AP that the problem of smoke and wildfires will progressively worsen until the world significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which has not happened despite years of international negotiations and lofty goals.

Fires in North America are generally getting worse, burning more land. Even before July, traditionally the busiest fire month for the country, Canada has set a record for most area burned with 31,432 square miles (81,409 square kilometers), which is nearly 15% higher than the old record.

"A year like this could happen with or without climate change, but warming temperatures just made it a lot more probable," said A. Park Williams, a UCLA bioclimatologist who studies fire and water. "We're seeing, especially across the West, big increases in smoke exposure and reduction in air quality that are attributable to increase in fire activity."

Numerous studies have linked climate change to increases in North American fires because global warming is increasing extreme weather, especially drought and mostly in the West.

As the atmosphere dries, it sucks moisture out of plants, creating more fuel that burns easier, faster and with greater intensity. Then you add more lightning strikes from more storms, some of which are dry lightning strikes, said Canadian fire scientist Mike Flannigan at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia. Fire seasons are getting longer, starting earlier and lasting later because of warmer weather, he said.

"We have to learn to live with fire and smoke, that's the new reality," Flannigan said.

Ronak Bhatia, who moved from California to Illinois for college in 2018 and now lives in Chicago, said at first it seemed like a joke: wildfire smoke following him and his friends from the West Coast. But if it continues, it will no longer be as funny.

"It makes you think about climate change and also how it essentially could affect, you know, anywhere," Bhatia said. "It's not just the California problem or Australia problem. It's kind of an everywhere problem."

Wildfires in the U.S. on average now burn about 12,000 square miles (31,000 square kilometers) yearly, about the size of Maryland. From 1983 to 1987, when the National Interagency Fire Center started keeping statistics, only about 3,300 square miles (8,546 square kilometers) burned annually.

During the past five years, including a record low 2020, Canada has averaged 12,279 square miles (31,803 square kilometers) burned, which is three and a half times larger than the 1983 to 1987 average.

The type of fires seen this year in western Canada are in amounts scientists and computer models predicted for the 2030s and 2040s. And eastern Canada, where it rains more often, wasn't supposed to see occasional fire years like this until the mid 21st century, Flannigan said.

If the Canadian east is burning, that means eventually, and probably sooner than researchers thought, eastern U.S. states will also, Flannigan said. He and Williams pointed to devastating fires in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, that killed 14 people in 2016 during a brief drought in the East.

America burned much more in the past, but that's because people didn't try to stop fires and they were less of a threat. The West used to have larger and regular fires until the mid-19th century, with more land settlement and then the U.S. government trying to douse every fire after the great 1910 Yellowstone fire, Williams said.

Since about the 1950s, America pretty much got wildfires down to a minimum, but that hasn't been the case since about 2000.

"We thought we had it under control, but we don't," Williams said. "The climate changed so much that we lost control of it."

The warmer the Arctic gets and the more snow and ice melt there — the Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of Earth — the differences in the summer between Arctic and mid-latitudes get smaller. That allows the jet stream of air high above the ground to meander and get stuck, prolonging bouts of bad weather, Mann and Francis said. Other scientists say they are waiting for more evidence on the impact of bouts of stuck weather.

A new study published on June 23 links a stuck weather pattern to reduced North American snow cover in the spring.

For people exposed to nasty air from wildfire smoke, increasing threats to health are part of the new reality.

Wildfires expose about 44 million people per year worldwide to unhealthy air, causing about 677,000 deaths annually with almost 39% of them children, according to a 2021 study out of the United Kingdom.

One study that looked at a dozen years of wildfire smoke exposure in Washington state showed a 1% all-ages increase in the odds of non-traumatic death the same day as the smoke hit the area and 2% for the day after. Risk of respiratory deaths jumped 14% and even more, 35%, for adults ages 45 to 64.

Based on peer-reviewed studies, the Health Effects Institute estimated that smoke's chief pollutant caused 4 million deaths worldwide and nearly 48,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2019.

The tiny particles making up a main pollutant of wildfire smoke, called PM2.5, are just the right size to embed deep in the lungs and absorb into the blood. But while their size has garnered attention, their composition also matters, said Kris Ebi, a University of Washington climate and health scientist.

"There is emerging evidence that the toxicity of wildfire smoke PM2.5 is more toxic than what comes out of tailpipes," Ebi said.

