

Groton Daily Independent

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Wishing you a Beautiful Day! May each new day this week bring God's blessings to you with good health, prosperity, peace of mind and lots of joy.

the-God
Loves
You-page

Sunday, July 21

- Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.
- St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m.; Zion at 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: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

Monday, July 22

- Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, acini depepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.
- Softball hosts Warner: U8 at 5:30 p.m. (1), U10B at 6:30 p.m. (DH), U12 at 6:30 p.m. (DH)
- Jr. Legion hosts Selby, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
- 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, potluck at Noon.

Tuesday, July 23

- Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, sweet potatoes, vegetable capri blend, applesauce, whole wheat bread.
- Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
- Common Cents Community Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Legion Regions at Clark

SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Navy Radio Man Second Class Ordien F. Herr, Naval Air Force Lieutenant LeRoy M. Herr, and U.S. Navy Radio Man Second Class Eugene L. Herr

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor three brothers, U.S. Navy Radio Man Second Class Ordien F. Herr, Naval Air Force Lieutenant LeRoy M. Herr, and U.S. Navy Radio Man Second Class Eugene L. Herr.

The ceremony will be Monday, August 5, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. (CT) at the High School Gym in Bristol (500 S. 3rd Street).

The US 12 Westbound bridge over the railroad three miles west of Groton will be dedicated to RM2, LT, and RM2 Herr.

Eugene was first reported as missing in action when he was serving on the USS Johnston, which was sunk at the Battle of Samar. Eugene survived the sinking, but died two days later, October 25, 1944, from exhaustion and exposure.

Having completed over 38 missions during the war, LeRoy's PV1 Ventura bomber crashed while flying over Catalina Island September 25, 1945.

On June 8, 1943, a transport carrying personnel to Sydney Australia crashed leaving Tontouta Airfield, New Caledonia. Approximately three minutes after takeoff the plane was seen going into a low turn and disappeared from sight. During the initial climb, one of the engines failed. The pilot tried to return to the airfield, but the aircraft stalled and crashed. The wreckage of the plane was in the water of St. Vincent's Bay about 100 yards from shore. A total of 24 men were killed, one of which was Ordien Herr.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity for remembrance, reflection, and respect. It helps us to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom so much, they were willing to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life."

"We can never underestimate, or over appreciate, the costs they bore for us," said Whitlock. "We must never forget that our fallen sacrificed their future and their dreams. Their memories can only live through the accomplishments to present and future generations."

SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Private First Class John Tuin

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army Private First Class John Tuin.

The ceremony will be Friday, August 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. (CT) at the American Legion Post 184 in Estelline (222 Main Street).

The SD28 bridge over the Big Sioux River, west of Estelline, will be dedicated as the PFC John Tuin Bridge.

Tuin was reported missing in action October 6, 1952, while fighting the enemy in Korea. Tuin's remains are still unaccounted for.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity for remembrance, reflection, and respect. It helps us to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom so much, they were willing to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life."

"We can never over appreciate the costs they bore for us," said Whitlock. "We must never forget that our fallen sacrificed their future and their dreams. Their memories will live on for generations."

Public Radio Staff Layoffs Continue, While Top Brass Keep Their Jobs

At the heart of these layoffs has been financial challenges to public stations, including listeners moving to, and supporting with donations, an ever-growing number of competitors.

As good as the first half of 2024 has been ratings-wise for public news/talk stations such as Washington, D.C.'s WAMU, San Francisco's KQED and Boston's WBUR, that's about all the good news there's been amid layoffs at these and many other public radio stations.

Following NPR's 10% staff cutback last year, 2024 has seen 25 workers pink-slipped at KQED, 15 at WAMU, 31 at Boston's WGBH along with 14% of WBUR's workforce, 14 at Chicago Public Radio, and 15 at Colorado Public Radio.

Not surprisingly, the pattern of cutting those who actually create station content while sparing the top tier has negatively impacted the work environment. "The morale inside the newsrooms is devastated, and it's horrible," University of Southern California Annenberg journalism professor and industry consultant Robert Hernandez tells Nonprofit Quarterly. "We look at someone at the C-level suite and say, 'Man, they're there because they're the smartest people in the room, they deserve that compensation,' but I think we've hit a turning point. Maybe [it's] the increase of unions, [but] people are getting more savvy and start[ing] to see that the emperor has no clothes."

At the heart of these layoffs has been financial challenges to public stations, including listeners moving to, and supporting with donations, an ever-growing number of competitors. "Local and national foundations, a traditional source of support for public media, have spread their funds across other forms of non-profit local news, such as statewide digital news start-ups or news organizations specializing in investigative news, [so] there's a lot more competition within local news for foundation money," says Jim Friedlich, CEO and Executive Director of the Lenfest Institute, a Pennsylvania nonprofit seeking ways to sustain local news organizations.

"Non-profits' membership is down across a number of philanthropic sectors, including public media," Friedlich adds. "Donors have been tighter with their wallets amidst concerns about the economy and inflation. Adding to the strain, many smaller donors can no longer deduct their memberships from their taxes."

How can those still in public radio news/talk stations' corner offices turn things around? "The public media sector needs to move decisively to engage users digitally, to build new and younger audiences at lower cost, and to generate new streams of revenue," Friedlich says. "These challenges don't mean that the whole of public media is broken, nor that it cannot return to growth or emerge even stronger."

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
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-  Reduced risk of heart disease and other illnesses

Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

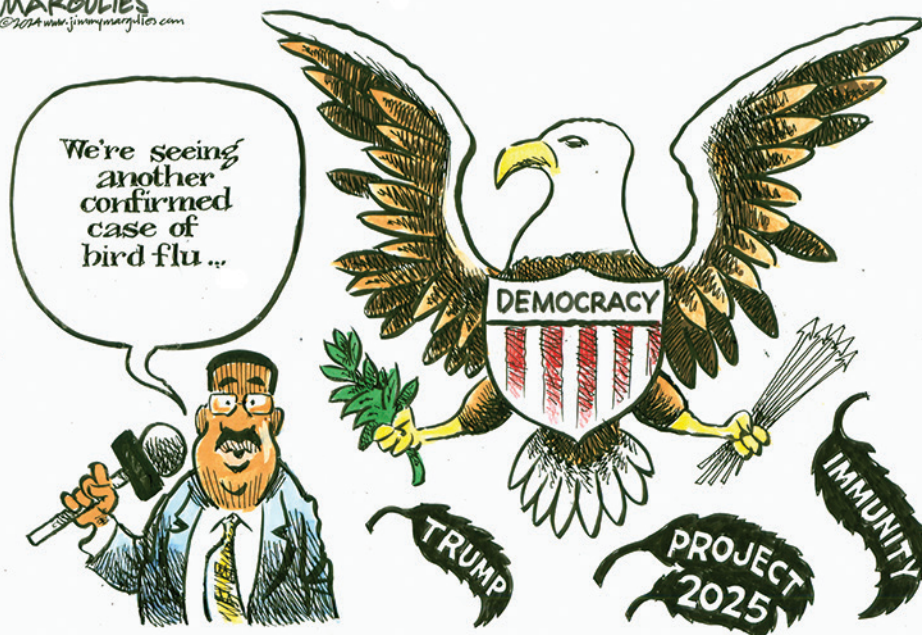
The people answered and said, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed." JOSHUA 24: 16,17



Detail from *The Pillar of Fire* by Paul Hardy (1896)

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MARGULIES
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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. In Luke 21, what shall they see the Son of man coming in “with power and great glory”? *Chariot, Cloud, Whirlwind, Burning bush*

3. Who distributed to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat and a cake of raisins? *Solomon, Paul, Timothy, David*

4. From Exodus 4, who did the Lord provide to Moses to be his mouth-piece? *Abraham, Aaron, Noah, Mahalalel*

5. To whom did the word of the Lord say, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city”? *Jonah, Samuel, James, Peter*

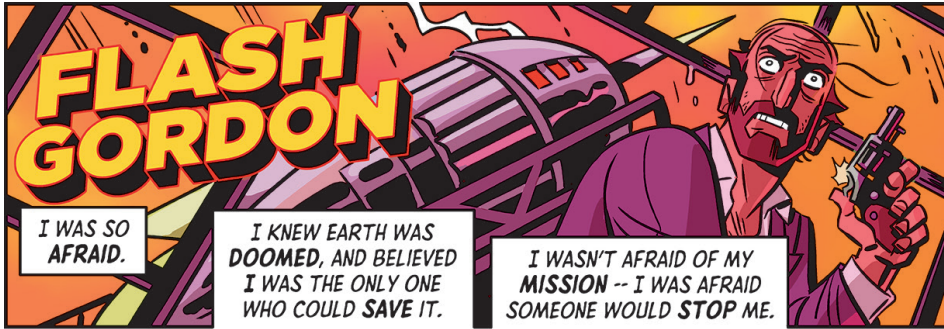
6. In Psalms 22:14, what did the psalmist say his heart was like? *Water, Butter, Wax, Emptiness*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Cloud, 3) David, 4) Aaron, 5) Jonah, 6) Wax

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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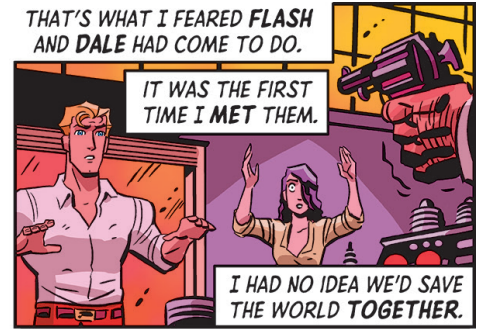


FLASH GORDON

I WAS SO AFRAID.

I KNEW EARTH WAS DOOMED, AND BELIEVED I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SAVE IT.

I WASN'T AFRAID OF MY MISSION -- I WAS AFRAID SOMEONE WOULD STOP ME.



THAT'S WHAT I FEARED FLASH AND DALE HAD COME TO DO.

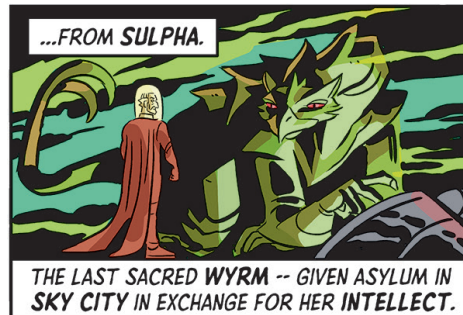
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I MET THEM.

I HAD NO IDEA WE'D SAVE THE WORLD TOGETHER.



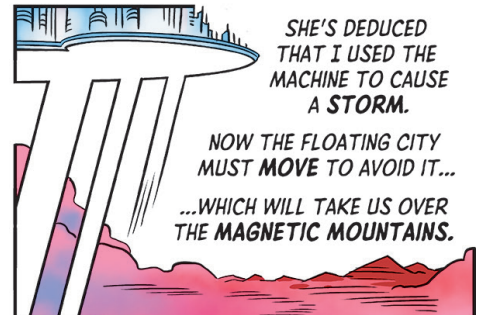
I AM HANS ZARKOV, AND PRINCE VULTAN'S TRAPPED ME INTO RECREATING THE MACHINE MING ALMOST DESTROYED THE EARTH WITH.

I RECEIVE A PRIVATE PNEUMATIC SCROLL...



...FROM SULPHA.

THE LAST SACRED WYRM -- GIVEN ASYLUM IN SKY CITY IN EXCHANGE FOR HER INTELLECT.



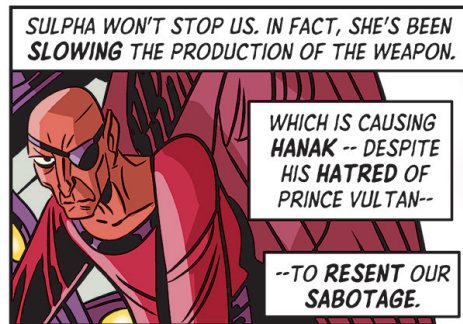
SHE'S DEDUCED THAT I USED THE MACHINE TO CAUSE A STORM.

NOW THE FLOATING CITY MUST MOVE TO AVOID IT...
...WHICH WILL TAKE US OVER THE MAGNETIC MOUNTAINS.



FLASH AND BOK ARE SWIPING PARTS TO CONSTRUCT DESCENT PACKS--

--WHILE DALE CONVINCES LURA TO GIVE US THE ANTI-RADIATION PILLS WE'LL NEED TO SURVIVE THE CLIMB DOWN THE MOUNTAINS.



SULPHA WON'T STOP US. IN FACT, SHE'S BEEN SLOWING THE PRODUCTION OF THE WEAPON.

WHICH IS CAUSING HANAK -- DESPITE HIS HATRED OF PRINCE VULTAN--

--TO RESENT OUR SABOTAGE.



AND AS WE NEAR THE MOUNTAINS...

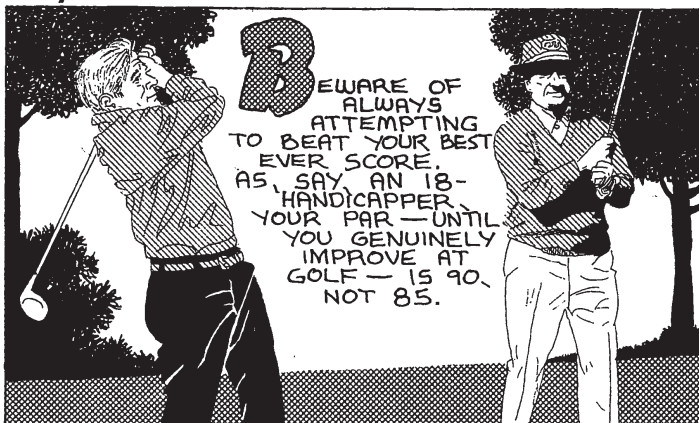
FLASH CLIMBS A SKYSCRAPER TO RETRIEVE THE FINAL INGREDIENT TO OUR ESCAPE.

DAN SCHRADE 7-21-24

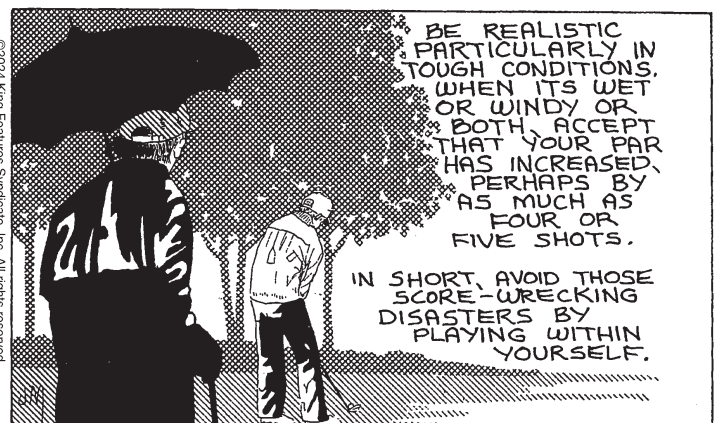
NEXT: GET THE TOOL

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



BEWARE OF ALWAYS ATTEMPTING TO BEAT YOUR BEST EVER SCORE. AS, SAY, AN 18-HANDICAPPER, YOUR PAR -- UNTIL YOU GENUINELY IMPROVE AT GOLF -- IS 90, NOT 85.



BE REALISTIC PARTICULARLY IN TOUGH CONDITIONS. WHEN ITS WET OR WINDY OR BOTH, ACCEPT THAT YOUR PAR HAS INCREASED, PERHAPS BY AS MUCH AS FOUR OR FIVE SHOTS.

IN SHORT, AVOID THOSE SCORE-WRECKING DISASTERS BY PLAYING WITHIN YOURSELF.

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Debilitating Menstrual Pain Might Be Due to Endometriosis

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a woman who has had terrible experiences with menstruation. I've probably seen two dozen different gynecologists, and I complained to every one of them about my painful periods. Not even a painkiller was prescribed.

Most of them seem to think that debilitating pain is part of being female. This pain is so bad that it is incapacitating. I've missed work and school because of it. I would throw up anything that I tried to eat or drink for a full day. It drives me nuts that everyone can empathize with a migraine headache, but no one has empathy for someone with menstrual cramps.

Once, I told the nurse practitioner that I had a really painful episode, and she asked, "Why didn't you come into the office? You might have ruptured something." Had I come into the office, it would have required an ambulance. By then, I had heard about endometriosis. I asked her if she thinks I have it, and she said, "Oooh, you probably do. You'd have to get laparoscopic surgery to know."

Well, that would have been great to know 40 years ago. I could have gotten the surgery and spared myself years of agonizing pain. Did I explain myself incorrectly all those times when talking to my doctors? It's too late for me (thankfully, I'm past all this), but please help us learn how to talk to our doctors in order to get through to them. These are not your garden-variety cramps that can be treated with Midol. -- S.N.

ANSWER: I am very sorry to hear of your experiences, and I'm glad you have written to try to help others avoid this outcome. While it is true that most women have discomfort during menstruation, some women experience a lot more than discomfort, and what you had is not typical at all for dysmenorrhea.

When a woman has pain that doesn't respond to the first-line treatments, such as a heating pad and regular exercise, most primary care doctors, including gynecologists, consider pain medication as well as a trial of hormone treatment (such as combined oral contraceptives -- "birth control pills"). I'm honestly surprised you weren't ever recommended these treatments, even though I have heard horrific stories of pelvic pain being ignored before.

If pain medication and hormone treatment are inadequate, it's time for a primary care doctor like me to refer the patient to a specialist. The specialists I choose are gynecologists who have special expertise and training in pelvic pain. They consider multiple reasons for this persistent pain, including adenomyosis, fibroids and endometriosis.

With endometriosis, there are lesions outside the uterus near the ovaries, pelvic ligaments, bladder, or the lining of the pelvic wall in the cul-de-sac (an anatomical structure in the pelvis). Just like the endometrial tissue in the uterus, these lesions outside the uterus react to hormone levels, and at the time of menstruation, they can typically cause pain or pressure, bowel or bladder issues, painful sex, fatigue, and other symptoms.

While I can't be sure that you had endometriosis, it is the most likely diagnosis. The diagnosis is often supported by an ultrasound, not usually by surgery at first. Medical treatments for endometriosis (such as GnRH-analogue drugs or aromatase inhibitors) are generally preferred to surgery, but surgery is still necessary sometimes.

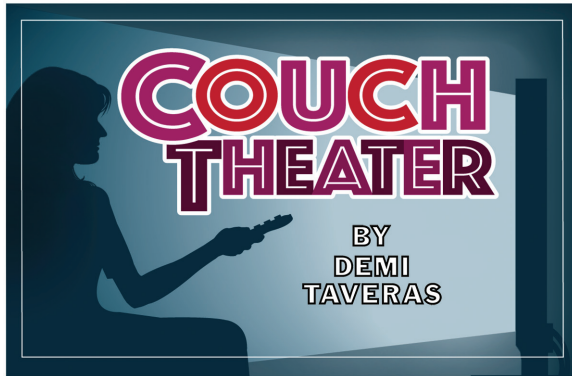
I am concerned about your having seen two dozen gynecologists. One should have been enough to treat you with increasing levels of aggressiveness. I'd advise women in your situation to seek out a gynecologist with expertise in pelvic pain.

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

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From left, Tadhg Murphy, Roger Jean Nsengi-yumva, Lisa Kudrow, Kal-El Tuck, Kiera Thompson and Rune Temte star in "Time Bandits."

Courtesy of Apple TV+

"2024 Paris Olympics" (NR) -- On July 26, the Summer Olympic Games kick off in Paris! Through its streaming service, NBC will provide 7,000 hours of Olympic Games coverage as the 17 days of sports events commence. We know that for sports like basketball, gymnastics and swimming, view-

ers from all across the world will be glued to their screens, but don't forget to check out the many other sports (39 in total) that will be available to stream, such as fencing, skateboarding, track and field, and volleyball. There's even a "Multiview" option so that fans can watch up to four events at one time. And if you miss an event that you really wanted to see, there will be many chances to catch up on the Games' best moments with segments like "Gold Zone" and "Primetime in Paris." (Peacock)

"Time Bandits" (TV-PG) -- This new fantasy-adventure series is an adaptation of the 1981 film of the same name by Terry Gilliam. In just 10 episodes, viewers of all ages can travel through time with a fearless group of thieves - and an 11-year-old history geek named Kevin (Kal-El Tuck). Failing to fit in at school due to his niche interests, Kevin is told by his family to let go of "the past" and focus on what's right in front of him. But when Kevin discovers a time-traveling portal in his wardrobe, any attempt to curb his love of history goes out of the window as he finds himself face-to-face with Vikings, pirates, cavemen and more! Created by and starring Taika Waititi ("Thor: Love and Thunder"), this series premieres July 24. (Apple TV+)

"Cult Killer" (R) -- Alice Eve ("She's Out of My League") leads this crime thriller film out now on streaming. Eve portrays private investigator Cassie Holt, the lucky mentee of renowned investigator Mikeal Tallini (Antonio Banderas). When Mikeal is suddenly murdered, Cassie takes on the case, with a driving motivation to exact revenge on Mikeal's killer. Relying on all the knowledge that her mentor showed her, Cassie grasps for any leads she can find to solve his case, no matter how dangerous or deadly. Seems like your average, cut-and-dry thriller, right? Perhaps this was the reason behind its abysmal box-office earnings. Or maybe it was its uninspiring movie poster that looks like it belongs in the back of a Blockbuster in 2004. (Hulu)

In Case You Missed It

"Bodies Bodies Bodies" (R) -- This A24 film feels like a fever dream, to put it simply, and those who watch A24 know that this usually comes with the territory. Starring Amandla Stenberg ("The Acolyte") and Pete Davidson ("Saturday Night Live"), the film follows a group of friends who host a hurricane party at their wealthy friend's estate. Throughout their night of partying, one friend, Sophie (Stenberg), convinces her friends to play their favorite murder-mystery game: Bodies Bodies Bodies. The game begins but stops unexpectedly once one friend is found dead. Expect Gen-Z humor, the brutality of a slasher, and an ending that not even the best sleuth could guess. (Netflix)

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1. Name the artist who wrote and released "Rock Me on the Water."
2. Jerry Eubanks, Toy Caldwell and George McCorkle were founding members of which band?
3. Which artist released "Lipstick on Your Collar"?
4. Who wrote and released the hit "No Myth"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Thanks for the times that you've given me, The memories are all in my mind."

Answers

1. Jackson Browne, in 1972. Several other artists released covers of the song, including Linda Ronstadt, Johnny Rivers

and Brewer & Shipley.

2. The Marshall Tucker Band, created in the early 1970s. The band got its name from a keyring for the rehearsal space they'd rented. Marshall Tucker, a blind piano tuner, had been the previous tenant.

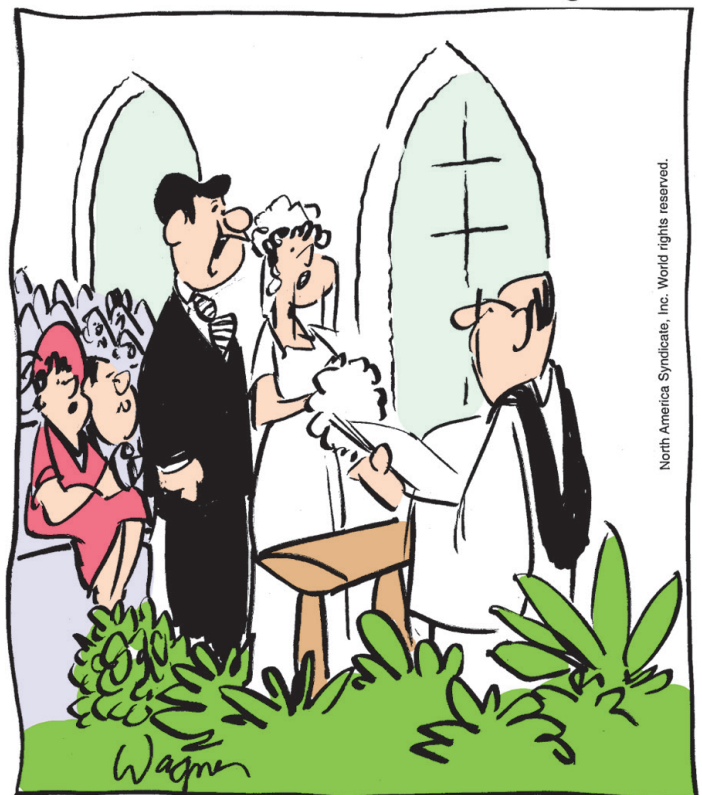
3. Connie Francis, in 1959. The song was intended as the B-side to "Frankie," but was promoted as a double-sided single, and "Lipstick" climbed higher on the charts than "Frankie."

