

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Aug. 25

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:30 a.m., and at Groton, 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.

## Monday, Aug. 26

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, broccoli, peaches, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

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

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

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

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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

## Tuesday, Aug. 27

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, apple crisp, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, potato wedges.

NEC Boys Golf Meet at Hankinson, N.D. (Tiospa Zina)

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Wednesday, Aug. 28

Senior Menu: Roast turkey, dressing with gravy, 7-layer salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

## **Girls beat St. Thomas More, boys tie with the Cavaliers**

The Groton girls soccer team handed St. Thomas More its first defeat with a 6-1 win. Groton led, 2-0 at half time. Kennedy Hansen scored on a penalty kick in the 12th minute and McKenna Tietz scored with an assist by Brenna Imrie in the 32nd minute.

Laila Roberts scored an unassisted goal in the 48th minute of the game, Brooklyn Hansen scored an unassisted goal in the 58th minute, Tietz scored with an assist by Jerica Locke in the 70th minute and two minutes later, Brooklyn Hansen scored an unassisted goal. Goalkeeper Jayden Penning had three saves.

The boys team ended up in a 1-1 tie with Karson Zak scoring the lone goal. Goalkeeper Gage Sippel had 33 saves.

## Fall River County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: U.S. Highway 18, mile marker 20, seven miles east of Edgemont, SD

When: 12:00 p.m., Saturday, August 3, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2011 Yamaha STR

Driver 1: 44-year-old male, fatal injuries

Helmet Use: Yes

Fall River County, S.D.- A 44-year-old man died Friday, August 23, from injuries sustained in an August 3 crash near Edgemont, SD.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2011 Yamaha motorcycle was traveling east on US Highway 18 near mile marker 20. The motorcycle left the roadway to the right and the driver became separated from the motorcycle in the south ditch. The driver sustained serious, life-threatening injuries and was taken to a Rapid City hospital. He passed away from his injuries on August 23.

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

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



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

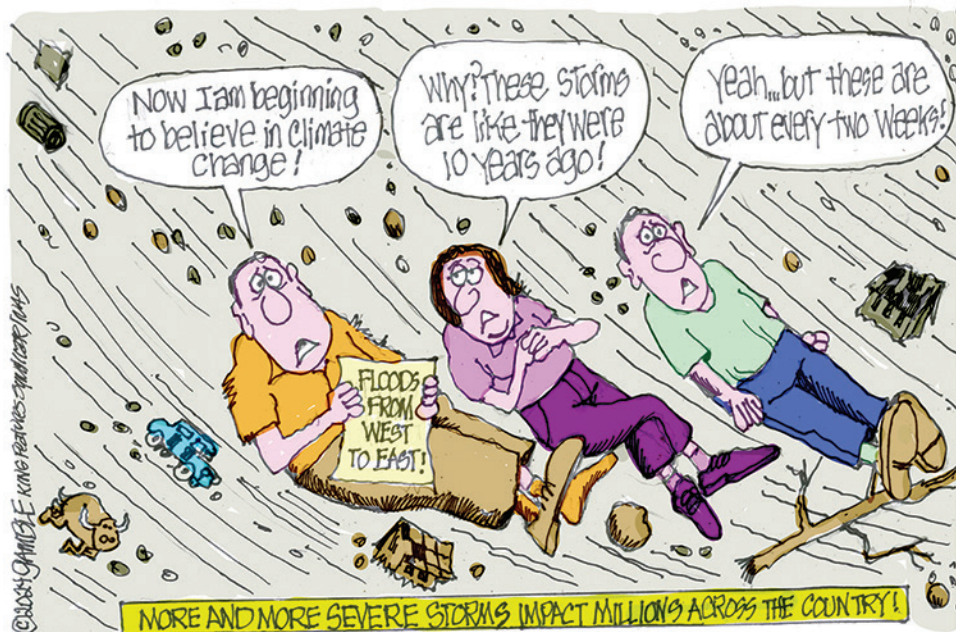


*...The lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.*

PROVERBS 5: 3-6

"Head of a Girl" by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (1915)

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Galatians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Joshua 6, on the seventh day, how many times did the men of war march around Jericho? *1, 3, 5, 7*
3. In His first recorded miracle, what did Jesus turn into wine? *Goat's milk, Grape juice, Fig cider, Water*
4. From 1 Chronicles, what king was buried with his sons under an oak tree? *Neco, Jehoash, Saul, Rezin*
5. In the story of creation, what did God call the darkness? *Blackness, Night, Fourscore, Trinity*
6. In Exodus 17:15, who built an altar and called it Jehovah-Nissi? *Moses, Abraham, Jacob, Aaron*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Seven, 3) Water, 4) Saul, 5) Night, 6) Moses

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

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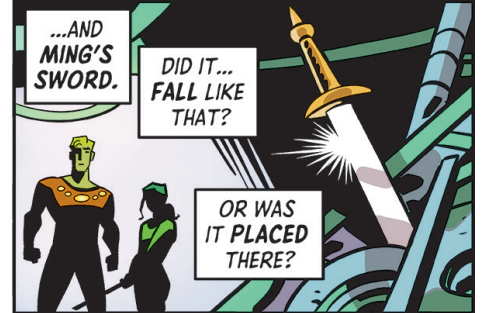
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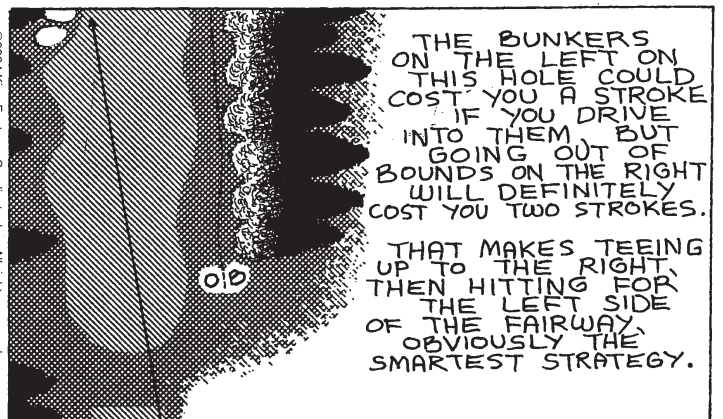
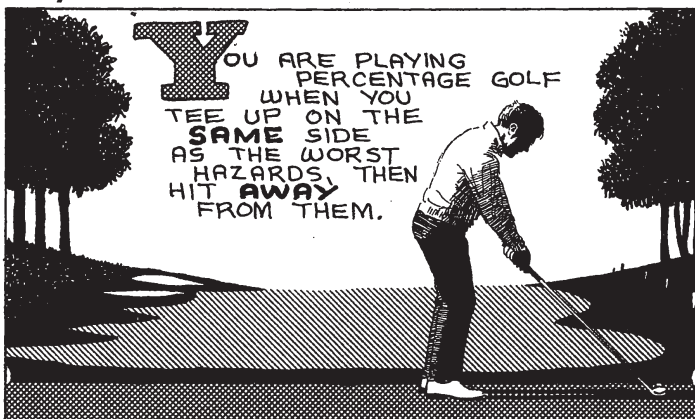
FLASH AND I FIGHT OFF THE MUTANT CREWMEN--



WE WENT INTO THE WRECKAGE OF MING'S FLAGSHIP TO FIND A WAY OFF THIS MOUNTAIN BEFORE OUR RADIATION PILLS WEAR OFF...



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Vomiting and Difficulty Eating Could Signify Gastroparesis

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 71-year-old healthy, active woman. I normally work out six days a week and used to be in very good shape. I'm having stomach issues, which caused me to lose 20 pounds since the end of last year. I was thin to begin with and have lost a significant amount of muscle and most of my body fat. I was diagnosed with gastric intestinal metaplasia in 2019 and had trouble eating, but I didn't lose any significant weight at that time. No treatment was recommended beyond a suggested follow-up in a year or two.

I have difficulty eating anything but a small amount of food, and if I do "overeat," I vomit. Eating is beyond a chore, and I continue to lose weight. I have been worked up with no conclusions in sight. I had a colonoscopy two years ago that was normal. I had an abdominal CT scan with and without contrast, an endoscopy, an MR enterography, and a brain scan this year, with no results that explained my problem.

I am seeing another GI doctor soon, but I'm not particularly hopeful. I am 5 feet, 11 inches tall, and now weigh 129 pounds. I am feeling desperate. Do you have any ideas? -- L.W.

ANSWER: Weight loss can have many different causes, and it seems like your doctors have carefully looked for many of the concerning ones. Key features of your story are that you are vomiting and losing weight.

Intestinal metaplasia is when the lining of the stomach develops a microscopic appearance, similar to the intestines. This can predispose people to stomach cancer, but intestinal metaplasia can also be associated with low acid in the stomach.

Vomiting after eating normal amounts of food is a concern for a stomach mass, but between the endoscopy and the CT scan, it should have shown up. I would be concerned about gastroparesis, where the stomach doesn't squeeze properly. Vomiting after eating is a hallmark symptom, as is feeling very full after a little food. A gastric emptying study can confirm the diagnosis.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: Why would I want to drink an electrolyte sports drink? The electrolytes seem minimal. Are my electrolytes lowered during an hour of exercise? I am a 90-year-old female in good health who goes to the gym with a trainer for strengthening muscles and improving balance. I don't have any health issues. -- R.P.

ANSWER: It's great that you are exercising at 90. This will help you avoid falls, live longer and feel better. Having a trainer is also a great way of making sure that you are performing the exercises safely and correctly.

As far as electrolyte sports drinks are concerned, there is no reason that you need them. You are not likely to lose significant amounts of electrolytes during an hour at the gym. Endurance athletes who exercise for multiple hours outside need to be mindful of electrolyte and fluid replacement, but plain old water is just fine for almost everyone else.

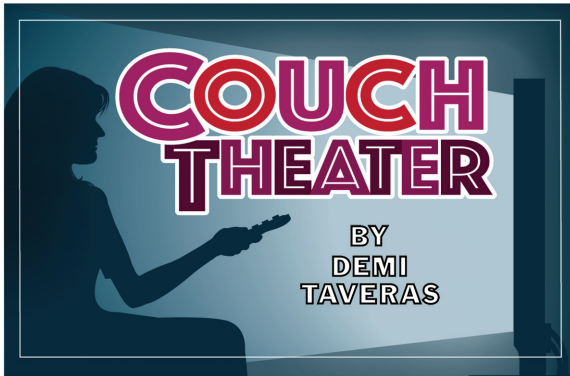
For older adults taking medications (especially diuretics) that might affect the body's electrolyte balance, it's probably worth having a discussion with their doctor about what fluids to use while exercising.

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

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**yan Gosling, left, and Emily Blunt star in "The Fall Guy."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB )

"Inside Out 2" (PG) -- The sequel to Disney's "Inside Out" (2015) has become the second highest-grossing animated film of all time after bringing in a whopping \$1.597 billion, and it's well deserving of its immense success. The film boasts a star-studded cast, with new additions Maya Hawke

("Stranger Things") and Ayo Edebiri ("The Bear") joining Amy Poehler, Diane Lane, and Kyle MacLachlan, who reprise their roles from the first film. Taking place two years after she first moved to San Francisco, Riley is now officially a teenager and faces a new learning curve in life as she hits puberty. Insert four new emotions for her to deal with: anxiety, envy, embarrassment and ennui -- oh, my! To keep their storytelling as authentic as possible, the film's production team even consulted psychologists so that teenage viewers could truly relate to Riley's pestilent pubescent problems. Rent it now! (Apple TV+)

"Twisters" (PG-13) -- Almost three decades after Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton's "Twister" hit the big screen back in 1996, a standalone sequel was released and pulled in \$315.3 million in the box office so far. The new cast of tornado chasers is led by Daisy Edgar-Jones ("Normal People"), Anthony Ramos ("Transformers: Rise of the Beasts"), and the always-grinning Glen Powell ("Hit Man"). Their adrenaline-loving, yet brilliant characters take on a myriad of bone-chilling storms throughout rural Oklahoma, facing tornadoes that reach a Category 5 of incredible damage on the EF Scale. While the story's scientific accuracy has been critiqued, the stunning visual effects make it a mesmerizing, nail-biting watch. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Fall Guy" (PG-13) -- Let's move on to a film that actually underperformed at the box office, even with its two notable stars. This action comedy loosely based on the 1980s TV series of the same name gave us another "Barbenheimer" moment by putting "Barbie's" Ryan Gosling opposite "Oppenheimer's" Emily Blunt. Gosling plays stuntman Colt Seavers, who is tasked by his film's producer to find the missing lead actor, Tom Ryder (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), and stop his ex-girlfriend's (Blunt) film from being ruined. Turning into somewhat of a bounty hunter, Colt starts to track Tom's whereabouts, but the closer Colt gets to finding him, the more Colt realizes that he's been seriously misled as to what's really going on with Tom. Premieres Aug. 30. (Peacock)

"Simone Biles Rising" (TV-MA) -- If you didn't get enough of the talented Simone Biles during the recent Paris Olympics, you should definitely give this two-part documentary series a try. Viewers can follow along as Biles prepares to make her return to the Olympic stage after withdrawing from the 2020 Tokyo Games due to her struggles with mental health. Starting from the point where Biles felt herself coming apart in Tokyo and leading up to moments before she would snag four medals in Paris, the series gives fans an intimate, up-close portrait of the world-renowned gymnast in all aspects of her life -- as a daughter, a sister, a teammate, a friend and a wife. Two more episodes of the series are planned to be released later in the fall for a total of four episodes, but you can check out the first two now. (Out now, Netflix)

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1. What is the Continental Drift?
2. Which group released "Shout"?
3. Where was "Give Peace a Chance" recorded?
4. Which musician was called Satchmo?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I could stay awake just to hear you breathing, Watch you smile while you are sleeping."

Answers

1. It's a line dance, aka the Sid Shuffle, from the animated movie "Ice Age." See YouTube for instructions on the dance.
2. The Isley Brothers, in 1959. It took until 1999 for the

song to be admitted to the Grammy Hall of Fame.

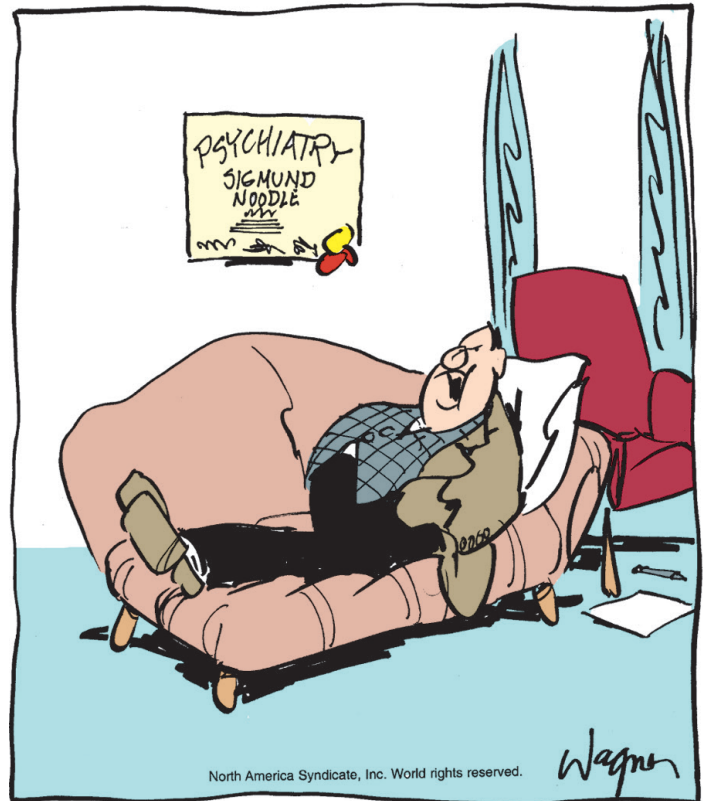
3. In a motel room in Montreal in 1969, during the "Bed-In" staged by John Lennon and Yoko Ono during their honeymoon. Recording equipment, including a four-track recorder, was brought in. The small crowd included one of the Smothers Brothers, Timothy Leary of LSD fame and a rabbi.

4. Trumpeter Louis Armstrong was called Satchel Mouth because of the shape of his mouth from playing trumpet. That was shortened to Satchmo.

5. "I Don't Want to Miss A Thing," by Aerosmith in 1998. The song was featured in the film "Armageddon" and topped charts around the world. Mark Chesnutt followed with a cover the next year.

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



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"Nobody listens to me, doctor. ... Doctor?"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

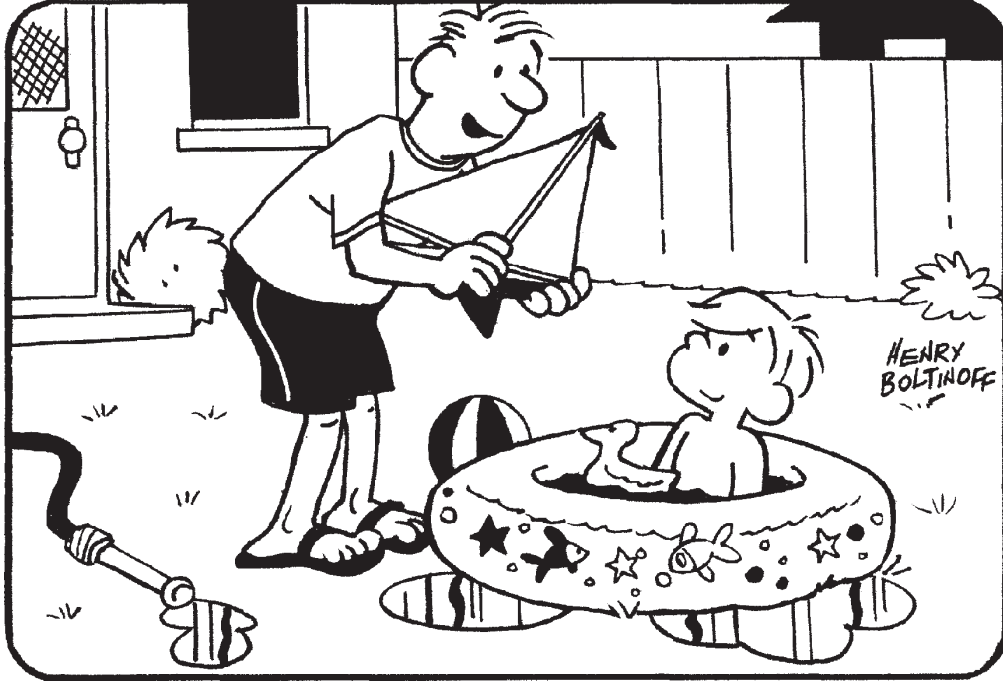
by Dave T. Phipps



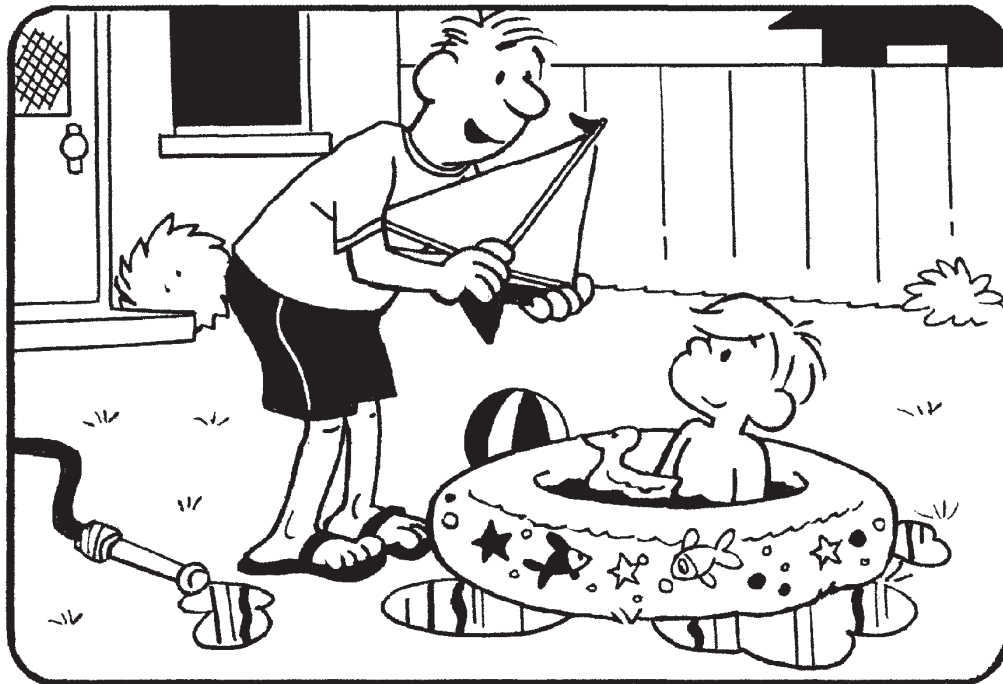
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Ball is moved. 2. Sailboat flag is moved. 3. Puddle is added. 4. Hose is moved. 5. Window is wider. 6. Stripe on shorts is moved.

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\* The best way to cook leafy, green veggies such as spinach and kale, is to stir fry them in just the water left over from rinsing. It works very well to steam them, and adds no fat!

\* Keep track of capacity and dimension of your cookware by using a permanent marker to notate the specifications on the bottoms of each baking container you have. This way, when a recipe calls for a 13-by-9 baking dish or a 2-quart casserole dish, you can easily tell which one you need. This is especially important if you don't spend a lot of time cooking.

\* "When you need to crush nuts or a cracker for crumbs, you can use a small can of soup to crush these in a plastic bag. This is for when you don't have a rolling pin." -- J.R. in Virginia

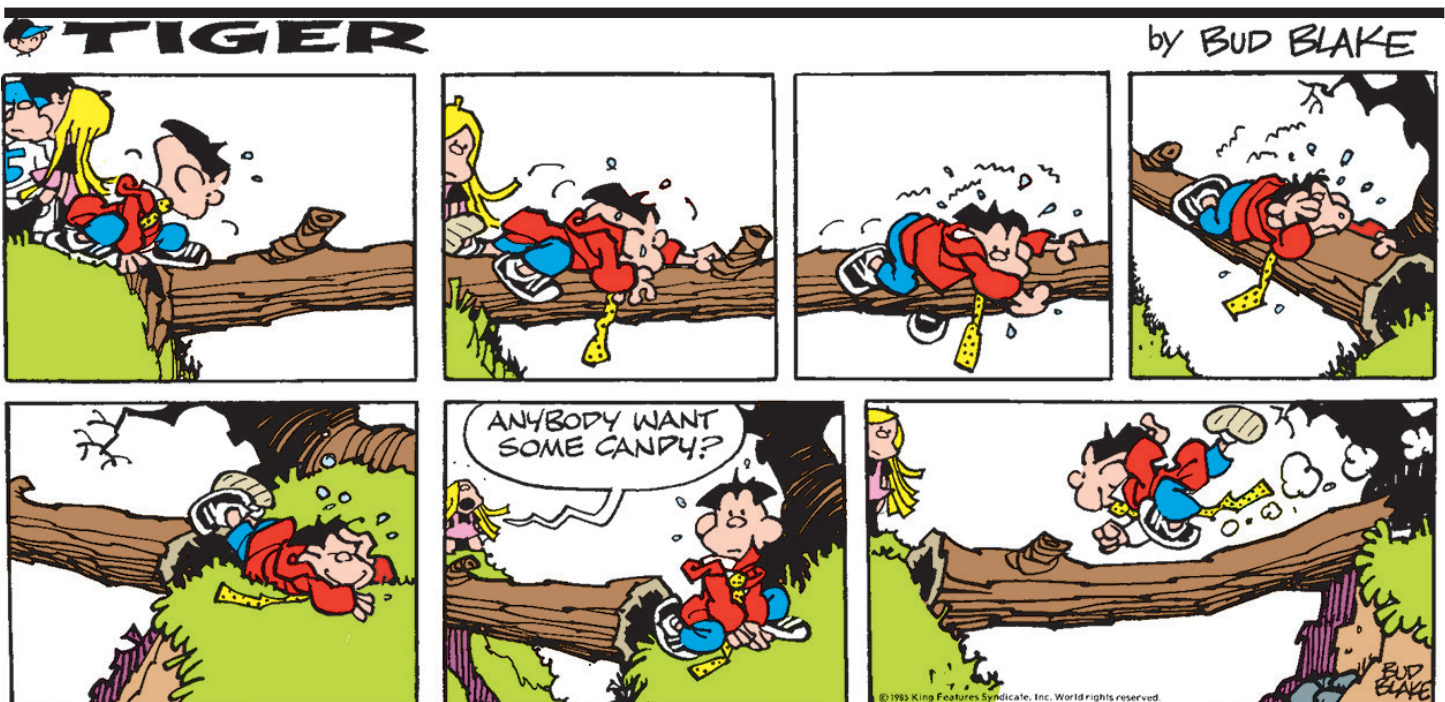
\* To avoid a dirty-smelling hamper, place a single sheet of fabric softener in the bottom of your laundry closet or in the hamper itself.

