

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, December 1, 2019

2:00pm- 6:00pm - Open Gym - Groton Area High School Arena

2:00-4:00 PM Grades JK-8 (Students must be accompanied by an adult) 4:00-6:00 PM Grades 6-12

Monday, December 2, 2019

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys 7th/8th Tournament at Faulkton High School

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Sippel Novice Debate at Groton Area High School

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: James Valley Telecommunications Open House

4:15pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game hosts Clark/Willow Lake

7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

12:30pm- 3:00pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli Middle School

Thursday, December 5, 2019

7:00pm: MS/HS Christmas Concert at GHS Gymnasium

Friday, December 6, 2019

State Oral Interp at Yankton High School

4:15pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game (Rescheduled from 11-21-19) hosts Britton-Hecla JH

7th Grade @ 4:15 and 8th Grade @ 5:15

Saturday, December 7, 2019

9 a.m. to Noon: Santa Day at Professional Management Services

State Oral Interp at Yankton High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Varsity Tournament at Clark Junior-Senior High School

10:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Jamboree at Groton Area High School

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Olive Grove Tour of Homes

Sunday, December 8, 2019

2:00pm- 6:00pm - Open Gym - Groton Area High School Arena

2:00-4:00 PM Grades JK-8 (Students must be accompanied by an adult) 4:00-6:00 PM Grades 6-12

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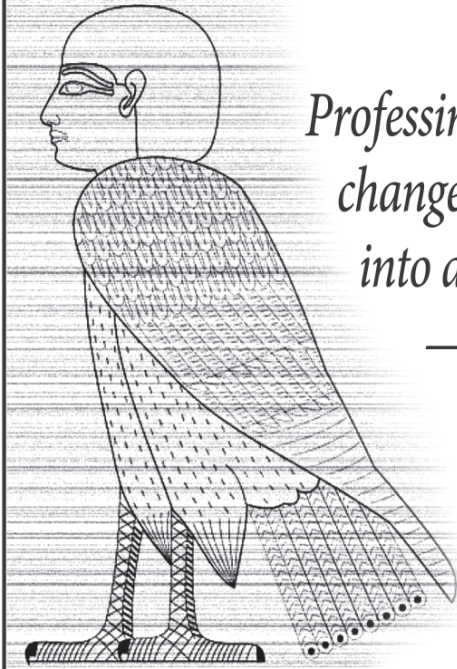
OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Sunday Extras



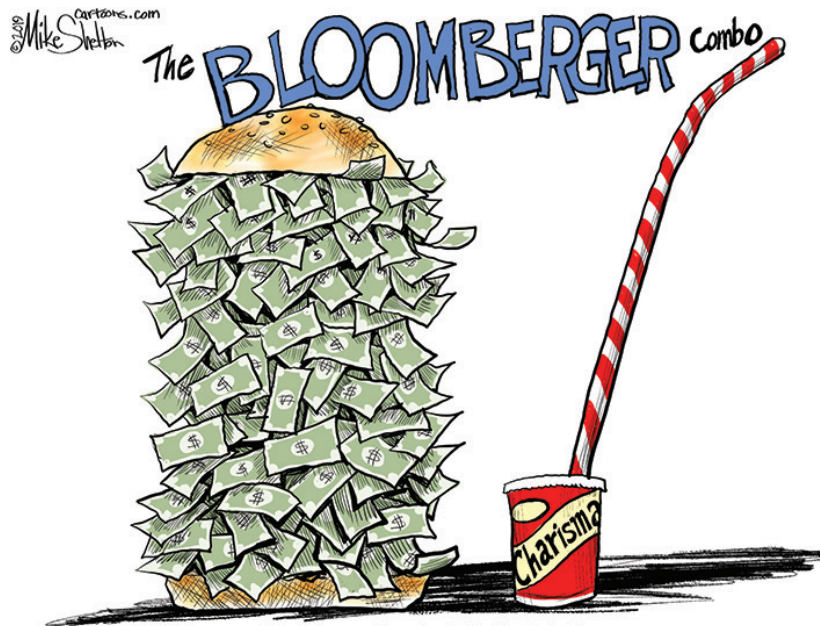
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

ROMANS 1:22, 23

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Meatless Sandwich & Drink...

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Who prophesied, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son"? *John the Baptist, Zechariah, Isaiah, Andrew*

3. Which "Caesar" ordered all the world to be taxed, causing Mary to travel to Bethlehem while expecting the baby Jesus? *Julius, Tiberius, Claudius, Augustus*

4. In which month of the Virgin Mary's pregnancy did the angel Gabriel visit to inform she would give birth? *1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th*

5. From Luke 2:34, who prophesied to Mary that this Christ child is set for the fall and rising again of many? *Melchior, Simeon, Cyrenius, Felix*

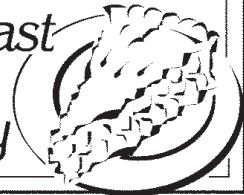
6. What is the city of David called? *Nazareth, Dothan, Beersheba, Bethlehem*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Isaiah; 3) Augustus; 4) 6th; 5) Simeon; 6) Bethlehem

Gift ideas? More Trivia? Comments? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Simmered Steaks

You may have doubts when you start stirring orange marmalade into the sauce, but trust us, it all works out perfectly in the end.

- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 (4-ounce) lean minute or cube steaks
- 1 cup unsweetened orange juice
- 1 cup (two 2.5-ounce jars) sliced mushrooms, drained
- 2 tablespoons reduced-sodium ketchup
- 2 tablespoons orange marmalade spreadable fruit
- 1 tablespoon dried onion flakes
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

1. Place flour in a shallow dish and coat steaks on both sides in flour. Reserve any leftover flour. Evenly arrange coated steaks in a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray and brown for about 3 minutes on each side.

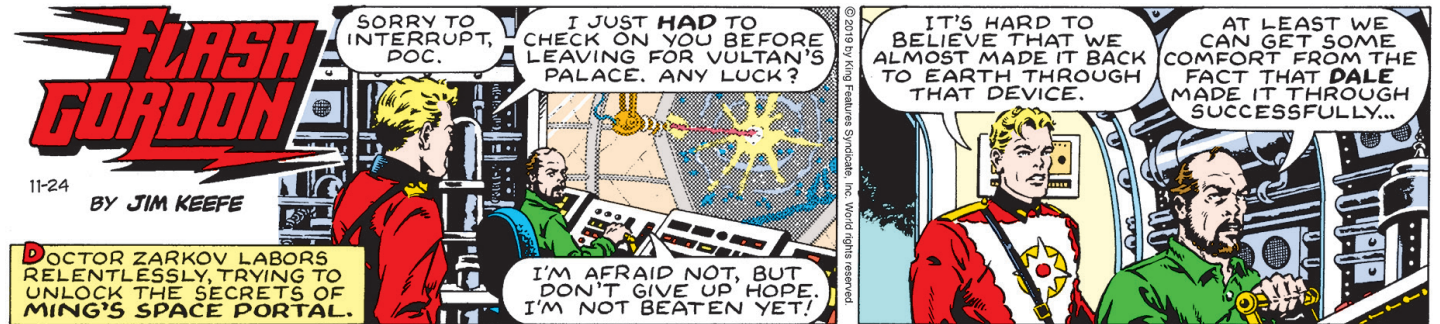
2. In a medium bowl, combine orange juice, mushrooms, ketchup, spreadable fruit, onion flakes, parsley flakes and any remaining flour. Spoon sauce mixture evenly over steaks. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until steaks are tender.

3. When serving, evenly spoon sauce mixture over top of steaks. Serves 4. Freezes well.

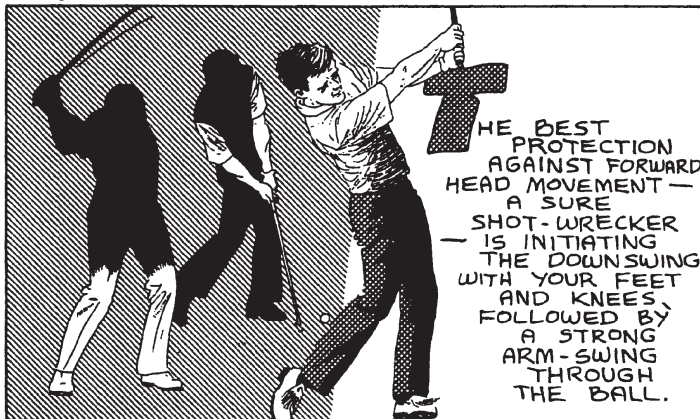
• Each serving: About 218 calories, 6g fat, 23g protein, 18g carb., 359mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 3 Meat, 1 Fruit, 1/2 Vegetable

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Shingles Vaccine Causes Severe Side Effects

DEAR DR. ROACH: I received the first dose of Shingrix this week and had pretty severe side effects, though in the range of what can be expected: high fever (101.5), intense shivering, a severe headache and 12 hours of extreme fatigue. The entire reaction began 11 hours after the shot and ended 18 hours after that. I am 61 and in excellent health, taking only 25 mcg of levothyroxine daily.

I have a few questions that I hope you can answer. I've tried looking at the clinical trial results for Shingrix, but I am not qualified to understand the information as presented.

1. Is it likely that I'll have a similar (or worse?) reaction to the second shot? The package insert says one can react to the first, second, neither or both.

2. Are both injections identical?

3. When I had chickenpox as a child, I was way sicker than the average kid. Related?

4. If I get shingles, do I have a higher risk for a severe case? — J.G.

ANSWER: Compared with the previous one-time vaccine Zostavax, the new two-dose Shingrix vaccine is much more effective. However, it does have a higher risk of side effects. You have had the most common side effect, though only 10% of people will have symptoms as bad as yours. These symptoms are caused by your body mounting an inflammatory response to the glycoprotein in the vaccine (the new vaccine does not contain a live

virus). You clearly have a robust system to fight off infection.

To answer your questions in order: You are at higher risk for a similar reaction for the second shot. I would plan your day accordingly, and premedicate with Tylenol (even though it may make the vaccine slightly less effective). The second vaccine is identical to the first. I have read reports that there have been shortages of the vaccine.

Chickenpox and shingles can affect you both by the virus attacking you and by an exuberant inflammatory and immune reaction. I would guess that you are at lower risk for viral complications (such as infection of the eye, brain or lungs) but at higher risk for symptoms due to your own system, such as high fever. In many cases, the body's response to infection can be as damaging as the infection itself.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Last year I was treated for gout and was prescribed allopurinol (100 mg) once a day. Approximately five to six months after I started taking it, I became lethargic and was not feeling myself (I am a very young 77 years old) and suddenly lost my sense of taste. I was taken off the medicine and still have little taste sensation other than citrus fruits, apples and spices. I was told that this could last for months, years or forever. Do you have any suggestions for me? I am eating as before, hoping that I will recover my taste. — N.K.

ANSWER: I certainly found that allopurinol can cause loss of taste sensation, but the Food and Drug Administration case reports don't say how long it can last. Unfortunately, I can't find any reliable way (or even plausible way) to increase the likelihood of getting your taste sensation back.

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

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1. What was the name of the group formed by Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad?

2. Who was Murray the K?

3. How many Grammys has "The Boss" won?

4. Why is the date Feb. 3, 1959 significant?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "There is someone who really needs you, here's my heart in my hand."

Answers

1. The Swedish group ABBA, using the first letter of their four first names. They first gained international notice after winning the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest in the U.K. The 1999 musical "Mamma Mia!" was created around their songs.

2. Radio DJ Murray Kaufman. He considered himself the fifth Beatle, saying George Harrison gave him that title.

3. So far Bruce Springsteen has won 20 Grammys, plus an Academy Award and two Golden Globes.

4. That's "the day the music died," when Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly and Jiles Perry "JP" Richardson (The Big Bopper) died in a plane crash. Don McLean repeatedly refers to it in his 1971 song "American Pie."

5. "Turn Around, Look at Me," by Glen Campbell, in 1961. This was followed by a 1962 Lettermen cover. But it was the Vogues in 1968 who had the most popular version.

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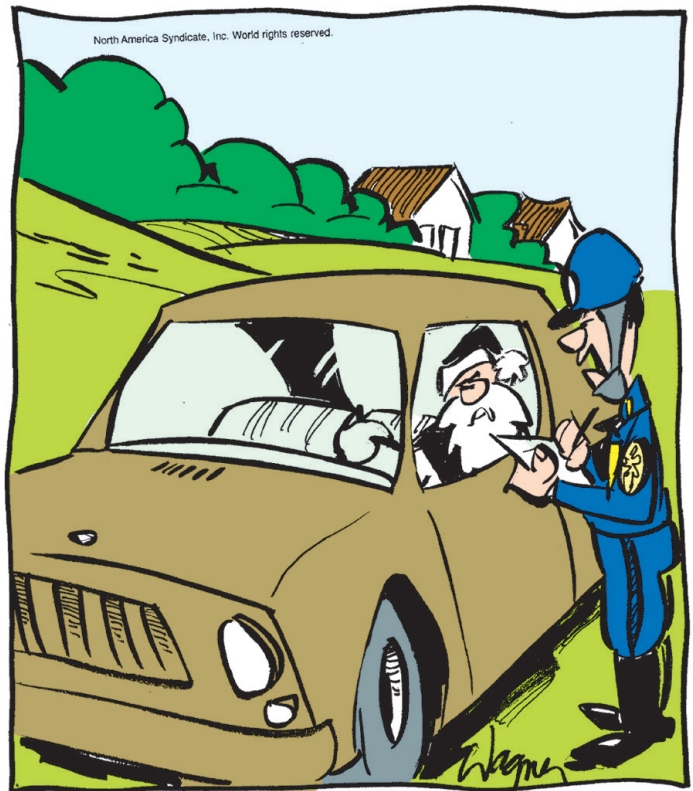
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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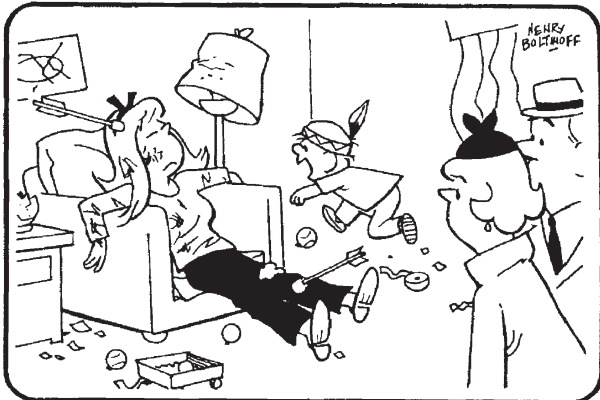
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



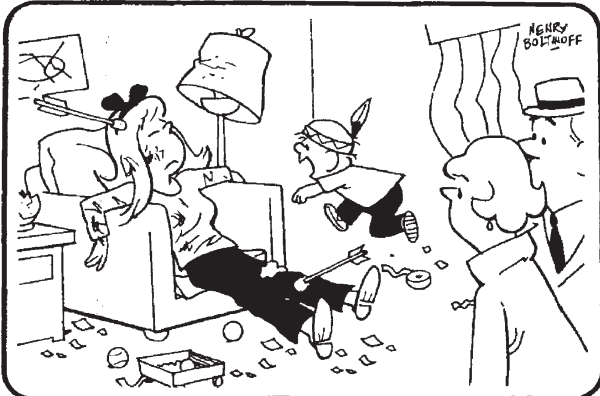
"My, aren't we nimble and quick today?"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's pants are black. 2. Ball near boy's foot is missing. 3. Mom's hat is gone. 4. Drapes are wider. 5. Girl's bow is different. 6. There's more trash on floor.

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- A potato peeler plus a bar of chocolate makes for a very fancy garnish for cake tops or even for hot drinks.

- Holidays got you stressed? Take a breathing break. Deep belly breaths, sometimes called “focus breaths,” can lower blood pressure, calm stress-induced heart rate and induce a relaxation response. Simply sit or lie down somewhere safe and close your eyes. Breathe in deeply, and let your belly rise with the inhalation. Breathe out slowly and evenly.

- “If a gingerbread house is just too complicated for the kiddos, try this: They can make a holiday forest of trees! Give the kids several ice-cream cones to frost and set them upside down on a tray. Decorate with small candies, etc. You can chip out a ‘door’ and make one of them an elf house if you feel like it.” — *W.L. in North Carolina*

- Candy canes can be pulverized in a food processor to dust cookies and cakes. Add a bit of confectioner’s sugar to stretch it if needed.

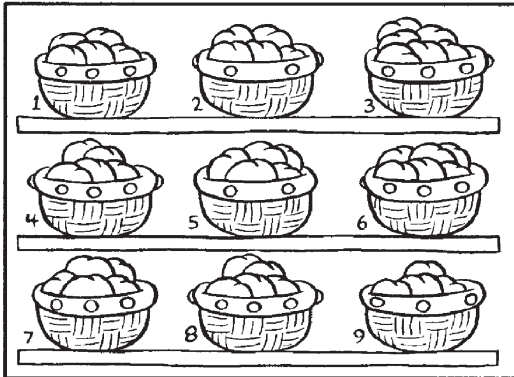
- “Our family of carol singers is happy when they return home from a singing sleigh ride: We serve everyone a big mug of hot chocolate. Our secret for keeping it hot for a crowd? We use our slow cooker and ladle it straight out of the pot!” — *R.E. in Minnesota*

- Potatoes can be boiled whole, then plunged into icy water briefly when cooked. The skins should slip right off. No need to spend all that time peeling potatoes!

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

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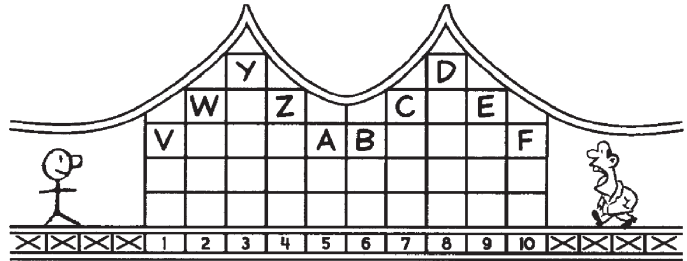
HERE'S A PEACHY PROBLEM! Two of the above fruit baskets look exactly alike. See if you can "pick" them out in one minute flat.

Answer: Baskets 4 and 8

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson



A WORD BRIDGE!

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

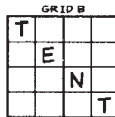
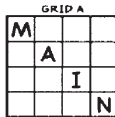
DOUBLE FEATURE! Arrange the five letters pictured here into two five-letter words that have more or less opposite meanings.



Answer: UNTIE and UNITE

BIG TOP TESTING TIME! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. A good friend.
2. A weak excuse.
3. A happy expression.
4. To change direction.



1. People on the same side.
2. Complete food serving.
3. A boxing area.
4. An undersized animal.

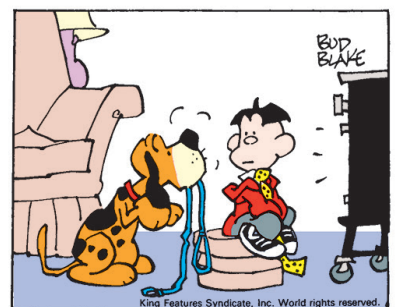
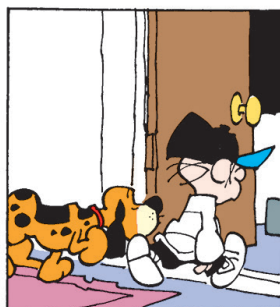
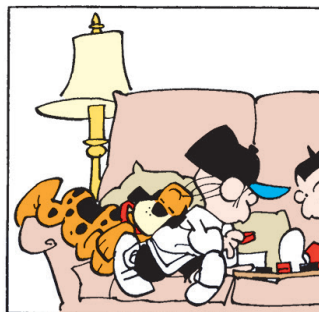
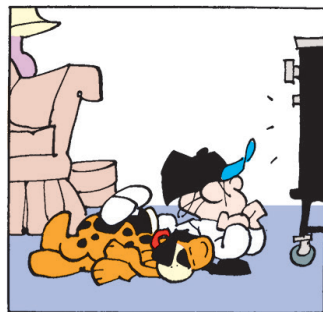
Answers: 1. Mate-team, 2. Lame-meal, 3. Grim-ring, 4. Turn-runt.

1. A large barrel.
2. Science fiction unit of speed.
3. Heard in the mountains.
4. Outlandishly comic.
5. Exactly suitable; appropriate.
6. To prohibit or deprive.
7. Teeth found on a gear.
8. To fix a computer program.
9. Type of Dutch cheese.
10. Said to be sly.

Answers: 1. Vat, 2. Warp, 3. Yodel, 4. Zany, 5. Apt, 6. Ban, 7. Cogs, 8. Debug, 9. Edam, 10. Fox.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Zinger
- 5 Nuisance
- 9 Oprah's network
- 12 Chills and fever
- 13 Viscous
- 14 Dove's call
- 15 Short musical works
- 17 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 18 Yule quaff
- 19 Fairy tale villains
- 21 Chic
- 22 Island porch
- 24 Formerly
- 27 Evergreen type
- 28 Break suddenly
- 31 Tasseled topper
- 32 Lobe locale
- 33 Gorilla
- 34 Dread
- 36 Attempt
- 37 Car sticker no.
- 38 Batman's pal
- 40 Proceed
- 41 Dishes
- 43 Commercial song
- 47 Scoot
- 48 Varieties of wheat
- 51 Carte lead-in

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			

- 52 Handle
- 53 Point
- 54 Clear the tables
- 55 Stitches
- 56 Wan
- 9 Simple wind instruments
- 10 Used a loom
- 11 Vetoers' votes
- 16 Heavy weight
- 20 Petrol
- 22 Memorize
- 23 Distorted
- 24 Vacationing
- 25 Born
- 26 Ivan's and Peter's wives
- 27 Bigfoot's cousin
- 29 Spring mo.
- 30 Vigor
- 35 Director Howard
- 37 "Friends" role
- 39 Soaks up some rays
- 40 Hodges of baseball lore
- 41 Seafood entree
- 42 Streaming video giant
- 43 Apple co-founder
- 44 Wildebeests
- 45 Whip
- 46 Catch sight of
- 49 Away from WSW
- 50 Do some lawn work

DOWN

- 1 Foundation
- 2 Enthusiastic
- 3 Ladder step
- 4 Cap with a propeller
- 5 Bluenose
- 6 A billion years
- 7 Hot tub
- 8 Mike of the ring

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

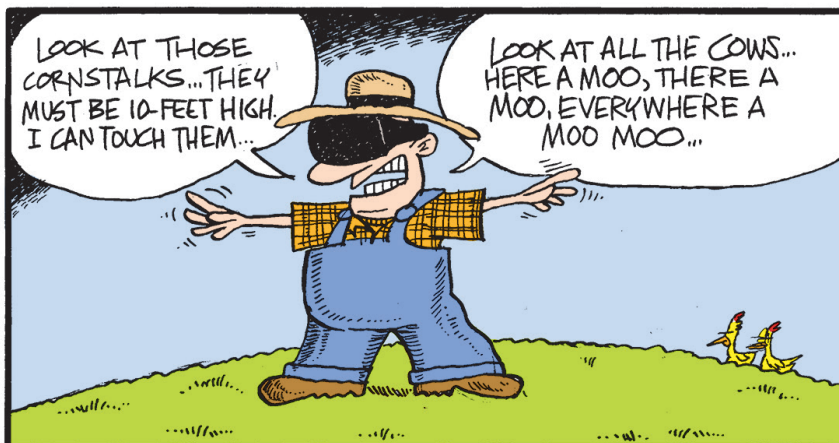
LAFF - A - DAY



"I'd like to register a formal complaint."