4. Michael Penn, in 1989. Penn later won an MTV award for Best New Artist.

5. "Three Times a Lady," by the Commodores in 1978. The song, written by Lionel Richie, was the group's first No. 1 hit, staying at the tops of the Hot 100, Soul and Adult Contemporary charts for weeks.

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GRIN *and* BEAR IT ^{Wagner}

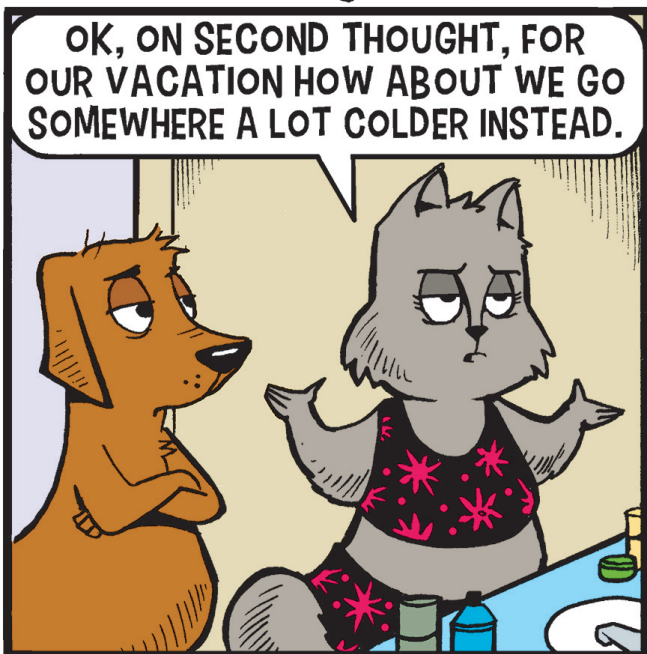


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"Me? Were you talking to me?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

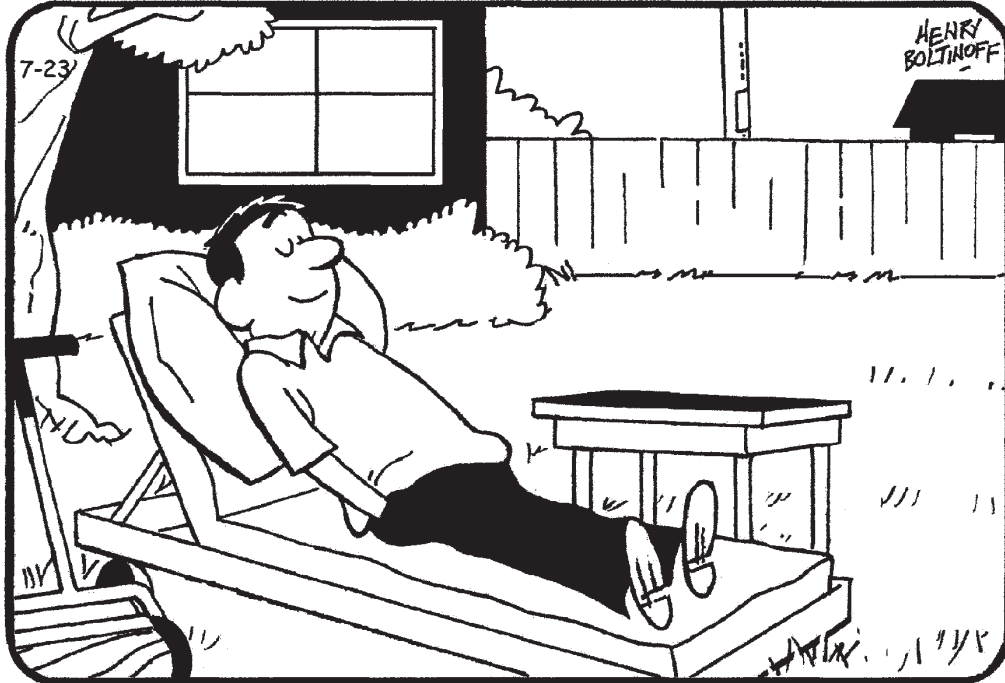
by Dave T. Phipps



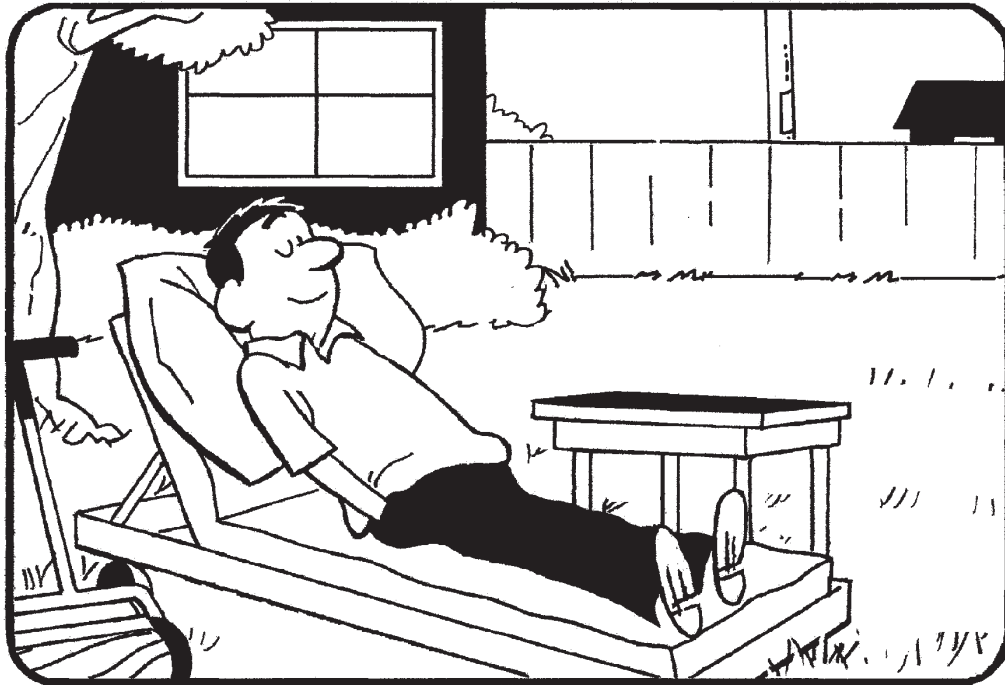
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

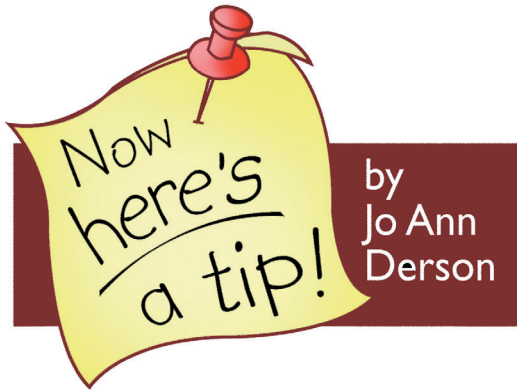


Differences: 1. Table leg is moved. 2. Pillow is larger. 3. Telephone pole is moved. 4. Bush is smaller. 5. Fence boards are wider. 6. Man's legs are longer.

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* Summer to schooltime can be quite a transition for some kids. Begin setting a regular routine well before the first day of school. At least a week before (two if you can), have your kids go to bed at a regular time and wake as if they were going to school. Challenge them to complete their morning routine in time to "catch the bus" to a playground breakfast date.

* "Packing the lunchboxes used to be a pain in our family. But we take time on the weekend to pre-bag snacks and sides, and decide what kinds of sandwiches we will have for the upcoming week. One person makes the sandwiches and the kids get to choose their sides and snacks from the prepped choices."
-- E.A. in Virginia

* When purchasing school supplies, remember that paper, pencils, etc., typically aren't on sale midyear, so stocking up is a good idea. Just make sure the deal you are getting is a good one. Then put it away for distribution later!

* "I lay out my school clothes and even my hairbrush and stuff to get ready. I put my shoes and socks by the front door. I am always ready before my sister, and I get to watch TV while she is running around."
-- R.G. in Florida

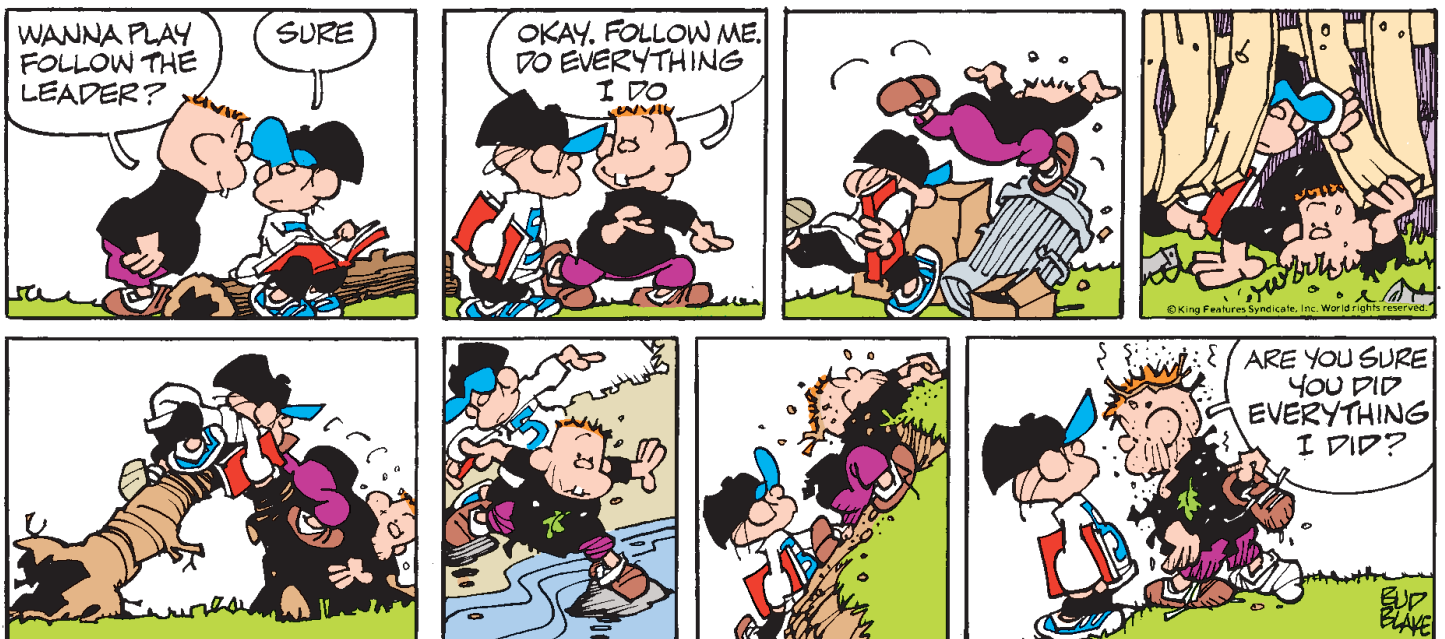
* "Pint-size water bottles are great for refilling with milk. The milk boxes at the grocery store are so expensive, and this way, I can control how chocolatey the chocolate milk is." -- C.C. in Oregon

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

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Groton Daily Independent

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pequod captain
- 5 "Big Blue"
- 8 Driver with a handle
- 12 Sci-fi prefix
- 13 Rep.'s rival
- 14 Sea predator
- 15 Be overly sweet
- 16 The Stars and Stripes
- 18 A cause of pay inequity
- 20 Political meeting
- 21 — butter
- 23 SUV maker
- 24 Veterans
- 28 Snack
- 31 Museum-funding org.
- 32 TV, radio, etc.
- 34 Fib
- 35 Lummoxes
- 37 Celtic language
- 39 Bear hair
- 41 Architect Saarinen
- 42 "Alfie" singer Warwick
- 45 Painter Georges
- 49 It may be hard to break
- 51 Sushi fish
- 52 India's continent

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

- 53 High card
- 54 "Zounds!"
- 55 Corn seasoning
- 56 Shrill bark
- 57 Swift jets
- 7 Roman 2600
- 8 Newspaper piece
- 9 Veggie with florets
- 10 Beige
- 11 Sunbeams
- 17 Joke
- 19 Counterfeit
- 22 Confuse
- 24 Plastic — Band
- 25 Grazing land
- 26 Yellow flower
- 27 Avoid
- 29 Bro's sib
- 30 Sly chuckle
- 33 Suffix for billion
- 36 Baby's beachwear
- 38 Courses
- 40 Genetic letters
- 42 "— I say!"
- 43 "Casablanca" role
- 44 Online auction site
- 46 Carpets
- 47 Body sci.
- 48 Tiny amounts
- 50 Here, to Henri

DOWN

- 1 Curved lines
- 2 Bagel feature
- 3 "Life is like — of chocolates"
- 4 Like Peter Pan
- 5 Mozart opera
- 6 — canto

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

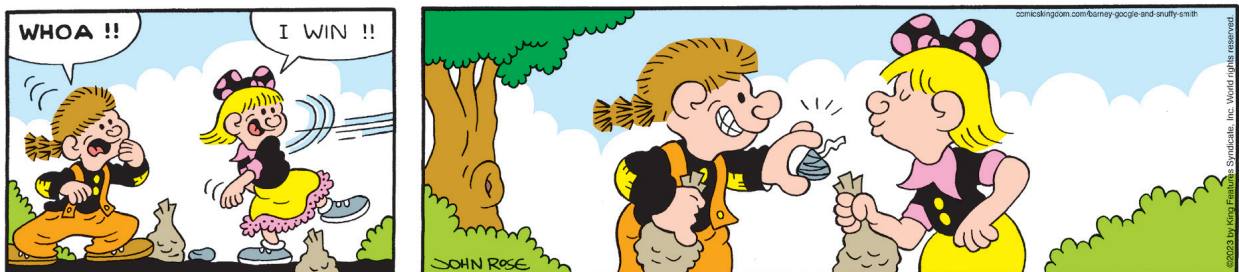
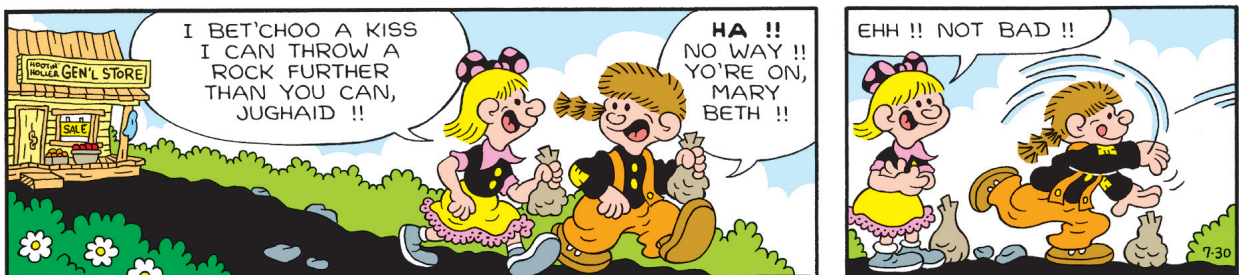
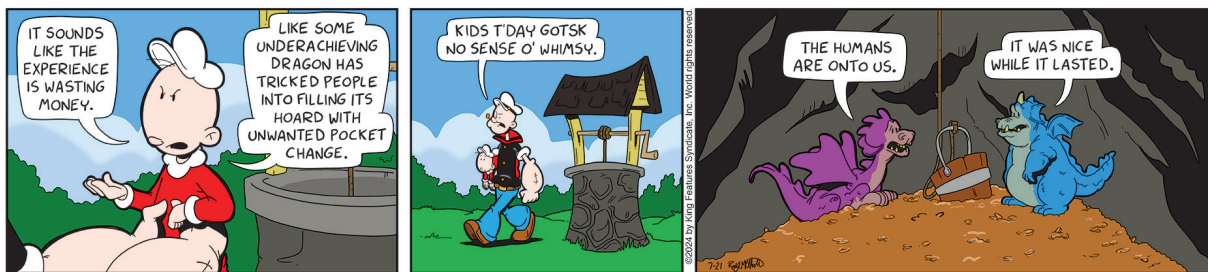
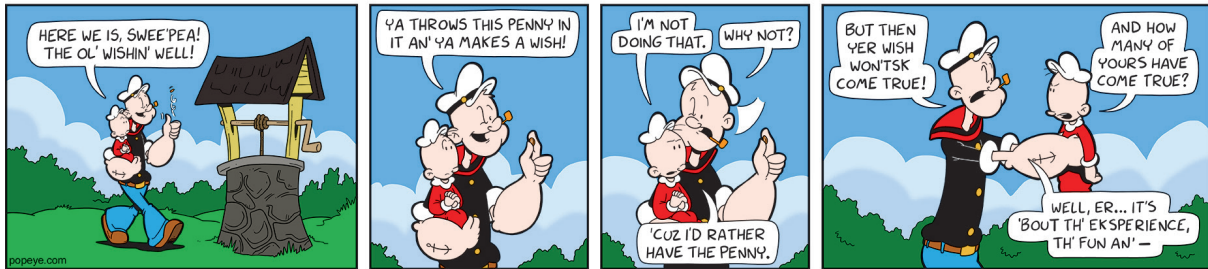
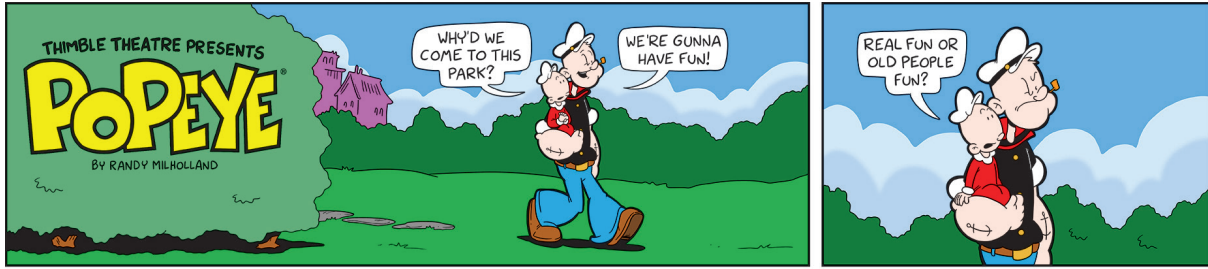
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Groton Daily Independent

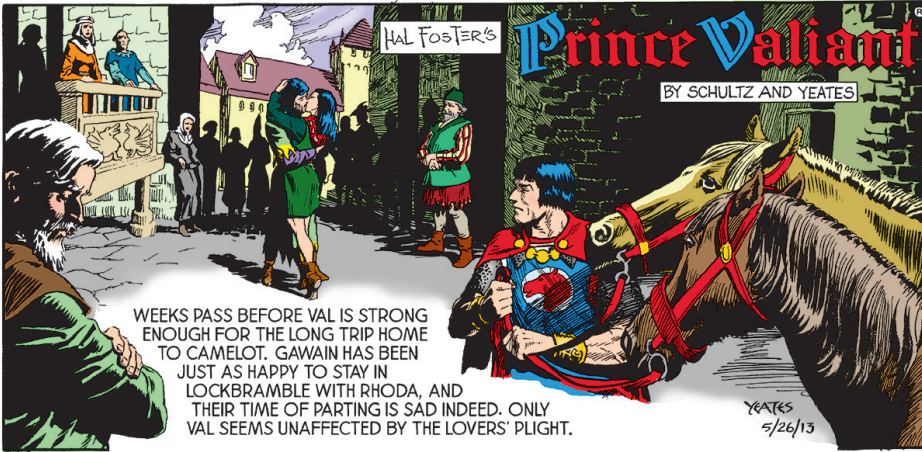
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WEEKS PASS BEFORE VAL IS STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE LONG TRIP HOME TO CAMELOT. GAWAIN HAS BEEN JUST AS HAPPY TO STAY IN LOCKBRAMBLE WITH RHODA, AND THEIR TIME OF PARTING IS SAD INDEED. ONLY VAL SEEMS UNAFFECTED BY THE LOVERS' PLIGHT.

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

YEATES
5/26/13



HE SAYS NOTHING, BUT REMAINS SKEPTICAL OF GAWAIN'S INTENTIONS TOWARD THE GIRL. ONCE PAST LOCKBRAMBLE, THEY SKIRT THE HAUNTED CARTERHAUGH - VAL'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY ENTER AND INVITE SOME TROUBLE IS MET WITH NO ENTHUSIASM FROM GAWAIN.



THIS IS MOST UNLIKE THE ROGUE. AS THEY MOVE FURTHER SOUTH, COUNTY TAVERNS APPEAR, WITH THEIR PROMISE OF COMELY COUNTRY MAIDS. BUT GAWAIN DISPLAYS NONE OF HIS TRADITIONAL INTEREST.

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AT LAST, VAL INSISTS ON A STOP AT ONE HE KNOWS GAWAIN HAS FAVORED. THE ESTABLISHMENT'S FEMALE STAFF RESPONDS TO GAWAIN EXACTLY AS VAL HAD HOPED - BUT TO NO AVAIL. VAL IS FORCED TO CONSIDER THAT GAWAIN MAY HAVE REALLY LOST HIS HEART THIS TIME!

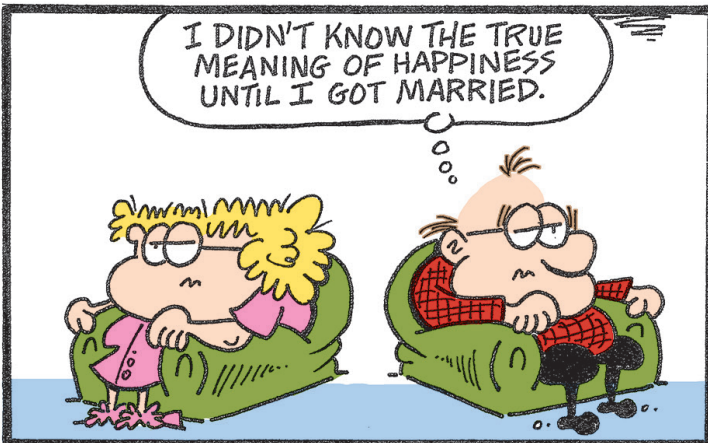
NEXT
A warm welcome



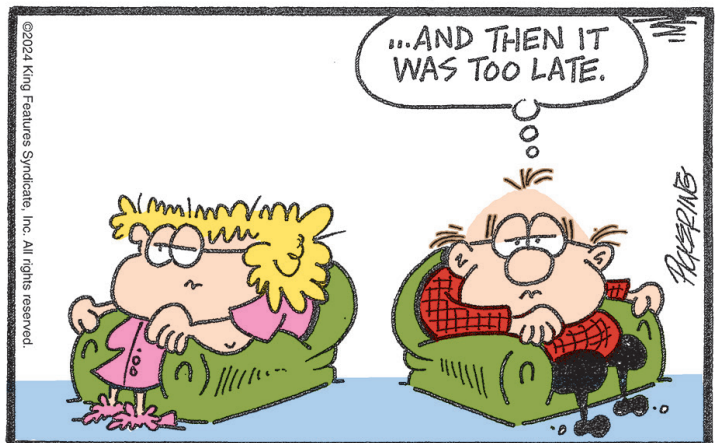
3981

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



I DIDN'T KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF HAPPINESS UNTIL I GOT MARRIED.



...AND THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.

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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Downgrading to a Simpler Phone

Tired of having a fancy cellphone with all the bells and whistles that are confusing to use? Want a phone that makes a call, takes a call, snaps a few pictures and sends text messages, but nothing else? Yes, me too.

I've discovered many, many features on my cellphone that I either do not use, cannot use or will not use. The "location finder" that will pinpoint where I am is a bit scary. The ability to surf the internet and read email via a phone is lost for me if I can't even read the screen. A phone with a "digital wallet" that keeps credit card info and allows purchases right from the phone is risky. And do I really want a "health" feature that stores my data?

I'm on the hunt, therefore, for a simple phone that is used for basic communication.

Does this mark me as "old," no longer wanting to deal with all the fancy features of a phone? No. Many in the younger generations are burned out on the fancy (expensive) smartphones and being on social media for too many hours every day. They're opting for what they call the cheaper "dumb" phones that only have basic features and use cheaper data plans.

That's not to say all of the non-smartphones will be suitable. There's the problem, on many of them, with the keyboard where three letters are assigned to each key. To type a "c" in a text message, you need to hit the key three times. Others, however, have the QWERTY keyboard, just like a computer. And some of those phones do have internet access and email.

If you'd like to consider leaving the world of fancy, expensive cellphones behind, make a list of the features you absolutely need to have, and there's sure to be a minimalist phone just for you.

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1. As of the 2020 Tokyo Games, what country has won the most Olympic gold medals in men's field hockey?