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

\* "Unload the bottom rack of the dishwasher first. This way, you won't wet the dishes on the bottom if any pooled water on the top shelf spills. I thought everyone did it this way, but then my boyfriend thought I was such a genius that I figured I would share this hint with others!" -- via email

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Costa —
- 5 Crib cry
- 9 Gal. fractions
- 12 Colorado resort
- 13 Russian river
- 14 Motor City labor org.
- 15 Alike (Fr.)
- 16 Eyelid woe
- 17 Lyricist Gershwin
- 18 Santa's runway
- 19 Sly chuckle
- 20 Per person
- 21 British verb ending
- 23 Right angle
- 25 Exaggerated pride

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48				49					50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

- 28 Affliction
- 32 Look of disdain
- 33 Edition
- 34 Agreed silently
- 36 Goddess of wisdom
- 37 Half of bi-
- 38 Mont. neighbor
- 39 Army transport
- 42 Cagers' gp.
- 44 Till bills
- 48 Internet address
- 49 Eye drop
- 50 Bryant of hoops fame
- 51 Three, in Rome
- 52 Saharan
- 53 Japanese noodle
- 54 Computer key
- 55 Pixels
- 56 Cooped (up)
- 5 Urges dogs on snow
- 6 Museo display
- 7 Chaos
- 8 Ginger —
- 9 Witticism
- 10 Poi base
- 11 Trade
- 20 #1 Elvis Presley song
- 22 Ambulance sound
- 24 Non-clergy
- 25 QVC alternative
- 26 Popular card game
- 27 Nap site
- 29 Enzyme suffix
- 30 Press for payment
- 31 Verily
- 35 Moolah
- 36 Prizes
- 39 Burlap fiber
- 40 Messes up
- 41 Power co. supply
- 43 Lure
- 45 Central point
- 46 Black, in verse
- 47 Dispatched
- 49 Smidgen

### DOWN

- 1 KOA patron
- 2 Shakespeare villain
- 3 Pisa farewell
- 4 Super-motivated

## — King Crossword —

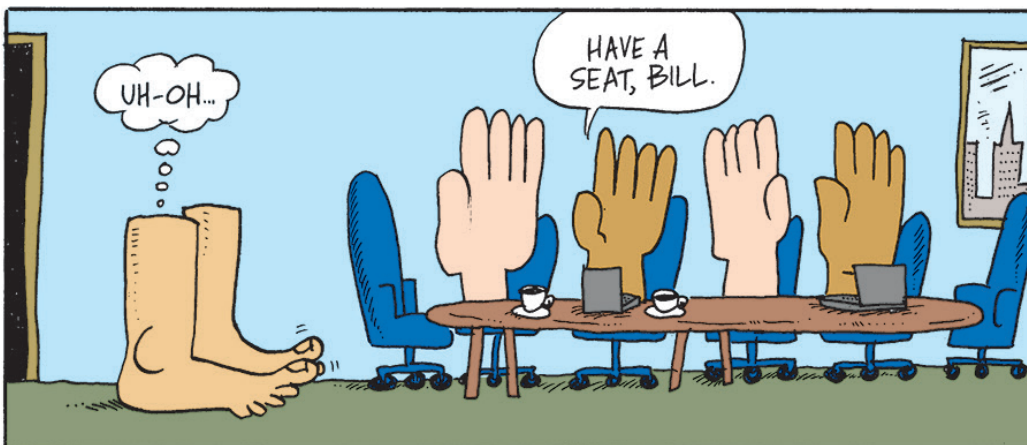
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	I	C	A		M	A	M	A		Q	T	S			
V	A	I	L		U	R	A	L		U	A	W			
E	G	A	L		S	T	Y	E		I	R	A			
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					I	S	E			E	L	L			
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N	O	D	D	E	D					A	T	H	E	N	A
					U	N	I			W	Y	O			
J	E	E	P			N	B	A			O	N	E	S	
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T	R	E				A	R	I	D		U	D	O	N	
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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

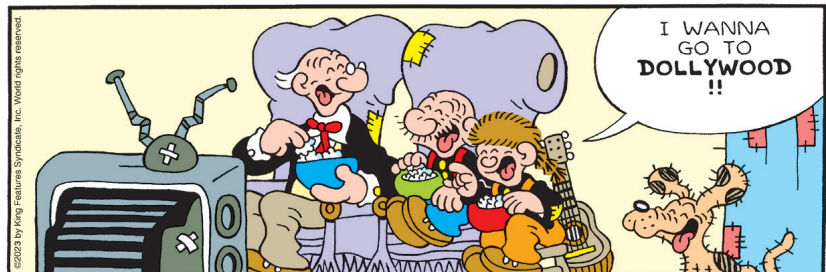
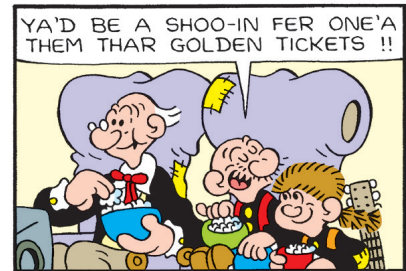
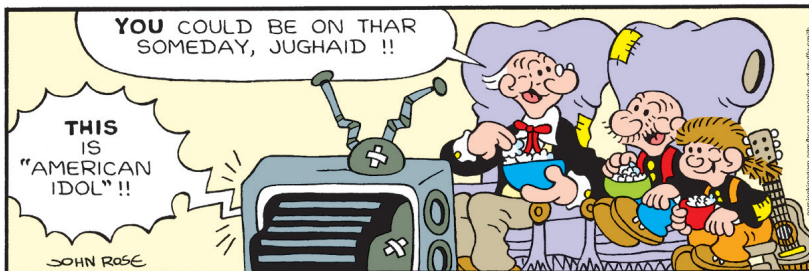
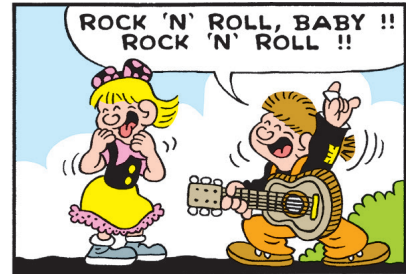
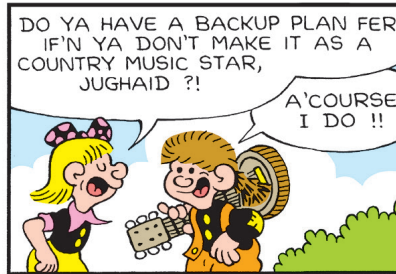
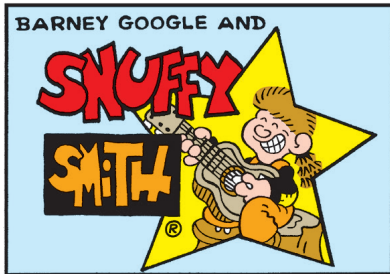
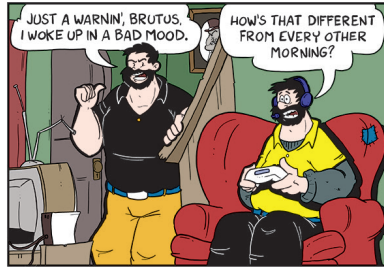
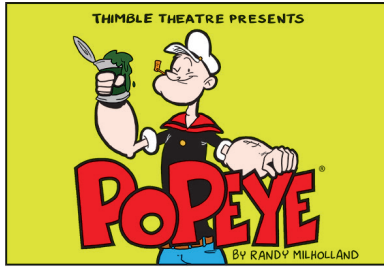


BILL ACCIDENTALLY SHOWS UP FOR AN ALL-HANDS MEETING.

KOPERVAS

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HAL FOSTER'S **Prince Valiant** BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

VAL IS THE LAST TO LEARN THAT VALETA AND HER HUSBAND, CORMAC, HAVE SEPARATED. IN A FROTH, HE STORMS INTO THE FAMILY CHAMBERS, WHERE PREPARATIONS ARE UNDER WAY FOR THE LONG VOYAGE TO THE MISTY ISLES.

"WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? WHAT HAS THAT DRUID DONE TO YOU? I'LL THROTTLE HIM IF HE SO MUCH AS..." VALETA CUTS HIM OFF: "OF COURSE HE HAS NOT HARMED ME, FATHER!"

"AND YOUR WORDS DEMONSTRATE EXACTLY WHY I DID NOT TELL YOU! I WOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL WE WERE WELL OUT TO SEA, AND FAR FROM CAMELOT, AND KEPT CORMAC SAFE FROM YOUR RIDICULOUS TEMPER!"

VAL IS HARDLY MOLLIFIED: "WHAT HAS THIS FAMILY BECOME? KAREN - I SUPPOSE YOU HIDE DOMESTIC MISFORTUNE FROM ME AS WELL?"

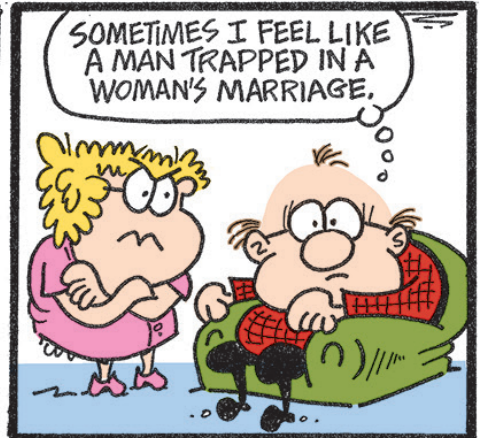
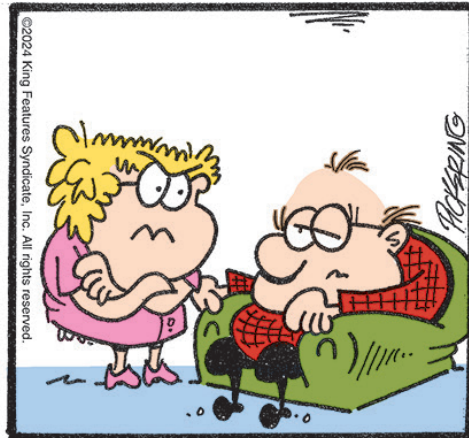
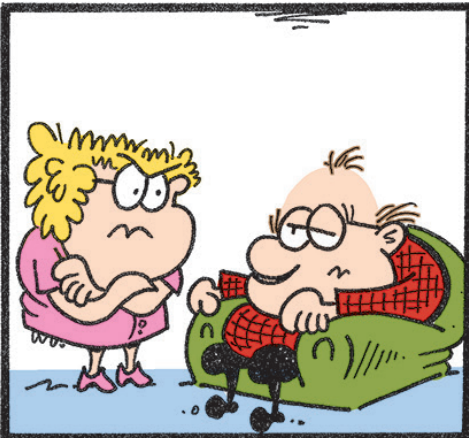
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THE USUALLY FORTHRIGHT KAREN DISSOLVES INTO TEARS. "YOU OAF!" CRIES ALETA, "HER HUSBAND HAS DISAPPEARED INTO ASIA - WITHOUT A TRACE!"

NEXT **The doghouse**

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### The shocking costs of ... everything

I was recently asked to complete an anonymous survey about income. The survey would be used to collect information about how many seniors in our area fall into the low and moderate income ranges. Curious about what those dollar ranges are, I went on an internet hunt for incomes in our area. Color me shocked to discover how low "low income" really is.

I then went on a hunt of other websites to compare and contrast this area with others across the country.

MIT has developed what they're calling the Living Wage Calculator, and it's quite the eye-opener when it comes to what they claim are "livable" wages.

Another site has costs of living for towns and cities across the U.S. Mine is 5% higher than the national average.

I found yet another site that calculates the maximum I should be paying for rent plus utilities based on my income. It's a good thing I own my home and it's paid for, because there is no way I could afford to rent anything in my town. And never mind trying to buy -- Best Places calculates the cost of buying a home in my town as being 130% of the national average.

My goodness.

There really are people here in town who are paying those sky-high prices. And it casts a new light on the sheer volume of people who line up at the food bank each week.

I've cut back this past year on donating to the food bank, but I need to start again. It might not be much, but I can help a little. When I buy something on sale at the grocery store, perhaps I can buy two. Or maybe three. Once I accumulate a full bag of canned and dry foods, I'll run it to the food bank.

How about you?

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1. What Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback threw three interceptions in the team's 27-17 loss to the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl XXX?

2. Racecar driver Juan Manuel Fangio, who won five Formula 1 World Championships from 1951-57, hailed from what country?

3. What member of the Edmonton Oilers won the 2024 Conn Smythe Trophy for MVP of the playoffs despite being on the losing team in the Stanley Cup Final?

4. Nicknamed "Terror," what South African boxer was the first Black man from that country to hold a world championship belt when he won the WBA flyweight title in 1980?

5. In 1899, Boston dentist Dr. George Grant received a patent for what groundbreaking piece of golf equipment?

6. In what 1998 sports comedy film did star Adam Sandler dispense "high quality H2O" as slow-witted Bobby Boucher?

7. What NFL team played its first two seasons with Hagemeister Park as its home field?



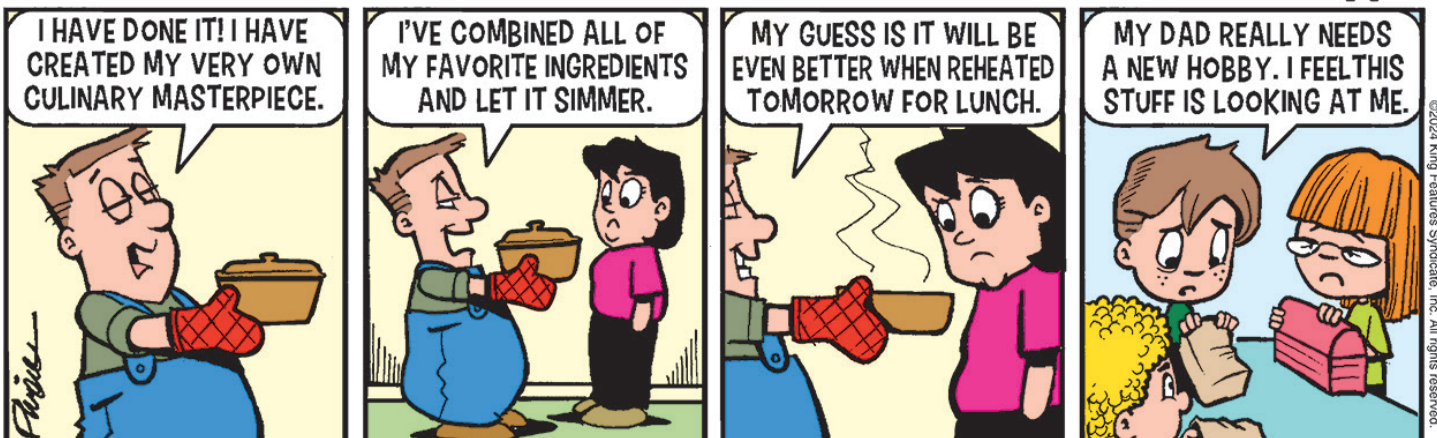
## Answers

1. Neil O'Donnell.
2. Argentina.
3. Connor McDavid.
4. Peter Mathebula.
5. The first wooden tee.
6. "The Waterboy."
7. The Green Bay Packers.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## What to do when your pet won't houstrain

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I adopted a 9-month-old puppy a few weeks ago and named him "Chestnut." He's wonderful, but has one problem. He is still not houstrained. I think part of it is from the shelter, where the dogs routinely poop in their cages and rarely are taken outside. Plus, he was rescued from a pet hoarding situation. How can I resolve his houstraining issues?  
-- Glenda in Dothan, Alabama

DEAR GLENDA: Congratulations on your new family member! I know the houstraining situation is frustrating, but have patience.

If you haven't taken Chestnut to the veterinarian yet for his first checkup, schedule that appointment. The vet will rule out any physical problems or hidden illnesses that might be contributing to the problem, and can give some helpful advice on working with dogs from a traumatic background.

That background does have an effect on houstraining. Chestnut spent formative months in locations where little to no training took place, and he learned to follow the habits of the other dogs around him. So, you'll have to retrain him away from those habits, and keep the entire experience a positive one.

Take Chestnut for walks two to three times per day, and (this is important) at the same times each day. He needs to know that at sunrise, noon and sunset, he will have "outside" time. Bring his favorite treats with you. At first, shower him with treats for everything: putting on the leash, walking next to you, sitting on command, and every time he poops or pees. Make him look forward to pooping outside.

Never scold him if he poops inside. Just clean up and try again. If he poops in specific areas of the house, block his access to those areas if possible. Keep training positive and be patient, patient, patient. He will come around.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* Have you ever thought that your dog's feet smell like corn chips? If so, you're not alone. In fact, the term "Frito Feet" was coined to describe the scent!

\* The fastest knockout in pro boxing history occurred when Mike Collins floored Pat Brownson with his first punch and the match ended a mere four seconds after the bell.

\* A person who enjoys doing crossword puzzles is called a cruciverbalist.

\* Nestor Carbonell's portrayal of Richard Alpert on the hit

TV series "Lost" led to an internet debate as to whether the actor was wearing eyeliner.

\* During the Gemini IV missions in 1965, James McDivitt and Edward H. White were the first astronauts to have reportedly smuggled chewing gum into space without permission.

\* On average, people in India spend 10 hours and 42 minutes a week reading, the most time of any country on Earth.

\* Thumbs have their own pulse.

\* The ringing of church bells at weddings can be traced to the Celtic heritage of Scotland and Ireland, when they were used to ward off evil spirits and grant wishes to the newlyweds.

\* In 1965, Johnny Cash's younger brother, Tommy Cash, released a song titled "I Didn't Walk the Line."

\* Upon hearing that the Great Fire of London might destroy his house, English diarist Samuel Pepys took care to bury his most prized possessions in his garden -- including a wheel of Parmesan cheese.

\* Ravens in captivity can learn to talk better than parrots.

\* When your "inner voice" speaks in your head, it triggers small muscle movements in your larynx.

\* Each year, 40,000 tons of space dust settles on Earth.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." -- Marcel Proust

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### The Garden Bug

#### Make a terrarium

A terrarium is an enclosed, clear container with plants growing inside. Once the plants are gently watered then enclosed, a mini-environment is created. Moisture is transpired through the leaves, condenses on the inside of the container, then flows back to the soil. Begonias, ferns, swedish ivy and pothos do well in terrariums. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.thegardenhelper.com](http://www.thegardenhelper.com)

The diagram illustrates the layers of a terrarium. From top to bottom, the layers are: a Lid, a Clear glass container, Plants, Moisture (represented by small circles), Rocks, Soil, Sphagnum moss, Charcoal, and Pebbles.



by Freddy Groves

## Turning off monitoring machines?

Telemetry medicine is a huge benefit for surgery or cardiac patients. Using fancy high-tech equipment, these patients can be monitored while they recover and their vital signs are continuously transmitted to medical staff. So it's great ... except when it's not.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Inspector General recently investigated two cases where the whole system failed

because of human actions.

In one case, the technician changed the alarm on the device and put it on "Do Not Disturb." That technician didn't complete a required Patient Safety Report, and a nurse didn't document the patient's condition (another required Patient Safety Report) after finding the patient unresponsive and without a pulse.

In another case, the patient himself reported cardiac symptoms but there was a delay in anyone knowing because the technician had turned off the monitoring alarms. Although a Patient Safety Report was done later, a manager rejected it, which apparently meant that the OIG couldn't talk to staff about the incident.

The OIG, of course, had recommendations. TITLE: None of those recommendations, unfortunately, involved firing the technicians that actually turned off patients' alarms on the equipment.

In another investigation, medical staff didn't give the required informed consent information to a patient who was held involuntarily in a locked mental health unit for 48 hours. The patient had gone to the ER and asked for help with substance withdrawal. He was admitted and was apparently surprised it was a locked mental health unit that he was put in (he was concerned about the behavior of those around him) and wanted to leave. The next day the patient put his request to leave in writing and was finally let out the following day. Problem was, according to state law, he should have been released immediately after filing that request.

Again the OIG had recommendations, one being that the policies need to align with state laws.

Sometimes the VA does this well, and then there are incidents like these.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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- TELEVISION: Who was host of the "Good Eats" cooking show?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which nation's nickname is "Land of Fire and Ice"?
- MUSIC: What was the title of Madonna's first Top 10 hit?
- MOVIES: What does the acronym AT-AT refer to in the "Star Wars" movie series?
- LITERATURE: Which famous entertainer started a children's book-giving program called the Imagination Library?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which bird's eye is larger than its brain?
- U.S. CITIES: Which U.S. city's nickname is The District?
- HISTORY: In which modern country is the ancient civilization of Babylon located?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many articles are in the U.S. Constitution?
- AD SLOGANS: Which rental platform's slogan is "Belong anywhere"?

### Answers

- Alton Brown.
- Iceland.
- "Borderline."
- All Terrain Armored Transport.
- Dolly Parton.
- Ostrich.
- Washington, D.C.
- Iraq.
- Seven.
- Airbnb.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## South Dakota Sturdy

It's back to school time! My kids are all grown up with their school days behind them, and though my grandkids are still young, Miss Addie is starting preschool! This time of year means so much to me. Everything that I do is about making our state safer and stronger for our kids and grandkids – and making sure they get an excellent education is a huge part of that.

This year, we're kicking off the school year with a new initiative called South Dakota Sturdy. This is a free resource that we're offering to each South Dakota school district to teach our students resiliency, work ethic, and that driving pursuit of achievement.

South Dakota Sturdy provides ten free lesson plans for students between fourth and sixth grade. It's available to school counselors and teachers alike. As an added benefit, these lesson plans are rooted in our state standards – so teachers can use aspects of South Dakota, tribal, and American history, and even science to teach these important lessons.

Let me give you an example: One of the ten lesson plans covers my favorite president, Teddy Roosevelt. As a young man, Teddy refused to let asthma and poor eyesight get in his way. He adopted an outlook that he called "the strenuous life," exercising and spending time outdoors – and he overcame his asthma.

When Teddy's mother and wife both died just hours apart, he moved to the Dakota Territory, became a tremendous outdoorsman, and proved himself to the other cowboys as a man full of grit. And when America went to war with Spain, he personally led the Rough Riders into combat, defeating the Spanish in a battle and becoming a war hero.

