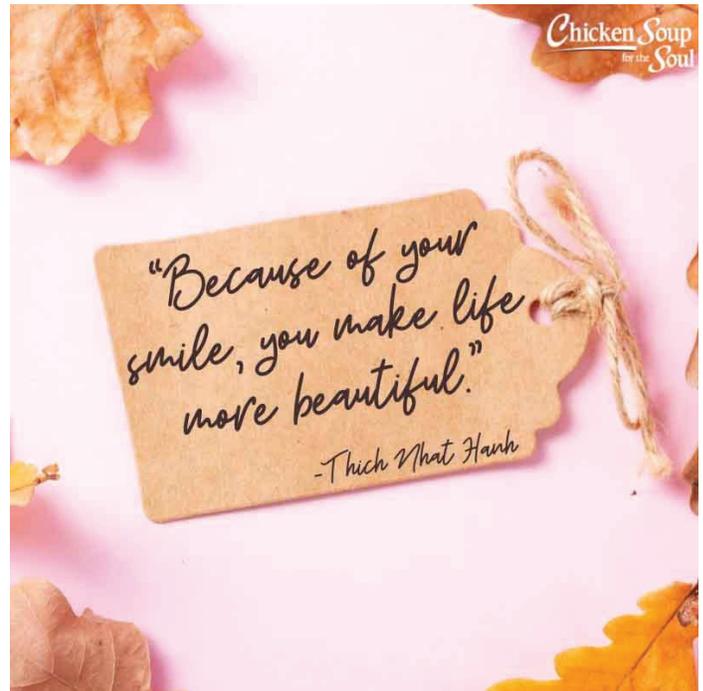


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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, Oct. 28

Volleyball hosting Deuel. C/JV matches start at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity match.
Oral Interp at Brookings

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Health Screenings - begin at elementary school at 8:30 a.m. and MS/HS after lunch.
Family Night at GHS, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli, 8:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2

All State Chorus and Orchestra in Sioux Falls

Saturday, Nov. 2

Oral Interp Pumpkinstakes at Watertown

Sunday, Nov. 3

Turn clocks back one hour to return to Standard Time

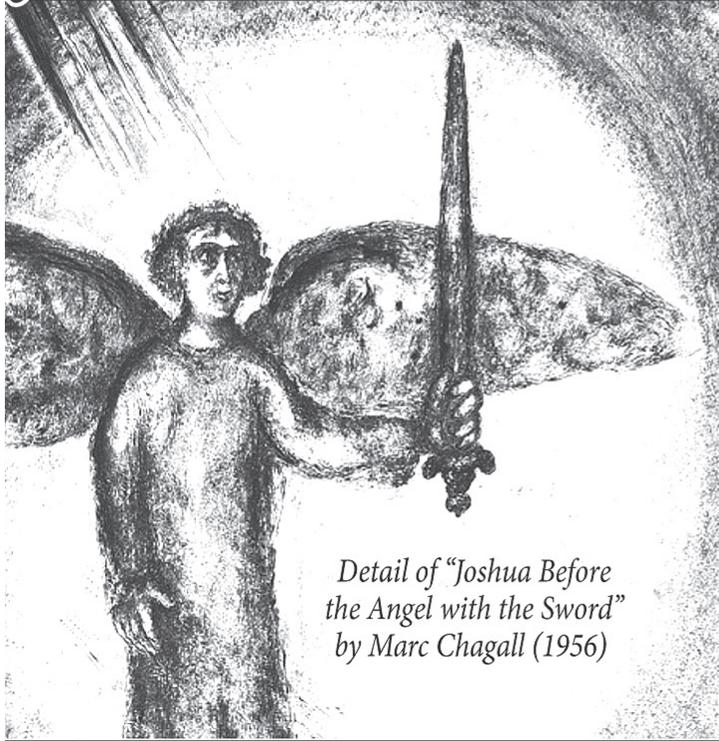
OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

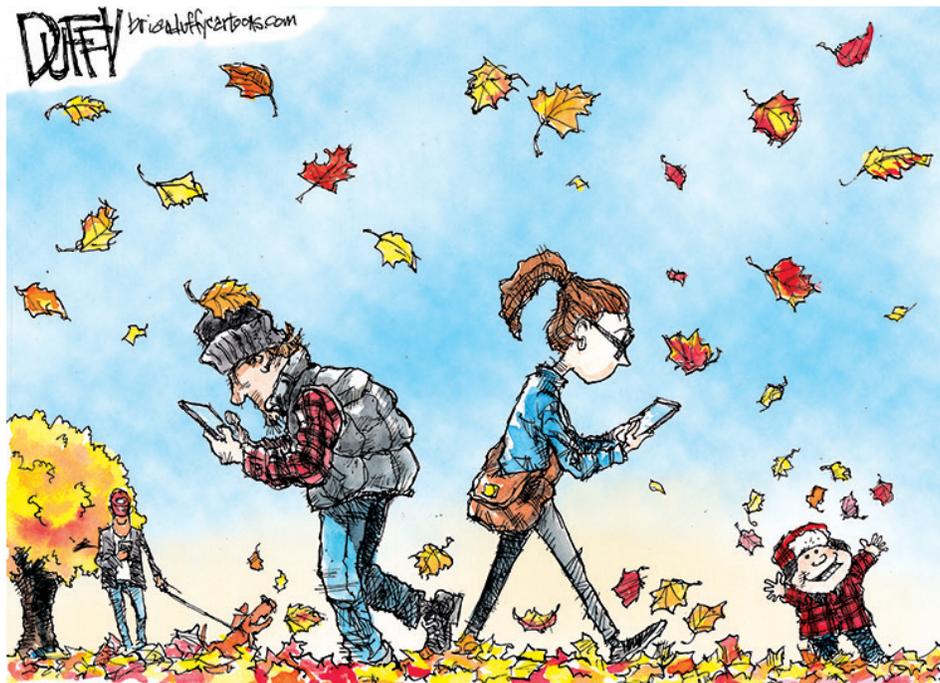


Detail of "Joshua Before
the Angel with the Sword"
by Marc Chagall (1956)

*You will pursue
your enemies,
and they will fall
by the sword
before you.*

LEVITICUS 26:7

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Peter in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. At the time of Rehoboam there was a split: The Kingdom of Israel was in the north, while the southern kingdom was called ... ? *Mesopotamia, Egypt, Judah, Syria*

3. From Luke 13, which king was referred to by Jesus as "that fox"? *Herod, Solomon, Ahab, Caesar*

4. What was a Persian gold coin also used by the Hebrews? *Loon, Daric, Denarius, Falc*

5. Who said, "Be sure your sin will find you out"? *Matthew, David, Noah, Moses*

6. Jebus is another name for ... ? *Jericho, Jerusalem, Judah, Joshua*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Judah; 3) Herod; 4) Daric; 5) Moses; 6) Jerusalem

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Cheesy Kielbasa Stew

With your first bite, you are going to think "cheesy smooth!" This will be a great hit with the kids.

- 3 cups (15 ounces) diced raw potatoes
- 8 ounces 98% fat-free kielbasa sausage, sliced into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 (15-ounce) can cut green beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (2.5-ounce) jar sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1 (12-fluid-ounce) can fat-free evaporated milk
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 3/4 cup shredded 2% milk cheddar cheese

1. In a medium saucepan, cook potatoes in water until tender. Drain.

2. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute potatoes, kielbasa and onion. Add green beans and mushrooms. Mix well to combine.

3. In a covered jar, combine evaporated milk and flour. Shake well to blend. Pour mixture into skillet with sausage mixture. Add parsley flakes and cheese. Mix well to combine.

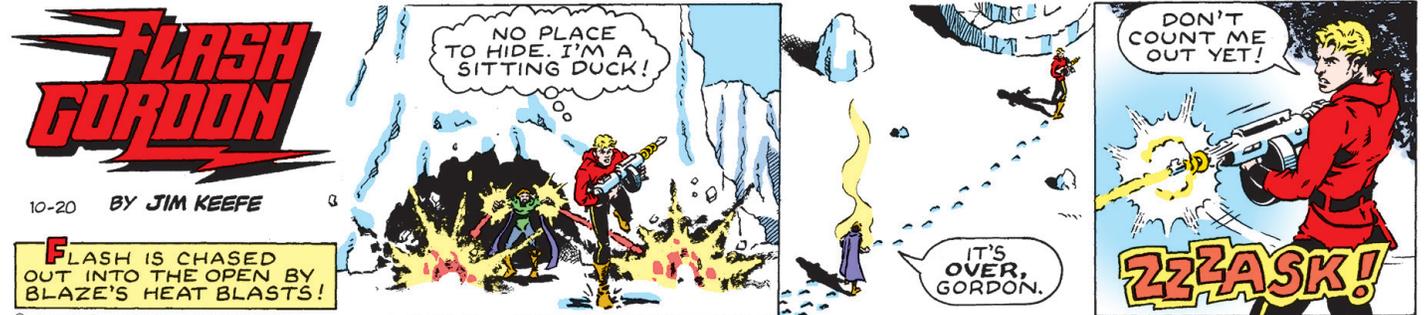
4. Continue cooking over medium heat until mixture starts to thicken and cheese melts, stirring often. Lower heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Makes 6 (3/4-cup) servings.

TIP: You can substitute 97% fat-free frankfurters.

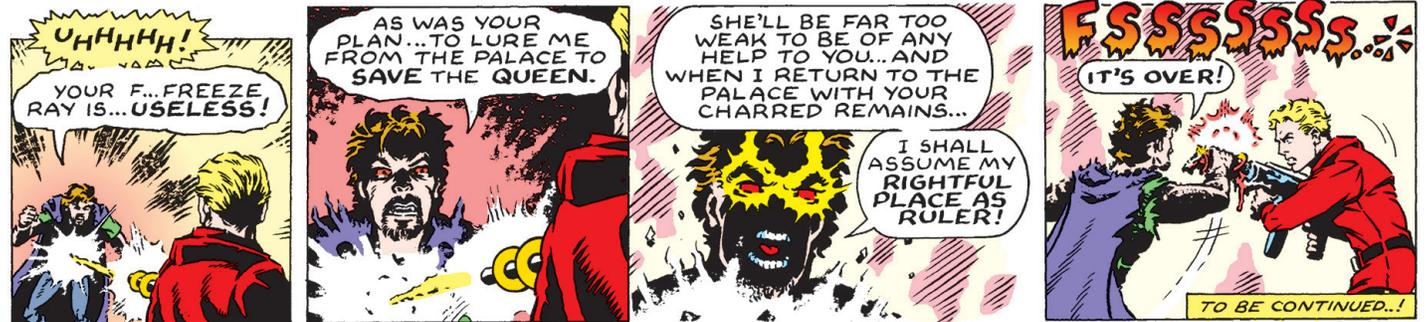
• Each serving equals: 238 calories, 6g fat, 16g protein, 30g carbs, 411mg sodium, 293mg calcium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Protein, 1 Starch, 1/2 Vegetable; Carb Choices: 2.

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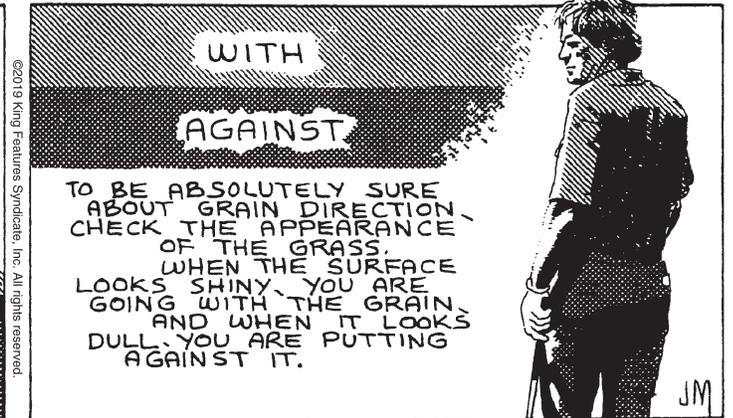
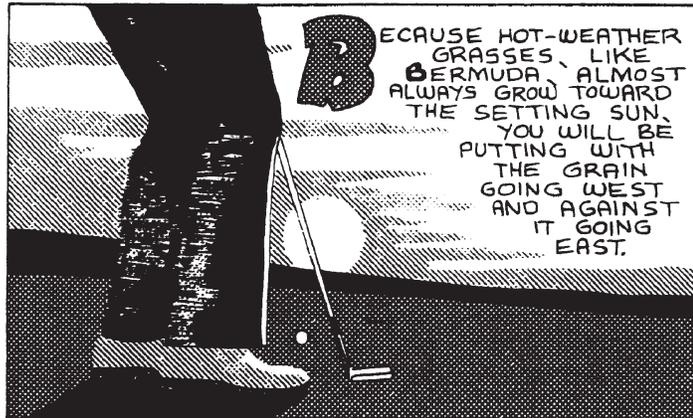
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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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JM



Adult Wary About Tonsillectomy

DEAR DR. ROACH: My doctor recommends a tonsillectomy based on the fact that I suffer from chronic strep. I am apprehensive about this surgery as an adult. What are the realistic risks of the surgery versus continuing to experience regular cases of strep throat? — *O.C.*

ANSWER: Strep throat infections that are chronic (lasting more than three months) or recurrent are indications for tonsillectomy in adults; however, this is an uncommon surgery in adults, and there isn't a lot of published data on the effectiveness of treatment. Some data show that tonsillectomy does reduce incidence of infection, as would be expected. Other data show improved quality of life and fewer missed work days.

My own experience is limited to a handful of patients: All have had significant improvement in the number and severity of infections. On the other hand, the surgery itself is unpleasant, and that's putting it mildly. There is a significant risk of major complications (perhaps around 3%). One patient told me that the first two weeks after surgery were horrendous, but gradually improved over time.

As always, it's a balance between benefits and risks of surgery. But it's a difficult enough surgery that you are wise to be apprehensive, and I would recommend surgical consultation only if your symptoms were severe enough and significantly impact your life.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Three years

ago, my mother was prescribed 50,000 IU of vitamin D per week. I read that this dose can lead to serious complications if continued for more than a month or two. How common is it for someone to be on such a high dose for three years? Should my mother insist that her doctor take her off this medication? — *L.H.*

ANSWER: Fifty thousand units a week is frequently given for eight to 12 weeks in people with significant deficiency in vitamin D, and people often then are switched to a daily dose of 1,000 to 2,000 IU. However, some people prefer a weekly dose, and 10,000 to 20,000 would be the usual dose.

Perhaps 10% to 20% of the time, in my experience, people do need higher doses, and 50,000 is not unheard of (some people have a genetic condition requiring high doses). However, this dosing should be guided by blood levels, and I certainly would feel better knowing that your mother has had her level measured if continuing this high dose.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter gives her 3-year-old daughter fizzy water daily. All her water bottles and sippy cups are filled with some kind of carbonated water. My granddaughter's appetite seems to have decreased. Could this be caused by the fizzy water? Is it harmful to her stomach? — *L.B.*

ANSWER: I don't recommend carbonated water for babies or small children. The dissolved gas in the water can distend the stomach, causing cramps, and that gas has to come out, meaning burps or flatulence. The sense of distention in the stomach might be causing her to eat less as well. Stick to tap or bottled water in reasonable amounts.

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

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1. Which Eagles song netted the group its first Grammy even though it only went to No. 2 on the charts?

2. Name the two soccer teams mentioned in "You're In My Heart" by Rod Stewart.

3. Who were Ed Sullivan's last musical guests on his show?

4. Which song's label gave the credit as "John Ono Lennon"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "When I left my home and my family, I was no more than a boy in the company of strangers."

