

Groton Daily Independent

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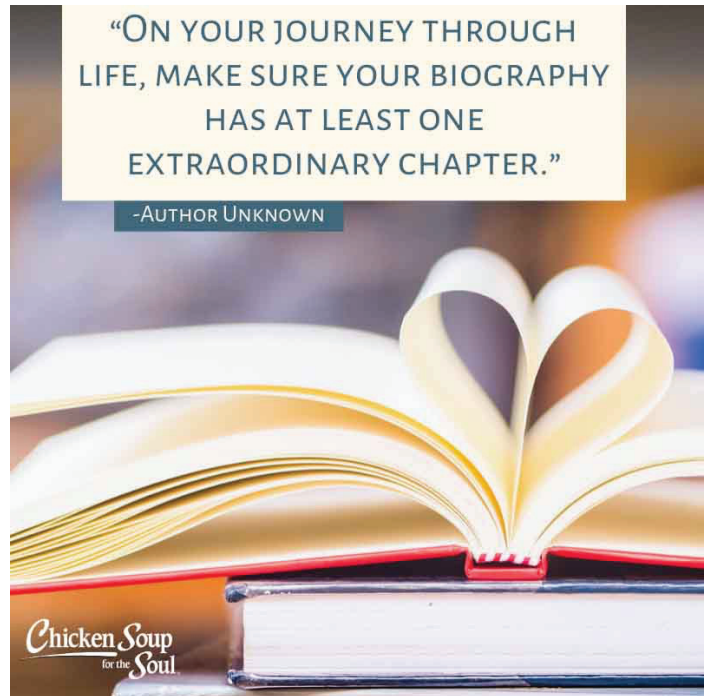
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OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*... A thousand years in Your sight
are like yesterday
when it is past,
and like a watch
in the night.
You carry them away
like a flood ...*

PSALM 90:4,5



Clock detail from zazzle.com

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Daniel 4, who had the vision of a tree growing higher and higher until it could be seen by everyone? *Silas, Josiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon*

3. Which book could be summarized, "God, why don't you stop bad things from happening"? *Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi*

4. What hour mentioned in the Bible means the last possible moment something can be done? *1st, 3rd, 11th, 12th*

5. Which king of Israel set up two golden calves as gods, one in Bethel, the other in Dan? *Zimri, Jeroboam, Baasha, Ahaziah*

6. From Judges 6, where did Gideon encounter an angel? *Prison, Oak Tree, Temple, Well*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Nebuchadnezzar; 3) Habakkuk; 4) 11th; 5) Jeroboam; 6) Oak Tree

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

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Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Swiss Steak Skillet

I don't think there is a "meat and potatoes" man around who won't give this comforting dish two thumbs up.

16 ounces lean tenderized minute or cube steaks, cut into 16 pieces

1½ cups finely sliced celery

1 cup chopped onion

1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce

1 (8-ounce) can stewed tomatoes, undrained

1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

Sugar substitute to equal 1 tablespoon sugar, suitable for cooking

1/8 teaspoon black pepper

3 cups hot cooked noodles, rinsed and drained

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute meat, celery and onion for 10 minutes. Stir in tomato sauce, undrained stewed tomatoes, parsley flakes, sugar substitute and black pepper. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

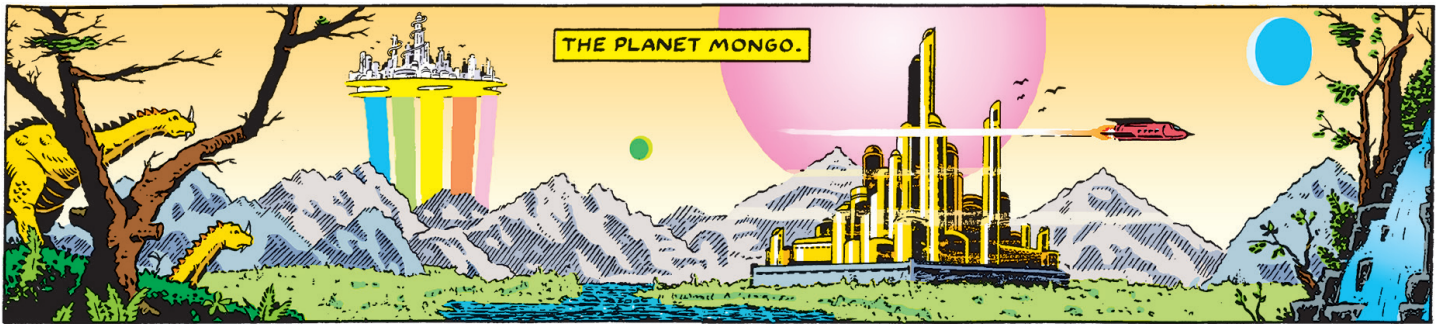
2. For each serving, place 1/2 cup noodles on a plate and spoon about 1 cup meat mixture over top. Freezes well. Serves 6.

• Each serving equals: About 233 calories, 5g fat, 22g protein, 25g carb., 307mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Vegetable, 1 Starch.

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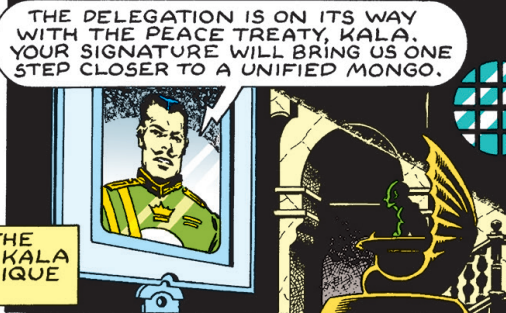


THE PLANET MONGO.

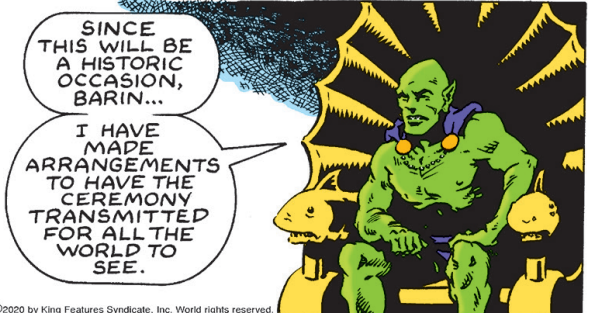
FLASH GORDON

1-19 BY JIM KEEFE

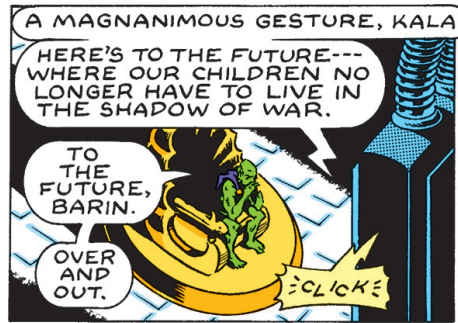
LEAGUES BENEATH THE SEA OF MYSTERY, KING KALA RECEIVES A COMMUNIQUE FROM KING BARIN.



THE DELEGATION IS ON ITS WAY WITH THE PEACE TREATY, KALA. YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BRING US ONE STEP CLOSER TO A UNIFIED MONGO.



SINCE THIS WILL BE A HISTORIC OCCASION, BARIN...
I HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE THE CEREMONY TRANSMITTED FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE.



A MAGNANIMOUS GESTURE, KALA. HERE'S TO THE FUTURE--- WHERE OUR CHILDREN NO LONGER HAVE TO LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF WAR.
TO THE FUTURE, BARIN.
OVER AND OUT.

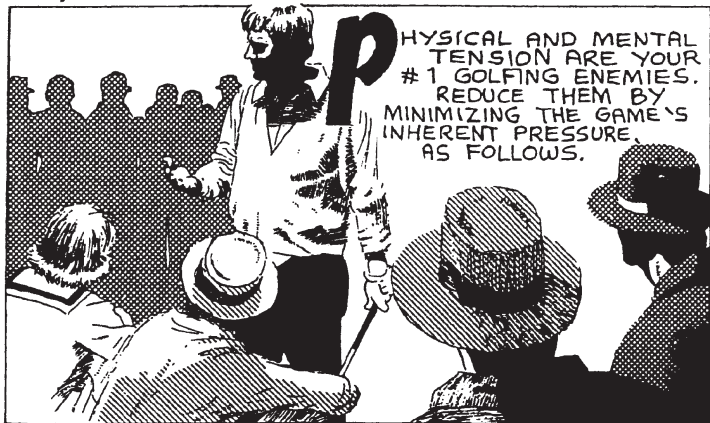


IT SEEMS KING BARIN HAS FINALLY STARTED TRUSTING YOU.
~PTOO!
THAT'S WHAT I THINK OF BARIN AND HIS UNITED REPUBLICS. WHERE WERE THEY WHEN MY PALACE LAY IN RUINS...
MY ONLY SON--- DEAD IN MY ARMS!

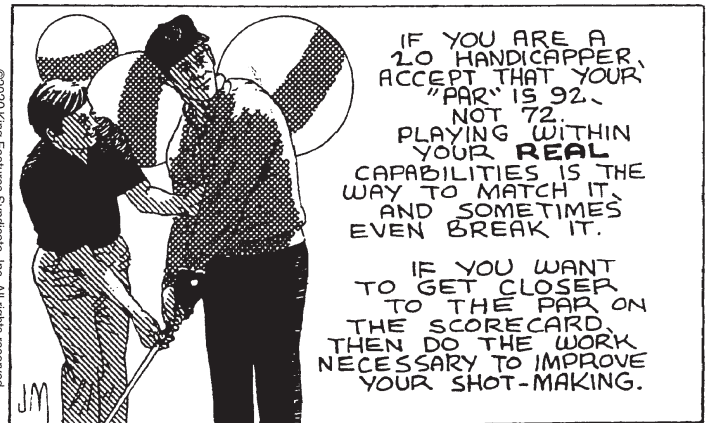


NOW, UNDER THE GUISE OF PEACE, THE DELEGATES COME--- JUST AS YOU SAID THEY WOULD!
TO BE CONT'D..!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TENSION ARE YOUR #1 GOLFING ENEMIES. REDUCE THEM BY MINIMIZING THE GAME'S INHERENT PRESSURE. AS FOLLOWS.



IF YOU ARE A 20 HANDICAPPER, ACCEPT THAT YOUR "PAR" IS 92. NOT 72. PLAYING WITHIN YOUR REAL CAPABILITIES IS THE WAY TO MATCH IT, AND SOMETIMES EVEN BREAK IT.
IF YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER TO THE PAR ON THE SCORECARD, THEN DO THE WORK NECESSARY TO IMPROVE YOUR SHOT-MAKING.

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Can Chocolate Worsen Irregular Heartbeat?

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 82 years old and still very active. I have had an irregular heartbeat for four years, and sometimes I feel light-headed, dizzy or tired. I worry about it getting worse. Would you please give a detailed explanation about irregular heartbeat, including how or why it happens? What should I do to prevent it from getting worse? Is it life threatening? Will it become atrial fibrillation?

Also, I am a chocolate lover and eat dark chocolate every day. But I was told that cocoa will make my irregular heartbeat worse and I should stop eating dark chocolate. Is that true? — *Q.Y.*

ANSWER: Everyone has irregular heartbeats from time to time. Early beats can come from electrically active areas anywhere in the heart, and an electrocardiogram can tell whether they are from the atria (the top chambers) or the ventricles (the bottom chambers) of the heart.

An average person may have 500 or so of these a day — some people have many more. Most are seldom aware of them. Having patients with this concern over and over during my career, I can reassure you that most cases turn out to be nothing to worry about.

However, the fact that you are having symptoms, especially the lightheadedness and fatigue, is a warning sign, and I recommend you get an evaluation. Start with your regular medical provider, after which you may be referred to a cardiologist. The EKG in his or her office is a first step, but you may need a longer

evaluation, such as wearing a 24-hour EKG (a Holter monitor) or newer technologies that allow longer readings.

Atrial fibrillation is a concern, because most people will need treatment to reduce stroke risk or to return the rhythm to normal. Nevertheless, there are many other kinds of irregular heart rhythms, and you need a diagnosis first. If no cause is found, there are medications to reduce the irregularity, but they are seldom used. My experience is that when a person knows they are not dangerous, they can be lived with more easily.

Chocolate does contain theobromide, a substance that can make the heart a little more irritable, but it takes a lot of chocolate to have a significant effect. It's related to caffeine in coffee. Interestingly, a recent study found that chocolate lovers are less likely to develop atrial fibrillation, so the situation is more complex than just one chemical.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read that drinking warm lemon water with honey has many health benefits, partially because lemons are an alkaline food. Is this correct? — *B.W.*

ANSWER: I think I saw the same article. Lemon water may have some health benefits, but it is not an alkaline food, and drinking it has almost no impact on the acidity of your blood or urine, because the body's buffer systems (the chemical processes used to keep the pH carefully regulated) are so effective. Lemons have a pH of about 2, so they are highly acidic. Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) makes the urine more acidic.