As president, he strengthened America's Navy, built the Panama Canal, and set up the national parks system that we know today. Throughout his political career, he took on seemingly insurmountable corrupt political machines – and won.

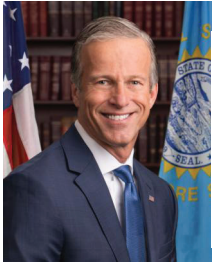
Teddy was able to overcome challenges because he believed that he was in control of his own life. He made the world around him greater because he took charge of his own destiny. Today, his face is on Mount Rushmore – the greatest symbol of American Freedom – because of his leadership.

That's the type of lesson that South Dakota Sturdy will teach our kids. No matter what challenges they face, even the most unimaginable difficulties, they can overcome with the lessons that this initiative will teach.

I do want to be clear; these lesson plans are not mandatory. They're available to give additional flexibility to our teachers who work so hard. Maybe they could be used as an easy option for a substitute teacher who has to drop into a classroom at the last minute.

To our knowledge, South Dakota Sturdy will make us the first state to provide such specific lesson plans in this area of resiliency and student wellness. This is the latest way that South Dakota is raising the bar for our kids, making sure that our students receive the very best education possible.

We appreciate everything that our teachers do for their students. We raised their pay this past legislative session because we respect their work. South Dakota students deserve to learn these important life lessons. With this effort, we will make it easier for teachers to provide an excellent education for our kids.



**JOHN THUNE**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## Protecting Kids Online

Social media has become a big part of Americans' lives. It's a source of entertainment and information, a way to connect with friends and family, and a place to shop, do business, and advocate for causes that are important to us. But I don't need to tell anyone that social media has a dark side as well. Social media can have negative effects on mental health. It can foster negative and divisive engagement and serve as an outlet for illegal activity. And it can be especially detrimental to teenagers' still-developing psyches.

In the last few years, reports and whistleblowers have sounded the alarm on social media's impact on young people. In 2021, the Wall Street Journal released a series of reports highlighting, among other things, Facebook's knowledge of the harm its products can cause, including its own research into Instagram's impact on teenage girls. Another report revealed how easy it is for teens to be bombarded with inappropriate content on TikTok, a risk-plagued platform with flaws far beyond this one. And many of us have also read tragic stories of eating disorders and suicide linked to social media. The status quo is unacceptable.

For several years now, including my time as chairman, I've worked with a number of my colleagues on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to address some of these issues. After years of hard work, the Senate recently passed the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act, which takes important steps to protect young Americans online.

Championed by Sen. Marsha Blackburn, my colleague from Tennessee, this bill provides safeguards for teens by requiring that Big Tech platforms default to the strongest privacy settings for minors. It puts the responsibility on these platforms to prevent and mitigate harm to young people, and it prohibits internet companies from collecting personal information from minors without their consent. These and other measures in the bill are critical steps to protect children online and hopefully begin to reverse social media's ill effects, of which we've seen too much in recent years.

In addition to these provisions, I'm proud that this bill includes my Filter Bubble Transparency Act. One big problem with social media platforms stems from platforms' ability to decide what information to show you based on a secret algorithm that you can't inspect or change. Not all algorithms are bad – some can even be helpful, like YouTube queuing up another song from your favorite band instead of something totally unrelated. But algorithms that expose a 15-year-old to inappropriate videos, that's problematic, to say the least. And unfortunately, consumers are not always aware of just how much of their experience is being shaped by opaque algorithms.

The Filter Bubble Transparency Act puts consumers and parents back in charge by requiring Big Tech platforms to disclose when they are using an opaque algorithm, and it requires platforms to give consumers the option to view content that has not been curated by the secret algorithm. It provides more transparency for consumers and gives them more control over the content with which they interact online. I'm glad to see this bill advance alongside other important measures in this bill.

As always, there's additional work to be done to update our laws for the social media age. But the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act is an important step forward in protecting young Americans from harm on the internet. I hope the House of Representatives will soon take up this bill, and I will continue working with my colleagues on this important issue.

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## Big Connections

### BIG Idea

Children look up to adults young and old as examples of how to live. Friends of the Children – He Sapa is ensuring children have role models who teach the Lakota values of fortitude, wisdom, courage, generosity, honor, respect, and humility. As the first and only long-term professional mentoring program in the country, Friends of the Children puts the children first to help them overcome childhood adversity.

### BIG Update

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released a preliminary review of employment data that shows there were 818,000 fewer jobs in March 2024 than previously reported. The Department of Labor initially reported 2.9 million new jobs between March 2023 and March 2024. This 30 percent reduction is the largest downward revision in 15 years. Two years after passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, we've seen how these policies have increased gas, food, and electricity prices. Businesses are experiencing the same squeeze families are, and employment data shows these challenges.

It's time for change. We must cut government spending, ease taxes, and reduce unnecessary regulations from the Biden-Harris Administration. I've voted against \$13 trillion of spending supported by President Biden and Congressional Democrats. I'm working to decrease spending and block Biden's rules that are costly and unrealistic for our economy.

### BIG News

For nearly 35 years, the city of Madison has waited and worked towards connecting with the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. At the beginning of August, the town completed the pipeline project that connects Madison to the system. I joined Madison city leaders and Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds for the ribbon cutting to celebrate the newest L&CRWS connection.



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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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## I Didn't Lose My Marbles They Just Retired

For some people, getting old is a real challenge. And it probably is for many people, but it hasn't been too much of an issue for me.

Don't let this get out, but getting old has been more of a blessing than a curse for me. I thought it would be terrible and didn't know what I would do when I reached that magical retirement age. Fortunately for me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is several years ahead of me, so she is leading the way.

I like it when she is in charge like this because that means I don't have to wear out my brain by trying to figure out anything.

When she acknowledges that she is old, I will accept it and look forward to getting old myself.

The other day, for example, she complained about her bones aching, and I said, "Well, my dear, you're just getting old."

Of course, that did not go well with her. She replied, "No, it has nothing to do with my age. There is a storm coming, and Mother Nature is warning me to get ready for the storm."

Am I losing it, or have I heard that before? Evidently, she's in contact with Mother Nature, who messages her when a storm is coming.

Because I do not like pain, I went along with her story. When she walked out of the living room, I said, "Tell Mother Nature I said hello."

She looked at me with one of her looks, and she was not laughing, although I was laughing, at least on the inside.

Getting old does have its privileges. Because I'm old, for instance, I have the privilege of not remembering things.

Whenever The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asks me about something, I reply sadly, "Oh, I must be getting old because I don't remember that."

So far, I've gotten away with that.

The only problem is that I need to have a good memory to remember what I don't remember. Oh boy.

For me, the greatest pleasure of getting old has to do with my eating habits.

I can complain about some food and say to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "I don't think I'm able to eat that sort of thing anymore, it stirs up my stomach."

Right here, I need to have a very good memory to know what I don't want to eat. After all, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has an excellent memory, and I'm banking on that for sure.

Certain vegetables are off-limits to me because I'm older now. If it's green, it can't be seen, at least on my plate.

Last week, I got caught complaining that I couldn't eat certain vegetables, and my stomach could not handle it anymore. I snuck into the kitchen and got several cookies, and as I turned around to walk out, who was standing in front of me but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage?

"What are you eating?" She said very sternly. "I thought at dinner you said your stomach couldn't handle anything more for the day."

I looked at her, tried to smile, and said, "But, my dear, I can't resist your cookies. You make such delicious and wonderful cookies." Then, I tried to smile more broadly.

"For your information," she said while staring at me, "I did not make those cookies I bought them for our great-granddaughter."

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I was careful what I was going to say next because anything I said, she would remember until the day of my funeral.

The game of forgetfulness can be a wonderful game. However, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage does not know that she's playing it. Because of that, I usually win.

I'm really not as forgetful as I let on, because sometimes it is important not to remember something. Some things are not worth remembering and my problem as I get older is I remember what I should forget and forget what I should remember.

How I get out of this mess will be something to treasure the rest of my life.

The other day, I had one of those forgetful issues. I was trying to find something in my office, but I just could not find it. I looked everywhere, but it didn't show up. I was a little bit frustrated.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came and said, "What's wrong? Have you lost your marbles?" And she looked at me and laughed and laughed.

I responded to her by saying, "No, my dear, I have not lost my marbles, they just have retired."

Looking at me she grinned and said, "Well, maybe you should retire too."

She has something there that I'm going to think about.

While I was thinking about my memories I was reminded of what King David said, "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands" (Psalm 143:5).

Even David thought remembering good things was important. His reflection was on the good things God had done. It is easy for me to forget what God has done in my life.

It's easy to think of all those bad times in my life. I do that quite often. David's focus was to meditate on the "good things God has done." Although there have been bad times in my past, it is important to recognize God's activity in my life.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Where does J.D. Vance, Trump's V.P. pick, stand on climate and environmental issues?

-- Robert O., Bowie, MD

As the political climate intensifies, understanding the environmental stance of key political figures like Vance, author of "Hillbilly Elegy" and an Ohio Republican Senator, becomes crucial. His position on environmental issues and climate change could significantly influence future policies and regulations.

Vance's public statements indicate a distrust of climate science and a preference for policies that favor economic growth over environmental protection. He often criticizes what he sees as environmental regulation overreach, saying it stifles economic opportunities, particularly in traditional energy sectors.

Initially, Vance was openly skeptical about climate change. However, his stance has intensified over time, particularly as he has received significant financial contributions from the oil industry. Recently, he has made statements acknowledging the reality of climate change, but he remains critical of aggressive climate policies, preferring more moderate approaches. He argues that fossil fuels are essential for economic growth, and has criticized renewable energies, suggesting they are unreliable and economically unviable. His legislative actions reflect this stance, as he has supported bills that favor the expansion of oil and gas drilling and opposed measures that would significantly invest in renewable energy.

Vance opposes significant environmental regulations, viewing them as impediments to economic progress. He has been a vocal advocate for deregulation, particularly in sectors related to traditional energy production. His support for deregulation efforts is evident in his legislative record, where he has backed initiatives aimed at rolling back environmental protections established in previous administrations.

Vance's financial portfolio reveals investments in both traditional and green energies, creating a complex picture of his financial interests. This strategy could suggest a pragmatic approach to energy policy, but raises questions about potential conflicts of interest. Critics say his financial interests may unduly influence his political stance; especially given the large contributions he's received from the oil industry.

Environmental advocacy groups have been critical of Vance's stances on climate and environment. Public opinion on Vance's environmental stance is mixed, with some voters supporting his pro-economic growth agenda while others are wary of his skepticism toward climate change and environmental regulations.

As Vice President, J.D. Vance's stance on environmental and climate issues could have substantial implications for future legislation.



**J.D. Vance's public statements indicate a distrust of climate science and a preference for policies that favor economic growth over environmental protection.** Credit: Gage Skidmore, FlickrCC.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Noem tells Michigan audience to have conversations for Trump

**BY: ANNA LIZ NICHOLS, MICHIGAN ADVANCE - AUGUST 24, 2024 10:50 AM**

SAINT CLAIR SHORES, Michigan — Republicans need to have better conversations in their communities if they want to see former President Donald Trump in the White House again, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and GOP former Michigan gubernatorial nominee Tudor Dixon said Friday evening at a town hall in Saint Clair Shores.

Following the Thursday conclusion of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, where Vice President Kamala Harris accepted the party's presidential nomination, Noem and Dixon held an event in Macomb County. The pair, both endorsed by Trump in their bids for governor in the past, answered questions about the November election from residents and rallied support for Trump in Macomb County, where Trump secured a majority of votes in 2020, despite losing the state.

The goal of the night was to make people uncomfortable, Noem said in addressing the crowd of around 300 attendees — uncomfortable that they only have so many hours in a day to talk to people, to tell them how much they love America and bring the message of "hope" that Republicans bring.

"Our policies that we believe in, they bring that. They bring a belief in our Constitution, the opportunity that it provides to grow up in America and have every opportunity in front of you, not equal outcomes, but equal opportunities to be successful and to go on and do with your life what you feel called to do. And that's really the conversation we need to have with people this election cycle," Noem said. "We have decided that it's more important to be right than to go out and win the hearts and minds of people, than to go out there and really talk to people and spend time having conversations about what it means to their family."

Noem also is scheduled to speak at the Michigan Republican Party state convention Saturday in Flint.

During the DNC and in the next few weeks before the Nov. 5 election, a lot is going to be said about Trump and Harris. Republicans are going to have to decide to "not to be offended and to keep the relationship" if they want to change minds in their communities, Noem said.

"Your words have power," Noem said. "Choose not to be offended by political conversations you're having with people. Choose instead to recognize that the words that you speak will impact somebody, and try to speak different words that change their perspective, help them think about this election different than they have."

And it can start at the grocery store, where Noem said she likes to occasionally work the checkout line like she did in college in order to learn about the needs and concerns of South Dakotans. Even the price of pickles can spark a conversation that could change someone's perspective.

Republicans need to change their thinking when it comes to reaching out to different groups in states, Dixon said, recalling one campaign event during her race for governor in 2022 where a group of men from Dearborn, which sits in traditionally Democratic Wayne County, came to listen to Republicans.

"They said, 'You know, we were told that if we came to this event, we would be kicked out.' And they said, 'Then we sat here and we heard a lot of things that mean something to our community,'" Dixon said. "I think that it's a shame on us, but it's also a new world where we are realizing that it's time for us to reach everybody. It's time for us to go to the places that everybody told us, 'well, you never accepted there.'"

During that election, several Michigan towns and cities had clashes over banning books. In Dearborn, some Muslims and conservative Christians joined forces to oppose books with LGBTQ+ characters and issues in public schools — which was also a major agenda item for Dixon. She lost the election to Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Among those who asked questions at the St. Clair Shores event, Jason Woolford, the Republican nomi-

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nee for Michigan's 50th House District in GOP-dominated Livingston County, asked for advice on how to engage voters in local and federal elections.

Michigan is the epicenter of many political battles. It's a highly sought-after state in the presidential race, and with a U.S. Senate seat up for grabs, it could impact which party is in control of the upper chamber in 2025. At the state level, the parties are battling for control of the Michigan House in November. For the last two years, Democrats in Michigan have held total control of the offices of the governor's, secretary of state, attorney general, as well as both chambers of the Legislature.

Republicans "are so viciously attacked" Dixon said, invoking conversation about the assassination attempt on Trump last month at a rally in Pennsylvania. "You've seen for months they've called Donald Trump a threat and then, of course, when people are called a threat, someone wants to eliminate the threat. ... And boy, does that discourage people from running as Republicans right now."

The shooter at the Trump rally has been identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks, who was a registered Republican, and was shot and killed by police.

So many of the problems Republicans are worried about like growing taxes, rising inflation and insecure borders can be solved when Michigan mobilizes to elect Trump and flip the state House, Noem said, adding that Whitmer is "a wreck" and "somebody should run against her."

Dixon lost to Whitmer in 2022 by well over 400,000 votes. Whitmer is term-limited in 2026.

Running for office is not easy and it's hard to know who to trust, Dixon said. But Republican governors across the country offered their support to her back in 2022 including Noem, who would talk to her and have lunch with her.

Facing an uphill battle in November, Barry Altman, the GOP nominee for the 7th House District in highly Democratic Detroit, asked for financial help and guidance from Noem and Dixon.

In the August primary, Altman won the Republican slot with under 200 votes, while his Democratic opponent in November, Tonya Myers Phillips, won with nearly 5,000 votes.

Noem asked who she could make a check out to to support his campaign and Dixon said she'd take his phone calls for help.

"That falls on all of us who have run before to answer your call," Dixon said. "And I mean it to answer your call and say, 'We know someone. I know someone. Let me help you. Let me introduce you. Let me move you along.' Because this is a group effort, and the Democrats do it."

Democrats, namely Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, have taken to calling Republicans "weird." But Noem reasoned that the concerns Republicans are bringing to the forefront on border control and axing taxes get to the heart of what just about every household in America is concerned about: health, safety and a future for everyone's kids.

"I don't think you have to be philosophical about this election," Noem said.

She cautioned the crowd to cut through the noise and look at the track record of candidates and share what candidates have said versus what they have done.

*Anna Liz Nichols covers government and statewide issues, including criminal justice, environmental issues, education and domestic and sexual violence. Anna is a former state government reporter for The Associated Press and most recently was a reporter for the Detroit News. Anna is a graduate of Michigan State University.*

## COMMENTARY

# Legislators should plan for sales tax ballot measure's impact, not politicize it

by DANA HESS

AUGUST 24, 2024 10:45 AM

The short-sighted nature of South Dakota's Legislature is coming back around to bite them right in the wallet. In the 2023 legislative session, lawmakers chose to temporarily cut the state sales tax from 4.5% to 4.2% until 2027, betting that the state budget could handle the estimated \$100 million annual loss in revenue.

They did this while rejecting Gov. Kristi Noem's bill to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries, a move that polls show is popular with the state's consumers.

At issue now is Initiated Measure 28, which voters will consider in November. It would prohibit the state from collecting sales taxes on anything sold for human consumption. As its backers drew up the measure, it's designed to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries.

Opponents of IM 28 are coming at it from many angles. One of the first criticisms was that cutting the state sales tax on groceries would lead to a state income tax. As scare tactics go, this one is laughable. There's no way South Dakota's ultra-conservative Legislature backs an income tax. If they did, it would certainly lead to a veto from South Dakota's uber-conservative governor.

The phrase in IM 28 "for human consumption" is causing some heartburn for the measure's opponents. Narrowly applied, as the measure's backers intended, that means eliminating the state sales tax on groceries. That cut could cost the state an estimated \$134 million in revenue.

A presentation from the Legislative Research Council, recounted in a South Dakota Searchlight story, applied the term more broadly to items like utilities, toiletries and car repairs — goods and services "consumed" by humans. That estimated revenue loss was \$646.2 million. Imagine the resulting cuts in state services if that much revenue were to disappear from the state's \$7 billion budget. Now there's a scare tactic with some teeth.

Another South Dakota Searchlight story noted that IM 28 opponents are concerned about the effect of the sales tax cut on the state's AAA bond rating. Governments finance projects by selling bonds to investors. With its highest AAA rating, South Dakota is able to get lower interest rates on its bonds, saving taxpayers money.

"Cutting out one of our most reliable sources of revenue in a public vote, with no plan to pay for the loss in revenue, does not look great to these credit agencies," said Rep. Tony Venhuizen, a Sioux Falls Republican and IM 28 opponent.

If the specter of cutting the tax on groceries is such a bad look for South Dakota, perhaps Venhuizen and his colleagues in the Legislature can change that look. If the prospect of facing a \$134 million shortfall in revenue is going to upset the state's bond market, lawmakers could make a plan now rather than wait until they gather again in January.

A special legislative session could offer fixes to IM 28 in the event it is endorsed by voters. Legislators used a similar tactic when they OK'd a trigger law outlawing abortion that was designed to go into effect if *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

Two actions by the Legislature would be all that's needed to allay the supposed fears of the bond market:

1. Fix the language in IM 28 so that it is crystal clear that the measure is limited to a state sales tax cut on groceries.

2. Reinstate the 4.5% sales tax. This would leave the budget with an estimated \$34 million shortfall in revenue, an amount more easily handled by a state government known for its conservative approach to fiscal responsibility. It should be noted that the state maintained its AAA rating with the cut to a 4.2% sales tax and an estimated \$100 million revenue shortfall.

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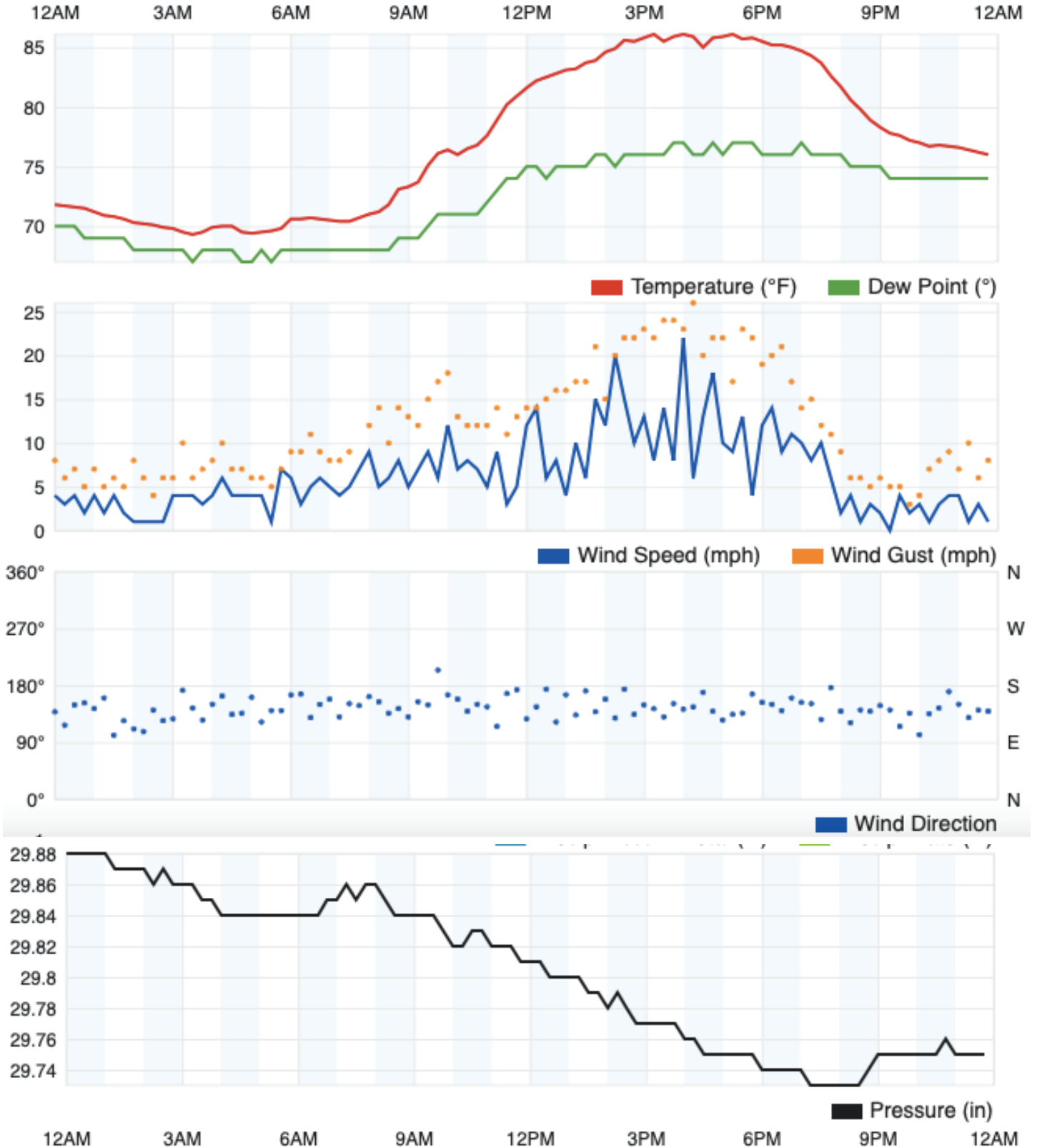
In truth, these actions could just as easily be taken when lawmakers return to Pierre in January with no harm at all to the state's bond rating. It's just that squawking about income taxes, threatening massive cuts in revenue and blowing smoke about a lower bond rating are political tactics. Those tactics are used with the hope that they will convince voters that, despite all their grouching at the cash register, they really don't want to cut their grocery bills.

*Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.*

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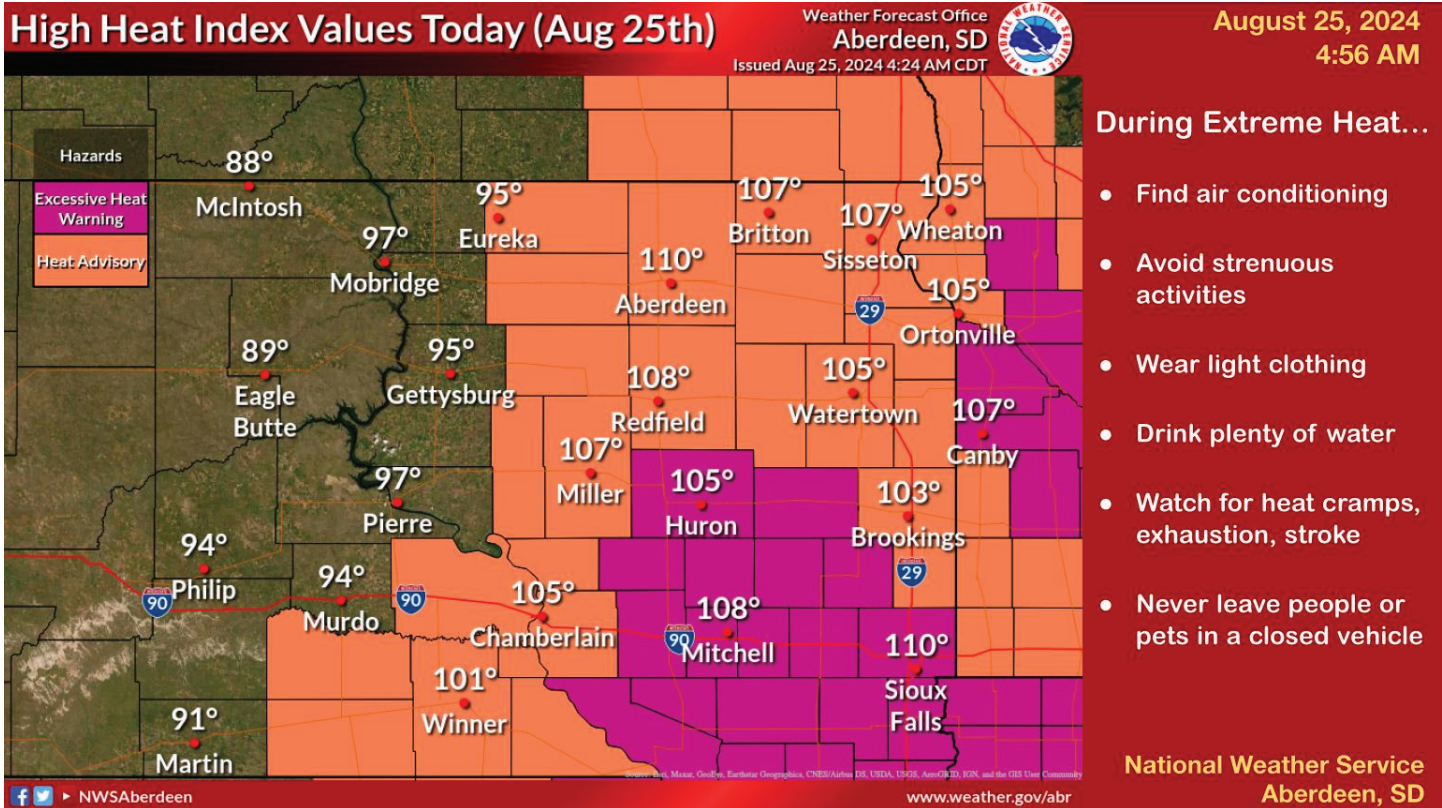
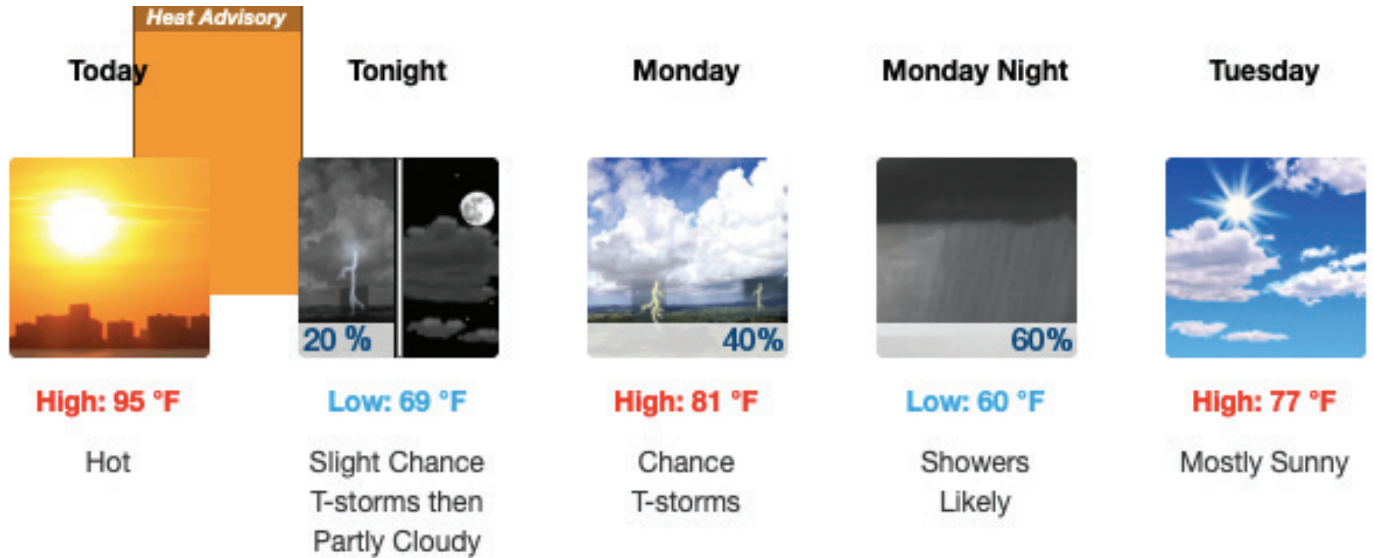
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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A Heat Advisory has been issued for heat index values of 100 to around 110 degrees across most of central and eastern SD today. Be on the look out for symptoms of heat related illness. For more tips on how to stay safe during excessive heat, visit [www.weather.gov/safety/heat](http://www.weather.gov/safety/heat)

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## Sunday Severe Weather Threat Overview

August 25, 2024  
5:01 AM

Late Sunday afternoon and through the overnight

### Timing/Location

There is a 20-40% chance of storms after 5 PM CDT, mainly along and east of a line from Eureka to Murdo.

### Primary Threats for the **YELLOW** areas

#### Tornado Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High

#### Max Hail Size

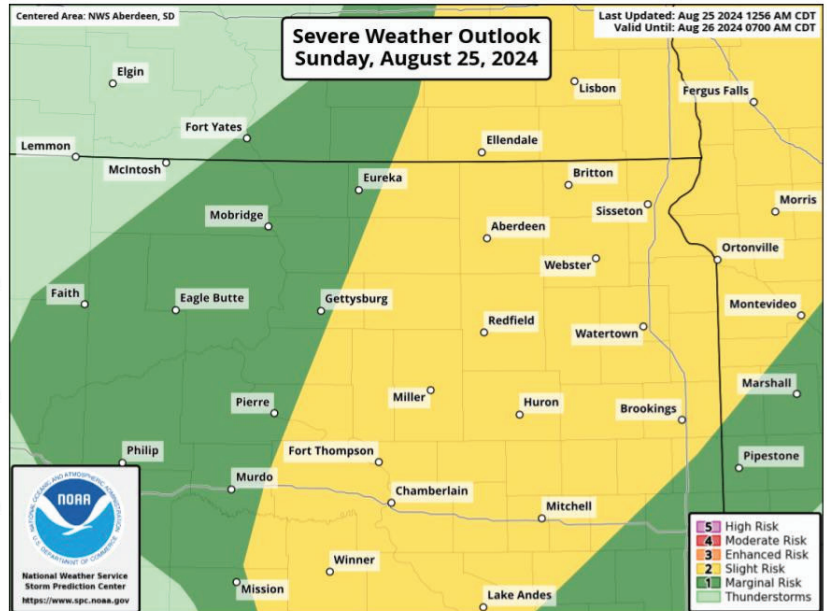
Dimes **Quarters** Golfball Baseball

#### Max Wind Speed

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

#### Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

There is a 20-40% chance of storms after 5 PM CDT mainly east of a line from Eureka to Murdo. Storms may become severe with the potential to produce hail larger than 1" in diameter and winds in excess of 60 mph. A tornado or two cannot be ruled out. Make sure you have multiple ways to receive warnings.

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## Monday Severe Weather Threat Overview

August 25, 2024  
5:06 AM

Monday afternoon and evening

### Timing/Location

Storms will mainly affect locations along and east of a line from Sisseton to Murdo after 2 PM CDT.

### Primary Threats for the **ORANGE** areas

#### Tornado Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High

#### Max Hail Size

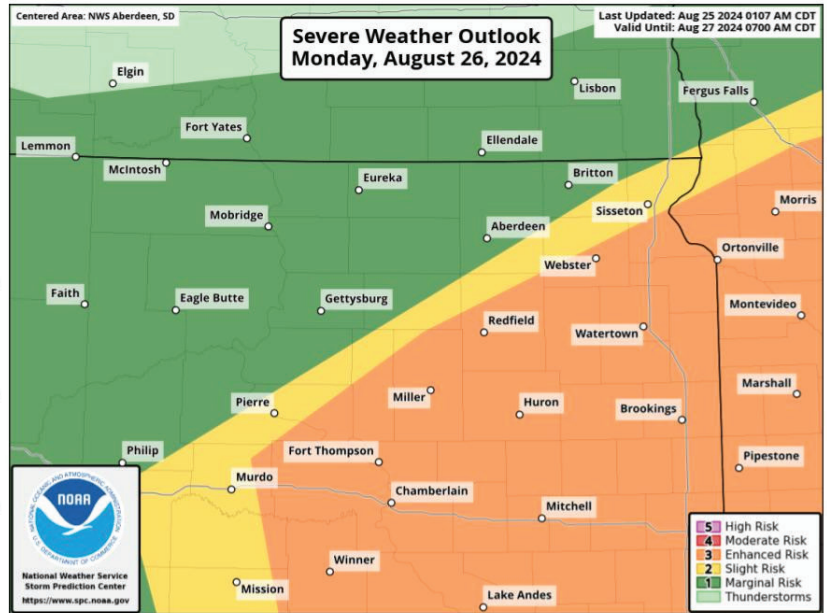
Dimes Quarters **Golfball** Baseball

#### Max Wind Speed

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

#### Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Storms are expected to impact areas mainly east of a line from Britton to Pierre with a higher risk of severe storms along and east of a line from Sisseton to Murdo. The main threats will be hail 1.75" or more in diameter and winds of at least 60 mph. A few tornadoes are also possible. Storms are expected to start after 2 PM CDT.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 3:55 PM

Low Temp: 69 °F at 3:26 AM

Wind: 26 mph at 4:09 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 38 minutes (lost 21 minutes since last Sunday)

## Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1926

Record Low: 38 in 1896

Average High: 82

Average Low: 54

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.81

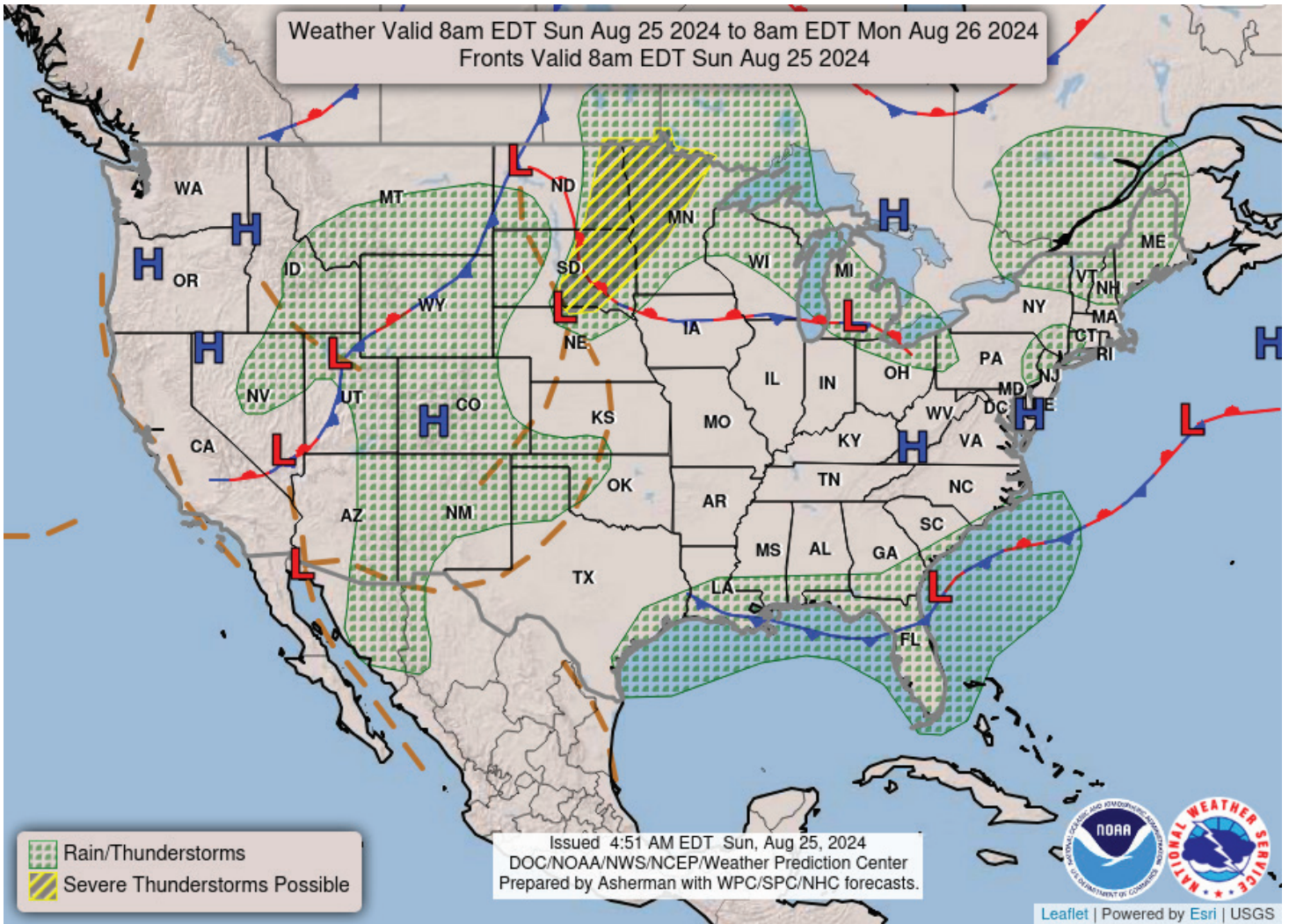
Precip to date in Aug.: 4.29

Average Precip to date: 15.91

Precip Year to Date: 19.18

Sunset Tonight: 8:23:41 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:46:05 am



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## Today in Weather History

August 25, 1990: Severe thunderstorms moved across central and northeastern South Dakota produce golf ball size hail and wind gusts exceeding 60 mph. One storm produced a weak F0 tornado between Bowdle and Roscoe in Edmunds County.

1814: In the early afternoon, a strong tornado struck northwest Washington D.C. and downtown. The severe tornadic storm arrived the day after the British Troops had set fire to the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings. The storm's rains would douse those flames. The tornado did major structural damage to the residential section of the city. The tornado's flying debris killed more British soldiers than by the guns of the American resistance. The storm blew off roofs and carried them high up into the air, knocked down chimneys and fences and damaged numerous homes. Some homes were destroyed. It lifted two pieces of cannon and deposited them several yards away. At least 30 Americans were killed or injured in the heavily damaged buildings, and an unknown number of British killed and wounded.

1885 - A severe hurricane struck South Carolina causing 1.3 million dollars damage at Charleston. (David Ludlum)

1940 - New Jersey experienced its coldest August morning of record, with lows of 32 degrees at Layton and Charlotteburg. (The Weather Channel)

1948: One of the worst tornadoes to strike New Zealand occurred at Hamilton on this day. This estimated F2tornado killed three people, injuring dozens, and destroying or severely damaging almost 150 houses and 50 business premises in Hamilton and Franklin.

1987 - Morning thunderstorms produced heavy rain in eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa. Stanton IA reported 10.50 inches of rain. Water was reported up to the handle of automobiles west of Greenwood NE. Rainfall totals for a two day period ranged from 7 to 14 inches across southwestern Iowa. Crop damage was in the millions for both states. Subsequent flooding of streams in Iowa the last week of August caused millions of dollars damage to crops, as some streams crested ten feet above flood stage. (Storm Data)

1988 - Seven cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date, including Sacramento with an afternoon reading of 104 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in Arizona. Chino Valley was drenched with 2.50 inches of rain in just thirty minutes washing out a couple of streets in town. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Spencer, IN, with 4.10 inches of rain in three hours causing extensive street flooding. Evening thunderstorms in eastern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain around Emporia, and four inches of rain in just forty-five minutes near Parsons, and also produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Lake Melvern. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Katrina becomes a hurricane just before landfall in south Florida between Hallandale Beach and North Miami Beach. Maximum sustained winds at the time of landfall were near 80 mph. There were eleven fatalities in South Florida, including four by falling trees. More than 1.3 million customers lost electrical services, and preliminary insured loss estimates ranged from \$600 million to \$2 billion in the state of Florida (Associated Press).

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## WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY WORLD?

It was Jim's sixth birthday, and his father wanted him to begin to understand continents and nations. So, he bought him a lighted globe. He was fascinated with the way it glowed in the dark and gently lit his room. And he also enjoyed the time his Dad spent in his room telling him stories about the different countries of the world.

One evening his Dad silently slipped into his room thinking that Jim was asleep. He wanted to "borrow" the globe so he could locate the countries that were mentioned during the evening news hour.

As he was leaving, Jim who was not asleep asked, "Dad, what are you doing with my world?"

What a great question for each of us. No doubt God would have each of us answer a similar question: "What are you doing in My world?"

Jesus said that "God loved the world so much that He sent me into the world to save it." We know that Jesus fulfilled God's plan for His life; He gave His life on the cross for our salvation. We also know that He is now in heaven with His Father. And we also know that the work that Jesus began is to be carried on by His disciples.

As His disciples, it is important, no it is critical, that we ask ourselves constantly, "What we are we doing in God's world today to save the lost for whom my Son, your Savior, died?"

Prayer: Lord, give us an urgency to do Your work in Your world to save the lost. Do not let us rest in Your peace until we bring Your message to someone each day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: – For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

*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:  
08.23.24

28 30 44 66 69 2

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$575,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.24.24

3 19 21 28 32 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$7,640,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.24.24

13 19 26 33 38 15

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 7 Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.24.24

8 9 22 24 31

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.24.24

1 26 32 64 65 16

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.24.24

5 15 21 24 43 17

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$44,000,000**

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
- Cancelled:** 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 **AP** Associated Press

### **Israel and Hezbollah trade heavy fire before pulling back, jolting a region braced for war**

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel launched a wave of airstrikes across southern Lebanon early Sunday in what it said was a preemptive strike to avert a large Hezbollah attack. The militant group responded that it had launched hundreds of rockets and drones to avenge the killing of one of its top commanders last month.

The heavy exchange of fire does not appear to have ignited a long-feared war, but the situation remains tense. Egypt was meanwhile hosting high-level talks aimed at brokering a cease-fire in the 10-month-old Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, which diplomats hope will tamp down regional tensions.

The Israeli military said it struck because Hezbollah was planning to launch a heavy barrage of rockets and missiles. Soon after, Hezbollah then said it had launched an attack on Israeli military positions as an initial response to the killing of Fouad Shukur in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut last month.

By mid-morning, it appeared that the exchange had ended, with both sides saying they had only aimed at military targets. At least three fighters were killed in the strikes on Lebanon, while there were no reports of casualties in Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the military had eliminated “thousands of rockets that were aimed at northern Israel.”

“We are determined to do everything to defend our country, to return the residents of the north securely to their homes and to continue upholding a simple rule: Whoever harms us — we will harm them,” he said.

Air raid sirens and flight diversions

Air raid sirens were reported throughout northern Israel, and Israel’s Ben-Gurion international airport closed and diverted flights for about an hour due to the threat of attack. Israel’s Home Front Command raised the alert level across northern Israel before later lifting restrictions in most areas.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said Hezbollah had intended to hit targets in northern and central Israel. He said initial assessments found “very little damage” in Israel, but that the military remained on high alert. He said around 100 Israeli aircraft took part in Sunday’s strikes.

Two Hezbollah fighters and a militant from an allied group were killed, the groups said. The Lebanese Health Ministry said two people were wounded.

Hezbollah said its attack involved more than 320 Katyusha rockets aimed at multiple sites in Israel and a “large number” of drones. It said the operation targeted “a qualitative Israeli military target that will be announced later” as well as “enemy sites and barracks and Iron Dome (missile defense) platforms.”

Hezbollah said the strikes would allow it to launch more attacks deeper into Israel, but a later statement said “military operations for today have been completed.” It dismissed Israel’s claim to have thwarted a stronger attack, without providing evidence for its own claims.

Hezbollah’s leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was expected to give a speech later on Sunday.

After an emergency government meeting, Lebanon’s caretaker Economy Minister Amin Salam said officials were “feeling a bit more optimistic” about a de-escalation.

“We feel more reassured since both sides confirmed that the expected operations ended, and we know that the negotiations in Cairo are very serious,” he said.

President Joe Biden was “closely monitoring events in Israel and Lebanon,” according to Sean Savett, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

The Pentagon said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant, about Israel’s defenses. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. CQ Brown, is on a visit to the region that is expected to take him to Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

All-out war seems to have been averted for now

Randa Slim, a senior fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Middle East Institute, said Sunday morning’s

exchange was "still within the rules of engagement and unlikely at this point to lead to an all out war."

Danny Citrinowicz, an expert at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, said Hezbollah might be trying to "balance the equation without escalating into war." Each side is now hoping their narrative will be sufficient for them to declare victory and avoid a wider confrontation, he said.

Hezbollah began attacking Israel almost immediately after the start of the war in Gaza, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel. Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging fire almost daily, displacing tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border.

Hezbollah, which fought Israel to a stalemate in the summer of 2006, is believed to be far more powerful than it was during that conflict. The United States and Israel estimate it has some 150,000 rockets and is capable of hitting anywhere inside Israel. The group has also developed drones capable of evading Israel's defenses, as well as precision-guided munitions.

Israel has vowed a crushing response to any major Hezbollah attack. It has an extensive multi-tiered missile defense system, and it is backed by a U.S.-led coalition that helped it shoot down hundreds of missiles and drones fired from Iran earlier this year. The U.S. military has been building up its forces across the region in recent weeks.

Hezbollah is a close ally of Iran, which has also threatened to retaliate against Israel for the killing of a senior Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in an explosion in Tehran last month. Israel has not said whether it was involved.

Iranian state media on Sunday played up the Hezbollah attack, calling it a success, but there was no immediate comment from Iranian officials.

The U.S. and other mediators see a cease-fire in Gaza as key to heading off a wider Mideast conflagration. Hezbollah has said it will halt its strikes on Israel if there is a cease-fire in Gaza.

Egypt is hosting high-level talks in Cairo on Sunday aimed at bridging the gaps in an evolving proposal for a truce and the release of scores of hostages held by Hamas. The talks were to be attended by CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency.

Hamas sent a delegation to the Egyptian capital to be briefed by Egyptian and Qatari mediators but is not directly taking part in the negotiations.