Answers

1. "Lyin' Eyes," in 1972. The Grammy was for Best Pop Performance, and it also got a nomination for Record of the Year.

2. Glasgow Celtic and Manchester United.

3. Gladys Knight and the Pips, in 1971. The show ran for 23 years, always on Sunday night.

4. "Instant Karma! (We All Shine On)," in 1970. In the U.K. the credit was changed to "Lennon/Ono with the Plastic Ono Band." It was the first time a solo Beatles song sold a million copies.

5. "The Boxer," by Simon and Garfunkel, in 1969. It was recorded in multiple parts in multiple locations (including a chapel) and took over 100 hours to complete. The "lie la lie" lyric was intended only as a place holder.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



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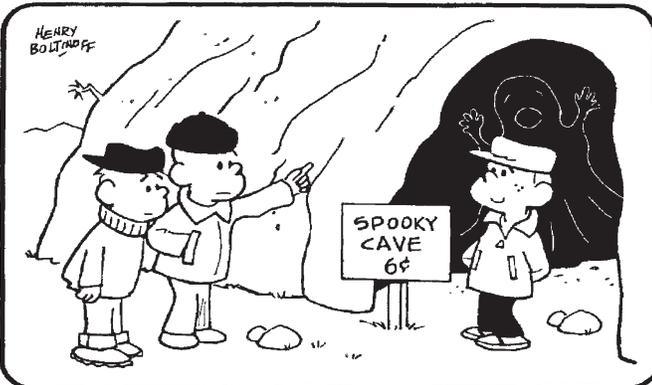
"It makes you look fat!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Boy's stacks are black. 3. Ghost is added. 4. Boy is pointing. 5. Stocking hat has been added. 6. Rocks are added in cave.



- What's on sale in November? Try for good deals on shoes, boys clothing, blankets and pre-Christmas sales. They start earlier and earlier each year. Also, look for deals on cooking and serving pieces just before and after Thanksgiving.

- Clean your coffee carafe regularly by scrubbing with soap and water. Run a descaler or a mix of vinegar and water through the brewer to clean out the reserve tank. Follow with a plain water rinse.

- Need an egg substitute in a pinch? Mix a teaspoon of vinegar with a teaspoon of cornstarch. Making a recipe with rise? You could also use baking soda in place of the cornstarch.

- Use aluminum foil on the back side of your radiator coils to reflect heat back into the room. One easy way to do this is to measure a piece of cardboard to fit the space behind the radiator. Then wrap the cardboard with aluminum foil and place behind the coils.

- “Great gravy is only a plastic bag away! This is my great tip for separating the fat from pan drippings to make gravy. I take a quart-size plastic bag and set it in a glass measuring cup. Pour the pan drippings through a strainer, right into the bag. Let it sit for 15-20 minutes, and the fat will separate to the top. Seal the bag, and snip a small hole in a bottom corner, drain the liquid into a saucepan to make gravy. It's that easy.” — *T.C. in Idaho*

- Give your loose tea a boost of flavor by adding a dried orange or lemon peel to the tea tin. It will impart a delightful citrus flavor the longer it's in the tin.

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

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RIDDLE CARD

1. Why is a river rich?
2. If 12 makes a dozen, how many make a billion?
3. What is always behind time?
4. When is a window like a star?
5. Who earns his living without doing a day's work?



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Answers: 1. Because it has two banks. 2. Not very many. 3. The back of a watch. 4. When it is a skylight. 5. A night watchman.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER

Starting with the given word HAILSTORM at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with HAILSTORM.

1. An icy shower (given).
2. Student of moral problems.
3. They work with cloth.
4. He travels by water.
5. Type of energy.
6. In addition to.
7. Nickname.
8. For instance.
9. Blood type.

NUMERIC MARCHING ORDERS! Can you tell us how the following numbers have been arranged?

8 5 4 9 1 7 6 3 2

Answer: The numbers are arranged in ascending alphabetical order.

LET'S HAVE A WORD "RALLY"! Can you find the four five-letter words needed on the right that match the definitions below? All words must read the same across and down.

1. Radio detection.
2. Main artery of the body.
3. Fawning show of thanks.
4. Ring-shaped coral island.
5. An enthusiastic gathering (given).

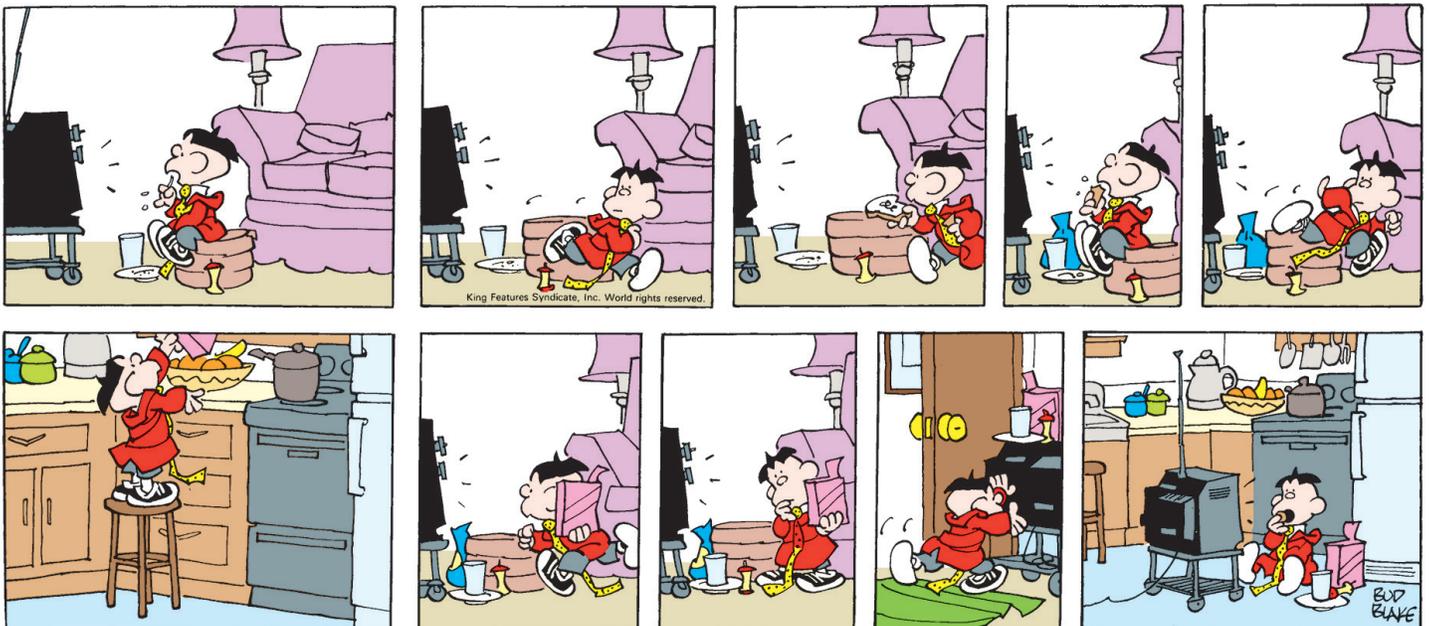
1	2	3	4	5	R
2					A
3					L
4					L
5	R	A	L	L	Y

Answers: 1. Radar. 2. Aorta. 3. Droll. 4. Atoll. 5. Rally.

Answers: (from the bottom up): Hailstorm, moralist, tallors, solar, sailor, also, Sal, as, a.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BUD BLAKE

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Birth-related
- 6 Sphere
- 9 "Great!"
- 12 React to reveille
- 13 Spelling contest
- 14 "— not choose to run"
- 15 Bottled spirit?
- 16 Madison Avenue music
- 18 Eden, for one
- 20 Agts.
- 21 Crony
- 23 Moment
- 24 Nuts
- 25 The same, in bibliographies
- 27 Primly self-restrained

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

- 29 Hide and —
- 31 Fails to
- 35 Buckwheat porridge
- 37 Catastrophic
- 38 Wit
- 41 Lubricant
- 43 Tandoor-baked bread
- 44 Hibernia
- 45 In the course of
- 47 Rubs elbows
- 49 Lightweight wood
- 52 Light touch
- 53 Lemieux milieu
- 54 Tools for duels
- 55 Bashful
- 56 Forerunner of Windows
- 57 Endures
- 8 Stein or Stiller
- 9 — mignon
- 10 Skilled
- 11 Domineering
- 17 Marked a report card
- 19 Classroom array
- 21 Glutton
- 22 Big bother
- 24 Life story, for short
- 26 Vietnam river
- 28 Legendary firefighter Red
- 30 Listener
- 32 \$1 bills
- 33 2nd Amdt. proponents
- 34 X rating?
- 36 "Monopoly" buys
- 38 Jute fibers
- 39 Dickens' Mr. Heep
- 40 Like some mouthwashes and tooth-pastes
- 42 Written slander
- 45 Art —
- 46 California wine valley
- 48 Cover
- 50 Prepared
- 51 Balaam's carrier

DOWN

- 1 Rundown horse
- 2 Exist
- 3 Prickly sensations
- 4 One side of the Urals
- 5 Villainous looks
- 6 Thing
- 7 Check

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

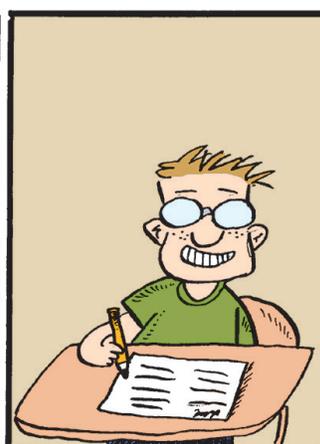
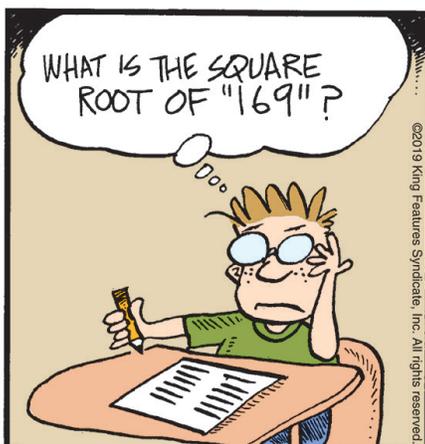
LAFF - A - DAY



"Why don't you leave your brain to science?
Every little bit helps."

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

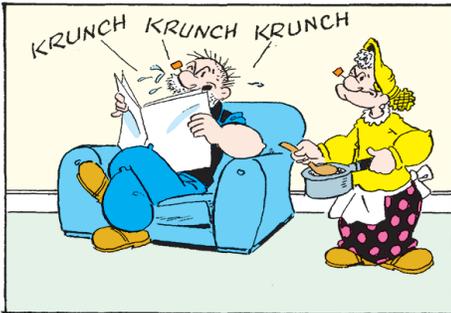
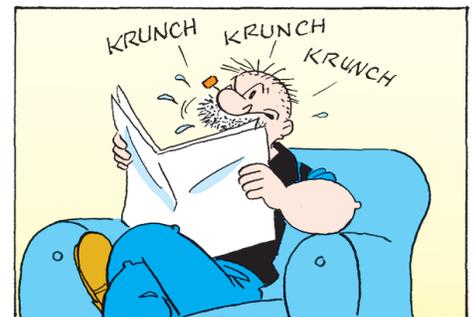
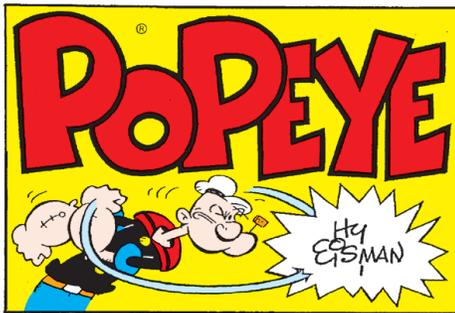


GERARD'S PARENTS
TOLD HIM WHEN
TAKING A TEST HE
SHOULD ALWAYS
GO WITH HIS
INITIAL THOUGHTS.

KOPERVAS

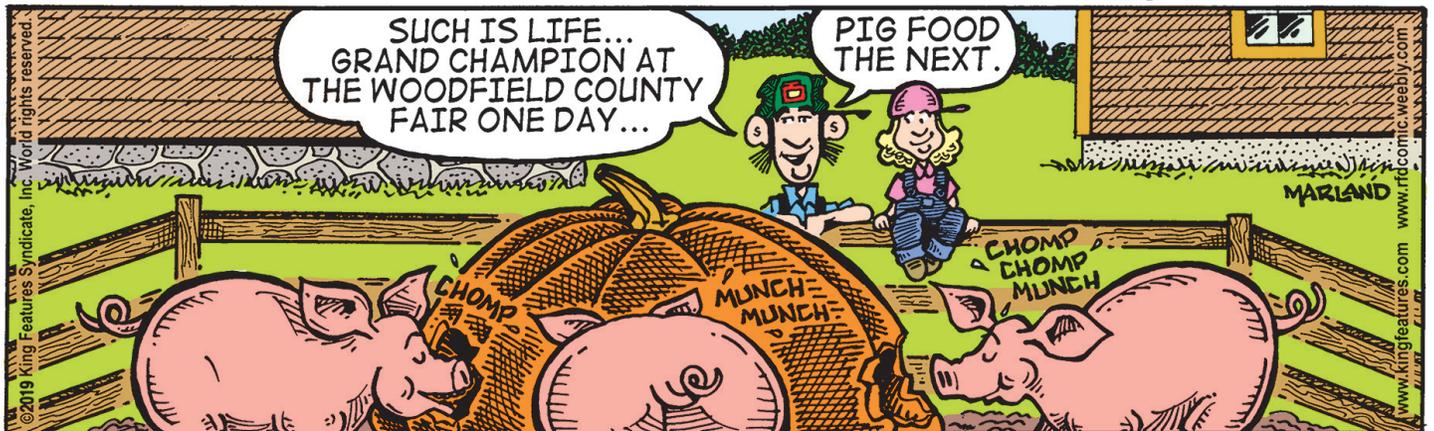
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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WAL FOSTER'S
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ



Our Story:

AB'SABAN SPEARS ARE ALL THAT KEEP A MAMMOTH DENIZEN OF THIS WEIRD, WEED-CHOKED SEA FROM WREAKING TOTAL HAVOC ON VALS CREW.

STILL, THERE ARE CASUALTIES BEFORE VAL AND BUKOTA FIND VULNERABLE FLESH.

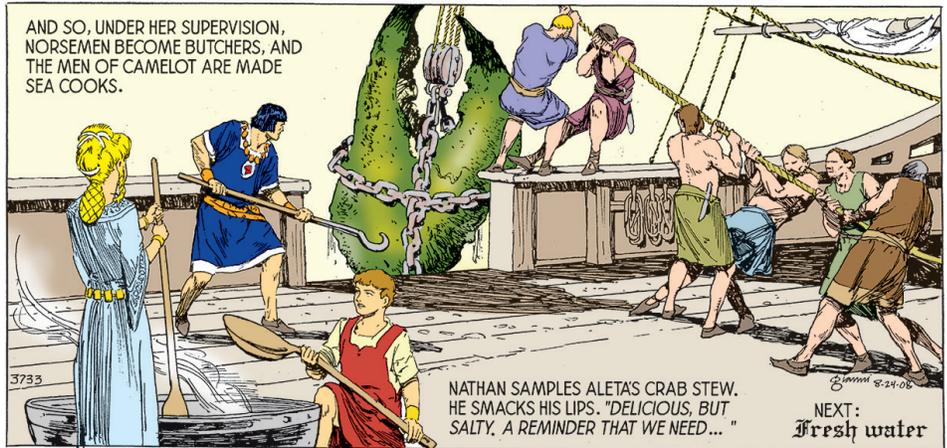


WITH A COMBINED EFFORT, THE CREW MANAGES TO HEAVE THE MORTALLY WOUNDED CREATURE OVERBOARD.



