

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 1 of 52

- [1- Dakota Risk Management New Year's Ad](#)
- [2- Sunday Extras](#)
- [15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [16- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [17- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [19- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [21- SD News Watch: S.D. retailers face uphill battle for survival amid frequent market changes](#)
- [27- Winter Storm Warning](#)
- [27- No Travel Advised](#)
- [28- Weather Pages](#)
- [31- Daily Devotional](#)
- [32- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [33- News from the Associated Press](#)



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

“NOTHING IS A
WASTE OF TIME IF
YOU USE THE
EXPERIENCE
WISELY.”

-AUGUSTE RODIN

“Our Goal is Your Operation's Success”

2020

Here's to a Golden New Year!



**DAKOTA RISK
MANAGEMENT**

(605) 397-2299

**Michelle
and
Craig**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

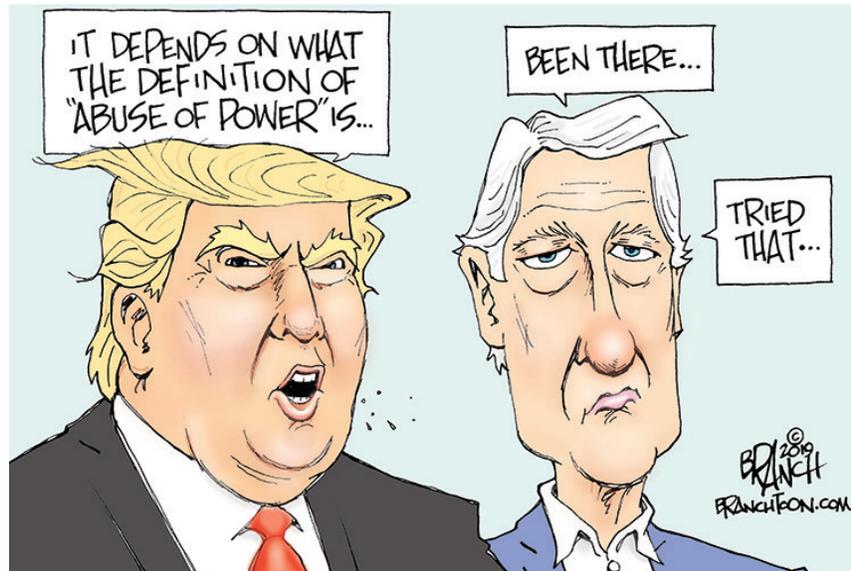
*Then they will cry to the Lord,
But He will not hear them;
He will even hide His face
from them at that time,
because they have been evil
in their deeds.*

MICAH 3:4



1st-century AD, Roman helmet face mask

© 2019 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the Book of Cornelius in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Revelation 2, what city was said by John to have "Satan's seat"? *Pergamos, Miletus, Patara, Sodom*

3. In Matthew 7, what did Jesus warn against throwing to pigs? *Bones, Stones, Figs, Pearls*

4. From Acts 13, where were Paul and Barnabas deserted by Mark? *Jericho, Perga, Athens, Damascus*

5. What were Gihon, Pison, Tigris and Euphrates as connected with the Garden of Eden? *Cities, Kings, Rivers, Caves*

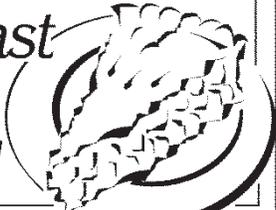
6. From 1 Kings, who is given credit for writing 1,005 songs? *Jacob, Solomon, Philip, David*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Pergamos; 3) Pearls; 4) Perga; 5) Rivers; 6) Solomon

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

© 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

Comfort foods Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Ham and Scalloped Potatoes

This is how scalloped potatoes were intended to taste! Just fill your slow cooker and forget about it until dinnertime. What could be easier?

- 3 cups diced extra-lean ham
- 6½ cups thinly sliced cooked potatoes
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1½ cups shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce can) reduced-fat cream of celery soup

1. Spray a slow-cooker container with butter-flavored cooking spray. Layer half of the ham, half of the potatoes, half of the onion and half of the Cheddar cheese in the prepared container. Repeat layers.

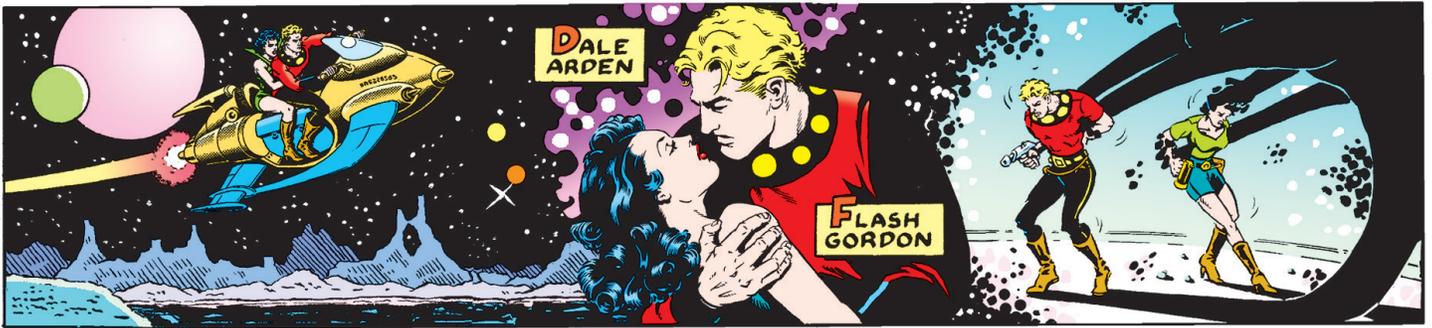
2. Stir parsley flakes into celery soup. Spoon soup mixture evenly over top. Cover and cook on LOW for 4 to 6 hours. Mix well before serving. Makes 8 (1 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: About 230 calories, 6g fat, 18g protein, 26g carb., 876mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 1/2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch.

© 2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 4 of 52



FLASH GORDON BY JIM KEEFE
12-22

BACK ON EARTH:

WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE... EXIT'S ALREADY SEALED!

NOT CUTTING US ANY SLACK, ARE THEY?

STAND BACK.

KA-THOOM!

FOLLOWING A LABYRINTH OF DUCTS AND TUNNELS, DALE AND HER UNKNOWN COMRADES RACE TO ESCAPE FROM A TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION.

COULD YOU HAVE POSSIBLY MADE ANY MORE NOISE?

MISS US, JEN?

NOT HALF AS MUCH AS THOSE GUARDS YOU LEFT BEHIND.

WITH ANY LUCK, BY THE TIME THEY'VE FIGURED OUT YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE...

...WE'LL BE LONG GONE!

SKREEEEEE! TO BE CONT'D..!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LOOP THE CLUB AT ALL, BE SURE TO MOVE IT MORE TO THE INSIDE OF THE TARGET LINE. NEVER TO THE OUTSIDE.

STARTING DOWN WITH YOUR FEET AND KNEES IS THE WAY TO ENSURE AN "INSIDE" ATTACK ON THE BALL.

STARTING DOWN WITH THE SHOULDERS INVARIABLY LOOPS THE CLUB TO THE OUTSIDE.

©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



Turmeric Can be Helpful for Arthritis Pain

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 88 and have had osteoarthritis in my hands and knees since I was in my 50s. I began taking Tylenol and Advil for pain. But on a recommendation from a health food store clerk, I started taking turmeric. Since that first dose, I have never had to take any pain medication again. I also have not had a knee replacement. My specialist is very pleased with my condition, and encourages my use of turmeric. I plan to up the dose from 150 mg daily because of research that shows its benefits in avoiding Alzheimer's disease. — *D.D.L.*

ANSWER: Turmeric has been shown to be helpful in some people with osteoarthritis, and is unlikely to have serious side effects; however, stomach upset is possible, and turmeric should be used with caution in people on warfarin or other anticoagulants.

However, there is no good evidence showing that turmeric prevents or treats dementia.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been hearing a lot about making yogurt at home. Is homemade yogurt a recipe for food poisoning? — *H.C.*

ANSWER: Homemade yogurt is easy to make, can be more healthy than store-bought as it has very little sugar, and can be made very safely with minimal precautions. The key is to make

sure the milk is fresh and sterile, then to carefully add in healthy bacteria. All you need to do is boil fresh milk to a bare simmer (to kill any unhealthy bacteria); cool it down to 100-110 F (37-42 C), which is an optimal temperature for growth of the healthy bacteria that help prevent the growth of unhealthy bacteria or yeast; stir in a few tablespoons of plain yogurt with active healthy bacterial cultures; and keep it in a warm place for six to 12 hours or so. You can use the yogurt you just made as the starter for the next batch. Add in some pureed fresh fruit, and you have a healthier, tastier and cheaper yogurt than you can buy at the store.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I take 40 mg of lisinopril for high blood pressure. One doctor told me to take a 40-mg tablet in the morning, while another said to take 20 mg in the morning and 20 mg in the evening. Will separating the dosage better control my blood pressure? On average, mine is 130/75. — *M.A.P.*

ANSWER: For lisinopril in particular, taking the medication twice daily showed a better reduction in blood pressure than once daily, according to a study performed last year. People who took lisinopril twice daily had about a 10-point systolic (4 point diastolic) improvement in BP control, so your blood pressure might be more like 120/71 if you started taking it in two doses, if you are similar to the subjects in the study (that sounds like a big drop to me, despite the study results).

People who are doing just fine on once-daily lisinopril don't need to change. Don't make any changes in your medication without discussing it with your own doctor.

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.

© 2019 North America Synd., Inc.
All Rights Reserved



1. Madonna's "This Used to Be My Playground" was recorded to be the theme song for which film?

2. There is always a CBE written after Rod Stewart's name. What is it for?

3. Which 1975 Earth, Wind & Fire song ended up in a 2017 Walmart commercial?

4. Who was Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Baby saw that when they pulled that big top down, They left behind her dreams among the litter."

Answers

1. "A League of Their Own," about a 1943 women's professional baseball league. Madonna starred in the 1992 film. Because of contract snarls, the song didn't appear on the soundtrack album.

2. It means Commander of the Order of the British Empire. He was appointed CBE in 2007 at Buckingham Palace for his services to music and charity.

3. "Shining Star." Walmart used it as a thanks to all its employees.

4. Singer George Michael, born to Greek parents. He died in 2016 at age 53.

5. "Don't Cry Out Loud," by The Moments, in 1976 and then Melissa Manchester in 1978. Legend says that the "Baby" in the song refers to the younger sister of co-writer Peter Allen when their father died.

© 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 6 of 52

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

GRIN and BEAR IT



North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Differences: 1. Woman's shirt is black. 2. Stars added to wall on right. 3. Woman is wearing hat. 4. Letters are black on right. 5. Window is missing. 6. Decorations added to wall on left.



• “I bought a mesh laundry bag at the dollar store and hang it from a hook in the closet where I keep my hamper. Socks go in the bag. When I’m ready to do laundry, I tie a knot in the bag and toss it in. Socks stay together.” — *T.O. in California*

• Last bowl’s worth of cereal? If you don’t like the cascade of bits and dust at the bottom of the bag, simply empty the contents into a colander before you put it in the bowl.

• “Our neighbor’s dog kept getting into the trash while they were out. They bought a crate, but he barked too much when he was in it. They saw online where someone put their trash can in a dog crate and let the dog have the run of the house. He tried it, and it only took a couple of weeks before they were able to stop using the crate entirely. Mr. Dog doesn’t mess with the trash anymore.” — *C.M. in Virginia*

• Break in new shoes with a thick pair of wool socks. Wear the socks with the new shoes around the house while tidying up.

• “My dad keeps a pants hanger in the bathtub to hang up the small non-stick mat that he keeps in there. He says if he hangs it, it doesn’t get mildew on the bottom around the suction cups.” — *T.K. in Missouri*

• Common substitutions: Recipe call for semisweet chocolate? Per ounce, use one square (1 ounce) of unsweetened chocolate and add 4 teaspoons of sugar.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 8 of 52



©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

THE HOT CIDER was a big hit at the potluck dinner, but look at the mess to be cleaned up afterward. How many cups can you find in the picture?

Answer: We found 43. How about you?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | L | | | | | | M |
| 2. | | L | | | | | M |
| 3. | | | L | | | M | |
| 4. | | | | L | M | | |
| 5. | | | | M | L | | |
| 6. | | | M | | | L | |
| 7. | | M | | | | | L |
| 8. | M | | | | | | L |

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and anagrams below, find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.



SWING DANCING IS BACK! Using an expression from the Swing Era, "jump and jive," we've made a puzzle for you. Replace the letters in the expression with the digits 0 through 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.

One Answer: J=8, U=3, M=0, P=9, A=4, N=5, D=2, I=7, V=6, E=1. (8309 + 452 = 8761.)



DEFINITIONS:

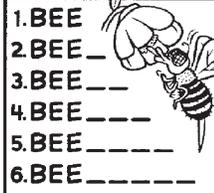
1. Lacking conviction.
2. A cluster of flowers.
3. A lucky charm.
4. A stamp of approval.
5. A bad homeowner.
6. Vests have them.
7. Fixed or motionless
8. Barely within quality limits

ANAGRAMS:

- murk + wale
- slob + moss
- slat + main
- mall + hark
- muds + roll
- sole + harm
- boil + mime
- nail + gram

"BEE" CAREFUL SOLVING THIS ONE! In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with BEE. The following hints should help:

1. A busy worker (given).
2. Source of sugar.
3. A gray tree.
4. An electronic device.
5. Used in making crayons.
6. Brand of chewing gum.



1. BEE
2. BEE _
3. BEE _ _
4. BEE _ _ _
5. BEE _ _ _ _
6. BEE _ _ _ _ _

Answers: 1. Bee, 2. Beet, 3. Beech, 4. Beeper, 5. Beeswax, 6. Beechnut

Answers: 1. Lukewarm, 2. Blossoms, 3. Tallisman, 4. Hallmark, 5. Stumlord, 6. Armholes, 7. Immobile, 8. Marginal.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 9 of 52

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Big fish story?
- 5 Chart
- 8 Chow —
- 12 Reverberate
- 13 Commotion
- 14 Loosen
- 15 Sense
- 16 Result of canonization
- 18 Liberty
- 20 Supermarket section
- 21 Fellow
- 22 Former M&Ms color
- 23 O. Henry's specialty
- 26 Realm
- 30 Distant
- 31 Compete
- 32 Rage
- 33 Hollywood hope
- 36 140-character message
- 38 Conger, e.g.
- 39 Prohibit
- 40 Islamic decree
- 43 Ennui
- 47 Haphazardly
- 49 Church section
- 50 Active one
- 51 Gist
- 52 Family
- 53 Raced
- 54 Noshed
- 55 Maintained

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | |

DOWN

- 1 Comic
- 2 Computer brand
- 3 Roller coaster
- 4 Grave
- 5 Lawyer played by Burr
- 6 First 21-Across
- 7 Luau dish
- 8 Cutting the volume
- 9 Tackles' teammates
- 10 "American —"
- 11 Alaskan city
- 17 Flatbread of India
- 19 Rotation duration
- 22 Dead heat
- 23 Conditions
- 24 Snitch
- 25 Man-mouse link
- 26 Basinger or Cattrall
- 27 Conk out
- 28 Raw rock
- 29 Bumped into
- 31 Encyc. component
- 34 Finder's fee
- 35 Campus VIP
- 36 Pitch
- 37 Mechanic's tool
- 39 Layered ice cream treat
- 40 Crazes
- 41 On
- 42 Genealogy display
- 43 Match in the ring
- 44 "Over hill, over — ..."
- 45 Ellipse
- 46 Fix
- 48 "CSI" evidence

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 10 of 52

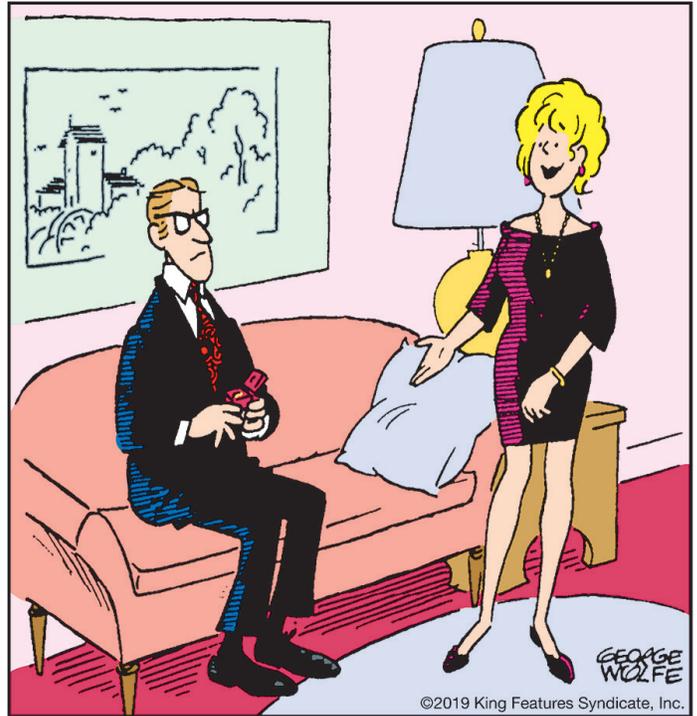
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY



"It's just that I'm not really sure I love you, Kent — let's take another look at that ring."