## **German police say a man has turned himself in over Solingen knife attack that killed 3**

By DANIEL NIEMANN and DAVID MCHUGH Associated Press

SOLINGEN, Germany (AP) — A 26-year-old man has turned himself into police, saying he was responsible for the Solingen knife attack that left three dead and eight wounded at a festival marking the city's 650th anniversary, German authorities announced early Sunday.

Duesseldorf police said in a joint statement with the prosecutor's office that the man "stated that he was responsible for the attack."

"This person's involvement in the crime is currently being intensively investigated," the statement said.

Federal prosecutors said they were investigating on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and membership in a foreign terrorist organization. The suspect was to make a first appearance before a judge later Sunday.

The suspect is a Syrian citizen who had applied for asylum in Germany, police confirmed to The Associated Press. The dpa news agency reported, without citing a specific source, that his asylum claim had been denied and that he was to have been deported last year.

On Saturday, the Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, without providing evidence. The extremist group said on its news site that the attacker targeted Christians and that the perpetrator carried out the assaults Friday night "to avenge Muslims in Palestine and everywhere." The claim couldn't be independently verified.

Friday's attack plunged the city of Solingen into shock and grief. A city of about 160,000 residents near the bigger cities of Cologne and Duesseldorf, Solingen was holding a "Festival of Diversity" to celebrate

its anniversary.

People alerted police shortly after 9:30 p.m. local time Friday that a man had assaulted several people with a knife on the city's central square, the Fronhof. The three people killed were two men aged 67 and 56 and a 56-year-old woman, authorities said. Police said the attacker appeared to have deliberately aimed for his victims' throats.

The festival, which was due to have run through Sunday, was canceled as police looked for clues in the cordoned-off square. Instead, residents gathered to mourn the dead and injured, placing flowers and notes near the scene of the attack.

"Warum?" asked one sign placed amid candles and teddy bears. Why?

Among those asking themselves the question was 62-year-old Cord Boettger, a merchant from Solingen.

"Why does something like this have to be done? It's incomprehensible and it hurts," Boettger said.

Officials had earlier said a 15-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion he knew about the planned attack and failed to inform authorities, but that he was not the attacker. Two female witnesses told police they overheard the boy and an unknown person before the attack speaking about intentions that corresponded to the bloodshed, officials said.

The attack comes amid debate over immigration ahead of regional elections next Sunday in Germany's Saxony and Thuringia regions where anti-immigration parties such as the populist Alternative for Germany are expected to do well. In June, Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed that the country would start deporting criminals from Afghanistan and Syria again after a knife attack by an Afghan immigrant left one police officer dead and four more people injured.

The IS militant group declared its caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria about a decade ago, but now holds no control over any land and has lost many prominent leaders. The group is mostly out of global news headlines.

Still, it continues to recruit members and claim responsibility for deadly attacks around the world, including lethal operations in Iran and Russia earlier this year that killed dozens of people. Its sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq still carry out attacks on government forces in both countries as well as U.S.-backed Syrian fighters.

## 2 separate bus accidents in Pakistan leave at least 35 people dead, officials say

By MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Two separate bus accidents hours apart in Pakistan on Sunday left at least 35 people dead and dozens more injured, officials said.

The first happened when a bus carrying Shiite Muslim pilgrims returning from Iraq through Iran fell from a highway into a ravine in southwest Pakistan, killing at least 12 people and injuring 32 others, police and officials said. The driver lost control on the Makran coastal highway when the brakes failed while passing through Lasbela district in Baluchistan province, local police chief Qazi Sabir said.

Authorities in Baluchistan said arrangements were being made to send the bodies of slain pilgrims to Punjab province for burial. Maryam Nawaz, the chief minister in Punjab, also expressed her condolences over the accident.

Hours later, 23 people were killed when a bus fell into a ravine in Kahuta district in the eastern Punjab province, police and officials said, including two women and a child. At least seven others were injured.

The bus was heading to the Pakistan-administrated disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir — claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan — when it fell from the Panna bridge in the Kahuta district, said Sardar Waheed, a senior government official, adding that heavy machinery was needed to lift the wreckage and ensure no one was trapped underneath.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in separate statements offered their condolences and expressed sorrow over the two accidents. They asked authorities to ensure the provision of the best medical treatment for the injured pilgrims.

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The accidents on Sunday occurred days after 28 Pakistani pilgrims were killed in a bus crash in neighboring Iran while heading to Iraq. A Pakistani military plane flew the bodies of the victims home on Saturday to be buried in the southern Sindh province.

Thousands of Shiites travel to Iraq's holy city of Karbala to commemorate Arbaeen — Arabic for the number 40 — to mark the death of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, who became a symbol of resistance during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history.

Bus accidents are common in Pakistan, mostly because of the negligence of the drivers who often violate traffic rules.

## **Tropical Storm Hone increases to Category 1 hurricane strength while approaching Hawaii**

By AUDREY McAVOY and JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Tropical Storm Hone increased to a Category 1 hurricane while continuing its steady approach toward Hawaii late Saturday, forecasters said.

Hone (pronounced hoe-NEH) had top winds of 75 mph (120 kph), according to an 11 p.m. advisory by the Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu. The minimum threshold for a hurricane is 74 mph (119 kph).

A tropical storm warning remained in effect for the Big Island as the storm moved west at 12 mph (19 kph) about 105 miles (170 kilometers) south of Hilo, Hawaii, and about 275 miles (440 kilometers) southeast of Honolulu, the center said.

The hurricane center, part of the National Weather Service, previously said Hone was expected to remain just below hurricane strength at its peak Sunday through Monday.

Hurricane Gilma, still about 1,480 miles (2,380 kilometers) east of Hilo, increased to a Category 4 hurricane Saturday night.

Hone, whose name is Hawaiian for "sweet and soft," drew near the islands Saturday with breezes that were expected to intensify and increase the wildfire risk for drier parts of the state even as memories are still fresh from last year's deadly blazes on Maui.

A red flag fire warning was in effect for the leeward sides of all islands through 6 p.m. on Saturday. The National Weather Service issues the alert when warm temperatures, very low humidity and stronger winds combine to raise fire dangers.

"They gotta take this thing serious," said Calvin Endo, a Waianae Coast neighborhood board member who lives in Makaha, a leeward Oahu neighborhood prone to wildfires.

Most of the archipelago is already abnormally dry or in drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The winds are expected to be strongest where they blow downslope from higher terrain, over headlands and through passes, the hurricane center advised.

The situation recalls last year's deadly wildfires on Maui, which were fueled by hurricane-force winds. But while Hone presents high fire dangers, "it's not on the magnitude of that," weather service meteorologist Derek Wroe in Honolulu said Saturday.

The Aug. 8, 2023, blaze that torched the historic town of Lahaina was the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century, with 102 dead. Dry, overgrown grasses and drought helped spread the fire.

For years, Endo has worried about dry brush on private property behind his home. He's taken matters into his own hands by clearing the brush himself, but he's concerned about nearby homes abutting overgrown vegetation.

"All you need is fire and wind and we'll have another Lahaina," Endo said in the morning. "I notice the wind started to kick up already."

The cause of the Lahaina blaze is still under investigation, but it's possible it was ignited by bare electrical wire and leaning power poles toppled by the strong winds.

The state's two power companies, Hawaiian Electric and the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, said they would be monitoring conditions this weekend and ready to shut off power if necessary to reduce the chance that live, damaged power lines could start fires.

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Firefighters remained on the scene of a small blaze that started Friday night in Waikoloa, on the dry side of the Big Island, according to Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth. It was under control and did not cause any injuries or damage.

"We're expecting to have bands of rain come through the day," Roth said from Hilo, on the island's east side, where it was raining.

The island was getting enough rain later Saturday to cancel its red flag warning, though a warning remained in effect for the other islands, said Ian Morrison, a weather service meteorologist in Honolulu.

Officials were closing some Big Island beach parks in anticipation of dangerously high surf and preparing to open shelters if needed, Roth said.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority told travelers it's still safe to come to the islands but recommended postponing outdoor activities.

The eastern and southeastern parts of the Big Island could get 5 to 10 inches (11 to 25 centimeters) of rain. The island could get sustained winds of 20 to 40 mph (32 to 64 kph) and gusts near 60 mph (97 kph), weather officials said.

Moving westward across the Pacific behind Hone was Hurricane Gilma. A separate 11 p.m. Saturday advisory said Gilma's "intensification rate has leveled off" and placed the storm 1,500 miles (2,410 kilometers) west of Baja California. The maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) elevated the storm into the bottom of Category 4 hurricane status.

Forecasters had called for additional strengthening before gradually weakening as Gilma moves over cooler sea-surface temperatures and into a drier, more stable airmass.

## **Rohingya refugees mark the anniversary of their exodus and demand a safe return to Myanmar**

By SHAFIQR RAHMAN and JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP) — Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who live in sprawling camps in Bangladesh on Sunday marked the seventh anniversary of their mass exodus, demanding safe return to Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The refugees gathered in an open field at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar district carrying banners and festoons reading "Hope is Home" and "We Rohingya are the citizens of Myanmar," defying the rain on a day that is marked as "Rohingya Genocide Day."

On Aug. 25, 2017, hundreds of thousands of refugees started crossing the border to Bangladesh on foot and by boats amid indiscriminate killings and other violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Myanmar had launched a brutal crackdown following attacks by an insurgent group on guard posts. The scale, organization and ferocity of the operation led to accusations from the international community, including the U.N., of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Then-Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered border guards to open the border, eventually allowing more than 700,000 refugees to take shelter in the Muslim-majority nation. The influx was in addition to the more than 300,000 refugees who had already been living in Bangladesh for decades in the wake of waves of previous violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military.

Since 2017, Bangladesh has attempted at least twice to send the refugees back and has urged the international community to build pressure on Myanmar for a peaceful environment inside Myanmar that could help start the repatriation. Hasina also sought help from China to mediate.

But in the recent past, the situation in Rakhine state has become more volatile after a group called Arakan Army started fighting against Myanmar's security forces. The renewed chaos forced more refugees to flee toward Bangladesh and elsewhere in a desperate move to save their lives. Hundreds of Myanmar soldiers and border guards also took shelter inside Bangladesh to flee the violence, but Bangladesh later handed them over to Myanmar peacefully.

As the protests took place in camps in Bangladesh on Sunday, the United Nations and other rights groups

expressed their concern over the ongoing chaos in Myanmar.

Washington-based Refugees International in a statement on Sunday described the scenario.

"In Rakhine state, increased fighting between Myanmar's military junta and the AA (Arakan Army) over the past year has both caught Rohingya in the middle and seen them targeted. The AA has advanced and burned homes in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and other towns, recently using drones to bomb villages," it said.

"The junta has forcibly recruited Rohingya and bombed villages in retaliation. Tens of thousands of Rohingya have been newly displaced, including several who have tried to flee into Bangladesh," it said.

UNICEF said that the agency received alarming reports that civilians, particularly children and families, were being targeted or caught in the crossfire, resulting in deaths and severe injuries, making humanitarian access in Rakhine extremely challenging.

## **5 people die in shelling of a Russian border region while Russian fire hits a hotel with reporters**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Five people died in Ukrainian shelling in Russia's border region of Belgorod, officials said Sunday, while Russian forces struck a hotel in eastern Ukraine, leaving one journalist missing and two others injured.

Twelve other people were wounded in the Russian village of Rakitone, 38 kilometers (23 miles) from the Ukrainian border, including a 16-year-old girl reported to be in critical condition, said regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov.

Russian forces struck a hotel overnight in the city of Kramatorsk in the eastern Donetsk region, injuring two people and leaving one trapped under the rubble, regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said. All three were reported to be journalists from Ukraine, the U.S., and the U.K.

Reuters news agency said Sunday that their journalist covering the war in Ukraine was missing and two other team members were hospitalized after Hotel Sapphire, where a six-person crew was staying, was hit "by an apparent missile strike" on Saturday. "One of our colleagues is unaccounted for, while another two have been taken to hospital for treatment," the agency said.

The rest of the team has been accounted for, said the news agency.

In addition to the hotel, a nearby multistory building was also destroyed, Filashkin said, and rescuers were busy clearing the debris at the site.

Ukraine's eastern Kharkiv region also came under Russian fire, resulting in multiple civilian injuries, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

In Kharkiv's Chuhiv region, five people were injured, including a 4-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl, after two houses were struck by Russian fire. In Kharkiv city, eight people were wounded when a two-story house was set on fire by a Russian attack.

In Balakliia, a Russian strike destroyed six houses and damaged others. A 55-year-old man was injured. In the Kupiansk area, a house was set on fire by a Russian attack, wounding four women.

## **Harris campaign says it has raised \$540M, sees surge of donations during DNC**

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign says it has now raised \$540 million for its election battle against Republican nominee former President Donald Trump.

The campaign has had no problems getting supporters to open their wallets since President Joe Biden announced on July 21 he was ending his campaign and quickly endorsed Harris. The campaign said it saw a surge of donations during last week's Democratic National Convention in Chicago where Harris and her vice presidential running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, accepted their nominations.

"Just before Vice President Harris' acceptance speech Thursday night, we officially crossed the \$500 million mark," campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon wrote in a memo released by the campaign on Sunday.

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"Immediately after her speech, we saw our best fundraising hour since launch day."

Trump has also proven to be a formidable fundraiser, but appears to be outpaced in her month-old campaign. Trump's campaign and its related affiliates announced earlier this month that they had raised \$138.7 million in July — less than what Harris took in during her White House bid's opening week. Trump's campaign reported \$327 million in cash on hand at the start of August.

The Harris fundraising totals were raised by Harris for President, the Democratic National Committee, and joint fundraising committees.

O'Malley Dillon said that nearly a third of contributions during convention week came from first-time contributors. About one-fifth of those first-time contributors were young voters and two-thirds were women, groups that the campaign sees as critical constituencies that Harris needs to turn out to win in November.

The Harris campaign says it has also seen a surge in volunteer support for the vice president. During convention week, supporters signed up for nearly 200,000 volunteer shifts to help the campaign.

## Schools are competing with cell phones. Here's how they think they could win

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

Isabella Pires first noticed what she calls the "gradual apathy pandemic" in eighth grade. Only a handful of classmates registered for service projects she helped organize at her Massachusetts school. Even fewer actually showed up.

When she got to high school last fall, Isabella found the problem was even worse: a lackluster Spirit Week and classes where students seldom spoke.

In some ways, it's as if students "just care less and less about what people think, but also somehow care more," said Isabella, 14. Some teens, she said, no longer care about appearing disengaged, while others are so afraid of ridicule they keep to themselves. She blames social media and the lingering isolation of the post-COVID era.

Educators say their tried and true lesson plans are no longer enough to keep students engaged at a time of struggling mental health, shortened attention spans, reduced attendance and worsening academic performance. At the crux of these challenges? Addiction to cell phones. Now, adults are trying new strategies to reverse the malaise.

Cell phone bans are gaining traction, but many say they're not enough. They argue for alternative stimulation: steering students outdoors or toward extracurriculars to fill time they might otherwise spend alone online. And students need outlets, they say, to speak about taboo topics without fear of being "canceled" on social media.

"To get students engaged now, you have to be very, very creative," said Wilbur Higgins, lead English teacher at Dartmouth High School, where Isabella will be a sophomore this fall.

Lock them up

Cell phone pouches, lockers and bins have grown in popularity to help enforce device bans.

John Nguyen, a chemistry teacher in California, invented a pouch system because he was so distressed by bullying and fights on phones during class, often without adults interfering. Many teachers are afraid to confront students using phones during lessons, Nguyen said, and others have given up trying to stop it.

At Nguyen's school, students lock their phones in neoprene pouches during classes or even all day. A teacher or principal's magnetic key unlocks the pouches.

It doesn't matter how dynamic the lesson, said Nguyen, who teaches at Marina Valley High School and now markets the pouches to other schools. "There's nothing that can compete with the cell phone."

Do something (else)

Some schools are locking up smartwatches and wireless headphones, too. But the pouches don't work once the final bell rings.

So in Spokane, Washington, schools are ramping up extracurriculars to compete with phones after hours.

An initiative launching this month, "Engage IRL" — in real life — aims to give every student something



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to look forward to after the school-day grind, whether it's a sport, performing arts or a club.

"Isolating in your home every day after school for hours on end on a personal device has become normalized," Superintendent Adam Swinyard said.

Students can create clubs around interests like board games and knitting or partake in neighborhood basketball leagues. Teachers will help students make a plan to get involved during back-to-school conferences, the district says.

"From 3 to 5:30 you are in a club, you're in a sport, you're at an activity," instead of on a phone, Swinyard said. (The district has a new ban on phones during class, but will allow them after school.)

At a time of high absenteeism, he also hopes the activities will be the extra push some students need to attend school. In a Gallup poll conducted last November, only 48% of middle or high school students said they felt motivated to go to school, and only 52% felt they did something interesting every day. The poll was funded by the Walton Family Foundation, which also supports environmental journalism at AP.

Vivian Mead, a rising senior in Spokane, said having more after-school activities helps but won't work for everyone. "There's definitely still some people who just want to be alone, listen to their music, do their own thing, or, like, be on their phone," said Vivian, 17.

Her 15-year-old sister, Alexandra, said morning advisory sessions have improved participation in the drama club that keeps the sisters busy. "It forces everyone, even if they don't want to get involved, to have to try something, and maybe that clicks," she said.

Get outside

Thirteen middle schools in Maine adopted a similar approach, bringing students outdoors for 35,000 total hours during a chosen week in May.

It's empowering for students to connect with each other in nature, away from screens, said Tim Pearson, a physical education and health teacher. His students at Dedham School participated in the statewide "Life Happens Outside" challenge.

Teachers adapted their lessons to be taught outdoors, and students bonded in the open air during lunch and recess. At night, about half of Dedham's students camped, incentivized by a pizza party. Several students told Pearson they camped out again after the challenge.

"Whether they had phones with them or not, they're building fires, they're putting up their tents," Pearson said. "They're doing things outside that obviously are not on social media or texting."

Plea to parents

Parents must also make changes to their family's cell phone culture, some teachers say. At home, Ohio teacher Aaron Taylor bars cellular devices when his own children have friends over.

And when kids are at school, parents shouldn't distract them with check-in texts throughout the day, he said.

"Students are so tied to their families," said Taylor, who teaches at Westerville North High School, near Columbus. "There's this anxiety of not being able to contact them, rather than appreciating the freedom of being alone for eight hours or with your friends."

Fight fears of being 'canceled'

Some say other forces behind teen disengagement are only amplified by the cell phone. The divisive political climate often makes students unwilling to participate in class, when anything they say can rocket around the school in a messaging app.

Taylor's high school English students tell him they don't talk in class because they don't want to be "canceled" — a term applied to public figures who are silenced or boycotted after offensive opinions or speech.

"I'm like, 'Well, who's canceling you? And why would you be canceled? We're talking about 'The Great Gatsby,'" not some controversial political topic, he said.

Students "get very, very quiet" when topics such as sexuality, gender or politics come up in novels, said Higgins, the Massachusetts English teacher. "Eight years ago, you had hands shooting up all over the place. Nobody wants to be labeled a certain way anymore or to be ridiculed or to be called out for politics."

So Higgins uses websites such as Parlay that allow students to have online discussions anonymously.

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The services are expensive, but Higgins believes the class engagement is worth it.

"I can see who they are when they're responding to questions and things, but other students can't see," Higgins said. "That can be very, very powerful."

Alarmed at her peers' disengagement, Isabella, Higgins' student, wrote an opinion piece in her school's newspaper.

"Preventing future generations from joining this same downward cycle is up to us," she wrote.

A comment on the post highlighted the challenge, and what's at stake.

"All in all," the commenter wrote, "why should we care?"

## **'We were expendable': Downwinders from world's 1st atomic test are on a mission to tell their story**

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — It was the summer of 1945 when the United States dropped atomic bombs on Japan, killing thousands of people as waves of destructive energy obliterated two cities. It was a decisive move that helped bring about the end of World War II, but survivors and the generations that followed were left to grapple with sickness from radiation exposure.

At the time, U.S. President Harry Truman called it "the greatest scientific gamble in history," saying the rain of ruin from the air would usher in a new concept of force and power. What he didn't mention was that the federal government had already tested this new force on U.S. soil.

Just weeks earlier in southern New Mexico, the early morning sky erupted with an incredible flash of light. Windows rattled hundreds of miles away and a trail of fallout stretched to the East Coast.

Ash from the Trinity Test rained down for days. Children played in it, thinking it was snow. It covered fresh laundry that was hanging out to dry. It contaminated crops, singed livestock and found its way into cisterns used for drinking water.

The story of New Mexico's downwinders — the survivors of the world's first atomic blast and those who helped mine the uranium needed for the nation's arsenal — is little known. But that's changing as the documentary "First We Bombed New Mexico" racks up awards from film festivals across the United States.

It's now screening in the northern New Mexico community of Los Alamos as part of the Oppenheimer Film Festival. It marks a rare chance for the once secret city that has long celebrated the scientific discoveries of J. Robert Oppenheimer — the father of the atomic bomb — to contemplate another more painful piece of the nation's nuclear legacy.

The film, directed and produced by Lois Lipman, highlights the displacement of Hispanic ranching families when the Manhattan Project took over the Pajarito Plateau in the early 1940s, the lives forever altered in the Tularosa Basin where the bomb was detonated and the Native American miners who were never warned about the health risks of working in the uranium industry.

Their heart-wrenching stories woven together with the testimony of professors and doctors spurred tears in Los Alamos, as they have in Austin, Texas, Annapolis, Maryland, and every other city where the film has been screened.

Andi Kron, a long-time Los Alamos resident, was in awe of the cinematography but also horrified as she learned more.

"Just unbelievable," she said, noting that even people who have been involved in studying different aspects of the Trinity Test decades later remain unaware of the downwinders' plight.

Lipman and others hope to distribute the documentary more widely as part of an awareness campaign as downwinders push for the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to be reauthorized and expanded to include more people who have been exposed by nuclear weapons work carried out by the federal government.

Over the past 10 years, Lipman has followed Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium co-founder Tina Cordova as she has appeared before Congress, held countless town halls and shared meals and prayers

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with community members.

Lipman expressed her frustrations during the premiere in Los Alamos, noting that despite testimony about the injustices that followed the Trinity Test, the federal government has yet to acknowledge its failures in recognizing the damage that was done nearly 80 years ago.

As the film notes, there were about a half-million people — mostly Hispanics and Native Americans — living within a 150-mile (241.4-kilometer) radius of the blast. The area was neither remote nor unpopulated, despite government claims that no lived there and no one was harmed.

In the film, Cordova — a cancer survivor herself — tells community members that they will not be martyrs anymore. Her family is among many from Tularosa and Carrizozo who have had mothers, fathers, siblings and children die from cancer.

"They counted on us to be unsophisticated, uneducated and unable to speak up for ourselves. We're not those people any more," Cordova said. "I'm not that person. You're not those people."

The U.S. Senate passed a bill earlier this year that would finally recognize downwinders in New Mexico and in several other states where nuclear defense work has resulted in contamination and exposure. However, the bipartisan measure stalled in the U.S. House over concerns by some Republican lawmakers about cost.

Cordova and others turned out Wednesday in Las Cruces to demonstrate as U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson visited New Mexico to campaign for Republican congressional candidate Yvette Herrell. The downwinders have vowed to make it a campaign issue in the must-win district as well as in the dozens of other Republican districts around the U.S. that would benefit from an expansion of RECA.

At the film festival, Cordova told the audience that people for too long have been living separate lives, a poignant statement particularly for Los Alamos where science can sometimes be compartmentalized as experts work on solving specific aspects of bigger problems.