2. What country defeated the U.S. Men's Basketball Team 89-81 in the semifinals of the 2004 Athens Olympic tournament?

3. At the 2012 London Games, Pavlos Kontides won the first Olympic medal, a silver, for the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus. In what sport did Kontides compete?

4. What country swept the medals in the women's 100-meter dash at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics?

5. After being criticized for racing against horses to make money, what Olympic athlete said, "I had four gold medals, but you can't eat four gold medals."

6. America's Victor Montalvo and Lithuania's Dominika "Nicka" Banevic are elite athletes competing in what Olympic sport?

7. During the 1960s, Tamara Press won two Olympic gold medals in the shot put and one gold medal in the discus throw competing for what country?



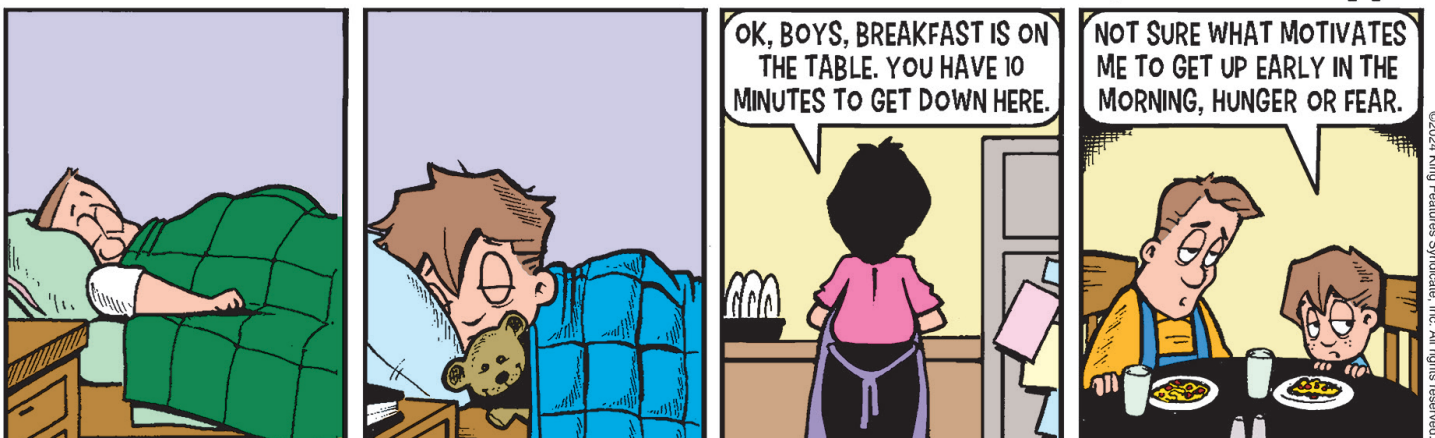
Answers

1. India, with eight.
2. Argentina.
3. Sailing.
4. Jamaica.
5. Jesse Owens.
6. Breaking, or breakdancing.
7. The Soviet Union.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Traveling With a Pet: Car Edition

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We're taking a road trip across the country and bringing our dog "Frankie" with us. He's about 6 years old and well trained, but has never been beyond the front yard. How can we keep him comfortable on our journey? -- Linda P. in Trenton, New Jersey

DEAR LINDA: A road trip sounds like fun! And the key to your dog having a great time is to plan, plan, plan.

First, make sure that Frankie's vaccinations are up to date and that his license tag and identifying information are securely attached to his collar. It's not a bad idea to microchip your dog, too -- in case he runs off and his collar gets detached. Carry a copy of his vet records with you, too.

Next, start planning the road trip with Frankie in mind.

-- Plan rest breaks and build them into your travel time. Check along the route that you'll be traveling for pet-friendly rest areas where you can walk dogs (on leash) during stretch breaks. You'll want to stop every two to three hours.

-- Look for pet-friendly accommodations along the route. If you're camping, check the campsite rules -- not all of them allow pets!

-- Pack a bag just for Frankie that has his medications, food (especially if he eats specialty pet food), favorite toys, extra blanket and extra leash.

-- Make sure Frankie is safe and secure in the car. Bigger dogs do better in a kennel cage set up in the back of your SUV or the folded-down back seat, with a padded bed to lie down on.

-- If Frankie suffers from anxiety or tends to get sick in the car, talk to the vet about medication to ease his symptoms.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

Yukon, divided them into 21 million parcels of just a square inch apiece, and included deeds to the tiny plots in boxes of Puffed Wheat and Puffed Rice.

* A game of bridge contains 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000 possible ways in which the cards can be dealt.

* To encourage his fellow Norsemen to settle a large, snow-and-ice-covered island he discovered in the year 982, Eric the Red called it Greenland. The ploy worked.

* Niagara Falls is slowly eroding by 1 to 2 feet per year. Since their formation some 12,000 years ago, the falls have already withdrawn 7 miles upstream, and if that rate continues, they should meet up with Lake Erie, about 20 miles from their present site, within the next 35,000 years.

* In movies and television, scientists are more likely to suffer a violent death than members of any other profession.

* The lead-acid battery, the type most commonly used in cars, was invented by Martha C. Weston, who patented it in 1859 when she was only 17 years old.

* Lemons float, but limes sink.

Thought for the Day: "I believe ambition is not a dirty word. It's just believing in yourself and your abilities. Imagine this: What would happen if we were all brave enough to be a little bit more ambitious? I think the world would change." -- Reese Witherspoon

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* Venus is the only planet to spin clockwise.

* Around 600 B.C., a Greek athlete by the name of Proteus threw a discus 152 feet from a standing position. His record remained unbroken for over 2,000 years, until Clarence Houser threw a discus 155 feet in 1928.

* The nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty" doesn't state that Humpty Dumpty was an egg.

* In the 1950s, Quaker Oats devised a clever marketing scheme in which the company bought 19.11 acres in the



Only a relatively small number of plants are responsible for the allergies of millions of people in North America every year. Listed below are some of the "pollen factories" most likely to cause itching, sneezing, watery eyes, coughing, nasal discharge and headaches.

Ragweed	throughout North America
Mountain cedar	Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas
Ryegrass	throughout North America
Maple	throughout North America
Elm	throughout most of North America
Mulberry	throughout the United States
Pecan	Southern states in the U.S.
Oak	throughout North America

Source: www.healthline.com

— Brenda Weaver



by Freddy Groves

Blue Angels

Did you ever see the Blue Angels when you were younger? There's something about their fantastic flight demonstration show that can make a kid out of any of us -- again.

I had the opportunity to see the Blue Angels again recently. Even at my age, and knowing the maneuvers were going to be perfectly executed, I held my breath during the Opposing Solos, when two F/A-18 Hornets approach each other on what appears

to be a collision course, passing belly to belly with only inches to spare.

My personal favorite, though, in spite of the carefully choreographed maneuvers of the Hornets, is the awe-inspiring Fat Albert, a hefty Lockheed-Martin C-130T Hercules. Fat Albert is deceptively agile. With solid-fuel rockets attached to the back, Fat Albert can be 1,000 feet off the ground in 15 seconds.

Here are a few Blue Angels tidbits:

-- Did you know they were named after a bar? They were called the "Navy Flight Exhibition Team" until a team member made a trip to New York and saw a magazine ad for a nightclub called Blue Angel.

-- They've gone through a number of different planes since their inception in 1946: Hellcat, Bearcat, Panther, Cougar, Tiger, Phantom II, Skyhawk and F/A-18 Hornet, used since 1986.

-- In spite of the speeds reached, the pilots don't use G-suits to keep blood from pooling in the legs (which causes the pilot to black out momentarily). Instead, the pilots rely on muscle contractions to keep blood flowing.

There are only two more shows in November, when the season ends, but plenty of time to plan next year's vacation around a Blue Angels show in 2008. Make a point to take a kid (or two or three) with you -- of any age.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: What is the longest-running talk show on television?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In terms of letter count, what is the longest month of the year?
3. MOVIES: Which famous action movie is set on Amity Island?
4. SCIENCE: What is heliocentrism?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of horses are featured in Budweiser beer ads?
6. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "The Land of 10,000 Lakes"?
7. FOOD & DRINK: How many goodies are in a baker's dozen?
8. INVENTIONS: Who invented the battery?
9. LANGUAGE: What does an ampersand symbol signify?
10. GEOGRAPHY: In which desert is Las Vegas, Nevada, located?

Answers

1. "The Tonight Show" debuted in 1954.
2. September.
3. "Jaws."
4. It is the idea that the Earth and other planets orbit the Sun.
5. Clydesdale.
6. Minnesota.
7. 13.
8. Alessandro Volta.
9. The conjunction "and."
10. Mojave Desert.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

The Favorite of Heaven

Our history is filled with incredible stories of heroism – and I believe it is also full of times where God’s hand was at play shaping our future.

One such time took place before America was even a country during the French and Indian War. During that war, the American colonists fought alongside the British against the French and their Native American allies.

One young American was an officer in the British Army. He had risen to the rank of colonel because of his hard work.

At the Battle of Cumberland, this officer took heavy fire from the French and their Indian allies. He had two horses shot out from under him. And when the battle was over, he found four bullet holes in his coat.

The fact that this man survived was truly remarkable – inexplicable. Of the 1,500 British troops, more than 700 were killed. Of the mounted officers, only one was left unscathed – this young colonel.

Years later, an Indian Chief who fought in that battle sought out the officer because he wanted to honor “the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle.”

The Chief said that he had ordered his men and said, “mark yon tall and daring warrior? He is not of the red-coat tribe – he hath an Indian’s wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do – himself is alone exposed.” He then said, “The Great Spirit protects that man and guides his destinies – he will become the chief of nations.”

That young colonel’s name was George Washington.

God had a plan for George Washington. He led our nation to Freedom and independence. He became our first president. And 150 years later, his face was carved into a mountain right here in South Dakota.

America nearly experienced an utter tragedy when an attempt was made on President Donald Trump’s life – but God protected him. It appears that a well-timed turn of his head was the difference that saved his life. Sadly, a heroic firefighter, Corey Comperatore, died that day shielding those he loved – and we continue to pray for his family.

God has a plan for you and for me. He has a plan for our nation.

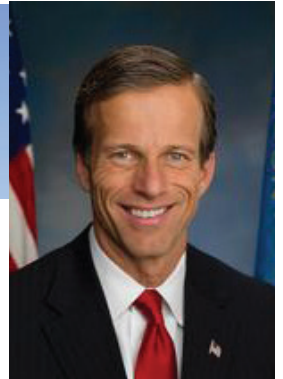
The prophet Jeremiah writes, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” We don’t know the specifics of any of those plans – God’s ways are higher than our ways.

We did not know that there would be a global pandemic – or how that would create an opportunity that South Dakota seized to tell our story and grow. We did not know that we would experience years of record growth and strong budget surpluses.

I believe that these things are all in God’s strong yet loving hands.

If we have faith and work to advance Freedom, I am optimistic that America’s best days are yet to come. I believe that to be part of God’s plan. He will give us hope and a future. And He will continue to bless the United States of America.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Unity After Tragedy

Like most Americans, I was shocked and angered by the attempted assassination of former President Trump at an otherwise peaceful event in Pennsylvania. I am relieved that he was not seriously harmed and grateful for the actions of law enforcement personnel and other first responders. President Trump remains in my prayers, along with all of the innocent bystanders – the deceased and injured and their families.

This is a shocking moment for our country, and a sense of worry is understandably lingering for many Americans. At this stage, there is still a lot we don't know, and there will be a thorough investigation by the U.S. Congress as well as by the relevant federal agencies to determine what happened – most importantly how a gunman was able to get so dangerously close to President Trump. The American people deserve answers, and there needs to be accountability. The director of the Secret Service should resign immediately, and law enforcement must make improvements now to prevent anything like this from ever happening again.

Times of tragedy often demonstrate the worst of which human beings are capable. But they also often give us a glimpse of America at its very best. And that was certainly true in Pennsylvania. We've seen videos and heard stories of the heroism of law enforcement and everyday rally-goers amid chaos. Many of us know about Corey Comperatore, the former fire chief who was shot and killed while bravely shielding his family from gunfire. There is also the emergency room doctor who quickly sprang into action to provide CPR to a man who had been shot, the firefighters from Ohio who helped attendees who appeared to be hurt, and there are certainly other unknown instances of courage from that day. In the midst of tragedy and chaos, it is inspiring to see how the good in our country shines through.

Soon after surviving the attempt on his life, President Trump said, "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans." He's right. That doesn't mean, of course, that our disagreements suddenly disappear, but it does mean that we recognize and remember that most Americans, regardless of where they land on the political spectrum, want what's best for our country's future. And I hope that one good thing that comes out of this tragedy is a renewed sense of what unites us, a renewed respect for our fellow Americans, and a renewed resolve to work toward the "more perfect Union" that our founders envisioned.

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



Protecting Americans

BIG News

The assassination attempt on President Trump was unacceptable. The events of Trump's rally in Pennsylvania are a tragic picture of our current political climate and we all must agree to turn the temperature down. While the violent rhetoric in politics may have contributed to the assassination attempt, the Secret Service failed to uphold its duty that day.

I've been on briefings with House Republicans, U.S. Secret Service, and FBI officials as we try to understand how this plot unfolded and how this security gap occurred. The House Committees on Oversight, Homeland Security, and the Judiciary have all scheduled hearings next week to hear from Secret Service Director Cheatle, Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas, and FBI Director Wray on the security protocols during the rally. I urge these officials to show up at these hearings, to testify, and answer questions. This shooting should never have happened, and it certainly should not happen again.

I extend my condolences to the family of Corey Comperatore who lost his life on Saturday, and I am grateful for the work of first responders and Secret Service officers who ran into the gunfire to protect Trump and others in the crowd.

BIG Idea

Aerostar makes radar and stratospheric balloon systems (think about that Chinese spy balloon we saw across America, but Aerostar won't spy on you). Their manufacturing facility in Sioux Falls will help build platforms used by NASA, Google, and the U.S. Department of Defense. I joined the ribbon cutting for this new facility that will achieve dynamic missions from communications, data relay, surveillance, intelligence, and more.

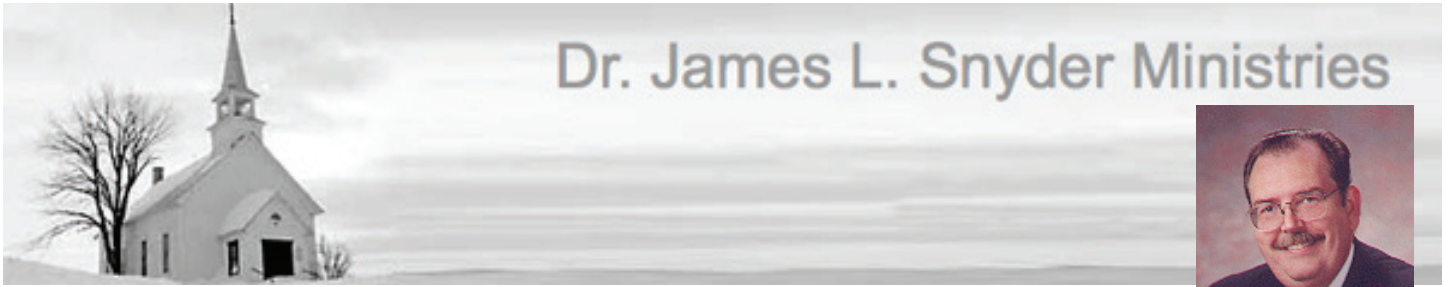
BIG Update

President Biden is pushing more progressive policies to reform the Supreme Court. It's unfortunate the Court continues to be a tool for political maneuvering. We must protect the integrity of the Court.

I introduced legislation to prevent liberal proposals to expand the Court by keeping the Supreme Court at nine Justices. Packing the Supreme Court would turn the Court into a political football that changes with every presidential administration. This would be detrimental to our government. My legislation has nearly 150 cosponsors, and I hope the House considers my legislation soon to protect the Court.

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Ding-A-Ling There Goes Spring

In my life, time has a way of getting out of control. If I could control time, I would be a very happy dude. My one question in life is, where does time go? And, can I retrieve it?



The other night, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I sat in the living room watching a little TV. I then heard a deep sigh from the other resident in the room. Looking over I said, "Is anything wrong?" Looking back at me with one of "her looks," she said, "Why is it so hot?"

At first, I thought she was talking about me as a hot dude. But after thinking more about it, I concluded that I was not the hot dude she was talking about. She was talking about the weather.

Sighing very deeply she said, "I just can't stand all of this hot weather anymore."

She was born and raised in New York, and when the weather gets over her age, she can hardly handle it. The weather was not too much over her age, but it was over her age.

I waved my hand at her and said, "Oh, my dear, we are in Florida."

Scowling at me, she said, "I know that, but it wasn't this hot the other week."

Chuckling on the inside, I responded, "Well, my dear, Spring is over and Summer is here. It's the climate change, silly."

I thought about that, and it's pretty interesting that things go as quickly as they do. Why can't Spring stay with us just a little bit longer? Why can't Summer be shortened a month or two?

Time does have a way of flying by quickly; if you don't pay attention, it will be gone before you know it.

Looking at me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage replied, "I know Spring is gone, I know Summer is here, but why does it have to be so hot?"

Knowing her as well as I know her, I realized that was a rhetorical question. She wasn't asking me for any information and so, I wasn't going to volunteer any information whatsoever. That's what usually gets me into trouble.

But I couldn't help but think about that myself. Lately, we've been having some very hot and humid days. It's been 100° or more almost every day. Some meteorologists are saying these are record hot days.

I don't know if the record exists, but I would rather not play those records very long.

One thing about a hot day is that you can't do very much activity, especially outside. I was outside one day doing some things, and pretty soon, I could hardly breathe, and my energy had all but disappeared. I think it went inside.

I came in after that, got a nice glass of iced tea, and sat in my easy chair.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "So, why are you in the house?"

Without thinking, which is my usual MO, I replied, "It's just too hot outside for me."

"Oh," she said sarcastically, "so Spring has disappeared?" And then she said, "Do you think it just might be Summer?"

I hate it when what I say comes back to haunt me.

On the other hand, these hot days do have a cool element.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came the other day and said, "I'm going shopping, would you like to come with me?"

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Usually, I have no way of getting out of going shopping with her. But the heat spell has given me a good excuse. "Oh my dear," I said rather sadly, "I would love to but it's just too hot out there for me and I cannot handle all that heat. I'm so sorry."

Looking at me with one of her smiles, I knew what she was thinking. That was, I was using the heat spell to get out of going somewhere shopping with her. Although she loves shopping, it is certainly not one of my favorite activities.

As she went out the door, I said rather quickly, "Don't forget to get me some Klondike bars. I'm getting low on them."

Looking back at me as she walked through the door, she said, "Well, if you were with me I probably would remember."

When she left, I got a cup of coffee and went to my easy chair to sit and think about the morning. Sometimes, the most important thing in life is having a good excuse for not doing something.

When I think about the seasons of the year, everyone has something good to say about it. And, every one has something bad about it. I'm trying to learn to focus on the good aspects of a season. If I focus on the bad aspects, it just gets me down.

Every bad aspect has a good slant to it. My challenge is finding that good slant and using it for pleasure.

I thought of a verse in the bible that addresses this. Psalm 31:14-15 - "But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me."

No matter my circumstances, I can trust God for my time today, tomorrow and forever. Spring comes, Spring goes but nothing changes as far as God is concerned. I'm in His hands.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Styrofoam is terrible for the environment and hard to recycle but still prevalent across the U.S. What's being done to phase it out?

- Michael Brophy, Boston, MA

Plastic foam, better known under its brand name of Styrofoam, has been used for insulation, packaging and foodware (cups, takeout containers, etc.) for decades. Also known as expanded polystyrene, the foam is made from a carcinogenic chemical called styrene. The material remains prevalent today, especially in the food industry, as countless foodware products are still distributed globally.



Caption: Despite being made from carcinogens, styrofoam is still prevalent today across the U.S. and around the world despite the risks.

Credit: Pexels.com.

The light weight and superior insulating ability of plastic foam makes it a convenient resource for the transportation of goods, but it is also a serious threat to many natural habitats. It can break apart and get picked up by the wind very easily, causing it to disperse rapidly across all kinds of landscapes. In 2022, the International Coastal Cleanup program picked up over 8.7 million plastic foam food containers globally, making it the seventh most common item collected that year. Seals, seabirds and fish tend to mistake the foam for food and eat it, often poisoning them due to the toxic chemicals in the foam. Styrofoam also cannot be properly recycled, though many people recycle it by mistake. As a result, it contaminates recycling efforts, making it more expensive to salvage than to simply manufacture new. The toxic chemicals that are coated on many foams may even harm people, and especially children.

Many governments around the world have taken measures to mitigate the risks. At present, 15 countries, 12 U.S. states and dozens of U.S. cities have banned the sale or distribution of plastic foam in food service establishments. Many citizens have also led successful anti-Styrofoam campaigns by contacting elected officials and educating the public about the benefits of alternatives. Major U.S. efforts to support a transition away from Styrofoam have also been made by organizations such as the Department of Environmental Conservation and Environment America. These efforts include enforcement of bans and education to assist food providers in finding new, affordable alternatives. Some exceptions are allowed for the use of plastic foam with mutual aid organizations and nonprofits who need cheap materials, but these communities have otherwise proven that we can run communities without using Styrofoam.

To assist in efforts to ban plastic foam, start by researching the status of plastic foam laws in your city, state or local community. Effective ways to implement Styrofoam bans include promoting alternative food containers, and bringing your own reusable containers to restaurants for your leftovers. Also, visit the Ocean Conservancy's website to find out if there are any volunteer Coastal Cleanups near you.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Indigenous advocacy group alleges insufficient Native representation at teacher training

State department says it took several steps to include perspectives

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 20, 2024 1:00 PM

The state Department of Education “glaringly omitted” substantial Native American representation during its recent Civics and History Summit, alleges the South Dakota Education Equity Coalition.

In response, the department highlighted several efforts it made to include Indigenous perspectives and material.

The purpose of the conference was educating teachers about how to implement a new set of social studies standards to be taught to South Dakota public school students starting in 2025.

Native Americans were featured during lunch performances each day: a Dakota flutist and a drum group of elementary students from the White River School District. None of the session presenters were Indigenous, though there were some sessions discussing Native American history. The coalition said the sessions presented “inaccurate and problematic portrayals.”

South Dakota Education Equity Coalition Executive Director Sarah White said the state Department of Education should involve more Indigenous perspectives in its educational training and implementation. The coalition is an organization representing Native American education leaders throughout the state.

“Excluding Indigenous educators and experts from the SDDOE Civics and History Summit is not just an oversight; it is a significant setback for educational equity in South Dakota,” White said in a news release.

There are nine tribal nations and reservations within South Dakota boundaries. Native Americans account for 12.5% of the state’s child population, according to census data.

The South Dakota Department of Education said in an emailed statement that the lunch performances were not only a chance to highlight Native American culture, but also Indigenous perspectives. The elementary school performance specifically included a discussion about how creating a drum group as an extracurricular activity centered around Native culture is impacting student attendance, performance and behavior.

“The new Social Studies standards represent the largest emphasis on Native American history than any previous set of standards, for both the volume of references and the breadth of tribes covered,” the department’s statement said. “And these references are made throughout the grade levels, K-12, ensuring that students will be exposed to Native American history and government throughout their academic careers.”

The department also offered the South Dakota History Road Trip following the summit, including visits to sites with Native American significance, such as Sica Hollow in northeastern South Dakota and the Akta Lakota Museum and Dignity statue in Chamberlain.

The new social studies standards were criticized during the approval process due to what some educators described as the standards’ emphasis on rote memorization over inquiry-based learning. The social studies standards controversy started in 2021 because the department removed more than a dozen references to the Oceti Sakowin from a committee’s draft revision of the standards. Gov. Kristi Noem then formed a new work group and ordered the process to start over.

