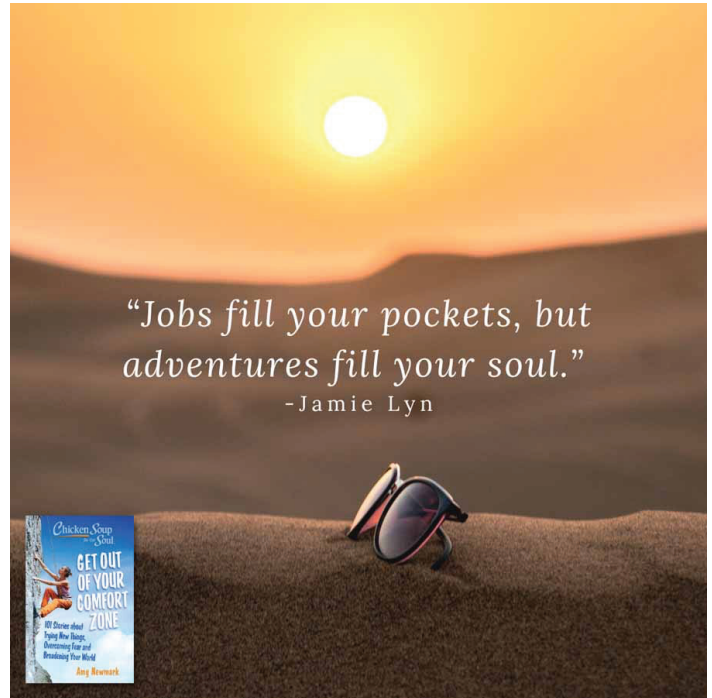


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*"Jobs fill your pockets, but adventures fill your soul."*

- Jamie Lyn

## Sunday, July 30

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: Conde worship at 8:30 a.m., coffee hour 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship at 10:30 a.m.

St. John's worship, 9 a.m.; Zion Lutheran worship, 11 a.m.

State Legion Tournament in Redfield

## Monday, July 31

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff with noodles, green beans, Jell-O with fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

Food Pantry open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Groton Community Center

State Legion Tournament in Redfield

First allowable day for soccer practice

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

**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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## Columbia celebrates dedication of new baseball complex/city park

Residents and former residents, young and old, gathered in Columbia on Saturday to celebrate the second annual Columbia Fest and dedication of the new baseball complex and city park. Dignitaries were on hand for the events as the small town was making a big hit in Northeast South Dakota. Next year will mark the 145th Anniversary of the oldest city in Brown County.



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The combined Groton Area junior and senior drumline performed a special beat just for the Columbia Summer Fest. They started off the parade with their performance.



The Columbia Legion presented the colors.



The Columbia Fire Department.



The Kermit Wahl family rode the Nettie Baldwin.



A 1941 Farmall H driven by a fifth generation.

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Doris and Lloyd Dennert were the Grand Marshalls. They have been married for 72 years.



A 1969 Chevelle driving by Kaden Kampa, grandson of Dwight and Cheryl Kampa.



Alfred and Doris Larson are Columbia High School Sweethearts. They have been married for nearly 73 years and have been farming in the area since 1946.



Bisbee's Lawn Care have champion service when it comes to lawn care.



Matt Leidholdt is driving a 1947 Willys Overland Wagon for Leidholdt Tool Sales.



This 1939 Allis Chalmers B is owned by Barb Johnson Imber. Clare Johnson used it for wood cutting.

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The Columbia Comets cheerleaders have shared over 60 years of spirit, cheering on the Comet basketball team to four state tournaments.



The 2023 Columbia Midget and PeeWee teams had a clean sweep of the Three Rivers Tournament this year.



A 1968 Chevy Nova II owned by Barb Johnson Imberi and Glenn Imberi. Barb bought it new in 1968 from Trail Chevrolet in Groton.



Bruce and Vickie Sippel are driving this 1934 Ford Roadster.

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The Shaunaman Train makes its rounds.



Wetonka Veterinary Services with their entry in the parade.



Eric Frohling and Lynn Frohling (Roettele) with this 1966 Mustang.



A new, full hook-up all-season campground is now available at Sand Lake Campground.



Columbia's own "James Gang" is "bad to the bone!"



Rustic Cuts and Hagen Farms - Theresa and Lenny Hagen.

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St. John's Lutheran Church was established in 1887 and was formally organized as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1917 Zion Congregation decided to organize a daughter congregation in the city of Columbia known as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1928 the two congregations joined together and retain the name St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.



Jason and Dannielle Pullan with a 1965 Chevelle SS.



1949 Ford 1 ton purchased by Harold Dennert, owned by Paul Dennert.



St. John's Lutheran School started in 1887 north of Columbia at the site of St. John's Cemetery. Later it was moved into Columbia where it remained until the closing in 1969.



Titan Machinery of Aberdeen.



Prairie Heights Healthcare - 59 years of nursing and rehab services. Wishing Arlen Hanson, a recent rehab grad, a Happy 90th Birthday.

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Big things are coming for Columbia! Karen's Bar & Grill.



Columbia Congregational Church celebrating 140 years.



Groton Golf Cars, owned by Steve Dunker of Groton. Riding it are Jan and Nancy Gilchrist with grandson, Vykr Gilchrist.



Ron Ringgenberg on a 1952 Super A and Terry Haaland on a 1958 630 John Deere.



Wilbur Albrecht with his tractor, representing the 2 Cylinder Club.



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**Kenny Hamm, Westport, with his 1947 Ford M.**



**Mohr Honey and family.**



**Daly Corner has a fourth generation of farmers. Driven by Olivia, granddaughter of Steve and Patti Daly.**



**DeHoet family, in memory of Carroll and Arlyce DeHoet.**



**Eric Cease with Race Car #12 from Bath.**



**Hefty Seed Company.**



**Duck Race Float.**

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Thanks to efforts by the community to keep a daycare going in Columbia, Emily Eichler has opened a daycare this year.



David Hofer of DH Trucking driving this 2022 Peterbilt.



Cara Dennert, Columbia City Finance Officer, drives the city vehicle in the parade. Columbia City officials would like to "Thank everyone for making this a great community!"



Kippley Tax Service of Aberdeen.



Eugene Anderson with C Larson Trucking owned by Carson and Julie Larson.

Parade Photos by  
Paul Kosel

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**Jeanne Dell came from Aberdeen to see the parade. She was a Columbia School Teacher from 1969 to 1987 when it closed. She is 103 years of age. She said she enjoyed the parade and the sunshine!**



**An inflatable was in Columbia for the Saturday festivities.**



**People walked down the nice paved road done by Brown County.**

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**Pastor Mike Kampa from the Brentford Church opened up the dedication ceremony. He called Columbia a "little community with a great big heart."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Paula Jensen from Dakota Resources has been the Columbia community coach for 18 months. She said it started with eight people who wanted a dream to come true of what a thriving community looks like. "I think we see that today," she said. "Columbia is the most welcoming community in the region."**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Cyndy Larson from the Columbia Community Foundation talked about the efforts to raise money and to make a dream come true. Flaging her are members of the foundation as well as an Agtegra representative - Agtegra donated land to the project. Larson said Dean Buntrock and the Congregational UCC congregation gave a huge amount to jump start the baseball park and city park project. With their donations, along with many other donations, the Columbia community has raised \$828,295 in 16 months. The goal is to read \$1 million so that \$45,000 a year can be used for maintenance and donations. The foundation gave \$2,500 to the City of Columbia to pay for the services of Paula Jensen of Dakota Resources.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for two businesses that have been thriving in recent months in Columbia. Tyler Kampa and Karen from Karen's Bar and Grill and Emily Eichler with Eichler's Day Care were on hand for the cutting ceremony.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Ray Larson, representing the Columbia Parks and Rec Department and the Columbia American Legion talked about Columbia's passion for baseball. He talked about the Wahl family, and especially Kermit Wahl who played in the major leagues.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

According to Wikipedia:

## **Kermit Wahl**

Kermit Emerson Wahl (November 18, 1922 – September 16, 1987) was an American professional baseball player. An infielder, he played all or parts of five seasons in Major League Baseball between 1944 and 1951 for the Cincinnati Reds, Philadelphia Athletics and St. Louis Browns, getting into 231 games. Wahl threw and batted right-handed, and stood 5 feet 11 inches (1.80 m) tall and weighed 170 pounds (77 kg).

Wahl was born in Columbia, South Dakota, graduated from high school in that town, and attended Indiana University. He was signed off the IU campus by the Reds in 1944 during the World War II manpower shortage and made his major league debut as a pinch runner and pinch hitter during four early summer games. In his first big-league at bat, he popped out on July 2 against Johnny Allen of the New York Giants; he stayed in the game at third base, but handled no chances in the field. Wahl also spent part of the 1944 season with the Reds' Class A1 affiliate, the Birmingham Barons of the Southern Association.

He played for:

Cincinnati Reds (1944–1945; 1947)

Philadelphia Athletics (1950–1951)

St. Louis Browns (1951)

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**Columbia City Mayor Corey Mitchell (right) presented the Key to the City to Dean Buntrock, who helped to make the Field of Dreams come true. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**



**Tony Bisbee, Scott Wahl and Josh Larson reveal the sign for the Wahl Memorial Field. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**

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**Anna Bisbee sang the National Anthem before the start of the youth baseball game.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The Columbia and Groton teams stand as the national anthem was sung.** (Photo by Tigh Fliehs)

## The Life of Judy Larson



Heaven has a new member in its chorus, Judy Larson passed away July 27 at Rolling Hills Hospice Care, Belle Fourche. SD.

Judy Adelle Lehman was born on October 12, 1942 in Aberdeen, SD. Her parents, Reuben and LaVerna Lehman, farmed outside of Groton. She was baptized by her grandfather Rev. Frank Wilke. She attended Groton Schools where she was active in chorus, band and editor of the school newspaper.

She graduated in 1961 and then went to Huron College where she was involved in the chorus. Graduating with a BSA degree in Business, she began her teaching career at Augustana Academy, a residential Lutheran high school in Canton. While there she was also advisor to the school newspaper and annual. This is where she met Lennis Larson. She spent a summer as a volunteer at Holden Village, Chelan, WA, a Lutheran Retreat Center and went with NSC on a education trip to Hawaii. Her next teaching assignment was in the Business Department at Mitchell Vocational-Technical School for eight years.

In 1972 she married Lennis Larson at St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton. She continued teaching in Mitchell while living in Parkston where Lennis taught. In 1977 they moved to Spearfish where she began a career at Black Hills State University. She was an Assistant in the Vice President's office where she was in charge of semester registrations. In 1980 she was chosen to be the head of the Career Center Service Department. She and her colleagues across the state started the SD Teacher Job Fair in Sioux Falls.

While she was at BHSU she served on numerous committees. Upon her retirement, Judy worked for Black Hills Counseling Services for four years.

The Spearfish years were productive in volunteering. She served 14 years on Spearfish City Council, President of the SD Municipal League, served on the DC Booth Historic Fish Hatchery Board, Grace Balloch Library Board, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council, Rapid City and Spearfish Regional Hospital Boards. They also hosted four international high school students from Switzerland, Finland, Germany and Denmark. She loved to read, do embroidery projects, and travel – five cruise ship trips, train trip across Canada and a European trip to visit families of their international students

Family and friends who enjoyed sharing Judy's life are:

sister-in-law, Janet Lehman of Groton, nephews, Chad (Nacole) Lehman, of Groton and Ward Dirksen of Alexandria, VA, great nephew, Connor Lehman of Groton, nieces, Jenny Lehman (Tom) Sweeney of Shawnee, KS and Janelle Dirksen (Clay) Wilwert of Dubuque, IA, cousins, Luanne (David) Knutson of Silver Springs, MD and Ernie (Pat) Lehman of Kenmare, ND, friends; Dean and Mary Ann Myers, Steve and Lisa Gabriel and Riley and Barb Chrisman, PEO Sisters Chapter N, Friendship Ministry and Sonshine Squad, OSLC. Many thanks to all who sent flowers, food and cards of well wishes.

Judy was preceded in death by parents, Reuben and LaVerna Lehman, brother, Jerry Lehman, grandparents, Emil and Ella Lehman, Frank and Helen Wilke and aunt, Erna Lehman, uncle and aunt Henry and Dorothy Lehman

Memorials may be given in Judy's memory to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, PEO Sister Chapter N and BHSU Music Department.

Memorial visitation will be from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapel in Spearfish.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00am, Thursday, August 3, 2023 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spearfish.

Online condolences may be written at [www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com](http://www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com)



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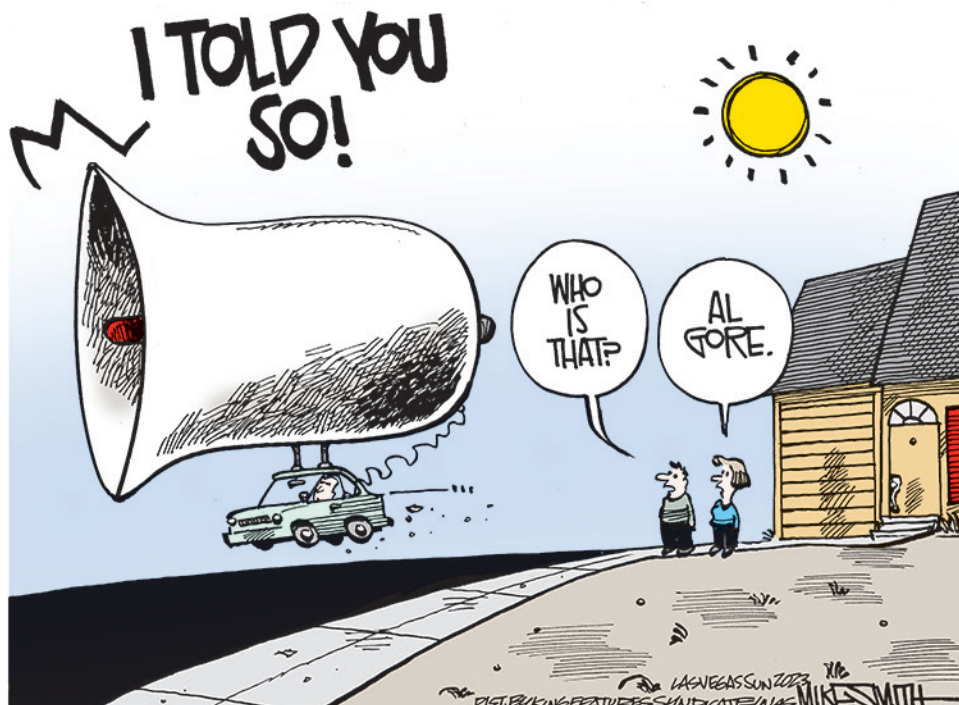
## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

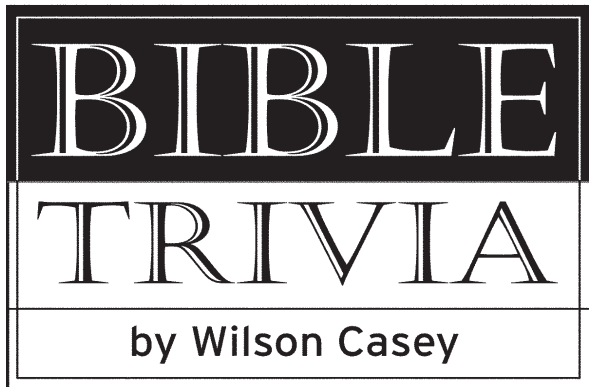


The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

EXODUS 2: 5,6

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

2. From Mark 10, James and who else asked to sit at Jesus' right and left hand in heaven? *Thomas, Peter, John, Philip*

3. Who said, "It is not meet (right) to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs"? *Jesus, Judas, Joshua, Jacob*

4. From James 4, what will happen if you resist the devil? He will ... *Fight, Anger, Mislead, Flee*

5. Who proclaimed a fast at the river of Ahava? *David, Adonikam, Ezra, Ariel*

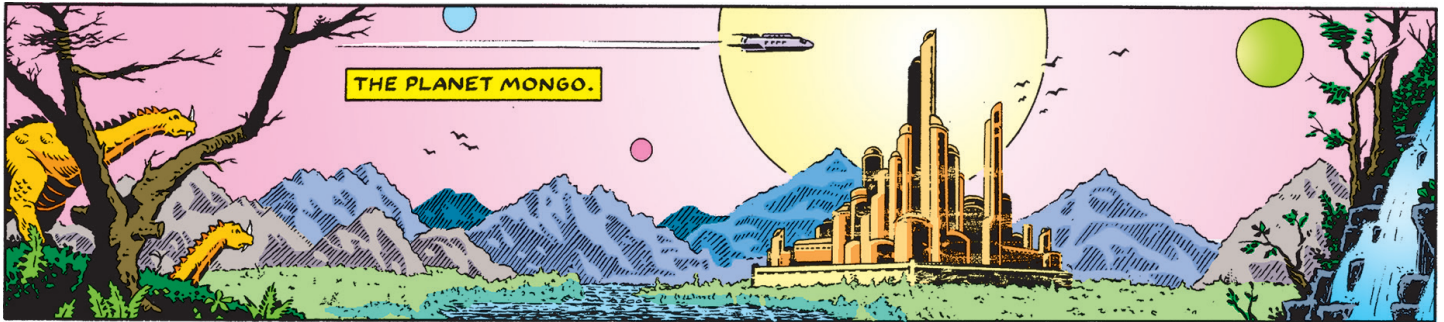
6. How many thieves were crucified with Jesus? *1, 2, 3, 4*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) John, 3) Jesus (Matthew 15:26), 4) Flee, 5) Ezra, 6) 2

*"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 7-30

FLASH, DALE AND ZARKOV ARE ATTACKED BY A TWO-HEADED CARNOOSAUR!

RUN FOR THE TREES!

I'LL TRY AN' SLOW IT DOWN!

NO! WE'RE NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...

CHIC-CHIC

...NOW GO!

KA-THOOM!

IT'S NOT GOING DOWN!

CHIC-CHIC

KA-THOOM!

IT'S JUST...

CHIC-CHIC

...GETTING...

...ANGRY!

MRRAAAA!

NEXT RACE FOR YOUR LIFE!

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

IF STEPPING OFF HOW FAR YOU HIT THE BALL WITH EACH CLUB IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR YOU, AT LEAST USE PAR-3 HOLE DISTANCES AND 150-YARD MARKERS TO HELP YOU FIGURE YOUR CAPABILITIES.

165 YDS  
PAR 3

NOTE WHAT YOU LEARN, AND PARTICULARLY IF YOU FIND YOU'RE A SHORTER HITTER THAN YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE.

USING THAT LESSON ALONE IN YOUR FUTURE CLUB SELECTION COULD CUT YOUR SCORES SUBSTANTIALLY.



## Heart Attacks Occur After Treatment of Infections

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My mom had a throat and palate infection that was treated in 2017, and about two weeks later, she had a heart attack. In 2023, she had pneumonia, and was briefly hospitalized and treated, but again about two weeks later, she had another heart attack. We asked her cardiologist if there is a relationship between either the infections themselves or the treatment of infections and heart attacks, but he was not aware of any. This seems too unlikely to be a coincidence. What is your experience on this? — A.C.S.

**ANSWER:** A heart attack happens when the demand for blood from the heart is greater than the ability of the blood vessels can provide. In practice, this almost always means that there are blockages in the blood vessels. However, an increase in the workload of the heart, such as strenuous exercise or an infection (fever tends to increase heart rate, and the blood flow from the heart usually increases with serious infection), can be what leads a person to have a heart attack. It's possible that this is what happened with your mom. The timing of two weeks after the event is longer than expected, but it's possible.

Whether from chronic infection or inflammatory conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, inflammation in the blood increases the risk of heart disease in the long term, so if there is a connection, and it's not just coincidental, that would be the most likely

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** You wrote about the dangers of testosterone replacement in men over 70 in your column a few months ago. Could you please describe the dangers of this again?

**My husband is 73 and injects testosterone every 10 days or so. He's not feeling too well overall, but he doesn't know why. He's been to the cardiologist, but the studies came back fine. He says he feels nerves in his stomach and a bit of shortness of breath. He's also tired and without much energy. — E.D.**

**ANSWER:** There are clear dangers with excess testosterone use, especially in older men. Some men use very high doses of testosterone or other androgens for muscle building, and this can cause heart damage, blood clots and stroke. I strongly do not recommend doing this, but it is generally used illicitly.

By contrast, for men in whom testosterone therapy is given appropriately, the dangers are quite small, and in most men, the benefits outweigh the risks. Men should have a clear reason to receive testosterone therapy, such as having low bone density, low libido, loss of body hair, or development of breast tissue, in addition to repeatedly low testosterone levels (including a level taken between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. when testosterone levels are highest). In these men, the goal is to stabilize the testosterone level, and the risks of the catastrophic outcomes listed above appear to be very small, or even zero. Testosterone levels should also be measured during therapy.

