

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Lady Tigers lose hard fought battle for seventh place

The match went to five sets and Elk Point-Jefferson pulled out a two-point win in the fifth set to win seventh place in the State A Volleyball Tournament. In fact, all of the State A finals went to five sets.

There will be a welcome home celebration for the Lady Tigers at 6 p.m. today at the GHS Arena.

Coverage from Saturday's match had to be postponed until tomorrow. I still have to cram out a sermon for this morning and get the bulletins done for church as well.

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Let the peace of Christ  
rule in your hearts,  
since as members of  
one body you were  
called to peace.  
And be thankful.*

❧ COLOSSIANS 3:15 ❧



Detail from "Prayer before the Meal"  
by Adriaen Jansz. van Ostade (1653)



## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Genesis 38, who was the first individual killed by God for being wicked? *No one has, Er, Onan, Gomorrah*

3. How long had the woman been sick that touched the hem of Jesus' garment? *1 hour, 5 days, 6 months, 12 years*

4. From 1 Kings 6, who constructed the first altar covered with gold? *Gideon, Josiah, Noah, Solomon*

5. The year of jubilee (jubilee) comes around every ... year? *Fifth, 25th, 50th, 100th*

6. Which king ordered Daniel into the lions' den? *Darius, Eglon, Herod, Caesar*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Er; 3) 12 years; 4) Solomon; 5) 50th; 6) Darius

*Christmas gift? "Test Your Bible Knowledge: 1,206 Questions to Sharpen Your Understanding of Scripture," by Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.*

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## Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy 

by Healthy Exchanges

### Cheesy Cauliflower-Rice Casserole

You may want to "invite" this easy slow-cooker dish to your family potluck. It just could become the hit of the meal and the start of a new family favorite.

- 2 cups cooked rice
- 2½ cups frozen cut cauliflower, thawed
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 (4-ounce) jar sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1 (10¾-ounce) can reduced-fat cream of mushroom soup
- ⅓ cup no-fat sour cream
- ⅓ cup water
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- ½ cups shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese

1. Spray a slow-cooker container with butter-flavored cooking spray. In prepared container, combine rice, cauliflower, onion and mushrooms. Stir in mushroom soup, sour cream and water. Add peas and Cheddar cheese. Mix well to combine.

2. Cover and cook on LOW for 4 to 6 hours. Mix well before serving. Makes 8 (1 cup) servings.

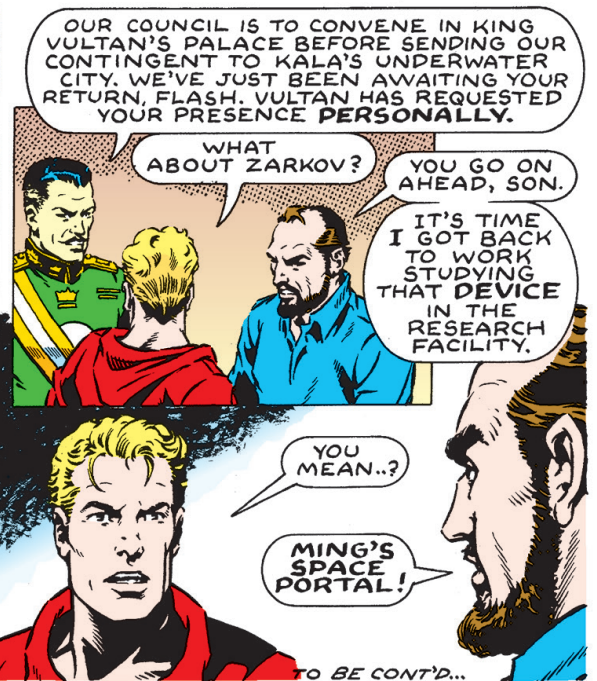
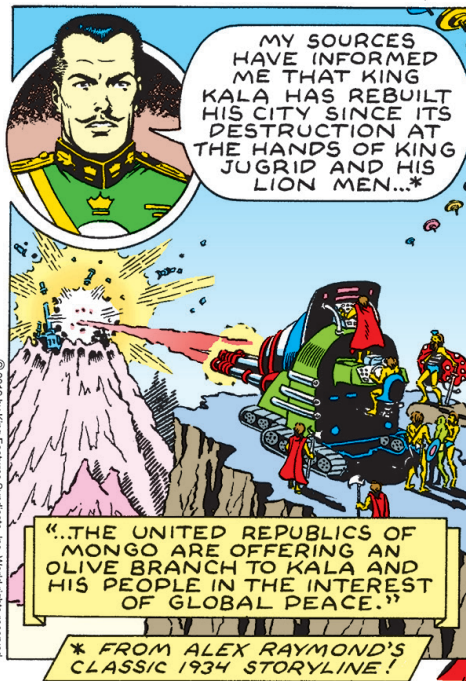
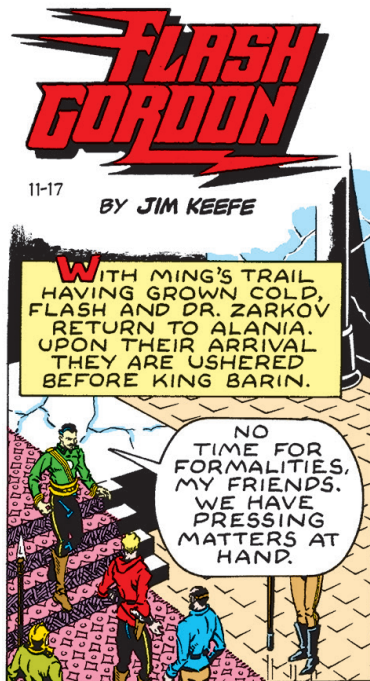
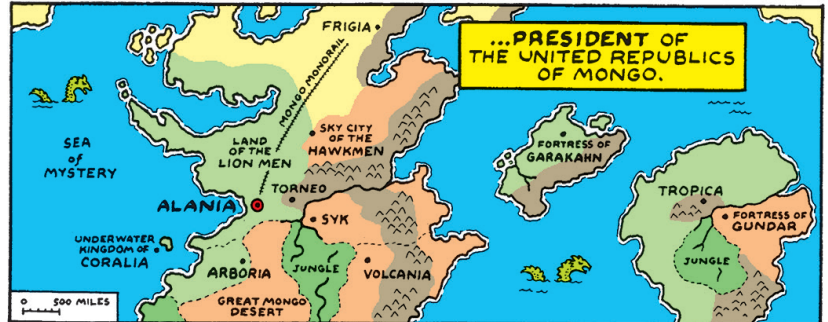
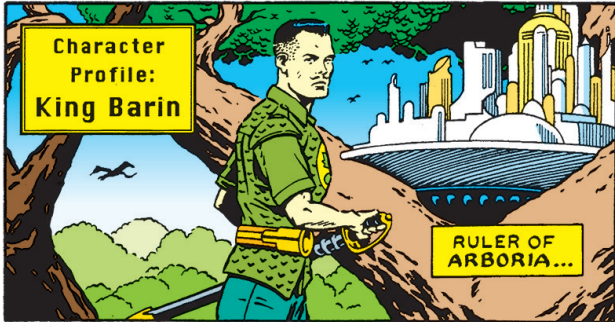
• Each serving equals: 152 calories, 4g fat, 9g protein, 20g carb., 438mg sodium, 2g Fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 ½ Starch, 1 Meat, 1 Vegetable.

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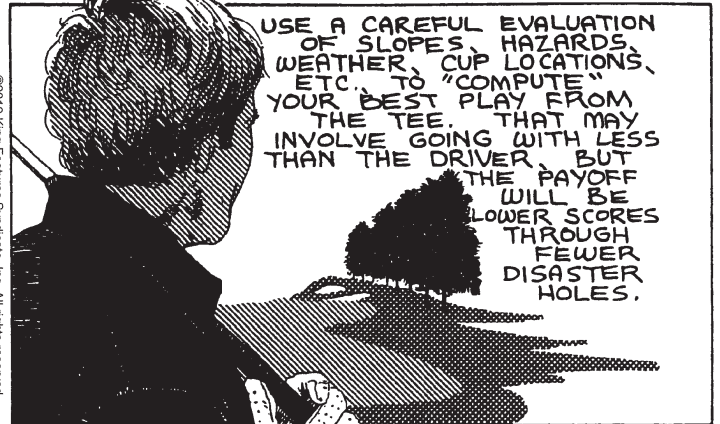
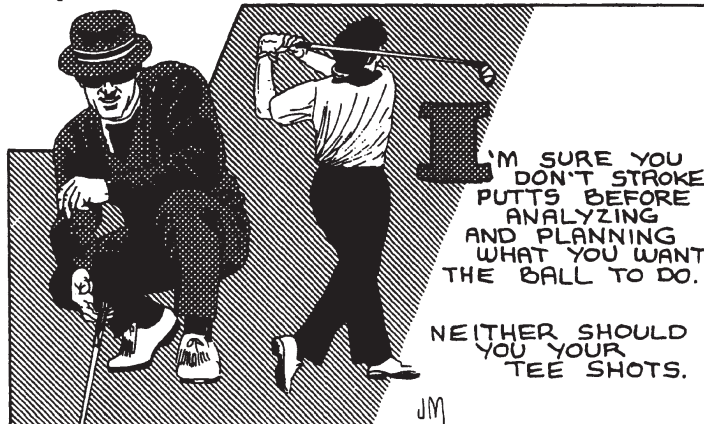


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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## Does A-Fib Diagnosis Mean No More Steak?

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation a year ago. A week after that, I had an MRI that showed I'd had a ministroke and probably several others in the past. I love ribeye steak, and eat it maybe two or three times a year. Is this safe? — R.A.

**ANSWER:** Atrial fibrillation is a rhythm problem of the heart. The natural rhythm is lost, so the heartbeat becomes irregular. Because of the lack of normal movement in the heart, the blood can pool and form clots in the left atrium; these clots can travel downstream to lodge in a blood vessel. Clots can cut off the blood supply to the area where they lodge. It's most critical when it happens in the brain, since if brain cells die, function is lost.

A stroke is just a focal area of cell death in the brain. The size and location of the area in the brain where cell death occurs determines how significant the stroke is. Strokes can range from unnoticeable to devastating to fatal. Most people with atrial fibrillation take medication to reduce the risk of stroke.

Eating poorly can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke as well, but most commonly this happens via a different mechanism. High amounts of saturated fat — such as in ribeye steak, which is fatter than many cuts of beef — increase the risk of damage to blood vessels through buildup of cholesterol plaques. These plaques

cut off blood supply, and this causes a heart attack if the plaques are lodged in the arteries of the heart, a stroke if in the brain and various problems if in other parts of the body.

In people who have a history of stroke, it's particularly important to take steps to reduce further risk. That means a discussion with your doctor about whether you are on the best treatment for atrial fibrillation and whether you have evidence of cholesterol plaques.

Even if you don't have any evidence of plaques, a healthy diet of mostly plants, with whole grains, nuts and seeds, some fatty fish if you enjoy that and sparse amounts of meats reduces many health risks. However, two or three steaks a year is not going to cause harm. The best data available shows that people who have 100 grams (just over 3 ounces) of red meat a week are at the lowest risk of developing blood vessel problems. It's not clear that zero is better than that small amount.

In any event, I am a firm believer that enjoying life is the goal. If having a steak a few times a year is truly enjoyable, the risk is small, and you should enjoy those meals without guilt.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** What is the body's rate of absorption for calcium? — A.

**ANSWER:** The textbook answer is 20% to 40%, but in reality, the answer is very complicated, as it depends on total body and intracellular calcium, vitamin D levels, presence of phosphates in food and other factors. The short answer is that it's usually exactly what it needs to be when things work properly. If the body is deficient in calcium, then absorption is maximal, but still most calcium in food is not absorbed.

\*\*\*

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

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1. Ike & Tina Turner had their biggest hit with a cover of which Creedence Clearwater Revival song?
2. Where was the last public performance of the Beatles?
3. What on earth is "hair metal"?
4. Only one Beatle had an American wife. Who was she?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "How can I just let you walk away? Just let you leave without a trace?"

### Answers

1. "Proud Mary," in 1971. It netted them a Grammy for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group.
2. On a rooftop in London in January 1969, atop the Apple Records headquarters while shooting film footage. The police told them to turn down the volume.
3. Hair metal, aka glam metal, is a subcategory of heavy metal, this time using hair spray, makeup, tight clothes and the color pink. Think: Kiss or the New York Dolls.
4. Linda Eastman, wife of Paul McCartney.
5. "Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now)," by Phil Collins in 1984. The song was used as the soundtrack for the film of the same name. The singer knows that his chance of reconciling is against all odds.

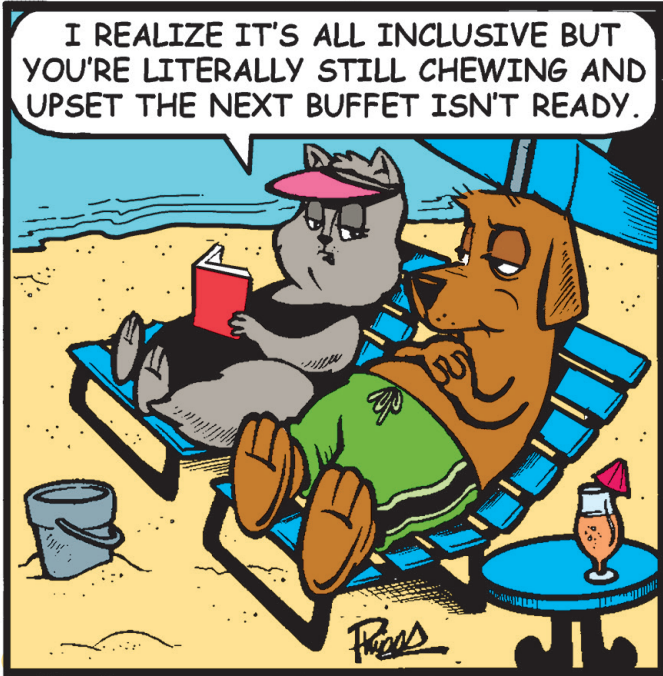
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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



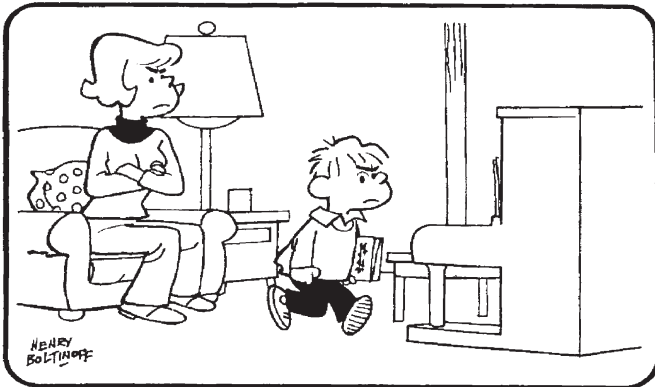
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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Wayne

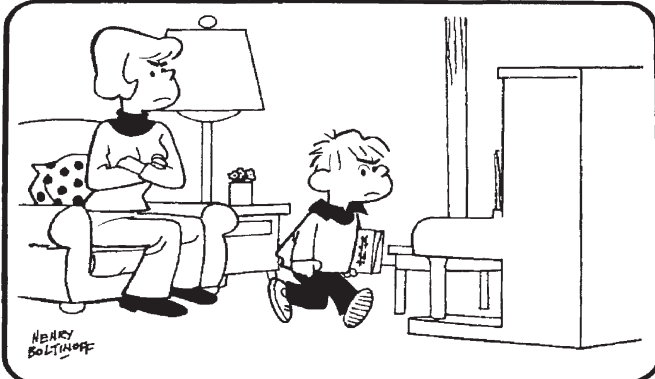


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Pillow pattern is different. 2. Boy's shirt is black. 3. Mom's shoes are black. 4. Flowers are added to vase. 5. Piano is taller. 6. Mom's hairstyle is different.





- According to waste management company Republic Services, approximately 30% of what Americans place in their curbside recycling bins does not belong there, including greasy pizza boxes, wet cardboard, plastic bags, food-tainted materials, and even bowling balls and garden hoses. Meanwhile, only one in four plastic bottles is recycled.

- Paper lunch bags make excellent receptacle for cat litter waste. They are much more environmentally friendly than plastic bags, and can be folded down and placed directly into an outside trash can. The bags are easily stored near the litter box, because they lay flat.

- “Use a slotted spoon to separate eggs. The whites go through; the yolk does not.” —*Y.E. in Utah*

- Do you need to go to a fancy liquor store for simple syrup? No way! Simply mix equal parts sugar and water, bring to a simmer and store in the fridge in a covered jar. Use in drink recipes and to sweeten iced tea.

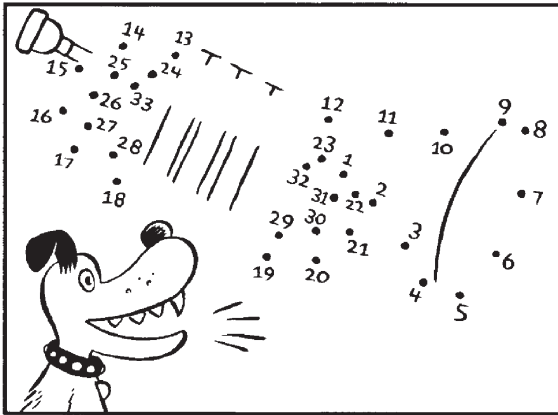
- “Wrap lint from your dryer in 6 inches of wax paper. Roll it up 1 inch on both ends and you have the perfect fire starter.” —*M.K. in Michigan*

- Scoop up this trick when cooking scallops: Refrigerate uncovered for about 30 minutes before they will hit the pan or grill. This will help to dry out the surface, giving you a good sear instead of a steam. Make sure your pan is hot, and don't leave the stove or grill, because scallops don't take more than 1 1/2 minutes per side.

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

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**CONNECT THE DOTS** and find out what pets make the loudest music.

Answer: Trumpets

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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1.	M	A	R				
2.	M	A	R				
3.	M	A	R				
4.	M	A	R				
5.	M	A	R				
6.	M	A	R				
7.	M	A	R				
8.	M	A	R				



### "MAR" WORDS!

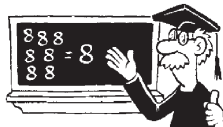
The grid above has room for eight words that begin with "MAR." Using the hints below, try to get a passing "mark" in less than three minutes.

1. Suffers for others.
2. Abandon on an island.
3. A large game fish.
4. Theaters usually have one.
5. Found on the printed page.
6. A street band.
7. An endurance contest.
8. Type of Australian animal.

Answers: 1. Martyr, 2. Maroon, 3. Marlin, 4. Marquee, 5. Margins, 6. March, 7. Marathon, 8. Marsupial.

### EIGHTER FROM DECATUR!

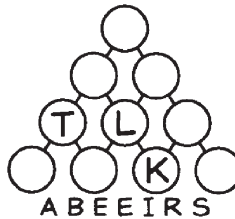
Can you write a mathematical expression, using seven 8's, that will equal 8?



Answer:  $(88 / 8) - ((8 + 8 + 8) / 8) = 11 - (24 / 8) = 11 - 3 = 8$ .

Illustrated by David Coulson

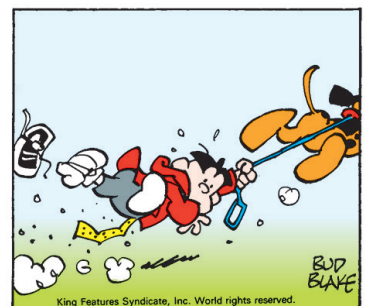
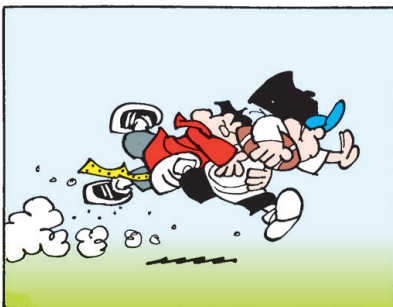
**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Bits, bite, bilk, bale, balk, bark, bare.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Temperate
- 5 Owns
- 8 Lovers' quarrel
- 12 Sandwich treat
- 13 Final (Abbr.)
- 14 Small combo
- 15 "Desperate Housewives" actress Eva
- 17 Cincinnati team
- 18 Ingratiate
- 19 Warehouse pile
- 21 Pigpen
- 22 Deck for a 10-count
- 23 Wife of Saturn

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					58				59			

- 26 Embrace
- 28 Become one
- 31 Addict
- 33 Shell game item
- 35 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
- 36 Ringworm
- 38 Egypt's boy king
- 40 Toss in
- 41 Transmit
- 43 Afternoon party
- 45 "Jane Eyre" author
- 47 Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do
- 51 Mongolian

- tent
- 52 Great bliss
- 54 Mideastern potentate
- 55 Fields or Butterworth
- 56 Villain's look
- 57 Fix, in a way
- 58 Crafty
- 59 Young woman

### DOWN

- 1 Double agent
- 2 Press
- 3 Give for a time
- 4 Venetian magistrates
- 5 "Get a move on!"
- 6 Foreman foe
- 7 Pile
- 8 Wandered off
- 9 Transvaal city
- 10 Staffer
- 11 Pitch
- 16 Inauguration recitation
- 20 Ewe's mate
- 23 No longer stylish
- 24 Omega pre-ceder
- 25 Brain's stimulus receptors
- 27 Understand

- 29 Deity
- 30 Conclude
- 32 Space flight conclusion
- 34 Job for a medical examiner
- 37 Pismire
- 39 Georgia —
- 42 Considers
- 44 Coral circle
- 45 Tourney situations
- 46 Derriere
- 48 Vicinity
- 49 Competes
- 50 Corn spikes
- 53 Web address

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## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

## LAFF - A - DAY

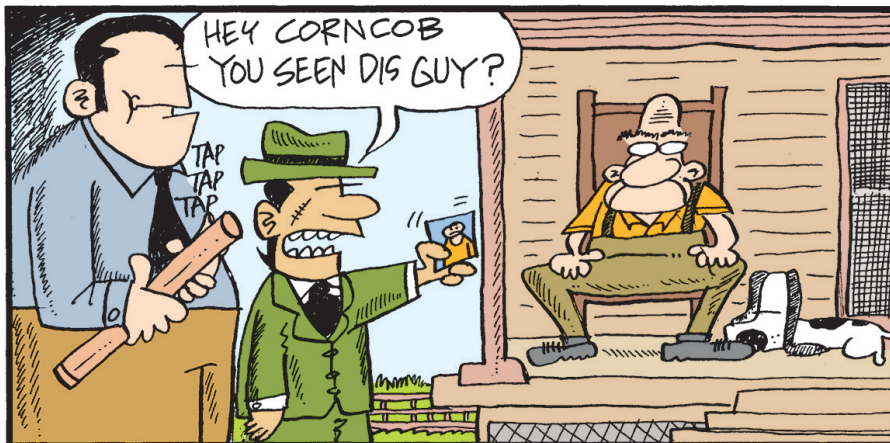


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"This year it finally happened...the stamps cost more than the cards."