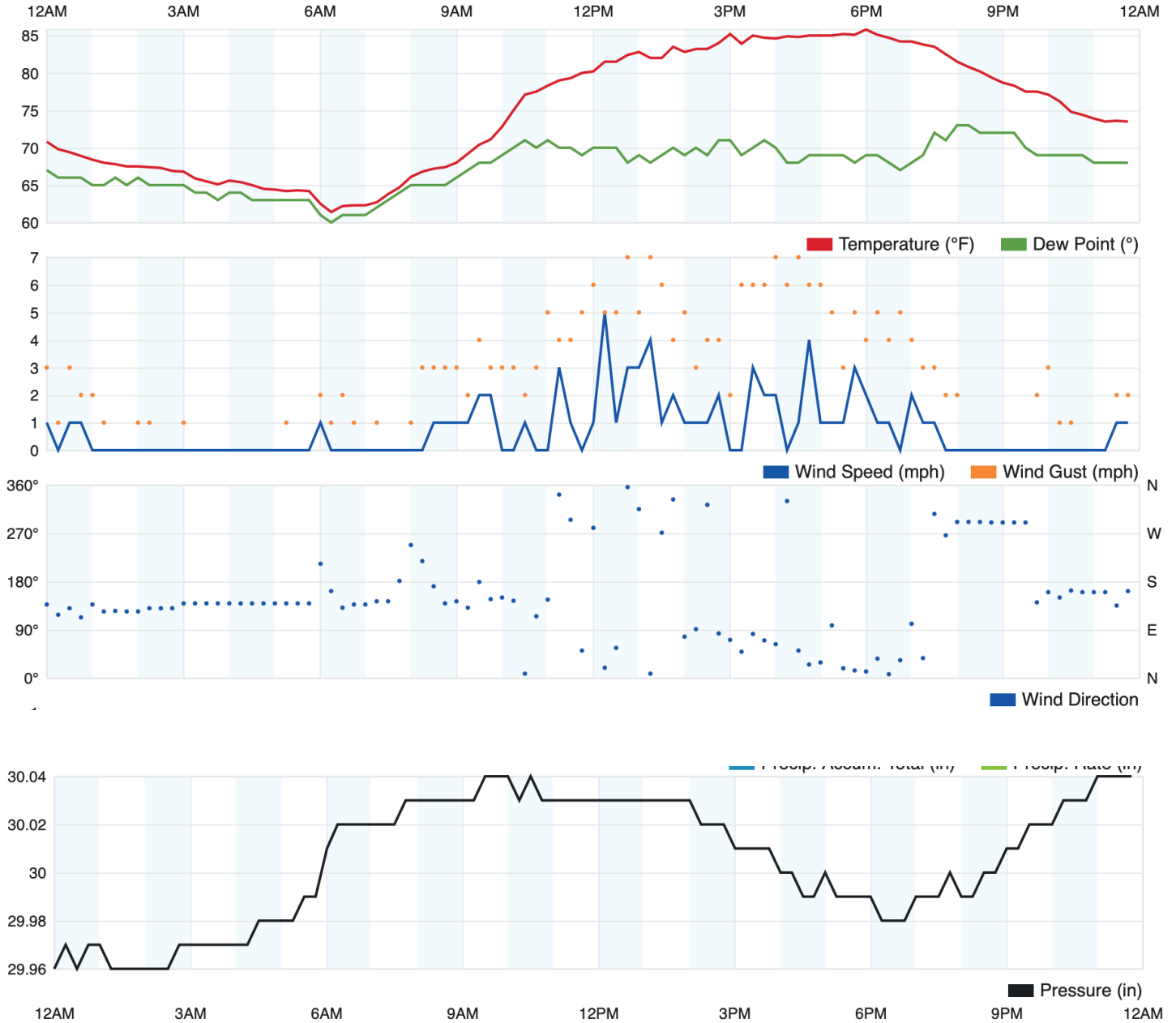
The state’s Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings, which are a set of standards approved in 2018 for teaching students about Native American culture and history, are not required. “Oceti Sakowin” is the collective term for Lakota, Dakota and Nakota speaking Native Americans, many of whom live in South Dakota.

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She’s spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.

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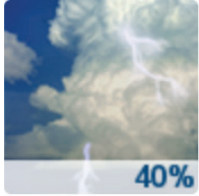
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

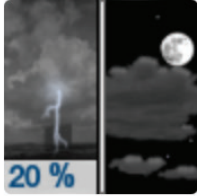


40%

High: 84 °F

Chance
T-storms and
Patchy Fog

Tonight



20 %

Low: 62 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Partly Cloudy

Monday



20 %

High: 86 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Monday Night



20%

Low: 62 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

Tuesday



High: 83 °F

Sunny



Outlook Into The New Week

July 21, 2024
5:44 AM

Today



Scattered showers &
storms with locally heavy
downpours possible.

Elevated wildfire smoke
will continue to filter out
sunshine.

Highs:
80-90°

Monday



Widely scattered showers
and storms.

Highs:
80-90°

Tuesday



Drying trend begins.

Highs:
80-90°

The next couple days will continue to see scattered shower and thunderstorm activity, with limited severe storm potential. Warm and fairly humid conditions will persist, with highs mostly in the 80s. Winds will stay light as well. On Tuesday, a drying trend will begin which will last until the end of the week. Hotter temperatures and more rainfall chances return to the area by the weekend.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 6:01 PM

Low Temp: 61 °F at 6:11 AM

Wind: 7 mph at 12:44 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1899

Record Low: 41 in 1902

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 2.27

Precip to date in July: 3.56

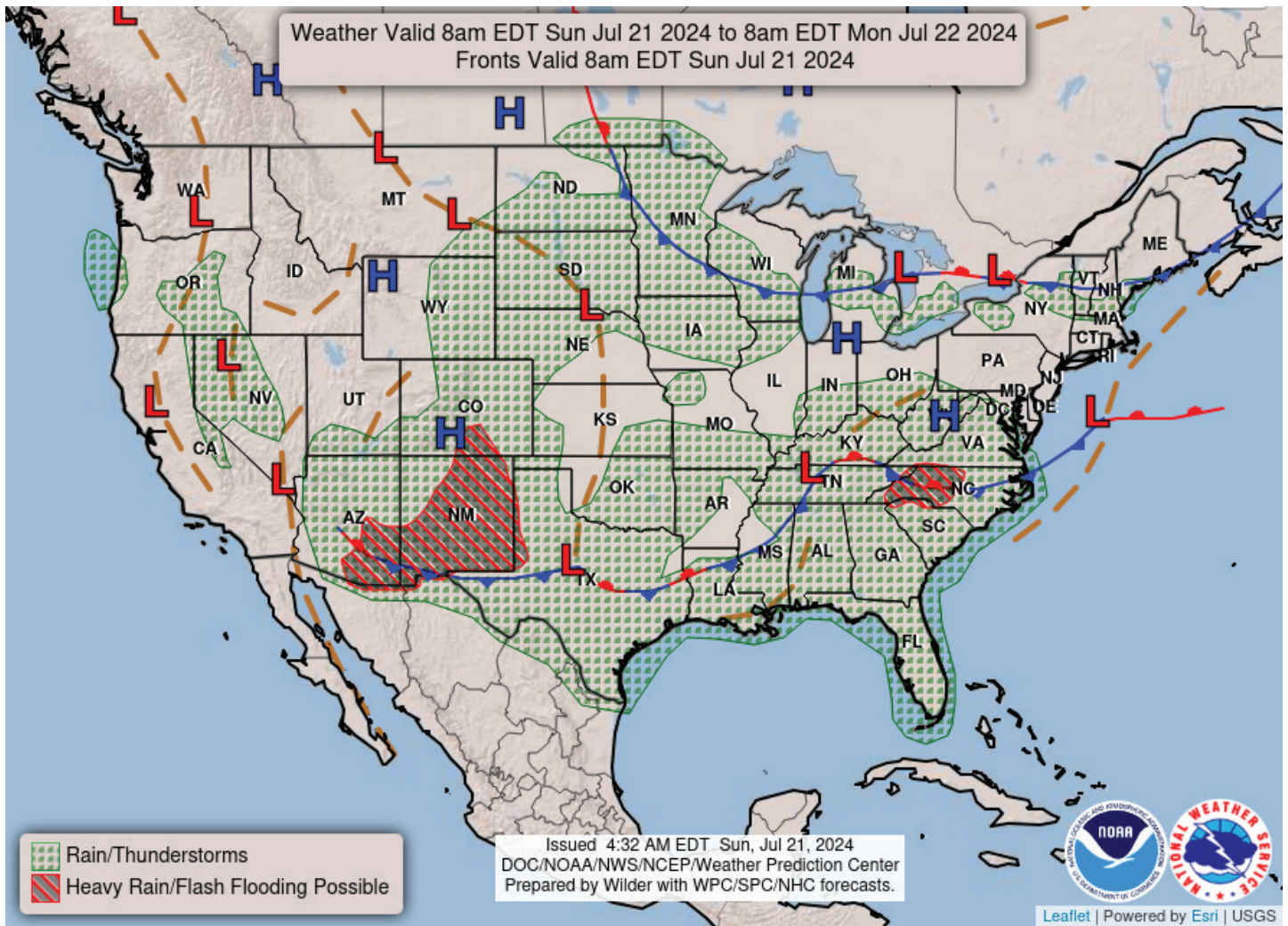
Average Precip to date: 13.28

Precip Year to Date: 14.51

Sunset Tonight: 9:14:10 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:04:38 am

Day length: 15 hours, 10 minutes (lost 13 minutes since last Sunday)



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Today in Weather History

July 21, 1940: From near Miller, an estimated F2 tornado moved southeast, destroying a barn, garage, and two windmills

July 21, 2000: 3.25-inch hail was reported near Okreek in northeastern Todd County.

1911 - The temperature at Painter, WY, dipped to 10 degrees to equal the record low for July for the continental U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1934 - The temperature reached 109 degrees at Cincinnati, OH, to cap their hottest summer of record. The state record for Ohio was established that day with a reading of 113 degrees near the town of Galipolis. (David Ludlum)

1975 - Six inches of rain fell across Mercer County, NJ, in just ten hours causing the worst flooding in twenty years. Assumpink Creek crested eleven feet above flood stage at Hamilton and Trenton, the highest level of record. Traffic was brought to a standstill, and railway service between New York City and Washington D.C. was cut off for two days. Flooding left 1000 persons homeless, and caused an estimated 25 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1983: At Vostok Station in Antarctica, the temperature dropped to 128.6 degrees below zero. This reading is the coldest temperature ever recorded.

1987: An F4 tornado ravages the Teton Wilderness and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. The tornado's violent winds destroy millions of trees on a 24.3-mile track that traverses the Continental Divide at an elevation of 10,170 feet.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Utah to North Dakota, spawning a dozen tornadoes in North Dakota. Thunderstorms in North Dakota also produced baseball size hail at Clifford which caused four million dollars damage, and high winds which toppled a couple of eighty foot towers cutting off power to the town of Blanchard. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - While cool air invaded the central U.S., unseasonably hot weather continued over the western states. The temperature at Spring Valley, NV, soared from a morning low of 35 degrees to an afternoon high of 95 degrees. Fallon, NV, reported an all-time record high of 108 degrees, and Death Valley, CA, reported their sixth straight day of 120 degree heat. (The Weather Channel) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 92 mph at Jacksonville, damaging thirteen light planes at Herlong Field. Five cities in Texas reported record low temperatures for the date. Corpus Christi, TX, equalled their record low for the date with a reading of 71 degrees, and then tied their record high for the date that afternoon with a reading of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

THE RESURRECTION

Lo, there was a great earthquake, for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it; his appearance was as lightening, and his clothes were as white as snow. For fear of him, the guards trembled and became as dead men.

And the angel said to the women, "Be not afraid I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen. He is not here. Why seek the living among the dead? Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful man and be crucified and on the third day rise again.' Come now and see that place where He lay. (Then they remembered His words.)"

"Go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead, and lo, He goes before you into Galilee. There, you will see Him as He told you."

Some went away with fear and trembling and said nothing because they were afraid. Others went away quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell the disciples.

Prayer: Father, how grateful we are for Your victory over death and the assurance of eternal life with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24



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: 07.19.24

10 17 23 50 67 3

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$279,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.20.24

6 7 13 16 36 1

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$5,520,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.20.24

14 19 20 35 46 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 28 Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.20.24

10 20 22 24 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$43,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.20.24

10 14 31 34 67 20

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.20.24

18 25 31 40 57 4

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$102,000,000

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

Heat-related Texas deaths climb after Beryl left millions without power for days or longer

By JAMIE STENGLE and LEKAN OYEKANMI Associated Press

SPRING, Texas (AP) — As the temperature soared in the Houston-area home Janet Jarrett shared with her sister after losing electricity in Hurricane Beryl, she did everything she could to keep her 64-year-old sibling cool.

But on their fourth day without power, she awoke to hear Pamela Jarrett, who used a wheelchair and relied on a feeding tube, gasping for breath. Paramedics were called but she was pronounced dead at the hospital, with the medical examiner saying her death was caused by the heat.

"It's so hard to know that she's gone right now because this wasn't supposed to happen to her," Janet Jarrett said.

Almost two weeks after Beryl hit, heat-related deaths during the prolonged power outages have pushed the number of storm-related fatalities to at least 23 in Texas.

The combination of searing summer heat and residents unable to power up air conditioning in the days after the Category 1 storm made landfall on July 8 resulted in increasingly dangerous conditions for some in America's fourth-largest city.

Beryl knocked out electricity to nearly 3 million homes and businesses at the height of the outages, which lasted days or much longer, and hospitals reported a spike in heat-related illnesses.

Power finally was restored to most by last week, after over a week of widespread outages. The slow pace in the Houston area put the region's electric provider, CenterPoint Energy, under mounting scrutiny over whether it was sufficiently prepared.

While it may be weeks or even years before the full human toll of the storm in Texas is known, understanding that number helps plan for the future, experts say.

What is known about the deaths so far?

Just after the storm hit, bringing high winds and flooding, the deaths included people killed by falling trees and people who drowned when their vehicles became submerged in floodwaters. In the days after the storm passed, deaths included people who fell while cutting limbs on damaged trees and heat-related deaths.

Half of the deaths attributed to the storm in Harris County, where Houston is located, were heat related, according to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Jarrett, who has cared for her sister since she was injured in an attack six years ago, said her "sassy" sister had done everything from owning a vintage shop in Harlem, New York, to working as an artist.

"She had a big personality," Jarrett said, adding that her sister had been in good health before they lost electricity at their Spring home.

When will a complete death toll be known?

With power outages and cleanup efforts still ongoing, the death toll likely will continue to climb.

Officials are still working to determine if some deaths that have already occurred should be considered storm related. But even when those numbers come in, getting a clear picture of the storm's toll could take much more time.

Lara Anton, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of State Health Services, which uses death certificate data to identify storm-related deaths, estimated that it may not be until the end of July before they have even a preliminary count.

In the state's vital statistics system, there is a prompt to indicate if the death was storm related and medical certifiers are asked to send additional information on how the death was related to the storm, Anton said.

Experts say that while a count of storm-related fatalities compiled from death certificates is useful, an

analysis of excess deaths that occurred during and after the storm can give a more complete picture of the toll. For that, researchers compare the number of people who died in that period to how many would have been expected to die under normal conditions.

The excess death analysis helps count deaths that might have been overlooked, said Dr. Lynn Goldman, dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University.

What do different toll numbers tell us?

Both the approach of counting the death certificates and calculating the excess deaths have their own benefits when it comes to storms, said Gregory Wellenius, director of the Boston University School of Public Health's Center for Climate and Health.

The excess death analysis gives a better estimate of the total number of people killed, so it's useful for public health and emergency management planning in addition to assessing the impact of climate change, he said.

But it "doesn't tell you who," he said, and understanding the individual circumstances of storm deaths is important in helping to show what puts individual people at risk.

"If I just tell you 200 people died, it doesn't tell you that story of what went wrong for these people, which teaches us something about what hopefully can we do better to prepare or help people prepare in the future," Wellenius said. _____

Stengle reported from Dallas. Sean Murphy contributed to this report from Oklahoma City.

China and the Philippines reach deal in effort to stop clashes at fiercely disputed shoal

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — China and the Philippines reached a deal they hope will end confrontations at the most fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday.

The Philippines occupies Second Thomas Shoal but China also claims it, and increasingly hostile clashes at sea have sparked fears of larger conflicts that could involve the United States.

The crucial deal was reached on Sunday, after a series of meetings between Philippine and Chinese diplomats in Manila and exchanges of diplomatic notes that aimed to establish a mutually acceptable arrangement at the shoal without conceding either side's territorial claims.

Two Philippine officials, who have knowledge of the negotiations, confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity and the government later issued a brief statement announcing the deal without providing details.

"Both sides continue to recognize the need to deescalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation and agree that the agreement will not prejudice each other's positions in the South China Sea," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said.

Neither side has yet released the text of the agreement.

China has disputes with several governments over land and sea borders, many of them in the South China Sea, and the rare deal with the Philippines could spark hope that similar arrangements could be forged by Beijing with other rival countries to avoid clashes while thorny territorial issues remain unresolved. It remains to be seen, however, if the deal could be implemented successfully and how long it will last.

Chinese coast guard and other forces have used powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers to prevent food and other supplies from reaching Filipino navy personnel at Manila's outpost at the shoal.

The yearslong territorial standoff at the shoal has flared repeatedly since last year between Chinese coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships and Philippine coast guard-escorted navy boats transporting food, water and fresh navy and marine personnel to an outpost on a long-grounded and rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre.

In the worst confrontation, Chinese forces on motorboats repeatedly rammed and then boarded two Philippine navy boats on June 17 to prevent Filipino personnel from transferring food and other supplies

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including firearms to the ship outpost in the shallows of the shoal, according to the Philippine government.

After repeated ramming, the Chinese seized the Philippine navy boats and damaged them with machetes and improvised spears. They also seized seven M4 rifles, which were packed in cases, and other supplies. The violent faceoff wounded several Filipino navy personnel, including one who lost his thumb, in a chaotic skirmish that was captured in video and photos that were later made public by Philippine officials.

China and the Philippines blamed each other for the confrontation and each asserted their own sovereign rights over the shoal, which Filipinos call Ayungin and the Chinese call Ren'ai Jiao.

The United States and its key Asian and Western allies, including Japan and Australia, condemned the Chinese acts at the shoal and called for the rule of law and freedom of navigation to be upheld in the South China Sea, a key global trade route with rich fishing areas and undersea gas deposits.

In addition to China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have been locked in separate but increasingly tense territorial disputes in the waterway, which is regarded as a potential flashpoint and a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China regional rivalry. The U.S. military has deployed navy ships and fighter jets for decades in what it calls freedom of navigation and overflight patrols, which China has opposed and regards as a threat to regional stability.

Washington has no territorial claims in the disputed waters but has repeatedly warned that it is obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

One of the two Philippine officials said the June 17 confrontation prompted Beijing and Manila to hasten on-and-off talks on an arrangement that would prevent confrontations at Second Thomas Shoal.

During final meetings in the last four days, two Chinese demands that had been key sticking points were removed from the draft deal.

China had previously said it would allow food, water and other basic supplies to be transported by the Philippines to its forces in the shoal if Manila agreed not to bring construction materials to fortify the crumbling ship, and to give China advance notice and the right to inspect the ships for those materials, the officials said.

The Philippines rejected those conditions, and the final deal did not include them, according to the Philippine official.

Bangladesh's top court scales back government jobs quota after deadly unrest that has killed scores

By JULHAS ALAM and SHEIKH SAALIQA Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh's top court on Sunday scaled back a controversial quota system for government job applicants, a partial victory for student protesters after days of nationwide unrest and deadly clashes between police and demonstrators that have killed scores of people.

Students, frustrated by shortages of good jobs, have been demanding an end to a quota that reserved 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971. The government previously halted it in 2018 following mass student protests, but in June, Bangladesh's High Court reinstated the quotas and set off a new round of protests.

Ruling on an appeal, the Supreme Court ordered that the veterans' quota be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit. The remaining 2% will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities and transgender and disabled people.

The protests have posed the most serious challenge to Bangladesh's government since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won a fourth consecutive term in January elections that were boycotted by the main opposition groups. Universities have been closed, the internet has been shut off and the government has ordered people to stay at home.

With most communications offline, it was unclear whether the verdict has satisfied protesting students. Law Minister Anisul Haq welcomed the court's decision and said it "well thought of."

The protests turned deadly on Tuesday, a day after students at Dhaka University began clashing with

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police. Violence continued to escalate as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets and hurled smoke grenades to scatter stone-throwing protesters.

Bangladeshi authorities haven't shared any official numbers of those killed and injured, but at least four local newspapers on Sunday reported that over 100 people have been killed.

An Associated Press reporter on Friday saw security forces fire rubber bullets and tear gas at a crowd of more than 1,000 protesters who had gathered outside the head office of state-run Bangladesh Television, which was attacked and set on fire by protesters the previous day. The incident left streets littered with bullets and marked by smears of blood.

Sporadic clashes in some parts of Dhaka, the capital, were reported on Saturday but it was not immediately clear whether there were any fatalities.

Hasnat Abdullah, a leader from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, spearheading the protests, said many people have been killed, "so the state should take responsibility."

Ahead of the Supreme Court hearing, soldiers patrolled cities across the South Asian country. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the stay-at-home order will be relaxed from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday for people to run essential errands.

Meanwhile, the government has declared Sunday and Monday as public holidays, with only emergency services allowed to operate.

Protesters argue the quota system is discriminatory and benefits supporters of Hasina, whose Awami League party led the independence movement, saying it should be replaced with a merit-based system. Hasina has defended the quota system, saying that veterans deserve the highest respect for their contributions in the war against Pakistan, regardless of their political affiliation.

Representatives from both sides met late Friday in an attempt to reach a resolution and Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government was open to discussing their demands. In addition to quota reform, the demands included the reopening of university dormitories and for some university officials to step down after failing to protect campuses.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party has backed the protests, vowing to organize its own demonstrations as many of its supporters have joined the student-led protests. However, BNP said in a statement its followers were not responsible for the violence and denied the ruling party's accusations of using the protests for political gains.

The Awami League and the BNP have often accused each other of fueling political chaos and violence, most recently ahead of the country's national election, which was marred by a crackdown on several opposition figures. Hasina's government had accused the opposition party of attempting to disrupt the vote.

Israel shoots down a missile fired from Yemen hours after an Israeli strike on Houthi rebels

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and MICHAEL WAKIN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military said it intercepted a missile fired from Yemen early Sunday, hours after Israeli warplanes struck several Houthi targets in the Arabian peninsula country.

The Israeli airstrikes — in response to a deadly Houthi drone strike on Tel Aviv — were the first time Israel is known to have responded to repeated Houthi attacks throughout its nine-month war against Hamas. The burst of violence between the distant enemies has threatened to open a new front as Israel battles a series of Iranian proxies across the region.

The Israeli army late Saturday confirmed the airstrikes in the western Yemeni port city of Hodeidah, a Houthi stronghold.

It said the strikes, carried out by U.S.-made F-15 and F-35 warplanes, were a response to hundreds of Houthi attacks.

Israel, along with the U.S., Britain and other Western allies with forces in the region, have intercepted almost all of the Houthi missiles and drones. But early Friday, a Houthi drone penetrated Israel's air defenses and crashed into Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial and cultural capital, killing one person.

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The Israeli military said Saturday's strike, some 1,700 kilometers (over 1,000 miles) from Israel, was among the most complicated and longest-distance operations by its air force. It said it hit the port because the area is used to deliver Iranian arms to Yemen.

The Ministry of Health in Sanaa said that 80 people were wounded in a preliminary toll of the strikes in Hodeidah, most of them with severe burns. The Israeli attack unleashed a massive fire in the city's port. "The fire that is burning now in Hodeidah, is seen across the Middle East and the significance is clear," said Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant. He vowed to carry out similar strikes "in any place where it may be required."

The Houthis are among several Iranian-backed groups to have attacked Israel in solidarity with Hamas since the Oct. 7 attack by the Palestinian militant group triggered the ongoing Israeli offensive in Gaza.

In addition to fighting Hamas, the Israeli military has been engaged in daily clashes with the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon. These clashes have raised concerns that the fighting could spill over into a full-blown war with Lebanon and beyond.

The Hodeidah port is also a gateway for supplies to enter Yemen, which has been engulfed in civil war since 2014, when the Houthis seized much of northern Yemen and forced the internationally recognized government to flee from Sanaa. A Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year in support of government forces, and in time the conflict turned into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The war has killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam posted on X that the "blatant Israeli aggression" targeted fuel storage facilities and the province's power station. He said the attacks aim "to increase the suffering of the people and to pressure Yemen to stop supporting Gaza."

Abdulsalam said the attacks will only make Yemen's people and armed forces more determined to support Gaza. "There will be impactful strikes," Mohamed Ali al-Houthi of the Supreme Political Council in Yemen wrote on X.

The Israeli military said the surface-to-surface missile fired Sunday was intercepted before reaching Israeli territory.

Since January, U.S. and U.K. forces have been striking targets in Yemen, in response to the Houthis' attacks on commercial shipping that the rebels have described as retaliation for Israel's actions in the war in Gaza. However, many of the ships targeted weren't linked to Israel.

On Sunday, officials said the Houthis repeatedly targeted a Liberia-flagged container vessel transiting the Red Sea, the latest assault by the group on the crucial maritime trade route.

The captain of the ship reported attacks from three small Houthi vessels, an uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicle, and missile fire off the coast of Mocha, Yemen, resulting in "minor damage" to the ship, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The Joint Maritime Information Center, a coalition overseen by the U.S. Navy, identified the ship as the Pumba and reported "all crew on board safe."