A cascade of health effects may become a growing problem in the wake of wildfires, including downwind from the source, said Ed Avol, professor emeritus at the Keck School of Medicine at University of Southern California.

Beyond irritated eyes and scratchy throats, breathing in wildfire smoke also can create long-term issues all over the body. Avol said those include respiratory effects including asthma and COPD, as well as impacts on heart, brain and kidney function.

"In the longer term, climate change and unfortunately wildfire smoke is not going away because we really haven't done that much quick enough to make a difference," Avol said, adding that while people can take steps like masking up or using air filters to try to protect themselves, we are ultimately "behind the curve here in terms of responding to it."

Borenstein reported from Washington and Walling from Chicago.

Follow AP's climate and environment coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate-and-environment>

Follow Seth Borenstein and Melina Walling on Twitter at @borenbears and @MelinaWalling.

Associated Press climate and environmental coverage receives support from several private foundations. See more about AP's climate initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

In 370 days, Supreme Court conservatives dash decades of abortion and affirmative action precedents

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Overturning Roe v. Wade and eliminating affirmative action in higher education had been leading goals of the conservative legal movement for decades.

In a span of 370 days, a Supreme Court reshaped by three justices nominated by President Donald Trump made both a reality.

Last June, the court ended nationwide protections for abortion rights. This past week, the court's conservative majority decided that race-conscious admissions programs at the oldest private and public colleges in the country, Harvard and the University of North Carolina, were unlawful.

Precedents that had stood since the 1970s were overturned, explicitly in the case of abortion and effectively in the affirmative action context.

"That is what is notable about this court. It's making huge changes in highly salient areas in a very short period of time," said Tara Leigh Grove, a law professor at the University of Texas.

As ethical questions swirled around the court and public trust in the institution had already dipped to a 50-year low, there were other consequential decisions in which the six conservatives prevailed.

They rejected the Biden administration's \$400 billion student loan forgiveness program and held that a

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Christian graphic artist can refuse on free speech grounds to design websites for same-sex couples, despite a Colorado law that bars discrimination based on sexual orientation and other characteristics.

The court, by a 5-4 vote, also sharply limited the federal government's authority to police water pollution into certain wetlands, although all nine justices rejected the administration's position.

Affirmative action was arguably the biggest constitutional decision of the year, and it showcased fiercely opposing opinions from the court's two Black justices, Clarence Thomas and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

They offered sharply contrasting takes on affirmative action. Thomas was in the majority to end it. Jackson, in her first year on the court, was in dissent.

The past year also had a number of notable surprises.

Differing coalitions of conservative and liberal justices ruled in favor of Black voters in an Alabama re-districting case and refused to embrace broad arguments in a North Carolina re-districting case that could have left state legislatures unchecked and dramatically altered elections for Congress and president.

The court also ruled for the Biden administration in a fight over deportation priorities and left in place the Indian Child Welfare Act, the federal law aimed at keeping Native American children with Native families.

Those cases reflected the control that Chief Justice John Roberts asserted, or perhaps reasserted, over the court following a year in which the other five conservatives moved more quickly than he wanted in some areas, including abortion.

Roberts wrote a disproportionate share of the term's biggest cases: conservative outcomes on affirmative action and the student loan plan, and liberal victories in Alabama and North Carolina.

The Alabama case may have been the most surprising because Roberts had consistently sought to narrow the landmark Voting Rights Act since his days as a young lawyer in the Reagan administration. As chief justice, he wrote the decision 10 years ago that gutted a key provision of the law.

But in the Alabama case and elsewhere, Roberts was part of majorities that rejected the most aggressive legal arguments put forth by Republican elected officials and conservative legal advocates.

The mixed bag of decisions almost seemed designed to counter arguments about the court's legitimacy, raised by Democratic and liberal critics — and some justices — in response to last year's abortion ruling, among others. The narrative was amplified by published reports of undisclosed, paid jet travel and fancy trips for Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito from billionaire Republican donors.

"I don't think the court consciously takes opinion into account," Grove said. "But I think if there's anyone who might consciously think about these issues, it's the institutionalist, the chief justice. He's been extremely concerned about the attacks on the Supreme Court."

On the term's final day, Roberts urged the public to not mistake disagreement among the justices for disparagement of the court. "Any such misperception would be harmful to this institution and our country," he wrote in the student loans case in response to a stinging dissent by Justice Elena Kagan.