"There are no boundaries. We are not separate people. We all live in this state together and I would like to think that because of that we consider each other to be neighbors, friends, we're relatives with some of you," she said, thanking them for being there to hear another side of the story.

"We should be standing together for what is right," she said, prompting applause.

The audience included workers from Los Alamos National Laboratory, county officials and a state senator.

Bernice Gutierrez was born in Carrizozo several days before the bomb was detonated. She had no words to describe how important she believes it is for the people in Los Alamos to learn about the downwinders.

"I think a lot of people were surprised," she said after the first screening. "They don't know the history."

The Trinity Site was on a short list for possible locations for testing the bomb. The others included two sites in California, one in Texas and another in Colorado. The flat, arid nature of the White Sands Missile Range won out, with scientists initially thinking that predictable winds would limit the spread of radiation.

That ended up not being the case as erratic weather often accompanies New Mexico's summer rainy season. Aside from shifting winds, rain the night after meant fresh fallout likely found its way into the rainwater that was captured by residents' cisterns, according to a 2010 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC also noted that another path of exposure involved dairy cows and goats, which residents depended on for sustenance.

New modeling used by a team of researchers led by Princeton University showed in 2023 that nuclear explosions carried out in New Mexico and Nevada between 1945 and 1962 led to widespread radioactive contamination. The team reported that the world's first atomic detonation made a significant contribution to exposure in New Mexico and eventually reached 46 states, as well as Canada and Mexico.

Cordova said the federal government didn't warn residents before or after the detonation and continued for decades to minimize it because "we didn't matter, we were expendable."

"There's no excuse for it," she said.

## The shooting death of a 16-year-old girl by police is among a spate that's upset Anchorage residents

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Easter Leafa was sitting under a blanket on her balcony with a knife when Anchorage police arrived, responding to a call for help from her family. Instead of showing her hands as told, they said, the 16-year-old girl stood and approached them with the blade.

Two officers opened fire simultaneously, one with a less-lethal foam projectile and the other with real bullets, killing her two days before Leafa was to start her junior year of high school. She had recently moved from American Samoa to get a better education and was still learning English, her family said.

Leafa was among seven people shot by Anchorage police since May, the most recent a homicide suspect critically injured after officers said he opened fire on them Friday afternoon. That is more than twice as many as the department typically shoots in a year. Four of the subjects were killed.

The spate has made Anchorage the latest in a long list of American cities to wrestle with how police use force and prompted an apology to Leafa's family along with promises of reform from the city's new mayor.

"This cannot be our new normal," Mayor Suzanne LaFrance told a news conference after Leafa's death.

The other six shootings involved suspects who reportedly had firearms, shot at police or, in two cases, were armed homicide suspects.

The leader of the city's police union, Darrell Evans, suggested in a statement Friday that the unusual spike in shootings by officers reflected "the chaos our city is facing." There have been 20 homicides in Anchorage this year, 14 in the past few months.

While that total is already approaching last year's 23 with about a third of the year still to go, it's roughly in line with typical Anchorage homicide totals: there were 35 in 2019 and 28 in 2022.

At least four of those shot by police were people of color, and that has especially rattled Anchorage's minority residents.

The city is one of the most diverse in the U.S., with large populations of Asian, Hispanic and Alaska Native people, including many who came for military service and remained. There are over 100 languages spoken by students in Anchorage schools, and the U.S. Census said Anchorage had the four most racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the nation after the 2020 count.

The police department has tried to increase its diversity over the past decade, but still 7 in 10 officers are white, far more than the city's population of 291,000, which is a little over half white, according to Census data.

Leafa's Aug. 13 killing prompted several prayer vigils as well as a march past Anchorage police headquarters that drew hundreds of people. Participants expressed grief and anger, as well as bewilderment at why one officer used live ammunition while the other had a less-lethal option. The police department has offered no explanation.

Tammalivis Salanoa, with the Polynesian Association of Alaska, told The Associated Press that some in the Pacific Islander community will think twice before they call Anchorage police for help.

"They should be ready for these kinds of circumstances," she said. "They knew what they signed up for, whereas we as a community are just in our living rooms, just trying to live our lives. We don't expect to call for help and then that be the last call we ever make."

LaFrance and Police Chief Sean Case, both of whom took office in July, said they would have an outside entity investigate the Leafa shooting. They said they also would establish an advisory committee and have an outside party audit the department's policies and procedures and recommend practices to reduce uses of force.

Case said that when he became chief he decided to have all of Anchorage's police shootings over the past 15 years reviewed. On Monday, he plans to name a captain to oversee all aspects of department training.

The department already trains in de-escalation techniques. But Leafa's family told Anchorage television station KTUU that one of the officers arrived with his gun out. A sister had called police to report

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that Leafa had come at her with the knife. The officers sequestered the rest of the family in a bedroom before approaching the teen.

"She was a minor," said Faialofa Dixon, another sister. "They should have asked questions when they came in."

Dallas attorney James Roberts represents the family of Kristopher Handy, who in mid-May became the first person killed by Anchorage officers this year.

Police initially said officers shot Handy, who was severely intoxicated, when he raised a long gun toward them in an apartment complex parking lot. But the shooting was the first since Anchorage police began wearing body cameras, and video taken by those cameras and by a neighbor's security camera appeared to show Handy kept the gun down before police started shooting.

The state's Office of Special Investigations found the shooting justified, saying Handy was walking toward officers and ignoring orders to drop the weapon. His family filed a wrongful death lawsuit.

"It just appears that these officers are going in, not with the thought of de-escalating the situation, but with the thought of using their weapons immediately," Roberts said.

Video from Leafa's killing has not been released.

Evans, the president of the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association, said he was dismayed the mayor apologized when an investigation into the shooting had only just begun.

"We have also heard the oversimplified statement that 'six officer-involved shootings since May is far too many' and how that somehow reflects a failure only upon the policing profession," he wrote. "That level of oversimplification does nothing to acknowledge the weight of each of those incidents."

## Behind the rhetoric, a presidential campaign is a competition about how to tell the American story

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic nomination "on behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on Earth." America, Barack Obama thundered, "is ready for a better story." JD Vance insisted that the Biden administration "is not the end of our story," and Donald Trump called on fellow Republicans to "write our own thrilling chapter of the American story."

"This week," comedian and former Obama administration speechwriter Jon Lovett said Thursday on NBC, "has been about a story."

In the discourse of American politics, this kind of talk from both sides is unsurprising — fitting, even. Because in the campaign season of 2024, just as in the fabric of American culture at large, the notion of "story" is everywhere.

This year's political conventions were, like so many of their kind, curated collections of elaborate stories carefully spun to accomplish one goal — getting elected. But lurking behind them was a pitched, high-stakes battle over how to frame the biggest story of all — the one about America that, as Harris put it, should be "the next great chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told."

The American story — an unlikely one, filled with twists that sometimes feel, as so many enjoy saying, "just like a movie" — sits at the nucleus of American culture for a unique reason.

Americans live in one of the only societies that was built not upon hundreds of years of common culture but upon stories themselves — "the shining city upon the hill," "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," "all men are created equal." Even memorable ad campaigns — "See the USA in your Chevrolet" — are part of this. In some ways, the United States — not coincidentally, the place where the frontier myth, Hollywood and Madison Avenue were all born — willed itself into existence and significance by iterating and reiterating its story as it went.

The campaigns understand that. So they are putting forward to voters two varying — starkly opposite, some might say — versions of the American story.

How the two parties are using stories

From the Republicans comes one flavor of story: an insistence that to "make America great again" in the

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future we must fight to reinvigorate traditional values and reclaim the moral fiber and stoutheartedness of generations past. In his convention speech last month, Trump invoked three separate conflicts — the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and World War II — in summoning American history's glories.

To reinforce its vision, the GOP deployed the likes of musician Kid Rock, celebrity wrestler Hulk Hogan and Lee Greenwood singing "God Bless the USA." Trump genuflected to the firefighting gear of Corey Comperatore, who had been killed in an assassination attempt on the candidate days earlier. Vance spoke of "villains" and offered up the Appalachian coming-of-age story he told in "Hillbilly Elegy."

The Republicans, as they often do, leaned into military storylines, bringing forth families of slain servicemen to critique President Joe Biden's "weak" leadership. And they made all efforts to manage their constituencies. Vance's wife, Usha, who is of Indian descent, lauded him as "a meat-and-potatoes kind of guy" — a classic American trope — while underscoring that he respected her vegetarian diet and had learned how to cook Indian food for her mother.

"What could I say that hasn't already been said before?" she said, introducing Vance. "After all, the man was already the subject of a Ron Howard movie."

And the Democrats? Their convention last week focused on a new and different future full of "joy" and free of what Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg called "Trump's politics of darkness." It was an implied "Star Wars" metaphor if there ever was one.

It was hard to miss that the Democrats were not only coalescing around the multiracial, multicultural nation that Harris personifies but at the same time methodically trying to reclaim the plainspoken slivers of the American story that have rested in Republican hands in recent years.

The flag was everywhere, as was the notion of freedom. Tim Walz entered to the tune of John Mellencamp's "Small Town," an ode to the vision of America that Republicans usually trumpet. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota expounded upon the regular-guy traits that Walz embodies — someone who can change a car light, a hunter, a "dad in plaid."

The former geography teacher's football-coach history was mined as well, with beefy guys in Mankato West Scarlets jerseys fanning out across the stage to the marching-band strains of "The Halls of Montezuma." They even enlisted a former GOP member of Congress to reinforce all the imagery by saying the quiet part loud.

"I want to let my fellow Republicans in on the secret: The Democrats are as patriotic as us," said Adam Kinzinger, an Illinois Republican critical of Trump.

Bringing it all together

Watching the videos and testimonials at both conventions, one storytelling technique stood tall: what journalists call "character-driven" tales. Whether it's advocating for abortion rights or warning about mass illegal immigration or channeling anger about inflation, "regular" Americans became the narrative building blocks for national concerns.

Historian Heather Cox Richardson put it this way about the DNC in her Substack, "Letters from an American," this past week: "The many stories in which ordinary Americans rise from adversity through hard work, decency, and service to others implicitly conflates those individual struggles with the struggles of the United States itself."

In the past generation, the tools of storytelling have become more democratic. We are all publishers now — on X, on TikTok, on Instagram, on Truth Social. And we are all storytellers, telling mini versions of the American story in whatever ways we wish. Perspectives that have been long silenced and suppressed are making their way into the light.

Putting aside questions of truth and misinformation for a moment, how can a unifying American story be summoned when hundreds of millions of people are now able to tell it differently and from their own vantage points? Democratization is beneficial, but it can also be chaotic and hard to understand.

"A people who cannot stand together cannot stand at all," poet Amanda Gorman said in her remarks at the DNC. But with so many stories to sort through, is unity more difficult than ever? Is there even a single, unifying "American story" at all? Should there be?

In the end, that's why this election is about storytelling more than ever. Because the loudest, most persuasive tale — told slickly with the industrial-strength communications tools of the 21st century — will likely win the day.

In the meantime, the attempts to commandeer and amplify versions of that story will continue to Election Day and beyond. As long as there is an American nation, there will be millions of people trying to tell us what it means — desperately, angrily, optimistically, compellingly. Stories are a powerful weapon, and a potent metaphor as well. As Walz said about leaving Trump and Vance behind: "I'm ready to turn the page."

## **EU: Maduro has not shown 'necessary public evidence' to declare victory in Venezuela elections**

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The European Union's top diplomat on Saturday said that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has still "not provided the necessary public evidence" to prove he was the winner of July's elections, days after the country's Supreme Court backed the government's disputed claims of victory.

The bloc joined a slate of other Latin American countries and the United States in rejecting the Venezuelan high court's certification. Authorities repeated calls for Maduro to release the election's official tally sheets, considered the one verifiable vote count in Venezuela as they are almost impossible to replicate.

"Only complete and independently verifiable results will be accepted and recognized," Josep Borrell, the high representative of the EU, said in a statement.

Borrell's comments came as the leaders of Brazil and Colombia also demanded the release of the tallies, saying on Saturday the "credibility of the electoral process can only be restored through the transparent publication of disaggregated and verifiable data."

The joint statement from Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Colombian President Gustavo Petro didn't go as far as to reject the court certification. Many had been waiting to see how the two leftist leaders would respond to the court because both are close allies of Maduro and have been working to facilitate talks with both sides.

Maduro claims that he won the presidential vote, but so far has refused to release the tallies. Meanwhile, the main opposition coalition has accused Maduro of trying to steal the vote.

Opposition volunteers managed to collect copies of voting tallies from 80% of the 30,000 polling booths nationwide that show former opposition candidate Edmundo González won by a more than 2-to-1 margin. The Supreme Court and other government entities alleged those tallies were forged.

The Venezuelan government rejected Borrell's statements, calling them "interventionist." Its Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday that the "continued disrespect" to Venezuela's sovereignty by the EU could "considerably affect diplomatic, political and economic relations."

Lula and Petro said they "take note" of the court's ruling, but added they are still awaiting release of the tallies.

The Brazilian and Colombian leaders also called on actors in Venezuela to "avoid resorting to acts of violence and repression" as security forces arrested more than 2,000 people and cracked down on demonstrations that erupted spontaneously throughout the country protesting the results. But the two leaders didn't directly accuse the Maduro government of carrying out the violence.

The arrests have again spread fear in a country that has seen other government crackdowns during previous times of political turmoil.

At the same time, key opposition figure Maria Corina Machado has since gone into hiding and the government said Friday it will order González to provide sworn testimony in an ongoing investigation, claiming he was part of an effort to spread panic by contesting the results of the election.

Both Lula and Petro have previously been criticized for what some say have been lenient policies toward Maduro's government, but their tone has grown more stern in recent months, especially in the wake of

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the election fallout.

Their two countries are neighbors to Venezuela and their governments were to witness agreements struck between Maduro and the opposition that aimed to chart the path to free and fair elections, which the opposition and other observers accused Maduro of violating. The two leaders reiterated their willingness to facilitate dialogue between the the government and the opposition.

"The political normalization of Venezuela requires the recognition that there is no lasting alternative to peaceful dialogue and democratic coexistence," the statement read.

## Heat waves, wildfires and now ... snow? California endures a summer of extremes

By JOHN ANTCHAK and SOPHIE AUSTIN Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — An unusually cold weather system from the Gulf of Alaska interrupted summer along the West Coast on Saturday, bringing snow to mountains in California and the Pacific Northwest and prompting the closure of part of a highway that runs through a national park.

Parts of Highway 89 through Lassen Volcanic National Park in California were shut down after an estimated 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) of snow fell overnight, according to the National Weather Service.

Photos posted by the agency and local authorities showed a high-elevation blanket of white on Mount Rainier in Washington along with a dusting of snow at Minaret Vista, a lookout point southeast of Yosemite National Park in California's Sierra Nevada.

Madera County Deputy Sheriff Larry Rich said it was "definitely unexpected" to see snow at Minaret Vista in August.

"It's not every day you get to spend your birthday surrounded by a winter wonderland in the middle of summer," he said in a statement. "It made for a day I won't soon forget, and a unique reminder of why I love serving in this area. It's just one of those moments that makes working up here so special."

In northern Nevada, rain fell in the runup to the annual Burning Man festival, prompting organizers to close the entrance gate for most of Saturday before reopening. Torrential rains upended last year's festival, turning the celebration and its temporary city into a muddy quagmire.

It also snowed overnight on Mammoth Mountain, a ski destination in California, with the National Weather Service warning hikers and campers to prepare for slick roads.

Record rainfall moved through Redding, Red Bluff and Stockton in Northern California on Saturday, the weather service said, and rain showers south of Lake Oroville were expected to continue into the evening.

A dusting of snow fell overnight on the crest of the Sierra Nevada around Tioga Pass, the weather service said. August snow has not occurred there since 2003, forecasters said.

Tioga Pass rises to more than 9,900 feet (3,017 meters) and serves as the eastern entryway to Yosemite. But it is usually closed much of each year by winter snow that can take one or two months to clear.

While the start of ski season is at least several months away, the hint of winter was welcomed by resorts. "It's a cool and blustery August day here at Palisades Tahoe, as a storm that could bring our first snowfall of the season moves in this afternoon!" the resort said in a social media post Friday.

The "anomalous cool conditions" will spread over much of the western U.S. by Sunday morning, according to the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland.

Despite the expected precipitation, forecasters also warned of fire danger because of gusty winds associated with the passage of the cold front.

At the same time, a flash flood watch was issued for the burn scar of California's largest wildfire so far this year from Friday morning through Saturday morning.

The Park Fire roared across more than 671 square miles (1,748 square kilometers) after it erupted in late July near the Central Valley city of Chico and climbed up the western slope of the Sierra.

The fire became California's fourth-largest on record, but it has been substantially tamed recently. Islands of vegetation continue to burn within its existing perimeter, but evacuation orders have been canceled.

The state's wildfire season got off to an intense start amid extreme July heat. Blazes fed on dried-out



vegetation that grew during back-to-back wet years. Fire activity has recently fallen into a relative lull. Forecasts call for a rapid return of summer heat as the cold front departs.

## **Back-to-work order issued for 2 major Canada railroads. Union will comply, but lawsuit planned**

By JOSH FUNK and ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The Canadian arbitrator appointed to resolve a messy railroad labor dispute to protect the North American economy has ordered employees at the country's two major railroads back to work so both can resume operating.

Saturday's order means Canadian National will be able to continue operating the trains it restarted Friday morning just over a day after it locked out workers. But Canadian Pacific Kansas City likely won't be able to restart its operations before 12:01 a.m. Monday, when workers were ordered to return.

Railroads play a crucial role in the economy with CPKC and CN delivering more than CA\$1 billion (US\$730 million) worth of shipments a day and carrying billions of dollars of goods between the U.S. and Canada every month. Even though both companies' trains in the United States and Mexico continued operating, the lockouts caused a significant disruption. A number of smaller short-line freight railroads that handle local deliveries continued operating across Canada but were unable to hand off shipments to either of the major railroads while they were idle.

The Teamsters union representing workers said that it will comply with the Canada Industrial Relations Board order and send its members back on the job, but it will also move forward with a legal challenge of the arbitration order.

"This decision by the CIRB sets a dangerous precedent. It signals to corporate Canada that large companies need only stop their operations for a few hours, inflict short-term economic pain, and the federal government will step in to break a union," said Paul Boucher, President of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, which represents more than 9,000 engineers, conductors and dispatchers at both railroads.

"The rights of Canadian workers have been significantly diminished today," Boucher added.

Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon order the lockouts to end just over 16 hours after they began because government officials couldn't bear to watch the economic disaster unfold if the railroads remained shut down.

MacKinnon noted the board's decision in a post on the social platform X and said he expects the railroads and employees to resume operations as soon as possible.

Businesses all across Canada and the United States said they would quickly face a crisis without rail service because they rely on freight railroads to deliver their raw materials and finished products. Without regular deliveries, many businesses would possibly have to cut production or even shut down.

Canadian National trains started running again Friday morning but the union threatened to go on strike there starting Monday morning. Saturday's order nullifies that strike threat. CPKC workers have been on strike since the lockout began early Thursday, and the railroad's trains have remained idle.

"While CN is disappointed an agreement could not be reached at the bargaining table, the company is satisfied that this order effectively ends the unpredictability that has been negatively impacting supply chains for months," the railroad said in a statement. "CN remains focused on safely getting goods moving again, as efficiently as possible."

CPKC officially ended its lockout after Saturday's decision and asked workers to return for the day shift Sunday. But union spokesman Christopher Monette said workers who have been on strike won't be going back to CPKC before the Monday deadline in the order.

CPKC said it wants to "get the Canadian economy moving again as quickly as possible and avoid further disruption to supply chains."

The railroads said it could take several weeks to fully recover because they began gradually shutting down their networks more than a week ago, leaving shipments stranded on customer loading docks and at ports across the country.

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The previous contract, which expired at the end of last year, will remain in force while the arbitration process proceeds, and the board ordered the unions not to disrupt operations further while that unfolds.

The negotiations at CPKC and CN broke down over issues related to how workers are scheduled and rules in the contract that are designed to prevent fatigue. Both railroads had proposed changing the compensation system from paying workers according to miles traveled to one based on hours worked.

The railroads said doing that would make it easier to provide predictable time off, but the union resisted over worries that the changes could erode important fatigue protections and jeopardize job safety.

Canadian National and CPKC have said they offered raises in line with other recent rail industry deals. CN said its engineers make about CA\$150,000 a year, while its conductors earn CA\$121,000. CPKC said its pay is comparable.

At CN there was also a dispute over its effort to expand its system of temporarily relocating workers to other regions when there are staff shortages. The union didn't want CN to have the power to disrupt families, but the railroad said the system is voluntary and is already in place in some places.

At the same time that the Canadian railroads have been struggling to reach agreements with their union, major U.S. railroads have made a flurry of deals in recent days.

CSX announced the first deals on Wednesday — months before the current contract expires and before the start of the traditional national bargaining process that typically drags on for years — then announced seven more contracts Friday. All together, the new contracts cover more than half the railroad's workforce. Norfolk Southern and BNSF followed suit, announcing four deals each with some of their 13 unions on Friday.

The deals will help the U.S. rail industry avoid the kind of difficult labor dispute that drove it to the brink of a strike two years ago before Congress and President Joe Biden stepped in to impose a contract.

## **Islamic State group claims responsibility for knife attack that killed 3 in Solingen, Germany**

By DANIEL NIEMANN and STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN Associated Press

SOLINGEN, Germany (AP) — The Islamic State militant group on Saturday claimed responsibility for a knife attack that killed three people and wounded eight more at a crowded festival marking this city's 650th anniversary.

The extremist group said on its news site that the attacker targeted Christians and that as a "soldier of the Islamic State" he carried out the assaults Friday night "to avenge Muslims in Palestine and everywhere."

The IS claim couldn't immediately be verified. It provided no evidence for its assertions.

Police later detained a suspect, the internal affairs minister of North Rhein Westphalia state said early Sunday.

"We have been following a hot lead all day," Herbert Reul told "Tagesschau," the news program of the German public television network ARD. "The person we have been searching for all day has been detained a short while ago."

He was being questioned, Reul said.

Reul said police not only had "clues" but also collected "pieces of evidence."

Officials earlier said a 15-year-old boy was arrested early Saturday on suspicion he knew about the planned attack and failed to inform authorities, but he was not the attacker. Two female witnesses told police they overheard the boy and an unknown person before the attack speaking about intentions that corresponded to the bloodshed, officials said.

Before the Reul announcement, Markus Caspers, senior public prosecutor from the counterterrorism section of the public prosecutors office, said at a news conference Saturday that authorities could not yet speak on the attacker's motivation.

"So far we have not been able to identify a motive, but looking at the overall circumstances, we cannot rule out" the possibility of terrorism, Caspers said, though he did not offer further details.

The three people who died were two men aged 67 and 56 and a 56-year-old woman, authorities said. Police said the attacker appeared to have deliberately aimed for his victims' throats.

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"We are seeing the first signs of a new wave of terrorist attacks," said Peter Neumann, a professor of security studies at King's College in London. IS "is trying to capitalize on the huge mobilization resulting from Hamas' terror offensive on 7 October 2023, even though strictly speaking it had nothing to do with it," he said.

"The kind of attack we saw in Solingen is exactly the kind of attack that (IS) is trying to inspire. It's calling on people over the internet to attack 'unbelievers' using simple methods. like cars and knives. That way, it is trying to create an impression that (the Islamic State group) is everywhere and could strike anytime," Neumann told The Associated Press.

Thorsten Fleiss, who headed police operations Friday night, said officers were conducting searches and investigations in the entire state of North Rhine Westphalia.

He said police had found several knives, but added he was unable to confirm whether any of them were used during the attack.