Early Sunday, the Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack on the Pumba.

Meanwhile on Saturday, the U.S. Central Command said its forces destroyed one uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicle over the Red Sea.

Analysts and Western intelligence services have long accused Iran of arming the Houthis, a claim Tehran denies. The joint force airstrikes so far have done little to deter them.

The Houthis have long-range ballistic missiles, smaller cruise missiles and "suicide drones," all capable of reaching southern Israel, according to weapons experts. The Houthis are open about their arsenal, regularly parading new missiles through the streets of Sanaa.

With AI, jets and police squadrons, Paris is securing the Olympics — and worrying critics

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A year ago, the head of the Paris Olympics boldly declared that France's capital would be "the safest place in the world" when the Games open this Friday. Tony Estanguet's confident forecast looks less far-fetched now with squadrons of police patrolling Paris' streets, fighter jets and soldiers primed to scramble, and imposing metal-fence security barriers erected like an iron curtain on both sides of the River Seine that will star in the opening show.

France's vast police and military operation is in large part because the July 26-Aug. 11 Games face unprecedented security challenges. The city has repeatedly suffered deadly extremist attacks and international tensions are high because of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

Rather than build an Olympic park with venues grouped together outside of the city center, like Rio de Janeiro in 2016 or London in 2012, Paris has chosen to host many of the events in the heart of the bustling capital of 2 million inhabitants, with others dotted around suburbs that house millions more. Putting temporary sports arenas in public spaces and the unprecedented choice to stage a river-borne opening ceremony stretching for kilometers (miles) along the Seine, makes safeguarding them more complex.

Olympic organizers also have cyberattack concerns, while rights campaigners and Games critics are worried about Paris' use of AI-equipped surveillance technology and the broad scope and scale of Olympic security.

Paris, in short, has a lot riding on keeping 10,500 athletes and millions of visitors safe. Here's how it aims to do it.

The security operation, by the numbers

A Games-time force of up to 45,000 police and gendarmes is also backed up by a 10,000-strong contingent of soldiers that has set up the largest military camp in Paris since World War II, from which soldiers should be able to reach any of the city's Olympic venues within 30 minutes.

Armed military patrols aboard vehicles and on foot have become common in crowded places in France since gunmen and suicide bombers acting in the names of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group repeatedly struck Paris in 2015. They don't have police powers of arrest but can tackle attackers and restrain them until police arrive. For visitors from countries where armed street patrols aren't the norm, the sight of soldiers with assault rifles might be jarring, just as it was initially for people in France.

"At the beginning, it was very strange for them to see us and they were always avoiding our presence, making a detour," said Gen. Éric Chasboeuf, deputy commander of the counter-terror military force, called Sentinelle.

"Now, it's in the landscape," he said.

Rafale fighter jets, airspace-monitoring AWACS surveillance flights, Reaper surveillance drones, helicopters that can carry sharpshooters, and equipment to disable drones will police Paris skies, which will be closed during the opening ceremony by a no-fly zone extending for 150 kilometers (93 miles) around the capital. Cameras twinned with artificial intelligence software — authorized by a law that expands the state's surveillance powers for the Games — will flag potential security risks, such as abandoned packages or crowd surges,

France is also getting help from more than 40 countries that, together, have sent at least 1,900 police reinforcements.

Trump assassination attempt highlights Olympic risks

Attacks by lone individuals are major concern, a risk driven home most recently to French officials by the assassination attempt against Donald Trump.

Some involved in the Olympic security operation were stunned that the gunman armed with an AR-style rifle got within range of the former U.S. president.

"No one can guarantee that there won't be mistakes. There, however, it was quite glaring," said Gen. Philippe Pourqué, who oversaw the construction of a temporary camp in southeast Paris housing 4,500 soldiers from the Sentinelle force.

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In France, in the last 13 months alone, men acting alone have carried out knife attacks that targeted tourists in Paris, and children in a park in an Alpine town, among others. A man who stabbed a teacher to death at his former high school in northern France in October had been under surveillance by French security services for suspected Islamic radicalization.

With long and bitter experience of deadly extremist attacks, France has armed itself with a dense network of police units, intelligence services and investigators who specialize in fighting terrorism, and suspects in terrorism cases can be held longer for questioning.

Hundreds of thousands of background checks have scrutinized Olympic ticket-holders, workers and others involved in the Games and applicants for passes to enter Paris' most tightly controlled security zone, along the Seine's banks. The checks blocked more than 3,900 people from attending, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said. He said some were flagged for suspected Islamic radicalization, left- or right-wing political extremism, significant criminal records and other security concerns.

"We're particularly attentive to Russian and Belorussian citizens," Darmanin added, although he stopped short of linking exclusions to Russia's war in Ukraine and Belarus' role as an ally of Moscow.

Darmanin said 155 people considered to be "very dangerous" potential terror threats are also being kept away from the opening ceremony and the Games, with police searching their homes for weapons and computers in some cases.

He said intelligence services haven't identified any proven terror plots against the Games "but we are being extremely attentive."

Critics fear intrusive Olympic security will stay after the Games

Campaigners for digital rights worry that Olympic surveillance cameras and AI systems could erode privacy and other freedoms, and zero in on people without fixed homes who spend a lot of time in public spaces.

Saccage 2024, a group that has campaigned for months against the Paris Games, took aim at the scope of the Olympic security, describing it as a "repressive arsenal" in a statement to The Associated Press.

"And this is not a French exception, far from it, but a systematic occurrence in host countries," it said. "Is it reasonable to offer one month of 'festivities' to the most well-off tourists at the cost of a long-term securitization legacy for all residents of the city and the country?"

The biggest of stories came to the small city of Butler. Here's how its newspaper met the moment

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

BUTLER, Pa. (AP) — When gunshots echoed at the Trump rally where she was working, Butler Eagle reporter Irina Bucur dropped to the ground just like everyone else. She was terrified.

She hardly froze, though.

Bucur tried to text her assignment editor, through spotty cell service, to tell him what was going on. She took mental notes of what the people in front and behind her were saying. She used her phone to take video of the scene. All before she felt safe standing up again.

When the world's biggest story came to the small western Pennsylvania hamlet of Butler a week ago, it didn't just draw media from everywhere else. Journalists at the Eagle, the community's resource since 1870 and one that struggles to survive just like thousands of local newspapers across the country, had to make sense of chaos in their backyard — and the global scrutiny that followed.

Photographer Morgan Phillips, who stood on a riser in the middle of a field with Trump's audience that Saturday evening, kept on her feet and kept working, documenting history. After Secret Service officers hustled the former president into a waiting car, the people around her turned to shout vitriol at the journalists.

A few days later, Phillips' eyes welled with tears recounting the day.

"I just felt really hated," said Phillips, who like Bucur is 25. "And I never expected that."

Mobilizing in the most harrowing of situations

"I'm very proud of my newsroom," said Donna Sybert, the Eagle's managing editor.

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Having put a coverage plan in place, she had escaped for a fishing trip nearby with her family. A colleague, Jamie Kelly, called to tell her something had gone terribly wrong and Sybert rushed back to the newsroom, helping to update the Eagle's website until 2 a.m. Sunday.

Bucur's assignment had been to talk to community members attending the rally, along with those who set up a lemonade stand on the hot day and people who parked cars. She'd done her reporting and settled in to text updates of what Trump was saying for the website.

The shooting changed everything. Bucur tried to interview as many people as she could. Slightly dazed after authorities cleared the grounds, she forgot where she had parked. That gave her more time for reporting.

"Going into reporter mode allowed me to distract myself from the situation a little bit," Bucur said. "Once I got up, I wasn't thinking at all. I was just thinking I needed to interview people and get the story out because I was on deadline."

She and colleagues Steve Ferris and Paula Grubbs were asked to collect their reporting and impressions for a story in the Eagle's special, eight-page wraparound printed edition on Monday.

"The first few gunshots rang out like fireworks," they wrote. "But when they continued, people in the crowd at the Butler Farm Show venue dropped to the ground: a mother and father told their children to crouch down. A young man hunched over in the grass. Behind him, a woman started to pray."

The special edition clearly resonated in Butler and beyond. Extra copies are being offered for sale for \$5 in the Eagle's lobby. That's already a bargain. On eBay, Sybert said, she's seen them going for up to \$125.

A small newspaper struggling to endure

Beyond its status as a local newspaper, the Eagle is an endangered species.

It has resisted ownership by a large chain, which have often stripped news outlets bare. The Eagle has been owned by the same family since 1903; its patriarch, Vernon Wise, is now 95. Fifth-generation family member Jamie Wise Lanier drove up from Cincinnati this week to congratulate the staff on a job well done, general manager Tammy Schuey said.

Six editions are printed each week, and a digital site has a paywall that was lowered for some of the shooting stories. The Eagle's circulation is 18,000, Schuey said, with about 3,000 of that digital.

The United States has lost one-third of its newspapers since 2005 as the Internet chews away at once-robust advertising revenue. An average of 2.5 newspapers closed each week in 2023, according to a study by Northwestern University. The majority were in small communities like Butler.

The Eagle abandoned a newsroom across town in 2019, consolidating space in the building where its printing press is housed. It has diversified, starting a billboard company and taking on extra printing jobs. It even stores the remnants of a long-shuttered local circus and allows residents to visit.

The Eagle has about 30 employees, although it's now short two reporters and a photographer. Cabinets housing old photographs lie among the clutter of desks in the newsroom, with a whiteboard that lists which staff members will be on weekend call.

Its staff is a mix of young people like Bucur and Phillips, who tend to move on to larger institutions, and those who put down roots in Butler. Sybert has worked at the Eagle since 1982. Schuey was initially hired in 1991 to teach composing room employees how to use Macs.

"This is a challenging business," Schuey said. "We're not out of the woods yet."

Local understanding makes a huge difference

When a big story comes to town, with the national and international journalists that follow it, local news outlets are still a precious and valued resource.

The Eagle knows the terrain. It knows the local officials. Smart national reporters who "parachute" into a small community that suddenly makes news know to seek out local journalists. Several have reached out to the Eagle, Schuey said.

Familiarity helps in other ways. Bucur found people at the rally who were suspicious of national reporters but answered questions from her, and the same is true for some authorities. She has tapped her network of Facebook friends for reporting help.

Such foundational trust is common. Many people in small towns have more faith in their community

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newspapers, said Rick Edmonds, the media business analyst at the Poynter Institute.

"It's just nice to support the locals," said Jeff Ruhaak, a trucking company supervisor who paused during a meal at the Monroe Hotel to discuss the Eagle's coverage. "I think they did a pretty good job covering it for their size."

The Eagle has another advantage as well: It isn't going anywhere when the national reporters leave. The story won't end. Hurt people need to recover and investigations will determine who is responsible for a would-be assassin being able to get a shot at Trump.

In short: responsible journalism as civic leadership in harrowing moments.

"Our community went through a traumatic experience," Schuey said. "I was there. We have some healing to do, and I think the newspaper is a critical piece in helping guide the community through this."

So, too, must people at the Eagle heal, as Phillips' raw emotions attest. Management is trying to give staff members some days off, perhaps with the help of journalists in surrounding communities.

Bucur said she would hate to see Butler turned into a political prop, with the assassination being used as some sort of rallying cry. The divisiveness of national politics had already seeped into local meetings and staff members have felt the tension.

Sybert and Schuey look at each other to try and remember what was the biggest story that Butler Eagle journalists have worked on. Was it a tornado that killed nine back in the 1980s? Some particularly bad traffic accident? Trump paid an uneventful campaign visit in 2020. But there's no question what tops the list now.

Despite the stress of the assassination attempt, covering it has been a personal revelation for the soft-spoken Bucur, who grew up 30 miles (48.2 kilometers) south in Pittsburgh and studied psychology in college. Her plans changed when she took a communications course and loved it.

"This," she said, "was a moment I told myself that I think I'm cut out for journalism."

Vatican's Pius XII archives shed light on another contentious chapter: The Legion of Christ scandal

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The recently opened archives of Pope Pius XII have shed new light on claims the World War II-era pope didn't speak out about the Holocaust. But they're also providing details about another contentious chapter in Vatican history: the scandal over the founder of the Legionaries of Christ.

Entire books have already been written about the copious documentation that arrived in the Holy See in the 1940s and 1950s proving its officials had evidence of the Rev. Marciel Maciel's dubious morals, drug use, financial recklessness and sexual abuse of his young seminarians.

Yet it took the Holy See more than a half-century to sanction Maciel, and even more for it to acknowledge he was a religious fraud and con artist who molested his seminarians, fathered three children and built a secretive, cult-like religious order to hide his double life.

The newly opened archives of the Pius papacy, which spanned 1939-1958, are adding some new details to what has been in the public domain, since they include previously unavailable documentation from the Vatican secretariat of state.

They confirm that Pius' Vatican was cracking down on Maciel in 1956 and was poised to take even tougher measures against him — including removing him from priestly ministry altogether — but that Pius' 1958 death enabled Maciel's supporters to take advantage of the leadership vacuum to save his name and order.

Until now, the biggest stash of publicly available documentation about Maciel had come from the Vatican's Congregation for Religious, which oversaw the Legion after its founding in 1941 in Mexico.

In 2012, some of Maciel's Mexican victims put online 200-plus documents spanning the 1940s-2002 that they had obtained from someone with access to the Congregation for Religious archive. These documents, also in the book "La Voluntad De No Saber" (The Will to Not Know) detailed the evidence the Vatican had of Maciel's depravities, but also how decades of bishops, cardinals and popes turned a blind eye and believed instead the glowing reports that also arrived in Rome.

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Now the new documents from the Vatican's central governing office are fleshing out that history, providing more details about who in the Vatican helped Maciel evade sanction, believing the claims against him to be slander, and who sought to take a tougher line.

One new document, being published in Sunday's *Corriere della Sera* cultural supplement *La Lettura*, contains the original draft of an Oct. 1, 1956, memo by the No. 3 in the Vatican's office for religious orders.

On that day, Maciel arrived in Rome after he had been suspended by the Vatican as Legion superior and ordered to go into detox to kick a morphine addiction.

According to the memo, the Vatican's Congregation for Religious wanted an additional measure imposed on Maciel: that he be barred from having contact with young seminarians or risk being suspended from priestly ministry altogether, meaning he couldn't celebrate Mass publicly, hear confessions or celebrate any other sacraments as a priest.

The author of the note, the Rev. Giovanni Battista Scapinelli, wrote that if Maciel came to the congregation "I will order him to get treated, to abandon any contact with his students until the congregation says otherwise. And if he doesn't show up, in two days, a pre-emptive order should be given to Maciel: Either you go get treated or you will remain suspended a divinis."

The draft is significant because it shows that by 1956, at least some in the Vatican took seriously the reports that had reached Rome that Maciel was molesting his young seminarians and wanted to protect them — and wanted to punish Maciel with one of the church's harshest penalties for his crimes. It would take 50 years though, until 2006, for the Vatican to finally condemn Maciel to a comparatively light sentence of a "lifetime of penance and prayer" for sodomizing his young recruits.

A subsequent draft of the Oct. 1, 1956, memo was published in 2012 by the Mexican victims. It showed that Scapinelli had scratched out his original order for Maciel to refrain from having contact with his seminarians and merely ordered Maciel to get medical treatment for the drug addiction. It contains another page and a half of handwritten notes, as if Scapinelli rewrote it following consultation with others.

The secretariat of state archives contain what appears to be a final, typewritten version of the memo, dated Oct. 2, 1956 which omits any reference to Maciel being prohibited from contact with youngsters and speaks only of him getting medical help, with no further threats of ministerial suspension. A few weeks later, the Vatican appointed outside clerics to do a more thorough investigation onsite.

All versions of the Oct. 1, 1956 memo make clear that Maciel had a great protector in the Vatican in the form of Cardinal Giuseppe Pizzardo, the No. 2 in the powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Other documents say the Congregation for Religious "couldn't proceed further against F. Maciel because of recommendations and interventions by high-ranking personalities."

Scapinelli suggests that Pius was fully versed in the Maciel affair and had endorsed his removal as the Legion's superior, writing that Maciel had been temporarily removed "for reasons known to the Holy Father."

Indeed, in September of that year the Congregation for Religious handed over a file of "abundant documentation" for Pius to read, with a cover letter recalling that the Congregation had never wanted to recognize the Legion as a pontifically approved religious order because of its "serious" concerns about Maciel.

Pius died two years later, on Oct. 9, 1958. In the chaos of a new papacy, a change in leadership in the Congregation for Religious and interventions by Maciel's supporters, Maciel was reinstated as superior of the Legion in early 1959. The Legion was recognized as a pontifical religious order a few years later.

Maciel died in 2008. A year later the Legion admitted to some of his crimes, and a year after that the Vatican took the Legion over and imposed a process of reform and "purification."

Behind Biden's asylum halt: Migrants must say if they fear deportation, not wait to be asked

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Posters inside a complex of giant, white tents tell migrants in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Hindi they should tell an officer if they fear being deported and "your claim will be heard." On a side wall where migrants are seated in a processing area, a video conveys the same message on a loop.

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Breaking from a practice in effect since 1997, Border Patrol agents at the holding facility in Tucson, Arizona, and throughout the country no longer ask migrants if they fear deportation. President Joe Biden's administration temporarily suspended asylum at the border June 5 and, as part of that move, agents do not ask about fears. Migrants must bring it up themselves.

Immigration advocates call it the "shout test" — suggesting migrants must shout their fears — though agents are taught to respond to other signs of distress, such as crying, shaking or a change in tone of voice and to refer migrants for screening if the behavior appears genuine. Anyone not screened can be immediately deported.

It is unclear to what extent the "shout test" is responsible for a decline in border arrests of more than 50% since asylum was halted, a welcome development for Biden as he faces Republican attacks of letting the border spiral out of control.

But administration officials said it is a critical change because migrants are more likely to say they fear deportation if prompted with a question.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said strong guidelines are in place for agents to identify migrants exhibiting any signs of fear. Posters at holding facilities explain the new procedures and videos are shown at larger ones, such as Tucson.

"We train, we refresh the training, we are in constant dialogue with our personnel," Mayorkas said in an interview. "We are abiding by our international and humanitarian obligations."

If they pass screening at a higher standard, migrants can stay in the U.S. to pursue protections similar to asylum, like those under the United Nations Convention Against Torture. In doing so, the administration argued it is complying with U.S. and international law prohibiting sending people to countries where they face persecution or torture.

Immigration advocates say migrants showing signs of fear can easily be overlooked. The Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, which has sued the administration over the asylum halt, said 51 of the 97 families it interviewed in 2020, when the "shout test" was briefly in effect during the COVID-19 pandemic, said they spoke to agents about fears of deportation and another 21 expressed nonverbal cues but none were screened.

Araceli Martinez, 32, told The Associated Press that she feared returning home with her 14-year-old daughter to a physically abusive husband, but no one asked her at the Tucson facility about why she came and she didn't know that she had to speak up until it was too late. She was deported to Nogales, Mexico, last month.

Another Mexican, Christian Gutierrez, said he told officials he wanted to claim asylum during three days in custody in San Diego but it was futile.

"They completely ignored me," Gutierrez, 26, told the AP while sitting on a bench in Tijuana, Mexico, after being deported. "They didn't give me an opportunity."

Those who consider Biden's policies too soft play down the "shout test" — and the asylum halt broadly — as too little, too late. Robert Law, director for homeland security and immigration at the America First Policy Institute, said the test may have limited impact but not for long.

"Eventually the word will get out to those who are coaching those who are trying to take advantage of the asylum system," said Law, who dealt with asylum as chief of policy at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services during former President Donald Trump's administration.

Even those who get a screening interview face new hurdles. Aside from higher standards, they get four hours to call an attorney from a holding facility, compared to a previous 24-hour window to prepare.

Those who don't have attorneys get a list of free legal service providers. The four-hour windows are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. including weekends, when many providers don't answer phones. Even on weekdays, they may be overwhelmed.

On a Saturday morning after asylum was halted, a woman's voicemail began calmly with her name, birth date, email address, booking number and date of arrest for crossing the border illegally with her 6-year-old daughter. After a 20-second pause, she started to cry, "Why? Why? Why? My God, please." A guard

asked if she was finished and she said yes.

RAICES, a group providing free legal advice to migrants in Texas that obtained the voicemail, found the woman in custody days later after she failed the screening but was waiting on an appeal. An immigration judge reversed the decision, saying she should have been interviewed in her native language, not Spanish, and that her fear was justified. She was released to pursue her case in heavily backlogged immigration courts.

A 22-year-old woman from Guatemala with a year-old son told her attorney she didn't understand the video instructing migrants to express any fears of being deported and felt confused and scared. She said she contacted RAICES when the Border Patrol gave her a list of attorneys after failing the screening.

The woman told the attorney in a recorded phone call that she fled to the U.S. to work and escape "those cartels." Fighting tears, she said her son had barely eaten in days.

"He wants to walk, he wants to go out and play games, but they won't let him," the woman said. An immigration judge denied her appeal and she was deported with her son.

RAICES said it has been able to respond to 74 of 1,215 calls received from people in Border Patrol custody since asylum was suspended June 5. The organization provided recordings from their clients to the AP on the condition that their names and other identifying information not be published due to concerns for their safety.

In Tijuana, the Immigrant Defenders Law Center, which provides free legal advice to migrants detained in San Diego, has been spreading word of the changes. Directing attorney Melissa Shepard said callers seeking help often have only an hour left to prepare for their interview.

"You are the one who has to say I'm afraid," Shepard said at a migrant shelter last month. The audience appeared to listen closely but didn't ask questions.

With GOP convention over, Milwaukee weighs the benefits of hosting political rivals

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Downtown Milwaukee turned red last week as thousands of Republican National Convention delegates and other party stalwarts gathered in Wisconsin's largest Democratic stronghold to formally rally behind Donald Trump as their candidate for president in the pivotal swing state.

Outside the security zone where the convention took place, residents grumbled, ignored or shrugged their way through the event that served to galvanize the GOP and give Trump momentum.

Milwaukee's Democratic mayor, Cavalier Johnson, wasted no time in deeming the convention a success even though he will now turn his focus toward making sure Trump loses in November.

"We demonstrated our city's capacity to host a major and a massive event," Johnson said Thursday. "That's important to the tens of thousands of visitors, and it's important to the future of our hospitality industry right here in Milwaukee."

But tallying up the economic impact on Milwaukee will take months and complaints have been piling up, including over blocked streets and storefronts, disappointing restaurant bookings and the use of out-of-town officers to police the city.

Residents also won't soon forget that Trump described Milwaukee as "horrible" during a closed-door meeting with congressional Republicans last month, though his defenders later suggested he was referring to crime or election concerns.

"I think there are a lot of people that are very upset by the 'horrible' stigma that Trump assigned to the city," Jill McCurdy, a Democratic retiree, said Thursday as she strolled through Red Arrow Park, where hundreds protested days earlier. "Certainly people who live here, especially those of us who have lived here all our lives, we don't see it that way."

McCurdy, 68, said she hopes Republican visitors came away with a positive view of the city, which sits along Lake Michigan about an hour's drive north of Chicago, where the Democrats will hold their convention next month.

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But after talking to friends who own restaurants and were "pretty disappointed" by business during the convention, she said she isn't confident the city benefitted much from hosting the GOP's big event.

Democrats must perform well in Milwaukee in order to counter Republican strengths in more rural parts of Wisconsin. Trump narrowly won the state in 2016 before losing it to President Joe Biden four years later by only about 21,000 votes.

Wisconsin is one of only a few true swing states that could go either way this election and will determine who wins the White House. Four of the past six presidential elections in Wisconsin have been decided by less than a percentage point.

As Tyler Schmitt, 28, and his partner Ken Ragan, 24, stretched in the long grass Wednesday at a park west of the convention site, they considered the pros and cons of Milwaukee hosting.

Ragan said she could do without the traffic headaches. But Schmitt, an urban farmer, said he sees positives.

"From a small-business perspective, it brings good energy in the tourism and good press," he said. "It's pretty much downtown, and I think downtown is appropriate."

But the downtown location still put law enforcement, including visiting officers from across the country, on Milwaukee streets. On Tuesday, officers from Columbus, Ohio, shot and killed Samuel Sharpe, a man who had been living in a homeless encampment about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the convention site.

Sharpe had a knife in each hand and moved toward another man, ignoring the commands of police officers before they shot him, authorities said. The shooting remains under investigation.

Sharpe's sister, Angelique Sharpe, blamed his death on the presence of out-of-state officers.

"I'd rather have the Milwaukee Police Department, who know the people of this community, (than) people who have no ties to your community and don't care nothing about our extended family members down there," she said.

At a rally after her brother was killed, Angelique Sharpe said her brother suffered from multiple sclerosis and was acting in self-defense against a person who had threatened him in recent days.

Activists in the city also questioned whether the focus on the convention had minimized more pressing, systemic problems in Milwaukee.