Roberts has resisted instituting a code of ethics for the court and has questioned whether Congress has the authority to impose one. Still, he has said, without providing specifics, that the justices would do more to show they adhere to high ethical standards.

Some conservative law professors rejected the idea that the court bowed to outside pressures, consciously or otherwise.

"There were a lot of external atmospherics that really could have affected court business, but didn't," said Jennifer Mascott, a George Mason University law professor.

Curt Levey, president of the Committee for Justice, pointed to roughly equal numbers of major decisions that could be characterized as politically liberal or conservative.

Levey said conservatives "were not disappointed by this term." Democrats and their allies "warned the nation about an ideologically extreme Supreme Court but wound up cheering as many major decisions as they decried," Levey wrote in an email.

But some liberal critics were not mollified.

Brian Fallon, director of the court reform group Demand Justice, called the past year "another disastrous Supreme Court term" and mocked experts who "squint to find so-called silver linings in the Court's deci-

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sions to suggest all is not lost, or they will emphasize one or two so-called moderate decisions from the term to suggest the Court is not as extreme as we think and can still be persuaded from time to time."

Biden himself said on MSNBC on Thursday that the current court has "done more to unravel basic rights and basic decisions than any court in recent history." He cited as examples the overturning of abortion protections and other decisions that had been precedent for decades.

Still, Biden said, he thought some on the high court "are beginning to realize their legitimacy is being questioned in ways it hasn't been questioned in the past."

The justices are now embarking on a long summer break. They return to the bench on the first Monday in October for a term that so far appears to lack the blockbuster cases that made the past two terms so momentous.

The court will examine the legal fallout from last year's major expansion of gun rights, in a case over a domestic violence gun ban that was struck down by a lower court.

A new legal battle over abortion also could make its way to the court in coming months. In April, the court preserved access to mifepristone, a drug used in the most common method of abortion, while a lawsuit over it makes its way through federal court.

The conservative majority also will have opportunities to further constrain federal regulatory agencies, including a case that asks them to overturn the so-called Chevron decision that defers to regulators when they seek to give effect to big-picture, sometimes vague, laws written by Congress. The 1984 decision has been cited by judges more than 15,000 times.

Just seven years ago, months before Trump's surprising presidential victory, then-Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg reflected on the term that had just ended and made two predictions. One was way off base and the other was strikingly accurate.

In July 2016, the court had just ended a term in which the justices upheld a University of Texas affirmative action plan and struck down state restrictions on abortion clinics.

Her first prediction was that those issues would not soon return to the high court. Her second was that if Trump became president, "everything is up for grabs."

Ginsburg's death in 2020 allowed Trump to put Justice Amy Coney Barrett on the court and cement conservative control.

Commenting on the student loan decision, liberal legal scholar Melissa Murray wrote on Twitter that Biden's plan "was absolutely undone by the Court that his predecessor built."

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Karen Allen on one last hurrah as Marion Ravenwood in 'Indiana Jones: Dial of Destiny'

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Indiana Jones. Karen Allen always knew he'd come walking back through her door.

Since 1981's "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Allen has been only a sporadic presence in the subsequent sequels. But the glow of the freckled, big-eyed actor who so memorably played Marion Ravenwood has only grown stronger over time.

Indiana Jones may be one of the movies' most iconic characters, but he's always needed a good foil. It was Kate Capshaw and Ke Huy Quan in "Temple of Doom" and Sean Connery in "The Last Crusade." Yet none could top, or out drink, Allen's Marion, a wisecracking, naturalistic beauty and swashbuckling heir to screwball legends like Katharine Hepburn and Irene Dunne.

Allen's place in the latest and last "Indiana Jones," the just-released "Dial of Destiny," has long been a mystery. Now that the movie is in theaters — spoiler alert — we can finally let the cat out of the bag. Allen returns. And while her role isn't large — tragedy has driven Marion and Indiana apart — it's extremely poignant in how she figures into Harrison Ford's swan song as Indiana Jones.

"Secrets," Allen chuckled in a recent interview, "are not my specialty."

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Allen, 71, was a magnetic presence in some memorable 1970s and '80s films, including 1978's "Animal House" (the performance that caught Steven Spielberg's eye), 1984's "Starman" and 1988's "Scrooged." But while she's steadily worked ever since, the era's male-dominated Hollywood often seemed to squander her talent. Allen has lived for decades in the Berkshires, where she opened a textiles and clothing boutique and has frequently performed at Tanglewood.

