

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, July 14

- Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
- St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; and at Zion, 11 a.m.
- United Methodist: Worship: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.
- Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
- First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
- Groton CM&A: Church in Park at 9 a.m. No worship in the church.
- Summer Fest/Car Show at City Park, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

## It's Sunday

### Heavenly Father,

Today I woke up. I'm Blessed. I am Grateful, and I Thank You, Lord, for the gift of Life.

Give us the strength we need to meet any challenges this week.

May we walk in faith, good health, and the Joy of the Lord.



Thank You for answered prayers, forgiveness, and keeping us safe from all harm, seen and unseen.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Spoken Word Ministries

## Monday, July 15

- Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, broccoli, peaches, whole wheat bread.
- Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
- Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center
- Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Legion at Redfield, 5:30 p.m. (1)
- Jr. Legion at Redfield 7:30 p.m. (1)
- Softball at Mellette: U10B at 6 p.m. (DH), U12 at 7:30 p.m. (DH)

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PLEASE JOIN US IN  
CELEBRATING

DROP & GO GIFT CARD  
BRIDAL SHOWER FOR

*Julianna Kosel  
& Isaac Moll*

**Box also  
at Lori's  
Pharmacy!**

Julianna is the daughter of Tina & the one & only "Paper Paul" Kosel  
The wedding will take place in Florida on July 30th.

**GROTON SWIMMING POOL**  
**DROP OFF TIMES ARE: 1-8:30 M-TH**  
**1-8 FRI-SUN**

**FROM: JUNE 27TH TO JULY 14TH**

\*The couple is also registered on Amazon if you prefer to send them a gift.



**Julianna Kosel**  
**31 W 1450 N #35**  
**Provo, UT 84604**

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**50th Wedding Celebration  
Honoring Neal & Wynella Abeln  
Saturday, July 20, 2024  
Food & Visiting 6 pm – 8 pm  
Barn Dance 8 pm – 11 pm  
AT: Tim & Lacey Grabow's  
15689 456th Ave  
South Shore, SD 57263  
FUN FOR ALL  
No gifts please**

## Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 With Tough Game Against LAW Rattlers

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 couldn't keep up with LAW Rattlers Legion and fell 11-4 on Saturday.

LAW Rattlers Legion got on the board in the top of the first inning after Parker Salwei grounded out, and , each scoring one run.

LAW Rattlers Legion scored five runs on two hits in the top of the fourth inning. Carter Simon induced Caleb Kosiak to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored, Connor Kosiak doubled, scoring three runs, and an error scored one run.

Simon stepped on the hill first for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39. They gave up seven hits and 11 runs (seven earned) over four and one-third innings, striking out three and walking five. Berkley Frantz started on the mound for LAW Rattlers Legion. They gave up two hits and zero runs over three innings, striking out four and walking one.

Gavin Englund provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. The number three hitter went 2-for-3 on the day. Gavin Kroll paced Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, amassing six walks for the game.

Kosiak led LAW Rattlers Legion with four runs batted in. They went 4-for-4 on the day. Levi Keeney stole two bases. LAW Rattlers Legion turned one double play in the game. LAW Rattlers Legion didn't commit a single error in the field. Justin Bosch had the most chances in the field with eight.

Next up for Groton Jr. Legion Post 39 is a game at Redfeild Clay Kiser Jr. Legion 17U on Monday.

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## Bottom Of The Lineup Carries Groton Post 39 Past SMC Post 140 (Salem/Montrose/Canova)

By GameChanger Media

The bottom of the lineup helped Groton Post 39 capture a 4-1 victory over SMC Post 140 (Salem/Montrose/Canova) on Saturday. Ryan Groeblichhoff, Braxton Imrie, and Teylor Diegel combined for four of the team's eight hits in the victory. They scored three runs and drove in none.

SMC Post 140 (Salem/Montrose/Canova) were the first to get on the board in the fifth when Jackson Remmers singled, scoring one run.

Groton Post 39 took the lead in the bottom of the fifth. Brevin Flihs grounded out, scoring three runs, to give Groton Post 39 the lead, 3-1.

Bradin Althoff earned the win for Groton Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed five hits and one run over seven innings, striking out six and walking none. Owen Alley took the loss for SMC Post 140 (Salem/Montrose/Canova). They went six innings, allowing four runs (two earned) on eight hits, striking out six and walking one.

Groton Post 39's Groeblichhoff made the most of their chances at the plate. The number seven hitter led the team with three hits in three at bats. Flihs and Carter Simon each drove in one run for Groton Post 39.

Remmers went 2-for-3 at the plate as they led the team with one run batted in.

Groton Post 39 will travel to Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser for their next game on Monday.

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LAW Rattlers Legion **11 - 4** Groton Jr. Legion Post 39

📍 Home 📅 Saturday July 13, 2024

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
LWRT	2	0	0	5	4	0	11	7	0
GRTN	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	7	5

## BATTING

LAW Rattlers Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
J Bosch #7 (C)	4	0	0	1	0	0
K Vetter #11	0	1	0	0	1	0
C Kosiak #28 (SS)	4	2	4	4	0	0
P Salwei #2 (3B)	3	0	0	2	1	0
B Frantz #15 (P)	3	1	1	0	0	1
C Goettle #20 (1B)	3	1	0	0	1	1
L Keeney #9 (CF)	3	1	1	0	0	1
D Droog #0 (RF)	2	1	0	0	0	0
C Nitsch... #23 (LF)	3	2	1	1	1	0
B Goebel #5 (2B)	1	0	0	0	0	0
C Kosiak #14	1	1	0	1	0	0
L Kiefer #1 (2B)	1	1	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

**2B:** C Kosiak, **TB:** L Keeney, C Kosiak 5, B Frantz, C Nitschke, **HBP:** D Droog 2, L Keeney, B Frantz, **SB:** P Salwei, L Keeney 2, C Kosiak, B Frantz, **LOB:** 8

## PITCHING

LAW Rattlers Legion	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Frantz #15	3.0	2	0	0	1	4	0
C Kosiak #28	2.0	5	4	4	4	2	0
<b>L Keeney #9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

**W:** C Kosiak, **P-S:** L Keeney 17-10, C Kosiak 58-29, B Frantz 34-23, **WP:** B Frantz, **BF:** L Keeney 4, C Kosiak 15, B Frantz 11

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (LF)	2	1	1	0	1	0
C Simon #4 (P)	3	0	1	0	0	0
G Englund #18 (3B)	3	1	2	2	0	1
N Morris #17 (C)	3	0	1	1	0	1
J Erdmann #0 (CF)	2	0	1	0	1	1
N Groebl... #12 (1B)	2	0	1	1	1	0
K Flihs #10	3	0	0	0	0	2
K Antonsen #7 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
G Kroll #8 (DH)	1	0	0	0	2	0
T Schuster #3 (SS)	1	0	0	0	0	0
A Abeln #23 (SS)	1	1	0	0	1	1
CR: Jordan Sc... #11	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

**TB:** C Simon, J Erdmann, L Krause, G Englund 2, N Morris, N Groeblinghoff, **LOB:** 8

Groton Jr. Legion Post 39	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
C Simon #4	4.1	7	11	7	5	3
N Groe... #12	1.2	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

**L:** C Simon, **P-S:** C Simon 105-58, N Groeblinghoff 29-15, **WP:** C Simon 3, **HBP:** C Simon 2, N Groeblinghoff 2, **BF:** C Simon 30, N Groeblinghoff 7

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**SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION REGION 6B SR BRACKET**  
**JULY 23-26, 2024**  
**DICKINSON FIELD, CLARK, SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**Hosted by Clark-Willow Lake Post 60**



## Moody County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 32, mile marker 416, five miles west of Flandreau, SD

When: 2:34 p.m., Saturday, July 13, 2024

Vehicle 1: 1999 Peterbilt Conventional 379

Driver 1: Male, 30. No injuries

Seatbelt Use: Yes

Vehicle 2: 1999 GMC C1500

Driver 2: Female, 18, minor injuries

Seatbelt Use: No

Passenger 1: Female, 18, fatal injuries

Seatbelt Use: No

Moody County, S.D.- An 18-year-old woman died this afternoon when the pickup truck she was in collided with a semi near Flandreau, SD.

The names of the people involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 1999 semi-truck and trailer was traveling east-bound on SD Highway 32 near mile marker 416. The driver of a 1999 GMC pickup truck was traveling the same direction behind the semi. As the driver of the semi initiated a right-hand turn onto 475th Avenue, the driver of the pickup swerved to the left and struck the semi-trailer.

The driver of the semi was not injured. The driver of the pickup had minor injuries and the passenger sustained fatal injuries from the collision.

Alcohol does not appear to be a factor in the crash. Seat belts were not worn by either the driver or the passenger in the pickup truck.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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

## Brand New Program at

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460  
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



### \$20 Monthly Membership

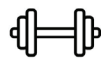
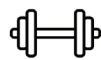
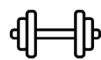
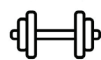
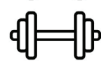
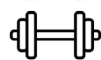
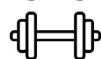
- ☞ for people 60 years of age and older
- ☞ for those who need equipment for physical therapy!



Downtown  
Groton

24/7 access to the facility ~ Cancel any time

**Staying fit and practicing healthy nutrition  
can be linked to benefits, such as:**

-  Reduced levels of stress and anxiety
-  Improved cognitive function
-  Increased energy levels and productivity
-  Controlled blood pressure
-  Better blood flow circulation
-  Strengthened bones and muscles
-  Reduced risk of heart disease and other illnesses

Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460

Call/Text Tina at 605-397-7285



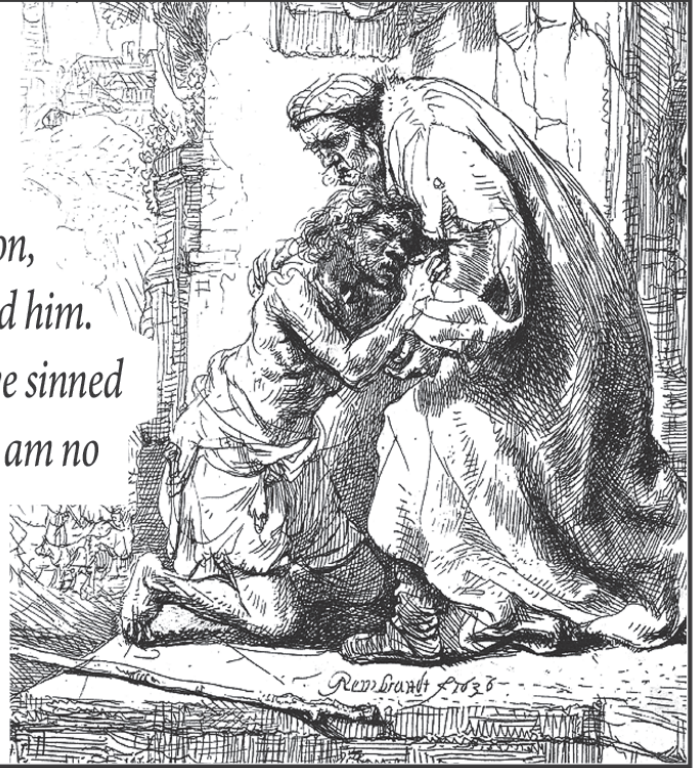


## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

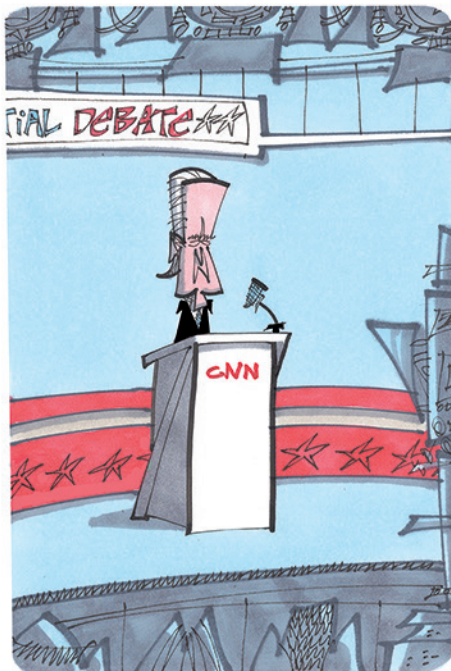
*“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”*

LUKE 15: 20,21

Detail from *The Return of the Prodigal Son*  
by Rembrandt (1636)



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HAD A BAD NIGHT...



HAD A BAD FOUR YEARS.

## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. What did Paul's writings say about those who refused to work should be kept from doing? *Traveling, Speaking, Eating, Marrying*

3. From Matthew 27, the "potter's field" was also known as the field of ...? *Blood, Sorrows, Pagans, Idols*

4. What priest of Midian was the father-in-law of Moses? *Jethro, Melchizedek, Eleazar, Nadab*

5. From Jonah 1, who were afraid and threw their wares into the sea? *Slaves, Mariners, Zealots, Carpenters*

6. Jesus called Himself the bread of ...? *Salvation, Hope, Love, Life*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Eating, 3) Blood, 4) Jethro, 5) Mariners, 6) Life

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

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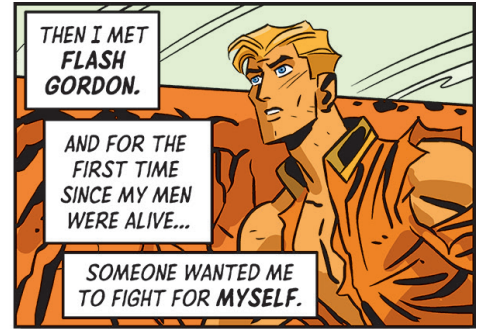
I'M BOK. I ONCE FOUGHT FOR MING.

**FLASH GORDON**

MY SQUAD REBELLED.

WE LOST.

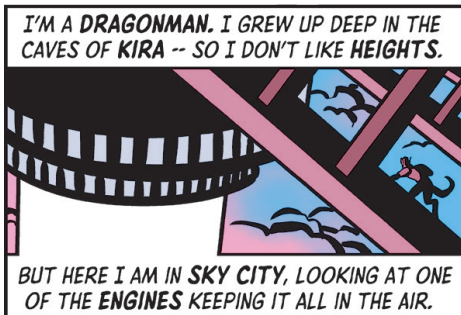
I WAS THROWN IN A PRISON PIT, FIGHTING OTHER CONVICTS FOR AN AUDIENCE THAT SAW ME AS AN ANIMAL.



THEN I MET FLASH GORDON.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MY MEN WERE ALIVE...

SOMEONE WANTED ME TO FIGHT FOR MYSELF.




I'M A DRAGONMAN. I GREW UP DEEP IN THE CAVES OF KIRA -- SO I DON'T LIKE HEIGHTS.

BUT HERE I AM IN SKY CITY, LOOKING AT ONE OF THE ENGINES KEEPING IT ALL IN THE AIR.



ADRANE SNEAKS UP ON ME AGAIN. SHE'S... FRUSTRATING. IS SHE MAKING FUN OF ME?

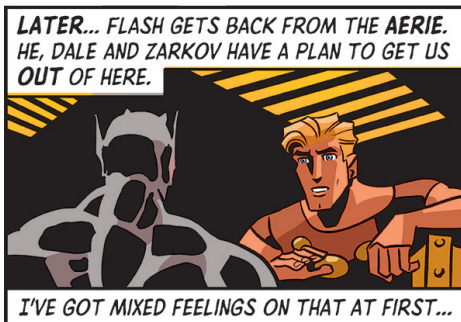
WHY CAN'T SHE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?



OH.

THAT'S WHY.

OKAY.



LATER... FLASH GETS BACK FROM THE AERIE. HE, DALE AND ZARKOV HAVE A PLAN TO GET US OUT OF HERE.

I'VE GOT MIXED FEELINGS ON THAT AT FIRST...



...BUT THEN I HEAR ABOUT THIS CLIMATE WEAPON VULTAN'S MAKING ZARKOV BUILD.

DAN SCHKADE 7-14-24

URNS OUT THAT'S THE FIRST PART OF THE PLAN -- ZARKOV TWEAKS THE MACHINE...



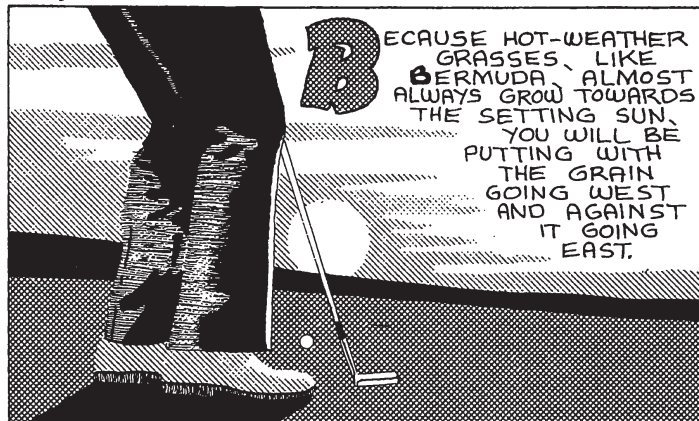
...AND OUTSIDE OF SKY CITY...

...A STORM STARTS GATHERING.

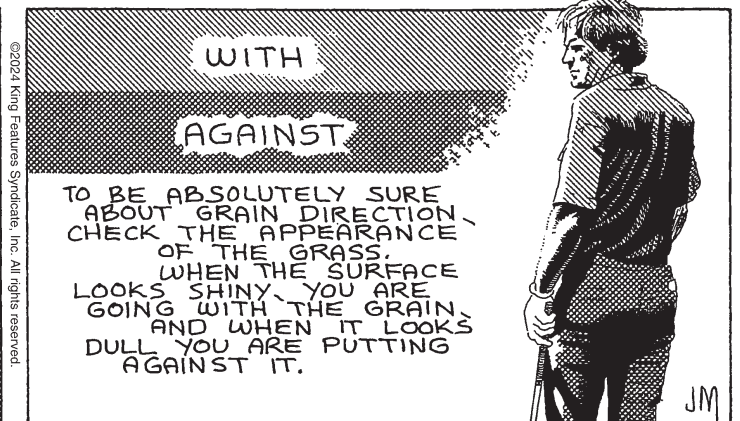
NEXT: TALL TALES

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



**B**ECAUSE HOT-WEATHER GRASSES, LIKE BERMUDA, ALMOST ALWAYS GROW TOWARDS THE SETTING SUN, YOU WILL BE PUTTING WITH THE GRAIN GOING WEST AND AGAINST IT GOING EAST.



WITH

AGAINST

TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE ABOUT GRAIN DIRECTION, CHECK THE APPEARANCE OF THE GRASS. WHEN THE SURFACE LOOKS SHINY, YOU ARE GOING WITH THE GRAIN, AND WHEN IT LOOKS DULL YOU ARE PUTTING AGAINST IT.

JM

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## Bisphosphonates Cause Esophageal Disorders To Worsen

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 68-year-old female with osteopenia. My doctor wants me to take a bone medication such as Boniva or Fosamax. I've read that folks with esophageal issues may be harmed by taking these. Can you explain why? -- C.M.C.

ANSWER: First off, we don't usually treat isolated low bone mass (osteopenia) with powerful medicines like the ones you mentioned, which are both bisphosphonates. These medicines have the potential for harm and should only be used when the benefits clearly outweigh the risks.

A person with low bone mass and a history of a fragility fracture has osteoporosis, regardless of their bone density. Some people with low bone density may be at such a high risk for fracture (based on their FRAX score) that treatment is indicated. Before treating someone with medication, many authorities recommend a 10-year risk of a fracture of 20% or higher (or a risk of a hip fracture of 3% or higher). You should find out your FRAX score.

The issue with the esophagus is that if pills get stuck in the esophagus, they can cause severe damage to it. So, people with esophageal disorders -- such as achalasia, esophageal stricture or varices, or Barrett's esophagus -- should not take these types of medicines by mouth. People with reflux without these complications can take oral bisphosphonates as long as they can comply with staying upright for 30 minutes after taking them.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: My boyfriend got cancer from HPV. He was successfully treated. Is he capable of transmitting it to me? -- S.

ANSWER: HPV causes different types of problems. Warts are all caused by HPV, but only a few strains of HPV can predispose people to cancer.

The most common HPV-related cancer in men is head and neck cancer, since HPV is the leading cause of these cancers. Most of these cases in men occur from a sexually acquired HPV infection. Men are at a higher risk for HPV-related head and neck cancers than women, even though women are at a much higher risk for the overall HPV-related cancers (since cervical cancer unfortunately remains common).

Once a person has HPV, they can potentially spread the virus, even without any visible signs of infection. Condoms reduce but do not eliminate the risk of transmission. Close skin-to-skin contact is necessary for transmission, and although sexual contact is a common way of transmitting HPV, it is not necessary. Most people cure themselves of the virus within a few years.

By far, the best way to prevent HPV transmission (apart from never having close contact with anyone) is vaccination. The HPV vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection if it is given before the onset of sexual activity, but it still may be fully or partially effective after the onset of sexual infection.

The HPV vaccine prevents infection, but it is not recommended for treatment. The recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is to vaccinate at the age of 11 or 12, up to the age of 26. But it is approved up to the age of 45. I have rarely given individual patients the HPV vaccine even after that age, based on their particular circumstances, and insurance typically does not pay for it in the United States.

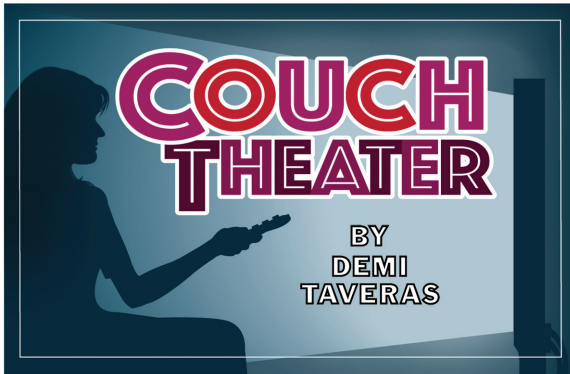
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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"The Bikeriders" (R) -- After this film was delayed by the writers' and actors' strikers, then some wishy-washiness with its original distributor, it finally released this past June and is now available to rent on streaming platforms. Jodie Comer stars as ("Killing Eve") Kathy Bauer, a regular woman

**Mikey Madison, left, and Natalie Portman star in "Lady in the Lake."**

Courtesy of Apple TV+

in 1960s Chicago who happens upon the Vandals Motorcycle Club at a bar. Kathy becomes immediately entranced with one of the club members, Benny (Austin Butler), and marries him a whopping five weeks later. Through Benny, Kathy gets to know the club and its members intimately, learning what it takes to become a Vandal and the rewards and consequences that come with it. In a sort of documentary style, viewers get to watch in flashback form as Kathy recounts tales about its members one by one to photographer Danny Lyon (Mike Faist). This film is full of comedy, romance, action, pure grit, and top-notch performances. What more could you ask for? (VUDU)

"Lady in the Lake" (TV-MA) -- Natalie Portman is back in another achingly beautiful role for this thriller miniseries premiering July 19. She plays Maddie Schwartz, a housewife in 1960s Baltimore, who reaches her breaking point with the role she plays in her home. Deciding to reinvent her life as an investigative journalist to the dismay of her husband, Milton (Brett Gelman), Maddie starts digging into two murders that occurred in the city, which included an 11-year-old named Tessie Fine and a bartender named Cleo Sherwood (Moses Ingram). As she gets closer to unraveling their mysteries, especially Cleo's, Maddie faces immense pressure from all ends to tell Cleo's story in a manner that recognizes Cleo's efforts in Baltimore's Black progressive agenda. Look out for more episodes of this limited series every Friday. (Apple TV+)

"Reunion" (R) -- The cast is quite an interesting bunch in this comedy-mystery film out now! Starring Lil Rel Howery ("Get Out"), Billy Magnussen ("Game Night"), Jillian Bell ("The Night Before"), Nina Dobrev ("The Out-Laws"), and Chace Crawford ("Gossip Girl"), this film follows a handful of alumni from Ridgeview High School during their 20-year reunion. Hosted by Matthew (Crawford), a popular student turned wealthy hedge fund manager, the reunion kicks off and leaves a good few too drunk to leave the party. They elect to stay at Matthew's house but are horrified to find Matthew's dead body in the morning. Realizing the killer has to be one of them, the group turns into amateur detectives to figure out who became a cold-blooded murderer in the still of the night. However, once they find out that they all have motives due to their terrible high school experiences with Matthew, it makes finding the killer more difficult than they thought. (Amazon Prime Video)

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1. Name the film that included these songs in the soundtrack: "Rock Around the Clock," "Maybe Baby" and "Teen Angel."
2. Which artist wrote and released "Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)"?
3. Name the girl group that released "Love Is Here and Now You're Gone."
4. Which artist wrote and released "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I told this heart of mine our love could never be, But then I hear your voice and something stirs inside of me."

## Answers

1. "American Graffiti," in 1973. The film was so low-budget there wasn't much money to pay for music licensing, with all publishers getting a small amount. RCA opted out, and no Elvis Presley songs were used on the soundtrack.
2. Stevie Wonder, in 1970. The song netter Wonder a sixth Grammy nom.
3. The Supremes, in 1967. The song topped charts in the U.S., the U.K. and Canada.
4. Paul Simon, in 1975.
5. "My Heart Has a Mind of Its Own," by Connie Francis in 1960. This chart-topper was recorded on three different days. The final version was released, but weeks later, for unknown reasons, it was replaced by the second version.

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



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"I think I have amnesia. ... I can't remember whose identity I stole!"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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# Groton Daily Independent

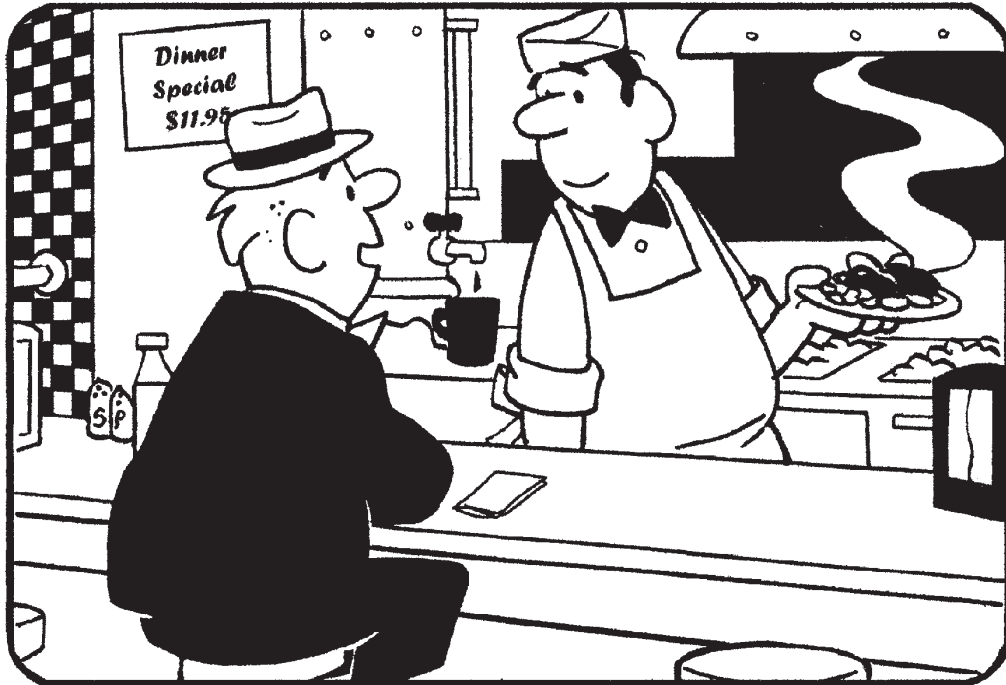
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

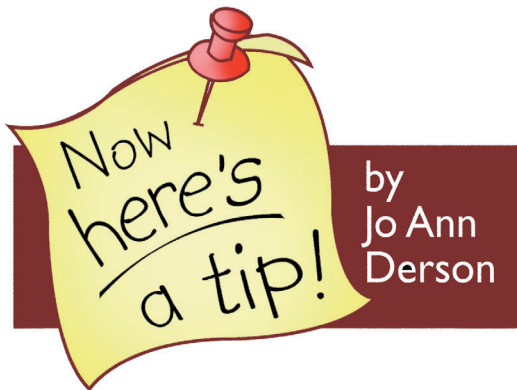


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Differences: 1. Mug is reversed. 2. Salt and pepper are switched. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Seat is moved. 6. Hair is different.

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\* Glassware will sparkle if you add a capful of bleach to the rinse water when hand-washing dishes.

\* "Berries are in season, and I use berry baskets for lots of little storage uses. The best one is to use one to hold my sponges at the sink area. It keeps small brushes corralled as well." -- I.R. in Florida

\* "We had an impromptu princess/magical fairy tea party at our house yesterday, and we came up with the best on-the-spot magic wands. We cut big stars out of paperboard (like a cereal box) and decorated them with stickers, construction paper and glitter, then we threaded them on long kebab sticks. I snipped the pointy end and covered it with colorful tape. Presto, party wand!" -- E.D. in Maine

\* To keep salt from coming out of a saltshaker too quickly, add some plain, uncooked white rice to the salt. The large grains of rice will block some of the holes, causing less salt to come out with each shake.