Hours before Trump took the convention stage Thursday night to deliver his speech to delegates, dozens of protesters held a rally a block from the convention site to call attention to the deaths of Sharpe and another Black man, D'Vontaye Mitchell, who died last month after he was pinned down by security guards at a nearby hotel.

"They come here and make money off our city. But when we're hurt and we need them, they're not there," said Karl Harris, Mitchell's cousin.

As Georgia presses on with 'Russia-style' laws, its citizens describe a country on the brink

By JOANNA KOZLOWSKA Associated Press

Eka Gigauri is used to harsh words from officials about the anti-corruption work she does in Georgia. But seeing her face on posters, accusing her of being an agent of foreign influence, a traitor and a spy, rattled her.

Gigauri, who leads one of Georgia's main anti-corruption campaign groups, says she and many others have been targeted in connection with a new law, pushed through parliament by the government.

The "foreign influence" law requires media, civil society groups and nonprofit organizations to register as "pursuing the interests of a foreign power" if they receive more than 20% of their funding from abroad. It also subjects them to intense state scrutiny and imposes steep fines for noncompliance.

The government argues the law is needed to curb harmful foreign actors trying to destabilize the South Caucasus nation of 3.7 million. Many journalists and activists say its true goal is to stigmatize them and restrict debate before an election scheduled for October. It could also threaten Georgia's bid to join the

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European Union.

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The law resembles similar legislation in Russia, where it has been used to crack down on opposition supporters, independent media and human rights activists. Georgian Dream, the country's ruling party, got the legislation through on its second attempt.

In 2012, after years of turbulence, Georgian Dream came to power. The party was set up by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia and served briefly as Georgia's prime minister. He has stayed out of public view since 2013.

Georgian Dream promised to restore civil rights and "reset" relations with Moscow. It also vowed to pursue EU membership and ties with the U.S., reassuring those Georgians who looked to the West to protect them from their overbearing northern neighbor.

In August 2008, Russia fought a brief war with Georgia, which had made a botched attempt to regain control over the breakaway province of South Ossetia. Moscow then recognized the independence of South Ossetia and another breakaway Georgian province, Abkhazia, and set up military bases there.

In 2022, after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Georgia formally applied to join the EU. Support for EU membership was already high, but after the invasion, polls showed about 74% of Georgians were in favor.

Many in Georgia, with its long history of domination by Moscow, supported Ukraine as it battled the Russian invasion. But the Georgian government abstained from joining sanctions against Russia, barred dozens of Kremlin critics from entering the country, and accused the West of trying to drag Tbilisi into open conflict with Moscow.

Almost exactly a year later, Georgian Dream first put the "foreign influence" bill before parliament. Weeks of demonstrations followed, where police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse protesters.

The EU made clear that the bill, if passed, would damage Georgia's membership prospects. In March 2023, the draft legislation was withdrawn. In December, the EU offered Georgia official candidate status, despite concerns about the rule of law.

In April 2024, Georgian Dream brought the bill back to parliament and the protesters returned to the streets. Georgia's pro-EU President Salome Zourabichvili used her veto, but parliament overrode her with a simple majority, and the bill became law.

Rights advocates cast the law as an existential threat.

"By labeling independent groups and media as serving foreign interests, they (Georgia's leadership) intend to marginalize and stifle critical voices in the country that are fundamental for any functioning democracy," said Hugh Williamson from the advocacy group Human Rights Watch.

The day after the bill was enacted, Georgian Dream introduced proposals to ban media depictions of same-sex relations and any public gatherings endorsing them.

Tamar Jakeli, the head of prominent LGBTQ+ rights group Tbilisi Pride, argues that both initiatives are part of a broader strategy by the ruling party to divide society.

"The West, the opposition, LGBT people, and civil society — we are all, together, demonized as spreading LGBT propaganda, trying to impose a Western lifestyle, erase Georgian traditions," said Jakeli, who has moved homes because of safety reasons and carries pepper spray when out.

Like the "foreign influence" bill, the proposed anti-LGBTQ+ provisions mirror Russian legislation. Rumors have swirled for months that Georgian Dream may be acting in coordination with the Kremlin — something the party vehemently denies.

"The evidence for Russia being the power behind Ivanishvili — and Georgian Dream — is, at this stage, circumstantial. But it is nevertheless compelling," James Nixey, Russia and Eurasia director at the London-based think tank Chatham House, wrote in an analysis in May.

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Georgia's pro-government media sound a steady drumbeat of fear, warning of the West's supposed attempts to destabilize Tbilisi and stoke conflict with Moscow.

In a speech on April 29 that baffled Tbilisi's EU partners, Ivanishvili charged that a "global party of war" is secretly channeling funds into Georgia through nonprofits, to topple the government and turn Georgians into "cannon fodder" in a war with Russia.

Maka Bochorishvili, a Georgian Dream lawmaker who heads the parliamentary EU integration committee, told The Associated Press that the "foreign influence" law aims to ensure transparency.

She argued, without providing evidence, that some nonprofits back "nonconstitutional ways of change of government in Georgia," and that as the election looms, some have started to resemble political parties.

Most organizations targeted by the new law aren't prominent or influential. Major groups like Gigauri's Transparency International will face the same level of scrutiny as small news outlets.

None of the journalists and campaigners who spoke to the AP said their organizations would voluntarily join the "foreign influence" register. Gigauri called the decision "a matter of dignity."

"First of all, we are citizens and patriots of this country," she said.

But the law means officials can register their publications and organizations anyway. It also allows Georgia's justice ministry to conduct detailed audits, potentially seizing laptops and other equipment for months at a time.

Nino Bakradze, whose investigative publication iFact.ge has for years tracked secretive offshore companies, corruption and the impact on Georgians of major foreign investment projects, says this would essentially halt their operations.

Seizing the equipment also means authorities could access sensitive data on the organizations' staff, sources, whistleblowers and those who approach them for assistance. In a country where far-right groups still attack Pride marches, this is especially worrying for LGBTQ+ rights groups like Jakeli's, many of which have received foreign grants.

Tbilisi's modernization in recent decades, and its increasingly active citizenry, appeared to signal that democracy can succeed in post-Soviet states, threatening the Kremlin and other regional autocrats.

In October, Georgia faces its next big test: a parliamentary election. Zaza Bibilashvili, an analyst with the Chavchavadze Center, a civil society group, said there was little hope for a meaningful vote if the "foreign influence" law is applied.

Like others, he described an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. Opposition figures have suffered extensive injuries they blame on beatings from police or pro-government thugs. Gia Japaridze, a university lecturer and brother of a top opposition politician, told the AP that his assailants freely admitted he had been targeted because of his criticism of the "foreign influence" law.

"Right now, we still have a civil society that's trying to survive. In October, we'll probably have none of that. People will have been arrested (or) expelled," Bibilashvili argued.

In Tbilisi, the protests against the foreign influence law have grown less frequent as campaigners shift their attention to the upcoming election. But many still draw comfort from the spirit of the rallies that drew Georgians of all ages and backgrounds.

"I've never seen Georgian society so united," said Giorgi Kikonishvili, an LGBTQ+ activist and club promoter in Tbilisi.

"Right now, things are devastating, but at the same time, it's a very beautiful thing to watch," he said.

Trump campaign releases letter on his injury, treatment after last week's assassination attempt

By JILL COLVIN and BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump's campaign released an update on the former president's health Saturday, one week after he survived an attempted assassination at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The memo, from Texas Rep. Ronny Jackson, a staunch supporter who served as Trump's White House physician, offers new details on the nature of the GOP nominee's injuries and the treatment he received

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in the immediate aftermath of the attack.

It is the most thorough accounting to date of the former president's condition since the night of the shooting, which also left one rally-goer dead and injured two others.

According to Jackson, Trump sustained a gunshot wound to the right ear that came "less than a quarter of an inch from entering his head, and struck the top of his right ear."

The bullet track, he said, "produced a 2 cm wide wound that extended down to the cartilaginous surface of the ear. There was initially significant bleeding, followed by marked swelling of the entire upper ear."

While the swelling has resolved and the wound "is beginning to granulate and heal properly," he said Trump is still experiencing intermittent bleeding, requiring the dressing that was on display at last week's Republican National Convention.

"Given the broad and blunt nature of the wound itself, no sutures were required," Jackson wrote.

Trump was initially treated by medical staff at Butler Memorial Hospital. According to Jackson, doctors "provided a thorough evaluation for additional injuries that included a CT of his head."

Trump, he said, "will have further evaluations, including a comprehensive hearing exam, as needed. He will follow up with his primary care physician, as directed by the doctors that initially evaluated him," he wrote.

"In summary, former President Trump is doing well, and he is recovering as expected from the gunshot wound sustained last Saturday afternoon," he added.

Jackson said in the letter that, as Trump's former doctor, he was worried and traveled to Bedminster, New Jersey, where Trump had flown late Saturday after he returned from Pennsylvania, "to personally check on him, and offer my assistance in any way possible."

He said he has been with Trump since that time, evaluating and treating his wound daily, and would remain with Trump through the weekend, including traveling to Michigan, where Trump held his first rally since the shooting, joined by his new running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. At Saturday's rally, the white gauze on Trump's ear was replaced by a skin-colored bandage.

Jackson appears to be licensed to practice medicine in Florida, according to a state health department database. Records from the American Board of Emergency Medicine also show that Jackson has a certification in Emergency Medicine, valid through the end of 2025.

A spokesperson for the congressman did not immediately provide a response when asked about the status of his license, and Trump campaign's did not immediately respond to questions.

Jackson has come under considerable scrutiny. After administering a physical to Trump in 2018, he drew headlines for extolling the then-president's "incredibly good genes" and suggesting that "if he had a healthier diet over the last 20 years he might live to be 200 years old."

In 2001, the Department of Defense inspector general released a scathing report on his conduct as a top White House physician that found Jackson had made "sexual and denigrating" comments about a female subordinate, violated the policy on drinking alcohol on a presidential trip and took prescription-strength sleeping medication that prompted worries from his colleagues about his ability to provide proper medical care.

Jackson denied the allegations, claiming he was the victim of a "political hit job" because of his close ties to the former Republican president.

Last year, Trump's campaign released a letter on President Joe Biden's 81st birthday from Dr. Bruce A. Aronwald, a New Jersey physician, who said he had been the former president's doctor since 2021.

Trump's campaign and federal law enforcement had released little information on his condition or treatment in the days after the the attack, declining to disclose medical records or hold briefings with the doctors who treated him at the hospital.

After a would-be assassin shot and gravely wounded President Ronald Reagan in 1981, the Washington, D.C., hospital where he was treated gave regular, detailed public updates about his condition and treatment.

Trauma surgeon Babak Sarani, who said he has been treating more patients with wounds from AR-15 style assault rifles, said the description in the letter was "exactly in line with what you would expect from a bullet wound."

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While the indirect damage is still usually minor, he said the risk of extensive damage is greater than if another gun were used.

"If a bullet whizzes by your ear from a low-caliber handgun, it's not a big deal. ... You get a headache or feel dizzy like a bad concussion," said Sarani, chief of trauma at George Washington Hospital in Washington, D.C. "But if the bullet is from an assault rifle, the energy is bigger, broader, and you're more likely to develop bruises."

He added, "in Trump's case, he got very lucky. The majority of the energy was released in the air. If it had hit him in the head, we would be having a completely different conversation."

Former Secret Service agent Rich Staropoli said the AR-15-style rifle used by the gunman fires a 5.56 millimeter bullet at such high speeds — over 2,000 miles an hour — that just the air pressure as it passes can cause extensive damage.

"The shock wave alone could have ripped his ear off," Staropoli said of Trump. "It's amazing the bullet nipped him" and didn't do any other damage.

"It's a one in a billion type of thing," he added. A fraction of a millimeter closer, "and this would be a different story. It really is incredible the thin line here between just a nick and devastating bodily damage."

Dr. Kenji Inaba, chief of trauma and surgical critical care at the University of Southern California, said a follow-up by Trump's physician was appropriate, including a mental health evaluation.

"Clearly any injury, no matter how minor, when there is intent, will be associated with some degree of post-traumatic stress, so this would also be a consideration for his medical team," said Inaba in an email.

Trump holds first rally after assassination attempt with his new running mate, Vance, by his side

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Donald Trump held his first campaign rally since he survived an assassination attempt Saturday, returning to the battleground state of Michigan alongside his newly named running mate.

"It was exactly one week ago, even to the hour, even to the minute," Trump told the crowd, reflecting on the July 13 shooting in Pennsylvania that left him with a bloodied ear, killed one of his supporters and left two others injured.

"I stand before you only by the grace of almighty God," he said, the white gauze on his ear now replaced by a skin-colored bandage. "I shouldn't be here right now," he went on.

Trump was joined by Ohio Sen. JD Vance at the pair's first event together since they became the GOP's nominees at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

"I find it hard to believe that a week ago, an assassin tried to take Donald Trump's life, and now we have got a hell of a crowd in Michigan to welcome him back on the campaign trail," Vance said before Trump's arrival.

Michigan is one of the handful of crucial swing states expected to determine the outcome of November's presidential election. Trump narrowly won the state by just over 10,000 votes in 2016, but Democrat Joe Biden flipped it back in 2020, winning by a margin of 154,000 votes on his way to the presidency.

After appearing uncharacteristically subdued and emotional during the Republican convention, Trump returned to his usual rally mode, insulting his Democratic rivals, repeating his lies about the 2020 election, and peppering his address with jokes that sparked laughter from an enthusiastic audience.

At one point, Trump glanced at a screen showing him from an unusual angle and joked about his combover. "That's a severe sucker. What's with that one?" he said. "I apologize. Man! I looked up there, I said, 'Whoa!' That's like a work of art!"

At another point, as he invited a supporter on stage, he quipped, "He does not carry guns!"

But Trump also talked about the shooting, acting out how he'd turned his head to look up at a chart of southern border crossings projected on a giant screen, narrowly dodging the bullet that hit his ear.

"I owe immigration my life," he said.

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Hours before he took the stage, Trump's supporters crowded the streets of downtown Grand Rapids in anticipation of the former president's remarks. Supporters began lining up Friday morning, and by Saturday afternoon, the line stretched close to a mile from the entrance of the 12,000-seat Van Andel Arena.

Many wore shirts featuring the image of Trump, on stage, after he was shot, pumping his fist in the air, along with the usual red "Make America Great Again" hats.

Mike Gaydos, who traveled from Indiana with his three sons to attend the rally, said he didn't consider himself a "huge" Trump supporter in the past but wanted to show support for the former president following his attempted assassination.

"We can't allow something like that to collar us," he said. "Bravery is what I thought he showed that day, and I want to show my sons about bravery as well."

Numerous streets, closed as an additional security precaution, were dotted with vendors selling food and apparel. Among them was a vendor from North Carolina who said he had spent the night making shirts featuring "Trump Vance '24."

Downtown Grand Rapids also saw a significant police presence, with officers stationed on nearly every block, while others patrolled on horseback and bicycles. The heightened security outside the venue created a tense environment, with some attendees mentioning that drones overhead had made them nervous. The event was held indoors, which makes it easier to secure.

Attendees were required to pass through a metal detector upon entering the arena, yet the presence of security inside appeared consistent with previous events.

"This is the tightest I've ever seen the security," said Renee White, who said that she's been to 33 of Trump's rallies. "We usually can bring in some small bags, but today I had to just leave stuff out there."

White had been seated behind the podium at the rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, where the gunman opened fire from a nearby rooftop. She described the shooting as "surreal" but said that it wouldn't stop her from going to his rallies.

"If I'm going to be taken out, at least I'm doing something I love to do, right?" she said. On Saturday, she was again seated behind Trump, almost in the same spot as she had been in Butler.

Trump's choice of Vance was aimed, in part, at helping him win support from Rust Belt voters in places like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Ohio who helped Trump notch his surprise 2016 victory. Vance specifically mentioned those places during his acceptance speech at the convention, stressing his roots growing up poor in small-town Ohio and pledging not to forget working-class people whose "jobs were sent overseas and children were sent to war."

Democrats have dominated recent elections in Michigan, but Republicans now see an opening in the state, especially as Democrats remain divided about whether Biden should drop out of the race.

Biden has insisted he is not quitting, and has attempted to turn the focus back towards Trump, saying Friday that Trump's acceptance speech at the Republican convention showcased a "dark vision for the future."

Trump on Saturday polled the crowd on who they'd like to see as his opponent, with cheers for Biden and loud boos when Trump asked about Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump and his team have tried to cast Democrats' efforts to replace Biden as a "coup" in what appears to be part of a larger effort to try to distract from Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election after he refused to accept the results, as well as the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by his supporters.

"At this very moment, Democrat Party bosses are frantically trying to overthrow the results of their own party's primaries to dump Crooked Joe Biden from the ballot," Trump charged.

Later, he pushed back against efforts to cast him as a threat to democracy and an extremist, even as he has vowed mass deportations and threatened retribution against his political enemies.

"They keep saying, 'He's a threat to democracy...' Last week I took a bullet for democracy," he said to rousing cheers.

Trump also again tried to distance himself from the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, a policy and personnel plan for a second Trump term that was crafted by a host of former administration officials.

Trump blasted the project, which has become a centerpiece of Biden's campaign, as "severe right" and

"seriously extreme," just like the "radical left."

"I don't know anything about it," he insisted.

Biden's campaign responded with a statement that noted Trump's speech accepting the GOP nomination, in which he urged unity and said he was "running to be president for all of America, not half of America."

"We were promised a new Donald Trump who would unite the country — instead all we saw tonight was the same Donald Americans keep rejecting over and over," said Biden-Harris spokesperson Ammar Moussa. "He's peddling the same lies, running the same campaign of revenge and retribution, touting the same failed policies, and — as usual — focused only on himself."

The 81-year-old Democratic incumbent, who appeared in Detroit this month, is currently isolating at his beach home in Delaware recovering from COVID-19.

U.S. Rep. Hillary Scholten, a Democrat representing Grand Rapids, is among the growing number of lawmakers calling on Biden to exit the race after his disastrous performance at last month's debate.

Israeli military says it has struck Houthi targets in Yemen in response to attacks

By AHMED AL-HAJ, WAFAA SHURAFU and JACK JEFFERY Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — The Israeli army said Saturday it has struck several Houthi targets in western Yemen following a fatal drone attack by the rebel group in Tel Aviv the previous day.

The Israeli strikes appeared to be the first on Yemeni soil since the Israel-Hamas war began in October, and they threatened to open a new front in the region as Israel battles proxies of Iran.

A number of "military targets" were hit in the western port city of Hodeidah, a Houthi stronghold, the Israeli army said, adding that its attack was in response to "hundreds of attacks" against Israel in recent months.

"The Houthis attacked us over 200 times. The first time that they harmed an Israeli citizen, we struck them. And we will do this in any place where it may be required," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said in a statement.

The Ministry of Health in Sanaa said that 80 people were wounded in a preliminary toll of the strikes in Hodeidah, most of them with severe burns.

Israel's military said it alone carried out the strikes and "our friends were updated." An Israeli Defense Forces official didn't say how many sites were targeted, but told journalists that the port is the main entry point for Iranian weapons. The official didn't say whether it was Israel's first attack on Yemen.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam posted on X that the "blatant Israeli aggression" targeted fuel storage facilities and the province's power station. He said the attacks aim "to increase the suffering of the people and to pressure Yemen to stop supporting Gaza."

Abdulsalam said the attacks will only make Yemen's people and armed forces more determined to support Gaza. "There will be impactful strikes," Mohamed Ali al-Houthi of the Supreme Political Council in Yemen wrote on X.

A media outlet controlled by Houthi rebels in Yemen, Al-Masirah TV, said the strikes on storage facilities for oil and diesel at the port and on the local electricity company caused deaths and injuries, and several people had severe burns. It said there was a large fire at the port and power cuts were widespread.

Health officials in Yemen said the strikes killed a number of people and wounded others, but didn't elaborate.

The drone attack by Houthi rebels killed one person in the center of Tel Aviv and wounded at least 10 others near the U.S. Embassy early Friday.

Virtually all projectiles fired from the southern Arabian country toward Israel have been intercepted. Israel said air defenses detected the drone on Friday but an "error" occurred. Experts have expressed doubt about the Houthis' ability to overwhelm Israel's air defense system from about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away.

"The distance just makes it difficult to launch the kind of barrage that would be necessary to inflict

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major damage," said Fabian Hinz, a missile expert and research fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Since January, U.S. and U.K. forces have been striking targets in Yemen, in response to the Houthis' attacks on commercial shipping that the rebels have described as retaliation for Israel's actions in the war in Gaza. However, many of the ships targeted weren't linked to Israel.

The joint force airstrikes so far have done little to deter the Iran-backed force.

Analysts and Western intelligence services have long accused Iran of arming the Houthis, a claim Tehran denies. In recent years, U.S. naval forces have intercepted a number of ships packed with rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and missile parts en route from Iran to Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

The Houthis have long-range ballistic missiles, smaller cruise missiles and "suicide drones," all capable of reaching southern Israel, according to weapons experts. The Houthis are open about their arsenal, regularly parading new missiles through the streets of Sanaa.

Deadly strikes inside Gaza

Also Saturday, at least 13 people were killed in three Israeli airstrikes that hit refugee camps in central Gaza overnight, according to Palestinian health officials, as cease-fire talks in Cairo appeared to make progress.

Among the dead in the Nuseirat and Bureij refugee camps were three children and one woman, according to Palestinian ambulance teams that transported the bodies to nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. Associated Press journalists counted the 13 corpses.

Earlier, a medical team delivered a live baby from a Palestinian woman killed in an airstrike that hit her home in Nuseirat on Thursday. Ola al-Kurd, 25, was rushed by emergency workers to Al-Awda Hospital in northern Gaza in the hope of saving the unborn child. Hours later, doctors told the AP that a baby boy had been delivered.

The still-unnamed newborn is stable, but has suffered from a shortage of oxygen and has been placed in an incubator, Dr. Khalil Dajran said on Friday.

Al-Kurd's "husband and a relative survived yesterday's strike, while everyone else died," Majid al-Kurd, the deceased woman's cousin, told the AP on Saturday. "The baby is in good health based on what doctors said."

The war in Gaza, which was sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, has killed more than 38,900 people, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The war has created a humanitarian catastrophe in the coastal Palestinian territory, displaced most of its 2.3 million population and triggered widespread hunger.

Hamas' attack in October killed 1,200 people in Israel, mostly civilians, and militants took about 250 hostage. About 120 remain in captivity, with about a third of them believed to be dead, according to Israeli authorities.

Unrest in the West Bank

In the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said a 20-year-old man was shot dead by Israeli forces late Friday. Commenting on the shooting, the Israeli army said its forces opened fire on a group of Palestinians hurling rocks at Israeli troops in the town of Beit Ummar.

A witness said that Ibrahim Zaqeq wasn't directly involved in the clashes and was standing nearby. Zaqeq "just looked at them, they shot him in the head," Thare Abu Hashem said.

On Saturday, Hamas identified Zaqeq as one of its members.

Violence has surged in the territory since the war in Gaza began. At least 577 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli fire since then, according to the Ramallah-based Health Ministry, which tracks Palestinian deaths.

In Cairo, international mediators, including the United States, are continuing to push Israel and Hamas toward a phased deal that would halt the fighting and free about 120 hostages in Gaza.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said a cease-fire deal between Hamas and Israel that would release Israeli hostages captive by the group in Gaza is "inside the 10-yard line," but added "we know that anything in the last 10 yards are the hardest."

Beyond Biden, Democrats are split over who would be next —VP Harris or launch a 'mini primary'

By LISA MASCARO, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Democrats churn over whether President Joe Biden should stay in the 2024 race, the party turmoil is deepening over whether his Vice President Kamala Harris is next in line for the job or if a “mini primary” should be quickly launched to choose a new nominee before the party’s August convention.

Harris hit the campaign fundraising circuit Saturday in breezy Provincetown, Massachusetts, and picked up a nod from the state’s prominent Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who said before the visit that if Biden were to step aside, his vice president is “ready to step up.”

At the event, which organizers said raised \$2 million and was attended by 1,000 guests, Harris did not mention the calls for Biden to leave the race or for her to replace him, instead repeating one of her regular campaign lines: “We’re going to win this election,” she said.

“Do we believe in freedom? Do we believe in equality? Do we believe in the promise of America? Then are we ready to fight for it?” she called to a cheering crowd. “When we fight, we win.”

But installing Harris to the top of the ticket, which would be a history-making moment for the party elevating the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent as its presidential nominee, is not at all certain. Officials from the highest ranks, including Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, prefer an open process, some believing it would strengthen any Democratic nominee to confront Republican Donald Trump.

“If you think that there is consensus among the people who want Joe Biden to leave.... that they will support Kamala, Vice President Harris, you would be mistaken,” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said this week on a widely discussed social media post.