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Out on a Limb



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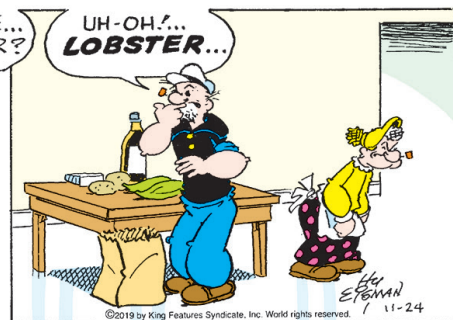
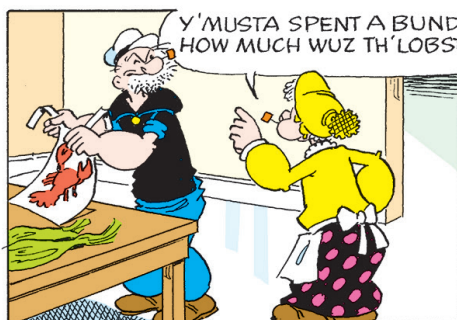
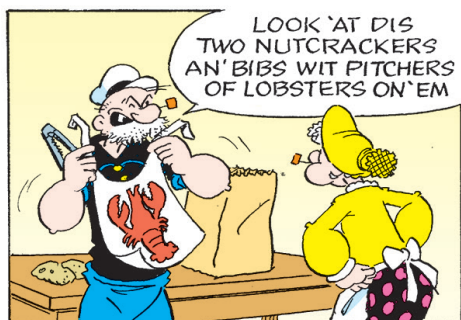
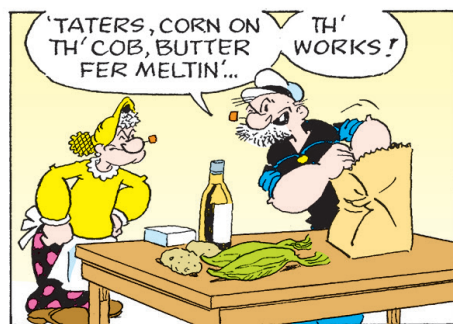
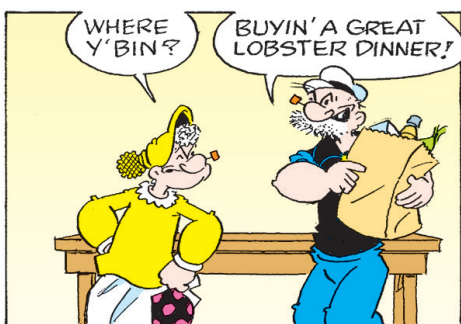
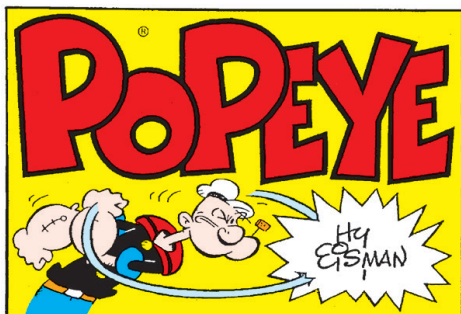
by Gary Kopervas



KOPERVAS

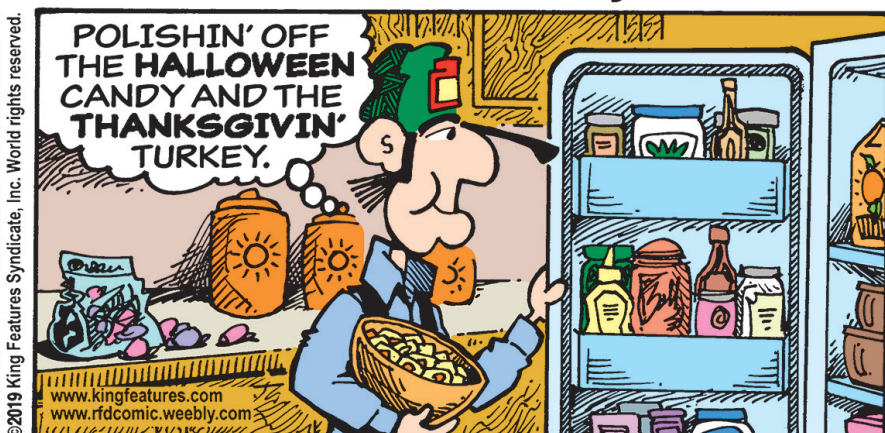
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



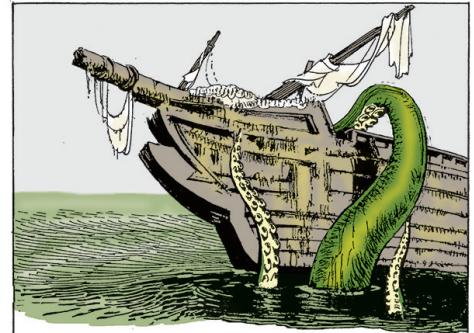
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Hal Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ **Prince Valiant** Our Story: VALS EXPEDITION THROUGH THE SEA OF WEED HAS FOUND FRESH WATER, BUT SOMETHING MONSTROUS ALSO THIRSTS.



THE SNARED PRINCE CURSES HIMSELF FOR LETTING DOWN HIS GUARD IN THIS DREADFUL PLACE. NOW ALL ARE AT RISK.



THE SNAKE-LIKE APPENDAGE LASHES AND COILS AND PULLS ITS PREY IRRESISTIBLY TOWARD THE WATER...

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... IGNORING THE DESPERATE EFFORTS OF BUKOTA AND THE NORSEMAN, AS WELL AS GAWAIN'S FRANTIC ATTACKS WITH THE KNIFE. A SORRY END SEEMS FOREORDAINED...



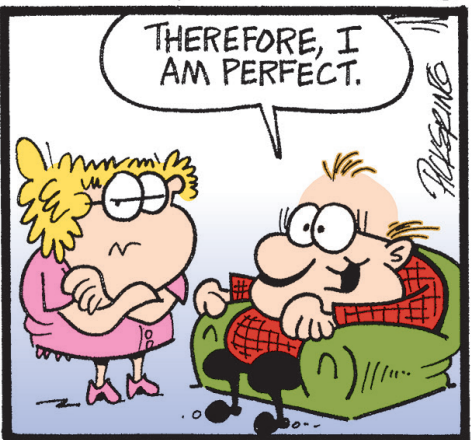
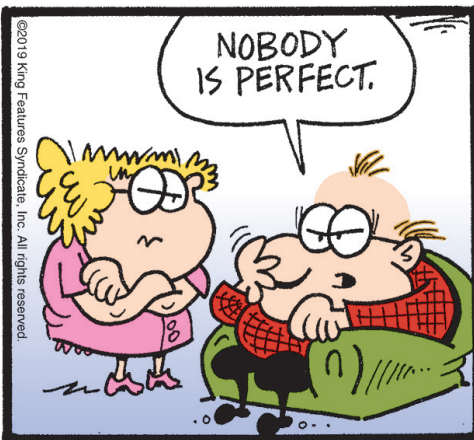
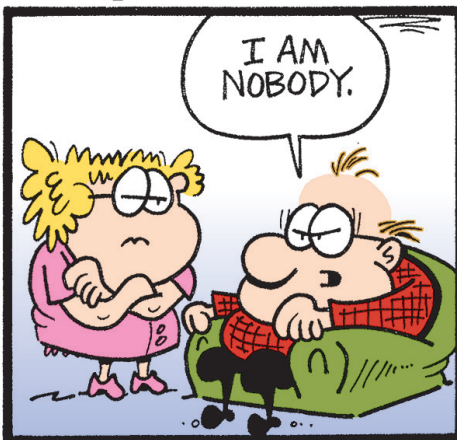
... WHEN THREE ARROWS SUDDENLY FEATHER THE BRUTE THING! IT IMMEDIATELY STIFFENS, LOSING ITS GRIP ON THE BEFUZZLED KNIGHT!

WHAT STRANGE SAVIOR COULD APPEAR OUT OF THIS WASTE?

NEXT:
The rescuers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Pickering

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Thieves Stole My Credit Card Number

Sometimes what you think is a scam phone call ... isn't. Sometimes it's the real thing. Like the call I got today.

When the phone rang I didn't rush to answer. The foreign sounding man who left a message said that he needed to verify certain recent transactions on one of my credit cards. The only reason I paid attention was that this same thing happened to me 15 years ago.

Still, I was leery. Instead of calling back at the number he left, I called the number on the back of my card and asked for the fraud department. Sure enough, my card number had somehow gotten out and people were busily trying to make purchases all over the country — at that very moment! By that time, the attempts to make fraudulent purchases had exceeded \$4,000.

The man immediately canceled my card and said that another one would arrive at my door within 48 hours.

I asked him how this could happen. My card was in my hand. I don't keep a list of credit cards on my computer. I shred documents that have personal information. I don't use the card at small mom-and-pop places (which was my mistake 15 years ago) because their security isn't always the best. I don't use the card at ATMs that might have a skimmer. I hadn't fallen for any scammer tricks over the phone. I hadn't clicked links in any suspicious emails.

So, how did that number get out? He couldn't tell me. He said it happens far too often, and it's nothing the card owner has done.

I suspect that a few months from now we'll learn that there has been another massive security breach, similar to the Target breach of 2013 where the information on 40 million cards was stolen.

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1. Who was the last pitcher before Cincinnati's Michael Lorenzen in 2018 to homer in three consecutive at-bats?

2. In 2018, Kyle Higashioka of the New York Yankees became the ninth major-league player since 1920 to have his first three hits be home runs. Who was the only other Yankee to do it?

3. Who is the only kicker to be named the NFL's regular-season MVP?

4. Name the first Division I men's basketball player to lead the nation in points and assists per game in the same season.

5. Entering the 2019-20 season, where did former NHL goaltender Robert Luongo rank on the all-time victory list?

6. In 2019, Dalilah Muhammad set the women's world mark for the 400-meter hurdles (52.20 seconds, then 52.16 seconds later in the year). How long had the previous record lasted?

7. When was the last time a Canadian male golfer won the Canadian Open?

Answers

1. Colorado's Mike Hampton, in 2001.

2. Alfonso Soriano (1999-2000).

3. Washington's Mark Moseley, in 1982.

4. Oklahoma's Trae Young, in the 2017-18 season.

5. Third, with 489 victories.

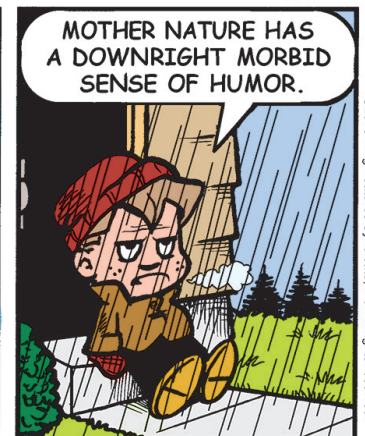
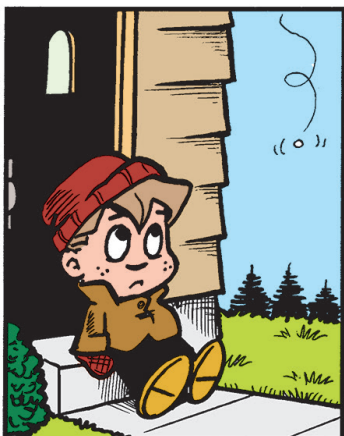
6. Nearly 16 years — Russia's Yuliya Pechonkina set the mark of 52.34 seconds in 2003.

7. It was 1954 (Pat Fletcher).

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



Eight Days

Eight days. That's how many working days the U.S. House of Representatives has left this year to pass major legislation.

Eight days to pass a budget and eight days to finalize the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA). For context, President Trump finalized the USMCA trade agreement with our allies on November 30, 2018 – a year ago.

Am I surprised it's taken over a year for Congress to act on a trade agreement that would add \$68 billion to our nation's GDP and more than 176,000 jobs? I hate to admit it, but no.

Last week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told reporters she's uncertain the House will take up the USMCA before the end of the year. This is unacceptable. Our producers need the certainty the USMCA will provide, and our negotiators with China need reassurance that Congress is serious about passing new trade deals.

The president and the administration did its job – it's past time the Speaker of the House does hers. We need to bring the USMCA up for a vote now.

Our allies are waiting on us. Mexico's Senate passed the USMCA in June – it took them three weeks to pass the deal. Now Mexico's leadership has sent a letter urging the Speaker to pass the agreement. Canada stands ready to sign when the United States signals we've reached an agreement amongst ourselves. There is strong bipartisan support for the USMCA, and despite the lengthy waiting period, the Speaker and the Democratic Ways and Means Committee Chairman continue to hold up the USMCA in congressional negotiations. We shouldn't leave our allies hanging.

South Dakota exported \$924 million worth of manufacturing and agriculture products to Canada and Mexico last year. According to the United States Trade Representative, Canada and Mexico are the first and third largest export markets for American producers – expanding these markets will only benefit the nation.

There's little disagreement – the USMCA is a far better deal than the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA was put in place more than twenty-four years ago. The USMCA will provide the United States, Canada, and Mexico with the 21st century agreement our countries need.

This new agreement opens up new markets to dairy, poultry, and eggs – access our dairy producers desperately need. Delaying a vote on the USMCA is purely political. As we head into an election year, more partisan politics are the last thing we need.

I came to Washington because there is meaningful work to get done, and I still believe that to be true. Congress should pass the USMCA before the end of the year – I will continue to work to make sure that happens.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Giving Thanks

The story of the first Thanksgiving is one you've probably heard (or some version of it anyway). But a few years ago, I learned about the second Thanksgiving that was celebrated. The pilgrims had faced tough growing conditions that year that hit their yields pretty hard and food became scarce. The colony's governor called for a fast to preserve resources. When the fast was finally lifted, the pilgrims gathered together, and the Thanksgiving feast began.

I imagine their meal was hardly the spread many of us have today, but there's something special about the fact that this tradition of gratitude has lasted through the generations.

While many of us may not face a food shortage in the same way the pilgrims did, South Dakota undoubtedly understands the reality of tough times.

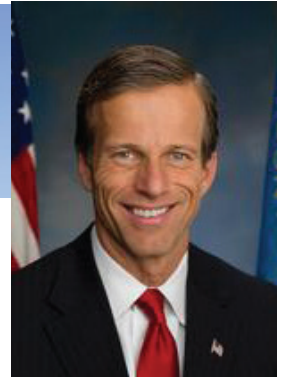
This year has been far from easy. Many folks continue to deal with the aftermath of the most severe natural disaster our state has ever seen. Producers have faced another year of low markets and incredible uncertainty... not to mention the fact that many haven't even been able to get into the fields.

When you're in the thick of things, it can be hard to see the blessings that are right in front of you. I recognize that. But taking the time to acknowledge those blessings can really shift a person's perspective. My mom is a big fan of Willie Nelson, and I love how he put it: "When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."

This Thanksgiving, take some time to think about the blessings in your life. For me, it's my family, my relationship with the Lord, the opportunity I have to serve the state I love, the freedoms we enjoy every day... the list could go on and on. Maybe this year, you could even put that gratitude to action. Consider giving to a local organization that helps people in need. Build a new friendship. Show compassion when you don't feel like it. This is gratitude in action.

From my family to yours, have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



"Shop Small" in South Dakota

While I'm sure most people know about the Black Friday shopping event that follows Thanksgiving each year, a relatively new shopping "holiday," of sorts, popped up in the last decade that is celebrated annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Small Business Saturday was created almost ten years ago to encourage people to "shop small" and check out their local brick and mortar stores that dot Main Streets across America.

In South Dakota, with 99 percent of businesses classified as small businesses, this event is particularly special. There are over 86,000 small businesses in the state that employ over 210,500 employees, collectively. So, when you support small businesses and the hardworking people who make them possible, you also help support the economy of South Dakota.

I recognize what these stores, shops, and restaurants mean to our communities. Aside from the economic impact they have on our state, they also help give South Dakota its charm. Almost every city in our state has a Main Street that is home to a number of unique stores, from restaurants to retail. A local downtown coffee shop can serve as a great spot for friends to gather. The town bookstore can be the spot for all generations to share stories and book recommendations. And these are just a few examples.

Small businesses are not just Main Street shops, retail stores, and restaurants. Small businesses are also the construction companies that keep our state's communities growing by maintaining our local roads and infrastructure. They're the local dentist, optometrist, and doctor's offices that ensure our small towns have the services they need. They're the local insurance companies and law offices – and many other businesses, too numerous to name. Small businesses are what make communities in our state great.

Almost two years ago, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, historic tax reform that has helped small businesses expand their operations, increase wages, add new employee benefits, and hire more workers. In addition, the reduction of unnecessary red tape over the last few years has helped create a regulatory environment that continues to allow businesses of all sizes – small businesses, in particular – to keep thriving. I will continue to look for ways in Congress to ensure our Main Streets remain a prosperous part of our communities, because I know there is always more that can be done.

This holiday season, consider supporting your local communities by "shopping small." Remember how important these businesses are for our neighbors, friends, and families, and the state of South Dakota.

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Upholding the Renewable Fuel Standard

While working as governor and now as your United States Senator, I've fought for South Dakota's corn and corn ethanol producers to make certain they're getting a fair deal under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). For over a decade, the RFS has provided the statutory certainty necessary for the corn industry to grow and prosper in the United States. As a result, corn ethanol has become a vital component of our nation's fuel supply. Many consumers now seek out ethanol blends when they're at the gas station due to their lower price tag and high octane rating. Just this year, the EPA announced that E-15—a type of fuel that is made up of 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent gasoline—can now be sold year-round. This has helped South Dakota corn farmers and ethanol producers.

The RFS is a program that was created by Congress in 2005. The goal of the RFS is to increase our use of renewable fuels and decrease our dependence on foreign oil. The RFS is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), so it's the job of the EPA to make sure that 15 billion gallons of ethanol are blended into our nation's fuel supply annually. The number of gallons required to be blended is based on targets called Renewable Volume Obligations (RVO).

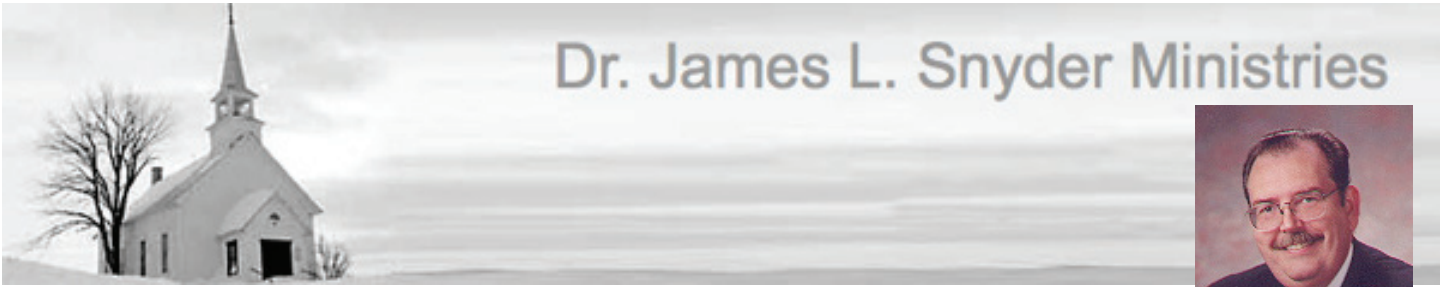
However, the RFS has been undermined in recent years due to the EPA issuing a high number of exemptions to small refineries which claim that complying with the RVOs would cause them significant economic hardship. In issuing so many exemptions, the demand for corn and corn ethanol has been reduced, thus impacting farmers' revenue for the year. I have shared my concerns about small refinery exemptions with EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler on a number of occasions. Midwest farmers are facing low commodity prices, trade instability and extreme weather—they don't need further headaches from the federal government.

During multiple meetings at the White House with President Trump this month, I've reiterated the importance of making sure the EPA revises its practices to guarantee that any small refinery exemptions would not reduce the 15 billion gallon requirement for conventional ethanol. The agreement, as originally directed by President Trump, would require the EPA to, prospectively, account for small refinery exemptions by utilizing a three-year rolling average of exemptions granted by the EPA. However, the supplemental proposed rule released by the EPA this fall does not achieve the 15 billion gallon requirement. I have been in contact with the EPA to urge them to change their final rule. The president has told me that he is committed to making sure the EPA follows through on its obligation to blend 15 billion gallons of ethanol into the fuel supply. I'm grateful for the president's leadership on this issue and it's time for the EPA to uphold the president's commitment to corn and ethanol producers.

The RFS is an important program for ag states like ours. Using more corn ethanol is a win for our farmers and a win for our planet, since they have a smaller carbon footprint than fossil fuels. I'll continue monitoring the EPA and speaking with President Trump to make sure the integrity of the RFS is upheld.

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A Post Thanksgiving Wishbone

Now that Thanksgiving is over, I can sit back and recoup from the activity. I'm not sure about anybody else, but a holiday such as Thanksgiving takes a lot out of me. Of course, it puts a lot in me, but that's another story.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly were catching our breath right after our Thanksgiving fiesta. I was enjoying the quiet moment when my wife said to me, "Do you know what time it is?"

I glanced at my wristwatch and said, "It's 8:30 right on the dot."

My wife threw one of those looks at me, I was tempted not to catch and said, "That's not what I mean, and you know it."

This is the problem I have. My wife assumes I know exactly what she's talking about every time she speaks. To be quite honest, it is a rare day when Yours Truly knows exactly what the wife is talking about whenever she speaks. This might be the reason I get into a little bit of trouble with her every now and then.

She then continued. "What I mean is, do you know what time it is now?"

I was tempted to say, "It's 8:32," but I learned my lesson, so I casually asked, "No, what time is it?"

She sighed very deeply and said, "It's time to get the Christmas decorations down out of the attic and decorate our house for Christmas."

Upon hearing those words, I immediately froze in my chair. I was hoping this year there would be an appreciative pause between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I must say I'm quite a fan of both holidays and all they represent. However, I certainly would like to get over one before I get into the other.

"You'll have to go up to the attic and bring down all of our Christmas decoration boxes."

I do not relish this job. I go into the attic twice a year; once to bring the Christmas decorations down, and once to take them back when Christmas is over. If anybody were to seek my opinion about this whole matter, I would immediately opine that twice a year is two times too many for me.

I don't like the attic. It is dark and spooky up there. I'm not quite sure who or what inhabits the attic, but I hear some awfully strange noises coming from there regularly, especially in the middle of the night. I'm not suggesting a ghost may be living in our attic, but it hasn't been proven otherwise.

I do not believe in ghosts, but a person cannot be too careful these days.

If I could have a wish for this time of the year, I think it would be that the next holiday should not begin before the last holiday has sufficiently worn off. I'm not sure if it is my age or what, but these holidays are coming fast and furious. No sooner do you get into the spirit of one holiday when the next holiday is knocking at your door.

I do not think this is too unreasonable a wish. After all, there is a period of three weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, which I think should be used rather wisely.

Even around our Thanksgiving Day table, everybody was chattering about what they were looking forward to for Christmas. Everybody seemed to be playing old St. Nick and checking his or her Christmas list twice.

I remember as a child we would set up the Christmas tree and all of the decorations on Christmas Eve.

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Then, New Year's Day it would all be packed away for another year. That gave us approximately one week to enjoy the Christmas decorations.

I'm almost at the point of saying, Happy Holiday, for the simple reason I'm not quite sure which holiday we are celebrating. Is it Thanksgiving? Or, maybe it's Christmas? Or, then again, it may be New Year's Day. Whoever designed these holidays so closely together needs to rethink the strategy here.

Another wish I might have. Holidays should not be an excuse to go shopping. Somebody should pass some kind of congressional bill stating that on holidays people should stay at home. Holidays should be a family affair. It should not be a contest to see who can spend the most money on one day. I know I stand alone on this issue, but I don't mind. It's my opinion and I'll keep it to myself, thank you.

The day after Thanksgiving, I heard somebody on the radio singing, "We wish you a Merry Christmas." I don't mind being wished a Merry Christmas, but I sure do wish they would wait until Christmas to wish me such pleasantries.

Even Jesus recognized the importance of resting. "And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." (Mark 6:31).