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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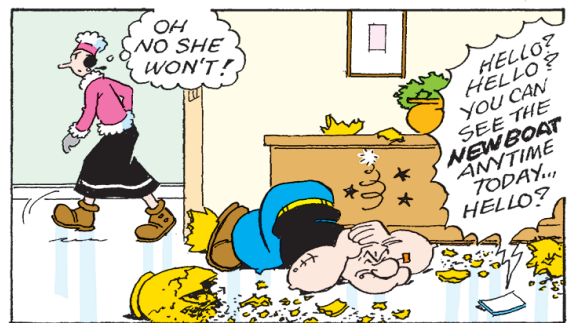
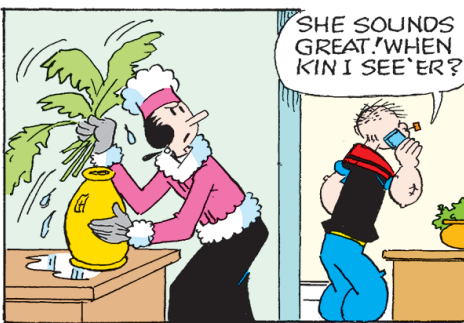
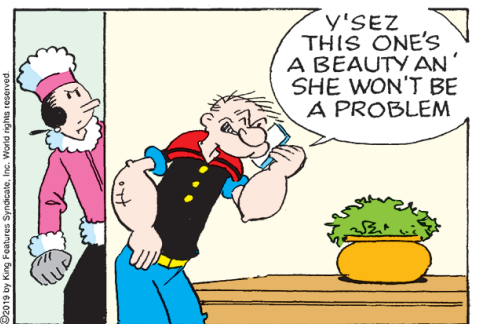
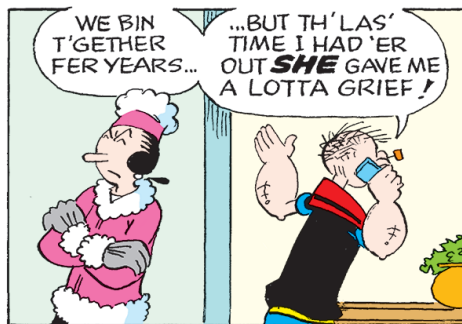
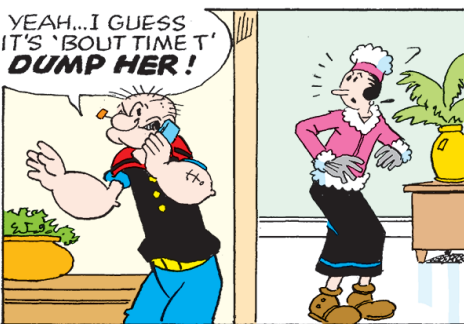
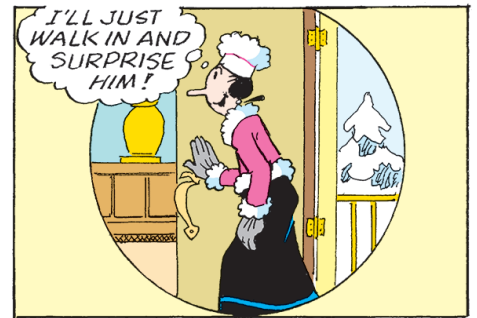
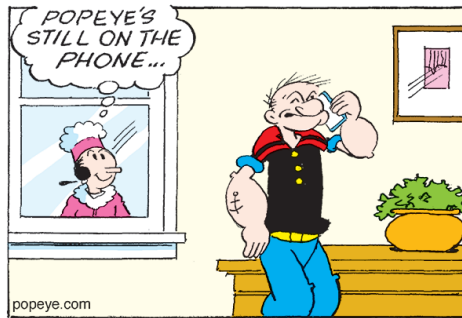
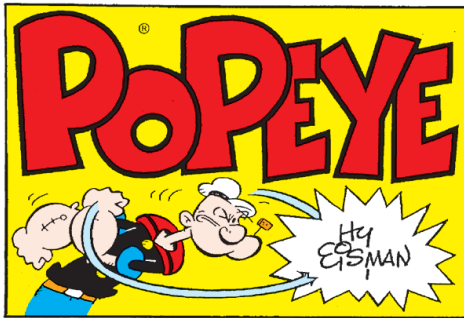
THE WITNESS  
DISLOCATION  
PROGRAM

KOPERVAS



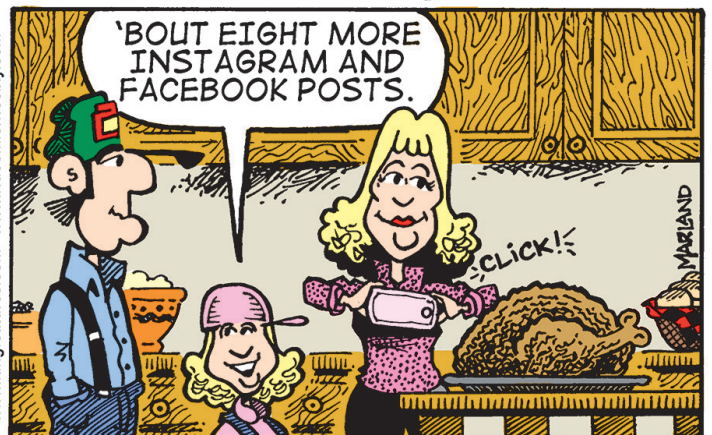
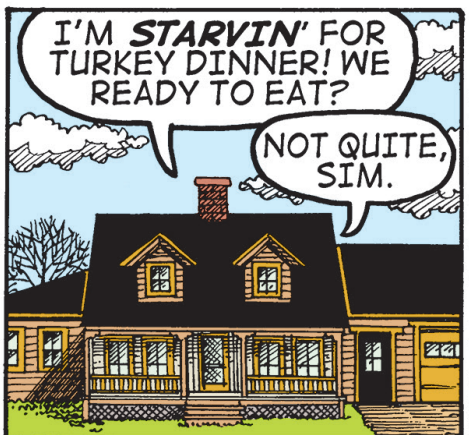
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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www.rfdcomic.weebly.com

MARLAND



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Hal Foster's  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ  
Our Story:  
ON AN ANCIENT STRANDED DERELICT, VAL STAVES IN A CASK AND FINDS POTABLE WATER.

HIS COMPANY IS ELATED. THINGS COULD NOT BE BETTER - UNTIL GAWAIN MAKES THE PLEASANT DISCOVERY OF A STORE OF WINE.

"GOOD SIR VALIANT! LET US REST AND CELEBRATE WITH THIS GIFT FROM HEAVEN ITSELF!" PLEADS THE HEDONISTIC GAWAIN. VAL SCOWLS - "FIRST WE TRANSPORT OUR CASKS TO THE SHIP."

"WE CAN CONSTRUCT A SORT OF BARGE..." CONTINUES THE TASKMASTER, BUT THE WORDS DIE IN HIS THROAT AS HIS COMPANIONS' EXPRESSIONS FREEZE IN HORROR.

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SUDDENLY, HE IS WHIPPED INTO THE AIR. HE CURSES HIMSELF FOR BECOMING TOO COMFORTABLE IN SUCH DANGEROUS WATERS. DESPITE THIS, HE REMAINS ODDLY CALM.

"PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT DRAUGHT OF WINE AFTER ALL..."

NEXT: Tug of war

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

CHOMP  
CHOMP  
CHOMP  
CHOMP  
CHOMP

JEFFY, WHY ARE YOU EATING THOSE DOLLAR BILLS?

CHOMP  
CHOMP  
CHOMP

IT'S MY LUNCH MONEY.



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### When Every Dollar Counts

For so many of us, finances can be tough, leaving us few options for the things that make our lives more meaningful. That's where senior discounts can help.

I know ... we don't like to do that. But once we get used to the idea of asking, it gets easier, and leaves money in our pockets. And remember, when you ask if there is a senior discount available, you won't be the first to ask that question.

*Here are a few ideas:*

- If an annual membership at the local museum is \$299 and you can purchase a senior membership for \$59, you get the same benefits as those who pay the full price. Sign up for its newsletters and read them for a few months to help decide if it's worth it to you to see exhibits and hear speakers.

- If you discover that your favorite restaurant gives senior discounts, perhaps you can increase your dinners out from once to twice a month, especially if added to other new discounts you now ask for.

- Check for senior discounts at the local YMCA. Sometimes during membership drives, two friends can sign up for the price of one, or a spouse can be added for only a few dollars. Or there's a discount if you bring in a few canned goods for the food pantry (especially during the holidays).

- Call the nearest college. Chances are it offers either discounted or free classes to seniors. Some places even have what they call Senior College, with courses geared to what interests us. Look for brown-bag lunch lectures as well as full courses.

Every dollar counts, especially since Medicare Part B is going up another \$9.10 in January, cutting into our 1.6% Social Security increase.

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1. Who was the last pitcher before Arizona's Zack Greinke in 2018 to have a hit, an RBI and a stolen base in at least two games in a season?

2. Name either of the major-league pitchers who led his respective league in shutouts a record seven times.

3. When was the last time before 2018 that Army's football team was ranked in The Associated Press Top 25 poll?

4. Dwane Casey holds the record for most career regular-season victories (320) as coach of the Toronto Raptors. Who is second?

5. When was the last time the Boston Bruins won 50 or more games in consecutive NHL seasons?

6. The U.S. women's soccer team set a Women's World Cup group stage scoring record in 2019 with 18 goals in three games. What country had held the record with 17 goals?

7. How many fights did former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier have after losing to Muhammad Ali in the Philippines in 1975?

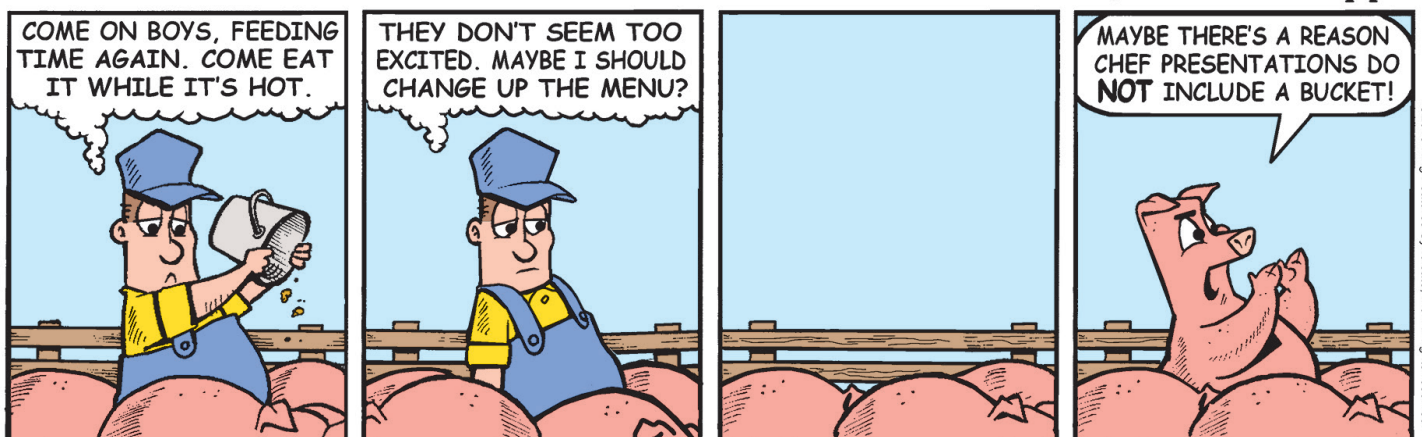
## Answers

1. Bob Gibson, in 1969.
2. Walter Johnson (A.L.) and Grover Cleveland Alexander (N.L.).
3. It was 1996.
4. Sam Mitchell, with 156 victories (2004-09).
5. The Bruins did it from the 1970-71 season through the 1973-74 season.
6. Norway (1995).
7. Two fights.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



## The Weekly Windup

Weekly Windup – The holidays are quickly approaching, and I am putting my nose to the grindstone to accomplish as much as possible before year-end. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, one of my priorities is to uplift South Dakota’s workforce. To that end, this week I introduced a new bill called the Worker’s Choice Act. This bill would amend the National Labor Relations Act to empower employees in a unionized workplace to independently negotiate their employment terms with their bosses.

Currently, in Right-to-Work states like South Dakota, an employee who opts-out of union participation is still subject to the collectively bargained employment terms negotiated by the union. This legislation is supported by several conservative workforce groups, including Heritage Action and Americans for Tax Reform.

Constituent Spotlight – This week, I was excited to speak with two of Simmons Middle School’s 8th grade classes via Skype about the ins and outs of Congress. When our scheduled call-time was unexpectedly interrupted by votes, we had to wing it and call them right off the House floor. Connecting with our state’s future leaders are some of my favorite conversations, and I am glad I was able to answer several of their questions about my daily work in Washington.

Working Together – I’ve said this over and over again, but producers have had a hard time with weather this year. The weather doesn’t discriminate between Republicans and Democrats – it hurts us all. That’s why I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues in calling for a continued supply of propane to Midwest states. Farmers are facing limited propane supplies because frankly, our corn is wet. A strong supply of propane will ensure our fields stay dry and our livestock barns stay warm. As a result of the efforts, FERC fast-tracked approvals to get ship propane from Texas to the Midwest.

South Dakota Wins – Folks back home received good news this week. The Trump administration approved a major disaster declaration for several South Dakota counties following severe flooding and tornadoes in September. South Dakotans have been hit with more than their fair share of tough weather this year, and I appreciate Governor Noem and President Trump’s swift efforts to provide relief to the communities most affected.

Back Home – As I head back to South Dakota for a few in-state work days before Thanksgiving, I’ll be spending time with Harrisburg High School students. I’ll also spend an afternoon delivering meals to Meals on Wheels recipients in Sioux Falls – it’s important to give back to our fellow South Dakotans, especially during the holiday season. I hope you all are able to spend this Thanksgiving holiday with family, friends, and loved ones. Happy Thanksgiving!



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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## **Meth. We're On It.**

It seems we've captured attention not just in South Dakota, but around the country and even the world with our new anti-meth campaign. We needed that. In today's age, traditional messages don't cut through the noise. We knew we needed to make a bold statement to make people stop and think... and it is working.

No doubt, we have a big task ahead of us. Meth affects every community. In our state, twice as many 12- to 17-year-olds reported using meth in the past year as compared to the national average. Our youth are at risk and we need to protect them.

This requires action from each of us. We all have a responsibility to step up and be part of the solution.

This means paying attention when your friend starts experimenting with drugs. This means offering help when your loved one is struggling with addiction. This means building channels of communications with your kids by listening, asking questions, reminding them of their strengths, and showing an interest in their lives.

We're taking action, too. This year, I designated dollars toward starting conversations and increasing awareness on our meth epidemic. Of even greater importance, though, is the \$730,000 we set aside to go toward school-based meth prevention programming and the more than \$1 million in funding to support treatment services. Prevention and treatment efforts need to work together to eliminate this epidemic.

Shortly after we launched our awareness campaign, my Secretary of Social Services, Laurie Gill, noted that these efforts are vital because "addiction impacts generations." She talked about how common it is to see kids using meth, only to learn that their parents are using meth. "It's heartbreaking, and these kids need to know there's hope. People need to know that they can overcome addiction and find a second chance." I couldn't agree more.

Now is the time to break these chains of addiction. Our new OnMeth.com website offers a "get involved" section that suggests practical ways to combat meth in your community. Start a fundraiser and donate proceeds to a treatment or support center near you. Talk to your kids about the dangers of substance abuse. Lead a discussion about meth in your school. We'll be providing more information and tools for parents, educators, and community leaders to help with these efforts in the coming months.

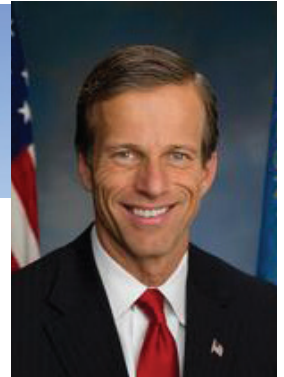
Many folks across the state are already using these resources. Since the new website launched, nearly 10,000 South Dakotans have visited the site, and more than 170 South Dakotans have viewed the treatment resources. Fifty-one people have called or texted the Resource Hotline and nine have been referred to treatment so far. We're breaking down the stigma and barriers to seeking help. We're offering hope. And this is just the beginning.

Reaching out for help may be the hardest thing to do, but help is available when you are ready. If you see something happening or know of someone who needs help, call 1-800-920-4343, text "ONMETH" to 898211 or go to OnMeth.com. Let's work together to get meth out of South Dakota.

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



## 'Tis the Season to Be Thankful

Like every Thanksgiving, I'll be home in South Dakota, celebrating with my family: my wife, my daughters, my sons-in-law, and my four – soon to be five! – grandchildren. I'll be taking on my traditional job of carving the turkey – and helping with the dishes afterward. I'm looking forward to a lot of good pie – apple pie à la mode, pumpkin (with a lot of whipped cream), and my favorite, anything in the cream pie family.

I'm also looking forward to spending time outdoors. My daughters and I traditionally go on a trail run on Thanksgiving morning – it's a good way to work up an appetite for all that pie – and we all enjoy throwing around a football before or after the meal.

South Dakotans are pretty resilient when it comes to being out in the cold, and as long as we don't have tons of snow, we like to get outdoors on Thanksgiving. Like many South Dakotans, I also love to squeeze in a little pheasant hunting over Thanksgiving weekend whenever I can. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays, and I love sitting down with my whole family – and extended family – and getting to spend time in the outdoors before winter really hits us.

Our current celebration of Thanksgiving can be traced to Abraham Lincoln, who issued a proclamation in 1863 inviting a national celebration of Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November. In 1941, Congress codified the Thanksgiving holiday and permanently set the date as the fourth Thursday in November. I don't think it's too surprising that the celebration of Thanksgiving is a recurring part of our history.

On Thanksgiving in my family, typically we go around the table and say what we're thankful for. And in this country, that's a pretty long list. The tremendous natural riches of this country, from great rivers to magnificent mountains to our wide-open access to the sea. The tremendous freedom we enjoy. In the twenty-first century, freedoms of religion, of speech, of the press – and other freedoms, like the freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, or excessive fines, or cruel and unusual punishments – all of these freedoms that we so often simply take for granted are still unknown to too many people across the world.

The United States is not perfect, and we don't always get it right, but we enjoy tremendous blessings in this country, and it's important not to take them for granted. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to pause and reflect on all we've been given.

I am grateful to God for so many blessings this year.

I am thankful for the great blessing of my family – my dad Harold, a World War II naval aviator who will turn 100 next month; my brothers and sister; my wife Kimberley, the best thing in my life; my beautiful daughters and my sons-in-law; and our grandchildren – pretty much the most amazing grandkids ever, in my own unbiased opinion.

I'm thankful for the great state of South Dakota – for our fresh air and wide-open spaces, from the prairies of farm country to the rugged terrain of the Black Hills. South Dakotans are a resilient, kind, and gracious people, and I'm thankful every day that I am lucky enough to call South Dakota home.

I'm also tremendously grateful for the work I get to do. Getting to represent South Dakotans in the Senate is one of the great privileges of my life. And while it's been a contentious year with a divided Congress, I've still had the chance to continue to work on important issues affecting people in my state and around the country, like helping our nation's farmers and ranchers in this tough agriculture economy.

I'm grateful for the privilege of living in this great country, and I am grateful for all the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. Our military men and women represent the very best of America, and I am grateful every day for their service and sacrifice.

In that 1863 proclamation of Thanksgiving Day that I mentioned, Abraham Lincoln, referring to the blessings America had experienced even in the midst of the horrors of the Civil War, said, "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People."

God has blessed us with very great gifts in this country, and it is indeed fit and proper that we should dedicate a day to reverently and gratefully acknowledge them.

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## Extra Gratitude at our Thanksgiving Table This Year

Jean and I wish a very happy Thanksgiving to all South Dakotans. This season provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the blessings we've received this year. Like every year, I continue to be thankful for the love and support of my family, as well as the opportunity South Dakotans have given me to represent you in the United States Senate. It's an honor that I will never take for granted. And of course, none of us would be able to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday if not for the service and sacrifice of those who wear the uniform of the United States of America. We are grateful to every one of them, as well as their families who may not get to spend this holiday season with them.

As many of you know, this year has been challenging for our family. Jean was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year after a lump was discovered on her hip, near her sciatic nerve. She has been receiving treatments at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., since this summer. Watching my wife of 41 years fight this horrible disease has been hard, but Jean is tough. She's fought this disease with the utmost strength and courage. We are grateful for her strong support system across the state, so even when I'm working in Washington, I know she is always surrounded by our kids and grandkids, our extended family and our friends.