Allen also returned to Marion in 2008's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull." But as much as "Dial of Destiny" signifies the end of Ford's run as Indy, it's also Allen's goodbye to her most beloved character. This time, Indiana's sidekick went to Phoebe Waller-Bridge, the "Fleabag" creator and star. Allen, praising Waller-Bridge as a strong woman, approves.

"If it wasn't going to be me," said Allen, "I'm glad it was her."

AP: Did Spielberg or "Dial of Destiny" director James Mangold reach out to you about returning as Marion?

ALLEN: There was a period of time when Steven was going to direct the film. It was my understanding — although I never read any of those scripts — that it was being developed very much as a still-ongoing Marion-and-Indy story. When Steven decided to step down and James took over and brought in new writers, I knew it was going into a different direction. Having not even known what it was before, it was even more mysterious after they took it over. So I really didn't know anything for a long period of time until they had a script. And I have to confess, I was a bit disappointed that she wasn't more woven throughout the story and didn't have more of an ongoing trajectory. However, the way in which she does come back into the story was very satisfying. I just thought, "OK, I'm just going to embrace this." I certainly would have been wildly disappointed had Marion just sort of vanished into the ether.

AP: Did you always think Marion and Indiana were destined for each other? You don't exactly get a sense of permanence between them in "Raiders."

ALLEN: It's funny. When I first started working on it, I just decided that Indy was the love of her life. I just decided to make a deep commitment to that and to play through "Raiders of the Lost Ark" with the feeling they're soulmates. When we end up married in "Crystal Skull," I wept when I read that script.

AP: "Indiana Jones" could be a boys world but you were such a spirited force of nature.

ALLEN: Well, Steven and George had this experience as young boys with these Saturday afternoon matinee serial films. They were just a little bit older than I am, so I kind of missed that. I don't have a reference point for that. So I don't think that I necessarily understood the genre of film we were making. I thought we were making "Casablanca." I really, truly did. So I sort of defined my character in that sort of genre — which I think weirdly enough works quite well for the film. I never imagined Marion as a damsel in distress in any sort of way. I was always pushing back against that, and in the end, Steven was supportive of that.

AP: Do you ever wish you had gotten the chance to star in more Hollywood films?

ALLEN: I make movies all the time, although I have tended in the last 10 or 15 years to focus more on indie films. In truth, the kinds of roles I'm really hungry to play, particularly for someone my age, they're written more in the indie world. People kind of think, "Where have you been?" There were times I was raising my son but I often do at least two films a year. They're very satisfying, probably more satisfying than the sort of roles I would be offered. A lot of times I turned down things. There's a lot of thankless roles for women in bigger budget films.

AP: What has Marion meant to you?

ALLEN: She's sort of at the core of my growth as an actor and certainly my relationship to the world. As I move through the world, I've become very identified with that character. There was maybe a brief period of time where I found it annoying. But that passed and now it's just this character that I love. I can't imagine anything more satisfying to have had the chance in life to create a character that has some meaning for people.

AP: What was it like to shoot your scenes with Ford in "Dial of Destiny"?

ALLEN: It was fantastic. We shot it all in one day or maybe two days. To just imagine these two people that have been wrenched apart through grief and loss and then she's coming back with this hope that

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they can move forward. When we played the scene, that was very, very affecting. We were both very affected by it and a little teary. And the crew was a little teary.

AP: How has it been keeping your role in the film secret?

ALLEN: It's been excruciating. (Laughs) I never have to do anything like this again. People have come up to me and they've been so upset because they didn't see my name on IMDb. People would be so mad I'd have to stand there and just be like, "What do I say? Do I say, 'Yeah, isn't that a drag?' or 'You never never know — wink, wink.'" I've had to say I just can't answer any questions about "Indiana Jones" — which I feel like is sort of saying that I'm in the film. It's a lose-lose situation. (Laughs)

AP: Does playing Marion one last time cap anything for you?

ALLEN: More so for Harrison than for me. He's such a fully developed character and has done all five of these. With Marion, I've kind of come and gone. But she will always be a character that moves through life with me. I don't know if I really have a sense of it being over. There always was a sense that one more would be done, even if it took 20 years. Now, they've been very clear that this is the last one. So it is a letting go.

___ Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

Shooting in France shows US is not alone in struggles with racism, police brutality

By CLAUDIA LAUER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

A police killing caught on video. Protests and rioting fueled by long-simmering tensions over law enforcement treatment of minorities. Demands for accountability.