Then I heard a certain store in our community was not permitting any of their employees to say to any customer, "Merry Christmas." To which I, seeing the challenge before me, promptly went to that store, not to buy anything, but to wish everybody I saw "Merry Christmas." After all, under such circumstances, you can't start too soon to wish people Merry Christmas



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New midwife certification in S.D. allows home births with less education and clinical training

By: Samuel Blackstone

Legislation passed in 2017 in South Dakota opened the door to licensing of a new classification of "professional midwives," who can become certified to perform home births with far less training and education than "nurse midwives" who have been regulated in South Dakota for 40 years.

While midwives with the new professional certification have successfully delivered 10 babies since then (two of whom required transport to a hospital), one top medical official in South Dakota is concerned the new certification may legitimize lay midwives who can put mothers and children at risk.

A main concern is that the new classification of legal midwifery, the Certified Professional Midwife, demands far less education and clinical training than a Certified Nurse Midwife, a classification that requires a nursing degree and which has been regulated in South Dakota since 1979.

Some supporters of home births say CPMs are fully capable of delivering babies safely and that midwives in general create needed birthing options for prospective parents, particularly in rural areas where access to hospitals may be limited. They also note that lay midwives have been working outside the law for years and that at least now they must be certified.

But opponents of the CPM license law, including Dr. Robert J. Summerer, president of the South Dakota State Medical Association, cite studies showing higher neonatal mortality rates in home births than in hospital deliveries.

Summerer, a Madison, S.D. surgeon, also noted the discrepancy between the hours of clinical training demanded of Certified Nurse Midwives (1,040 hours) versus Certified Professional Midwives (about 50 hours depending on the program) before they can deliver babies independently.

"It is very clear that their training is inadequate and it's putting two people at risk: the mother and the child," he said. "We still think it is unsafe that the state would sanction something that is so risky for our residents in the state."

The rate of home births has been rising in South Dakota and across the country, and is much higher among Native Americans.

In South Dakota, there were 50 intentional home births in 2014, compared to 79 in 2017 and 75 in 2018,



Many home births are "water births" in which the mother is immersed in a pool of warm water to ease the birthing process. This photo taken after a home water birth is a stock image with no known connection to residents of South Dakota. Photo: Shutterstock

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according to the state Department of Health.

In 2003, about 8% of American births were attended by midwives, more than double the 1990 rate of 3.9%. The rate of home births is more than double among Native Americans nationally, with 19.9% of all Native babies delivered by midwives in 2017 compared to only 9.1% of all births that year, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 2017 CPM law was passed in South Dakota after more than a decade of effort by midwifery supporters and lobbyists to legitimize the practice of home births assisted by lay midwives, which they argued was occurring regardless of the law and thus should be brought under state control to ensure safety.

State law says a CPM is responsible for "the management and care of the low-risk mother-baby unit in an out-of-hospital setting during pregnancy, labor, delivery and postpartum periods." CPMs differ from Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) in a few regards, chief among them the level of education and training necessary and the location where each can work.

As is the case in many other states, CNMs practicing in South Dakota must undergo a more academically rigorous program than CPMs before certification. CNMs are also registered nurses and typically study nursing for four years in an undergraduate setting before obtaining their master's degree in nursing after two or three years of further study.

The payoff is greater autonomy and opportunity, as CNMs are free to practice in hospitals, birth centers, clinics, for the Indian Health Service, or to start their own midwifery business. There are 37 active CNMs in South Dakota, according to the state Department of Health.

In the spring of 2019, the state board tasked with regulating home births performed by non-registered nurse midwives began to issue their first CPM licenses in South Dakota.

Known as the South Dakota Board of Certified Professional Midwives, it was created as part of the 2017 law that legalized and created a framework to regulate the Certified Professional Midwife industry.

"We were trying to create the legislative highway for that Certified Professional Midwife to be able to be in practice in the sunshine instead of in the underground," said Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, a registered nurse, chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and former president of the South Dakota Nursing Association.

When the law became effective on July 1, 2017, South Dakota became the 32nd state to have a licensing track for CPMs on the books. To date, there are 35 such states. Soholt voted against the bill for years before voting in support in 2017.

"For 20 years I fought against [it]," she said. "Finally I came to the realization that as a senator, if I believe in local control, and I know what it means to have a baby, who am I to say to another family 'I am going to write your birth process for you?' Families have the right to self-determination. If those families are willing to take that risk [of home birth], then we need to understand that risk. Let's create a structure



State Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls

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where we can see it.”

The board began issuing licenses in March. So far, four CPMs and two student CPMs have been licensed in the state, with 10 recorded home births, two of which required transport to a hospital.

Supporters of the CPM licensure law point to some studies depicting a reduced risk of health complications and death for mothers and/or babies in home birth settings as comparable to hospital births. According to the state Department of Health, there have not been any reported deaths during 342 home births recorded since 2014.

In that same period, there have been 60,379 hospital births in the state, with 374 infant deaths, an infant mortality rate of 0.62%. The national average for infant mortality in 2017 was 0.58%, the CDC said.

Both sides of the issue said the tracking of such rates is difficult because of differences in how hospitals may label a birth. For example, if complications occur during a home birth that require transport to the hospital and the baby is then delivered in the hospital, it is labeled as a hospital birth.

State law permits a home birth only if the pregnancy is deemed “low risk” and is anticipated to be problem-free “based on an assessment of the woman’s past medical history and ongoing assessment of the mother-baby unit throughout the pregnancy, labor, delivery and postpartum care.”

Measurements of the woman’s vital signs, blood



Dr. Robert J. Summerer

work, and results from the 20-week ultrasound are typically part of the assessment. As a result, Summerer said statistics for home births constitute results only for the lowest risk populations.

“I’m not sure that they are really comparing apples to apples,” he said.

Cassie Applegate, R.N., CNM, followed the nursing school route in Colorado before opening Apple Tree Midwifery in Rapid City in 2016. Her job, she said, is to perform the duties of a women’s health nurse practitioner, offering care for women from puberty through menopause.

The breadth of education and scope of practice for CPMs is more limited.

Per state law, CPMs must complete an educational program certified by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council and receive their certification from the North American Registry of Midwives. They can then apply for a state license.

Typically, the course load for a CPM in training requires students to shadow a licensed CPM as they perform prenatal health assessments and care, home births and postpartum care. CPMs primarily practice in client’s homes and are not allowed to practice in hospitals.

“It is very clear that their training is inadequate and it’s putting two people at risk: the mother and the child. We still think it is unsafe that the state would sanction something that is so risky for our residents in the state.” -- Dr. Robert J. Summerer, a Madison, S.D. surgeon who is president of the South Dakota State Medical Association

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Applegate, who has overseen more than 150 home births as a CNM, noted that the education for CNMs is broader than that of CPMs, who typically only focus on the skills necessary to deliver a baby safely in an out-of-hospital setting. CNMs also have more freedom in the medications they can prescribe. Applegate said that though some may see the CPM practice as undercutting CNMs, she doesn't share that view.

"I'm always supportive of more midwives," Applegate said in an October interview with South Dakota News Watch. "I think more midwives beget more midwives. I did not feel like [the legalization of CPMs] was a threat [to CNMs] because the more midwives we have, the more women will choose midwives."

Applegate added that more midwives also means more options for women and increased access to care for rural and low-income populations.

"Our state needs more midwives in any birth setting to give women options and to really reach that access to care which we're lacking," she said.

Summerer, however, flipped the argument that women who live far from a hospital are better served by a home birth.

"Those people are probably the most vulnerable in a home delivery because if they are far away from a facility where babies are delivered safely and something goes wrong then they are even further behind the 8-ball as far as getting the appropriate care," he said. "I get that people want to go to a more natural kind of setting but you just hate to put your child or yourself at risk to make those decisions. We've come so far in medicine, it just doesn't seem like a smart thing to move back."

Applegate echoed a sentiment similar to Soholt and many of the 2017 bill's other supporters: that home births overseen by non-CNMs are already occurring and it's best to create a framework that ensures consistency, safety and accountability.

Applegate said she believes there are certainly a handful of home births still being overseen by non-licensed midwives, but that "women doing that are probably going to do that regardless" of the law, as their preference for a home birth is motivated by "a philosophy of birth rather than access to care."

Pat Schwaiger, R.N., CPM, and vice president of the South Dakota Board of Certified Professional Midwives, said choice and control are what draw many women to undergo home births.

"It varies from lifestyle to finances to geographic location to religion to political beliefs but I think the common denominator is personal choice," said Schwaiger, who had her four children in a home birth setting and recently retired after 37 years as a midwife. "Women want to feel like they are in charge of their own birth experience and to a large degree that is compromised in the hospital."

Schwaiger, who serves as chairperson for the Wyoming State Board of Midwifery, said licensing CPMs



A midwife provides a check-up to an expecting mother in her home. This photo is a stock image with no known connection to residents of South Dakota. Photo: Shutterstock

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and allowing home births make sense in states like South Dakota and Wyoming where families may live far from the nearest healthcare facility.

"You're better off if you have someone coming to you," she said.

Debbie Pease also serves on South Dakota's CPM board and for years led the lobbying efforts for the state CPM licensure law. She decided on a home birth for her four children because she didn't want to deliver her baby in a car on the way to the hospital.

"I had a really good experience with my midwife at home and then all of a sudden she wasn't able to practice anymore," Pease said, citing the state crackdown on non-licensed lay midwives in the 1980s and 1990s, which led to cease-and-desist orders being sent out. Two lay midwives were jailed for short stints for continuing to practice without a license.

"I think I was five months pregnant with my next baby before I found a midwife because they were so underground," she said. "If you weren't in the right circles you couldn't find them. That's what happens when you don't have licensure and everything above board."

Summerer said he'd like to see CPMs undergo more clinical training hours before they receive their certification. He would also like the state to require regular exams to demonstrate continued competency, a requirement for continued training and for CPMs to have liability insurance. He does not accept the argument that just because something medical is already happening in the state, that it is best to acknowledge its presence and try to regulate.

"There are a lot of things that happen in our society that are happening whether we have regulations for it or not," he said. "To simply put a stamp of approval and say 'Hey, this is OK' doesn't make those things better for the residents."

ABOUT SAMUEL BLACKSTONE

Samuel Blackstone is a correspondent for South Dakota News Watch. Samuel has a decade of journalism experience, writing



for both national magazines and websites; he most recently served as a staff reporter at the Rapid City Journal.

Aberdeen Living Christmas Tree brings the Carols of Christmas,

Saturday, December 7, 7pm,

Sunday, December 8, 3pm and 7pm,

3pm includes interpretation for the hearing impaired,

Aberdeen Civic Arena

Collecting non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Drive.

For more info, visit facebook.com/AberdeenLCT.

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Northern State Comes Up Short Against MSU Moorhead

Recap written by Nathan Price

Aberdeen, S.D. - The Northern State men's basketball team opened up NSIC play with a tough 74-81 loss to MSU Moorhead. This is Northern's third loss of the season, bringing their record to 4-3 overall and 0-1 in the NSIC.

NSU got on the scoreboard first and held a firm lead throughout most of the first half. The Dragons fought back as time expired, but the Wolves were able to secure a slim 35-34 lead going into halftime.

Gabe King was the leading scorer for the Wolves with 12 points, but Parker Fox was the standout with six of his seven points coming from three hard hitting dunks.

A 3-pointer from Bryce Irsfeld gave the Dragons the lead to start the second half, but Parker Fox responded with an impressive 3-point play of his own to give the lead right back to the Wolves. The next few minutes saw the lead change a total of seven times as neither team could pull ahead over the other.

However, a few 3-point shots allowed MSU Moorhead to establish a strong 7-point lead half-way through the second half and they didn't look back as they walked away with an 81-74 win over Northern State.

Northern shot just 23.8% from the 3-point line, 44.1% from the floor, and 64.3% from the free throw line. The Wolves scored 18 points off of turnovers, 40 from the paint, and ten from the bench. Northern's largest lead was 24-17 with 8:40 left in the first half.

At the top of the scoreboard for the Wolves was Gabe King, going 7-of-11 for 18 points and two rebounds. Not far behind was Parker Fox with 17 points and a team high 75.0% success rate from the foul line.

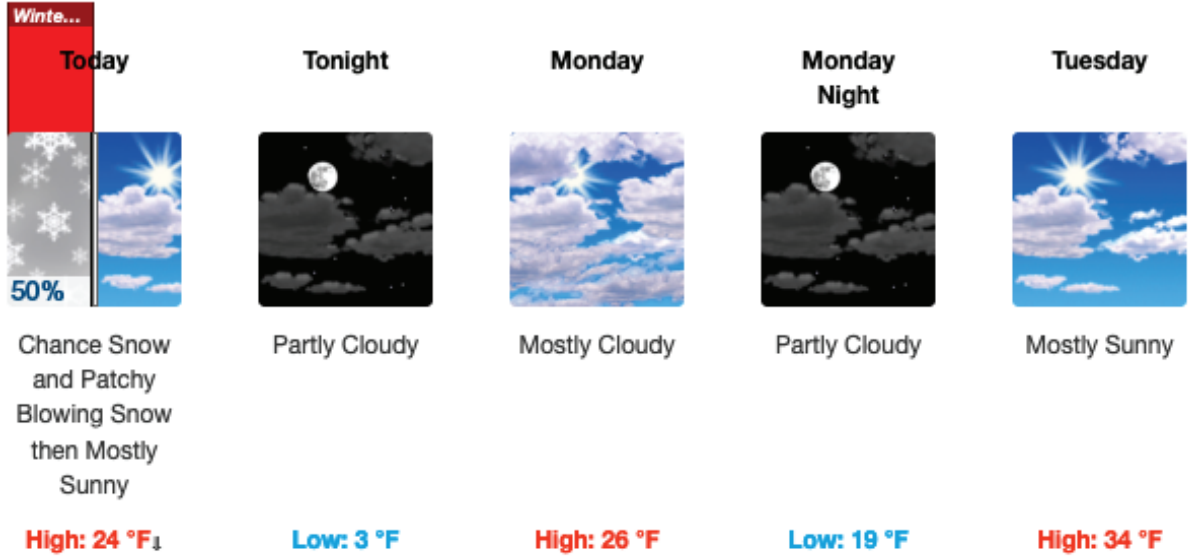
Tommy Chatman and Mason Stark both went 5-of-11 from the floor for ten and 11 points respectively. Meanwhile, Andrew Kallman finished the night with eight points and eight rebounds before fouling out late in the second half.

Cole Dahl and Jordan Belka rounded out the score sheet from the bench with seven and three points respectively.

Up next, the Wolves come back home to play the Bemidji State Beavers on December 6. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. from Wachs Arena. They then welcome Minnesota Crookston at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

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Gradual Improvement Today

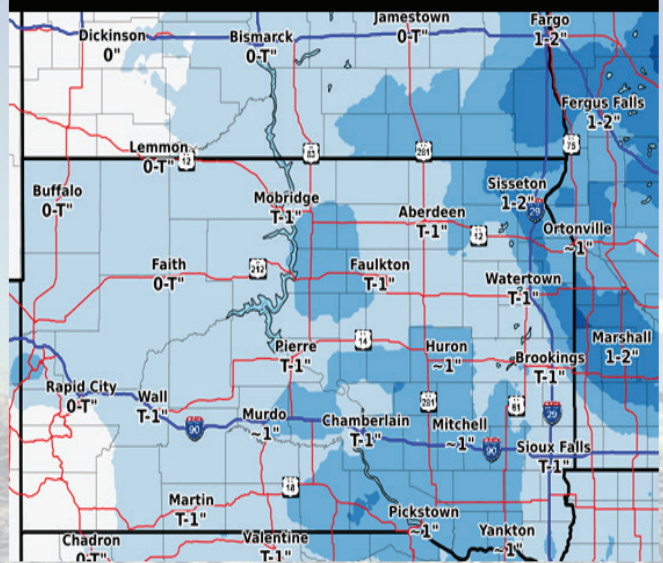
Today

- Light snow tapers off this morning.
- Strong wind gusts this morning, diminishing this afternoon.
- Patchy to areas of blowing snow.
- Difficult travel still this morning until roads are cleared.

Monday

- Chilly start with single digit temps.
- Mostly cloudy skies with cool temps.

Little Additional Accumulation Through Midday Today



Updated: 12/1/2019 5:40 AM Central

Published on: 12/01/2019 at 12:45AM

Weather conditions will gradually improve this morning as light snowfall comes to an end by midday. Strong wind gusts will persist through the morning, but diminish from west to east through the day. Travel conditions will continue to remain difficult through the morning, but these should also improve as crews clear roads and parking lots. High pressure will build in by tonight, allowing cloudy skies to break and temps to fall into the single digits tonight.

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Today in Weather History

December 1, 1985: A storm system with heavy snow, strong winds, and blizzard conditions visited the region on December 1st through 2nd. Most of the snow fell in Minnesota. Snowfall across Minnesota increased from the south during the early morning of December 1st and had spread across most of the state by late morning. Winds in the west central and southwest part of the state increased to 40 to 50 mph causing blizzard conditions. By late morning, drifts had reached 3 feet, and snow plows were pulled off roads from the southwest into central Minnesota due to restricted visibilities. The winds continued through the evening, gradually diminished during the morning of December 2nd. High winds and cold temperatures broke power lines and caused power outages over portions of southern and west central Minnesota during the afternoon of December 1st and the morning of December 2nd. Many highways were impassable, and numerous businesses and schools were closed on the morning of December 2nd until residents could dig out. There were a few travelers that became stranded for up to 6 hours in their vehicles. Traffic accidents also accounted for some injuries and a few deaths. Further west, in South Dakota, strong winds gusted to around 40 mph and produced ground blizzard conditions over most of the state. The low visibilities, road conditions, and strong winds stranded a family for 25 hours south of Colome in Tripp County and another family for eight hours near Lee's Corner in Brule County. Many roads were blocked in the central and western parts of the state, and no travel was advised in the east. The blowing and drifting snow reduced visibilities to near zero and many accidents were reported. The strong winds, along with the previous day's snowfall, caused some damage, including the collapse of the roof of a large barn south of Bemis in Deuel County. Many church services were canceled on December 1, as were many schools on December 2. Temperatures became frigid during the morning of December 2 in the northwest part of the state. Camp Crook in Harding County reported a low of -36 F. Pierre had 2 inches of snow, Aberdeen, Castlewood, Clark, and Redfield had 3 inches, Bryant had 4 inches, Clear Lake, Milbank, and Wilmot had 8 inches. Timber Lake fell to -24F on the 2nd while McLaughlin fell to -30F.

December 1, 1992: A storm system caused numerous traffic accidents and stranded several hundred travelers on December 1st across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota as Interstate 29 was closed between Watertown and Sisseton. Slush on roadways became ice as high wind gusts were up to 60 mph and snowfall of one to four inches brought blizzard conditions to some areas. Several semi-trucks jackknifed and many cars ran into ditches, causing minor injuries. At the same time, strong northwest winds further west in central and north central South Dakota gusted up to 67 mph on the 1st. The high winds shattered windows and blew down trees and signs. The wind rolled a van into a car, causing damage to both vehicles. A wind-blown dumpster damaged another vehicle. The wind also blew toppers off several pickup trucks, causing some damage.

December 1, 2007: A strong low-pressure area moving across the central plains brought widespread heavy snowfall of 6 to 12 inches across northeast South Dakota. The snow began between 4 and 8 am and ended between 7 and 9 p.m. on December 1st. The heavy snow mainly affected travel and Saturday activities. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Clark, Conde, Faulkton, Redfield, and Watertown, 7 inches at Groton, Roscoe, and Sisseton, 8 inches at Britton, Summit, Bryant, 9 inches at Aberdeen and Kidder, and 12 inches at Big Stone City.

December 1, 2006: An early winter storm produced more than 6 inches of snow along a 1,000-mile long path from central Oklahoma to northern Michigan. This storm also produced significant freezing rain which impacted the St. Louis area. An estimated 500 or more homes and businesses were without power in the St. Louis area after this storm.

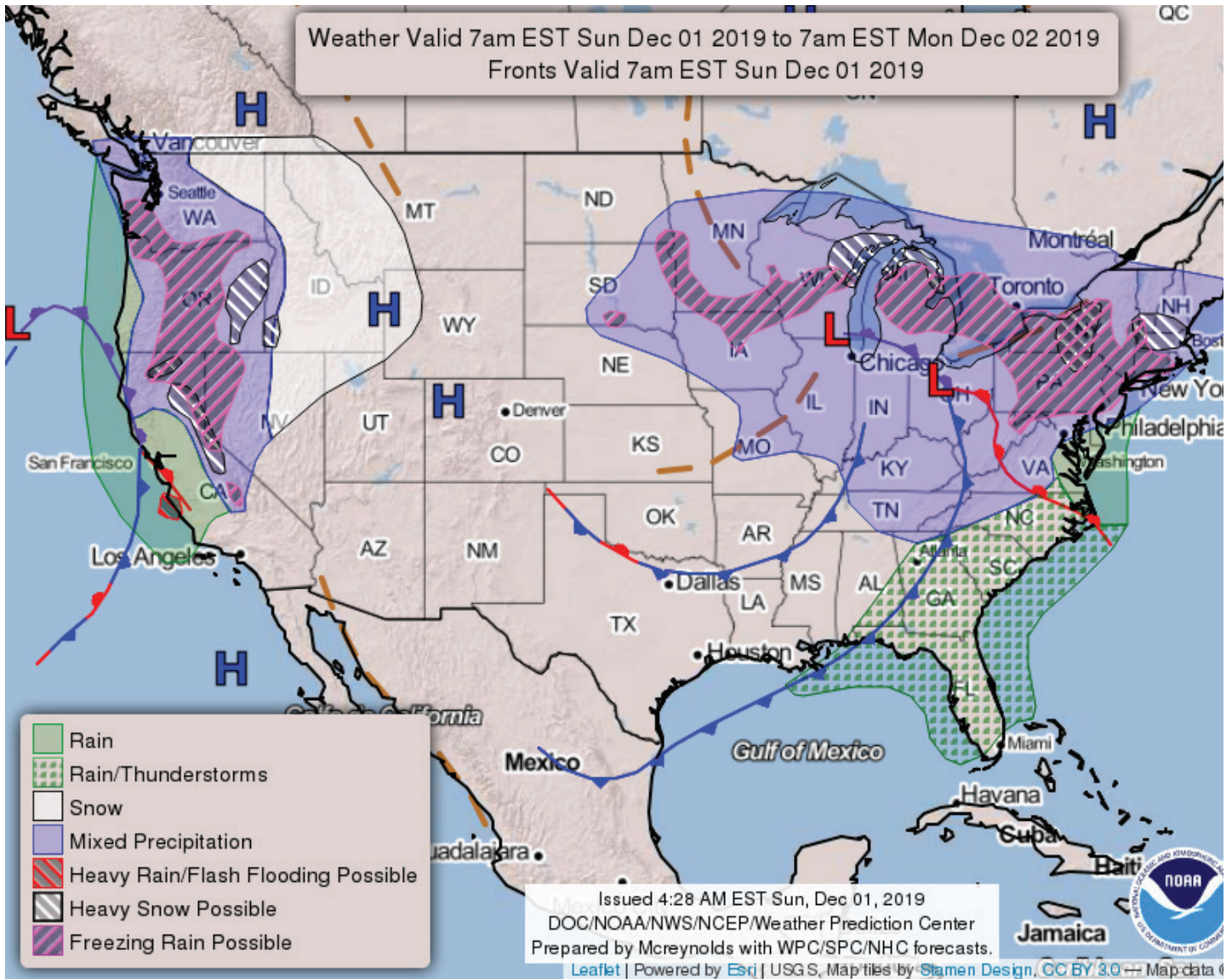
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 31 °F at 3:03 AM
Low Temp: 25 °F at 10:28 PM
Wind: 27 mph at 4:52 AM
Day Rain: 0.00 (10" Snow)

Record High: 62° in 1969
Record Low: -24° in 1893
Average High: 31°F
Average Low: 11°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.73
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.38
Average Precip to date: 21.20
Precip Year to Date: 26.95
Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 a.m.