Words cannot express our gratitude to everyone who has prayed for her recovery. Your prayers have given us strength and hope. During a recent Mayo Clinic visit, I told some of her doctors about how many folks from across the state and even from around the country have reached out to us to say they're praying for Jean. One of the doctors turned to me and said "We're just the tools, there is someone else in charge." So, to everyone who has included Jean and our family in your prayers these past several months, thank you. Your prayers are working. After her most recent visit, where she underwent surgery to remove the remainder of the tumor, her doctors told us they are optimistic about her recovery. She will soon begin radiation treatment, which we are hoping will be the last step before she goes into remission.

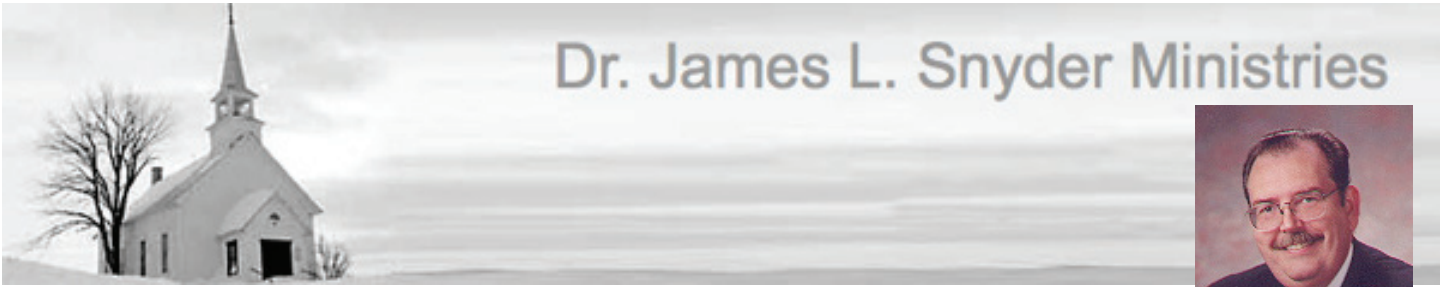
This Thanksgiving, I'm especially thankful to be able to spend some quality time with Jean and our family. To the families who are going through hardships—whether it be health-related, financial or from other stressors—know that we are thinking about you. As we gather together over a turkey and pumpkin pie, let's all say a prayer for those who are going through a difficult time this year.

I hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving with those you love.



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## From One Turkey to Another

As a child, my favorite holiday was Christmas, second only to my birthday. These holidays were important because of the gifts I received. Oh, did I look forward to those holidays and all the presents I was going to delight in. And delight, I certainly did to the extreme.

Then slowly things changed. I got married and we began having children. It was then I discovered Christmas was different. I was the one paying for all the Christmas presents, not to mention the tree and the ornaments. I never realized how much Christmas cost. The older the kids got, the more expensive it was.

By the time Christmas is over, I am officially broke. My New Year's resolution is usually, "I'm never going to do that again." I keep it until Thanksgiving, which throws me off my game.

I soon discovered a holiday I could delight in. That holiday was Thanksgiving.

At Thanksgiving, there are no presents to buy, so my checkbook remained closed for that holiday. Of course, I did get the bill for the turkey we were having but that usually came in August. Outside of that, I could enjoy Thanksgiving without it costing me an arm and a leg.

Also, this is the only holiday where I can neglect my diet and get away with it. I can set around the table with family and friends and eat to my "stomach's" content. Believe me; it takes an awful lot to get to that point of contentment.

I will not say that I abuse the opportunity, although I do, I just will not admit to it.

I love saying, "Can I have another piece of pumpkin pie?"

The stare the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage throws in my direction is priceless. I usually throw a smile back at her.

Then I hear somebody say, "Of course you can. Let me have your plate."

The smile on my face at that time stays with me for days, because nothing my wife can do with so many witnesses.

This is not to say I do not get in trouble at Thanksgiving time. I do not know a holiday in which I do not get in trouble. For many years, Thanksgiving has been free from trouble.

Thanksgiving trouble was inserted this year to my deep regret.

A couple of days before our Thanksgiving dinner I was sitting in my easy chair. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was out in the kitchen putting together the Thanksgiving dinner. I was not paying attention; I was watching something on TV.

I then heard a strange word from the kitchen.

"Could you come and help put the turkey in the oven?"

What took me as strange is the fact that I never have been allowed to do any kind of work in the kitchen. Believe me, there is a story behind that. An invitation to come to the kitchen to do some work took me off my guard. But just for a second.

As I got up from my chair, a crazy thought began dancing in my head. I began to chuckle to myself. I quietly asked myself, "Will it work?"

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You do not know something is going to work until you do that something. I thought I could catch my wife off her guard.

I asked her to repeat herself and she said, "Can you put the turkey in the oven?"

I thought I heard her correctly and this was confirmation.

"I sure can."

Walking into the kitchen, the oven door was open, I walked over to my wife acting like I was going to pick her up and put her in the oven.

It was all I could do to keep from laughing at this point.

As I got near, I could hear her say, "Touch me and the wrong turkey's going into the oven."

For a while, I could not stop laughing and finally, she started laughing.

I was able to stop long enough to put the "real turkey" in the oven.

She said something weird, "I'm not going to thank you because you've already gotten enough thanks."

I left the kitchen and headed for my chair and I heard her softly say, "I better not read this in your column next week."

Pretending that I did not hear comes rather naturally to me. As I evaluated that last statement, I concluded that she did not say I could not write about it in my column. She just said that she better not read it in my column. So, I think I'm on good ground.

So, from one turkey to another, Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for the good things. It is a time to laugh at situations that any other time of the year would not be laughable.

Sitting at the Thanksgiving dinner table with all the family and friends around us I was smiling. Then I looked at the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She looked back with "one of those stares" shook her head and mouthed "no."

This turkey knows when not to gobble.

Peter understood this when he wrote, "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (1 Peter 3:10).

I have discovered there is a time to speak and then there is a time to wallow in silence.



## Reforms and new programs bring hope for improvement in education of Native American students in S.D.

By: Nick Lowrey

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first of three articles that make up Part 2 of a two-week special report in which South Dakota News Watch is examining the failure of the state's public school system to adequately educate Native American students. Last week, News Watch examined the problem and its causes; this week's material focuses on new and ongoing reform efforts and hopes for invigorating Native education in South Dakota.

New efforts to better align school curricula and classroom teaching with the unique needs of Native American students are among the reasons for new hope that South Dakota may be turning a corner toward improving educational achievement for the state's largest minority group.

Reforms are badly needed due to the state's long-term failure to provide its Native American children with an education that leads to academic achievement. Test scores and graduation rates for South Dakota's indigenous population — which makes up about 10% of students in the state — has lagged far behind other groups for generations. Lower educational attainment has been linked to dire later-in-life consequences such as generational poverty, high unemployment and higher rates of substance abuse and incarceration.

State Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission, is a former elementary school teacher who now serves as the Minority Leader in the Senate. Heinert, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, said some progress has been made in improving Native education in South Dakota and he believes the stage is set for more significant reform.

But Heinert said it will require more focus on understanding the unique ways that Native children learn and implementation of teaching methods specifically aimed at better reaching and connecting with Native students. Bolstering student self-esteem and strengthening identity through language and cultural education are key to academic success, he said.

"For years, it's been, 'Well, we're going to roll a cart in here for 30 minutes a week and that's when we'll do language and cultural education,' but the rest of the time we're doing to do what we've always done," Heinert said. "And that is not conducive to change."

Beyond curricula changes, other initiatives are planned or underway to improve Native education in South Dakota, including efforts to hire more indigenous teachers, to heighten parental and community involvement in education, to expand higher-education and employment opportunities and to possibly create Native-focused charter schools.



**St. Joseph's Indian School eighth-graders Elron Walking Bull (left) from Sisseton and Everardo Skunk (right) from Lower Brule learn to say "hello" and "goodbye" in Lakota with help from their teacher LaRayne Woster. More South Dakota schools have begun offering Lakota language classes over the past decade to provide a more culturally responsive learning environment for Native American students.** Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch



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State education officials began the process of incorporating Native American language and culture into everyday lessons when the state Board of Education Standards officially made the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings part of the state's social studies standards in 2015. The OSEUs are a set of education standards that incorporate Lakota language and culture and which were designed by tribal elders and educators.

Schools across the state have begun implementing pieces of the OSEUs into their curricula but have been slowed down by a lack of ready-made materials to aid in lesson planning, said Juliana White Bull-Taken Alive, director of the state Office of Indian Education.

"I see this as a problem, but I also see it as an opportunity for schools and organizations to create them," White Bull-Taken Alive said.

Heinert also said Native-dominated schools and those on reservations should be granted "educational sovereignty," which would allow for far more flexibility in recruitment and hiring of Native teachers and also give schools the ability to adjust curricula or teaching methods to find things that work for Native children.

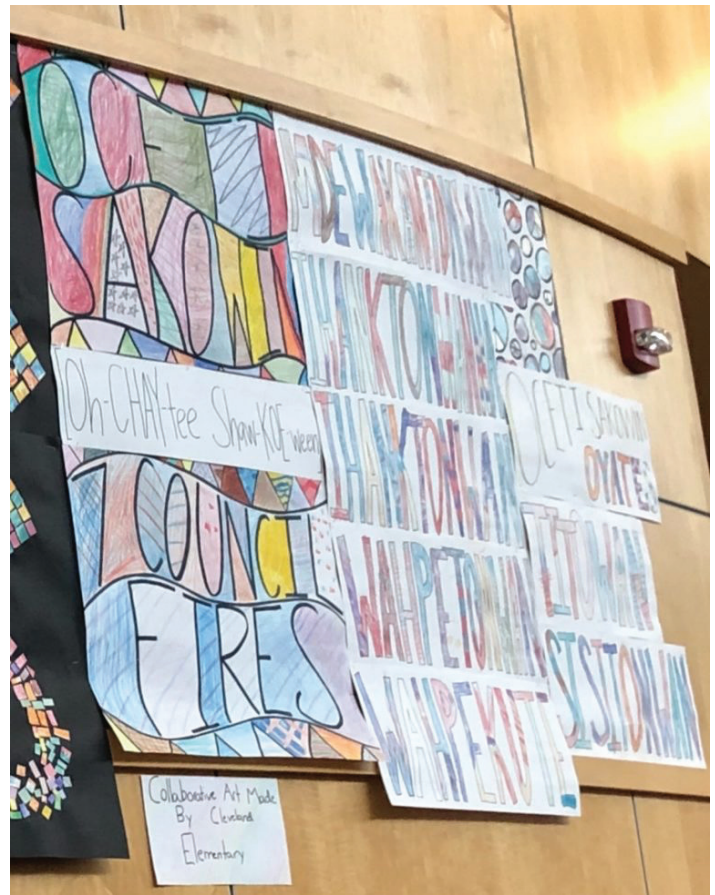
"Our kids have a different style of learning, and I think once we can get that educational sovereignty, that's when we'll start to see some real gains and changing of the trends that have been around for 60-plus years," he said.

In recent years, Heinert has served on two special legislative panels focused on education. The first effort provided nearly \$2 million in grants called Native American Achievement School grants to three Native-dominated schools to improve teaching and learning. Two of the schools that received grants, Todd County Middle School and He Dog Elementary in Todd County, used those grants to improve their curriculums and develop a teacher training program for paraprofessionals.

The program devised by schools in Todd County will be the basis for more projects in Native American-dominated school districts as part of a partnership between the South Dakota Department of Education and McRel International, a non-profit education consulting firm working on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, said Ben Jones, South Dakota education secretary.

Heinert also served on the Blue Ribbon Task Force that in 2015 proposed a half-percent sales tax increase that now generates millions of dollars each year to raise teacher pay. Officials say higher teacher salaries may be bringing more Native American college graduates back to the state to teach.

Recruiting more Native American teachers to work in schools serving tribal communities has been a point of focus for the national non-profit Teach for America and its South Dakota office. Some of the state's



**As part of the Sioux Falls School District's incorporation of South Dakota's Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings, students at Cleveland Elementary created a collaborative art project celebrating the different groups that collectively make up the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires, which is the Lakota term for the Sioux Nation. The Oceti Sakowin Essential understandings are a set of educational standards that require students to learn about Lakota perspectives on history, language and culture. The artwork was displayed prominently at the district administration building.** Photo: Submitted

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highest-need schools are in Native American communities, and those communities were asking for more Native teachers, said Teach for America South Dakota Executive Director Jim Curran.

"For so long there were just so few Native American teachers," Curran said.

The organization announced recently that its 2019 corps of teachers was its most diverse; nearly half of the new teachers were Native American, Curran said.

Heinert said he is trying to change the vernacular around Native education in South Dakota, adding that the focus on consistently low standardized test scores creates a false narrative that Native students are unable or unwilling to learn.

Native students should not be measured solely by test scores or graduation rates, but whether they are finding success as well-rounded people who can marry an understanding of their history and culture with the ability to function well in the modern world, Heinert said.

"One of the problems we have in Native schools or in predominantly Native schools is that the definition of success is coming from a non-Native perspective, and we have our own definition of success, of what does a good student look like," Heinert said.

## Expanding Native perspectives in schools

The lack of Native American representation in educational materials drove South Dakota education

officials to begin work in 2018 on what became the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings. The idea was to create a comprehensive set of educational materials and standards based on Lakota, Dakota and Nakota perspectives on history, land use and language that could be used in all state classrooms. The term Oceti Sakowin translates to "seven council fires" and is the Lakota phrase used to describe the Sioux Nation.

"For me, it's a really helpful guide," said Lydia Yellow Hawk, a new teacher at the He Dog Community School outside Parmelee on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in south-central South Dakota.

Yellow Hawk, a social studies and science teacher for 36 students in grades six through eight, has been finding ways to incorporate Lakota cultural lessons rooted in the OSEU in her lessons.

State science standards require middle-schoolers to be able to give a basic description of how gravity affects the movements of planets and galaxies through space. As it happens, many Lakota stories and beliefs involve the moon and stars. So, with a little help from Sinte Gleska University in nearby Mission, S.D., Yellow Hawk said she was able to incorporate some traditional Lakota understandings into her science lesson.

"We really do focus and put an emphasis on incorporating Lakota or indigenous worldviews and values," Yellow Hawk said. "I'm teaching science and astronomy and learning about the solar system and the stars, alongside that ... I'm teaching Lakota ideas of how those came to be and our worldview to my students."

Incorporating Lakota culture into everyday lessons is a fairly new concept, even in public schools serving tribal communities. When Yellow Hawk was attending high school in 2014, Lakota language, philosophy



**The nonprofit Teach for America, which recruits teachers to work in high-need schools, has put a greater focus on hiring Native American teachers to work in South Dakota. One of those teachers, Lydia Yellow Hawk, who works at the He Dog Community School in Parmelee on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, said she is able to connect with her students and teach about Lakota culture thanks to her family connections in the area.**

Photo: Submitted



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and history all were taught as their own classes and students were only required to take one Lakota class to graduate, she said.

From the beginning, the OSEUs were intended to be incorporated into lessons in all state schools. But while the state Board of Education Standards has adopted the OSEUs, schools are largely on their own when it comes to designing the curricula that teachers use to actually teach to the standards. As a result, schools are adding the OSEUs to their teaching practices at varying rates.

At He Dog Community School, Yellow Hawk and her colleagues are building their own lesson plans. It isn't easy, but they get help from Sinte Gleska University, Yellow Hawk said.

"So, not only am I writing lesson plans just for the kind of the school-required curriculum, but I'm also writing lesson plans for our own indigenous curriculum," Yellow Hawk said.

A growing body of lesson plans and educational materials connected to the OSEUs are available online through the WoLakota project at wolakotaproject.org. The website has videos of interviews with tribal elders and groups of lesson plans designed by teachers in the Todd County and Rapid City school districts. Links to more resources are also expanding.

Yellow Hawk has a distinct advantage over most of her colleagues because she was born and raised near the He Dog school. She has drawn on friends and family for help, sometimes even asking her grandmother to visit school and help explain a topic.

The fact that she grew up in the same community as her students is one of the reasons Yellow Hawk became a teacher in the first place.

"It can be difficult, but it's kind of helpful when, if I don't know something, I can always feel like I have support if I run into challenges," Yellow Hawk said.

Enter Jim Curran, executive director of Teach for America in South Dakota. Yellow Hawk had a few TFA teachers in high school, so she was familiar with the organization when Curran first made contact. She met with a few TFA recruiters in Ohio and in 2017 was invited to the organization's Native Alliance Initiative summit.

Teach for America is a national organization that recruits and trains teachers to work in disadvantaged communities for two years. In South Dakota, the organization focuses much of its efforts in tribal communities. One of the organization's biggest shortcomings when it began operating in South Dakota, Curran said, was its lack of attention to recruiting Native American teachers. From 2004 — when the TFA began operations in the state — to 2011, only five Native Americans were hired as teachers.

"Kids and families in the communities where we work have been demanding an education that is more responsive and reflective of who they are," Curran said.

The organization responded to that demand by creating the Native Alliance Initiative, which is focused on recruiting Native American college graduates to become teachers. From 2011 to 2019, TFA has brought in 33 teachers who are Native American. In early November 2019, the organization announced that 42% of its 2019 of new teachers were Native American. Next year, Curran said, TFA wants its teacher corps to be 50% Native American.



**Wagner High School Principal Neil Goter said programs like his school's Jobs for America's Graduates class are essential tools for helping at-risk students, whether Native American or not, graduate from high school and find success later in life.** Photo: Submitted

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"We've just gotten less willing to accept the line that, 'Oh there's just not enough Native American college graduates,'" Curran said.

Hiring teachers who look like their students and have similar backgrounds has tremendous value, Curran said. For one thing, students see that people like them can be leaders and can accomplish great things, he said.

"There's power in that," Curran said.

Teachers from low-income or Native backgrounds also bring a different approach to the job, Curran said. In Yellow Hawk's case, that means making sure her students, even as early as middle school, know that they can go to college.

"At the middle-school level, a lot of (students) don't really know what their goals are for after high school, so I like being able to work with them to help them get through those ideas and think about education," Yellow Hawk said.

Teach for America isn't the only organization in the state putting more effort into recruiting Native American teachers. The Sioux Falls School District has set up what it calls a teacher pipeline aimed at encouraging some of its students to become teachers, said Dr. James Nold, an assistant superintendent. The district has been trying to identify and recruit Native American students into its Teacher Pathway Program, created two years ago as part of a larger effort to improve outcomes for its indigenous students.

"We have a handful of students right now that I'm very excited to have back in four years when they complete their college degree," Nold said. "They can be teachers for this school district so that other students can see success and say, 'That's an avenue that I could also achieve.'"

## Connecting Native students to the classroom

One of the biggest challenges facing Native American students is maintaining regular attendance, Nold said. State data show that indigenous students have the lowest attendance rate at 72% and the highest rate of chronic absenteeism at 37%. In the Sioux Falls district, the Native American student attendance rate is 65% and the chronic absenteeism rate is 51%. For all students in the district, attendance is at 91% and chronic absenteeism is 18%.

Relationships between students and their school, specifically any adults in the school, are one of the biggest factors in whether a student attends regularly, Nold said.

"We know that as we meet with our attendance committees, when students start to build relationships, when they start to bond, to build some type of relationship, their chances of attendance improving or being strong increase," Nold said. "That definitely benefits the child and the [academic] success rate increases dramatically as attendance increases."

As part of its efforts to encourage Native students to build relationships at school, the Sioux district started integrating the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings into classrooms as early as 2012. The district has also created high school Lakota language courses that count toward graduation requirements. Lakota Connections classes are offered at two of the district's three high schools and at middle schools with high concentrations of Native students, Nold said.

The connections class has become an important piece of district efforts to improve Native American student outcomes, Nold said. The teachers in those classes spend part of their time acting as case managers for their students by providing individual support for such things as connecting to local cultural organizations. The district has also worked on creating clubs that celebrate Lakota culture, Nold said. Club members take trips to sacred sites and compete in the Lakota Language bowl at the annual Lakota Nation Invitational basketball tournament in Rapid City.

Sioux Falls district begins efforts to boost attendance rates as early as elementary school, with counselors called liaisons that work individually with families to ensure they have everything needed to get their children to school.

"They'll target attendance as a predominant factor of what they go out and do. But they really, really try to work to build that relationship so that families feel very comfortable coming and asking when they have problems or needs," Nold said.

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Another improvement in Sioux Falls was the creation of a Native American parent advisory committee, which meets regularly to give the district feedback and suggest ideas. Increasing parental involvement in education is seen as a critical element of improving student engagement and academic success.

Sioux Falls is not alone in its efforts. The Wagner School District on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in south-central South Dakota brought the Jobs for America's Graduates Program to the state in 2009.

In Wagner, the program seeks to help middle- and high-school students — Native and non-Native — who live in poverty or face other issues likely to reduce attendance and increase the chance of dropping out. Each class consists of about 12 students chosen by a committee. The idea is to create an extra layer of support for those students, said Neil Goter, Wagner High School principal.

Students in the program get individualized help and support from JAG teachers and develop close relationships with fellow students, who often share similar life experiences. In middle school, JAG classes work mainly on improving social skills and providing experiential learning such as working as a member of a team, Goter said.

"Some kids are going to come to JAG class and not have all those skills, and that's why these kids have some barriers and they need some assistance with some of those areas," Goter said.

In high school, the JAG program changes focus toward academics and preparing students for life after high school. Students can get help with homework and filling out federal financial aid forms for college and are exposed to careers. The goal is to achieve a 90% graduation or degree equivalency rate and an 80% job, college or military placement rate.

The program has proven successful, Goter said. Graduates from Wagner's JAG program have gone on to college or tech school, joined the military or gone straight into a job, Goter said. One student who found success was Alexander "Zane" Zaphier who graduated high school in 2013 and went on to serve in student government at the University of South Dakota. Zaphier graduated with his bachelor's degree in 2017 and now works for USD's Upward Bound program, which offers counseling and help for high school students whose parents didn't go to college.