Police warned people to stay vigilant even as well wishers started to leave flowers at the scene. Authorities established an online portal where witnesses could upload footage and any other information relevant to the attack.

Churches in Solingen opened their doors to offer a space for prayer and emergency pastoral care.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser visited the city Saturday evening and said the government would do everything possible to support the people of Solingen.

"We will not allow that such an awful attack divides our society," she said, appearing alongside state Minister-President Hendrik Wüst and Reul.

Wüst described the attack as "an act of terror against the security and freedom of this country." But Faeser, the country's top security official, had not classified it as a "terror attack."

People alerted police shortly after 9:30 p.m. Friday that a man had assaulted several people with a knife on the city's central square, the Fronhof.

Solingen, a city of about 160,000 residents near the bigger cities of Cologne and Duesseldorf, was holding a "Festival of Diversity" to mark its 650th anniversary. It began Friday and was supposed to run through Sunday, with several stages in central streets offering attractions such as live music, cabaret and acrobatics.

The attack took place in the crowd in front of one stage. Hours later, the stage lights were still on as police and forensic investigators looked for clues in the cordoned-off square, but the rest of the festival was canceled.

"Last night our hearts were torn apart. We in Solingen are full of horror and grief. What happened yesterday in our city has hardly let any of us sleep," the mayor of Solingen, Tim Kurzbach, told reporters Saturday.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the perpetrator must be punished with the full force of the law.

"The attack in Solingen is a terrible event that has shocked me greatly. An attacker has brutally killed several people. I have just spoken to Solingen's mayor, Tim Kurzbach. We mourn the victims and stand by their families," Scholz said Saturday on the social media platform X.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier also spoke to the mayor Saturday morning.

"The heinous act in Solingen shocks me and our country. We mourn those killed and worry about those injured and I wish them strength and a speedy recovery from all my heart," Steinmeier said in a statement.

A decade after the Islamic State militant group declared its caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria, the extremists no longer control any land, have lost many prominent leaders and are mostly out of the world news headlines.

Still, the group continues to recruit members and claim responsibility for deadly attacks around the world, including lethal operations in Iran and Russia earlier this year that killed dozens of people. Its sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq still carry out attacks on government forces in both countries as well as U.S.-backed Syrian fighters.

## Under sea and over land, the Paris Paralympics flame is lit before beginning an exceptional journey

By BARBARA SURK Associated Press

Two weeks after French star swimmer Léon Marchand extinguished the Olympic flame to close the Paris Olympics, the spotlight is now on its Paralympic counterpart.

British Paralympians Helene Raynsford and Gregor Ewan on Saturday lit the flame in Stoke Mandeville, a village northwest of London widely considered the birthplace of the Paralympic Games.

The flame will now travel to France under the English Channel for a four-day relay from Atlantic Ocean shores to Mediterranean beaches, from mountains in the Pyrenees to the Alps.

Its journey will end in Paris on Wednesday during the Paralympics opening ceremony — with the lighting of a unique Olympic cauldron attached to a hot-air balloon that will fly over the French capital every evening during 11 days of competition.

### The Flame is Lit

The lighting ceremony of the Paralympic Heritage Flame was held in Buckinghamshire, where the Stoke Mandeville Games were first held in 1948 for a small group of wheelchair athletes who had sustained spinal injuries during World War II.

The man behind the idea was Ludwig Guttmann, a Jewish neurosurgeon who fled Nazi Germany and worked at Britain's Stoke Mandeville hospital. At the time, suffering a spinal injury was considered a death sentence, and patients were discouraged from moving. Guttmann made the patients sit up and work muscles, and hit upon competition as way to keep them motivated.

"I don't know about you guys, but I can feel his presence here today, no doubt about it," said Andrew Parsons, the president of the International Paralympic Committee, at Saturday's lighting ceremony, referring to Guttmann.

The President of the Paris 2024 organizing committee Tony Estanguet said that two weeks after closing the Olympics, the French capital was "proud and excited" to host the 17th edition of the Summer Paralympics, the first ever for France.

We are "ready to make it unique and memorable for France and the whole world," Estanguet said.

The Stoke Mandeville Games later grew into the first Paralympic Games, which took place in Rome in 1960. The Heritage Flame ceremony in Stoke Mandeville was first held ahead of the London Paralympics in 2012.

### Crossing the Channel

The flame will on Sunday cross the sea like its Olympic twin did when it arrived in France from Greece in May — but this time via the Channel Tunnel to mark the start of the Paralympic relay.

A group of 24 British athletes will embark on the underwater journey through the 50-kilometer long (30-mile) tunnel. Midway through, they will hand over the flame to 24 French athletes who will bring it ashore in Calais. It will be used to light 12 torches, symbolizing 11 days of competition and the opening ceremony.

4 days, 1,000 torchbearers and 50 cities

Once on French soil, the flame's 12 offshoots will head in different directions to kick off the Paris Olympics' encore and aim to rekindle enthusiasm for the Games.

Among 1,000 torchbearers will be former Paralympians, young para athletes, volunteers from Paralympic federations, innovators of advanced technological support, people who dedicate their lives to others with impairments and people who work in the non-profit sector to support carers.

They will take the flame to 50 cities across the country to highlight communities that are committed to promoting inclusion in sport and building awareness of living with disabilities.

An exceptional flame will be lit in Paris on Sunday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the French capital from Nazi Germany occupation during World War II.

### Highlighting para sport infrastructure and innovation

The relay will highlight places that are committed to developing para sports, as well as places where famous Paralympians grew up, such as Lorient, home of double Paralympic sailing gold medalist Damien

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Seguin. It will also stop in Blois, which has a sports complex named after its Paralympic track athlete Marie-Amélie Le Fur who has nine medals, including two golds from Rio.

The relay will go through Châlons-en-Champagne, which has the only gymnasium in France designed to facilitate access to sport for people with intellectual disabilities. And Rouen, Chartres, and Troyes, which offer a range of disciplines, from sledge hockey to para tennis, para triathlon, adapted baseball and para climbing.

The flame will stop in Chambly, which, with its three sports facilities adapted for para sports, has served as a training camp location alongside Deauville and Antibes.

Meet a star of the Games – the cauldron

On Wednesday, the 12 flames will become one again when the relay ends in central Paris after visiting historical sites along the city's famed boulevards and plazas before lightening the cauldron during the three-hour opening show.

The cauldron is the first in Olympic history to light up without the use of fossil fuels. It uses water and electric light and is attached to a balloon. It made a stunning first flight at the Olympics opening ceremony.

Each day of the Paralympics, the cauldron will fly more than 60 meters (197 feet) above the Tuileries gardens from sunset until 2 a.m.

## **NASA decision against using a Boeing capsule to bring astronauts back adds to company's problems**

By DAVID KOENIG AP Business Writer

NASA's announcement Saturday that it won't use a troubled Boeing capsule to return two stranded astronauts to Earth is a yet another setback for the struggling company, although the financial damage is likely to be less than the reputational harm.

Once a symbol of American engineering and technological prowess, Boeing has seen its reputation battered since two 737 Max airliners crashed in 2018 and 2019, killing 346 people. The safety of its products came under renewed scrutiny after a panel blew out of a Max during a flight this January.

And now NASA has decided that it is safer to keep the astronauts in space until February rather than risk using the Boeing Starliner capsule that delivered them to the international space station. The capsule has been plagued by problems with its propulsion system.

NASA administrator Bill Nelson said the decision to send the Boeing capsule back to Earth empty "is a result of a commitment to safety." Boeing had insisted Starliner was safe based on recent tests of thrusters both in space and on the ground.

The space capsule program represents a tiny fraction of Boeing's revenue, but carrying astronauts is a high-profile job — like Boeing's work building Air Force One presidential jets.

"The whole thing is another black eye" for Boeing, aerospace analyst Richard Aboulafia said. "It's going to sting a little longer, but nothing they haven't dealt with before."

Boeing has lost more than \$25 billion since 2018 as its aircraft-manufacturing business cratered after those crashes. For a time, the defense and space side of the company provided a partial cushion, posting strong profits and steady revenue through 2021.

Since 2022, however, Boeing's defense and space division has stumbled too, losing \$6 billion — slightly more than the airplane side of the company in the same period.

The results have been dragged down by several fixed-price contracts for NASA and the Pentagon, including a deal to build new Air Force One presidential jets. Boeing has found itself on the hook as costs for those projects have risen far beyond the company's estimates.

The company recorded a \$1 billion loss from fixed-price government contracts in the second quarter alone, but the problem is not new.

"We have a couple of fixed-price development programs we have to just finish and never do them again," then-CEO David Calhoun said last year. "Never do them again."

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In 2014, NASA awarded Boeing a \$4.2 billion fixed-price contract to build a vehicle to carry astronauts to the International Space Station after the retirement of space shuttles, along with a \$2.6 billion contract to SpaceX.

Boeing, with more than a century of building airplane and decades as a NASA contractor, was seen as the favorite. But Starliner suffered technical setbacks that caused it to cancel some test launches, fall behind schedule and go over budget. SpaceX won the race to ferry astronauts to the ISS, which it accomplished in 2020.

Boeing was finally ready to carry astronauts this year, and Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams launched aboard Starliner in early June for what was intended to be an 8-day stay in space. But thruster failures and helium leaks led NASA to park the vehicle at the space station while engineers debated how to return them to Earth.

The company said in a regulatory filing that the latest hitch with Starliner caused a \$125 million loss through June 30, which pushed cumulative cost overruns on the program to more than \$1.5 billion. "Risk remains that we may record additional losses in future periods," Boeing said.

Aboulafia said Starliner's impact on Boeing business and finances will be modest — "not really a needle-mover." Even the \$4.2 billion, multi-year NASA contract is a relatively small chunk of revenue for Boeing, which reported sales of \$78 billion last year.

And Aboulafia believes Boeing will enjoy a grace period with customers like the government now that it is under new leadership, reducing the risk it will lose big contracts. NASA administrator Nelson said Saturday he was "100%" confident that the Starliner will fly with a crew again.

Robert "Kelly" Ortberg replaced Calhoun as CEO this month. Unlike the company's recent chief executives, Ortberg is an outsider who previously led aerospace manufacturer Rockwell Collins, where he developed a reputation for walking among workers on factory floors and building ties to airline and government customers.

"They are transitioning from perhaps the worst executive leadership to some of the best," Aboulafia said. "Given the regime change underway, I think people are going to give them some slack."

Boeing's defense division has recently won some huge contracts. It is lined up to provide Apache helicopters to foreign governments, sell 50 F-15 fighter jets to Israel as the bulk of a \$20 billion deal, and build prototype surveillance planes for the Air Force under a \$2.56 billion contract.

"Those are some strong tailwinds, but it's going to take a while before they get (Boeing's defense and space business) back to profitability," Aboulafia said.

## **NASA astronauts who will spend extra months at the space station are veteran Navy pilots**

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The two astronauts who will spend extra time at the International Space Station are Navy test pilots who have ridden out long missions before.

Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams have been holed up at the space station with seven others since the beginning of June, awaiting a verdict on how — and when — they would return to Earth.

NASA decided Saturday they won't be flying back in their troubled Boeing capsule, but will wait for a ride with SpaceX in late February, pushing their mission to more than eight months. Their original itinerary on the test flight was eight days.

Butch Wilmore

Wilmore, 61, grew up in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, playing football for his high school team and later Tennessee Technological University. He joined the Navy, becoming a test pilot and racking up more than 8,000 hours of flying time and 663 aircraft carrier landings. He flew combat missions during the first Gulf War in 1991 and was serving as a flight test instructor when NASA chose him as an astronaut in 2000.

Wilmore flew to the International Space Station in 2009 as the pilot of shuttle Atlantis, delivering tons of replacement parts. Five years later, he moved into the orbiting lab for six months, launching on a Russian

Soyuz from Kazakhstan and conducting four spacewalks.

Married with two daughters, Wilmore serves as an elder at his Houston-area Baptist church. He's participated in prayer services with the congregation while in orbit.

His family is used to the uncertainty and stress of his profession. He met wife Deanna amid Navy deployments, and their daughters were born in Houston, astronauts' home base.

"This is all they know," Wilmore said before the flight.

Suni Williams

Williams, 58, is the first woman to serve as a test pilot for a new spacecraft. She grew up in Needham, Massachusetts, the youngest of three born to an Indian-born brain researcher and a Slovene American health care worker. She assumed she'd go into science like them and considered becoming a veterinarian. But she ended up at the Naval Academy, itching to fly, and served in a Navy helicopter squadron overseas during the military buildup for the Gulf War.

NASA chose her as an astronaut in 1998. Because of her own diverse background, she jumped at the chance to go to Russia to help behind the scenes with the still new International Space Station. In 2006, she flew up aboard shuttle Discovery for her own lengthy mission. She had to stay longer than planned — 6 1/2 months — after her ride home, Atlantis, suffered hail damage at the Florida pad. She returned to the space station in 2012, this time serving as its commander.

She performed seven spacewalks during her two missions and even ran the Boston Marathon on a station treadmill and competed in a triathlon, substituting an exercise machine for the swimming event.

Husband Michael Williams, a retired U.S. marshal and former Naval aviator, is tending to their dogs back home in Houston. Her widowed mother is the one who frets.

"I'm her baby daughter so I think she's always worried," Williams said before launching.

## **Dr. Fauci was hospitalized with West Nile virus and is now recovering at home, a spokesperson says**

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the former top U.S. infectious disease expert, spent time in the hospital after being infected with West Nile virus and is now recovering at home, a spokesperson confirmed Saturday.

Fauci is expected to make a full recovery, the spokesperson said on condition of anonymity due to security concerns.

West Nile virus is commonly spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. While most people don't experience symptoms, about 1 in 5 can develop a fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 1 out of 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness.

CBS News' chief medical correspondent, Dr. Jonathan LaPook, wrote in a social media post that he spoke Saturday with Fauci, who said he was likely infected from a mosquito bite that he got in his backyard.

"Dr. Fauci was hospitalized about ten days ago after developing fever, chills, and severe fatigue," the post on X said. It said Fauci spent a week in the hospital.

As chief White House medical adviser, Fauci was the public face of the U.S. government during the COVID-19 pandemic, a role that made him both a trusted voice to millions and also the target of partisan anger. He left the government in 2022 but was back before Congress in June to testify as part of Republicans' yearslong investigation into the origins of COVID-19 and the U.S. response to the disease.

Fauci last summer joined the faculty at Georgetown University as a distinguished university professor.

There are no vaccines to prevent West Nile, or medicines to treat it. As of Aug. 20, the CDC had recorded 216 cases in 33 states this year. It's best prevented by avoiding mosquito bites.

## Israeli airstrikes kill dozens in Gaza on the eve of high-level cease-fire talks in Egypt

By SAMY MAGDY and DAVID RISING Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli airstrikes killed at least three dozen Palestinians in southern Gaza, health workers said Saturday, as officials including a Hamas delegation gathered for high-level cease-fire talks in neighboring Egypt.

Eleven members of a family, including two children, were among the dead after an airstrike hit their home in Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, which received a total of 33 bodies from three strikes in and around the city that also hit tuk-tuks and passersby. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said it received three bodies from another strike.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports.

First responders also recovered 16 bodies from the Hamad City area of Khan Younis after a partial pullout of Israeli forces, 10 bodies from a residential building west of Khan Younis and two farther south in Rafah. The circumstances of their deaths weren't immediately clear, but the areas were repeatedly bombed by the Israeli military over the past week. An Associated Press journalist counted the bodies.

Some residents returned to Hamad City, crunching on rubble as they walked between destroyed apartment buildings. One multistory building's entire wall was gone, its rooms framing residents picking through debris.

"There is nothing, no apartment, no furniture, no homes, only destruction," Neveen Kheder said. "We are dying slowly. You know what, if they gave a mercy bullet, it would be better than what is happening to us."

The war in Gaza began when Hamas and other militants staged a surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people, primarily civilians. Hamas is believed to still be holding around 110 hostages. Israeli authorities estimate about a third are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. The ministry said Saturday a total of 69 dead and 212 wounded had been brought to hospitals across Gaza over the past 24 hours.

Israel's military announced the deaths of four more soldiers in combat in central Gaza on Friday.

The conflict has caused widespread destruction and forced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million residents to flee their homes, with many cramming into shrinking "humanitarian zones."

In Egypt, the U.S. delegation led by CIA Director William Burns and White House Middle East adviser Brett McGurk held talks with senior Egyptian officials and then with Egyptian and Qatari mediators, according to a person familiar with the ongoing talks who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to comment publicly.

The Egyptian and Qatari negotiators were expected to meet with Hamas officials on Saturday evening. Hamas won't take part directly in Sunday's talks but will be briefed by Egypt and Qatar, senior Hamas official Mahmoud Merdawy told the AP. Merdawy said Hamas' position hadn't changed from accepting an earlier draft that would include the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

An Israeli delegation that arrived Thursday included the heads of the Mossad foreign intelligence service and Shin Bet security service and Maj. Gen. Eliezer Toledano.

The U.S. has been pushing a proposal that aims at closing the gaps between Israel and Hamas as fears grow over a wider regional war after the recent killings of leaders of the militant Hamas and Hezbollah groups, both blamed on Israel.

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. CQ Brown Jr., was visiting Egypt, Jordan and Israel over the next few days to "stress the importance of deterring further escalation of hostilities," a statement said.

U.S. President Joe Biden called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to stress the urgency of reaching a deal and discussed developments with the leaders of Qatar and Egypt on Friday.

Major differences remain between Israel and Hamas over Israel's insistence that it maintain forces in two strategic corridors in Gaza. Netanyahu wants Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor along Gaza's



border with Egypt and the Netzarim east-west corridor across the territory to prevent smuggling and catch militants.

In the latest protest in Tel Aviv, some Israelis again expressed anger with Netanyahu as they pressed for a deal to bring hostages home.

"Remove him from his position and appoint a person who is able to return them," said Ayala Metzger, daughter-in-law of Yoram Metzger, whose body was recovered in Gaza last week.

## **Conflicting federal policies may cost residents more on flood insurance, and leave them at risk**

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

Conflicting federal policies may force thousands of residents in flood-prone areas to pay more for flood insurance or be left unaware of danger posed by dams built upstream from their homes and worksites, according to an Associated Press review of federal records and data.

The problem stems from a complex set of flood policies and some national security precautions taken after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

To get the best discount on flood insurance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's points-based rating system requires communities to chart all the homes, businesses and critical facilities endangered by a potential dam failure and warn people of their risk. But that's difficult or even impossible in some communities, because other federal agencies restrict the release of such information for hundreds of dams that they own or regulate across the U.S., citing security risks.

The quandary has persisted for years, though federal officials have been warned of its implications.

Federal "dam information sharing procedures costs communities points, homeowners money, and potentially citizens lives," a California emergency services official warned in a January 2020 presentation to FEMA's National Dam Safety Review Board at an invitation-only meeting attended by dozens of federal and state officials.

The meeting's minutes were provided to the AP this summer, nearly two-and-half years after the news organization submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to FEMA.

Since that meeting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun publicly posting maps of areas that could be flooded if one of its hundreds of dams were to fail. But similar information remains restricted by other federal agencies, including by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which regulates about 1,800 power-producing dams, and by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, whose 430 dams in the western U.S. include some of the nation's largest structures.

The Bureau of Reclamation said in response to questions from the AP that it is revising its policies and will start sharing more information about dam-failure inundation zones in 2025, though it said the process could take more than eight years to complete for all its dams.

Meanwhile, FEMA is accepting public comment through Sept. 9 on potential revisions to its Community Rating System, which awards discounts on flood insurance in communities that take steps to reduce risks. During a FEMA public hearing Wednesday, the floodplain administrator for Phoenix — the nation's fifth largest city — raised concerns that the conflicting federal policies regarding dam flood zones were unfair to communities trying to get better insurance discounts for their residents.

"I believe this is a punishment to us," Phoenix floodplain administrator Nazar Nabaty told FEMA officials.

One community's frustrations

Another community that has been affected by the information-sharing gap is Sacramento, California, which ranks among the most at-risk regions in the U.S. for catastrophic flooding. California's capital sits at the confluence of two rivers and about 25 miles (40 kilometers) downstream from Folsom Dam, a large Bureau of Reclamation structure with a capacity that could cover the equivalent of the entire state of Rhode Island with a foot of water.

During a review about five years ago, Sacramento County achieved one of the best-ever scores in FEMA's rating system. But the county did not qualify for the top flood-insurance discount because the Bureau of

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Reclamation's restrictions regarding Folsom Dam made it impossible to meet FEMA's criteria for mapping and public outreach about a potential dam break, said George Booth, the county's former floodplain manager.

"We got wrapped around the axle," said Booth, now executive director of the Floodplain Management Association, a professional organization that focuses on flood-risk reduction in California, Hawaii and Nevada.

The city of Sacramento, which receives a separate flood insurance rating, has faced similar struggles meeting FEMA's standards for flood insurance discounts because of limited information about Bureau of Reclamation dams, said Rosa Millino, the city's Community Rating System coordinator.

For an individual homeowner, the missed discounts could make about \$100 difference in annual flood insurance premiums. When spread citywide, the extra cost could reach several million dollars. When costs are higher, fewer people tend to buy insurance. But there's more at stake than just insurance premiums.

"People need to be informed of the potential dangers of living in an area that's protected by a dam," Millino said.

## Flood risks and costs

As the climate changes, heavy rains from intense storms have put communities at increased risk of flooding and placed the nation's aging dams in greater jeopardy of failing. That's been evident as recent floodwaters damaged or breached dams in Georgia, Minnesota, New York, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin, forcing evacuations and costly repairs.

Floods have caused about \$108 billion of damage in the U.S. since 2000, according to FEMA. Standard home and commercial property insurance does not cover flood damage.

But FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program is available in 22,692 communities that have adopted and enforced floodplain management regulations. As of the end of July, it provided \$1.3 trillion of flood insurance coverage to about 4.7 million policyholders — down about 1 million policies since the program's peak participation in 2009.

Premium discounts ranging from 5% to 45% are available in jurisdictions that participate in FEMA's Community Rating System, a voluntary program begun in 1990 that grades flood mitigation and safety measures on a 1-to-10 scale. A Class 1 rating earns the largest discount.

Most communities don't seek the extra savings. Just 1,500 local governments take part in the Community Rating System, though they account for three-quarters of policies issued under the National Flood Insurance Program. Just two communities — Roseville, California, and Tulsa, Oklahoma — have achieved the top discount for their residents.

Roseville, which also is near Folsom Dam, used FEMA grant money to create its own inundation maps showing the affects of a potential dam failure. But the city still encountered difficulties trying to share that information with residents. While presenting the inundation data at a public meeting over a decade ago, consultant Rob Flaner said a Bureau of Reclamation official interrupted and told him to stop.

"It was ironic that one federal agency funded it," Flaner said. "It was like, 'Ummm, maybe you guys need to talk to each other.'"

Roseville has since satisfied both federal agencies by creating inundation maps that show the overlapping flood potential of multiple dams without identifying the specific dam failure that could affect each home, business or important site, Flaner said. But Roseville is the exception, not the norm.

"There's a lot of jurisdictions that can't meet the requirements because they can't get the maps, or a federal agency is saying, 'No, do not do outreach downstream of our dam,'" said Flaner, who has worked with nearly 300 local governments over three decades, first as a Community Rating System specialist on behalf of FEMA and then as a hired consultant.

## Security concerns

FEMA says it is important for communities to have access to dam-failure inundation maps in order to warn residents in harm's way. That's because dam failures can spread floodwaters beyond normal high-risk areas and affect multiple communities downstream.