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ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Hal and Matt, two longtime friends, accidentally met in a department store a few weeks before Christmas. They gave each other a forced smile – as if they were happy to see each other – but wished their meeting was under different circumstances.

“You know,” said Hal, “I’ve come to the conclusion that Christmas has become a wrap race.”

“I agree,” replied Matt. “And I’ll tell you something else. I’ve finally discovered the real meaning of the word Yule.”

“Oh,” responded Hal. “What is it? I’d like to know myself.”

“It’s my wife saying in a very convincing voice, ‘You’ll buy me this and then you’ll buy me that!’ I feel like I have no choice but to buy her whatever she asks for,” replied Matt. “Everything seems to be about things.”

It would be a wise investment of our time this Christmas to try to imagine what God might have seen when He looked into the manger. Certainly it was more, much more, than a Baby. Did He see the crowds ridiculing and mocking His Son? Did He turn His head when He saw the “kiss of betrayal” from Judas? Was His mind troubled by the trial that unjustly condemned His Son? Did He weep when He saw Jesus hanging from the cross? Certainly. But let’s not forget to see the smile that was on His face and the peace that flooded into His heart when He saw the empty tomb.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to get ready for Christmas by seeing its sights and sounds through Your eyes. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: John 14:9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 12/03/2019 – Christmas Open House 10am-4pm, James Valley Telecommunications
- 12/07/2019 – Santa Day 9am-12pm, Professional Management Services
- 12/07/2019 – Tour of Homes 4pm-7pm, Olive Grove Golf Course (Tickets available at Lori's Pharmacy, Groton Ford, Hair & Co (Aberdeen) and Vicki Walter (605) 380-0480)
- 12/19/2019 – Christmas Open House 10am-4pm, Wells Fargo Bank
- 12/20/2019 – Holiday Bake Sale & Open House 9am-4pm, Groton Community Transit
- 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)



Scott Hanlon was one of many contractors removing snow on Saturday and today. The area received 10 inches of snow.

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News from the Associated Press

Authorities: 9 killed, 3 injured in South Dakota plane crash

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) — Nine people died and three more were injured when a single-engine plane bound for Idaho crashed shortly after takeoff in South Dakota.

Peter Knudson with the National Transportation Safety Board told The Associated Press 12 people were aboard the Pilatus PC-12 when it crashed about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, shortly after taking off in Chamberlain, about 140 miles (225 kilometers) west of Sioux Falls.

Knudson said nine people were killed and three were injured. The small plane was bound for Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Authorities have not released the names of the victims. Brule County emergency manager Katheryn Benton told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader that the passengers ranged in age from 7 to 81. She said the three survivors were three men ages 28, 27 and 17.

Chamberlain and central south-central South Dakota was under a winter storm warning Saturday and Benton said planes were unable to land at Chamberlain at the time of the crash.

NTSB investigators were expected at the site later Sunday. Weather will be among several factors they will review, although no cause for the crash has been determined, Knudson said. Inclement weather was making travel to the site difficult, he said.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

15-19-29-33-35

(fifteen, nineteen, twenty-nine, thirty-three, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$344,000

Lotto America

02-13-22-39-49, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(two, thirteen, twenty-two, thirty-nine, forty-nine; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$5.42 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$266 million

Powerball

15-35-42-63-68, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 4

(fifteen, thirty-five, forty-two, sixty-three, sixty-eight; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$110 million

Powerful storm pushes into Midwest with heavy snow and winds

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

Wintry weather bedeviled Thanksgiving weekend travelers across the United States Saturday as a powerful and dangerous storm moved eastward, dumping heavy snow from parts of California to the northern Midwest and inundating other areas with rain.

Authorities found the bodies of two young children, including a 5-year-old boy, and a third child was missing in central Arizona after a vehicle was swept away while attempting to cross a runoff-swollen creek. A storm-related death also was reported in South Dakota.

Also in South Dakota, a small-engine plane carrying 12 people crashed, killing nine aboard and leaving three others injured. Peter Knudson of the National Transportation Safety Board said the Pilatus PC-12

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crashed about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, shortly after taking off from Chamberlain, about 140 miles (225.3 kilometers) west of Sioux Falls. Knudson said weather would be among several factors reviewed by NTSB investigators, but no cause had yet been determined. He said inclement weather was making travel to the crash site difficult.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service said the storm was expected to drop 6 to 12 inches (15-30 centimeters) of snow from the northern Plains states into Minnesota, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Blizzard conditions early Saturday were already buffeting the High Plains. The city of Duluth, Minnesota, issued a "no travel advisory" beginning at noon Saturday because of a major snow storm it termed "historic."

Duluth officials asked the public to be patient as plows clear roadways and recommended that drivers stay

off the roads to prevent accidents and let officers respond more quickly to emergencies.

Farther south, rain and thunderstorms were forecast along and ahead of the cold front, with heavy rainfall possible Saturday in parts of the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys.

Forecasters said a new storm is expected to bring California several feet of mountain snow, rain and gusty winds through the weekend. Another system is forecast to develop in the mid-Atlantic Sunday, moving as a nor'easter into Monday.

Airlines at O'Hare International and Midway International in Chicago reported average delays of 15 minutes as a winter storm headed toward the Midwest with heavy snow and ice and gusty winds.

The companies said they had canceled 27 flights at O'Hare and two at Midway as people scramble to get home on the year's busiest travel weekend.

At Denver International Airport, there were 100 flights canceled Saturday because of high winds.

"Tomorrow, the airlines anticipate to be the busiest travel day of the Thanksgiving period at both O'Hare and Midway," said Karen Pride, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Aviation. "Everybody thinks the day before Thanksgiving is the busiest; it is not."

Authorities in the western states were still grappling Saturday with the aftermath of heavy rains and snow over the busiest travel weekend of the year.

In Arizona, officials initially found the body of the 5-year-old about 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) downstream from where the vehicle they were riding in was swept away Friday, said Gila County sheriff's Lt. Virgil Dodd. The second of the three children turned up later Saturday. The sheriff's office didn't provide the age and gender of the second child or the third child who was still missing late Saturday afternoon.

The agency said Saturday two other children and two adults who were in the vehicle were rescued from a small island and the bank of the creek in Tonto National Forest northeast of Phoenix. Sheriff's officials initially had said six people, including four children, were rescued Friday at locations along the creek.

Families in California took advantage of the early season snow in the Grapevine area, sledding down slopes in Frazier Park, California. Traffic was heavy, but Interstate 5 was open in both directions as holiday



Brittany Culp brushes snow off of her windshield on a windy and snowy morning in Greeley, Colo., Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. The weather caused the city to cancel its annual Greeley Lights the Night parade, which was scheduled in the evening. (Alex McIntyre/The Greeley Tribune via AP)

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travelers headed home.

High winds and ice were making travel almost impossible in some other places, however.

A 100-mile (160.93-kilometer) section of Interstate 80 in Nebraska and Wyoming closed Saturday morning because of high winds and blowing snow. Several other roads and highways also were closed.

Back-to-back snowstorms and strong winds combined to seriously complicate travel by land across much of the rest of Wyoming, where roads were closed in the eastern and southern parts of the state because of whiteout conditions.

The National Weather Service in Wyoming reported 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow fell in Cheyenne from 7 p.m. Friday through 10 a.m. Saturday "that has been blown all over kingdom come by our winds," said meteorologist Andrew Lyons.

That was added to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow that fell before Thanksgiving.

Wind gusts up to 50 mph (80 kph) created ground blizzards and below-zero wind chill temperatures in some areas. A wind gust of 77 mph (124 kph) was reported in the mountains between Cheyenne and Laramie, Lyons said.

All roads in and out of Casper were closed Saturday morning, including the entire 300-mile stretch (483-kilometer) of Interstate 25 in Wyoming.

Travel was also difficult in Colorado Saturday as winds blew around snow that fell in previous days.

Northeastern Colorado roads were closed due to strong winds, blowing and drifting snow and poor visibility.

In northern Montana, more than a foot of fresh snow and strong wind gusts are expected to combine to create ground blizzard conditions along the Rocky Mountain front.

Meteorologist Christian Cassel told the Great Falls Tribune people could be stuck in their homes for at least a day due to the near zero visibility.

Snow reported from Phoenix. AP writers Paul Davenport in Phoenix, Amy Hanson in Helena, Montana and Ivan Moreno in Milwaukee, Kathleen Foody in Chicago, Martha Mendoza in Frazier Park, California and Jim Salter in St. Louis contributed reporting.

Anita Snow on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/asnowreports>

Jackson-Davis again doubles down, Indiana drops S. Dakota St

By **PATRICK BEANE** Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — South Dakota State did what it could to slow down Indiana, but the Jackrabbits had no answer for Trayce Jackson-Davis.

The 6-foot-9 freshman forward scored 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for his fourth straight double-double to lead the Hoosiers to a 64-50 win.

South Dakota State held Indiana to almost 30 points below its average of 90.2 points per game coming in by packing the paint defensively and playing methodically on offense.

"(They) completely took the air out of the ball," Indiana coach Archie Miller said. "When you're 15 feet off your man at five positions, you're basically saying, we're just going to let these guys shoot and, hopefully, they miss."

But when Indiana did miss, it had Jackson-Davis and forward Justin Smith cleaning up on the offensive boards. The two combined for 14 of Indiana's 16 offensive rebounds as the Hoosiers outrebounded the smaller Jackrabbits, 45-29.

Smith added 18 points and eight rebounds, and guard Devonte Green had 11 off the bench as Indiana completed a November sweep and improved to 8-0.

"Rebounding the ball is a huge deal for this team," Miller said. "Nine offensive rebounds (for Jackson-Davis) is something else. He went up and got five or six balls that nobody else can get."

Tray Buchanan led the Jackrabbits (6-4) with 15 points. Baylor Scheierman added seven points and

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South Dakota State's Noah Freidel (11) shoots against Indiana's Al Durham (1) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019, in Bloomington, Ind.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

Douglas Wilson had six.

Indiana led by 11 at the half but was never able to put away South Dakota State in the second half. The Jackrabbits got within 42-34 on a 3-pointer by David Wingett with 15:54 left, but Smith answered with a 3 and the Hoosiers went on an 11-2 run to regain control. Indiana's biggest lead came on a Jackson-Davis alley-oop dunk with four minutes remaining that made it 62-46.

Indiana and South Dakota State traded 3s early with a 3 by Alou Dillon getting the Jackrabbits within 20-18 with a 7:39 left in the half.

But Green answered with a jumper to spark an 11-0 run by Indiana, highlighted by a thunderous Jackson-Davis block off the backboard that Smith fielded near the 3-point arc and raced in for a dunk on the other end to put the Hoosiers up 31-18.

Indiana ended the half with a 37-26 lead.

"Douglas Wilson and Brandon Key, in particular, we were really concerned about," Miller said. "And I thought our team did a really nice job against their two best guys, and that was really the difference in the game."

BIG PICTURE

South Dakota State: The loss snaps a two-game winning streak for the two-time defending Summit League regular season champions.

Indiana: South Dakota State was the final mid-major tune-up for Indiana. After Florida State Tuesday, Indiana opens Big Ten play at Wisconsin, then faces UConn in the Jimmy V. Classic.

STAT SHEET

South Dakota State: Doug Wilson came in averaging 17.8 points to lead the Jackrabbits but was limited to just six points before fouling out. ... South Dakota State finished with 17 turnovers. ... The Jackrabbits went 19 of 56 from the field, including just 6 of 28 from 3-point range. ...

Buchanan's 15 points were a season-high and came on 7-of-10 shooting from the field.

Indiana: Hoosiers open the season 8-0 for the first time since the 2012-13 season. ... Indiana was held to season lows of 64 points and 41% shooting (24 for 58). ... Indiana committed a season-high 19 turnovers. ... The Hoosiers went just 9 of 18 from the free throw line.

UP NEXT

South Dakota State has five days off before playing at Montana State Thursday.

Indiana plays host to Florida State in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge Tuesday night.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Northern Arizona stymies South Dakota late, earns 76-72 win

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Bernie Andre and Luke Avdelovic each scored 17 points and Northern Arizona scored the final seven points of the game to pick up its third straight victory, a 76-72 win over South Dakota Saturday afternoon.

Returning to action after a nine-day break, the Lumberjacks trailed by eight points with 3:45 to play after a layup by Stanley Umude, but it was the Coyotes final field goal of the game. After Umude hit two free throws Avdelovic hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 72-72.

Cameron Shelton hit 3 of 4 from the line and Cameron Satterwhite added another free throw to secure the victory.

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Northern Arizona prevented the nation's leading 3-point shooter, Tyler Hagedorn, who converts 75% from distance, from taking a 3-point shot. Umude and Cody Kelly instead provided the outside offence, combining to hit 6 of 9 as the team finished 7 of 12 (58.3%).

Brooks DeBiscchop had 13 points for NAU (3-1) and Shelton added another 10.

Umude finished with 18 points and 14 rebounds for South Dakota (6-2). Kelley and Ty Chisom each added 17 points and Hadedorn contributed 10.

Case backlog grows in Minnesota's immigration court

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Pending immigration cases have increased 70 percent since last year in Minnesota's Bloomington federal immigration court, according to recently released data from Syracuse University.

The court handles cases from North Dakota and South Dakota in addition to Minnesota. Minnesota Public Radio reports that six immigration judges currently handle the cases for the three states.

Minnesota currently has 13,703 pending cases, according to the data. It concludes that the backlog of cases is at an all-time high. More than a million cases are pending nationally. New York, California, and Texas have some of the highest numbers.

North Dakota and South Dakota don't have any pending cases.

An immigration law professor attributes the rise in cases to stricter enforcement and not having enough judges to handle the caseload.

"On the ICE side, enforcement has gone up, so the number of arrests, particularly arrests of people who have been here for a long time with no criminal history, those have increased exponentially," said Ana Pottratz Acosta, who teaches at Mitchell Hamline law school. "But then on the immigration court side, they haven't beefed up the system by hiring more immigration judges or more personnel to manage the increase in cases."

Gail Montenegro, a spokeswoman for the Midwest region of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, said officials are working to process cases more quickly and are asking for funding for more immigration judges next year.

Information from: Minnesota Public Radio News, <http://www.mprnews.org>

Police raise money to buy children Christmas gifts

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are raising money along with a radio station to buy Christmas gifts to homeless and at-risk children.

The Cops 'N Kids program aims to raise \$11,500 to give \$100 each to 115 children and they're halfway to their goal. Donations currently stand at \$5,656. Power 107.1 KSLT is helping.

"We are confident that we will reach the goal, but we will need help from the community to make it happen," Senior Officer Jason LaHaie said.

The Rapid City Journal reports the program is run by Black Hills Badges for Hope. The group was formed by two police officers who lost two fellow officers in a 2011 shooting in Rapid City.

Last year the Cops 'N Kids program helped 34 children and the goal this year is to triple the number.

"Our mission is to reach out to people with hope," said Jamie Knapp, the program director for the radio station. "A lot of kids here are homeless or at risk. They need a safe place sometimes."

LaHaie said the program lets officers put their guard down and "be human for a little while" when they shop with children for gifts.

LaHaie said it's humbling to shop with children who prefer to get things their family needs rather than toys for themselves. One child bought silverware for his grandmother, and some wanted to spend more money on their siblings.

"These kids aren't spending 100 dollars on legos," LaHaie said. "The money makes Christmas better for

them, but it also helps meet needs.”

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

Rapid City cancels Festival of Lights because of bad weather

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City is canceling its Festival of Lights Parade because of poor road conditions and the high winds that are expected later.

The decision came after festival staff and the Rapid City Police Department discussed road and weather conditions Saturday morning. The parade was planned for Saturday evening and much of the parade route had not been plowed yet.

KELO-TV reports parade organizers will instead hold a “static parade” on Dec. 8 at the Rushmore Mall. The television station reports that means when the mall closes at 6 p.m. the overhead lights will be shut off so people can drive a loop around the mall to see the floats lined up outside the edge of the parking lot.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

‘I know Joe’s heart’: Why black voters are backing Joe Biden

By ERRIN HAINES AP National Writer

After Kamala Harris challenged Joe Biden’s past opposition to school busing in a nationally televised Democratic presidential debate, the former vice president who prides himself on strong relationships in the black community was in an unfamiliar place, playing defense on race.

But Bebe Coker had a message for the man she’s known for decades: don’t back down. The 81-year-old education activist remembered the history differently than Harris’ portrayal, recalling black parents encouraging Biden to reject forcing black students to attend white schools.

“I told him not to back down off of that,” Coker, who is black, said in an interview. “I know Joe’s heart. I guess that’s why I’m rather defensive of him. Joe has always been straight-up Joe. But when things come back at people that don’t look like us, they will say it’s racist because it doesn’t sound right when it’s coming out of somebody else’s mouth.”

Such solid support helps explain why a 77-year-old white man is leading the most diverse presidential field in history among black voters. That backing has sustained Biden through a torrent of controversies that would sink virtually any other Democratic politician, including a series of awkward comments about race and persistent attacks from President Donald Trump on son Hunter Biden’s business ties in Ukraine.



FILE - In this Nov. 21, 2019, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden, right, walks around a table meeting with an assembly of Southern black mayors including Mississippi Mayor Chokwe Lumumba and Virginia Mayor Levar Stoney, left, in Atlanta. Biden is leading the most diverse presidential field in history among black voters. (AP Photo/John Amis, File)

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It's a pragmatic calculation among many African Americans, especially older ones, who believe Biden will appeal to white voters and can defeat Trump next year.

As other candidates make increasingly vocal appeals to African Americans, Biden says he stands apart because he's been with black voters since the beginning of his political career as a member of the New Castle County Council in Delaware.

"I've always been comfortable with the community, and I think the community's always been comfortable with me," he said after a recent meeting in Atlanta with a group of African American mayors.

Black voters will be crucial in determining the next Democratic nominee. Biden's support among this group gives him an important and sometimes overlooked advantage nearly two months before voting begins. While Biden is bunched near the top of the pack in the overwhelmingly white early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire, he's better positioned in the more diverse states that follow.

Black voters are a dominant force in South Carolina, where two-thirds of the electorate in the 2016 Democratic presidential primary was nonwhite, according to data provided by the South Carolina Election Commission. A recent Monmouth University poll shows Biden earning support from about 4 in 10 black voters while Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts trailed with 11% each.

Warren has undertaken a particularly feverish effort to court black voters, delivering a well-received speech this month at historically black Clark-Atlanta University that connected the historic mistreatment of minorities to the broad menu of policies she has released.

On Sunday, Pete Buttigieg, who has struggled to appeal to black voters, planned to kick off a multiday trip through the South by attending a church service in North Carolina led by the Rev. William Barber, co-chairman of the national Poor People's Campaign and a former North Carolina NAACP president.

People who have known Biden for decades speak to the depth of good will he has among black voters. They talk of Biden as someone who has known and courted black voters for more than a half century. That, they say, could make it difficult for other candidates who hope to persuade some black voters to change their minds.

"He knew our plight, he knew how we felt," said Richard "Mouse" Smith, who met Biden as a kid in Wilmington, Delaware's black community where Biden worked as a lifeguard during college.

"He walked through gangs, learned all nicknames, he was part of this community," said Smith, who remains one of Biden's oldest and closest friends. "Joe had to be accountable to the black leadership in this city. We made him."

Biden has credited his early years in Delaware politics as formative, particularly the community known as "The Bucket," the largely African American, downtrodden northeast Wilmington neighborhood that was home to housing projects, crime, drugs and violence. He returned to the area as a young lawyer during the 1968 Wilmington riots after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. He represented the community of New Castle as a county councilman, supporting public housing and opposing highway projects he saw as potentially harmful to black neighborhoods.

After his election to the U.S. Senate in 1972, Biden remained a fixture in the black community, a regular at the annual NAACP dinner and a commencement speaker at historically black Delaware State University. He talked to everyone, including the wait staff, according to people who knew him at the time. Most important, he listened, recalled Delaware State's provost and incoming president, Tony Allen, who served as Biden's speechwriter and special assistant when Biden was in the Senate.

"It almost seemed like he had a unique familiarity with people who might not have been advantaged," said Allen. "He was always the last one to leave, making sure he connected with people and knew what their issues were. It's kind of why a lot of African Americans affectionately call him 'Uncle Joe.' We feel like he's got our back, he's gonna consult with us and make the right decision."

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms endorsed Biden this summer and recently joined him at a meeting with other black mayors from the South who are considering which candidate to back. She vouched for Biden's commitment to the black community even if he says things that seem in poor taste, such as his comments early in the campaign in which he fondly recalled being able to work with segregationist-era

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senators early in his career.

"The larger context of it was that you have to work across the aisle with people you don't like, people who you don't agree with," she said. "I do it each and every day as mayor of Atlanta in a red state."

Bottoms is a prominent surrogate with black voters, stumping for Biden in South Carolina and at historically black colleges. She's among a few high-profile African Americans associated with his campaign, including campaign co-chair Cedric Richmond, a Democratic congressman from Louisiana and the former head of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Richmond first worked with Biden during the Obama administration and got to know him more as they campaigned for Hillary Clinton in 2016. He approached Biden about running in 2020 within months of Trump's victory.

But Biden was unwilling to commit at the time, and Richmond refocused his efforts on the 2018 midterm elections. Looking at the electoral map, Richmond targeted nearly three dozen African American districts where he thought Biden could be the margin of difference, and he reached out to enlist his help.

"He said, 'Look, I'm all in,'" Richmond recalled. "In most of the places he went, we won."

Richmond credits Biden's popularity with black voters to their ability to discern authenticity and the vice president's relatability that transcends race.

"If they look at his life, they understand although he's white, he's had a life full of some very big ups, but some humongous downs," Richmond said, adding that Barack Obama's decision to choose Biden as his running mate sends a strong signal to black voters.

"We don't want to lose," Richmond said. "He's our best chance and he was vice president to Barack Obama. The person he trusted the most was Joe Biden."

___ Haines has covered race and politics for The Associated Press since 2015.

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

UN chief warns of 'point of no return' on climate change

By **ARITZ PARRA** and **FRANK JORDANS** Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" so far and there is a danger global warming could pass the "point of no return."

Speaking before the start Monday of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the U.N. chief said the impact of rising temperatures — including more extreme weather — is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species.

He noted that the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but "what is lacking is political will."

"The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," Guterres told reporters in the Spanish capital. "It is in sight and hurtling toward us."

Delegates from almost 200 countries will try to put the finishing touches on the rules governing the 2015 Paris climate accord at the Dec. 2-13 meeting, including how to create functioning international emissions trading systems and compensate poor countries for losses they suffer from rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

Guterres cited mounting scientific evidence for the impact that man-made emissions of greenhouse gases are already having on the planet, including record temperatures and melting polar ice.

But he insisted that his message was "one of hope, not of despair. Our war against nature must stop and we know that that is possible."

Countries agreed in Paris four years ago to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times. Already, average temperatures have increased by about 1C, leaving little room for the more ambitious target to be met.

Guterres said growing demands from citizens, particularly young people, have shown there is widespread

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UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a news conference at the COP25 summit in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019. This year's international talks on tackling climate change were meant to be a walk in the park compared to previous instalments. But with scientists issuing dire warnings about the pace of global warming and the need to urgently cut greenhouse gas emissions, officials are under pressure to finalize the rules of the 2015 Paris accord and send a signal to anxious voters. (AP

Photo/Paul White)

article 6, not to find excuses," Guterres said.

Guterres also announced that outgoing Bank of England governor Mark Carney will become his new special envoy on "climate action and climate finance" from next year.

Organizers expect around 29,000 visitors, including some 50 heads of state and government for Monday's opening, as well as scientists, seasoned negotiators and activists during the two-week meeting.

Some of the world's largest carbon emitters — the United States, China and India — will be represented by ministers or lower-level officials.

The U.S. administration of President Donald Trump, which has announced the intention to withdraw from the Paris agreement, is represented by Marcia Bernicat, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading a delegation of Democratic lawmakers to the talks.