I can't speculate on the cause behind your husband's symptoms. Nonspecific symptoms, such as low energy, can be caused by low testosterone, but unless there are more specific symptoms of low testosterone, I generally do not recommend testosterone replacement.

*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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*

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"The Super Mario Bros. Movie" (PG) -- If you're looking for the perfect movie to watch with friends or family this weekend, look no further than the origin story of this beloved duo of brothers! Chris Pratt and Charlie Day voice plumbers Mario and Luigi, respectively, as they accidentally warp to an alternate world. While Mario lands in the Mushroom Kingdom ruled by Princess Peach, Luigi ends up in the Dark Lands that are ruled by Bowser, so it's up to Mario and Peach, with the help of a few other friends, to save Luigi before Bowser

destroys the Mushroom Kingdom. This movie is a treasure for generations of people who grew up loving Nintendo's video games. After bringing home a whopping \$1.349 billion from the box office, "Super Mario Bros." finds a home on Peacock on Aug. 3. (Peacock)

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" (PG-13) -- Following a successful theatrical release in May that catapulted this film to the No. 2 spot (the No. 1 spot getting nabbed by the film above) on the highest-grossing films of 2023, the final installment of the "Guardians" franchise hits streaming on Aug. 2. All our favorite tried-and-true Guardians, including the pre-Peter-Quill version of Gamora, are back for another mission -- this time to heal Rocket after he is critically wounded in battle with a Sovereign warrior. "Vol. 3" gives viewers glimpses into Rocket's back story, as it bounces back and forth from flashbacks of his past to the present time; this character-building that gives Rocket his well-earned moment, paired with the action scenes that Marvel Studios is unrivaled at, tie a beautiful bow on the trilogy. (Disney+)

"Happiness for Beginners" (TV-14) -- Ellie Kemper ("The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt") stars as divorcee Helen, who feels bogged down by the weight of her breakup. To get out of this slump, she decides to book an adult camping trip on the Appalachian Trail, where she coincidentally reconnects with Jake, a friend of her brother's. Helen and Jake, along with a team of people from all walks of life, start their 51-mile hike with the intent of finding adventure, but end up discovering so much more: new ways to approach life, keys to ensuring their own happiness, a community to belong in, and even love. Luke Grimes and Nico Santos co-star in this feel-good romantic comedy based on Katherine Center's novel, out now. (Netflix)

"My Happy Ending" (R) -- Based on the play "Sof Tov" by Anat Gov, the events of this comedy-drama unfold during a single day. After getting diagnosed with stage four colon cancer, fictional famous actress Julia Roth (played by Andie MacDowell) travels to a British health clinic to receive chemotherapy as covertly as possible, with the hopes that no one -- not even her manager or family -- will find out about her diagnosis. When there aren't any private rooms for her to tuck away in, the actress is forced to undergo treatment with three other women: Mikey, Judy and Imaan. However, over the course of the treatment, Julia reaches profound and necessary realizations about the new direction in her life, thanks to these women and the stories they share. "My Happy Ending" is out now. (Hulu)

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1. The Blue Angel band started with which now famous singer?
2. Name the song that all these artists have in common: Lis Sorensen, Natalie Imbruglia and Trine Rein.
3. What does the name SWV mean?
4. Name the group that had a hit with "Standing in the Shadows of Love."
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "It's close to midnight and something evil's lurking in the dark. Under the moonlight you see a sight that almost stops your heart."

## Answers

1. Cyndi Lauper, from 1980-1982. After the band broke up, Lauper waitressed while playing gigs until releasing her first album in 1983. Two years later she had a Grammy for Best New Artist.
2. "Torn," originally released by Sorensen in 1993. Rein followed with a cover in 1996, and Imbruglia in 1997. It was Imbruglia's cover that made the song a hit around the globe, and she netted a Grammy nom for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.
3. Sisters With Voices, an R&B trio from New York.
4. The Four Tops, in 1966.
5. "Thriller," by Michael Jackson, in 1983. The music video for "Thriller" was called the greatest video ever by MTV and was the first ever to be included in the National Film Registry.

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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by Wagner</sup>



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"Count backward from 100,  
like your stockbroker."

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



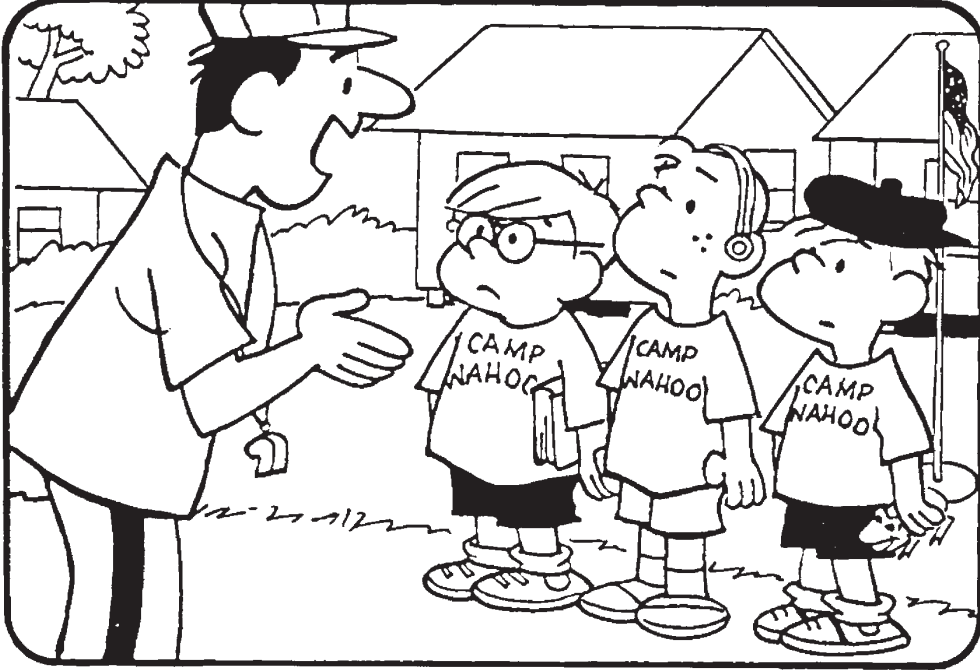
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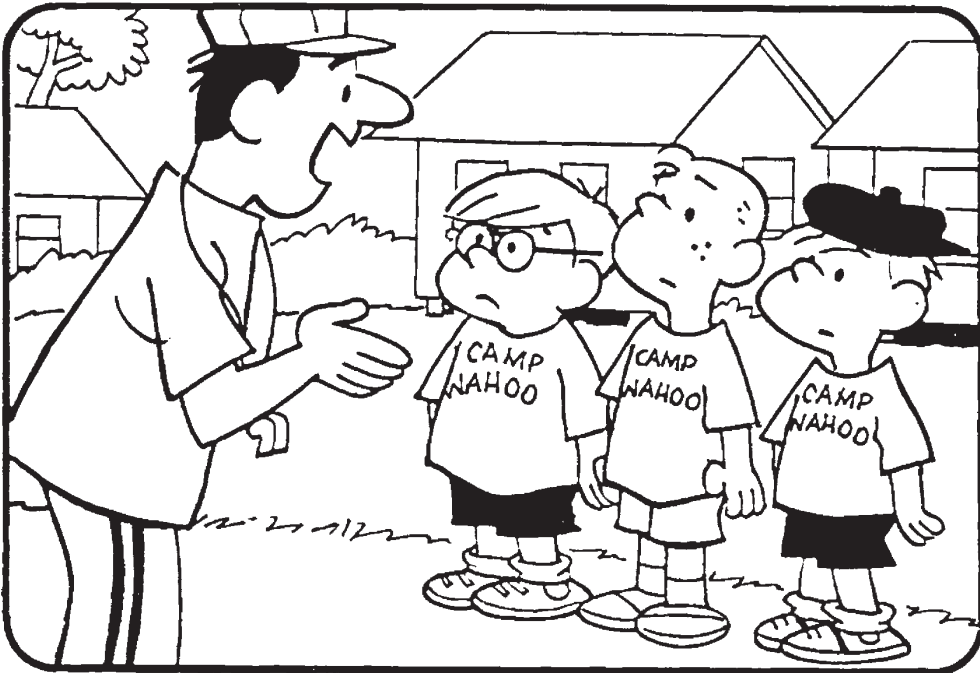
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Whistle cord is shorter. 3. Stripe is different. 3. Book is missing. 4. Headset is missing. 5. Frog is missing. 6. Flagpole is missing.

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\* My father taught me all I know about working the grill -- even though it was his job! One tip that's served me best is this simple beauty: Let the meat sear before you move it. Give it a chance to cook on one side well enough that it lifts away from the grill. If it's sticking, you probably need to leave it alone! Happy grilling.

\* "Kitchen stores sell grill brushes, but they can be expensive. I use a good-quality paintbrush from the hardware store for grilling only, and replace it a couple of times throughout grilling season. I find it to be a better brush, and less expensive to boot!" -- B.F. in Illinois

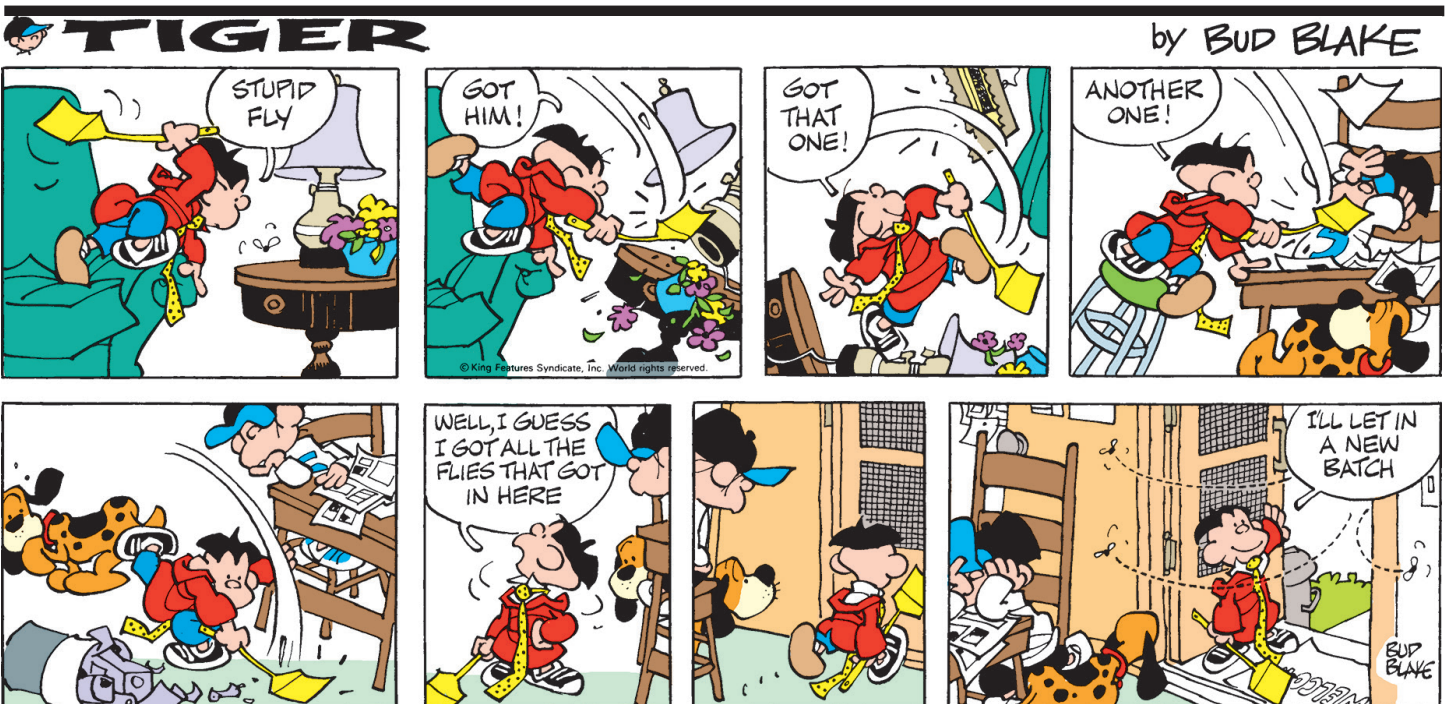
\* Your grilled meats will be more moist and taste better if you let them rest for a few minutes after you take them off the grill. It allows the meat to redistribute the natural juices. If you are worried about temperature, just cover the meat with foil.

\* "It's best to clean a grill just after cooking, but if you weren't able to, that's OK. When faced with a messy grill surface, just preheat, then clean. The heat will burn off drippings and make it easier to scrub." -- R.T. in Florida

\* You should never use a cooking spray on your grill. Instead, soak a paper towel in oil and use your tongs to oil the grill surface.

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Breath fresheners
- 6 Jazzy style
- 9 Monk's title
- 12 Pub perch
- 13 Greek H
- 14 Yank's foe
- 15 Very beginning
- 16 Difficult
- 18 Imam's place
- 20 Conks out
- 21 Fluffy scarf
- 23 Drone
- 24 Leans
- 25 Has
- 27 Monastery VIP
- 29 Past
- 31 Restitution
- 35 Travel papers
- 37 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
- 38 Tack on
- 41 Dogpatch adjective
- 43 Recipe abbr.
- 44 Adhesive
- 45 Roman orator
- 47 "That's a lie!"
- 49 Jets and Sharks
- 52 Swelled head
- 53 Samovar
- 54 Full-length
- 55 Tax form ID
- 56 Mag. staff

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				

- 57 Devoutness
- 8 Bit of butter
- 9 Delicate
- 34 Enervate
- 10 Stopwatch
- 36 Extraterrestrials
- 11 Void
- 38 De Mille of dance
- 17 Redacted
- 39 Whips
- 19 Campus areas
- 40 Japanese bedroll
- 21 Short 'do
- 42 Advantage
- 22 Have debts
- 45 It gets in the whey
- 24 Male turkey
- 46 Hindu royal
- 26 Part of USSR
- 48 Regret
- 6 Render senseless
- 30 Kibosh
- 50 Belly
- 7 Oklahoma tribe
- 32 Never
- 51 Farm pen
- 33 Hosp. work-

## — King Crossword —

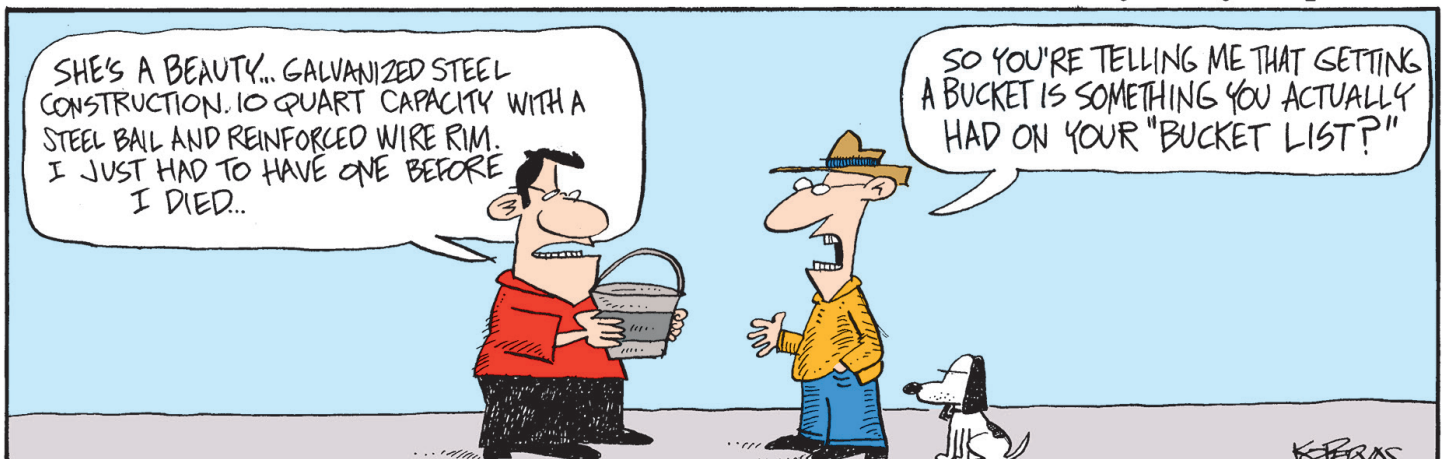
Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

M	I	N	T	S		B	O	P		F	R	A	
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		V	I	S	A	S		D	O	R	A		
A	F	F	I	X		L	I	L		T	S	P	
G	L	U	E		C	I	C	E	R	O			
N	O	T	T	R	U	E		G	A	N	G	S	
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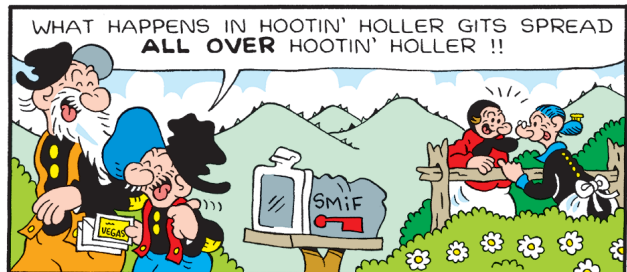
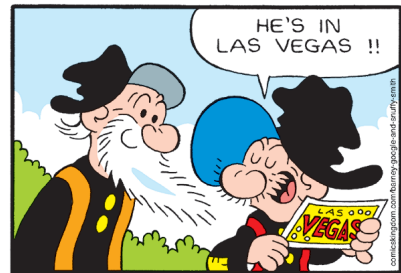
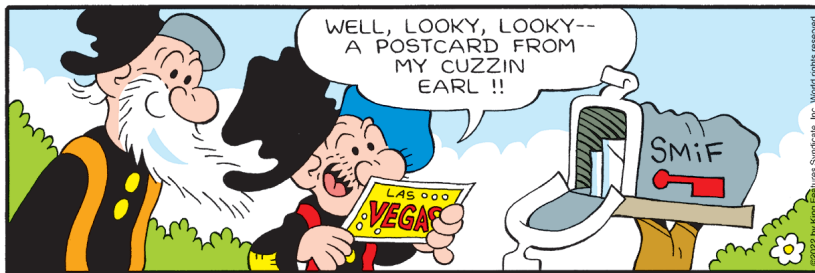
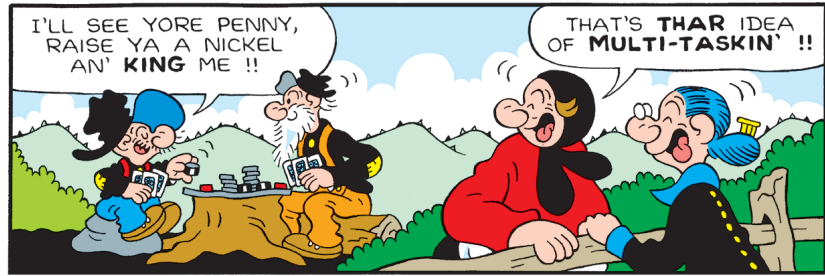
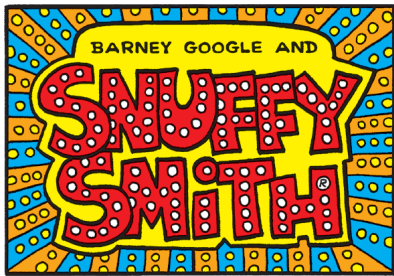
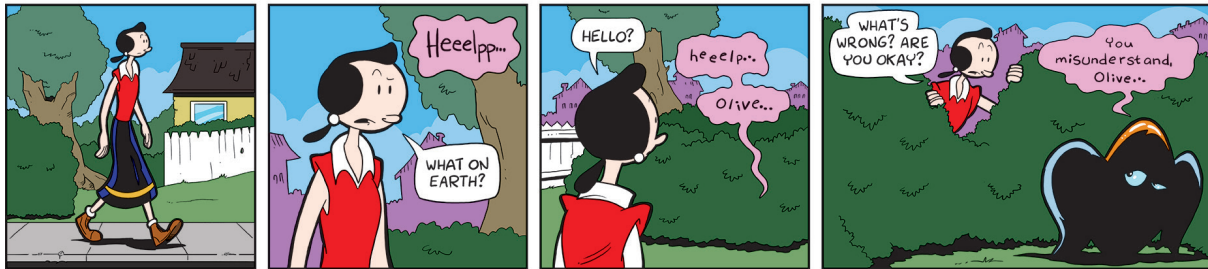
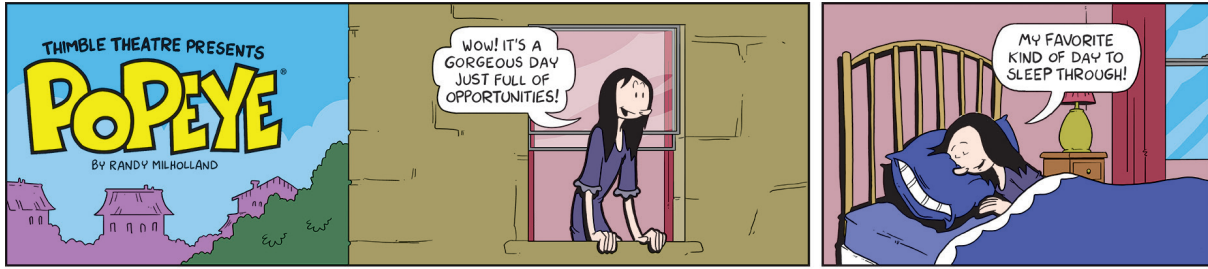
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