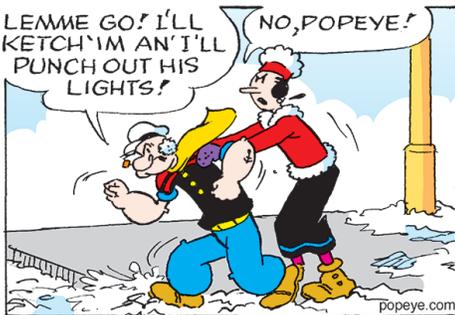
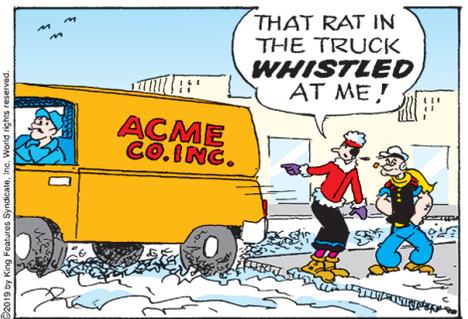
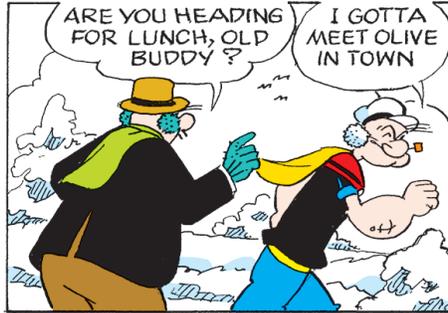
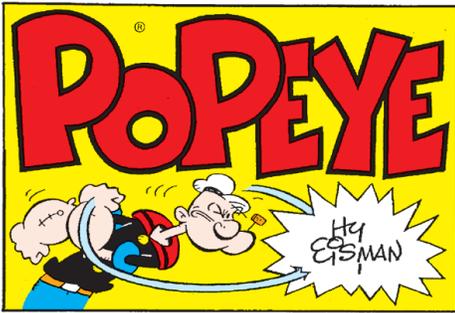
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



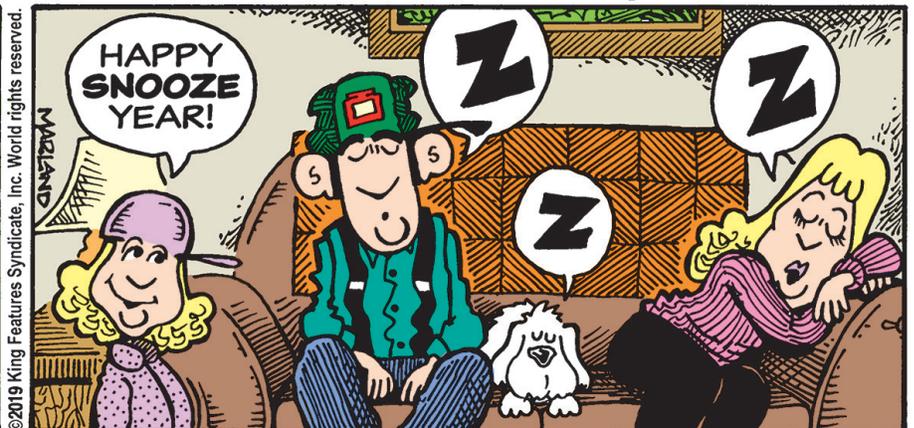
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 11 of 52



R.F.D.

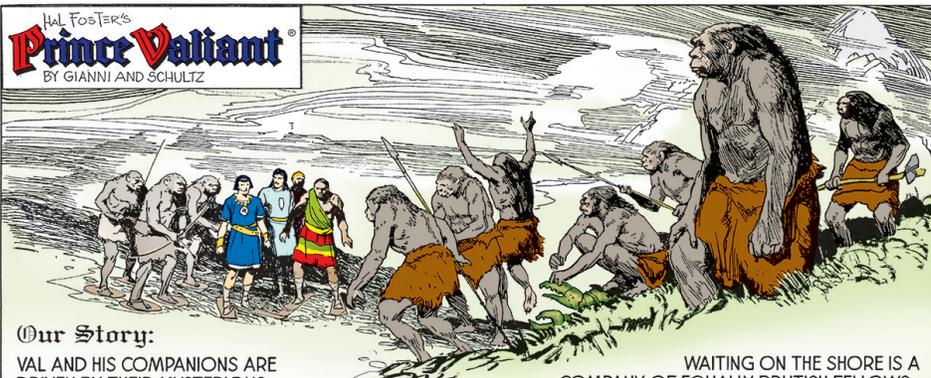
by Mike Marland



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 12 of 52

Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ



Our Story:

VAL AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE DRIVEN BY THEIR MYSTERIOUS CAPTORS ACROSS THE FORLORN SEA OF WEED, TOWARD A BLEAK, CRAGGY ISLAND.

WAITING ON THE SHORE IS A COMPANY OF EQUALLY BRITISH FELLOWS. THIS HORRIBLE PLACE IS APPARENTLY THE BEAST MEN'S HOME.

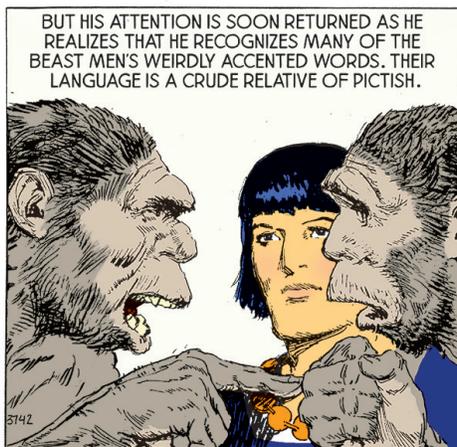


THE GRIM HORDE - ALL OF WHOM ARE MALE, VAL NOTES - JOSTLE FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT THE NEWCOMERS, WHILE GRUNTING ARGUMENTATIVELY.

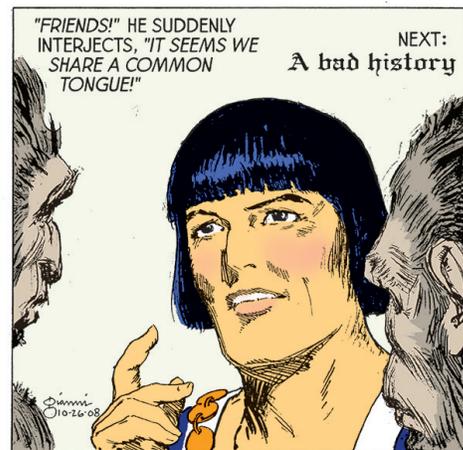
© 2008, King Features Syndicate, Inc.



AS HE AND HIS MEN ARE IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER, VAL SURVEYS THE SURROUNDINGS. THERE ARE MANY CAIRNS OF CAREFULLY PILED ROCK - THE PRINCE WONDERS IF THESE MIGHT BE GRAVES.



BUT HIS ATTENTION IS SOON RETURNED AS HE REALIZES THAT HE RECOGNIZES MANY OF THE BEAST MEN'S WEIRDLY ACCENTED WORDS. THEIR LANGUAGE IS A CRUDE RELATIVE OF PICTISH.

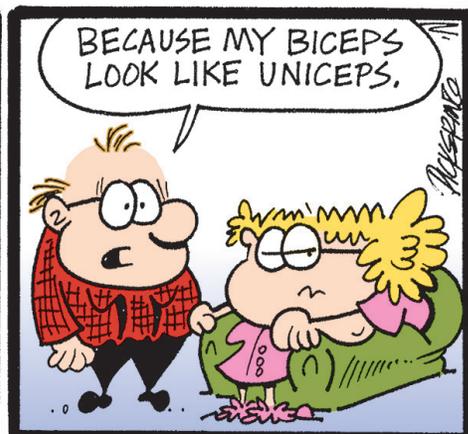


"FRIENDS!" HE SUDDENLY INTERJECTS, "IT SEEMS WE SHARE A COMMON TONGUE!"

NEXT:
A bad history

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Dealing With Rudeness

I'm not the only one who's been muttering around town about drawing a line over how we seniors are sometimes treated. Some of us have decided to take a stand and speak up. Want to join us?

One elderly man was in the middle of placing his order at the counter of a coffee shop bakery that he visited every day. The cashier stopped in the middle of taking that order to speak at length with someone who came into the shop. There was no, "I'll be with you in a minute," to the person who was interrupting. The man was just ignored for a very long three minutes ... when he walked out. He won't be going back, I'm sure, but he did call the bakery's owner.

Then there was the senior who'd made it clear (or so she thought) at her doctor's office that she couldn't make morning appointments, that they need-

ed to be scheduled in the afternoons because of transportation reasons. She was irritated when she received a message from the office that her appointment would be at 8:00 the next morning. Her solution? She left a message for the doctor himself.

Another person who gets delivery of his drugs from the pharmacy in town asked for a one-hour window when they'd be delivered. He was told, "They'll be there sometime this afternoon. You weren't going anywhere anyway, were you?" His solution? He called the pharmacy manager.

When we're trying to make a fairly large purchase and we're continually steered toward more expensive items ... when the tech guy thinks we don't know how to operate a computer ... when it's assumed we're uninformed ... when we're not amused to be called "young lady" or "sweetie."

We won't necessarily cause a fuss, but we will speak up.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 14 of 52



1. In 2018, Mookie Betts became the third player in Boston Red Sox history to hit for the cycle when batting leadoff. Name either of the other two to do it.

2. Which hitter holds the major-league record for most plate appearances in a season?

3. In 2018, Patrick Mahomes twice tied a Kansas City Chiefs record for most touchdown passes in a game (six). Who else holds the mark?

4. Duke's R.J. Barret set an ACC record for most points by a freshman men's basketball player (860). Who had held the mark?

5. Name two of the last three NHL teams before the Tampa Bay Lightning in the 2018-19 season to score at least 325 goals. Hint: They all played in the 1995-96 season.

6. Joe Gibbs Racing set a modern-era record in 2019 for most NASCAR Cup Series victories in a season (19). Which organization had

held the mark?

7. Who was the last tennis player older than Rafael Nadal (33 in 2019) to win the U.S. Open men's singles title?

Answers

1. Brock Holt (2015) and Leon Culberson (1943).

2. Philadelphia's Jimmy Rollins, with 778 in 2007.

3. Len Dawson, who did it in 1964.

4. Georgia Tech's Kenny Anderson scored 721 points in the 1989-90 season.

5. Pittsburgh (362 goals), Colorado (326) and Detroit (325) all totaled at least 325 goals.

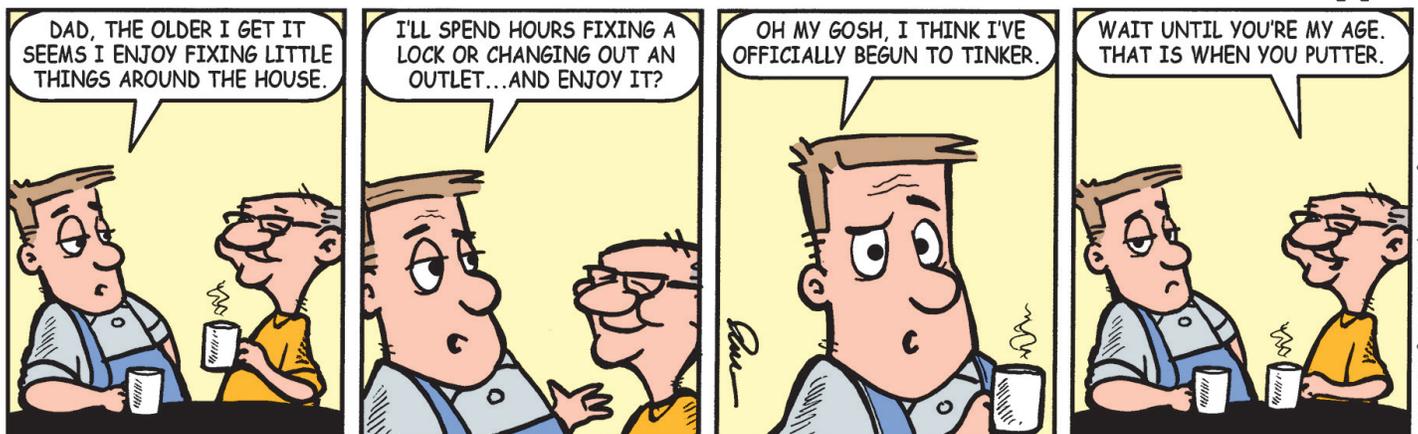
6. Hendrick Motorsports won 18 races in 2007.

7. Ken Rosewall was 35 when he won it in 1970.

© 2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





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



A Better Solution

Americans pay too much for prescription drugs.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to demonize pharmaceutical companies. I don't think profit is a dirty word, and I understand that they are trying to find cures in a highly uncertain environment. According to Dr. Anupam Jena, less than 1 of every 12 potential drugs ever reach patients, the average drug takes more than a decade to develop, and it costs more than \$1 billion to bring one new drug to market.

But it doesn't make sense that Americans pay so much more than the rest of the world. We are subsidizing their drug prices, and it isn't fair.

Luckily, there is a solution. Two weeks ago, I introduced H.R. 19 with more than a hundred of my colleagues. Our bill is quite different than the one Speaker Pelosi passed through the House recently, and would address pharmaceutical prices in a number of important ways.

First, it will end abuses of the patent system. Today pharmaceutical companies can actually pay other drug manufacturers to keep competing generic medicines off the market. This "pay for delay" tactic is illegal in most every industry, and it shouldn't be allowed for pharmaceuticals, either.

Second, it will, for the first time ever, place a cap of seniors' out-of-pocket drug expenses. This would bring Medicare Part D more in line with most other health insurance products in our country and is supported by 75% of Americans.

Third, it will appoint a new negotiator in the U.S. Trade Representative's office to push back against those countries who refuse to pay their fair share for prescription drugs.

Fourth, it will increase drug pricing transparency both in the doctor's office and the pharmacy, putting both patients and health care professionals in a better position to make effective decisions. Greater drug price transparency is supported by 90% of Americans.

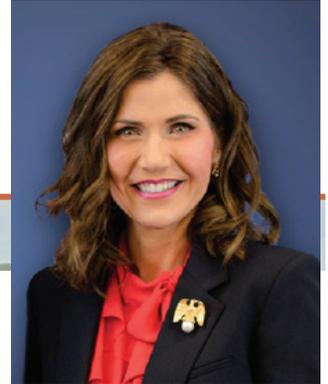
There are also different prescription drug plans being offered by the Senate and the White House. Each of these bills has some intriguing components, and I'm hopeful 2020 will bring some momentum on finding a solution. Last week brought bipartisan victories on the National Defense Authorizing Act and the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement (USMCA), proving that bipartisan successes aren't an extinct species, even in Washington, D.C.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 16 of 52



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



A Year of Progress

Families across South Dakota have started taking down Christmas trees and kids are getting ready to start a new semester at school. With another holiday season nearly behind us, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many things we've accomplished this year.

In 2019, we expanded internet connection to 4,800 households and more than 100 businesses. Progress in this area means producers can access cutting-edge technology that requires high-speed broadband capabilities, students can quickly upload and download assignments for advanced online courses, and folks in remote areas can pursue online businesses opportunities, allowing them to hire locally while selling globally.