\* "When I take my dog to 'Grandma' for dog sitting, I measure out each meal into a plastic zipper-top bag. This way, Mom doesn't have to remember how much to feed at each mealtime, and it makes it easy to serve." -- V.Y. in Texas

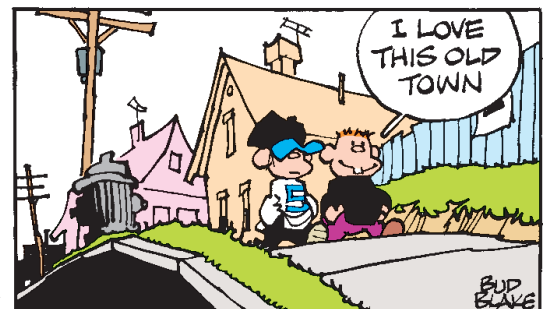
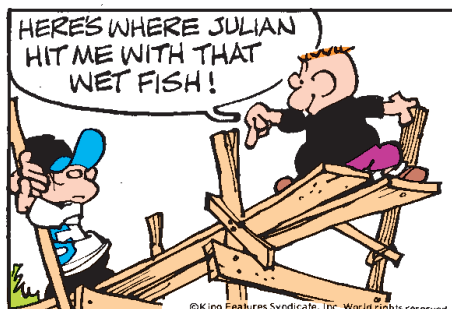
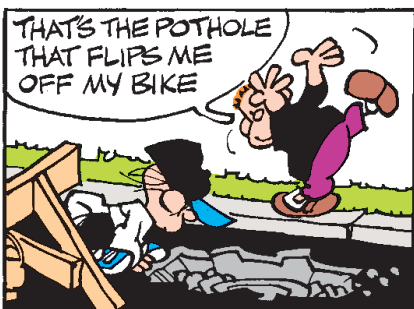
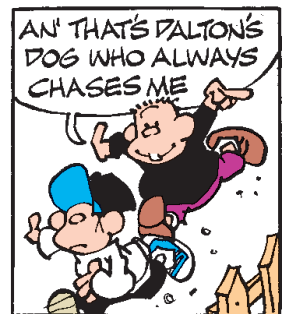
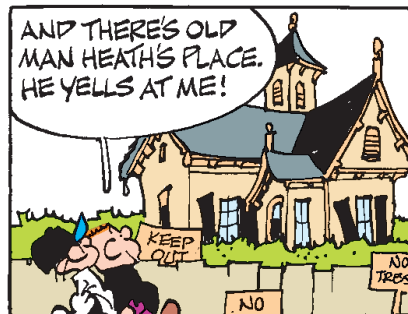
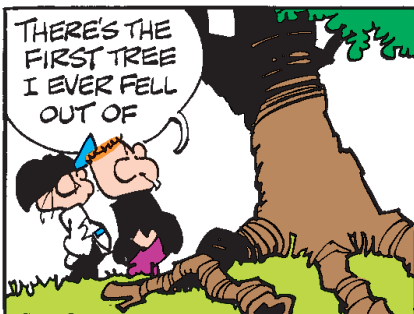
\* "At my child's day care, there is a 'Where's Mommy and Daddy?' board. Parents bring in a picture of themselves at their job, and the children can see the picture and know that it shows what Mommy or Daddy is doing while the child is playing." -- S.E. in Missouri

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

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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Ganges garments
- 6 Stern and Asimov
- 12 Raging rant
- 13 Seafood soup
- 14 Foolish talk
- 15 Guarantee
- 16 Faction
- 17 Overdue
- 19 Days of yore
- 20 Entryway
- 22 Bankroll
- 24 Billboards
- 27 Mooches
- 29 Plunks (down)
- 32 Wake-up calls
- 35 Gambling game
- 36 Poet Teasdale
- 37 Water tester
- 38 Tummy muscles
- 40 Iditarod terminus
- 42 Jazz lover
- 44 Ballet attire
- 46 Slightly
- 50 Loves to pieces
- 52 Cancel out
- 54 Some beers
- 55 Of France
- 56 Constitution writer
- 57 Upright

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

### DOWN

- 1 iPhone voice
- 2 Desert-like
- 3 Carried on
- 4 Chemical suffix
- 5 Traitors
- 6 "Yeah, right"
- 7 Tendon
- 8 Ninny
- 9 Water conduit
- 10 Ringlet
- 11 Feeder filler
- 12 Pro Bowl stats
- 18 Marching insect
- 21 Kimono sash
- 23 Chest-beating beast
- 24 Canine greeting
- 25 Narc's org.
- 26 Revolutionary War battle
- 28 Forage for food, say
- 30 Ring decision
- 31 Away from NNW
- 33 High tennis shot
- 34 Deli meat
- 39 Cubic meter
- 41 Aerie builder
- 42 Young whale
- 43 Purim's month
- 45 Cold War initials
- 47 Body powder
- 48 Bickering
- 49 Calendar abbr.
- 51 Sleep acronym
- 53 Corn unit

## — King Crossword —

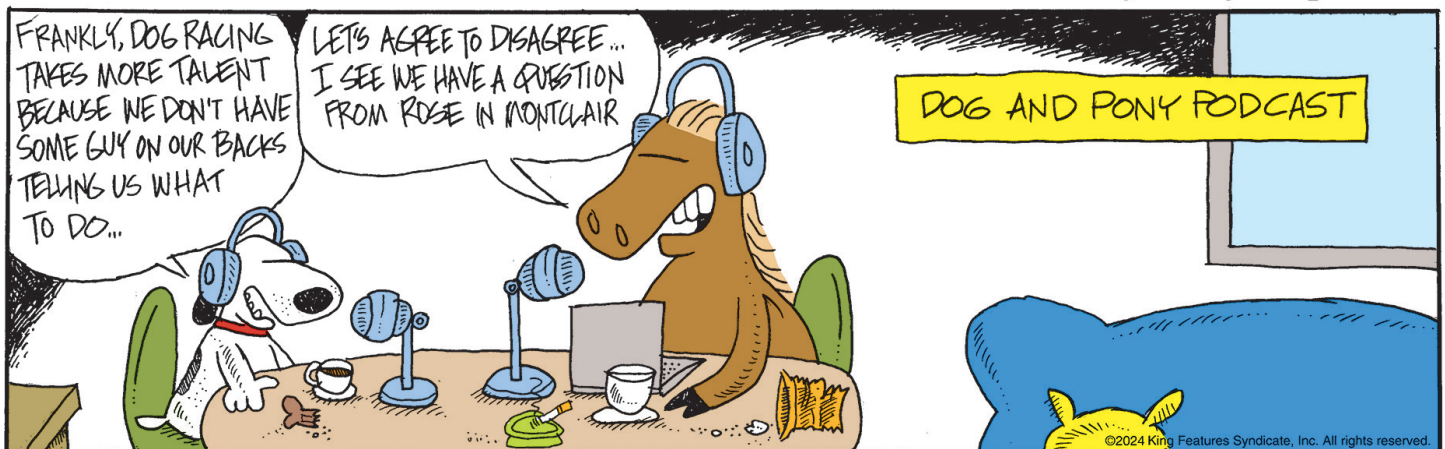
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.



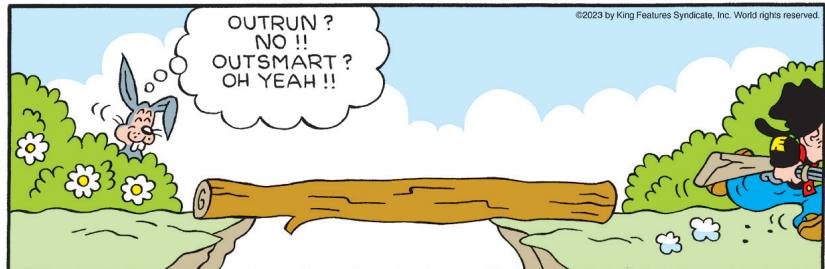
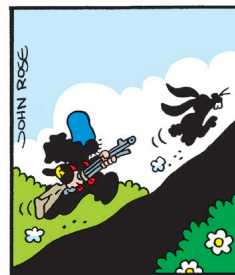
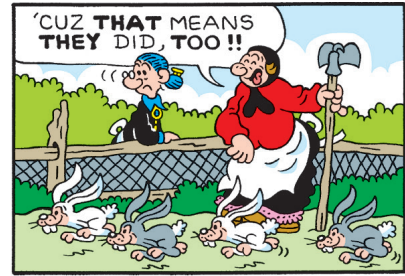
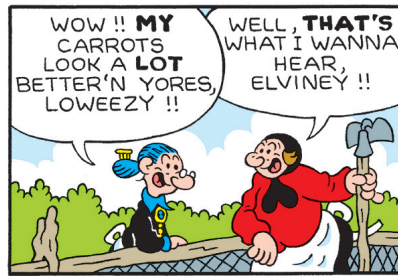
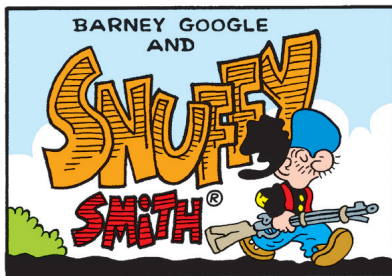
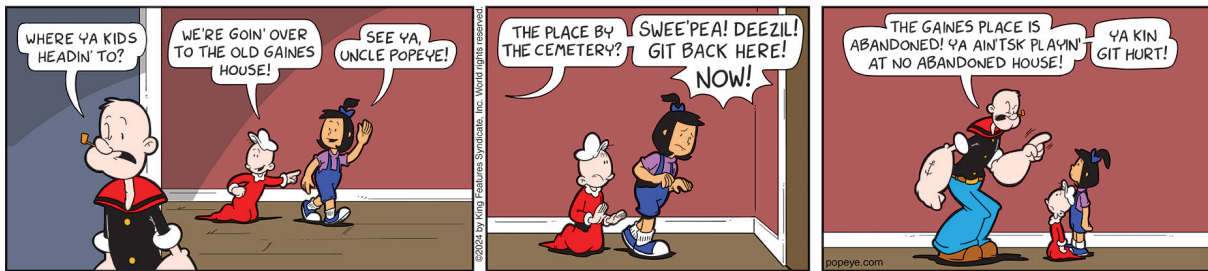
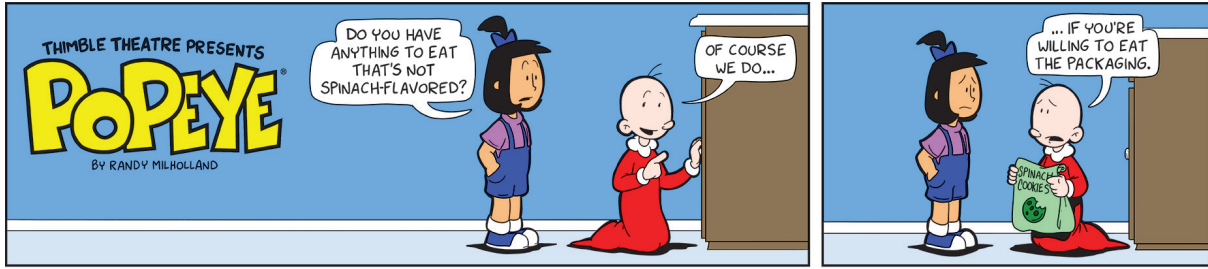
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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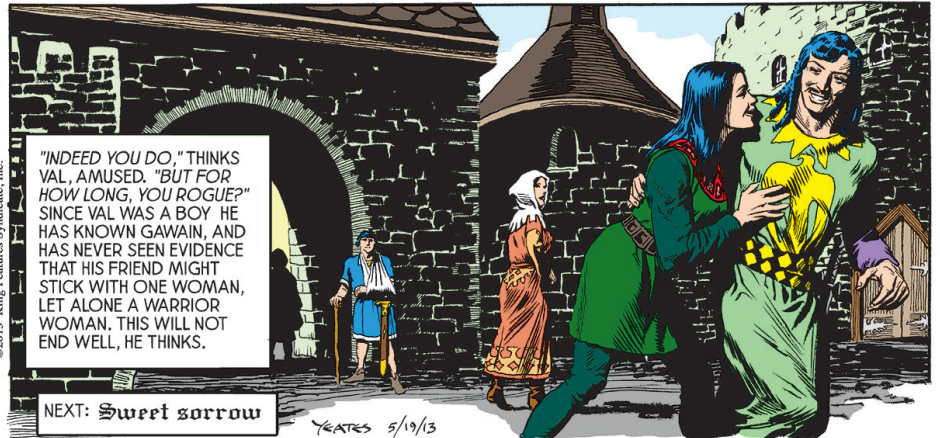
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"THEN MAYBE WE KEEP IT TO OURSELVES," OFFERS GAWAIN. "WE WILL ONLY SAY THAT LORD GRUNYARD IS HAPPY TO BE HOME AND SETTING THINGS RIGHT. CAMELOT IS A LONG WAY OFF FROM HERE..."

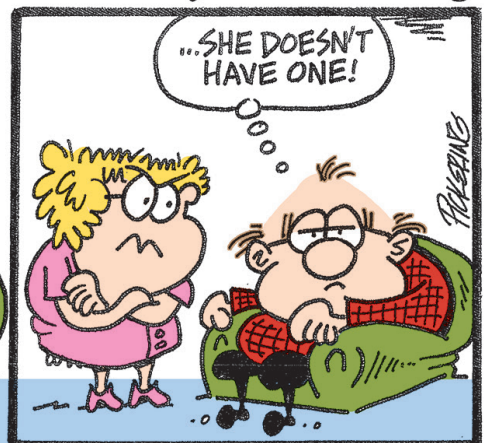
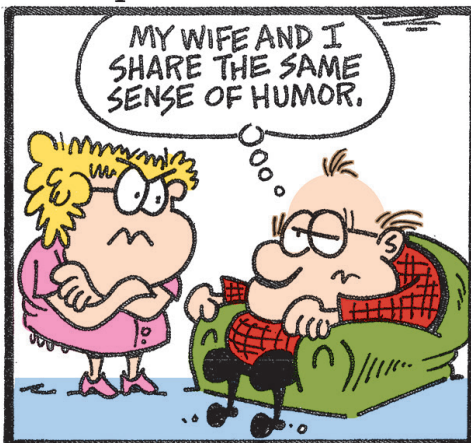


"... AND SELDOM IS LOCKBRAMBLE VISITED. BUT I WILL BE HAPPY TO RETURN OFTEN AND WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERSIGHT OF THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT. AFTER ALL, I HAVE GOOD REASON TO RETURN..." HE LAUGHS, AND LEAVES VAL FOR RHODA.



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Changes to RSV vaccine recommendations

The vaccine for RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) has come under some changes in the CDC recommendations list. Until recently, they suggested that anyone over 60 should consider getting the vaccine.

Now they say, specifically:

If you're over 75, get the shot.

If you're between 60 and 74, get the shot if you're at risk of contracting a severe case of RSV. Those most at risk include those with a chronic condition such as lung disease, diabetes, liver disorders and more.

If you're between 50 and 59, one of the two versions of the vaccine is suitable for you if you run the risk of severe RSV.

In other words, if you're at risk, you move to the head of the priority line. RSV causes lower respiratory tract disease, and the shots have an 80% efficacy rate, which means they will likely help.

These suggestions are for those who didn't get the vaccine last year (the first year the vaccine was available); you don't need one every year.

Step one would be to ask your doctor if you should get the vaccine. If the answer is yes, ask if there is a preference between the two (Arexvy vs. Pfizer). Ask when you should get it. The CDC recommends late summer and early fall, before the RSV season hits.

At this point, the CDC is looking at studies to decide whether additional doses are needed in seniors, especially considering the potential side effects that popped up in clinical trials. Specifically, the CDC, as well as the FDA, are monitoring the data to see if there is a possibility of increased risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) with the RSV vaccine. That is likely the reason for the change from "everyone over age 60" should consider getting the vaccine to "those who are at the highest risk" for severe RSV disease.

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1. He was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs in the first round of the 1984 NFL Draft. His son Joe was picked fifth overall by the Los Angeles Chargers in 2024. Who is he?

2. What team won 12 of the first 13 NCAA women's soccer national championships dating back to 1982?

3. Name the Scottish yachtsman and tea magnate who made five straight unsuccessful challenges for the America's Cup from 1899-1930.

4. Activist and basketball player Jerry Harkness, a member of the 1963 NCAA champion Loyola Ramblers, became what company's first Black salesperson?

5. After Negro Leagues statistics were incorporated into the Major League Baseball record books, what player became the all-time leader in slugging percentage with .718?

6. Name the IndyCar driver who won back-to-back Indianapolis 500s in 2023-24.

7. Renato William Jones was the Secretary-General of what international sports organization from 1932-76?



by Ryan A. Berenz

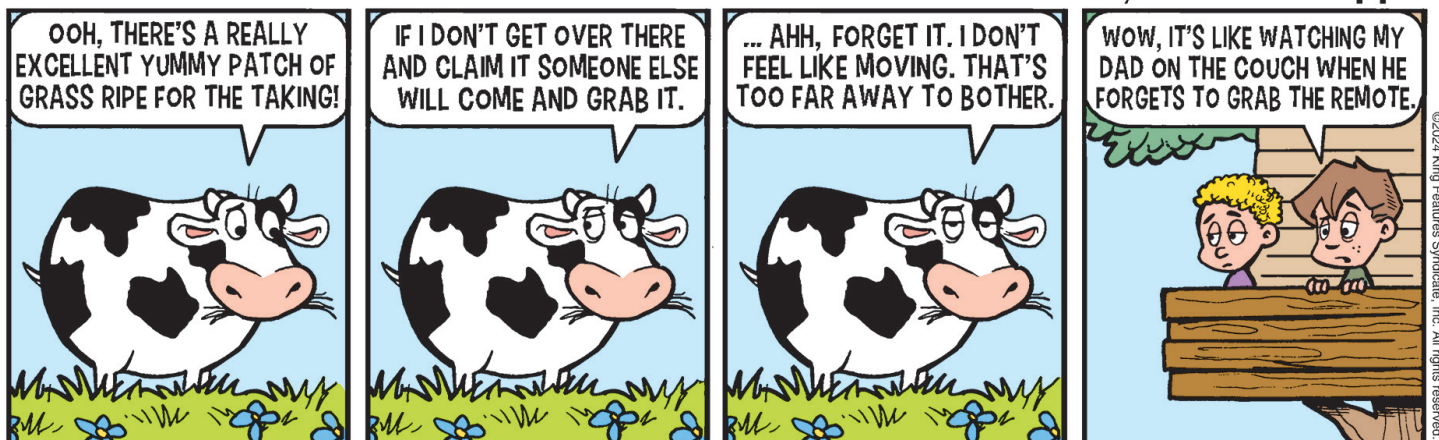
## Answers

1. John Alt.
2. The University of North Carolina Tar Heels.
3. Sir Thomas Lipton.
4. Quaker Oats.
5. Josh Gibson.
6. Josef Newgarden.
7. The International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## How often are lost pets found and returned? Prevent your pet from becoming a statistic

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog "Shakes" is a "bolter" -- he will bolt out the door and straight into the street if I'm not careful. I worry constantly about him getting lost in the woods nearby. If that happens, what should I do? I feel that lost pets don't get found very often.  
-- Jamie B. in Egypt, Maine

DEAR JAIME: Most dogs who get lost are found and returned to their owners at fairly high rates -- between 81% and 97%, according to a 2012 report. That doesn't make it any less stressful to their owners, who must scour the neighborhood and put up signs to find their

dogs.

The statistics for cats are much worse, with only 45% to 72% being returned to their owners. A bunch of things make it harder to find a lost cat: no ID tag, if the cat's collar breaks away on an obstacle or no microchip. Cat owners wait much longer than dog owners to report their cat missing -- probably because they feel most cats will come home on their own.

Those stats aside, Shakes would benefit greatly from being trained not to react when the front door opens. Each day, do about 15 minutes of training with him:

- Put Shakes on a leash and lead him toward the front door. Command "sit."
- Reach out for the front doorknob. If Shakes starts forward, bring your hand back to your side and command "sit" again.
- Repeat the doorknob reach until he no longer reacts but remains sitting. When he does this, give him a tiny treat.
- Progress to turning the knob, opening the door and leaving the door open. Shakes should remain sitting for each level to be successful.

Keep the training fun, and be consistent. It'll help Shakes stay safe inside and improve your peace of mind.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* Guglielmo Marconi, whose invention of wireless telegraphy was credited for saving the lives of over 700 Titanic passengers after it sank in 1912, had turned down a free passage on the ship, choosing instead to go to America via the Lusitania three days earlier. He narrowly missed death at sea a second time in 1915, when he was again a passenger on the Lusitania, about a month before it was sunk by a German U-boat.

\* The story of Cinderella first appears in a Chinese book written in the 850s.

\* Margaret Dixon, a Scottish criminal, was hanged at Musselburgh in 1728. However, just a few hours later, she climbed out of her coffin, and was reprieved and pardoned. Still, as her husband was considered a widower because she was "officially" deceased, Scottish law dictated that they had to remarry.

\* The country of Liechtenstein has twice as many registered corporations as citizens.

\* On April Fools' Day 1957, the BBC television documentary "Panorama" broadcast a documentary about the so-called spaghetti orchards of Switzerland, with discussions of spaghetti plantations in Switzerland and Italy, the spaghetti weevil, and the reason for the pasta's being of such uniform lengths held against a background of Swiss "spaghetti trees." Many viewers, forgetting or failing to notice the date, believed the orchards were real!

\* Groups of geese on the ground are called a gaggle, but in the air they're referred to as a skein.

\* Honey has been used as a center for golf balls and in antifreeze mixtures.

\* In 1974, the U.S. Army Materiel Command ran a contest to name its new headquarters building and received around 500 entries. The winner? "The AMC Building."

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse." -- Florence Nightingale

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These plants are some of the easiest to care for. Once they bloom, keep the soil slightly moist. If blooms are very large and the stem begins to bend, stake the stem for support until the flowers are spent. Cut off any spent flowers and stalks, but allow the leaves to remain until they yellow and begin to die. This will help fuel the bulb for the next year's blooming season. In fall, trim away any growth left, leaving the bulb in the ground. Mulch over the bulb with organic bark mulch. In spring, pull away the mulch when you see green sprouts. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [gardeningknowhow.com](https://www.gardeningknowhow.com)





by Freddy Groves

## Did the VA contact you about Agent Orange benefits?

If you served in Vietnam, were exposed to an herbicide like Agent Orange, got sick and submitted a claim that was denied, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was supposed to find you and offer compensation.

Did they?

Specifically, after the *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs* class action lawsuit in 1986, it was decreed that Agent Orange exposure resulted in service-connected diseases. Despite the thousands of claims that were denied, the VA was to find those veterans and pay compensation.

The eligibility requirements, per the lawsuit, were that the veteran had to have one of the covered diseases from AO exposure, the VA had to have received a claim for a service-connected disease and the claim had to have been denied.

Then, also per the lawsuit, the VA had to look for all the veterans they'd previous denied, digging through their records, without any action required on the part of the veteran (or family member, if the veteran was then deceased) -- and award benefits for it.

Then because of possible shipboard exposure to AO, and after three additional presumptive conditions were added to the list, the VA issued a press release saying they would send letters to veterans saying they would review all the records.

Enter the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to see how the VA was doing in tracking down the veterans.

The result: The OIG calculates that the VA neglected to send letters to over 88,000 veterans. And the OIG calculated that 86,894 veterans were likely eligible but were not identified by the VA to have their claims looked at again.

What followed was a list of what sounds like excuses on the part of the VA as reasons they didn't find all the veterans. You can read those for yourself in the OIG report at <https://tinyurl.com/sd9u3net>.

If you believe you qualify for benefits under *Nehmer* and had a denied claim for herbicide exposure and subsequent illness, call the VA. Don't let them miss you again.

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## Wishing Well®

3	2	6	4	3	7	5	3	4	5	8	6	3
E	Y	E	B	X	L	B	P	E	R	T	S	L
7	4	2	3	4	2	7	6	3	6	7	2	3
I	H	O	O	O	U	S	P	R	E	T	F	E
4	5	2	4	7	2	8	5	4	7	8	4	8
N	E	O	O	E	R	A	A	R	N	K	A	E
7	6	8	3	4	7	8	3	6	4	6	3	6
T	X	A	N	B	O	C	E	P	L	E	W	R
8	5	8	4	3	8	2	5	6	2	6	5	7
T	K	I	E	I	O	M	B	I	B	E	A	O
3	8	5	3	5	3	2	8	7	6	8	5	7
D	N	D	E	H	A	O	N	T	N	O	A	H
8	5	3	7	5	6	7	2	7	2	6	5	5
W	B	S	E	I	C	R	N	S	D	E	T	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. TELEVISION: What is the name of the town in the sitcom "Parks and Recreation"?

2. GEOGRAPHY: The Earth's equator runs through how many countries?

3. MOVIES: Who plays the character Morpheus in "The Matrix"?

4. MYTHOLOGY: Which Greek hero was dipped in the River Styx as a baby and made almost invulnerable?

5. EXPLORERS: Which English explorer claimed Australia for Great Britain?

6. HISTORY: Which two Native American leaders fought Gen. George Custer's troops at the Battle of Little Bighorn?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the two traditional flowers associated with the July birth month?

8. LITERATURE: Which poem begins with the line, "Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary"?

9. ANATOMY: Where is the smallest skeletal muscle in the human body located?

10. INVENTIONS: What medication, originally used to treat eye muscle spasms, later became a success in reducing facial wrinkles?

### Answers

1. Pawnee, Indiana.
2. 13.
3. Laurence Fishburne.
4. Achilles.
5. James Cook.
6. Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull.
7. Larkspur and water lily.
8. "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe.
9. Middle ear — the stapedius.
10. Botox.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Fish Stories

I love fishing. There's almost no better way to relax, get away from the hubbub of daily life, and connect with the natural beauty all around us. And they taste pretty, good, too! South Dakota is home to some of the best fishing in the country. We have many unique experiences, from river fishing on the Mighty Missouri to the Prairie Lakes in the northeast part of the state – and many more opportunities besides.

Our Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) manages many of these opportunities across the state, especially at our state parks and recreation areas. In fact, their theme for our state parks this year is "Reel in Memories in South Dakota State Parks." I want to share a few "fish stories" from the work that GFP does. But unlike some "fish stories" that are full of exaggeration and extra twists, these ones are all true!

GFP's Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls teaches fishing classes for groups and the community. One intern at the Outdoor Campus was teaching a special needs class when one of the kids informed her that "he had experience fishing and baiting the hook, but he really wanted to learn how to take a fish OFF the hook." He wanted to catch a fish! With 30 seconds left in the class, he hooked a small bluegill and was able to reel it in, take a picture, unhook it (exactly what he was hoping for!), toss it back in, and leave with the biggest smile on his face.

GFP hosts the "Ladies, Let's Fish" series, which takes place one Thursday a month at the Pelican Lake Recreation Area. The class is led by women from GFP, which provides a safe and supportive environment for women to learn and gain confidence fishing. Fifteen women signed up. They learned how to purchase a fishing license on [GoOutdoorsSouthDakota.com](http://GoOutdoorsSouthDakota.com) – then they learned practical skills like tying knots, fish identification, using different types of tackle, setting up fishing poles, and casting. One lady found tying knots easier than she thought. It rained at the first class, but the women were determined to continue fishing. One of them caught a nice white bass, and the ladies were so excited! They all made plans to continue fishing in the future.

We host all kinds of kids' fishing competitions and other kid-focused fishing events across the state. 35 youth and 35 adults participated at this year's 17th Annual Kids Fishing Derby at Oahe Downstream. Lake Herman hosted the annual Casting for Kids tournament – kids of all ages came out to enjoy fishing. The Lake Vermillion Recreation Area hosted Take a Kid Fishing– 17 kids were provided a free tackle box, a fishing poll, a fishing handbook, and a meal of hot dogs and chips, too!

There are all kinds of similar events for our kids at state parks and recreation areas across the state – just check [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to find out when and where!

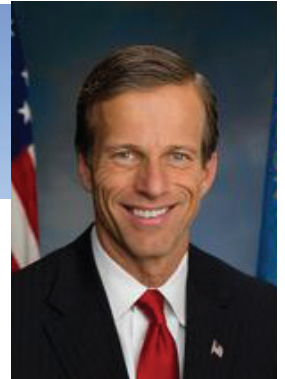
One final story shows us how fishing can bring peace and hope, even in very difficult circumstances. LeeAnn Currey is fighting breast cancer, and she participated in the "Casting for Recovery Retreat" last year. This event is open for women with all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery at no cost.

LeeAnn said that the retreat "was a fun-filled weekend and another way of celebrating life." She had never fly fished before, but she learned something new and bonded with the other women who were going through their cancer journeys. They all shared a lot of laughs – like when LeeAnn hooked her guide Royce's cap during one of her casts. But she still caught two fish – and has the pictures to prove it! LeeAnn expressed how humbling the experience was, saying, "I came away with a lighter heart and a smile on my face. It was a weekend I will cherish forever."

This year's "Casting for Recovery Retreat" will take place from October 4-6 at NeSoDak in Waubay. Individuals should apply online by July 25, and they will be randomly selected to participate.

I hope that each of you find a chance to get out on the water and "Reel in Memories" this summer. You'll find peace, some hope, and maybe even a delicious dinner! As the saying goes, "You can't buy happiness, but you can go fishing – and that's pretty much the same thing."