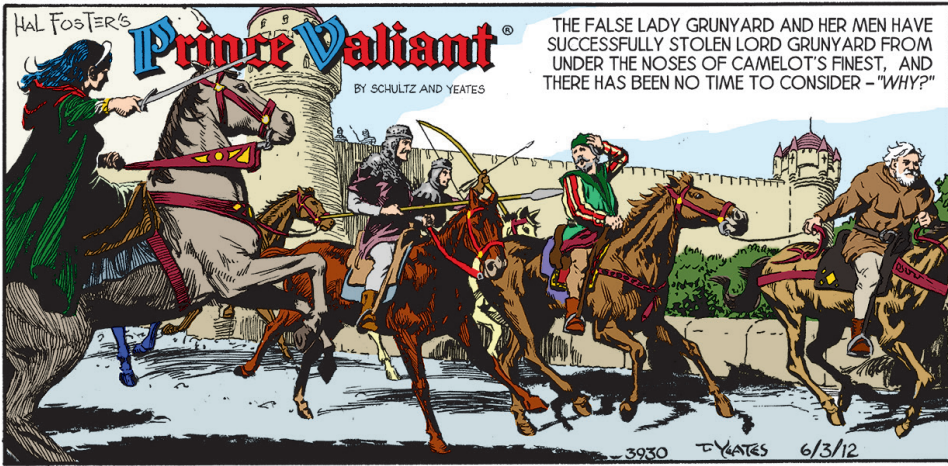
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Hal Foster's **Prince Valiant**  
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

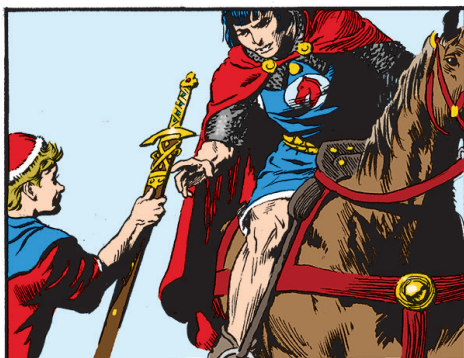
THE FALSE LADY GRUNYARD AND HER MEN HAVE SUCCESSFULLY STOLEN LORD GRUNYARD FROM UNDER THE NOSES OF CAMELOT'S FINEST, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO TIME TO CONSIDER - "WHY?"

3930 T. YEATES 6/3/12



VAL IS FURIOUS - THIS HAS ALL BEEN QUITE THE EMBARRASSMENT, SET UNWILLINGLY IN MOTION BY GAWAIN AND HIMSELF - AND ORCHESTRATED BY A WOMAN! STILL, HE NOTES DETAILS - EXPERT BOWMEN AIMED TO IMPEDE PURSUIT, NOT TO KILL.

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THAT FACT, HOWEVER, DOES LITTLE TO EASE HIS WRATH OR SOOTH HIS WOUNDED PRIDE. A MOUNTED PURSUIT IS QUICKLY LAUNCHED...

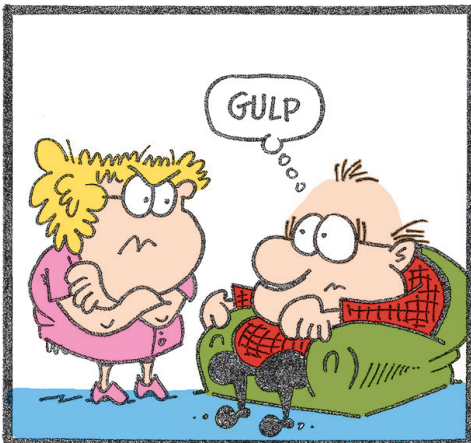


...TO NO AVAIL, THE ROGUES HAVE GONE FAR OFF-ROAD WITH GREAT CLEVERNESS, ELIMINATING THEIR TRAIL BY MOVING UP THE BED OF A WOODED STREAM. "THESE ARE NO ORDINARY RUFFIANS," VAL NOTES TO GAWAIN. "THEY ARE HIGHLY DISCIPLINED WARRIORS WELL-VERSED IN WOODCRAFT."

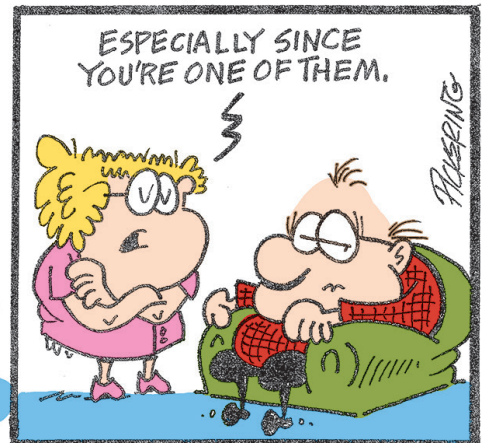
NEXT: **North to Lockbramble**

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



I SHOULD NEVER LAUGH AT YOUR MISTAKES.



ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

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PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### A Bad Air Summer

How is the air where you live?

At this writing, a large part of the country is under summer heat alerts with temperatures soaring above normal numbers and breaking long-standing records. Combine that with the wildfire smoke coming down from Canada, and parts of the country are hit with a double whammy when it comes to breathable air. Nearly 100 million people are under air quality alerts.

We seniors need to be very cautious about both extreme heat and the wildfire smoke. Even short-term exposure can do physical damage. Here are a few smoke and heat things I've learned already this summer:

Keep the doors and windows closed and turn on the air conditioning. Even if yours is a single window unit, it will help cool and clean the air. If you're blessed with central air, invest in several new filters and put a new one in every few weeks until the wildfires are gone. Look for HEPA filters to capture the microscopic particles (known as PM2.5) in the air. Ask for help, if necessary, to determine if your HVAC unit has a fresh air intake (which can bring smoke in) or if it recirculates the indoor air.

Sip on extra water, even if you are not thirsty. By the time you feel thirst, you're already slightly dehydrated. Consult your doctor if you've been told to limit your liquids.

Close the curtains and drapes against the sun.

If there's just no getting away from the heat where you live, go to the library, a big-box store or any cooling station. Know your area's AQI, or air quality index number, if you have to go out. Look at AirNow ([airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov)) and put in your ZIP code. Watch the PM2.5 number as well as ozone levels.

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1. After being drafted by the San Francisco Giants, pitcher John Paul Bonser legally changed his first name to what?

2. Australia's Alex "Chumpy" Pullin, who drowned while spearfishing in 2020, competed in what sport at three Winter Olympics?

3. H1 Unlimited is an American league that organizes competitions in what sport?

4. What pitcher for the Washington Senators (1919-21) was known as "The Clown Prince of Baseball" and opened a baseball-themed steakhouse in Manhattan?

5. Beginning in 2021, the NCAA allowed student athletes to be compensated for NIL. What does NIL stand for?

6. Field hockey and tennis player Madzy Rollin Couquerque (1903-94) hailed from what country?

7. Basketball Hall of Famer Nate Thurmond has his No. 42 jersey retired by what two NBA teams?



by Ryan A. Berenz

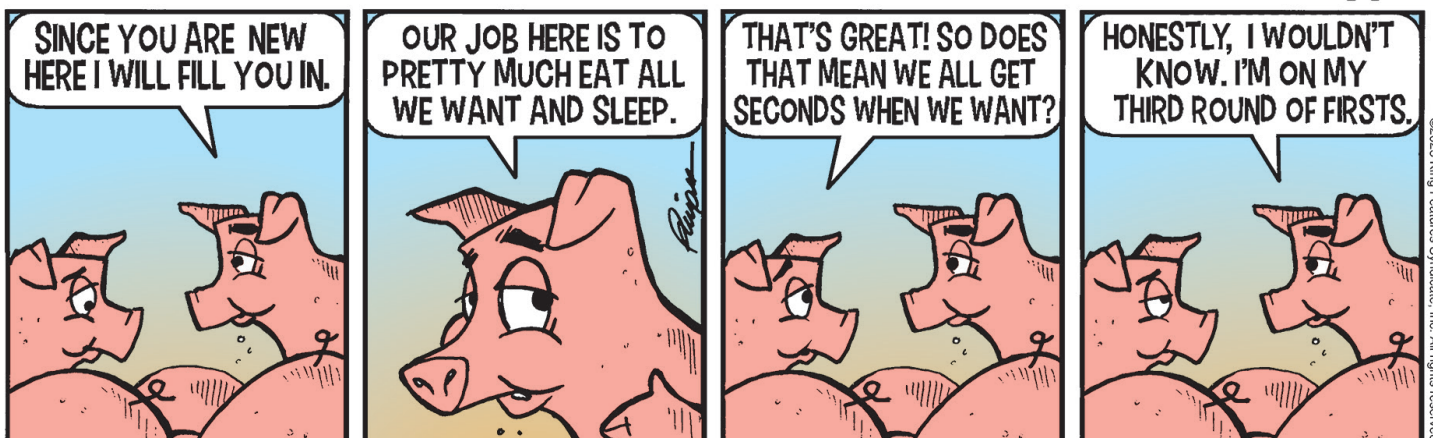
## Answers

1. Boof.
2. Snowboard cross.
3. Hydroplane boat racing.
4. Al Schacht.
5. Name, image and likeness.
6. Netherlands.
7. The Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Cat's Frequent Vomiting a Cause for Concern

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 10-year-old shorthaired cat Vic has always had a sensitive stomach. About once a week, he would vomit right after eating. However, in the past couple of weeks, he has vomited every other day, at least. I feed him a canned food for senior pets along with a handful of dry kibble each day. Changing the type of food doesn't seem to help. Is it time to call the vet? -- Carolyn K., Gatlinburg, Tennessee

DEAR CAROLYN: I think your instinct is right on. A sudden change in a pet's daily patterns often in-

dicates that something is going on. Contact the veterinarian, who will schedule Vic for an exam within a couple of days. They will look for possible signs of illness or injury.

It's possible that nothing will turn up on the exam. That's good, because it rules out more serious issues. But the vet will have you be more observant than usual and look for additional symptoms like lethargy, insistent meowing or continued frequent vomiting. They'll also have you monitor his water intake to make sure he's not getting dehydrated.

They will also probably recommend an entirely different brand of wet cat food, or even a prescription food on a temporary basis. This ensures that Vic continues getting the nutrition a senior cat needs.

Think about any changes to Vic's environment that took place recently. Did you bring a new pet into the home, or a new person? Was a room redecorated? Did you travel for a few days? Anxiety can cause noticeable changes in a pet's behavior. Also, were any potential toxins introduced, such as a pest control treatment or a new carpet installation? Write down any possibilities.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Banging your head against a wall for one hour will burn 150 calories. However, we generally recommend something safer and less painful, such as, say, walking your dog.

\* The typewriter was first designed to print page numbers on books.

\* Snakes can sense an approaching earthquake from as far as 75 miles away and five days before it occurs.

\* "Omphalophobia" is the fear of belly buttons.

\* In England, all property of suicide victims was once confiscated and Christian burial rites were denied, while those who attempted the act but failed were charged as felons. The penalties were intended as a deterrent, due to the superstition that anyone who took their own life would wander the streets of their town and haunt their homes.

\* "Toy Story's" character of Woody was originally intended to be a ventriloquist's dummy.

\* When Salvatore Ferragamo was unable to purchase steel for shoe heels due to economic sanctions against Italy in the 1940s, he inadvertently created the wedge design while experimenting with Sardinian cork -- gluing, trimming and fixing it to pieces of the sole.

\* Wheat isn't just a multipurpose food source. It is also used in paper, hair conditioner and even stamps.

\* In Michigan and Connecticut, it's illegal to kiss a woman in public on a Sunday.

\* Traffic has become so bad in major American cities that there isn't even a definitive "rush hour" anymore.

\* The HBO comedy "Curb Your Enthusiasm" helped save a man from being falsely accused of the murder of 16-year-old Martha Puebla. Larry David's acclaimed series was filming at Dodger Stadium the night the crime occurred, and its cameras fortunately picked up Juan Catalan, proving the truth of his alibi as well as his innocence.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "How others treat me is their path; how I react is mine." -- Wayne Dyer

\*\*\*

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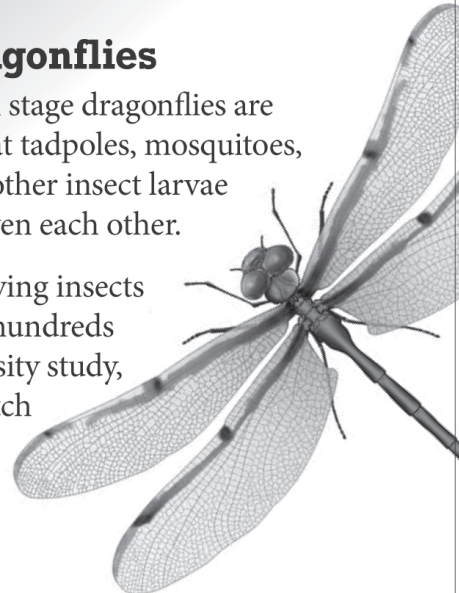
### The Garden Bug

## Dragonflies

In their larval stage dragonflies are aquatic. They eat tadpoles, mosquitoes, tiny fish, other insect larvae and even each other.

In their adult form, they hunt flying insects for food, and can catch and eat hundreds in a day. In one Harvard University study, dragonflies were observed to catch 90-95% of the prey released into their enclosure. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [smithsonianmag.com](http://smithsonianmag.com)







by Freddy Groves

## Funds for Homeless Veteran Services

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently handed out over \$11 million to 79 organizations to cover legal services for veterans who are either homeless or about to be homeless.

The Legal Services for Veterans Grant Program, a component of the Veterans Justice Program, handles a wide variety of legal matters, and these funds will go a long way to keep veterans from being homeless.

In a given year, at least 10% of funds must go to legal services for women veterans.

Whether it's specific housing issues (dealing with landlords in eviction disputes, for example), criminal defense, family law (such as haggling over custody or child support) or discharge upgrade, any of those issues (and others) can keep a veteran from acquiring and keeping stable housing. The stats for one year (2022) show just how serious the housing problems can be: The VA put 40,000 homeless veterans into housing, kept 17,000 veterans from becoming homeless and helped 191,000 veterans avoid foreclosure and keep their homes.

An added bonus is that many of those legal service providers have set up shop in VA facilities doing pro bono (free) work on all types of legal matters. Check [www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/MLP\\_LC\\_List.pdf](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/MLP_LC_List.pdf) for the list of the facilities and what services each provides. If you find services at a VA facility near you, read the fine print. Some have gone to remote appointments only, most have only certain days of the month that they're open, and each has a list of which services you can get. While one might list criminal cases and IRS disputes, another only lists civil matters or bankruptcy and consumer debt. Some of them note that they prioritize homelessness. Still, each has a contact person noted. While most are legal aid organizations, a few are run as clinical programs for law schools.

To see a list of the newest grantees who've received grant funds for homeless veterans or veterans at risk for homelessness, go to [www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/LSV-H\\_Award\\_list.pdf](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/LSV-H_Award_list.pdf).

Rule of thumb: If you suspect you're about to become homeless, don't delay getting help.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. GEOGRAPHY: Which European city is home to the Prado Museum?
2. MOVIES: What is Forrest's hometown in the movie "Forrest Gump"?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the only vowel that isn't on the top row of letters on a keyboard?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What breed of dog is the TV star Lassie?
5. CHEMISTRY: What is a common name for nitrous oxide?
6. MUSIC: Which musical instrument does the singer Lizzo play?
7. LITERATURE: What is a bildungsroman?
8. U.S. STATES: Which two states share the most borders with other states?
9. TELEVISION: What decade is represented in the TV sitcom "The Goldbergs"?
10. FOOD & DRINK: In which century was coffee introduced to Europe?

### Answers

1. Madrid, Spain.
2. Greenbow, Alabama.
3. A.
4. Rough Collie.
5. Laughing gas.
6. Flute.
7. Novel that focuses on the moral and psychological growth of a protagonist from childhood to adult.
8. Tennessee and Missouri, with eight bordering states each.
9. The 1980s.
10. 16th.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Telling a Story of Hope

The United States of America was created because of a sense of hope. Our founders had the hope that one day we would be a nation of greatness, of self-governance, and of Freedom.

In too many communities across America, that hope has diminished. There are Americans who do not believe in our founding principles, who are not patriotic, and who do not have hope for this nation's future. That could not be further from the truth in South Dakota.

In South Dakota, we're telling a story of hope. And we're doing it by making our state the best place in America to live and to raise a family.

People want to raise a family here. In fact, we have the highest birth rate in the nation! We have built a culture of life. We have prioritized taking care of moms and their babies both before birth and after. When people are happy, healthy, and free to make the best decisions for themselves, they want to bring more beautiful children into this world.

As a parent and a grandparent, myself, I know how important it is for all of our parents to spend time with their newborn babies. That's why I have prioritized family bonding by expanding Paid Family Leave (PFL) benefits for state employees. We worked hard to pass PFL for state employees in 2020, and we expanded it earlier this year.

We're not focusing solely on children and new parents. We have also given a new sense hope to hundreds of others across South Dakota.

When I launched the "Meth, We're on It" campaign in 2019 alongside the Department of Social Services, we were attacked by the mainstream media. The campaign was provocative, and it worked. We have had incredible success combatting the meth crisis in our state. In 2020, South Dakota had the largest drop in drug overdoses in the country. Only two states had a decrease. New Hampshire dropped by less than 1%— South Dakota dropped by 16%. Then, in 2022, we had the largest drop in the nation once again. This time, our overdoses dropped by 17.6%.

The media attacked us for the campaign, but it worked. It saved lives. And it made a difference in the lives of so many families.

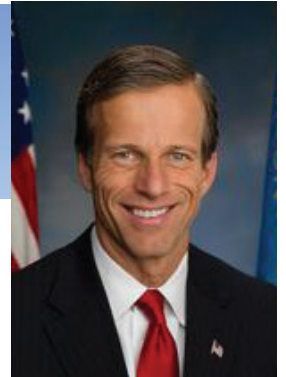
This success is not just a happy coincidence. It is proof that our policies work. Our focus on the individual needs of our people is really making a difference. I could never produce these results on my own — neither could any of our state agencies. Many of our agencies have worked together to tackle this challenge.

One of the biggest contributions has been the Department of Tribal Relations' annual Meth Summit. Secretary Flute and his team has been dedicated to helping our tribes fight the meth epidemic, and hundreds of lives have been saved because of their tireless efforts.

In South Dakota we don't complain about things, we fix them. That's something that my dad always told me. We are not a people who look at problems and think that it's someone else's job to solve them. We pick ourselves up and figure out how to fix things. We dedicate ourselves to the betterment of our communities, our state, and our great nation.

That perspective is hard to come by these days, but that's what makes South Dakota even more special. Our state is a beacon of Freedom for the nation. We are a state that truly has a story to tell — and I couldn't be prouder that our story is a story of hope.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## A Strong Economy Helps Us Compete with China

The threat that China poses both militarily and economically is widely recognized. I'm proud that the Senate recently passed a strong defense bill that will enable the U.S. military to better deter Chinese aggression. But we also need to compete with China from a position of economic strength, and a key part of doing that is strengthening American industry and building a more resilient economy.

There's widespread agreement that competing with China requires stronger industry at home. But how we go about doing this matters. The president and Democrats in Congress have shown a preference for costly taxpayer subsidies for select industries. The level of government involvement in the economy they envision is a significant departure from our tested free enterprise system. And it's worth asking, what will be the result of increased government involvement in our economy in the long term? Will it stifle innovation in our most important engines of growth? Will small businesses and start-ups be able to compete with large, government-subsidized firms?