We also launched a new meth campaign that has sparked thousands of conversations about meth around our state and nation. I've heard story after story of families who say that because of our ads, they've been able to talk with their kids about the dangers of meth for the first time. Since we started the campaign, nearly 100 people have called or texted our hotline and more than a dozen have been referred to treatment through the hotline.

This year, we saw more families getting outside together to learn about our outdoor traditions. One area of growth that we were pleased to see was an increase in trapping numbers. People are recognizing the need to protect our strong outdoor heritage, participating in our efforts to create wildlife habitat, providing public access, and introducing kids to the adventure of the outdoors.

In 2019, we also focused more attention on mental health. I allocated roughly \$500,000 to mental health initiatives, some of which will be used to increase care coordination services available to local school districts. We're also moving forward to fund a mental health court in southeastern South Dakota, which will focus on clients with mental health needs, providing them both treatment and care coordination services. My hope is to get to the root of mental health issues early on so youth and adults can transition out of the justice system.

On these issues and many others, I relied on your input and am so grateful for those who have called, written, or emailed me with their thoughts. In an effort to be the most connected and transparent governor South Dakota has ever had, my office has made thousands of phone calls and written countless emails and letters to South Dakotans this year.

It truly has been an honor to serve you in 2019, and I look forward to tackling new challenges in the year to come.

On behalf of my entire family, I wish you all the best in 2020!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 17 of 52



2019 in Review

As 2019 comes to a close, I've had time to reflect on the past year. As a state, we celebrated the commissioning of the USS South Dakota, a Virginia-class nuclear submarine designed to fulfill 21st century mission requirements. We also worked to secure Ellsworth Air Force Base as the location for the first two B-21 Raider bomber squadrons - the training squadron and the operational squadron - solidifying Ellsworth's long-term role in our national security. We were also hit hard by Mother Nature this year as tornadoes, flooding and late-winter storms wreaked havoc across the state.

On a personal level, our family experienced its most difficult challenge to date, as Jean began cancer treatment for a malignant high-grade aggressive tumor near her sciatic nerve. Thanks to her highly-talented team of doctors and our extended South Dakota community who has continually supported us, we are on a path to recovery.

Looking back on what we've accomplished in Washington, we've scored some significant victories. On the health care front, the CREATES Act was included in the end-of-year spending package. This legislation, which I cosponsored, will help lower the cost of prescription drugs by fast-tracking the approval process for generic drugs, thereby enhancing competition in the prescription drug market.

We also fully repealed the Cadillac Tax, which is an Obamacare tax that threatened to raise healthcare premiums even higher by imposing a 40 percent tax on certain employer-sponsored healthcare plans. I led this effort in the Senate with Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, and our bill to repeal the Cadillac Tax had 64 cosponsors. Now that it is repealed, it no longer threatens to raise the premiums of over 400,000 South Dakotans who get their health insurance through their work.

The Senate has also continued to confirm a record number of judges to federal courts. In the past three years, we've confirmed 187 judges, nominated by President Trump, to serve lifetime appointments on the federal bench. These judges are committed to upholding the rule of law and not legislating from the bench.

We also saw year-round sales of E-15 for the first time this year. E-15 is 15 percent ethanol blended with 85 percent gasoline. As South Dakotans know, corn and corn ethanol production are vital components of our economy. The corn ethanol industry supports thousands of jobs in our state and contributes a significant amount of revenue to our local communities. The decision to allow year-round sales of E-15 is a huge win for our state.

We were also finally able to enact legislation to make sure thousands of "Blue Water" Navy veterans can receive the disability and health care benefits they earned after their exposure to the dangerous pesticide Agent Orange while fighting in the Vietnam War.

More recently, we passed the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, which includes a number of South Dakota priorities. In addition to fully funding the B-21 Raider bomber program, it includes my legislation to create a cyber consortia for certain universities, including Dakota State University in Madison. The consortia will provide an opportunity for schools designated as National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security Centers of Academic Excellence to lend their cybersecurity expertise to the Department of Defense. In addition, the NDAA includes the largest pay raise for our troops in a decade, continues to rebuild our military, gives our service members additional resources to meet new challenges and takes care of military families.

When it comes to trade, we've made significant progress. The administration secured a unilateral trade

Groton Daily Independent

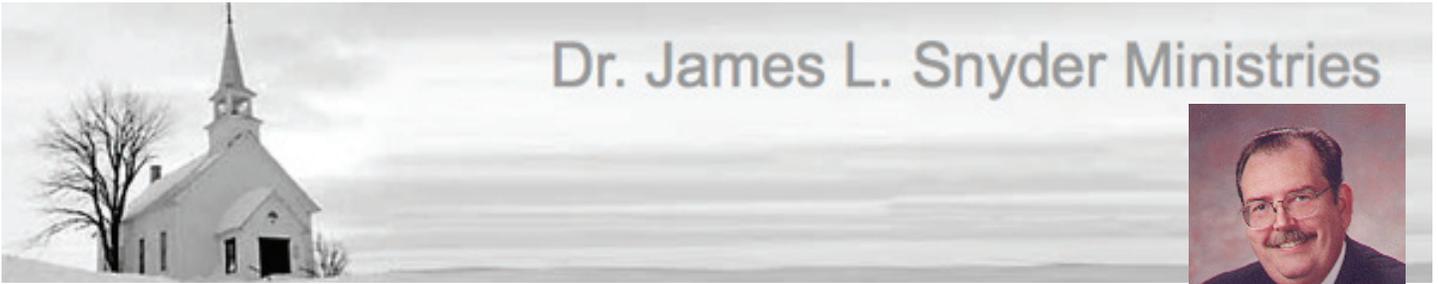
Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 18 of 52

deal with Japan this year that will cut tariffs and pave the way for more sales of American beef and other ag products to Japan. And the Trump administration is closing in on a phase 1 trade deal with China that they say seeks to increase ag exports to \$40 or \$50 billion. Additionally, the House finally passed the USMCA trade deal between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, and we expect to take it up in the Senate soon into the new year.

As we look ahead to 2020, we are hopeful for the future. Jean will begin radiation treatment in January, the final step in her cancer treatment. We appreciate the continued prayers during this time. In the Senate, I'll continue to bring South Dakota values to Washington so we can further grow the economy and improve the lives of hardworking families.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 19 of 52



Proper etiquette for returning Christmas gifts

The Christmas frenzy is over, and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly are sitting back surveying our Christmas plunder. Only a few days ago, the house was ablaze with Christmas lights, and the rafters were echoing with Christmas delight. Now, much to my delight, quietness is tiptoeing through our house.

Why is it that something as wonderful as Christmas takes so long to prepare and goes by so quickly? As it stands today, there are only 360 more days until the next Christmas. I do not think I have enough time to get ready to do this all over again.

However, the countdown begins. With the odd chance that something can be done, I propose that we celebrate Christmas every even year because of so many odd years in my life.

In surveying my Christmas plunder, several thoughts, like sugarplums, are dancing in my head. The primary thought is simply, what am I going to do with all these gifts? I have enough gifts to last me the rest of my life if I live to be 100. Of course, if I live to be 110, I may need another gift.

My gifts range in several categories.

In the first category, there is aftershave, cologne and deodorant. Obviously, those who know me the best think I stink. The first thing that comes to their mind when they think of me is the Bible verse, "by now he stinketh" (John 11:39). At least they are biblical.

I just would like everybody to know that come Saturday night, regular as clockwork, and I take a bath whether I need it or not. I would give you that I need it more than I don't. The best time to sniff me is Sunday morning, fresh from my Saturday night shower and after I have doused myself with my Christmas cologne. Apart from that, I give no guarantees.

I am tempted, for some family function, to douse myself with every brand of aftershave and cologne I have received as Christmas presents. Maybe somebody will get the hint that I have enough.

The second category of Christmas gifts is clothing. This covers a large area ... I'm a big man. Two sizes are associated with the Christmas clothing I get each year. Either they are too small or too big. None of my relatives knows me that well.

The only clothing that fits me is neckties — and I have enough neckties to have a nice necktie party. I do have a candidate in mind, actually several candidates.

When it comes to Christmas presents, there are only two kinds I really accept each year. Presents I like, and presents from people I like. As a general rule, I do not accept presents from people I do not like.

As of this date, I have not had an occasion to refuse such a gift from such a person. But I still have my principle, if not their interest.

All this brings me to my current dilemma. What can I do with all these Christmas presents, especially the ones I cannot wear or use? What is the best thing to do, re-gift, or return these Christmas presents?

I like the idea of returning presents I cannot use or wear in exchange for something I can use or wear. It is a simple matter of going back to the mall and negotiating the exchange.

Of course, before I can negotiate the exchange, I have to wage war with millions of people wanting to do the same thing. Although it is nice to know you are on the same page as other people, I just wish I were reading another book.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 20 of 52

If you think the mall is a dangerous place prior to Christmas, try going there the day after Christmas. It never fails, by the time I have waited in line for my turn to do the exchange; they no longer have my size and give me a rain check. I really hate it when it rains on my parade.

Then there is the idea of re-gifting. I am beginning to like this idea more and more. For this reason, when I unwrap my presents, I am very careful not to tear the wrapping paper. This way, I not only have next year's Christmas present, but I have the wrapping paper to go with it.

The first Christmas I thought of this was a high watermark day in my life. I was proud of myself to be able to kill several birds with one stone. Unbeknownst to me, the biggest bird I killed was myself.

This did not show itself until the following Christmas when, by not giving this proper thought, I gave people the gift they gave me the previous Christmas. Believe me; I had a lot of "splaining" to do.

Nobody tells you this about Christmas in those etiquette books, but if you are going to re-gift a Christmas present, make sure you remember who gave it to you in the first place.

It is difficult trying to find the perfect gift as only one person has mastered the finesse of it. The Bible says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17).

The gift God gives is one that you will have no reason to return.



S.D. retailers face uphill battle for survival amid frequent market changes

By: Mark Andersen

The rapid and expansive transformation of the South Dakota retail marketplace has created uncertainty for many businesses and the more than 97,000 state residents employed within the industry.

Retail sales remain on the rise, but the ongoing market disruptions — dramatic changes in who buys what, how and from where — are threatening some retailers, particularly in smaller towns.

Many employees and owners of some of the state's roughly 13,900 retail establishments have felt the bite of rapid change.

Retailers face almost constant change ranging from the emergence of giant online retailers to evolving technology including delivery services to the rapid growth of low-price "dollar stores" that can hurt long-time local retailers in rural areas.

What emerges over the next decade will be a marketplace shaped by conflicting consumer desires for better convenience and lower cost versus a desire for something unique, social and enjoyable.

Transformation has always been part of the retail story. Since craftsmen gathered in open-air markets through the rise of department stores and shopping malls, shoppers have hastily embraced new trends and discarded old. Across the state, struggling shopping malls and aging rural main streets demonstrate this evolution.

Even in small cities that have been aggressive and progressive in promoting local retail, such as Sisseton in Roberts County, fears remain that some businesses won't be able to keep up with the fast and frequent changes in the retail marketplace.

"It's scary when you're a smaller town, seeing people going out of town to buy groceries and gifts," said Lacey Babekuhl, who works in accounts and marketing for a Sisseton building center and formerly served as a local housing and redevelopment official. "You really do run the risk of losing everything your neighbors have worked for all of their lives. Families, friends and neighbors have put their savings on the line for this community."

Meanwhile, the constant change is creating opportunities for some retailers and business owners, particularly those willing to adapt and do so quickly.

South Dakota retail sales have grown in the past several years, climbing from \$25.1 billion in 2013 to \$28.5 billion in 2018, according to state Department of Revenue data.

Many local retailers have added their own online presence and try to stay up on successful business



Debra Jensen owns Black Hills Bagels on Mount Rushmore Road in Rapid City with her husband, Jack. By focusing on quality and adapting when needed, the business has thrived during a time of great change. Photo: Mark Andersen, South Dakota News

Watch correspondent

trends.

Debra Jensen, co-owner of Black Hills Bagels in Rapid City with her husband, Jack, said they strengthen their position in a competitive market by connecting with employees and customers in ways that chain stores cannot.

The business has endured a years-long construction project on the road it fronts and the arrival of a competing bagel chain directly across the street.

"We can't compete on price alone," Debra Jensen said. "But there's a market for hand-formed bagels, custom sandwiches and enhanced customer service."

Staying vigilant about trends and being nimble in reacting to them — while also holding firm to longstanding principles — has also helped the business thrive, Jensen said.

She said the couple realized long ago that for the store to remain successful they would have to pay attention to what the corporations were doing but do it better. Three years ago, Debra read an article that by 2020, 40 percent of restaurant business will be delivery.

They found people weren't willing to pay for delivery service, but they weren't willing to tip. Over time, larger business orders have compensated for the small ones, making the delivery system profitable.

Online evolution not slowing

For now, the pace of the current retail transformation toward online sales isn't easing. Internet sales should account for 12.4 percent of all retail sales this year, up steadily from 6 percent in 2013. Online sales are predicted to account for 14 percent of the retail market next year, and the Centre for Retail Research expects online growth will continue for a decade.

Increasingly, online also takes a larger bite of Christmas sales. Amazon collects a third or its sales revenue during the fourth quarter, according to annual reports. This holiday season, sales at online and other remote retailers are projected to surpass those at brick-and-mortar stores, climbing 12 percent over last year.

Amid last year's landmark closures at Sears, ShopKo and Kmart, the Centre for Retail Research declared a retail apocalypse, but mostly it was 17 national chains with outdated business models that disappeared. Stores in South Dakota were among them, but that alone doesn't signify the demise of local retailers.

Meanwhile, the ongoing proliferation of discount retailers further complicates matters for longtime retailers in smaller South Dakota towns. The rapid spread of dollar stores, following closely upon the spread of Walmart super centers, further erodes already slim profit margins there.

Walmart began 2019 operating 15 super centers and two clubs in South Dakota. Dollar General, which operates 15,370 Stores in 44 states, had 52 stores in South Dakota last February, when the company announced plans to open 975 more U.S. stores. Dollar Tree, which operates 15,000 Family Dollar and Dollar Tree stores in 48 states, including 43 in South Dakota, planned to open 546 more stores nationwide. Dollar stores enter towns too small for Walmart.



Debra Jensen, owner of Black Hills Bagels in Rapid City, stands next to a rack of hand-formed bagels with baker Michael Regan. Jensen said she and her husband, Jack, make an effort to connect with employees and customers in ways that chain stores cannot. Photo: Mark Andersen, South Dakota News Watch correspondent

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 23 of 52



The City of Presidents program, which includes a walking tour of sculptures of presidents including Thomas Jefferson, is a program run by Visit Rapid City which encourages tourists and locals to spend quality time in the downtown retail zone.

Photo: Courtesy Visit Rapid City

Across the Northern Plains, the spread of dollar stores — which buy dry grocery goods in volume — place additional pressure on local grocers. In August, North Dakota lawmakers began studying ways to support smaller grocers, but no obvious solutions came forth. Over the past five years, 39 out of 137 full-service grocery stores in North Dakota towns with fewer than 2,100 people have closed or no longer offer full service, according to the North Dakota Rural Electric & Telecommunications Development Center. Anecdotal evidence shows the same trend occurring in South Dakota.

Some South Dakota towns of roughly 1,000 people now boast competing dollar stores. Longtime retailers are countering with programs to boost customer loyalty and hoping for the best. For many rural consumers, dollar stores offer savings, competition and convenience. The danger for smaller communities is one of slipping below the critical mass of retail offerings. If shoppers must travel to larger towns for produce, meat and dairy, they will likely seek other supplies there as well, hastening a community's decline.

In general, small towns have punched far below their weight in retail trade since at least the 1990s, according to a 2017 study by Anil Giri of the University of Central Missouri and Bruce Johnson at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Using data from the Nebraska Department of Revenue between 1990 and 2015, the study shows a town's population is the single largest factor affecting retail draw.

Among the findings, towns with fewer than 500 people leaked nearly half of their retail potential to larger towns, based on proportionate sales which factor population and average local income. The metropolitan counties home to Omaha and Lincoln, meanwhile, captured \$1.4 billion of taxable retail sales beyond their proportionate share just in 2015.

Counties whose largest towns contained fewer than 2,500 people generally leaked retail sales while those above 5,000 drew extra customers. Towns between 2,500 and 5,000 held their own, with some leaking and some gaining. Relative distance to a larger trade center, local transportation patterns and other factors were determinant.