IT THRASHES SPASMODICALLY AMIDST THE WEED FOR LONG MINUTES, THEN IS STILL. "IT MAY BE BIG, BUT STILL A CRAB. THAT MEANS GOOD EATING IN THE MISTY ISLES," ALETA VENTURES.

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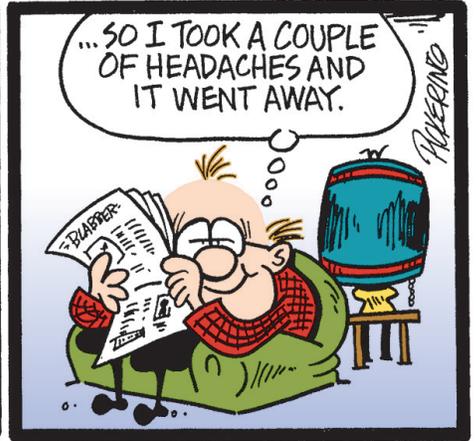
AND SO, UNDER HER SUPERVISION, NORSEMEN BECOME BUTCHERS, AND THE MEN OF CAMELOT ARE MADE SEA COOKS.

NATHAN SAMPLES ALETA'S CRAB STEW. HE SMACKS HIS LIPS. "DELICIOUS, BUT SALTY. A REMINDER THAT WE NEED..."

NEXT:
Fresh water

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Why It's Getting Harder to Live on Social Security

It's now official: Our Social Security increase for 2020 will be 1.6%, or \$23.40 for the average senior who receives benefits. If our Medicare goes up, that comes out of the increase.

We all know the Social Security increases we get are not enough to keep pace with rising prices. The Senior Citizens League did a study a few years ago that determined we had fallen 4% behind actual costs in one year alone. Since 2000 we've lost 34% of our buying power. For example, if we bought \$100 in groceries back then, today we'd get only \$66 worth.

Just what determines the amount of Social Security increases? The number is called COLA, for cost-of-living adjustment, and the figures are calculated monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

The BLS uses the prices in "A Basket of Goods" to calculate what is being spent and determine the Consumer Price Index. It includes food, but also tracks bedroom furniture, toys, the cost of education and communication.

For over a year now I've kept a monthly chart of every dime I spend. If I come home from the store with a receipt or I pay a utility bill, the amount gets noted on the chart.

The CPI that came out in September says that over the past year, overall prices for urban consumers went up 1.7 percent. I know my costs have gone up much more than that.

How about you? Here's some math homework for you for the next year. Make a list of the basic items you buy and the expenses you have. Write down what they cost. A year from now do a comparison and see if they've gone up, and if so, how much.

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1. Alex Rodriguez and Ken Griffey Jr., both drafted by the Seattle Mariners, combined to hit 1,326 major-league home runs. How many of them came as a member of the Mariners?

2. Entering 2019, the New York Yankees held the record for most World Series games won (139). Which team was second?

3. When was the last time before 2018 that the Kentucky Wildcats football team was ranked in The Associated Press Top 25 Poll?

4. The Orlando Magic have had the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA Draft three times. Name the players they drafted.

5. In 2019, Jeff Blashill became the winningest U.S. coach in the history of the top division of the Ice Hockey World Championship (19 wins). Who had held the mark?

6. Driver Lewis Hamilton set a record in 2019 by winning his sixth British Grand Prix. Name either driver who is second with five wins.

7. How many times have tennis stars Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova met in a Grand Slam final?

Answers

1. Rodriguez (189 home runs) and Griffey Jr. (417) combined to hit 606 homers for the Mariners.

2. The St. Louis Cardinals, with 58.

3. It was 2007.

4. Shaquille O'Neal (1992), Chris Webber (1993) and Dwight Howard (2004).

5. Tim Taylor (1989-1993) had 17 victories in the top division.

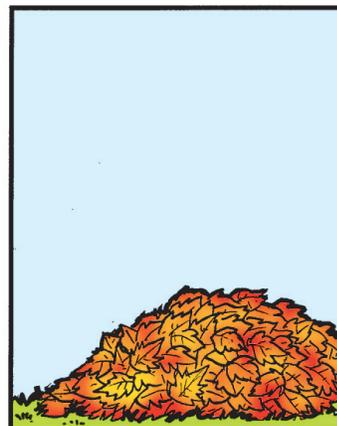
6. Alain Prost and Jim Clark.

7. Four times, with Serena Williams winning three of them.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



Boots on the Ground

It's easy to get distracted by the noise coming out of Washington – each week I aim to stay out of the muck and to focus on the issues impacting our state. People in South Dakota are focused on being productive, bettering their communities, finding solutions, and coming up with ideas that work.

A few weeks ago, I sat down with administrators from the Wall School because in January, Wall became the first school in South Dakota to provide fresh beef from local ranchers. They had to work hard to make that happen because of the federal government's red tape. It took collaboration on behalf of community members like Josh Geigle, a rancher and school board member who donated the first beef, and Ken Charfauros, the owner of Wall Meats, who processed the beef and ensured all guidelines were met.

This week superintendents and administrators from more than 20 school districts in Western South Dakota gathered to hear how they can incorporate local beef into their school's lunch like the Wall School. The Wall School also implemented a curriculum to educate students on where their meat comes from – many folks throughout the country are a few generations removed from the farm, it's important young people know where their food comes from.

The government likes to make everything harder, so after hearing how difficult it was for the Wall School to get local beef into its cafeteria, I introduced the Farm and Ranch to School Act to make this process a little easier. My bill would amend the National School Lunch Act's Farm to School Program to include funding to make local livestock and meat procurement for school lunch programs a priority. The Farm and Ranch to School Act will give South Dakota producers a fair shake at serving their product in the lunchroom. South Dakota's students deserve the best and freshest quality meat in their lunches – this legislation will make that a reality.

At the end of the day, it's my job to work for the boots on the ground – the people of South Dakota. For that reason, another piece of legislation was put in motion this week.

I introduced the Livestock Risk Management and Education Act to supply producers with the tools needed to anticipate highs and lows in the futures markets. Farmers and Ranchers wear many hats, we should make sure marketing tools are available and easy to use. Folks are facing tough weather and understanding cattle prices doesn't need to be an added challenge.

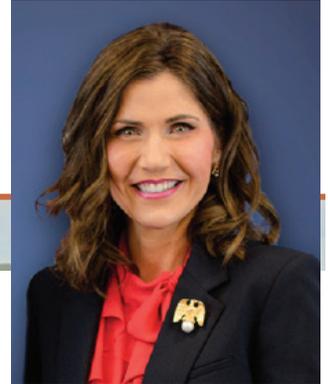
You know better than the federal government ever will, and it's my hope the legislation I introduce equips folks back home with the tools to be self-sufficient.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



This is South Dakota **A Special Guest Column by First Gentleman Bryon Noem**

Hello! Bryon Noem here. Earlier this year, I became South Dakota's first First Gentleman when my wife, Kristi, became the 33rd governor of our state. I've had the privilege to stand beside her as she's tackled some big issues and worked to make South Dakota stronger for the next generation... I'm pretty proud of her!

When Kristi was elected, people wanted to know what I would be called since there had only been First Ladies before, and... well... I'm not a lady. For anyone who knows me, you know that I'm not a very formal person. "First Husband" seemed odd. We threw around the idea of "First Dude..." which got vetoed pretty quick. We finally landed on "First Gentleman," which still feels pretty rigid, but I'm rolling with it. But, please, if you see me around... just call me Bryon!

In mid-October, I announced my First Gentleman's initiative. It's quite simple: I want to celebrate South Dakota and all the things that make it special. I want to remind people of the hidden gems in our small towns – the places off the beaten path. These hometowns are the heartbeat of our state, and I want to highlight them. I want to remind people that these are some of the best places to raise a family or to start a business.

This is something that's pretty close to home for me. I grew up on a farm outside of Bryant, South Dakota, a community of 456 people. I'm proud of my rural roots. It's where I learned the values of hard work and self-reliance, where Kristi and I chose to raise our kids, where we started an insurance business and hunting lodge, and where my family has farmed and ranched for a century.

But many small towns like ours are struggling today. Class sizes are dropping. Businesses can't afford to stay open. And fewer kids are coming home to farm or ranch.

While South Dakota has grown by more than 100,000 people since 2000, rural populations have decreased. Seeing our larger communities flourish is exciting, but I want to make sure we don't lose South Dakota's rural culture either. I want to show people that our way of life here is worth celebrating and promoting. I want to listen to peoples' stories and learn from their experiences, then share them with others.

So over the next few years, I'll be traveling to communities and uncovering the big things in our small towns. I want to listen to people tell stories about their hometowns. Whether it's hearing the stories of a veteran over morning coffee... shooting hoops with the mayor and hearing about the good and tough times a town has gone through... eating ice cream and learning about the heritage of a community... I want to hear it all and share those stories with you. It's my mission to celebrate the incredible value our small towns bring to our state.

Join me on this journey by following my Facebook page: @FGBryonNoem. This is South Dakota!

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



There's No Place I'd Rather Be

There's nothing better than autumn in South Dakota. I always enjoy traveling around the state in the fall. So far this October, I've gotten to visit with South Dakota students, present a Purple Heart medal to a Vietnam vet, talk to the new commander at Ellsworth Air Force Base, attend the groundbreaking for Dakota Wesleyan University's new School of Business Innovation and Leadership, greet a returning Honor Flight, visit some outstanding South Dakota businesses, chat with Sioux Falls' mayor, and a whole lot more.

And of course, I got to participate in Hobo Day – South Dakota State University's (SDSU's) annual homecoming. Anyone who knows me knows I'm a big sports guy – in particular a South Dakota sports guy – so I keenly enjoy every visit to the home of the Jacks. And even as a graduate of the University of South Dakota, Hobo Day is a fall highlight. There's a parade, a lot of good food, and a lot of excited sports fans. What's not to love?

The best Hobo Days, of course, are when the Jacks win their game, and that's exactly what they did this year, handily defeating Southern Illinois. And speaking of Jacks football, I know there was a lot of excitement on SDSU's campus and throughout the Brookings community when ESPN's College GameDay announced it would cover the annual Dakota Marker matchup, the show's first-ever visit to South Dakota – a big deal for any college town!

In addition to Hobo Day and Jacks football, one of the things I look forward to the most each fall in South Dakota is the start of pheasant hunting season. I went out with several friends this year, and we had a great day. The weather was gorgeous – that blue, blue South Dakota sky – and the fall colors were finally showing themselves after a late start to the season.

Pheasant hunting's economic importance to South Dakota is one of the many reasons I've worked to support and expand the Conservation Reserve Program. Taking underperforming land out of production is not only good for the environment and for farmers, it's also key to maintaining wildlife habitat, including pheasant habitat.

I pushed for an increase in the Conservation Reserve Program acreage cap in the 2018 farm bill, and the final bill raised the acreage cap to 27 million acres. I will continue to work to support and strengthen this program to help farmers, benefit the environment, and provide habitat for wildlife – especially the South Dakota pheasant.

With several beautiful fall weekends around the corner (before the white stuff arrives for good), I'm looking forward to spending as much time as possible in South Dakota. There's no place in the world I'd rather be.

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Pass the USMCA

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement (USMCA) is the trade deal President Trump negotiated to replace and improve upon the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement—NAFTA. The three countries signed it nearly one year ago, but it has yet to be ratified by the U.S. Congress. This agreement would be beneficial not only for our national economy, but also the economy of our state which relies heavily on agriculture.

Once the USMCA is finalized, it will create additional access for U.S. agricultural products and manufactured goods into Canada and Mexico, two of our closest allies and top trading partners. Trade with the two countries supports 37,700 jobs in South Dakota. Last year, South Dakota exported \$924 million of goods and ag products to Canada and Mexico. With net farm income down 50 percent since 2013, low commodity prices, trade instability with China and extreme weather conditions, South Dakota farmers and ranchers are suffering. Ag producers across the country are in the same situation. Finalizing this trade agreement would provide all of them with some much-needed relief. It would also benefit manufacturers and small businesses. For example, the USMCA includes language that would require automobile components to be at least 75 percent manufactured in the U.S., Mexico or Canada to qualify for zero tariffs.

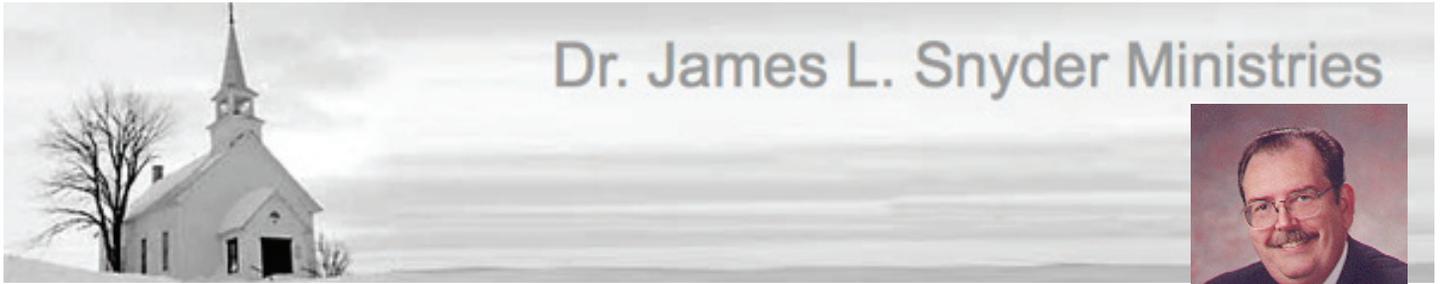
Currently, the USMCA is awaiting a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. Instead of taking up this important win for American workers and families, House Democrats are more intent on launching partisan attacks and engaging in political theater. There's no reason we can't get this done before the end of the year. I'm confident that once the USMCA passes the House, the Senate would take it up in short order. While the House continues to send over partisan legislation that has very little chance of passing the Senate, the USMCA stands as an opportunity for a bipartisan, bicameral win. It has strong support from both Republicans and Democrats in Congress, which would help it to pass quickly if it were brought up for a vote. The agreement also has wide support across the country. According to a Morning Consult poll, a majority of Americans want to see the USMCA ratified. I continue to urge Speaker Pelosi to bring it up for a vote.

Ratifying the USMCA should not be a Republican or Democrat issue—it will help the economy in all parts of the country, no matter if it's a "red" or "blue" district. With the House currently focused on impeaching President Trump, I have concerns about their ability to work on anything bipartisan, like the USMCA.

I came to Washington to get things done. We have already made significant steps to improve our economy through deregulation, historic tax reform and Dodd-Frank reform. However, improving and finalizing trade agreements will be key to reaching our full economic potential. I'm going to keep pushing Speaker Pelosi and the House to take a vote on the USMCA as soon as possible, for the sake of South Dakota producers and manufacturers.

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Thinking Has a Way of Getting Me into Trouble Dr. James L. Snyder



Just when I think I have all my bases covered, a new one shows up, and it's not a homerun. I know all my tocks don't tick, but I do the best I can. I may not be the best all the time, but I try, and I try, and I try. I do not want to be a nuisance to anybody, so I try not to, especially with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. (Does trying count for anything?)

Quite often, I make the mistake of believing because I have been married so long I know my wife and what she is going to do or say next.