With the publicly aired deliberations, Democrats are prolonging an extraordinary moment of uncertainty and upheaval. Biden has weighty options before him this weekend that could set the direction of the country and his party as the nation heads toward the November election.

It’s creating a stark juxtaposition with Republicans, who, after years of bitter and chaotic infighting over Trump, are energized and embracing the former president’s far-right takeover of the GOP, despite his criminal conviction in a hush money case and pending federal criminal indictment for trying to overturn the 2020 election before the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Biden, despite a week of campaign stops, interviews and insistence that he is the best candidate to take on Trump in a rematch, hasn’t been able to quell the uproar. Skeptical Democrats doubt he can keep the White House after his stumbled debate performance last month, and worry he will take hopes for party control of Congress down with him.

On Saturday, Rep. Mark Takano, the top Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, added his name to the list of nearly three dozen Democrats in Congress who say it’s time for Biden to leave the race. The Californian called on Biden to “pass the torch,” to Harris.

More lawmakers are expected to speak out in the days ahead. Donors have raised concerns.

“There is no joy in the recognition he should not be our nominee in November,” said Democratic Rep. Morgan McGarvey of Kentucky, one of the Democrats urging Biden’s exit from the race.

From his beach home in Delaware, Biden, 81, is isolating after announcing a COVID infection, but also politically with a small circle of family and close advisers. White House doctor Kevin O’Connor said Saturday that Biden’s symptoms were improving, but that he remained plagued by a dry cough and hoarseness. He received separate briefings Saturday on domestic and national security issues, the White House said.

The president’s team insisted he’s ready to return to the campaign this coming week to counter what he called a “dark vision” laid out by Trump.

“Together, as a party and as a country, we can and will defeat him at the ballot box,” Biden said in a statement Friday.

But outside the Rehoboth enclave, the debate and passions are intensifying.

Very few of the Democratic lawmakers who are agitating for Biden to leave have mentioned Harris in

their statements, and some have said they favor an open nominating process that would throw the party's endorsement behind a new candidate.

A person familiar with Pelosi's thinking said that while she is a friend and admirer of the vice president, she believes that anybody who wants to be president is better served by such a process, believing that whoever emerges as the candidate would be strengthened to win the election. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to characterize Pelosi's thought process.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, a Pelosi ally who has called on Biden to step aside, said Friday on MSNBC that some kind of "mini-primary" that would include Harris makes sense.

Democratic Sens. Jon Tester of Montana and Peter Welch of Vermont have both called for Biden to exit the race and said they would favor an open nominating process at the convention.

"Having it be open would strengthen whoever is the ultimate nominee," Welch said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Other Democrats say it would be politically unthinkable to move to someone other than Harris, and logistically unworkable with a virtual nominating vote being planned for early next month, before the Democratic convention opens in Chicago on Aug. 19.

Minnesota Rep. Betty McCollum, who has called on Biden to step aside, explicitly endorsed Harris as a replacement.

"To give Democrats a strong, viable path to winning the White House, I am calling upon President Biden to release his delegates and empower Vice-President Harris to step forward to become the Democratic nominee for President," McCollum said in her statement.

The standoff over Biden's political future has become increasingly untenable for the party and its leaders, a month from the Democratic National Convention that should be a unifying moment to nominate their incumbent president to confront Trump. Instead, the party is at a crossroads unseen in generations.

It's unclear what else, if anything, the president could do to reverse course and win back lawmakers and Democratic voters, who are wary of his ability to defeat Trump and serve another term,

Biden, who sent a defiant letter to Democrats in Congress vowing to stay in the race, has yet to visit Capitol Hill to shore up support, an absence noticed by senators and representatives.

The president did conduct a round of virtual conversations with various caucuses in the past week — some of which ended poorly.

Gunman in Trump rally attack flew drone over rally site in advance of event, official says

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The gunman in the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump is believed to have flown a drone around the Pennsylvania rally site ahead of time in an apparent attempt to scope out the site before the event, a law enforcement official said Saturday.

The drone has been recovered by the FBI, which is leading the investigation into last Saturday's shooting at the rally by 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks.

Crooks fired multiple rounds from the roof of a building adjacent to the Butler Farm Show grounds, where Trump was speaking, before being fatally shot by a Secret Service counter sniper. The existence of the device and its use at some point before the shooting could help explain why Crooks knew to fire from the point.

The official who described the drone was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity. Details of the drone were first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Trump said this week that one bullet clipped his right ear. A memo released Saturday by the Trump campaign and authored by Texas Rep. Ronny Jackson, who served as the GOP nominee's White House physician, said that Trump sustained a gunshot wound to the right ear from a high-powered rifle that came "less than a quarter of an inch from entering his head, and struck the top of his right ear."

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One of the bullets aimed toward Trump killed 50-year-old firefighter Corey Comperatore, a spectator who was in the bleachers. Two others were seriously wounded.

The FBI is continuing to investigate what may have motivated Crooks to carry out the attack. So far, officials have not found any ideological bent that could help explain his actions.

Investigators who searched his phone found photos of Trump, President Joe Biden and other senior government officials, and also found that he had looked up the dates for the Democratic National Conventional as well as Trump's appearances. He also searched for information about major depressive order.

More details about the investigation are expected to be made public in the coming week when FBI Director Chris Wray appears before the House Judiciary Committee.

Lebanon's Hezbollah fires dozens of rockets at Israeli kibbutz after drone strike wounds civilians

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said that its fighters fired dozens of rockets into northern Israel on Saturday, targeting a kibbutz for the first time in nine months in retaliation for an Israeli drone strike earlier in the day that wounded several people including children.

Also Saturday, the militant Palestinian group Hamas said it fired rockets from Lebanon toward an Israeli army post in the northern Israeli village of Shomera in retaliation for the "Zionists massacres" in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has carried out such attacks from Lebanon over the past several months, but they have been rare.

On Saturday night, an Israeli airstrike on the southern coastal village of Adloun hit an arms depot and it was followed by a series of explosions that hit nearby villages with shrapnel, said state-run National News Agency, or NNA. The agency said that three people were slightly wounded in the nearby village of Kharayeb and hospitalized.

The agency didn't give further details about the arms depot, but it was believed to belong to Hezbollah, which has a wide presence in the area. The explosions lasted more than an hour after the airstrike, NNA said.

Hezbollah's attack earlier in the day with dozens of Katyusha rockets on the northern Israeli kibbutz of Dafna came few hours after an Israeli drone strike hit a car in the southern Lebanese village of Burj al-Muluk, and shrapnel from the missile wounded several people who were standing nearby. NNA said that the wounded civilians are Syrian citizens and they included children.

The Israeli military said that about 45 projectiles were detected crossing from Lebanon into northern Israel in three separate barrages. It said that some were intercepted, while others fell in open areas, causing no injuries, but triggering several fires in the Golan Heights.

On Friday, Hezbollah said that it fired rockets at three villages in northern Israel for the first time in retaliation for a strike that killed several people the night before.

Hezbollah began firing rockets shortly after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, saying it aimed to ease pressure on Gaza. The exchange of fire and airstrikes, which has been limited to a few kilometers or miles on each side of the border, has displaced tens of thousands of people in both countries.

On Wednesday, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah warned that his group would retaliate against Israeli strikes in Lebanon that inflict civilian casualties "by firing rockets and targeting new villages that were not targeted in the past."

Since early October, Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon have killed more than 450 people, mostly Hezbollah members, but also around 90 civilians and noncombatants. On the Israeli side, 21 soldiers and 13 civilians have been killed.

Malicious actors trying to exploit global tech outage for their own gain

By DAVID KOENIG and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

As the world continues to recover from massive business and travel disruptions caused by a faulty software update from cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, malicious actors are trying to exploit the situation for their own gain.

Government cybersecurity agencies across the globe and CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz are warning businesses and individuals about new phishing schemes that involve malicious actors posing as CrowdStrike employees or other tech specialists offering to assist those recovering from the outage.

"We know that adversaries and bad actors will try to exploit events like this," Kurtz said in a statement. "I encourage everyone to remain vigilant and ensure that you're engaging with official CrowdStrike representatives."

The UK Cyber Security Center said they have noticed an increase in phishing attempts around this event.

Microsoft said 8.5 million devices running its Windows operating system were affected by the faulty cybersecurity update Friday that led to worldwide disruptions. That's less than 1% of all Windows-based machines, Microsoft cybersecurity executive David Weston said in a blog post on Saturday.

He also said such a significant disturbance is rare but "demonstrates the interconnected nature of our broad ecosystem."

What's happening with air travel?

With their tightly timed, interwoven schedules and complex technology systems, many big airlines struggle to stay on time when everything goes well. It perhaps was not surprising that the industry was among the hardest hit by the outage, with crews and planes caught out of position.

By mid-afternoon Saturday on the U.S. East Coast, airlines around the world had canceled more than 2,000 flights, according to tracking service FlightAware. That was down from 5,100-plus cancellations on Friday.

About 1,600 of Saturday's canceled flights occurred in the United States, where carriers scrambled to get planes and crews back into position after massive disruptions the day before. According to travel data provider Cirium, U.S. carriers canceled about 3.5% of their scheduled flights for Saturday. Only Australia was hit harder.

Canceled flights were running at about 1% in the United Kingdom, France and Brazil and about 2% in Canada, Italy and India among major air-travel markets.

Robert Mann, a former airline executive and now a consultant in the New York area, said it was unclear exactly why U.S. airlines were suffering disproportionate cancellations, but possible causes include a greater degree of outsourcing of technology and more exposure to Microsoft operating systems that received the faulty upgrade from CrowdStrike.

Which airlines are getting hit the hardest?

Delta Air Lines canceled more than 800 flights, or one-fourth of its schedule for Saturday, and that number did not include Delta Connection regional flights. It was followed by United Airlines, which dropped nearly 400 flights.

The worst airport to be, for a second straight day, was Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, where Delta is the dominant carrier. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that thousands of people spent the night at the airport, many sleeping on the floors.

European airlines and airports appeared to be recovering slowly, although Lufthansa and its affiliates canceled dozens of flights. Its Eurowings budget subsidiary said check-in, boarding, booking and rebooking flights were all available again, although "isolated disruptions" were possible.

London's Heathrow Airport said it was busy but operating normally on Saturday and that "all systems are back up and running." Flights at Berlin's main airport were departing on or close to schedule, German Press Agency dpa reported, citing an airport spokesman.

How are healthcare systems holding up?

Health care systems affected by the outage faced clinic closures, canceled surgeries and appointments and restricted access to patient records.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif., said "steady progress has been made" to bring its servers back online and thanked its patients for being flexible during the crisis.

"Our teams will be working actively through the weekend as we continue to resolve remaining issues in preparation for the start of the work week," the hospital wrote in a statement.

In Austria, a leading organization of doctors said the outage exposed the vulnerability of relying on digital systems. Harald Mayer, vice president of the Austrian Chamber of Doctors, said the outage showed that hospitals need analog backups to protect patient care.

The organization also called on governments to impose high standards in patient data protection and security, and on health providers to train staff and put systems in place to manage crises.

"Happily, where there were problems, these were kept small and short-lived and many areas of care were unaffected" in Austria, Mayer said.

The Schleswig-Holstein University Hospital in northern Germany, which canceled all elective procedures Friday, said Saturday that systems were gradually being restored and that elective surgery could resume by Monday.

Will the tech industry face a reckoning?

"I wasn't that surprised that an accident caused severe global digital disruption. I was a little surprised that the cause of it was a software update from a very well-respected cybersecurity company," said Oxford University management professor Ciaran Martin, a former chief executive of the U.K.'s National Cyber Security Center.

"There are some very hard questions for CrowdStrike. How on earth did this update get through quality control?" he said. "Clearly the testing regime, whatever it is, failed."

Martin said governments in the U.K. and the European Union will be powerless to take steps to prevent such breakdowns "because we have become dependent on a very American version of technology, and the power to do anything about that doesn't rest in this continent."

Other analysts doubted that the outage would lead Washington or any other government to propose new mandates on tech companies.

"I don't know what the mandate would be. Do better QA?" said Gartner analyst Eric Grenier, using an acronym for quality assurance.

What did scam artists learn from the outage?

Grenier expects that a majority of affected machines will be fixed in about a week, with more time needed to reach laptops used by far-flung workers because the work can't be done remotely – it's a hands-on operation.

In the meantime, there will be scammers trying to take advantage of businesses that have indicated they were affected by the outage.

"The threat is very real," Grenier said. "Bad actors have the information to send targeted phishing emails and calls. They know what endpoint-protection tools you use. They know you use CrowdStrike."

Grenier said affected businesses need to make sure they use a fix supplied by CrowdStrike. "Don't accept the help of somebody coming out of the blue and saying, 'I'll fix that for you,'" he said.

Disneyland workers authorize potential strike ahead of ongoing contract negotiations

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of workers at Disney's theme park and resort properties in California voted late Friday to authorize a potential strike, as contract negotiations drag on over wages, sick leave and other benefits.

The strike authorization was approved by an overwhelming margin, nearly 99% of the members who cast votes, according to a union statement. The election was held by a coalition of four unions, which represents 14,000 Disney ride operators, store clerks, custodians, candy makers, ticket takers, parking

attendants and other employees.

The vote does not mean a strike will happen, only that union leaders now have the option to call a strike in the event that they are unable to negotiate a new contract deal with Disney. Leaders from both sides return to the bargaining table starting Monday.

"We greatly appreciate the important roles our cast members play in creating memorable experiences for our guests, and we remain committed to reaching an agreement that focuses on what matters most to them while positioning Disneyland Resort for growth and job creation," the company said in a statement.

Elizabeth Gonzalez, a day custodial cast member at Disney California Adventure, said in the union statement that she knows colleagues who work two and even three jobs or live in a car to make ends meet.

"I am worried as a future mom for the family I'm creating right now," she said. "Disney can't call themselves a family friendly company while so many cast members and their families are struggling."

Union members have been in talks with Disney over wage increases, safety measures, attendance policies and other benefits since April.

Here's what to do with deli meats as the CDC investigates a listeria outbreak across the U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — As U.S. health officials investigate a fatal outbreak of listeria food poisoning, they're advising people who are pregnant, elderly or have compromised immune systems to avoid eating sliced deli meat unless it's recooked at home to be steaming hot.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention didn't mandate a food recall as of early Saturday, because it remains unclear what specific products have been contaminated with the bacteria now blamed for two deaths and 28 hospitalizations across 12 states. This means the contaminated food may still be in circulation, and consumers should consider their personal risk level when consuming deli meats.

Federal health officials warned on Friday that the number of illnesses is likely an undercount, because people who recover at home aren't likely to be tested. For the same reason, the outbreak may have spread wider than the states where listeria infections have been reported, mostly in the Midwest and along the U.S. eastern coast.

The largest number known to get sick — seven — were in New York, according to the CDC. The people who died were from Illinois and New Jersey.

What investigators have learned

Of the people investigators have been able to interview, "89% reported eating meats sliced at a deli, most commonly deli-sliced turkey, liverwurst, and ham. Meats were sliced at a variety of supermarket and grocery store delis," the CDC said.

And samples collected from victims from May 29 to July 5 show the bacteria is closely related genetically.

"This information suggests that meats sliced at the deli are a likely source of this outbreak. However, at this time CDC doesn't have enough information to say which deli meats are the source of this outbreak," the agency said in a statement published on its website Friday.

What to expect if you're infected

Listeria infections typically cause fever, muscle aches and tiredness and may cause stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions. Symptoms can occur quickly or to up to 10 weeks after eating contaminated food.

It can be diagnosed by testing bodily fluids, usually blood, and sometimes urine or spinal fluid, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Listeria infections are especially dangerous for people older than 65 and those with weakened immune systems, according to the CDC. Victims of this outbreak ranged in age from 32 to 94, with a median age of 75.

For pregnant people, listeria can increase the risk of miscarriages. One of the victims of the current outbreak was pregnant, but did not have a miscarriage, officials said.

Infections confined to the gut — intestinal listeriosis — can often be treated without antibiotics according

to the CDC. For example, people might need extra fluids while experiencing diarrhea.

But when the infection spreads beyond the gut — invasive listeriosis — it's extremely dangerous, and is often treated with antibiotics to mitigate the risk of blood infections and brain inflammation, according to the Mayo Clinic.

What about the meat in your fridge

So far there's no sign that people are getting sick from prepackaged deli meats. And for at-risk people who already have deli slices in their refrigerator, they can be sanitized by being recooked. "Refrigeration does not kill *Listeria*, but reheating before eating will kill any germs that may be on these meats," the CDC says.

This isn't new advice: The CDC says it always recommends that people at higher risk for listeriosis avoid eating meats sliced at the deli, or heat them to an internal temperature of 165 Fahrenheit (74 Celsius) or until it's steaming hot before eating.

Some of the products involved in past listeria outbreaks cannot be reheated, of course: Over the decades, listeria has provoked voluntary or mandated recalls of cheeses, bean dips, milk, mushrooms, packaged salads, and ice cream.

Indonesian women assert themselves with martial arts as gender-based violence remains a challenge

By NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — An emotionally and physically abusive marriage of 11 years led Rani Miranti to join a fight club that has trained her in martial arts, enabling her to stand up against violence.

Miranti is one of the growing number of Indonesian women who are taking self-defense classes as gender-based violence remains a challenge in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

"Government protection usually comes after violence has happened, while we never know when it will come," said the 38-year-old single parent of three children. "Unfortunately, when it suddenly comes, no one can help. So, we need to have self-defense capabilities."

The National Commission on Violence Against Women, known as Komnas Perempuan, recorded 289,111 cases last year, a decrease of around 12% from 339,782 in 2022, the year when a law on sexual violence was enacted.

However, the commission suggested the latest data represents "a tip of the iceberg" in gender-based violence. The true number of cases is suspected to be significantly higher, it said in the 2023 Komnas Perempuan annual report released in March.

A large number of cases went unreported because of several factors: limited access for victims to complaint services, a weak case documentation system, and a high level of social stigma toward victims of violence, the report said.

Indonesia's Parliament approved a far-reaching law in 2022 that sets punishment for sexual violence and guarantees provisions, restitution or other remedies for victims and survivors.

The law was passed a week after an Indonesian high court sentenced an Islamic boarding school principal to death for raping at least 13 students over five years and impregnating some of them. The girls were between 11 and 14 years old and were raped over several years, drawing public outcry over why he wasn't caught earlier.

In July, Indonesia's electoral commission fired its chair after finding him guilty of sexual assault following a complaint by an employee. It was the latest in a series of the country's high-profile cases of violence against women in a vast archipelago nation of more than 277 million people.

With cases growing, more Indonesian women and girls who feared physical violence turned to alternative ways of ensuring their safety, including self-defense classes and clubs.

For Miranti, whose husband repeatedly attacked and physically abused her, Muay Thai is the most suitable self-defense, as it helps her gain more skills, self-confidence and prevention techniques.

Wearing a red hijab and boxing gloves, the teacher in a Jakarta Islamic primary school demonstrated her skill in pounding a heavy bag and kicking toward her sparring partner. It's part of her training routine in a

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mixed martial arts course in eastern Jakarta, where she enrolled almost two years ago after she decided to get out of her abusive marriage in 2018.

With origins in Thailand, Muay Thai is a form of kickboxing that includes knee and elbow strikes, kicks and punches.

"Now, I have a way. ... I have the skill to fight back," Miranti said. "But even more importantly, I have learned to avoid situations by being more aware of my surroundings."

Miranti's female coach, Rahimatul Hasanah, said she was overwhelmed by the increasing demand of women who want to learn martial arts, especially in private training, as female Muay Thai instructors are hard to find.

"Many aren't going to feel comfortable to be coached by male instructors, or need a private class at home," she added.

She said that most of the women who have attended her self-defense classes are timid, with some experiencing abuse in the past.

"Learning physical self-defense not only gives the tools to control their reactions to negative situations, but also can build the confidence for mental defense too," Hasanah said.

Her husband, professional MMA fighter Rizal Zulmi, said the rising trend of women who are learning martial arts shows abusers and criminals that "not all women are easy prey."

The pair of martial arts coaches opened BKT Fight Club three years ago with around 40 students.

"Combat sports have recently become popular among women," said Zulmi, who won at least 30 medals at regional, national and international levels. "They need this kind of martial arts for self-defense amid rampant crimes that happened to women."

Rangi Wirantika Sudrajat, another Indonesian woman who was taking the MMA class, said physical training in martial arts has contributed most to her duties as a general practitioner at the Medecins Sans Frontières, widely known as Doctors Without Borders.

The 31-year-old doctor has been deployed to several refugee camps in Pakistan, Yemen, South Sudan, Bangladesh and Sierra Leone. She said that martial arts not only builds her self-confidence and physical strength, but also serves as stress management.

"I can channel all my pent-up emotions, anger and sadness in healthy way through Muay Thai," she said.

Andy Yentriyani, the chief commissioner of the National Commission on Violence Against Women, welcomed the phenomenon of more women participating in self-defense classes.

"This is of course very important, because sometimes there are many victims who are so shocked that they cannot have any response to what happened to them," Yentriyani said. "And when they realize, it can be too late or can be a very long process."

Among the recorded types of violence that occurred in private spaces are attempted rape, marital rape, forced abortion and incest. The majority of victims were students between the ages of 18 and 24 years, while the majority of reported perpetrators were their former or current male partners.

Almost all the victims were younger and had a lower level of education than their perpetrators, indicating that violence against women often involved a power imbalance, Yentriyani said.

She said that more people had reported sexual harassment in 2023, a year after the sexual violence law was enacted. Her commission received almost 800 reports on online and physical sexual harassment last year, around four times the 200 reported rape cases it received over the same period.

"Many in our society still consider sexual violence cases to be something disgraceful and embarrassing for female victims," Yentriyani said, and many families then decide not to report it. "We still often see situations of silencing victims, including violence against wives."

Do you really have to wait to go swimming after eating?

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

Did your parents warn you against jumping in the pool right after eating? They were misguided.

In most cases, there's no need to wait at least 30 minutes after eating to go for a swim, doctors say.

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That old warning stems from worry that people might drown or struggle because blood will be diverted to their full stomachs instead of their muscles.

In reality, people still have plenty of blood flowing to their muscles after eating, said Dr. Matthew Badgett of the Cleveland Clinic. A former high school swimmer, Badgett used to eat a couple of bananas and drink some water or Gatorade before he raced.

He worries that the old warning can actually cause complications. It's important to quench your thirst before swimming, especially on sunny days. People often don't realize they can still get dehydrated, which can lead to muscle cramps.

"We sweat when we are in the water, we just don't appreciate the water loss," he said.

So, jumping in the pool or ocean after eating is no big deal for recreational swimming. But people planning to swim laps or exercise may want to let their food digest to avoid cramps, just like they'd wait before jogging.

Also, swimming after tossing back a few beers is risky. People tend to be more aggressive, less coordinated and prone to bad choices when they swim after consuming alcohol. Those factors all can cause problems when dealing with strong currents or ocean tides at the beach this summer.

"You're just not going to be as sharp," Badgett said.

Biden praises longtime US Rep Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, who died of cancer

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

Longtime U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, who helped lead federal efforts to protect women from domestic violence and recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday, has died. She was 74.

Lillie Conley, her chief of staff, confirmed that Jackson Lee, who had pancreatic cancer, died in Houston Friday night with her family around her.

The Democrat had represented her Houston-based district and the nation's fourth-largest city since 1995. She had previously had breast cancer and announced the pancreatic cancer diagnosis on June 2.

"The road ahead will not be easy, but I stand in faith that God will strengthen me," Jackson Lee said in a statement then.

Jackson Lee was "a towering figure in our politics," President Joe Biden said in a statement Saturday. "Always fearless, she spoke truth to power and represented the power of the people of her district in Houston with dignity and grace."

Biden said Jackson Lee's spirit was unbreakable.

"I had the honor of working with her during her nearly 30 years in Congress," Biden said. "No matter the issue — from delivering racial justice to building an economy for working people — she was unrelenting in her leadership."

Vice President Kamala Harris called her a dear friend for many years, as well as a fellow member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Congressional Black Caucus.

"She was relentless—one of our nation's fiercest, smartest, and most strategic leaders in the way she thought about how to make progress happen. There was never a trite or trivial conversation with the Congresswoman. She was always fighting for the people of Houston and the people of America," her statement said.

Bishop James Dixon, a longtime friend in Houston who visited Jackson Lee earlier this week, said he will remember her as a fighter.

"She was just a rare, rare jewel of a person who relentlessly gave everything she had to make sure others had what they needed. That was Sheila," he said.

Jackson Lee had just been elected to the Houston district once represented by Barbara Jordan, the first Black woman elected to Congress from a Southern state since Reconstruction, when she was immediately placed on the high-profile House Judiciary Committee in 1995.