In South Dakota, only 28 of the 312 places for which the census provides population estimates have more than 2,500 people, and only 18 have more than 5,000 people. Meanwhile, fewer than 30 state cities show signs of meaningful growth over the past decade, according to census figures, and roughly half of the growth appears concentrated in Sioux Falls.

Bigger cities find success in reinvention

Nathan Sanderson of the South Dakota Retailers Association sees a resurgence on main streets among the whirl of retail change. In the era of decline of the shopping mall, some also see a downtown renaissance as customers seek unique social experiences and local wares.

"Take a look around at Sioux Falls main street and downtown Rapid City," he said. "Look at what Main Street Square and the presidential sculptures have done for Rapid City."

The market has seen a shift in consumer preference away from standard shopping malls toward the unique and special, the handmade items, he said. In Rapid City, Prairie Edge, a Native American arts and gift store, has become a destination, performing the role once claimed by big anchor stores in shopping malls.

But creating local retail excitement in trade centers like Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen differs fundamentally from doing so in smaller towns. Sanderson does not believe, however, that city size is the main determining factor.

"The determining factor is the extent to which the people of the community invest in that community,"

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 24 of 52

"Internet sales are a growing component of retail, but that doesn't mean the death of retail ... a lot of businesses you wouldn't think would do so are using online technologies to make their mom-and-pop brick and mortar stores thrive."

-- Nathan Sanderson of the South Dakota Retailers Association

Sanderson said. In Faulkton, Lemmon, De Smet, Winner and others, there are groups of civic minded business people interested in seeing those towns grow and thrive.

"You have a group of people in Miller making an active effort to make the community strong," he said. Town leaders in some communities are actively thinking about how to make themselves a destination and remain relevant.

These pockets of brick-and-mortar resilience belie the simplified narrative of local retail dying at the hands of expanding online.

"Internet sales are a growing component of retail, but that doesn't mean the death of retail," Sanderson said.

Of all the businesses that closed in 2019, stores represented by just 17 retail chains – the Sears and the ShopKos – ac-

count for 73 percent of total closures, he said. And if you look at local ShopKos, their demise wasn't related to falling sales at South Dakota stores but to a national business model that did not adapt.

At the same time, he said, longtime brick and mortar have embraced opportunities made possible by an online presence. Black Hills Bagels in Rapid City has created a website that allows online ordering for pickup or delivery, he said.

"A lot of businesses you wouldn't think would do so are using online technologies to make their mom-and-pop brick and mortar stores thrive," he said.

Putting their best foot forward

Rand Wergin, an associate professor of marketing in the business school at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, has researched the relative retail pull South Dakota communities back to 1999. For example, people from outside of Yankton spend \$1 dollar inside the city for every dollar Yankton residents spend elsewhere, giving it a pull factor of 1. A score below 1 leaks retail and above 1 demonstrates pull.

Unlike the Nebraska study, Wergin looks at three classes of city size – below 3,000 people, between 3,000 and 10,000, and those above 10,000. While his findings show size does matter, it also demonstrates it's not the only determinant in South Dakota.

For 2018, the state's largest cities — Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen — pulled more than their proportionate share, as expected. Sioux Falls scored 1.4, Rapid City scored 1.2 and Aberdeen nearly 1.9. Retail is doing especially well there.

Also as might be expected, smaller cities living in the shadow of larger neighbors performed less well, but there were important distinctions.

Canton, lying in the shadow of Sioux Falls, scored 0.4 in 2018 – well down from 0.7 in 2013. Meanwhile, growing Box Elder, in the shadow of Rapid City, also scored 0.4 in 2018, but that city's score is four times its 2013 performance of 0.1. Things are improving there.

Among the best performers in recent times were the Black Hills tourist towns of Hill City, scoring a 3.0, and Deadwood, with 2.1.

For heavily rural South Dakota, as opposed to Nebraska, Wergin envisions an archipelago of retail islands serving broad functions. Among the largest South Dakota cities, he said, Aberdeen wins consistently because of the long distances to larger towns. Other cities thriving for similar reasons include Winner, Chamberlain and Platte.

Retail pull can be further divided into a number of economic categories, like auto sales, apparel, eating. Changes in certain categories over time can be illuminating. Sioux Falls, for example, draws heavily in clothing sales – a score of 1.7 in 2018 – but that's less than half of its 2013 score of 3.5. Over that same period, Rapid City remained strong scores across all sectors except in furniture sales. The data suggests that Sioux Falls' past successes in drawing regional clothing shoppers may explain its current pains as

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 25 of 52

clothing sales move online.

One category Wergin views with special significance is "miscellaneous," a catchall which accounts for about a third of all retail sales. A town with a robust miscellaneous score means people visit for a broad variety of items, demonstrating overall strength, he said.

Aberdeen scores highest in miscellaneous. Sioux Falls maintains strong miscellaneous scores, but Rapid City scores poorly at just 0.5. Huron, meanwhile, with a population of under 14,000, scores 1.7.

Wergin said some people will be hurt by the market changes, but a lot depends on how well individual communities adapt. The changing marketplace doesn't necessarily spell doom. People still want that social shopping experience, he said. Girls in his University of South Dakota classes all have Amazon Prime accounts, he said, but they still like to get together, shop and have lunch.

A recent New York Times story suggests that most of the retail sales force displaced by online's expansion won't be unemployed long. Workers hit by the apocalypse haven't shown up in detailed labor statistics, probably because other retailers are actively recruiting. Those hurt most by the broad retail displacement are store owners, managers and workers with longtime seniority.

David Bruns, manager of the Food Center in Redfield, population 2,300, is doing what he can to keep his business thriving despite the challenges created by a Dollar General.

"They're affecting all small towns," Bruns said of dollar stores.

To build customer loyalty, the Food Center has launched a rewards program, offering points for every dollar spent, and a saver card, which gives stamps redeemable for glass products.

"It's a way of thanking customers, of building loyalty," he said. "I don't know if the dollar stores give back."

The Redfield Food Center has also switched warehouses to bring in different brands, hoping to distinguishing itself from other regional stores.

Redfield customers, Bruns said, still lament the town's loss of their ShopKo, which also sold groceries. The closure, however, didn't cause much of a bump in Food Center sales. If anything, he said, people now leave town for things that only ShopKo sold, so now they also may be grocery shopping outside of town.

The lack of local competition hasn't affected his prices, Bruns said.

"I'm still trying to compete against Walmart and the bigger stores, so I keep prices aggressive as if there were two stores here," he said.

Bruns is also part owner of the Food Center in Linton, N.D., population 1,000. A Family Dollar there was joined a few months ago by a Dollar General.

"We'll see how things go once we get through holiday season," Bruns said. The construction of an area wind farm has helped retailers, but construction is winding down. "Once they leave, we'll see what will really happen."

The North Dakota store is offering identical rewards programs to those in Redfield.

The dollar stores will change the landscape, Bruns said. "It's just they're coming everywhere," he said. "It's kind of sad in my opinion."

Local businesses have been there a long time, and they've dedicated their lives to serving their small towns. "I feel for those people."

Over time, Lacey Babekuhl has developed affection for Sisseton. The Sioux Falls native vacationed in the town as a kid. As a teenager she couldn't imagine living in a place with "nothing to do." Now, she can't imagine living anywhere else, and saving the town is part of her new job.

Disagreements get handled differently in Sisseton, where almost everyone knows everyone, Babekuhl said. People hash out their business differences over coffee and then share a beer socially that same night.

Sisseton has about 2,400 residents, and the population hasn't changed much in 20 years.

The event that stimulated retailers to take action last summer was a major road and sewer reconstruction project that detoured shoppers around the town. "This year was tough for us," Babekuhl said.

Last year, a Dollar General store joined the town's Family Dollar, but Babekuhl said most local retailers don't view the discount stores negatively.

"We've never looked at any new business as a threat," she said. "We look at it as an addition to the community."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 26 of 52

A few months ago, retailers formed a non-profit association, built and launched an app to bundle local sales deals — like an online shopper, and began recognizing local retail sales staff for exceptional service. The big focus is on educating the community about the importance of buying local.

"Amazon is not going to help fund your kid's baseball team," Babekuhl said. "That's the local businesses that do all of that."

Babekuhl works as an accounts specialist at Tri State Building Center with the understanding that promoting Sisseton is part of her job. The goal is to really connect with local customers and the community, Babekuhl said.

"At this point, we're seeing a lot of engagement," she said. The app for bundled sales promotions has been downloaded 800 times.

"Sisseton is seeing a comeback on Main Street and Veterans Avenue," she said. "There are new shops, and boutiques more aimed at the younger demographic."

Appealing to the next generation and creating a better experience for shoppers will be key, she said.

"This is about growing the community," she said. "We want to make this a place where people want to visit and a place where people want to come back to after college."

SHARE:



ABOUT

Mark Anderson

Mark Andersen of Rapid City, a freelance correspondent for South Dakota News Watch, is a graduate of the Uni-

versity of South Dakota and veteran news reporter who has worked at the Lincoln Journal Star and at the Rapid City Journal.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 27 of 52

Winter Storm Warning **URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE** **National Weather Service Aberdeen SD**

...WINTER STORM WARNING NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL NOON CST MONDAY...

- * WHAT...Heavy snow. Additional snow accumulations of 8 to 11 inches. Winds gusting as high as 45 mph.
- * WHERE...Brown, Hyde, Hand, Spink and Faulk Counties.
- * WHEN...Until noon CST Monday.
- * IMPACTS...Travel could be very difficult. Areas of blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning commute. Gusty winds could bring down tree branches.
- * ADDITIONAL DETAILS...The ongoing snow will continue today into tonight, likely falling at rates exceeding an inch an hour at times. In addition, there is the potential for periodic blizzard conditions today into tonight, as winds gust 35 to 45 mph.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency.

The latest road conditions can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.



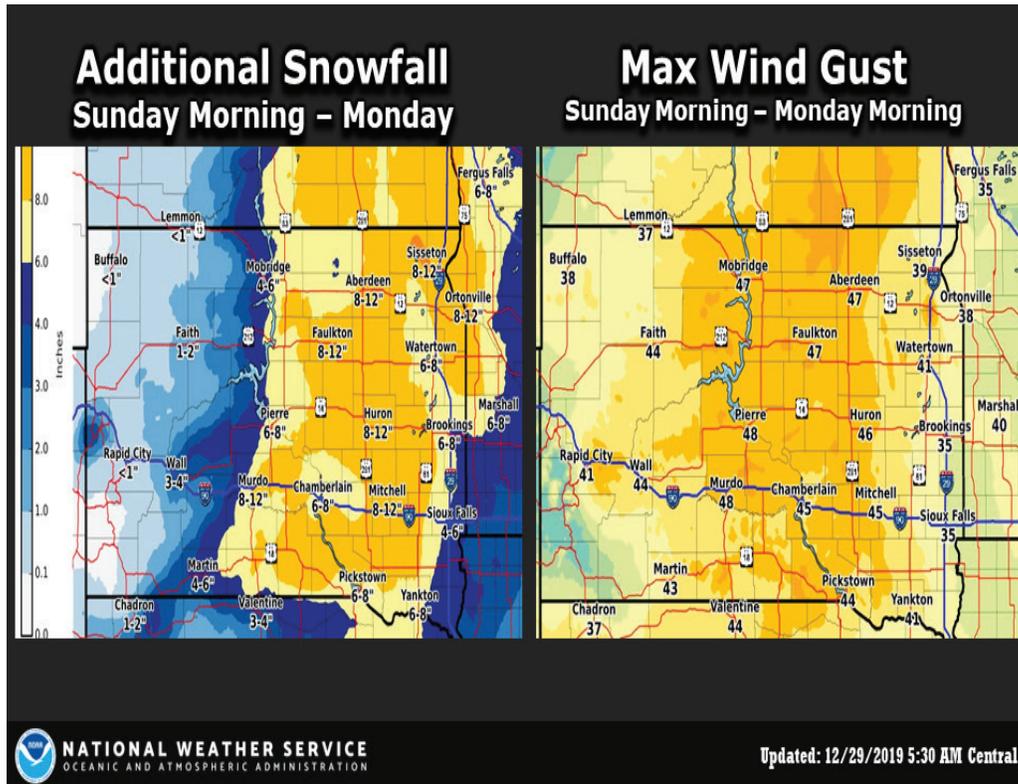
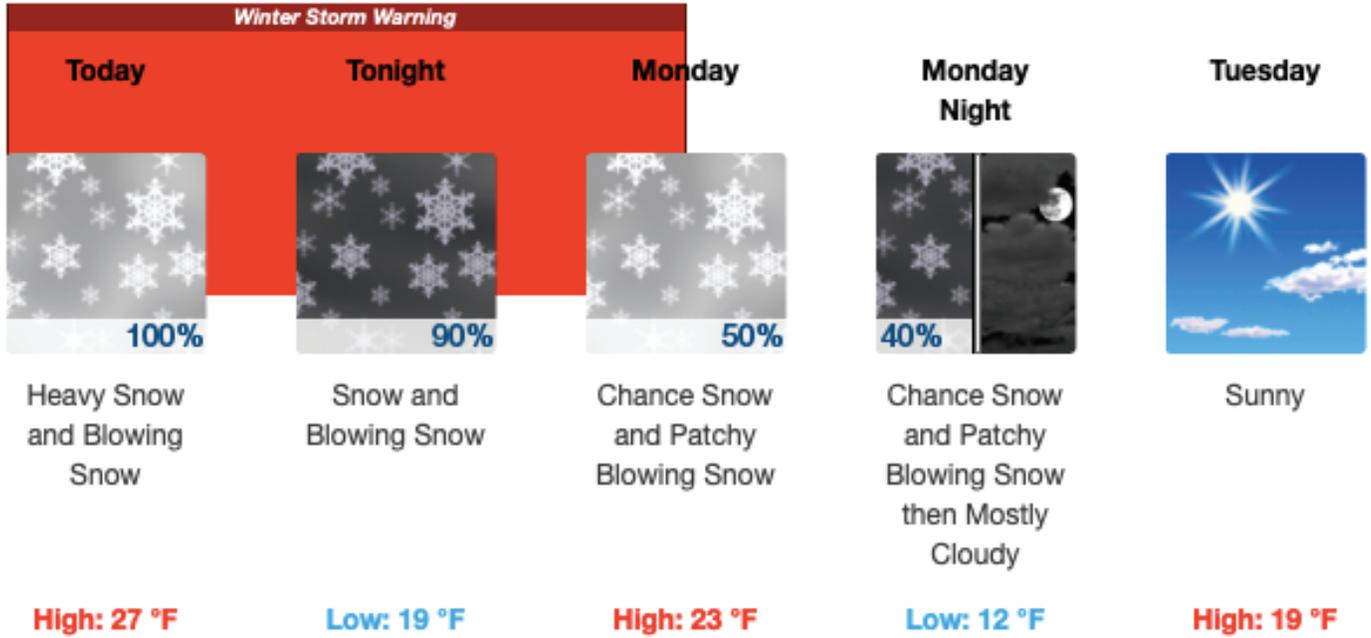
The Brown County Sheriff and the Brown County Emergency Management office have posted NO TRAVEL for all Brown County highway and township roads. This is until further notice.

SD DOT has pulled the state plows for the night and has also posted a NO TRAVEL for state highways in Brown County. The same holds true for neighboring counties.

Its pretty ugly out there and only going to get worse. Please only travel in extreme emergency.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 28 of 52



Light snow is ongoing and expected to become moderate to heavy as the day progresses. Winds gusting 40-50 mph can be expected through Monday morning. After midnight tonight, the snow should lighten up but may continue through much of Monday. Check www.safetravelusa.com for road conditions and closures.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 29 of 52

Today in Weather History

December 29, 2005: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across parts of north-central and most of north-east South Dakota from the morning of the 29th through the early afternoon of the 30th. Big Stone and Traverse counties in west-central Minnesota had 7 to 8 inches of snow the evening of the 29th through the early afternoon of the 30th. Light rain and freezing rain fell before the snow, creating some slick roads which resulted in some accidents. Some snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Watertown, Big Stone City, and Artichoke Lake; 8 inches at Waubay, Browns Valley, and Wheaton; 9 inches northeast of Isabel and Hecla; 10 inches at Wilmot and Clear Lake; 12 inches at Milbank; and 14 inches at Summit.

December 29, 1876: The Pacific Express train was crossing the Ashtabula River in Ohio when the bridge collapsed. The bridge collapsed at 7:28 PM, during a snowstorm that left two feet of snow and produced 40 mph winds. The only railcar not to fall into the icy river below was the first locomotive.