The events in France following the death of a 17-year-old shot by police in a Paris suburb are drawing parallels to the racial reckoning in the U.S. spurred by the killings of George Floyd and other people of color at the hands of law enforcement.

Despite the differences between the two countries' cultures, police forces and communities, the shooting in France and the outcry that erupted there this week laid bare how the U.S. is not alone in its struggles with systemic racism and police brutality.

"These are things that happen when you're French but with foreign roots. We're not considered French, and they only look at the color of our skin, where we come from, even if we were born in France," said Tracy Ladji, an activist with SOS Racisme. "Racism within the police kills, and way too many of them embrace far-right ideas so ... this has to stop."

In an editorial published this week, the French newspaper Le Monde wrote that the recent events "are reminiscent" of Floyd's 2020 killing by a white Minneapolis police officer that spurred months of unrest in the U.S. and internationally, including in Paris.

"This act was committed by a law enforcement officer, was filmed and broadcast almost live and involved an emblematic representative of a socially discriminated category," the newspaper wrote.

The French teen, identified only as Nahel, was shot during a traffic stop Tuesday in the Paris suburb of Nanterre. Video showed two officers at the window of the car, one with his gun pointed at the driver. As the teenager pulled forward, the officer fired once through the windshield.

Nahel's grandmother, who was not identified by name, told Algerian television Ennahar TV that her family has roots in Algeria.

Preliminary charges of voluntary homicide were filed against the officer accused of pulling the trigger, though that has done little to quell the rioting that has spread across the country and led to hundreds of arrests. The officer said he feared he and his colleague or someone else could be hit by the car as Nahel attempted to flee, a prosecutor has said.

Officials have not disclosed the race of the officer. His lawyer said he did what he thought was necessary in the moment. Speaking on French TV channel BFMTV, the lawyer said the officer is "devastated," adding that "he really didn't want to kill."

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Nahel's mother, identified only as Mounia M., told France 5 television she's not angry at the police in general. She's angry at the officer who killed her only child.

"He saw an Arab-looking little kid. He wanted to take his life," she said.

Police shootings in France are significantly less common than in the U.S. but have been on the rise since 2017. Several experts believe that correlates with a law loosening restrictions on when officers can use lethal force against drivers after a series of terrorist attacks using vehicles.

Officers can shoot at a vehicle when a driver fails to comply with an order and when a driver's actions are likely to endanger their lives or those of others. French police have also been regularly criticized for their violent tactics.

Unlike the U.S., France does not keep any data on race and ethnicity as part of its doctrine of colorblind universalism — an approach purporting to see everyone as equal citizens. Critics say that doctrine has masked generations of systemic racism.

"I can't think of a country in Europe that has more longstanding or pernicious problems of police racism, brutality and impunity," Paul Hirschfield, director of the criminal justice program at Rutgers University, said of France. Hirschfield has published multiple papers comparing policing practices and killings in America to those in other countries.

Experts said the video of the shooting — which appeared to contradict initial statements from police that the teen was driving toward the officer — pushed leaders to quickly condemn the killing. French President Emmanuel Macron called the shooting "inexcusable" even before charges were filed against the officer.

That's nothing new for Americans, who even before the excruciating footage of George Floyd's death under a Minneapolis police officer's knee had seen many videos of violent police encounters that were often taken by witnesses and at times contradicted the initial statements of police.

"I've never seen a case where the interior minister was so quick to condemn a shooting. In previous killings, there was unrest, but there was no video. It changes everything," Hirschfield said.

Police in France typically go through training that runs for about 10 months, which is long compared with many U.S. cities, but one of the shortest training requirements in Europe.

However, experts said they did not believe French police receive training that is equivalent to the implicit bias training required of many U.S. police officers as an effort to improve policing in diverse communities, though many U.S. critics have questioned the training's effectiveness.

France and other European countries have growing African, Arab and Asian populations.

"If you are in a country with a colonial past, it carries a stigma. And if that is painful enough that you can't handle having that conversation about race, of course you aren't going to have relevant training for officers," Stacie Keese, co-founder of the Center for Policing Equity, who serves on the United Nations' International Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement.

Bertrand Cavallier, the former commander of France's national gendarmerie training school, said French law enforcement should not be judged by the actions of one officer.

"This is the case of a police officer who made a mistake and didn't have to do it. But he was arrested, and that, I think, should be a clear message concerning the will of the government," he said.