"He's really paying it forward," Goter said of Zaphier.

Another solution to the attendance issue is creating a deep relationship between the school building itself within the community it serves. In the Oglala Lakota County School District, for example, administrators have tried to keep their schools as open as possible to students and the public, said Dr. Anthony Fairbanks, district superintendent. The schools on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwester South Dakota hold events such as basketball tournaments and provide free meals when possible, he said.

The idea is to make the schools a big a part of the community. "The more you open your doors, the more you connect to the community," Fairbanks said.

The philosophy appears to be working. The district, whose population is almost entirely Native American, had a 97% attendance rate last year, according to the state school report card. Fairbanks said the district plans to create an even deeper connection between the people of Pine Ridge and the Oglala Lakota County School District through the biggest educational project in decades — a new high school.

## **New school, new focus in under-served area**

Lakota Tech High School, the first career and technical high school on a South Dakota Indian reservation, is planned to open before the 2020-21 school year on a site near the Wolf Creek Elementary School a few miles outside of Pine Ridge. The school is central to an ambitious \$25 million project aimed at providing sorely needed job training within the Pine Ridge community, while at the same time aligning the school's core curriculum to the history and culture of the Oglala Lakota people, Fairbanks said.

"That means involving not just the teachers, but also the elders and community members and teachers who've been here for a really long time. We have a lot of great knowledge here within the community and we need to be finding ways to access that and leverage that to make sure that our students are really gaining a holistic education," said Stephanie Eisenmenger, principal of the future high school.

Pine Ridge hasn't had a public high school in decades. High school students must transfer to a new district, attend a virtual high school online or go to one of the private or Bureau of Indian Education schools



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on the reservation. That situation is far from ideal, Fairbanks said. With help from state government in securing low-interest loans, the district was able to bring the high school to fruition.

The plan is to create several academies within the school that will specialize in areas the Pine Ridge community has said are needed, Eisenmenger said. All students will start in the freshman academy, which will be designed to ease students' transition into high school, develop study skills, and provide a chance to experience a few different career paths. The school will also include a business and entrepreneurship academy, a health and public service academy as well as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Academy. An agriculture academy is possible too, Eisenmenger said.

"Our goal for all of these pathways is that students will graduate not only with a diploma but with some form of industry based certification so that they can actually jump right into the workforce or they get a leg up going into either a four-year college or vocational school," Eisenmenger said. "Whatever pathway they want to go down for their life, they will be able to have a competitive advantage when they graduate."

As of October 2019 there were 115 teaching and staff positions yet to fill at Lakota Tech High School, Fairbanks said. But the school has a few things working in its favor, when it comes to hiring a new staff.

"One advantage that we have is that we're doing something really different and we're doing something that means a lot to this community. And I think that a lot of people go into teaching to make a difference and to have an impact," Eisenmenger said. "Working at Lakota Tech, we can really change people's lives, and we can boost this economy and do something really great for not just the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, but for South Dakota in general."

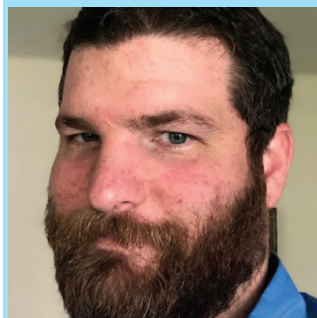
A separate group, led by members of the non-profit NDN Collective is working on legislation that would allow for the creation of a series of charter schools focused on Native American education.

Heinert, the state senator, said he supports an effort to propose legislation in 2020 and said he may sponsor the legislation. If the legislation were to become law any schools created would be first charter schools in South Dakota. They would be funded with state and local tax dollars but operate independently and therefore have greater flexibility to innovate and adapt quickly.

Whether that legislation moves forward or not, Heinert said he will continue to push his legislative colleagues and the Department of Education to gain a greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist in how Native children are taught in South Dakota, and to push Native leaders and families to also become more involved in the process.

"I'm extremely hopeful," he said. "We've started to become part of the system of change, of how do you change a school or a state and how do we go through that process. If we can teach in a culturally relevant manner, our scores will come up. But we can't go into this just trying to improve scores; we need to go into this to help these kids know who they are and where they came from and to teach them accordingly."

— South Dakota News Watch reporter Bart Pfankuch contributed to this report.



## ABOUT

### NICK LOWREY

Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

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## Northern State Comes Back in the Second Half to Defeat the Chadron State Eagles

by Nathan Price

Aberdeen, S.D. - A strong second half from the Northern State men's basketball team lead to a 70-59 win over the Chadron State Eagles. This is Northern's fourth straight win to put them at 4-2 on the season, giving the Wolves some momentum as they prepare for conference play next week.

Parker Fox, coming off one of the best statistical games of his career, gave Northern the first points of the game. The Eagles fought back quickly however, pulling ahead over the next few minutes to take a strong lead.

The rest of the half seemed like it would be all Chadron State, at one point boasting an 11-point lead. A dunk from Parker Fox and a few turnovers gave the Wolves some newfound life however, allowing them to close to a manageable 32-27 deficit at halftime.

Standouts for the Wolves in the first half were Parker Fox and Andrew Kallman, combining for over 60.0% of Northern's points in the first period.

The Eagles added on first in the second, but the Wolves scored on each of their next four possessions, including two 3-pointers, to give Northern their first lead since the opening minutes. The Wolves never looked back, holding the Eagles to just 27 points in the second half to bring the final score to 70-59.

Coach Phillips managed to flip the script for the Wolves in the second half. After shooting just 34.4% from the floor and 14.3% from the 3-point line in the first, Northern closed out the game cashing in 59.1% of their field goals and shooting 45.5% from beyond the arc in the second period.

Northern finished the game shooting 44.4% from the floor, 28.0% from the beyond the arc, and 57.7% from the free-throw line. The Wolves managed 27 points off of turnovers and 26 from the paint, while scoring just four off the bench. The Wolves largest lead of the game was 11 with 0:31 left in the game.

The leading scorer for the Wolves was Mason Stark, going 8-of-13 for 22 points, while also leading the team with a career high five assists. Parker Fox was next on the scoreboard with 15 points and a team high seven rebounds.

Andrew Kallman lead the Wolves from the 3-point line going 3-of-5 to help him on his way to a season high of 14 points. Tommy Chatman followed up going 4-of-9 for 10 points and one assist. Rounding out the bottom of the scoresheet were Jordan Belka and Cole Dahl, each scoring two points off the bench.

The Northern State men's basketball team begins conference play for the NSIC next week at MSU Moorhead. Tip-off is scheduled for 6:00pm on Saturday the November 30 at the Nemzek Fieldhouse.

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## Northern State Breezes Past CSU Pueblo for Their Third Straight Win by Nathan Price

Aberdeen, S.D. - The Northern State University men's basketball team picked up their third straight victory Friday night after defeating CSU Pueblo by a score of 95-73. The win puts Northern at 3-2 on the season after a 0-2 start.

Donovan Oldham opened the scoring for CSU Pueblo with a 3-pointer, but NSU scored in each of their next six possessions, including a wide-open slam-dunk from Parker Fox, to put the momentum firmly in the hands of the Wolves.

The first half saw Northern open up a 20-point lead over CSU Pueblo, out-scoring the Thunderwolves 51-31. Parker Fox lead the way in the first half for the Wolves going 7-of-8 for 18 points, including multiple slam-dunks to give the crowd and his teammates something to cheer about.

The Wolves shot 46.7 percent from the 3-point line in the first half, while holding the Thunderwolves to just 4-of-11 from beyond the arc. Tommy Chatman led the way for Northern from the 3-point line going 3-of-4 in the first.

Parker Fox and Tommy Chatman continued their dominant performance in the second period, scoring nearly all of Northern's points to start the half.

Mason Stark and Cole Dahl came alive to score a combined 16 points in the second half and help Northern increase their lead to 26 with seven minutes left in the game.

Northern was able to breeze their way through the remaining time, bringing the final score to 95-73 and giving the Wolves their third straight win of the season.

NSU shot 50.0% from the floor, 48.1% from beyond the 3-point line, and 80.0% from the foul line in the game. The Wolves garnered 28 points off the bench, 30 points from the paint, and 19 points off of turnovers. Northern's largest lead of the game was 29 with 7:53 left in the second.

Parker Fox lead the way for the Wolves with a career high 28 points, shooting 70.0% from the floor. Fox also lead the team in rebounds with 13. Andrew Kallman led the way in the assist column with six, while scoring five points of his own.

Tommy Chatman and Cole Dahl lead the team from the 3-point line, scoring a combined 24 points from beyond the arc. Chatman also gathered four rebounds and knocked down a career high 15 points. Dahl led the team off the bench with a season high 14 points of his own and shot 62.0% from the floor.

Mason Stark contributed 12 points and five rebounds, while Gabe King and Jordan Belka each scored seven points apiece. Jaylen Robinson and Roko Dominovic rounded out the score sheet with five and two points respectively.



## ACLU counterpoint to Gov. Noem's weekly column

By Libby Skarin, ACLU of South Dakota policy director



South Dakota is on meth — at least, that's what the state's new anti-drug ad campaign launched on Monday says.

Gov. Kristi Noem's new anti-meth campaign — which features a new website (onmeth.com), billboards and ads with people of differing ages and races saying, "I'm on meth." — is intended to bring awareness to the meth epidemic in South Dakota.

Noem's not wrong. There is a meth epidemic in South Dakota. As Noem said in the campaign's public service announcement, the meth crisis is "growing at an alarming rate" and impacts every community in the state.

The awareness campaign has been widely mocked online. By Tuesday, "South Dakota" and "meth" were trending on Twitter. Some people have even proposed alternate campaigns, like "Heroin. We're up in arms" and "Cocaine. We nose what's up."

But Noem seems to have bought into the idea that any publicity is good publicity. In a statement to the Washington Post, she said, "South Dakota's anti-meth campaign launch is sparking conversations around the state and the country. The mission of the campaign is to raise awareness — to get people talking about how they can be part of the solution and not just the problem. It is working."

While awareness of meth use in South Dakota is important, we already know what a serious issue it is.

From 2014 to 2018, the state saw a 200 percent increase in people seeking treatment for meth-related addiction, according to the Department of Social Services. Twice as many 12- to 17-year-olds in South Dakota reported using meth in

2018 compared with the national average. This uptick in meth use means more arrests related to meth. In fact, 83 percent of South Dakota's 2019 court admissions for controlled substances are related to meth.

We don't need an advertising campaign to tell us about the problem. We need action.

South Dakota needs to put far more of its resources into treatment and do the hard work of untangling the root causes of addiction to actually give people who have dealt with addiction another chance. In doing so, South Dakota also needs to rethink its approach to incarceration.

Simply put, addiction must be treated as a public health crisis, not a public safety crisis. South Dakota's legislative and executive branches should focus resources on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation rather than passing policies that result in the incarceration of people due to an illness. Focusing primarily on ad campaigns and enforcement does nothing to break the cycle of addiction, incarceration and recidivism.

Though the concept of putting fewer people behind bars may seem like a difficult stance to take in a state as conservative as South Dakota, our tough-on-crime policies can't fix society's problems — especially in regards to substance use and addiction.

South Dakota lawmakers should expand specialty courts — and eligibility for participating in these courts explicitly and publicly articulated by state's attorneys — for substance use disorders, especially in cases of methamphetamine use.

Increased meth use in our state has added further urgency to the need to expand addiction treatment and mental health resources for people with drug dependency.

As the campaign says, meth addiction is everyone's problem. But a provocative ad campaign won't solve it. Real reform will.

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**Sunday**



Slight Chance Sprinkles

**High: 53 °F**

**Sunday Night**



Mostly Clear

**Low: 32 °F**

**Monday**



Mostly Sunny and Breezy

**High: 42 °F**

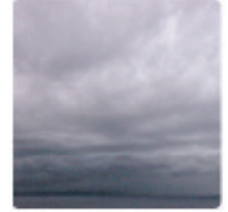
**Monday Night**



Mostly Cloudy

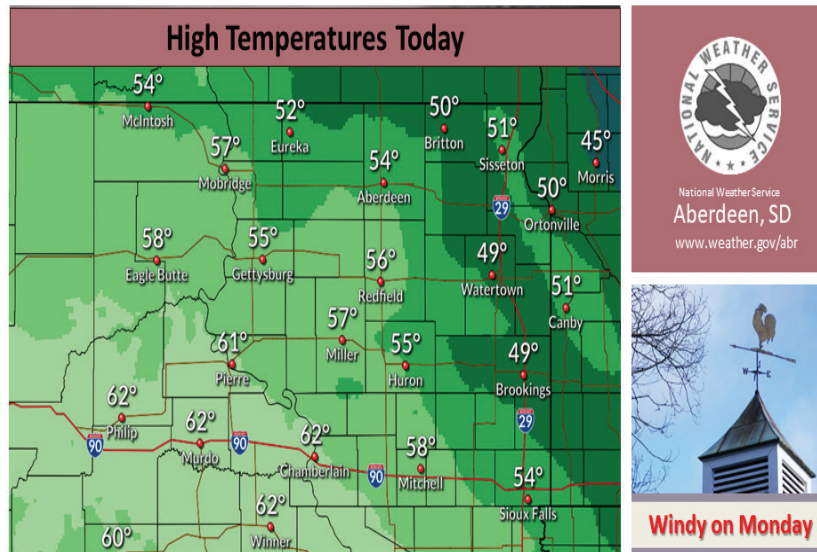
**Low: 25 °F**

**Tuesday**



Cloudy

**High: 35 °F**



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
www.weather.gov/abr

**Windy on Monday**

Today and Tonight  
Another Mild Day.  
Becoming Breezy West River.  
  
Lows Tonight in the Upper 20s – Low 30s.

Monday and Tuesday  
Cooler on Monday with Highs in the 40s.  
Northwest Winds of 20 to 30 mph.  
  
Highs in the 30s on Tuesday.  
Accumulating Snow Possible in Southeast South Dakota.

Published on: 11/24/2019 at 12:09AM

11/24/2019 5:06 AM

Cloudy skies with isolated sprinkles can be expected this morning. Breezy westerly winds and partly sunny skies are expected this afternoon. A front will slide across the region tonight, bringing cooler temperatures, and windy conditions on Monday.

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## Today in Weather History

November 24, 1993: A major slow-moving storm system traveled across the upper Midwest during the Thanksgiving holiday, dumping heavy snow across most of South Dakota and Minnesota from November 24 through the 27th. The highest snowfall amounts of two to three feet occurred in northeast South Dakota. Over a foot of snow accumulated in west central Minnesota, and needless to say, travel became tough across the entire area. Storm total snowfall amounts included 31.8 inches at Westport, 29.5 inches at Leola, 28 inches at Britton, 25.3 inches at Aberdeen, 24.3 inches at Mellette, 24.0 inches at McLaughlin, and 22.0 inches near Victor. The snowfall of 25.3 inches at Aberdeen was a single storm record (that still stands today), and it made November 1993 one of the snowiest months on record in Aberdeen with a total of 30.1 inches of snowfall. Only three months have recorded more snow: November 1898, February 1915, and November 2000. The storm closed numerous schools and offices on November 24th across the area, resulting in an early start to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Some freezing rain and freezing drizzle preceded the snowstorm in southeast South Dakota from late on the 23rd to the 24th, causing at least 60 vehicle accidents. The heavy snow also clogged roads, causing vehicles to become stuck and resulting in numerous accidents. As a consequence of the heavy snow, low wind chills, and low visibilities, a 23-year old man was stranded in his pickup truck in a snow bank north of Aberdeen for 18 hours on the 23rd and 24th. The weight of snow collapsed many structures in northeast South Dakota from the 25th to the 26th. The roof of a metal barn collapsed two miles northwest of Aberdeen, killing one dairy cow in the barn. In Castlewood, a 100-foot by 40-foot metal pole shed fell in, causing damage to a grain truck inside. A machine shed also caved in on a farm east of Bowdle. During the afternoon of the 26th, part of the roof and wall of the Roscoe Senior Center collapsed, causing a near-total loss to the building. Strong northwest winds followed the snowstorm in western and central South Dakota, causing considerable blowing and drifting snow and wind chills as low as 50 degrees below zero. In North Dakota, over two feet of snow fell over a large part of central and southeastern portions of the state. Most of North Dakota had over a foot of snow from this storm. The greatest snowfall amount was reported at Oakes, in Dickey County where 31 inches fell. At the National Weather Service office in Bismarck, 28.3 inches of snow were measured during the 108-hour snow event. This amount set a new single storm record for snow in Bismarck. The snow began the evening on the 22nd and did not end until the morning of the 27th. Except for about six hours during the day on the 26th, the snow was continuous through this period. Fortunately, the wind was only 10 to 25 mph during this storm, so it was well below blizzard conditions and blowing and drifting of snow was not a problem.

1863: The "battle above the clouds" was fought on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga. Pre-frontal clouds obscured the upper battlefield aiding a Union victory.

1982: Hurricane Iwa, a Category 1 hurricane, impacted the Hawaii Islands of Ni'ihau, Kaua'i, and O'ahu with gusts exceeding 100 mph and a storm surge of 30 feet. The first significant hurricane to hit the Hawaiian Islands since statehood in 1959, Iwa severely damaged or destroyed 2,345 buildings, including 1,927 houses, leaving 500 people homeless. Damage throughout the state totaled \$312 (\$765 million 2015 USD). One person was killed from the high seas, and three deaths were indirectly related to the hurricane's aftermath.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 52 °F at 2:43 PM**

**Low Temp: 24 °F at 4:20 AM**

**Wind: 13 mph at 2:10 PM**

**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 65° in 1932**

**Record Low: -17° in 1996**

**Average High: 34°F**

**Average Low: 15°F**

**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.59**

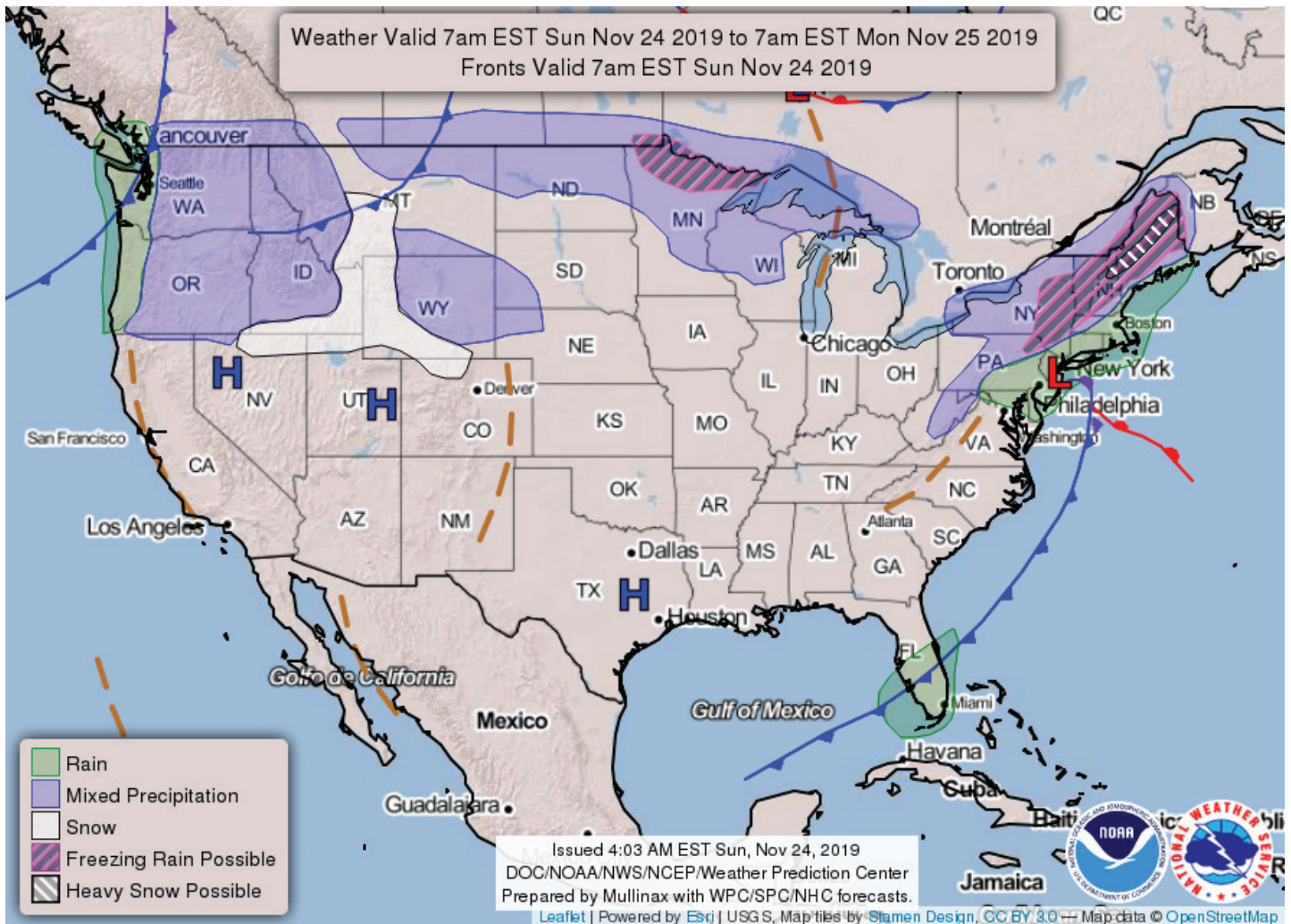
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.38**

**Average Precip to date: 21.06**

**Precip Year to Date: 26.95**

**Sunset Tonight: 4:56 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:46 a.m.**



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## THE BEST ADVICE EVER

Derek Jeter, formerly a New York Yankee, is acknowledged by some to be one of the greatest shortstops who ever played baseball. One day a reporter asked him, "What's the best advice your father ever gave you?"