There is no consistent evidence that the foods we eat have a health benefit due solely to their effect on body pH. Many of the foods recommended for their supposed alkaline effects are indeed healthy, but for other, complex reasons apart from pH.

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

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1. Name The Who guitarist who is known for smashing his guitars during performances. How did that get started?

2. Why did Bob Dylan stop touring between 1966 and 1973?

3. What was Wicked Lester?

4. The Polka Tulk Blues Band ended up as what band?

5. Name the television show that used these lyrics in the theme song: "Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, A tale of a fateful trip."

Answers

1. Peter Townsend. He accidentally broke the head off a guitar during a show and afterward continued breaking guitars (albeit cheaper ones).

2. He was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident, crashing his Triumph Tiger 100SS. Later, however, he was quoted as saying he'd wanted to get out of the rat race.

3. The original name of Kiss, with a short period (1970-1971) being called Rainbow. Look for a 1972 bootleg album called "The Original Wicked Lester Sessions."

4. Black Sabbath.

5. "Gilligan's Island," which aired for three seasons from 1964-67, a total of 98 episodes. The first season was in black and white. The storyline tells of castaways who ran aground on an island during a storm while on the charter boat SS Minnow.

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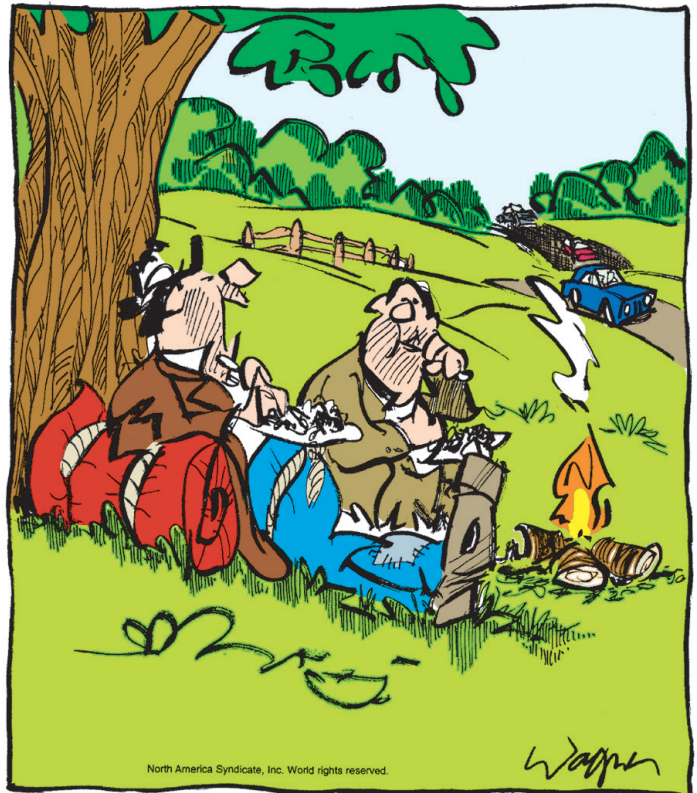
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

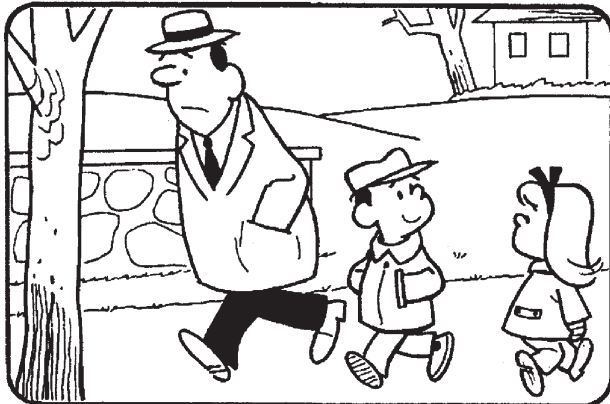


GRIN and BEAR IT

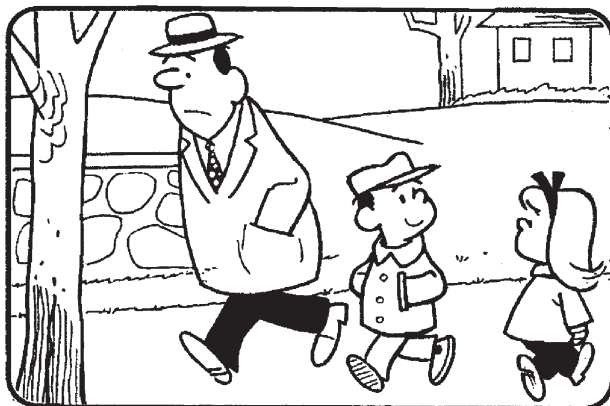


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tie is different. 2. Wall is shorter. 3. Belt is missing. 4. Pants are different. 5. Jacket is different. 6. Tree is moved.

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- “It’s tax season and that means paper season. If you don’t happen to have a rubber finger cover to help you leaf through papers quickly, you can always wrap a rubber band around your fingertip to offer a bit of resistance. It’s better than licking your finger!” — *R. in Indiana*

- If you enjoy puzzles and board games but like to keep them in their original cardboard boxes, be sure to reinforce corners with strong clear tape BEFORE they start to crack and fall apart. Use hook and loop tape to

secure bags inside the box cover so that game pieces will stay with the game. There’s nothing worse than pulling out a game to find that some pieces have slipped out.

- “This might not be revolutionary, but if you put a tennis ball into a long sock and knot the sock, your dog will really like it. If they play with it outside, you can even put it right into the wash.” — *K.R. in Alabama*

- Remove the neck end of a soda bottle to create a disposable funnel. Use a 2-liter bottle for a large funnel and individual drink size for smaller ones. Rinse and recycle both parts when you are finished.

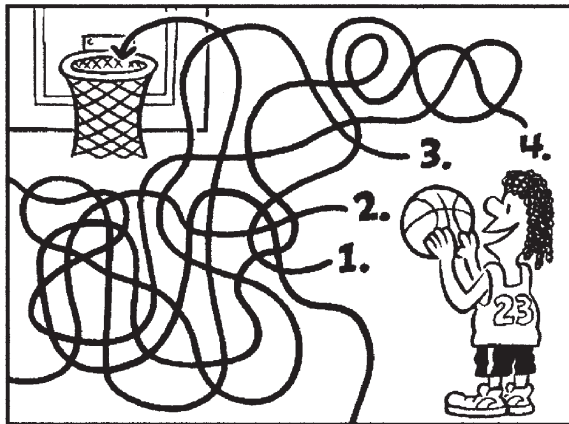
- Baking soda can be used as a mild abrasive to clean, but it also can help clean your teeth! Keep a small container in your bathroom and sprinkle a little bit of baking soda on your toothbrush weekly to give your pearly whites a polish between professional cleanings.

- Tuck a couple fabric softener sheets in your luggage. You can use them to combat static cling or freshen the air by placing one over the air conditioner vent. It will keep your suitcase fresh-smelling between uses, too.

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

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SLAM-DUNK this one on the first try! See if you can guess which is the winning shot.

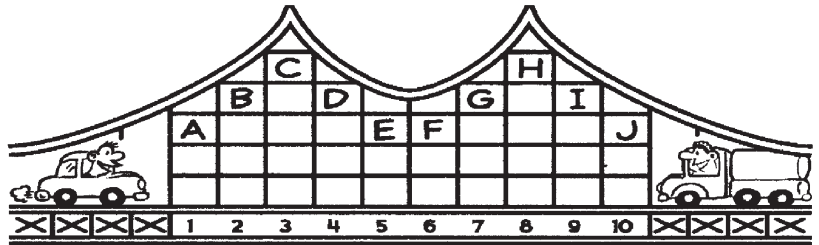
A PIRATE'S GAME! See if you can take the letters in this pirate's call for wagers and use them to spell out two numbers.

The letters in **RUM BETS NOW** can be rearranged to spell out **TWO NUMBERS**. (Isn't that what we asked for?)

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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Illustrated by David Coulson

A WORD BRIDGE!

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

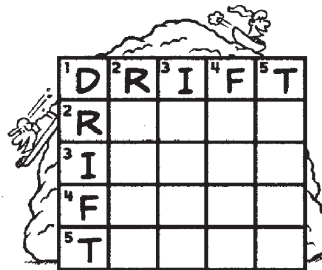
1. An axlike tool.
2. Modern unit of speed.
3. Criminal plan.
4. Speaker's platform.
5. Recede.
6. Mediterranean hat.
7. Valley.
8. Absence without permission.
9. Irritates.
10. Type of dance.

1. Adz. 2. Baud. 3. Capar. 4. Dais. 5. Ebb. 6. Fez. 7. Glen. 8. Hooky. 9. Irls. 10. Jig.



DON'T BE SNOWED IN! At right is a word square. You are challenged to find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words used must read the same both across and down.

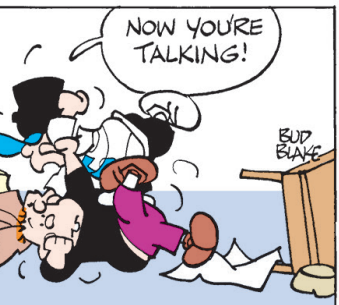
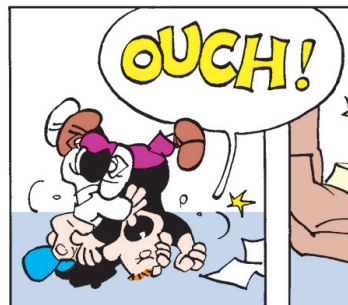
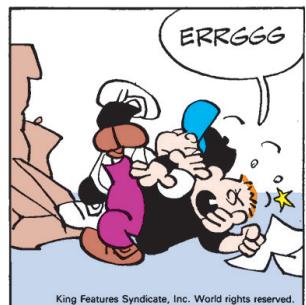
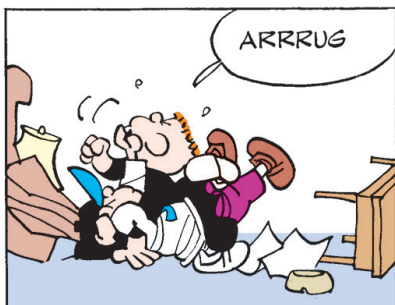
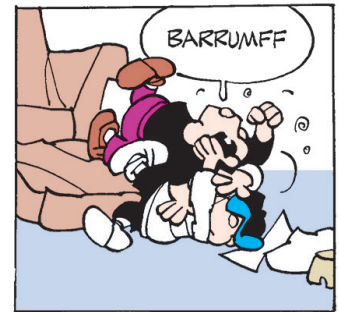
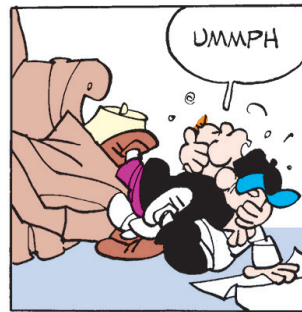
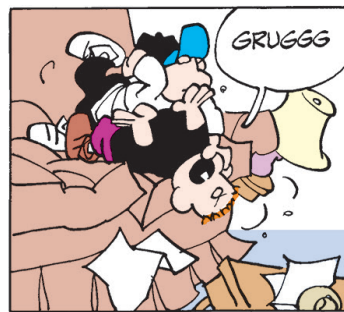
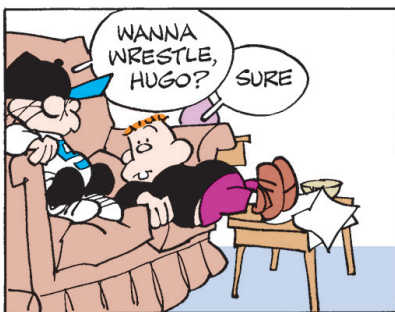
1. A pile of snow (DRIFT, in place).
2. One source of news.
3. A work avoider.
4. Feudal estates.
5. Trunk of the human body.