Confidence is a tricky thing, however. The more confidence I think I have, the more trouble I seem to get into. I certainly do not want to be negative in this regard, but I have the proof that it works in my life.

For instance, on her birthday, I try to give her something that will make her happy. If you do not think that is a hard chore, then come over to my house and try it one time. Just when I think she is into a certain thing, I blow it.

I have blown this so many times that there is a hurricane named after me.

I worked very hard trying to find a Christmas gift that will surprise her and delight her. Occasionally, I will succeed. I remember one year I got her something special and she was very delighted with it. She thanked me several times. I was happy.

My memory being what it is or isn't, the next year I got her the same Christmas gift. She opened it and said, "Oh, isn't this what you got me last year?"

One thing, she is a marvelous chef and can bake, cook and fry anything and it all comes out delicious. Except, for that nasty little thing called "broccoli."

I love everything that she cooks except that, of course.

The proof of her ability as a chef is me. When we first met, I was as skinny as they come without even one fat cell in my body. Now, look at me. And, it is all her fault.

Recently, this thing about thinking showed itself.

Many things I love to eat, but my wife's mac and cheese has to be at the top of the list. She makes the best M and C that I have ever tasted. Being the kind of husband that usually gets in trouble, I try compensating by always thanking and praising her for this delicious dish.

I had been at a two-day conference and was greatly delighted to get home. They do have lunch at those conferences, but not quite the quality I am accustomed to. I was quite anxious to get home and have what they call a "home-cooked dinner." By the time I got home, all I could think about was dinner that night.

One of the dishes she had was her infamous mac and cheese. I could not tell her how delighted I was to be home and especially to enjoy some of this macaroni and cheese.

We sat down at the table, had prayer and then I delved into the luxury of one of the best home-cooked dinners I ever had. At the center of the table was this magnificent Mac and cheese.

What happened next was something I had not planned for.

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She told me one of her friends brought over some things for our dinner. She did not say exactly, but I took it to mean that the mac and cheese was one of the dishes.

Looking at me she said, "What do you think of that mac and cheese?"

At the time, I was not thinking of any trick questions. I responded by simply saying, "It's wonderful, but it's not quite as good as the ones you make." Then I flashed a waxy smile in her direction.

"That's not as good as mine?"

Without even looking up I replied, "This is good, but not as good as the ones you make. Yours are much better than this one."

"Are you sure about that? You're not just putting me on?"

I laid my fork down and looked at her and said, "My dear, there is nothing to compare with the mac and cheese that you make. I can tell the difference a mile away. You make the best mac and cheese I have ever tasted. This may be good, but it's not up to your standard."

I thought I made some good points with her. Every husband is always looking for ways to make points with his wife. I was assuming I had hit the marital lottery.

Looking at me, she stated very sternly, "That mac and cheese is mine. I made it especially for you."

I have never been good at backpedaling a situation. I am somewhat of a wordsmith, but I could not think of any words that could in any way help me out of this situation.

I remember what James said, "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body" (James 3:2).

I know that I am not a perfect person. I get in deep trouble when for some reason I think otherwise.

Groton Area bounces back to first in Region 1A

Groton Area's volleyball team bounced back to first place in the Region 1A seeding after Miller knocked off Aberdeen Roncalli last night, 3-0. The two teams have been in a see-saw battle for first place through the season. Regional play will begin Tuesday, Nov. 5 and continue on Thursday, Nov. 7. The number one seed will have the first round bye.

	Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
1	Groton Area	43.621	22-7
2	Aberdeen Roncalli	43.594	24-8
3	Redfield	42.333	16-8
4	Webster Area	42.033	20-10
5	Tiospa Zina	39.571	12-9
6	Milbank	38.407	10-17
7	Sisseton	37.214	5-23

Contaminants are common in S.D. drinking water, but most within legal limits

By: Bart Pfankuch

State testing data show that several contaminants — all of which can be harmful to human health — are commonly found in the drinking water provided to residents of South Dakota, but whether the contaminants are present at unhealthy levels is a matter of ongoing debate.

In most cases, the tap water generated by the 650 drinking-water systems across the state fall well within guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for safe consumption of lead, copper, nitrates, arsenic, radium, uranium, and a chlorine sanitation byproduct called trihalomethanes.

All of those chemicals, most of them known carcinogens, are consistently found in much of the drinking water tested regularly by South Dakota water system operators and reported to the state and federal governments. Except in rare cases, such as when a system failure occurs or a contaminant builds up over time, the contaminant levels fall below the legal guidelines set by the EPA.

But a national environmental group is trying to change the definition of “safe” and strengthen federal and state guidelines for what is considered “healthful” when it comes to the presence of dangerous contaminants in drinking water. In its annual report on America’s drinking water supply, released on Oct. 26, the nonprofit Environmental

Working Group noted that many federal water-quality standards have not been updated in 20 or even 50 years, and that there are no legal limits whatsoever for 160 contaminants that can make their way into the American drinking-water system.

“The disturbing truth shown by the data is that when most Americans drink a glass of tap water, they’re also getting a dose of industrial or agricultural contaminants linked to cancer, harm to the brain and nervous system, changes in the growth and development of the fetus, fertility problems and/or hormone disruption,” the EWG said in a news release.

The study’s two main goals, according to Alexis Temkin, a staff toxicologist at EWG, is to provide Americans with an easy way to find recent data on the quality of their local drinking-water system and to highlight the group’s belief that contamination standards need to be updated and strengthened.

“Primarily, what we know is that ‘legal’ doesn’t necessarily mean ‘safe,’” Temkin said. “The vast majority



Among the roughly 650 water systems in South Dakota, smaller, rural systems tend to face more challenges in providing good water due to a lack of money and resources or the age of the system. The Northdale Sanitary District, shown here, is a system that serves about 1,100 people along the border of Meade and Pennington counties. The system was cited by the state for not having a certified system operator in 2015 and for failing to monitor for arsenic in 2018. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South

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of the utilities across the country get a passing grade by the EPA even though contaminants are almost always present.”

The EWG water-quality study is among the most comprehensive in the country, examining testing results from nearly 50,000 water systems across the U.S., including all of those in South Dakota that are regulated and subject to state testing requirements.

The EWG, however, creates its own set of safety guidelines that are based on the most stringent health guidelines and scientific data currently available, some from the state of California, which is known for its aggressive approach to protecting drinking water, Temkin said.

Based on its own safety guidelines, and not EPA legal standards, the group found that nearly all South Dakotans are consuming

drinking water with contaminants at unhealthy levels.

The EWG study, which uses a two-year average of data from 2015-17, reported that 291 South Dakota utilities serving about 703,500 people had unhealthy levels of trihalomethanes, or THMs, the chlorine byproduct that can cause bladder and skin cancers and inhibit fetal growth. The study found that 234 systems serving 458,500 people had unhealthy levels of nitrate; 83 systems serving 421,250 people had unhealthy levels of chromium; 37 systems serving 201,000 people had unhealthy levels of arsenic; and 210 systems serving 220,000 people had unhealthy levels of radium or uranium.

Inspection data from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources reveals that from 2012 through 2016, 712 water systems across South Dakota were cited 2,673 times for water-quality or system violations that potentially affected a total of 334,300 people.

A spokesman for the DENR, which is responsible for water testing, system monitoring and enforcement of contaminant limits, said the EWG study represents an unfair “apples-to-oranges comparison” of water-quality standards.

“Historically, EWG has highlighted a state’s water quality first based on non-enforceable goals rather than enforceable maximum contaminant levels,” DENR spokesman Brian Walsh wrote to News Watch in response to written questions.

The highly strict contaminant standards used by EWG may create a misleading picture for the public that drinking water across the country and in South Dakota is unsafe, said Jeremiah Corbin, source-water protection specialist for the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems.

“I’m concerned that they may give people the misconception that their water is not safe when, based on drinking-water standards, it is safe,” Corbin said. “By cherry-picking what health levels they’re going to choose for safe water, it unfairly muddies the conversation.”

Corbin said maintaining safe, high-quality drinking water is an ongoing challenge that is taken extremely

DRINKING WATER TESTS LEAD TO VIOLATIONS

Here is a look at the number of total violations issued by the state of South Dakota for water system problems over the past five years. Violations can include exceeding safe limits for contaminants, failing to properly monitor for contaminants, failing to report problems to the state or the public and not having a certified system operator on site. Data is listed by year, number of violations, number of systems that incurred violations and the number of people potentially affected by the violations.

Year	Violations	Systems	Customers
2016	365	123	72,000
2015	387	159	52,300
2014	705	143	82,500
2013	542	142	53,500
2012	674	145	74,000
Total	2,673	712	334,300

Notes: Data is most recent available; information from S.D. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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seriously and undertaken with great success by operators of the roughly 300 water systems that are members of the association.

"Our goal is to send out a product that a newborn child could drink and be healthy, and I think we're doing that," Corbin said. "I'm not saying there aren't systems that aren't perfect, but generally speaking I think the water systems and the state do a marvelous job of providing clean drinking water."

Inspections reveal contamination problems

The EWG report makes clear the differences between its health standards and the legal limits, and the gap is often very wide.

For example, the EWG health limit for TMHs is .15 parts per billion, compared with the legal level of 80 ppb. For nitrates, the EWG health limit is .14 ppb, compared with the long-held federal safety standard of 10 ppb; for arsenic, the EWG health limit is .004 ppb, compared with the federal standard of 10 ppb; and for radium, a common contaminant in South Dakota drinking water, the EWG limit is .05 pico curies per liter, compared with the federal limit of 5 pCi/L.

Only five South Dakota systems were found to be in violation of EPA contaminant standards during the EWG study period:

- Bonesteel (275 customers) was above the legal limit for nitrates.
- Buffalo Gap (126 people) and the Cottonwood Grove Mobile Home Park (30 people) were above legal limits for uranium.
- Cedar Gulch #2 (33 people) and the Shirt Tail Gulch Development (60 people) tested above legal limits for radium.

State-level violations are far more common.

In 2016, the state recorded 365 total violations by 123 water systems that served about 72,000 people. That was down from a recent high of 705 violations by 143 systems affecting 82,500 people in 2014.

The DENR requires that system operators regularly take water samples for testing; the frequency is dictated by the contaminant sought and the size of the system. Testing for lead and copper is done only every three years, and some other contaminants are tested for annually. Meanwhile, the Sioux Falls system tests water three times daily for bacteria.

A spot-check of systems across the state reveals that many have been flagged for violations of some sort over the past five years.

The Hill City water system in Pennington County, serving 950 people, was cited for exceeding limits of arsenic in July and October 2018, according to state documents. The city of Springfield, in Bon Homme County, which serves about 2,000 people, was cited for exceeding limits of THM on five occasions from 2015 to 2019.

The Town of Wessington in Beadle and Hand counties, serving 175 people, was cited for failing to monitor for chlorine and bacteria in 2015 and for not having a certified system operator that year. The Town of White, in Brookings County, was cited in 2016 for failing to notify the 485 people it serves of high lead and copper readings in 2016. The Yankton water system, which serves 14,700 people, was cited for high

developing. Formula-fed infants may get too much manganese (above nutrition) in their bodies when formula is mixed with water that contains manganese over 0.3 mg/L may experience learning or behavioral

DO NOT GIVE UNTREATED TAP WATER TO INFANTS.
under 6 months old should not be prepared with untreated tap of water for infants.

Adult's drinking water with high levels of manganese for nervous system, resulting in behavioral changes and other

This April 2019 advisory warned the roughly 14,000 people served by the water system in Pierre of the dangers of providing untreated tap water to infants due to high levels of manganese found in the water. Adults are also advised to be careful not to ingest much of the contaminated water. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

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THM levels in 2016 and 2019.

The water system in the capital city of Pierre sent an advisory to the roughly 14,000 people it serves in March 2019 after the EPA found high levels of manganese in the local water supply.

The letter noted that although manganese is not a regulated substance within EPA monitoring programs, the chemical can cause brain illnesses if ingested by infants, who may suffer learning or behavioral problems later in life. Long-term consumption of manganese by adults can cause nervous-system and brain illnesses.

The warning advised no consumption of untreated tap water by anyone, especially infants. Residents were advised not to boil untreated tap water for use, as that can increase the concentration of the chemical. Showering, bathing or brushing of teeth with the water is OK as long as it is not ingested.

The city's water comes from wells dug as early as 1927 and manganese levels likely built up during that time. The warning noted that Pierre is building a new water-treatment system that will use surface water from the Missouri River as the source and should come online in late 2021. The state has provided Pierre with a \$36.9 million loan for construction of the new water plant, said Walsh of the DENR.

Smaller systems at greater risk

According to the EWG report and to a News Watch review of state water-system inspections, higher and more frequent levels of contamination tend to occur in smaller, more rural water systems across South Dakota.

Corbin said all water systems do their best to operate efficiently, but he acknowledged that larger systems such as those in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen have larger customer bases and more money to consistently improve operations and stay on top of new technology.

"Rural systems with small populations tend to have more challenges," he said. "There's so many variables in a small system; some rural systems have challenges just getting a certified operator in their community."

One of the most problematic systems in South Dakota serves only about 35 people in the Cedar Gulch #2 subdivision just east of Rapid City. Between July 1, 2014, and July 1, 2019, water tests revealed 64 violations of state regulations, including 32 listed as "exceedance of allowable contaminant levels" for presence of radium and alpha emitters, both radioactive compounds that can cause cancer. Other violations were for failing to monitor for other harmful contaminants and for not having a certified system operator in 2015.

Contamination of drinking water can occur due to a number of factors, including inefficient treatment systems; from leaching of contaminants from lead pipes and aging system components; from agricultural, industrial or septic-system runoff; or owing to infusion of materials within geologic formations surrounding a well.

Taking water from an unreliable source can also lead to problems.

That appears to be the case for the privately owned water system in Owanka, S.D., which serves about

CHECK THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

This webpage, provided by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, [linked here](#), allows online access to recent reports on local water systems across the state and information on the water they provide. Each system listed on the site — arranged alphabetically by city or system name — includes four clickable links: to annual inspection data and findings, including violations; the annual system report that includes testing data for several chemicals and pollutants and associated limits; a report on water hardness and pH; and the testing requirements for the current year.

You can also check on the quality and contaminant level of your water by [clicking here](#) to access the report produced by the Environmental Working Group. Once on the site, input your city name or zip code and then click on the name of the system that provides your water.

Once on the site, you can also scroll down to watch videos about the EWG findings or scroll down further and click on any state on the interactive U.S. map to examine data for South Dakota or any other state.

Full DENR web address is: <https://denr.sd.gov/des/dw/sysinfo.aspx> Full EWG web address is: <https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/>

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23 residences and 52 people in a remote area of Pennington County about 10 miles southwest of Wasta. Marvin Williams, president of the water board in Owanka, said a few people have water filters on their taps due to consistently high levels of radium in the water but that most are drinking the water without worry.

Williams said the Owanka system uses the Inyan Kara Aquifer for its water, a highly saline source that mainly is used for watering livestock. The system has been cited by the state 14 times for having high levels of radium from 2016 to 2019, and a 2016 sample revealed a lead level of 12 milligrams per liter, very close to the legal safe limit of 15 milligrams per liter. The system also showed a positive test for total coliform bacteria in 2018, state records show.

Williams said most residents were unaware of the problems and not too concerned once they found out, though the state has required the system to make improvements.

"It might kill you in 200 years or something, but it's something we have to take care of," Williams said. "There's a lot of hoops you have to jump through to take care of the problems."

The state DENR has stepped in and last year provided a \$50,000 grant to the Owanka system to fix the ongoing problem with radium contamination, likely through installation of treatment systems that will be installed on taps in the homes of system users, according to the DENR.