Came the quick reply, "Don't let anyone ever outwork you!"

It was hard, relentless work over many years that led Jeter to the pinnacle of his profession. And, it is the same hard work that kept him there and served as a model that many seek to follow. His efforts have rewarded him lavishly and brought him friends, fame, and fortune.

There are some of us, however, who work just as hard but get relatively little recognition. No one sees us and no one knows how hard we try. We may even wonder if what we do really matters to anyone. We ask: "Does what I do make a difference?"

Yes, it does – at least to God. One day He will reward us personally in front of everyone in heaven for the good we have done for others in His Name.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that You will reward each one of us for all that we have ever done. Give us a desire to develop every gift we have! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Ephesians 6:7-8 Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

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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

05-17-18-21-34

(five, seventeen, eighteen, twenty-one, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$319,000

Lotto America

04-05-18-43-46, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 3

(four, five, eighteen, forty-three, forty-six; Star Ball: four; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$5.21 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$226 million

Powerball

28-35-38-61-66, Powerball: 23, Power Play: 3

(twenty-eight, thirty-five, thirty-eight, sixty-one, sixty-six; Powerball: twenty-three; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

### Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Class AA

State Championship : Watertown def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-21, 25-23, 25-16

Seventh Place : Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 17-25, 25-19, 25-15, 22-25, 15-13

Fifth Place : Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-23, 23-25, 18-25, 25-15, 15-10

Third Place : Huron def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-22, 22-25, 23-25, 30-28, 15-11

Class A

State Championship : Sioux Falls Christian def. Dakota Valley, 25-22, 25-23, 16-25, 22-25, 15-11

Seventh Place : Elk Point-Jefferson def. Groton Area, 24-26, 26-24, 14-25, 25-22, 15-13

Fifth Place : Madison def. Winner, 20-25, 20-25, 25-23, 25-16, 15-12

Third Place : Miller def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-20, 23-25, 28-26, 22-25, 15-4

Class B

State Championship : Northwestern def. Faulkton, 25-21, 25-17, 25-13

Seventh Place : Ethan def. Bridgewater-Emery, 22-25, 18-25, 25-16, 25-19, 15-10

Fifth Place : Chester def. Faith, 25-20, 16-25, 25-23, 25-20

Third Place : Warner def. Burke, 25-27, 25-22, 25-19, 25-20

### 5 states drag feet on creation of panels to promote Census

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — With billions in federal aid and seats in Congress at stake, some states are dragging their feet in carrying out one of the Census Bureau's chief recommendations for making sure everyone is counted during the 2020 census.

Five states — Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas — have not set up "complete count committees" that would create public awareness campaigns to encourage people to fill out the questionnaires.

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In some of those states, politicians argued that a statewide body would be unnecessary, since local committees, cities and nonprofit organizations are already working to publicize the census. In others, state leaders didn't see any urgency to act.

The once-a-decade count of the U.S. population starts in January in a remote area of Alaska. The rest of the nation takes part starting in the spring.

"We are encouraging others to join in," Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said this month. "The clock is ticking, and the time to join is now."

Six states — Iowa, Maine, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin — only got on board in the past several weeks.

Officials say the committees can separate census winners from losers.

"Complete count committees are extremely effective," said Albert Fontenot, an associate director at the Census Bureau. "It's in the states' interests in that they get a funding flow and congressional seats."

Of the holdout states, all but Louisiana have Republican governors.

In Texas, a measure to create a committee died in the GOP-dominated Legislature earlier this year even though the second most populous state has the most to gain from the census — up to three congressional seats.

Some Texas lawmakers were worried about losing their seats during redistricting if population surges favoring Democrats were found in urban and suburban areas, said Luis Figueroa, legislative and policy director at the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin.

Also, at the time, the Trump administration was pushing to add a citizenship question to the form, and some lawmakers didn't want to take a stand on the issue by promoting the census, he said. The U.S. Supreme Court later blocked the question.

Twenty-six state governments are appropriating nearly \$350 million to reach people and get them to respond to the census. The amounts range from California's record \$187 million to Montana's \$100,000, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. New York City is committing \$40 million.

States led by Democrats have spent more per capita. Of the 11 states spending at least \$1 per resident, all but North Dakota have Democratic governors, according to an Associated Press analysis.

California, which stands to lose a seat in Congress, is spending \$4.73 per person, using the money to target certain ethnic communities, provide educational materials to schools and identify community leaders who can personally encourage participation in the most populous state.

Spending on outreach offers a great return on investment, said Ditas Katague, director of the California Complete Count-Census 2020 Office.

"You have to look at how many programs will suffer and how much money we will lose," Katague said.

In 2000, when California spent \$24 million, 76 percent of residents returned the questionnaires by mail, outstripping the national average. In 2010, in the aftermath of the recession and budget cuts, California spent only \$2 million, and the mail response rate dropped to 73 percent, below the national average.

In Florida, the third most populous state, bills establishing a statewide committee died in the GOP-controlled legislature. With an influx from such places as Puerto Rico and Venezuela, Florida has gained about 2.5 million people since 2010 and could pick up two more congressional seats.

A spokeswoman for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said he is still reviewing what action should be taken to help get a full head count. "The governor takes the census seriously," spokeswoman Helen Ferre said.

In Nebraska, Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts vetoed a bill to create a complete count committee, saying that local committees are already doing the work and that the legislation would have given a University of Nebraska program authority to create the panel without guidance from the state.

The number of congressional seats for Nebraska is expected to remain unchanged.

Still, "ultimately I think this will be a loss for Nebraska, especially in terms of receiving federal funds," said state Sen. Matt Hansen, a Democrat from Lincoln who sponsored the legislation. "Specifically, I am concerned children, racial and ethnic minority populations, homeless persons, and those who live in rural and isolated areas will be undercounted."

\_\_\_ Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

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## South Dakota knocks off South Dakota State 24-21

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Austin Simmons passed for two touchdowns, ran for another and South Dakota upset rival South Dakota State 24-21 on Saturday.

It is the seventh straight season the Coyotes knocked off a ranked team, having entered the game 0-3 against Top 25 FCS teams this season.

Simmons was 20 for 32 for 252 yards, moving him past Wesley Beschorner for second on the all-time South Dakota list. Adding in 47 yards rushing on the game, he surpassed 1,000 for his career. Jack Cochrane led the defense with 11 tackles, giving him 105 for the season.

The fifth-ranked Jackrabbits led 7-0 in the first quarter and 14-10 early in the third but couldn't hold on. Simmons' 2-yard run put South Dakota (5-7, 4-4 Missouri Valley Conference) up 17-14 and followed that up with a 21-yard touchdown pass for a 24-14 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Keaton Heide's second touchdown pass pulled the Jackrabbits within a field goal early in the fourth quarter but their last three drives ended with a fumble, a fourth-down failure and a fumble on a trick play in the final minute.

South Dakota State (8-4, 5-3) entered the game in a four-way tie for second place behind North Dakota State but only Northern Iowa won its finale. Illinois State and Southern Illinois also lost.

## Former prosecutor sentenced for failing to pay taxes

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City lawyer and a former chief deputy of the Pennington County state's attorney office has been sentenced to three months in federal prison for failing to pay more than \$300,000 in taxes.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Gregory Sperlich was sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to two counts of willfully failing to pay taxes. He could have been sentenced up to two years in prison. He was also ordered to pay back nearly \$228,000 to the Internal Revenue Service.

Sperlich worked at the state's attorney office from 1997 to 2004.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## Casino marketing leader sentenced in theft-for-drugs scheme

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The marketing director for a casino on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in the Dakotas has been sentenced for a scheme to give club rewards to gamblers in exchange for drugs.

Candace Crow Ghost, 42, of Fort Yates, North Dakota, pleaded guilty in August to theft by an employee of an Indian gaming establishment. Crow Ghost worked for the Grand River Casino in Mobridge, South Dakota.

Authorities say Crow Ghost hatched a plan to obtain prescription pain pills by adjusting points on individual players club rewards cards to pay for the drugs she was receiving. After adjusting the points, Crow Ghost allegedly prepared vouchers and helped the individuals redeem their illegally obtained points for cash.

Crow Ghost is also accused of giving free rooms and meals to the individuals involved in the swap.

Authorities say Crow Ghost added 426,000 points to various accounts and handed out over \$1,000 in rooms and meals, resulting in a total loss to the casino of about \$5,300.

U.S. District Judge Ron Parsons of South Dakota sentenced Crow Ghost to more than five months in prison, followed by 24 months of supervised release. She was ordered to pay back the money to the casino.

Authorities say Crow Ghost was the casino marketing director between December 2016 and March 2017.

U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons of South Dakota says the case was brought as part of The Guardians Project, a federal law enforcement initiative to coordinate efforts between various agencies and promote public disclosure of public corruption, fraud and embezzlement.



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## 26 states are spending \$350 million on 2020 Census efforts

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — With less than a month and a half remaining until the new year begins, most states have put together what's known as a "complete count committee" that organizes efforts statewide to get people to participate in the 2020 Census.

However, a handful of states — Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas — are lacking these state-sponsored committees.

More than half of the states have backed up their 2020 Census outreach efforts with money. Here's a list of the 26 states that have allocated almost \$350 million for outreach for the decennial census, the amount they're appropriating and how much that breaks down per resident.

The decennial census will help determine the allocation of \$1.5 trillion of federal dollars and how many congressional seats each state gets:

Alabama, \$1.2 million, \$0.25  
Alaska, \$600,000, \$0.81  
California, \$187 million, \$4.73  
Colorado, \$6 million, \$1.05  
Connecticut, \$500,000, \$0.14  
Georgia, \$3.7 million, \$0.36  
Hawaii \$750,000, \$0.53  
Illinois \$30.5 million, \$2.39  
Maryland, \$5 million, \$0.83  
Massachusetts, \$325,000, \$0.05  
Michigan, \$500,000, \$0.05  
Minnesota, \$2.2 million, \$0.39  
Montana, \$100,000, \$0.09  
Nevada, \$5 million, \$1.65  
New Jersey, \$9 million, \$1.01  
New Mexico, \$3.5 million, \$1.67  
New York, \$60 million, \$3.07  
North Carolina(asterisk), \$1.5 million, \$0.14  
North Dakota, \$1 million, \$1.32  
Oregon, \$7.7 million, \$1.84  
Pennsylvania, \$4 million, \$0.31  
Rhode Island, \$500,000, \$0.47  
Utah, \$1 million, \$0.32  
Virginia, \$1.5 million, \$0.18  
Washington, \$15.5 million, \$2.05  
Wisconsin, \$1 million, \$0.17

(asterisk)North Carolina's funding is pending

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, Associated Press

## Rapid City man sentenced for his role in massive meth ring

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man accused in a conspiracy to move large quantities of methamphetamine from Colorado to South Dakota has been sentenced to more than 17 years in prison.

Authorities say 29-year-old Sebastian Hoff was one of several distributors in the ring led by Dana Faulkner, also known as Diablo. Faulkner is accused of transporting up to 99 pounds (45 kilograms) of meth to be sold in the Rapid City area in the summer of 2017.

Hoff pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance. He was sentenced to 17 years and

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five months in prison, to be followed by five years of supervised released.

The 41-year-old Faulkner, of Aurora, Colorado was sentenced last month to 25 years in prison. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance and branding a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

## Turnout high in Hong Kong vote seen as referendum on protest

By KEN MORITSUGU and EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Given a chance to vote, the people of Hong Kong were doing just that on Sunday. Long lines snaked around plazas and extended for blocks as citizens of the Chinese territory turned out in droves for an election seen as a test of public support for anti-government protests that have persisted for more than five months.

The Electoral Affairs Commission said 56% of the city's 4.1 million registered voters had cast ballots by 5:30 p.m. That exceeded the 47% turnout in the same election four years ago, with five hours still to go before polls were to close.

Christina Li said it was important for older people like herself to support the youth who are at the forefront of the protests.

"Younger generations might not be able to enjoy the rights that we are enjoying now," she said as she waited in line outside a polling station. "We cannot take it for granted."

The normally low-key race for 452 seats in Hong Kong's 18 district councils has taken on symbolic importance in a city polarized by the protests. A strong showing by the opposition would show that the public still supports the protesters, even as they resort to increasing violence.

Protesters have smashed storefronts of businesses seen as sympathetic to China, torched toll booths, shut down a major tunnel and engaged in pitched battles with police, countering tear gas volleys and water cannons with torrents of gasoline bombs. More than 5,000 people have been arrested.

The demonstrators believe that China is encroaching on the freedoms that Hong Kong has as a semi-autonomous territory. Their demands include democratic elections for the city's leader and legislature, and an investigation into alleged police brutality in suppressing the protests.

Democracy activist Joshua Wong, who was barred from running in the election, voted soon after polls opened at 7:30 a.m. Results are expected after midnight.

"Even if they censor me out from the ballot, lock me out in prison, it will just encourage me to continue to fight for the future with even stronger determination," he told reporters.

The vote for the district councils, which advise the government on issues of local concern, is the only fully democratic one in Hong Kong. Members of the legislature are chosen partly by popular vote and partly by interest groups representing different sectors of society, and the city's leader is picked by a 1,200-member body that is dominated by supporters of the central government in Beijing.

Many people in Hong Kong share the concern of protesters about growing Chinese influence over the former British colony, which was returned to China in 1997. At the same time, the never-ending protests are a source of stress that have disrupted daily life and hit the tourism and retail industries hard.

Both the ruling camp in Hong Kong and the central government in Beijing hope that the unrest will turn voters against the protesters.

The district councils advocate for community interests and are given a small budget for local projects. Winning candidates will serve a four-year term beginning Jan. 1.

There has been a rare break in the violence in recent days as protesters, anxious to validate their cause through the ballot box, hit the pause button to ensure the polls wouldn't be postponed.

Government officials had earlier warned that the election could be called off if the violence did not subside.

"We need to show the world that our cause is legitimate. I don't believe that Beijing will not respond to the Hong Kong people's voice," Alex Wong, a black-clad and masked student, said during a peaceful march Saturday.

Police were out in force near polling stations, but no major incidents were reported. Protest support

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groups advised people not to wear black or face masks during voting in case they were targeted by police. City leader Carrie Lam, who is reviled by the protesters, said after voting that the unrest made organizing the election extremely challenging.

"I hope that this stability and calm is not only for today's election, and that the election will show that everyone doesn't want Hong Kong to return to chaos again, that we want a way out of this crisis so that we can have a fresh start," she said.

Associated Press videojournalists Dake Kang and Katie Tam contributed to this report.

## **Pope in Nagasaki: No to atomic weapons, deterrence doctrine**

**By NICOLE WINFIELD and HARUKA NUGA Associated Press**

NAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — Pope Francis demanded world leaders renounce atomic weapons and the Cold War-era doctrine of deterrence, saying Sunday the stockpiling of nuclear arms decreases security, wastes money and threatens humanity.

Francis blasted the demise of arms control treaties while visiting Nagasaki, the site of the second of the two 1945 U.S. atomic bombings on Japan.

After laying a wreath of flowers and praying at the foot of the memorial to the victims, Francis said the place stands as a stark reminder "of the pain and horror that we human beings are capable of inflicting upon one another."

"Convinced as I am that a world without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary, I ask political leaders not to forget that these weapons cannot protect us from current threats to national and international security," he said.

The mood was somber and silent, darkened by the downpour that drenched the terraced fields and rice paddies of Nagasaki and the thousands of Japanese who came out in plastic raincoats to witness the second pope to pay his respects to victims of the bomb.

Francis visited Nagasaki — and later Hiroshima — at the start of a three-day trip to Japan aimed at emphasizing his call for a global ban on atomic weapons. Nagasaki was the perfect place to begin his visit, the birthplace of Christianity in Japan and ground zero of the bomb.

The Holy See was among the first countries to sign and ratify the new U.N. nuclear prohibition treaty, and Francis himself has gone further than any pope before him in saying not only the use, but the mere possession of atomic weapons is "to be condemned."

While Francis didn't repeat his 2017 condemnation Sunday, he made a similar point.

"One of the deepest longings of the human heart is for security, peace and stability," he said. "The possession of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is not the answer to this desire; indeed they seem always to thwart it."

The first U.S. atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, killing 140,000 people. The second one dropped three days later on Nagasaki and killed another 74,000 by the end of the same year. Many of the survivors have suffered the lasting impact of radiation and developed various forms of cancer.

Under the 1957 government law designed to support A-bomb survivors, or "hibakusha," more than 370,000 people were recognized as eligible for various types of government support, including medical and welfare assistance, depending on how far they were from ground zero.

"In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons, are an affront crying out to heaven," Francis said.

He lamented the "climate of distrust" that is eating away at non-proliferation efforts and the arms control framework, a reference to a series of violated treaties and the demise this year of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty, a landmark Cold War-era arms control agreement. The U.S. formally withdrew from the treaty in August, after accusing Moscow of developing a Russian missile system prohibited under it.

Gerald Powers, director of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute, said Francis didn't break any new ground on the morality of deterrence in his Sunday remarks,



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after he shifted the church's position in 2017.

"Instead, the pope reinforces the church's long-standing efforts to delegitimize the nuclear status quo and convince the world that nuclear disarmament is not only a moral imperative but should be a policy goal," he said in an email.

Starting 1982, St. John Paul II had held that nuclear deterrence could be morally acceptable in the interim "so long as it is used as a step toward mutual, verifiable nuclear disarmament." But the Holy See has come to realize in recent years that the policy was becoming a permanent condition, and not leading to disarmament. By condemning nuclear deterrence, Francis pleased liberals and agitated conservatives, perhaps informing his more nuanced remarks Sunday.

Japanese who came out to see Francis were grateful, regardless.

"I think he is a person who can deliver the message of peace without inhibition," said Negoro Fumiyo, a 62-year-old Christian from Osaka.

Fumiyo waited for hours in the rain for Francis' Mass, celebrated in Nagasaki's baseball stadium before a crowd of some 35,000 — and the remains of a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary rescued from a cathedral destroyed in the 1945 atomic bomb.

The statue, which was remarkably well preserved despite the blast, was featured on the altar.

Francis' visit to Nagasaki also gave him the chance to honor Christian missionaries and martyrs centuries after St. Francis Xavier first brought Christianity to the archipelago in 1549.

He laid a second wreath of flowers at the memorial of 26 Nagasaki Martyrs, who were crucified in 1597 at the start of the two-century wave of anti-Christian persecution by Japanese rulers.

The example of the missionaries and martyrs, and the Hidden Christians who kept their faith alive underground for generations, helped inspire a young priest named Jorge Mario Bergoglio to be a missionary in Japan.

"May we never forget their heroic sacrifice!" Francis said in remarks at the memorial.

Shingo Fukaura, from the Goto Islands off Nagasaki, where the Hidden Christians survived during the time of persecution, traveled to Nagasaki bearing gifts he hoped to give the pope at Mass.

"I also brought this branch of the camelia tree, which has been on my island since the time when we, Christians, were hiding our faith," he said. "I am hoping he could give his blessing to this tree ... and I could take it back to the islands to make it a symbol of peace."

Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

## Ginsburg hospitalized for treatment of chills and fever

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was hospitalized after experiencing chills and fever, the court said Saturday.

In a statement, the court's public information office said Ginsburg was admitted Friday night to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She was initially evaluated at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington before being transferred to Johns Hopkins for further evaluation and treatment of any possible infection.

With intravenous antibiotics and fluids, her symptoms abated and she expected to be released from the hospital as early as Sunday morning, the statement said.

Earlier this month Ginsburg, 86, suffered what the court described as a stomach bug. She was absent from arguments on Nov. 13 but returned for the court's next public meeting, on Nov. 18.

She has been treated for cancer twice in the past year and two other times since 1999. Over the summer she received radiation for a tumor on her pancreas. Last winter she underwent surgery for lung cancer.

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## Secretary of Navy says Trump's tweet is not a formal order

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — The secretary of the U.S. Navy said Saturday he doesn't consider a tweet by President Donald Trump an order and would need a formal order to stop a review of a sailor who could lose his status as a Navy SEAL.

"I need a formal order to act," Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said, and referred to the tweet. "I don't interpret them as a formal order."

Trump insisted last Thursday the Navy "will NOT be taking away Warfighter and Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher's Trident Pin," inserting himself into an ongoing legal review of the sailor's ability to hold onto the pin that designates him a SEAL.

The Navy on Wednesday notified Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher that he will face a review early next month to determine if he should remain on the elite force.

Gallagher was acquitted of a murder charge in the stabbing death of an Islamic State militant captive, but a military jury convicted him of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017. He was then demoted to chief.

Spencer, speaking on the sidelines of the Halifax International Security Forum in Canada, said if the president requests the process to stop, the process stops.

"Good order and discipline is also obeying the orders of the President of the United States," he said.

Despite the differing views with the president over the appropriate handling of the case, Spencer told reporters that he has not threatened to resign over the issue. But he acknowledged that he serves at the pleasure of the president.

"The president the United States is the commander in chief. He's involved in every aspect of government and he can make decisions and give orders as appropriate," he said.

Gallagher's lawyers have accused the Navy of trying to remove the SEAL designation in retaliation for Trump's decision last week to restore Gallagher's rank.

Gallagher filed a complaint with the inspector general accusing a rear admiral of insubordination for defying Trump's actions. Rear Adm. Collin Green is the Naval Special Warfare commander.

Under the review procedure, a five-person board will convene Dec. 2 behind closed doors. It will include one SEAL officer and four senior enlisted SEALs, according to the two U.S. officials. Gallagher can appear once before the board on Dec. 4 but without his lawyers. He can dispute the evidence given to the board that will include his conviction and call witnesses.

Gallagher can appeal any final decision that will be made by the Naval Personnel Board, which will take into account Green's input and the board's recommendations.

Trump's initial order in Gallagher only referred to restoring his rank, but it did not explicitly pardon the SEAL for any wrongdoing.