1. Drift. 2. Radio. 3. Idler. 4. Fiefs. 5. Torso.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BUD BLAKE

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Item on stage
- 5 Relaxation
- 9 "Help!"
- 12 Emanation
- 13 Picture of health?
- 14 Demonic tyke
- 15 Dance lesson
- 16 Green land
- 17 Grazing area
- 18 Loafer, e.g.
- 19 Wrestling surface
- 20 Small horse
- 21 Tear
- 23 Eggs
- 25 Ought not
- 28 Plunder
- 32 Jellied dish
- 33 Flat
- 34 Neptune or Poseidon

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

- 36 Makes baby food, maybe
- 37 Id counterpart
- 38 Allow
- 39 "Ironside" star
- 42 Definite article
- 44 "Phooey!"
- 48 Past
- 49 Desktop symbol
- 50 Sheltered
- 51 Under the weather
- 52 Filly's brother
- 53 Mountain goat
- 54 Caustic
- 55 TV trophy
- 56 "— and the Tramp"
- DOWN**
- 1 Just say no
- 2 Naomi's daughter-in-law
- 3 Sandwich treat
- 4 Empty threat
- 5 Free from a duty
- 6 Met melody
- 7 Tailor, humorously
- 8 Storm center
- 9 Missile shelter
- 10 Portent
- 11 Fix, in a sense
- 20 Evidence of fraud
- 22 Disguised, for short
- 24 Cost
- 25 "More," to Jose
- 26 Work with
- 27 Hot tub
- 29 Word implied in "been there, done that"
- 30 Born
- 31 Golfer Ernie
- 35 E-business
- 36 More than enough
- 39 Kind of bond
- 40 Pre-swan
- 41 Portrayal
- 43 Ian or Celeste
- 45 Jessica of "Fantastic Four"
- 46 Prepared to drive
- 47 Alluring
- 49 Lemieux milieu

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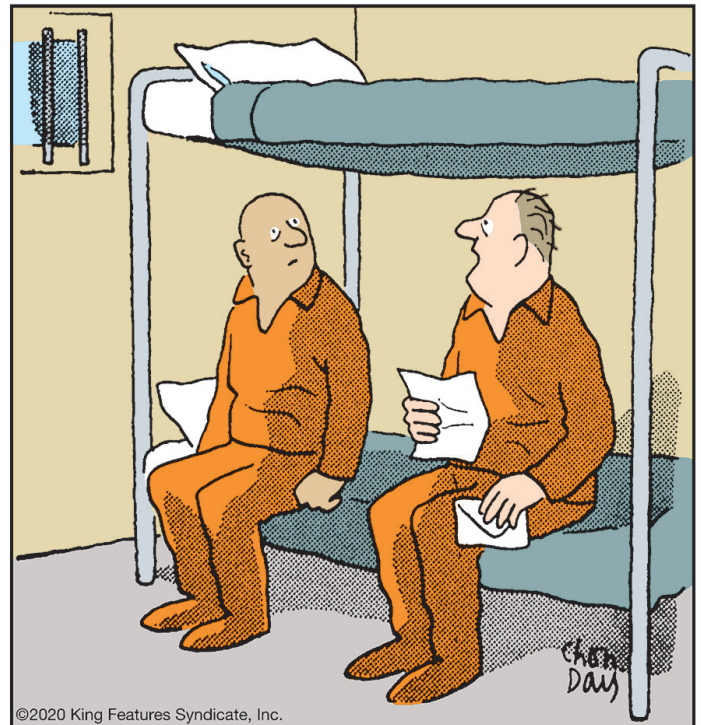
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY

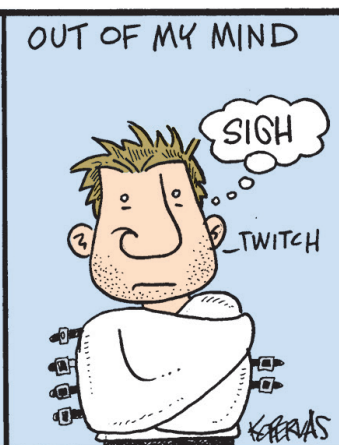
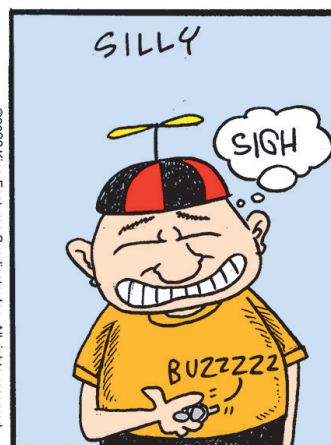


"It's from my black-sheep brother ... the one in politics."

Out on a Limb

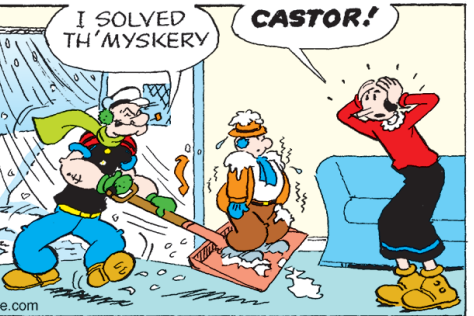
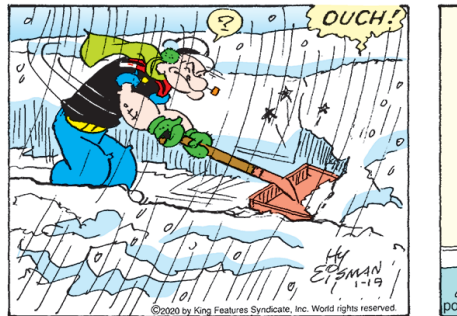
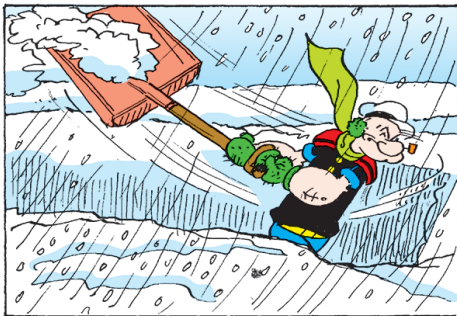
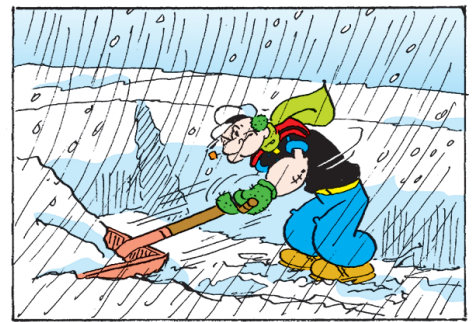
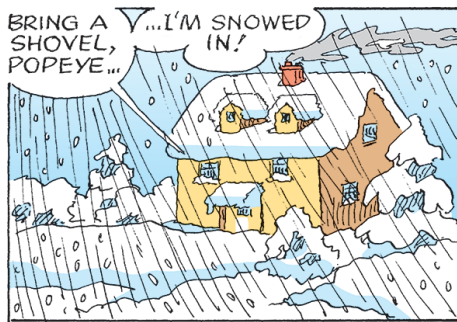
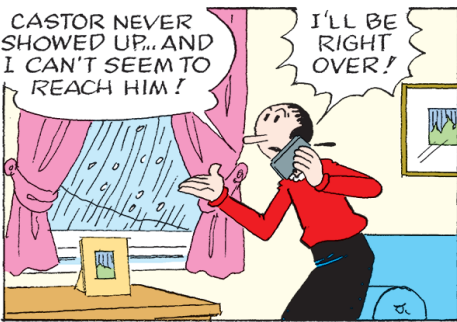
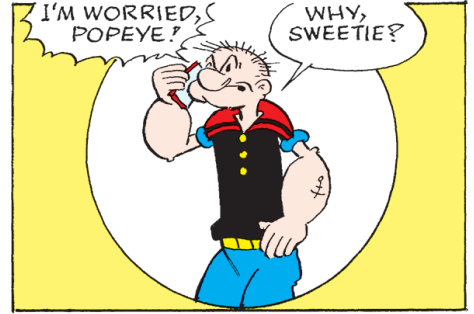
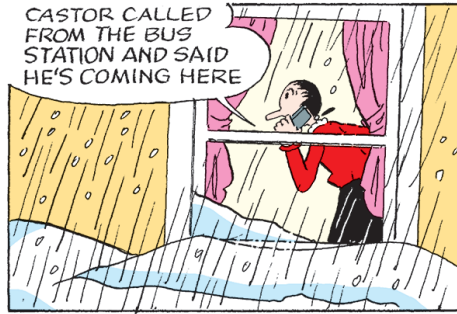
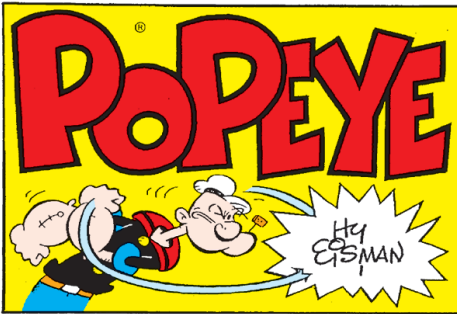
by Gary Kopervas

THE NEXT TIME YOU FEEL BORED... ASK YOURSELF, "WHAT KIND OF BORED AM I?" ...



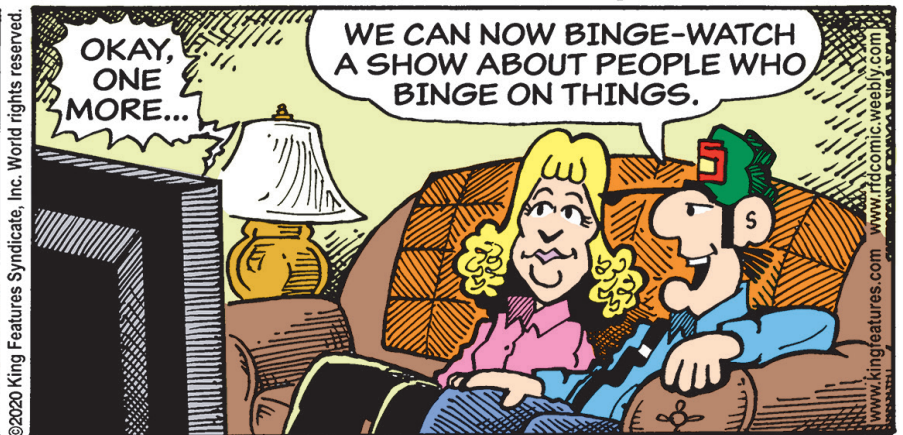
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Our Story:

Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

AS GRU-ZOR, THE LEADER, PICKS UP A ROCK AND EYES THEM EVILLY, VAL PLOTS A DESPERATE LEAP FOR HIS THROAT.



LOST IN THE SEA OF WEED, VAL AND HIS COMPANY ARE LED TO THEIR EXECUTION BY THEIR SAVAGE CAPTORS.



BUT BEFORE HE CAN ACT, THE FOUR PRISONERS FIND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SKILLFULLY HERDED INTO A SORT OF AMPHITHEATER. THE FIRST STONE COMES QUICKLY...

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...FOLLOWED BY A TORRENT OF OTHERS. THIS BRINGS THE BRUTES MUCH ENTERTAINMENT.



BUT, SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE MIST COMES A GRISLY RASPING SOUND!

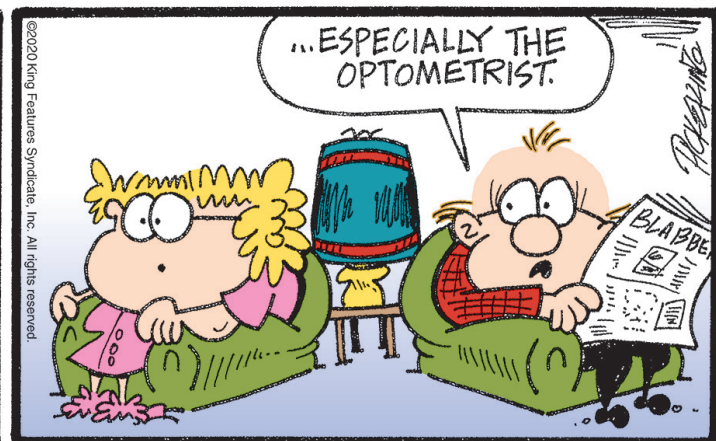


THE EFFECT IS IMMEDIATE. THE BRUTES' GLEE TURNS TO PANIC, AS SOMETHING SLITHERS THROUGH THE FOG!

NEXT *Gawain's Egg*

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Revisit the Books of Our Childhood

There really is something to be said for going back to a simpler time, even for a little while.

For those of us who work with people who have dementia, or if we just want to take a break from the current crop of books on bestseller lists, here is an idea: revisit the books of our childhood.

Wikipedia can be a great place to remind us of the titles we might have forgotten. Put “books of the 1940s,” or whatever decade you’d like to explore, in its search box,. You’ll find hundreds of books from our childhood, most with links to information about the books themselves, such as: “Lassie Come Home” (1940), “Curious George” (1941), “Pippi Longstocking” (1945) and “Scuffy the Tugboat” (1946).

From the 1950s we have “Henry Huggins” (1950), “Charlotte’s Web” (1952), “Horton Hears a Who!” (1954), “Danny and the Dinosaur” (1958) and the “Brains Benton Series” (1959-61).

To jog your memory, in 1942, Henry, Jessie, Violet and Benny Alden were orphans living in a boxcar in the woods until they are introduced to their grandfather, who has the boxcar moved to his backyard in “The Boxcar Children.”

In 1946, “Scuffy the Tugboat” ended up floating down larger and larger waterways until he was rescued and was put back where he was happiest — the bathtub.

In 1959, Brains Benton and his sidekick Jimmy Carson solved the mystery of “The Case of the Missing Message,” and continued solving crimes for the next five books in the original Brains Benton series.