Associated Press writers Alex Turnbull and Jeffrey Schaeffer in Nanterre, France, contributed to this report.

UK press watchdog finds a tabloid column about hate for Prince Harry's wife, Meghan, was sexist

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A column in The Sun tabloid that fantasized about seeing Prince Harry's wife, Meghan, being pelted with feces as she was paraded naked through the streets was sexist, Britain's press watchdog found.

The column by TV personality Jeremy Clarkson in December described how he hated the Duchess of Sussex "on a cellular level." He said she used "vivid bedroom promises" to turn Harry into a "warrior of

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woke" and controlled him like a sock puppet.

"The imagery employed by the columnist in this article was humiliating and degrading toward the duchess," said Edward Faulks, chairman of the Independent Press Standards Organisation. "IPSO's purpose is to protect the public and freedom of expression by upholding high editorial standards. In this case, The Sun failed to meet these standards."

The independent organization, which most U.K. newspapers, magazines and digital news outlets voluntarily commit to be regulated by, found that multiple "pejorative and prejudicial" references to Meghan's sex breached its editors' code.

"Stereotypes about women using their sexuality to exert influence ... implied that it was the duchess's sexuality — rather than any other attribute or accomplishment — which was the source of her power," the findings said.

The article inspired a record number of complaints to the regulator, which required the newspaper to inform its readers of the findings released late Friday.

The newspaper printed a headline "Jeremy Clarkson: IPSO Upholds Complaint" at the bottom of its front page Saturday and directed readers to a summary of the report where Clarkson's column typically appears on page 17. The newspaper had removed the column and apologized in December.

Clarkson, who made his name as the combative host of the BBC car show "Top Gear" and hosts motoring show "The Grand Tour" on Amazon, previously said he was "horrified" after the blowback. He apologized and promised to be more careful.

Clarkson's daughter had been among those who blasted the column. "I stand against everything that my dad wrote about Meghan Markle and I remain standing in support of those that are targeted with online hatred," Emily Clarkson posted on Instagram.

Jeremy Clarkson said the image of him dreaming of Meghan being publicly shamed was a "clumsy reference" to a scene in "Game of Thrones."

The column followed the release of a six-part Netflix documentary about Harry and Meghan's acrimonious split from the British royal family. The couple quit royal duties and moved to California in 2020, citing a lack of support from the palace and racist press treatment of Meghan, who is biracial.

The press regulator rejected complaints that the column was inaccurate or harassed Meghan or discriminated against her on the basis of race.

Harry had called the article "horrific, hurtful and cruel" and said the column would encourage misogyny.

Meghan did not formally complain about the report but didn't object to the investigation launched after the Fawcett Society, a gender equality group, and Wilde Foundation, a charity supporting female abuse victims, filed complaints.

The Fawcett Society hailed the findings, which were the first by IPSO to uphold complaints of sexism.

"This landmark decision is a real opportunity for our media to catch up with what women have known for years — misogyny and hate are not acceptable and they can no longer be dressed up as satire or banter," said Jemima Olchawski, chief executive of the Fawcett Society.

How to grill the best kebabs for July 4 and all summer

By KATIE WORKMAN Associated Press

Grilling food on sticks is one of the most primal and satisfying ways to cook dinner in the summer — frankly, any time you are willing to cook outside — and is a particular Fourth of July favorite.

We're talking here about kebabs, or as you might find them spelled, kebobs, kabobs or shish kebabs. And depending on where you are in the world, you might be talking about pinchos, sate or yakitori.

Kebabs can be made from many kinds of meat, seafood, fish, poultry or vegetables, or a combination thereof. Once everything is all skewered up, the cooking process is usually relatively fast. That's because the food you're cooking has been cut into small pieces.

There is also a world of ground-meat kebabs out there, which might be called koftas, brochettes or seekh kebabs. These are ground meat molded onto skewers, and they are delicious.

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The meat varies from culture to culture, as do the spices and seasonings. In all cases, make sure your grill is well oiled so they don't stick.

THE SKEWERS

Metal skewers are sturdier, reusable and flameproof. They do get quite hot on the grill though, so need to be handled with care. If you're using disposable wooden or bamboo skewers, buy ones that are at least 12 inches long, and soak them in water for at least 30 minutes to prevent them from catching on fire.