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



## **Biden Border Crisis Puts Americans in Danger**

For more than three years, a crisis has been raging at the southern border. In total, 10 million illegal immigrants have come into the United States on President Biden's watch. The high level of illegal immigration has undoubtedly enabled bad actors to get into the country, threatening America's national security and public safety.

In June, eight men from Tajikistan with suspected ties to ISIS were arrested in cities across the country. Each of them had entered via the southern border without proper documentation and were released into the country with nothing more than a court date and a hope that they show up when it arrives. In another case, 400 illegal immigrants were reported to have come into the country via an ISIS-affiliated smuggling network, and 50 of these 400 are still unaccounted for. These are hardly the only dangerous individuals who have made their way into the country on President Biden's watch.

The southern border has also been the entry point for criminals who have harmed Americans. An illegal immigrant who had successfully evaded Border Patrol has been arrested for the murder of a mother of five in Maryland. Another illegal immigrant who was released into the country on parole is charged with the murder of a nursing student in Georgia. Two illegal immigrants are charged with killing a 12-year-old girl in Texas. And, unfortunately, there are other cases like these.

The chaos at the border has created an environment that facilitates bad actors slipping into the United States undetected. We know that 1.8 million illegal immigrants have entered without being apprehended by Border Patrol, and there are undoubtedly more that we don't know about. These "gotaways" are particularly concerning. Under the Biden administration's lax asylum policy, individuals who show up at the border claiming asylum have frequently been released into the country with a court date as much as 10 years in the future. If turning yourself into Border Patrol is likely to result in years of essentially legal permanent residence, we can only imagine why someone would choose to avoid law enforcement to escape into the interior of the country.

Until very recently, President Biden has largely done nothing to address this crisis. But after three record-breaking years of illegal border crossings, the president seems to have finally realized his disastrous border record might be a political liability. He conceded last month that he had to do something, but his recent action is too little, too late. A tremendous amount of damage has already been done, damage that can't be reversed even if his minimal action is successful, which remains to be seen.

This crisis was avoidable. The southern border has been overwhelmed month after month and year after year because of intentional choices President Biden made early in the first days of his presidency. The American people want a secure border. The president's open border policies have made Americans less safe and jeopardized our national security. Unfortunately, I suspect we will be dealing with the consequences of the Biden border crisis for a long time to come.

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



## Decisions with **BIG** Impacts

### **BIG Update**

President Biden's performance during the debate a couple weeks ago was very concerning. Americans deserve a Commander in Chief who is up to the task, and it's clear that Biden is not capable to fulfill the responsibilities of the office. It is not safe for the American people or the future of our country if Biden continues to run the administration.

Strong cognitive health is necessary to carry out everyday activities and make decisions, especially those that impact an entire country and significant world affairs. We should have a leader who we can trust to make those decisions.

### **BIG Idea**

California recently requested authorization for a regulation that would require much of their railway system to become zero-emissions. This decision is not based on evidence and would have drastic effects on rail transportation outside of California. Their request is not feasible and could cripple the supply chain across the United States.

The EPA must reject this unsound policy that will affect the entire nation's freight rail network. California's extreme climate agenda cannot be forced on the rest of America.

I questioned Ms. Arias, the chief of the transportation division at California Air Resources Board during a Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing about this detrimental policy.

### **BIG News**

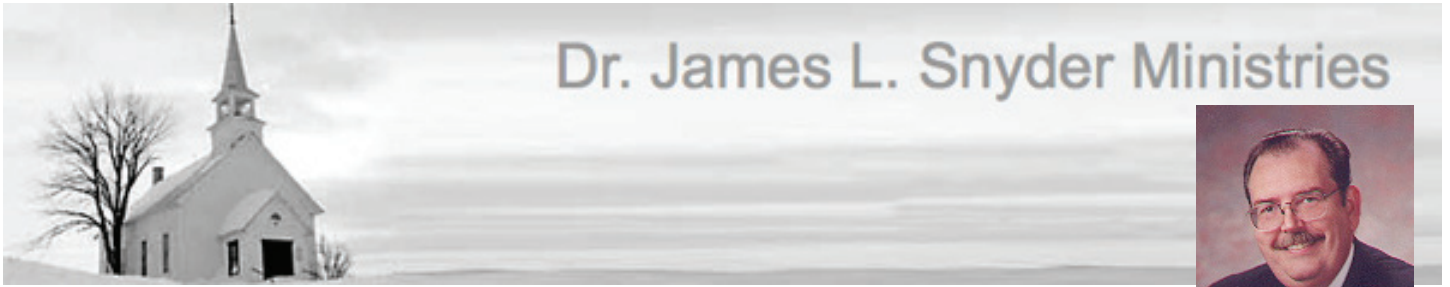
Noncitizens should not be allowed to vote in federal elections, yet dozens of states don't require proof of citizenship to register to vote. With nearly 25 million noncitizen residents in the U.S. and nearly ten million undocumented immigrants that have crossed our border illegally during Biden's presidency, we should ensure those who determine the outcome of federal elections are actually U.S. citizens.

I voted to pass the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections. Proof of citizenship could be shown through identifications like a REAL ID, U.S. passport, military ID, a government-issued photo ID with a birth certificate, or other official documents.

Free, fair, and accountable elections are vital to the survival of our democracy. Only Americans should vote in American elections.

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## Age Is Just a Number...Or Is It?

Recently, one of our granddaughters reached the magical age of 16 and was applying for her driver's license.

When I learned of that, it brought back so many memories of my own. I remember when I turned 16 and was going for my driver's license. What a day that was.

I can't remember how long ago that was. I don't have a calendar in front of me.

The time leading up to my 16th birthday was exciting because I couldn't wait to turn 16 and get behind the wheel. That was the great goal of my life as a teenager. At 16, my life would change, and it did.

When I reached 16, my next goal was 21 because I would be an official adult, and my parents couldn't tell me what to do.

I'm not sure what happened, but I never really became the official adult I dreamed about. I just became older.

Some people attach great significance to age. I remember my grandfather saying, "Son, age is just a number. Don't you worry about it."

Grandfathers can't be wrong, or can they?

It's been hard keeping up with my age because it changes every year. Why does my birthday have to come so often? There was a time when I couldn't wait for my birthday. It was like it took five years for my birthday to come.

Now, my birthday comes every other month. How old am I really? Honestly, I don't want to know.

Several years ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrated birthdays at a restaurant. Her birthday is two days after mine.

As we ate our birthday dinner, she looked at me and said, "So, my dear, how does old feel?"

Without even thinking, which is my MO, I reached across the table, grabbed her arm, started squeezing it, and said, "It feels rather nice."

Well, there went my birthday present.

One day this past week, I was searching through my library for a book I wanted to read. As I was searching, I found my high school yearbook. I don't remember the last time I saw that book.

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I pulled it out, took it to my seat, sat down and started looking through that album. I saw things I had long ago forgotten about.

As I looked at the photographs, I remembered some of my friends from way back then and wondered how they might look today.

Then, I came across a name I recognized: James Snyder. I recognized the name, but I did not recognize the picture. Who was that person there using my name?

I stared at that picture for a while and did not remember anything. There it was, a young boy with lots of hair and rather skinny. I was tempted to go to the mirror and check out what I looked like today, but then I declined. Why ruin a good thing?

When my grandfather said that age is just a matter of numbers, I was beginning to think he was way off his rocker. What I looked like in 1969 when I graduated high school is far from what I look today.

I tried to remember back in those days, and some things came to me. I had a lot of fun playing baseball at school, and I did a lot of things that I wouldn't have the energy to do today.

One of the things I remember was how hard it was to go to sleep at night. My parents had a curfew at 10 o'clock at night, which is when we were supposed to be in bed sound asleep. I remember those times and how hard it was to sleep at 10 o'clock at night.

Now, right after supper, I look at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and say, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

She will laugh and nod her head. One of the things that we try to find an excuse to go to bed early, like right after supper.

I couldn't keep up with all the activities I did back then. In the morning, when I get out of bed, walk to the living room, and sit down, I need to rest for a moment because of all that activity. It doesn't take very much to get me tired.

Thinking about this the other day, I wondered what my life would be like if I had the energy today that I had 50 years ago. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that if I had that kind of energy today, I probably would be getting into trouble.

What I fail to remember about those days of endless energy is that it always got me into some kind of trouble.

Now that I'm old, I don't have the energy to get into trouble. When you think of it, that's a good thing. Getting old isn't as bad as I once thought.

As I pondered this I was reminded of what good, old Solomon said. "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this" (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

I may have some good things in my past, but my best day is today. I don't have any guarantee for tomorrow. All I can be sure of is today, so I need to make today the best day of my life.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What's the idea behind the recent launch of the American Climate Corps by the Biden administration?

-- Paula B., Corpus Christi, TX

The American Climate Corps (ACC) marks a significant step in the U.S.'s approach to climate change. It aims to engage young Americans in conservation and climate resilience projects, contributing to both ecological protection and job creation. The ACC reflects the administration's broader climate policies, which prioritize moving to a clean energy economy and addressing the impacts of climate change.

The ACC's main purpose is to mobilize a new workforce to combat climate change and preserve natural resources. It aims to provide training and job opportunities in sectors like renewable energy, conservation and climate resilience. By engaging young people in meaningful work, the ACC seeks to build a diverse workforce equipped with the skills needed to support the nation's transition to a sustainable economy. This initiative aligns with President Biden's climate agenda, which emphasizes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, advancing environmental justice and promoting economic growth through green jobs.

The ACC is designed to be inclusive and comprehensive, engaging young Americans from varied backgrounds, including those from underserved communities. It includes a range of projects like restoring wetlands, improving energy efficiency in buildings and developing clean energy infrastructure. Partakers will receive training and mentorship, preparing them for careers in the burgeoning green economy. This hands-on experience is intended to empower the next generation of climate leaders and innovators.

Funding for the ACC comes from a mix of federal resources and partnerships with state and local governments, non-profit organizations and private companies. It leverages existing frameworks and collaborates with agencies like AmeriCorps to streamline operations and maximize impact. This collaborative approach ensures that the ACC can draw on a wide range of expertise and resources, enhancing effectiveness and reach.

The anticipated impact of the ACC is significant both ecologically and socially. It is expected to make substantial contributions to conservation, greenhouse gas reduction and communities, addressing social inequities by providing job opportunities and skills training to marginalized communities. ACC's long-term vision is to create a sustainable, resilient society capable of addressing climate change challenges.

The ACC offers an exciting opportunity for young Americans to get involved in the fight against climate change while gaining valuable skills and contributing to their communities. If you are passionate about the environment and eager to make a difference, consider joining the ACC or supporting its initiatives in your local area. You can also get involved by advocating for climate action, volunteering with environmental organizations, or participating in local conservation projects.



**The American Climate Corps engages young Americans in conservation & climate resilience projects, contributing to both ecological protection & job creation.** Credit: Americorps.





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Newell butcher gets \$5.7 million in latest round of USDA small business grants**

**BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JULY 13, 2024 9:18 AM**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently pledged about \$110 million to smaller and independent meat processors — including one in South Dakota — to expand their capacities in an effort to increase competition in the industry and to give farmers more options.

The federal grants announced on Thursday range in value from about \$123,000 for a small custom meat shop in Washington state to \$10 million for an expansion of a new producer-owned beef plant in Texas that plans to employ 1,500 people.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said the grant awards to more than 50 meat and poultry processors are meant to help alleviate the industry's consolidation over decades that has, at times, decreased profits for farmers and increased prices for consumers.

"When you have basically 85% of the processing capacity for meat and poultry in the hands of four companies, and you have areas of the country where farmers are given one place to market, and only one place, and they have to take the price ... I think it is important and necessary for us to continue to make the investments that we're announcing today," Vilsack said in a press call with reporters.

In South Dakota, one business was awarded federal funding.

Midwestern Meat Locker in Newell will get \$5.7 million to build a replacement for its 1911 facility, where it processes cattle, hogs, sheep and bison for local producers. The new facility will increase the company's processing capacity by 300%, double the number of producers it can service, and create five new jobs, according to the USDA grant award listing.

In recent years, the USDA has committed more than \$700 million toward similar businesses. The new grant awards are part of the department's Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program and its Local Meat Capacity Grant Program.

Vilsack said the expansions of smaller, independent processors will help make the meat processing industry more adaptable to disruptions — a problem that was exposed in the early months of the coronavirus pandemic when some major meat processors were forced to temporarily shutter their operations because their workers were infected. That led to the mass killings and waste of livestock that had nowhere to be butchered.

"The reality is, during the pandemic, what we learned was that the food system was incredibly efficient, but not particularly resilient," he said.

### **Members of Congress condemn violence after shots fired at Trump rally**

**BY: ASHLEY MURRAY AND JENNIFER SHUTT - JULY 13, 2024 7:37 PM**

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress rejected political violence Saturday after a shooting at Donald Trump's campaign rally in Pennsylvania left at least one rallygoer dead and forced the Secret Service to rush the former president off stage.

Local authorities confirmed the shooter was killed, according to The Associated Press.

The shooting at a crowded outdoor rally in Butler, just an hour outside Pittsburgh, occurred less than

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48 hours before the Republican National Convention is set to begin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Trump is expected to become the party's official presidential nominee on Thursday.

Video footage of the rally shows Trump bringing his hand to the right side of his face and ducking down behind the podium just after several gunshots and screams were heard. U.S. Secret Service agents huddled around the former president and raced him off the stage as he reached out to pump his fist in the air toward the crowd.

Trump campaign spokesman Steve Cheung issued a statement shortly after that the former president is "fine" and that he thanked law enforcement.



**Republican presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump is rushed offstage by U.S. Secret Service agents after shots rang out during a rally on July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pennsylvania.** (Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

## 'Praying for President Trump'

Members of Congress from both political parties uniformly condemned violence in a wave of social media posts and official statements.

On X (formerly Twitter), Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, referenced his wife, Kimberley, and said they are "praying for the safety of President Trump and everyone who attended the rally in Pennsylvania, and I'm carefully monitoring the situation."

His fellow South Dakota Republican Sen. Mike Rounds posted, "Relieved to hear that the former President is doing well. Incredibly sad to hear of the rally attendee who was killed. Continuing to pray for those in attendance and the families of those killed and injured. Thank you to all of the first responders."

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, posted, "Praying for President Trump."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, posted on social media that he was "Praying for President Trump."

"Kelly and I are praying for President Trump and all the attendees of the campaign rally today in Pennsylvania, and we send our gratitude to the law enforcement who responded at the scene," Speaker Johnson wrote.

"I have been briefed by law enforcement and am continuing to monitor the developments," Speaker Johnson added. "This horrific act of political violence at a peaceful campaign rally has no place in this country and should be unanimously and forcefully condemned."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, released a written statement saying that he was "horrified by what happened at the Trump rally in Pennsylvania and relieved that former President Trump is safe."

"Political violence has no place in our country," Schumer wrote.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, wrote on social media that "all Americans are grateful that President Trump appears to be fine after a despicable attack on a peaceful rally."

"Violence has no place in our politics," McConnell wrote. "We appreciate the swift work of the Secret Ser-

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**Republican presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump is rushed offstage during a rally on July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pennsylvania.** (Anna MoneyMaker/Getty Images)

Trump & all attendees are safe. Everyone in Butler should listen to law enforcement," Casey wrote on social media.

Arizona Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly, whose wife Gabby Giffords, a former congresswoman, was shot in 2011 at an event, posted that they were both "horrified."

"Gabby and I are horrified by the incident in Pennsylvania," Kelly wrote. "No one should ever have to experience political violence — we know that firsthand. We're keeping former President Trump, his family, and everyone involved in our thoughts."

Giffords wrote on her own social media feed that "Political violence is terrifying. I know."

"I'm holding former President Trump, and all those affected by today's indefensible act of violence in my heart. Political violence is un-American and is never acceptable — never," Giffords wrote.

Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, wrote on social media that "(p)olitical violence is despicable, and there is no place for it in America."

"I'm grateful that former President Trump is safe, and to the law enforcement officials who risked their lives to take action" Peters wrote. "I will continue to closely monitor this developing situation."

Maine Republican Sen. Susan Collins wrote on social media that she was "very relieved that President Trump appears to be OK; however, this violence is absolutely appalling."

"Thank God for the Secret Service and first responders who hurried President Trump out of harm's way," Collins wrote.

## Quick response

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat, commended the quick response of Secret Service agents and other authorities on the scene.

"My thoughts and prayers are with former President Donald Trump and his family after hearing news of a shooting at his campaign rally today," DeLauro of Connecticut posted on social media.

House Republican Mike Turner of Ohio, chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued a statement saying "As the situation unfolds in Butler, Pennsylvania, I urge everyone to join me in

vice and other law enforcement."

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, wrote on social media that his "thoughts and prayers are with former President Trump."

"I am thankful for the decisive law enforcement response," Jeffries wrote. "America is a democracy. Political violence of any kind is never acceptable."

## Members of Congress react with horror

Democratic Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania issued a statement that he was monitoring the situation that unfolded in Western Pennsylvania.

"(A)nd I've reached out (to) the State Police to offer support. Political violence is never acceptable and I am hoping former president

Casey wrote on social media.

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praying for President Trump and our country.”

House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik of New York wrote on social media that “AMERICA IS PRAYING! GOD BLESS PRESIDENT TRUMP! #SAVEAMERICA,”

“I’m praying for President Trump. I hope everyone will join me,” former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy wrote on X.

“Jacquie and I are praying for President Trump and all of the attendees at today’s rally. President Trump is a proven warrior who has overcome adversity time and time again. He will rise above this horrifying situation stronger than ever,” House Republican Whip Tom Emmer of Minnesota posted.

Former Republican Congresswoman Liz Cheney, an outspoken critic of Trump and ranking member of the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, said news of the shooting was “horrifying.”

“Violence of any kind has no place in American politics. We are grateful for the reaction of Secret Service and other law enforcement and pray for the former president and all those injured,” Cheney wrote on social media.

Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement on social media saying he was “shocked by the apparent attack on President Trump.”

“We pray for his safety and speedy recovery,” the leader of the U.S. ally said.

— *South Dakota Searchlight* contributed to this report.

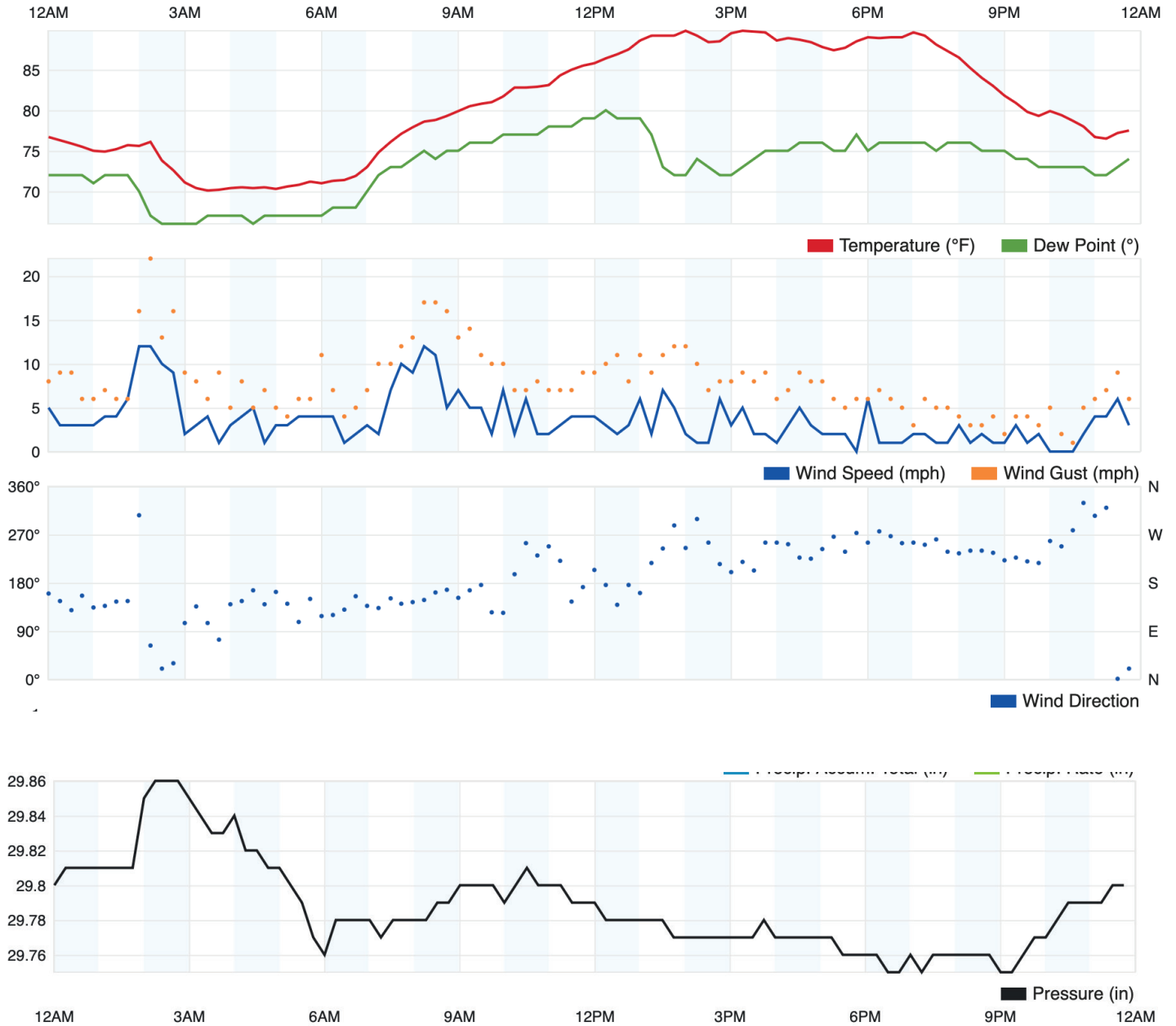
*Ashley Murray covers the nation’s capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.*

*Jennifer covers the nation’s capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Sunday

Sunday Night

Monday

Monday Night

Tuesday



High: 91 °F

Hot



Low: 66 °F

Heavy Rain



High: 84 °F

Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Sunny



Low: 58 °F

Mostly Clear



High: 78 °F

Mostly Sunny



## Severe Weather Threat Overview - Sunday

July 14, 2024  
4:09 AM

Sunday Afternoon into Early Monday Morning

### Timing/Location

- Severe storms possible by late Sunday afternoon through the overnight hours into Monday morning.
- The main threats for the area in **Yellow**

### Tornado Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High

### Max Hail Size

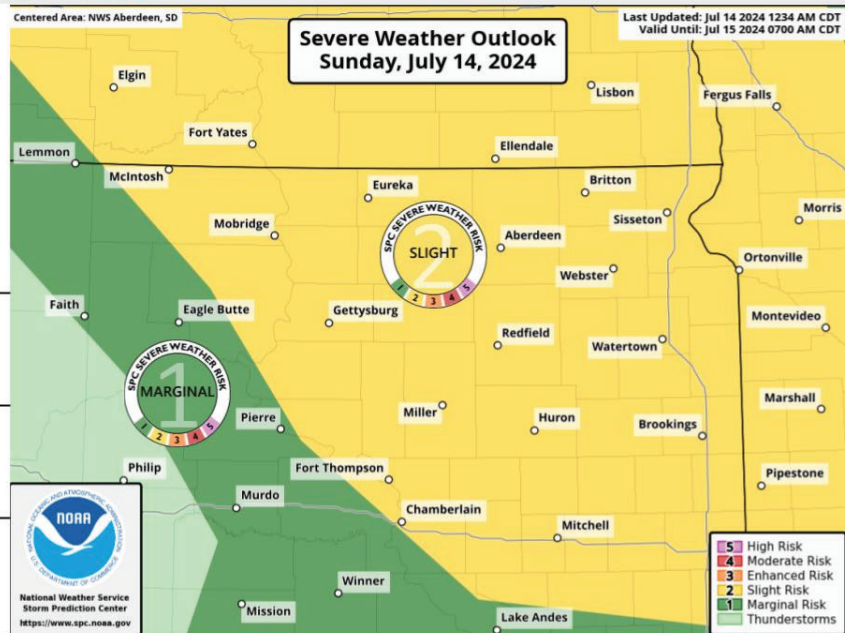
Dimes Quarters **Golfball** Baseball

### Max Wind Speed

< 60 mph 60-70 mph **70-80 mph** > 80mph

### Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Strong to severe storms are possible late this afternoon into the overnight hours. Main threats in the Slight Risk (yellow) area are strong winds over 75 mph and large hail 2 or more inches in diameter from storms that will likely originate in North Dakota before spreading down into South Dakota.

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## Severe Weather Threats - Tornado

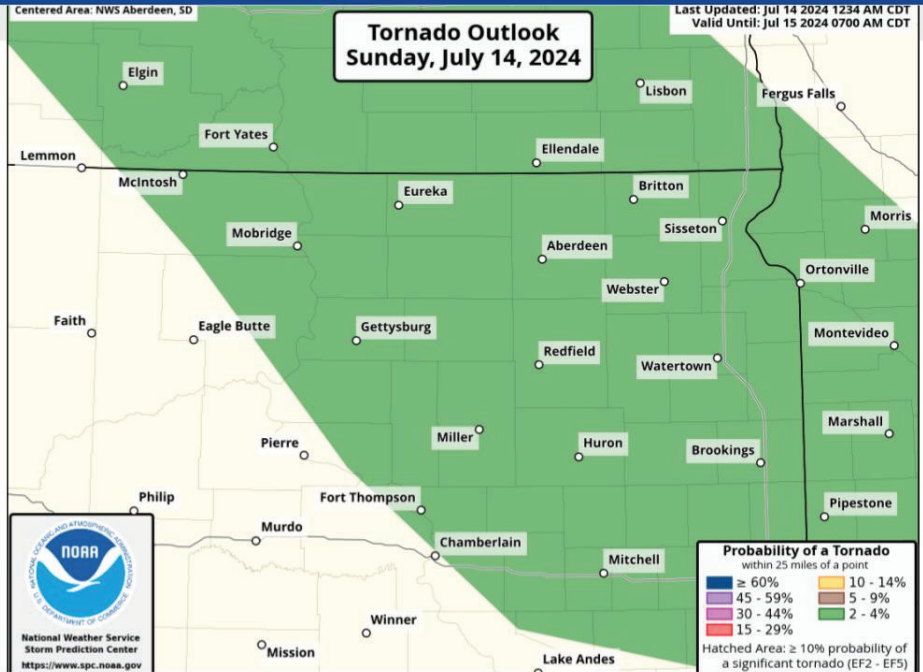
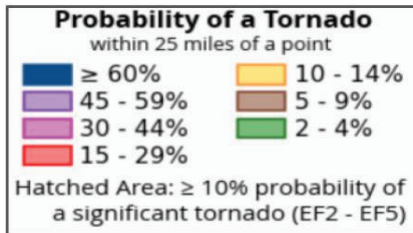
July 14, 2024  
4:25 AM

### Tornado Threat Highlights:

Tornado threat is low and conditional and mainly confined to portions of north central and northeast South Dakota this afternoon through late this evening.

### Cities At Greatest Risk

McIntosh, Mobridge, Gettysburg, Bowdle, Eureka, Herried



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

The area highlighted in green represents where a low probability tornado threat exists this afternoon into early this evening.



## Severe Weather Threats - High Winds

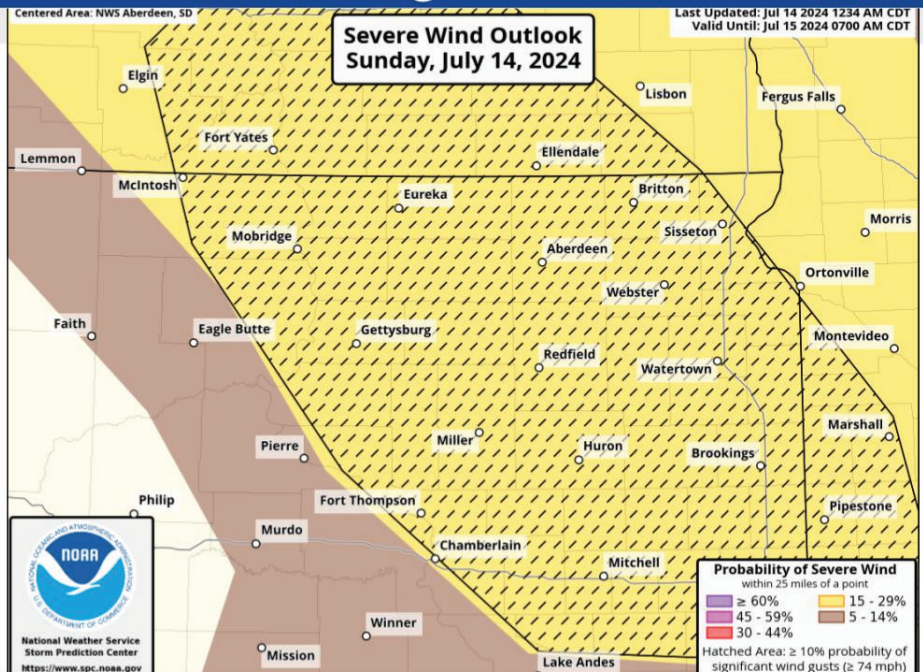
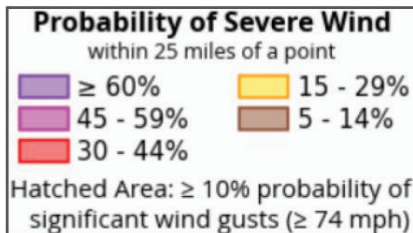
July 14, 2024  
4:38 AM

### Wind Threat Highlights:

Thunderstorm winds likely. Greatest threat area for strongest gusts (70-80mph) will be across much of central, north central and northeast South Dakota.