More than 5,000 police officers are charged with keeping the summit safe, Spain's Interior Ministry said Sunday. Although authorities have stepped-up border controls and cybersecurity measures, authorities have kept the country's terror alert one level under the highest, where it has been ever since extremist attacks in Tunisia and France in mid-2015.

Jordans reported from Berlin.

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

desire for climate action.

"What is still lacking is political will," he said. "Political will to put a price on carbon. Political will to stop subsidies on fossil fuels. Political will to stop building coal power plants from 2020 onwards. Political will to shift taxation from income to carbon. Taxing pollution instead of people."

Guterres noted that some 70 countries — many of them among the most vulnerable to climate change — have pledged to stop emitting more greenhouse gases by 2050.

"But we also see clearly that the world's largest emitters are not pulling their weight. And without them, our goal is unreachable," he said.

The U.N. chief said he hoped the meeting in Madrid would see governments make more ambitious pledges ahead of a deadline to do so next year.

He also said that creating a worldwide market for emissions, which is a key element of the sixth article of the Paris accord, remained one of the most contentious issues for negotiators.

"We are here to find answers for

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Hong Kong pro-democracy rally cut short by police tear gas

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of people took to Hong Kong's streets Sunday in a new wave of pro-democracy protests, but police fired tear gas after some demonstrators hurled bricks and smoke bombs, breaking a rare pause in violence that has persisted during the six-month-long movement.

In the largest of three rallies, a key thoroughfare along the waterfront on the Kowloon side of Victoria Harbour was packed with demonstrators, from hardened masked protesters in all-black outfits to families and the elderly. They chanted "Five demands, not one less" and "Disband the police force" as they marched.

That rally followed two other marches earlier Sunday as protesters sought to keep the pressure on city leader Carrie Lam after the recent win by the pro-democracy camp in district council elections and the gaining of U.S. support for their cause.

"If we don't walk out, the government will say it's just a youth issue, but this is a Hong Kong problem that affects all of us," Lily Chau, 30, said as she pushed her toddler in a stroller at the march in Kowloon. "If we are scared, the government will continue to trample on our rights."

Police estimated that 16,000 people attended the Kowloon rally.

Slogans spray-painted along walls and on sidewalks reminded the crowd that "Freedom is not free" and pledged "Victory at all costs."

The Kowloon march was cut short after riot police fired tear gas and arrested a few people. A police statement said minimum force was deployed after "hundreds of rioters hurled smoke bombs" and bricks.

Marchers berated police as they scrambled to flee the tear gas, shouting "Dirty cops" and "Are you trying to kill us?" Some protesters dug up paving stones and threw them on the street to try to slow the police down.

More tear gas was fired at night after dozens of hardcore protesters set up roadblocks and vandalized some shops and restaurants linked to China.

Hong Kong's protests have been relatively peaceful during the two weeks around the Nov. 24 elections, but Sunday's disruption indicated there may be more violence if Lam fails to yield to protesters' demands.

Tensions started Saturday night after police used pepper balls against protesters and a man was hit in the head by an unidentified assailant while clearing the street.

Lam has said she'll accelerate dialogue but has refused to offer any new concessions since the elections. Her government has accepted only one demand — withdrawing extradition legislation that would have sent suspects to mainland China for trial.

Elaine Wong, an office worker who was at the Kowloon march, called the recent election win "an empty victory."



A pro-democracy protester runs away from the tear gas fired by riot police during a rally in Hong Kong, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019. A huge crowd took to the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday, some driven back by tear gas, to demand more democracy and an investigation into the use of force to crack down on the six-month-long anti-government demonstrations. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

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"We have in actual fact not won any concessions for our demands," she said. "We must continue to stand out to remind the government of our unhappiness."

The two earlier marches Sunday appealed to President Donald Trump for help and demanded that police stop using tear gas.

Waving American flags, black-clad protesters marched to the U.S. Consulate to thank Trump for signing into law last week legislation supporting their cause and urged him to swiftly sanction Lam and other officials for suppressing human rights.

Some held banners reading "Let's make Hong Kong great again" — a riff on Trump's 2016 campaign pledge to make America great again. One showed him standing atop a tank with "Trump" emblazoned on the front and side.

At the other small rally, a peaceful crowd of about 200 adults and young children marched to government headquarters in the morning and chanted "No more tear gas."

"A lot of parents are worried that their children are affected, because their children are coughing, breaking out in rashes and so forth," said social worker and march organizer Leo Kong.

In Geneva, China accused the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, of emboldening "radical violence" in Hong Kong.

In an opinion piece published Saturday in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper, Bachelet called for an "independent and impartial judge-led investigation into reports of excessive use of force by the police."

She also said that Lam's government must prioritize "meaningful, inclusive" dialogue to resolve the crisis.

China's U.N. mission in Geneva said the article interferes in China's internal affairs and exerts pressure on Hong Kong's government and police, which "will only embolden the rioters to conduct more severe radical violence."

It said Bachelet made "inappropriate comments" on Hong Kong's crisis and that the Chinese side had lodged a strong protest in response.

Associated Press journalists Ken Moritsugu and Dake Kang contributed to this report.

UK attack now political football as Johnson, Corbyn spar

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's political leaders sparred Sunday over who is responsible for the early release of a convicted extremist who launched a stabbing attack in central London that left two dead and injured three.

After a one-day pause out of respect for victims, Friday's attack is dominating the political scene as the Dec. 12 election nears, shifting the focus, at least for the moment, from Brexit and the National Health Service to issues of security and criminal justice.

The argument centers over the early release from prison of Usman Khan, who served roughly half his sentence before being set free. He was able to stab five people before being shot dead by police despite conditions imposed on his release that were supposed to protect public safety.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, portraying himself as tough on crime, on Sunday blamed Khan's freedom on changes in sentencing rules made by the last Labour Party government before Johnson's Conservatives took power in 2010. He promised to toughen sentencing laws.

"I think it is repulsive that individuals as dangerous as this man should be allowed out after serving only eight years and that's why we are going to change the law," he told BBC's Andrew Marr Show.

Marr repeatedly challenged the prime minister by pointing out that the Conservatives had been in power for nearly a decade and not taken any steps to change the situation Johnson was complaining about.

The accuracy of Johnson's claim was challenged by Ed Davey, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, who told Sky News that the prime minister was misleading the public about the current law regarding the early release of prisoners.

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Buses and cars remain on London Bridge in London, Sunday Dec. 1, 2019, after it being closed to traffic and public after an attack on Friday. Authorities in Britain say the convicted terrorist who stabbed to death two people and wounded three others in a knife attack Friday had been let out of prison in an automatic release program.

(AP Photo/Alberto Pezzali)

ist who has been released from prison.

Officials say about 74 people fit this category. Conditions typically including the wearing of an electronic device that allows police to track a person's movements, a curfew, limitations on internet use and smart-phone use, and reporting on a regular basis to police.

Police have said that Khan appears to have been in compliance with the conditions governing his release, which weren't made public, but nonetheless was able to carry out a deadly assault that didn't rely on sophisticated weaponry or detonation of an explosive device.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn accused the Conservatives of trying to provide security "on the cheap" and said he doesn't necessarily agree that all terrorist prisoners should be required to serve their full terms.

He said it depends on the circumstances and called for the Parole Board and the probation service to be more actively involved.

Johnson's Conservatives quickly tried to capitalize on Corbyn's statement in a clear indication that the extremist attack is now fair game for political brinkmanship.

The party tweeted a promise — "We will change the law so terrorists serve every single day of their sentence" — along with a warning about Corbyn's opposition to this plan.

"Who do you trust to keep you safe?" it asks.

"Either he's incompetent and doesn't know the law, or he's deliberately misleading people when we've got a tragedy on our hands, and I'm afraid, either way, it does not look good for the prime minister," Davey said.

He said Johnson has a track record of misleading the public on this and other matters, including Brexit: "I'm really alarmed that we are on the brink of having a prime minister who is the most untruthful prime minister of all time."

Regardless of who is to blame, it is clear that setting Khan free before his sentence was concluded put the public at risk at a time when the official terrorism threat level had recently been lowered because of a perceived reduction in the risk of jihadis returning from Syria to Britain to launch attacks.

The Ministry of Justice has begun an urgent review of cases like Khan's that might pose a threat, including a review of the conditions governing the movements of every convicted terror-

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AP PHOTOS: Lives exposed: Albania quake breaks open homes

By PETROS GIANNAKOURIS Associated Press

DURRES, Albania (AP) — A handbag dangles from a coat hanger, gleaming saucepans sit stacked in a kitchen cabinet, sheets and duvets lie neatly folded in a bedroom cupboard.

All scenes of ordinary domesticity, except for one detail: the rest of the homes these ordinary items were part of have vanished, crumpling in the devastating force of an earthquake that struck Albania earlier this week.

The 6.4-magnitude quake that hit Albania's Adriatic coast before dawn on Tuesday has left at least 51 people dead, around 2,000 others injured and about 4,000 people homeless. The worst hit areas were the port town of Durres, a popular beach vacation spot for Albanians that is 33 kilometers (20 miles) west of the capital Tirana, and the nearby town of Thumane.

Both locations saw apartment buildings crumble from the power of the earthquake. Hundreds of rescuers from more than a dozen countries from Europe and beyond flew in to help in search-and-rescue operations, while more countries sent in medical supplies, tents and other forms of aid. After the first day, rescuers were finding more bodies than survivors.

Apart from the buildings that were destroyed, initial checks indicated about 700 buildings in Durres and more than 235 in Tirana were seriously damaged.

Many only partially collapsed, leaving gaping holes where walls and floors should be, bedroom doors opening into the void, bathroom fixtures dangling from walls in a stark reminder of the powerful and destructive force of nature.



In this Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019 photo, dust rises from the falling parts of a destroyed building during an after-shock in Thumane, western Albania. The 6.4-magnitude quake that hit Albania's Adriatic coast before dawn on Tuesday has left at least 51 people dead, around 2,000 others injured and about 4,000 people homeless. (AP Photo/

Petros Giannakouris)

Iraqi MPs accept premier's resignation amid ongoing violence

By SAMYA KULLAB and MURTADA FARAJ Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's parliament approved the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi on Sunday, amid ongoing violence and anti-government demonstrations in the capital that saw one protester shot dead.

Protesters also continued to close roads, including those leading to a major commodities port, in mass demonstrations in southern Iraq.

Parliament enacted Abdul-Mahdi's resignation without putting it to a vote, according to two lawmakers in attendance. Existing laws do not provide clear procedures for members of parliament to recognize the prime minister's resignation. Lawmakers acted on the legal opinion of the federal supreme court for Sunday's session.

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Anti-government protesters gather during clashes with security forces in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

"According to the federal court's interpretation there is no need to vote," said lawmaker Sarkwat Shamsedine, during the session.

Lawmaker Mohamed al-Daraji said that parliament faced a "black hole in the constitution" that didn't clearly set out how members of parliament should deal with a premier's resignation.

Security and medical officials say one protester was killed and ten wounded in Baghdad's historic Rashid Street, when security forces fired live ammunition to prevent crowds from breaching concrete barriers near the Ahrar bridge that leads to Iraq's parliament and other government buildings. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with regulations.

Anti-government demonstrators, including students and teachers, also took to the streets in the southern oil-rich city of Basra early morning Sunday. They donned black clothes to mourn protesters killed in Najaf and Dhi Qar provinces in recent days.

At least 400 people have been killed since Oct. 1, when thousands took to the streets in mass protests in Baghdad and the predominantly Shiite south. Security forces have used live fire and tear gas to repel protesters creating heavy casualties.

Irving Burgie, songwriter of calypso hit 'Day-O,' dies at 95

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Composer Irving Burgie, who helped popularize Caribbean music and co-wrote the enduring Harry Belafonte hit "Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)," has died at the age of 95.

At the Barbados Independence Day Parade on Saturday, Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley announced Burgie died Friday.

"Day-O," written in 1952, has been ubiquitous, appearing in everything from the film and Broadway musical "Beetlejuice" to an E-Trade commercial. "Day-O" was also the wake-up call for the astronauts on two Space Shuttle missions in the 1990s. When a superstar list of music royalty gathered to film the "We Are the World" video in 1985, most burst into a playful version of "Day-O" in between takes. Lil' Wayne used a sample of "Day-O" in his "6 Foot 7 Foot."

According to the Songwriters Hall of Fame, Burgie's songs have sold over 100 million records throughout the world. Many were recorded by Belafonte, including eight of the 11 songs on Belafonte's 1956 album, "Calypso," the first album to sell over 1 million copies in the U.S. Burgess also penned songs for the Kingston Trio ("The Seine," "El Matador," and "The Wanderer") and for other groups.

His "Jamaica Farewell" has been recorded by Belafonte, Jimmy Buffett, Carly Simon and others. Others who have sung his songs include Mantovani, Miriam Makeba and Julio Iglesias. Burgie's classic Caribbean standards include such familiar hits as "Island in The Sun," "Angelina," and he was co-writer of "Mary's Boy Child." He also wrote the 1963 off-Broadway musical "Ballad for Bimshire" that starred Ossie Davis.

He served in an all-black U.S. Army battalion in World War II and used GI Bill funds to pay for music studies. Burgie studied at the Juilliard School of Music, University of Arizona and University of Southern

California. He became a folk singer using the stage name "Lord Burgess" and performed the circuit between New York and Chicago, making his New York nightclub debut at the Village Vanguard in 1954.

After announcing his death, Mottley asked for a moment of silence for the Brooklyn-born Burgie, who wrote the lyrics to the national anthem of Barbados — his mother's homeland.

"We write our names on history's page/With expectations great/Strict guardians of our heritage/Firm craftsmen of our fate," go some of the lines of the anthem.

The new 'three amigos' riding into Trump impeachment inquiry

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "three amigos" used to stand for one thing in Washington — the pack of globe-trotting senators led by John McCain who brought American idealism to the world's trouble spots.

Now it refers to another trio, the Trump envoys who pushed Ukraine to pursue investigations of Democrats and former Vice President Joe Biden.

The shift represents more than the appropriation of a name. It also marks a departure from efforts by the late Arizona senator to build bipartisan alliances and further broad foreign policy ideals pursued by Republican presidents from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush. That approach is unrecognizable today as the GOP has become the party of Donald Trump and his "America First" approach.

"I knew the 'three amigos' and believe me, these are not three amigos like we were," said Joe Lieberman, the former Democratic, then independent senator from Connecticut who was part of the original group with Republicans McCain and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

Lieberman said he believes McCain, his longtime friend, would be "really upset about what's happening in Ukraine now."

The House impeachment inquiry has detailed how the self-described "three amigos" — European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland, outgoing Energy Secretary Rick Perry and former U.S. special envoy to Ukraine Kurt Volker — operated an "irregular" foreign policy channel that was pushing Ukraine to announce the investigations Trump wanted. In return, the White House would release \$400 million in military aid the Eastern European ally needed to counter Russian aggression and would arrange a coveted Oval Office visit with Ukraine's newly elected president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Led by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, the trio assembled as a loose contingent of envoys whose activities were initially unseen by others in the administration specializing in Ukraine issues. But as their actions became known, the "amigos" set off alarms among diplomats and officials who described them



FILE -In this Nov. 20, 2019, file photo, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland testifies before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. The "three amigos" used to mean just one thing in Washington -- the trio of globe-trotting senators led by John McCain who brought American idealism to the trouble spots of the world. Now, it refers to another trio, the Trump envoys pushing Ukraine to pursue investigations of Democrats and Joe Biden.. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

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as pursuing the president's political agenda over U.S. national security interests.

Fiona Hill, a former Russia adviser to the White House, testified before the impeachment inquiry that at one point she confronted Sondland to ask on whose authority he was operating in Ukraine.

The president, Sondland responded, according to Hill.

State Department official David Holmes testified that Sondland, Perry and Volker "styled themselves as the three amigos and made clear they would take the lead on coordinating our policy and engagement with for the Zelenskiy administration."

Holmes said that "over the following months, it became apparent that Mr. Giuliani was having a direct influence on the foreign policy agenda that the three amigos were executing on the ground in Ukraine."

Presidents have often used back channels to facilitate foreign policy and leverage U.S. resources to achieve their policy goals, experts say. The difference is that Trump's approach, as outlined in the impeachment inquiry, appears to be mobilizing U.S. policy and resource for personal political gain.

The Ukrainian matter is but one way the foreign policy landscape has shifted dramatically in the Trump era. As the White House pursues an "America First" agenda, the U.S. is seen as retreating from its traditional role of international engagement and democracy building and Trump is aligning himself with some of the world's more autocratic leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Richard Fontaine, a former McCain national security aide who is now chief executive officer at the Center for New American Security, said the broader, bipartisan agreement on the U.S. role in the world has now become a "debate over fundamentals."

Fontaine said McCain's "amigos" believed that "when the U.S. could act for the betterment of people, it should act ... rather than trying to keep our nose out of things."

It was former Army Gen. David Petraeus who called McCain's group the "three amigos" as the senators made frequent visits to Afghanistan and Iraq. They became the chief proponents of the troop increase that Bush proposed in 2006 and that Democrats and some Republicans derided as prolonging the unpopular war in Iraq.

But the trio also traveled broadly, including in Ukraine, where McCain repeatedly addressed democracy activists as the former Soviet state reached to the West.

Volker, who recently stepped down from his position at the McCain Institute at Arizona State University, distanced himself from his new title as one of Trump's amigos.

"Much has been made of the term 'three amigos' in reference to Secretary Perry, Ambassador Sondland and myself," Volker said in opening remarks before the impeachment inquiry.

"I never used that term — and frankly cringe when I hear it because for me, the 'three amigos' will always refer to Sen. John McCain, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, in reference to their work to support the surge in Iraq."

Brian Katulis, a national security expert at the Center for American Progress, said McCain's "amigos" are all but gone in the Trump era.

"They stood for a certain vision of America's role in the world — one that was more predictable and reliable — and one we don't have today," he said.

"That was certainly McCain's legacy," he said. "Like a lot of things in the GOP, it's so far gone because Trump has obliterated a lot of the ideals."

Justices take up gun case, though disputed law has changed

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is turning to gun rights for the first time in nearly a decade, even though those who brought the case, New York City gun owners, already have won changes to the regulation they challenged.

The justices' persistence in hearing arguments Monday despite the city's action has made gun control advocates fearful that the court's conservative majority could use the case to call into question gun restrictions across the country.

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FILE - In this Oct. 10, 2017, file photo, the Supreme Court in Washington, at sunset. The Supreme Court is turning to gun rights for the first time in nearly a decade, even though New York City gun owners already have won changes to a regulation they challenged in court. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

Gun rights groups are hoping the high court is on the verge of extending its landmark rulings from 2008 and 2010 that enshrined the right to have a gun for self-defense at home.

For years, the National Rifle Association and its allies had tried to get the court to say more about gun rights, even as mass shootings may have caused the justices to shy away from taking on new disputes over gun limits. Justice Clarence Thomas has been among members of the court who have complained that lower courts are treating the Second Amendment's right to "keep and bear arms" as a second-class right.

The lawsuit in New York began as a challenge to the city's prohibition on carrying a licensed, locked and unloaded handgun outside the city limits, either to a shooting range or a second home.

Lower courts upheld the regulation, but the Supreme Court's decision in January to step into the case signaled a revived interest in gun rights from a court with two new justices, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, both appointees of President Donald Trump.

Officials at both the city and state level scrambled to find a way to remove the case from the justices' grasp. Not only did the city change its regulation to allow licensed gun owners to transport their weapons to locations outside New York's five boroughs, but the state enacted a law barring cities from imposing the challenged restrictions.

"There is no case or controversy because New York City has repealed the ordinance and the New York state Legislature has acted to make sure it remains repealed," said Jonathan Lowy, chief counsel and vice president of the gun control group Brady's legal action project.

But those moves failed to get the court to dismiss the case, although the justices are likely to ask at arguments about whether there's anything left for them to decide.

Paul Clement, who represents three New York residents and New York's National Rifle Association affiliate challenging the transportation ban, said in an email that among the reasons the case remains alive legally is that the court frowns on tactical moves of the sort employed by the city and state that are meant to frustrate the justices' review of an issue.

In addition, he wrote, that "the City still views firearm ownership as a privilege and not a fundamental right and is still in the business of limiting transport and denying licenses for a host of discretionary reasons."

In the event the court reaches the substance of the law, the city does contend that what it calls its "former rule" did not violate the Constitution. But that would seem to be a tough sell given the court's makeup, with Gorsuch and, in particular, Kavanaugh on the court.

Kavanaugh voted in dissent when his federal appeals court upheld the District of Columbia's ban on semi-automatic rifles.

"Gun bans and gun regulations that are not longstanding or sufficiently rooted in text, history, and tradition are not consistent with the Second Amendment individual right," Kavanaugh wrote in 2011.

Gun control advocates worry that the court could adopt Kavanaugh's legal rationale, potentially putting

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at risk regulations about who can carry guns in public, limits on large-capacity ammunition magazines and perhaps even restrictions on gun ownership by convicted criminals, including people convicted of domestic violence.

"This approach to the Second Amendment would treat gun rights as an absolute right, frozen in history, and not subject to any restrictions as public safety demands," said Hannah Shearer, litigation director at the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Reflecting the possible high stakes, more than three dozen supporting legal briefs have been filed. The Trump administration, 25 mainly Republican states and 120 members of the House of Representatives are on the side of the gun owners.

A dozen Democratic-led states and 139 House lawmakers back the city. In addition, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., a vocal court critic, filed a brief joined by four Senate Democratic colleagues that asked the justices to dismiss the case and resist being drawn into what he called a political project.

Whitehouse also included a warning to the justices. "The Supreme Court is not well. And the people know it. Perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be 'restructured in order to reduce the influence of politics,'" he wrote, quoting a public opinion poll showing support for such changes.

All 53 Republican senators responded with a letter urging the court not to be cowed by the Democrats' threats.

A decision is expected by late June.

Focus on early release of terror convict in London stabbings

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Usman Khan was convicted on terrorism charges but let out of prison early. He attended a "Learning Together" conference for ex-offenders, and used the event to launch a bloody attack, stabbing two people to death and wounding three others.

Police shot him dead after he flashed what seemed to be a suicide vest. Khan is gone, but the questions remain: Why was he let out early? Did authorities believe he no longer believed in radical Islam? Why didn't the conditions imposed on his release prevent the carnage?

Britons looked for answers Saturday as national politicians sought to pin the blame elsewhere for what was obviously a breakdown in the security system, which had kept London largely free of extremist violence for more than two years.

Police said Khan was convicted in 2012 of terrorism offenses and released in December 2018 "on license," which means he had to meet certain conditions or face recall to prison. Several British media outlets reported that he was wearing an electronic ankle bracelet that allowed police to track his movements at the time of the attack.

Authorities seemed quick to blame "the system" rather than any one component.

The Parole Board said it had played no role in Khan's early release. It said the convict "appears to have been released automatically on license (as required by law), without ever being referred to the board."

Neil Basu, the Metropolitan Police counterterrorism police, said Saturday afternoon that the conditions of Khan's release had been complied with. He didn't spell out what those conditions were or why they failed to prevent him from killing two people.

The automatic release program apparently means no agency was given the task of determining if Khan still believed in radical views he had embraced when he was first imprisoned for plotting to attack a number of sites and individuals in London.

It is not yet known whether he took part in any of the "de-radicalization" programs used by British authorities to try and reform known jihadis.

The former head of Britain's National Counter Terrorism Security Office, Chris Phillips, said it is unreasonable to ask police and security services to keep the country safe while at the same time letting people out of prison when they are still a threat.

"We're playing Russian roulette with people's lives, letting convicted, known, radicalized jihadi criminals

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walk about our streets," he said.

Khan had been convicted as part of an al-Qaida linked group that was accused of plotting to target major sites including Parliament, the U.S. Embassy and individuals including Prime Minister Boris Johnson, then the mayor of London, the dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London and two rabbis.

Khan admitted to a lesser charge of engaging in conduct for the preparation of acts of terrorism. He had been secretly taped plotting attacks and talking about martyrdom as a possibility.