We now know that the green energy subsidies included in Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act are largely going to large companies and often to companies based in foreign countries, including China. And the Biden administration has implemented subsidies for semiconductor manufacturers in a way that goes far beyond the scope of the program. They are giving preference to companies using union workers and, in some cases, conditioning funding on companies offering employee benefits that align with their social agenda. This is the opposite of creating a level playing field – it's government using taxpayer dollars to pick winners and losers.

I believe that government should be focused on creating conditions in which businesses large and small can grow, innovate, and create jobs. Republicans' 2017 tax reform provides an example of this sort of pro-growth policy at work. It lowered our sky-high corporate tax rate to make American businesses more competitive and made it easier to recover the cost of a small business, farm, or ranch investing in themselves. The result was a stronger economy with rising wages and job creation, and companies bringing production back to the United States. Republican-led tax reforms have made our economy more resilient, and making these pro-growth policies permanent would give American businesses and entrepreneurs the certainty they need to compete and grow.

We also need to resume a real and robust trade agenda. Trade opens new jobs and opportunities for American workers. It opens new markets for our agricultural products and other goods and services. And while the Biden administration has been largely inactive on trade for over two years, the rest of the world has not. In fact, China is negotiating or implementing a number of new trade agreements. It's clear that if the United States stays on the sidelines on trade, China will be happy to fill the vacuum. So, competing with China will require that we stay engaged and lead on trade.

The United States must rise to the occasion to compete with China. We have to compete from a position of economic strength, but we won't get there with the heavy hand of government meddling in the economy. I believe that America succeeds when innovators and entrepreneurs are empowered to do what they do best and government steps out of the way. I'll continue to push for pro-growth policies that put us in the best position to create opportunity at home and compete around the world.



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



## Bringing Clarity to Cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrencies are confusing. Is it real money? Is it digital money? Is it worth the investment? Is it risky?

Many people see a great advantage to investing in the digital asset market. However, the past few years have been riddled with lawsuits, bankruptcies, and complications for digital asset developers and investors. Because of a lack of regulatory framework, digital asset companies encounter a higher risk of regulation-by-enforcement by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). A recent District Court decision in the Ripple Labs case held that Ripple's token, XRP, is not a security in and of itself, highlighting the fact that legislation from Congress is past due.

Every market expert I have spoken with or heard testify in the House Ag Committee says this regulatory gap needs solved so the market can innovate and thrive with certainty. Earlier this month, the House Ag Committee and House Financial Services Committee introduced a historic bill to do just that. The Financial Innovation and Technological (FIT) for the 21st Century Act is the product of months of collaboration between the two committees, bipartisan joint committee hearings, and conversations with experts.

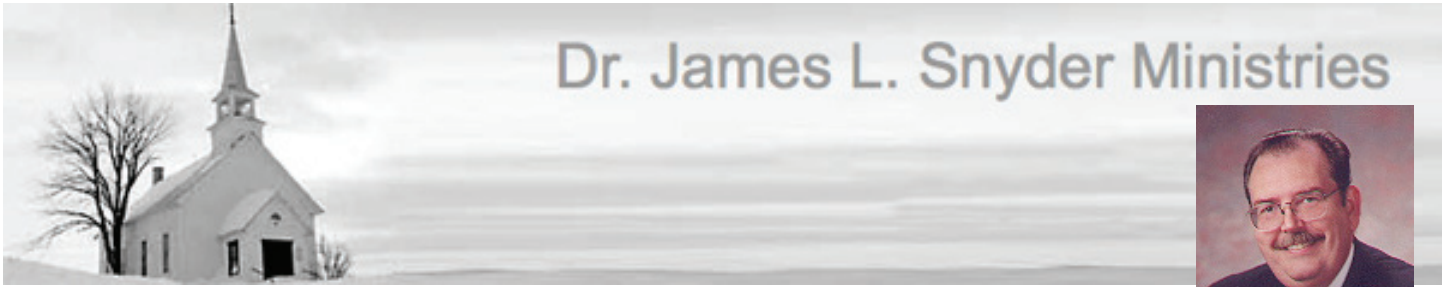
This week, it passed with bipartisan support out of both committees. This type of collaboration is unprecedented and could be the most substantial piece of digital asset legislation in the history of Congress.

The European Union, Britain, and authoritarian countries like China have established regulatory frameworks and protections for developers which has led many digital asset companies to move overseas. I don't own any cryptocurrency, but if we want to remain the global leader in technology and financial innovation, we have to be engaged in the area. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Digital Assets, I was proud to secure committee passage on this important legislation.

Both our committees will push to get this legislation on the House floor for a vote this year so we can bring clarity to cryptocurrency.

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## So This Is Old Age

The other morning I got up; at least, I tried to get up, but the bones in every part of my body had organized a labor strike against me. I'm not quite sure what they were protesting.

As I lay there groaning over these bones, I did not realize how many bones I had in my body. I'm sure some bones in my body shouldn't be there, and I'll have to ask my mother how they got there. The only problem is, she's in a nursing home with dementia.

If I thought my bones were creaking when I was lying in bed, the bones were screaming a lot louder as I rolled over and got up.

If I only knew what they wanted, I could help them.

As I wobbled out to the kitchen, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage some and said, "Well, old man. What's it like getting old?"

Even at this stage in life, my mind is active, and I had a very quirky response to that question, but fortunately for me, I did remember not to mention it.

I wobbled over to the table and sat down for breakfast.

After breakfast, I went to my office with a fresh cup of coffee, sat in my chair, and rambled through my mind.

This got me thinking about my grandfather. I now understand why he walked the way he walked. If only he were alive now, I could walk along with him.

I now regret all those years of making fun of him and my father as they get old. At the time, I never thought in a million years I would get as old as they were. But time has a way of changing your opinion about many things.

My wife came to the door of my office and said, "Do you remember your doctor's appointment for today?"

I didn't, so I got out my planner, and right there it was in plain sight, in my own handwriting, my doctor's appointment for 10 o'clock. Jotting things down in your planner so you don't forget something is great, but my problem is I forget to look at the planner.

Maybe this is the reason my bones were creaking this morning. They didn't want me to see the doctor because they knew I would tell him about my creaking bones, and he might do something about it.

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I recently had a birthday and not sure which one because, throughout my life, I have had so many birthdays that it's hard to keep up. But this year, that birthday was a landmark in achieving old age.

I never knew what old age was, but now I'm beginning to comprehend it a little bit more.

At the doctor's, I complained to him about my creaking old bones and asked what I could do. He looked at me, smiled an old doctor's smile, and said, "That's the benefit of getting old and not dying. Just exercise more, and it will all go away."

It was easy for him to say because he's not my age. I hope I live long enough to see him when he is my age, so I can laugh at his creaking bones.

As we drove home, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked over at me and said, "Well, old man, what did the doctor have to say?"

"He told me," I said with a rather sour smirk, "that I need to eat more Apple Fritters each day. That will take away the pain in my bones."

Looking at me and not smiling, she said, "For your information, we will have broccoli for lunch today." Then she snickered one of her silly snickers.

If only I could remember to forget certain things, I wouldn't get into so much trouble. I just put on a fake smile, hoping she was joking.

My creaking bones are the least of my problems, at least for today.

Looking at her, I sweetly said, "Why don't we go out for lunch today? We can go to the restaurant of your choice."

She agreed, and we both smiled, and she pulled up at her favorite restaurant. As for me, I don't have a favorite restaurant; I just like a restaurant to serve food. But not so with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Nine out of ten restaurants that we go to, she doesn't like. This is one thing that I have not yet forgotten, so I let her choose the restaurant.

We got seated, ordered our lunch, and had a wonderful time together. The only problem with eating out with her is she always orders broccoli. We were finished eating, and the waitress brought our check. I smiled at her and reached into my pocket for my wallet, and much to my dismay, it was not there. I forgot my wallet.

Just when you think you've got a problem solved, it turns out quite different.

"My dear," I said as sweetly as possible, "I forgot my wallet. Do you mind paying for lunch today?"

That was the most expensive lunch I've ever had.

As I was thinking about this I couldn't help but remember what David said. "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long" (Psalm 32:3).

What I take away from this is, when I keep silent about my age there other things that are going to give away my secret.

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## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Our forebears decimated the great wild bison herds of the 1800s. Are those remaining today endangered? If so, what are we doing about it?

-- M. Nadler, Atlanta, GA

Just 150 years ago, 30 million American bison inhabited the Great Plains. However, the species almost went extinct after white frontiersmen moved westward in the 1800s, bringing cattle that spread diseases to bison and altering terrain to build towns, farms and pastures. In 1871 and 1872, hunters killed some 5,000 bison every single day. By 1884, there were little over 300 bison left in the United States.

Bison were vital to Native American societies, which used them for food, clothing, shelter, tools and ceremonies. They maintained a thriving relationship with bison because they hunted in moderation and utilized every part of the bison. And bison were critical to the local ecology. They fertilized the vegetation and ate tall plants, allowing the growth of shorter nutritious grass, which the black-tailed prairie dog relied on as a main source of nutrition. The decline of the bison hurt the prairie dog and other living beings.

Thanks to preservation organizations and private citizens, bison were spared from extinction. In the late 1800s, ranchers captured bison and began breeding their own herds. National parks also helped protect and repopulate bison. The Lacey Act of 1894 was enacted "to protect the birds and animals in Yellowstone National Park, and to punish crimes in said park, and for other purposes." In 1905, the American Bison Society (ABS) was formed, with U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt as honorary president. He used his authority to help the ABS obtain land and promote bison reintroduction projects, and the bison population rose to roughly 12,000 by the 1920s. More recently, the American bison has made a huge comeback. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service puts their numbers at "approximately 20,500 Plains bison in conservation herds and an additional 420,000 in commercial herds." Because their numbers are stable, they are no longer classified as endangered!

Scientists and preservation groups continue working to ensure the bison's survival. Some public interest organizations, such as Earthjustice, have been defending bison on the legal front. In 2012, Earthjustice defended the transfer of wild bison from Yellowstone to indigenous Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Reservations, in spite of cattle interest groups' attempts to block such efforts. In 2022, the Bureau of Land Management approved a proposal to allow bison to graze on 63,000 acres of public lands in Montana. This decision is being defended by Earthjustice's litigation. Hundreds of bison are being transferred to Native American reservations every year in an effort to make reparations to the indigenous tribes that were unjustly stripped of a species so indispensable to their traditions and lifestyles. Today, approximately 82 American and Canadian indigenous tribes have close to 20,000 bison in 65 herds.

Bison still have challenges, such as the spread of brucellosis, which causes abortions, infertility and lowered milk production. Scientists are still trying to find a cure. Tourists have also created problems. Bison calves that make contact with humans can be rejected by their herd, and are often euthanized after such abandonment. But despite this turbulent history, bison numbers are expected to continue to grow, thanks to the work of preservation organizations, government and legal agencies, and individuals! .

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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



**After almost complete decimation by the late 1800s, American bison herds have rebounded to stable enough levels to be removed from the endangered species list.** Credit: Roddy Scheer





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### State official says new men's prison will alleviate health risks during heat events

BY: JOHN HULT - JULY 29, 2023 7:00 AM

One inmate at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield was seen for heat exhaustion this week as temperatures and heat indices pushed near triple digits in much of South Dakota.

Most of the inmate housing and work areas within state Department of Corrections facilities are air conditioned, but the former college dorm rooms used as cells at the medium security Durfee facility, and cells in the oldest parts of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, are not.

Inmate health in the face of extreme heat is a perennial problem that's grown more acute as global temperatures continue to rise as a result of climate change. A joint statement from the U.N. World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service noted on Thursday that this July will likely be the hottest month in recorded U.S. history. This week, South Dakotans began to feel the impact of the heat wave that's gripped much of the U.S. for nearly a month in some areas, with high humidity pushing "real feel" temperatures into the triple digits for much of the state.

Lawsuits in multiple states, including South Dakota, have alleged that a lack of air conditioning in prisons amounts to cruel and unusual punishment when the mercury reaches extreme heat levels.

In Texas, lawmakers in the state House of Representatives voted to budget for air conditioning, but the Senate has yet to allocate funds to address the issue, which the Texas Tribune reports has led to inmate deaths and millions of dollars in lawsuit payouts in wrongful death cases.

In a written response to South Dakota Searchlight questions about high-heat protocols, DOC spokesman Michael Winder said that Gov. Kristi Noem successfully pushed to install air conditioning in the Durfee barracks in 2022. The barracks resembles a large gym filled with bunk beds and serves as a living quarters for lower-security inmates on the Durfee campus.

Classrooms in Springfield have window air conditioners, Winder said.

The three units converted from former University of South Dakota-Springfield dormitories in the 1980s lack air conditioning, unless an inmate has a medically documented need for protection from heat. In those cases, the inmate's cell will have a window AC unit, Winder said. The other dorm cells have wall fans. Large stand-up fans are placed in hallways to assist with air circulation, and "offenders are able to move through other areas of the facility where there is AC."

Inmates in those three units have access to ice to stay cool, as well, he said.

The inmate who sought medical attention for heat exhaustion this week in Springfield had been taking part in outdoor recreation, Winder said, and was treated on site.

Outdoor recreation is restricted across all facilities when heat indices reach 105 degrees, Winder said, and Mike Durfee staff "is exploring options with the Office of the State Engineer for the housing units without AC."

The DOC's newer facilities have air conditioning, he said. Those include the Jameson Annex, used for maximum security inmates and those in segregated housing for behavioral issues or mental health reasons, as well as the women's prison and work release centers in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Yankton.

Like the Durfee dorm cells, the multi-story, 140-year-old quartzite building known as "The Hill" at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls lacks air conditioning. Unlike modern prison facilities, the former Dakota Territory prison has a linear design, with rows of cells stretching up and out from the build-

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ing's center.

Lawmakers voted last winter to allocate \$400 million for new prisons in the state, with a goal of building a facility to replace The Hill in or near Sioux Falls with space for up to 1,500 inmates. The money would also be used for a new women's unit in Rapid City, but the largest share is earmarked for the new men's prison.

The DOC issued a "request for information" on viable sites for the new men's prison in May. The document notes that the preferred location would be "within 20 miles of Sioux Falls." The DOC has yet to select a site.

Overcrowding, inmate and staff safety, and future growth projections were the primary selling points for the prison cash during the 2023 legislative session, but Winder said air conditioning and its ties to inmate health and safety are also a consideration.

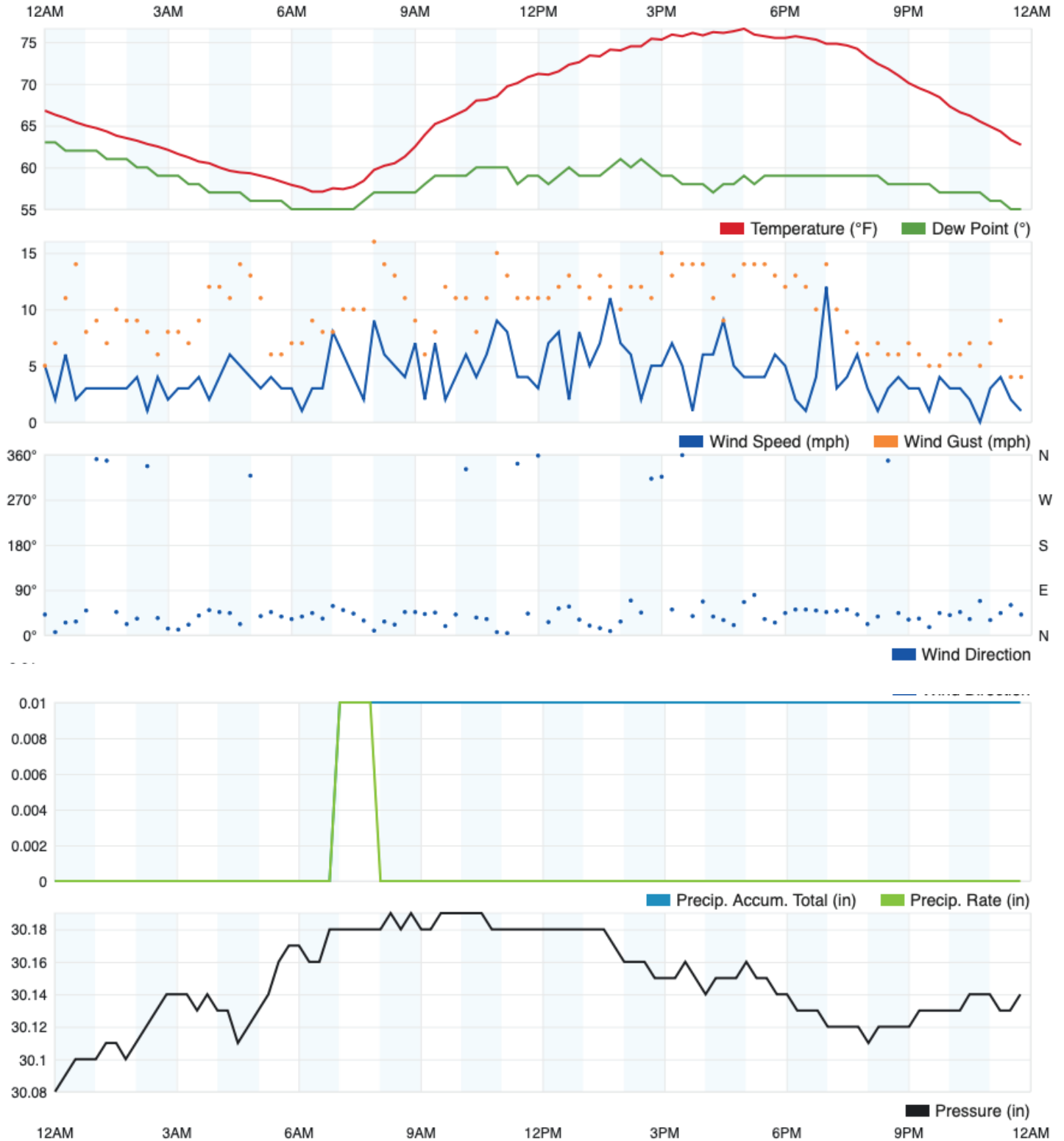
"Tackling this challenge is one of the benefits that will come from building a modern new men's prison," he said.

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux falls Argus Leader.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

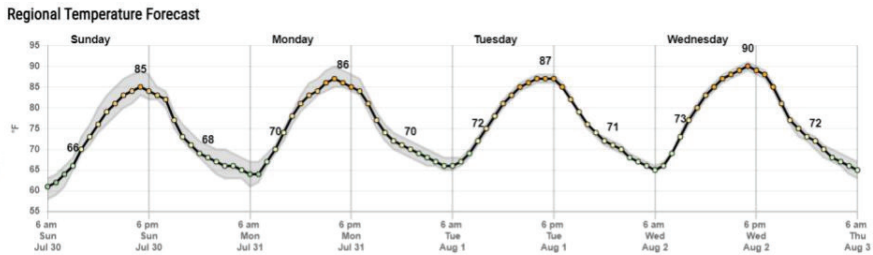
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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Hot
High: 83 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 89 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 91 °F



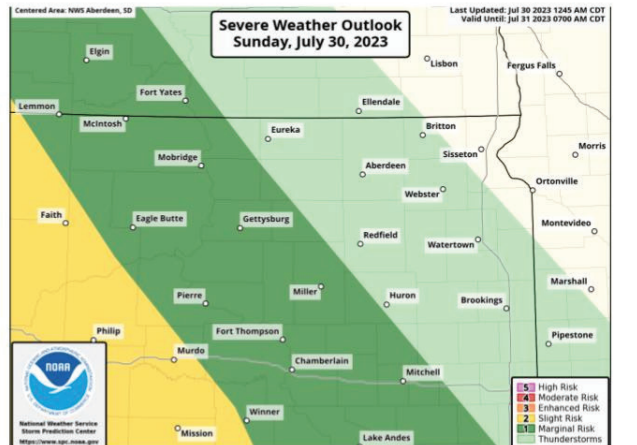
July 30, 2023 4:40 AM

## Isolated to Scattered Thunderstorm Chances Warming Temps



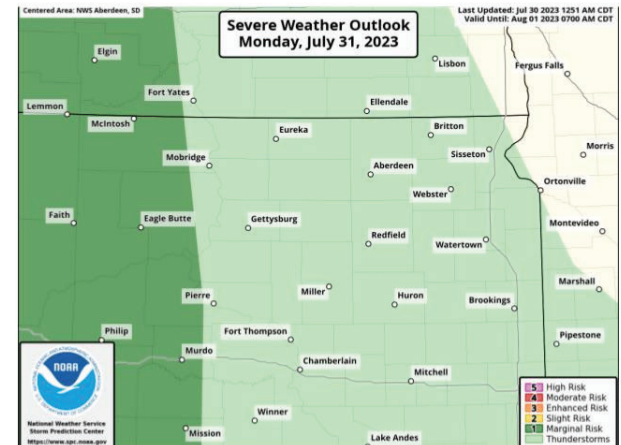
### Sunday

Isolated to scattered severe storms west of the James River.