### Cities At Greatest Risk

Locales within the yellow hatched area which represents a better chance of enhanced gusts of 75 mph or higher.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

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## Severe Weather Threats - Hail

July 14, 2024  
4:45 AM

### Hail Threat Highlights:

Storms will be capable of producing large hail of 1 to 2 inches (perhaps even larger?) in diameter. Larger hailstones will be possible across much of central, north central and northeast South Dakota.

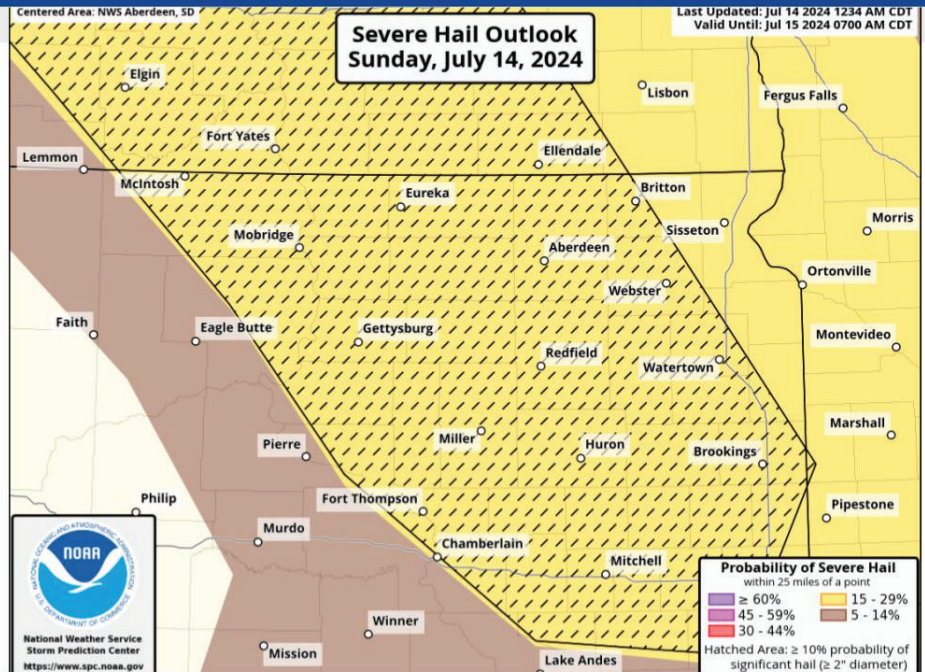
### Cities At Greatest Risk

Locales within the yellow hatched area which represents a better chance of significant hail (2 inches or larger).

#### Probability of Severe Hail within 25 miles of a point

≥ 60%	15 - 29%
45 - 59%	5 - 14%
30 - 44%	

Hatched Area: ≥ 10% probability of significant hail (≥ 2" diameter)



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

The hatched area on this image indicates where there is an increased risk of large hail 2 inches in diameter or larger. This risk currently exists from late this afternoon through late this evening.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 90 °F at 3:37 PM

Low Temp: 70 °F at 3:29 AM

Wind: 22 mph at 2:13 AM

Precip: : 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1931

Record Low: 42 in 1967

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 1.59

Precip to date in July: 3.56

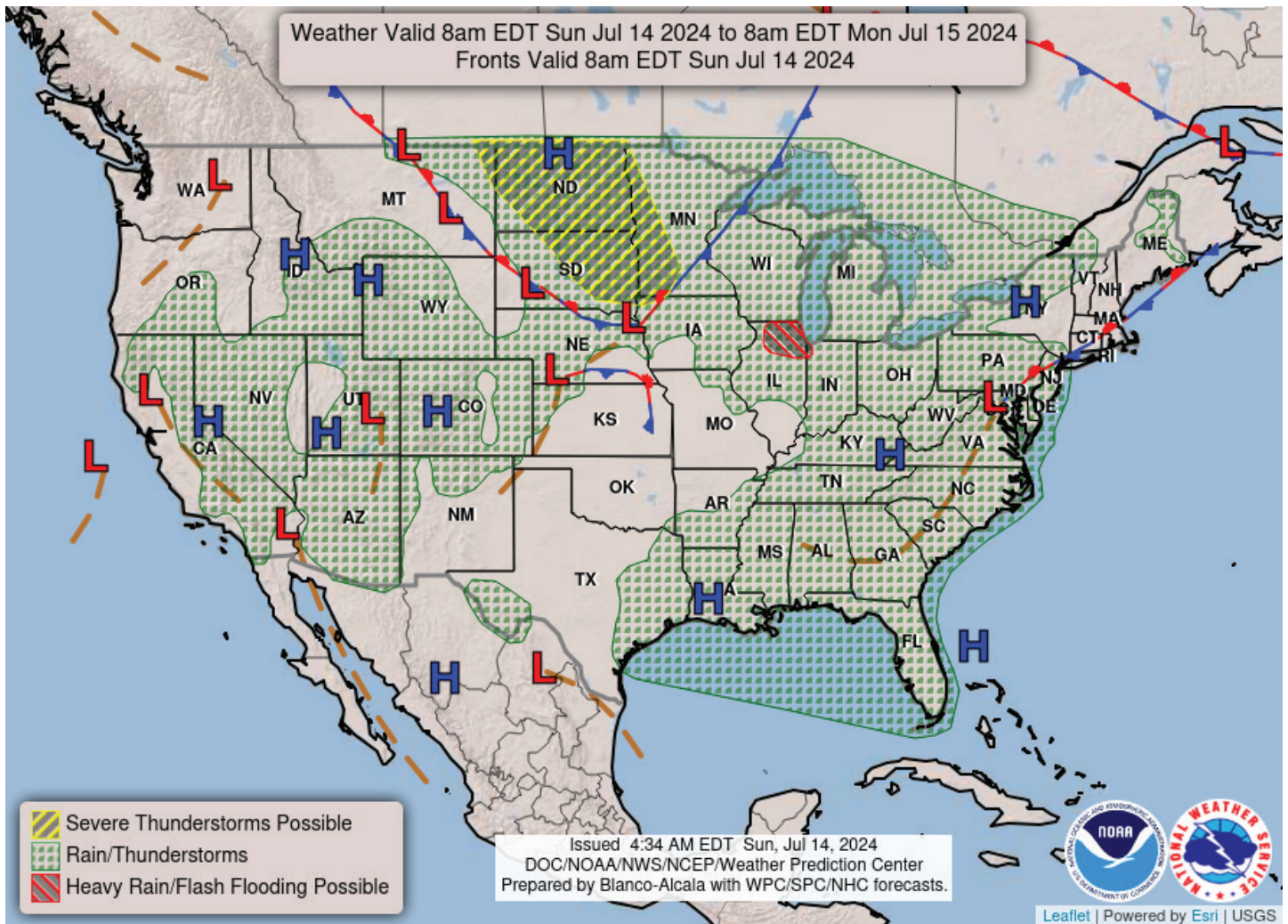
Average Precip to date: 12.60

Precip Year to Date: 14.51

Sunset Tonight: 9:20:09 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:57:33 am

Day length: 15 hours, 23 minutes (lost 10 minutes since last Sunday)



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## Today in Weather History

July 14, 1970: A line of severe thunderstorms raced across southeast South Dakota into northwest Iowa causing extensive damage. The line of storms produced widespread high winds and large hail. The hail averaged quarter to hen egg size although some areas received stones the size of softballs and winds over 70 mph were not uncommon. The most extensive damage from the storms extended from Mitchell through Parker to near Beresford. Spotty areas reported 100% crop damage. In Lincoln County, the hail caused an estimated \$8 million in crop damage and \$2 million in property damage. In the town of Marion, the hail was so large that it punched holes in some roofs.

July 14, 2009: A line of storms moving across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours on the 14th became heavy rainfall producing thunderstorms for northeastern South Dakota. Rainfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches caused mainly localized flooding. However in Grant County, a 20 foot wide by a 17-foot deep culvert on 468th Avenue in Twin Brooks was washed away by flash flooding. The Grant County Highway Department said fixing the channel would cost more than \$40,000.

1936 - Extreme heat prevailed across the central U.S. as severe drought raged from Texas to the Dakotas. Record high temperatures were established in sixteen states that summer, including readings as high as 120 degrees in the Great Plains Region. On this particular date, afternoon highs for 113 stations across the state of Iowa averaged 108.7 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1957 - Hail, with some stones up to an inch in diameter, covered the ground to a depth of three inches ruining crops in the Bath area of New Hampshire. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Iowa produced eight inches of golf ball size hail near Grafton, IA, completely stripping corn stalks in the area. Hail caused more than a million dollars damage to crops in Worth County and Mitchell County, and another million dollars damage in Ada County and Crawford County. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the Great Plains Region. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth, MN, with a reading of 37 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Atlantic Coast Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms also spawned a rather strong tornado near Westtown, NY, and drenched Agawam, MA, with four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern New Mexico to central Nebraska. One hundred soldiers were injured by flying debris and collapsing tents during a thunderstorm near Trinidad, CO. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced wind gusts to 77 mph at La Junta. Early morning thunderstorms produced torrential rains over parts of Louisiana, with 7.50 inches at Carencro, and 5.85 inches at Morgan City. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1995: On the evening of Friday, July 14th, thunderstorms producing severe weather were occurring over Upper Michigan and adjacent portions of Ontario near Sault Saint Marie. By late evening the storms had evolved into a bowing line just northwest of the Mackinac Bridge. At 10:17 PM EDT, the thunderstorm gust front hit the bridge, and a gust to 90 mph was measured. Sustained winds of 80 mph continued on the bridge for ten more minutes. Thus began the intense "Ontario-Adirondacks Derecho" that would cause hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage, several deaths, and many injuries as it raced southeast from the northern Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast.

2005 - Death Valley had 7 consecutive days (July 14-20) with high temperatures equal to or above 125 degrees.

2006: Tropical Storm Bilis tracks across northern Taiwan before making landfall in southeastern China's Fujian province with maximum sustained winds near 65 mph. The storm causes at least 575 deaths in Fujian, Guangdong, and Hunan provinces and direct economic losses near \$3.3 billion.

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### COMPLETELY COVERED

According to Greek legend, Achilles was the greatest warrior who ever lived. In Homer's Iliad, he was the hero of the Trojan Wars. When he was a baby, his mother wanted him to be invulnerable to injury. So, early in his life she took him to the River Styx, believing that it had miraculous powers, held him by his heels and dipped him in the water. Only his heels were not covered by the water.

He became a great warrior! Unfortunately, he was killed in battle by a poison arrow that pierced his heel - the only spot that was not covered by the water from the River Styx. It is from this legend that we talk of "our Achilles heel."

Although it is only a legend, it teaches us a significant fact: Our surrender to Christ must be complete. Paul advises us that we are not "to let any part of our body become a tool of wickedness to be used for sinning...instead...let your whole body be as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God."

Surrender is often difficult for some of us for fear that we will fail our Lord. Does this come from the idea that we think we are responsible for victory over sin? We are not! It is God working in us and through us that gives us victory over sin through Christ. Whatever we do not surrender to God is claimed by Satan and causes us to sin.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to remember that the battle and the victory are in Your hands. We know that if we surrender to You we will not be defeated. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Romans 6:12-14



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

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.24

15 35 48 53 68 8

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$226,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

8 20 27 34 49 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$5,050,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

8 16 27 33 34 10

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 8 Mins 54 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

1 8 10 25 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$35,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

40 57 59 64 65 15

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.24

9 55 59 66 69 21

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$64,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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## Upcoming Groton Events

07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center  
07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm  
07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm  
07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day  
07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm  
07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start  
07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm  
08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center  
08/02/2024 Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm  
08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm  
08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament  
08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm  
09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am  
10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm  
11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm  
12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.  
12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close  
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp  
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm  
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm  
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

## News from the Associated Press

### **Trump injured but 'fine' after attempted assassination at rally, shooter and one attendee are dead**

By JULIE CARR SMYTH, JILL COLVIN, COLLEEN LONG, MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

BUTLER, Pa. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump was the target of an assassination attempt Saturday at a Pennsylvania rally, days before he was to accept the Republican nomination for a third time. A barrage of gunfire set off panic, and a bloodied Trump, who said he was shot in the ear, was surrounded by Secret Service and hurried to his SUV as he pumped his fist in a show of defiance.

Trump's campaign said the presumptive GOP nominee was doing "fine" after the shooting, which he said pierced the upper part of his right ear.

"I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place," he wrote on his social media site.

The FBI early Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. The agency said the investigation remains active and ongoing.

Secret Service agents fatally shot Crooks, who attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue at a farm show in Butler, Pennsylvania, the agency said.

One attendee was killed and two spectators were critically injured, authorities said. All were identified as men.

The attack was the most serious attempt to assassinate a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. It drew new attention to concerns about political violence in a deeply polarized U.S. less than four months before the presidential election. And it could alter the tenor and security posture at the Republican National Convention, which will begin Monday in Milwaukee.

Organizers said the convention would proceed as planned.

Trump flew to New Jersey after visiting a local Pennsylvania hospital, landing shortly after midnight at Newark Liberty International Airport. Video posted by an aide showed the former president deplaning his private jet flanked by U.S. Secret Service agents and heavily armed members of the agency's counter assault team, an unusually visible show of force by his protective detail.

President Joe Biden, who is running against Trump, was briefed on the incident and spoke to Trump several hours after the shooting, the White House said.

"There's no place in America for this type of violence," the president said in public remarks. "It's sick. It's sick."

Biden planned to return to Washington early, cutting short a weekend at his beach home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Many Republicans quickly blamed the violence on Biden and his allies, arguing that sustained attacks on Trump as a threat to democracy have created a toxic environment. They pointed in particular to a comment Biden made to donors on July 8, saying "it's time to put Trump in the bullseye."

Officials said members of the U.S. Secret Service counterassault team killed the shooter. The heavily armed tactical team travels everywhere with the president and major party nominees and is meant to confront any active threats while other agents focus on safeguarding and evacuating the person at the center of protection.

Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene, according to a third person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

An AP analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos from the scene of the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking.

A video posted to social media and geolocated by the AP shows the body of a person wearing gray

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camouflage lying motionless on the roof of a building at AGR International Inc., a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds where Trump's rally was held.

The roof where the person lay was less than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 150 meters is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a scaled human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M-16 rifle. The AR-15, like the shooter at the Trump rally had, is the semi-automatic civilian version of the military M-16.

Asked at the press conference whether law enforcement did not know the shooter was on the roof until he began firing, Kevin Rojek, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh Field Office, responded that "that is our assessment at this time."

"It is surprising" that the gunman was able to open fire on the stage before the Secret Service killed him, he added.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, whose department oversees the Secret Service, said officials were engaged with the Biden and Trump campaigns and "taking every possible measure to ensure their safety and security."

A rally disrupted by gunfire

Trump was showing off a chart of border crossing numbers when the gunfire began after 6:10 p.m.

As the first pop rang out, Trump said, "Oh," and he raised his hand to his right ear and looked at it, before quickly crouching to the ground behind his lectern. The people in the stands behind him also crouched down as screams rang through the crowd.

Someone could be heard near the microphone saying, "Get down, get down, get down, get down!" as agents rushed to the stage. They piled atop the former president to shield him with their bodies, as is their training protocol, as other agents took up positions on stage to search for the threat.

Screams were heard in the crowd of several thousand people. A woman screamed louder than the rest. Afterward, voices were heard saying "shooter's down" several times, before someone asked "are we good to move?" and "are we clear?" Then, someone ordered, "Let's move."

Trump could be heard on the video saying at least twice, "Let me get my shoes, let me get my shoes," with another voice heard saying, "I've got you sir."

Trump got to his feet moments later and could be seen reaching with his right hand toward his face, which was smeared with blood on his face. He then pumped his fist in the air and appeared to mouth the word "Fight" twice to his crowd of supporters, prompting loud cheers and then chants of "USA. USA. USA."

The crowd cheered as he got back up and pumped his fist.

His motorcade left the venue moments later. Video showed Trump turning back to the crowd and raising a fist right before he was put into a vehicle.

Witnesses heard multiple gunshots and ducked for cover

"Everybody went to their knees or their prone position, because we all knew, everyone becoming aware of the fact this was gunfire," said Dave McCormick, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania, who was sitting to Trump's right on stage.

As he saw Trump raise his fist, McCormick said, he looked over his shoulder and noticed someone had been hit while sitting in the bleachers behind the stage.

Eventually, first responders were able to carry the injured person out of a large crowd so he could get medical care, McCormick said.

Reporters covering the rally heard five or six shots ring out and many ducked for cover, hiding under tables. After the first two or three bangs, people in the crowd looked startled, but not panicked. An AP reporter at the scene reported the noise sounded like firecrackers at first or perhaps a car backfiring.

When it was clear the situation had been contained and Trump would not return to speak, attendees started filing out of the venue. One man in an electric wheelchair got stuck on the field when his chair's battery died. Others tried to help him move.

Police soon told the people remaining to leave the venue and Secret Service agents told reporters to get "out now. This is a live crime scene."



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Two firefighters from nearby Steubenville, Ohio, who were at the rally told the AP that they helped people who appeared injured and heard bullets hitting broadcast speakers.

"The bullets rattled around the grandstand, one hit the speaker tower and then chaos broke. We hit the ground and then the police converged into the grandstands," Chris Takach said.

"The first thing I heard is a couple of cracks," Dave Sullivan said.

Sullivan said he saw one of the speakers get hit and bullets rattling and, "we hit the deck."

He said once Secret Service and other authorities converged on Trump, he and Takach assisted two people who may have been shot in the grandstand and cleared a path to get them out of the way.

"Just a sad day for America," said Sullivan, who recalled that fluid sprayed from a mechanical line on the stage before a speaker tower started to fall.

"Then we heard another shot that, you could hear, you knew something was, it was bullets. It wasn't firecrackers," he said.

Political violence again shakes America

The perils of campaigning took on a new urgency after the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy in California in 1968, and again in 1972 when Arthur Bremer shot and seriously hurt George Wallace, who was running as an independent on a campaign platform that has sometimes been compared to Trump's. That led to increased protection of candidates, even as the threats persisted, notably against Jesse Jackson in 1988 and Barack Obama in 2008.

Presidents, particularly after the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, have even greater layers of security. Trump is a rarity as both a former president and a current candidate.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Sen. JD Vance, the three men on Trump's shortlist for vice president, all quickly sent out statements expressing concern for the former president, with Rubio sharing an image taken as Trump was escorted off stage with his fist in the air and a streak of blood on his face along with the words "God protected President Trump."

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, said in a statement on X that he had been briefed on the situation and Pennsylvania state police were on hand at the rally site.

"Violence targeted at any political party or political leader is absolutely unacceptable. It has no place in Pennsylvania or the United States," he said.

## France's Bastille Day parade meets the Olympic torch relay in an exceptional year

PARIS (AP) — Paris is hosting an extra-special guest for France's national holiday Sunday — the Olympic flame lighting up the city's grandiose military parade for Bastille Day.

Just 12 days before the French capital hosts exceptionally ambitious and high-security Summer Games, the torch relay is joining up with thousands of soldiers, sailors, rescuers and medics marching in Paris beneath roaring fighter jets to mark Bastille Day.

While people around France mark the day with concerts, parties and fireworks, here's a look at what the holiday's about, and what's different this year:

What does Bastille Day celebrate?

On July 14, 1789, revolutionaries stormed the Bastille fortress and prison in Paris, heralding the start of the French Revolution and the end of the monarchy.

The holiday is central to the French calendar, with events across the country. It aims to embody the national motto of "liberty, equality and fraternity," though not everyone in France feels the country lives up to that promise.

The Paris parade is the holiday's highlight. This year, it's paying tribute to those who freed France from Nazi occupation 80 years ago, with a re-enactment of the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944, and a display of emblems of the 31 countries whose troops contributed to the liberation. About half are African nations that were under French colonial rule during World War II.

Who takes part?

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Some 4,000 people and 162 horses will march in the tightly choreographed show, among them units that served in NATO missions in eastern Europe, against Islamic extremists in the Sahel, protecting French territories in the South Pacific and global shipping corridors. They're joined this year by three German officers from a cross-border brigade.

The ornamental uniforms are rich in symbolism — most notably those of the French Foreign Legion sappers, with long beards, leather aprons and axes from their original role as route-clearers for advancing armies.

Overhead, 65 aircraft will fly in formations, including a British Typhoon fighter alongside French Mirages and Rafales, rescue helicopters and aircraft used in missions from Afghanistan to Mali or international drug busts.

President Emmanuel Macron kicked Sunday's events off with a review of the troops, followed by a performance of the Marseillaise.

The numbers are scaled back compared with previous years, because of Olympics security measures. Around 130,000 police are deployed around France for the holiday weekend.

What's the political context?

This year's Bastille Day offers Macron a moment of distraction from the political turmoil he unleashed with snap elections that weakened his pro-business centrist party and his presidency.

The result left a deadlocked parliament with no one clearly in charge. The prime minister could leave office within days, while the left-wing alliance that won the most seats is struggling to agree on a proposed replacement.

Meanwhile, Russia's war in Ukraine is threatening Europe's security. At a meeting with military leaders Saturday, Macron said France will keep up support for Ukraine and called for higher defense spending next year because of "approaching threats."

What's different this year?

The Olympic torch relay reaches Paris just in time.

The parade wraps up with the arrival of the flame, escorted by riders on horseback, 25 torchbearers, and cadets forming the shapes of the Olympic rings. The main torchbearer is Col. Thibault Vallette, equestrian gold medalist in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Usually, the parade travels from the Napoleon-era Arc de Triomphe to the Concorde plaza, where France's last king and queen were beheaded.

This year, Concorde has been transformed into a huge Olympic venue for breakdancing, skateboarding and BMX. So the parade route headed to the Bois de Boulogne park on the city's edge instead.

Olympic venue construction around the Eiffel Tower means spectators can't gather beneath the monument to watch its annual fireworks show, either.

After its Bastille Day appearance, the torch relay will swing by Notre Dame Cathedral, the historic Sorbonne university and the Louvre Museum before heading to other Paris landmarks Monday.

## **The Latest: Officials say man who opened fire at Trump rally was a 20-year-old from Pennsylvania**

The Associated Press undefined

Donald Trump's campaign says he is "fine" after what law enforcement officials are treating as an assassination attempt during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. Officials said the man who opened fire was a 20-year-old from Pennsylvania.

In a social media post, Trump said he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear." The former president was quickly whisked from the stage by Secret Service agents, his ear covered in blood.

A prosecutor said the suspected gunman and at least one attendee are dead, and the Secret Service said two spectators were critically injured.

President Joe Biden and political leaders of all stripes condemned the attack. "There's no place in America

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for this type of violence," Biden said. "It's sick. It's sick."

Follow the AP's Election-2024 coverage at: <https://apnews.com/hub/election-2024>

The Latest:

Messages stream in from foreign leaders

Reactions condemning the attack along with messages of support and wishes for a successful recovery for Trump have poured in from political leaders around the world.

"Political violence in any form has no place in our societies," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called the attack "despicable" and French President Emmanuel Macron said his country "shares the indignation of the American people."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the shooting was "a horrific crime that must be condemned."

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi said he hopes the U.S. presidential campaign proceeds "in a peaceful and healthy atmosphere, free of any aspects of terrorism, violence, or hatred." Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the shooting a "shocking development."

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, who recently was shot in a failed assassination attempt, called the attack on Trump a "copycat scenario."

See the reactions from international leaders here.

FBI names suspect in assassination attempt

The FBI early Sunday named Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, as the shooter in the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. The agency said the investigation remains active and ongoing.

The political leanings of Crooks were not immediately clear. Records show Crooks was registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave \$15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day President Joe Biden was sworn in to office.

Trump lands in New Jersey, plans to spend the night at his private golf club. Biden back at White House

Former President Donald Trump's private jet landed shortly after midnight Sunday at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Video posted by an aide showed him deplaning flanked by U.S. Secret Service agents and heavily armed members of the agency's counter assault team, an unusually visible show of force by his protective detail.

Trump planned to spend the night at his private golf club in nearby Bedminster, New Jersey.

Meanwhile President Joe Biden arrived at the White House early Sunday after cutting short a weekend trip to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

The White House said he would receive a briefing from Homeland Security and law enforcement officials on the attempted assassination of Trump later in the morning.

Vice President Kamala Harris was also to attend.

Law enforcement officials say assailant who opened fire at Trump rally was a 20-year-old man from Pennsylvania

The officials spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss details that had not yet been publicly released.

FBI says it's 'surprising' the shooter was able to fire so many rounds

Asked if law enforcement did not know the shooter was on the roof until he began firing, Kevin Rojek, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Pittsburgh field office, responded, "that is our assessment at this time."

"It is surprising" that the shooter was able to get off as many rounds as were fired, Rojek said. He added that "all the details of that will come out later investigation."

Meanwhile State Police said the Secret Service was responsible for surveying the venue where the rally was held. Asked whether there was anything about the venue that made it particularly difficult to secure, Lt. Col. Bivens deferred to the Secret Service, which was not present at the news conference.

Bivens said he wouldn't speculate when asked "how close a call" it was for Trump.

Bivens also said police have identified the person killed and people injured but are not prepared to release names.

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Other than Trump, two people were critically injured and one was killed. All were adult males. FBI says investigators haven't identified motive in assassination attempt against Trump Kevin Rojek, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Pittsburgh field office, said late Saturday: "Tonight we had what we're calling an assassination attempt on our former president, Donald Trump."

"We do not currently have an identified motive," he added.

The FBI was not prepared to release the identity of the shooter, who died at the scene.

Rojek said they received no specific threats ahead of the shooting.

Trump's private jet has left Pennsylvania, according to a flight tracking website

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro also said Trump had left the area of Butler, where the rally was held.

Shapiro said Trump was "under the protection of US Secret Service and with the assistance of the Pennsylvania State Police."

"Lori and I are thankful that his team reports that he is fine and we continue to wish him a full and speedy recovery," the governor added.

Biden speaks with Trump

The White House said President Joe Biden spoke with former President Donald Trump on Saturday evening.

No further details were provided on the call.

Biden will convene a briefing with homeland security and law enforcement officials at the White House on Sunday morning.

Biden returning to Washington after suspected attempted assassination of Trump

The president said late Saturday that he would return to the White House, cutting short a weekend stay in Delaware to monitor the unfolding situation.

A few short minutes after Trump took the stage, shots rang out

At 6:02 pm Saturday, to the strains of "God Bless the U.S.A.," former President Donald Trump took the stage at fairgrounds in Butler, Pennsylvania, waving at the cheering crowd and settling into his regular rally speech under a scorching midsummer sun.

A few short minutes later, Trump pointed to a projection of a chart that showed a spike in illegal border crossings under the man he's running against, President Joe Biden. "That chart's a couple of months old," Trump told the crowd. "And if you want to see something really sad —"

That's when the shots rang out, at least five. Trump clutched his ear as dark-suited Secret Service agents dashed toward him. He dropped to the ground as the agents yelled, "Get down!" The thousands of rallygoers packed into the field in front of him moved as one, dropping down as silence spread across the grass, punctuated only by an occasional scream.

Read more about what happened when gunfire erupted at the rally.

GOP official describes the chaos at rally

Rico Elmore, vice chairman of the Beaver County Republican Party, was sitting in a section for special guests, facing President Trump, when he heard what sounded like firecrackers.

"So, everyone hesitated — and it was like, no, these are actual shots. So I yelled, 'Get down!'"

Elmore saw Secret Service agents helping Trump off the stage and then heard someone from his left calling for a medic.

Elmore knows first aid and CPR from his time in the military, and he knew a medic wouldn't be able to reach the cries for help fast enough.

He took off his tie and jumped a barricade, but when he reached the person, Elmore saw he had been shot in the head. Elmore said he held the victim's head but it was too late. The man was unresponsive.

"I mean, it was a horror," Elmore said. "I pray to the family that had to deal with this that is going through this now. Because it is hard. It is so hard."

He said that the shots came from behind the bleachers but did not see the shooter.

Trump campaign, RNC say convention in Milwaukee will 'proceed' after rally shooting, Trump looks forward to joining

Trump's campaign and the Republican National Committee say the party's convention in Milwaukee this week will "proceed" after the rally shooting.

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"President Trump looks forward to joining you all in Milwaukee as we proceed with our convention to nominate him to serve as the 47th President of the United States," said Trump campaign advisers Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita and Republican National Committee Chair Michael Whatley and co-chair Lara Trump in a statement.

The convention is set to open Monday.

Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene of the Trump rally shooting, AP source says

Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person was not authorized to discuss details of the investigation.

Mayorkas: Homeland Security 'taking every possible measure' to ensure security for campaign after Trump rally shooting

"DHS and the Secret Service are working with law enforcement partners to respond to and investigate the shooting," Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement."

"We are engaged with President Biden, former President Trump, and their campaigns, and are taking every possible measure to ensure their safety and security. Maintaining the security of the Presidential candidates and their campaign events is one of our Department's most vital priorities."