Khan and his accomplices had links to radical preacher Anjem Choudary, one of the highest-profile faces of radical Islam in Britain. A mobile phone seized at the time contained material related to a banned group that Choudary founded. The preacher was released from prison in 2018 but is under heavy surveillance and a curfew.

Several people who attended Choudary's rallies when he was under no controls have been convicted of attacks, including the two al-Qaida-inspired killers who ran over British soldier Lee Rigby and stabbed him to death in 2013.

The two chief contenders in the Dec. 12 election — Johnson and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn — condemned the system Saturday.

Johnson, who visited the scene Saturday, said he had "long argued" that it was a "mistake to allow serious and violent criminals to come out of prison early." He said the criminal justice system "simply isn't working."

Johnson spoke Saturday with U.S. President Donald Trump, who offered his condolences following the attack, according to White House spokesman Judd Deere.

Corbyn said it is not clear if the Probation Office was involved at all and questioned whether the Parole Board should have been given a role.

"We have to ensure that the public are safe," he said. "That means supervision of prisoners in prison but it also means supervision of ex-prisoners when they are released ahead of the completion of their sentence, to have tough supervision of them to make sure this kind of danger is not played out on the public in the future."

He stopped short of blaming Johnson, who was not in office when Khan was set free.

Police said 28-year-old Khan was attending a program that works to educate prisoners when he launched Friday's attack just yards from the site of a deadly 2017 van and knife rampage.

Basu, the top counterterrorism police officer, said the suspect appeared to be wearing a bomb vest but it turned out to be "a hoax explosive device." He said police believe Khan was acting alone.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying Khan was one of its fighters. The group's statement, however, didn't provide any evidence.

One of the victims was named in British media reports as Jack Merritt, a graduate of Cambridge University who was helping organize the conference where the attack began. His father David Merritt tweeted that his son had been killed and had a "beautiful spirit."

Basu said he could not name the victims until they had been formally identified by the coroner. He asked



This undated photo provided by West Midlands Police shows Usman Khan. UK counterterrorism police are searching for clues into an attack that left two people dead and three injured near London Bridge. Police said Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019, Khan, who was imprisoned six years for terrorism offenses before his release last year stabbed several people in London on Friday, Nov. 29, before being tackled by members of the public and shot dead by officers on the London Bridge. (West Midlands

Police via AP)

the public for help with video, photos and information about the attack.

Health officials said two of the wounded were stable and the third had less serious injuries. A victim who had been in critical condition has improved and is now listed as stable, officials said.

Police on Saturday were searching an apartment block in Stafford, 150 miles (240 kilometers) northwest of London, for clues. Khan was believed to have lived in the area after his release from prison. Police also conducted searches in Stoke-on-Trent.

Learning Together, a Cambridge University-backed prison education program, was holding a conference at the hall when the attack started.

Footage from the attack showed several passers-by — including one armed with a narwhal tusk apparently taken from the hall and another with a fire extinguisher — fighting with the suspect before police arrived.

Queen Elizabeth II said in a statement that she and her husband, Prince Philip, were sending their thoughts to everyone affected by the “terrible violence.” She thanked police and emergency services “as well as the brave individuals who put their own lives at risk to selflessly help and protect others.”

Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed to this report.

Paradise’s dream football season ends 1 year after fire

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

YUBA CITY, Calif. (AP) — Lukas Hartley stood in the endzone on Saturday night as raindrops mingled with his tears after his high school football team lost a division championship game.

“I didn’t cry this bad when my house burned down,” he said.

The senior running back was a leader of the Paradise High School football team one year after a catastrophic wildfire mostly destroyed their town, burning down roughly 19,000 buildings and killing 85 people. All but three football players lost their homes, forcing the team to forfeit a home playoff game and end its 8-2 season.

One year later, Paradise players were determined to finish what they started, completing an undefeated season and making it all the way to the Northern Section Division III championship game. But their season ended with a 20-7 loss to Sutter Union High School on a cold, rainy night.

“No one really knows how much they truly battled just to be at practice and to do what they did,” head coach Rick Prinz said. “They lost everything they owned a year ago. They are all living in different places. And to pull it together like this and help our community come together is truly amazing.”



Sutter Union’s Cory McIntyre, center, runs past Paradise’s Josh Alvies, left, and Ashton Wagner, right, during the first quarter of a Northern Section Division III high school football playoff game in Yuba City, Calif., Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. Paradise had an undefeated season and made it to the section championship game a year after the deadliest wildfire in California history that killed dozens and destroyed nearly 19,000 buildings including the homes of most of the players. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

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Paradise High School has a football tradition, consistently fielding competitive teams. The school produced Jeff Maehl, a wide receiver who played for the University of Oregon in the 2011 BCS national championship game and later played for two NFL teams.

But it appeared the team might not have a 2019 season following the Camp Fire, the most devastating wildfire in California history. In January, Prinz had just 22 players left from what had been a 56-man roster. The school had relocated to an office building by an airport, and without a field to practice on, the team ran plays on a gravel lot.

But slowly, players began coming back. They included brothers Julian and Andrew Ontiveros. They moved to Redding after the fire, enrolling in a local school. But their mother, Erica Browe, said they were miserable and their grades suffered. Reluctantly, she agreed to let them return to Paradise and live with some friends so they could return to the school and play football.

Other players, like Blake White, struggled to stay in Paradise. His mother, Suzanne White, said the family lived in a trailer on a walnut orchard for three months. They had no sewer system, using an outhouse and driving a quarter of a mile (0.4 kilometers) just to shower.

While most people have left Paradise, on Friday nights in the fall many returned to cheer on the team. "They knew that they were holding paradise in their hands, basically, helping to reunite the town," Suzanne White said.

Hartley said the team could feel the community rallying around them, noting: "It was the talk of the town. There is nothing else to talk about because there is literally nothing else up there."

Now that it's over, he said he plans to be a firefighter once he finishes high school.

Emily Fleming, 46, doesn't have a son on the team. But since she lost her home in the fire, she said she has moved between 50 and 60 times, staying in hotels and using Airbnb when she wasn't living with friends or family members.

But she has been following the football team, showing up on Saturday night in the cold rain to watch the game.

"It's what movies are made of. A team overcoming for the sake of their community," she said. "They know it's not about them anymore."

Freed Taliban prisoner recounts SEAL rescue attempts

SYDNEY (AP) — An Australian teacher held captive with an American colleague by the Taliban for more than three years believes U.S. special forces tried and failed six times to free them.

Timothy Weeks was released last month in a prisoner swap along with Kevin King, ending an ordeal that began with their abduction in 2016 outside the American University in Kabul, where they worked.

Weeks, 50, told a news conference on Sunday he believed that Navy SEAL teams tried repeatedly to rescue them, sometimes missing them only by "hours" after the two hostages were moved to other locations by their captors.

"I believe, and I hope this is correct, that they came in six times to try to get us, and that a number of times they missed us only by hours," Weeks said.

One attempt came in April this year. Weeks said he was woken at 2 a.m. by his guards, who told him they were under attack from Islamic State fighters, and moved him into a tunnel beneath where they were being held.

"I believe now that it was the Navy SEALs coming in to get us," Weeks said. "I believe they were right outside our door. The moment that we got into the tunnels, we were 1 or 2 meters underground and there was a huge bang at the front door. And our guards went up and there was a lot of machine-gun fire. They pushed me over the top into the tunnels and I fell backwards and rolled and knocked myself unconscious."

Weeks said he and King were shifted through various remote locations in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan throughout their captivity, and were often kept in tiny, windowless cells.

While their lives were often at risk, he said he never gave up hope of being rescued.

"I never, ever gave up hope, and I think in that sort of situation, that if you give up hope, there is very

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Australian Timothy Weeks smiles during a press conference in Sydney, Sunday, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019. The Australian teacher held captive with an American colleague by the Taliban for more than three years believes U.S. Navy SEALs tried and failed six times to free them. Weeks was released last month in a prisoner swap along with American Kevin King, ending an ordeal that began with their 2016 abduction outside the American University in Kabul, where they worked. (Jeremy Piper/AAPImage via AP)

"From the moment I sighted both Black Hawk helicopters and was placed in the hands of special forces, I knew my long and tortuous ordeal had come to an end," he said.

"Out of a big dust cloud came six special forces and they walked towards us and one of them stepped towards me and he just put his arm around me and he held me and he said, 'Are you OK?' And then he walked me back to the Black Hawk."

Weeks, from the small rural city of Wagga Wagga in New South Wales state, said his ordeal had had "a profound and unimaginable effect on me."

His voice breaking, he said: "At times I felt as if my death was imminent and that I would never return to see those that I love again but by the will of God I am here, I am alive and I am safe and I am free.

"There is nothing else in the world that I need."

little left for you," said Weeks, flanked by his sisters Alyssa and Jo Carter.

"I knew that I would leave that place eventually. It just took a little longer than I expected."

While expressing thanks to President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison for the work that led to their release, Weeks said some Taliban guards he had encountered were "lovely people."

"I don't hate them at all," he said. "And some of them, I have great respect for, and great love for, almost. Some of them were so compassionate and such lovely, lovely people. And it really led me to think about ... how did they end up like this?"

He added: "I know a lot of people don't admit this, but for me, they were soldiers. And soldiers obey the commands of their commanders. (They) don't get a choice."

Weeks said he had hugged some of his Taliban guards when they parted company on the day of his and King's release.

Still, the sight of the two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters arriving to take them away had been an enormous relief.

Biden launches Iowa trip with focus on Trump, rural America

By **BILL BARROW** and **ALEXANDRA JAFFE** Associated Press

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (AP) — Joe Biden launched an eight-day bus tour of Iowa on Saturday projecting confidence, ignoring his many Democratic presidential competitors and pledging that he will unseat President Donald Trump in 2020.

The former vice president pledged first to win the Feb. 3 Iowa caucuses, despite recent polls suggesting his standing there has slipped in recent months.

"I promise you, I promise you," Biden told a few hundred supporters outside his Council Bluff cam-

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campaign office, "we're going to win this race, and we're going to beat Donald Trump, and we're going to change America."

Behind the optimism, Biden aides acknowledge he must sharpen his message and bolster his voter outreach operation ahead of the caucuses that start Democrats' 2020 voting. But his advisers also insist he has wide support and remains well-positioned to recover any lost ground.

His chief argument — his perceived strength against Trump — was on clear display Saturday. Sidestepping his philosophical tussle with progressive Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders over the party's direction, Biden struck a general-election posture. He added an emphasis on small town and rural America, an electoral swath where Democrats have struggled in recent elections but that could prove critical in both the nominating fight and November battlegrounds.

"We're going to touch on what we think is a forgotten part of this campaign," Biden said, bemoaning the effects of Trump's tariffs on Iowa farmers and highlighting his own rural policy plans shaped with the help of former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack. The former Obama agriculture secretary recently gave Biden his most high-profile Iowa endorsement.

Jill Biden, the candidate's wife, followed suit in Council Bluffs, introducing her husband as the "only candidate who can take on Trump in places like Florida and Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and Michigan."

Iowa polls suggest that Biden, while a front-runner nationally, is in a jumble near the top. Mayor Pete Buttigieg, 37, of South Bend, Indiana, appears to hold a narrow edge over Biden, 77; Warren, 70; and Sanders, 78. The senators have animated the party's left flank, while Buttigieg joins Biden in Democrats' center-left wing but is calling for generational change.

Biden aides reject any framing of the bus tour as a reset; they see it as a way to drive home his potential strengths with Democratic voters who collectively cite Trump's defeat as their top priority, even beyond the particulars of intraparty debates on issues like universal health care.

In rural Denison, Iowa, Vilsack touted Biden as the best option for any Democrat, regardless of ideology. "You can't do any of that unless you win," he said of candidates' various policy pitches. "You've gotta win."

Before Biden's visit, Vilsack predicted in an interview that Biden would see his Iowa support rise because voters "become more and more practical about this" as caucus night approaches.

Thus far, Buttigieg, Warren and Sanders have drawn consistently larger Iowa crowds than Biden, while some party activists criticize his campaign as insufficiently aggressive.

"In terms of people out there knocking on doors, who attend other campaign events, district events, I can't name a member of the southeast Iowa Democrats who's supporting Joe Biden," said Glenn Hurst, a leader of Iowa Democrats' Rural Caucus.

Bobbie Moore, a party volunteer and Biden supporters who came to see him Saturday, stopped short of criticizing the campaign. But she noted the crowd "isn't one-10th of what was here for Pete" Buttigieg just days ago.



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden takes a selfie with supporters following a campaign stop in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

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Fairly or not, Biden's national staff has fueled skeptical assessments with pronouncements that he doesn't have to win Iowa to win the nomination. Iowa is overwhelmingly white; Biden's national advantage leans heavily on nonwhite voters who will help determine outcomes in Nevada, South Carolina and many March 3 Super Tuesday states.

Yet all the handwringing misses key variables in Iowa, Vilsack and other Biden backers contend. They argue his support is wider demographically and geographically than other leading candidates. They point to rural areas and Iowa's growing minority population that, while small, could prove important with many candidates dividing the overall caucus vote.

Moore, 70, said Biden is a "known quantity" whose support isn't as obvious as Buttigieg and others.

Another Biden volunteer, Phyllis Hughes Ewing, said outside media underappreciated Biden's appeal. "I'm on the phones with voters two nights a week for several hours at a pop," she said. "I'm a boot on the ground ... and everyone has good things to say about Joe."

The bullishness leans heavily on the way caucus votes are counted.

The Biden team is laser-focused on the viability threshold requiring candidates to get 15% support in a given precinct to have votes counted toward delegates. Biden's team believes he'll be viable in every one of the 1,679 precincts on caucus night, a reach other leading candidates may not match. Then, they believe Biden will be a top beneficiary of "realignment" — subsequent ballots that allow voters who supported a nonviable candidate to choose another who's still standing.

That process could be a double boost for Biden, their theory goes. First, top contenders like Warren or Buttigieg whose support might be anchored in more liberal cities and suburbs would get no practical benefit from first-ballot votes in more rural precincts where they fall short of 15%. Second, several of the lower-tier candidates running as moderates — Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, for example — could fall short of viability across much of the state. Biden advisers confirmed they already are mapping out realignment ballot strategy.

They're also looking to organized labor for help. Biden won the endorsement of the International Association of Fire Fighters at the outset of his campaign, and the organization already has tapped its locals across the state to canvass. Biden's second stop Saturday was a local fire station.

For minority outreach, the campaign recently hired state Rep. Ras Smith, a member of the Iowa Legislature's Black Caucus, and it has more than a dozen bilingual organizers, including deputy political director Claudia Chavez, focusing on Latino voters.

But beyond all the particulars, Biden's fundamental argument returns to political pragmatism.

Harold Schaitberger, the firefighters' national union president, compared the dynamics to 2004, another primary fight when Democrats were desperate to oust a Republican president. Howard Dean led in Iowa for much of 2003, wowing progressives and drawing large crowds. Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry ultimately came back to win the caucus and nomination, though he lost to President George W. Bush in the fall.

Schaitberger, whose union backed Kerry, smiled as he recalled a newspaper headline from late 2003: "Kerry dead in the water."

Jaffe reported from Des Moines, Iowa, and Washington.

Follow Barrow and Jaffe at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> and <https://twitter.com/ajjaffe>.

Relic thought to be from Jesus' manger arrives in Bethlehem

By IMAD ISSEID Associated Press

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — A tiny wooden relic that some Christians believe to be part of Jesus' manger arrived Saturday in its permanent home in the biblical city of Bethlehem 1,400 years after it was sent to Rome as a gift to the pope.

Cheerful crowds greeted the ornately encased relic with much fanfare before it entered the Franciscan Church of St. Catherine next to the Church of the Nativity, the West Bank holy site where tradition says

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Jesus was born.

The return of the relic by the Vatican was a spirit-lifting moment for the Palestinians, a small minority of whom are Christian. It coincides with Advent, a four-week period leading up to Christmas. Troubled Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank is preparing for the occasion, where pilgrims from around the world flock to the city.

Young Palestinian scouts played bagpipes and the crowd snapped pictures as a clergyman held the silver reliquary and marched toward the church.

Brother Francesco Patton, the custodian of the Franciscan order in the Holy Land, said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had asked Pope Francis to borrow the entire manger, but the pope decided to send a tiny portion of it to stay permanently in Bethlehem.

"It's a great joy" that the piece returns to its original place, Patton said, according to Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency.

A wooden structure that Christians believe was part of the manger where Jesus was born was sent by St. Sophronius, the patriarch of Jerusalem, to Pope Theodore I in the 640s, around the time of the Muslim conquest of the Holy Land.

On Friday, the thumb-sized wooden piece was unveiled to worshippers at the Notre Dame church in Jerusalem for a day of celebrations and prayer.

On Saturday evening, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh and other officials attended the a Christmas tree lighting in Manger Square outside the Church of the Nativity.

Hundreds of faithful and residents also gathered for the festive annual event, which included fireworks and songs. Crowds cheered as the giant tree was illuminated.

Revelers and worshippers alike will pack the same square for Christmas Eve festivities later in December.



Christian clergymen, carry a wooden relic believed to be from Jesus' manger outside the Church of the Nativity, traditionally believed by Christians to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. A tiny wooden relic believed to have been part of Jesus' manger has returned to its permanent home in the biblical city of Bethlehem 1,400 years after it was sent to Rome as a gift to the pope. (AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

At least 14 dead in Mexico gunbattle near Texas border

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican security forces fought an hour-long gun battle Saturday with suspected cartel gunmen in Villa Union, a town in Coahuila state about an hour's drive southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas, leaving at least 14 people dead, officials said.

Coahuila state Gov. Miguel Angel Riquelme told local media four of the dead were police officers killed in the initial confrontation, and that several municipal workers were missing.

He said the armed group stormed the town of 3,000 residents in a convoy of trucks, attacking local government offices and prompting state and federal forces to intervene. Ten alleged members of the Cartel of the Northeast were killed in the response.

Videos of the shootout posted on social media showed burned out vehicles and the facade of Villa Union's municipal office riddled with bullets. Rapid gunfire could be heard in videos along with frantic people

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The City Hall of Villa Union is riddled with bullet holes after a gun battle between Mexican security forces and suspected cartel gunmen, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. At least 14 people were killed, four of them police officers, after an armed group in a convoy of trucks stormed the town, in Coahuila state, prompting security forces to intervene, state Gov. Miguel Riquelme Solis said. (AP Photo/Gerardo Sanchez)

telling loved ones to stay indoors. A damaged black pickup truck with the C.D.N. of the Cartel del Noreste, or Cartel of the Northeast, written in white on its door is seen on the street.

Security forces will remain in the town for several days to restore a sense of calm, the governor said.

"These groups won't be allowed to enter state territory," the government of Coahuila said in a statement.

Mexico's murder rate has increased to historically high levels, inching up by 2% in the first 10 months of the presidency of Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Federal officials said recently that there have been 29,414 homicides so far in 2019, compared to 28,869 in the same period of 2018.

The November slaughter by Mexican drug cartel gunmen of three women who held U.S. citizenship and six of their children focused world attention on the rising violence.

Londoners a reminder of how ordinary people can fight back

By The Associated Press undefined

The people who used a fire extinguisher and even a 5-foot (1.5 meter) narwhal tusk Friday to fight back against an attacker who stabbed two people to death and wounded three others by the London Bridge are a reminder of how ordinary people can take extraordinary actions to save themselves and others.

Similar examples in the United States include:

United Airlines Flight 93 was headed from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco on Sept. 11, 2001, when it was diverted by hijackers in an apparent effort to direct it to Washington. The hijackers crashed it over Pennsylvania as people aboard the plane tried to wrest control of the cockpit. All 33 passengers and seven crew members died.

Lori Kaye, 60, was the sole person killed in an April attack at a synagogue near San Diego. Kaye blocked the shooter with an AR-15 rifle by jumping in front of rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, whose index fingers on both hands were wounded. A 34-year-old man and an 8-year-old child were also hurt. A man who spoke about his hatred of Jews was arrested after the attack on the Chabad of Poway.

Riley Howell, 21, was shot and killed in May while tackling a gunman who entered his classroom at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Another student also died and four others were hurt. A 22-year-old man was arrested in the attack.

Kendrick Castillo, 18, was the only student killed at his Denver school in May when he lunged at a

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shooter in his classroom, allowing other students time to hide. Eight other students were hurt in the attack on the STEM School Highlands Ranch. Two teenage suspects were arrested.

Electrical technician James Shaw Jr. was a restaurant patron who rushed a shooter and wrested away his AR-15 rifle during an April 2018 attack on a Waffle House in Nashville, Tennessee. Four people were killed in the attack.

Shaw escaped harm and said he was a "regular person" trying to save himself.

"I chose to react because I didn't see any other way of me living, and that's all I wanted to do," Shaw said. "I just wanted to live."



FILE - In this Sept. 16, 2001, file photo, flight attendant Susan Udvari pauses at a memorial near the crash site of United Airlines Flight 93, in Shanksville, Pa. The London residents who used a fire extinguisher and even a 5-foot (1.52 meter) narwhal tusk Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, to fight back against an attacker who stabbed two people to death and wounded three others was a reminder of how ordinary people can take extraordinary actions in efforts to save themselves and others. On Sept. 11, 2001, people aboard the plane tried to wrest control of the cockpit. (AP Photo/Gary

Tramontina, File)

July 25 forecast: Sunny, with cloud of impeachment for Trump

By NANCY BENAC Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The forecast for July 25 was typical for Washington: sunny, mid-80s. President Donald Trump had good reason to be feeling bright and sunny himself.

It was the morning after Robert Mueller's congressional testimony at the conclusion of the Russia investigation, and Trump and his allies were expressing relief, thinking the rumblings about impeachment would at last fade, even if the special counsel hadn't offered the president the total exoneration Trump claimed.

By 7:06 a.m., Trump was tweeting positive reviews from his favorite TV show, "Fox & Friends," where co-host Ainsley Earhardt declared, "Yesterday changed everything, it really did clear the president."

An hour later, Trump moved on to a tweet talking up his approval ratings, the stock market, unemployment and more. "Country doing great!" he wrote.

But a reconstruction of what started as an unremarkable summer Thursday reveals that even before daybreak, anxiety was coursing through the White House about a coming phone call that didn't appear on the president's public schedule.

By nightfall, Trump had set in motion events that would trigger only the fourth impeachment inquiry in history, imperiling his presidency and further calcifying divisions in a polarized nation.

At the time, it seemed no one had a complete picture of what was afoot. But through weeks of congressional investigation and hearings, a timeline of the day's events has emerged, offering a portrait of one of the most consequential days of Trump's presidency.

"STRAY VOLTAGE"

Trump was scheduled to talk with Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy at 9 a.m. Zelenskiy, a

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FILE - In this July 25, 2019, file photo, President Donald Trump reviews the troops during a full honors welcoming ceremony for Secretary of Defense Mark Esper at the Pentagon in Washington. If there was one day that crystallized all the forces that led to the impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump, it was July 25. That was the day of his phone call with Ukraine's new leader, pressing him for a political favor. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

former comedian fond of showing off his bulging biceps, was angling to lock in a visit to the White House, a valuable currency that he hoped would demonstrate to Russia that he had Trump's backing.

Trump and Zelenskiy had gotten along just fine during their first chat in April, basically an exchange of pleasantries. National security officials were worried that this time would be different.

There were "some concerns that, you know, there could be some stray voltage," Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, the National Security Council's top Ukraine expert, testified later.

He was referring to growing indications that Trump was fixated on baseless conspiracy theories that Ukraine had tried to take down candidate Trump in the 2016 elections. There was talk that Zelenskiy would only get a White House visit if he agreed to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, one of Trump's top Democratic rivals, and the 2016 U.S. elections.

None of that was in the National Security Council's "call package," with its suggested talking points for Trump's conversation. Nor was any of that in the prewritten "readout" of the call, laying out what was expected to happen.

Both of those turned out to be merely aspirational.