Green also notified three SEAL officers who oversaw Gallagher during the deployment — Lt. Cmdr. Robert Breisch, Lt. Jacob Portier and Lt. Thomas MacNeil — that they are also being reviewed, according to the officials.

Removing their Trident pins means they will no longer be SEALs but could remain in the Navy.

The Navy has revoked 154 Trident pins since 2011.

## Tougher US asylum policy follows in Europe's footsteps

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Nkeze wasn't home when Cameroonian militants came knocking, probably to deliver their signature ultimatum to join their separatist movement or have his writing arm cut off.

The 24-year-old economics student escaped to Douala, the country's largest city, only to learn that the government wanted to arrest him for participating in a university protest. He then flew to Ecuador and traveled through eight countries to the U.S. border with Mexico, including a trek through Panamanian jungle where he saw corpses and refugees crying for shelter, food and water.

In his quest to settle with relatives in Houston, Nkeze now faces a potentially insurmountable obstacle:

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a new American ban forbids anyone from applying for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border if they traveled through another country to get there.

"When you find yourself on U.S. soil, you are well-protected," Nkeze said, sounding upbeat as he waited in Tijuana for a chance to make his case. "You are protected by human rights." He spoke to The Associated Press on the condition that he be identified only by his last name due to safety concerns.

The U.S. is increasingly aligning itself with wealthy countries in Europe and elsewhere to make asylum a more distant prospect.

On Thursday, American authorities sent a Honduran man from El Paso, Texas, to Guatemala. It marked the first time the U.S. government directed an asylum-seeker back to that country under the new policy, which gave him an option to file a claim there. He decided against filing a claim and returned to Honduras, according to Guatemala's foreign ministry.

Asylum was once almost an afterthought, until an unprecedented surge of migrants made the United States the world's top destination in 2017, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency. The U.S. held its leading position last year, followed by Peru, Germany, France and Turkey.

Nearly half of the roughly 1 million cases in backlogged U.S. immigration courts are asylum claims, with most from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Trump has called asylum "a scam" and declared that the country is "full." In nine months, the administration returned more than 55,000 asylum-seekers to Mexico to wait for their cases to wind through U.S. courts. Another asylum ban on anyone who crosses the border illegally from Mexico is temporarily blocked in court.

It's unclear how the ban will be rolled out.

The U.S. Homeland Security Department did not comment on Thursday's initial flight, which got a bare-bones announcement from Guatemala's foreign ministry. The U.S. has struck agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras that aim to send back asylum-seekers who pass through their countries, but the Central American nations are woefully unprepared to accept large numbers.

The U.N. Refugee Agency said Tuesday that the ban is at odds with international law and "could result in the transfer of highly vulnerable individuals to countries where they may face life-threatening dangers."

Asylum is designed for people fleeing persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political beliefs or membership in a social group. It isn't intended for people who migrate for economic reasons, but many consider it their best hope of escaping poverty and violence.

The U.S. isn't alone in asking other countries to block migrants. After about 1 million refugees traveled through Turkey and Greece to seek safety in Europe, the European Union agreed in 2016 to pay Turkey billions of euros to keep them in refugee camps.

The EU has also funded the Libyan Coast Guard to stop Africans from crossing the Mediterranean, where thousands have drowned. Libyan forces have kept refugees in squalid conditions and inflicted torture.

Since 2001, Australia has intermittently blocked boats from Asia and detained asylum-seekers on Christmas Island, a tiny Australian territory, or sent them to Papua New Guinea and Nauru, an island nation of 10,000 people. Australia pays detention costs.

The U.S. long resettled more refugees than any other country, raising its ceiling to 110,000 during President Barack Obama's last year in office. That practice has been sharply curtailed since Trump took office, with the country planning to resettle no more than 18,000 refugees in 2020.

"There's this race to the bottom around the world, and governments are looking to each other and trying to figure out what's the harshest policy they can get away with," said David FitzGerald, a sociology professor at University of California at San Diego and author of "Refuge Beyond Reach: How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum-seekers."

Cameroonians hoping to follow Nkeze's path face mounting obstacles. Ecuador, the main gateway from Europe, began requiring visas for Cameroonians and 10 other nationalities in August, including six in Africa. Under heavy pressure from Trump, Mexico is bottling up Cameroonians and other U.S.-bound asylum-seekers near its southern border with Guatemala.



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Nkeze walked through Panama's remote, mostly roadless Darien Gap in less than four days on his way to the U.S. After giving his tent and raincoat to a woman who was clinging to life, he slept on a stone and prayed for clear skies and morning light. Only about a dozen in his group of 40 men could keep up in a race to a refugee camp on the other side of the jungle.

When his 20-day transit permit in Mexico expired, Nkeze helped a friend at a Tijuana juice factory for a cut of his earnings and lived at a no-frills hotel in the city's red-light district.

Even before the ban, asylum was difficult to get in the U.S. Judges granted only 21% of cases, or 13,248 out of 62,382, in the 2018 fiscal year. Nkeze can also ask for two variations of asylum, but they are even harder to obtain, with 3% succeeding under "withholding of removal" law and only 2% under the U.N. Convention Against Torture.

"They essentially want you to bring a note from your torturer before they are willing to let you stay in the U.S.," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, professor of immigration law practice at Cornell University.

Nkeze may have caught a break when a federal judge in San Diego ruled Tuesday that anyone who appeared at a U.S. border crossing before the ban was announced July 16 and waited for their names to be called should be exempt.

He waited for five months in Tijuana for his turn on a list of nearly 9,000 people seeking asylum at a San Diego border crossing.

When his name was finally called Nov. 12, he wore a Mexican flag pin on the chest of his jacket as Mexican authorities escorted him to U.S. border inspectors. He said it was a show of appreciation.

He was immediately taken into immigration custody and is being held in an Arizona detention center.

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Associated Press writer Sonia Perez D. in Guatemala City contributed to this report.

## Suspect in custody in shooting death of Alabama sheriff

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama sheriff was fatally shot Saturday evening in a community near the state's capital, authorities announced, and an 18-year-old suspect was taken into custody after an hourslong manhunt.

Gov. Kay Ivey tweeted that Lowndes County Sheriff John Williams had been "tragically killed" in the line of duty and that she offered her prayers and sympathy to his family and the county sheriff's department.

The suspect in custody was an 18-year-old William Chase Johnson. Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham initially told news outlets that Williams was shot at a gas station.

The state had issued an emergency alert saying it was seeking an 18-year-old white man last seen at a QV gas station at 8:15 p.m., in the area and around the time of the reported shooting. Sgt. Steve Jarrett, the commander of state troopers' Montgomery post, later confirmed to reporters that the shooting took place at the QV station, and that Johnson was the only suspect at the time. He was considered a "serious risk" who may have been traveling on foot, according to the alert.

Jarrett confirmed to news outlets that Johnson approached the shooting scene just after midnight, and had a handgun with him. The state law enforcement agency canceled the emergency alert early Sunday, saying Johnson was in custody.

"Details as to how he fled the scene and then reappeared at the scene, all that's going to be investigated," Jarrett said, according to WSFA-TV. The gas station is located in the Lowndes County seat of Hayneville, around 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Montgomery.

The tall sheriff was known as "Big John." Ivey paid tribute to him online, writing that in his years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps and "his many years working in law enforcement, he dedicated his life to keeping other people safe."

The sheriff was first elected in 2010, running as a Democrat. He was a Lowndes County native who started volunteering as a reserve deputy in 1978. He also worked for Hayneville police before joining the sheriff's department full-time in 1987 and being appointed chief deputy in 1990.

"Sheriff Williams always wanted to make a difference in his community and felt there was no better way

to help his community than to protect and serve them in law enforcement," the biography read.

Lowndes County is predominantly black. It had a population of around 11,000 in the 2010 census. In 2007, more than 60 people gathered at the county courthouse to protest then-Gov. Bob Riley's appointment of a white law enforcement officer to replace the county's deceased sheriff. At the time, the county commission president said all five commissioners and other elected officials had recommended Williams, who is black, for the position.

During his decadeslong career with the sheriff's office, Williams notably in 2000 was the arresting officer of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, a 1960s black militant who was known as H. Rap Brown before converting to Islam. Al-Amin was wanted and later convicted in the fatal 2000 shooting of a Fulton County sheriff's deputy in Atlanta.

Williams is the fifth Alabama law enforcement officer to die from gunfire in the line of duty, and the sixth overall, in 2019, according to a statement from state Attorney General Steve Marshall.

## Wilder stops Ortiz in heavyweight title rematch

By TIM DAHLBERG AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — One rematch down, one to go for Deontay Wilder

Wilder landed a vicious right hand to stop Luis Ortiz in the seventh round Saturday night to retain his heavyweight title and set up a lucrative rematch with Tyson Fury in February.

Wilder's punch came out of nowhere in a fight he had done little in up until that time. It landed flush on the face of Ortiz, who crumpled to the canvas and was unable to get up at the count of 10.

The sudden ending came after a lackluster first six rounds in which Wilder did little. But the devastating power that has gotten him knockouts in all but two of his fights came through again.

"I finally found my measurement and I took the shot," Wilder said. "I had to play around with him. I had to calculate certain moves."

The fight was a rematch of a bout last year when Wilder stopped Ortiz on the 10th round. It set up a Feb. 23 fight against Fury that has already been signed.

Wilder fought cautiously for the first six rounds, finding himself in the hole on the cards of the three ringside judges. Two gave him just one of the six, while a third gave him two rounds. The Associated Press had Ortiz pitching a shutout.

Wilder began to pick up the pace in the seventh round, then caught Ortiz with the right hand that brought the fight to an end at 2:51 of the round.

"My intellect is very high in the ring and no one gives me credit," Wilder said. "I think I buzzed him with a left hook earlier in the round and I took it from there."

Ortiz (31-2) didn't protest the ending, but said he thought he beat the count.

"I was clear headed when I hit the canvas" he said. "When I heard the referee say seven I was trying to get up but I guess the count went a little quicker than I thought."

Wilder (42-0-1, 41 knockouts) displayed the massive power that has made him a force in the heavyweight division, but won no style points in winning the fight. He did little until the big punch that ended the fight, wary of the power that Ortiz showed when he hurt him in their first fight in March 2018.

Wilder made at least \$3 million for the fight, but figures to make much more when he and Fury meet in a rematch of their fight a year ago that ended in a disputed draw. His win helped clarify the top of the heavyweight division, though, which will be sorted out further when Anthony Joshua and Andy Ruiz Jr. meet Dec. 7 in their title rematch in Saudi Arabia.

"Next we have Tyson Fury in the rematch," Wilder said. "Then I want unification. I want one champion, one face and one heavyweight champion — Deontay Wilder."

Wilder said before the fight that he would end it with a knockout, and he was a 4-1 favorite going in. Oddsmakers had made the over/under for the fight at seven full rounds, and Wilder's right hand made winners of the under with just nine seconds to spare.

The 40-year-old Ortiz, who left Cuba to pursue a pro career, seemed to baffle Wilder with his southpaw

style. He was also able to get off combinations quickly when Wilder punched first.

“Ortiz is one of the best in the world,” Wilder said. “You have to give him that.”

## She can't vote, but 2020 Democrats want her support anyway

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — One of the most sought-after presidential endorsements in a key early voting state is from a woman who cannot vote.

As Democrats jockey for support in Nevada, a meeting with Astrid Silva, a 31-year-old immigrant rights activist who has become a public face of the “Dreamers,” is a can't-miss early stop.

Silva has had dinner with Kamala Harris, policy roundtables with Elizabeth Warren and Joe Biden, and vegan tamales with Cory Booker. Just this week, after Pete Buttigieg noticed she attended Supreme Court arguments on the program shielding her from deportation, the candidate called to make sure she knew he supported her cause.

“Presidential wannabes, when they come here —I don't know a single one that hasn't met with her,” said Harry Reid, the former U.S. Senate Majority Leader, who helped elevate Silva's profile during his push for immigration reform. “There's no question in my mind that candidates are well served to visit with her.”

Silva's busy calendar highlights the power of Latino voters in Nevada, the third state on Democrats' primary calendar. The state has a large immigrant community, and Latinos account for roughly 19% of the electorate, according to the Pew Research Center. Many of those voters are Democrats, making Nevada's contest a critical test of the candidates' appeal among a group with rising political power in the party.

While immigration has taken a back seat to health care and impeachment in the national primary debate, it remains on the forefront for Nevada Democrats, many of whom want candidates to have a plan to permanently protect Dreamers and offer a path to citizenship, among a host of other changes.

Silva, one of about 13,000 young immigrants in the state who are temporarily shielded from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, has become a visible figure in the push for immigration reform since meeting Reid in 2009. President Barack Obama cited her in a 2014 immigration speech, and she spoke at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. In 2016, she declared Hillary Clinton's immigration plan to be the most feasible and endorsed her, helping Clinton as she won the Nevada caucuses and later carried the purple state.

Her endorsement “gives that candidate the ability to say that they have been vetted by someone who is fighting with the immigrant community for the immigrant community,” said Democratic state Sen. Yvanna Cancela, a close friend of Silva's.

Silva is wary of giving that stamp of approval easily.

Over the last several months, she has spent hours in private meetings in Las Vegas with the candidates, usually bringing with her a team of activists, immigrants and volunteer attorneys.

Over chips and salsa at family-run Mexican restaurants or, in Booker's case, vegan tamales and prayer at an altar in a local home, Silva has tried to focus the candidates on personal stories. She and others often describe the fears immigrants face and the complexities of the U.S. immigration system. They talk about sexual assault victims who are scared to report to police because they don't have legal status. They recount how family members were forced to leave and remain out of the country for up to 10 years before applying to legally rejoin their family.

“It's very different when you're the one that's afraid of the police, when you're the one that's afraid of ICE, when you're the one that goes to bed at night thinking, ‘Will I come home tomorrow?’” Silva said.

Silva sometimes tells them her story, about crossing the border from Mexico at age 4 with her parents without legal possession. Until she was 26 and Nevada began issuing driver privilege cards to immigrants, she relied on the bus to get around sprawling Las Vegas. She runs a nonprofit that connects immigrants with support and legal help but says she ensures her family or friends can access her bank account to pay her bills in case her legal status changes and she ends up detained.

“Our literal everything is in somebody else's hands,” she said. “I don't have a say over my life.”



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While meeting with candidates, her fellow Latino immigrants often give the 2020 hopefuls small tokens to remember them, like an image of St. Jude, the patron saint of lost causes, or an "escapulario," a devotional necklace featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico, that's seen as a protection from bad things.

"They can't vote. The one thing they can give is their time and literally their treasures, which is their religious artifacts," Silva said.

Booker, Warren and Harris, who had several meetings with Silva, have released Dreamer plans that would use executive action to extend protections for those already covered and allow other immigrants, like Dreamers' family members, to apply for protection from deportation.

Sen. Bernie Sanders has proposed extending protection to parents of legal residents, along with placing a moratorium on all deportations and allowing those without legal status to get health coverage under his "Medicare for All" plan. His campaign has been working to set up a meeting with Silva.

Buttigieg and Silva spoke for about five minutes by phone on Sunday.

Biden, who has not released a detailed immigration plan, has called for Congress to grant citizenship to Dreamers.

But Silva remains concerned about the Democratic field. She's seen few candidates truly reaching out and organizing families in the immigrant community, she said. She worries that candidates will change their tune in the general election, when the fight shifts to the Rust Belt, where immigration is an issue that could drive some white working-class voters away.

"Right now, they could be talking really nice, but when they have to go moderate, or when they have to go to the right, our families are first to be sacrificed," Silva said. "We are the first to be on the cutting board because we don't vote. We can't vote."

Others worry about campaigns thinking one activist — or one issue — alone will unlock the Latino vote.

Like other voters, Latinos care about health care, education and climate change, among other issues, said Leo Murrieta, the director of the advocacy organization Make the Road Nevada.

While Silva plays an important role, candidates need to do more than meet with her "just to check off a box," Murrieta said.

"One person can't possibly be asked to represent an entire population," he said.

Meanwhile, Silva acknowledges the White House race has been overshadowed by the day-to-day struggles she and other immigrants are facing, which have intensified under the Trump administration.

The Supreme Court heard arguments last week about whether President Donald Trump can terminate the DACA program, and a decision is expected by the end of June. Opponents on the right argue DACA protections reward people who broke the law and encourage more people to immigrate without legal permission.

Moderate Republicans have backed a path to citizenship for Dreamers, but past efforts have collapsed in Congress.

"If my work permit is taken away," Silva said, "does it matter, my endorsement? Does it matter that I'm advocating for a candidate when I can't see my family?"

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Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

## Governor: Alabama sheriff shot, killed in line of duty

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama sheriff was fatally shot Saturday evening in a community near the state's capital, authorities announced, later saying they were seeking a man considered to be a "serious risk" who may be traveling on foot.

Gov. Kay Ivey tweeted that Lowndes County Sheriff John Williams had been "tragically killed" in the line of duty and that she offered her prayers and sympathy to his family and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department.

Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham told news outlets that Williams was shot at a gas sta-

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tion in the community of Hayneville, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Montgomery. Details remained sketchy as law enforcement agents converged on the community. Video from WSFA-TV showed a heavy law enforcement presence late Saturday outside a QV gas station.

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency spokesman Cpl. Jess Thornton told reporters the State Bureau of Investigation was en route to the scene.

Meanwhile, the state issued what it called an "emergency BLUE alert" that it was seeking an 18-year-old white man last seen at a QV gas station in the area at 8:15 p.m., the time of the reported shooting. The statement made no mention of the shooting or a possible connection to the man.

The tall sheriff was known as "Big John." Ivey paid tribute to him online, writing that in his years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps and "his many years working in law enforcement, he dedicated his life to keeping other people safe."

The sheriff was first elected in 2010, running as a Democrat. He was a Lowndes County native who started volunteering as a reserve deputy in 1978. He also worked for Hayneville police before joining the sheriff's department full-time in 1987 and being appointed chief deputy in 1990.

"Sheriff Williams always wanted to make a difference in his community and felt there was no better way to help his community than to protect and serve them in law enforcement," the biography read.

Lowndes County is predominantly black. It had a population of around 11,000 in the 2010 census. In 2007, more than 60 people gathered at the Lowndes County Courthouse to protest then-Gov. Bob Riley's appointment of a white law enforcement officer to replace the county's deceased sheriff. At the time, the county commission president said all five commissioners and other elected officials had recommended Williams, who is black, for the position.

During his decadeslong career with the sheriff's office, Williams notably in 2000 was the arresting officer of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, a 1960s black militant who was known as H. Rap Brown before converting to Islam. Al-Amin was wanted and later convicted in the fatal 2000 shooting of a Fulton County sheriff's deputy in Atlanta.

## **Bloomberg vows to refuse donations, presidential salary**

**By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Politics Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Bloomberg will not accept political donations if he runs for president and he will not take a salary if he wins, according to senior aides who offered new details on Saturday about the New York billionaire's plans to navigate his wealth as he marches toward a formal 2020 announcement.

"He has never taken a political contribution in his life. He is not about to start," Bloomberg chief adviser Howard Wolfson said in an interview. "He cannot be bought."

One of the richest men in the world, Bloomberg is sending every indication he has decided to enter the crowded Democratic presidential primary election. In recent days, he has created a presidential campaign committee with the Federal Election Commission and qualified for the primary ballot in at least three states. Bloomberg's team has reserved more than \$30 million in television ads set to begin running Sunday in several primary states.

The moves, just 10 weeks before primary voting begins in Iowa, reflects his concern that the current Democratic field is not well-positioned to defeat President Donald Trump next fall.

Bloomberg's wealth has already emerged as a central issue as the political world awaits his formal announcement. He is estimated to be one of the 10 richest people in the world.

His Democratic rivals pounced on news of Bloomberg's massive television ad buy, in addition to his decision to bypass the first four states on the presidential primary calendar — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina — in favor of focusing on the many states that hold primary contests in March.

"I'm disgusted by the idea that Michael Bloomberg or any billionaire thinks they can circumvent the political process and spend tens of millions of dollars to buy elections," Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders, a Vermont senator, wrote Friday on Twitter. "If you can't build grassroots support for your candidacy, you have no business running for president."

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Another Democratic candidate, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, swiped at Bloomberg as she campaigned over the weekend in New Hampshire.

"He didn't want to deal with all of this grassroots campaigning from the beginning, you know that's on him. I think this is important," Klobuchar said. She added, "I think that you want to have a candidate for president who's willing to go out, day after day, and talk to regular people like this."

Bloomberg's team insists that his wealth allows him to be more responsive to the concerns of everyday people because he isn't beholden to special interests. Wolfson said Bloomberg would work for only \$1 a year as president, just as he did when he was New York City mayor for more than a decade.

Bloomberg's message on money is much the same one employed by Trump in his 2016 campaign, although Trump ultimately accepted millions of dollars in donations. Trump donates his salary each quarter to different departments of the federal government.

Bloomberg "is wholly independent of special interests, will not take a dime in any contribution, and never has in any of his three races," Wolfson said.

The decision to refuse contributions would make it impossible for Bloomberg to participate any sanctioned Democratic debates should he run. The rules of entry, as set by the Democratic National Committee, currently require participants to meet a polling threshold and raise donations from tens of thousands of voters.

Any money Bloomberg raises and spends on his presidential ambitions will come from one place: His own pocket.

How much is he willing to spend?

"Whatever it takes to defeat Donald Trump," Wolfson said.

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AP writer Sara Burnett in Henniker, New Hampshire contributed.

## **Pence works to reassure Kurdish allies in surprise Iraq trip**

**By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press**

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence worked to reassure the United States' Kurdish allies in an unannounced trip to Iraq on Saturday, the highest-level American trip since President Donald Trump ordered a pullback of U.S. forces in Syria two months ago.