If you want to find the old books of your childhood, it’s not as difficult as you might think. Some of the books are still in print. Check Amazon.com or AbeBooks.com. Some of them might be found at your library. If you’re very lucky, a few of them might even be on your own bookshelves.

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1. Who was the last Oakland A's player before Khris Davis in 2018 to lead the American League in home runs for a season?

2. How many times has a Tampa Bay Rays pitcher won 20-plus games in a season?

3. Who scored the first rushing touchdown in Super Bowl history?

4. Name the last Division II men's college basketball player to be selected in the NBA Draft.

5. Which player won the most Stanley Cups without ever playing for the Montreal Canadiens?

6. In 2019, the U.S. women's national soccer team set a record for biggest margin of victory in a World Cup game (13 goals). Which country had held the mark?

7. Of WBC heavyweight boxing champion Deontay Wilder's 43 pro bouts, how many have ended with Wilder recording a knockout?

Answers

1. Mark McGwire hit 52 homers to lead the A.L. in 1996.

2. Twice — David Price won 20 in 2012, and Blake Snell won 21 in 2018.

3. Green Bay's Jim Taylor, in the second quarter of Super Bowl I in 1967.

4. Robert Whaley of Walsh University was selected with the 51st pick in 2005.

5. Red Kelly won eight Stanley Cups, four with Detroit and four with Toronto, between 1950 and 1967.

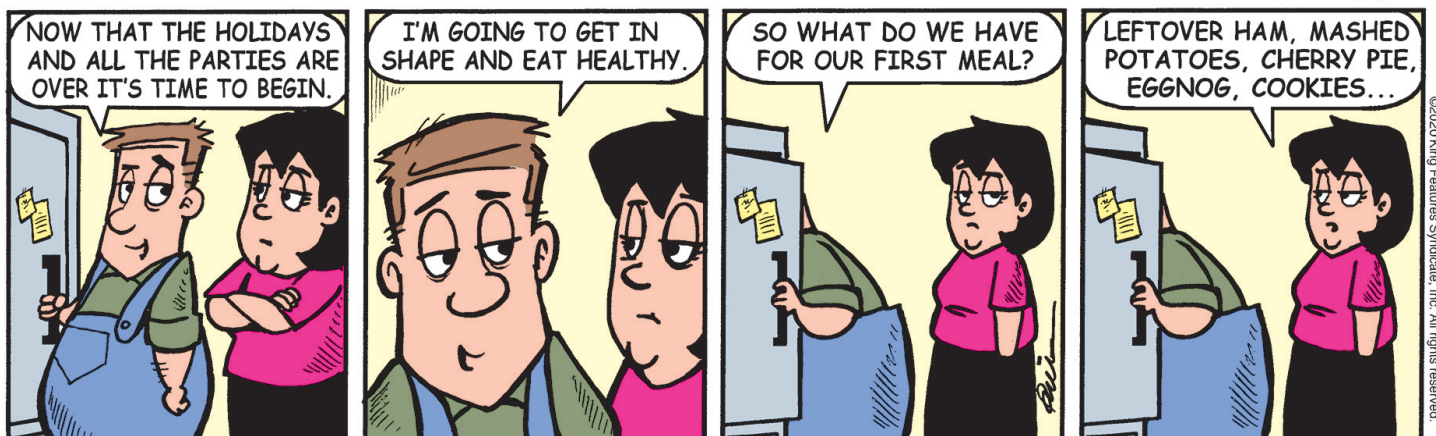
6. Germany won a World Cup match by 11 goals in 2007.

7. Wilder has recorded 41 knockouts on his way to a 42-0-1 record.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo

At the end of this month, the 62nd annual Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo will be taking place in Rapid City. An estimated 331,000 people from all over the country will descend on Western South Dakota, making it the second largest annual event in South Dakota.

It all started when members of the Rapid City Chamber Ag Committee hatched an idea to bring the rural lifestyle to the Rapid City community. They had the foresight to realize that as more and more people migrated to the bigger cities, the way of life in rural America could be lost, so they set forth a plan to preserve their Western heritage. Here we are sixty-two years later enjoying stock shows all over the state.

The first "winter show", as it was called then, was small and showcased only three different breeds of cattle. Today it showcases some of the best cattle from almost every breed raised right here in South Dakota. The event continued to grow and evolve into what we know today, the Black Hills Stock Show. There is something for all to be found at this winter event including horse and livestock sales, over 300 vendors, entertainment, and art shows.

It's also a great opportunity for kids like mine who weren't raised on a ranch to experience some dirt on their boots and the smell of cattle stalls. And there's ample opportunity for them to check out the petting zoo, practice their roping skills, or meet a rodeo clown.

To top off the festivities, a family from South Dakota produces several Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) rodeos including a night of extreme bull riding. The Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo is a way for hard working producers to take a breather and catch up with friends and family, as well as for locals to be exposed to the rural way of life. It's something I look forward to every year.

Agriculture and the Western way of life is something I'm fighting to protect on the Agriculture Committee in Washington. Our cattle producers are some of the hardest working people I know, which is why I will continue to strongly support them in Congress. One, for example - the Farm and Ranch to School Act - provides schools and ranchers greater flexibility to serve local meat in the cafeteria.

Congress and the administration are hard at work to allow ranchers to do what's best for their operation while being good stewards of the land. Working with Congress, we've repealed the Obama-era WOTUS land grab and replaced it with clear, predictable guidance. This week I attended the Sioux Falls Stock Show and I am eager to head to West River at the end of the month to visit with folks from across the state. I hope to see you there!

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Connecting South Dakota

In America's early days, our Founding Fathers recognized the importance of communication. They saw that it was so vital to the business of the people that they even included a provision in the Constitution to allow for the government to establish post roads.

Today's business – and day-to-day life – is often done by a different kind of post road: the internet. Unfortunately, in some areas of South Dakota, people are being forced to choose between living in their rural community or having access to high-speed internet. This should not be.

Last year, I outlined a plan to connect more South Dakotans than ever before to high-speed internet.

In March, I worked with the legislature to allocate \$5 million to be used as matching funds for broadband improvement. The Connect South Dakota program, which launched in May, brought in a total of \$12.2 million.

Additionally, because the state now has a plan in place, South Dakota companies have been awarded additional points on their applications for USDA Reconnect grants. In December, this federal program awarded another \$9.5 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure that will create or improve connectivity for more than 1,750 homes in rural South Dakota.

Combined, that means our \$5 million has resulted in a \$25 million investment in unserved or underserved areas – connecting 6,500 homes and nearly 150 businesses to high-speed internet.

These aren't just numbers. These are businesses and families that now have expanded online opportunities.

Take the Lindermans, for example. John and Patty own the only grocery store in Timber Lake, on the Cheyenne River Reservation. Because they didn't have high-speed internet, it meant they couldn't provide their customers with credit card, debit card, or WIC and EBT payment options. They even had to do all their orders for the store somewhere else. As you can guess, they lost a lot of business. But for Patty and John, they were most heartbroken about sending away moms who wanted to buy food for their kids.

Because of the good work of our Connect South Dakota program, the Linderman business is now connected to high-speed internet.

The great news is that there are about 150 businesses and 6,500 families that have been connected through this program.

But more work needs to be done. This legislative session, I will be working with your district senators and representatives to allocate another \$5 million to address more of our connectivity needs.

Bringing our communities into the 21st century ensures that every person in our state has access to online opportunity no matter where they live. I hope you'll join me in my efforts to preserve our state's rural way of life.

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The Sanctity of Human Life

Right now in the Senate, we are spending many hours each day listening to arguments about the impeachment of President Trump. It's a historic time in our country. Once the trial is finished, I plan to write a weekly column sharing my thoughts on the impeachment process. It's a responsibility I take very seriously. The impeachment trial begins every day (except Sundays) at 1 p.m., so I have had some time in the mornings to focus on my other Senate duties. This includes meeting with South Dakotans who are visiting Washington. We recently welcomed a number of South Dakotans who came to participate in the March for Life.

The March for Life is held each year on the national mall, and it coincides with the anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, that legalized abortion. Tens of thousands of participants come from all over the country to share their pro-life views with their legislators. As a supporter of the pro-life movement, it is inspiring to see so many Americans who, like me, are working to change peoples' hearts and minds on the issue of abortion. From conception to natural death, life is a gift that should be treated with dignity.

In the Senate, I have cosponsored dozens of bills aimed at protecting innocent lives. The tide is beginning to turn, and more people are starting to understand the importance of protecting life, at all stages. After all, most people, regardless of their political beliefs, believe in the sanctity of life. I really think it's in our DNA as humans. You hear stories all the time of people doing extraordinary things to save the lives of others. All life is precious, and it is not up to us to decide whether life should continue. Only God can make that decision.

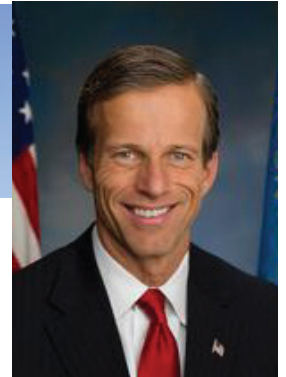
My views on abortion have been shaped by events in my own family, specifically my Grandma Georgiana. When Georgiana's mother was pregnant with her, she was kicked by a horse. As a result, no one thought Georgiana would survive past birth. She was born with only one eye, was deaf in one ear, had heart problems and no feeling in part of her face. Yet, not only did she survive but she lived to age 85. If she were born to a different family, with today's attitudes about abortion, she might not have been given the chance to live. At this point in the story, I should also tell you that Georgiana wasn't my biological grandmother.

My dad, Grandpa Don, was one of ten children born to Mary and Marion "Butch" Rounds. Sadly, Mary passed away when my dad was very young. Butch didn't have the money or ability to care for ten kids, so the younger kids were sent to live among family and friends. My dad was taken in by the Kauth family who lived in a nearby town. He was raised by Georgiana Kauth and her brother John. They were incredibly loving and supportive caretakers to my dad.

It's been nearly two years since dad passed away, and not a day goes by that I don't think about him and the legacy he left behind. He was raised with a deep faith in the Lord, a strong work ethic and a servant-minded heart. Looking back, I think about the many different paths dad's life could have taken had Grandma Georgiana and her family not taken him into their home with loving arms. Or had Grandma Georgiana not instilled strong moral values in him from such a young age. Or, if Grandma Georgiana, who everyone thought would not survive past birth, had been discarded before she even had a chance to live, as is all too common in America today. Grandma Georgiana is a beautiful reminder of how precious all life is.

Each life is precious and each life has value. The sanctity of human life is something we should all work to protect. God has a plan for all of us, and even when we're facing difficulties, we have to trust in his guidance. To me, pro-life means choosing family, and I'll always fight for that cause.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A Bipartisan Win for South Dakota Agriculture

The Republican-led Senate, the Democrat-led House of Representatives, and the president all agree: the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will modernize the longstanding trade relationship with South Dakota's top trading partners and help take us further into the 21st century.

I'm relieved that after more than a year of unnecessary delay by House Democrats, the Senate recently voted 89 to 10 to send this bipartisan deal to the president. From my position as a senior member of the Finance Committee, I personally advocated for USMCA for more than a year now, and I will never stop advocating for South Dakota's hardworking farmers and ranchers, who, I hope, can breathe a little easier knowing it will soon be signed into law.

Mexico has already approved the deal, and Canada is standing ready. USMCA will soon bring greater certainty to the entire U.S. economy, particularly the agriculture economy, which has faced numerous challenges over the last few years.

The benefits of USMCA are clear. It's expected to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, raise wages, contribute tens of millions of dollars to the economy, boost U.S. dairy exports by more than \$277 million, and expand market access for U.S. poultry, egg, and wheat producers. It's also expected to strengthen everything from manufacturing to digital services to the automotive industry. It's not a perfect agreement, but for South Dakota, USMCA is a big win.

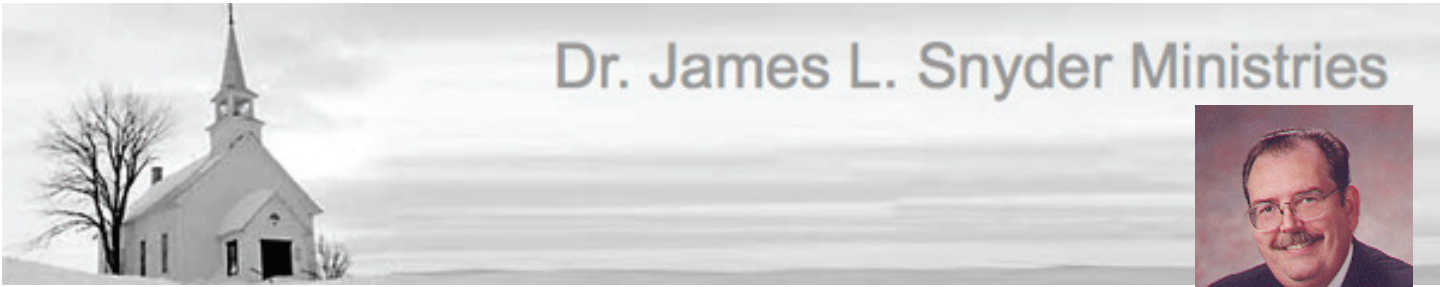
USMCA isn't the only trade win for South Dakota farmers and ranchers. The "phase one" trade deal with China is now in effect, and I was honored to be at the White House for the signing ceremony. While the United States needs to ensure China actually holds up its end of the deal, the phase one provisions will significantly increase demand for American agriculture products – soybeans in particular. Reopening this market for South Dakota's farmers is an important and timely win.