December 29, 1894: Express A severe freeze hit Florida destroying fruit and causing considerable damage to trees.

1830 - A very heavy snowstorm ushered in the "winter of the deep snow." The storm produced 30 inches of snow at Peoria IL and 36 inches at Kansas City MO. Cold and snow continued until the middle of February causing great suffering among pioneers. (David Ludlum)

1894 - A severe freeze hit Florida destroying fruit and causing considerable damage to trees. (David Ludlum)

1954 - Fort Scott, KS, was buried under 26 inches of snow in 24 hours to establish a state record. (28th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1984 - One hundred cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures. Kansas City, MO, experienced its warmest December day of record with a morning low of 60 degrees and an afternoon high of 71 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - A storm off the Middle Atlantic Coast produced heavy snow in the Appalachians and the north-eastern U.S. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in southeastern Massachusetts. Cape Cod received thirteen inches of snow, and snow drifts three feet deep were reported around Chatham MA. Strong winds produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in southwestern New England. In the western U.S., a Pacific coast storm produced heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, with 24 inches reported at Mammoth Mountain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A cold front brought rain and snow to the northwestern U.S. The rainfall total of 2.70 inches at Astoria OR was a record for the date. High winds along the eastern slopes of the Northern Rockies gusted to 81 mph at Livingston MT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Snow and ice prevailed from the southwestern U.S. to the Great Lakes Region. Flagstaff, AZ, received nine inches of snow in just six hours. Bitter cold weather continued over Maine. Portland ME reported a record twenty-two straight days with highs 32 degrees or colder. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 30 of 52

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 34 °F at 10:53 AM

Low Temp: 23 °F at 12:00 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 10:04 PM

Day Precip: 4" Snow 0.31 moisture content

Record High: 59° in 1999

Record Low: -35° in 1917

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 3°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.46

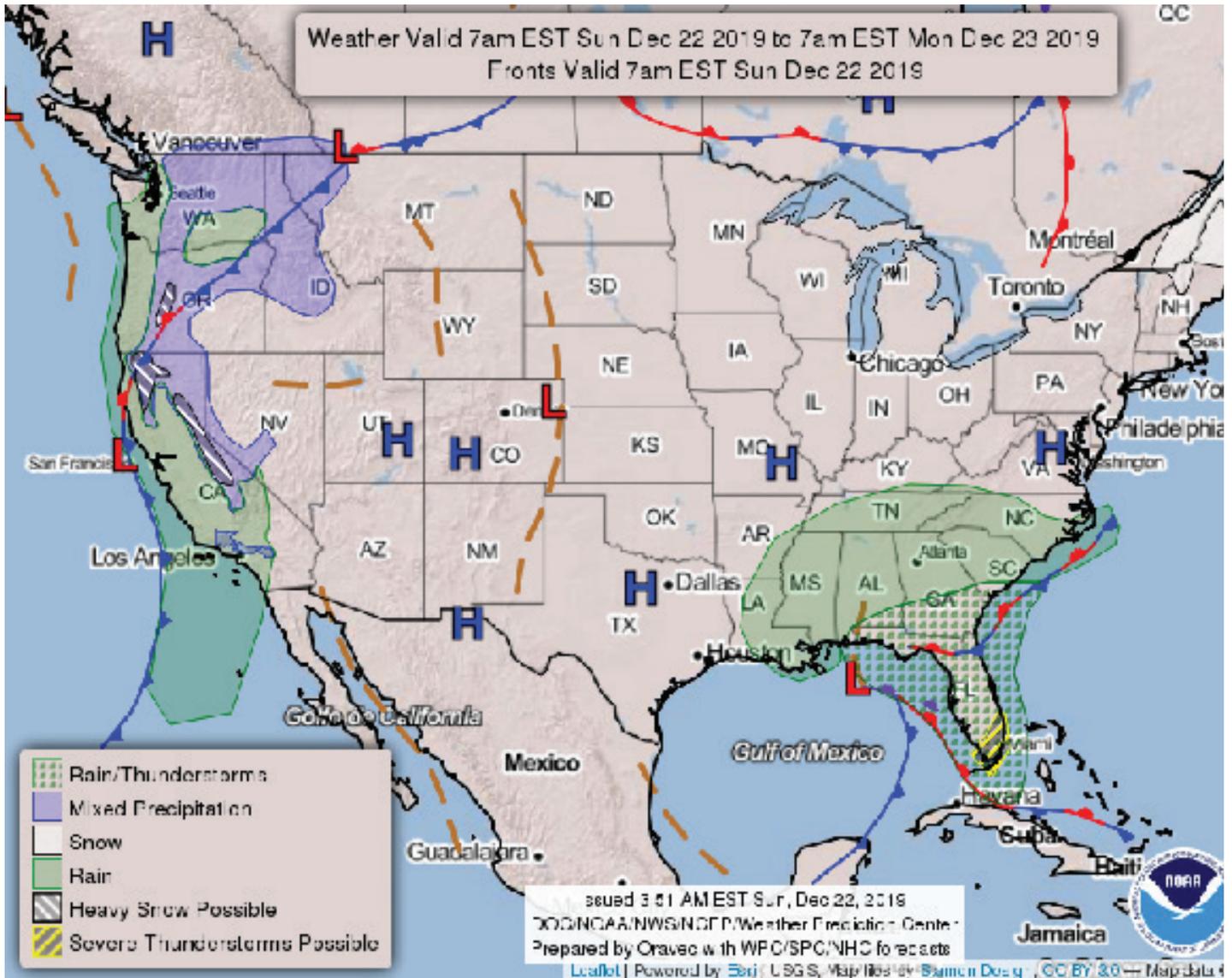
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.65

Average Precip to date: 21.66

Precip Year to Date: 28.60

Sunset Tonight: 4:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 31 of 52



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2020

As we come to the close of this year and face the uncertainties that are before us in the year to come, it is important to pause, listen to, and accept a promise from our God:

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

"In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you search for me with all your heart, you will find me, declares the Lord."

This is one of God's if – then's. There can be no misunderstanding of what He is talking about in this passage of Scripture. God knows our future. He very carefully designed it in our best interest to enable us to find and follow His will. Because He knows our future, He assures us that it can be one of goodness and hope – not one of disaster.

But if we want this future that contains goodness and hope, we must study His Word and go to Him in earnest prayer. He assures us that He will listen to us IF we search for Him with all of our hearts and THEN are obedient to and follow Him. IF we do this, THEN He will bless us.

Perhaps we have prayed and even searched for Him in years past, but did not do so with all our heart. With God, it is always IF you obey me, THEN you can count on Me.

Prayer: Lord, may we come to You this year with sincerity and singleness of heart to find Your plans. Give us Your courage to seek, find, and follow You in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scriptures For Today: Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 32 of 52

2019 Groton SD Community Events

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)
- 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
- 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)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 33 of 52

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

10-16-24-27-34

(ten, sixteen, twenty-four, twenty-seven, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$452,000

Lotto America

09-31-45-47-51, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2

(nine, thirty-one, forty-five, forty-seven, fifty-one; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$6.58 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

Powerball

20-23-39-59-60, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(twenty, twenty-three, thirty-nine, fifty-nine, sixty; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$200 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Brandon Valley 71, DeLaSalle, Minn. 61

Breckenridge, Minn. 80, McIntosh 30

Hoop City Classic=

Bridgewater-Emery 59, Mitchell Christian 32

Houston, Tenn. 68, Yankton 41

Lyman 65, Canistota-Freeman 61

Sioux Falls Christian 68, Central Minnesota Christian, Minn. 36

Sioux Falls Washington 55, Collierville, Tenn. 46

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=

Marshall, Minn. vs. Sioux Falls Lincoln, ccd.

Mobridge-Pollock vs. Ellendale, N.D., ppd.

Viborg-Hurley vs. Northwestern, ppd.

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

St. Thomas More 58, Hill City 38

Hoop City Classic=

Harrisburg 66, Luverne, Minn. 30

Minneota, Minn. 60, Sioux Falls Christian 40

Mitchell 79, Twin Cities Academy, Minn. 14

Yankton 51, Sibley East, Minn. 45

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=

Arlington vs. Milbank, ppd.

Castlewood vs. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, ppd.

Chester vs. Lake Preston, ppd.

DeSmet vs. Sioux Valley, ppd.

Dell Rapids vs. Dell Rapids St. Mary, ppd.
Deubrook vs. Baltic, ppd.
Estelline/Hendricks vs. Deuel, ppd.
Garretson vs. Elkton-Lake Benton, ppd.
Hamlin vs. Flandreau, ppd.
Madison vs. Colman-Egan, ppd.
Mobridge-Pollock vs. Ellendale, N.D., ppd.
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket vs. Ipswich, ppd.

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

5 stabbed at Hanukkah celebration in rabbi's New York home

By RYAN TARINELLI and JUSTIN MADDEN Associated Press

MONSEY, N.Y. (AP) — As people gathered at a rabbi's home north of New York City to celebrate the seventh night of Hanukkah, police said a man stabbed and wounded five before fleeing in a vehicle.

The Saturday night stabbings come on the heels of a string of attacks targeting Jews in the region, including a massacre at a kosher grocery store in New Jersey earlier this month. The rabbi's home is in Monsey, a town not far from the New Jersey state line and one of several in the Hudson Valley that has seen an influx of Hasidic Jews in recent years. The Rockland County town is about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of New York City.

Police said the stabbings happened at around 10 p.m. Hours later, Brad Weidel, the police chief for the town of Ramapo, which covers Monsey, said that New York City police had located a vehicle and a possible suspect sought in connection with the attack. The NYPD hadn't confirmed whether anyone was in custody as of early Sunday morning. Authorities did not immediately provide a motive for the attack.

Five people were hospitalized, Weidel said. The extent of their injuries weren't immediately clear.

The Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council for the Hudson Valley region tweeted reports that the stabbings took place at the house of a Hasidic rabbi during a Hanukkah celebration.

The large home on Forshay Road remained cordoned off with yellow crime-scene tape early Sunday. According to public records, the home belongs to Rabbi Chaim Rottenberg, who leads the adjacent synagogue. Several state and local officials had described the location of the stabbings as a synagogue.

Aron Kohn told The New York Times he was inside the residence during the stabbings.

"I was praying for my life," said Kohn, 65. "He started attacking people right away as soon as he came in the door. We didn't have time to react at all."

The attack drew condemnation from top state officials, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Attorney General Letitia James, as well as from Israel's president and prime minister.

"Israel unequivocally condemns the recent expressions of anti-Semitism and the vicious attack in the middle of Hanukkah on the rabbi's house in Monsey, New York," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "We send our wishes of recovery to the wounded. We will cooperate in every way with the local authorities in order to defeat this phenomenon. We offer our help to each and every state."

Cuomo, who called the stabbings a "cowardly act," directed the New York State Police hate crimes task force to investigate.

"Let me be clear: anti-Semitism and bigotry of any kind are repugnant to our values of inclusion and diversity and we have absolutely zero tolerance for such acts of hate," he said in a statement. "In New York we will always stand up and say with one voice to anyone who wishes to divide and spread fear: you do not represent New York and your actions will not go unpunished."

Jewish communities in the New York City metropolitan area have been left shaken following a deadly Dec. 10 shooting rampage at a Jersey City kosher market. Six people — three people who had been inside the store, a police officer and the two killers — died in the gunbattle and standoff that New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal has said was "fueled" by hatred of Jews and law enforcement.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 35 of 52

Last month, a man was stabbed while walking to a synagogue in the same town that was the site of Saturday night's attack; he required surgery. It's unclear whether the assailant has been arrested.

And this past week in New York City itself, police have received at least six reports — eight since Dec. 13 — of attacks possibly motivated by anti-Jewish bias. Mayor Bill de Blasio said Friday that police presence would increase in Brooklyn neighborhoods home to large Jewish populations.

"I am so sad for this openly #orthodox #Jewish community & the ones across the region," tweeted Evan Bernstein, the regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of New York and New Jersey who went to the scene in Monsey. "When will a break from this hate come? When will the community be able to be relaxed again? #Hanukkah will never be the same for so many of the #Jews impacted."

Madden reported from New York.

Clutch Clemson: No. 3 Tigers beat No. 2 Ohio State 29-23

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Blaring from the Clemson locker room after yet another playoff victory was Aretha Franklin's classic "Respect."

The Tigers have won two of the last three national titles and become college football's gold standard program, yet still often feel overlooked. Doubted. Disrespected.

Sure, Clemson ran roughshod through the Atlantic Coast Conference. But was it too easy?

Facing a serious challenger for the first time in months, No. 3 Clemson and its perfect quarterback had to tap into their championship DNA to advance to the College Football Playoff title game for the fourth time in five years.

Trevor Lawrence connected with Travis Etienne on a 34-yard, go-ahead touchdown with 1:49 left in the fourth quarter, capping a 94-yard march, and the defending national champions beat No. 2 Ohio State 29-23 Saturday night in the Fiesta Bowl.

"We finish," said Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, whose Tigers are 100-2 when leading going into the fourth quarter since 2011. "That's not just who we are. That's what we do."

The Tigers (14-0) will play No. 1 LSU on Jan. 13 in New Orleans, looking for their third national title in the last four seasons.

Clemson played only one close game this season, a one-pointer way back in September against North Carolina. Otherwise the Tigers rarely needed to play a starter in the fourth quarter.

"Everybody kept saying we didn't play nobody, that we blow out teams. Tonight showed what we can do," Clemson receiver Tee Higgins said. "We showed everybody we got fight in us."

Ohio State (13-1) proved to be every bit Clemson's match, though the Buckeyes walked away frustrated by several close officiating calls. Especially two video reviews that could have gone either way and did not go theirs.

"One play can alter the game," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "It didn't seem like we got any of those plays."

The Buckeyes had their 19-game winning streak snapped, losing for the first time under Day.

Ohio State jumped out to a 16-0 lead in the first half and then responded to a Clemson rally to retake the lead, 23-21 in the fourth quarter.

The Tigers got the ball down two at their own 6 with 3:07 left in the fourth quarter. Lawrence, after being up and down for much of the night, suddenly found the Golden Boy form that he used to lead Clemson to a national title as a freshman last year.

The Tigers needed four plays and 1:18, with Lawrence completing all three of his passes and mixing in an 11-yard run. The sophomore quarterback who has never lost a college start passed for 259 yards and two scores and ran for a career-high 107 yards, including a 67-yard touchdown late in the first half.

"Just the fight of this team. Didn't play great. Didn't look pretty, but just finding a way to get it done," Lawrence said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 36 of 52

Lawrence added a 2-point conversion pass to Higgins, but left plenty of time for Ohio State and Justin Fields to respond. The Buckeyes drove to the Clemson 23, but on second-and-7, Fields fired to the end zone and was picked off by Nolan Turner with 37 seconds left. Ohio State receiver Chris Olave had broken off his route thinking Fields was going to scramble.

"That ball was supposed to go to me and I was supposed to run a post and I believe it would have been a touchdown. Definitely put it on me," Olave said.

The pick secured Clemson's 29th straight victory and the Tigers improved to 6-2 in playoff games.

"I told Ryan, that Ohio State team, what an unbelievable game, their quarterback, their back, those guys played their hearts out," Swinney said. "But in the end, our guys showed what they're made of. They've got the heart of a champion, they've got the eye of a tiger."

Ohio State went into the fourth quarter trailing 21-16, and with everything seemingly going Clemson's way. Buckeyes star J.K. Dobbins ran for 174 yards, including two 60-plus yarders in the first half, but was slowed by a twisted left ankle late in the second quarter.

Fields heated up and orchestrated an 84-yard drive, capped by a fourth-and-short, 23-yard touchdown pass to Olave to give make it 23-21 with 11:46 left in the fourth.

Fields, who went to high school 20 miles from Lawrence in the northwest suburbs of Atlanta, passed for 320 yards and a touchdown. But he was picked off twice after throwing just one interception in the regular season.

It was the first matchup between the two former five-star recruit quarterbacks from the class of 2018. They were far from perfect, but both delivered in crunch time. If this is the start of a long rivalry, bring it on.

THE TAKEAWAY

Clemson: The Tigers were in danger of being blown out in the first half, but they managed to come up with three red-zone stops, where Ohio State settled for fields goals. Then they scored two touchdowns in the final three minutes of the half to make it a new game.

"I told them at the half I think we took their best punch," Swinney said.