The origins of other problems are easier to pinpoint. For the adults and children living in about 95 homes near Ellsworth Air Force base in Box Elder, just east of Rapid City, the unsafe levels of contaminants in their water is known to have come from the use of firefighting foam at the base that contained polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. The cancer-causing chemical has been found above EPA safe levels in 26 private wells, including a well that serves 200 residents of the Plainsview Mobile Manor community.

In response, the military has provided bottled water to residents until an alternative water source can be found.

On occasion, drinking-water quality can be affected by acts of nature that taint the source of a community's water.

That happened to the Bon Homme-Yankton Rural Water System in April 2019 when the Spencer Dam on the Niobrara River in Nebraska failed, sending debris and sediment downstream and then into the Missouri River and Lewis and Clark Lake, which serves as the water source for the Bon Homme-Yankton system.

As a result, the source water entering the system that serves about 37,000 people in all or parts of Avon, Freeman, Irene, Menno, Mitchell, Parkston, Scotland, Tabor, Tyndall and Volin was very high in turbidity, essentially a murkiness that can inhibit disinfection processes and foster growth of harmful bacteria.

"Essentially, the source water from Lewis and Clark was like a chocolate milkshake," said Terry Wootton, general manager of the water system. "There was very high sediment loading that you could easily see."

System operators acted quickly to shut down the flow of water, and then heightened chlorine levels and added another chemical to hasten settling of sediments, Wootton said. The state was notified and a warning letter was sent to all customers, according to state documents.

Thankfully, the system was large enough to have 3 million gallons of treated drinking water in storage, so customers never received any of the tainted drinking water until after it was successfully treated, Wootton said. Within 30 hours of the inflow of contaminated water, the turbidity levels had fallen to less than .1 micrograms per liter, below the limit of .3 micrograms per liter.

The annual state water report for that system does note high levels of THM, with a quarterly average of 77.65 micrograms per liter, just under the limit of 80. Wootton said the THM levels vary in the system but said they have stayed under the state safety limit.

Efforts ongoing to protect, improve drinking water

Maintaining a steady, safe supply of drinking water to communities of varied size across an entire state requires constant testing and monitoring and a steady pace of spending to keep systems operational.

This year, the state Board of Water and Natural Resources within the DENR will spend \$64.5 million to aid municipal and regional water systems, said Walsh, the DENR spokesman. Out of 21 total projects, two were to correct compliance issues (the Pierre rebuild and the Owanka improvements).

Walsh noted that South Dakota water systems have a great track record in meeting the EPA goal of

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having 95% of water users in the state meeting all health standards related to their water. He said the state has had 98% to 99% of systems meet that standard over the past five years.

Much of the state's focus has been on improving systems in rural areas that do not have ready access to reliable water sources, Walsh said.

"Continued funding and improvements of these regional systems allows for expansion within their service areas to provide a more reliable, higher quality, and oftentimes more economical source of supply for water systems that may not have access to a high-quality or abundant supply of water in their physical location," Walsh wrote.

In 2018, the state provided grants, loans and principal forgiveness to Rapid City to help the city fix wells and water-delivery systems for a neighborhood of 600 people living just outside the city limits whose water supplies consistently failed to meet EPA standards, Walsh said.

The city performed much of the infrastructure development and is now serving the population with city water, Walsh said of the \$7.5 million project that improved water for residents of the Mesa View, Valley Heights, and Terra Cotta subdivisions and properties in the Longview Sanitary District.

"The ability to provide grant and principal forgiveness by the state is the primary reason the project was possible and affordable to the new users," Walsh wrote.

The state has an operator-certification program that offers free classes several times a year at locations across the state, Walsh said. The state also contracts with groups that provide operators technical assistance and training, including the rural water association.

Corbin said the rural water association has a strong relationship with the state in training and educating water-system managers across the state to operate efficiently and to stay up on new technologies or techniques that can improve drinking-water quality.

"Our bread and butter is training and technical assistance for community water systems," Corbin said. "Everybody's goal is to provide the highest-quality water they can, and people take that very seriously."

Both Corbin and Walsh urged consumers to go online and check on their system's inspection reports, and to read the annual water-quality report sent to their homes. If they have concerns about safety or quality, they should call their water-system operator and ask questions, they said.

ABOUT BART PFANKUCH



Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

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Northern Football Comes up Short versus Sioux Falls

Aberdeen, S.D. (October 26th, 2019) - Northern State was unable to overcome one of the best defense's in the country as they fall to the University of Sioux Falls at home 35-13.

The game started off well for Northern with a 43-yard pass from Hunter Trautman to Dakota Larson on the first play of the game. But the Cougar defense made a crucial goal-line stand on fourth down to give their offense the ball on the 2-yard line.

Two plays later Thuro Reisdorfer burst into the NSU secondary to score a 98-yard touchdown run, giving USF a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter.

NSU began the next drive with another deep pass to Larson, this time for 42 yards. But once again the USF defense held strong, keeping NSU to a 21-yard field goal by Payton Eue to make it 7-3 late in the first quarter.

The deep passes to Larson were the bulk of Northern's offense early in the game. Of NSU's 125 total offensive yards in the first quarter, 85 came from the two long balls thrown by Trautman.

To start the scoring in the second quarter, USF quarterback Caden Walter threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Jermaine Broadnax after a bad punt gifted them with great field position, making the score 14-3 in favor of the Cougars.

USF continued to pile it on later in the second quarter after an interception thrown by Trautman was returned for a touchdown by Tucker Stout to make the score 21-3.

NSU was finally able to score their first and only touchdown of the game late in the second quarter thanks to a 5-yard scamper into the end-zone by Trautman to make the score 21-10 at the half.

Northern's defense kept the momentum going, delivering key stops on third and fourth down in the third quarter, eventually leading to a tipped punt deep in Cougar territory. Once again, the Cougar defense held NSU to a field goal (Eue), but with the score now 21-13, there was hope that Northern could pull off the upset.

Those hopes were dashed however, as a failed on-side kick on the ensuing kickoff set up a 51-yard touchdown pass, making the score 28-13 just before the fourth quarter.

Things didn't get any better for NSU, a fumbled snap deep in their own territory lead to a 6-yard touch-down run by Thuro Reisdorfer which would be the last scoring play of the game to settle it at 35-13 in favor of the Cougars.

USF's defense, which came into the game ranked second in the nation in total defense and third in scoring, continued their dominance with four turnovers and just 13 points allowed. However, Northern's top receiver Dakota Larson still managed to have a great game with eight receptions for 123 yards.

Northern recorded 31 yards rushing and 198 yards passing for 229 yards of total offense, while Sioux Falls tallied 262 yards rushing and 182 yards passing for 444 yards of total offense. The Wolves defense held the Cougars to just 2-of-13 on third down. Offensively, NSU converted on 6-of-17 third down attempts and scored on 3-of-4 chances in the red-zone.

Trautman finished the game with 176 yards passing, with a 43-yard long, and one rushing touchdown. Larson tallied his second straight 100-yard game receiving, averaging 15.38 yards per reception.

Brayden McNeary led the Wolves defense with ten tackles, including seven solo stops, and one pass break-up. Preston Droessler forced the lone Cougar fumble of the contest and was second on the team with six tackles, while Zach Bohnenkamp led the secondary with four tackles and two pass break-ups.

Eue went 2-for-2 in field goals on the day, having connected with his six attempts. He also averaged 30.4 yards per punt with a 46-yard long.

NSU is now 4-4 on the year and have yet to deliver a win at home. They'll be looking to change that at their next game against the University of Mary on November 2nd at Swisher Field. Kick-off is scheduled for 1 p.m. between the Wolves and Marauders.

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Sunday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 34 °F

Sunday
Night



Gradual
Clearing

Low: 21 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 39 °F

Monday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 20 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 34 °F

Breezy and Colder

Highs in the 30s. Light snow tapering off this morning. Northwest winds 20 to 30 mph.

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 10/27/2019 4:18 AM Central

Published on: 10/27/2019 at 12:23AM

An upper trough digging into the Plains will usher in much colder temperatures. Snow will taper off this morning as Canadian high pressure builds in. Drier weather is expected the rest of today and Monday.

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Today in Weather History

October 27, 1991: The first winter storm of the season moved across western and northern South Dakota. The storm produced widespread snow and freezing rain. Strong winds also produced blowing snow which caused blizzard conditions. Snow amounts ranged from 3 to 11 inches. Many schools and businesses in western South Dakota were closed. Snow drifts, as high as 6 feet, made many roads impassable. Travel across western South Dakota was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Forty traffic accidents occurred in the Black Hills while five accidents were reported in Pierre. Many major roads were closed due to the snow and visibility. Rapid City airport was closed. Freezing rain downed power and telephone lines in Mobridge, Gettysburg, Belvidere, Midland, and Mission. Ice also broke six power poles in Walworth County. Some rural areas were without electricity for 30 hours.

1764 - A "very remarkable storm of snow with high winds" produced 22 inches at Rutland in central Massachusetts. (David Ludlum)

1913: At least three people died, and more than a hundred people were injured when the Abercynon Tornado struck an area from Edwardsville to Cilfynydd in South Wales. Click [HERE](#) for more information from BBC.

1929 - A snowstorm dumped 27 inches upon Ishpeming, MI, in 24 hours to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1962 - An early season winter storm over New England blanketed northern Maine with 7 to 16 inches of snow, and southeastern New England with up to 3 inches of snow. Worcester MA received a record 4.7 inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain from Virginia to New York State. Fallen leaves made roads and sidewalks slick, and also clogged sewers. Rainfall totals of 1.55 inches at Newark NJ, 1.54 inches at Harrisburg PA, 1.27 inches at Scranton PA, and 1.22 inches at Atlantic City NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow and gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, and snow and high winds to the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 47 mph at Lansing MI, and reached 55 mph at Pierre SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Wintry weather invaded the northwestern U.S. A storm crossing the Central Rockies produced up to 23 inches of snow in the mountains east of Salt Lake City UT. "Indian Summer" continued in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Afternoon highs of 71 degrees at Marquette MI and 72 degrees at Sault Ste Marie MI were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006: An F1 tornado (waterspout) came ashore and caused significant damage on the west side of Apalachicola Florida.

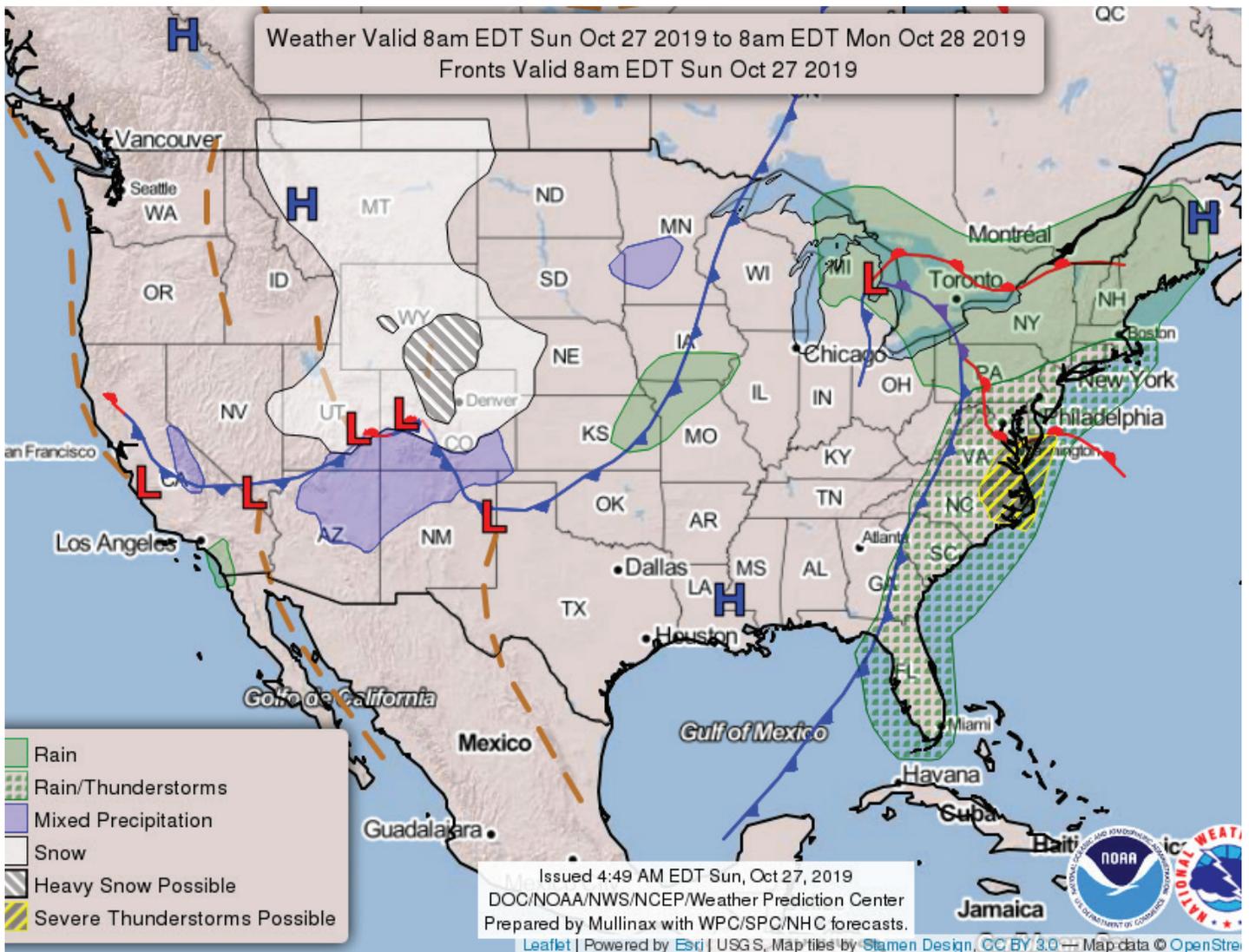
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 57 °F at 3:25 PM
Low Temp: 40 °F at 10:25 PM
Wind: 28 mph at 5:39 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 83° in 1983
Record Low: 10° in 1919
Average High: 52°F
Average Low: 28°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.77
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.55
Average Precip to date: 20.25
Precip Year to Date: 26.57
Sunset Tonight: 6:29 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.



Issued 4:49 AM EDT Sun, Oct 27, 2019
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mullinax with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts.

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SECRET THINGS

A magician and his parrot were having a great time performing for the audiences on a large cruise ship.

Whenever he would make a card disappear, the parrot would say, "It's up his sleeve." If he would make a dove appear, he would shout, "It came from his pocket."

One day, in the middle of performing their show, the ship hit an iceberg and sank. Sitting together with the magician in a life raft, the parrot asked, "OK, what did you do with the ship?"

There are many things in the Bible that are easily understood. They are clear, well-described and are obvious to the occasional reader. There are some passages that take research or an explanation from someone who has spent a lifetime searching and studying the Word of God. Then there are those passages that even the most learned scholars have difficulty explaining or interpreting. What then?