Neither one of these trade deals will be a cure-all that wipes away farm country's pain and suffering, even though that's what farmers and ranchers deserve after years of significant unease. They will take meaningful steps, though, to help turn the tide and make tomorrow a little brighter than today.

There's no doubt that USMCA is a win for South Dakota agriculture, and Congress and the administration should continue to pursue pro-growth, pro-agriculture policies. I remain committed to ensuring the agriculture community gets the support it needs to continue its mission of feeding the world, one row of South Dakota soybeans or corn at a time.

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What Did We Know before Facebook?

To paraphrase one of my favorite humorist, Will Rogers, "All I know is what I read on Facebook."

I must admit that I also get information from Facebook. I can keep up with my family and friends, know what they are doing, and know what they are saying. The information there, whether true or not, is available to all who read.

Quite honestly, I don't always believe what I read on Facebook. Just saying!

As you grow and get older, you adjust to the changing environment that you are in along with the technology. I well remember the day I transitioned from a manual typewriter to a computer. My first computer had no hard drive, and many, perhaps cannot relate to that. However, I thought I was in writer's heaven.

I never thought much about this until one day a young person asked me, "How did you know anything before Facebook?" There was a young man born after the invention of Facebook.

At first, I did not quite understand what he was saying. I had grown accustomed to the developing modern-day technology. Not that I am an expert, I am just a user.

Looking at this young person, I said very simply, "Before Facebook, we had grandmas."

He did not understand, so I had to try to explain the Grandma-Factor.

My grandmother was a very sweet and wonderful woman. I only knew her when she was older because after all, she was my grandmother.

I remember all the wonderful dinners she cooked for us and especially the pies. However, there were some things about grandma I did not know until after she had passed.

Unbeknownst to me, she was known in the entire community as the Queen of Gossipers. This really caught my attention.

Everybody in the community knew my grandmother. More than that, my grandmother knew everybody in the community, especially their secrets.

How she got to that place of being the Queen of Gossipers is something I have never put together. All I know is, she was.

According to some conversations I had with her friends, my grandmother knew what was happening two days before it actually happened. For the life of me, I don't know what that means. Nothing happened in the community that escaped my grandmother's attention.

Whether people needed my grandmother's permission to do something or not, I'm not quite sure. Whatever happened, she knew about it long before it happened.

If you wanted a rumor started, just visit my grandmother and whisper a confidential secret to her. Usually, by the time they got home, that secret was all over the community.

Often I have wondered if my grandmother knew that some people were using her. Then I wondered if some people knew how much she was using them.

At times, this was a little touchy. If a couple was getting engaged, everybody knew about it before they actually were engaged. How she managed that I don't know.

She read a person like Will Rogers read the newspaper.

For her 90th birthday, some people in the community wanted to give her a surprise birthday party. They

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knew, however, it would be very difficult to surprise my grandmother.

Several of them met at a restaurant in the next town to work out some details. They came up with many different scenarios, but none seemed workable.

Then, one of the older women in the group came up with a plan that would out-gossip the Queen of Gossipers.

The plan was simply this. On a certain night, a group would meet at the church to develop a plan to fire their pastor. Everybody knew that grandmother loved her pastor to pieces. Anything like this would have gotten her dander up, and you do not want to do that.

The success of the plan depended upon the right person whispering this gossip to my grandmother. Otherwise, she would not really believe it.

The woman who came up with this was my grandmother's closest friend, and so she was chosen. If Grandmother would believe anybody, it would be this woman.

They made plans for the birthday party. How they got it to everybody without my grandmother knowing is in the same category as who killed JFK.

At the right time, this woman went to my grandmother and confidentially whispered the plan to fire her beloved pastor. "Now, don't let this get out to anybody; this is top secret."

Before the night ended, everybody in the community knew of the plan to "fire the pastor."

On that night, people came early because it was supposed to be a surprise. It was a wonderful surprise.

At the right time, my grandmother marched into that church, slammed open the door, and said as angrily as she had ever been, "How dare you fire my pastor?"

At that moment, everybody, including the pastor, burst into singing, "Happy Birthday to You."

It took a few moments for my grandmother to understand what was really happening. When she finally realized what the meeting was really about, she laughed and said, "How did I miss this?"

As I listen to the woman telling me, the story I thought of what David said. "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant" (Psalm 25:14).

Some secrets, like God's love for me, should be spread far and wide and not kept a secret.



New elk hunting season proposed to reduce feed loss and property damage on S.D. prairies

By: Nick Lowrey

North American elk are returning to the prairies of western South Dakota after more than 100 years of absence, a migration seen as a win for wildlife conservation but which has farmers and ranchers bothered by feed losses and property damage.

The herding of Rocky Mountain elk as far east as Jones and Stanley counties has led to calls for a new hunting season on the prairie to reduce elk numbers and the damage they are causing.

Landowners on the prairies north of Philip and west of Pierre say elk — one of the largest herbivores native to North America — are increasingly grazing in their fields and pastures and are damaging fences and eating food meant for their livestock. Previously, elk mainly resided only in the Black Hills region 175 miles or more to the west.

Spending by the Game, Fish & Parks Department Wildlife Damage Program on elk-related complaints jumped by nearly \$100,000 in 2019. Wildlife damage specialists also covered 7,000 more miles to assist landowners with elk damage in 2019 than in 2018.

Partially in response to landowner complaints and in the wake of more elk sightings, GFP officials have proposed that the game and parks commission approve creation of a massive new elk hunting unit.

"We know there's elk in there, and we're actually talking about opening that up for hunting at some point," GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler told News Watch in an interview.

Under the proposal, a total of 10 "any elk" hunting licenses would be made available for use in the new hunting unit. The unit would cover all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River that doesn't already have an elk hunting season or isn't managed by one of the state's tribal nations.

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division chief for GFP, said the new unit would be something of an experiment.

The experiment is needed because the department doesn't actually know much about elk populations outside the Black Hills. In that region, elk are counted every three to four years using aircraft flying low and slow over the mountains. The effort produces a reliable population estimate, biologists say. Current estimates put the number of elk in the Black Hills at around 7,200 animals, well within the population range sought by the GFP.

Out on the prairie, aerial surveys would be too expensive because there is too much ground to cover. Instead, GFP biologists have relied on landowners reporting elk sightings or damage.



South Dakota farmers and ranchers are increasingly seeing elk on the prairies east of the Black Hills. The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department has proposed creating a massive new elk hunting unit for nearly all of the western half of the state to reduce numbers and damage caused by the large animals. Photo:

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

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If the new West River elk hunting unit is approved during the next GFP Commission meeting scheduled for March 5 and 6 in Pierre, it would be in place for the next two hunting seasons. Information on where elk are killed, when they're killed and whether landowners still have problems after elk hunting occurs would be used to inform decisions on whether more targeted hunting will be needed, Kirschenmann said.

Hunters will likely be eager to help out. Last year, South Dakota residents sent in more than 17,000 applications for the roughly 1,500 elk hunting licenses issued by the state. Most of those licenses were issued for the Black Hills, where there is plenty of public land for hunting.

Outside the Black Hills, the vast majority of land is privately owned and getting access to that land can be a challenge, said Chris Hesla, executive director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, a nonprofit that advocates for wildlife and public hunting access.

"The easiest way to control wildlife damage is through hunting," he said. "We need to look at getting more access so we can harvest enough animals."

Landowners, though, are worried that 10 hunting licenses won't be enough to affect what they say is a steadily growing population of large, wild animals that are competing with their cattle for food and decimating crops.

Eric Jennings, a cattle rancher near Spearfish who is president of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, said elk populations in western South Dakota have grown faster than GFP has so far been able to respond.

"I have been advocating for them to do more for years," Jennings said. "It's just an issue that needs to be addressed."

Ty Eisenbraun, who raises cattle near the Cheyenne River in northeast Pennington County is one of the landowners dealing with an elk problem. He said elk have shown up on his property every fall since 2012, and that at first he was happy to see the animals. But now that he has counted more than 100 elk at a time in his alfalfa fields, he sees them as a problem.

"I kind of enjoy them. I can step out of my house and hear elk bugling," Eisenbraun said. "They're cool, but they're kind of destructive, too."

Elk are native to South Dakota. Historical records show elk were hunted on both sides of the Missouri River in the Dakota Territory through much of the 19th century. Over-hunting before the creation of modern conservation practices eliminated elk from both Dakotas before 1900.

In 1916, elk were reintroduced into what would become Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park in the Black Hills. The idea was to keep the animals contained to the parks so they wouldn't compete with area ranchers' cattle. After 1980, elk management priorities changed and the GFP began trying to expand the Black Hills elk herd to provide more hunting opportunities. Now, the state manages for a herd of between 6,000 and 8,000 animals, depending on weather and range conditions.

Yet elk are naturally transient. As the Black Hills elk herd has grown, more of the animals are moving out and away from the mountains into areas dominated by cattle ranching and farm fields.

Farmers and ranchers in South Dakota have always had to deal with wildlife, such as deer and antelope, eating food meant for their cattle or sheep and eating grain in their fields before harvest. Elk, though, are a little different. They can weigh up to 700 pounds and tend to graze more like cattle.

Unlike cattle, elk will run through fences or knock them over while attempting to jump them. Fence dam-



North American elk, which can weigh up to 750 pounds, are fairly common in the Black Hills but are now migrating into prairie lands to the east, leading ranchers to experience feed losses and property damage. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota

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age has been the biggest problem for Eisenbraun. This year, he's had to replace more than a mile of fence because elk keep knocking it over. Fences are critical to ranchers because they keep their valuable livestock where they are meant to be, and can be expensive and time-consuming to fix.

"I can go out and fix a stretch of fence and within a few days, they'll have destroyed it again," Eisenbraun said.

Fence damage and some raids on his winter feed supply pushed Eisenbraun to start speaking with wildlife damage control specialists within GFP.

There are several things GFP can do to directly help ranchers such as Eisenbraun.

The department, through its wildlife damage program, will help pay for a strong cable to be strung across the top of a fence, which will help prevent elk from knocking the fence over.

To protect stored hay, GFP staff will provide exclusionary panels and help build a protected stack yard. To divert elk away from pastures and hay fields, GFP sometimes will pay up to \$6,000 worth of food plots aimed at reducing damage to alfalfa and other crops.

"We want to be a good partner to these landowners," said Keith Fisk, wildlife damage program administrator.

In the United States, wildlife is publicly owned. Private landowners don't have any more rights to the wildlife on their property than anyone else. Landowners can control access to their land, but they cannot stop wild animals from leaving their land, they cannot sell wildlife and they cannot just shoot problem wildlife without getting permission from the agency that manages it.

Because 85% of South Dakota land area is privately owned, and because most of the state's wildlife lives on private land, GFP has to work closely with landowners, especially when wild animals are damaging someone's livelihood, Fisk said.

In 2019, GFP spent just shy of \$300,000 working with farmers and ranchers to reduce and prevent elk damage to their property, up from slightly more than \$200,000 spent in 2018.

In all, GFP spent a little more than \$3.5 million on wildlife damage control in 2019, including nearly \$1 million spent on deer damage complaints alone. Nearly all of the money the department spent on wildlife damage control comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

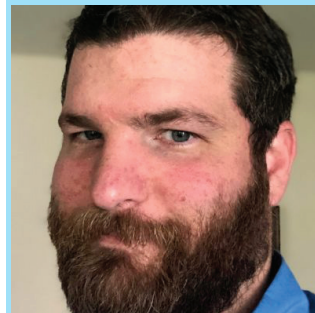
"We want to work with landowners," Fisk said. "There's a ton of value to having those critters on the landscape."

Eisenbraun hasn't taken advantage of wildlife damage assistance just yet. For now, he's hoping a new hunting unit will help when the elk return to his land next fall.



Eric Jennings, a cattle rancher living near Spearfish on the northern edge of the Black Hills, said elk have been expanding their range north and east of the Black Hills since the late 1990s. Elk can cause significant damage to fences and can make a serious dent in a rancher's hay crop.