### Monday

Isolated severe storms west of the Missouri River.



Thunderstorms, a few strong to severe, are possible across central South Dakota this evening and overnight. A somewhat unsettled pattern with several additional low chances for showers and storms then follows through the next several days, particularly across central South Dakota. Temperatures will be on a gradual increase through the middle of the week, meanwhile.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 77 °F at 5:00 PM

Low Temp: 57 °F at 6:38 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 7:58 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 52 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 2006

Record Low: 39 in 1971

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 3.01

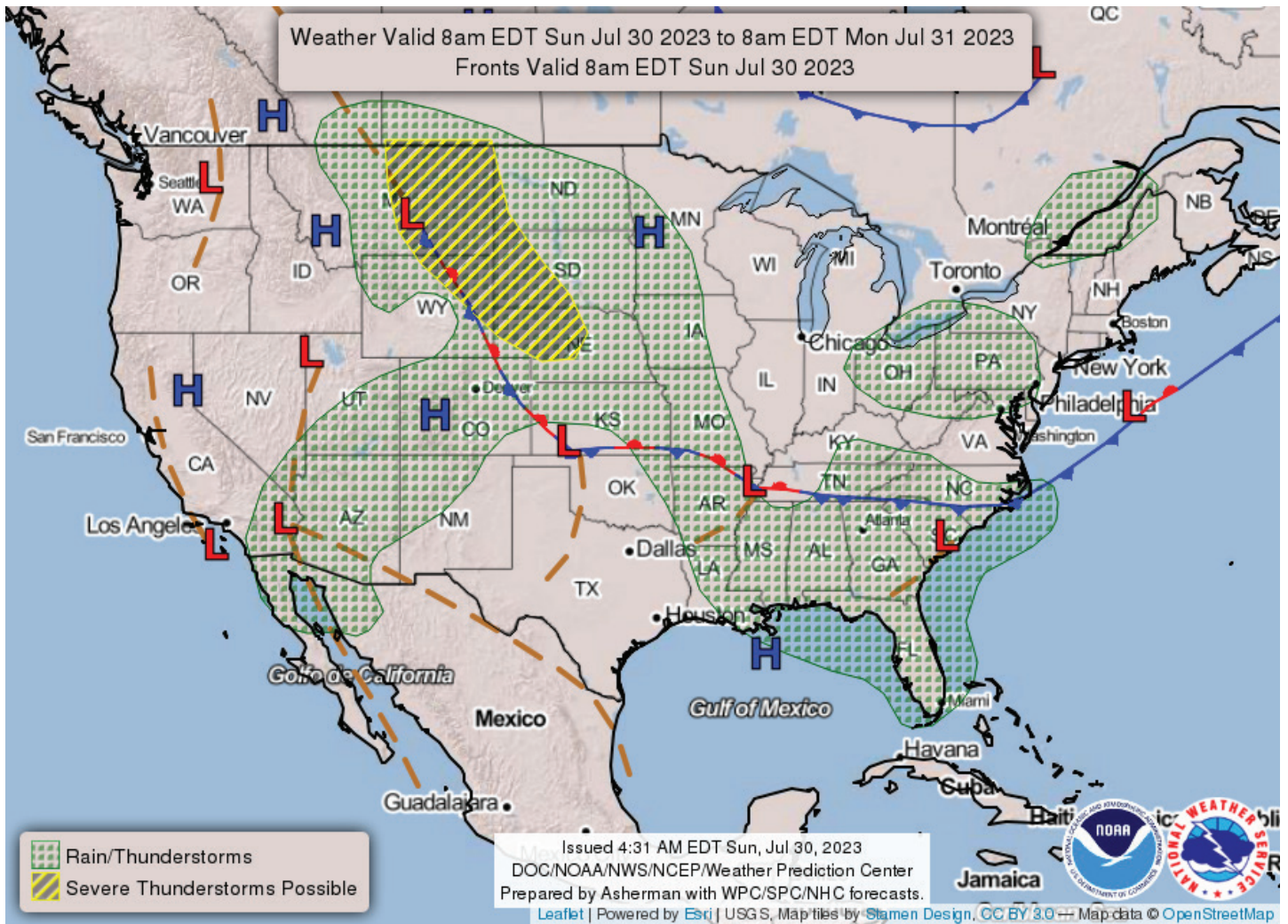
Precip to date in July.: 1.32

Average Precip to date: 14.02

Precip Year to Date: 12.67

Sunset Tonight: 9:05:02 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:13:49 AM



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## Today in Weather History

July 30, 1981: Operation Skywarn organized by the National Weather Service in Bismarck four years ago had a perfect opportunity to put the training into operation on this day. A spotter 20 miles west of Bismarck identified a rotating wall cloud 10 minutes before a tornado touchdown. The strong tornado was rated as having F3 strength, leaving behind an 18-mile long path of destruction. The force of the storm drove a stick between a tire and rim. A 6-inch steel beam was twisted and found near the high tension tower which had been toppled.

July 30, 2001: Strong winds of 81 mph blew much of the roof off of the bowling alley in Mobridge. Some flying debris also damaged a trailer home. Many trees were snapped in two or uprooted, and many power lines were downed. High winds brought down tree branches and also knocked the power out for several hours in Pollock.

July 30, 2010: Very heavy rains of 5 to 10 inches caused the Rosehill Dam to break in the early morning hours in southeast Hand County. Flash flooding began around 1 am CDT with two campers being swept up around 130 am CDT. The two campers clung to a tree until they could be rescued about 6 am CDT. They were both injured with one camper being treated for hypothermia and other airlifted to Sioux Falls for broken ribs and head trauma. The dam broke at 330 am CDT with the spillway breaking at 420 am CDT. There was between a 100 to the 150-foot hole left by the dam break. The flash flooding continued downstream on Sand Creek causing damage to area farms, filling basements, and flooding many roads.

1949 - The state record for Connecticut was established when the town of Greenville registered an afternoon high of 102 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - The temperature at Portland, OR, reached 107 degrees to equal their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

1970: Hurricane Celia was born in the northwest of the Caribbean Sea on this day. The hurricane would be one of the worst ever to hit Texas and would reach Texas late on August 3. The storm reached its peak as it made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, as a strong Category 3 hurricane. Hurricane Celia is currently the last major hurricane to make landfall on the middle Texas Coast until Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

1979: A forty-minute hailstorm bombed Fort Collins, Colorado with baseball to softball size hail. Two thousand homes and 2500 automobiles were damaged, and about 25 persons were injured, mainly when hit on the head by the huge stones.

1987 - Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Aberdeen SD, 102 degrees at Bismarck, ND, and 102 degrees at Pueblo, CO, were records for the date. Pueblo, CO, reported just .09 inch of rain for the first thirty days of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore, MD, hit 103 degrees, marking a record eight days of 100 degree heat for the month, and ten for the year. The high of 101 degrees at Billings, MT, marked a record seventeen days of 100 degree heat for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the northeast, with nearly fifty reports of large hail or damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A tree fell on a car at Erie, PA, injuring four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms over central Missouri deluged Columbia with 5.98 inches of rain causing flash flooding. Daytime thunderstorms in Kentucky drenched Paducah with 1.73 inches of rain in less than half an hour. Evening thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 78 mph east of Moccasin, MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### LEAD ME, LORD

A little boy was hanging onto the leash of a large dog with all of his strength. An amused observer asked, "Where are you taking your dog?"

"Well," he replied, "first I want to see where he's going. Then I'll take him there as long as I can hold on to his leash."

Often we chose to go in a certain direction and try to force God to come with us. We have a goal in mind, a destination in sight, or a course charted for our lives by selfish desires. We try to push God into the gaps, squeeze Him into the corners, or pull Him in the direction we want to go.

However, we were created to be God-led. There are times when God leads us by pulling us along His paths, and it seems as though He is working against our interests. There are also times when God works behind the scenes to accomplish His purpose in our lives. Then, there are times when we do not realize that what is going on is in our best interests. But, the best times are those times when we go to Him in trust before beginning a journey, asking Him to guide us, guard us, and give us clear directions before taking the first step.

Someone once said, "Go slow to go fast." If we patiently look for God, and then wait upon God in prayer, and search His Word for His directions, we will be able to sense His Spirit's influence in our lives, and know where He wants us to go.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to look to You before we begin any journey in life. May we look to You willingly for Your guidance and trust in You completely before we take life into our own hands. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Praise the LORD, the God of my master, Abraham," he said. "The LORD has shown unfailing love and faithfulness to my master, for he has led me straight to my master's relatives." Genesis 24:27 & 48



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
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 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:  
07.28.23

5 10 28 52 63 18

MegaPlier: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$1,050,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
07.29.23

8 14 29 50 52 10

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$6,740,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
07.29.23

9 14 23 30 34 4

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 14 Hrs 54 Mins  
DRAW: 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
07.29.23

1 4 20 28 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
07.29.23

10 23 27 62 65 15

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
07.29.23

10 25 27 34 38 2

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$74,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

## News from the Associated Press

### **An overnight drone attack on Moscow injures 1 and temporarily closes an airport**

By The Associated Press undefined

Three Ukrainian drones attacked Moscow in the early hours on Sunday, Russian authorities said, injuring one person and prompting a temporary closure of traffic in and out of one of four airports around the Russian capital.

It was the fourth such attempt at a strike on the capital region this month and the third this week, fueling concerns about Moscow's vulnerability to attacks as Russia's war in Ukraine drags into its 18th month.

The Russian Defense Ministry referred to the incident as an "attempted terrorist attack by the Kyiv regime" and said three drones targeted the city. One was shot down in the surrounding Moscow region by air defense systems and two others were jammed. Those two crashed into the Moscow City business district.

Photos from the site of the crash showed the facade of a skyscraper damaged on one floor. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the attack "insignificantly damaged" the outsides of two buildings in the Moscow City district. A security guard was injured, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials.

No flights went into or out of Vnukovo airport on the southern outskirts of the city for about an hour, according to Tass, and the airspace over Moscow and the outlying regions was temporarily closed to all aircraft. Those restrictions have since been lifted.

Moscow authorities have also closed a street to traffic near the site of the crash in the Moscow City area.

Without directly acknowledging that Ukraine was behind the attack on Moscow, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian airforce said that the Russian people were seeing the consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine.

"All of the people who think the war 'doesn't concern them,' it's already touching them," spokesperson Yuriy Ihnat told journalists Sunday.

"There's already a certain mood in Russia: that something is flying in, and loudly," he said. "There's no discussion of peace or calm in the Russian interior any more. They got what they wanted."

Ihnat also referenced a drone attack on Russian-occupied Crimea overnight. Moscow announced Sunday that it had shot down 16 Ukrainian drones and neutralized eight more with an electronic jamming system. There were no casualties, officials said.

In Ukraine, the air force reported that it had destroyed four Russian drones above the country's Kherson and Dnipropetrovsk regions. Information on the attacks could not be independently verified.

Meanwhile, two people were killed and 20 wounded by a Russian missile strike late Saturday evening on the city of Sumy in northeast Ukraine. A four-story building belonging to a vocational college was hit, the Ukrainian Interior Ministry said. Local authorities said that dormitories and teaching buildings were damaged in the blast and the fire that followed.

Russia's Defense Ministry reported shooting down a Ukrainian drone outside Moscow on Friday. Four days earlier, two drones struck the Russian capital, one of them falling in the center of the city near the Defense Ministry's headquarters along the Moscow River about 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the Kremlin. The other drone hit an office building in southern Moscow, gutting several upper floors.

In another attack on July 4, the Russian military said four drones were downed by air defenses on the outskirts of Moscow and a fifth was jammed by electronic warfare means and forced down.

### **Supporters of Niger's coup march through the capital waving Russian flags and denouncing France**

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Thousands of supporters of the junta that took over Niger in a coup earlier this week marched through the streets of the capital, Niamey, on Sunday waving Russian flags, chanting the

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name of the Russian president and forcefully denouncing former colonial power France.

Russian mercenary group Wagner is already operating in neighboring Mali, and Russian President Vladimir Putin would like to expand his country's influence in the region, but it is unclear yet whether the new junta leaders are going to move toward Moscow or stick with Niger's Western partners.

Days after after mutinous soldiers ousted Niger's democratically elected president, uncertainty is mounting about the country's future and some are calling out the junta's reasons for seizing control.

The mutineers said they overthrew President Mohamed Bazoum, who was elected two years ago in Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence from France, because he wasn't able to secure the nation from growing jihadi violence. But some analysts and Nigeriens say that's just a pretext for a takeover that is more about internal power struggles than securing the nation.

"Everybody is wondering why this coup? That's because no one was expecting it. We couldn't expect a coup in Niger because there's no social, political or security situation that would justify that the military take the power," Prof. Amad Hassane Boubacar, who teaches at the University of Niamey, told The Associated Press.

He said Bazoum wanted to replace the head of the presidential guard, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, who also goes by Omar and is now in charge of the country. Tchiani was loyal to Bazoum's predecessor and that sparked the problems, Boubacar said. The AP cannot independently verify his assessment.

While Niger's security situation is dire, it's not as bad as neighboring Burkina Faso or Mali, which have also have been battling an Islamic insurgency linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. Last year Niger was the only one of the three to see a decline in violence, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

Niger until now has been seen as the last reliable partner for the West in efforts to battle the jihadists in Africa's Sahel region, where Russia and Western countries have vied for influence in the fight against extremism. France has 1,500 soldiers in the country who conduct joint operations with the Nigeriens, and the United States and other European countries have helped train the nation's troops.

Some taking part in Sunday's rally also warned regional bodies who have denounced the coup to stay away. "I would like also to say to the European Union, African Union and ECOWAS, please please stay out of our business," said Oumar Barou Moussa who was at the demonstration.

"It's time for us to take our lives, to work for ourselves. It's time for us to talk about our freedom and liberty. We need to stay together, we need to work together, we need to have our true independence," he said.

Conflict experts say out of all the countries in the region, Niger has the most at stake if it turns away from the West, given the millions of dollars of military assistance the international community has poured in. On Saturday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the continued security and economic arrangements that Niger has with the U.S. hinged on the release of Bazoum — who remains under house arrest — and "the immediate restoration of the democratic order in Niger."

France on Saturday suspended all development aid and other financial aid for Niger, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "France demands an immediate return to constitutional order under President Mohamed Bazoum, who was elected by the Nigeriens," it said.

The African Union has issued a 15-day ultimatum to the junta in Niger to reinstall the country's democratically elected government. On Sunday, the West African regional bloc, known as ECOWAS, is holding an emergency summit in Abuja, Nigeria.

However, in a televised address Saturday, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Toumba, one of the soldiers who ousted Bazoum, accused the meeting of making a "plan of aggression" against Niger and said it would defend itself.

Niger experts say it's too soon to know how things will play out.

"Tensions with the military are still ongoing. There could be another coup after this one, or a stronger intervention from ECOWAS, potentially military force, even if it is difficult to foresee how specifically that may happen and what form that may take," said Tatiana Smirnova, a researcher at the Centre FrancoPaix in conflict resolution and peace missions.

"Many actors are also trying to negotiate, but the outcome is unclear," she said.

## Russian missile attacks leave few options for Ukrainian farmers looking to export grain

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

PAVLIVKA, Ukraine (AP) — The summer winds carried the smell of burned grain across the southern Ukrainian steppe and away from the shards of three Russian cruise missiles that struck the unassuming metal hangars.

The agricultural company Ivushka applied for accreditation to export grain this year, but the strike in mid-July destroyed a large portion of the stock, days after Russia abandoned the grain deal that would have allowed the shipments across the Black Sea without fear of attack.

Men shirtless and barefoot, with blackened soles from ash, swept unburnt grain into piles and awaited the loader, whose driver deftly steered around twisted metal shrapnel, bits of missile and craters despite his shattered windshield.

They hoped to beat the next rain to rescue what was left of the crop. According to the Odesa Regional Prosecutor's Office, Russia struck the facility July 21 with three Kalibr- and Onyx-class cruise missiles.

"We don't have a clue why they did it," explained Olha Romanova, the head of Ivushka. Romanova, who worked in the debris alongside the others, wore a red headscarf and an exhausted expression and was too frazzled to even estimate her losses.

She cannot comprehend why the Russians targeted Ivushka, as there are no nearby military facilities and the frontlines are far from the village in the Odesa region.

"They spent so much money on us," she said, puzzled. The missiles that ruined the silos are worth millions of dollars — far more than the crop they destroyed.

But Ivushka wasn't the only target in Odesa. The main port also was struck, leaving Black Sea shipping companies that relied upon the grain deal to keep them safe and food supplies flowing to the world at a standstill.

The Black Sea handled about 95% of Ukrainian grain exports before Russia's invasion and the U.N.-brokered initiative allowed Ukraine to ship much of what farmers harvested in 2021 and 2022, said Joseph Glauber, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Ukraine, a major supplier of corn, wheat, barley and vegetable oil, shipped 32.9 million metric tons (36.2 million U.S. tons) of grain under the nearly yearlong deal designed to ease a global food crisis. It has been able to export an additional 2 million to 2.5 million metric tons (2.2 to 2.7 million U.S. tons) monthly by the Danube River, road and rail through Europe.

Those are now the only routes to ship grain, but have stirred divisions among nearby European countries and generated higher costs to be absorbed by Ukrainian farmers, said Glauber, former chief economist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Russian missiles strikes against the Danube port last Monday also raised questions about how much longer that route will remain viable.

That's a disincentive to keep planting fields already threatened by missiles and strewn with explosive mines. Corn and wheat production in agriculture-dependent Ukraine is down nearly 40% this year from prewar levels, analysts say.

From the first of July last year until June 30 this year, Ukraine exported 68 million tons of grain, according to data from Mykola Horbachov, the president of the Ukrainian Grain Association. Ukrainian farmers shipped 11.2 million tons via railways, 5.5 million tons by road transport and around 18 million tons through Danube ports. Additionally, nearly half of the total exported grain, 33 million tons, was delivered through seaports under the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Ihor Osmachko, the general director of Agroprosperis Group, was unsurprised by Russia's withdrawal from the deal leading to its collapse. His company had never considered it a reliable or permanent solution during wartime.

He said Russians frequently stymied the deal, even while it was functioning, by delaying ship inspec-

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tions until the cargos were sent back, leading to \$30 million in losses for his company alone. Now, they are once again forced to pay to reroute 100,000 tons of grain trapped in ports that are no longer safe, Osmachko said.

"We have been preparing for this whole time," Osmachko said. "We haven't stopped. We are moving forward."

Osmachko estimated around 80% to 90% of the approximately 3.2 million tons of grain Agroprosperis exported to China, Europe and African countries during the past year went through the grain corridor.

"The most significant problem today is the cost of logistics," explained Mykola Horbachov, president of the Ukrainian Grain Association. Before the war, farmers paid approximately \$20 to \$25 per ton to transport grain to the Odesa ports. Now, logistics costs have tripled as they are forced to pay more than \$100 to transport a single ton via alternative routes through the Danube port to Constanta, Romania.

"If we were to go on the Danube with the grain corridor closed, practically all our production would be unprofitable," Osmachko said.

The Danube ports can't handle the same volume as seaports. The most Agroprosperis has sent through this route is 75,000 tons per month, compared with a monthly average of 250,000 tons through Black Sea ports.

The Ukrainian harvest this year is the lowest in a decade, according to a July report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Horbachov said shipping costs to export around the world and uncertainty about the length of the war will last could quickly make new planting unprofitable for Ukrainian farmers.

Ukraine currently produces three times more grain than it consumes, while global prices will inevitably rise if the country's exports decrease.

"I think you're looking at a diminished Ukraine for at least the next couple of years and maybe longer," said Glauber, the former U.S. agricultural official. "That's something the rest of the world just needs to make up."

The war from all sides poses risks for Agroprosperis.

In the Sumy region on the Russian border, farmers harvest their crops wearing body armor. Sometimes they must stop their combines in the middle of the wheat fields to pick up shrapnel from Russian projectiles.

"It can get tough at times," Osmachko acknowledged. "But there are responsibilities — some have duties on the front. Some must grow food and ensure the country's and world's security."

## Water is refreshing in the heat, right? In parts of Florida this past week, not so much

By MICHAEL PHILLIS, BEATRICE DUPUY and REBECCA BLACKWELL Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP) — In the sweltering summer heat, nobody tries to cool off by jumping into a hot tub. In parts of Florida, however, that's what the ocean has felt like.

Earlier this week, sea surface temperatures reached as high as 101.2 degrees Fahrenheit (38.4 degrees Celsius) around the state's southern tip in Manatee Bay, according to the National Weather Service — although scientists said the context for Monday's reading is complicated.