More reactions

Ivanka Trump, his eldest daughter: "Thank you for your love and prayers for my father and for the other victims of today's senseless violence in Butler, Pennsylvania. I am grateful to the Secret Service and all the other law enforcement officers for their quick and decisive actions today. I continue to pray for our country. I love you Dad, today and always."

Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer and a key witness against him at his criminal trial: "Whether you agree or disagree with someone's political position, THIS IS NOT THE SOLUTION!"

James Comer, a Kentucky Republican who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability: "Political violence in all forms is unamerican and unacceptable. There are many questions and Americans demand answers. I have already contacted the Secret Service for a briefing and am also calling on Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle to appear for a hearing."

Billionaire Elon Musk: "I fully endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery."

The National Rifle Association: "We pray for the safety and well-being of President Trump and the brave men and women protecting him and all in attendance in PA."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: "I'm sickened by the shooting at former President Trump. It cannot be overstated — political violence is never acceptable. My thoughts are with former President Trump, those at the event, and all Americans."

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat: "I'm glad to hear President Trump is doing well following this terrible act of violence. Violence is never acceptable. My thoughts are with President Trump and everyone impacted by this inexcusable act that I strongly condemn."

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese: "There is no place for violence in the democratic process. I am relieved to hear reports that former President Trump is now safe."

Secret Service says 1 spectator killed, 2 critically injured after attacker fired 'multiple shots' at Trump rally

Multiple shots were fired toward the stage by a shooter at Trump's rally in Pennsylvania, the Secret Service said, leaving one spectator dead and two critically injured.

The agency said the shooter fired from "an elevated position outside the rally venue." Agents "neutralized" the shooter, who is now dead. The agency repeated that Trump is "safe" and is being evaluated.

Trump says his ear was hit by a bullet, nothing yet known about shooter

In a social media post, Trump said he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear."

He wrote on his Truth Social platform that he "knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

Trump also thanked the Secret Service and other law enforcement for their "rapid response." And he extended condolences "to the family of the person at the Rally who was killed, and also to the family of

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another person that was badly injured.”

“It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country. Nothing is known at this time about the shooter, who is now dead,” he said.

Another rally attendee was taken to the hospital, prosecutor tells CNN

Butler County District Attorney Richard Goldinger told CNN that in addition to the spectator who was killed, another attendee was taken to a local hospital and in serious condition.

“The shooter is dead,” Goldinger said.

He said the shooter was outside the rally grounds, but he didn’t give additional information about where.

“Quite frankly I don’t know how he would have gotten to the location where he was, but he was outside the grounds, and I think that’s something that we’re going to have to figure out — how he got there,” Goldinger told CNN.

More reactions

Vice President Kamala Harris: “Doug and I are relieved that he is not seriously injured. We are praying for him, his family, and all those who have been injured and impacted by this senseless shooting. ... We must all condemn this abhorrent act and do our part to ensure that it does not lead to more violence.”

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell: “Tonight, all Americans are grateful that President Trump appears to be fine after a despicable attack on a peaceful rally. Violence has no place in our politics.”

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s office: “We are shocked by the scenes at President Trump’s rally in Pennsylvania. We condemn all forms of political violence in the strongest terms and we send our best wishes to President Trump and his family at this time.”

Nikki Haley, Republican former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador: “This should horrify every freedom loving American,” and “Violence against presidential candidates must never be normalized.”

Democratic Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren: “Political violence is wrong and I condemn it. I hope everyone who attended the rally is ok and I am glad the former president is safe.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican: “Thank God President Trump seems to be okay. Just another reminder of the times in which we live. We need to pray fervently for anyone who may have been injured at the rally.”

Former President Bill Clinton: “Violence has no place in America, especially in our political process. Hillary and I are thankful that President Trump is safe, heartbroken for all those affected by the attack at today’s rally in Pennsylvania, and grateful for the swift action of the U.S. Secret Service.”

Former Democratic Vice President Al Gore: The country “must join together to wholeheartedly and unequivocally condemn political violence,” and “the former president and those affected today are in my prayers.”

Democratic Mayor Cavalier Johnson of Milwaukee, which is hosting the upcoming Republican National Convention: “No one should be shot — not like this. Not kids, not churchgoers, and not a candidate for President of the United States,” Johnson, a Democrat, said. “We must demand peace, whether it is in the political sphere or in homes and neighborhoods everywhere.”

Biden says ‘everybody must condemn’ attack at Trump rally

“There’s no place in America for this type of violence,” Biden said. “It’s sick. It’s sick.”

The president said “everybody must condemn” the attack, he is relieved that Trump is reportedly “doing well” and he hopes to speak with his 2024 presidential rival soon.

Biden said he was waiting for additional information before formally calling the attack an attempted assassination. “I have an opinion, but i don’t have any facts,” he told reporters, pledging to provide updates as he learns more.

The president also pledged to update the public later on whether they speak as well as additional details about the investigation.

Son says Trump “in great spirits”

Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., said he just spoke to his father on the phone and “he is in great spirits.”

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"He will never stop fighting to save America, no matter what the radical left throws at him," Trump Jr. said in a statement.

Biden to deliver remarks to nation after apparent assassination attempt on Trump

Biden will be delivering remarks from the White House's emergency briefing room in Rehoboth Beach, Del., which is set up whenever the president travels to allow him to deliver remarks to the country in a matter of minutes.

Shooter was outside Trump rally, and was killed by Secret Service, law enforcement officials say

Two officials spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation. They said the shooter was not an attendee at the rally and was killed by U.S. Secret Service agents.

More condemnations of political violence

Former President Barack Obama said in a statement that "There is absolutely no place for political violence in our democracy." He added that while details were still scarce, "we should all be relieved that former President Trump wasn't seriously hurt, and use this moment to recommit ourselves to civility and respect in our politics."

"As one whose family has been the victim of political violence, I know firsthand that political violence of any kind has no place in our society," former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "I thank God that former President Trump is safe. As we learn more details about this horrifying incident, let us pray that all those in attendance at the former President's rally today are unharmed."

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said on the social platform X that his thoughts and prayers are with former President Trump. "I am thankful for the decisive law enforcement response," he said. "America is a democracy. Political violence of any kind is never acceptable."

Shooting at Trump rally is being investigated as attempted assassination of ex-president, officials say

The shooting at former President Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania is being investigated as an attempted assassination of the former president and presumptive Republican nominee, law enforcement officials say.

Two officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Condemnations of political violence

Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who was shot in the head in 2011 while at a meeting with her constituents, released a statement saying "Political violence is terrifying. I know."

"I'm holding former president Trump, and all those affected by today's indefensible act of violence in my heart," the Democrat said. "Political violence is un-American and is never acceptable — never."

Similar statements are coming from other officials, including President George W. Bush, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and House Speaker Mike Johnson.

In New York, a spokesperson for New York Mayor Eric Adams said that out of "an abundance of caution," police increased their presence across the city including at Trump Tower and 40 Wall Street.

"While we are surging these resources, we want to be very clear that we see no nexus to NYC at this time," Fabien Levy said on the social platform X.

How it happened

As Trump was talking, a popping sound was heard, and the former president put his right hand up to his right ear. People in the stands behind him appeared shocked.

Trump appeared to lower himself behind the lectern and the sounds — apparent gunshots — continued as Secret Service agents rushed the stage.

Trump's microphone picked up the sound of people yelling "Get down, get down, get down" while at least three agents piled on top of him.

The apparent gunshot sound was heard again several times while agents were on him. People in the crowd screamed.

Someone's voice was heard through the microphone asking "Are we good?" Secret Service agents in tactical gear stood on the stage, some looking out to the crowd.

A voice was heard saying, "Shooter's down." Then a voice said, "We're clear" and "Let's move."

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Agents stood up, surrounding Trump. As they moved with him off the stage, Trump lifted his right arm and fist into the air. Blood was seen on the right side of his face.

Shooter dead and rally attendee killed at Trump event in Pennsylvania, prosecutor tells AP

Butler County district attorney Richard Goldinger said in a phone interview that the suspected gunman was dead and at least one rally attendee was killed.

Pennsylvania GOP candidate describes sudden shots, blood

Pennsylvania Republican Senate candidate Dave McCormick, who was sitting in the front row, told Politico that it appeared someone behind him was shot.

"All the sudden shots started to crack, someone behind me appears to have been shot," McCormick said. "There's lots of blood, and then the Secret Service were all over President Trump."

Trump, as a former president, retains Secret Service protection for life under federal law. As the presumptive Republican nominee who is frequently in the public eye, he received added protective assets.

Biden gets updated briefing. ATF says rally incident is "a top priority."

President Joe Biden received an updated briefing on the incident at the Trump rally from Kimberly Cheatle, the director of the United States Secretary Service, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and White House homeland security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives issued a statement: "ATF is responding to assist the U.S. Secret Service and other law enforcement partners. This is a top priority. We have no further comment at this time."

Prayers and concerns from allies and rivals alike

North Dakota Sen. Doug Burgum, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Sen. JD Vance, the three men on Trump's shortlist for vice president, all quickly sent out statements expressing concern for the former president.

Rubio shared an image taken as Trump was escorted off stage with his fist in the air and a streak of blood on his face along with the words, "God protected President Trump."

"I am horrified by what happened at the Trump rally in Pennsylvania and relieved that former President Trump is safe. Political violence has no place in our country," said Sen. Chuck Schumer in a statement.

"We should all condemn what happened today and I am hoping for the health of the former president and everyone else at the rally," Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy posted on the social platform X.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said in a post on X that his "thoughts and prayers are with former President Trump" and expressed thanks "for the decisive law enforcement response."

Trump's new eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., posted a photo of Trump, his first raised and his face bloody in front of an American flag, with the words: "He'll never stop fighting to Save America" on the social platform X.

Trump says he is 'fine' in statement and says he is being checked at a medical facility

Donald Trump's campaign said in a statement that he was "fine" after being whisked off the stage at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania after apparent gunshots rang through the crowd.

"President Trump thanks law enforcement and first responders for their quick action during this heinous act," spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement. "He is fine and is being checked out at a local medical facility. More details will follow."

The former president and presumptive Republican nominee was showing off a chart of border crossing numbers during his last rally before the Republican National Convention opens Monday when bangs started ringing through the crowd. Trump could be seen reaching with his right hand toward his neck. There appeared to be blood on his face.

He quickly ducked behind the riser as agents from his protective detail rushed the stage and screams were heard in the crowd of several thousand people. The bangs continued as agents tended to him on stage.

The crowd cheered as he got back up and pumped his fist.

His motorcade has since left the venue. His condition was not immediately known.

Donald Trump whisked off stage in Pennsylvania after apparent gunshots rang through the crowd

Donald Trump was whisked off the stage at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania after apparent gunshots rang



through the crowd.

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He quickly ducked behind the riser as agents from his protective detail rushed the stage and screams rang out from the crowd. The bangs continued as agents tended to him on stage.

The crowd cheered as he got back up and pumped his fist.

His motorcade has left the venue. His condition was not immediately known.

Police began vacating the fairgrounds shortly after Trump left the stage.

The U.S. Secret Service and other law enforcement agencies did not immediately respond to messages. Leaving Mass in Rehoboth Beach, President Joe Biden simply responded, "No," when asked if he'd been briefed about the incident.

Donald Trump escorted off stage by Secret Service during rally after loud noises ring out in crowd

Donald Trump has been escorted off stage by the Secret Service during his rally after loud noises rang out in the crowd.

## **Global leaders condemn assassination attempt targeting former US President Donald Trump**

By KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Global leaders have expressed concern Sunday over an assassination attempt targeting former U.S. President Donald Trump at a rally in Pennsylvania that left one attendee dead and critically injured two others, with many condemning the violence that shocked the world.

Trump's campaign said the presumptive Republican nominee was doing "fine" after being whisked off the stage though the shooting pierced the upper part of his right ear.

The Secret Service said it killed the suspected shooter who attacked from an elevated position outside the rally venue.

U.S. authorities are still investigating the shooting.

**Australia**

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the attempted assassination as an inexcusable attack on the United States and Australia's shared democratic values.

"In Australia, as in the United States, the essence and the purpose of our democracies is that we can express our views, debate our disagreements and resolve our differences peacefully," Albanese told reporters in the Australian Parliament House.

**Austria**

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said on social media platform X that he was appalled by the attempt and wished Trump a quick and full recovery.

"Political violence has no place in our society! My thoughts are with all the victims of this attack!" he said.

**Brazil**

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said on X that the attack must be "strongly repudiated" by all democracy defenders and dialogue in politics, calling the incident unacceptable.

**Canada**

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau posted on X saying that he was sickened by the shooting and his thoughts were with Trump, those at the event and all Americans.

"It cannot be overstated — political violence is never acceptable," he wrote.

**China**

Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement that China is concerned about the attack and President Xi Jinping has already extended his regards to Trump.

**Czech Republic**

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Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala strongly condemned the attack and wished Trump a fast recovery.

Egypt

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi expressed concern and stressed his country's condemnation of the attack in a statement.

"I express my wishes for Trump's speedy recovery and for the US election campaigns to be resumed in a peaceful and healthy atmosphere, free of any aspects of terrorism, violence, or hatred," he said.

El Salvador

El Salvador's presidential palace said President Nayib Bukele condemned "the assassination attempt" on Trump.

"There is no place for violence in a democracy," the President's office said in a press release posted on X.

Estonia

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas posted on X saying she was shocked by the shooting and her thoughts were with the victims. "Political violence in any form has no justification," she wrote.

France

French President Emmanuel Macron sent his wishes to Trump for a prompt recovery. "It is a drama for our democracies. France shares the indignation of the American people," he posted on X.

Finland

Finnish President Alexander Stubb said on X that the attack shocked him and he was glad to hear that Trump seemed to be doing well. He strongly condemned the assault and any act of political violence.

Germany

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz posted on X saying the attack was "despicable" and such violent acts threaten democracy. "My compassionate thoughts are also with the other people who were hurt in the attack," he said.

Hungary

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said his thoughts and prayers were with Trump "in these dark hours" on X.

India

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X that he was deeply concerned by "the attack on my friend." "Strongly condemn the incident. Violence has no place in politics and democracies," he said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the deceased, those injured and the American people."

Israel

Israel's President Isaac Herzog said on X that he condemned "utterly and unequivocally" the attempt on Trump's life and wished him a fast recovery on behalf of all the Israeli people, adding their thoughts are with the victims and their families.

Italy

Italy's Premier Giorgia Meloni wished Trump a quick recovery and said in a statement she hoped "the next few months of the election campaign will see dialogue and responsibility prevail over hatred and violence."

Japan

"We must stand firm against any form of violence that challenges democracy. I pray for former President Trump's speedy recovery," Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on X.

Mexico

Mexico's president Andrés Manuel López Obrador denounced the attack on X and said "violence is irrational and inhumane."

South Korea

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol said on X that he was appalled by "the hideous act" of political violence. He added the people of Korea stand in solidarity with Americans.

Sweden

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said his country condemned "the terrible attack" and his thoughts were with the victims and their families. "Sweden stands behind the United States and wish Donald Trump a speedy recovery," he said.

## Taiwan

Taiwan's president Lai Ching-te wished Trump a speedy recovery and said his thoughts and prayers are with Trump on X. He said political violence of any form is never acceptable "in our democracies" and offered his condolences to the victims.

## The Philippines

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he was relieved to learn that Trump is fine on X and his thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

"Together with all democracy loving peoples around the world, we condemn all forms of political violence. The voice of the people must always remain supreme," he said

## Ukraine

Also on X, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he was appalled to learn about the shooting, saying such violence has no justification and no place anywhere in the world. He added he was relieved to learn that Trump is safe.

Zelenskyy extended his wishes for strength to everyone who was horrified by the event. "I wish America emerges stronger from this," he said.

## United Kingdom

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on X that he was appalled by the "shocking scenes," and sent his best wishes to Trump and his family.

"Political violence in any form has no place in our societies and my thoughts are with all the victims of this attack," he said.

## **Donald Trump appeared to be the target of an assassination attempt. Here's what to know**

BY AYANNA ALEXANDER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — What began as a jubilant rally Saturday for Donald Trump days before he becomes the official Republican presidential nominee ended in mere minutes with the former president bloodied and a suspected would-be assassin shot dead by the Secret Service.

There was also one spectator killed and two others who were critically injured in the shooting at the rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The former president was showing off a chart of border crossing numbers when the shots, at least five, were fired. Trump was seen holding his ear and got down on the ground. Agents quickly created a shield around him. When he finally stood, his face bloodied, he pumped his fist to cheering supporters. Trump and his motorcade left the scene and he was checked into a medical facility.

The attack was the most serious attempt to assassinate a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981.

Here's a look at what we know so far:

What is Trump's condition?

Steven Cheung, a spokesman for the Trump campaign, released a statement Saturday evening that Trump was fine and being looked at at a medical facility.

Trump also released a statement on his Truth Social platform thanking the Secret Service and all law enforcement.

"I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear. I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin," he wrote. "Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

Trump also extended his condolences to the family of the person killed at the rally.

Trump flew to New Jersey after visiting the Pennsylvania hospital, landing shortly after midnight at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Who is handling the investigation?

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The FBI is set to lead the investigation and said its working with the Secret Service and local and state law enforcement.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and U.S. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle briefed President Joe Biden and are working with law enforcement partners to respond to and investigate the shooting, Mayorkas said on X.

"We are engaged with President Biden, former President Trump, and their campaigns, and are taking every possible measure to ensure their safety and security."

Republican U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson also said the House will conduct a full investigation of the attack on Trump's campaign rally. "The American people deserve to know the truth," Johnson said. "We will have Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle and other appropriate officials from DHS and the FBI appear for a hearing before our committees ASAP."

What do we know about the shooter?

The FBI early Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania.

The Secret Service said it killed the suspected shooter, who fired from an elevated position outside the rally venue, a farm show.

The shooter had fired multiple shots from "an elevated position outside of the rally venue," the U.S. Secret Service said in a statement.

Two officials who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation said the shooter was engaged by members of the U.S. Secret Service counterassault team. The heavily armed tactical team travels everywhere with the president and major party nominees and is meant to confront any active threats while other agents focus on safeguarding and evacuating the person at the center of protection.

Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person was not authorized to discuss details of the investigation.

Why was Trump in Butler?

Trump was holding his final rally ahead of the Republican National Convention that begins Monday in Milwaukee.

Pennsylvania is one of the most important states in the presidential race and Trump has had at least two rallies in the state this year so far.

The convention is slated to continue despite the shooting and Trump advisers said he looks forward to attending.

What has been the reaction to the shooting?

The overall response from both sides of the aisle was one of gratitude that Trump wasn't hurt. President Joe Biden spoke in a press briefing roughly three hours after the shooting. He said "everybody must condemn" the suspected assassination attempt. He said he had been unable to reach Trump before his remarks but did speak to him several hours later, according to the White House.

"There's no place in America for this type of violence," the president said in public remarks. "It's sick. It's sick."

Former lawmakers and presidents including Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, as well as the foundation set up by 99-year-old President Jimmy Carter, were also appreciative that the outcome wasn't worse.

Several of Trump's fellow party members sent well wishes and prayers. Trump's possible running mates — North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Sen. JD Vance — also sent statements.

Even as the motivation behind the shooting wasn't clear, Vance and some other Republicans assigned blame to the Biden campaign's anti-Trump rhetoric.

"Today is not just some isolated incident," Vance wrote on X. "The central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination."

## The Secret Service is investigating how a gunman who shot and injured Trump was able to get so close

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get close enough to shoot and injure former President Donald Trump at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania, a monumental failure of one of the agency's core duties.

The gunman, who was killed by Secret Service personnel, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said.

An Associated Press analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos taken at the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking. A video posted to social media and geolocated by the AP shows the body of a man wearing gray camouflage lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds, where Trump's rally was held.

The roof was less than 150 meters (yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 150 meters is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a scaled human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M16 assault rifle in basic training. The AR-15, like the shooter at the Trump rally had, is the semi-automatic civilian version of the military M16.

The FBI early Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania.

The Secret Service didn't have anybody at a late-night news conference where FBI and Pennsylvania State Police officials briefed reporters on the shooting investigation. FBI Special Agent in Charge Kevin Rojek said it was "surprising" that the gunman was able to fire at the stage before he was killed.

Members of the Secret Service's counter sniper team and counter assault team were at the rally, according to two law enforcement officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss details of the investigation.

The heavily-armed counter assault team, whose Secret Service code name is "Hawkeye," is responsible for eliminating threats so that other agents can shield and take away the person they are protecting. The counter sniper team, known by the code name "Hercules," uses long-range binoculars and is equipped with sniper rifles to deal with long-range threats.

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said his department and the Secret Service are working with law enforcement to investigate the shooting. Maintaining the security of presidential candidates and their campaign events is one of the department's "most vital priorities," he said.

"We condemn this violence in the strongest possible terms and commend the Secret Service for their swift action today," Mayorkas said. "We are engaged with President Biden, former President Trump and their campaigns, and are taking every possible measure to ensure their safety and security."

Calls for an investigation came from all sides.

James Comer, a Kentucky Republican who is the House Oversight Committee chairman, said he contacted the Service Service for a briefing and called on Director Kimberly Cheatle to appear for a hearing. Comer said his committee will send a formal invitation soon.

"Political violence in all forms is unamerican and unacceptable. There are many questions and Americans demand answers," Comer said in a statement.

U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres, a New York Democrat, called for investigating "security failures" at the rally.

"The federal government must constantly learn from security failures in order to avoid repeating them, especially when those failures have implications for the nation," Torres said.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, posted on X that he and his staff are in contact with security planning coordinators ahead of the Republican National Convention set to begin Monday in Milwaukee. "We cannot be a country that accepts political violence of any kind — that is not who we are as Americans," Evers said.

The FBI said it will lead the investigation into the shooting, working with the Secret Service and local

and state law enforcement.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Justice Department "will bring every available resource to bear to this investigation."

"My heart is with the former President, those injured, and the family of the spectator killed in this horrific attack," Garland said in a statement. "We will not tolerate violence of any kind, and violence like this is an attack on our democracy."

## **Biden says 'everybody must condemn' attack on Trump and later speaks with ex-president**

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP) — President Joe Biden said Saturday that "everybody must condemn" the suspected assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump.

Addressing the nation about two hours after the shooting, Biden said he was relieved that Trump is reportedly "doing well." He said he had been unable to reach Trump before his remarks, but the White House said he did speak to Trump several hours later.

"We cannot allow this to be happening," Biden said. "The idea that there's violence in America like this is just unheard of."

Biden, speaking without a teleprompter, said he was waiting for additional information before formally calling the attack an attempted assassination on the former president.

"I have an opinion, but I don't have any facts," he told reporters, pledging to provide updates as he learns more.

After midnight, he returned to the White House, cutting short a weekend stay in Delaware. The White House said he and Vice President Kamala Harris will receive an updated briefing from homeland security and law enforcement officials Sunday morning.

The president delivered remarks from the White House's emergency briefing room in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, which is set up whenever the president travels to allow him to deliver remarks to the country in a matter of minutes. He was spending the weekend at his beach home and was at a nearby church for mass when the shooting occurred.

As he left the church, reporters asked if the president had been briefed about the shooting. Biden turned toward reporters with a serious look on his face but replied simply, "no," before stepping into his motorcade.

Biden received an "initial briefing" from aides moments later then convened security officials for a more in-depth update from Kimberly Cheatle, the director of the United States Secret Service, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and White House homeland security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall.

Many Republicans quickly blamed the violence on Biden and his allies, arguing that sustained attacks on Trump as a threat to democracy have created a toxic environment. They pointed in particular to a comment Biden made to donors on July 8, saying "it's time to put Trump in the bullseye."

The FBI early Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. There was no immediate information on his motivations.

The Biden campaign said Saturday that it was pausing all messaging to supporters and working to pull down all of its television ads as quickly as possible in light of the shooting.

Harris said in a statement that she was also briefed, adding that she and her husband "are relieved" that Trump was not seriously injured.

"We are praying for him, his family, and all those who have been injured and impacted by this senseless shooting," she said.

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## A few short minutes after Trump took the stage, shots rang out

By EVAN VUCCI and JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

BUTLER, Pa. (AP) — At 6:02 pm Saturday, to the strains of "God Bless the U.S.A.," former President Donald Trump took the stage at fairgrounds in Butler, Pennsylvania, waving at the cheering crowd and settling into his regular rally speech under a scorching midsummer sun.

A few short minutes later, Trump pointed to a projection of a chart that showed a spike in illegal border crossings under the man he's running against, President Joe Biden. "That chart's a couple of months old," Trump told the crowd. "And if you want to see something really sad —"

That's when the shots rang out, at least five. Trump clutched his ear as dark-suited Secret Service agents dashed toward him. He dropped to the ground as the agents yelled, "Get down!" The thousands of rallygoers packed into the field in front of him moved as one, dropping down as silence spread across the grass, punctuated only by an occasional scream.

Moments later, Trump stood as the Secret Service agents crowded around him, covering his body with their own. They tried to usher the former president offstage to his left as blood trickled from his ear. "Wait, wait, wait," Trump said. He pumped his fist as the crowd cheered, and seemed to mouth the word "fight" before agents hustled him down the stairs and to a waiting black SUV. Trump pumped his fist one more time before getting inside.

The local district attorney said the shooter and one rallygoer were dead. The FBI early Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania.

In a statement issued shortly after the attack, which officials say was an apparent assassination attempt, Trump's campaign said he was "fine."

There were no hints of the horror to come as rallygoers assembled outside the secure Secret Service perimeter earlier that afternoon. Butler is a city of 13,000 located 33 miles north of Pittsburgh in western Pennsylvania, firmly in Trump country. It's the sort of rural Rust Belt area that helped make Trump president in 2016 and almost kept him in office in 2020 — Trump won Butler County by 32 percentage points.

The green grass of the field was slowly covered by a sea of red Make America Great Again hats as the temperature climbed to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Local politicians occasionally spoke as rallygoers patiently waited hours, occasionally breaking into chants of "Trump! Trump! Trump!" At one point, a giant American flag hanging above the stage became tangled, prompting chants of "fix the flag!" until it was correctly unfurled.

Outside the perimeter, there were stands selling food, beverages and Trump paraphernalia, as is common at the rallies. Behind the stage, separated from the field by waist-high metal barriers, another field stretched out, dotted with distant buildings. The crowd perked up when Trump's favorite playlist began, kicking off with The Village People's "YMCA." Then Trump walked out toward the stage, wearing his familiar red hat, a black suit, white shirt unbuttoned at the neck and no tie.

He smiled and pointed at the crowd as they cheered him, waiting for the Lee Greenwood song to conclude before starting his remarks. "This is a big crowd," Trump said. "This is a big, big beautiful crowd."

After name-checking David McCormick, the Republican running against Pennsylvania's Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, and promising to bring him on stage later in the rally, Trump turned to one of his favorite themes. "We have millions and millions of people in our country who should not be here," he said. "Dangerous people."

Then he directed the audience to the projected chart of border crossings.

After the shots rang out and Trump was hustled offstage, agents in black uniforms carrying rifles, the agency's Counter-Assault team, flooded the stage. The crowd stayed down with the exception of one clutch of people standing near the left edge of the perimeter, near the sounds of gunfire.

Rico Elmore, vice chairman of the Beaver County Republican Party, was sitting in a section for special guests, facing Trump, when he heard what sounded like firecrackers. "So, everyone hesitated — and it was like, no, these are actual shots," he said in an interview. "So I yelled, 'Get down!'"

Elmore heard someone from his left calling for a medic. While Elmore isn't a medic, he knows first aid

and CPR from his time in the military. He jumped a barricade, but when he reached the person, Elmore saw he had been shot in the head. Elmore said he held the victim's head, but it was too late.

"I mean, it was a horror," Elmore said.

The victim has not been identified.

Even as Trump was driven off, rallygoers stayed low. Some had heard the bullets ricocheting off the grandstand, severing a hydraulic line connecting to the speakers, which began to topple. Others quickly called family or looked on their phones to find out what had happened to the former president.

"Is he all right?" people began to ask. "Is he OK?"

Eventually, people began to trickle out. A small group of about a half-dozen stopped at the fenced area holding the media. "It's all your fault!" they yelled.

Police and then the Secret Service ushered everyone out. An hour after the shooting the vast field was declared a crime scene, littered with empty plastic water bottles and soggy cardboard containers that once held cheese fries.

## Treason and espionage cases are rising in Russia since the war in Ukraine began

By DASHA LITVINOVA Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — When Maksim Kolker's phone rang at 6 a.m., and the voice on the other end said his father had been arrested, he thought it was a scam to extort money. A day earlier, he had taken his father, prominent Russian physicist Dmitry Kolker, to the hospital in his native Novosibirsk, when his advanced pancreatic cancer had suddenly worsened.

The phone kept ringing and Kolker kept hanging up until finally his father called to confirm the grim news. The elder Kolker had been charged with treason, the family later learned, a crime that is probed and prosecuted in absolute secrecy in Russia and punished with long prison terms.

Treason cases have been rare in Russia in the last 30 years, with a handful annually. But since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, they have skyrocketed, along with espionage prosecutions, ensnaring citizens and foreigners alike, regardless of their politics.

That has brought comparisons to the show trials under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin in the 1930s.

The more recent victims range from Kremlin critics and independent journalists to veteran scientists working with countries that Moscow considers friendly.

These cases stand out from the crackdown on dissent that has reached unprecedented levels under President Vladimir Putin. They are investigated almost exclusively by the powerful Federal Security Service, or FSB, with specific charges and evidence not always revealed.