Ohio State: The calls that folks in Columbus will be talking about for a long time:

— A targeting foul on defensive back Shaun Wade in the second quarter kept Clemson's first touchdown drive alive when the Buckeyes were up 16-0.

— A roughing the punter call against the Buckeyes did the same in the the third quarter and led to Clemson taking its first lead.

— It looked as if Ohio State regained the lead in the third quarter when All-American Jeff Okudah stripped Clemson's Justyn Ross and Jordan Fuller scooped and scored. A video review ruled Ross had not completed the catch and turned a touchdown into an incomplete pass.

Fuller said he had a feeling the fumble was going to be overturned.

"Yeah, just because of the way the game was going," he said.

UP NEXT

Clemson: The Tigers face LSU for the first time since the 2012 Chick-fil-A Bowl. Clemson won that meeting 25-24.

Ohio State: Fields and the Buckeyes start next season against Bowling Green.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen <http://www.westwoodonepodcasts.com/pods/ap-top-25-college-football-podcast/>

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/APTop25CollegeFootballPoll> and <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Sydney New Year's fireworks to go ahead despite wildfires

By TRISTAN LAVALETTE Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Sydney's iconic New Year's Eve fireworks will go ahead despite the wildfire crisis

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 37 of 52

to show the world Australia's resiliency, the prime minister said, while authorities on Sunday braced for conditions to deteriorate with high temperatures.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison also announced financial support for some volunteer firefighters in New South Wales, the state worst hit by wildfires ravaging the nation.

"The world looks at Sydney every single year and they look at our vibrancy, they look at our passion, they look at our success," he said. "In the midst of the challenges that we face, subject to the safety considerations, I can think of no better time to express to the world just how optimistic and positive we are as a country."

The City of Sydney Council gave the green light although fire authorities warned that the fireworks could be canceled if catastrophic conditions are declared.

Morrison said that eligible volunteer firefighters will receive 300 Australian dollars (\$209) a day, up to AU\$6,000 (\$4,190) in total, if called out to battle blazes for more than 10 days. The compensation focused on people who are self-employed or work for small and medium businesses.

"The early and prolonged nature of this fire season has made a call beyond what is typically made on our volunteer firefighters," he said.

Morrison, who has been under pressure since taking a much criticized family vacation to Hawaii during the wildfire crisis, announced last week that volunteer firefighters from the federal public sector will receive paid leave entitlements.

The opposition Labor party has been pressing the government to consider widespread compensation for volunteer firefighters.

"A lot of everyone's stunned, a lot of time away from work," said Sean Warren, a volunteer firefighter for about seven years. "A lot of people are using up their annual leave as well. A lot of people are just missing their families ... they've skipped Christmas with their families and their grandchildren. So yeah, it's a wide extreme of sacrifice that people have been putting in."

Morrison said the compensation was necessary so that the New South Wales fires commissioner is in a position to continue to call out the volunteer force.

The program is expected to cost AU\$50 million (\$34.9 million) but will be uncapped with the first AU\$10 million (\$6.9 million) being made available next month. Morrison said it would be offered to other states and territories requesting help.

Wildfires have also flared in Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia.

New South Wales, the country's most populous state, has received the brunt of the wildfire catastrophe, which has killed nine people nationwide and razed more than 1,000 homes in the past few months.

High temperatures in the country's east are expected until the new year. Sydney's western suburbs were set to hit 41 degrees Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) Sunday before peaking at 44 C (111 F) on Tuesday.

Fire danger in Sydney and northern New South Wales is currently at very high.

New South Wales Rural Fire Services Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said 85 fires were still burning across the state with almost half of them not contained.

"We've got some deteriorating weather conditions over the coming days, particularly Monday and worsening through to Tuesday," he said.

An emergency warning was issued Sunday for Victoria's east as conditions worsen. Melbourne, the state's capital, was set to reach 43 C (109 F) on Monday.

Breathtaking: Burrow throws 7 TDs, LSU routs Oklahoma 63-28

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Joe Burrow and the LSU Tigers turned in a first half for the ages, a breathtaking offensive display even as their coordinator grieved a horrific tragedy from his box high above the field.

This team from the bayou is truly something special.

With one more victory, it will be a national champion.

In his first game as a Heisman Trophy winner, Burrow threw for seven touchdowns and 493 yards as No.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 38 of 52

1 LSU romped to a stunning 63-28 victory over No. 4 Oklahoma in the Peach Bowl semifinal game Saturday. The Tigers (14-0) are headed to the title game against No. 3 Clemson — a 29-23 winner over No. 2 Ohio State in the second semifinal in Arizona — clicking on all cylinders, having dismantled the Sooners (12-2) with a 30-minute outburst that will long be remembered in Cajun country.

"We go into every game thinking nobody can stop us," Burrow said.

Certainly, the Sooners couldn't.

Burrow tied the record for any college bowl game with his seven TD passes — which all came before the bands hit the field for the halftime show at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Justin Jefferson was on the receiving end for four of those scoring plays, also tying a bowl record.

As if that wasn't enough, Burrow scored an eighth TD himself on a 3-yard run in the third quarter, thoroughly dominating his expected duel with Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts, the Heisman runner-up.

Yet, the postgame celebration was weighed down by heavy hearts.

LSU offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger learned shortly before kickoff that his daughter-in-law, broadcaster Carley McCord, was among five people killed in a plane crash in Louisiana. The small plane went down shortly after takeoff for what was supposed to be a flight to Atlanta for the game.

Head coach Ed Orgeron delivered the news to Ensminger, who was seen with tears running down his cheeks but stuck to the task at hand.

"Coach, we're going to get through this," Ensminger told his boss.

Then the coordinator headed to his usual spot in the box, calling plays alongside passing game coordinator Joe Brady.

It was a brilliant, poignant performance in the face of such grief. The players didn't learn until afterward what Ensminger was going through.

"I can't think of what he was able to do today with the circumstances," Brady said. "It speaks to the type of man he is."

LSU needed only three plays to race 42 yards for its first score — a perfectly thrown ball over Jefferson's shoulder for a 19-yard TD less than 3 minutes into the game.

Oklahoma briefly put up a fight. Hurts' 51-yard pass to CeeDee Lamb set up a 3-yard touchdown run by Kennedy Brooks that tied the score at 7.

After that, the rout was on.

It was 49-14 by halftime.

The Tigers' potent spread offense made this one look much like the Harlem Globetrotters carving up the Washington Generals, only it was the Sooners playing the hapless victim.

Jefferson hauled in a 35-yard pass for touchdown No. 2. Then a 42-yarder for No. 3. And, finally, a 30-yard scoring strike that left him counting off four fingers for the crowd — all before the midway point of the second quarter.

Terrace Marshall Jr. contributed to the onslaught with TD catches of 8 and 2 yards. Tight end Thaddeus Moss — the son of NFL Hall of Fame receiver Randy Moss — made his daddy proud by getting free behind the secondary, hauling in a pass and shoving off a fast-closing defender to complete the 62-yard scoring play.

"One team, one heartbeat," Orgeron said.

It was a miserable finale for Hurts, who closed out a nomadic college career that began with him leading Alabama to a pair of national championship games before losing his starting job to Tua Tagovailoa. After graduating, Hurts transferred to Oklahoma for a one-and-done season that produced some dazzling numbers but ended short of the ultimate goal.

Running for his life most of the game, Hurts was largely stymied on the ground and through the air. He ran for a pair of touchdowns but gained just 43 yards with his legs. He was held to 15 of 31 for 217 yards passing, giving up a brilliant, leaping interception to Kary Vincent Jr. that quickly brought the LSU offense back on the field as the Tigers were blowing the game open.

"We needed to take advantage of every opportunity we had against a team like this," Hurts said. "We failed to do that."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 39 of 52

BLINDSIDE HIT

Oklahoma defensive back Brendan Radley-Hiles was ejected early in the second quarter for a brutal hit on LSU's Clyde Edwards-Helaire.

With Burrow scrambling toward the sideline, Radley-Hiles delivered the blindside shot to Edwards-Helaire coming out of the backfield.

The officials did not throw a flag, but a video review showed that Radley-Hiles leaped into the defenseless player with a shoulder to the helmet.

Three plays later, Burrow went deep to Jefferson for a TD that extended LSU's lead to 28-7.

THE TAKEAWAY

Oklahoma: Playing for the first time in a city where the Braves have become notorious for their flops in the Major League Baseball playoffs, the Sooners turned in a familiar performance. They have made the College Football Playoff four times in the six-year history of the format, but have yet to win a game. That could affect the way the selection committee views the Sooners the next time they're in the mix — or any other Big 12 school, for that matter.

LSU: While this game will be remembered for the dynamic offensive showing, the Tigers' defense kept up its encouraging turnaround over the latter part of the season. They held Oklahoma to 322 yards — far below its 554.2-yard average coming into the game, which ranked second nationally behind LSU. The front line kept the heat on Hurts, who was sacked twice and often wound up on his backside when he got the ball away.

UP NEXT

Oklahoma: Hurts' departure leaves a big hole to fill at quarterback, but freshman Spencer Rattler was one of the nation's top prospects coming out of high school. He played in three games this season, including a mop-up role in the closing minutes of the Peach Bowl. Rattler will likely be leading the offense when the 2020 season begins Sept. 5 against Missouri State.

LSU: The Tigers will head back to Louisiana for a de facto home game at the Superdome on Jan. 13. That mirrors their last title run during the 2007 season, when they beat Ohio State 38-24 in New Orleans for the BCS championship. "Just getting there is not our final destination," Orgeron said. "We're looking to win it."

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963 His work can be found at <https://apnews.com>

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

Under weight of family tragedy, LSU coach crafts big win

By CHARLES ODUM AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Steve Ensminger wiped tears from his eyes after first walking onto the football field at Mercedes-Benz Stadium for LSU's pregame warmups.

The Tigers assistant was still fighting his emotions when he quickly left the field after the top-ranked team in the country earned a spot in the national championship game.

It was a flawless performance by LSU for those watching. What fans and the national TV audience didn't see was how LSU's offensive coordinator managed to persevere through the unthinkable sorrow of losing his daughter-in-law earlier in the day in a deadly plane crash. Ensminger was able to compose himself and call the game of his life amid the personal tragedy.

LSU passing game coordinator Joe Brady witnessed Ensminger's struggles firsthand, sitting alongside him in their usual perch above the field in the coaches' booth during the game.

"It definitely got emotional before the game," said Brady, who is also the Tiger's wide receivers coach. "I can't think of what he was able to do today with the circumstances.

"It speaks to the type of man he is."

Carley McCord, Ensminger's daughter-in-law, was one of five passengers killed in a plane crash at the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 40 of 52

Lafayette (Louisiana) Regional Airport early Saturday. The plane was bound for Atlanta, and McCord planned to cheer for the Tigers in the Peach Bowl.

But Ensminger — who did not speak to the media before or after the game — still helped the Tigers crush No. 4 Oklahoma 63-28 on Saturday in the Peach Bowl playoff semifinal. LSU players didn't learn of the tragedy until after the game. But anyone who had seen the news could identify with the pain on Ensminger's face when he first walked onto the field.

Before LSU heads to the Jan. 13 national championship game in New Orleans, Ensminger is going home to seek comfort from family and friends.

LSU quarterback Joe Burrow called Ensminger "a football guy" and said "The best thing for him is to be around this football team."

Ensminger, 61, said earlier this week this LSU offense is the one he has waited 38 years to coach. His career masterpiece was never more impressive than on Saturday, when a spot in the national championship game was on the line.

Burrow threw seven touchdown passes. The Tigers gained 692 yards.

"For coach E to come out and call the plays that he called, it goes to show you he was able to focus in and obviously someone was watching over him," said running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire.

Wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase said Ensminger will have support from the team.

"I felt sorry for him and what he is going through," Chase said. "I hope he knows we all in this locker room are with him the whole way. I just pray for him."

McCord, a TV reporter, was part of the NBA New Orleans Pelicans' and NFL New Orleans Saints' game-day entertainment staff.

"Carley was such a great person, such a vibrant person and obviously our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her family," said Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry. "It's just a really, really tough loss to take. She was just such an intricate part of everything that went on around here. It's such a great tragedy, but we want her family to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers."

LSU coach Ed Orgeron shielded his players from the news of the plane crash until after the game, but he couldn't protect himself from the hurt.

"I was the one that had to tell coach," Orgeron said. "I told him what happened, and here's what he said: 'Coach, we're going to get through this.' And obviously he was distraught, but he called a great game today."

AP Sports Writer Brett Martel contributed to this report.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/APTop25CollegeFootballPoll> and <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Plane crash kills 5, including LSU coach's daughter-in-law

By JANELLE COGAN and SUDHIN THANAWALA

ATLANTA (AP) — A small plane en route to a college football playoff game crashed into a post office parking lot in Louisiana shortly after takeoff Saturday, killing five people, including a well-known sports reporter who was the daughter-in-law of one of the team's coaches.

The two-engine Piper Cheyenne crashed in the city of Lafayette about a mile from the regional airport where the flight began, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Tony Molinaro said. Investigators from the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating, according to Molinaro and an NTSB statement on Twitter.

The plane was an eight-passenger aircraft, said Lafayette Fire Chief Robert Benoit. Six people were on board the plane, five of whom were killed, he said. The sixth, a 37-year-old man, was being treated at an area hospital along with two people who were in the post office.

A person who was either in or near a car on the ground was also "impacted" by the crash and was being treated for injuries, Benoit said. He did not elaborate. A blackened car sat in the post office parking lot,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 41 of 52

which was carpeted with scattered tree limbs.

Kevin Jackson and other eyewitnesses told KLFY-TV that the plane hit a car as it fell, and that someone could be heard screaming inside the vehicle.

Steven Ensminger Jr., son of the offensive coordinator for the Louisiana State University football team, said his wife, Carley McCord, was on board the flight and died when it crashed. He said the plane was en route to the Peach Bowl playoff game in Atlanta between LSU and Oklahoma.

"I just don't feel like this is real," Ensminger Jr. told the AP in an Instagram message.

Ensminger Jr. said he was unable to go to the game and was at work when the crash happened. He said his father, Steven Ensminger, called him just before the elder Ensminger got to the stadium. The coach had tears in his eyes when he appeared on the field at the start of the game Saturday afternoon, and LSU players embraced him with hugs.

"He's the MVP right now," LSU head coach Ed Orgeron said in an on-air halftime interview. LSU won 63-28.

The Lafayette Fire Department identified the other people who were killed as Ian E. Biggs, 51, the plane's pilot; Robert Vaughn Crisp II, 59; Gretchen D. Vincent, 51; and Michael Walker Vincent, 15. The injured passenger, Stephen Wade Berzas, was in critical condition, said department spokesman Alton Trahan.

Several of the victims had ties to Global Data Systems, a Lafayette-based tech company. The business' website shows that Crisp was the vice president of operations and Biggs, according to his LinkedIn profile, was a pilot and aircraft manager for GDS. Gretchen Vincent was the wife of the company's CEO, The Advocate reported, according to one of her husband's friends. Michael Walker Vincent was Gretchen Vincent's son, according to a statement from the teenager's school.

The plane went down in a part of the city with a scattering of banks, fast food chains and other businesses. A trail of scorched and burning grass could be seen around the crash site.

Marty Brady, 22, said the lights went out at his apartment a couple of hundred yards (183 meters) or so away from where the plane crashed just as he was making his morning coffee.

Brady said he ran out and saw black smoke and flames from the post office parking lot. He said the plane clipped and knocked down a power line over the gate to his apartment complex.

"If it had been a little lower, it could have been a lot worse," he said.

McCord was a Baton Rouge native and sports reporter for WDSU-TV in New Orleans and appeared as a sideline reporter for ESPN, according to her website. She previously worked in television in Cleveland, and she was a two-time runner-up in the Miss Louisiana pageant.

"We are devastated by the loss of such an amazing talent and valued member of our WDSU family," said WDSU President and General Manager, Joel Vilmenay. "Carley's passion for sports journalism and her deep knowledge of Louisiana sports, from high school to the professional ranks, made her an exceptional journalist."

McCord was also part of the game-day entertainment staff for the NFL's New Orleans Saints and the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans, regularly appearing in promotional segments broadcast during games.

"Carley was a valued member of both our New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Pelicans family as an in-game host and her infectious personality and knowledge of both teams entertained our fans," the two teams said.