"It was like there was no difference between humidity of the air and going into the water," said Chelsea Ward of Fort Myers, Florida.

Triple-digit ocean temperatures are stunning even in Florida, where residents are used to the heat and where many retirees find refuge from cold, northern winters. Several other nearby spots reached the mid-90s (about 35 Celsius). A storm finally came through on Wednesday, helping water temperatures drop back down in to the more temperate 80s (about 29 Celsius).

Humans naturally look to water for a chance to refresh. Every summer, millions grab their swimsuits for a day on the beach and a chance to cool off in the water — a break from everyday work and worry. Pools offer the same relief and a place for friends to gather. But when water temperatures get too high, some of the appeal is lost.

Ward, 47, doesn't keep her beach bag in her car anymore even though she lives minutes away from the

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beach in Fort Myers. Lately, the water is just too hot. On Sunday, when her friend asked if she wanted to go to the beach, the two decided against it after discovering the water temperature was around 90 degrees (32 degrees Celsius).

When it's hot, the body cools down by sweating, which evaporates and releases heat. Dipping into the ocean is typically so refreshing because heat efficiently transfers from your body into the water. But as water temperatures climb, that effect diminishes and you lose less heat less quickly, according to Michael Mullins, a Washington University toxicologist and emergency medicine physician at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

A hot tub — or a stretch of ocean water hotter than body temperature — reverses the transfer of heat into your body. That's not a pleasant experience on a sizzling, humid, Florida day.

"It would feel," Mullins said, "like you are swimming in soup."

## ICE BLOCKS FOR YOUR POOL? WHY NOT

People already tend not to swim that much in the Florida waters that were so extremely hot earlier this week. The water can get muddy and there are alligators and crocodiles in the area, too.

But high temperatures anywhere can make swimming less pleasant. Through Friday, Phoenix endured highs above 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius) every day this month. Pools are warm. About 150 miles (240 kilometers) to the northwest in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, Stefanee Lynn Thompson, 50, wanted to keep guests cool for a pool party she hosted Sunday. The heat had raised the pool's temperature to 96 degrees (36 Celsius).

Her friend recommended she go buy ice blocks. She ran to the grocery store, picked up 40 of them and dumped them in the pool. She set up fans, too. All that hard work dropped the pool's temperature a grand total of 4 degrees Fahrenheit (2.2 degrees Celsius).

"When it's 120 out, anything helps," Thompson said.

Recently, ocean temperatures off the western coast of Florida have been a few degrees above normal, sitting around 88 to 90 degrees (31-32 degrees Celsius). It's not just humans that suffer when the oceans warm. Sea corals are bleaching. They can be hurt when water temperatures rise above the upper 80s (low 30 degrees Celsius).

July has been so hot that scientists announced a global heat record even before the month ended. Climate change is creating a hotter world, warming oceans and making some storms more destructive. Sea surface temperatures are somewhat above average around Florida, but they are far higher in parts of the North Atlantic near Newfoundland where they are as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees Celsius) hotter than usual.

The extremely high sea surface temperatures recorded earlier this week off Florida's southern tip were caused by lots of sun, little wind and no storms.

"I've never seen temperatures 100 degrees in Florida Bay in the 21 years I've been in the Keys," said Andy Devanas, science officer at the National Weather Service in Key West, Florida.

## IS THE WATER THAT WARM EVERYWHERE?

And there are some questions about how representative Monday's 101.2-degree reading in Manatee Bay were. Water there is shallow and thus heats up quickly. If there's lots of sediment, that can raise temperatures, too, according to David Roth, a forecaster with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

By contrast, stop by the YMCA pools on the North Shore of Massachusetts near Boston and you'll descend into water that's around 78 to 80 degrees (26 to 27 degrees Celsius). The ocean nearby is cooler, too. Sea surface temperatures off Cape Cod, for example, barely touched the mid-70s (about 24 degrees Celsius) this week.

When Maria Argueta, 38, has time off from her job at an open-air decorative plant nursery in Homestead, Florida, she'll go with her family to swim.

"This year, the heat is stronger," she said.

The hot ocean water doesn't bother her, but sometimes she takes her 2-year-old son and other mem-

bers of the family to the Venetian Pool, a public facility in Coral Gables fed by water from an aquifer that's always in the 70s. The very cool water, she said, is refreshing.

Florida's humid weather makes it harder for sweat to evaporate and cool the body down. People in south Florida know the ocean doesn't tend to offer real relief from that suffocating heat.

"You aren't getting much cooling at all," Roth said. "Nobody goes into the water in South Florida in the summer really except to swim, because it is comfortable to swim, but it is not refreshing."

## **Official tells AP that Saudi Arabia will host a Ukrainian-organized peace summit in August**

By AAMER MADHANI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia will host a Ukrainian-organized peace summit in early August seeking to find a way to start negotiations over Russia's war on the country, an official said Saturday night. The kingdom and Kyiv did not immediately acknowledge the planned talks.

The summit will be held in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as no authorization had been given to publicly discuss the summit.

Those taking part in the summit will include Ukraine, as well as Brazil, India, South Africa and several other countries, the official said. A high-level official from U.S. President Joe Biden's administration also is expected to attend, the official said. Planning for the event is being overseen by Kyiv and Russia is not invited, the official said.

Details regarding the summit, however, remain in flux and the official did not offer dates for the talks. The Wall Street Journal, which first reported on the summit, said the talks would take place Aug. 5 and 6 with some 30 countries attending, citing "diplomats involved in the discussion."

Saudi officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press, nor did Ukraine's Embassy in Riyadh. News of the summit comes after U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan visited the kingdom on Thursday.

The official who spoke to the AP said the summit would be the next step after talks that took place in Copenhagen in June.

Saudi Arabia's hosting of the talks come as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in May attended an Arab League summit in Jeddah to press those nations to back Kyiv. Arab nations largely have remained neutral since Russia launched the war on Ukraine in February 2022, in part over their military and economic ties to Moscow.

Saudi Arabia also has maintained a close relationship with Russia as part of the OPEC+ group. The organization's oil production cuts, even as Moscow's war on Ukraine boosted energy prices, have angered Biden and American lawmakers.

But hosting such talks also help raise the profile of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has sought to reach a détente with Iran and push for a peace in the kingdom's yearslong war in Yemen. However, ties also remain strained between Riyadh and the West over the 2018 killing and dismemberment of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, which U.S. intelligence agencies assess that Prince Mohammed ordered.

## **Consumer demand for speed and convenience drives labor unrest among workers in Hollywood and at UPS**

By ALEXANDRA OLSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Six straight days of 12-hour driving. Single digit paychecks. The complaints come from workers in vastly different industries: UPS delivery drivers and Hollywood actors and writers.

But they point to an underlying factor driving a surge of labor unrest: The cost to workers whose jobs have changed drastically as companies scramble to meet customer expectations for speed and convenience in industries transformed by technology.



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The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated those changes, pushing retailers to shift online and intensifying the streaming competition among entertainment companies. Now, from the picket lines, workers are trying to give consumers a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to produce a show that can be binged any time or get dog food delivered to their doorstep with a phone swipe.

Overworked and underpaid employees is an enduring complaint across industries — from delivery drivers to Starbucks baristas and airline pilots — where surges in consumer demand have collided with persistent labor shortages. Workers are pushing back against forced overtime, punishing schedules or company reliance on lower-paid, part-time or contract forces.

At issue for Hollywood screenwriters and actors staging their first simultaneous strikes in 40 years is the way streaming has upended entertainment economics, slashing pay and forcing showrunners to produce content faster with smaller teams.

"This seems to happen to many places when the tech companies come in. Who are we crushing? It doesn't matter," said Danielle Sanchez-Witzel, a screenwriter and showrunner on the negotiating team for the Writers Guild of America, whose members have been on strike since May. Earlier this month, the Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists joined the writers' union on the picket line.

Actors and writers have long relied on residuals, or long-term payments, for reruns and other airings of films and television shows. But reruns aren't a thing on streaming services, where series and films simply land and stay with no easy way, such as box office returns or ratings, to determine their popularity.

Consequently, whatever residuals streaming companies do pay often amount to a pittance, and screenwriters have been sharing tales of receiving single digit checks.

Adam Shapiro, an actor known for the Netflix hit "Never Have I Ever," said many actors were initially content to accept lower pay for the plethora of roles that streaming suddenly offered. But the need for a more sustainable compensation model gained urgency when it became clear streaming is not a sideshow, but rather the future of the business, he said.

"Over the past 10 years, we realized: 'Oh, that's now how Hollywood works. Everything is streaming,'" Shapiro said during a recent union event.

Shapiro, who has been acting for 25 years, said he agreed to a contract offering 20% of his normal rate for "Never Have I Ever" because it seemed like "a great opportunity, and it's going to be all over the world. And it was. It really was. Unfortunately, we're all starting to realize that if we keep doing this we're not going to be able to pay our bills."

Then there's the rising use of "mini rooms," in which a handful of writers are hired to work only during pre-production, sometimes for a series that may take a year to be greenlit, or never get picked up at all.

Sanchez-Witzel, co-creator of the recently released Netflix series "Survival of the Thickest," said television shows traditionally hire robust writing teams for the duration of production. But Netflix refused to allow her to keep her team of five writers past pre-production, forcing round-the-clock work on rewrites with just one other writer.

"It's not sustainable and I'll never do that again," she said.

Sanchez-Witzel said she was struck by the similarities between her experience and those of UPS drivers, some of whom joined the WGA for protests as they threatened their own potentially crippling strike. UPS and the Teamsters last week reached a tentative contract staving off the strike.

Jeffrey Palmerino, a full-time UPS driver near Albany, New York, said forced overtime emerged as a top issue during the pandemic as drivers coped with a crush of orders on par with the holiday season. Drivers never knew what time they would get home or if they could count on two days off each week, while 14-hour days in trucks without air conditioning became the norm.

"It was basically like Christmas on steroids for two straight years. A lot of us were forced to work six days a week, and that is not any way to live your life," said Palmerino, a Teamsters shop steward.

Along with pay raises and air conditioning, the Teamsters won concessions that Palmerino hopes will ease overwork. UPS agreed to end forced overtime on days off and eliminate a lower-paid category of

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drivers who work shifts that include weekends, converting them to full-time drivers. Union members have yet to ratify the deal.

The Teamsters and labor activists hailed the tentative deal as a game-changer that would pressure other companies facing labor unrest to raise their standards. But similar outcomes are far from certain in industries lacking the sheer economic indispensability of UPS or the clout of its 340,000-member union.

Efforts to organize at Starbucks and Amazon stalled as both companies aggressively fought against unionization.

Still, labor protests will likely gain momentum following the UPS contract, said Patricia Campos-Medina, executive director of the Worker Institute at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, which released a report this year that found the number of labor strikes rose 52% in 2022.

"The whole idea that consumer convenience is above everything broke down during the pandemic. We started to think, 'I'm at home ordering, but there is actually a worker who has to go the grocery store, who has to cook this for me so that I can be comfortable,'" Campos-Medina said.

## China says US military aid to Taiwan will not deter its will to unify the island

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China accused the United States of turning Taiwan into an "ammunition depot" after the White House announced a \$345 million military aid package for Taipei, and the self-ruled island said Sunday it tracked six Chinese navy ships in waters off its shores.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office issued a statement late Saturday opposing the military aid to Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

"No matter how much of the ordinary people's taxpayer money the ... Taiwanese separatist forces spend, no matter how many U.S. weapons, it will not shake our resolve to solve the Taiwan problem. Or shake our firm will to realize the reunification of our motherland," said Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office.

"Their actions are turning Taiwan into a powder keg and ammunition depot, aggravating the threat of war in the Taiwan Strait," the statement said.

China's People's Liberation Army has increased its military maneuvers in recent years aimed at Taiwan, sending fighter jets and warships to circle the island.

On Sunday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said it tracked six Chinese navy ships near the island.

Taiwan's ruling administration, led by the Democratic Progressive Party, has stepped up its weapons purchases from the U.S. as part of a deterrence strategy against a Chinese invasion.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949, and Taiwan has never been governed by China's ruling Communist Party.

Unlike previous military purchases, the latest batch of aid is part of a presidential authority approved by the U.S. Congress last year to draw weapons from current U.S. military stockpiles — so Taiwan will not have to wait for military production and sales.

While Taiwan has purchased \$19 billion worth of weaponry, much of it has yet to be delivered to Taiwan. Washington will send man-portable air defense systems, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, firearms and missiles to Taiwan.

## Trump, amid legal perils, calls on GOP to rally around him as he threatens primary challenges

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — At a moment of growing legal peril, Donald Trump ramped up his calls for his GOP rivals to drop out of the 2024 presidential race as he threatened to primary Republican members of Congress who fail to focus on investigating Democratic President Joe Biden and urged them to halt Ukrainian

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military aid until the White House cooperates with their investigations into Biden and his family.

"Every dollar spent attacking me by Republicans is a dollar given straight to the Biden campaign," Trump said at a rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, on Saturday night. The former president and GOP frontrunner said it was time for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and others he dismissed as "clowns" to clear the field, accusing them of "wasting hundreds of millions of dollars that Republicans should be using to build a massive vote-gathering operation" to take on Biden in November.

The comments came two days after federal prosecutors unveiled new criminal charges against Trump as part of the case that accuses him of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago club and refusing to turn them over to investigators. The superseding indictment unsealed Thursday alleges that Trump and two staffers sought to delete surveillance at the club in an effort to obstruct the Justice Department's investigation.

The case is just one of Trump's mounting legal challenges. His team is currently bracing for additional possible indictments, which could happen as soon as this coming week, related to his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election brought by prosecutors in both Washington and Georgia. Trump already faces criminal charges in New York over hush money payments made to women who accused him of sexual encounters during his 2016 presidential campaign.

Nevertheless, Trump remains the dominant early frontrunner for the Republican nomination and has only seen his lead grow as the charges have mounted and as his rivals have struggled to respond. Their challenge was on display at a GOP gathering in Iowa Friday night, where they largely declined to go after Trump directly. The only one who did — accusing Trump of "running to stay out of prison" — was booed as he left the stage.

In the meantime, Trump has embraced his legal woes, turning them into the core message of his bid to return to the White House as he accuses Biden of using the Justice Department to maim his chief political rival. The White House has said repeatedly that the president has had no involvement in the cases.

At rallies — including Saturday's — Trump has tried to frame the charges, which come with serious threats of jail time, as an attack not just on him, but those who support him.

"They're not indicting me, they're indicting you. I just happen to be standing in the way," he told the arena crowd in Erie, adding that, "Every time the radical left Democrats, Marxists, communists and fascists indict me, I consider it actually a great badge of honor... Because I'm being indicted for you."

But the investigations are also sucking up enormous resources that are being diverted from the nuts and bolts of the campaign. The Washington Post first reported Saturday that Trump's political action committee, Save America, will report Monday that it spent more than \$40 million on legal fees during the first half of 2023 defending Trump and all of the current and former aides whose lawyers it is paying. The total is more than the campaign raised during the second quarter of the year.

"In order to combat these heinous actions by Joe Biden's cronies and to protect these innocent people from financial ruin and prevent their lives from being completely destroyed, the leadership PAC contributed to their legal fees to ensure they have representation against unlawful harassment," said Trump's spokesman Steven Cheung.

At the rally — held in a former Democratic stronghold that Trump flipped in 2016, but Biden won narrowly in 2020 — Trump also threatened Republicans in Congress who refuse to go along with efforts to impeach Biden. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said this past week that Republican lawmakers may consider an impeachment inquiry into the president over unproven claims of financial misconduct.

Trump, who was impeached twice while in office, said Saturday that, "The biggest complaint that I get is that the Republicans find out this information and then they do nothing about it."

"Any Republican that doesn't act on Democrat fraud should be immediately primaries and get out — out!" he told the crowd to loud applause. "They have to play tough and ... if they're not willing to do it, we got a lot of good, tough Republicans around ... and they're going to get my endorsement every single time."

Trump, during the 2022 midterm elections, made it his mission to punish those who had voted in favor of his second impeachment and succeeded in unseating most who had by backing primary challengers.

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At the rally, Trump also called on Republican members of Congress to halt the authorization of additional military support to Ukraine, which has been mired in a war fighting Russia's invasion, until the Biden administration cooperates with Republican investigations into Biden and his family's business dealings — words that echoed the call that led to his first impeachment.

"He's dragging into a global conflict on behalf of the very same country, Ukraine, that apparently paid his family all of these millions of dollars," Trump alleged. "In light of this information," Congress, he said, "should refuse to authorize a single additional payment of our depleted stockpiles ... the weapons stockpiles to Ukraine until the FBI, DOJ and IRS hand over every scrap of evidence they have on the Biden crime family's corrupt business dealings."

House Republicans have been investigating the Biden family's finances, particularly payments Hunter, the president's son, received from Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company that became tangled in the first impeachment of Trump.

An unnamed confidential FBI informant claimed that Burisma company officials in 2015 and 2016 sought to pay the Bidens \$5 million each in return for their help ousting a Ukrainian prosecutor who was purportedly investigating the company. But a Justice Department review in 2020, while Trump was president, was closed eight months later with insufficient evidence of wrongdoing.

Trump's first impeachment by the House resulted in charges that he pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to dig up dirt on the Bidens while threatening to withhold military aid. Trump was later acquitted by the Senate.

## 30 days over 110 F in Phoenix. But expected monsoon rains could cool historically hot Southwest

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A historic heat wave that has gripped the U.S. Southwest throughout July, blasting residents and baking surfaces like brick, is beginning to abate with the late arrival of monsoon rains.

Forecasters expect that by Monday, people in metro Phoenix will begin to see high temperatures fall under 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) for the first time in a month.

But not on Saturday. The high temperature in the desert city with more than 1.6 million residents climbed past 110 F for the 30th straight day, the National Weather Service said. The previous record stretch of 110 F or above was for 18 days in 1974.

There are increased chances on Sunday of cooling monsoon thunderstorms. Though wet weather can also bring damaging winds, blowing dust and the chance of flash flooding, the weather service warned. Sudden rains running off hard-baked surfaces can quickly fill normally dry washes.

Already this week, the overnight low at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport fell under 90 F (32.2 C) for the first time in 16 days, finally giving residents some respite from the stifling heat once the sun goes down.

Temperatures also were expected to ease in Las Vegas, Albuquerque and even in Death Valley, California, where the weather service said the expected high of 122 F (50 C) on Saturday is forecast to lower to 113 F (45 C) by Tuesday — along with a slight chance of rain.

Also in California, triple-digit heat was expected in parts of the San Joaquin Valley from Saturday through Monday, according to the National Weather Service in Hanford, California.

Gusty, late-afternoon winds were expected Saturday and Sunday in Santa Barbara County, posing an elevated risk of fire weather, the weather service in Los Angeles said. Hot, dry weather was also expected across nearby valleys, lower mountains and desert areas.

In Riverside County, more than 1,300 people were ordered to evacuate their homes and another 1,400 were facing evacuation warnings as crews battled a wildfire that charred 3.2 square miles (8.3 square kilometers) in the community of Aguanga, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) northeast of San Diego, authorities said Saturday. One firefighter was reported to have been injured in the so-called Bonny Fire, which authorities said was about 5% contained.

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The heat is impacting animals, as well. Police in the city of Burbank, California, found a bear cooling off in a Jacuzzi behind a home on Friday. Police released a video of the animal in a neighborhood about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Los Angeles near the Verdugo Mountains and warned residents to lock up food and garbage.

A downward trend in Southwest heat started Wednesday night, when Phoenix saw its first major monsoon storm since the traditional June 15 start of the thunderstorm season. While more than half of the greater Phoenix area saw no rainfall from that storm, some eastern suburbs were pummeled by high winds, swirling dust and localized downfalls of up to 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) of precipitation.

Storms gradually increasing in strength are expected over the weekend.

Scientists calculate that July will prove to be the hottest globally on record and perhaps the warmest human civilization has seen. The extreme heat is now hitting the eastern part of the U.S, as soaring temperatures moved from the Midwest into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, where some places are seeing their warmest days so far this year.

The new heat records being set this summer are just some of the extreme weather being seen around the U.S. this month, such as flash floods in Pennsylvania and parts of the Northeast.

"Anyone can be at risk outside in this record heat," the fire department in Goodyear, a Phoenix suburb, warned residents on social media while offering ideas to stay safe.

For many people such as older adults, those with health issues and those without access to air conditioning, the heat can be dangerous or even deadly.

Maricopa County, the most populous in Arizona and home to Phoenix, reported this week that its public health department had confirmed 25 heat-associated deaths this year as of July 21, with 249 more under investigation.

Results from toxicological tests that can take weeks or months after an autopsy is conducted could eventually result in many deaths listed as under investigation as heat associated being changed to confirmed.