The accused are often held in strict isolation in Moscow's notorious Lefortovo Prison, tried behind closed doors, and almost always convicted, with long prison sentences.

In 2022, Putin urged the security services to "harshly suppress the actions of foreign intelligence services, promptly identify traitors, spies and saboteurs."

The First Department, a rights group that specializes in such prosecutions and takes its name from a division of the security service, counted over 100 known treason cases in 2023, lawyer Evgeny Smirnov told The Associated Press. He added there probably were another 100 that nobody knows about.

The longer the war goes on, "the more traitors" the authorities want to round up, Smirnov said.

Treason cases began growing after 2014, when Russia illegally annexed Crimea from Ukraine, threw its weight behind a separatist insurgency in the eastern part of the country and fell out with the West for the first time since the Cold War.

Two years earlier, the legal definition of treason was expanded to include providing vaguely defined "assistance" to foreign countries or organizations, effectively exposing to prosecution anyone in contact with foreigners.

The move followed mass anti-government protests in 2011-12 in Moscow that officials claimed were instigated by the West. Those changes to the law were heavily criticized by rights advocates, including



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those in the Presidential Human Rights Council.

Faced with that criticism at the time, Putin promised to look into the amended law and agreed "there shouldn't be any broad interpretation of what high treason is."

And yet, that's exactly what began happening.

In 2015, authorities arrested Svetlana Davydova, a mother of seven in the western region of Smolensk, on treason charges in accordance with the new, expanded definition of the offense.

She was charged over contacting the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow in 2014 to warn officials there that she thought Russia was sending troops into eastern Ukraine, where the separatist insurgency against Kyiv was unfolding.

The case drew national attention and public outrage. Russia at the time denied its troops were involved in eastern Ukraine, and many pointed out that the case against Davydova contradicted that narrative. The charges against her were eventually dropped.

That outcome was a rare exception to the multiplying treason and espionage cases in subsequent years that consistently ended in convictions and prison terms.

Paul Whelan, a United States corporate security executive who traveled to Moscow to attend a wedding, was arrested in 2018 and convicted of espionage two years later, and sentenced to 16 years in prison. He denied the charges.

Ivan Safronov, an adviser to the Roscosmos space agency and a former military affairs journalist, was convicted of treason in 2022 and sentenced to 22 years in prison. His prosecution was widely seen as retaliation for his reporting exposing military incidents and shady arms deals.

"It's a very good cautionary tale case for them that journalists shouldn't write anything about the defense sector," his fiancée and fellow reporter Ksenia Mironova told AP.

The FSB also went after scientists who study aerodynamics, hypersonics and other fields that could be used in weapons development.

Such arrests swelled after 2018, when Putin in his annual state-of-the-nation address touted new and unique hypersonic weapons that Russia was developing, according to Smirnov, the lawyer.

In his view, it was the security services' way of showing the Kremlin that Russian scientific advances, especially those used to develop weapons, are so valuable that "all foreign intelligence services in the world are after it."

He stressed that all the arrested scientists were civilians, and that "they practically never go after military scientists."

Many of the scientists denied the charges. Their families and colleagues insisted they were implicated over something as benign as giving lectures abroad or working with foreign scientists on joint projects.

Kolker, the son of the detained Novosibirsk physicist, said that when the FSB searched his father's apartment, they looked for several presentations he had used in lectures given in China.

The elder Kolker, who had studied light waves, gave presentations that were cleared for use abroad and also were given inside Russia, and "any student could understand that he wasn't revealing anything (secret) in them," Maksim Kolker said.

Nevertheless, FSB officers yanked the 54-year-old physicist from his hospital bed in 2022 and flew him to Moscow, to the Lefortovo Prison, his son said.

The ailing scientist called his family from the plane to say goodbye, knowing he was unlikely to survive prison, the son said. Within days, the family received a telegram informing them he had died in a hospital.

Other cases were similar. Valery Golubkin, a 71-year-old Moscow physicist specializing in aerodynamics, was convicted of treason in 2023. His state-run research institute was working on an international project of a hypersonic civilian aircraft, and he was asked by his employer to help with reports on the project.

Smirnov of the First Department group, which was involved in his defense, says the reports were vetted before they were sent abroad and didn't contain state secrets.

Golubkin's daughter, Lyudmila, said the 2021 arrest came as a shock.

"He is not guilty of anything," she said. His 12-year sentence was upheld despite appeals, and his family now hopes he will be released on parole.

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Other scientists working on hypersonics, a field with important applications for missile development, also were arrested on treason charges in recent years. One of them, Anatoly Maslov, 77, was convicted and sentenced to 14 years in prison in May.

The Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in Novosibirsk wrote a letter supporting Maslov and two other physicists implicated over “making presentations at international seminars and conferences, publishing articles in highly rated journals (and) participation in international scientific projects.” Such activities, the letter said, are “an obligatory component of conscientious and high-quality scientific activity,” both in Russia and elsewhere.

Two other recent high-profile cases involved a prominent opposition politician and a journalist.

Vladimir Kara-Murza, a journalist who became an activist, was charged with treason in 2022 after giving speeches in the West that were critical of Russia. After surviving what he believed were attempts to poison him in 2015 and 2017, Kara-Murza was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison, where his family fears for his deteriorating health.

In his closing statement at trial, Kara-Murza alluded to the USSR’s dark legacy of prosecutions, saying the country has gone “all the way back to the 1930s.”

The Wall Street Journal’s Evan Gershkovich was arrested in 2023 on espionage charges, the first American reporter detained on such charges since the Cold War. Gershkovich, who went on trial in June, denies the charges, and the U.S. government has declared him to be wrongfully detained.

Russians reportedly have been charged with treason — or the less-severe charges of “preparing for treason” — for acts including donating money to Ukrainian charities or groups fighting alongside Kyiv’s forces, setting military enlistment offices in Russia on fire, and even private phone conversations with friends in Ukraine about moving there.

Ksenia Khavana, 33, was arrested in Yekaterinburg in February on treason charges, accused of collecting money for Ukraine’s military. The dual Russian-U.S. citizen had returned from Los Angeles to visit family, and the First Department said the charges stem from a \$51 donation to a U.S.-based charity that helps Ukraine.

Several factors are motivating authorities to pursue more treason cases, experts say.

One is that it sends a clear message that the unwritten rules have changed, and that conferences abroad or work with foreign peers is no longer something scientists should do, says Andrei Soldatov, an investigative journalist and expert on the security services.

It’s also easier to get higher authorities to allocate resources to a treason case, like surveillance or wiretaps, he says.

According to Smirnov, the spike in prosecutions came after the FSB allowed its regional branches in 2022 to pursue certain kinds of treason, and officials in those branches sought to curry favor with their superiors to advance their careers.

Above all, Soldatov said, is the FSB’s genuine and widespread belief of “the fragility of the regime” at a time of a political turmoil — either from mass protests, as in 2011-12, or now during the war with Ukraine. “They sincerely believe that it can break,” he said, even if it’s really not the case.

Mironova, the fiancée of the imprisoned journalist Safronov, echoed that sentiment.

FSB investigators think they’re catching “traitors” and “enemies of the motherland,” even when they know they don’t have evidence against them, she said.

## Can a Medicaid plan that requires work succeed?

### First year of Georgia experiment is not promising

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — By now, Georgia officials expected their new Medicaid plan, the only one in the nation with a work requirement, to provide health insurance to 25,000 low-income residents and possibly tens of thousands more.

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But a year since its launch, Pathways to Coverage has roughly 4,300 members, much lower than what state officials projected and a tiny fraction of the roughly half-million state residents who could be covered if Georgia, like 40 other states, agreed to a full Medicaid expansion.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's office has presented Pathways as a compromise that would add people to Medicaid while also helping them transition off it. Blaming the Biden administration for delaying the program's start, Kemp's office says it's redoubling efforts to sign people up.

Health and public policy experts believe the enrollment numbers, dismal even compared to what Kemp's office had said Pathways could achieve, reflect a fundamental flaw: The work requirement is just too burdensome.

"It's clear that the Georgia Pathways experiment is a huge failure," said Leo Cuello, a research professor at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy.

Pathways requires all recipients to show at least 80 hours of work monthly, volunteer activity, schooling or vocational rehabilitation. It also limits coverage to able-bodied adults earning no more than the federal poverty line, which is \$15,060 for a single person and \$31,200 for a family of four.

Cuello noted the program makes no exceptions for people who are caring for children or other family, lack transportation, suffer from drug addiction or face a myriad other barriers to employment. Then there are people with informal jobs that make documenting their hours impossible.

In rural Clay County in southwest Georgia, Dr. Karen Kinsell said many of her patients are too sick to work. Over the last year, Kinsell has suggested Pathways to about 30 patients who might meet its requirements, but none have signed up.

"I think the general idea is it would be too much work and too complicated for little benefit," she said.

Just going online each month to submit proof of work can be a significant obstacle, said Harry Heiman, a health policy professor at Georgia State University.

"For low-income people who are worried about staying housed and putting food on the table, one more thing to do is often one thing too many," he said.

The program's poor showing so far may have implications beyond Georgia. Republicans in other states in recent months also have proposed requiring work to get Medicaid. In Mississippi, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann in February cited Georgia's Pathways program as a model.

A second term for former President Donald Trump would significantly boost the prospects for such programs. The Trump administration approved Medicaid work requirement plans in 13 states, only to have the Biden administration revoke those waivers in 2021. Pathways survived after a court fight.

Georgia launched the program on July 1, 2023 with little fanfare, and public health experts say they have seen scant effort to promote it or sign people up.

The launch coincided with a federally mandated review of the eligibility of all 2.7 million Medicaid recipients in the state following the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, another challenging task for Georgia officials.

Still, they did not scale-back their enrollment expectations. Days before the launch, then-Georgia Department of Community Health Commissioner Caylee Noggle told The Associated Press that Pathways could cover up to 100,000 people in year one. The 25,000 estimate had been in the state's 2019 application for Pathways.

Garrison Douglas, a spokesman for Kemp, said in a statement that Pathways had received "extraordinary interest from thousands of low income, able-bodied Georgians," and the state was "still fighting to reclaim the time stolen" from it by the Biden administration.

The program was supposed to launch in 2021, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services objected to the work requirement that February and later revoked it. Georgia sued and a federal judge reinstated the work mandate in 2022.

As of June 7, 2024, Pathways had 4,318 members, according to the Georgia Department of Community Health. The agency said in an email that promotion efforts have included social media content and streaming ads on TV and radio, while a "robust" outreach campaign was being planned.

"Pathways deserves more time to see if it reaches its potential," said Chris Denson, director of policy and research at the conservative Georgia Public Policy Foundation.

Denson said there is general agreement even among Pathways' supporters that the state could have done a better marketing job. But he said a fundamental tenet of Pathways — transitioning people through employment, job training or other qualifying activities to private insurance — is sound, particularly given that many primary care physicians in the state are not accepting new Medicaid patients.

To critics, the actual first-year figure is all the more galling given how many people full Medicaid expansion could cover at no extra cost to the state, at least initially.

An analysis by the left-leaning Georgia Budget and Policy Institute found Georgia's Medicaid program would receive so much more federal funding under full expansion that in its first year the program could cover 482,000 residents for the same cost as 100,000 Pathways' recipients.

North Carolina, which fully expand Medicaid in December, has enrolled nearly 500,000 people in about half the time Pathways has been in effect.

That broader Medicaid expansion was a key part of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in 2010. In exchange for offering Medicaid to nearly all adults with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, states would get more federal funding for the new enrollees.

The higher eligibility limit is \$20,783 annually for a single person and \$43,056 for a family of four. None of the 40 states that have accepted the deal require recipients to work in order to qualify.

But Kemp, like many other Republican governors, rejected full expansion, arguing that the state's long-term costs would end up being too high.

Republicans in the Georgia Legislature floated the possibility of full expansion in 2024 before abandoning the effort.

For now, Georgia officials show no sign of giving up on Pathways. The program is set to expire at the end of September 2025. But in February, the state sued the Biden administration to try to extend it to 2028. A federal judge heard arguments last month.

## **Condemnation of Trump rally shooting crosses party lines, and blame game and calls for probe begin**

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican and Democratic leaders, as well as some international friends and foes, expressed shock and relief Saturday night after an apparent assassination attempt at a Donald Trump campaign rally in Pennsylvania. Lawmakers from both parties promised hearings and a comprehensive investigation into the attack.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said there would be hearings to investigate what happened. "We will have Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle and other appropriate officials from (the Department of Homeland Security) and the FBI appear for a hearing before our committees ASAP," Johnson said.

House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer, R-Ky., said in a statement that there were many questions to be answered. "I have already contacted the Secret Service for a briefing and am also calling on Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle to appear for a hearing. The Oversight Committee will send a formal invitation soon."

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., suggested on X that the Senate might hold similar hearings. "It's a wonder Donald Trump is alive. Let's call this what it was. An assassination attempt with at least one innocent bystander murdered. The nation needs to know who did this. And why. And we need a full, public investigation by Congress into HOW it happened," Hawley posted.

Notable officials, including former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, praised the fast action of the Secret Service and expressed gratitude that the presumptive Republican presidential nominee appeared to be OK.

"As one whose family has been the victim of political violence, I know firsthand that political violence of any kind has no place in our society. I thank God that former President Trump is safe," former House

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Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement. "As we learn more details about this horrifying incident, let us pray that all those in attendance at the former President's rally today are unharmed."

Pelosi's husband was bludgeoned with a hammer in 2022 by a man who broke into their home.

Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., said he had spoken to his father on the phone and "he is in great spirits." "He will never stop fighting to save America, no matter what the radical left throws at him," Trump Jr. said in a statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on X: "Sara and I were shocked by the apparent attack on President Trump. We pray for his safety and speedy recovery."

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who has an adversarial relationship with Trump, said during a campaign event broadcast on state television that he wished Trump a speedy recovery: "May God bless the people of the United States and give them peace and tranquility. We have been adversaries, but I wish President Trump health and long life, and I repudiate that attack."

Obama, Trump's immediate predecessor in the White House, shared the views of others who have held the presidency, writing on social media: "There is absolutely no place for political violence in our democracy. Although we don't yet know exactly what happened, we should all be relieved that former President Trump wasn't seriously hurt, and use this moment to recommit ourselves to civility and respect in our politics. Michelle and I are wishing him a quick recovery."

President Joe Biden said: "There's no place in America for this type of violence. It's sick. It's sick."

Bush praised the Secret Service for their "speedy response" to the violence. "Laura and I are grateful that President Trump is safe following the cowardly attack on his life," Bush wrote on X.

The messages of concern and relief were mixed with accusations that Biden was responsible and at least one call that the criminal cases against Trump be stopped.

Trump was convicted in New York in May on 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex. He is awaiting trials in federal courts in Washington, D.C., and state court in Georgia on allegations of plotting to overturn a lost election, and a federal case in Florida that accuses him of illegally stowing classified documents at his Florida estate.

Posting on X, Utah Republican Sen. Mike Lee called for "President Biden to immediately order that all federal criminal charges against President Trump be dropped, and to ask the governors of New York and Georgia to do the same."

Republican House member, Rep. Mike Collins of Georgia, laid the blame on Biden, saying, "The Republican District Attorney in Butler County, PA, should immediately file charges against Joseph R. Biden for inciting an assassination." Collins, a freshman member of Congress from a district east of Atlanta, has a history of provocative social media statements.

Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, who has been identified as a potential vice presidential running mate for Trump, said on X that the violence was "not just some isolated incident. The central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination."

## **Alec Baldwin's criminal case was about ammunition at its shocking beginning and its sudden end**

By ANDREW DALTON and MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The criminal case against Alec Baldwin was about the handling of bullets from the beginning. And the handling of bullets brought it to an end.

When cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was shot and killed nearly three years ago on the New Mexico set of the film "Rust," one question obsessed authorities yet was never definitively answered: How was it possible that live, lethal rounds had gotten into the mix with the blanks that traditionally make movie gunfire and the inert dummy rounds that play the role of bullets on screen, then into the revolver that Baldwin, in character, was pointing at Hutchins?

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Evidence that Baldwin's attorneys unearthed as part of a possible explanation — ammunition turned over by a man who walked into the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office in March — brought the actor's involuntary manslaughter trial to a swift and sudden end Friday when a judge ruled prosecutors had improperly failed to share that evidence.

One of two special prosecutors on the case, who resigned just a few hours before the dismissal, told The Associated Press on Saturday that the judge's decision was correct.

"When you step back and you think about, 'OK, could the defense have made use of this in preparing a defense?' And the answer is possibly, yeah. ... Then the proper remedy should be dismissal," Erlinda Ocampo Johnson said, adding that it's unfortunate that the jury "never got to hear the facts and make a decision."

With the trial ended in its infancy, it is difficult to say whether the case made by Baldwin's elite and expensive team of lawyers would have shed light on the live rounds question or would have muddied it further.

But the dismissal shut off one of the final avenues where the bullet question could be addressed.

"I feel like this this entire case has run its course, and we will never know," said John Day, a New Mexico attorney who followed the case but is not involved in it. "You can't redo a bad investigation. Once it's done, it's done like this. There's really nothing else that can be done."

The other special prosecutor, Kari Morrissey, and other authorities said they are nearly certain of the answer to at least who brought the live rounds on to the set, if not how they got into Baldwin's revolver: Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the film's armorer, who was convicted in March of involuntary manslaughter and got the 18 months in prison Baldwin might have gotten if he had been convicted.

Photos found on Gutierrez-Reed's cellphone showed her with the box where the bullets came from, according to testimony this week from a crime scene technician.

And at the hearing that led to the case's dismissal on Friday, Seth Kenney, who provided the firearms and some of the blanks and dummy rounds to the set of "Rust," testified that shortly before "Rust," Gutierrez-Reed had called and texted him about shooting live ammo with the guns to be used as props in the Nicolas Cage film "The Old Way," which she was working on in Montana.

"I said 'absolutely not' and 'it's a big mistake'" Kenney said from the stand. "I even said 'it always ends in tears.'"

Baldwin's lawyers tried to suggest that authorities had under-investigated Kenney and had an overly cozy relationship with him, and they had looked away from his possible responsibility for the live ammunition because Gutierrez-Reed could be tied directly to Baldwin. The defense didn't get to provide the thorough version of this theory because the trial ended so quickly.

Police and prosecutors say there is zero evidence that Kenney is responsible, and he testified Friday that he was absolutely certain he had not been the source.

Gutierrez-Reed is appealing her verdict as she serves her time. Her lawyer says he is planning a new motion to dismiss after the Baldwin ruling.

When that ruling came, Baldwin wept in the courtroom and hugged his lawyers and his wife.

He made his first public comments Saturday when he thanked supporters.

"There are too many people who have supported me to thank just now," Baldwin said in a brief Instagram post that accompanied a photo of him sitting in the courtroom. "To all of you, you will never know how much I appreciate your kindness toward my family."

Several civil lawsuits against Baldwin and "Rust" producers could still end up shedding light on the bullet question.

A lawsuit from Hutchins' husband and son that had been settled could be revived. And lawsuits from the cinematographer's parents and sister and crew members are still being pursued in court.

The attorneys in those cases won't have the investigative power of police, but they could have one advantage the prosecution didn't. The resolution of the criminal case could open the way for a deposition of Baldwin in civil litigation if he can no longer claim it would expose him to criminal liability.

"I'm still here. We have a very large legal team," Gloria Allred, a lawyer representing Hutchins' parents

and "Rust" script supervisor Mamie Mitchell. "I have been doing this for 48 years, as long as I've been practicing law, and I have never allowed the dismissal of a criminal case or a conviction in the criminal case that was later vacated on appeal to deter me."

Allred said she doesn't know how long it will take for a civil trial to come. But "however long it takes to persevere, we want to win accountability and justice for the untimely tragedy of losing this beautiful, talented cinematographer," she said.

## After Beryl, Houston-area farmers pull together to face unique challenges

By MELINA WALLING and JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

PORTER, Texas (AP) — Hurricanes cause trouble for everyone, but farmers have a whole other list of problems.

Beryl has been no exception: Over the past week, the storm damaged crops, soaked rabbits and chickens, terrified goats, put horses at risk of developing colic and left cows without fences to keep them penned in. And the lasting power outages have been particularly devastating for animal caretakers who urgently need water, feed and supplies.

But with trees downed, power out, gas in short supply and many local businesses temporarily out of commission, farmers in the Houston area have had to find ways to cope, relying on each other, neighbors and community resources to recover.

"We all take care of each other," said Tracy Hord, 57, who owns an equestrian facility with her husband Greg on the outskirts of Houston, which boards and trains horses. "The normal public doesn't know what it takes ... to take care of this. You have to keep it moving because the horses can't do without or your livestock can't do without."

They already have driven about an hour each way into the city this week as they scrambled to get enough bedding, the wooden shavings that line the horses' stalls.

Extreme weather like drought, floods and storms all hit farmers hard, especially those with small outfits, and scientists expect many of those nasty conditions to get worse as a result of climate change.

In the areas of Texas closer to the coast, there are more individual producers with relatively smaller farms, said Monty Dozier, program director for the Texas A&M agricultural extension's Disaster Assessment and Recovery Unit, which checks in on farmers after destructive weather events.

Dozier estimated there are between 14,000 and 20,000 head of cattle alone in the area between Houston and Beaumont.

That many livestock usually can't be evacuated before a storm. Occasionally people will move horses or other smaller animals, but otherwise farmers have to prepare by moving their herds to higher ground and making sure they have a way to shelter in place.

Catherine Ward, the owner of One Acre Farm, which offers youth education and autism therapy about 35 miles (56 kilometers) from Houston in Porter, Texas, watched the reactions of her 88 animals as wind gusts bent, snapped and toppled trees.

"The goats were able to come into shelter," Ward said. "Every time I would go to the back door to look, they're all looking like, 'Momma, please come help. We don't know what's happening.'"

After Beryl passed, Ward surveyed the damage and found that a tree had fallen on the roof of the chicken and rabbit pen, fences were broken and metal sheets had been twisted and tossed to the ground. The farm remained without power on Friday and the steady hum of a portable generator filled the air.

The Texas legislature in 2019 gave funding to Texas A&M University to create a system for farmers to respond to disasters in line with its recommendations after Hurricane Harvey slammed the state in 2017, Dozier said.

Since then, the program's 26 agents, supported occasionally by more agents from the university's agricultural extension arm, have helped members of the agriculture industry respond to wildfires, tornadoes, floods and more across the state. Producers can fill out a damage survey online, requesting additional

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resources, advice or an in-person visit if they need it.

Texas A&M's response team provides pickup points with animal supplies after storms but also tries to move out quickly once local operators are back in business. That's someone's livelihood too, Dozier said.

One such operator, Chuck Ridder, has owned Knox Drive Farm & Feed for about 20 years and says that whenever something like this happens, he will open even without electricity.

"We know animals have to eat," he said.

Before Beryl hit, Ridder moved hundreds of bags to storage areas several feet off the ground in case the warehouse was flooded. Luckily, he said, water never entered his warehouse. But Beryl's strong winds damaged one of the warehouse's metal doors. He had to put the door back in place as the storm was still passing through Porter to ensure rain and wind didn't damage his feed supply inside the warehouse.

Many Texas farmers aren't strangers to bad weather.

"One of my producers told me, 'If you farm in Texas, you need to learn to farm in a continuous drought interrupted by times of flooding,'" Dozier said. "That's the mindset that you need to have."

It's a challenging reality that means people have to trust each other in hard times, and many of them do.

Customers, neighbors and friends alike come through Ridder's doors knowing they'll likely be able to get what they need even when the power is out. One of Ridder's good friends, Tommy Johnson, is a longtime customer who keeps his 14 South African Boer goats in a pen by Ridder's warehouse.

Ridder said Johnson knows where the key is located to unlock the back door of his business.

"Anytime that they need something, just leave a note," Ridder said.

Ridder said when he needed a chainsaw to cut down some trees that were knocked down around his store and home, Johnson picked one up for him.

"We lean on each other, try to help the best we can," Johnson said.

## Four US presidents were assassinated; others were targeted, as were presidential candidates

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Before Saturday's apparent attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, there have been multiple instances of political violence targeting U.S. presidents, former presidents and major party presidential candidates.

A look at some of the assassinations and attempted assassinations that have occurred since the nation's founding in 1776:

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**, the 16th president

Lincoln was the first president to be assassinated, shot by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865, as he and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, attended a special performance of the comedy "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington.

Lincoln was taken to a house across the street from the theater for medical treatment after he was shot in the back of the head. He died the next morning. His support for Black rights has been cited as a motive behind his killing.

Two years before the assassination, during the Civil War, which was fought over slavery, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation granting freedom to slaves within the Confederacy.

Lincoln was succeeded by Vice President Andrew Johnson.

Booth was shot and killed on April 26, 1865, after he was found hiding in a barn near Bowling Green, Virginia.

**JAMES GARFIELD**, the 20th president

Garfield was the second president to be assassinated, six months after taking office. He was walking through a train station in Washington on July 2, 1881, to catch a train to New England when he was shot by Charles Guiteau.

Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone inventor, tried unsuccessfully to find the bullet lodged in Garfield's chest using a device he designed specifically for the president. The mortally wounded president lay at the



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White House for several weeks but died in September after he was taken to the New Jersey shore. He had held office for six months.

Garfield was succeeded by Vice President Chester Arthur.

Guiteau was found guilty and executed in June 1882.

WILLIAM McKINLEY, the 25th president

McKinley was shot after giving a speech in Buffalo, New York, on Sept. 6, 1901. He was shaking hands with people passing through a receiving line when a man fired two shots into his chest at point-blank range. Doctors had expected McKinley to recover but gangrene then set in around the bullet wounds.

McKinley died on Sept. 14, 1901, six months after opening his second term.

He was succeeded by Vice President Theodore Roosevelt.

Leon F. Czolgosz, an unemployed, 28-year-old Detroit resident, admitted to the shooting. Czolgosz was found guilty at trial and put to death in the electric chair on Oct. 29, 1901.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, the 32nd president

Roosevelt, at the time the president-elect, had just given a speech in Miami from the back of an open car when gunshots rang out.

Roosevelt was not injured in the February 1933 shooting that killed Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak.

Giuseppe Zangara was convicted in the shooting and sentenced to death.

HARRY S. TRUMAN, the 33rd president

Truman was staying at Blair House, across the street from the White House, in November 1950 when two gunmen broke in.

Truman was not injured, but a White House policeman and one of the assailants were killed in an exchange of gunfire. Two other White House policemen were wounded.

Oscar Callazo was arrested and sentenced to death. In 1952, Truman commuted the sentence to life in prison. He was released from prison in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter.

JOHN F. KENNEDY, the 35th president

Kennedy was fatally shot by a hidden assassin armed with a high-powered rifle as he visited Dallas in November 1963 with first lady Jacqueline Kennedy. Shots rang out as the president's motorcade rolled through Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas.

Kennedy was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he died soon after.

He was succeeded by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, who was sworn into office in a conference room aboard Air Force One. He is the only president to take the oath of office on an airplane.

Hours after the assassination, police arrested Lee Harvey Oswald after finding a sniper's perch in a nearby building, the Texas School Book Depository.

Two days later, Oswald was being taken from police headquarters to the county jail when Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby rushed forward and fatally shot Oswald.

GERALD FORD, the 38th president

Ford faced two assassination attempts within weeks in 1975 and was not hurt in either incident.

In the first attempt, Ford was on his way to a meeting with California's governor in Sacramento when Charles Manson disciple Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme pushed through a crowd on the street, drew a semi-automatic pistol and pointed it at Ford. The gun wasn't fired.

Fromme was sentenced to prison and released in 2009.

It was 17 days later when another woman, Sara Jane Moore, confronted Ford outside a hotel in San Francisco. Moore fired one shot and missed. A bystander grabbed her arm as a second shot was attempted.

Moore was sent to prison and released in 2007.

RONALD REAGAN, the 40th president

Reagan was leaving a speech in Washington, D.C., and walking to his motorcade when he was shot by John Hinckley Jr., who was in the crowd.

Reagan recovered from the March 1981 shooting. Three other people were shot, including his press secretary, James Brady, who was partially paralyzed as a result.

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Hinckley was arrested and confined to a mental hospital after a jury found him not guilty by reason of insanity in shooting Reagan. In 2022, Hinckley was freed from court oversight after a judge determined he was “no longer a danger to himself or others.”

GEORGE W. BUSH, the 43rd president

Bush was attending a rally in Tbilisi in 2005 with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili when a hand grenade was thrown toward him.

Both men were behind a bulletproof barrier when the grenade, wrapped in cloth, landed about 100 feet away. The grenade did not explode, and no one was hurt.

Vladimir Arutyunian was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, presidential candidate

The former president was shot in Milwaukee in 1912 while campaigning to return to the White House. Roosevelt had previously served two terms as president and was running again as a third-party candidate. Folded papers and a metal glasses case in Roosevelt’s pocket apparently blunted the bullet’s impact and he was not seriously hurt.

John Schrank was arrested and spent the remainder of his life in mental hospitals.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, presidential candidate

Kennedy was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination when he was killed at a Los Angeles hotel — moments after giving his victory speech for winning the 1968 California primary.

Kennedy was a U.S. senator from New York and the brother of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated five years earlier.

Five other people were wounded in the shooting.

Sirhan Sirhan was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death. That was commuted to life in prison, where Sirhan remains after his latest petition for release was denied last year.