But after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, some federal agencies cited national security grounds while refusing to release certain information about dams. They said dams could become targets if terrorists

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knew the potential to cause devastating flooding.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission continues to categorize dam inundation maps as critical infrastructure information that “could be useful to a person planning an attack” and requires those receiving such information to sign non-disclosure agreements, said FERC spokesperson Celeste Miller. But FERC can’t prevent a dam owner from independently sharing the information.

The Bureau of Reclamation also has required non-disclosure agreements when sharing dam inundation maps and emergency action plans with local officials. Under its upcoming policy change, the bureau will allow communities to publicly share information about dam inundation zones, including potential flood-wave travel times, flood depths and durations, said Sandy Day, the bureau’s chief of public affairs.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which also had shielded certain information about its dams, began posting dam inundation maps online in late 2021 after determining that releasing the information “is more beneficial to the public than any risk of misuse,” Corps spokesperson Gene Pawlik said.

## A complex system

Three years ago, FEMA sought public input about ways to revamp the Community Rating System to better incentivize communities to reduce flood risks. Several commenters highlighted difficulties in getting credit for dam initiatives, including the reluctance of federal agencies to share information regarding inundation zones from dam failures.

Nothing immediate came from the 2021 review. Though FEMA is again seeking public input on potential changes to the Community Rating System, it doesn’t plan to make any changes until 2026.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office has suggested a substantial overhaul may be necessary. In a report last year, the GAO found that the premium discounts offered under FEMA’s rating system are not actuarially justified. Mapping projects, flood warning procedures and public information campaigns may have some value, the report said, but don’t reduce the flood risk of currently insured properties.

Some local officials contend FEMA’s Community Rating System is too costly and complex, especially for governments with small budgets and staffs. The rating system has about 100 items for which communities can earn points, often requiring extensive documentation. The dam safety section is among the most challenging — just four communities got any points for their local efforts during the most recent evaluation, according to FEMA data.

During its last review, Fort Collins, Colorado, earned more than 5,000 points in the Community Rating System — the most of any community, according to FEMA data. Yet the city failed to get a Class 1 ranking, because it didn’t meet criteria about potential dam failures or promoting flood insurance. The area has about 20 high-hazard dams that could result in loss of life if they failed.

“We do know where the dams are,” said Ken Sampley, the city’s water engineering director. “But we don’t have as detailed information and direct coordination with a lot of the dam owners as may be required.”

Thurston County, Washington, which is home to the state capital of Olympia, spends almost \$200,000 a year to maintain its Class 2 rating in the flood insurance program, resulting in collective premium savings of slightly less than that for residents, said Mark Biever, who coordinated the county’s efforts from 2019-2023. But the county decided it wasn’t worth it to try for a Class 1 rating, in part because staff didn’t have the resources to compile all the information about dams, he said.

The rating process is frustrating and incredibly time-consuming, Biever said. Though it’s resulted in a 40% discount for about 600 flood-insurance policyholders, “nobody’s every called and said, ‘Hey thanks for all that extra effort,’” Biever added.

None of Thurston County’s cities and towns participate in the Community Rating System, meaning the county’s flood-insurance discount is only available in unincorporated areas.

In Bucoda, a rural Thurston County town nestled along the twisting Skookumchuck River, the high cost of flood insurance means homeowners often skip it unless required to buy it by a mortgage holder, said James Fowler, the town’s fire chief and planning commission chair. Yet the town is just 10 miles (16 kilometers) downstream from a dam.

“If that dam that’s on that reservoir was to fail, it would be catastrophic flooding,” Fowler said. “In a couple hours, there would be 20 feet of water in the town.”

## Moscow and Kyiv swap prisoners of war as Ukraine marks independence anniversary

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia and Ukraine exchanged over 100 prisoners of war each on Saturday as Kyiv marked its third Independence Day since Moscow's full-scale invasion.

Ukraine said the 115 Ukrainian servicemen who were freed were conscripts, many of whom were taken prisoner in the first months of Russia's invasion. Among them are nearly 50 soldiers captured by Russian forces from the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the 115 Russian soldiers had been captured in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces launched their surprise offensive into Russia two weeks ago. The ministry said the soldiers were currently in Belarus, but would be taken to Russia for medical treatment and rehabilitation.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X that the United Arab Emirates had again brokered the exchange, the 55th since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbor in February 2022.

Photos attached to Zelenskyy's post show gaunt servicemen with shaven heads and wrapped in Ukrainian flags.

"We remember each and every one. We are searching and doing our best to get everyone back," Zelenskyy said in the post.

Officials from the two sides meet only when they swap their dead and POWs, after lengthy preparation and diplomacy. Neither Ukraine nor Russia discloses how many POWs there are in total.

According to the U.N., most Ukrainian POWs suffer routine medical neglect, severe and systematic mistreatment and even torture while in detention. There have also been isolated reports of abuse of Russian soldiers, mostly during capture or transit to internment sites.

Last January, Russia and Ukraine exchanged hundreds of prisoners of war in the biggest single release.

Drone and artillery attacks continue

Five people were killed and five others wounded on Saturday in Russian shelling of the center of the city of Kostiantynivka in Ukraine's partially occupied eastern Donetsk region, local officials said.

In the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson, Russian shelling killed two people and wounded four on Saturday, including a baby, officials said.

Two people were killed in a Russian drone attack, and one further person in shelling, in the northeastern Sumy region.

Ukraine's air force said it had intercepted and destroyed seven drones over the country's south. Russian long-range bombers also attacked the area of Zmiinyi (Snake) Island overnight with four cruise missiles, while the wider Kherson region was also struck by aerial bombs.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said Saturday that air defenses had shot down seven drones overnight.

Five drones were downed over the southwestern Voronezh region bordering Ukraine, wounding two people, regional Gov. Aleksandr Gusev said. Ukraine's Military Intelligence Directorate claimed to have blown up a warehouse storing 5,000 tonnes of ammunition in the region's Ostrogozhsky district. News outlet Astra published videos appearing to show explosions at the ammunition depot after being hit by a drone. The videos could not be independently verified.

Two people were wounded in a drone attack in the Belgorod region, also bordering Ukraine, regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said. Local authorities did not report any casualties in the Bryansk region, where the fifth drone was intercepted.

In the Kursk region, regional Gov. Alexei Smirnov said Saturday that three missiles were shot down overnight and another four on Saturday morning.

Russian air defenses shot down two more drones on Saturday morning, Russia's Defense Ministry said — one over the Kursk region and one over the Bryansk region.

Independence Day commemorations

Ukraine marked its 33rd Independence Day Saturday as its war against Russia's aggression reaches a 30-month milestone. No festivities are planned and instead Ukrainians will mark the day with commemora-

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tions for civilians and soldiers killed in the war.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the anniversary, Zelenskyy announced on Saturday that Ukraine has successfully used a new domestically produced drone for the first time against Russian forces.

"Today, we had the first and successful combat use of our new weapon — a completely new class of weapon, the Ukrainian missile drone 'Palyanitsa,'" Zelenskyy said.

He did not give further details, but added that "the enemy was struck," and thanked the developers and manufacturers.

Zelenskyy also said that Ukraine's offensive in the Kursk region was a "preventive strike" that made it possible to avoid encirclement of part of Ukraine's Sumy region.

Poland's president joins the commemorations in Kyiv

Polish President Andrzej Duda arrived in Kyiv by train early Saturday in a symbolic show of support from one of Ukraine's key allies.

Videos posted by his office showed him being greeted by Ukrainian officials and later paying his respects in a ceremony at the Wall of Remembrance of the Fallen for Ukraine.

Duda's visit to Kyiv, his fifth since February 2022, sends a message that Warsaw's support for Ukraine remains strong as the war drags on for the third year.

Poland, located to Ukraine's west, has donated arms and become a hub for Western weapons destined for Ukraine. It has also welcomed tens of thousands of Ukrainians who fled the war. It hosts the most Ukrainian refugees outside of the country after Germany.

A trade dispute over Ukrainian grain that dragged down ties last year, and historical grievances between the two countries, sometime provoke bad feelings, particularly among Poles who remember a World War II-era massacre by Ukrainian nationalists.

## Sensors can read your sweat and predict overheating. Here's why privacy advocates care

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writer

On a hot summer day in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, dozens of men removed pipes, asbestos and hazardous waste while working to decontaminate a nuclear facility and prepare it for demolition.

Dressed in head-to-toe coveralls and fitted with respirators, the crew members toiling in a building without power had no obvious respite from the heat. Instead, they wore armbands that recorded their heart rates, movements and exertion levels for signs of heat stress.

Stephanie Miller, a safety and health manager for a U.S. government contractor doing cleanup work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, watched a computer screen nearby. A color-coding system with little bubbles showing each worker's physiological data alerted her if anyone was in danger of overheating.

"Heat is one of the greatest risks that we have in this work, even though we deal with high radiation, hazardous chemicals and heavy metals," Miller said.

As the world experiences more record high temperatures, employers are exploring wearable technologies to keep workers safe. New devices collect biometric data to estimate core body temperature - an elevated one is a symptom of heat exhaustion - and prompt workers to take cool-down breaks.

The devices, which were originally developed for athletes, firefighters and military personnel, are getting adopted at a time when the Atlantic Council estimates heat-induced losses in labor productivity could cost the U.S. approximately \$100 billion annually.

But there are concerns about how the medical information collected on employees will be safeguarded. Some labor groups worry managers could use it to penalize people for taking needed breaks.

"Any time you put any device on a worker, they're very concerned about tracking, privacy, and how are you going to use this against me," said Travis Parsons, director of occupational safety and health at the Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America. "There's a lot of exciting stuff out there, but there's no guardrails around it."

VULNERABLE TO HEAT

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At the Tennessee cleanup site, the workers wearing heat stress monitors made by Atlanta company SlateSafety are employed by United Cleanup Oak Ridge. The company is a contractor of the U.S. Department of Energy, which has rules to prevent on-the-job overheating.

But most U.S. workers lack protections from extreme heat because there are no federal regulations requiring them, and many vulnerable workers don't speak up or seek medical attention. In July, the Biden administration proposed a rule to protect 36 million workers from heat-related illnesses.

From 1992 to 2022, 986 workers died from heat exposure in the U.S., according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Experts suspect the number is higher because a coroner might not list heat as the cause of death if a sweltering roofer takes a fatal fall.

Setting occupational safety standards can be tricky because individuals respond differently to heat. That's where the makers of wearable devices hope to come in.

## HOW WEARABLE HEAT TECH WORKS

Employers have observed workers for heat-related distress by checking their temperatures with thermometers, sometimes rectally. More recently, firefighters and military personnel swallowed thermometer capsules.

"That just was not going to work in our work environment," Rob Somers, global environment, health and safety director at consumer product company Perrigo, said.

Instead, more than 100 employees at the company's infant formula plants were outfitted with SlateSafety armbands. The devices estimate a wearer's core body temperature, and a reading of 101.3 degrees triggers an alert.

Another SlateSafety customer is a Cardinal Glass factory in Wisconsin, where four masons maintain a furnace that reaches 3000 degrees Fahrenheit.

"They're right up against the face of the wall. So it's them and fire," Jeff Bechel, the company's safety manager, said.

Cardinal Glass paid \$5,000 for five armbands, software and air-monitoring hardware. Bechel thinks the investment will pay off; an employee's two heat-related emergency room visits cost the company \$15,000.

Another wearable, made by Massachusetts company Epicore Biosystems, analyzes sweat to determine when workers are at risk of dehydration and overheating.

"Until a few years ago, you just sort of wiped (sweat) off with a towel," CEO Rooz Ghaffari said. "Turns out there's all this information packed away that we've been missing."

Research has shown some devices successfully predict core body temperature in controlled environments, but their accuracy remains unproven in dynamic workplaces, according to experts. A 2022 research review said factors such as age, gender and ambient humidity make it challenging to reliably gauge body temperature with the technology.

The United Cleanup Oak Ridge workers swathed in protective gear can get sweaty even before they begin demolition. Managers see dozens of sensor alerts daily.

Laborer Xavier Allison, 33, was removing heavy pieces of ductwork during a recent heat wave when his device vibrated. Since he was working with radioactive materials and asbestos, he couldn't walk outside to rest without going through a decontamination process, so he spent about 15 minutes in a nearby room which was just as hot.

"You just sit by yourself and do your best to cool off," Allison said.

The armband notifies workers when they've cooled down enough to resume work.

"Ever since we implemented it, we have seen a significant decrease in the number of people who need to get medical attention," Miller said.

## COLLECTING PERSONAL DATA

United Cleanup Oak Ridge uses the sensor data and an annual medical exam to determine work assignments, Miller said. After noticing patterns, the company sent a few employees to see their personal physicians, who found heart issues the employees hadn't known about, she said.

At Perrigo, managers analyze the data to find people with multiple alerts and speak to them to see if

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there's "a reason why they're not able to work in the environment," Somers said. The information is organized by identification numbers, not names, when it goes into the company's software system, he said.

Companies keeping years of medical data raises concerns about privacy and whether bosses may use the information to kick an employee off a health plan or fire them, said Adam Schwartz, privacy litigation director at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

"The device could hurt, frankly, because you could raise your hand and say 'I need a break,' and the boss could say, 'No, your heart rate is not elevated, go back to work,'" Schwartz said.

To minimize such risks, employers should allow workers to opt in or out of wearing monitoring devices, only process strictly necessary data and delete the information within 24 hours, he said.

Wearing such devices also may expose workers to unwanted marketing, Ikusei Misaka, a professor at Tokyo's Musashino University, said.

## A PARTIAL SOLUTION

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health advises employers to institute a plan to help workers adjust to hot conditions and to train them to recognize signs of heat-related illness and to administer first aid. Wearable devices can be part of efforts to reduce heat stress, but more work needs to be done to determine their accuracy, said Doug Trout, the agency's medical officer.

The technology also needs to be paired with access to breaks, shade and cool water, since many workers, especially in agriculture, fear retaliation for pausing to cool off or hydrate.

"If they don't have water to drink, and the time to do it, it doesn't mean much," Juanita Constible, senior advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said. "It's just something extra they have to carry when they're in the hot fields."

## **Nikki Haley in Taiwan says an isolationist policy is not healthy while expressing support for Trump**

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said on a visit to Taiwan Saturday that an isolationist policy isn't "healthy" and called on the Republican Party to stand with her country's allies, while still putting in good words for the party's nominee, Donald Trump.

Haley, who ran against Trump for the Republican presidential nomination, told reporters in the capital, Taipei, that supporting U.S. allies, including Ukraine and Israel, is vital. She underscored the importance of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory, to be brought under control by force if necessary.

"I don't think the isolationist approach is healthy. I think America can never sit in a bubble and think that we won't be affected," she said.

While the U.S. doesn't formally recognize Taiwan, it is the island's strongest backer and main arms provider. However, Trump's attempt to reclaim the presidency has fueled worries. He said Taiwan should pay for U.S. protection in an interview with Bloomberg Businessweek published in July and dodged answering the question of whether he would defend the island against a possible Chinese military action.

When Haley shuttered her own bid for the Republican nomination, she did not immediately endorse Trump, having accused him of causing chaos and disregarding the importance of U.S. alliances abroad. But in May she said she would be voting for him, while making it clear that she felt her former boss had work to do to win over voters who supported her.

On Saturday, she spoke in Trump's favor. She said that having previously served with Trump's administration, "we did show American strength in the world," pointing to their pushback against China and their sanctioning of Russia and North Korea, among other efforts.

"I think that all of that strength that we showed is the reason that we didn't see any wars, we didn't see any invasions, we didn't see any harm that happened during that time. I think Donald Trump would bring that back," she said.

Trump has claimed that if elected, he would end the conflict in Ukraine before Inauguration Day in January. But Russia's United Nations ambassador said he can't. 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,

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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 surged.

Haley criticized Trump's rival, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, saying she would "do exactly" what President Joe Biden had done. She said Harris was part of his administration when the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, when Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 and when the Hamas-Israel war broke out last year.

"She was in the situation room right next to Joe Biden. She was there making the exact same decisions. Those decisions have made the world less safe," she said.

Haley added that while the Republicans and Democrats may not currently concur on much, they agree on "the threats of China," adding that Taiwan is now looking "to make sure that if China starts a fight with them, that they are prepared to make sure that they can fight back."

She said her party should stand with the country's allies and make sure that U.S. shows strength around the world. She also said any authoritarian regime and "communists" harming or hurting other free countries should be a personal matter to the U.S.

"We don't want to see communist China win. We don't want to see Russia win. We don't want to see Iran or North Korea win," she said.

Haley met Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te during this week's trip. She called for more international backing for the self-ruled island, a coordinated pushback against China's claims over it, and for Taiwan to become a full member of the United Nations.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said Saturday that 38 warplanes and 12 vessels from China were detected around the island during a 24-hour period from Friday morning. Thirty-two of the planes crossed the middle of the line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary that's considered a buffer between the island and mainland.

## Israeli evacuation orders cram Palestinians into shrinking 'humanitarian zone' where food is scarce

By JULIA FRANKEL and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Young girls screamed and elbowed each other in a crush of bodies in southern Gaza, trying desperately to reach the front of the food line. Men doled out rice and chicken as fast as they could, platefuls of the nourishment falling to the ground in the tumult.

Nearby, boys waited to fill plastic containers with water, standing for hours among tents packed so tightly they nearly touched.

Hunger and desperation were palpable Friday in the tent camp along the Deir al-Balah beachfront, after a month of successive evacuation orders that have pressed thousands of Palestinians into the area that the Israeli military calls a "humanitarian zone."

The zone has long been crowded by Palestinians seeking refuge from bombardment, but the situation grows more dire by the day, as waves of evacuees arrive and food and water grow scarce. Over the last month, the Israeli military has issued evacuation orders for southern Gaza at an unprecedented pace.

At least 84% of Gaza now falls within the evacuation zone, according to the U.N., which also estimates that 90% of Gaza's 2.1 million residents have been displaced over the course of the war.

Thirteen evacuation orders have been issued since July 22, according to an Associated Press count, significantly reducing the size of the humanitarian zone declared by Israel at the start of the war while pushing more Palestinians into it than ever before. The increased crowding of evacuees can be seen in satellite photos.

"The food that reaches us from the charity is sufficient for the people in our camp," said Muhammad Al-Qayed, who was displaced from Gaza City and now lives along the beach. "Where do the people who were recently displaced get food from? From where do we provide them?"



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Another displaced Palestinian, Adham Hijazi, said: "I have started thinking that if there is no food, I will go and drink seawater to endure it. I am talking seriously. I will drink water and salt."

The military says the evacuations are necessary because Hamas has launched rockets from within the humanitarian zone. In posts on X, the military's Arabic-language spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, has instructed Palestinians to flee immediately, saying the military will soon operate "with force" against Hamas militants in the area.

Yasser Felfel, originally displaced from northern Gaza, has watched his camp swell with waves of evacuees. "There were 32 people in my tent. Now there are almost 50 people, people I don't know," he said. "A week ago, there was a lot of food left over. We had breakfast, lunch and dinner. Today, because of the number of people who came here, it is barely enough for lunch."

In August alone, the evacuation orders have been issued roughly every two days and displaced nearly 250,000 people, the U.N. said.

"Many people here have been displaced more than 10 times. They're exhausted and broke," said Georgios Petropoulos, the head of the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Gaza.

A pair of satellite photos taken over the last month shows the impact of the orders. The imagery, obtained from PlanetLabs and reviewed by the AP, shows that tent camps along the coast grew more densely packed from July 19 to Aug. 19.

On Aug. 19, tents covered nearly every available sandy patch and were pitched closer to the ocean.

Even Palestinians living in the humanitarian zone Israel declared at the start of the war have been forced to move. On July 22, the military ordered the evacuation of most of the eastern edge of the zone, saying that Hamas had launched rockets at Israel. Then on Aug. 16, the military again shrank the zone, calling on Palestinians living in the center to flee.

And on Saturday, the Israeli military issued its latest mass evacuation, ordering Palestinians in four residential areas in the Maghazi refugee camp in eastern Deir al-Balah to leave their homes and shelters and head toward the humanitarian zone. It's unclear how many people were affected.

The evacuations come as international mediators struggle to bridge differences between Israel and Hamas over a cease-fire agreement that would stop the fighting in Gaza and exchange scores of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

The war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas militants blew past Israel's border, killing around 1,200 people and taking about 250 others hostage. Israel's retaliatory offensive has now killed over 40,000 people in Gaza and razed the strip's buildings and infrastructure.

Water has been another casualty of the evacuations. The U.N. says the water supply in Deir al-Balah has decreased by at least 70% since the recent wave of evacuations began, as pumps and desalination plants are caught within evacuation zones.

The lack of clean water is causing skin diseases and other outbreaks. The U.N.'s main health agency has confirmed Gaza's first case of polio in a 10-month-old baby in Deir al-Balah who is now paralyzed in the lower left leg.

Meanwhile, aid groups say it is only growing more difficult to offer help. U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said Thursday that the World Food Program lost access to its warehouse in central Deir al-Balah because of a recent evacuation order.

Standing in the water line Friday, Abu Mohammad observed the scarcity around him and prayed it would end soon.

"There is no water, there is no food, there is no money, there is no work, there is nothing," said Mohamad, who has now been displaced seven times.

"We ask God, not the people, for it to end. We no longer have the capacity. Oh world, we no longer have the capacity."

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## Today in History: August 25, National Park Service created

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Aug. 25, the 238th day of 2024. There are 128 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On August 25, 1916, Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act, establishing the National Park Service as an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior to maintain the country's natural and historic wonders and "leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Also on this date:

In 1875, Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel, crossing from Dover, England, to Calais (ka-LAY'), France, in under 22 hours.

In 1928, an expedition led by Richard E. Byrd set sail from Hoboken, N.J., on its journey to Antarctica.

In 1944, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation during World War II.

1948 – In the House Un-American Activities Committee's first televised congressional hearing, Alger Hiss denied charges by Whittaker Chambers that Hiss was a communist involved in espionage. (Hiss was later charged with perjury and sentenced to five years in prison, but maintained his innocence until his death in 1996.)

In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet.

In 2001, R&B singer Aaliyah (ah-LEE'-yah) was killed with eight others in a plane crash in the Bahamas; she was 22.

In 2012, Neil Armstrong, 82, who commanded the historic Apollo 11 lunar landing and was the first man to set foot on the moon in July 1969, died in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey, the fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade, made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, with 130 mph sustained winds; the storm would deliver five days of rain totaling close to 52 inches, the heaviest tropical downpour that had ever been recorded in the continental U.S.

In 2020, two people were shot to death and a third was wounded as 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse opened fire with an AR-15-style rifle during a third night of protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin, over the police shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake. (Rittenhouse, who was taken into custody in Illinois the next day, said he was defending himself after the three men attacked him as he tried to protect businesses from protesters; he was acquitted on all charges, including homicide.)

In 2022, regulators approved California's plans to require all new cars, trucks and SUVs to run on electricity or hydrogen by 2035.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tom Skerritt is 91. Former U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Wright is 89. Author Frederick Forsyth is 86. Film director John Badham is 85. Baseball Hall of Famer Rollie Fingers is 78. Rock musician Gene Simmons (Kiss) is 75. Rock singer Rob Halford (Judas Priest) is 73. Musician Elvis Costello is 70. Film director Tim Burton is 66. Country musician Billy Ray Cyrus is 63. Actor Blair Underwood is 60. NFL Hall of Famer Cornelius Bennett is 59. DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 57. Singer-songwriter Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 57. Television chef Rachael Ray is 56. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 54. Model Claudia Schiffer is 54. NFL Hall of Famer Marvin Harrison is 52. Actor Alexander Skarsgard is 48. Actor Kel Mitchell is 46. Actor Rachel Bilson is 43. Actor Blake Lively is 37. Actor China Anne McClain is 26.