Moses wrote, "There are secret things that belong to the Lord our God, but the revealed things belong to us." Even though we can search, study and understand most of the Bible, our minds are finite. We will never be able to understand the infinite things of God. That is when and where faith begins.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for giving us minds to know, hearts to believe and faith to accept Your Word. When doubts arise and faith fades, may we never doubt Your love! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Deuteronomy 29:29 The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

03-15-16-20-29

(three, fifteen, sixteen, twenty, twenty-nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$230,000

Lotto America

23-24-34-39-50, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 2

(twenty-three, twenty-four, thirty-four, thirty-nine, fifty; Star Ball: one; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.16 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$105 million

Powerball

03-20-48-54-59, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 4

(three, twenty, forty-eight, fifty-four, fifty-nine; Powerball: four; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$130 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Colome def. Stanley County, 25-17, 22-25, 25-21, 25-18

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-16, 21-25, 26-24, 25-20

Wagner def. Parkston, 25-23, 25-22

Winner def. Wagner, 23-25, 26-24, 25-13

Alliance Tournament

Pool Play

Pool B

Chadron, Neb. def. Little Wound, 25-10, 25-4

Yuma, Colo. def. Little Wound, 25-9, 25-20

Consolation Semifinal

Yuma, Colo. def. Little Wound, 25-12, 25-10

East - West Invitational Tournament

Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Stevens, 21-25, 25-17, 25-20

Brandon Valley def. Spearfish, 25-13, 25-17

Brookings def. Spearfish, 25-16, 25-19

Harrisburg def. Rapid City Central, 27-29, 25-20, 25-15

Harrisburg def. Sturgis Brown, 25-12, 14-25, 25-12

Harrisburg def. Douglas, 25-16, 25-10

Rapid City Central def. Yankton, 25-15, 25-21

Rapid City Stevens def. Brookings, 17-25, 25-12, 25-14

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Watertown def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-18, 25-12
Watertown def. Spearfish, 25-13, 25-17
Yankton def. Sturgis Brown, 25-13, 25-14
Yankton def. Douglas, 24-26, 25-21, 25-15
Southeast South Dakota Conference Tournament
Pool Play
Pool 1

Parkston def. Burke, 25-18, 25-20
Pool 2

Winner def. Gregory, 25-8, 25-12
Winner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-8, 25-20
Pool 3

Wagner def. Chamberlain, 25-14, 25-11
Wagner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-15, 25-18
Wolsey-Wessington Tournament

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Philip, 20-25, 25-17, 25-22
James Valley Christian def. Bennett County, 25-16, 25-21
Langford def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-12, 23-25, 25-15
Langford def. Leola/Frederick, 25-22, 25-6
Langford def. Philip, 25-17, 25-15
Philip def. Leola/Frederick, 25-14, 25-17
Warner def. Bennett County, 25-17, 25-6
Warner def. James Valley Christian, 25-17, 25-18
Warner def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-18, 25-22
Wolsey-Wessington def. Bennett County, 25-17, 25-5
Wolsey-Wessington def. James Valley Christian, 25-15, 33-31
Silver Division

Wolsey-Wessington def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-21, 25-23
Gold Division
Warner def. Langford, 25-22, 25-10

Williams runs for 4 TDs, SIU beats South Dakota 48-28

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Javon Williams Jr. ran for 107 yards and a career-high four touchdowns, Avante Cox had 193 yards from scrimmage and three total TDs, and Southern Illinois beat South Dakota 48-28 on Saturday.

Williams had all four of his touchdowns in the first half and the Salukis (4-4, 2-2 Missouri Valley) outscored South Dakota 27-0 in the second quarter. Cox's 11-yard TD reception with 9 seconds left before the break made it 34-7.

Cox scored on a 33-yard pass from Kare Lyles in the third quarter and ran it in from 5 yards to make it 48-21 in the fourth.

D.J. Davis ran 17 times for 125 yards for Southern Illinois and Landon Lenoir caught four passes for 73 yards.

Kai Henry ran 18 times for 116 yards for the Coyotes (3-5, 2-2). Austin Simmons passed for two touchdowns and ran for another score but had three interceptions.

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Cofield's late TD run lifts NDSU to 28th straight win, 23-16

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Adam Cofield sprinted 71 yards on fourth down for a touchdown with 2½ minutes left and FCS top-ranked North Dakota State claimed its 28th straight victory with a 23-16 win over South Dakota State on Saturday.

The Bison (8-0, 4-0 Missouri Valley Conference) were inches short of a first down when they handed the ball to Cofield, who popped through the line and raced down the right sideline to snap a tie. North Dakota State's defense did the rest, stopping Pierre Strong for a 1-yard loss and sacking Keaton Heide twice before the Jackrabbits (6-2, 3-1) came up way short on a fourth-and-23 razzle-dazzle play.

Chase Vinatieri kicked the two of his three field goals in the first quarter to give the Jackrabbits the early lead but North Dakota State scored the next 16 points on a Griffin Crosa field goal, a 59-yard run by Ty Brooks and a 6-yard TD pass from Trey Lance to Ben Ellefson.

Heide's 3-yard TD run tied the game at 16 with 7:22 left in the game.

Strong rushed for 120 yards for South Dakota State.

J'Bore Gibbs, the starting quarterback for the third-ranked Jackrabbits, left the game with an apparent leg injury in the first quarter.

US official: IS leader believed dead in US military assault

By **ROBERT BURNS, DEB RIECHMANN and ERIC TUCKER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the shadowy leader of the Islamic State group who presided over its global jihad and became arguably the world's most wanted man, is believed dead after being targeted by a U.S. military raid in Syria.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press late Saturday that al-Baghdadi was targeted in Syria's northwestern Idlib province. The official said confirmation that the IS chief was killed in an explosion is pending. No other details were available. The official was not authorized to discuss the strike and spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Donald Trump teased a major announcement, tweeting Saturday night that "Something very big has just happened!" A White House spokesman, Hogan Gidley, would say only that the president would be making a "major statement" at 9 a.m. ET Sunday.

If confirmed, the operation's success could prove a major boost for Trump. The recent pullback of U.S. troops he ordered from northeastern Syria raised a storm of bipartisan criticism in Washington that the militant group could regain strength, after it had lost vast stretches of territory it had once controlled.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Syria war monitor, reported an attack carried out by a squadron of eight helicopters accompanied by a warplane belonging to the international coalition on positions of the Hurras al-Deen, an al-Qaida-linked group, in the Barisha area north of Idlib city, after midnight on Saturday. IS operatives are believed to be hiding in the area, it said.

It said the helicopters targeted IS positions with heavy strikes for about 120 minutes, during which jihadists fired at the aircraft with heavy weapons. The Britain-based Observatory, which operates through a network of activists on the ground, documented the death of 9 people as a result of the coalition helicopter attack. It is not yet known whether al-Baghdadi is one of them, it said, adding that the death toll is likely to rise due to the large number of wounded.

Al-Baghdadi's presence in the village, which is a few kilometers away from the Turkish border, would come as a surprise, even if some IS leaders are believed to have fled to Idlib after losing their last sliver of territory in Syria to U.S.-allied Kurdish forces in March. The surrounding areas are largely controlled by a rival of the Islamic State group — the al-Qaida-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS — although other jihadi groups sympathetic to IS operate there. Unverified video circulated online by Syrian groups appeared to support the Observatory claim that the operation occurred in Barisha.

The intelligence source on the militant leader's whereabouts could not be immediately confirmed, but both Iraqi and Kurdish officials claimed a role. The Turkish military also Tweeted that prior to the operation in Idlib, it exchanged "information" and coordinated with U.S. military authorities.

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Kurdish forces appeared ready to portray al-Baghdadi's death as a joint victory for their faltering alliance with the U.S., weeks after Trump ordered American forces to withdraw from northeastern Syria, all but abandoning Washington's allies to a wide-ranging Turkish assault.

The commander of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, Mazloum Abdi, tweeted: "Successful & historical operation due to a joint intelligence work with the United States of America."

A senior Iraqi security official told The Associated Press that Iraqi intelligence played a part in the operation. Al-Baghdadi and his wife both detonated explosive vests they were wearing during the U.S. commando operation, he said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was divulging sensitive information. He added that other IS leaders were killed in the attack.

Al-Baghdadi has led IS for the last five years, presiding over its ascendancy as it cultivated a reputation for beheadings and attracted hundreds of thousands of followers to a sprawling and self-styled caliphate in Iraq and Syria. He remained among the few IS commanders still at large despite multiple claims in recent years about his death and even as his so-called caliphate dramatically shrank, with many supporters who joined the cause either imprisoned or jailed.

His exhortations were instrumental in inspiring terrorist attacks in the heart of Europe and in the United States. Shifting away from the airline hijackings and other mass-casualty attacks that came to define al-Qaida, al-Baghdadi and other IS leaders supported smaller-scale acts of violence that would be harder for law enforcement to prepare for and prevent.

They encouraged jihadists who could not travel to the caliphate to kill where they were, with whatever weapon they had at their disposal. In the U.S., multiple extremists have pledged their allegiance to al-Baghdadi on social media, including a woman who along with her husband committed a 2015 massacre at a holiday party in San Bernardino, California.

With a \$25 million U.S. bounty on his head, al-Baghdadi has been far less visible in recent years, releasing only sporadic audio recordings, including one just last month in which he called on members of the extremist group to do all they could to free IS detainees and women held in jails and camps.

The purported audio was his first public statement since last April, when he appeared in a video for the first time in five years.

In 2014, he was a black-robed figure delivering a sermon from the pulpit of Mosul's Great Mosque of al-Nuri, his only known public appearance. He urged Muslims around the world to swear allegiance to the caliphate and obey him as its leader.

"It is a burden to accept this responsibility to be in charge of you," he said in the video. "I am not better than you or more virtuous than you. If you see me on the right path, help me. If you see me on the wrong path, advise me and halt me. And obey me as far as I obey God."

Though at minimum a symbolic victory for Western counterterrorism efforts, his death would have unknown practical impact on possible future attacks. He had been largely regarded as a symbolic figurehead of the global terror network, and was described as "irrelevant for a long time" by a coalition spokesman in 2017.

Al-Baghdadi was born Ibrahim Awwad Ibrahim Ali al-Badri al-Samarrai in 1971 in Samarra, Iraq, and adopted his nom de guerre early on. Because of anti-U.S. militant activity, he was detained by U.S. forces in Iraq and sent to Bucca prison in February 2004, according to IS-affiliated websites.

He was released 10 months later, after which he joined the al-Qaida branch in Iraq of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. He later assumed control of the group, known at the time as the Islamic State of Iraq.

After Syria's civil war erupted in 2011, al-Baghdadi set about pursuing a plan for a medieval-style Islamic State, or caliphate. He merged a group known as the Nusra Front, which initially welcomed moderate Sunni rebels who were part of the uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad, with a new one known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Al-Qaida's central leadership refused to accept the takeover and broke with al-Baghdadi.

Al-Baghdadi's fighters captured a contiguous stretch of territory across Iraq and Syria, including key cit-

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ies, and in June 2014, it announced its own state — or caliphate. Al-Baghdadi became the declared caliph of the newly renamed Islamic State group. Under his leadership, the group became known for macabre massacres and beheadings — often posted online on militant websites — and a strict adherence to an extreme interpretation of Islamic law.

Over the years, he has been reported multiple times to have been killed, but none has been confirmed. In 2017, Russian officials said there was a “high probability” he had been killed in a Russian airstrike on the outskirts of Raqqa, but U.S. officials later said they believed he was still alive.

Associated Press writers Zeina Karam in Beirut, Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad, Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul contributed to this report.

Ex-Trump aide wants judge to decide on impeachment testimony

By **DEB RIECHMANN, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MATTHEW LEE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An ex-White House adviser scheduled to testify before House impeachment investigators on Monday has asked a federal court whether he should comply with a subpoena or follow President Donald Trump’s directive against cooperating in what the president dubs a “scam.”

After getting a subpoena Friday, former deputy national security adviser Charles Kupperman quickly filed a lawsuit in U.S. district court in Washington. He asked a judge to decide whether he should accede to House demands for his testimony or to assert “immunity from congressional process” as directed by Trump.

The lawsuit came as Democrats’ impeachment inquiry continued at full speed with a rare Saturday session. Philip Reeker, the acting assistant secretary of state for Europe, took questions behind closed doors for more than eight hours about Trump’s ouster of the ambassador of Ukraine in May and whether he had knowledge about efforts to persuade Ukraine to pursue politically motivated investigations. Reeker told the lawmakers that he was disturbed by a campaign — led by Trump — to oust ambassador Marie Yovanovitch in May and had supported efforts to publicly back her, even though those statements were ultimately never issued by the department.

Kupperman, who provided foreign policy advice to the president, was scheduled to testify in a similar session on Monday. In the lawsuit, Kupperman said he “cannot satisfy the competing demands of both the legislative and executive branches.” Without the court’s help, he said, he would have to make the decision himself — one that could “inflict grave constitutional injury” on either Congress or the presidency.

The impeachment inquiry is rooted in a July 25 phone call Trump made to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. During the call, Trump asked the Ukrainian leader to pursue investigations of Democratic political rival Joe Biden’s family and Ukraine’s role in the 2016 election that propelled Trump into the White House.

At the time of the call, Trump was withholding congressionally approved military aid for Ukraine. He has repeatedly said there was no quid pro quo for the Ukraine investigations he was seeking, though witness testimony has contradicted that claim.

Kupperman’s filing says “an erroneous judgment to abide by the President’s assertion of testimonial immunity would unlawfully impede the House from carrying out one of its most important core Constitutional responsibilities” — the power of impeachment — and subject Kupperman to “potential criminal liability for contempt of Congress.”

On the other hand, “an erroneous judgment to appear and testify in obedience to the House Defendants’ subpoena would unlawfully impair the President in the exercise of his core national security responsibilities ... by revealing confidential communications” from advisers, according to the filing.

He has asked the court to expedite a decision, but unless the judge issues an opinion by Monday, Kupperman’s testimony might not occur as scheduled.

Rejecting his arguments, the three chairmen of the House committees overseeing the inquiry told Kupperman’s lawyers in a letter that the suit was without merit and appeared to be coordinated with the White House. They called the suit “an obvious and desperate tactic by the President to delay and obstruct the lawful constitutional functions of Congress and conceal evidence about his conduct from the impeachment

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inquiry.”

The chairmen also said Kupperman’s defiance of the subpoena would constitute evidence in a contempt proceeding as well as additional evidence of Trump’s obstruction of the inquiry. They said they planned to proceed with the Monday session as scheduled.

The lawsuit came as Democrats investigating the president won a victory in a separate case. A federal judge ordered the Justice Department on Friday to give the House secret grand jury testimony from special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation and affirmed the legality of the Democrats impeachment inquiry. That decision could inform Kupperman’s suit.

On Saturday, Trump tweeted that he’s “not concerned with the impeachment scam. I am not because I did nothing wrong.”

In the House deposition, according to a person familiar with the testimony, Reeker told the lawmakers he was disturbed by the effort to oust Yovanovitch, and had supported efforts by some officials in the department to put out statements of support for her in both March, right before she was ousted, and in September, after the effort became public. The person, like others, requested anonymity to discuss the confidential testimony.

In both cases, Reeker testified that the officials were told by Undersecretary for Political Affairs David Hale that there would not be a statement, according to the person.

Reeker also told the lawmakers that he knew the military aid for Ukraine was being delayed and that a White House meeting between Trump and Zelinskiy was being delayed, but in both cases, didn’t know why, according to two people familiar with the testimony.

While Reeker had some visibility into the matter, Ukraine is only one country in his portfolio of 50, he told investigators.

Lawmakers leaving the meeting with Reeker said he was backing up testimony from previous witnesses, most all of whom have detailed concerns with Trump’s efforts to oust Yovanovitch and said they were wary of Rudy Giuliani, Trump’s personal lawyer who was driving the push for the Ukrainian probes.

Washington Rep. Denny Heck, a member of the House intelligence panel, would not give details about the closed-door interview but said, “It’s almost startling how much in alignment all of the witnesses to date have been, in terms of their affirmation of the fact pattern. I’m almost taken aback by it.”