Either way, look for skewers that have slightly flat prongs (the stick or blade part), which makes it easier to turn them without the food spinning on the stick.

THE FIXINGS

For meat, choose a cut that is tender and takes well to a fast sear. Don't grab a package of stewing meat, such as chuck or brisket, because those need long, slow cooking to reach tenderness.

If you're using beef, filet or tenderloin offer the most tender kebabs. For pork, use cubed, thick pork chops or tenderloin meat, not shoulder, butt or any of the longer-cooking, tougher cuts. For lamb, look for shoulder or leg meat, and for chicken you can use either dark or white meat, with white needing a slightly shorter cooking time.

For seafood, make sure the pieces are big enough to get a bit of color on the outside without overcooking throughout. For instance, bay scallops are too small to easily skewer, and will cook so quickly they won't take on much flavor from the grill. Larger sea scallops allow for a bit of browning while the inside remains creamy and tender. Same with shrimp – choose shrimp that are jumbo (16/20 per pound) or larger.

Some cooks like to alternate meat and vegetables on the same skewers. The biggest advantage of this is visual appeal. However, different types of vegetables cook at different rates, and definitely at different rates than various meats and seafood. So choose items that will be cooked to your liking at roughly the same time.

Keeping things separate means you can tailor the cooking time to the specific type of food on the skewer.

As for the size of your skewered foods, larger items will take longer to cook, but in general stay more tender inside. Smaller items will cook faster and have more browned surface area.

Most meat should be cut into pieces about 1 1/2-inches large; keep in mind the meat will shrink a bit as it cooks.

How tightly should you pack your skewers? Separating the items a bit allows them to cook faster and get more caramelization on more sides. However, pressing the foods up against each other will ensure more juiciness in your meats.

Turn your skewers frequently when cooking so that all sides get nice grill marks.

Often, kebab recipes include a marinade to deepen the flavor and keep the foods tender as they cook. You can marinate proteins like chicken and meat, as well as vegetables, for up to one day before kebabbing them. Fish and seafood should only marinate for a few hours, as they might start to turn mushy, especially if there is acid in the marinade. If time is a factor, just toss everything with the marinade before grilling.

Most kebabs are best cooked over direct medium-high or high heat. Make sure your grill grates are clean, hot, and brushed with oil before you start grilling.

And if outdoor grilling isn't in the cards, make your kebabs inside on a grill pan or in the broiler.

Recipe for Greek Lamb Kebabs

If you double the marinade, you could also marinate some chunks of red onion, zucchini and summer squash separately. Stick the onions on a couple of skewers, the squash on some more skewers, and cook those alongside the meat. The onions should take about 10 minutes on the grill, the squash 7 to 8. This makes for a pretty presentation, especially when served up with a Greek Orzo Salad.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 red onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- Juice of 1 lemon (about 2 tablespoons)

1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano or 1 ½ teaspoons dried
1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme or ½ teaspoon dried
1/8 teaspoon (big pinch) cayenne pepper
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
2 pounds boneless lamb leg or shoulder, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes
Garnish (optional): Fresh oregano sprigs, lemon wedges, chopped fresh parsley
To Serve: Tzatziki (store-bought or homemade)

Directions:

Place the olive oil, onion, garlic, lemon juice, oregano, thyme, cayenne, and salt and pepper in a large mixing bowl and stir to combine, or place the ingredients in a food processor and blend to puree. Add the lamb cubes and toss to coat well. Cover and refrigerate for 6 to 12 hours.

Soak 10 12-inch wooden skewers in water to cover for 30 minutes. If you're using metal skewers, they don't need soaking.

Thread the skewers with the lamb. Discard the remaining marinade.

Heat an outdoor grill to high, or heat a grill pan over medium-high heat. Grill the kebabs 4 inches from the heat source, for about 8 minutes total for medium rare, turning them every few minutes to get nice grill marks on most sides of the meat. Or sear them for the same amount of time in the hot grill pan.

Transfer to a serving platter, and garnish with the oregano sprigs and lemon wedges, if desired. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve with the tzatziki.

Katie Workman writes regularly about food for The Associated Press. She has written two cookbooks focused on family-friendly cooking, "Dinner Solved!" and "The Mom 100 Cookbook." She blogs at <https://themom100.com/>. She can be reached at Katie@themom100.com.