Ensminger Jr. said he and his wife had the same birthday, and he shared a photo of the two celebrating at a restaurant, a dessert with a candle between them. His Instagram account shows photos of the couple and their families at various sporting events and celebrations. He updated the account Saturday to say: "I'll never be the same with out you, Carley! You are, and will forever be my world."

McCord is the second journalist working in the New Orleans area to die in a plane crash this year. On August 16, WVUE news anchor Nancy Parker was doing a story in New Orleans about stunt pilot Franklin Augustus when the plane crashed. Both Parker and Augustus died.

The NTSB announced that Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg and an eight-person investigative team were being sent to the scene of Saturday's crash.

Landsberg will be there as a spokesman due to the high-profile nature of the crash, NTSB spokesman

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 42 of 52

Terry Williams said.

Lafayette is the fourth-largest city in Louisiana with a population of about 130,000, according to the 2018 census. It is located about 135 miles west of New Orleans.

—
This story has been edited to correct that the playoff game is in Atlanta, not Louisiana.

Trump retweets post naming alleged whistleblower

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** and **DAVID KLEPPER** Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump retweeted a post that included the alleged name of the anonymous whistleblower whose complaint ultimately led to Trump's impeachment by the House.

Just before midnight Friday, Trump retweeted a message from Twitter user @Surfermom77, an account that claims to be a woman named Sophia who lives in California. The account shows some indications of automation, including an unusually high amount of activity and profile pictures featuring stock images from the internet.

By Saturday morning, the post seemed to have disappeared on many users' feeds, suggesting Trump had deleted it, though it could still be found in other ways, including on a website that logs every presidential tweet.

The retweet then reappeared Saturday night. Twitter told The Associated Press that an outage with one of its systems caused tweets on some accounts, including Trump's, to be visible to some but not others.

Trump has repeatedly backed efforts to unmask the whistleblower. But his Friday night retweet marks the first time he has directly sent the alleged name into the Twitter feed of his 68 million followers.

Unmasking the whistleblower, who works in the intelligence field, could violate federal protection laws that have historically been supported by both parties.

The whistleblower filed a complaint in August about one of Trump's telephone conversations with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and other dealings with the Eastern European nation. The complaint prompted House Democrats to launch a probe that ended with Trump's impeachment earlier this month. The matter now heads to the Senate, where the Republican majority is expected to acquit the president.

The central points from the whistleblower's complaint were confirmed during the House impeachment hearings by a string of diplomats and other career officials, many of whom testified in public. The White House also released a transcript of Trump's July 25 phone call with Zelenskiy, in which he asks for help investigating former Vice President Joe Biden and the Democratic National Committee.

Speculation about the whistleblower's identity has been circulating in conservative media and on social media for months.

U.S. whistleblower laws exist to protect the identity and careers of people who bring forward accusations of wrongdoing by government officials. The Associated Press typically does not reveal the identity of whistleblowers.

Trump insists he did nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine and has asserted that the whistleblower made up the complaint, despite its corroboration by other officials. Trump also argues that he has a right to face his accuser and has called on the whistleblower to step forward.

For months, an array of right-wing personalities, amateur pro-Trump internet sleuths and some conservative news outlets have published what they claim to be details about the whistleblower, including name and career history. The president himself has also been inching closer to outing the individual; earlier this week, Trump shared a tweet linking to a Washington Examiner article that included the alleged name.

Surfermom77, the Twitter handle on the post Trump retweeted, describes herself as a "100% Trump Supporter" and California resident. The account had nearly 79,000 followers as of Saturday afternoon. Some of its previous posts have denounced Islam and sharply criticized former President Barack Obama and other Democrats.

Surfermom77 has displayed some hallmarks of a Twitter bot, an automated account. A recent profile picture on the account, for instance, is a stock photo of a woman in business attire that is available for

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 43 of 52

use online.

That photo was removed Saturday and replaced with an image of Trump.

A deeper look at Surfermom77's account shows the user previously used two other stock photos as profile pictures, including one of a model wearing an orange hat used by a hat retailer.

Surfermom77 has also tweeted far more than typical users, more than 170,000 times since the account was activated in 2013. Surfermom77 has posted, on average, 72 tweets a day, according to Nir Hauser, chief technology officer at VineSight, a technology firm that tracks online misinformation.

"That's not something most humans are doing," Hauser said.

While many bots only repost benign information like cat photos, others have been used to spread disinformation or polarizing claims, as Russian bots did in the lead up to the 2016 election.

In past years, Surfermom77 has described herself as a teacher, historian, documentary author and model. Attempts to reach the person behind the account by telephone on Saturday were unsuccessful. An email address could not be found.

Facebook has a policy banning posts that name the alleged whistleblower. But Twitter, which doesn't have such a rule, has not removed the tweet from Supermom77 or tweets from others who have named the alleged whistleblower.

"The Tweet you referenced is not a violation of the Twitter Rules," the company wrote in a statement emailed to The Associated Press.

Some details about the whistleblower that have been published online by Trump's supporters have been inaccurate or misrepresented.

For example, a photo shared widely on social media last month was circulated by Facebook, Reddit and Twitter users who wrongly claimed it showed the whistleblower with Obama's staffers outside the White House as Trump moved in.

The individual in the photo actually was R. David Edelman, a former special assistant to Obama on economic and tech policy. Edelman debunked the claim on his Twitter account and told the AP he received threats online as a result of the false claims.

Michael German, an FBI whistleblower who left the agency after reporting allegations of mismanagement in counterterrorism cases, said outing government whistleblowers not only puts them at personal risk but also discourages other government officials from stepping forward to expose possible wrongdoing.

German, now a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School, said the ease with which the alleged whistleblower's identity has been spread online shows the need for greater legal protections for whistleblowers.

He added that it's "completely inappropriate for the president of the United States to be engaged in any type of behavior that could harm a whistleblower."

Kepler reported from Providence, R.I. Associated Press writer Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

A final fundraiser for man who boosted ice bucket challenge

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (AP) — Hundreds of people plunged into the chilly ocean at a Massachusetts beach on Saturday to honor Peter Frates, the former college baseball player whose battle with Lou Gehrig's disease helped spread the ALS ice bucket challenge.

About 1,000 people showed up for the final "Plunge for Pete" at Good Harbor Beach in Gloucester, and more than half of those braved the frigid waters on what would have been Frates' 35th birthday.

The event, in its eighth year, raised money for the Pete Frates #3 Fund, which helped pay for Frates' medical bills.

"He is laughing so hard right now at me getting into the ocean," said Frates' wife, Julie, who participated in the plunge for the first time wearing the bikini she had on when she first met her husband. "This is the best birthday party he could ask for and wherever he is, he is very grateful."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 44 of 52

The former Boston College baseball player, who lived in Beverly, a suburb north of Boston, died Dec. 9 after a seven-year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The family has accumulated roughly \$500,000 in debt for their son's medical care, Pete's father, John Frates said, and the final fundraiser will hopefully help close the gap.

The family will continue to raise money for the separate Peter Frates Family Foundation, which helps other ALS patients cover home health care costs, he said.

The number of people who signed up to take the actual plunge far exceeded the peak of 250 participants who participated in 2014, the year the ice bucket challenge went viral and raised more than \$200 million for ALS research worldwide.

The ice bucket challenge involved pouring a bucket of ice water over one's head and posting a video of it on social media, and then challenging others to do the same or make a donation to charity. Most people did both.

The challenge began in 2014 when pro golfer Chris Kennedy challenged his wife's cousin Jeanette Senerchia, whose husband has ALS. Patient Pat Quinn, of Yonkers, New York, picked up on it and started its spread, but when Frates and his family got involved, the phenomenon exploded on social media.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that leads to paralysis because of the death of motor neurons in the spinal cord and brain. There is no known cure.

Hundreds of accused clergy left off church's sex abuse lists

By **CLAUDIA LAUER** and **MEGHAN HOYER** Associated Press

Richard J. Poster served time for possessing child pornography, violated his probation by having contact with children, admitted masturbating in the bushes near a church school and in 2005 was put on a sex offender registry. And yet the former Catholic priest was only just this month added to a list of clergy members credibly accused of child sexual abuse — after The Associated Press asked why he was not included.

Victims advocates had long criticized the Roman Catholic Church for not making public the names of credibly accused priests. Now, despite the dioceses' release of nearly 5,300 names, most in the last two years, critics say the lists are far from complete.

An AP analysis found more than 900 clergy members accused of child sexual abuse who were missing from lists released by the dioceses and religious orders where they served.

The AP reached that number by matching those public diocesan lists against a database of accused priests tracked by the group BishopAccountability.org and then scouring bankruptcy documents, lawsuits, settlement information, grand jury reports and media accounts.

More than a hundred of the former clergy members not listed by dioceses or religious orders had been charged with sexual crimes, including rape, solicitation and receiving or viewing child pornography.

On top of that, the AP found another nearly 400 priests and clergy members who were accused of abuse while serving in dioceses that have not yet released any names.

"No one should think, 'Oh, the bishops are releasing their lists, there's nothing left to do,'" said Terence McKiernan, co-founder of BishopAccountability.org, who has been tracking the abuse crisis and cataloging accused priests for almost two decades, accumulating a database of thousands of priests.

"There are a lot of holes in these lists," he said. "There's still a lot to do to get to actual, true transparency."

Church officials say that absent an admission of guilt, they have to weigh releasing a name against harming the reputation of priests who may have been falsely accused. By naming accused priests, they note, they also open themselves to lawsuits from those who maintain their innocence.

Earlier this month, former priest John Tormey sued the Providence, Rhode Island, diocese, saying his reputation was irreparably harmed by his inclusion on the diocese's credibly accused list. After the list was made public, he said he was asked to retire by the community college where he had worked for over a decade.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 45 of 52

Some dioceses have excluded entire classes of clergy members from their lists — priests in religious orders, deceased priests who had only one allegation against them, priests ordained in foreign countries and, sometimes, deacons or seminarians ousted before they were ordained.

Others, like Poster, were excluded because of technicalities.

Poster's name was not included when the Davenport, Iowa, diocese issued its first list of two dozen credibly accused priests in 2008. The diocese said his crime of possessing more than 270 videos and images of child pornography on his work laptop was not originally a qualifying offense in the church's landmark charter on child abuse because there wasn't a direct victim.

After he was released from prison, the diocese found Poster a job as a maintenance man at its office, but he was fired less than a year later after admitting to masturbating in the bushes on the property, which abuts a Catholic high school. Still, the diocese did not list him.

Poster went on to violate the terms of his probation, admitting he had contact with minors at a bookstore and near an elementary school, federal court records unsealed at the AP's request show. A judge sent him back to jail for two months and imposed several other monitoring conditions.

Child pornography was added to the church's child abuse charter in 2011 and, though the diocese promised it would update its list of perpetrators as required under a court-approved bankruptcy plan, it never included Poster.

"It was an oversight," diocese spokesman Deacon David Montgomery told the AP. He said the public had been kept informed about the case through press releases issued from Poster's arrest until his removal from the priesthood in 2007.

Poster, now 54, lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, near a school and two parks. He hasn't been accused of any wrongdoing for more than a decade and declined to comment when reached by the AP, saying he preferred to stay out of the spotlight.

Of the 900 unlisted accused clergy members, more than a tenth had been charged with a sex-related crime — a higher percentage than those named publicly by dioceses and orders, the AP found.

Dioceses varied widely in what they considered a credible accusation. Like Poster, some of the priests criminally charged with child pornography weren't listed because some dioceses said a victim needed to report a complaint. In addition to Poster, the AP review found 15 other priests charged with possessing, distributing or creating child pornography who were not included on any list.

Other dioceses created exceptions for a host of other reasons, ranging from cases being deemed not credible by a board of lay church people to the clergy members in question having since died and thus being unable to defend themselves.

"If your goal is protecting kids and healing victims, your lists will be as broad and detailed as possible. If your goal is protecting your reputation and institution, it will be narrow and vague. And that's the choice most bishops are making," said David Clohessy, the former executive director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, who now heads the group's St. Louis chapter.

The largest exceptions were made for the nearly 400 priests in religious orders who, while they serve in diocesan schools and parishes, don't report to the bishops.

Richard J. McCormick, a Salesian priest who worked at parishes, schools and religious camps in dioceses in Florida, New York, Massachusetts, Indiana and Louisiana, has been accused of molesting or having inappropriate contact with children from three states. In 2009, his order settled the first three civil claims against him. Yet he does not appear on any list of credibly accused clergy members.

McCormick finally faced criminal charges after one of his victims spotted the priest's name on a very different list — one posted in 2011 by a Boston lawyer, Mitchell Garabedian, who represents church sexual abuse victims.

Thirty years had gone by, but Joey Covino said he immediately recognized a photo of McCormick as the priest who had molested him over two summers at a Salesian camp, a woodsy retreat for underprivileged boys in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Covino's boyhood had revolved around church, where he served as an altar boy, played in a Catholic Little League and where his mother — raising four children on her own —

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 46 of 52

gratefully accepted assistance from friendly priests.

When she sent Covino and his brothers back to the free camp for a second year, "I was petrified — petrified — and I couldn't say anything. I couldn't even ask my brothers to see if it had happened to them," said Covino, now 49 and a police officer in Revere, Massachusetts. "I've always told myself I should have done something. I should have fought back."

Covino said the entirety of his adult life had been altered by McCormick's abuse — failed relationships, his decisions to join the military and later the police, nightmares that plagued him. His decision to come forward led to McCormick being convicted of rape in 2014 and sentenced to up to 10 years. The priest since has pleaded guilty to assaulting another boy.

The Salesians, based in New Rochelle, New York, have never posted a list of credibly accused priests. "Our men who have been credibly accused and have had accusations have been listed in the various dioceses that we serve," said Father Steve Ryan, vice provincial of the order.

Ryan said he was certain McCormick's name appeared on several lists, including Boston's.

But when Boston posted its list in 2011, Archbishop Sean Patrick O'Malley wrote that he was not including priests from religious orders or visiting clerics because the diocese "does not determine the outcome in such cases; that is the responsibility of the priest's order or diocese."

O'Malley since has called on religious orders to post their own lists, spokesman Terry Donilon said.

The AP found the Boston archdiocese has the most accused priests left off its list, with almost 80 not included. Nearly three-quarters, like McCormick, were priests from religious orders. Another dozen died before allegations were received — another exclusion cited by the archdiocese.

McCormick also is not on the New York archdiocese's list or lists posted by the Archdiocese of Gary, Indiana, and the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida — both places where he faced accusations. The archdiocese in New Orleans, where McCormick served in 1991, added his name to its list of credibly accused priests only after an inquiry from the AP.

Priests named on any list were excluded from the AP's undercount analysis, even if they were not named on lists in the other dioceses where they served. Because the AP counted only priests left off all lists, critics say the number of 900 unnamed priests represents just a tiny portion of the true scope of the underreporting problem.

Other priests excluded from the credibly accused lists were left off because of findings from the diocesan investigations process.

Review boards — independent panels in each diocese staffed with lay people to review allegations of abuse — make the initial recommendation on whether an allegation is credible. The standards those boards use to investigate claims and the process itself often is so shrouded from public view that some victims say they weren't allowed to attend when their allegations were discussed.

Dozens of priests whose accusers received payouts or legal settlements were left off credibly accused lists because review boards deemed the accusations not substantiated or because bishops or even the Vatican later overturned the board's findings on appeal. The standards for Vatican appeals are even more secretive.

In 2006, the Chicago Archdiocese's review board investigated a claim from two brothers who alleged a priest named Robert Stepek had abused them. The board found "reasonable cause to suspect that sexual abuse of minors occurred," but Stepek was restored to good standing in 2013 after a Vatican court said it was "unable to find evidence strong enough." The court found Stepek engaged in inappropriate behavior for a priest, however, and he remained without an assignment under restrictions until his death in 2016.

The AP found about 45 accused clergy members who did not appear on the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's list of credibly accused priests. The archdiocese said they were excluded for a variety of reasons, including deciding that about a dozen priests found unsuitable for ministry by a review board due to conduct involving minors did not do anything that rose to the level of abuse.

A spokesman said the archdiocese has a thorough and transparent investigation process, but declined to comment on any of the individual cases of priests not named on its list.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro told the AP that he had to fight church leaders to release a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 47 of 52

groundbreaking 2018 grand jury report that named more than 300 predator priests and cataloged clergy abuse over seven decades in six of the state's dioceses, not including Philadelphia.

Several bishops played a direct role in covering up the abuse in Pennsylvania, Shapiro said.