Maricopa County confirmed 425 heat-associated deaths last year, and more than half of them occurred in July.

Elsewhere in Arizona next week, the agricultural desert community of Yuma is expecting highs ranging from 104 to 112 (40 C to 44.4 C) and Tucson is looking at highs ranging from 99 to 111 (37.2 C to 43.9 C).

The highs in Las Vegas are forecast to slip as low as 94 (34.4 C) next Tuesday after a long spell of highs above 110 (43.3 C). Death Valley, which hit 128 (53.3 C) in mid-July, will cool as well, though only to a still blistering hot 116 (46.7 C).

In New Mexico, the highs in Albuquerque next week are expected to be in the mid to high 90s (around 35 C), with partly cloudy skies.

## Judge blocks Arkansas law allowing librarians to be criminally charged over 'harmful' materials

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas is temporarily blocked from enforcing a law that would have allowed criminal charges against librarians and booksellers for providing "harmful" materials to minors, a federal judge ruled Saturday.

U.S. District Judge Timothy L. Brooks issued a preliminary injunction against the law, which also would have created a new process to challenge library materials and request that they be relocated to areas not accessible by kids. The measure, signed by Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders earlier this year, was set to take effect Aug. 1.

A coalition that included the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock had challenged the law, saying fear of prosecution under the measure could prompt libraries and booksellers to no longer carry titles that could be challenged.

The judge also rejected a motion by the defendants, which include prosecuting attorneys for the state, seeking to dismiss the case.

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The widespread acceptance of angels shown in the AP-NORC poll makes sense to Susan Garrett, an angel expert and New Testament professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky. It tracks with historical surveys, she said, adding that the U.S. remains a faith-filled country even as more Americans reject organized religion.

But if the devil is in the details, so are people's understandings of angels.

"They're very malleable," Garrett said of angels. "You can have any one of a number of quite different worldviews in terms of your understanding of how the cosmos is arranged, whether there's spirit beings, whether there's life after death, whether there's a God ... and still find a place for angels in that worldview."

Talk of angels, Garrett said, is often also about something else, like the ways God interacts with the world and other hard-to-articulate ideas.

The large number of U.S. adults who say they believe in angels includes 84% of those with a religious affiliation — 94% of evangelical Protestants, 81% of mainline Protestants and 82% of Catholics — and 33% of those without one. And of those angel-believing religiously unaffiliated, that includes 2% of atheists, 25% of agnostics and 50% of those identified as "nothing in particular."

The broad acceptance is what fascinates San Francisco-based witch and author Devin Hunter: Angels show up independently in different religions and traditions, making them part of the fabric that unites humanity.

"We're all getting to the same conclusion," said Hunter, who spent 16 years as a professional medium, and started communicating as a child with what he believed were angels.

Hunter estimates that a belief in angels applies to about half of those practicing modern witchcraft today, and for some who don't believe, their rejection is often rooted in the religious trauma they experienced growing up.

"Angels become a very big deal" for long-time practitioners who've made occultism their primary focus, said Hunter, an angel-loving occultist. "We cannot escape them in any way, shape or form."

Jennifer Goodwin of Oviedo, Florida, also is among the roughly seven in 10 U.S. adults who say they believe in angels. She isn't sure if God exists and rejects the afterlife dichotomy of heaven and hell, but the recent deaths of her parents solidified her views on these celestial beings.

Goodwin believes her parents are still keeping an eye on the family — not in any physical way or as a supernatural apparition, but that they manifest in those moments when she feels a general sense of comfort.

"I think that they are around us, but it's in a way that we can't understand," Goodwin said. "I don't know what else to call it except an angel."

Angels mean different things to different people, and the idea of loved ones becoming heavenly angels after death is neither an unusual belief nor a universally held one.

In his reading of Scripture as an evangelical Protestant, Grogger said he believes angels are something else entirely — they have never been human and are on another level in heaven's hierarchy. "We are higher than angels," he said. "We do not become an angel."

Angels do interact with humans though, said Grogger, but what "that looks like we're not 100% sure." They worship God who created this angelic legion of unknown numbers, he said, adding that evangelicals often attribute the demonic forces in the world to the angels who fell from heaven when the devil rebelled.

The Western ideas about angels can be traced through the Bible — and to the worldviews of its monotheistic authors, Garrett said. Those beliefs have changed and developed for millennia, influenced by cultures, theologians and even the ancient polytheistic beliefs that came before the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, she said.

"There are sort of lines of continuity from the Bible that you can trace all the way up to the New Age movement," said Susan Garrett, who wrote "No Ordinary Angel: Celestial Spirits and Christian Claims about Jesus."

The angels in the Bible do God's bidding, and angelic violence is one part of their job description, said Esther Hamori, author of the upcoming book, "God's Monsters: Vengeful Spirits, Deadly Angels, Hybrid Creatures, and Divine Hitmen of the Bible."

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"The angels of the Bible are just as likely to assassinate individuals and slaughter entire populations as they are to offer help and protect and deliver," said Hamori. She doesn't believe in these angels, but studies them as a Hebrew Bible professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York where she teaches a popular "Monster Heaven" class.

"They're just God's obedient soldiers doing the task at hand, and sometimes that task is in human beings' best interests, and sometimes it's not," she said.

The perception that angels act angelic and look like the idyllic, winged figurines atop Christmas trees could be attributed to an early centuries belief that people are assigned one good angel and one bad — or have a good and bad spirit to guide them, Garrett said.

This idea shows up on the shoulders of cartoon characters and is likely what Abraham Lincoln was alluding to in his famous appeal for unity when he referenced "the better angels of our nature" in his first inaugural address, she said.

"It's also tied in with ideas about guardian angels, which again, very ancient views that got developed over the centuries," Garrett said.

For Sheila Avery of Chicago, angels are protectors, capable of keeping someone from harm. Avery, who belongs to a nondenominational church, credits them with those moments like when a person's plans fall through, but ultimately it saves them from being in the thick of an unexpected disaster.

"They turn on the news and a terrible tragedy happened at that particular place," Avery said, suggesting it was an "angel that was probably watching over them."

## Two supermoons in August mean double the stargazing fun

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The cosmos is offering up a double feature in August: a pair of supermoons culminating in a rare blue moon.

Catch the first show Tuesday evening as the full moon rises in the southeast, appearing slightly brighter and bigger than normal. That's because it will be closer than usual, just 222,159 miles (357,530 kilometers) away, thus the supermoon label.

The moon will be even closer the night of Aug. 30 — a scant 222,043 miles (357,344 kilometers) distant. Because it's the second full moon in the same month, it will be what's called a blue moon.

"Warm summer nights are the ideal time to watch the full moon rise in the eastern sky within minutes of sunset. And it happens twice in August," said retired NASA astrophysicist Fred Espenak, dubbed Mr. Eclipse for his eclipse-chasing expertise.

The last time two full supermoons graced the sky in the same month was in 2018. It won't happen again until 2037, according to Italian astronomer Gianluca Masi, founder of the Virtual Telescope Project.

Masi will provide a live webcast of Tuesday evening's supermoon, as it rises over the Coliseum in Rome.

"My plans are to capture the beauty of this ... hopefully bringing the emotion of the show to our viewers," Masi said in an email.

"The supermoon offers us a great opportunity to look up and discover the sky," he added.

This year's first supermoon was in July. The fourth and last will be in September. The two in August will be closer than either of those.

Provided clear skies, binoculars or backyard telescopes can enhance the experience, Espenak said, revealing such features as lunar maria — the dark plains formed by ancient volcanic lava flows — and rays emanating from lunar craters.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the August full moon is traditionally known as the sturgeon moon. That's because of the abundance of that fish in the Great Lakes in August, hundreds of years ago.

## **Blinken says US economic support for Niger is at risk as military takeover threatens stability**

By BRIAN P. D. HANNON and ROD MCGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Political instability in Niger resulting from a military takeover that deposed the president this week threatens the economic support provided by Washington to the African nation, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Saturday.

Members of the Niger military announced on Wednesday they had deposed democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum and on Friday named Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani as the country's new leader, adding Niger to a growing list of military regimes in West Africa's Sahel region.

Blinken, who is in Australia as part of a Pacific tour, said the continued security and economic arrangements that Niger has with the U.S. hinged on the release of Bazoum and "the immediate restoration of the democratic order in Niger."

"Our economic and security partnership with Niger — which is significant, hundreds of millions of dollars — depends on the continuation of the democratic governance and constitutional order that has been disrupted by the actions in the last few days," Blinken said. "So that assistance, that support, is in clear jeopardy as a result of these actions, which is another reason why they need to be immediately reversed."

Blinken stopped short of calling the military actions in Niger a coup, a designation that could result in the African country losing millions of dollars of military aid and assistance.

Speaking in Brisbane, Blinken said he had spoken with President Bazoum on Saturday but did not provide details. He cited the support of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and other regional entities in trying to bring an end to the unrest.

"The very significant assistance that we have in place that's making a material difference in the lives of the people of Niger is clearly in jeopardy and we've communicated that as clearly as we possibly can to those responsible for disrupting the constitutional order and Niger's democracy," Blinken said.

Blinken said the U.S. Embassy in Niger had accounted for the safety of all staff members and their families, while issuing a security alert advising U.S. citizens in the country to limit unnecessary movements and avoid areas impacted by the coup.

The military group that conducted the coup, calling itself the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country, said its members remained committed to engaging with the international and national community.

"This is as a result of the continuing degradation of the security situation, the bad economic and social governance," air force Col. Major Amadou Abdramane said in the video released by the coup leaders Wednesday. He said aerial and land borders were closed and a curfew was in place until the situation stabilized.

Bazoum was elected two years ago in Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence from France.

Niger is seen as the last reliable partner for the West in efforts to battle jihadis linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in Africa's Sahel region, where Russia and Western countries have vied for influence in the fight against extremism.

France has 1,500 soldiers in the country who conduct joint operations with Niger's military, while the U.S. and other European countries have helped train the nation's troops.

## **Members of Congress break for August with no clear path to avoiding a shutdown this fall**

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers broke for their August recess this week with work on funding the government largely incomplete, fueling worries about whether Congress will be able to avoid a partial government shutdown this fall.

Congress has until Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year, to act on government funding. They could



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pass spending bills to fund government agencies into next year, or simply pass a stopgap measure that keeps agencies running until they strike a longer-term agreement. No matter which route they take, it won't be easy.

"We're going to scare the hell out of the American people before we get this done," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del.

Coons' assessment is widely shared in Congress, reflecting the gulf between the Republican-led House and the Democratic-led Senate, which are charting vastly different — and mostly incompatible — paths on spending.

The Senate is adhering mostly to the top-line spending levels that President Joe Biden negotiated with House Republicans in late May as part of the debt-ceiling deal that extended the government's borrowing authority and avoided an economically devastating default.

That agreement holds discretionary spending generally flat for the coming year while allowing increases for military and veterans accounts. On top of that, the Senate is looking to add \$13.7 billion in additional emergency appropriations, including \$8 billion for defense and \$5.7 billion for nondefense.

House Republicans, many of whom opposed the debt-ceiling deal and refused to vote for it, are going a different way.

GOP leaders have teed up bills with far less spending than the agreement allows in an effort to win over members who insist on rolling back spending to fiscal year 2022 levels. They are also adding scores of policy add-ons broadly opposed by Democrats. There are proposals to reduce access to abortion pills, bans on the funding of hormone therapy and certain surgeries for transgender veterans, and a prohibition on training programs promoting diversity in the federal workplace, among many others.

At a press conference at the Capitol this past week, some members of the House Freedom Caucus, a conservative faction within the House GOP, said that voters elected a Republican majority in that chamber to rein in government spending and it was time for House Republicans to use every tool available to get the spending cuts they want.

"We should not fear a government shutdown," said Rep. Bob Good, R-Va. "Most of the American people won't even miss if the government is shut down temporarily."

Many House Republicans disagree with that assessment. Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, called it an oversimplification to say most Americans wouldn't feel an impact. And he warned Republicans would take the blame for a shutdown.

"We always get blamed for it, no matter what," Simpson said. "So it's bad policy, it's bad politics."

But the slim five-seat majority Republicans hold amplifies the power that a small group can wield. Even though the debt ceiling agreement passed with a significant majority of both Republicans and Democrats, conservatives opponents were so unhappy in the aftermath that they shut down House votes for a few days, stalling the entire GOP agenda.

Shortly thereafter, McCarthy argued the numbers he negotiated with the White House amounted to a cap and "you can always do less." GOP Rep. Kay Granger of Texas, who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, followed that she would seek to limit nondefense spending at 2022 budget levels, saying the debt agreement "set a top-line spending cap — a ceiling, not a floor."

The decision to cut spending below levels in the the debt ceiling deal helped get the House moving again, but put them on a collision course with the Senate, where the spending bills hew much closer to the agreement.

"What the House has done is they essentially tore up that agreement as soon as it was signed," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md. "And so we are in for a bumpy ride."

Even as House Republicans have been moving their spending bills out of committee on party-line votes, the key committee in the Senate has been operating in a bipartisan fashion, drafting spending bills with sometimes unanimous support.

"The way to make this work is do it in a bipartisan way like we are doing in the Senate. If you do it in a partisan way, you're heading to a shutdown. And I am really worried that that's where the House Repub-

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licans are headed," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told reporters this week.

McCarthy countered that people had the same doubts about whether House Republicans and the White House could reach an agreement to pass a debt ceiling extension and avoid a default.

"We've got 'til Sept. 30. I think we can get this all done," McCarthy said.

In a subsequent press conference, McCarthy said he had just met with Schumer to talk about the road ahead on an array of bills, including the spending bills.

"I don't want the government to shut down," McCarthy said. "I want to find that we can find common ground."

In all, there are 12 spending bills. The House has passed one so far, and moved others out of committee. The Senate has passed none, though it has advanced all 12 out of committee, something that hasn't happened since 2018.

Still, the difficulty ahead was evident on the House side, where Republicans gave up until after the recess on trying to pass a spending measure to fund federal agriculture and rural programs and the Food and Drug Administration, amid disagreements over its contents. They began their August recess a day early instead of holding votes Friday.

Simpson said some of his Republican colleagues don't want to take money approved already outside the appropriations process to cover some of this year's spending and avoid deeper cuts. For example, the House bills would take almost all of the money approved last year for the Internal Revenue Service in Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and use the savings to avoid deeper spending cuts elsewhere.

Simpson said that without such rescissions, as they are called in Washington, he couldn't vote for the agriculture spending bill because the cuts "would have just been devastating."

"That's the challenge we're going to have when we get back in September," he said.

Further complicating things in the House, a few Republicans are opposed to some of the policy riders being included in the spending bills. For example, the agriculture spending bill would reverse the FDA's decision to allow abortion pills to be dispensed in certified pharmacies, instead of only by prescribers in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices.

"I had a problem with abortion being put inside an ag bill," said Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa. "I think that's ridiculous."

It's a strong possibility that Congress will have to pass a stopgap spending bill before the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1. The Senate can vote first on the measure, which would put the onus on House Republicans to bring it up for a vote or allow for a shutdown.

## 'The Few, the Proud' aren't so few: Marines recruiting surges while other services struggle

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Not long ago, Marine Col. Jennifer Nash, a combat engineer with war deployments under her belt, made a vow to fellow officers as they headed to a dinner in Atlanta: She would get two new recruiting contacts by the end of the evening.

She admits recruiting is not the job that she or other Marines had in mind when they enlisted. But after stints as a recruiter and senior officer at the Eastern recruiting command, she has become emblematic of the Corps' tradition of putting its best, battle-tested Marines on enlistment duty. They get results.

Marine leaders say they will make their recruiting goal this year, while the active-duty Army, Navy and Air Force all expect to fall short. The services have struggled in the tight job market to compete with higher-paying businesses for the dwindling number of young people who can meet the military's physical, mental and moral standards.

On that night, Nash achieved her own goal. She had gotten the valet at the hotel and the hostess at the restaurant to provide their phone numbers and to consider a Marine career.

Nash's boss, Brig. Gen. Walker Field, who head the Eastern recruiting region, says the Corps has historically put an emphasis on selecting top-performing Marines to fill recruiting jobs. He says that has been

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The ACLU of Arkansas, which represents some of the plaintiffs, applauded the court's ruling, saying that the absence of a preliminary injunction would have jeopardized First Amendment rights.

"The question we had to ask was — do Arkansans still legally have access to reading materials? Luckily, the judicial system has once again defended our highly valued liberties," Holly Dickson, the executive director of the ACLU in Arkansas, said in a statement.

The lawsuit comes as lawmakers in an increasing number of conservative states are pushing for measures making it easier to ban or restrict access to books. The number of attempts to ban or restrict books across the U.S. last year was the highest in the 20 years the American Library Association has been tracking such efforts.

Laws restricting access to certain materials or making it easier to challenge them have been enacted in several other states, including Iowa, Indiana and Texas.

Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin said in an email Saturday that his office would be "reviewing the judge's opinion and will continue to vigorously defend the law."

The executive director of Central Arkansas Library System, Nate Coulter, said the judge's 49-page decision recognized the law as censorship, a violation of the Constitution and wrongly maligning librarians.

"As folks in southwest Arkansas say, this order is stout as horseradish!" he said in an email.

"I'm relieved that for now the dark cloud that was hanging over CALS' librarians has lifted," he added.

Cheryl Davis, general counsel for the Authors Guild, said the organization is "thrilled" about the decision. She said enforcing this law "is likely to limit the free speech rights of older minors, who are capable of reading and processing more complex reading materials than young children can."

The Arkansas lawsuit names the state's 28 local prosecutors as defendants, along with Crawford County in west Arkansas. A separate lawsuit is challenging the Crawford County library's decision to move children's books that included LGBTQ+ themes to a separate portion of the library.

The plaintiffs challenging Arkansas' restrictions also include the Fayetteville and Eureka Springs Carnegie public libraries, the American Booksellers Association and the Association of American Publishers.

## Do you believe in angels? About 7 in 10 U.S. adults do, a new AP-NORC poll shows

By HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

Compared with the devil, angels carry more credence in America.

Angels even get more credence than, well, hell. More than astrology, reincarnation, and the belief that physical things can have spiritual energies.

In fact, about 7 in 10 U.S. adults say they believe in angels, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"People are yearning for something greater than themselves — beyond their own understanding," said Jack Grogger, a chaplain for the Los Angeles Angels and a longtime Southern California fire captain who has aided many people in their gravest moments.

That search for something bigger, he said, can take on many forms, from following a religion to crafting a self-driven purpose to believing in, of course, angels.

"For a lot of people, angels are a lot safer to worship," said Grogger, who also pastors a nondenominational church in Orange, California, and is a chaplain for the NHL's Anaheim Ducks.

People turn to angels for comfort, he said. They are familiar, regularly showing up in pop culture as well as in the Bible. Comparably, worshipping Jesus is far more involved; when Grogger preaches about angels it is with the context that they are part of God's kingdom.

American's belief in angels (69%) is about on par with belief in heaven and the power of prayer, but bested by belief in God or a higher power (79%). Fewer U.S. adults believe in the devil or Satan (56%), astrology (34%), reincarnation (34%), and that physical things can have spiritual energies, such as plants, rivers or crystals (42%).

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a key to the Marines' recruiting success, along with efforts to increase the number of recruiters, extend those who do well and speed their return to high schools, where in-person recruiting stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said his recruiters — who cover the territory between Canada and Puerto Rico and as far west as Mississippi — will meet their mission and expect to have 30% of their 2024 goal when they start the next fiscal year, Oct. 1. More broadly, Marine officials say they expect the Corps to achieve its recruiting target of more than 33,000.

Last year, the Navy, Air Force and Marines had to eat into their pools of delayed entry applicants in order to make their goals. The Marines will avoid that this year.

"That would be a great ending," said Field, speaking to The Associated Press on a recent steamy day at South Carolina's Parris Island, along the Atlantic Coast. "I'm bearish for not only concluding FY23 on a strong footing, but also how we set the conditions for FY24."

The Marine Corps may get some help from its small size. The Army, for example, has a recruiting goal of 65,000 this year, which is nearly double the Corps', and expects to fall substantially short of that. Air Force and Navy officials say they will also miss their goals, although the Space Force, which is the smallest service and does its recruiting within Air Force stations, is expected to meet its goal of about 500 recruits.

Sitting in the shadow of Parris Island's replica of the Iwo Jima monument, Field said his biggest challenge is that a number of Marine hopefuls cannot pass the military's academic test, known as the Armed Services Voluntary Aptitude Battery.

That is a widespread problem, but the Army recently set up a program that targets recruits who score below 30 on the test and provides schooling for several weeks to help them pass. Already more than 8,800 recruits have successfully gone through the classes, raised their scores and moved on to basic training.