For more AP food stories, go to <https://apnews.com/hub/recipes>

Hungry ticks can use this static trick to land on you and your pets

By MADDIE BURAKOFF AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hungry ticks have some slick tricks. They can zoom through the air using static electricity to latch onto people, pets and other animals, new research shows.

Humans and animals naturally pick up static charges as they go about their days. And those charges are enough to give ticks a boost to their next blood meal, according to a study published Friday in the journal *Current Biology*.

While the distance is tiny, "it's the equivalent of us jumping three or four flights of stairs in one go," said study author Sam England, an ecologist now at Berlin's Natural History Museum.

Ticks are "ambush predators," explained Stephen Rich, a public health entomologist at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

They can't jump or fly onto their hosts, he said. Instead, they hang out on a branch or a blade of grass with their legs outstretched — a behavior known as "questing" — and wait for people or animals to pass by so they can grab on and bite.

It seemed that ticks were limited to how far they could stretch on their "tippy toes," England said. But now, scientists are learning that static charges may help expand their reach.

"They can now actually end up latching onto hosts that don't make direct contact with them," he said.

The researchers looked at a species of tick called the castor bean tick, which is common across Europe. This bloodsucker and its cousins are major culprits in spreading diseases to animals and humans, including Lyme disease, and are most active in warm months.

Researchers found that when they charged up electrodes and placed them near young ticks, the creatures would whiz through the air to land on those electrodes.

A normal level of static — the charge that fur, feathers, scales or clothes pick up with movement — could

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pull the critters across gaps of a fraction of an inch (a few millimeters or centimeters), according to the study. While those distances may seem small to us, for a tiny tick, they represent a big leap, England said.

In the future, there might be ways developed to reduce that static, experts said. But for now, Rich said people should keep using classic tick prevention measures, including repellents, to keep themselves safe from bites.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Today in History: July 2, Amelia Earhart disappears attempting round-the-world flight

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2023. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

On this date:

In 1566, French astrologer, physician and professed prophet Nostradamus died in Salon (sah-LOHN').

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau (gee-TOH') at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Illinois, as white mobs attacked Black residents; nearly 50 people, most of them Black, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 that the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

In 1979, the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin was released to the public.

In 1986, ruling in a pair of cases, the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action as a remedy for past job discrimination.

In 1990, more than 1,400 Muslim pilgrims were killed in a stampede inside a pedestrian tunnel near Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

In 1997, Academy Award-winning actor James Stewart died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 89.

In 2020, British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell was arrested in New Hampshire on charges that she had helped lure at least three girls – one as young as 14 – to be sexually abused by the late financier Jeffrey Epstein. (Maxwell would be convicted on five of six counts.)

Ten years ago: The Obama administration unexpectedly announced a one-year delay, until after the 2014 elections, in a central requirement of the health care law that medium and large companies provide coverage for their workers or face fines. Homer Bailey threw his second no-hitter in 10 months, pitching the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory over the slumping San Francisco Giants. Olympic track star Suzy Favor Hamilton's name was removed from the Big Ten female athlete of the year award following revelations she had been a sex worker.

Five years ago: Rescue divers in Thailand found alive 12 boys and their soccer coach, who had been trapped by flooding as they explored a cave more than a week earlier. Joseph Jackson, patriarch of one of America's most prominent musical families, was buried in the same cemetery as his late son Michael.

One year ago: The police chief for the Uvalde, Texas, school district stepped down from his City Council seat amid criticism of his response to the mass shooting that left 19 students and two teachers dead. Egyptian authorities closed off a stretch of the country's Red Sea coastline, a day after a shark attack

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killed an Austrian woman swimming near the resort of Hurghada. Five people were killed and 44 others injured in a magnitude 6.3 earthquake in southern Iran.

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 94. Actor Robert Ito is 92. Actor Polly Holliday is 86. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 86. Former White House chief of staff and former New Hampshire governor John H. Sununu is 84. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 81. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 76. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 76. Actor Saul Rubinek is 75. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 74. Actor Wendy Schaal is 69. Actor-model Jerry Hall is 67. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 62. Country singer Guy Penrod is 60. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 58. Actor Yancy Butler is 53. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 47. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 45. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 44. NHL center Joe Thornton is 44. Singer Michelle Branch is 40. Actor Vanessa Lee Chester is 39. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 39. Actor Nelson Franklin is 38. Actor-singer Ashley Tisdale is 38. Actor Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 37. Actor Margot Robbie is 33. U.S. Olympic swimmer Ryan Murphy is 28.