As was the case with other witnesses, the Trump administration directed Reeker not to testify, according to two people familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the interaction. But Reeker appeared anyway after receiving his subpoena from the House, the people said.

Although he is currently the top U.S. diplomat for Europe and has been since Yovanovich was recalled earlier this year, Reeker was not directly involved in debate over aid to Ukraine, which other current and former officials have said was delegated to Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland and special envoy Kurt Volker.

Volker testified and released text messages that detailed conversations between him, Sondland and William Taylor, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine. In the messages, Taylor wrote that he thought it was “crazy” to withhold aid from Ukraine for help with a political campaign. Sondland and Taylor, who still work for the government, have already testified and detailed their concerns about the influence of Trump’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, on Ukraine. Giuliani was leading the push for the investigations.

Taylor testified that he was told the aid would be withheld until Ukraine conducted the investigations that Trump had requested.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

California blaze forces evacuations as wind spurs blackouts

By **DAISY NGUYEN** and **CHRISTOPHER WEBER** Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Northern California blaze forced evacuation orders and warnings for nearly all of Sonoma County stretching to the coast, with forecasts of strong winds prompting officials to begin cutting electricity for millions of people in an effort to prevent more fires.

Pacific Gas & Electric started shutting off power Saturday around 5 p.m. for an estimated 2.35 million people across 38 counties. About 90,000 residents were ordered to evacuate towns near the 40-square-mile (104-square-kilometer) fire.

Saturday night's evacuation order encompassed a huge swath of wine country stretching from the inland community of Healdsburg west through the Russian River Valley and to Bodega Bay on the coast, Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Essick said. An even broader area was put under a warning for residents to get ready to leave at a moment's notice.

Some weekend gusts might reach 75 mph (120 kph) or higher in a "historic" wind event, the National Weather Service said. Winds could lead to "erratic fire behavior" and send embers for miles, warned the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Concern that gusts could knock down power lines and spark devastating wildfires prompted two blackouts in recent weeks.

PG&E said the new wave of blackouts was affecting about 940,000 homes and businesses in 36 counties for 48 hours or longer. The city of San Francisco was not in line for a blackout amid shut-offs for most of the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area, the wine country to the north and the Sierra foothills.

The sheriff pleaded with residents in the evacuation zone to get out immediately, citing the 24 lives lost when a wildfire swept through the region two years ago.

"I'm seeing people reporting that they're going to stay and fight this fire," Essick said. "You cannot fight this. Please evacuate."

The wind event expected to peak early Sunday would likely be the strongest in several years, said PG&E meteorologist Scott Strenfel. He said Saturday that falling trees and breaking branches were likely. Relative humidity will dip into single digits, he said.

Evacuations also hit inmates at the North County Detention Facility in Santa Rosa and about 100 Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital patients.

PG&E ordered shut-offs as firefighters battled flames in Northern and Southern California.

A wildfire Thursday destroyed 18 structures in the Santa Clarita area north of Los Angeles. Nearly all the 50,000 residents ordered to evacuate were allowed back home after Santa Ana winds began to ease.

Marcos Briano found destroyed homes on his street.

"I'm thankful that nothing happened to my house, but I feel bad for my neighbors," Briano, 71, said Saturday.

Sheriff's officials said human remains were found within the wide burn area, but it's unclear if the death is connected to the blaze. The Tick fire was 55% contained.

To the north, firefighters raced to make progress against the blaze near Geyserville in Sonoma County before ferocious "diablo winds" returned. The blaze, called the Kincadee fire, had burned 77 buildings, including 31 homes, and swept through more than 40 square miles (104 square kilometers) of the wine-growing region by Saturday evening. It was roughly 10% contained.

A firefighter shielded two people from flames with his fire shelter and all three were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries, Cal Fire said.

Several thousand people in neighboring Lake County were warned to be ready to evacuate if an order is given. A 2015 wildfire in the area killed four people and burned nearly 2,000 buildings.

What sparked the current fires is unknown, but PG&E said a 230,000-volt transmission line near Geyserville malfunctioned minutes before that blaze erupted Wednesday night.

The utility acknowledged a tower malfunction prompted a strategy change for determining when to kill high-voltage transmission lines, Andrew Vesey, CEO of Pacific Gas & Electric Co., said Friday.

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Weekend forecasts detail what could be the strongest winds of the year coupled with bone-dry humidity. Many facing power shut-offs were far from fires. PG&E cast blackouts as public safety efforts to prevent the kind of blazes that killed scores of people over the past couple of years, destroyed thousands of homes, and ran up tens of billions of dollars in claims that drove the company into bankruptcy.

"Any spark, from any source, can lead to catastrophic results," Vesey said. "We do not want to become one of those sources."

The possible link between the wine country fire and a PG&E transmission line contained grim parallels to last year when most of the town of Paradise burned, killing 85 people in the deadliest U.S. blaze in a century.

State officials concluded a PG&E transmission line sparked that fire.

Many residents facing blackouts had barely recovered from a previous shut-off.

Jon Robinson, 52, of Rough and Ready, said the earlier shut-off put him in the hospital for several days for the stomach flu. He'd been tending to his sick grandson and got worn down between that and taking care of animals on his ranch.

Robinson was unsure if his family, who moved to California seven years ago, will remain in the state.

"Before this, we planned on staying," he said. "But I'll tell you what, it's just too nerve-racking."

Shut-offs have brought painful business-related losses.

About 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Sacramento, 65-year-old Sukhwinder Singh said he worked the Quality Market convenience store cash register in the dark, but nobody wanted warm soda and melted ice cream. He estimates he lost about \$1,100 in sales and products. Singh has a generator now, but said he can't keep it running all night when the store is closed.

"I don't know how we can pay the bills at the end of the month," he said.

Also northeast of Sacramento, Scott Paris estimates about \$20,000 lost in shutting down his High-Hand Nursery and Cafe when PG&E cut the power earlier this month for about 24 hours during a weekday. A beautiful fall Sunday might bring \$50,000 to \$60,000 worth of business.

"We're scrambling to get enough generators," he said. "If this is the new normal, it's going to drive up a lot of costs. It drives up stress."

In Marin County, just north of San Francisco, the sheriff's office warned if blackouts knock out traffic lights, treat those intersections as a four-way stop.

Even before the new blackout order, the University of California, Berkeley announced it was canceling all Saturday afternoon classes, as well as other indoor events and activities scheduled through Sunday.

A Florida utility, Florida Power & Light, announced it was sending 100 line workers and support staff to help PG&E restore power to areas with outages caused by the wildfires.

Urquidy, Bregman lead Astros over Nats 8-1 to tie Series 2-2

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not bad for a TBA.

Unheralded rookie José Urquidy outpitched all those big-name aces who preceded him, quieting Washington's bats and the Nationals Park crowd, too.

Alex Bregman busted out of his slump with a go-ahead single in the first inning and a grand slam in the seventh, and the resurgent Houston Astros routed the Nationals 8-1 Saturday night to pull even at two games apiece in an unpredictable World Series that's been one big road show.

Urquidy had never pitched above Class A before this year. This stage seemed surreal.

"A couple of moments," he said, "I was thinking about, oh my God, I'm in a World Series pitching."

Game 1 winner Max Scherzer takes the mound Sunday night hoping to get Washington a home Series victory for the first time since the Senators won at Griffith Stadium in 1933. In a rematch of the opener, Gerrit Cole goes for Houston after losing for the first time since May.

Visiting teams have won the first four games for the first time since 1996, when the Yankees broke the pattern in Game 6 against Atlanta to take the title.

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Game 6 will be Tuesday night in Houston, when the Astros lose their road-field advantage.

"This is what it's all about," Bregman said. "This is a beautiful thing. It's two teams battling it out. They've got great pitching, great offenses. It's been fun so far, and just want to keep it rolling."

Yuli Gurriel also drove in a run in the first as Houston strung together four singles in a seven-pitch span for a 2-0 lead against Patrick Corbin. Robinson Chirinos homered for the second straight day, a two-run drive that boosted the lead to 4-0 in the fourth.

Fans started leaving in the seventh, when the Astros sent 10 batters to the plate and battered the bullpen. Bregman, who began the night in a 1-for-13 Series slide, had the big blow, driving a low, inside fastball from Fernando Rodney into the left field stands of the ballpark where he was the All-Star Game MVP in 2018.

Bregman held his bat high as he slowly walked out of the batter's box, then took 28 seconds to savor circling the bases.

Orange-clad Houston fans in the right field upper deck chanted "Let's go Astros!" as Nationals fans were silenced. Wild-card Washington lost consecutive games for the first time since Sept. 13-14 against Atlanta.

"I think tonight was really the first time we really did what the Houston Astros offense can do," outfielder Josh Reddick said.

Starting pitchers were the talk of the Series coming in, with Washington's Stephen Strasburg, Scherzer and Corbin combining for 12 All-Star picks and three Cy Young Awards. The baseball cards of Houston's Cole, Justin Verlander and Zack Greinke sparkle with 17 All-Star selections, two Cy Youngs and one MVP.

But there were just five 1-2-3 innings by starters in the first three games, and the most consecutive outs were turned in by Nationals veteran Anibal Sánchez, who retired seven straight in Game 3.

Urquidy, who rebounded from Tommy John surgery in 2016, exceeded them all.

"Maybe he doesn't have the Max Scherzer, Gerrit Cole name, but he's got good stuff," Washington leadoff man Trea Turner said.

Urquidy wasn't even announced as Houston's starter until after Game 3, with manager AJ Hinch hoping to piece together innings any way he could.

The 24-year-old right-hander began the season at Double-A Corpus Christi, then was bumped up to Triple-A Round Rock in mid-May and made his major league debut in July. It wasn't all success: Urquidy was pounded for 11 runs and 14 hits at El Paso on Aug. 7.

"I think I was a little crazy, a little ruined from the heat," he said.

He faced the Nationals in just his 12th big league appearance, joining Fernando Valenzuela (1981) and Jaime García (2011) as the only Mexican starting pitchers in Series history — and Valenzuela as the only ones to win. Urquidy's mother, Alma, was on hand.

"My mom is someone that I talk to a lot and obviously she helped me out this morning," Urquidy said. "We had coffee, just gave me some words of encouragement."

Urquidy allowed two hits in five scoreless innings, striking out four and walking none.

"From the very beginning I thought he was calm, I thought he was in control of his stuff," Hinch said. "His fastball had a little extra life to it. It's had good life this postseason. And then he just came up with big pitch after big pitch."

Mixing four-seam fastballs in the mid-90 mph range with two-seamers, sliders, curves and changeups, Urquidy set down the Nationals in order in the second, fourth and fifth, retiring his final nine batters. He threw 30 of his first 38 pitches for strikes, 45 of 67 overall.

"He flipped his percentages," Washington's Adam Eaton said. "He threw me three sliders my first at-bat — and he throws it like 10% of the time. So I was just like, going back, scratching my noggin."

Josh James, Will Harris, Héctor Rondón, Brad Peacock and Chris Devenski combined for two-hit relief to close it out for Houston.

Washington's best chance to get back into the game came in the sixth, when Harris relieved with two on and one out and Houston ahead 4-0. Anthony Rendon singled off the pitcher's leg, loading the bases, and Juan Soto drove in a run with a groundout. Harris then struck out Howie Kendrick.

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After going 7 for 21 with runners in scoring position during the first two games, the Nationals are 1 for 19 in the last two.

Houston flipped for the positive, going 9 for 23 with RISP after starting 3 for 17 in the two losses. The Astros burst ahead with timely hitting for the second straight night, getting consecutive one-out singles by José Altuve, Michael Brantley, Bregman and Gurriel.

Brantley had three hits, raising his Series average to .471 (8 for 17). Bregman also finished with three hits.

Chirinos, who homered off the screen on the left field foul pole to drive in Houston's final run in Game 3, sent a flat changeup from Corbin deep into the left field seats, then slapped his chest and grinned as he skipped across home plate. The catcher doubled in the ninth and is 4 for 11 against the Nationals.

Signed to a \$140 million, six-year contract as a free agent last offseason, Corbin dropped to 1-3 in three postseason starts and four relief appearances. He actually lowered his ERA to 6.64.

After the Scherzer-Cole rematch, Houston's Justin Verlander and Stephen Strasburg are set to start Game 6.

Washington manager Dave Martinez was looking ahead.

"We've got two of our big horses going in the next two games," he said. "I just told the boys: 'Hey, we're in the World Series. We're going to play Game 5, tied 2-2. Who would have thought that in the beginning?'"

TRAINER'S ROOM

Washington catcher Kurt Suzuki sat out, a day after straining his right hip flexor, and backup Yan Gomes went 1 for 4 with a strikeout. Martinez hoped Suzuki would be available Sunday.

ROAD WARRIORS

Going back to Boston's wins in Games 4 and 5 at Dodger Stadium last year, visiting teams won have won six straight in the World Series for the first time since the Yankees at Brooklyn and Philadelphia in 1949 and '50. ... Road teams also won the first four games in 1906, 1923 and 1986.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

DNA test reunites half brothers; both were cops in Florida

By KELLI KENNEDY Associated Press

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. (AP) — When police Sgt. Dave Stull took a DNA test to learn more about his biological parents, he wasn't expecting much. He was tired of leaving the family history sections blank on medical forms, but he had no aching void to fill. He'd had a good childhood, with adoptive parents who doted on him.

"Of course, there were questions in my whole life about, 'Who am I?' and 'Where did I come from?' and all that, but they weren't burning questions," said Stull, 51, who was adopted as a baby by a Navy pilot and his wife.

But after losing his mother to Alzheimer's 20 years ago and watching his adoptive father die of heart disease just last year, he felt less guilty about tracing his biological roots.

The possibility of brothers or sisters didn't cross his mind. Maybe he'd find some cousins. But when he opened the link on the 23andMe website, the name topping the list of 1,200-plus potential relatives was that of a half brother, along with his photo.

Eric Reynolds had the same chin, different color eyes.

"He's wearing a police jacket, and it says Florida," Stull said.

DNA kits such as Ancestry and 23andMe have exploded in popularity in recent years, with more than 26 million people taking an at-home test, according to MIT Technology Review. While the trend has populated the news with heartwarming stories of reunited family members, it also has posed ethical questions about situations that were supposed to remain private, such as anonymous sperm donors, adoptions, and children born out of wedlock or as the result of affairs.

Stull said his adoption records from decades ago were sealed, and he never spent much time thinking

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about it. He's had a full life: Married for 20 years, he helped raise two children, and he currently runs a tactical unit at an Orlando area courthouse. With no kids left in the house, he is now father to two German Shepherds.

Eric Reynolds was a bachelor who many thought would never settle down. He found the right woman at 41. He had a busy life as an evidence expert with Boynton Beach Police and is now occupied at home with his 3- and 7-year-old boys, who are home-schooled. He retired this month and wants to take his family across the country in an RV.

Reynolds' mother had been an officer with Miami-Dade Police in the 1980s and he followed in her footsteps. In 2012, he was shot in the foot during a gunbattle that left a bank robbery suspect dead. It wasn't long before depression crept in and he started drinking excessively. His marriage suffered, but he got help.

"Being shot and wondering if you're going to be in another gunfight every time you get called out wears you down," he said.

Reynolds had always known his dad, an Air Force man, was a bit of a womanizer and had been married five times. He has three half-siblings, but he is at least 14 years older and grew up in a different state than they did, so he often felt like an only child.

Reynolds was having breakfast with his police partner when he first found out about the sibling from Florida.

"Good morning, my name is David Stull. We are half-brothers," the email read. "I don't know the validity of this but apparently we both live in Florida and we're both cops."