Flying in a C-17 military cargo aircraft, Pence landed in Irbil, capital of Iraq's semiautonomous Kurdish region, to meet with Iraqi Kurdistan President Nechirvan Barzani.

The visit was meant to hearten the United States' regional partners in the fight against the Islamic State group after the U.S. pulled troops from northern Syria, leaving America's Kurdish allies there to face a bloody cross-border Turkish assault last month.

Asked by reporters if the United States was facing a sense of betrayal from Iraqi and Syrian Kurdish allies over Trump's actions in Syria, Pence said both groups, including Syrian Kurdish forces "who fought alongside us," had no doubts about the U.S. commitment to them. "It's unchanging," Pence said.

Earlier, Pence received a classified briefing at Iraq's Al-Asad Air Base, from which U.S. forces are believed to have launched the operation in Syria last month that resulted in the death of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Pence also spoke by phone with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi.

Underscoring Pence's message that American military partnership with Syrian Kurdish forces is ongoing, the U.S.-led coalition said Saturday that its forces, along with hundreds of Syrian Kurdish commandos, had jointly carried out the largest operation against the Islamic State in eastern Syria since the U.S. pullback began in early October.

Friday's operation in southeastern Syria's Deir el-Zour province captured dozens of Islamic State militants, cleared enemy compounds and seized weapons and explosives, the U.S.-led coalition said. Operations against Islamic State militants in Syria had been disrupted, but not totally halted, because of the U.S. troop pullback and Turkey's invasion.

Pence's trip Saturday was his second to the region in five weeks. Trump deployed him on a whirlwind journey to Ankara, Turkey, last month to negotiate a cease-fire after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan



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seized on the U.S. withdrawal to launch the offensive on U.S.-allied Kurdish fighters in northern Syria. Trump's move had sparked some of the most unified criticism of his administration to date, as lawmakers in both parties accused Trump of forsaking longtime Kurdish allies and inviting Russia and Iran to hold even greater sway in the volatile region.

When the U.S. forces withdrew, Syria's Kurds — seeking protection from their No. 1 enemy, Turkey — invited Syrian government and Russian forces into parts of northeastern Syria where they had not set foot in years. More are now deploying along large parts of the border region under a Russian-Turkish deal, including to at least one former U.S. garrison in northern Syria.

The Ankara agreement required Syrian Kurds to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish border in an arrangement that largely solidified Turkey's position and aims.

Pence hailed the cease-fire as the way to end the bloodshed caused by Turkey's invasion.

But Syrian-led Kurdish forces say the cease-fire is persistently violated. Fighting raged Saturday between them and Turkey-backed forces outside the Syrian town of Ein Issa, once home to U.S. bases and the Kurdish administration.

A senior Syrian Kurdish official was critical Saturday of Washington's lack of response to Turkey's violations of the cease-fire.

Limiting the U.S. partnership to military cooperation over a limited area with the Syrian Kurdish fighters, "while condoning the killing of civilians, is not a very honest relationship and cooperation," the official, Ilham Ahmed, said.

On Nov. 13, Trump feted Erdogan with a White House visit over the objection of a bipartisan group of lawmakers who argued Erdogan should be denied the honor of a West Wing visit in the aftermath of the invasion and because of his decision to purchase Russian-made surface-to-air missiles over the objection of NATO allies.

In neighboring Syria, after declaring the near-complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Syria, Trump decided that roughly 800 would stay to keep eastern Syria's oil fields from falling back into the hands of the Islamic State.

Trump also agreed to keep about 150 U.S. troops at a base in southern Syria as a check on Iranian influence in the region.

While Trump has claimed that the U.S. was now "keeping" the oil in Syria, Pentagon officials indicated the U.S. presence is not intended to improve the oil infrastructure but to keep it in the hands of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

Pence, joined on the trip by his wife, Karen Pence, also greeted U.S. troops ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, serving turkey and accompaniments to hundreds of troops at the two locations.

"While you come from the rest of us, you're the best of us," Pence told service members in a dusty hangar at Al-Asad. He said the Trump administration is working to secure another pay increase for the armed services and suggested the ongoing impeachment inquiry in Washington was slowing the way.

"Partisan politics and endless investigations have slowed things down in D.C.," Pence said.

Pence's visit to Iraq comes as the country has been plagued by widespread anti-corruption protests. At least 320 protesters have been killed and thousands have been wounded since the unrest began on Oct. 1.

Pence spoke by phone with Abdul-Mahdi after the Iraqi leader declined an invitation to meet with Pence at the air base when security concerns prevented Pence from traveling into Baghdad.

Pence encouraged the Iraqi government to show restraint with the protesters.

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Associated Press writers Samya Kullab in Baghdad and Sarah El Deeb in Beirut contributed.

## Harvard-Yale game delayed by student protest; 20-30 arrested

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Protesters wearing the colors of both Harvard and Yale staged a sit-in at midfield of Yale Bowl during halftime of the 136th edition of the annual football rivalry known as The Game.

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Most walked off after about an hour with a police escort; about 20-30 who remained were arrested.

A few dozen protesters initially trickled onto the field as the Yale band finished performing its halftime routine, some holding a banner asking the schools' presidents to divest from the fossil fuel industry. Other signs referred to Puerto Rican debt and the treatment of the Uighurs.

Yale officials said in a statement handed to reporters in the press box during the fourth quarter that the school "stands firmly for the right to free expression."

"It is regrettable," a statement attributed to the Ivy League said, "that the orchestrated protest came during a time when fellow students were participating in a collegiate career-defining contest and an annual tradition when thousands gather from around the world to enjoy and celebrate the storied traditions of both football programs and universities."

Between 20 and 30 people were arrested, released and given a court date, protest organizers said. Rachel Sadoff, a junior at Harvard, said about 150 students from the two universities planned to participate and about 100 more who had been sitting in the stands joined in.

"Our goal was to spread the word," Sadoff said. "If more people speak up, our colleges will have to listen."

Largely of college age but with a few older protesters mixed in, the group chanted: "Hey Hey! Ho Ho! Fossil fuels have got to go!" One banner read "This is an emergency." Mostly they sat or milled around near midfield, with some taking selfies; a vape pen and a crushed can of beer were left behind.

Police in yellow vests lined up alongside the sit-in but did not intervene. When the 15-minute halftime expired and the protest continued, hundreds more fans streamed onto the field to join in. Fans remaining in the stands began to boo, but only briefly.

The public address announcer implored the group to leave, repeating, "As a courtesy to both teams, the game must resume." Protesters responded by chanting, "OK, boomer."

Players tried to remain warm on the sideline in mid-40 temperatures, but then returned to their locker rooms. Harvard coach Tim Murphy was given an update from the game officials and public safety officers as the protest continued.

Yale Police Chief Ronnell Higgins spoke to the protesters over a megaphone, trying to convince them that they had made their point, but it would be lost if the situation escalated.

After about an hour, police formed a line and moved forward, from the Yale sideline toward the Harvard sideline. A protest leader encouraged all "internationals" to leave. An agreement was reached to escort the remainders off, with one police officer to every two protesters.

Those who did not leave then were informed by Higgins that they would be arrested. Asked how many people were taken into custody, Higgins referred questions to the police public information officer. Messages left with Yale and New Haven police were not immediately returned.

Yale coach Tony Reno said the team reverted to its plans for when a game is interrupted by lightning. The Bulldogs rallied from a 17-point, fourth-quarter deficit, winning 50-43 in double overtime in darkness in the unlit, century-old Yale Bowl to clinch the Ivy League championship and conclude one of the strangest editions in the rivalry's 144-year history.

"It's what makes Yale Yale," Reno said. "Our group, I'm sure if you asked them and the Harvard guys what makes it special, it's not only the game of football. It's the passions."

More AP college football: <http://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Top lawmakers reach agreement on spending as deadline nears

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Negotiations on a package of spending bills to fund the federal government have produced a key breakthrough, though considerably more work is needed to wrap up the long-delayed measures.

Top lawmakers of the House and Senate Appropriations committees on Saturday confirmed agreement on allocations for each of the 12 spending bills, a step that allows negotiations on the \$1.4 trillion budget

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bundle to begin in earnest to try to pass the measures by a Dec. 20 deadline.

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., and Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., announced the agreement on Saturday through aides.

The measures would fill in the details on this summer's hard-won budget and debt deal. The pact is sought by a broad spectrum of GOP defense hawks, Democrats pressing to maintain recent gains in domestic programs, and a dwindling cadre of Washington pragmatists eager to demonstrate that they can make divided government work in an increasingly toxic atmosphere.

The talks come as the Democratic-controlled House is driving toward impeaching President Donald Trump, whose demands for billions of dollars more for additional wall construction along the U.S.-Mexico border have slowed the process.

Trump has little interest in the often-arcane appropriations process, other than to obtain wall funding and to boast about record Pentagon funding. The annual spending bills are, however, a top priority for top lawmakers like Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who have wrestled over appropriations for decades.

Trump has been limited in success in winning wall funding from Congress, where there is relatively little enthusiasm for the project among his GOP allies and strong opposition from most Democrats. Congress provided just \$1.4 billion in wall funding last year.

But Trump has won considerably more money through transfers from Pentagon accounts by exploiting budget rules. He is seeking \$8.6 billion, including \$5 billion for the Department of Homeland Security, but would win far less under the tentative accord.

Lawmakers passed a stopgap measure this week to fund the government through Dec. 20. Saturday's pact opens the door to a final agreement by that date, though the spending bundling is probably more likely to spill over into next year.

## 5 states drag feet on creation of panels to promote Census

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER** Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — With billions in federal aid and seats in Congress at stake, some states are dragging their feet in carrying out one of the Census Bureau's chief recommendations for making sure everyone is counted during the 2020 census.

Five states — Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas — have not set up "complete count committees" that would create public awareness campaigns to encourage people to fill out the questionnaires.

In some of those states, politicians argued that a statewide body would be unnecessary, since local committees, cities and nonprofit organizations are already working to publicize the census. In others, state leaders didn't see any urgency to act.

The once-a-decade count of the U.S. population starts in January in a remote area of Alaska. The rest of the nation takes part starting in the spring.

"We are encouraging others to join in," Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said this month. "The clock is ticking, and the time to join is now."

Six states — Iowa, Maine, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin — only got on board in the past several weeks.

Officials say the committees can separate census winners from losers.

"Complete count committees are extremely effective," said Albert Fontenot, an associate director at the Census Bureau. "It's in the states' interests in that they get a funding flow and congressional seats."

Of the holdout states, all but Louisiana have Republican governors.

In Texas, a measure to create a committee died in the GOP-dominated Legislature earlier this year even though the second most populous state has the most to gain from the census — up to three congressional seats.

Some Texas lawmakers were worried about losing their seats during redistricting if population surges



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favoring Democrats were found in urban and suburban areas, said Luis Figueroa, legislative and policy director at the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin.

Also, at the time, the Trump administration was pushing to add a citizenship question to the form, and some lawmakers didn't want to take a stand on the issue by promoting the census, he said. The U.S. Supreme Court later blocked the question.

Twenty-six state governments are appropriating nearly \$350 million to reach people and get them to respond to the census. The amounts range from California's record \$187 million to Montana's \$100,000, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. New York City is committing \$40 million.

States led by Democrats have spent more per capita. Of the 11 states spending at least \$1 per resident, all but North Dakota have Democratic governors, according to an Associated Press analysis.

California, which stands to lose a seat in Congress, is spending \$4.73 per person, using the money to target certain ethnic communities, provide educational materials to schools and identify community leaders who can personally encourage participation in the most populous state.

Spending on outreach offers a great return on investment, said Ditas Katague, director of the California Complete Count-Census 2020 Office.

"You have to look at how many programs will suffer and how much money we will lose," Katague said.

In 2000, when California spent \$24 million, 76 percent of residents returned the questionnaires by mail, outstripping the national average. In 2010, in the aftermath of the recession and budget cuts, California spent only \$2 million, and the mail response rate dropped to 73 percent, below the national average.

In Florida, the third most populous state, bills establishing a statewide committee died in the GOP-controlled legislature. With an influx from such places as Puerto Rico and Venezuela, Florida has gained about 2.5 million people since 2010 and could pick up two more congressional seats.

A spokeswoman for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said he is still reviewing what action should be taken to help get a full head count. "The governor takes the census seriously," spokeswoman Helen Ferre said.

In Nebraska, Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts vetoed a bill to create a complete count committee, saying that local committees are already doing the work and that the legislation would have given a University of Nebraska program authority to create the panel without guidance from the state.

The number of congressional seats for Nebraska is expected to remain unchanged.

Still, "ultimately I think this will be a loss for Nebraska, especially in terms of receiving federal funds," said state Sen. Matt Hansen, a Democrat from Lincoln who sponsored the legislation. "Specifically, I am concerned children, racial and ethnic minority populations, homeless persons, and those who live in rural and isolated areas will be undercounted."

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Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

## No. 2 Ohio State tested but tops No. 9 Penn State 28-17

By MITCH STACY AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — After cruising through the first 10 games against teams that didn't put up much of a fight, No. 2 Ohio State found itself in a slugfest with No. 9 Penn State.

The Buckeyes responded, winning with defense.

Justin Hillard intercepted Penn State backup Will Levis' pass and the Buckeyes stopped the Nittany Lions on fourth down on two late drives to seal a 28-17 victory and lock up the Big Ten East title.

J.K. Dobbins rushed for 157 yards and two touchdowns, and Justin Fields threw for 188 yards and two scores for Ohio State (10-0, 8-0).

Ohio State held on after Penn State (9-2, 7-2) took advantage of two second-half turnovers to climb back in the game after trailing 21-0. This was a far different scenario for Ohio State, which hadn't yet had to play hard into the second half.

"We talked about going into a big heavyweight match, and you have to take shots," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "One of the things about playing in a game like this is you have to be willing to take punches

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and you have to not flinch when it happens. That was a great example. That was the first time we really were taking shots there.”

The Buckeyes were clinging to a 21-17 lead early in the fourth quarter when Fields threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Chris Olave to create some breathing room.

Ohio State, with Chase Young back from a two-game suspension, then got the interception from Hillard before shutting down two late Penn State drives on fourth down, aided by deafening crowd noise. The last drive included back-to-back sacks of backup quarterback Will Levis by Young and linebacker Baron Browning.

## FIELDS FIGHTS BACK

Fields fumbled away the ball twice, once as he was crossing the goal line for what would have been a touchdown. But he got critical yards on the ground, rushing for 68 yards on 21 carries and threw beautiful second half touchdown passes to K.J. Hill and Olave.

And he got knocked around plenty, and at one point late in the game was slow to get up after being sacked but stayed in the game.

“He’s a warrior, I’m telling you,” Day said. “He’s got the heart of a lion.”

## CHASE RETURNS

Young was back in action after sitting out two games as a penalty for breaking the rules by accepting a personal loan. And he was a force, picking up nine tackles, including three sacks. He has 16 1/2 for the season, the most ever by a Buckeye.

## CLIFFORD OUT

Freshman QB Levis finished up Penn State’s first scoring drive in the third quarter — capped by an 18-yard touchdown run by Journey Brown — after Sean Clifford left the game with an injury. Coach James Franklin said Clifford was available to come back in but wasn’t 100% so he stayed with Levis, who scored on a 1-yard run in the third quarter.

“I was a little nervous the first couple plays, but then it all went away, and I started having fun and doing my thing,” Levis said.

Coincidentally, Levis signed with Penn State after Fields withdrew his commitment to Franklin and chose Georgia in 2018. Fields transferred to Ohio State in January.

## THE TAKEAWAY

Penn State: Statistically, the Nittany Lions were beaten soundly but managed to hang around until late. Journey Brown ran the ball 11 times for 64 yards.

“No one flinched,” Penn State safety Garrett Taylor said. “We came out and fought hard.”

Ohio State: The Buckeyes outgained the Nittany Lions 417-227 but were stricken by uncharacteristic turnovers. Now it’s on to Ann Arbor for the rivalry game against No. 12 Michigan.

“It’s good to have a full game under your belt, especially going into next week,” linebacker Pete Werner said.

## POLL IMPLICATIONS

Buckeyes should stay put. Nittany Lions could drop but not much after playing Ohio State tough.

## UP NEXT

Penn State: Hosts Rutgers next Saturday in season finale.

Ohio State: Winds up the regular season next Saturday with rivalry game against Michigan.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

Follow Mitch Stacy at <http://twitter.com/mitchstacy>

## **Iraqi officials: 2 protesters dead amid ongoing clashes**

**By SAMYA KULLAB and MURTADA FARAJ Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi security forces fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds of protesters Saturday, killing two people in a third day of fierce clashes in central Baghdad, security and hospital officials said.

Two protesters were struck with rubber bullets and died instantly and over 20 others were wounded in the fighting on Rasheed Street, a famous avenue known for its old crumbling architecture and now littered with rubble from days of violence. Sixteen people have died and over 100 wounded in the renewed clashes. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

At least 342 protesters have died in Iraq's massive protests, which started on Oct. 1 when thousands of Iraqis took to the streets to decry corruption and lack of services despite Iraq's oil wealth.

Separately, Iraq's Parliament failed to hold a session Saturday due to lack of a quorum. Lawmakers were supposed to read reform bills introduced to placate protesters. The next session was postponed to Monday.

The fighting has centered on Rasheed Street and started on Thursday when protesters tried to dismantle a security forces barricade on the street, which leads to Ahrar Bridge, a span over the Tigris River that has been a repeated flashpoint. Security forces responded with barrages of tear gas and live ammunition.

The violence took off again Friday afternoon. Live rounds and tear gas cannisters were fired by security forces from behind a concrete barrier on Rasheed Street.

On Saturday, fighting picked up in the late afternoon and again in the evening, with security forces firing rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds.

Protesters have occupied part of three bridges — Ahrar, Jumhuriya and Sinak — in a standoff with security forces. The bridges lead to the fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government.

## **New Hampshire may test durability of Sanders' popularity**

**By HUNTER WOODALL and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press**

FRANKLIN, N.H. (AP) — Bernie Sanders has consistently remained among the front-runners in the Democratic primary with polling that has stayed strong despite his campaign-trail heart attack last month and the rise of top rivals Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg.

But perhaps no state will test the Vermont senator's durability more than New Hampshire, where he trounced Hillary Clinton by 22 points in 2016 and now may find himself a victim of that success since repeating such a dominate performance seems unthinkable.

Warren, a senator from Massachusetts, is trying to erode Sanders' support among ardent progressives, while former Vice President Joe Biden continues to woo the Democratic establishment, declaring during a recent stop in the state capital, Concord: "I plan on winning New Hampshire."

Yet another New Englander, former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, could raise the state's stakes since he's already relatively well known here, despite just joining the race.

And, with none of those candidates from nearby states running away with New Hampshire, Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has moved among the front-runners — similar to his rise in Iowa.

"I like what Bernie stands for," said Jessica Pine, 42, who attended a Sanders event Saturday in Franklin and is considering voting for him, Warren or Biden. "I'm not sure about the electability for him."

Polls in late October and early November show Biden, Warren, Sanders and Buttigieg all bunched together for the New Hampshire lead, with each seeing about the same level of support from likely primary voters.

Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir said in August he expected Sanders to win New Hampshire — which is expected to hold its primary on Feb. 11, eight days after Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses — while insisting that falling short wouldn't spell catastrophe.

"It gets harder if we don't win New Hampshire for sure," Shakir said.

Still, in September, Sanders ousted his New Hampshire state director, and a top adviser to the campaign in the state also left. On Oct. 1, Sanders had a heart attack while campaigning in Nevada.

Since then, the Sanders campaign has shown more of a New Hampshire presence and announced ear-



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lier this month that it had 90 staffers here. Warren has more than 55 staffers statewide, according to a campaign aide. And, though voters at their respective events often name Sanders or Warren as among their top choices, the senators' campaign styles are far different.

Warren prides herself on the number of "selfies" she takes with attendees, with lines snaking throughout venues well after she's finished speaking. Sanders sometimes moves on quickly enough that staffers begin breaking down the site moments after his event concludes — though he held a photo line of his own in Franklin on Saturday.

Warren takes questions from the audience via a lottery system. Sanders — when he does opt to take questions — is likely to pepper crowds with more questions even as he provides answers.

Sarah Gellert, a 40-year-old teacher, said she voted for Sanders during the 2016 Democratic primary but now is undecided between him and Warren.

"I feel for both candidates very deeply and I would love — of course in this la la land world — I'd love to see them on the same ticket," Gellert said. "I'm really scared for them because they have so much overlap in terms of their voter pool."

As he has elsewhere, Buttigieg has relied on his New Hampshire popularity rising even while still introducing himself to many voters and building out campaign infrastructure. Patrick makes the field even more crowded, but potentially helping to ease some of the logjam is California Sen. Kamala Harris, who spent weeks attracting large New Hampshire crowds only to recently close down her operations here to focus on Iowa.

In Franklin, 75-year-old Sanders supporter Lana Kangas asked the senator if in the future he would take more time to show the differences between himself and the other candidates, including Warren.

Sanders noted his age, 78 compared to Warren's 70, experience and consistency, but answered, "I will say without hesitancy that every single Democratic candidate on his or her worst day will be 10 times better" than President Donald Trump.

After waiting to get her photo taken with Sanders, Kangas said she's worried the other Democrats couldn't beat Trump.

"I believe that Bernie is the only one that can galvanize the people, that will rally the people," Kangas said. "Sen. Warren, I believe, will end up like (former President Barack) Obama. He said all the right things, he was for change, he was going to galvanize people to fight for change and when he came into office, he didn't. It was like the whole thing got dropped."

## Prince Andrew's troubles not over despite change in status

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Prince Andrew continues to face many hurdles despite his decision to step down from royal duties because of his friendship with billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The 59-year-old prince, who is Queen Elizabeth II's son, is struggling to stay at the helm of his Pitch&Palace charity, with some British media reports indicating he has already stepped down.

A number of the charity's corporate backers including Barclays have stopped supporting the project, which brings young entrepreneurs together with companies that can help put their ideas into practice.