GEORGE C. WALLACE, presidential candidate

Wallace was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination when he was shot during a campaign stop in Maryland in 1972, an incident that left him paralyzed from the waist down.

Wallace, the governor of Alabama, was known for his segregationist views, which he later renounced.

Arthur Bremer was convicted in the shooting and sentenced to prison. He was released in 2007.

## **Richard Simmons, a fitness guru who mixed laughs and sweat, dies at 76**

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Richard Simmons, television’s hyperactive court jester of physical fitness who built a mini-empire in his trademark tank tops and short shorts by urging the overweight to exercise and eat better, died Saturday. He turned 76 on Friday.

Simmons died at his home in Los Angeles, his publicist Tom Estey said in an email to The Associated Press. He gave no further details.

Los Angeles police and fire departments say they responded to a house — whose address the AP has matched with Simmons through public records — where a man was declared dead from natural causes.

Simmons, who had revealed a skin diagnosis in March 2024, had lately dropped out of sight, sparking speculating about his health and well-being. His death was first reported by TMZ.

Simmons was a former 268-pound teen who became a master of many media forms, sharing his hard-won weight-loss tips as host of the Emmy-winning daytime “Richard Simmons Show” and author of best-selling books and the diet plan Deal-A-Meal. He also opened exercise studios and starred exercise videos, including the wildly successful “Sweatin’ to the Oldies” line, which became a cultural phenomenon.

“My food plan and diet are just two words — common sense. With a dash of good humor,” he told The Associated Press in 1982. “I want to help people and make the world a healthier, happy place.”

Simmons embraced mass communication to get his message out, even as he eventually became the butt of jokes for his outfits and flamboyant flair. He was a sought-after guest on TV shows led by Merv

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Griffin, Mike Douglas and Phil Donahue. But David Letterman would prank him and Howard Stern would tease him until he cried. He was mocked in Neil Simon's "The Goodbye Girl" on Broadway in 1993, and Eddie Murphy put on white makeup and dressed like him in "The Nutty Professor," screaming "I'm a pony!"

Asked if he thought he could motivate people by being silly, Simmons answered, "I think there's a time to be serious and a time to be silly. It's knowing when to do it. I try to have a nice combination. Being silly cures depression. It catches people off guard and makes them think. But in between that silliness is a lot of seriousness that makes sense. It's a different kind of training."

Simmons' daytime show was seen on 200 stations in America, as well as in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan and South America. His first book, "Never Say Diet," was a smash best-seller.

He was known to counsel the severely obese, including Rosalie Bradford, who held records for being the world's heaviest woman, and Michael Hebranko, who credited Simmons for helping him lose 700 pounds. Simmons put real people — chubby, balding or non-telegenic — in his exercise videos to make the fitness goals seem reachable.

Throughout his career, Simmons was a reliable critic of fad diets, always emphasizing healthy eating and exercise plans. "There'll always be some weird thing about eating four grapes before you go to bed, or drinking a special tea, or buying this little bean from El Salvador," he told the AP in 2005 as the Atkins diet craze swept the country. "If you watch your portions and you have a good attitude and you work out every day you'll live longer, feel better and look terrific."

Simmons was a native of New Orleans, a chubby boy named Milton by his parents. (He renamed himself "Richard" around the age of 10 to improve his self-image). He would tell people he ate to excess because he believed his parents liked his older brother more. He was teased by schoolmates and ballooned to almost 200 pounds.

Simmons told the AP his mother watched exercise guru Jack LaLanne's TV show religiously when he was growing up, but he wasn't crazy about the fitness fanatic. "I hated him," Simmons said. "I wasn't ready for his message because he was fit and he was healthy and he had such a positive attitude, and I was none of those things."

Simmons went to Italy as a foreign exchange student and ended up doing peanut butter commercials and bacchanalian eating scenes for director Federico Fellini in his film "Fellini Satyricon." He told the AP: "I was fat, had curly hair. The Italians thought I was hysterical. I was the life of the party."

His life changed after getting an anonymous letter. "One dark, rainy day I went to my car and found a note. It said, 'Dear Richard, you're very funny, but fat people die young. Please don't die.'" He was so stunned that he went on the starvation diet that left him thin but very ill.

After the crash diet he gained back 65 pounds. Eventually, he was able to devise a sensible plan to take off the pounds and keep them off. "I went into the business because I couldn't find anything I liked," he said.

When Simmons hadn't been seen in public for several years, some news outlets speculated that he was being held hostage in his own house. In telephone interviews with "Entertainment Tonight" and the "Today" show, Simmons refuted the claims and told his fans he was enjoying the time by himself. Filmmaker-writer Dan Taberski, one of his regular students, launched a podcast in 2017 called "Missing Richard Simmons."

In 2022, Simmons broke his six-year silence, with his spokesperson telling the New York Post that the beloved fitness icon was "living the life he has chosen."

One of the online tributes after Simmons' passing was from actor-comedian Pauly Shore, who previously developed an unauthorized biopic of Simmons, which Simmons objected to at the time.

"I just got word like everyone else that the beautiful Richard Simmons has passed," he began in an Instagram post. "I hope you're at peace and twinkling up in the heavens," adding "You're one of a kind, Richard. An amazing life. An amazing story."

## **At a Trump rally, shocking images fill TV screens. Then reporters rush to find out what it means**

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

The images filled television screens across a rattled country on a hot Saturday evening — former President Donald Trump reaching for his bloodied ear as he moved down to the floor of a stage at a Pennsylvania campaign rally and U.S. Secret Service agents rushing to surround him.

While the video was instantly available and repeated dozens of times, its meaning was not as evident. And viewers watched the painstaking process of reporters rushing to fill in the blanks of a political assassination attempt.

“It’s really, really a scary moment in American history,” CNN’s Wolf Blitzer said.

The coverage started immediately

News and broadcast networks began lengthy coverage within moments — as soon as it was apparent that something terrible had happened. What unfolded was a textbook example of the ultimate test for journalists as a big story unfolds: trying to get reliable information as quickly as possible while taking care not to speculate, be overheated or pass on unfounded rumors.

When The Associated Press issued its first alert of the news, at 6:16 p.m. Eastern, it stuck strictly to what could be seen: “Donald Trump escorted off stage by Secret Service during rally after loud noises ring out in crowd.” Similarly, The New York Times’ first word described Trump rushed offstage “after pops that sounded like gun shots were heard.”

In other words: Don’t assume what on its face may seem obvious.

In the early minutes, CNN and others relied on former Secret Service agents to describe how the protective detail responded in Pennsylvania, examining audio from the scene to tell viewers that Trump being whisked off the stage was a sign they believed the immediate threat had passed.

“When a president or presidential figure faces an assassination attempt, the nation is on edge,” said CBS News’ Robert Costa.

NBC News’ Lester Holt and reporter Tom Winter illustrated the care necessary in the situation, telling viewers their source when reporting that the alleged shooter had been killed.

The information indicated, Winter said, that investigators could begin their work of identifying the shooter and trying to find a motive. Asked by Holt about the likelihood that a second shooter was involved, Winter said that’s not often the case — but made sure not to get ahead of what was already known.

“There is a lot of information, a lot of things fluid,” Winter said.

Responding to a situation full of pressure

One passage on CBS showed the competing impulses felt in a pressurized situation. “We’re being very careful” in what we can report, network anchor Adriana Diaz said. That was followed immediately by a colleague passing on an eyewitness account of “a man shot with brain matter on the ground.”

While the video received constant play — in some cases annotated so it was clear to viewers what was being said in the aftermath — networks also displayed still shots, which were frequently more arresting.

On several networks, reporters interviewed people at the rally to find out what they had seen, and what their impressions were. At least one interviewee was honest about her sources.

Asked by a Fox News reporter if she had seen any blood on the former president, the person said, “I talked to ABC News and they said there was.”

## **Israeli strike targets the Hamas military commander and kills at least 90 in southern Gaza**

By MOHAMED JAHJOUH Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel said it targeted Hamas’ shadowy military commander in a massive strike Saturday in the crowded southern Gaza Strip that killed at least 90 people including children, according to local health officials. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said “there still isn’t absolute

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certainty" that Mohammed Deif and a second Hamas commander, Rafa Salama, were killed.

Hamas rejected the claim that Deif was in the area, saying "these false claims are merely a cover-up for the scale of the horrific massacre." The strike took place in an area Israel's military had designated as safe for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Deif and Hamas' top official in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, are believed by Israel to be the chief architects of the Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and triggered the Israel-Hamas war. Not seen in public for years, Deif has long topped Israel's most-wanted list and is believed to have escaped multiple Israeli assassination attempts. On Oct. 7, Hamas issued a rare voice recording of Deif announcing the "Al Aqsa Flood" operation.

The strike came at a delicate time in cease-fire efforts. Deif's death would hand Israel a major victory and Hamas a painful psychological blow. It also could give Netanyahu a possible opening. Again on Saturday, the prime minister said Israel will not end the war until Hamas' military capabilities are destroyed. Deif's death would be a significant step in that direction.

All Hamas leaders are marked for death and "we will reach them all," Netanyahu said. He added that no hostages had been nearby when the strike occurred, without explaining how he knew that.

Deif's killing could also encourage Hamas to harden its positions in talks. He has been in hiding for more than two decades and is believed to be paralyzed. One of the only known images of him is a 30-year-old ID photo released by Israel. Even in Gaza, only a handful of people would recognize him.

Saturday's attack was one of the war's deadliest. The Gaza Health Ministry reported 90 dead and at least 300 others injured. Associated Press journalists counted over 40 bodies at overwhelmed Nasser Hospital nearby. Witnesses described an attack that included several strikes.

"A number of victims are still under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews are unable to reach them," the Health Ministry said.

The Israeli military asserted that "additional terrorists hid among civilians" and described the location as surrounded by trees and several buildings. An Israeli official said the strike hit a fenced area of Khan Younis that was run by Hamas, saying it was not a tent complex but an operational compound. The official described the strike as precise. The army said the compound belonged to Salama.

Witnesses said the strike landed in Muwasi, the Israeli-designated safe zone that stretches from northern Rafah to Khan Younis. Palestinians have fled to the coastal strip, sheltering mostly in tents with few basic services or supplies. More than 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes.

Footage of the aftermath showed a huge crater, charred tents and burnt-out cars. Victims were carried on the hoods and in the hatchbacks of cars, on donkey carts and on carpets.

At the hospital, a baby in a pink shirt, her face covered with sand, cried while receiving first aid. A small boy lay motionless at the other end of the bed, one shoe gone. Many wounded were treated on the floor.

There was "the overwhelming stench of blood," said Louise Wateridge, a spokesperson with the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees who visited the hospital and spoke with several patients. Staff said there were no cleaning products left.

The blast threw a 2-year-old child into the air and the mother was missing, Wateridge said. Another boy had his feet blown off, while an 8-year-old boy was killed. "They told me to go there to be safe," his grieving mother told her of the area struck.

Neighboring Egypt, a mediator in cease-fire talks, condemned the strike. "These ongoing violations against Palestinian citizens add serious complications to the ability of the efforts currently being made to reach calm and a cease-fire," its Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It also criticized the "shameful silence and lack of action from the international community."

Egyptian, Qatari and U.S. mediators have been pushing to narrow gaps between Israel and Hamas over a proposed deal for a three-phase cease-fire and hostage release plan in Gaza.

The U.S.-backed proposal calls for an initial cease-fire with a limited hostage release and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza's populated areas. At the same time, the two sides will negotiate terms of the second phase, which is supposed to bring a full hostage release in return for a permanent cease-fire and complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Netanyahu said he wasn't moving from the U.S.-backed proposal but listed conditions: Israel's right to continue the war until its goals are achieved, the return of as many hostages as possible in the deal's first stage, no return of Hamas fighters to northern Gaza and the prevention of arms smuggling, including control of the key Philadelphi corridor between Gaza and Egypt.

Israel launched its campaign in Gaza after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in which militants stormed into southern Israel and abducted about 250 people.

Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 38,400 people in Gaza and wounded more than 88,000, according to the territory's Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

## **Inside the courtroom as case dismissed against Alec Baldwin in fatal shooting of cinematographer**

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — A nearly three-year legal saga for Alec Baldwin in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer ended Friday without a verdict but with tears of relief for the actor and a small coterie of family who had settled into a somber daily routine on wooden benches inside a windowless New Mexico courtroom at trial.

In the morning, 16 jurors had filed into the courtroom for a third day of scrawling notes and listening with steepled hands to testimony in the involuntary manslaughter trial against Baldwin in the 2021 shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, only to be released for the day as the trial took an unscheduled detour.

"Have a great weekend," Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said.

Outside the jury's view, the criminal case against Baldwin was teetering as defense attorneys for Baldwin accused local investigators and prosecutors of concealing evidence that might shed light on the unconfirmed origin of live ammunition on the set of "Rust."

It was Baldwin's fifth day in court. He arrived each morning in a black SUV with his wife, Hilaria Baldwin, to a phalanx of outdoor media cameras. Inside the courtroom Monday, at the start, an energetic Baldwin whispered to an attorney, scrawled on a legal pad and passed post-it notes to his legal team.

The defense won an early victory as the judge ruled Baldwin could not be held criminally liable for his role as co-producer on "Rust." The case would focus on Baldwin's handling of a gun as lead actor.

Come Tuesday, the defendant's younger brother, Stephen Baldwin, arrived in the back of the courtroom for jury selection. He would return each day, all day. Among a pool of 70 potential jurors, all but three were familiar with the "Rust" shooting case. By day's end, a jury of five men and 11 women were seated for trial.

For opening statements Wednesday, the courtroom was packed to capacity, with half of the gallery reserved for news media, from local network TV to the Times of London, and a few designated photographers. Attorneys and the public filled the other half, some friends and relatives of Baldwin along with local curiosity seekers and traveling amateur trial aficionados.

Seated in court, Baldwin trained his eyes downward on a notepad, away from the jury as prosecutors gave opening statements and overhead video monitors showed the aftermath of the fatal shooting at a movie set ranch.

Prosecutors said Baldwin violated the cardinal rules of firearm safety in pointing a real gun toward Hutchins while playing make-believe. Defense attorneys argued Baldwin was just doing his job as an actor, reasonably relying on other professionals to ensure gun safety, though with tragic consequences.

Baldwin's older sister, Elizabeth Keuchler, shed tears in court as the statements unfolded. She greeted her brother with an embrace across a courtroom banister and would sit close behind him thereafter.

A prominent critic of Baldwin also took her seat in the front of the court gallery: victims' rights attorney Gloria Allred, who is representing the sister and parents of Hutchins in a civil trial seeking damages.

Baldwin's every expression at trial registered on a video feed of the trial transmitted by CourtTV and The

Associated Press. There was a restrained and attentive gaze during a first full day of witness testimony Thursday from the A-list actor with a decades-long career in films and television, from "The Hunt for Red October" to "30 Rock" and as a fixture on "Saturday Night Live."

Baldwin darted from the courtroom once, but otherwise paced slowly and deliberately through the courtroom and the courthouse, where impromptu interviews and photographs were prohibited.

On Friday afternoon, Baldwin's outward demeanor changed little, but tension was building in the courtroom, where Marlowe Sommer weighed a motion to dismiss the case and probed revelations that investigators failed to disclose the receipt of ammunition in March by a man who said it could be related to Hutchins' death.

Prosecutors said they deemed the ammunition unrelated and unimportant, while Baldwin's lawyers alleged they "buried" it.

During an afternoon break, Baldwin took deep, measured breaths as he walked painstakingly from the courtroom. The air whistled slightly as he breathed out with lips pursed. Hilaria Baldwin took his arm and rubbed his back as they paced the hallway.

Back inside, the audience chuckled as defense attorney Alex Spiro sparred with the ammunition supplier for "Rust," Seth Kenney, who had forged a cooperative relationship with investigators in the aftermath of the shooting.

But the courtroom fell silent amid the clatter of laptop keyboards as the judge questioned a sheriff's detective about the decision to place the ammunition in an evidence file, separate from the "Rust" shooting case, and whether lead prosecutor Kari Morrissey knew about that.

"When you say that there were discussions and the decision was made by all of you to put that ammo in a separate file, was Ms. Morrissey part of that discussion?" Marlowe Sommer said.

"Yes," the detective responded.

The case was collapsing. The courtroom gasped as Morrissey acknowledged her co-prosecutor had just resigned.

Tears welled in Baldwin's eyes, followed by sobbing, as the judge outlined her decision: "The sanction of dismissal is warranted in this case."

## **Barbora Krejcikova wins Wimbledon by beating Jasmine Paolini for her second Grand Slam trophy**

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — At age 18, a decade before Barbora Krejcikova won Wimbledon on Saturday, she was done with junior tennis and couldn't decide whether to pursue a professional tennis career or move on, go to school and find a different path.

So Krejcikova wrote a letter to one of her idols, 1998 Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna, and dropped it off at her home in their native Czech Republic. Not only did Novotna tell Krejcikova she had talent and should stick with the sport, but she also became a mentor until dying of cancer in 2017.

"Before she passed away," Krejcikova said, "she told me to go and win a Slam."

How about two? Krejcikova was an unseeded, surprising winner at the French Open three years ago and added to her trophy case with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini in the final at the All England Club. Shortly after Saturday's match ended, Krejcikova went and looked at her just-printed name on the list of Wimbledon champions posted in a Centre Court hallway — and saw Novotna's there, too.

"The only thing that was going through my head," Krejcikova said of that moment, "was that I miss Jana a lot. It was just very, very emotional. ... I think she would be proud."

Even after holding on to win on her third match point, Krejcikova insisted that nobody — not her friends, not her family, not even herself — would believe what she's accomplished. It was relatively unlikely, after all, given that she dealt with a back injury and illness this season and her record in 2024 was just 7-9 when she arrived at the grass-court major.

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Krejčíková was the 31st of 32 seeded women at the All England Club. Then came a three-setter in the first round last week, adding to the doubts.

But by the end of the fortnight, there stood the seventh-seeded Paolini, telling Krejčíková: "You play such beautiful tennis."

Krejčíková is the eighth woman to leave Wimbledon as the champion in the past eight editions of the event. Last year's champion also is from the Czech Republic: unseeded Marketa Vondroušová, who lost in the first round last week.

Paolini, the runner-up to Iga Świątek at the French Open last month, is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2016 to get to the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in the same season — and the first since Venus Williams in 2002 to lose both.

"If I keep this level," said Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy, "I think I can have the chance to do great things."

This match was as back-and-forth as could be.

Fittingly, the last game took 14 points to decide, with Krejčíková needing to fend off a pair of break chances. She eventually converted her third match point when Paolini missed a backhand.

"I was just telling myself to be brave," said Krejčíková, who also owns seven Grand Slam titles in women's doubles, including two at Wimbledon, and three in mixed doubles.

She was great at the outset, taking 10 of the initial 11 points and five of the initial six games as the crowd, likely hoping to see a more competitive contest, pulled loudly for Paolini, yelling "Forza!" ("Let's go!"), the way she often does, or "Calma!" ("Be calm!").

"She was taking the ball earlier," Paolini said, "and she was moving me."

In the early going, Paolini looked very much like someone burdened by residual fatigue from the longest women's semifinal in Wimbledon history, her 2-hour, 51-minute win over Donna Vekić on Thursday.

But after a trip to the locker room before the second set, Paolini took charge, controlling more of the longer baseline exchanges, while Krejčíková's errors mounted.

From 3-all in the final set, Paolini faltered, double-faulting for the only time all afternoon to get broken. Krejčíková then held at love for 5-3 and soon was serving out the championship, no matter how tough things got down the stretch.

During the trophy ceremony, much as she did following her singles triumph in Paris in 2021, Krejčíková spoke about Novotná's influence on her tennis life — and her life, in general.

Later Saturday, at Krejčíková's news conference, she said Novotná frequently appears in her dreams. They'll converse with each other, she explained.

A reporter asked Krejčíková what she'd like to say to Novotná now that they both are Wimbledon champions.

"Well, I think I would turn it around," Krejčíková said with a smile. "I would like to hear what she would tell me."

## Rudy Giuliani's bankruptcy case was thrown out.

### Here are some key things to know

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge threw out the bankruptcy case of former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani on Friday. He cited repeated "uncooperative conduct," including a failure to comply with court orders and disclose sources of income.

While Giuliani's creditors can now pursue other legal remedies, such as seizing his apartments and other assets, the judge's decision also allows the former prosecutor and longtime ally of former President Donald Trump to now try to appeal a massive \$148 million defamation verdict.

Here are some details of the bankruptcy case:

What was the judge's reasoning for dismissing the case?

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane had sharp criticism for Giuliani, calling him a "recalcitrant debtor" who thumbed his nose at the bankruptcy process to shield himself from the defamation judgment and other



debts.

"Transparency into Mr. Giuliani's finances has proven to be an elusive goal," Lane wrote in his decision, adding how he "sees no evidence that this will change."

Lane expressed concern Giuliani funneled his income into companies he owned and never reported any income from those entities. He also failed to disclose he is pitching his own "Rudy's Coffee" brand and didn't immediately disclose a book contract.

Did Giuliani want this to happen?

Not at first. Giuliani filed for bankruptcy last December, days after a jury awarded the eye-popping judgment to two former Georgia election workers who said he spread lies about them in 2020 and upended their lives with racist threats and harassment. The bankruptcy filing had frozen collection of that debt.

Giuliani's lawyers this month sought to have a trustee sell off his assets, but they changed their minds and on Wednesday pushed for the case to be dismissed. Giuliani's spokesperson said he expects the former U.S. attorney will ultimately be "totally vindicated" in court.

What happens next?

Now that the case has been tossed out, Giuliani is no longer protected from creditors, including judgments, collection actions, foreclosures and repossessions, because of an automatic stay granted under federal bankruptcy law. That means his creditors can try to recoup at least some of the money he owes by various means, such as getting a court order to seize his assets.

It also means the two election workers can return to the court and seek enforcement of their judgment. Their lead bankruptcy attorney said in a statement on Friday they plan to "move forward as quickly as possible." Giuliani is now free to appeal the defamation verdict.

What is the current state of Giuliani's finances?

When Giuliani filed for bankruptcy, he listed nearly \$153 million in existing or potential debts. That included nearly \$1 million in state and federal tax liabilities, money he owes lawyers and millions more in potential judgements in lawsuits against him. He estimated at the time he had assets worth \$1 million to \$10 million.

In his most recent financial filing in the bankruptcy case, he said he had about \$94,000 in cash at the end of May and his company, Giuliani Communications, had about \$237,000 in the bank. He has been drawing down on a retirement account, worth nearly \$2.5 million in 2022. It had just over \$1 million in May.

## Shelling kills 4 in Ukraine as a drone attack sparks fire at an oil depot in Russia

By SAMYA KULLAB and ELISE MORTON undefined

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian shelling of Ukraine killed four people on Saturday, officials said, as the two countries exchanged drone attacks, one of which set ablaze a Russian oil depot.

Two people died in Ukraine's partly occupied Kherson region and two were wounded in the attack close to the regional capital, said Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin. Two other people died Saturday afternoon and 22 were wounded in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, according to Gov. Oleh Syniehubov.

An oil depot in the Tsimlyansky district, deep inside Russia's southwestern Rostov region, was set ablaze in the early hours of Saturday following a Ukrainian drone attack — the latest long-range strike by Kyiv's forces on a border region.

Ukraine has in recent months stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals in an effort to slow down the Kremlin's war machine. Moscow's army is pressing hard along the front line in eastern Ukraine, where a shortage of troops and ammunition in the third year of war has made defenders vulnerable.

Rostov Gov. Vasily Golubev said the drone attack caused a fire spanning 200 square meters (2,100 square feet), but there were no casualties. Some five hours after he reported the fire on the Telegram messaging app, Golubev said it had been extinguished.

In addition to two drones being intercepted over the Rostov region, Russian air defense systems over-

night destroyed two drones over the country's western Kursk and Belgorod regions, the Russian Ministry of Defense said.

Ukraine's air defenses, meanwhile, intercepted four of the five drones launched by Russia overnight, the Ukrainian air force said. The fifth drone left in the direction of Belarus, said air force commander Mykola Oleschuk.

Meanwhile, eight people were wounded in shelling in the town of Shebekino in Russia's Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said Saturday.

Vadym Filashkin, the Ukrainian governor of the partly occupied eastern Donetsk region, said that Russian attacks on Friday had killed six people and wounded 22.

Also on Saturday, the Kremlin warned that the deployment of US missiles in Germany could make European capitals targets for Russian missiles.

The U.S. and Germany announced Wednesday they would begin "episodic deployments" of long-range missiles to Germany in 2026, including Tomahawk, SM-6 and hypersonic missiles.

"We have enough capacity to contain these missiles but the potential victims are the capitals of these countries," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, speaking on Russian state television.

## **The son of Asia's richest man gets married in the year's most extravagant wedding**

By RAFIQ MAQBOOL and RAJANISH KAKADE Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — The youngest son of Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man, married his longtime girlfriend early Saturday in what many dubbed the wedding of the year, attended by global celebrities, business tycoons and politicians, highlighting the billionaire's staggering wealth and rising clout.

The wedding rituals, including exchanging garlands by the couple and walking around the sacred fire, began Friday and were completed past midnight.

The celebrations of Anant Ambani marrying Radhika Merchant took place at the Ambani-owned Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai and the family home. The marriage culminated months of wedding events that featured performances by pop stars including Rihanna and Justin Bieber.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a reception organized by the Ambanis on Saturday evening.

The Ambanis hosted a "blessing ceremony" for friends and family members to meet the couple and wish them a happy married life.

India Today television news channel reported that the newlyweds touched Modi's feet as a show of respect and sought his blessings.

The four-day wedding celebrations began Friday with the traditional Hindu wedding ceremony and will be followed by a grand reception to run through the weekend. The guest list includes former British Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Boris Johnson; John Kerry, the former U.S. special envoy for climate, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin H. Nasser; and Adele, Lana Del Rey, Drake and David Beckham, according to local media. The Ambani family did not confirm the guest list.

Television news channels showed the arrivals of celebrities like Kim Kardashian, who was dressed in red, and professional wrestler and Hollywood actor John Cena.

Kardashian sisters Kim and Khloé took a ride in a motorized rickshaw through bustling Mumbai streets Friday before joining the wedding ceremonies, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

International guests wore traditional clothes by major Indian fashion designers. They put on embroidered sherwanis — long-sleeved outer coats worn by men in South Asia. Cena came in a sky-blue sherwani and white pants. Nick Jonas wore a pink sherwani and white pants.

Bollywood icons Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Ranbir Kapoor attended the wedding and danced to popular Hindi movie songs. Indian cricketers, including icons Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav, were among the invitees.

Police imposed traffic diversions around the wedding venue from Friday to Monday to handle the influx of guests who flew to Mumbai, where heavy monsoon rains have caused flooding and flight disruptions

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for the past week.

The extravaganza and the display of opulence that comes with the wedding have led many to raise questions about rising inequality in India, where the gap between rich and poor is growing. The event has also sparked anger among some Mumbai residents, who say they are struggling with snarled traffic.

"It affects our earnings. I don't care much about the wedding," said Vikram, a taxi driver who uses only one name.

The father of the groom, Mukesh Ambani, is the world's ninth-richest man, with a net worth of \$116 billion, according to Forbes. He is the richest person in Asia. His Reliance Industries is a conglomerate reporting over \$100 billion in annual revenue, with interests that include petrochemicals, oil and gas, telecoms and retail.

The Ambani family owns, among other assets, a 27-story family compound in Mumbai worth \$1 billion. The building contains three helipads, a 160-car garage and a private movie theater.

The groom, 29-year-old Anant, oversees the conglomerate's renewable and green energy expansion. He also runs a 3,000-acre (about 1,200-hectare) animal rescue center in Gujarat state's Jamnagar, the family's hometown.

The bride, Radhika Merchant, also 29, is the daughter of pharmaceutical tycoon Viren Merchant and is the marketing director for his company, Encore Healthcare, according to Vogue.

Ambani's critics say his company has relied on political connections during Congress Party-led governments in the 1970s and '80s, and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule after 2014.

The Ambani family's pre-wedding celebrations have been lavish and star-studded from the start.

In March, they threw a three-day prenuptial bash for Anant that had 1,200 guests, including former world leaders, tech tycoons and Bollywood megastars, and performances by Rihanna, Akon and Diljit Dosanjh, a Punjabi singer who shot to international fame when he performed at Coachella. The event was also attended by tech billionaires Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates.

It was the start of lavish, months-long pre-wedding celebrations that grabbed headlines and set off a social media frenzy.

In May, the family took guests on a three-day cruise from Italy to France, which included Katy Perry singing her hit song "Firework" and a performance by Pitbull, according to media reports.

The family also organized a mass wedding for more than 50 underprivileged couples on July 2 as part of the celebrations.

Last week, Justin Bieber performed for hundreds of guests at a pre-wedding concert that included performances by Bollywood stars Alia Bhatt, Ranveer Singh and Salman Khan.

Ambani also made headlines in 2018, when Beyoncé performed at pre-wedding festivities for his daughter. Former U.S. Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry were among those who rubbed shoulders with Indian celebrities and Bollywood stars in the western Indian city of Udaipur.

## **Dr. Ruth Westheimer, America's diminutive and pioneering sex therapist, dies at 96**

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the diminutive sex therapist who became a pop icon, media star and best-selling author through her frank talk about once-taboo bedroom topics, has died. She was 96.