Shortly before the call, Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, got on the phone with Trump to offer his own advice.

Sondland, working with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, had put together a plan under which Ukraine would get its White House meeting only in exchange for agreeing to investigations of Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a gas company in Ukraine, and the 2016 election, when Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

At 8:36 a.m., Kurt Volker, then Trump's special envoy to Ukraine, texted a Zelenskiy aide after talking to Sondland: "Heard from White House — Assuming President Z convinces trump he will investigate / "get to the bottom of what happened" in 2016, we will nail down date for visit to Washington. Good luck!"

DOUR v. OBSEQUIOUS

The half-hour call started with pleasantries but quickly took a sharp detour.

Trump, his voice lower than normal, was "dour," according to Vindman, who was among a dozen or more people listening in from the U.S. side.

Zelenskiy, overly eager to please, was "obsequious," according to Tim Morrison, Vindman's boss and one of the other sets of ears on the call.

Zelenskiy's attempts at humor fell flat. They "just didn't seem to carry with the president," Vindman recalled.

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Soon, Trump was stressing how much the U.S. had done for Ukraine and grouching about Europe's failure to do more.

And then came 10 words from Trump that triggered the impeachment investigation: "I would like you to do us a favor though."

Trump asked Zelenskiy to look into Crowdstrike, part of a debunked theory that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election to benefit Clinton. From there, Trump segued to pressing for investigation of another discredited notion — that Biden had ousted a Ukrainian prosecutor who was looking into Hunter Biden's dealings with Burisma, the energy company where he was on the board.

Zelenskiy, speaking a mix of Ukrainian and choppy English, had one mission: find as many ways as possible to say yes, yes and yes again. Four times he said "yes." Twice, he assured Trump he was "absolutely right," and "not just 100% but actually 1,000%."

"I agree with you 100%," he added later.

More important to Trump, though, Zelenskiy promised that "all the investigations will be done openly and candidly."

Yet Zelenskiy wasn't committing precisely to the investigations of Democrats that Trump wanted. He was speaking generally of his commitment to clean up corruption in his country.

He was short one very important "yes."

"IT WAS WRONG"

Trump would later insist the call was "perfect," but some of those who listened were gravely alarmed. Even while Trump was still speaking, there were some worried glances among those taking notes in the Situation Room.

The call ended at 9:33 a.m., and within an hour, Vindman was in the office of NSC lawyer John Eisenberg.

The idea of an American president pressuring a foreign leader to investigate his political foes was "troubling and disturbing," Vindman told congressional investigators. "I thought it was wrong."

Acting separately, Morrison, a Trump political appointee, also made his way to Eisenberg's office that day. Morrison was worried that details of the call would leak and damage Ukraine's bipartisan support in Congress.

Jennifer Williams, an adviser to Vice President Mike Pence who was also on the call, told legislators she found the call's detour into domestic politics "unusual and inappropriate."

By that night, NSC staff had finished editing a rough transcript of the conversation. and Eisenberg made sure that access to it was more closely restricted than usual to keep details from leaking.

STRIKE THAT

A readout is a description of a private conversation or meeting, prepared for public consumption. It's often written before the event because such phone calls, and scripts, are typically choreographed in advance.

The NSC's prewritten readout of the phone call, though, was worthless. It turned out there had been little discussion of the anticipated topics, and Trump had said a lot of things that weren't expected.

"Basically we struck almost all the materials from that statement because we hadn't covered any of the terrain that we thought we were going to," Vindman told legislators.

The bland three-sentence statement issued by the White House at 12:51 p.m. gave no hint of what had really happened.

A six-sentence statement issued by the Ukrainians at almost the same time wasn't much more illuminating — and seemed to be yet another highly aspirational take on the matter.

"Donald Trump is convinced that the new Ukrainian government will be able to quickly improve image of Ukraine, complete investigation of corruption cases, which inhibited the interaction between Ukraine and the USA," it read.

'WHAT WAS GOING ON?'

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The inbox for Laura Cooper's staff at the Defense Department filled in more pieces of the puzzle that afternoon.

A pair of emails from the State Department — one at 2:31 p.m., the second at 4:25 p.m. — made it clear that the Ukrainians were already worried about whether they would get hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. military assistance that had been approved by Congress. It wasn't just about a White House visit.

The Trump White House wanted to hold up the aid until Zelenskiy made a public pledge to conduct investigations. Republicans have argued there was no "quid pro quo" — a pledge of investigations in exchange for military aid — because the Ukrainians weren't aware the aid was on hold when Zelenskiy spoke to Trump. But these emails indicate the Ukrainians knew or suspected the aid was frozen when the call took place.

Cooper, a deputy assistant defense secretary, also testified that her staff got a question that day from a contact at the Ukrainian Embassy asking "what was going on" with the assistance.

Talk about delaying the military aid had been percolating for weeks by then.

But that night, at 6:44 p.m., a staffer in the White House's Office of Management and Budget signed a document that officially put the money on hold. All it took was a footnote stating that the money was "not available for obligation" while its use was under review.

The document was signed by Mark Sandy, OMB's deputy associate director for national security, who told lawmakers that he had been handling aid apportionments for years and had never before been told to put one on hold. He had asked his bosses repeatedly why it was being done. He didn't get an answer.

SUNGLASSES AND UMBRELLAS

While fallout from the call ricocheted within the White House, much of Washington went about its business unaware of the looming threat to Trump. So did Zelenskiy.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who months later would give a green light to an impeachment investigation, was meeting with House Democrats when the call took place. Then she strode down the steps at the Capitol for an outdoor news conference. Whipping off her sunglasses, she pledged to make August "too hot to handle" for Republican senators who were blocking Democratic legislation.

On a rainy day in Ukraine, Zelenskiy's social media team posted a photo of the president holding his own umbrella — and contrasted it with a photo of his predecessor relying on someone else to hold one.

Trump had plenty more to say that day. He spoke at a sunlit Pentagon ceremony for new Defense Secretary Mark Esper. He also made a State Dining Room appearance to help his daughter Ivanka promote the administration's job training initiatives.

DOWN THE DRAIN

Trump ended his day as he began it, in his comfort zone with Fox News.

On Sean Hannity's show, the president said he'd been "through hell" during the Mueller investigation. Hannity declared that with that investigation over, impeachment fantasies had been "totally completely flushed down the drain."

Eighteen days later, a whistleblower sent a nine-page complaint to Congress about the president's July 25 call.

On Sept. 27, Pelosi announced the impeachment investigation.

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Michael Biesecker and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington and Yuras Karmanau in Kyiv, Ukraine, contributed to this report.

Century ago and today, Baghdad street a front line in revolt

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press



In this Monday, Nov. 25, 2019 photo, anti-government protesters throw stones while security forces close Rasheed Street during clashes in Baghdad, Iraq. Baghdad's Rasheed Street was the scene of large marches by Iraqis against British occupiers nearly a century ago and now it's a front line in a new revolt. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

BAGHDAD (AP) — When discontented Iraqis sought independence from British occupation in 1920, Baghdad's most prestigious new boulevard, Rasheed Street, was the theatre of their revolt. Nearly 100 years later, the historic colonnade-lined avenue is a flashpoint in Iraq's grassroots movement waving the banner of revolution against the country's political system.

Once a bustling cultural hub in the heart of Baghdad, Rasheed Street has been a battle zone in recent days as security forces try to repel protesters. At least seventeen protesters have died, as Iraqi authorities used live fire, tear gas and rubber bullet to repel them from advancing beyond a concrete barrier which has effectively cut the street in half.

Protesters see Rasheed Street as key to protecting the nearby squares that are the epicenter of their movement, including Tahrir Square, where hundreds of demonstrators are camped.

But experts are concerned that damage from the fighting will reverse painstaking efforts to keep the street from falling into ruin.

Zainab Mustafa, head of a local NGO Lugal which works to develop Rasheed Street, went to Tahrir recently trying to persuade protesters to move their fight elsewhere.

"We are losing our heritage," she said. "But it's hard to make this argument to them, because the loss of human blood is more precious."

The bloodshed marks the most recent escalation in near daily street violence since Oct.1, when thousands of protesters, mostly youth, took to the streets to decry corruption, poor services and scarcity of jobs despite Iraq's vast oil wealth. At least 340 people have died in the security forces' crackdown since the unrest began.

Rubble is littered along the street, and scorched buildings stand precariously. Balaclava-clad youth regularly scale the wall of concrete slabs that divides the street and goad security forces on the other side. Blood is splashed across a column covered in cracked paint.

"Rasheed Street is important to us because we have to protect the area around Tahrir Square," said Mustafa al-Maliki, a 22-year-old protester who arrived at Rasheed Street one morning this week with a group of young men.

The violence is only the latest chapter in the avenue's storied past. It was here, in 1958 that Crown Prince Abdul Ilah's dead body was dragged and cut to pieces in a coup d'état lead by Gen. Abd al-Karim Qassim, bringing an end to the monarchy. The following year, Qassim, then prime minister, was traversing the street when he narrowly avoided death in a botched assassination attempt orchestrated by a young Saddam Hussein.

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"It was always the center for Iraqi demonstrators," said Saadoun al-Janabi, the author of a recent Arabic-language book about the street, "from World Wars I and II, to today."

The street has witnessed some of the most important political events in Iraq's history, he added.

Rasheed Street was the first straight, modern avenue in Baghdad's old city, built in 1916 by the Ottomans to be a military road running north to south parallel to the Tigris River. Named after the 5th Abbasid caliph Haroun al-Rasheed, it provided easy access to docked ships carrying supplies for the barracks. To entertain officers stationed in the garrison, cafes and cinemas were also built, said al-Janabi.

After British forces captured Baghdad in World War I, Iraqis and former Ottoman soldiers in 1920 held protests and rallies on Rasheed Street which eventually spiraled into an armed revolt across the country. The next year, the British-backed monarchy was installed and British troops took over the nearby military base, expanding Rasheed Street to span four strategic bridges and squares.

That is why the street is significant, said urban planner Taghlib AbdulHadi al-Waily. "It's not just what's inside it, it's what surrounds it."

The protesters know its value: They currently occupy three of the four bridges — Jumhuriya, Sinak and Ahrar — in a standoff with security forces.

Nightclubs, orchestras and beauty contests were among the novelties the British introduced to Iraq. As Iraqi musicians flourished, and cafes resounded at all hours, modernist homes were built in the 1940s and 1950s fitted with striking wooden engravings and precious stone. A frequent site of daily clashes today is an old import-export building known as Beit Lynch, named after a British Empire representative, the only edifice on the street with arches.

As an adolescent, al-Waily strolled daily down Rasheed Street on his route home. By the 1980s the avenue was losing its luster, falling into neglect amid successive wars and sanctions and, later, the U.S. invasion of 2003. Buildings crumbled.

"Now it's a backstage of wholesale markets, loading and unloading decks, not the real hub where Iraqis can derive their identity," he said.

He looks to the vibrant center created by protesters in Tahrir square with a sense of irony. "They created what was missing in their city," he said. "That was supposed to be the role of Rasheed Street."

Al-Waily developed a plan to revive the street but, he said, "there was no political will to implement."

Mustafa, the project manager for Lugal, came close. By 2017 she managed to convince the government to form a committee with representation from eight ministries. The first step was to develop studies to assess the state of Rasheed Street because official databases were either outdated or didn't exist.

"But we got lost in bureaucracy," she said.

Part of the problem was overlapping authorities. Because 20% of Rasheed Street is categorized as a heritage site the Culture Ministry argued that providing building permits was within its jurisdiction; the Planning Ministry disagreed. "We got nowhere," said Mustafa.

Then came the mysterious fires. Buildings protected by heritage laws suddenly burned down, the culprits never caught, and building permits were promptly handed out for new high-rises. This happened to a church and synagogue, al-Waily said.

"There are people who have an agenda to demolish these buildings for profit," he said. "I've been fighting this for 10 years."

Back on Rasheed Street, the young protesters are fighting a different war.

Step back, said one youth. "The shooting will start soon."

Authorities: 2 kids dead, 1 missing after truck swept away

By PAUL DAVENPORT Associated Press

The bodies of two children were found Saturday, but searchers were still looking for a third child who went missing after a truck they were in was swept away while attempting to cross a runoff-swollen Arizona creek in what a sheriff's official called a "horrible and tragic incident."

Gila County sheriff's Lt. Virgil Dodd said the first body found was of a 5-year-old boy. The second child's

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age and gender weren't provided in a statement released by the Sheriff's Office.

Dodd said the 5-year-old boy's body was found about 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) downstream of the crossing which had been closed hours before the truck tried to cross Friday despite barricades and warning signs.

Drivers "really need to not ignore that. It's very dangerous. It's very hazardous," Dodd said in announcing the first death. "In this case, this horrible and tragic incident ... that's what happens when you ignore these types of signs."

The Sheriff's Office said emergency personnel and law enforcement helicopters on Friday rescued two adults and two children who also were in the military-style truck swept downstream in Tonto Creek near the small community of Tonto Basin, which is about 52 miles (83 kilometers) northeast of Phoenix.

Sheriff's officials previously said a total of six people, including four children, were rescued Friday at locations along the creek.

The people in the truck didn't live locally, Dodd said, but he didn't know the relationship between the adults and the children.

"We have no information as to why they were trying to cross the creek," Dodd said. "We think everybody was in the cab at the time."

Rescue teams from multiple agencies participated in the search, and authorities brought in a bulldozer to pull the truck from the creek bed Saturday.

"Searchers found the truck about 1,000 yards (around 914 meters) downstream from the crossing Friday night," Dodd said. "There was nobody in the truck."

Adverse conditions included heavy brush and slippery mud along the creek and frigid water from snow-melt, but officials said they remained hopeful.

Sheriff's Deputy Phil Smith said the creek only flows during storm runoff.

A National Weather Service meteorologist said the agency issued a flood warning for the region that includes the Tonto Basin area at 8:53 a.m. Friday based on data from an upstream flooding gauge.

Meteorologist Sean Benedict in Phoenix estimated that up to 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain fell in the area, with some of the runoff coming from snow that fell on nearby peaks.

The region got up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain about a week before, Benedict said. "So the grounds were already pretty wet and that probably helped with the runoff."

This story has been updated based on new information from law enforcement that two children were rescued on Friday, not four.



In this image made from Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, video provided by KNXV-TV, emergency personnel and law enforcement members gather while searching people including children after a vehicle was swept away while attempting to cross a runoff-swollen creek in Tonto Basin, northeast of Phoenix. Authorities said Saturday they have found the bodies of a few young children. (KNXV-TV via AP)

No. 16 Auburn upends No. 5 Alabama's playoff hopes, 48-45

By JOHN ZENOR AP Sports Writer

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — Another wild, triumphant Iron Bowl finish turned Auburn's field into a teeming mass of orange and blue.

A missed Alabama field goal again had much to do with it.

Shaun Shivers scored on an 11-yard run with 8:08 left to put No. 16 Auburn ahead and another failed kick wiped away the fifth-ranked Crimson Tide's playoff hopes in a 48-45 victory for the 16th-ranked Tigers on Saturday.

Auburn (9-3, 5-3 Southeastern Conference) survived a final, marathon Crimson Tide drive when Joseph Bulovas' 30-yard field goal attempt hit the left upright with 2:00 left.

Auburn couldn't get a first down on JaTarvious Whitlow's three runs while Alabama (10-2, 6-2) burned its final two time outs. But the Tide was called for illegal substitution after the Tigers lined up with the punter joining the

offense, setting off confusion for the Tide and a fist-pumping celebration for coach Gus Malzahn.

"That's the craziest game I've ever played in," Shivers said.

Auburn fans stormed the field to celebrate another Iron Bowl thriller, filling it from end zone to end zone as they did in the 2013 Kick-Six game, when the Tigers' Chris Davis returned a missed Tide field goal 109 yards for a game-winning touchdown. Davis led pre-game cheers on the field Saturday.

"When we play at home and we play them, we get to the fourth quarter, we find a way to win — 2013, 2017," Malzahn said. "It kind of held true to the script tonight and our crowd has a lot to do with that. Our guys believed and our crowd willed us."

The Tide had made the first five College Football Playoffs fields, but its case was damaged with a 46-41 loss to No. 1 LSU. The team's in-state rival delivered the final blow.

Alabama coach Nick Saban deflected questions about the playoffs.

"I think the lesson to be learned is how important it is to be accountable," Saban said. "When you play against good teams, that's when these things bite you."

He wasn't pleased with the call for having 12 players on the field at the end, though.

"I really feel that it was a pretty unfair play at the end of the game where they substituted the punter as a wide receiver," Saban said. "So we put the punt team in. And when the quarterback was back in there, we tried to put the defense back in. I thought they should have given us a little more time to substitute and get (Jaylen) Waddle out as a returner."

Alabama worked more than six minutes off the clock before settling for Bulovas' attempt, the latest costly kicking mishap for Saban and the Tide.

Quarterback Mac Jones, who had replaced injured star Tua Tagovailoa, scrambled for 18 yards on fourth-and-7 to get the Tide into easier field goal range. The drive stalled at the 13 when Auburn defensive tackle Derrick Brown batted a third-down pass back to Jones, who threw a pair of pick-sixes.

Auburn backup linebacker Zakoby McClain returned an interception 100 yards for a touchdown midway



Auburn quarterback Bo Nix (10) celebrates after a win over Alabama in an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019, in Auburn, Ala. (AP Photo/Vasha Hunt)

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through the third quarter when the ball bounced off the back of tailback Najee Harris and into McClain's arms, setting up a sprint down the sideline. Smoke Monday returned another one 29 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter.

"It's my fault," Jones said. "And those two turnovers ended up being pretty big, so that's on me."

Waddle caught three touchdown passes and scored on a 98-yard kickoff return for the Tide, helping Alabama build a 45-40 fourth-quarter lead.

The 5-foot-7, 179-pound Shivers, who was playing the role of injured wide receiver Anthony Schwartz, delivered on his only carry. Whitlow took the direct snap and handed it to him. Shivers smashed into Xavier McKinney, knocking the safety's helmet off on the way to the end zone. Bo Nix's two-point pass to Shedrick Jackson made it 48-45.

"That was just pound and ground football," Shivers said. "That's all I knew growing up. I don't fear anybody. I just had to make it happen. I knew that could have sealed the game because I knew our defense was going to hold on."

Nix, a freshman who attended the 2013 game as a fan, passed and ran for a touchdown. The two-time high school state champion whose father was an Auburn quarterback clutched the game ball during interviews.

"That makes it my three state championships, I guess," he said.

Alabama led 31-27 at halftime after the teams combined for 17 points over the final 1:06. Anders Carlson booted a 52-yard field goal after replay officials put one second back on the clock, three points that wound up being pivotal. Carlson made four field goals of 43 yards or more after some late-season struggles.

Jones finished 26-of-39 passing for 335 yards and four touchdowns. Najee Harris ran 27 times for 146 yards and a TD.

THE TAKEAWAY

Alabama: Came in needing some help to make the playoffs, but wound up losing multiple regular-season games for the first time since 2010.

Auburn: The defense was uncharacteristically vulnerable but also delivered big plays. Whitlow ran for 115 yards. A huge win for a team that had fallen short against other top teams.

TEMPER TEMPER

Emotions flared up a couple of times in the third quarter. Whitlow and Alabama were flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct for one altercation. Then Auburn receiver Seth Williams, who is from outside Tuscaloosa, was flagged for a push to linebacker Terrell Lewis's head after tangling up with Trevon Diggs. That last one helped force Auburn to settle for the field goal.

UP NEXT

Alabama awaits its bowl invitation with no title shot.

Auburn awaits a possibly better bowl destination than it expected coming into the game.

___ More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Londoners fought back to curtail carnage in bridge attack

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Even in times of shared, senseless tragedy, an uplifting moment sometimes emerges. On Saturday, shocked and saddened Londoners dealing with the return of terrorism to their streets after a two-year hiatus found solace in the way bystanders fought to subdue the London Bridge attacker, keeping the death count lower than it would have been if they had fled.

Particularly striking were the weapons they used to confront the killer: a fire extinguisher and — incredibly enough — a 5-foot (1.5-meter) narwhal tusk apparently taken from the wall of Fishmongers' Hall when the attack began.

Remarkable video from the scene Friday shows one man spraying the fire extinguisher at the knife-wielding attacker and trying to hit him with the blunt instrument, while another uses the whale tusk to try to pin the man down.

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Others ganged up on the man, wrestling him to the ground and stripping away his weapons.

Additional footage shows another man — said by some media outlets to be a plainclothes policeman — calmly walking away from the scene with one of the attacker's knives, making sure it could not be used to kill again.

The attacker, later identified as 28-year-old convicted terrorist Usman Khan, was restrained until police arrived and — after he flashed what looked like a suicide vest — shot him dead. Two people were killed and three wounded in his attack.

The Londoners' valor — and ingenuity — did not go unnoticed. They were praised to the skies not only by Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Boris Johnson but also — perhaps more importantly — by ordinary people on Twitter.

"We'll never know how many lives are being saved in this moment. Heroes is an overused word, but entirely correct here," wrote one man after viewing the video.

"Unbelievable Bravery. truly humbling," a woman wrote.

The brief video had been viewed more than 2 million times on Twitter by Saturday afternoon.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said the bystanders who brought down the attacker could have followed advice and run away for their own safety but decided to run toward danger instead.

"We saw Londoners, ordinary citizens, acting in an extraordinary way," he said.

Some of those who challenged the attacker were former prisoners attending a conference on rehabilitation along with the assailant at Fishmongers' Hall, where the attack apparently began. The group included a murderer who had reformed, British press reports said.

Steve Hurst, who was in a car driving by, got out to join the group trying to restrain the attacker. He told BBC he tried to kick Khan's foot so he would drop the knife.

"We were trying to do as much as we could to dislodge the knife from his hand so he couldn't harm anyone else," he said.

The spontaneous decision of the civilians to fight back was part of a trend that seems to have gathered pace since the 9/11 attacks in 2001, when passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 challenged the hijackers, in effect crashing the plane in rural Pennsylvania before it could reach an intended strategic target in Washington.

Plane passengers also played an important role subduing "shoe bomber" Robert Reid before he could light a fuse sticking out from one of his sneakers on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami in December 2001. Their intervention is credited with saving roughly 200 lives.

In 2013, a woman may have prevented further carnage after the murder and mutilation of British soldier Lee Rigby at the hands of two extremists. She spoke calmly to one of the killers, keeping him engaged while he gripped a bloody meat cleaver, before police arrived.



The Union Flag flies at half mast on the Victoria Tower, in London, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. UK counterterrorism police on Saturday searched for clues into how a man imprisoned for terrorism offenses before his release last year managed to stab several people before being tackled by bystanders and shot dead by officers on London Bridge. Two people were killed and three wounded. (AP Photo/Alberto

Pezzali)

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No. 2 Ohio State beats No. 10 Michigan 56-27 for record run

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Ohio State has turned what's known as The Game into ITS Game, making one of the greatest rivalries in sports a one-sided series with little suspense.

Chasing a national championship, not simply beating the Wolverines, is how the Buckeyes measure a successful season.

And under first-year coach Ryan Day, they have put themselves in a position to potentially win it all for the second time since the 2014 season and third time this century.

J.K. Dobbins ran for four touchdowns and Justin Fields threw four TD passes, providing plenty of firepower for No. 2 Ohio State to rout No. 10 Michigan 56-27 Saturday for a school-record eighth straight win in the series.

"It feels great just to continue the legacy of this great Ohio State tradition," defensive end Chase Young said. "We're just going to try to keep it moving and keep it rolling next week."

The Buckeyes (12-0, 9-0 Big Ten, No. 1 CFP) will head to the Big Ten championship game to face No. 13 Wisconsin next Saturday with a spot in the College Football Playoff in sight.

Fields will likely use the limited time to rest and test out braces to protect his left knee that was injured for a second straight week.

He went down in the third quarter and gingerly walked off the field to get evaluated in a tent behind Ohio State's sideline. He came back in the game after a few plays and on the next snap, scrambled and threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Garrett Wilson.