"They just saw me, I guess through my profile, through Barbara Jordan's work," Jackson Lee told the

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Houston Chronicle in 2022. "I thought it was an honor because they assumed I was going to be the person they needed."

Jackson Lee quickly established herself as fierce advocate for women and minorities, and a leader for House Democrats on many social justice issues, from policing reform to reparations for descendants of enslaved people. She led the first rewrite of the Violence Against Women Act in nearly a decade, which included protections for Native American, transgender and immigrant women.

Jackson Lee was also among the lead lawmakers behind the effort in 2021 to have Juneteenth recognized as the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established in 1986. The holiday marks the day in 1865 that the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally learned of their freedom.

A native of Queens, New York, Jackson Lee graduated from Yale and earned her law degree at the University of Virginia. She was a judge in Houston before she was elected to Houston City Council in 1989, then ran for Congress in 1994. She was an advocate for gay rights and an early opponent of the Iraq War in 2003.

Top congressional Democrats reacted quickly to the news Friday night, praising her commitment and work ethic.

Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina called her "a tenacious advocate for civil rights and a tireless fighter, improving the lives of her constituents."

Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland said he had never known a harder-working lawmaker than Jackson Lee, saying she "studied every bill and every amendment with exactitude and then told Texas and America exactly where she stood."

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California cited Jackson Lee's "relentless determination" in getting Juneteenth declared a national holiday.

"As a powerful voice in the Congress for our Constitution and human rights, she fought tirelessly to advance fairness, equity and justice for all," Pelosi said.

Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said he and his wife Cecilia will always remember Jackson Lee, calling her a "tireless advocate for the people of Houston."

"Her legacy of public service and dedication to Texas will live on," he said.

Jackson Lee routinely won reelection to Congress with ease. The few times she faced a challenger, she never carried less than two-thirds of the vote. Jackson Lee considered leaving Congress in 2023 in a bid to become Houston's first female Black mayor but was defeated in a runoff. She then easily won the Democratic nomination for the 2024 general election.

During the mayoral campaign, Jackson Lee expressed regret and said "everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect" following the release of an unverified audio recording purported to be of the lawmaker berating staff members.

In 2019, Jackson Lee stepped down from two leadership positions on the House Judiciary Committee and Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the fundraising of the Congressional Black Caucus, following a lawsuit from a former employee who said her sexual assault complaint was mishandled.

In a statement, Jackson Lee's family said she had been a beloved wife, sister, mother and grandmother known as Bebe.

"She will be dearly missed, but her legacy will continue to inspire all who believe in freedom, justice, and democracy," the statement said. "God bless you Congresswoman and God bless the United States of America."

Tech outage latest | Airlines and others rush to get back on track after global tech disruption

By The Associated Press undefined

Transport providers, businesses and governments on Saturday are rushing to get all their systems back online after long disruptions following a widespread technology outage.

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The biggest continuing effect has been on air travel. Carriers canceled thousands of flights on Friday and now have many of their planes and crews in the wrong place, while airports facing continued problems with checking in and security.

At the heart of the massive disruption is CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm that provides software to scores of companies worldwide. The company says the problem occurred when it deployed a faulty update to computers running Microsoft Windows, noting that the issue behind the outage was not a security incident or cyberattack.

Here's the Latest:

Microsoft: 8.5 million devices on its Windows system were affected

Microsoft says 8.5 million devices running its Windows operating system were affected by a faulty cybersecurity update Friday that led to worldwide disruptions.

A Saturday blog post from Microsoft was the first estimate of the scope of the disruptions caused by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike's software update.

"We currently estimate that CrowdStrike's update affected 8.5 million Windows devices, or less than one percent of all Windows machines," said the blog post from Microsoft cybersecurity executive David Weston.

"While the percentage was small, the broad economic and societal impacts reflect the use of CrowdStrike by enterprises that run many critical services."

Weston said such a significant disturbance is rare but "demonstrates the interconnected nature of our broad ecosystem." Windows is the dominant operating system for personal computers around the world.

Austrian doctors' group calls for better data protection for patients

In Austria, a leading doctors organization said the global IT outage exposed the vulnerability of health systems reliant on digital systems.

"Yesterday's incidents underscore how important it is for hospitals to have analogue backups" to safeguard patient care, Harald Mayer, vice president of the Austrian Chamber of Doctors, said in a statement on the organization's website.

The organization called on governments to impose high standards in patient data protection and security and on health providers to train staff and put systems in place to manage crises.

"Happily, where there were problems, these were kept small and short-lived and many areas of care were unaffected" in Austria, Mayer said.

Germany warns of scams after major IT outage

BERLIN — The German government's IT security agency says numerous companies are still struggling with the consequences of a far-reaching technology outage.

"Many business processes and procedures have been disturbed by the breakdown of computer systems," the BSI agency said on its website.

But the agency also said Saturday that many impacted areas have returned to normal.

It warned that cybercriminals were trying to take advantage of the situation through phishing, fake websites and other scams and that "unofficial" software code was in circulation.

The agency said it was not yet clear how faulty code ended up in the CrowdStrike software update blamed for triggering the outage.

European airports appear to be close to normal

LONDON — Europe's busiest airport, Heathrow, said it is busy but operating normally on Saturday. The airport said in a statement that "all systems are back up and running and passengers are getting on with their journeys smoothly."

Some 167 flights scheduled to depart from U.K. airports on Friday were canceled, while 171 flights due to land were axed.

Meanwhile, flights at Berlin Airport were departing on or close to schedule, German news agency dpa reported, citing an airport spokesman.

Nineteen flights took off in the early hours of Saturday after authorities exempted them from the usual ban on night flights.

On Friday, 150 of the 552 scheduled inbound and outbound flights at the airport were canceled over the

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IT outage, disrupting the plans of thousands of passengers at the start of the summer vacation season in the German capital.

German hospital slowly restoring its systems after widespread cancellations

BERLIN — The Schleswig-Holstein University Hospital in northern Germany, which on Friday canceled all elective surgery because of the global IT outage, said Saturday that it was gradually restoring its systems.

In a statement on its website, it forecast that operations at its two branches in Kiel and Luebeck would return to normal by Monday and that "elective surgery can take place as planned and our ambulances can return to service."

Britain's transport system still trying to get back on track

LONDON — Britain's travel and transport industries are struggling to get back on schedule after the global security outage with airline passengers facing cancellations and delays on the first day of summer holidays for many school pupils.

Gatwick Airport said "a majority" of scheduled flights were expected to take off. Manchester Airport said passengers were being checked in manually and there could be last-minute cancellations.

The Port of Dover said it was seeing an influx of displaced air passengers, with hourlong waits to enter the port to catch ferries to France.

Meanwhile, Britain's National Cyber Security Center warned people and businesses to be on the lookout for phishing attempts as "opportunistic malicious actors" try to take advantage of the outage.

The National Cyber Security Center's former head, Ciaran Martin, said the worst of the crisis was over, "because the nature of the crisis is that it went very wrong very quickly. It was spotted quite quickly and essentially it was turned off."

He told Sky News that some businesses would be able to get back to normal very quickly, but for sectors such as aviation it would take longer.

"If you're in aviation, you've got people, planes and staffs all stranded in the wrong place... So we are looking at days. I'd be surprised if we're looking at weeks."

Germany airline expects most of its flights to run normally

BERLIN — Eurowings, a budget subsidiary of Lufthansa, said it expected to return to "largely scheduled" flight operations on Saturday.

On Friday, the global IT outage had forced the airline to cancel about 20% of its flights, mostly on domestic routes. Passengers were asked to take trains instead.

"Online check-in, check-in at the airport, boarding processes, booking and rebooking flights are all possible again," the airline said Saturday on X. "However, due to the considerable extent of the global IT disruption there may still be isolated disruptions" for passengers, it said.

Delta Air Lines and its regional affiliates have canceled hundreds of flights

DALLAS — Delta Air Lines and its regional affiliates canceled more than a quarter of their schedule on the East Coast by midafternoon Friday, aviation data provider Cirium said.

More than 1,100 flights for Delta and its affiliates have been canceled.

United and United Express had canceled more than 500 flights, or 12% of their schedule, and American Airlines' network had canceled 450 flights, 7.5% of its schedule.

Southwest and Alaska do not use the CrowdStrike software that led to the global internet outages and had canceled fewer than a half-dozen flights each.

Portland, Oregon, mayor declares an emergency over the outage

PORTLAND, Ore. — Mayor Ted Wheeler declared an emergency Friday after more than half of the city's computer systems were affected by the global internet outage.

Wheeler said during a news conference that while emergency services calls weren't interrupted, dispatchers were having to manually track 911 calls with pen and paper for a few hours. He said 266 of the city's 487 computer systems were affected.

Border crossings into the US are delayed

SAN DIEGO — People seeking to enter the U.S. from both the north and the south found that the border

crossings were delayed by the internet outage.

The San Ysidro Port of Entry was gridlocked Friday morning with pedestrians waiting three hours to cross, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Even cars with people approved for a U.S. Customs and Border Protection "Trusted Traveler" program for low-risk passengers waited up to 90 minutes. The program, known as SENTRI, moves passengers more quickly through customs and passport control if they make an appointment for an interview and submit to a background check to travel through customs and passport control more quickly when they arrive in the U.S.

Meanwhile, at the U.S.-Canada border, Windsor Police reported long delays at the crossings at the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit-Windsor tunnel.

Blinken points to wider pledges to support Ukraine in case US backs away under Trump

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Ukraine is on its way to being able to "stand on its own feet" militarily, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday, noting that more than 20 other countries have pledged to maintain their own military and financial aid to the country even if the U.S. were to withdraw its support under a different president.

Blinken for the first time directly addressed the possibility that former President Donald Trump could win the November election and back away from commitments to Ukraine. The U.S., under President Joe Biden, has been the most important supporter of Ukraine's more than two-year battle against invading Russian forces.

Trump's public comments have varied between criticizing U.S. backing for Ukraine's defense and supporting it, while his running mate, Sen. JD Vance, has been a leader of Republican efforts to block what have been billions in U.S. military and financial assistance to Ukraine since Russia invaded in 2022.

Concerns among Ukraine and its supporters that the country could lose vital U.S. support have increased as Trump's campaign surges and Biden's falters.

Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke on the phone Friday.

"I noted the vital bipartisan and bicameral American support for protecting our nation's freedom and independence," Zelenskyy wrote on X, saying they agreed "to discuss at a personal meeting what steps can make peace fair and truly lasting."

Trump said on his social media platform that he appreciated Zelenskyy's outreach and promised to "end the war that has cost so many lives and devastated countless innocent families."

Blinken said Friday that any new administration would have to take into account strong bipartisan backing in Congress for Ukraine in the interests of countering Russian President Vladimir Putin's attempts to expand Moscow's territory and influence.

"Every administration has an opportunity, of course, to set its own policy. We can't lock in the future," Blinken said, speaking to an audience of U.S. policymakers and others at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

But he pointed to the security agreements that the United States and more than 20 other allies — including some NATO partners, Japan and the European Union — signed at a NATO summit in Washington this month.

"Were we to renege on that ... I suppose that's possible, but happily we've got another 20 some-odd countries that are doing the same thing," Blinken said.

Ukraine itself was on a trajectory to ensure it "stands on its own feet militarily, economically, democratically," Blinken said.

Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba also made similar appeals to the international community Friday during an online question and answer session on social media site Reddit. He particularly stressed Kyiv's

willingness to work with whichever party won the U.S. general election.

"I believe any U.S. administration should respect three features that make Ukraine different from other partners of America who had sought its support," he said.

"We never asked U.S. troops to fight and die for Ukraine, we only requested weapons and support to our economy; we never intended to rely on foreign aid indefinitely and this is why we are reforming our economy and tripled domestic weapon production last year and plan to increase it sixfold this year; and we are fully transparent in using the U.S. assistance."

11 dead and dozens missing after a highway bridge in China crumbles in flooding and heavy storms

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Chinese authorities say at least 11 people have died and 30 are missing in the partial collapse of a highway bridge in the northwest of the country following heavy storms and flooding. A similar number are missing in the southwest after dozens of houses were destroyed by storms.

The official Xinhua News Agency said five vehicles that fell off the bridge have been recovered after the structure in Shaanxi province crumbled at around 8:40 p.m. Friday. A photo released by Xinhua showed a section of the bridge snapped and folded down at almost a 90-degree angle into the rushing brown water below.

It said rescue operations were still underway Saturday in the province's Zhashui county, with some 20 cars and 30 people still missing.

In Sichuan province to the southwest, an estimated 30 people were missing and around 40 houses wrecked in flooding and storms, Xinhua reported. It said roads, bridges and communication networks in hardest hit Hanyuan county had been damaged or knocked out and that rescue teams had been working since before dawn to restore communications and transport connections.

As its economy boomed over recent decades, China built a huge network of highways, high-speed railways and airports, most of which have helped fuel further growth.

However, a dramatic decline in that economic expansion, the poor-quality infrastructure, poor safety supervision and a desire to cut corners by industries looking to save money have led to a steady stream of deadly accidents.

China's western and southwestern provinces are particularly prone to flooding and landslides due to their mountainous landscapes and the powerful rivers that run through them. Mining, tourism and rising urbanization have also disturbed a precarious balance with the natural environment that had been sustained over thousands of years.

Shaanxi is best known as one of the fulcrums of Chinese civilization, from which emerged the first emperor, Qinshi Huangdi, who left the famed terracotta army as his legacy outside the capital Xi'an as part of a vast tomb complex that attracts massive numbers of visitors each year.

As a scholar, he's charted the decline in religion. Now the church he pastors is closing its doors

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

They plan to gather one last time on Sunday — the handful of mostly elderly members of First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

They'll say the Lord's Prayer, recite the Apostle's Creed and hear a biblical passage typically used at funerals, "To everything there is a season ... a time to be born, and a time to die." They'll sing classic hymns — "Amazing Grace," "It Is Well With My Soul" and, poignantly, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Afterward, members are scheduled to vote to close the church, a century and a half after it was created by hardscrabble farmers in this southern Illinois community of about 14,000 people.

Many U.S. churches close their doors each year, typically with little attention. But this closure has a poignant twist.

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First Baptist's pastor, Ryan Burge, spends much of his time as a researcher documenting the dramatic decline in religious affiliation in recent decades. His recent book, "The Nones," talks about the estimated 30% of American adults who identify with no religious tradition.

He uses his research in part to help other pastors seeking to reach their communities, and he's often invited to fly around the country and speak to audiences much larger than his weekly congregation.

But it's no academic abstraction. Burge has witnessed the reality of his research every Sunday morning in the increasingly empty pews of the spacious sanctuary, which was built for hundreds in the peak churchgoing years of the mid-20th century.

"It's this odd thing, where I've become somewhat of an expert on church growth, and yet my church is dying," said Burge, a political science professor at Eastern Illinois University. "A lot of what I do is trying to figure out how much I am to blame for what's happened around me."

Burge started leading the congregation in 2006, when "there were about 50 people on a good Sunday," he recalled. In the years since, he's earned his doctorate and begun working as a professor. He's gained a wide online and print readership, in part by converting dense statistical tables into easy-to-comprehend graphics on religious trends.

All this time, he's continued to pastor the small church.

"I'm willing to admit that I'm not as good as I could be or should be" as a pastor, he said. "But I'm also not willing to admit that it's 100% my fault. If you look at the macro level trends happening in modern American religion, it's hard to grow a church in America today, regardless of what your denomination is. And a lot of places have way more headwinds than tailwinds."

The church's American Baptist denomination is part of a cluster of so-called mainline denominations — Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and others that were once central in their communities but have been dramatically shrinking in numbers. The nation's largest evangelical denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, has also been losing members.

While there's no annual census of U.S. church closures, about 4,500 Protestant churches closed in 2019, according to the Southern Baptist-affiliated Lifeway Research.

Scholars say churches dwindle for various reasons — scandal, conflict, mobility, indifference, lower birth rates, members shifting to a church they like better. To be sure, most Americans remain religious, and some larger churches are thriving while many smaller ones dwindle. Some surveys suggest that the long rise of the "nones" has slowed or paused.

But the nonreligious are far more common today than a generation ago, in the U.S. and many other nations.

"If Billy Graham would have been born in 1975 instead of 1918, I don't think he would have been as successful, because he hit his peak right as the baby boom was taking off and America was really hungry for religion," Burge said.

Things are particularly challenging where communities are shrinking, such as the Rust Belt and rural areas.

Burge hopes his research, and his personal experience, can offer some consolation to other pastors in similar circumstances.

"This is not all your fault," he said. "You know, in the 1950s, you could be a terrible pastor and probably grow a church because there just was so much growth happening all across America. Now it doesn't look like that anymore."

Gail Farnham, 80, has seen that trajectory of church life first-hand.

Her family began attending First Baptist Church when she was 5. Her parents quickly got involved as volunteers and "never looked back," she recalled. Like many American families in the '50s, they joined during the booming rise in church involvement. First Baptist peaked at about 670 members by mid-century, leading to the construction of a large new sanctuary and a suite of Sunday School classrooms.

Farnham went on to raise her own children in the church, and as the congregation's moderator, she still holds a top leadership role.

First Baptist has had its share of schisms and controversies in the past, but it largely followed the typical

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arc of many Protestant churches, thriving in the 1950s and only gradually losing sustainability. Last Sunday, eight worshippers attended.

The remaining, primarily older members, found a new mission in recent years despite the uncertain future. They joined a program to provide bag lunches for needy schoolchildren. At one point they were providing 300 meals per week.

The closure is "bittersweet," Farnham said.

"It's something we've seen coming," she said. "It's not a surprise. We're thankful we've been able to serve and meet a need in the community. We turned from being a church saying, 'Oh me, oh my, what are we going to do?' to being a church that said, 'We're going to serve as long as we can with the best we can.'"

Now everyone, Burge included, will be looking for a new church. "I have been preaching every Sunday since August of 2005 and I need to be a member of a church for a while, not up front," he said.

This is how Secret Service protection has changed for presidents over the years

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — During Abraham Lincoln's presidency, anyone could come to the White House and see him. Come they did: mothers looking to have their sons released from military service, wives urging that their husbands be freed from prison after resisting the draft, others who simply wanted to meet the president.

"Some only wanted comfort in a terrible time, and that he freely gave," James B. Conroy wrote in his book "Lincoln's White House: The People's House in Wartime."

The world has vastly changed since the 1860s, and so has protection for presidents. Protective details have grown in size, responsibility and technology over more than a century of the Secret Service protecting presidents.

When presidents leave the White House, they are accompanied by a phalanx of Secret Service officers and agents. Cars can no longer drive past what is often dubbed "the people's house" at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The fence has been raised, and don't even try to get past the gate without an appointment or badge.

The number of people under guard also has grown as vice presidents, former presidents, candidates, family members and more get protection.

During the Civil War, Lincoln was hesitant to make the White House look like an armed camp, but in late 1864 several police officers were assigned to guard him, the White House Historical Association said. President Franklin Pierce was the first to have a full-time bodyguard, in 1853.

It wasn't until 1901, after President William McKinley was assassinated, that Congress asked the Secret Service — originally a Treasury Department division that went after counterfeiters — to take up the charge of protecting the commander in chief.

Since then, protective details have grown and evolved, often in response to assassinations, close calls or other major security events. Former Secret Service agents say the agency is studying the attempt on former President Donald Trump's life at a rally in Pennsylvania a week ago and making changes to adjust to it.

The attempt to kill President Ronald Reagan in 1981 is often cited as a turning point in how the Secret Service operates.

Reagan was coming out of the Washington Hilton hotel when John Hinckley Jr. opened fire from a crowd of onlookers and journalists just 15 feet or under under 5 meters away. Hinckley got off six shots before Secret Service officers tackled him. The last shot ricocheted off a limo and into Reagan.

Some of the changes that followed aren't so obvious to the outside observer but still critical. For example, the Secret Service started assigning an agent to the small group of reporters who travel with the president so they would know whether someone was infiltrating the group.

After Reagan's shooting, presidents also were driven into buildings through underground parking garages. When that's not possible, a cover is erected around the entrance to obstruct the line of sight as the president gets into or out of a vehicle.

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"Nobody walks through the front door any more," said retired supervisory Secret Service agent Bobby McDonald, now a criminal justice lecturer at the University of New Haven. "Presidents and protectees of the Secret Service have seen more loading docks and have walked through more kitchens than ever before."

Joseph LaSorsa, a retired Secret Service agent who served from 1976 to 1996 and was on Reagan's protective detail, said the post-Reagan era also saw the increased use of metal detectors for crowds approaching the president to eliminate the possibility of a weapon getting into the "secure area" around the leader.

Changes also followed the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963 as he drove through Dallas in a convertible, former agents say. Presidents no longer sit in open vehicles but wave to onlookers through the thick glass of a heavily armored limousine nicknamed "the beast."

Former agents also say the focus on advance work before trips increased significantly and more was done to secure routes taken by the motorcades.

The White House also has seen changes designed to make it more secure.

On one day in May 1995, an estimated 26,000 cars drove along Pennsylvania Avenue past the White House. The next day, the street was eerily quiet after workers stacked concrete barriers at each end to cut off access.

Mounting security concerns a month after the Oklahoma City bombing at a federal building prompted the closure. There were other changes, too, such as air traffic restrictions after a small plane crashed into the White House lawn in 1994. As well, gunfire twice hit the mansion that same year.

Then-President Bill Clinton said closing the street was necessary to protect against the kind of attack seen in Oklahoma City but vowed that "people's access to the White House and their president" would not be impeded. He even vowed that protesters would still have the right to walk up to the White House property. Many still do.

Thomas Jefferson first encircled the White House with a wooden post and rail fence around 1801. He replaced that with a stone wall by 1808, which wasn't great at offering views of m

To deter fence jumpers, sharp metal points were installed in 2015, and later the height doubled to roughly 13 feet (4 meters). Under that later renovation, the space between the bars got slightly wider — just enough to allow a wee or naughty child to squeak through.

Increased security around the president inevitably expands the distance from Americans. While people can still visit the White House, they must request tours through their congressional member and submit their identification information to the Secret Service ahead of time.

Paul Eckloff, a retired Secret Service agent who served on details protecting three presidents during his 23-year career, said he often hears people say the president shouldn't do outdoor rallies or should be kept away from people.

He understands the tradeoff — more security means more separation between the president and the people. As an agent, Eckloff said, he always considered his job not as protecting the person but the office of the presidency.

"If I woke up in a country where the president of the United States stayed in a castle, never engaged with the voters, no common American ever had a chance to see him, I wouldn't consider my sacrifice worthy," he said.

Today in History: July 21, verdict reached in Scopes "Monkey Trial"

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 21, the 203rd day of 2024. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 21, 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tennessee, with John T. Scopes found guilty of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned.)

Also on this date:

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In 1861, during the Civil War, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Virginia, resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II, capturing it from the Japanese some three weeks later.

In 1954, the Geneva Conference concluded with accords dividing Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the ascent stage of the lunar module for docking with the command module.

In 1970, construction of the Aswan High Dam in Egypt was completed.

In 1972, the Irish Republican Army carried out 22 bombings in Belfast, Northern Ireland, killing nine people and injuring 130 in what became known as "Bloody Friday."

In 2002, Ernie Els won the British Open in the first sudden-death finish in the 142-year history of the tournament.

In 2008, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-ra-jich), one of the world's top war crimes fugitives, was arrested in a Belgrade suburb by Serbian security forces. (He was sentenced by a U.N. court in 2019 to life imprisonment after being convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.)

In 2011, the 30-year-old space shuttle program ended as Atlantis landed at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after the 135th shuttle flight.

In 2012, Erden Eruc became the first person to complete a solo, human-powered circumnavigation of the globe.

In 2021, public health officials said U.S. life expectancy fell by a year and a half in 2020, the largest one-year decline since World War II; the drop was due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, the "Barbenheimer" buzz reached its peak as the films "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" opened in theaters; the critical and public acclaim for both films led to the fourth-largest weekend box office of all time.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Yusuf Islam (also known as Cat Stevens) is 76. Cartoonist Garry Trudeau is 76. Author Michael Connelly is 68. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 67. Retired soccer player Brandi Chastain is 56. Rock-soul singer Michael Fitzpatrick (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 54. Actor/singer Charlotte Gainsbourg is 53. Actor Justin Bartha is 46. Actor Josh Hartnett is 46. Reggae singer Damian Marley is 46. Basketball Hall of Famer Tamika Catchings is 45. Former MLB All-Star pitcher CC Sabathia (suh-BATH'-ee-uh) is 44. Singer Blake Lewis ("American Idol") is 43. Latin singer Romeo Santos is 43. Actor Betty Gilpin is 38. Actor Juno Temple is 35. Actor Rory Culkin is 35. Manchester City soccer star Erling Haaland is 24.