Westheimer died on Friday at her home in New York City, surrounded by her family, according to publicist and friend Pierre Lehu.

Westheimer never advocated risky sexual behavior. Instead, she encouraged an open dialogue on previously closeted issues that affected her audience of millions. Her one recurring theme was there was nothing to be ashamed of.

"I still hold old-fashioned values and I'm a bit of a square," she told students at Michigan City High School in 2002. "Sex is a private art and a private matter. But still, it is a subject we must talk about."

Westheimer's giggly, German-accented voice, coupled with her 4-foot-7 frame, made her an unlikely look-

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ing — and sounding — outlet for “sexual literacy.” The contradiction was one of the keys to her success.

But it was her extensive knowledge and training, coupled with her humorous, nonjudgmental manner, that catapulted her local radio program, “Sexually Speaking,” into the national spotlight in the early 1980s. She had an open approach to what two consenting adults did in the privacy of their home.

“Tell him you’re not going to initiate,” she told a concerned caller in June 1982. “Tell him that Dr. Westheimer said that you’re not going to die if he doesn’t have sex for one week.”

As a sign of her appeal across the generations and social culture, tributes came from actor-comedian Adam Sandler — “She always made us smile,” he wrote on X — to New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, who appointed Westheimer the state’s Ambassador of Loneliness. “May her memory be a blessing,” said the governor in a statement. “She was brave, funny, candid and brilliant.”

Her radio success opened new doors, and in 1983 she wrote the first of more than 40 books: “Dr. Ruth’s Guide to Good Sex,” demystifying sex with both rationality and humor. There was even a board game, Dr. Ruth’s Game of Good Sex.

She soon became a regular on the late-night television talk-show circuit, bringing her personality to the national stage. Her rise coincided with the early days of the AIDS epidemic, when frank sexual talk became a necessity.

“If we could bring about talking about sexual activity the way we talk about diet — the way we talk about food — without it having this kind of connotation that there’s something not right about it, then we would be a step further. But we have to do it with good taste,” she told Johnny Carson in 1982.

She normalized the use of words like “penis” and “vagina” on radio and TV, aided by her Jewish grandmotherly accent, which The Wall Street Journal once said was “a cross between Henry Kissinger and Minnie Mouse.” People magazine included her in their list of “The Most Intriguing People of the Century.” She even made it into a Shania Twain song: “No, I don’t need proof to show me the truth/Not even Dr. Ruth is gonna tell me how I feel.”

Westheimer defended abortion rights, suggested older people have sex after a good night’s sleep and was an outspoken advocate of condom use. She believed in monogamy.

In the 1980s, she stood up for gay men at the height of the AIDS epidemic and spoke out loudly for the LGBTQ community. She said she defended people deemed by some far-right Christians to be “subhuman” because of her own past.

Born Karola Ruth Siegel in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1928, she was an only child. At 10, she was sent by her parents to Switzerland to escape Kristallnacht — the Nazis’ 1938 pogrom that served as a precursor to the Holocaust. She never saw her parents again; Westheimer believed they were killed in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

At the age of 16, she moved to Palestine and joined the Haganah, the underground movement for Israeli independence. She was trained as a sniper, although she said she never shot at anyone.

Her legs were severely wounded when a bomb exploded in her dormitory, killing many of her friends. She said it was only through the work of a “superb” surgeon that she could walk and ski again.

She married her first husband, an Israeli soldier, in 1950, and they moved to Paris as she pursued an education. Although not a high school graduate, Westheimer was accepted into the Sorbonne to study psychology after passing an entrance exam.

The marriage ended in 1955; the next year, Westheimer went to New York with her new boyfriend, a Frenchman who became her second husband and father to her daughter, Miriam.

In 1961, after a second divorce, she finally met her life partner: Manfred Westheimer, a fellow refugee from Nazi Germany. The couple was married and had a son, Joel. They remained wed for 36 years until “Fred” — as she called him — died of heart failure in 1997.

After receiving her doctorate in education from Columbia University, she went on to teach at Lehman College in the Bronx. While there she developed a specialty — instructing professors how to teach sex education. It would eventually become the core of her curriculum.

“I soon realized that while I knew enough about education, I did not really know enough about sex,” she wrote in her 1987 autobiography. Westheimer then decided take classes with the renowned sex therapist,

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Dr. Helen Singer Kaplan.

It was there that she had discovered her calling. Soon, as she once said in a typically folksy comment, she was dispensing sexual advice "like good chicken soup."

"I came from an Orthodox Jewish home so sex for us Jews was never considered a sin," she told The Guardian in 2019.

In 1984, her radio program was nationally syndicated. A year later, she debuted in her own television program, "The Dr. Ruth Show," which went on to win an Ace Award for excellence in cable television.

She also wrote a nationally syndicated advice column and later appeared in a line of videos produced by Playboy, preaching the virtues of open sexual discourse and good sex. She even had a series of calendars.

Her rise was noteworthy for the culture of the time, in which then-President Ronald Reagan's administration was hostile to Planned Parenthood and aligned with pro-conservative voices.

Phyllis Schlafly, a staunch anti-feminist, wrote in a 1999 piece "The Dangers of Sex Education," that Westheimer, as well as Gloria Steinem, Anita Hill, Madonna, Ellen DeGeneres and others were promoting "provocative sex chatter" and "rampant immorality."

Father Edwin O'Brien, the director of communications for the Catholic archdiocese of New York who would go on to become a cardinal, called her work upsetting and morally compromised.

"It's pure hedonism," O'Brien wrote in a 1982 opinion published by The Wall Street Journal. "The message is just indulge yourself; whatever feels good is good. There is no higher law of overriding morality, and there's also no responsibility."

Westheimer made appearances on "The Howard Stern Radio Show," "Nightline," "The Tonight Show," "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," "The Dr. Oz Show" and "Late Night with David Letterman." She played herself in episodes of "Quantum Leap" and "Love Boat: The Next Wave."

Her books include "Sex for Dummies," her autobiographical works "All in a Lifetime" (1987) and "Musically Speaking: A Life through Song" (2003). The documentary "Ask Dr. Ruth" aired in 2019.

During her time as a radio and television personality, she remained committed to teaching, with posts at Yale, Hunter, Princeton and Columbia universities and a busy college lecture schedule. She also maintained a private practice throughout her life.

Westheimer received an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College-Institute of Religion for her work in human sexuality and her commitment to the Jewish people, Israel and religion. In 2001 she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Leo Baeck Medal, and in 2004, she received the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, from Trinity College.

Ryan White, the director of "Ask Dr. Ruth," told Vice in 2019 that Westheimer was never someone following trends. She was always an ally of gay rights and an advocate for family planning.

"She was at the forefront of both of those things throughout her entire life. I met her friends from her orphanage saying even when she met gay people throughout her life in the '30s, '40s, and '50s she was always accepting of those people and always saying that people should be treated with respect."

She is survived by two children, Joel and Miriam, and four grandchildren.

## Deeply Democratic Milwaukee wrestles with hosting Trump and the Republican National Convention

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee loves its Miller Beer, Brewers baseball and "Bronze Fonz" statue.

The deepest blue city in swing state Wisconsin, Milwaukee also loves Democrats.

So it can be hard for some to swallow that Milwaukee is playing host to former President Donald Trump and the Republican National Convention this coming week while rival Chicago, the larger city just 90 miles to the south, welcomes President Joe Biden and Democrats in August.

It didn't help smooth things over with wary Democrats after Trump used the word "horrible" when talking about Milwaukee just a month before the convention that begins Monday.

Adding to the angst, Milwaukee was supposed to host the Democratic National Convention in 2020, but it

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didn't happen due to COVID. Owners of local restaurants, bars and venues say the number of reservations that were promised during the RNC aren't materializing. And protesters complained the city was trying to keep them too far away from the convention site to have an impact.

"I wish I was out of town for it," Jake Schneider, 29, said as he passed by the city's statue of Fonzie, the character played by Henry Winkler in the 1970s sitcom "Happy Days" that was set in Milwaukee. "I'm not super happy that it's the Republican Party coming to town."

Schneider, who lives in a apartment downtown, said Trump "sabotaged himself" with his comments about Milwaukee.

"I hope he's proven wrong and sees how wonderful of a city it is," Schneider said.

Ryan Clancy, a self-described democratic socialist who is a state representative and serves on the Milwaukee County Board, puts it more bluntly: "It is shameful that we rolled out the red carpet for the RNC."

Still, Democratic and Republican convention boosters point to the potential economic boon and chance to show off Milwaukee and Wisconsin during the convention that runs through Thursday.

"Folks are ready to have the convention and have it be successful and elevate Milwaukee to the next level," said Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, a Democrat. "Donald Trump, regardless of where it happens, is going to be the Republican nominee. So it didn't matter if it happened in Milwaukee. It didn't matter if it happened in Mar-a-Lago."

Milwaukee has been in the national spotlight more in recent years, following the Bucks winning the national NBA championship in 2021 and the airing this spring of the latest season of "Top Chef," a reality TV show that was filmed in the city and featured a Milwaukee chef who made the finals.

And as Trump's "horrible" comment showed, Milwaukee has also long been a target for conservative Republicans who have pointed to its crime, low-ranking schools and financial struggles as an example of poor Democratic leadership.

"I hope this convention shows off all the best things about Milwaukee," said Wisconsin Republican Party Chairman Brian Schimming. "But it is a city, like many other Democrat-run cities, that has extraordinarily significant issues."

Democrats picked Milwaukee for the party's last convention, but the 2020 DNC became an online event because of the pandemic.

The city's back-to-back selection by Democrats and Republicans speaks to the swing state's importance.

Wisconsin is one of a handful of battleground states likely to determine this year's presidential race. It was one of the so-called "blue wall" states that Democrats once relied on, but Trump narrowly won in 2016, paving the way for his surprise victory. Biden flipped the state back in 2020, and both campaigns are targeting it heavily this year.

But there's nothing swing about Milwaukee. It voted 79% for Biden in 2020. After his loss that year, Trump fought unsuccessfully to disqualify thousands of voters in Milwaukee, falsely portraying late-arriving returns driven by heavy absentee turnout as fraud.

Republicans say staging the convention in Milwaukee will energize their base. While the city itself is Democratic, the outlying suburbs are a battleground within a battleground state. Once deeply red, Democrats have made inroads since 2016 as suburban women, in particular, drift away from Trump and the conservative agenda.

Before the city was even chosen to host the convention, Clancy and other Democrats urged Milwaukee to drop out of the running, as Nashville did after Democrats there objected to hosting Republicans.

But by far the biggest kerfuffle came in June when Trump used the word "horrible" in talking about Milwaukee during a closed-door meeting with Republicans in Congress. While those in attendance disagreed over whether Trump was talking about crime, election concerns or something else, and he later said in a Wisconsin rally that he "loved" Milwaukee, for some Democrats it only reaffirmed earlier concerns about playing host to Republicans.

Mobcraft, a Milwaukee-based brewery, showed off the city's Midwestern sense of humor and love of beer by releasing a "(not so) Horrible City IPA."

As the convention nears, some local business owners are questioning estimates that the convention will

bring in \$200 million in revenue.

Only one of the six venues run by the Pabst Theater Group in Milwaukee is booked for the week of the convention, said Gary Witt, the group's president and CEO. Witt said he will lose more than \$100,000 by not having venues used, and he's concerned about the impact the convention will have on other Milwaukee businesses.

"Once these people are all gone, we're meaningless to them anyway," Witt said of convention attendees.

Demonstrators are trying to spread counterprogramming throughout the week, but have argued they're being kept too far from the convention sites.

Omar Flores, chairman of the March on the RNC Coalition, said he's confident the protests will be peaceful and take advantage of the national platform they will have. He said the coalition had to fight to get a march route that will be in sight and sound of the convention, after Milwaukee's Democratic leaders "completely sold us out, completely sold out the city and refused to listen to what any of the residents had to say."

Clancy, the Democratic state representative, said he hoped having the convention in the city where he was born and raised would motivate liberals.

"I hope that having a critical mass of people in our city who hate us will be enough to mobilize folks for the primary in August and in November," he said.

## **Conservative groups are pushing to clean voter rolls.**

### **Others see an effort to sow election distrust**

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

Conservative groups are systematically attempting to challenge the legitimacy of large numbers of voter registrations across the country before the presidential election.

The strategy is part of a wider effort raising questions about the integrity of this year's election as former President Donald Trump repeatedly claims without evidence that his opponents are trying to cheat.

The voter roll tactics include mass door-knocking campaigns, using special software designed to identify voters whose eligibility could be challenged and a crush of lawsuits. Some of those have been brought by the Republican National Committee, which hosts the GOP's national convention this coming week.

Several Republican secretaries of state are combing through voter lists on their own, including in Ohio and Tennessee, or to comply with aggressive new state voting laws.

Those behind the reviews cast them as good government endeavors intended to help local election offices clean up the rolls. Voting rights groups and Democrats believe the effort aims to shake faith in the results of the 2024 election and lay the legal groundwork to challenge the results.

Here is a look at what's happening around voter roll challenges:

States already must maintain their rolls

"Soles to the Rolls" in Michigan, whose name echoes the "Souls to the Polls" get-out-the-vote efforts of Black churches, and Nevada's Pigpen Project are among state-level initiatives in which volunteers are trying to find flaws in state voter rolls.

Their findings can sound ominous: dead people or non-U.S. citizens registered, or people listed at addresses where they no longer live, suggesting the potential for double-voting. Conservative activists identify the suspect records, then deliver them to local or state election offices for possible removal.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, earlier this year told a suburban Detroit clerk to reinstate the registrations of about 1,000 people who had been removed through such an effort, after the purge was reported by The New York Times.

Amy Cohen, executive director of the National Association of State Election Directors, said information from member states suggests the efforts are happening nationwide. She said many of the challenges ignore or misunderstand the complexity and legal requirements around maintaining voter rolls.

The National Voter Registration Act already requires states to take steps to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists. Just because someone finds an outdated registration doesn't mean election officials are unaware of it, Cohen said.

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"Voter registration lists are living, breathing databases," she said. "That's part of the challenge, because people move and die and change their names and just exist every single day, and when you get a list, you're purchasing a moment in time. Registration activities and voter registration list maintenance activities are happening on an ongoing basis."

The fight for voter data

Conservative groups behind the voter roll reviews have filed hundreds of public records requests across the country to gain access to voter files. In almost a quarter of states, the disputes have landed in the courts. One of their goals is to create public databases for anyone to search and question whether certain voters should be allowed on a state's rolls.

The Public Interest Legal Foundation, led by conservative attorney Cleta Mitchell, is behind challenges in Colorado, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, South Carolina and Wisconsin. Mitchell is perhaps best known for participating in Trump's call asking Georgia's secretary of state to "find" the votes he needed to win the state in 2020. Arizona, California, Maryland and Pennsylvania face lawsuits by other groups.

In Georgia, an Associated Press survey of the state's 40 largest counties found that more than 18,000 voters had been challenged over the past two years, even though local election offices had rejected most of them.

Many of the volunteer groups have received encouragement to mine the voter lists at workshops led by MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell, a Trump ally and leading voice promoting election conspiracy theories. They also sometimes employ tools such as EagleAI Network, a data-matching software program developed for Mitchell's Election Integrity Network that creates voter lists from change-of-address forms, criminal justice records and property tax data.

The Public Interest Legal Foundation also sued the Electronic Registration Information Center, a voluntary system in which states share data to maintain accurate voter lists. Its lawsuit sought access to information the member states had agreed to keep private when they joined.

The foundation's president and general counsel, J. Christian Adams, who previously worked in the Justice Department's Voting Section, said not a single eligible voter has been removed from the rolls as a result of his group's efforts. He called the movement's critics paranoid.

"Fraud, I don't care about," he said. "Accuracy is what I care about." He said correct voter lists are especially important in states that mail ballots to every registration on their lists.

At least nine Republican-led states have abandoned the voluntary network, known as ERIC, after it became embroiled in election conspiracy theories, weakening its ability to cross-check voter records across state lines. Supporters of the system noted the paradox of the Republican states leaving because it's the only national system that helps states identify voters who are not eligible to cast a ballot.

Cleaning the rolls or sowing distrust?

The Republican National Committee, newly reconstituted under Trump, also is involved in efforts to challenge voter rolls before the November election.

Michigan's voter rolls have been targeted in numerous lawsuits over the past four years by the RNC and others. A Nevada lawsuit filed by the RNC in March alleges the state is violating the National Voter Registration Act by failing to keep voter registration records accurate and updated. RNC Chair Michael Whatley at the time cited the need for "clean voter rolls."

Experts say the federal law actually errs on the side of enfranchising voters. To prevent eligible voters from being disenrolled, it requires outdated records to remain in the system for some years after they're flagged as a potential concern. It's a technicality that can explain questions often raised by conservative groups, such as the number of voter registrations exceeding a jurisdiction's population.

It's like "comparing apples to orangutans," Nevada's Democratic attorney general said in faulting the data RNC cited in its analysis. In its brief, the Democratic National Committee cast the RNC lawsuits as building ammunition for a 2024 election challenge.

"This lawsuit is little more than political theater, designed less to address any real (much less substantial) issue with Nevada's voter registration lists, than to sow public distrust in the security and integrity of our electoral systems," the filing said. "It is no more than a continuation of Republicans' 2020 efforts to



undermine public confidence in our elections.”

Casting suspicions on voting

Trump ally Ken Blackwell, who leads election efforts at the America First Policy Institute, has said legitimate voters “run the risk of having their hard-won right to vote diluted by unlawfully cast ballots” if voter roll glitches aren’t addressed.

However, election law experts say the problem that such efforts aim to fix — ineligible voters casting ballots — remains exceptionally rare.

“Why? Because it’s common sense that one person voting when they’re not eligible is not going to swing an election, and is going to expose himself to criminal penalties,” said Alice Clapman, senior counsel with the Brennan Center for Justice’s democracy program. “So, even if someone were inclined to do this, it’s very high risk and very low reward.”

Clapman said the disinformation around voter rolls is eroding trust in election officials, who already face pressure and threats, and is undermining faith in the “proud civic activity” of voting.

“What’s so insidious about it is voting used to be a unifying national activity,” she said. “It’s now become this object of suspicion, and that’s really corrosive of our democracy.”

## **On anniversary of Frida Kahlo’s death, her art’s spirituality keeps fans engaged around the globe**

By MARÍA TERESA HERNÁNDEZ Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Frida Kahlo had no religious affiliation. Why, then, did the Mexican artist depict several religious symbols in the paintings she produced until her death on July 13, 1954?

“Frida conveyed the power of each individual,” said art researcher and curator Ximena Jordán. “Her self-portraits are a reminder of the ways in which we can exercise the power that life — or God, so to speak — has given us.”

Born in 1907 in Mexico City — where her “Blue House” remains open for visitors — Kahlo used her own personal experiences as a source of inspiration for her art.

The bus accident that she survived in 1925, the physical pain that she endured as a consequence and the tormented relationship with her husband — Mexican muralist Diego Rivera — all nurtured her creativity.

Her take on life and spirituality sparked a connection between her paintings and her viewers, many of whom remain passionate admirers of her work on the 70th anniversary of her death.

One of the keys to understand how she achieved this, Jordán said, lies in her self-portraits.

Kahlo appears in many of her paintings, but she did not portray herself in a naturalistic way. Instead, Jordán said, she “re-created” herself through symbols that convey the profoundness of interior human life.

“Diego and I” is the perfect example. Painted by Kahlo in 1949, it sold for \$34.9 million at Sotheby’s in New York in 2021, an auction record for a work by a Latin American artist.

In the painting, Kahlo’s expression is serene despite the tears falling from her eyes. Rivera’s face is on her forehead. And, in the center of his head, a third eye, which signifies the unconscious mind in Hinduism and enlightenment in Buddhism.

According to some interpretations, the painting represents the pain that Rivera inflicted on her. Jordán, though, offers another reading.

“The religiosity of the painting is not in the fact that Frida carries Diego in her thoughts,” Jordán said. “The fact that she bears him as a third eye, and Diego has a third eye of his own, reflects that his affection for her made her transcend to another dimension of existence.”

In other words, Kahlo portrayed how individuals connect to their spirituality through love.

“I connected with her heart and writings,” said Cris Melo, a 58-year-old American artist whose favorite Kahlo work is the aforementioned painting. “We had the same love language, and similar history of heartache.”

Melo, unlike Kahlo, did not go through a bus accident that punctured her pelvis and led to a life of surgeries, abortions and a leg amputation.

Still, Melo said, she experienced years of physical pain. And in the midst of that suffering, while fearing that resilience might slip away, she said to herself: "If Frida could handle this, so can I."

Even if most of her artwork depicts her emotional and physical suffering, Kahlo's paintings do not provoke sadness or helplessness. On the contrary, she is seen as a woman — not only an artist — strong enough to deal with a broken body that never weakened her spirit.

"Frida inspires many people to be consistent," said Amni, a London-based Spanish artist who asked to be identified only by his artistic name and reinterprets Kahlo's works with artificial intelligence.

"Other artists have inspired me, but Frida has been the most special because of everything she endured," Amni said. "Despite her suffering, the heartbreak, the accident, she was always firm."

For him, as for Melo, Kahlo's most memorable works are those in which Rivera appears on her forehead, like a third eye.

According to Jordán, Kahlo touched a chord that most artists of her time did not. Influenced by revolutionary nationalism, muralists like Rivera or David Alfaro Siqueiros kept a distance from their viewers though intellectual works that mainly focused on their social, historic and political views.

Kahlo, on the other hand, was not shy in portraying her physical disabilities, her bisexuality and the diversity of beliefs that weigh on the human spirit.

In "The Wounded Deer," for example, she is transformed into an animal whose body bleeds after being shot by arrows. And just like a martyr in Catholic imagery, Kahlo's expression remains composed.

Aligned with a Marxist ideology, Kahlo thought that the Catholic Church was emasculating, meddling and racist. But in spite of her disdain toward the institution, she understood that devotion leads to a beneficial spiritual path.

A decade after her accident, probably overwhelmed by the fact that she survived, Kahlo started collecting votive offerings — tiny paintings that Catholics offer as gratitude for miracles. In her Blue House, the 473 votive offerings are still preserved.

Kahlo might have regarded her survival as a miracle, Jordán said. "The only difference is that she, due to her context, did not attribute that miracle to a deity of Catholic origin, but to the generosity of life."

Perhaps that's why, in her final days, she decided to paint a series of vibrant, colorful watermelons that would be her last work.

In that canvas, over a split watermelon lying underneath a clouded sky, she wrote: "Vida la vida," or "Long live life."

## **With words, deeds and arms deals, allies make the case for NATO in terms that would appeal to Trump**

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — European allies in NATO are stepping up their military spending, just as Donald Trump wanted. They're pointing to common interests, such as concerns over China. They're creating American jobs by buying U.S. weapons.

In words, deeds and arms deals, leaders of the United States' partners in NATO are making the case for the military alliance in ways likely to appeal to the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. Even if their actions aren't necessarily directly tied to Trump's prodding, the allies are casting them in terms he would approve of — and maybe take credit for.

It's not clear what Trump would do about U.S. participation in NATO if elected. He's shrugged off questions from reporters even as President Joe Biden has cast him as a threat to the 75-year-old Western military alliance.

But European leaders are worried. With Russia intensifying missile attacks on cities in Ukraine, a democracy in the heart of Europe, the battle to keep the U.S. in NATO is far more than gamesmanship for European partners. For some, it's existential.

"If Ukraine loses, my country's next. That's clear," Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said during the NATO summit in Washington this past week.

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His government is raising taxes to keep up with an urgent push, shared by the majority of European NATO members, to strengthen military capability in response to Russia's war in Ukraine.

At the summit, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg made a point of saying that allies had gotten Trump's message, with a record 23 of the 32 now spending at least the agreed-upon 2% of their gross domestic product on their militaries.

"The United States has been understood. Allies have acted," Stoltenberg declared in response to one of many questions about a possible Trump withdrawal from NATO.

Stoltenberg and most others had previously said that it was largely Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine that had unleashed security spending by NATO members in Europe. Indeed, in 2021, only six allies had met the spending target.

The message from Europe, as it makes the case for the country with the biggest military and economy to stay engaged: The U.S. is good for European allies and NATO. And NATO and European allies are good for the U.S. And a Europe that's safe and stable is a great market for the U.S.

"This defense of Europe is not only defense tied with values — it is, it's the alliance, it's democracy, it's values. But you know, it's business," Jacek Siewiera, the head of Poland's national security bureau, said in an interview with The Associated Press before the summit.

Lithuanian Defense Minister Laurynas Kasčiūnas ticked off the priorities that his country would share with Trump if he returns to the White House — making European defense more self-reliant, buying more U.S. weapons and thus generating more business for the U.S. arms industry, confronting perceived security threats to the West from China, and sanctioning Iran.

"He's a deal-maker," Kasčiūnas said during a panel discussion at the summit. "I think we should sit, calm down, and if he will win — find a deal."

With the U.S. election in turmoil following Biden's poor debate performance and struggles since to prove he's capable of serving another four years, European officials need to maintain a delicate balance. They stress publicly that they will work with whoever wins November's elections, not wanting to be seen as weighing in on U.S. politics by saying they are worried about Trump or offending Biden by overtly preparing for another Trump presidency.

Trump has caused alarm by speaking admiringly of Russian President Vladimir Putin, even calling his invasion of Ukraine "genius," and disparaging NATO, a mutual-defense pact signed in 1949 as the West confronted the Soviet Union in the Cold War.

U.S. presidents and lawmakers, including Biden, have warned Europe for decades, especially as European military spending sagged after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, that it had to do more to share the financial and military responsibilities of NATO.

But Trump has warned more often and more loudly — and during the current campaign he has threatened to invite Russia to attack NATO allies that are not spending enough on their militaries.

"I just want them to pay their bills. We're protecting Europe. They take advantage of us very badly," he told Fox News Radio last week as Biden and NATO leaders gathered in Washington. He acknowledged that European defense spending was, in fact, up sharply.

Although not as openly as Hungarian leader Viktor Orban, who visited Trump at Mar-a-Lago after the NATO summit, European officials have been working to build relationships with the Trump camp, former diplomats say.

European officials make a point of visiting the factories in U.S. cities and towns that make the weapons their countries are buying or drop mention of them into their conversations, stressing the contribution to the U.S. economy.

Siewiera, the Polish security official, remembers Trump's first term as prosperous for Poland. It was then that his government began investing heavily in U.S. arms including HIMARS rocket-launcher systems, Patriot air defense systems, F-35 fighter jets and Abrams tanks.

"President Trump was right when he harangued us," Poland Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski said at an event at a Washington think-tank on Friday. "So credit where credit is due. Partly."

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Ultimately, said Daniel Fried, a former U.S. ambassador to Poland, now at the Atlantic Council research center, Trump “likes to be a winner.”

“If Trump claims credit and thereby continues U.S. support for NATO because he saved it, that’s a narrative I would encourage Europeans to accept,” Fried said.

## Today in History: July 14, the storming of the Bastille

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 14, the 196th day of 2024. There are 170 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On July 14, 1789, in an event symbolizing the start of the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners inside.

Also on this date:

In 1798, Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it a federal crime to publish false, scandalous or malicious writing about the United States government.

In 1881, outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias “Billy the Kid,” was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner in present-day New Mexico.

In 1912, American folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie was born in Okemah, Oklahoma.

In 1933, all German political parties, except the Nazi Party, were outlawed by the government of Nazi Germany.

In 1945, Italy formally declared war on Japan, its former Axis partner during World War II.

In 1960, 26-year-old Jane Goodall first arrived at the Gombe Stream Reserve in present-day Tanzania to begin her study of the wild chimpanzees living there.

In 2004, the Senate scuttled a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. (Forty-eight senators voted to advance the measure — 12 short of the 60 needed — and 50 voted to block it.)

In 2009, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff arrived at the Butner Federal Correctional Complex in North Carolina to begin serving a 150-year sentence for his massive Ponzi scheme. (Madoff died in prison in April 2021.)

In 2013, thousands of demonstrators across the country protested a Florida jury’s decision the day before to clear George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

In 2015, world powers and Iran struck a deal to curb Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

In 2016, terror struck Bastille Day celebrations in the French Riviera city of Nice as a large truck plowed into a festive crowd, killing 86 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State extremists; the driver was shot dead by police.

In 2020, researchers reported that the first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the U.S. boosted people’s immune systems as scientists had hoped; the vaccine was developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

In 2022, the National Galleries of Scotland said a previously unknown self-portrait of Vincent Van Gogh was discovered behind another of the artist’s paintings when experts took an X-ray of the canvas ahead of an upcoming exhibition.

Today’s Birthdays: Former football player and actor Rosey Grier is 92. Actor Vincent Pastore (TV “The Sopranos”) is 78. Music company executive Tommy Mottola (muh-TOH’-luh) is 76. Movie producer Scott Rudin is 66. Singer-songwriter Anjelique Kidjo is 64. Singer-guitarist Kyle Gass (Tenacious D) is 64. Actor Jane Lynch is 64. Actor Jackie Earle Haley is 63. Actor Matthew Fox is 58. Rock singer-musician Tanya Donnelly is 58. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Ross Rebagliati is 53. Country singer Jamey Johnson is 49. Hip-hop musician Taboo (Black Eyed Peas) is 49. Actor/writer/producer Phoebe Waller-Bridge is 39. Rock singer Dan Reynolds (Imagine Dragons) is 37. MMA fighter Conor McGregor is 36.