"It was a magical moment," Day said. "I thought it was a Heisman moment."

Fields has thrown 37 touchdown passes with only one interception and scored 10 more times rushing.

The sophomore quarterback said he aggravated a strained ligament, forcing him to use a bulky brace after starting the game with a smaller one, but didn't consider staying out of the game.

"I wanted to show the team I was tough," he said.

The Wolverines (9-3, 6-3, No. 13 CFP) will have to settle for a second- or third-tier bowl game after coach Jim Harbaugh fell to 0-5 in the rivalry, and the program lost to Ohio State for the 15th time in 16 years.

"It's just kind of the same thing every year," Michigan tight end Sean McKeon said. "It gets old, but you've just got to play better against them."

Harbaugh was asked if the difference between the teams was talent, preparation or coaching?

"I'll answer your questions, but not your insults," Harbaugh said to a reporter.

Michigan got off to a strong start, driving 75 yards on the opening drive and scoring on Giles Jackson's 22-yard run.

The Wolverines, though, followed that up with the first of too many mistakes that doomed their chances



Ohio State linebackers Tuf Borland (32), Davon Hamilton (53) and Malik Harrison (39) smother Michigan running back Hassan Haskins (25) in the second half of an NCAA college football game in Ann Arbor, Mich., Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

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of pulling off an upset as a heavy underdog. Quinn Nordin missed the extra point and less than a few minutes later, the Buckeyes took the lead for good.

Dobbins, who ran 211 yards on 31 carries, scored to put Ohio State ahead 7-6 midway through the first quarter.

Fields, who was 14 of 25 for 302 yards, connected on a 57-yard touchdown pass to Chris Olave late in the first quarter.

Michigan answered with Shea Patterson's 25-yard TD pass to Donovan Peoples-Jones to pull within a point later in the opening quarter and couldn't get closer.

The Buckeyes turned the game into a rout by outscoring Michigan 28-3 to earn a 42-16 cushion late in the third quarter when only the final score was in doubt.

During the pivotal surge, Patterson lost a fumble on an accurate, shotgun snap from the Ohio State 12 trailing by eight points midway through the second quarter.

"The turnover by myself was huge," he said. "You can't fumble the ball down there."

Patterson was 18 of 43 for 305 yards with an interception late in the game. He completed 14 of 19 in the first half for 250 yards before the Buckeyes slowed down the one-dimensional offense.

Hassan Haskins had 78 yards rushing and ran for a TD and a 2-point conversion early in the fourth to cut Michigan's deficit to 15 points.

Fields and Dobbins added late TDs, giving Ohio State 56 points a year after it scored 62 in a win over the Wolverines.

"You're not gonna win ballgames when you're letting up 50, 60 points," defensive lineman Aidan Hutchinson acknowledged.

Patterson said Michigan's locker room was very quiet after the game.

"There wasn't too much talking going on," he said. "Coach Harbaugh just told us to keep our composure."

THE TAKEAWAY

Ohio State: The Buckeyes' defense had issues for the first time this season, allowing a season-high 396 yards. Young also had a quiet day, but the defense he leads played better in the second half than first and the offense did the rest.

"They did a lot of doubles, triples, bringing the guard over to help," Young said. "Everybody on the defense stepped up."

Michigan: The Wolverines must figure out how to get better defensively to have any chance of making the rivalry competitive.

"We made some mistakes and they executed very well," Harbaugh said.

HE SAID IT

"I know a few players on the team and I just know the things we do in terms of workouts and how serious we take it at Ohio State," Fields said. "Talking to those guys and getting their perspective, I definitely see that we take it way more serious."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Ohio State could become the top-ranked team in The Associated Press poll after becoming No. 1 in CFP rankings earlier in the week. Michigan will fall back in the poll.

UP NEXT

Ohio State: The Buckeyes will have a rematch with Wisconsin, who they beat 38-7 about a month ago.

Michigan: Waits for its bowl bid.

Follow Larry Lage at <https://twitter.com/larrylage>

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Iraqi PM formally submits resignation amid more violence

SAMYA KULLAB and MURTADA FARAJ Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Three anti-government protesters were shot dead and at least 58 others wounded in Baghdad and southern Iraq on Saturday, security and medical officials said, as Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi formally submitted his resignation to parliament.

Lawmakers were expected to either vote or accept outright Abdul-Mahdi's resignation letter in a parliamentary session Sunday, two members of parliament said.

The prime minister announced Friday he would hand parliament his resignation amid mounting pressure from mass anti-government protests, a day after more than 40 demonstrators were killed by security forces in Baghdad and southern Iraq. The announcement also came after Iraq's top Shiite cleric withdrew his support for the government in a weekly sermon.

The formal resignation came after an emergency Cabinet session earlier in which ministers approved the document and the resignation of key staffers, including Abdul-Mahdi's chief of staff.

In a pre-recorded speech, Abdul-Mahdi addressed Iraqis, saying that following parliament's recognition of his stepping down, the Cabinet would be demoted to caretaker status, unable to pass new laws and make key decisions.

Existing laws do not provide clear procedures for members of parliament to recognize Abdul-Mahdi's resignation, Iraqi officials and experts said. Cabinet bylaws allow the prime minister to tender his resignation to the president, but there is no specific law that dictates the course of action should this be tasked to parliament.

"There is a black hole in the constitution, it says nothing about resignation," said lawmaker Mohamed al-Daraji.

There are two main laws that could direct parliament's course of action, he added: Either they vote Abdul-Mahdi out in a vote of no-confidence, per Article 61 of the constitution, or resort to Article 81 reserved for times of crisis when there is a vacancy in the premiership, shifting those duties temporarily to the president.

"My understanding is this will be taken care of per Article 61," he said.

A vote of no confidence would demote Abdul-Mahdi's Cabinet into caretaker status for a period of 30 days, in which parliament's largest political bloc would have to propose a new candidate.

This is where the real problem comes in, experts and officials said.

Abdul-Mahdi's nomination as prime minister was the product of a provisional alliance between parliament's two main blocs — Sairoon, led by cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, and Fatah, which includes leaders associated with the paramilitary Popular Mobilization Units headed by Hadi al-Amiri.



Iraqi security forces and anti-government protesters rest after both sides shake hands and converse in a rare moment of calm in hostilities called to allow time for rest after clashes in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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In the May 2018 election, neither coalition won a commanding plurality that would have enabled it to name the premier alone. To avoid political crisis, Sairoon and Fatah forged a precarious union.

"Now we are back to the question of who is the largest bloc that can name the next prime minister," said one official close to the State of Law party, led by former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. "If they don't come to an agreement before the 30-day deadline, then we might have to go to the supreme court."

Officials traded theories as to why Abdul-Mahdi chose to tender his resignation through parliament, with some speculating it was to buy more time or avoid the risk of a vacuum should the post remain empty.

Abdul-Mahdi had alluded to the challenges faced by political parties to find consensus candidates, saying in earlier statements he would step down once an alternative candidate was found.

In his speech, addressing these speculations, Abdul-Mahdi said he was acting on the advice of Iraq's chief Supreme Court judge.

"The perspective I received from the chief of the federal supreme court is that the resignation should be submitted to those who voted the government in," he said.

Abdul-Mahdi listed his government's accomplishments, saying it had come to power during difficult times. "Not many people were optimistic that this government would move forward," he said.

The government, he said, had managed to push through important job-creating projects, improve electricity generation and strengthen ties with neighboring countries.

"But unfortunately, these events took place," he said, referring to the mass protest movement that engulfed Iraq on Oct. 1. "We need to be fair to our people and listen to them, where we made mistakes, where we did not make up for the mistakes of previous governments."

At least 400 people have died since the leaderless uprising shook Iraq with thousands of Iraqis taking to the streets in Baghdad and the predominantly Shiite southern Iraq decrying corruption, poor services, lack of jobs and calling for an end to the post-2003 political system.

Security forces have used live fire, tear gas and sound bombs to disperse crowds leading to heavy casualties.

Three protesters were killed and 24 wounded in the holy city of Najaf in southern Iraq on Saturday as security forces used live rounds to disperse them from a key mosque, security and hospital officials said.

In Baghdad, at least 11 protesters were wounded near the strategic Ahrar Bridge when security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas to prevent demonstrators from removing barricades. The protesters are occupying part of three strategic bridges - Ahrar, Sinak and Jumhuriya - in a stand-off with security forces. All three lead to the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government.

In the southern city of Nasiriyah, security forces used live fire and tear gas to repel protesters on two main bridges, the Zaitoun and the Nasr, which lead to the city center. Heavy fighting has taken place in Nasiriyah in recent days, with at least 31 protesters killed.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Abdul-Mahdi referred to the rising death toll by security forces in his speech.

"We did our best to stop the bloodshed, and at the time we made brave decisions to stop using live ammunition, but unfortunately when clashes happen there will be consequences," he said.

Michigan, Illinois set to usher in recreational pot sales

By DAVID EGGERT and KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — James Daly is eager to make marijuana history on Sunday, when he plans to open the doors to Arbors Wellness, beckon the lengthy line outside and legally start selling recreational pot for the first time in the Midwest.

"We've worked very hard to be prepared," said Daly, who owns the medical dispensary that, for now, is among just six shops in Michigan — mostly in Ann Arbor — also approved to start selling for adult use in December. The business is doubling staff and has fielded calls from potential customers across the state along with neighboring Ohio and Indiana.

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"The end of prohibition is historic," he said. "We wanted to rip the Band-Aid off."

Both Michigan and Illinois, which allows sales starting on Jan. 1, are officially joining nine other states that broadly allow marijuana sales. Companies are rushing to complete renovations at dispensaries, expand their growing facilities, and get staff hired and trained.

The Midwestern states' launch into the potentially lucrative recreational market comes at a turbulent time for the industry, which has been rocked by layoffs, the vaping health scare and investor disappointment with Canada's marijuana program.

In both states, a limited number of businesses have received state licenses letting them sell recreational products initially. But those same retailers must keep enough product on hand to supply people certified as patients under medical marijuana laws.

The conditions are "almost a guarantee" that Illinois and Michigan customers will experience long lines, product shortages and potentially high prices in the early stages, said Adam Orens, co-founder of the Marijuana Policy Group.

"They've got to get through the growing pains to get a system implemented," he said.

Taking marijuana from a small cutting to dried flower ready to be sold or transformed into edible gummies or oils takes months.

In Michigan, where voters legalized recreational pot just over a year ago, regulators who began accepting license applications Nov. 1 are aiding the transition by letting medical growers, processors and dispensaries transfer up to half their products to the recreational side under certain conditions.

But marijuana is unlikely to be more broadly available until more businesses become licensed and additional communities authorize sales.

More than 1,400 of Michigan's nearly 1,800 cities, townships and villages are not allowing recreational businesses. Even Detroit, home to the most medical dispensaries in the state, has delayed recreational sales until at least Jan. 31.

"This is brand new for a lot of municipalities. I think it's important that they are doing their due diligence and taking an approach that honors the will of their people," said Andrew Brisbo, executive director of the Marijuana Regulatory Agency, which has awarded 18 licenses and approved 78 pre-qualification applications.

He said he expects adult sales to occur in "some consistent form" at a greater number of Michigan locations by the end of March.

In Illinois, seven months will have separated Gov. J.B. Pritzker's signing of legislation permitting people 21 and older to buy and possess marijuana and the start of sales in January.

The first round of applications is limited to existing medical marijuana retailers, and about 30 are newly licensed to sell recreational products. More could be approved before January.

Most of the state's licensed cultivation companies are expanding their space to meet higher demand for



This Nov. 25, 2019 photo shows marijuana on display at Arbors Wellness in the medical marijuana shop in Ann Arbor, Mich. Adults age 21 and over will be able to buy marijuana for recreational use starting Sunday, Dec. 1 in Michigan. (AP Photo/David Eggert)

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marijuana products. But that work takes time, too.

Mark de Souza, CEO of the state's largest marijuana producer Revolution Global, said he has heard from dispensary operators "panicked" that they could have empty shelves within months of adult sales beginning.

But he believes the overall structure Illinois' law created will become the industry's "gold standard."

"You're going to ensure everything from compliance to truth in labeling to taxes to consumer safety," he said. "We don't think any short-term supply issues are going to be harmful."

Still, retailers are considering appointment-based systems rather than lining up customers in winter weather. Others have retrofitted their dispensaries to let medical patients in one door and recreational customers in another, hoping to limit confusion if their product supplies run low.

Amy Manganelli, chief operating officer at Mapleglen Care Center in the western Illinois city of Rockford, said she is anticipating long lines and taking steps to prepare employees.

"We can't open January 1 and have somebody futzing with the scanner," she said. "That won't make the people in line, standing outside in winter, very happy."

State law lets local governments bar recreational dispensaries, and at least two of Illinois' existing medical dispensaries are in communities that decided to prevent expanded sales. Chicago set up seven districts with a limited number of dispensaries allowed in each, and business owners only learned at a lottery event in mid-November where they could operate within the city.

Illinois lawmakers said they expected a slow start. Their long-term goals, though, hinge on parts of the law intended to ensure people of color can open and work for marijuana businesses despite historic inequities in enforcement of state and federal drug laws.

The law includes a scoring bonus during the license-award process for social equity applicants — people living in communities most affected by enforcement of marijuana laws, or individuals arrested for or convicted of marijuana offenses that would be legal under the new law. A low-interest loan program for these applicants also was created as part of the law.

Michigan has cut marijuana licensing fees for prospective business owners living in 41 cities whose residents were disproportionately impacted by drug enforcement.

Toi Hutchinson, a former Illinois state senator who oversees the work of all seven state agencies that interact with cannabis businesses, said she is confident that regulators are hitting their deadlines. And she said they will be prepared for other significant milestones in 2020, including the first round of applicants seeking 75 additional licenses to sell recreational products.

January will bring "hiccups," Hutchinson acknowledged. But she said Illinois must stay focused on broader goals including making sure people of color get opportunities in the marijuana industry.

"If we're really serious about equity, this is a long game," said Hutchinson, who co-sponsored the marijuana legalization proposal. "This isn't just about January 1."

Foody reported from Chicago.

Follow the AP's complete marijuana coverage: <https://apnews.com/Marijuana>

This story has been corrected to show that the name of Illinois company is Revolution Global.

Merry Clickmas: Black Friday online sales hit record \$7.4B

NEW YORK (AP) — This year's Black Friday was the biggest ever for online sales, as fewer people hit the stores and shoppers rang up \$7.4 billion in transactions from their phones, computers and tablets.

That's just behind the \$7.9 billion haul of last year's Cyber Monday, which holds the one-day record for online sales, according to Adobe Analytics. Adobe measures sales at 80 of the top 100 U.S. online retailers.

Adobe expects online sales to jump to another record this Cyber Monday with an estimated total of \$9.4 billion. Much of the shopping is happening on people's phones, which accounted for 39% of all online sales Friday and 61% of online traffic.

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Shoppers have been looking for "Frozen 2" toys in particular. Other top purchases included sports video games and Apple laptops.

All the online shopping may have helped thin the crowd at malls on Black Friday.

Traffic at stores fell 2.1% on Black Friday from a year ago, according to preliminary figures from RetailNext. It tracks in-store activity at tens of thousands of locations, including specialty apparel retailers, big-box stores and mall-based stores. The drop in traffic helped lead to a 1.6% dip in sales.

Online and in-store shopping aren't always completely separate, though. Many people buy things online, only to head to the store to pick them up. Such sales surged 43.2% on Black Friday from a year ago, according to Adobe.

This holiday shopping season may be the most harried in years because it's the shortest since 2013. Thanksgiving this year fell on the last Thursday in November — the latest possible date it could be.

Much is riding on the success of the holiday season's sales. The U.S. economy is still growing steadily, but gains have slowed since its sizzling start to the year. Economists say strong spending by households is helping to bolster growth and make up for weak confidence among businesses given all the uncertainties about the U.S.-China trade war and other factors.



People carry shopping bags while crossing a street in San Francisco, Friday, Nov. 29, 2019. Black Friday once again kicked off the start of the holiday shopping season.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

Moving cross country, winter storm takes aim at Northeast

NEW YORK (AP) — A powerful winter storm that's bedeviled Thanksgiving travelers across the United States is taking aim Sunday at the northeast.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings and predicts heavy snow and freezing cold in swaths of New England and New York. Ice accumulations are predicted in parts of Pennsylvania.

More than a foot (0.3 meters) of snow is expected in parts of upstate New York eastward to southern Maine. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo cut short a trip to Puerto Rico to return home and deal with the storm.

The system, which has been pummeling the U.S. since before Thanksgiving, has already dumped heavy snow from parts of California to the northern Midwest and inundating other areas with rain.

Authorities found the bodies of two young children in central Arizona after a vehicle was swept away while attempting to cross a runoff-swollen creek. A third child is missing.

A storm-related death also was reported in South Dakota.

Blizzard conditions buffeted the High Plains on Saturday.

The city of Duluth, Minnesota, was blanketed with 19.3 inches (5.9 meters) of snow as of 6 a.m. Sunday. The city issued a "no travel advisory" at noon Saturday and deemed the storm "historic."

Farther south, precipitation was in the form of rain and thunderstorms.

Forecasters said a new storm is expected to bring several feet of mountain snow, rain and gusty winds to California through the weekend. Another system is forecast to develop in the mid-Atlantic Sunday, moving

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into a nor'easter by Monday.

As the storm shifts east, flight delays and cancellations are continuing to pile up — disrupting travelers heading home after Thanksgiving.

As of 10 a.m. Sunday, 53 flights were delayed and 6 were cancelled at the three New York-area airports, according to the flight tracking website FlightAware.

The Federal Aviation Administration said some flights heading to Newark, New Jersey, are being delayed by an average of more than 2 1/2 hours.

There were also dozens of delays at airports in Chicago and Minneapolis.

At Denver International Airport, there were 100 flights canceled Saturday because of high winds.

Authorities in the western states were still grappling with the aftermath of heavy rains and snow over the busiest travel weekend of the year.

Families in California took advantage of the early season snow in the Grapevine area, sledding down slopes in Frazier Park, California. Traffic was heavy, but Interstate 5 was open in both directions as holiday travelers headed home.

High winds and ice were making travel almost impossible in some other places, however.

A 100-mile (160.93-kilometer) section of Interstate 80 in Nebraska and Wyoming closed Saturday morning because of high winds and blowing snow. Several other roads and highways also were closed.

Back-to-back snowstorms and strong winds combined to seriously complicate travel by land across much of the rest of Wyoming, where roads were closed in the eastern and southern parts of the state because of whiteout conditions.

The National Weather Service in Wyoming reported 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow fell in Cheyenne from 7 p.m. Friday through 10 a.m. Saturday "that has been blown all over kingdom come by our winds," said meteorologist Andrew Lyons.

That was added to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow that fell before Thanksgiving.

All roads in and out of Casper were closed Saturday morning, including the entire 300-mile stretch (483-kilometer) of Interstate 25 in Wyoming.

Travel was also difficult in Colorado Saturday as winds blew around snow that fell in previous days.

Northeastern Colorado roads were closed due to strong winds, blowing and drifting snow and poor visibility.

In northern Montana, more than a foot of fresh snow and strong wind gusts are expected to combine to create ground blizzard conditions along the Rocky Mountain front.



In this Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019 photo, small limbs block a portion of Sky Pines Road in Alta Sierra, in Grass Valley, Calif. There were many calls for downed lines, limbs, and even trees that fell into structures during Tuesday's and Wednesday's storm. Forecasters said a new storm is expected to bring California several feet of mountain snow, rain and gusty winds through the weekend. (Elias Funez/The Union

via AP)

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 1, the 335th day of 2019. There are 30 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 1, 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock developed between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. (Adams ended up the winner.)

On this date:

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln sent his Second Annual Message to Congress, in which he called for the abolition of slavery, and went on to say, "Fellow-citizens, we can not escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves."

In 1941, Japan's Emperor Hirohito approved waging war against the United States, Britain and the Netherlands after his government rejected U.S. demands contained in the Hull Note.

In 1942, during World War II, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in the United States; the goal was not so much to save on gas, but to conserve rubber (as in tires) that was desperately needed for the war effort.

In 1952, the New York Daily News ran a front-page story on Christine Jorgensen's sex-reassignment surgery with the headline, "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty".

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a year-long boycott of the buses by blacks.

In 1965, an airlift of refugees from Cuba to the United States began in which thousands of Cubans were allowed to leave their homeland.

In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II.

In 1974, TWA Flight 514, a Washington-bound Boeing 727, crashed in Virginia after being diverted from National Airport to Dulles International Airport; all 92 people on board were killed. Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 6231, a Boeing 727, crashed near Stony Point, New York, with the loss of its three crew members (the plane had been chartered to pick up the Baltimore Colts football team in Buffalo, New York).

In 1990, British and French workers digging the Channel Tunnel between their countries finally met after knocking out a passage in a service tunnel.

In 1991, Ukrainians voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union.

In 1997, a 14-year-old boy opened fire on a prayer circle at Heath High School in West Paducah, Kentucky, killing three fellow students and wounding five; the shooter is serving a life sentence.

In 2005, a roadside bomb killed 10 U.S. Marines near Fallujah, Iraq.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 more U.S. troops into the war in Afghanistan but promised during a speech to cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to begin withdrawals in 18 months. General Motors Co. CEO Frederick "Fritz" Henderson stepped down after the board determined that the company hadn't been changing quickly enough.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, after meeting with mayors, civil rights leaders and law enforcement officials at the White House, asked federal agencies for concrete recommendations to ensure the U.S. wasn't building a "militarized culture" within police departments.

One year ago: After a dinner meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires, the U.S. and China agreed to a 90-day ceasefire in their trade dispute, with Trump agreeing to hold off on plans to raise tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods. France's most violent urban riot in a decade engulfed central Paris, as "yellow jacket" activists torched cars, smashed windows and looted stores. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador took the oath of office as Mexico's first leftist president in more than 70 years. Actor and dancer Ken Berry, star of the 1960s sitcom "F Troop" and "Mayberry R.F.D." in the 1970s, died at a Southern California hospital at the age of 85.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Woody Allen is 84. World Golf Hall of Famer Lee Trevino is 80. Singer Dianne Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 80. Country musician Casey Van Beek (The Tractors) is 77. Televi-

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sion producer David Salzman is 76. Rock singer-musician Eric Bloom (Blue Oyster Cult) is 75. Rock musician John Densmore (The Doors) is 75. Actress-singer Bette Midler is 74. Singer Gilbert O'Sullivan is 73. Former child actor Keith Thibodeaux (TV: "I Love Lucy") is 69. Actor Treat Williams is 68. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., is 67. Country singer Kim Richey is 63. Actress Charlene Tilton is 61. Actress-model Carol Alt is 59. Actor Jeremy Northam is 58. Actress Katherine LaNasa is 53. Producer-director Andrew Adamson is 53. Actor Nestor Carbonell is 52. Actress Golden Brooks is 49. Actress-comedian Sarah Silverman is 49. Actor Ron Melendez is 47. Contemporary Christian singer Bart Millard (MIL'urd) is 47. Actor-writer-producer David Hornsby is 44. Singer Sarah Masen is 44. Rock musician Brad Delson (Linkin Park) is 42. Actor Nate Torrence is 42. Rock/Christian music singer-songwriter Mat Kearney is 41. Rock musician Mika Fineo (Filter) is 38. Actor Riz Ahmed (Film: "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") is 37. Actor Charles Michael Davis is 35. Actress Ifenesh Hadera is 34. R&B singer-actress Janelle Monae is 34. Actress Ashley Monique Clark is 31. Pop-rock-rap singer Tyler Joseph (Twenty One Pilots) is 31. Actress Zoe Kravitz is 31. Pop singer Nico Sereba (Nico & Vinz) is 29. Actor Jackson Nicoll is 16.

Thought for Today: "I got a simple rule about everybody. If you don't treat me right, shame on you." — Louis Armstrong, American jazz musician (1900-1971).

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