Photo: Courtesy South Dakota Cattlemen's Association



ABOUT NICK LOWREY

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

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82nd Annual Performance
January 26, 2020

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82nd Annual Carnival Celebration

Royalty through the Years

1938	Lenora Luruhn Sheehan	1981	Brenda Sombke Waage
1939	Florence Wegner Miles	1982	Vonnie Bleibaum McKinney
1941	Gunrun Martison McCullough, Robert Pray	1983	Pam Sternhagen Hanson
1942	Dorothy Fangen Kah, Robert Pray	1984	Rosalie Martin Wylie
1946	Virginia Pratt Ablen	1985	Jodi Anderson Weigel
1947	Donna Wehde Cassels	1986	Cassie Ackman Kuentler
1948	Deseree Saltness	1987	Charlie Garness-Klauer
1949	Shirley Thompson Sultz	1988	Niki Schaller Christoffer
1950	Dona Cooper Anderson, Bob Richards	1989	Kris Sternhagen Barger
1951	Kay Stroh Fangen, Paul Roth	1990	Crystal Knoll Wheeler
1952	Jvon Gildy, Bill Fangen	1991	Becky Sperry Diegel
1953	Donna Oliver Nastos, Aaron Bade	1992	Becky McGannon
1954	Barbara Sippel Pharis, Jerald Lakemaker	1993	Heather Feser
1955	Patty Ennen Jackson, Rodney Bauer	1994	Brenda Herr Goetz
1956	Barbara Gildy Van Kempen, Tom Bauer	1995	Elizabeth Hoffman Doeden
1957	Connie Sippel Anderson, Jon Anderson	1996	Becky Hoffman Hearnen
1958	Susan Clawson Grace, Wayne Knoll	1997	Jennifer Sundstrom Little
1959	Karen Hubbard Berglun, Ron Mielke	1998	Lindsey Swisher Tietz
1960	Corinne Foss Scott, Lee Schinkel	1999	Jessica Hoffman Huber
1961	Charlotte Craig Rigger, Kent Johnson	2000	Tasha Sperry Dunker
1962	Darlyne Dunker Johnson, George Wegner	2001	Erica Swisher Roberts
1963	Jaci Jiran Bain, Bob Nielsen	2002	Katie Anderson
1964	Judy Flihs Feser, Tom Paepke	2003	Shannon Daly Lehnberg
1965	Jeanne Wegner Wanous, Jeff Kolbo	2004	Erica Stanley Garvey
1966	Joan Flihs Johnson, Greg Saunders	2005	Brittany Ronning Mollet
1967	Sandy Schaller, Lynn Schinkel	2006	Heather Dixon Phillips
1968	Diane Sundling Knutson, Gary Hoops	2007	Erin McNamara
1969	Carryl Bleibaum Goens, Jeff Von Wald	2008	Marqelle Albrecht
1970	Debbie Cassels Bollinger	2009	Morgan Schuring
1971	Renee Mydland Swisher	2010	Bailey Ronning Hoffmann
1972	Jill Mydland Zimmer	2011	Jenna LaMee
1973	Faye Siefkes	2012	Alexa Schuring
1974	Frankye Siefkes	2013	Cheyenne Schaller
1975	Sherry Schaller	2014	Breanna Marzahn Milbrandt
1976	April Ackman Madden	2015	Allison Weber
1977	Kim Volk Schweitzer	2016	Aubray Harry
1978	Cindy McKiver Hoops	2017	Katie Koehler
1979	September Ackman Kruse	2018	Jasmine Schinkel
1980	Stacey Larson Hines	2019	Taylor Holm

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2019 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen Taylor Holm

Taylor is the daughter of Jason and Kathy Holm; she has one older brother, Tyler.

Taylor is a freshman at the University of Sioux Falls where she is majoring in radiologic technology. Her career goal is to become a MRI tech working in Aberdeen. When not busy with her studies, Taylor enjoys being involved with the Love your Melon Club on campus and she loves to hang out with family and friends. She also enjoys working and painting. We are happy to welcome back our 2019 Silver Skates queen! Taylor would like to say good luck to all the skaters today and thank you all for coming!

Queen Candidates/Skaters

Seniors



Caitlynn Barse



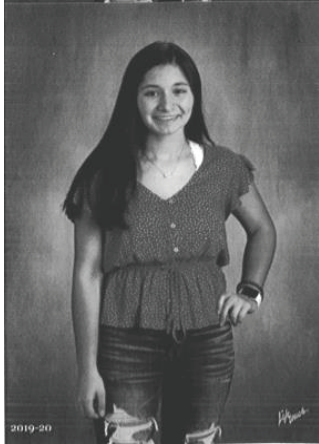
Ashley Flihs



Nicole Marzahn

Queen Candidates/Skaters

Juniors



Tessa Erdmann



Alexis Hanten



Hailey Monson



Erin Unzen



Grace Wambach



Grace Wiedrick



2020 Carnival of Silver Skates

A few reminders - please:

- Have your children stay in/by your vehicle – **no** skating behind the scenery or in front of vehicles at any time for the safety of everyone
- Have your children report to the warming house 3 acts before their group performs
- (6:30 performance) check your headlights, including automatic lights, and make sure they are off so as not to distract the performers.

Tune your vehicle radio to station FM 89.1!

Enjoy and stay warm without having to roll down your windows.

Order of Program

National Anthem Groton Area High School Chamber Choir
Introduction of the 2019 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen Taylor Holm
Introduction of 2019 Snow Queens Ashley Fliehs (Senior) and Shaylee Peterson (Junior)
Coronation of the 2019 Queen of Silver Skates (afternoon performance only)
Queen Candidates:
Seniors: Caitlynn Barse, Ashley Fliehs & Nicole Marzahn
Juniors: Tessa Erdmann, Alexis Hanten, Hailey Monson, Erin Unzen, Grace Wambach & Grace Wiedrick

“Dreams on Ice”

- 1. 8th Grade** “Wings”
Anna Bisbee, Cadence Feist, Anna Fjeldheim, Carly Guthmiller, Sara Menzia,
Hannah Monson, Emma Schinkel, and Ashlyn Sperry
Instructor: Jasmine Schinkel
- 2. 3rd Grade** “Try Everything”
Aubrey Craig, Sam Crank, Abby Fjeldheim, Zach Fliehs, Tenley Frost,
Luke Gauer, Tevan Hanson, and Adeline Kotzer
Instructor: Alexis Hanten
- 3. 1st Grade** “What Dreams Are Made Of”
Brynlee Dunker, Ambrielle Feist, Danielle Franken, Caelynn Pullan,
Maycee Moody, Mya Moody, Victoria Schuster, and Taylynn Traphagen
Instructor: Nicole Marzahn
- 4. Specialty Act** “Come Fly With Me”
Guest Skater, Katherine Pfaff, Watertown Figure Skate Club

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5. **4th Grade** **“Mr. Sandman”**
Camille Craig, Raelynn Feist, Sydney Locke, and Chesney Weber
Instructors: Coralea Wolter and Katie Anderson
6. **Snowflakes** **“I’ve Got a Dream”**
Stetson Foertsch, Sophia Gilchrist, Saylor Gilchrist, and Ellie Lassle.
Instructors: Tessa Erdmann and Grace Wambach
7. **6th Grade** **“Living Your Dreams”**
Mia Crank, Emma Davies, Rylee Dunker, Breslyn Jeschke,
Jaedyn Penning, and Cali Tollifson
Instructors: Tasha Dunker and Alexa Schuring
8. **Specialty Act** **“Sweet Dreams”**
Duet – Carly Guthmiller and Emma Schinkel
9. **10th Grade** **“All I Have to Do is Dream”**
Kennedy Anderson, Brooklyn Imrie, Julianna Kosel, and Tina Zoellner
Instructors: Katie Anderson and Coralea Wolter
10. **9th Grade** **“The River of Dreams”**
Carter Barse, Brenna Carda, Shallyn Foertsch, KayLynn Overacker, and
Marlee Tollifson
Instructors: Katie Anderson and Coralea Wolter
11. **Specialty Act** **“Dancing Queen”**
Duet – Alexis Hanten and Nicole Marzahn

 **Intermission** 

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- 12. 2nd Grade** "I Just Can't Wait to Be King"
Evy Beidler, Emilee Buro, Sophia Flihs, Andi Gauer, and Rowan Patterson
Instructor: Hailey Monson
- 13. 5th Grade** "Dream Lover"
Caroline Bahr, Avery Crank, Teagan Hanten, Addison Hoffman, Brenna Imrie,
Emerlee Jones, Claire Schuelke, McKenna Tietz, and Taryn Traphagen
Instructor: Lindsey Tietz
- 14. Specialty Act** "Summer in the City"
Guest Skater, Katherine Pfaff, Watertown Figure Skate Club
- 15. Kindergarten** "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes"
Shealee Gilchrist, Rowan Hanson, Ryan Hanson, Devan Locke,
Calvin Locken, Colton Pullan, Jack Schuelke, and Kaylee Sippel
Instructors: Brooklyn Imrie and Kennedy Anderson
- 16. 7th Grade** "Brave"
Emma Bahr, Elizabeth Flihs, Jeslyn Kosel, Emma Kutter,
Emily Overacker, and Faith Traphagen
Instructor: Shonna Harry
- 17. Specialty Act** "You Make My Dreams Come True"
Duet – Anna Fjeldheim and Ashlyn Sperry
- 18. 11th Grade** "Sh Boom Sh Boom"
Tessa Erdmann, Alexis Hanten, Hailey Monson, Erin Unzen,
Grace Wambach, and Grace Wiedrick
Instructor: Julie Erdmann
- 19. 12th Grade** "Super Trouper"
Caitlynn Barse, Ashley Flihs, and Nicole Marzahn
Instructor: Aubray Harry
- 20. Finale**
All Groups and Instructors



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Guest Skater

A special thank you to this year's guest skater...

Katherine Pfaff



We are excited to welcome Katherine Pfaff as our guest skater this year. She will be performing several specialty performances. Katherine is from Watertown, SD. She has been skating for 11 years and is currently a freshman. Katherine performs in USFS Juvenile Free Skate Level and Intermediate Moves in the Field. She has been in the Lions Ice Show for 10 years. Katherine will be skating to *Summer in the City* by The Lovin Spoonful and *Come Fly With Me* by Frank Sinatra.

Katherine is the daughter of Scott and Ann Pfaff.

When she is not skating, she plays golf for WHS in Watertown and also plays the piano.



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Acknowledgements

Thank you for attending the 82nd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates performance! This wonderful Groton area program continues to grow, thanks to the great cooperation of many community members, including:

Those volunteers serving on the 2020 Carnival of Silver Skates Executive Board:

Lindsey Tietz, Chairperson; Tina Kosel, Co-chairperson; Kristie Flihs, Secretary; Dawn Imrie, Treasurer; Deb Schuelke, Costume Chair; Coralea Wolter, Skate Instruction Chair; Sarah Hanten, Communications Chair; and Jaymie Overacker, City Relations Chair.

Instructors for this year's Carnival: Coralea Wolter, Katie Anderson, Shonna Harry, Aubray Harry, Tasha Dunker, Alexa Schuring, Lindsey Tietz, Jasmine Schinkel, Nicole Marzahn, Alexis Hanten, Brooklyn Imrie, Kennedy Anderson, Hailey Monson, Tessa Erdmann, Grace Wambach and Julie Erdmann.

The countless others who have helped make "Dreams on Ice" a reality.

Special Thanks to:

Emcee
Presenting of the US Flag
National Anthem Performers
Sound system & radio transmission technical assistance
Parking coordinators
Admission Collectors

Spotlight Technicians
Costume Assistants
Costume Seamstress
Queen's Gift
Distributing notes to students
Use of facilities for costume hand-out
Emergency Services
2020 Friend of the Carnival
Announcements on local TV channel
Rink & facility maintenance, Snow Removal, etc.
2020 Photographer & Queen's Photo
2020 Carnival Apparel
Warming House Supervisors
Skating Clinic Instructor
Publicity Promoters

Program Printing

Madeline Schuelke
2020 Senior Skaters
GHS Chamber Choir
Cody Hanten and Coralea Wolter
Joe Foertsch, Joel Guthmiller
Ryan Fjeldheim, Jarod Flihs, Will Gauer,
Tom Tietz, Cody Hanten
Jesse Overacker, Anthony Schinkel, Scotty Hinman
Brooklyn Imrie and Maddy Schuelke
Renee Swisher
Lori's Pharmacy
Groton Area Schools
St. John's Lutheran Church
Groton Rescue Squad
Dairy Queen, Groton – Dale and Joyce Grenz
James Valley Telecommunications
City of Groton
J. Simon Photography
BK Custom T's & More
Tammy Locke and Tina Kosel
Jodi Weigel
Groton Daily Independent, Dakota Press, Hub City Radio,
James Valley Telecommunications, Aberdeen American
News, Lori's, First State Bank, POET, City of Groton
Tina and Paul Kosel

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Admission Costs:

Volunteers will be coming around during the AFTERNOON
PERFORMANCE ONLY to collect admission fees:

\$3.00 for those 13 and older

\$2.00 for those six to twelve

Free for children five and under

Looking ahead to future Carnivals... Skaters, we want you!