"You can't put much stock in the lists that the church voluntarily provides because they cannot be trusted to police themselves," he said.

In Buffalo, New York, Bishop Richard Malone resigned under pressure earlier this month after his executive assistant leaked internal church documents to a reporter after becoming concerned the bishop had intentionally omitted dozens of names from its list of credibly accused priests.

Buffalo's list has more than doubled to 105 clergy members since those documents were released. Still, the AP found nearly three dozen accused priests who remain unnamed by the diocese.

The number of new claims being reported to law enforcement and church officials over the last two years has increased, spurred in part by revelations of abuse from high-ranking church officials such as former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and by the Pennsylvania grand jury report and the more than 20 other state investigations launched in its wake.

The AP found more than 130 priests who were accused in the last two years whose names do not appear on any lists. Another 37 unlisted priests were accused under New York's Child Victims Act, which recently opened a window for victims to file civil lawsuits regardless of the statute of limitations, a trend being echoed across the country.

Anne Burke, now chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, was part of the Catholic Church's inaugural National Review Board, a commission formed to help implement the church's 2002 child abuse charter.

"We gave our report and recommendations over 15 years ago. They never followed through. That was the final nail in the coffin as far as we were concerned in terms of the bishops ever being able to pull themselves away ... from the bureaucracy and be transparent," Burke said. "That is why we are here again today, and it's worse."

Many advocates say the church has a long way to go toward being transparent and are determined to see that it becomes far more open about problem priests.

Attorney Jeff Anderson, known for suing dioceses for information on accused clergy, has released almost 30 various rosters of clergy he has received allegations against or whose names appear in church documents.

"We feel a fierce public imperative to continue to release our lists because those released by dioceses contain only a fraction of the true report," Anderson said. "And they lead people to believe they are coming clean when they are not."

It was a list that Anderson's law firm released in the Archdiocese of New York that led 34-year-old Joe Caramanno to file a complaint, decades after he said he was abused.

Caramanno had been hospitalized for an anxiety disorder when he was a teenager and part of his return to high school involved mandated meetings with a priest who controlled his medication. It was during those sessions that Caramanno said Monsignor John Paddack fondled him.

Caramanno, now a teacher, said it wasn't until he saw Paddack's name on Anderson's list that he felt he could come forward. "I needed the validation that it wasn't just me. It made it more real," he said.

The archdiocese's official list of credibly accused priests, released a few months after Anderson's, contains only half the names and does not include Paddack, who has stepped down during the ongoing investigation.

"It makes me wonder if I hadn't come forward ... would he still be an active priest?" said Caramanno, who has filed a lawsuit against the archdiocese under New York's Child Victims Act.

An archdiocese spokesman said a request for comment had been relayed to Paddack, but the priest did not respond.

Victims and advocates say the church should be transparent about investigations when allegations are received, arguing that trust in the church can be restored only if bishops are completely forthcoming.

Several dioceses have chosen to include priests under investigation on their lists, removing them if the allegations are determined to be unsubstantiated, but many others do not disclose investigations or

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 48 of 52

include those names.

"Every cleric no matter where they came from or were ordained or went to school or who signs their paycheck ... all of that is hair-splitting and irrelevant," said Clohessy, of the group SNAP. "What matters is one question: Did or does this credibly accused predator have access to my flock ever? Even for a few hours. If the answer is yes, then that bishop needs to put that predator on his list."

AP reporters Ryan J. Foley, Adam Geller and Matt Sedensky and researcher Randy Herschaft contributed to this report.

Couple return for a 2nd dunk at Dunkin', this time with vows

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts couple reunited for extra-sweet wedding vows at the same Dunkin' Donuts where their young love splintered nearly 30 years ago.

Valerie Sneade and Jason Roy were married Friday afternoon, joined by family, friends and customers buying coffee and pastries at the Dunkin' Donuts on Grafton Street in Worcester.

"It had to happen here," Roy, who works for the Worcester Parks Department, told the Telegram & Gazette during an earlier interview.

"We think it's an absolute riot," said singer and actress Sneade, who is now taking the name Valerie Roy. "Has anybody been married in Dunkin' Donuts before? Maybe we'll start a trend."

Sneade and Roy mostly didn't see each other for 25 years after a conversation about their future at the same shop in 1992 led the young, in-love couple to step back from their relationship. Sneade blames misunderstandings at the time and words that didn't come out right.

Roy joined the Navy, married and had three children. Sneade also had a first marriage and moved to Florida. She became a singer and actress, developing her own cabaret shows. Both later divorced.

"I wouldn't want to change a thing that happened," Sneade said. "Jason has three beautiful children who he adores. I had a different way to give to the world through music."

When Roy learned Sneade was performing a Valentine's Day-themed musical revue in Worcester in February 2018, he showed up and sat in the front row.

"I looked out almost like a deer in the headlights," Sneade said. "I thought, 'Oh, my goodness.'"

Three months later, she moved back to Massachusetts. Roy proposed that New Year's Eve.

"I think we're going to appreciate each other more so much later in life because every day is a blessing," Sneade said. "I can't imagine my life without him."

Klobuchar's Iowa tour: Bragging point and caucus strategy

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

HUMBOLDT, Iowa (AP) — To Amy Klobuchar, her just-completed tour of all 99 Iowa counties proves a point: As president, she would go everywhere and represent everyone, even in the heart of Trump country.

That's "part of my way of being," the Minnesota senator told Iowans at a rural restaurant in Humboldt County — the final stop of her tour and a place that, like much of the lead-off caucus state, overwhelmingly supported Donald Trump in 2016. "I believe that we need someone as president who's going to be the president for not half of America but all of America."

Klobuchar is hoping to capitalize on caucus rules that can reward candidates who leave Democratic-heavy areas and large rallies to meet smaller groups in less populated counties. In those places, personal connections can be made over coffee or, as happened this month, over hot chocolate and convenience store breakfast pizza aboard Klobuchar's campaign bus.

Those connections can translate into votes on caucus night, though going everywhere is no guarantee of success. Republican Rick Santorum campaigned in all 99 counties — known as the "full Grassley" after Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley — for the 2016 election and finished close to last in the Iowa caucuses. This election, former Rep. John Delaney has already done it, but he hasn't qualified for the debate stage since

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 49 of 52

the summer.

It can be a grind.

Klobuchar started ticking off counties days after her February campaign launch and picked up the pace in recent weeks, her days on the bus sometimes going from before sunrise to close to midnight. On Dec. 22, she covered more than 1,000 miles or 1,600 kilometers on a swing that took her to events in 27 counties in under four days. A few events were held on her campaign bus because no local venues were available.

The stakes are particularly high as Klobuchar tries to catch the four top candidates — Joe Biden, Pete Buttigieg, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders — before the Feb. 3 caucuses in a state where she's invested most of her campaign.

Klobuchar has qualified for the Jan. 14 debate in Des Moines, where she's bound to boast about her 99-county swing and knowledge of agricultural and other issues. That's if the president's Senate impeachment trial doesn't interfere with the debate and campaign.

She hopes her Midwestern background, years of campaigning for fellow Iowa Democrats and endorsements from local elected officials will give her a boost in a state where having seasoned caucus-goers and respected leaders as advocates can make a difference.

Held on a Monday night, the caucuses consist of 1,679 precinct meetings where voters must declare their preferred candidate. To have their votes counted toward delegates, a candidate must reach a viability threshold of 15% support in each precinct.

After the first vote, supporters of any candidate not deemed viable may move to another candidate. That tests the ability of viable candidates' supporters to sway their neighbors to join their side.

"For Sen. Klobuchar the challenge is going to be making sure she's viable," said Chris Larimer, a political science professor at the University of Northern Iowa who researched the impact of the "full Grassley" on governor's races. He says it can help a candidate make personal connections but "it's just one element to a successful caucus campaign."

Each candidate has his or her own strategy for picking up delegates. Biden is counting on being viable in every county, in part because voters know him and his support is seen as wider across the state's geography and population.

Warren, Sanders and Buttigieg have been drawing huge crowds, particularly in college communities and other liberal parts of the state, though their campaigns say they have a statewide infrastructure to compete elsewhere, too.

None of those candidates has come close to visiting every county. But Norm Sterzenbach, a longtime Iowa political strategist who joined Klobuchar's team as caucus adviser this month, said working to become viable in as many places as possible is smart, especially in what he sees as a five-candidate race.

He predicts Biden, Buttigieg, Warren, Sanders and Klobuchar will each miss the viability threshold in some precincts.

"The more places you can become viable, that just gets you on the board and you start earning delegates," he said. "And so that's why spreading this out and going everywhere is really key." Especially, he said, for a senator from the rural state just to the north.

She "understands how to communicate to these voters," he said. "There's a lot of symmetry that makes it a fertile ground for her aside from the pure math."

Sterzenbach, who helped the state party design the 2020 caucus system and previously worked for former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke's campaign, said the caucuses' smaller gatherings can have an outsized impact. In a precinct where maybe 30 voters turn out, it's easier to connect with enough of them to be viable than it is to get 150 supporters in a caucus crowd of 1,000.

"Caucuses are about relationships," he said. "The way that I've always looked at it, the closer that you can get to the candidate having a relationship with the voter, the better off you are."

Kim Aneweer, 57, a teacher from Spirit Lake, Iowa, said she was swayed to support Klobuchar after hearing her speak Friday in Estherville, a town of about 6,000 people in a county along the Minnesota-Iowa line where over 65% of voters backed Trump in 2016.

"Today she just seems so real to me, and that's what I'm craving, is somebody that has a decent heart

and was a good person, and she sold me today," Aneweer said. "All of her policies seem common sense to me. The fact that she's a Midwest person — I feel like sometimes we're overlooked here in the Midwest."

Penny Wiersma wasn't as convinced but said after the event that she has narrowed her choices to Klobuchar and Buttigieg. Wiersma, who at 81 said she has been a consistent caucus-goer for years, said she understands candidates can't make it to every corner of the state because they only have so much time or money, but she appreciates when they do it.

"It feels like we're being courted," she said.

Truck bomb in Somali capital kills at least 79 at rush hour

By ABDI GULED undefined

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — A truck bomb exploded at a busy security checkpoint in Somalia's capital Saturday morning, killing at least 79 people including many students, authorities said. It was the worst attack in Mogadishu since the devastating 2017 bombing that killed hundreds.

The explosion ripped through rush hour as Somalia returned to work after its weekend. At least 125 people were wounded, Amin Ambulance service director Abdiqadir Abdulrahman said, and hundreds of Mogadishu residents donated blood in response to desperate appeals.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed condemned the attack as a "heinous act of terror" and blamed the local al-Shabab extremist group, which is linked to al-Qaida and whose reach has extended to deadly attacks on luxury malls and schools in neighboring Kenya.

Bodies lay on the ground amid the blackened skeletons of vehicles. At a hospital, families and friends picked through dozens of the dead, gingerly lifting sheets to peer at faces.

Most of those killed were university students returning to class and police officers, said Somalia's police chief Gen. Abdi Hassan Hajar. He said the vehicle detonated after police at the checkpoint blocked it from proceeding into the city.

Somalis mourned the deaths of so many young people in a country trying to rebuild itself after decades of conflict. Two Turkish brothers were among the dead, Somalia's foreign minister said, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the attack.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but al-Shabab often carries out such attacks. The extremist group was pushed out of Mogadishu several years ago but continues to target high-profile areas such as checkpoints and hotels in the seaside city.

Al-Shabab is now able to make its own explosives, its "weapon of choice," United Nations experts monitoring sanctions on Somalia said earlier this year. The group had previously relied on military-grade explosives captured during assaults on an African Union peacekeeping force.

Despite that advance in bomb-making, one security expert said the unlikely choice of target Saturday — a checkpoint at the western entrance to the capital — reflected al-Shabab's weakening capability to plan and execute attacks at will. Mogadishu recently introduced tougher security measures that Somali officials said make it more difficult to smuggle in explosives.

"It feels like they literally knew that their (car bomb) may not proceed through the checkpoint into the city undetected, considering the additional obstacles ahead, so bombing the busy checkpoint in a show of strength appeared to be an ideal decision," the Mogadishu-based Ahmed Barre told The Associated Press.

Al-Shabab was blamed for the truck bombing in Mogadishu in October 2017 that killed more than 500 people, but the group never claimed responsibility for the blast that led to widespread public outrage. Some analysts said al-Shabab didn't dare claim credit as its strategy of trying to sway public opinion by exposing government weakness had badly backfired.

"This explosion is similar like the one ... in 2017. This one occurred just a few steps away from where I am and it knocked me on the ground from its force. I have never seen such a explosion in my entire life," witness Abdurrahman Yusuf said.

The attack again raises concern about the readiness of Somali forces to take over responsibility for the Horn of Africa country's security in the coming months from the AU force.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 51 of 52

Al-Shabab, the target of a growing number of U.S. airstrikes since President Donald Trump took office, controls parts of Somalia's southern and central regions. It funds itself with a "taxation" system that experts describe as extortion of businesses and travelers that brings in millions of dollars a year.

Video journalist Mohamed Sheikh Nor in Mogadishu contributed.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2019. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

On this date:

In 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was slain in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the American frigate USS Constitution engaged and severely damaged the British frigate HMS Java off Brazil.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1939, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," starring Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara, was released by RKO Radio Pictures.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

In 1972, Eastern Air Lines Flight 401, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed into the Florida Everglades near Miami International Airport, killing 101 of the 176 people aboard.

In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people (it's never been determined who was responsible).

In 1978, during the Gator Bowl, Ohio State University coach Woody Hayes punched Clemson player Charlie Bauman, who'd intercepted an Ohio State pass. (Hayes was fired by Ohio State the next day.)

In 1986, former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan died in Sussex, England, at age 92.

In 1989, dissident and playwright Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) assumed the presidency of Czechoslovakia.

In 1992, the United States and Russia announced agreement on a nuclear arms reduction treaty.

In 2006, word reached the United States of the execution of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein (because of the time difference, it was the morning of Dec. 30 in Iraq when the hanging took place). In a statement, President George W. Bush called Saddam's execution an important milestone on Iraq's road to democracy.

Ten years ago: Brushing aside international appeals, China executed British drug smuggler Akmal Shaikh (AHK'-mahl shayk), who relatives said was mentally unstable and unwittingly lured into crime; it was China's first execution of a European citizen in nearly 60 years. Mexico City enacted Latin America's first law recognizing gay marriage and said it hoped to attract same-sex couples from around the world.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in an NPR interview, issued a warning to congressional Republicans set to take control of both houses of Congress, saying he had a veto pen, and would not be afraid to use it. A man with a lengthy criminal record killed six adults and two young children before taking his own life in Edmonton, Alberta.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said the two Guatemalan children who had died in U.S. custody had been "very sick" when they arrived; immigration authorities had said both children passed initial health checks. Top-ranked Alabama beat No. 4 Oklahoma 45-34 at the Orange Bowl in Florida, reaching the national championship game against Clemson, which beat Notre Dame 30-3 in the Cotton Bowl.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Rose Lee Maphis is 97. Actress Inga Swenson is 87. ABC newscaster

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 181 ~ 52 of 52

Tom Jarriel is 85. Actress Barbara Steele is 82. Actor Jon Voight is 81. Country singer Ed Bruce is 80. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 73. Hall of Fame Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 73. Actor Ted Danson is 72. Singer-actress Yvonne Elliman is 68. The president of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, is 66. Actress Patricia Clarkson is 60. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 60. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 58. Actor Michael Cudlitz is 55. Rock singer Dexter Holland (The Offspring) is 54. Actor-comedian Mystro Clark is 53. Actor Jason Gould is 53. News anchor Ashleigh Banfield is 52. Movie director Lilly Wachowski is 52. Actress Jennifer Ehle is 50. Actor Patrick Fischler is 50. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 49. Actor Kevin Weisman is 49. Actor Jude Law is 47. Actress Maria Dizzia is 45. Actor Mekhi Phifer (mih-KY' FY'-fuhr) is 45. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 44. Actress Katherine Moennig is 42. Actor Diego Luna is 40. Actress Alison Brie is 37. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 36. Actor Iain de Caestecker is 32. Actress Jane Levy is 30. Singer-actor-dancer Ross Lynch is 24. Rock musician Danny Wagner is 21.

Thought for Today: "Sin cannot be undone, only forgiven." — Igor Stravinsky, Russian-born composer (1882-1971).

Copyright 2019, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.