The Navy is taking another route with a pilot program that allows up to 20% of their recruits to score below 30 on the test, as long as they meet specific standards for their chosen naval job. Marine leaders, however, do not take those lowest scoring recruits, and so far have no plans for any type of formal improvement program such as the Army's.

Field said the Marines are repositioning recruiting stations, moving them around based on where population totals have increased in the latest census. More important, he said, the Corps maintains its focus on choosing the right recruiters, encouraging successful ones to stay in the job and increasing the number of Marine reservists tapped for recruit duties from the current 31 to 96 by the end of next year.

Nash, who until last month was assistant chief of staff for the Eastern region, said Marines are hand-selected for recruiting command jobs. Many three- and four-star Marines, including former Defense Secretary James Mattis, will cite their years doing enlistment duty.

"We put our best and brightest in those positions," said Nash, adding that those chosen for recruiting posts have a proven track record of success in previous assignments and have demonstrated critical leadership skills. "That's why they got selected, because they were above their peers."

She acknowledged that the first time she was picked for a recruiting job she was "voluntold." But now, recounting her sales pitch in Atlanta, her rapid fire pitch comes without taking a breath.

"I say, 'Hey, ever thought about being Marine? We're a bunch of Marines. And, you know, I think you potentially could be a good Marine. You ever thought about it?' And usually you get, 'Yeah, I thought about it.' And I'm, like, 'What's holding you back? Would you like to learn more about your opportunities?' 'Absolutely.' 'OK. Mind giving me your name and phone number? I'll have one of my recruiters give you a phone call.'"

The Marines have resisted increasing bonuses to attract recruits — something the other services have found helpful.

Gen. Eric Smith, the acting Marine Corps commandant, got some ribbing for his response when he was asked about bonuses during a naval conference in February.

"Your bonus is you get to call yourself a Marine," he said. "That's your bonus, right? There's no dollar amount that goes with that."

Field, Nash and others also say the Corps prefers to give a lot of recruits a few thousand dollars, rather

than increasing the amount and giving money to far fewer people.

Field said that getting Marine recruiters in uniform back into high schools this year, after several years of COVID-19 restrictions, has been a key driver. There, young people line up to compete in pull-up contests, vying for a free T-shirt if they can do 20. And recruiters say many are drawn to the cache of being a Marine.

"If you told me you'll give me \$10 million worth of advertising and I can do something with it, or you'll give me 10 great-looking Marines in a Marine uniform — what's going to get the most value? Give me those 10 Marines and give me a day," Nash said. "We'll go out and we'll get more out of that, I think, than \$10 million in advertising."

## **It's a miracle, say family of Japanese soldier killed in WWII, as flag he carried returns from US**

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Toshihiro Mutsuda was only 5 years old when he last saw his father, who was drafted by Japan's Imperial Army in 1943 and killed in action. For him, his father was a bespectacled man in an old family photo standing by a signed good-luck flag that he carried to war.

On Saturday, when the flag was returned to him from a U.S. war museum where it had been on display for 29 years, Mutsuda, now 83, said: "It's a miracle."

The flag, known as "Yosegaki Hinomaru," or Good Luck Flag, carries the soldier's name, Shigeyoshi Mutsuda, and the signatures of his relatives, friends and neighbors wishing him luck. It was given to him before he was drafted by the Army. His family was later told he died in Saipan, but his remains were never returned.

The flag was donated in 1994 and displayed at the museum aboard the USS Lexington, a WWII aircraft carrier, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Its meaning was not known until it was identified by the family earlier this year, said museum director Steve Banta, who brought the flag to Tokyo.

Banta said he learned the story behind the flag earlier this year when he was contacted by the Obon Society, a nonprofit organization that has returned about 500 similar flags as non-biological remains, to the descendants of Japanese servicemembers killed in the war.

The search for the flag's original owner started in April when a museum visitor took a photo and asked an expert about the description that it had belonged to a "kamikaze" suicide pilot. When Shigeyoshi Mutsuda's grandson saw the photo, he sought help from the Obon Society, group co-founder Keiko Ziak said.

"When we learned all of this, and that the family would like to have the flag, we knew immediately that the flag did not belong to us," Banta said at the handover ceremony. "We knew that the right thing to do would be to send the flag home, to be in Japan and to the family."

The soldier's eldest son, Toshihiro Mutsuda, was speechless for a few seconds when Banta, wearing white gloves, gently placed the neatly folded flag into his hands. Two of his younger siblings, both in their 80s, stood by and looked on silently. The three children, all wearing cotton gloves so they wouldn't damage the decades-old flag, carefully unfolded it to show to the audience.

"After receiving the flag today, I earnestly felt that the war like that should never be fought again and that I do not wish anyone else to go through this sadness (of separation)," Toshihiro Mutsuda said.

The soldier's daughter, Misako Matsukuchi, touched the flag with both hands and prayed. "After nearly 80 years, the spirit of our father returned to us. I hope he can finally rest in peace," Matsukuchi said later.

Toshihiro Mutsuda said his memory of his father was foggy. However, he clearly remembers his mother, Masae Mutsuda, who died five years ago at age 102, used to make the long-distance bus trip almost every year from the farming town in Gifu, central Japan, to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, where the 2.5 million war dead are enshrined, to pay tribute to her husband's spirit.

The shrine is controversial, as it includes convicted war criminals among those commemorated. Victims of Japanese aggression during the first half of the 20th century, especially China and the Koreans, see Yasukuni as a symbol of Japanese militarism. However, for the Mutsuda family, it's a place to remember

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the loss of a father and husband.

"It's like an old love story across the ages coming together ... It doesn't matter where," Banta said, referring to the Yasukuni controversy. "The important thing is this flag goes to the family."

That's why Toshihiro Mutsuda and his siblings chose to receive the flag at Yasukuni and brought the framed photos of their parents.

"My mother missed him and wanted to see him so much and that's why she used to pray here," he said. "Today her wish finally came true, and she was able to be reunited."

Keeping the flag on his lap, he said, "I feel the weight of the flag."

## Violent crime is rising in the nation's capital. DC seeks solutions as Congress keeps close watch

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pamela Smith's voice soared and quivered like a preacher in midsermon as she recalled her troubled childhood and how it helped prepare her for the challenges she faces as the new police chief in the nation's capital.

"I stand before you as a child who had no hopes, who had no dreams — they were far beyond my reach. But I believe that all things are possible," she said at her introductory news conference in Washington, in cadences honed by years as an ordained Baptist minister. "I believe I bring a fresh perspective, a different kind of energy, a different level of passion to what I'm going to do."

Smith takes on the job at a precarious time.

Violent crime is rising sharply, fueled by more homicides and carjackings. The District of Columbia's mayor, Muriel Bowser, and the D.C. Council have, at times, been at odds about crime legislation. On Capitol Hill, the Republican-led House has begun citing the city's crime statistics while aggressively reviewing local public safety laws.

On July 24, the Mexican Consulate posted a tweet urging its nationals to "take precautions" in the city due to "a significant increase in crime in areas previously considered safe."

Smith, 55, now becomes one of the public faces of this long-term fight even before the Council votes on her nomination as chief. She brings an inspirational story to her new role leading the Metropolitan Police Department. Raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, by a single mother who battled substance abuse, Smith and her siblings were at one point removed from their home and spent time in foster care. Smith emerged as a track star and went on to a 24-year career in the U.S. Park Police, where she served as the agency's first Black female chief before retiring in 2022 to take up a senior leadership position at the MPD.

Law enforcement and government officials repeatedly point out that overall crime numbers in Washington have stayed relatively stable. But the crimes that have increased the most — murders and carjackings — are the ones most likely to damage public confidence.

"The scariest crimes are going up and regardless of what's happening with other crimes, that's what's going to fuel the overall perception," U.S. Attorney Matthew Graves told The Associated Press.

Graves' office prosecutes most felonies in Washington, in a unique arrangement due to the district's status as a nonstate. The city's attorney general's office prosecutes misdemeanors and juvenile crime, which is also on the rise.

This intricate dynamic among two separate sets of prosecutors, the city's police force, Bowser's administration and the Council has been publicly tested as the crime numbers have stayed high — all with Congress taking an increasing interest in the district's affairs. Public safety was a primary topic of debate last year when Bowser, 50, successfully ran for a third term in office. She has spent this term sparring with both the Council and the House Oversight and Accountability Committee over how best to address crime.

July has been a particular bloody month, with 22 homicides as of Friday, including murders on the campuses of both Howard and Catholic universities. The victims include an Afghan man who survived years of working as a translator for the U.S. Army in Afghanistan only to be murdered in America while

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driving for Lyft. Nine people, including two children, were shot at a July Fourth party, when an assailant in an SUV opened fire on the crowd. A 12-year old girl remains hospitalized after being shot in the back Tuesday night by a bullet that penetrated the walls of her home.

Although the local murder rate is well below the levels in the 1980s and early 1990s, when Washington regularly led the nation in murders per capita, it has climbed steadily in recent years. In 2022, there was a roughly 10% drop in homicides, but now, homicides are up 15 percent compared with this time a year ago and the city is on pace to surpass 200 for the third year in a row. Police also reported 140 carjacking incidents in the month of June — the highest monthly total in more than five years.

Crime in Washington is now a national headline issue in Congress. In the spring, Bowser and Council members were summoned before the House Oversight and Accountability Committee for a heated session on local crime rates.

Congress voted to completely overturn the Council's comprehensive rewrite of the district's criminal code. Bowser was caught in the middle of the dispute. She had vetoed the overhaul, saying the reduction of maximum penalties for certain violent crimes "sent the wrong message," but was overridden by the Council.

The mayor opposes congressional intervention in local affairs as part of Washington's long push for statehood, but her initial veto was frequently cited by Republican lawmakers as proof that the rewrite was soft on crime. In an embarrassment for the heavily Democratic city, the move to cancel the criminal code revision drew support from dozens of congressional Democrats and was signed into law by President Joe Biden.

Earlier this month, the Council, with Bowser's support, passed emergency public safety legislation meant to serve as a temporary fix. The bill makes it a felony to fire a gun in public and makes it easier for judges, in cases where people are charged with a violent crime, to detain them before trial. As an emergency bill, the changes will only last 90 days and will not be subject to congressional review; plans to make the changes permanent in the fall will face scrutiny by lawmakers.

"It is no secret ... to the public that we are in a state of emergency right now," said Brooke Pinto, the D.C. Council member who was the bill's architect. "Like in any emergency, we have to act like it and we have to act urgently to address the problem we're seeing."

But some pushing for a criminal justice overhaul said city lawmakers were reverting to mass incarceration policies that had long ago been discredited.

"We're way beyond thinking that we can just incarcerate more people," said Patrice Sulton, executive director of the D.C. Justice Lab, who helped draft the now-canceled criminal code revision. "I think everybody who voted for it knows that it will not have an impact."

The local branch of the American Civil Liberties Union said in a statement on Twitter that the new bill "essentially flips due process on its head — treating people as guilty and detaining them."

All sides point to one primary factor fueling the violence: a flood of firearms entering Washington.

Graves, the district's federal prosecutor, said the number of guns being used in crimes has skyrocketed, turning petty disputes into deadly battles. This includes a new wave of "ghost guns" — firearms that can be ordered in kits and assembled at home. Other kits can easily turn a semiautomatic weapon into an automatic, enabling a rapid-fire and generally less accurate spray of dozens of bullets. In 2018, authorities recovered three such guns; in 2022, the number was 461.

Graves compared the illegal guns to "a virus" in the neighborhood.

"The more virus there is in the community, the more people are going to get sick," he said. "The more illegal firearms are in the community, the more likelihood those illegal firearms are going to be used."

## Atlanta 'Cop City' activists say they're confident of getting 70K signatures. But big hurdles remain

By R.J. RICO Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — "Excuse me, are you a city of Atlanta voter? Do you know about 'Cop City?'"

Clipboards in hand, canvassers Sienna Girdali and Gabriel Sanchez approached shopper after shopper

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at a Kroger supermarket lot on a recent evening collecting signatures for a referendum over whether to cancel the city's lease of a proposed police and firefighter training center that's become a national rallying cry for environmentalists and anti-police protesters.

Most people kept on walking. Others said they weren't registered to vote or didn't live within the city limits, both of which are required. Many seemed to have no idea what "Cop City" was and weren't interested in finding out. The fact that it began raining certainly didn't help. By the end of a 90-minute shift, 21 people had signed.

"We definitely need to come back here," Sanchez said. "I was on a roll before the rain started."

Over the past month, hundreds of people like them — many volunteers, some paid — have spread out across the city of about 500,000, in hopes of persuading more than 70,000 registered voters to sign on to the petition drive. The deadline had been mid-August, but the effort got a boost Thursday when a federal judge extended it to late September, though significant logistical and legal hurdles remain.

Technically, organizers say, they need just 58,203 signatures by Aug. 14 to qualify for the November ballot — the equivalent of 15% of registered voters as of the last city election — but they set the higher goal knowing some will be disqualified. If that's not reached until late August or September, the referendum wouldn't happen until March, when a competitive GOP presidential primary could turn out conservative voters and hurt its chances. The city also could move forward with construction in the meantime, unless a judge intervenes.

As of July 25, the drive had collected more than 30,000 signatures, according to Paul Glaze, a spokesperson for the Vote to Stop Cop City Coalition. And with the paid canvassing effort still ramping up, he expects the pace to pick up significantly.

"We're confident of hitting our number," Glaze said. "How much extra padding we're able to get is still a question. ... Our experience is that when you talk about this with people, when they hear the price tag, when you ask them if they would choose this or something else to spend the money on, the vast majority are against it."

Organizers of the drive say Mayor Andre Dickens and the City Council have failed to listen to a groundswell of opposition to the \$90 million, 85-acre (34-hectare) training center, which they fear will lead to greater militarization of the police and exacerbate environmental damage in the South River Forest in a poor, predominantly Black area.

Officials counter that the campus would replace outdated, far-flung facilities and boost police morale, which is beset by hiring and retention struggles, especially in the wake of 2020 protests over racial injustice. Dickens has said that the facility will teach the "most progressive training and curriculum in the country" and that officials have repeatedly revised their plans to address concerns about noise pollution and environmental impact.

In June, after hearing about 14 hours of public testimony that was overwhelmingly against the training center, council members voted 11-4 to approve \$67 million toward the project. Outraged but not surprised, organizers of the petition drive announced it the next day.

Outside the Kroger, located in a majority-Black neighborhood a few miles south of a Wendy's parking lot where officers fatally shot Rayshard Brooks in 2020, Giraldi chatted with Lee Little, a Black construction worker who stopped to talk despite the rain, his hands full of bagged groceries.

Little was working near the proposed training center in March and saw the helicopters and mass of armed officers that descended on the area after about 150 masked activists stormed the site and torched construction equipment. He hadn't thought about it much since, but he signed the petition after hearing Giraldi's pitch.

"She was just saying that City Council approved 60-something million dollars without listening to the taxpayers. Does that sound fair to you? That should be for the voters to decide," Little said afterward.

Another who signed was Makela Atchison, who was wearing a "Black Voters Matter" T-shirt as she left the store with her two children.

"I'm not saying I'm for it or against it," Atchison said, "but I want to be able to have my input."

The signature drive is the most ambitious in terms of numbers that has ever been launched in a Geor-



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gia city, but it has precedent from last year in Camden County, where voters overwhelmingly rejected a planned launchpad for blasting commercial rockets into space. The Georgia Supreme Court in February unanimously upheld the legality of that referendum, though it remains an open question whether citizens can veto decisions of city governments.

In a recent court filing seeking to quash the Atlanta referendum, attorneys for the city said residents can't force officials to retroactively revoke the lease agreement, which was made in 2021. They called organizers' efforts "futile" and "invalid." The state agreed with the city in a separate filing, though that dispute is on hold for now.

Still, activists see the referendum as the best remaining option to block the project. They've gotten support from numerous groups, including the Working Families Party and the New Georgia Project Action Fund, which pledged to get 15,000 signatures over the next few weeks.

Activist Hannah Riley tries to collect a handful of them whenever she is out in public, including on a recent afternoon as she worked remotely from Muchacho, a popular taco restaurant in the ultra-liberal Reynoldstown neighborhood. At the end of her table, she taped a sign that read: "Voter? Sign Stop Cop City Petition Here."

"This is a bit of a Hail Mary, but it's a Hail Mary that makes a lot of sense," Riley said. "They've begun to clear-cut the trees. They're getting close to pouring concrete. ... Our options are quite limited right now, so this does feel like the most practical, effective next step."

At the same time, a small number of activists have continued taking a more violent tack, including torching eight police motorcycles over the Fourth of July weekend, actions that canvass organizers have not condemned.

Curtis Duncan, 40, said the first day he went out canvassing, a man approached and accused him of being one of the vandals.

"I said, 'Well, sir, respectfully, I wasn't burning cars, and the majority of people within this movement have not been engaging in any type of violent actions,'" Duncan said. He added that troopers fatally shot an activist in the forest and that authorities have brought dozens of "very flimsy" domestic terrorism charges against "Stop Cop City" protesters this year — actions he considers far worse.

Sanchez, who works for a voting rights nonprofit, said that even if the signature drive falls short, it will have made an important impact.

"I feel like we've exhausted all the other options, aside from full-on revolution, which I don't think we need for this," he said. "There's a lot of obstacles in our way. ... If we only get to 50,000, I think that still shows a real warning sign for these politicians for the 2025 election."

## Today in History: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Medicare into law

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 30, the 211th day of 2023. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands during World War II, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1729, Baltimore, Maryland, was founded.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowder-laden mine shaft beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

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In 1918, poet Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the 165th U.S. Infantry Regiment, was killed during the Second Battle of the Marne in World War I. Kilmer is remembered for his poem "Trees."

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum."

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2008, ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-ra-jich) was extradited to The Hague to face genocide charges after nearly 13 years on the run. (He was sentenced by a U.N. court in 2019 to life imprisonment after being convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.)

In 2010, the Afghan Taliban confirmed the death of longtime leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and appointed his successor, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.

In 2016, 16 people died when a hot air balloon caught fire and exploded after hitting high-tension power lines before crashing into a pasture near Lockhart, Texas, about 60 miles northeast of San Antonio.

In 2020, John Lewis was eulogized in Atlanta by three former presidents and others who urged Americans to continue the work of the civil rights icon in fighting injustice during a moment of racial reckoning.

Ten years ago: U.S. Army Pfc. Chelsea Manning was acquitted of aiding the enemy — the most serious charge she faced — but was convicted of espionage, theft and other charges at Fort Meade, Maryland, more than three years after she'd spilled secrets to WikiLeaks. (The former intelligence analyst was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison, but the sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama in his final days in office.) Harry F. Byrd, a newspaper publisher who served as governor of Virginia then Senator for the state for more than 30 years, leading the Senate's conservative coalition in opposition to the New Deal policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, died at age 98.

Five years ago: Zimbabwe voted for the first time without Robert Mugabe on the ballot; there were long lines at some polling stations. President Donald Trump said he'd be willing to meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani "anytime" with "no preconditions." More than 27,000 people remained evacuated because of a Northern California wildfire that ranked as the ninth most destructive blaze in the state's history; the fire in the area of Redding had destroyed more than 800 homes and left two firefighters and four civilians dead. Ron Dellums, an anti-war activist who championed social justice as Northern California's first black congressman, died of cancer at his home in Washington at the age of 82.

One year ago: At least 25 people died — including four children — when torrential rains swamped towns across Appalachia. A ticket bought in the Chicago suburb of Des Plaines, Illinois beat the odds and won a \$1.337 billion Mega Millions jackpot. Samuel Sandoval, one of the last remaining of hundreds of members of the Navajo Nation to serve as Code Talkers for the U.S. military during World War II, died in Shiprock, New Mexico at age 98.

Today's Birthdays: Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 89. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 87. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 84. Singer Paul Anka is 82. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 78. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 76. Actor William Atherton is 76. Actor Jean Reno is 75. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 75. Actor Frank Stallone is 73. Actor Ken Olin is 69. Actor Delta Burke is 67. Law professor Anita Hill is 67. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 65. Country singer Neal McCoy is 65. Actor Richard Burgi is 65. Movie director Richard Linklater is 63. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 62. Actor Lisa Kudrow is 60. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 60. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 60. Actor Vivica A. Fox is 59. Actor Terry Crews is 55. Actor Simon Baker is 54. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 54. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 53. Actor Tom Green is 52. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 52. Actor Christine Taylor is 52. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 50. Actor Hilary Swank is 49. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 46. Actor Jaime Pressly is 46. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 43. Actor April Bowlby is 43. Former soccer player Hope Solo is 42. Actor Yvonne Strahovski is 41. Actor Martin Starr is 41. Actor Gina Rodriguez is 39. Actor Nico Tortorella is 35. Actor Joey King is 24.