Do you want to be involved in this exciting event next year? Great! Please watch for registration information to come out early next Fall, shortly after the new school year starts. Registration forms are due the beginning of September. Also, watch the Carnival of Silver Skates Facebook page. If you were not involved this year, but would like to receive registration information by mail or e-mail next Fall, please contact Lindsey at 397-7707 or lindsey.tietz@k12.sd.us You can also reach Lindsey by friending the Carnival of Silver Skates Facebook page (Silver Skates). Skaters from four years old (must have turned four by August 31st) through high school are welcome!

Let's make next year's 83rd Annual Carnival special again...

Parents & Other Volunteers - we NEED you!

A few of the benefits: *Waived registration fee *Free CSS Merchandise *Contributing to Carnival program

The Carnival of Silver Skates Annual Meeting will be Sunday, March 15th at 2:00 at the Warming House.

Parents of all skaters are encouraged to attend. An election of officers for the 2020 Carnival will be held. The Carnival of Silver Skates Executive Board includes: co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, costume chair, skating instruction chair, communications chair, and city relations chair. Volunteers in these positions ensure that a successful Carnival is to continue.

Watch for upcoming descriptions of positions to see which one would be right for you!

Contact Lindsey (397-7707) with any questions.

Please plan to attend the meeting and get involved this year!

Don't forget costume turn-in!!

Options for **costume turn-in** are **TODAY following the evening performance or Monday, January 27^h from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Warming House.** Please do NOT wash any part of the costume.

Please return your entire costume, including the hanger, in its original condition. If you absolutely cannot turn in your costume at one of these scheduled times we've arranged, you **MUST** contact Deb Schuelke (397-7745) **PRIOR to the costume turn-in** to make other arrangements for a timely costume hand-in. Failure to do so, or to deliver the costume by the alternative date and time, will result in a forfeiture of your costume deposit.

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Monson takes first at Kingsbury County Tournament

Groton Area's wrestling squad took seventh place in a field of 18 teams at the Kingsbury County Wrestling Tournament held Saturday in Arlington.

Dragr Monson placed first at 113, Grady O'Neill placed third at 285 and Christian Ehresmann placed fourth at 106,

106: Porter Johnson (4-6)

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Champ. Round 2 - Zachary Flute (Tiospa Zina) 3-11 won by major decision over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 (MD 13-5)

Cons. Round 2 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Braydon Oldenkamp (Lyman County) 7-7 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 4-6 (Fall 0:13)

106: Christian Ehresmann (13-10) placed 4th and scored 17.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Champ. Round 2 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by fall over Kaleb Johnson (Kingsbury County) 5-6 (Fall 2:48)

Quarterfinal - Nolan Miles (Brookings) 13-8 won by major decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 (MD 15-4)

Cons. Round 4 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by fall over John Yonker (Hamlin) 1-15 (Fall 1:48)

Cons. Round 5 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by decision over Brady Risetter (Redfield Area) 10-8 (Dec 9-8)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 won by fall over Gannon Gilligan (Kingsbury County) 13-10 (Fall 4:40)

3rd Place Match - Nolan Miles (Brookings) 13-8 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 13-10 (Dec 7-5)

113: Jacob Craig (1-3)

Champ. Round 1 - Skylar Trygstad (Sioux Valley) 22-17 won by fall over Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 1-3 (Fall 1:38)

Cons. Round 1 - Brayden Wiese (Flandreau) 10-16 won by fall over Jacob Craig (Groton Area) 1-3 (Fall 3:27)

113: Dragr Monson (19-5) placed 1st and scored 25.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won by fall over Parker Gill (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 1-14 (Fall 0:24)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won by fall over Ethan Johnson (Kingsbury County) 8-10 (Fall 1:23)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won by major decision over Lincoln Fink (Canby) 12-12 (MD 10-0)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 19-5 won in sudden victory - 1 over Andy Meyer (Canton) 22-4 (SV-1 8-6)

145: Cole Bisbee (2-13)

Champ. Round 1 - Mason Fey (Redfield Area) 24-2 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-13 (Fall 1:05)

Cons. Round 1 - Tyler Frick (Canton) 1-2 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 2-13 (Dec 8-1)

160: Thomas Cranford (12-12) scored 10.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Isaac McManigal (Lyman County) 3-13 (Fall 1:15)

Quarterfinal - Joe Hornick (Sioux Valley) 19-17 won by decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 (Dec 3-1)

Cons. Round 2 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Cole Wilkie (Warner/Northwest-

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ern) 2-10 (Fall 1:37)

Cons. Round 3 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 won by fall over Grant Weisser (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 9-14 (Fall 2:29)

Cons. Semi - Beau Williams (Canton) 10-5 won by decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 12-12 (Dec 12-5)

182: Lane Krueger (11-10) scored 2.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Trevor Sagness (Sioux Falls Washington) 21-8 won by major decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 (MD 9-1)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 won by decision over Dylan Geary (Kingsbury County) 3-10 (Dec 6-4)

Cons. Semi - Sean Domke (Redfield Area) 20-8 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 11-10 (Fall 0:54)

285: Grady O'Neill (13-11) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Gavin Nichols (Redfield Area) 13-9 (Fall 4:28)

Semifinal - Denver Noyes (Canby) 23-4 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 (Fall 1:24)

Cons. Semi - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Ethan Skarnagel (Sisseton) 6-13 (Fall 2:09)

3rd Place Match - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 13-11 won by fall over Braden Peters (Flandreau) 9-6 (Fall 2:50)

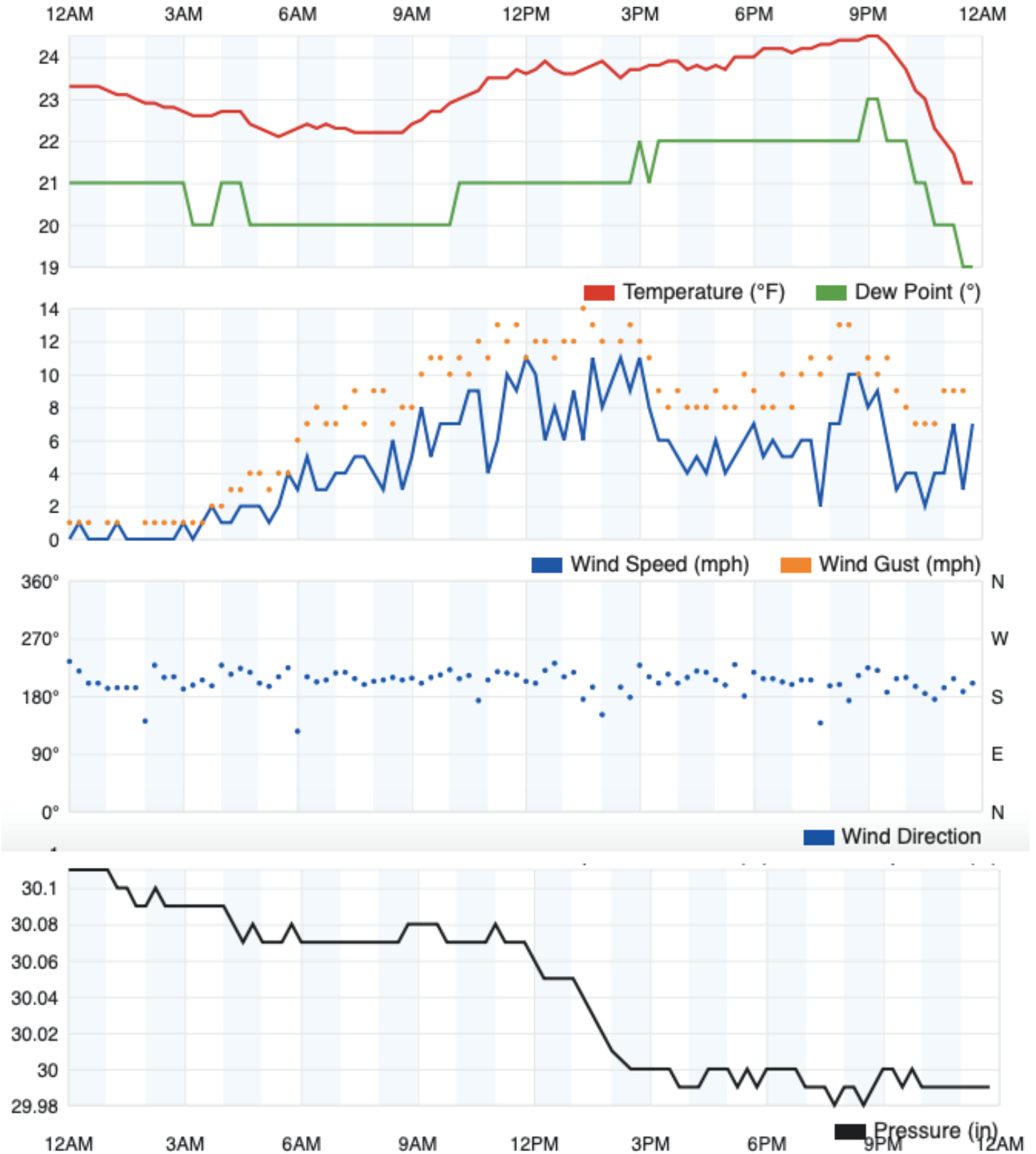
Team Points

1	Canby	188.5
2	Redfield Area	185.5
3	Brookings	135.0
4	Kingsbury County	116.0
5	Sioux Falls Washington	104.5
6	Sisseton	97.5
7	Groton Area	72.0
8	Lyman County	71.5
9	Faulkton Area	69.0
10	Canton	67.5
11	Sioux Valley	54.0
12	Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle	43.0
13	Hamlin	42.0
14	Viborg-Hurley	38.0
15	Flandreau	34.0
16	Warner/Northwestern	11.0
17	Tiospa Zina	5.0
18	Britton/Hecla	0.0

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Carnival of Silver Skates at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym at GHS Arena

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

Monday, January 27, 2020

Boys Basketball at Northwestern (combined junior high game at 4 p.m., C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by the junior varsity game and then the varsity game.

6:00pm: Junior High Wrestling Tournmanet at Redfield

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

6:30pm: Girls' Basketball at Clark/Willow Lake (at Clark School)

Thursday, January 30, 2020

4:00pm: Northeast Conference Wrestling at Britton-Hecla School

Friday, January 31, 2020

Lewis and Clark Debate at Yankton High School

Boys Basketball hosts Clark/Willow Lake. (Combined Junior High Game at 5:15 p.m., followed by Junior Varsity game at 6:30 p.m. and then the varsity game.

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Boys Varsity Basketball Classic - DAK12 vs. NEC at Madison

Lewis and Clark Debate at Yankton

10:00am: Groton Wrestling Tournament

Monday, February 3, 2020

6:00 p.m.: Combined 7th/8th grade boys basketball hosts Redfield

6:00 p.m.: Junior High Wrestling at Ipswich

6:30 p.m.: Girls' basketball at Northwestern - JV followed by varsity game

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

5 p.m.: Boys 7th and 8th grade games at GHS Gym vs. Langford

Doubleheader basketball game hosts Langford Area. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Girls' Varsity at 6:15 p.m. followed by the Boys Varsity.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

10:15 a.m.: MathCounts at Northern State University

Thursday, February 6, 2020

6:30 p.m.: Girls Basketball at Tiospa Zina (JV followed by varsity)

Friday, February 7, 2020

Boys' Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina. 7th grade game at 3 p.m., 8th grade game at 4 p.m., junior varsity game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game

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Today



Partly Sunny
then Chance
Wintry Mix

High: 34 °F

Tonight



Chance Wintry
Mix then
Cloudy

Low: 19 °F

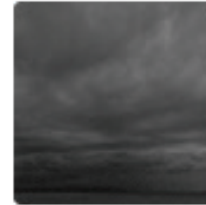
Monday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 25 °F

Monday
Night



Cloudy

Low: 17 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 30 °F

North/East
Today: Partly-Mostly Cloudy.
Light Wintry Mix Developing
Highs 28-38°F.

East
Tonight: Cloudy. Light Wintry
Mix Ending Late.
Lows 15-23°F.

Monday
Monday: Mostly Cloudy.
Highs 22-32°F.

ISSUED: 5:29 AM - Sunday, January 26, 2020, National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

Some foggy conditions this morning in a few spots of northeast South Dakota will give way to a relatively quiet midday and early afternoon. However, a clipper type low pressure system will move in from the northwest this afternoon and spread a chance for a light wintry mix of freezing rain and/or snow to north central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. This light precip will continue into tonight before coming to an end late. Accumulations are expected to be light, but some hazardous travel will be possible in the east because of the light icy glaze and light snow. Dry conditions will begin the work and school week on Monday.

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Today in Weather History

January 26, 1977: Four days of very strong winds occurred from the 26th through the 29th with a strong low pressure area over western Ontario. Strong northwest winds of 30 to 45 mph with gusts into the 60s caused widespread blowing and drifting snow with most roads closed with many traffic accidents. The winds combined with subzero temperatures to create wind chills of 60 to 80 below zero. Many schools were closed for several days.