Reynolds' first thought was, "I'm being scammed," but he ended up texting back.

"I'm 49 I've got two boys and I live in Boynton," he wrote.

"I'm 50. That makes me the big brother. LOL," Stull texted back.

The two texted all day, talking about everything from their shared obsession with Tito's vodka and dental floss picks to the daily struggles and quiet fears they both experience as police officers.

Both started in retail security but later joined the police force because they were drawn to the idea of "catching bad guys," Reynolds said. They share the feeling that they are "warrior spirits" and protectors of the flock.

They have their differences, too. They don't see eye to eye on religion. Stull said he's more compulsive about having things a certain way.

When the half brothers finally video chatted, it was awkward and hard to focus.

"We're trying to talk but we're just staring at each other," said Reynolds. "I'm looking at his ears, his nose. He's looking at me the same way."

They met for the first time at Stull's house near Orlando, talking late into the night. But it wasn't enough. They had a brother-bonding RV weekend, just the two of them, to talk about "the good stuff," Reynolds said.

"Who was the first girl you hooked up with?" and "Who was your first crush?"

"He got caught forging a report card just like I did," Reynolds said of Stull.

Reynolds said it feels a bit like elementary school, like having a new best friend. The brothers text all day long. Reynolds' wife jokes that it's like they're having an affair.

Stull retires next summer, and the brothers are already planning their RV trips together.

"We've got 50 years to make up for," Stull said.

AP Interview: Biden undeterred by rival Warren's ascendancy

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP) — Joe Biden said Saturday he is undeterred by the ascendancy of Democratic rival Elizabeth Warren, noting that some of his supporters are already treating the primary campaign as a general election contest between him and President Donald Trump.

"She doesn't affect my strategy, period," the former vice president said in an interview with The Associated Press before a town hall meeting in South Carolina, home to the South's first primary next year. "And

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I'm not being facetious. I think she's a fine person, a good candidate, but I didn't get involved in deciding to run because of polling or a particular strategy."

He also acknowledged that outside groups are considering running ads to support him, a move that comes amid concerns within his campaign that his fundraising efforts have lagged.

"There's two things we know for certain: one, (Russian President) Vladimir Putin doesn't want me to be president, according to Facebook taking down the Russian ads going after me. And two, surely Trump doesn't want to face me," Biden said. "What I'm told is, there are people out there who want to take these ads on, take him on now, because it's a general election, me versus Trump, in their minds right now. But I've had no conversations with them."

Biden's standing in early-voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire has been eroded somewhat by the rise of Massachusetts Sen. Warren and other challengers in the 2020 primary. Still, he finds himself in a strong position in South Carolina, where his support among the critical voting bloc of black voters could form the bulwark for his candidacy.

Biden emphasizes his deep ties to the state, including relationships with two late and long-serving senators, Republican Strom Thurmond and Democrat Fritz Hollings. Some in his campaign have suggested that the state could provide an electoral firewall for him if he were to lose in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"I think we're going to do very well in both those states," Biden said, saying a victory in South Carolina could "catapult" him to wins across the South, and that losses in the other early states wouldn't hurt him there. "This is a marathon. Even if I knew I was going to win every other state, the Lord came down and told me that, I'd still be in South Carolina."

To do that, Biden's campaign would need ample resources. This past week, his campaign said it was rolling back opposition to an independent political action committee that would allow wealthy individuals and corporations to boost his candidacy. It was a move that Biden had previously opposed.

Part of that notion, Biden said, comes from outside groups treating the primary contest as essentially a general election contest between Biden and Trump, and seeking the opportunity to raise money to help Biden counter combative tactics from Trump and groups that support him.

Biden trails his top primary rivals, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Warren, in total fundraising and cash-on-hand.

At 76, Biden is the second oldest among the Democratic candidates. The oldest, Sanders, 78, had a heart attack earlier this year. Asked if age matters among the candidates, Biden said he understands any questions on behalf of voters but he reaffirmed that his own health is robust and his age is not an impediment.

"Right now it's a legitimate question to ask, just like it was legitimate to ask me when I was 29 years old running for the Senate, did I have enough judgment to be a senator," Biden said. "Right now, my age has brought with it a significant amount of experience in government and hopefully wisdom and some sound judgment."

Asked whether he would pledge to only serve one term if elected, Biden said he wouldn't make such a promise but noted he wasn't necessarily committed to seeking a second term if elected in 2020.

"I feel good and all I can say is, watch me, you'll see," Biden said. "It doesn't mean I would run a second term. I'm not going to make that judgment at this moment."

Meg Kinnard can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>

Activists ask NBC to release NDAs, hold independent probe

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Activists called upon NBC Universal on Saturday to allow former employees to speak out freely on sexual harassment in the workplace without restriction, rather than having to come to the company first to be released from non-disclosure agreements.

The company said Saturday that any former employee who believes they cannot disclose their experience with sexual harassment as a result of a non-disparagement agreement should contact the company,

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"and we will release them from that perceived obligation."

The statement, which was emailed to The Associated Press, was first reported Friday night by MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, in an emotional segment introducing author Ronan Farrow. The highly influential MSNBC host expressed deep concern that her own company's bosses had thwarted Farrow's reporting on sexual misconduct allegations against Harvey Weinstein — reporting which he then took to The New Yorker, where he won a Pulitzer Prize.

Maddow also pointedly questioned NBC's failure to launch an independent investigation of both the handling of the Weinstein story and of the behavior of Matt Lauer, the former "Today" anchor fired in 2017 over sexual misconduct allegations.

On Saturday, Tina Tchen, incoming president and CEO of Time's Up, said NBC Universal, while taking a useful first step, hadn't gone far enough to release employees from non-disclosure agreements or other restrictive clauses. She said NBC should simply state that everyone is free to speak, without fear of retaliation.

"If NBC Universal is truly committed to letting survivors and employees speak out about sexual harassment at the network, it should simply release them from their non-disclosure agreements," she said. "There is no reason to place the burden on those who choose to speak to reveal themselves in advance to NBC Universal. This is an example of the burdens that perpetuate fear and silence, no matter what new policies and trainings may say."

Tchen, who takes up her duties next week, added that the company must, like some other companies have, commit "to an independent, outside investigation into all the circumstances surrounding workplace culture at NBC and the journalistic decisions made at this important news outlet ... As an employer and especially as a news organization, NBC Universal should want to know the unvarnished truth."

NBC conducted its own internal investigation on the actions of its executives into how Farrow's Weinstein story was handled, and how sexual misconduct allegations were handled.

It concluded that its judgments on the Weinstein story were correct, based on the material Farrow had at the time. Farrow also alleged that NBC executives were aware of sexual misconduct by Lauer before the allegation that led to his firing, but NBC has denied it.

Also calling for further action by NBC Universal was Linda Vester, a former NBC News employee who has accused NBC star anchor Tom Brokaw of sexual harassment and now heads a group called Silence Breakers Alliance.

"Why is NBC forcing these women who have already endured trauma to come crawling on their hands and knees, to ask the company to let them speak?" she asked in an interview Saturday. "This would be evidence that the company is re-traumatizing the victim and trying to keep them under its thumb." Vester has also been calling for NBC Universal to allow an independent inquiry.

Friday's remarks by Maddow came in a monologue introducing Farrow, who is on a publicity tour for his book, "Catch and Kill," in which he outlines his view of roadblocks NBC News set up that led him to take his Weinstein story to The New Yorker. It also includes an interview with a former NBC News employee who alleges she was raped by Matt Lauer, who denies the charge.

"The allegations about the behavior of Harvey Weinstein and Matt Lauer are gut-wrenching at baseline, no matter who you are or what your connection is to this story," Maddow told her viewers.

"But accusations that people in positions of authority in this building may have been complicit in some way of shielding those guys from accountability, those accusations are very, very hard to stomach."

Maddow continued: "The amount of consternation this has caused among the rank and file people who work here would be almost impossible for me to overstate."

In its statement, NBC Universal said that NBC News "has only two agreements with women relating to complaints of sexual harassment by Lauer — both entered into after his termination — and both women are free to tell their stories about Lauer."

Associated Press media writer David Bauder contributed to this report.

Dutch inventor unveils device to scoop plastic out of rivers

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch inventor Boyan Slat is widening his effort to clean up floating plastic from the Pacific Ocean by moving into rivers, too, using a new floating device to catch garbage before it reaches the seas.

The 25-year-old university dropout founded The Ocean Cleanup to develop and deploy a system he invented when he was 18 that catches plastic waste floating in the ocean.

On Saturday he unveiled the next step in his fight: A floating solar-powered device that he calls the "Interceptor" that scoops plastic out of rivers as it drifts past.

"We need to close the tap, which means preventing more plastic from reaching the ocean in the first place," he said, calling rivers "the arteries that carry the trash from land to sea."

Slat's organization has in the past drawn criticism for focusing only on the plastic trash already floating in the world's oceans.

Experts say that some 9 million tons (8 million metric tons) of plastic waste, including plastic bottles, bags, toys and other items, flow annually into the ocean from beaches, rivers and creeks.

Three of the machines already are deployed to Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam — and a fourth is heading to the Dominican Republic, he said.

Izham Hashim from the government of Selangor state in Malaysia was present at the launch and said he was happy with the machine.

"It has been used for one and a half months in the river and it's doing very well, collecting the plastic bottles and all the rubbish," he said.

Slat said he believes 1,000 rivers are responsible for some 80% of plastic pouring into the world's oceans and he wants to tackle them all in the coming five years.

"This is not going to be easy, but imagine if we do get this done," he told his audience of enthusiastic supporters, who whooped, clapped and cheered his announcements. "We could truly make our oceans clean again."

The vessel is designed to be moored in rivers and has a nose shaped to deflect away larger floating debris like tree trunks.

He used his live-streamed unveiling to appeal for support from countries committing to clean up their rivers and businesses prepared to inject funding and help with the operation of the devices.

The interceptors work by guiding plastic waste into an opening in its bow, a conveyor belt then carries the trash into the guts of the machine where it is dropped into dumpsters. The interceptor sends a text message to local operators that can come and empty it when it's full.

Slat showed off how it worked by dumping hundreds of yellow rubber ducks into the water at the launch event in Rotterdam's port. The interceptor caught nearly all of them.

The machines currently cost about 700,000 euros (\$775,600), but Slat said the cost will likely drop as production increases.

Jan van Franeker of the Wageningen Marine Research institute has been critical of The Ocean Cleanup in the past, but said the new device looks promising.

"I am really happy they finally moved toward the source of the litter," he said in a telephone interview. "The design, from what I can see, looks pretty good."

Slat argued that the economic impact of not picking plastic out of rivers is higher than the cost of buying and using the machines.

"Deploying interceptors is even cheaper than deploying nothing at all," he said.

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Prince's anticipated, posthumous memoir is ready for fans

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Panic, joy, shock: Dan Piepenbring felt them all when Prince plucked him to collaborate on his first memoir, followed by more shock and profound sadness at news of the superstar's death while the book was in its early stages.

Though the project was thrown into chaos when Prince died on April 21, 2016, of an accidental drug overdose, his estate ultimately decided to press on, allowing Piepenbring and his publishing team free access to the pieces of his life left behind at his beloved Paisley Park, including the contents of his vault.

Now, the highly anticipated collaboration, "The Beautiful Ones," is ready for Prince fans to read as many continue to mourn, propelling the 33-year-old journalist into the spotlight to explain how he sorted it all out.

"There was a sense even from the start that it couldn't really be happening," Piepenbring told The Associated Press of his involvement. "It felt very surreal. There was also just a sense of joy, I think, at the possibility of meeting someone that I held in such high regard, someone whose music had been the soundtrack to the better part of my youth."

The book out Tuesday from Spiegel & Grau includes no bombshells, though Prince very much wanted to provide some, and a mere 28 memoir pages written in his elegant script and quirky style, replacing the word "I" with a drawing of a human orb, for instance. All told, Piepenbring spent 12 to 15 hours face-to-face with Prince in Minneapolis, New York and on tour in Melbourne.

Their last conversation was just four days before Prince died. It was focused on his parents and their conflicting influences in his life. His father, John L. Nelson, was a disciplined, God-fearing jazz musician with an explosive temper. His mother, Mattie Della Shaw, was a beautiful, fun-loving party girl with a stubborn, irrational streak — and a sneaky flair, as Prince wrote:

"She would spend up what little \$ the family had 4 survival on partying with her friends, then trespass in 2 my bedroom, 'borrow' my personal \$ that eye'd gotten from babysitting local kids, & then chastise me 4 even questioning her regarding the broken promises she made 2 pay me back."

The tumultuous nature of his parents' relationship had a lasting impact.

"The wound of Ur parents fighting is chilling when U're a child," Prince wrote. "If it happens 2 become physical, it can be soul-crushing."

Their conflicts, divorce when he was 7 and the dual impact on Prince and his work is the book's prevailing theme.

"So much of his writing is about division in some way and the fight to make oneself whole again," Piepenbring said. "There's this kind of brokenness that he's always working to repair."

Prince writes that his first memory was his mother's eyes, describing her habit of throwing conspiratorial winks his way.

"Sometimes when my father wasn't playing piano he'd say something 2 my mother & she would wink at me. She never told me what it meant and sometimes it would be accompanied by a gentle caress of her hand 2 my face. But eye am quite sure now this is the birth of my physical imagination."

Prince had big ideas for the book, considering at one time a "how to" on making it in the music business without selling your soul. At another point, he suggested that he and Piepenbring figure out a way to end racism. At still another, he wanted to focus on the importance of creative freedom.

"I think he was really in the process of excavating his past with a level of detail and specificity that maybe he had avoided before," Piepenbring said. "He had come to the realization that he really was in many ways the sum of his mother and father and they were the, sort of, two poles of his being."

Prince wrote on other subjects as well, including puberty (his stepfather took him to R-rated movies at a drive-in as a stand-in for the birds and bees talk), the blackouts and seizures he had as a child and his first kiss, with a girl of just 5 or 6. They'd play house.

Piepenbring wrote a lengthy introduction explaining his encounters with Prince and how the book was completed. He wasn't allowed to take notes during their first meeting so he was forced to reconstruct the conversation. Some of their chats are printed as marginalia in the book. There's an abundance of

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hand-drawn childhood doodles and cartoons, along with lyrics Prince often wrote on whatever was handy, including a brown paper bag.

There's a photo album Piepenbring unearthed at Paisley Park that a sleepless Prince decided to put together in 1977 at age 19, only days from completing his debut album, "For You." With witty remarks written in pencil, Prince sits on the hood of his first car in one shot. In another, he snapped his first paycheck from Warner Bros.

There's also an early outline he wrote for the 1984 film "Purple Rain" with an even darker story line than the one that made it onto screens. The film, based loosely on his life, won Prince an Oscar for best original sound score. In the 1982 treatment, "The Kid" character Prince plays is a diagnosed schizophrenic who as a child watches his mother shoot his father dead, then turns the gun on herself.

Prince had envisioned playing both his mother and father in flashback scenes. The finished film, not written by Prince, involves a suicide attempt with a gun that the father survives.

Many of the photos in the book are familiar to hardcore fans and it includes a heavy dose of previously published interviews with Prince. From the start, it was clear to Piepenbring that Prince envisioned him as something more than a ghostwriter.

Prince was looking for a second voice to bring his vision alive in print, almost "like a sounding board," said Piepenbring, who is based in New York and was working for Paris Review when, at age 29, he was chosen for the book.

As for what might have been, Piepenbring said, "I think we would have gotten more of his story than we've ever seen, and I think we would have gotten not just this book but a number of books from him. He told me that he wanted to write a lot of books, and I really think he was serious about that."