Buckingham Palace says Pitch@Palace is in a period of transition and that the ties to the palace will be dropped. It may be known as Pitch in the future.

Andrew faces continued scrutiny that is expected to intensify when a BBC interview with his primary accuser is broadcast.

The broadcast with Virginia Roberts Giuffre is set for Dec. 2. She says she had sex with Andrew three times, starting when she was 17.

Andrew denies the accusation and says he doesn't have any recollection of meeting her, despite a photograph showing him with his arm around her.

Giuffre says she was a victim of a sex trafficking scheme operated by Epstein, a billionaire financier who died in prison in August in what was ruled a suicide.

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Many legal papers relating to the case remained sealed to the public.

Andrew's troubles reached a crescendo after he tried to end speculation about the matter by giving a live TV interview one week ago in which he didn't express concern for Epstein's young victims and defended his relationship with the financier.

The backlash was almost instantaneous and led to the extremely rare decision to remove him from a carefully cultivated royal role.

Queen Elizabeth II hasn't commented in public on the scandal and showed her support for Andrew Friday by going horseback riding with him on the grounds of Windsor Castle within view of a photographer.

Some of the victims' lawyers are calling for Andrew to voluntarily give evidence to U.S. officials or face a possible subpoena that could force him to testify under oath.

He hasn't been publicly charged with any crime and it wasn't clear if U.S. officials investigating Epstein want to question Andrew.

Andrew has admitted he made a mistake by staying at the New York City home of Epstein after the financier had been convicted of sex offenses.

British media reported Saturday that Andrew and his family had also been guests at the home of a wealthy Canadian who had been accused by several women of sexual harassment.

## **New documents show contacts between Giuliani and Pompeo**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly released documents show Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani was in contact with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the months before the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine was abruptly recalled.

The State Department released the documents Friday to the group American Oversight in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. They show that Pompeo talked with Giuliani on March 26 and March 29.

Austin Evers, executive director of American Oversight, said the documents reveal "a clear paper trail from Rudy Giuliani to the Oval Office to Secretary Pompeo to facilitate Giuliani's smear campaign against a U.S. ambassador."

Last week, former Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch told House impeachment investigators she felt "knee-capped" by a "smear campaign" Giuliani led against her. She was withdrawn from her post in Ukraine in May.

The documents released Friday also include a report, that appears with Trump hotel stationery, that appears to summarize a Jan. 23 interview with a former Ukrainian prosecutor general, Victor Shokin. The summary says Giuliani and two business associates, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, were present.

Parnas and Fruman were arrested last month on a four-count indictment that includes charges of conspiracy, making false statements to the Federal Election Commission and falsification of records. The men had key roles in Giuliani's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

A second memo appears to be a summary of an interview with Yuri Lutsenko, another former prosecutor general of Ukraine, conducted in the presence of Giuliani, Parnas and Fruman. Lutsenko is quoted raising questions about compensation that Hunter Biden received from the Ukrainian energy company Burisma.

In a Fox News interview, Giuliani was asked Saturday about the work that Parnas and Fruman did for him in Ukraine. The two men's efforts included helping to arrange a January meeting in New York between Giuliani and Lutsenko, as well as other meetings with top government officials. Lutsenko, who replaced Shokin in 2016, left the post in August of 2019.

"So, they helped me find people, and as I've said, they did a good job, but they weren't investigators, and they weren't James Bond, and they didn't have personal communications with the president," Giuliani said.

Giuliani allowed that he did introduce the two men to Trump at a Hanukkah party in December of 2018. But there was no extended meeting or conversations, he said.

"They took a one-minute picture. They walked away," he said.

Federal prosecutors in New York are investigating the business dealings of Giuliani, including whether he failed to register as a foreign agent, according to people familiar with the probe. Giuliani was asked

whether he was concerned about being indicted.

"Do you think I'm afraid. Do you think I get afraid? I did the right thing. I represented my client in a very, very effective way. I was so effective that I discovered a pattern of corruption that the Washington press has been covering up for three or four years," Giuliani asserted.

Giuliani said he continues to have a good relationship with the president and that it can be assumed he talks to Trump "early and often." Giuliani said he's seen things written that Trump is intending to throw him under the bus. "When they say that, I say he isn't, but I have insurance," Giuliani said.

## Till memorial, others taking security steps amid vandalism

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** Associated Press

A commission behind a memorial for teenage lynching victim Emmett Till in Mississippi was forced to get a new sign with a glass bulletproof front and add cameras and alarms after previous markers were riddled with bullet holes.

It's one of numerous monuments to U.S. civil rights figures or events around the country that have been attacked by vandals through the years, forcing organizations and elected officials to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair or replace the monuments and equip them with surveillance. There's no movement to pass federal protections for such memorials, and advocates of the sites say their only recourse has been to rely on local and state vandalism and hate crime laws to prosecute suspects.

"It happens so much that I can't get angry because I'm not surprised," said Maria Varela, a Mississippi civil rights organizer and photographer with a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the 1960s. "But this tells me the people who are doing this are still so scared."

The need for protection for such memorials came into focus again this month after security cameras captured white nationalists trying to film in front of the new sign that describes how the body of Till, a black 14-year-old from Chicago, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River in Mississippi. A man in the security video said the memorial represents the civil rights movement for black people. He then asks, "Where are all the white people?" One person carried a white flag with a large cross, a symbol associated with the League of the South — called a neo-Confederate hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. After a security alarm went off, the group ran away without doing any damage.

The cameras and alarms are part of an updated security system that accompanies the 500-pound steel sign after three previous markers were vandalized, including two that were left riddled with bullet holes.

"Without a doubt, those cameras have helped deter potential vandalism," said Patrick Weems, executive director of the Emmett Till Memorial Commission.

Till was visiting family members in Money, Mississippi, in August 1955 when a white woman at a store falsely accused him of whistling at her. The woman's husband and another man were charged with kidnapping, beating and fatally shooting the teen. An all-white jury acquitted the men.

The killing and photos of Till's mutilated body at his funeral shocked the nation and galvanized the civil rights movement.

Weems said memorial preservation and fundraising should be done with potential vandalism in mind. The new, donated sign cost around \$10,000, he said. Plus, the commission has paid \$1,000 for security cameras, and an estimated \$250,000 is being spent on a smartphone app that will allow people to navigate sites related to Till's killing and to report vandalism, he said.

At other memorials, updated security measures have helped authorities locate suspects. In September, a 65-year-old woman was arrested after police say she defaced a memorial in Glendale, California, dedicated to Korean women forced into sex slavery during World War II. Police said surveillance footage showed her using a marker to scribble on the monument. She's suspected of defacing the monument several times before and of writing racist graffiti on area buildings.

"The defacement opened up the wounds of the victims as if to say your pain doesn't matter," Phyllis Kim of the Korean American Forum of California said. "But the community came together and denounced it."

Derek H. Alderman, a University of Tennessee geography professor, said such vandalism is "an attack



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on memory.”

“These places are more than just monuments and memorials. They are claims to the past,” Alderman said.

Those claims involve marginalized groups pressing to be remembered while white nationalists and racists refuse to acknowledge those struggles, he said.

“When a memorial to victims of brutality and violence is met with brutality and violence, it strikes a chilling nerve and shows how far we have to go,” Alderman added.

Jose Vega, deputy director for Oklahomans for Equality in Tulsa, said the advocacy group’s offices are a frequent target of vandalism. In July, surveillance video caught a man spray-painting the word “abomination” over a mural dedicated to gay playwright Lynn Riggs.

“We knew this was going to happen and were mentally prepared,” Vega said.

Jeremy Yamin, associate vice president for the Boston-based Combined Jewish Philanthropies, which maintains surveillance of the New England Holocaust Memorial, said such attacks appear to be on the rise.

After 20 years with no vandalism, the Holocaust Memorial was hit twice in 2017, he said. His group spent \$70,000 on repairs and \$75,000 on security cameras.

Yamin said the group is preparing to put up a sign that says: This memorial is monitored.

“We hope that will be a deterrent,” he said.

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Russell Contreras reported from Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a member of The Associated Press’ Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras>.

## ‘A serious-minded kid:’ Pete Buttigieg aimed high early

By MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — It was a running joke in his AP U.S. history class at Saint Joseph High School: Would Peter Buttigieg — the smartest kid in class, language whiz and devotee of John F. Kennedy — use his unusual last name in his eventual run for president of the United States? Or would he have a better shot of winning the voters of the future if he went by Montgomery, his middle name?

It was the late 1990s, Bill Clinton was in the White House, and a round-faced teenager in South Bend, Indiana, was viewed by many around him as an eventual successor. As early as grade school, Buttigieg exhibited an attention-grabbing combination of brains and curiosity, the sort of kid with a reputation — among kids and teachers. He would be named high school valedictorian, voted senior class president and chosen Most Likely to be U.S. President. He sat at the adults table.

Now, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg — not Montgomery — is indeed running for the highest office in the land.

It’s an audacious leap. No mayor has ever gone straight to the White House (let alone from a city of just over 100,000). No president has ever been so young (he’ll be 39 on Inauguration Day). And no commander in chief has ever been openly gay (or had a husband).

But people who have known Buttigieg since his Indiana boyhood say it all feels predictable.

Interviews with nearly two dozen people who knew him in his formative years paint a picture of a child with an extraordinary range of talent and ambition, cultivated by a tight-knit family able to indulge his many interests. There were clear signs of the candidate’s earnestness and intensity. Friends and family say he worked to overcome an early shyness by throwing himself into challenges. All the while he felt a bit apart.

“It was always understood,” says Patrick Bayliss, a friend from high school. “It was just kind of matter of fact that he was special and brilliant.”

Now Buttigieg’s intellect is at the core of his campaign narrative. He’s won headlines for his achievements and improbable hobbies. (Speaks Norwegian? Check. Plays the didgeridoo? Yup.) Admirers often cite his intelligence when asked about his appeal, arguing it makes up for a shortage of experience.

But as he rises in early-caucus Iowa, Buttigieg’s self-confidence is exposing him to accusations that he is pretentious and entitled. When he declared Iowa was becoming a two-person race between Elizabeth Warren and him — dismissing a former vice president and several senators — Sen. Kamala Harris called

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him naïve. Sen. Amy Klobuchar has repeatedly argued that the young mayor is benefiting from sexism — a woman with such a short resume wouldn't be taken seriously. On Wednesday, she pointedly noted Buttigieg is a "local official" who lost his only statewide race.

"I think experience should matter," she said.

Buttigieg doesn't argue much with the knocks, but he doesn't seem bothered either, telling reporters during his New Hampshire bus trip this month: "I guess I'm comfortable doing things in a way that's kind of out of order or unusual for my age and my experience."

Before he was an accomplished pianist, a polyglot, a Harvard graduate and a Rhodes scholar, Buttigieg was the only child of college professors growing up in a bubble of academia in the Rust Belt.

On the campaign trail, he frequently invokes the hollowed-out city of South Bend, the onetime home of the automaker Studebaker, which shut down two decades before he was born.

But Buttigieg grew up in another side of South Bend: the cluster of neighborhoods around the University of Notre Dame, home to thousands of students and professors. His parents had stable jobs at the elite Catholic school, and he was educated in private schools whiter and wealthier than the surrounding community.

His father, Joseph, was a professor of English, garnering attention for his scholarship in critical theory and civil society. Joseph earned degrees in his home country — the Mediterranean island nation of Malta — then from Heythrop College in Oxford, England, before moving to the United States to earn his doctorate. He met Buttigieg's mother, a linguist and Army brat with roots in Indiana, when they were both on faculty at New Mexico State University.

They married and moved to South Bend in 1980. Peter was born two years later. The young family eventually settled on a tree-lined street less than two miles from campus.

Across the river and downtown, abandoned factories, boarded-up stores and empty lots plagued South Bend. Up the hill, it was just a walk to the Golden Dome, the halo at the center of campus.

Peter — the name he went by before he became known as "Mayor Pete" — was a curious and quiet toddler who learned to read at the age of 2 or 3, his mother, Anne Montgomery, said in an interview.

His parents sent him to a Montessori school, where learning is self-directed, hands-on and less structured than at a traditional grade school. But by 6th grade, his parents moved him to a more traditional private school. Buttigieg had figured out how to "game the system," said Judith Fox, a longtime family friend, recalling the decision.

"My mind wandered a lot when I was a kid. And so, it took a nudge from them here and then just to stay on track." Buttigieg said in an interview with AP.

The smart new kid was sometimes a target. Other kids would want to "take him down a peg," his mother says. His unusual name drew snickers.

The experience, she believes, was a lesson in "how cruel people can be" and helped steel him to insensitive comments later. "He won them over," his mother says, by learning to prove himself without aggravating other kids.

Buttigieg remembers a teacher explaining that a child picking on him was just trying to get attention. Something clicked, he says, and he decided the best way to deal with bullies was to get to know them. The lesson still works sometimes when he comes under criticism, he says.

"While you don't want to reward bad behavior, you do need to make sure that people feel seen."

In his room, young Peter kept a collection of model planes and a poster of the inside of a cockpit. He aspired to become a pilot or even an astronaut, although his poor eyesight would make that impossible. He became fascinated with the leader closely associated with the space program, JFK, and others in the Kennedy clan.

At around 11 or 12, when asked what he wanted for his birthday, Peter requested a copy of "Profiles in Courage," Kennedy's 1955 book on acts of political bravery by eight U.S. senators throughout history. ("I

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had no idea what that was," says his friend Joe Geglio, who bought the book for his friend.)

Peter would memorize excerpts of Kennedy speeches. In high school, his close friend James Mueller remembers him reciting a favorite passage from the president's 1962 "moon" speech: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

Later, when Buttigieg decided to join the military, he would join the Navy, like JFK.

Buttigieg said the Kennedy mystique loomed large in a community as Catholic as South Bend. He was aware that the presidential campaign of Sen. Robert Kennedy, and the Kennedy tragedies, were defining experiences for his parents' generation. Amid the culture wars of the Clinton era, he looked back nostalgically at a time when big things seemed possible.

By comparison, "we've been stuck and haven't made progress on a lot of the big issues," Mueller said of his friend's fixation with the Kennedy era.

By the end of 8th grade, Peter was named valedictorian, which gave him a chance to deliver his own big speech. His performance — practiced and strikingly mature — is still remembered today by people who were there.

"It wasn't like watching an 8th grader up there," says classmate Gavin Ferlic.

The adults left the gym commenting about his poise. It wouldn't be the last time Buttigieg found a constituency in an older generation.

Classmate Loran Parker recalls her grandparents turned to her with what would become a familiar refrain: "Peter would make a great politician."

Soon after, the South Bend Tribune published a profile when Buttigieg won a statewide essay contest on the importance of the law. In truth, 14-year-old Peter told the newspaper, it wasn't the law, but aeronautics or journalism that really interested him. The article noted he had won numerous other awards and was set to perform in a statewide piano competition later in the year — he started playing at age 5 — and aspired to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"There are a lot of things I'd like to do," he told the Tribune.

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By the time he arrived at high school, Buttigieg's reputation had preceded him. Julie Chismar, a teacher at Saint Joe, recalls a buzz among French teachers, who had heard about his language abilities.

Peter had begun to learn French in Montessori and before he got to high school was well on his way to fluency. He also took up Spanish and on his own started learning to read Korean from a friend, Judy Kim. (His campaign does not list Korean as among the seven languages he speaks other than English.)

It's difficult to find someone to utter a harsh word about young Buttigieg. He wasn't a jock or the most popular kid, but he wasn't an outcast. Classmates described him as thoughtful, with a dry wit. If a kid in middle school or high school can respect a fellow kid, they respected him. He didn't show off his intelligence or raise his hand to answer every question. He held back.

Occasionally, there were signs of the reserve and stiffness that sometimes gets mocked today. When he first met Peter, Mueller, his close high school friend, would tease him good-naturedly — just like he did with his brothers. Peter, who had no siblings, did not appreciate it.

"He likes to make the joke that when he first met me, he didn't like me very much" Mueller says.

The introvert pushed himself beyond his comfort zone. He joined drama his senior year and performed in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." He learned the didgeridoo and played the several-foot-long Australian wind instrument onstage.

In Peter's basement after school, he and his friends would watch "Star Trek: The Next Generation," play old school Nintendo games or have Nerf battles, then go outside to play football or soccer. As they got older, his friends would play music together: He learned guitar and bass, and especially liked playing Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix songs, using his wah-wah pedal.

He'd go to parties and even have a drink or two, Mueller said. (When he saw his friend smoke pot, during a visit home from college, Mueller ribbed him: "Are you ever going to run for office someday?")

Peter moved between groups of friends, but hung out mostly with a group of other smart kids. He



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dated a couple of girls in high school. Friends said he never seemed to have the usual teen angst about relationships.

Looking back, he says now he always felt different.

“Even though I wasn’t out, and in many ways was not really out to myself, I felt that kind of tension,” Buttigieg said on his campaign bus. “It wasn’t only from being gay, I mean, also just being culturally a little different. Just because I was the son of a Mediterranean immigrant, an academic family, that some people thought was weird, because I had a name that was easy to make fun of and hard to pronounce.”

Several people close to Buttigieg say they never knew he was gay until he came out in his 30s, after he returned from his military tour in Afghanistan. He said at a CNN town hall in October that he was well into his 20s before he acknowledged it to himself.

Even his mother says she had no suspicions before he came out to her and his father in 2015, not long before he made it public in an op-ed in the local newspaper.

“I wonder if I was blind,” his mother told the AP. “He was a private person about personal matters, so I did not inquire or ask. Offered all kinds of opportunities. But no.”

At home, friends who grew up with Buttigieg remember his parents as warm and supportive of whatever Peter wanted to pursue, his house inhabited by an affectionate rescue dog named Olivia, the walls lined with books, art and his mother’s photography, a piano filling the front room.

He and his mom would joke together. He and his dad would obsess — and commiserate — over Notre Dame football. Politics and current events were “in the air” at his house, he says. His father would come home from work, pour himself a drink and open The New York Times. They’d watch the evening news together. Friends and colleagues from the university would come to dinner, and young Peter would join in the conversation.

“I felt like, we spoke as adults from a relatively early age,” he says of his parents. “I was a kind of serious-minded kid, and they took me seriously.”

Still, his family wasn’t politically connected, and he never met any elected officials when he was a kid.

“It took me a while to just feel like it was something I could be part of,” he told the AP. “But it always seemed like something that was the thing that mattered most: what was going on in the world, war and peace and elections, and all of that stuff.”

Later in high school, Buttigieg began to focus more sharply on politics. He joined the Philosophy Club, a way of thinking that suited him, his teacher Patrick McCurry says.

“He was already thinking about the world and systemic problems.”

In the spring of 2000, his senior year, he won the Profiles in Courage essay contest, sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library Foundation. His subject was then-U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders, independent of Vermont, now a senator and one of his rivals for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

He praised Sanders’ political courage in calling himself a “socialist” and for representing Kennedy’s ideal of “compromises of issues, not of principles.” He also wrote that Sanders’ conviction and energy could bring people together in a political climate in which cynicism reigned.

“I have heard that no sensible young person today would want to give his or her life to public service,” Buttigieg wrote. “I can personally assure you this is untrue.”

He pursued another path traveled by JFK: Harvard.

A schoolmate, Ian Seniff, remembers Buttigieg telling Mrs. Chismar his acceptance news in a hallway at Saint Joe. He compares the look on Peter’s face to the moment Spider-Man is anointed an Avenger in the movie “Avengers: Infinity War.”

“There’s this look of, ‘This is what I’ve wanted. I’ve accomplished this,’” Seniff said. “And then an instant later, just having this solemn look of, ‘OK, now there’s this added level of responsibility, and it’s time to get ready for work.’”

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Those who have known Buttigieg from childhood say they recognize the same things during this presidential run that have driven him all his life.

He says he wants to do big things, to make an impact. Asked what's driving that, he becomes quiet and circumspect.

"I don't know, I just do," he said. "I mean, you only get one turn at life, right? And I think it's really important that you do as much with it as you can."

When pressed, he continued:

"Where is it going to matter that it was me and not somebody else doing something? And am I making the best use of limited time? And I think I always felt that way."

At an arena in Des Moines, Iowa, this month, his supporters chanted his name and hoisted signs reading "BOOT-EDGE-EDGE," the slogan he uses to help people pronounce it. He kicked off his speech by invoking the memory of another "young man with a funny name," Barack Obama.

In his high school history class, when his teacher or other kids would advise him to use his middle name to run for president, his friend Judy Kim recalls that Peter would listen and even welcome their advice.

His last name was too difficult to pronounce. It looked strange when written out. It wasn't distinguished like other American presidents.

He'd hear them out, then stand by his position. Peter was proud of his Maltese heritage and proud of his last name.

When he ran, he would tell them, it would be as Buttigieg.

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Associated Press writer Tom Beaumont contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 24, the 328th day of 2019. There are 37 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 24, 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

On this date:

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In 1941, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Edwards v. California*, unanimously struck down a California law prohibiting people from bringing impoverished non-residents into the state.

In 1947, a group of writers, producers and directors that became known as the "Hollywood Ten" was cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about alleged Communist influence in the movie industry. John Steinbeck's novel "The Pearl" was first published.

In 1969, Apollo 12 splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1971, a hijacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" (but who became popularly known as "D.B. Cooper") parachuted from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 over the Pacific Northwest after receiving \$200,000 in ransom; his fate remains unknown.

In 1982, Barack Hussein Obama Sr., a Kenyan government economist and father of Barack Obama, was killed in an automobile accident in Nairobi; he was 46.

In 1985, the hijacking of an Egyptair jetliner parked on the ground in Malta ended violently as Egyptian commandos stormed the plane. Fifty-eight people died in the raid, in addition to two others killed by the hijackers.

In 1987, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed on terms to scrap shorter- and medium-range missiles. (The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty was signed by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev the following month.)