January 26, 2014: A strong Alberta Clipper system generated light snow and strong winds across the region resulting in blizzard conditions. On Sunday morning, a band of moderate to heavy snow showers developed over North Dakota and swept down through our region producing cloud to ground lightning and thundersnow at times. Snowfall amounts were generally three inches or less. Wind gusts ranged from 45 to 55 mph at times. Several no travel advisories were issued due to poor visibilities in blizzard conditions with state officials closing a large portion of Interstate-29 from Brookings to the North Dakota border. The constant bombardment from powerful clipper systems from the northwest was responsible for this unusual weather.

1772: Possibly the greatest snowfall ever recorded in Washington started on this day. When the storm began, Thomas Jefferson was returning home from his honeymoon with his new bride, Martha Wayles Skelton. The newlyweds made it to within eight miles of Monticello before having to abandon their carriage in the deep snow. Both finished the ride on horseback in the blinding snow. The newlyweds arrived home late on the night of January 26th. In Jefferson's "Garden Book," he wrote "the deepest snow we have ever seen. In Albermarle it was about 3. F. deep."

1937: The wettest month ever in Cincinnati, Ohio is January 1937 when 13.68 inches fell. Their average January amount is 3.00 inches of precipitation. The overabundance of precipitation over the Ohio River basin caused near record to record flooding in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. On this day, the river gauge reached 80 feet in Cincinnati, the highest level in the city's history. The Ohio River reached 57 feet in Louisville, Kentucky on the 27th, also setting a new record by ten feet. Seventy percent of the city was under water at that time.

1978 - A paralyzing blizzard struck the Midwest. One to three feet of snow fell in Michigan, and 20 to 40 inches was reported across Indiana. Winds reached 70 mph in Michigan, and gusted above 100 mph in Ohio. The high winds produced snow drifts twenty feet high in Michigan and Indiana stranding thousands on the interstate highways. Temperatures in Ohio dropped from the 40s to near zero during the storm. (David Ludlum)

1983 - The California coast was battered by a storm which produced record high tides, thirty-two foot waves, and mudslides, causing millions of dollars damage. The storm then moved east and dumped four feet of snow on Lake Tahoe. (22nd-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm spread heavy snow across the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast States, with 18 inches reported at Vineland NJ, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Chatham MA. Snow cover in Virginia ranged up to thirty inches following this second major storm in just one week. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A snowstorm in the northeastern U.S. produced 19 inches at Austerlitz NY and Stillwater NY. A storm in the Great Lakes Region left 16.5 inches at Marquette MI, for a total of 43 inches in six days. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds created blizzard-like conditions in northwestern Vermont. Winds at Saint Albans gusted to 88 mph. In Alaska, the town of Cold Foot (located north of Fairbanks) reported a morning low of 75 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A winter storm spread high winds from the northwestern U.S. to Wyoming and Colorado, with heavy snow in some of the high elevations. Stevens Pass WA received 17 inches of snow, half of which fell in four hours. In extreme northwest Wyoming, Togwotee Mountain Lodge received 24 inches of snow. Winds in Colorado gusted to 90 mph at Rollinsville. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

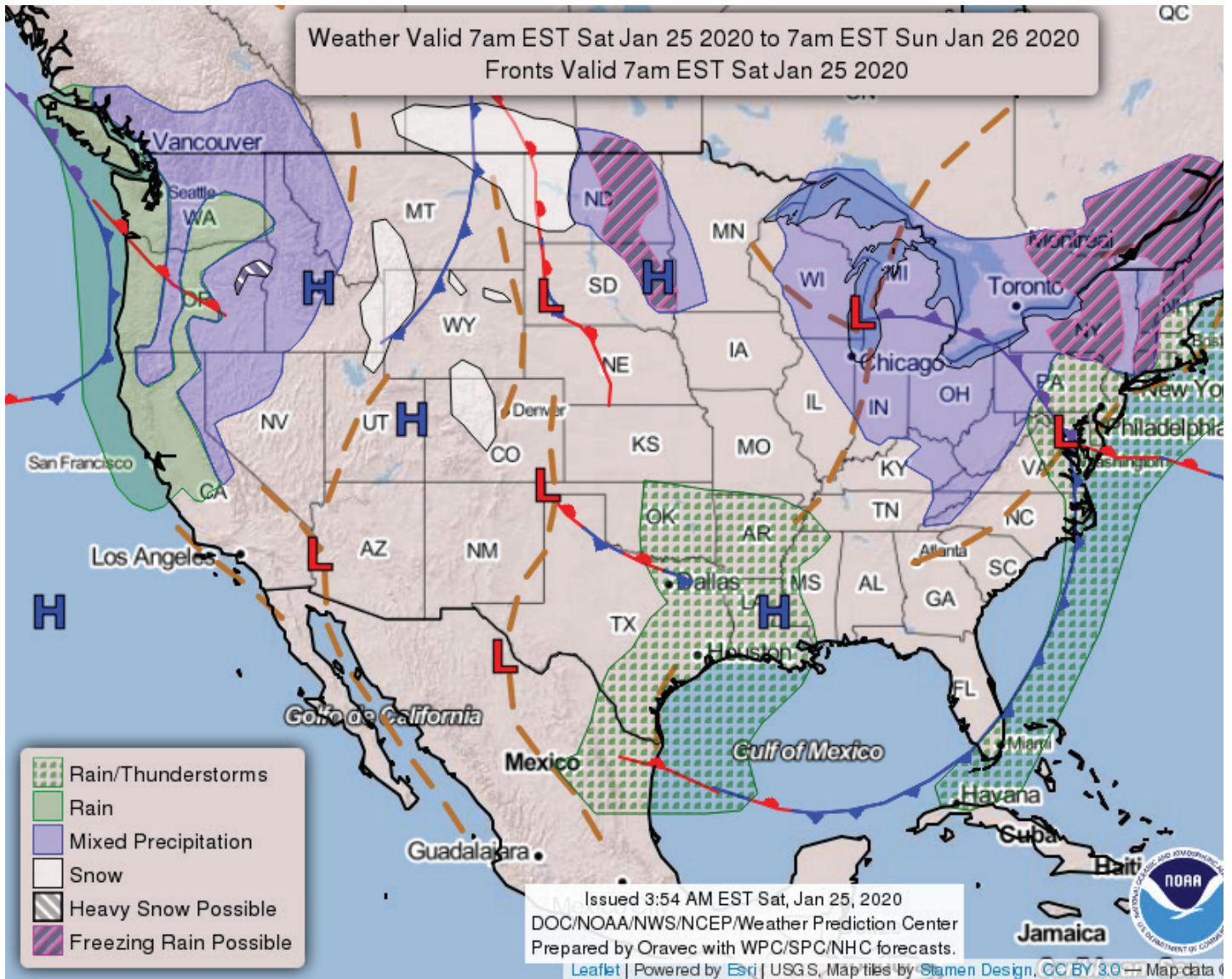
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 24 °F at 8:54 PM
Low Temp: 21 °F at 11:32 PM
Wind: 15 mph at 1:33 PM
Snow

Record High: 58° in 1947
Record Low: -30° in 1950
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.39
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.35
Average Precip to date: 0.39
Precip Year to Date: 0.35
Sunset Tonight: 5:31 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:01 a.m.



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THE FOUR "T'S" OF LIFE

Writing in his diary, a young man predicted his future: "Someday I'm going to do something special with my life. I will become famous!"

Years later, an old man said to his family, "I could have done great things with my life, but I didn't. I am so sorry. I wish I had. I am a failure."

What a tragic disclosure! The old man now talking was once the young man dreaming

God gives each of us a limited number of days, a select number of skills, and with them the ability to do something honorable. None of us know the number of our days or the length of our life. Some of us never develop the skills God has given us. Many do not invest the talents God has given them wisely, wasting their lives on the frivolous unaware of God's gifts.

An important question to ask ourselves every day is this: "What am I going to do with the time, the talents and treasures God has given me today?" For this day may be our last.

We have no assurance of tomorrow. We may lose the skills that we have through a tragedy or our treasures may be taken from us without warning. When we attach our lives to God's power and His plan, we will have no regrets. Our lives will honor God and bless others.

Prayer: Teach us, Lord, to be faithful to You and to make the most of all You have given us. May we take Your gifts, invest them wisely, and do what honors You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

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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
- 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

07-09-10-24-30

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

Estimated jackpot: \$32,000

Lotto America

16-20-22-23-47, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 4

(sixteen, twenty, twenty-two, twenty-three, forty-seven; Star Ball: six; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$7.56 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$141 million

Powerball

02-09-17-36-67, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(two, nine, seventeen, thirty-six, sixty-seven; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$373 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Belle Fourche 68, Bowman County, N.D. 56

Brookings 68, Fairmont, Minn. 67

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 73, Little Wound 65

Crow Creek 74, Todd County 68

Dell Rapids 75, Elk Point-Jefferson 48

Huron 58, Aberdeen Central 49

Ipswich 58, James Valley Christian 51

Lead-Deadwood 41, Hot Springs 23

Lower Brule 91, St. Francis Indian 74

McLaughlin 86, Miller 67

Milbank 60, Florence/Henry 58

Mobridge-Pollock 67, Ellendale, N.D. 25

Omaha Nation, Neb. 79, Flandreau Indian 66

Potter County 57, Wolsey-Wessington 47

Rapid City Central 64, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 58

Red Cloud 61, Custer 50

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 50, Rapid City Stevens 47

Wall 49, New Underwood 47

Waubay/Summit 58, Faulkton 55

Yankton 58, Sturgis Brown 29

DVC Tournament

Championship=Dell Rapids St. Mary 66, Arlington 57

Fifth Place=Elkton-Lake Benton 71, Estelline/Hendricks 54

Third Place=Colman-Egan 55, Lake Preston 43

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Hanson Corn Palace Classic=
Aberdeen Christian 70, Corsica/Stickney 59
Bridgewater-Emery 57, Faith 40
Canistota 65, White River 43
DeSmet 67, Viborg-Hurley 56
Parkston 56, Aberdeen Roncalli 45
Platte-Geddes 57, Hanson 42
St. Thomas More 57, Sioux Valley 48
Tea Area 58, Clark/Willow Lake 49
Panhandle Conference Tournament=
Fifth Place=
Edgemont 43, Hay Springs, Neb. 22

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 53, Huron 47
Belle Fourche 36, Bowman County, N.D. 29
Brookings 47, Fairmont, Minn. 39
Crow Creek 71, Todd County 43
Elk Point-Jefferson 42, Dell Rapids 35
Faulkton 61, Waubay/Summit 39
Florence/Henry 65, Great Plains Lutheran 34
Ipswich 45, James Valley Christian 35
Lead-Deadwood 44, Hot Springs 39
Little Wound 61, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 57
Lower Brule 58, St. Francis Indian 47
Miller 68, McLaughlin 38
Mobridge-Pollock 59, Ellendale, N.D. 31
New Underwood 34, Wall 32
Northwestern 49, Wilmot 29
Potter County 59, Wolsey-Wessington 52
Red Cloud 52, Custer 16
Sioux Falls Lincoln 68, Brandon Valley 53
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 58, Rapid City Stevens 40
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 50, Rapid City Central 42
Yankton 53, Sturgis Brown 29
Dakota Valley Conference Tournament
Championship=Deubrook 41, Colman-Egan 35
Seventh Place=Elkton-Lake Benton 40, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 39
Third Place=Arlington 48, Dell Rapids St. Mary 31
Great Plains Conference Classic
Avon 42, Scotland 41
Centerville 54, Alcester-Hudson 43
Colome 44, Gayville-Volin 26
Corsica/Stickney 59, Burke 34
Marty Indian 53, Freeman Academy/Marion 36
Little Moreau Conference Tournament
3rd Place=Lemmon 51, Timber Lake 44
5th Place=Harding County 52, Bison 38
7th Place=McIntosh 55, Tiospaye Topa 20
Championship=Faith 65, Dupree 38

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Panhandle Conference Tournament
Third Place=Crawford, Neb. 52, Edgemont 37

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

Hagedorn's 31 leads South Dakota past Oral Roberts, 91-80

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Tyler Hagedorn had 31 points as South Dakota beat Oral Roberts 91-80 on Saturday.

Hagedorn made 6 of 8 from beyond the 3-pointer arc and added nine rebounds.

Triston Simpson had 17 points for South Dakota (14-8, 5-3 Summit League), which earned its fifth straight home victory. Stanley Umude added 13 points. Ty Chisom had six rebounds.

Emmanuel Nzekwesi had 27 points and nine rebounds for the Golden Eagles (11-9, 4-3), whose four-game win streak ended with the loss. Max Abmas added 24 points. Deondre Burns had 10 points.

South Dakota plays Denver on the road on Thursday. Oral Roberts plays South Dakota State at home on Wednesday.

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

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1 dead after shooting in Aberdeen; suspect identified

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — One person died early Saturday after a shooting in Aberdeen, police said.

Aberdeen police were called to a shooting at about 4 a.m. Saturday and found an unresponsive male who had been shot multiple times. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital and an autopsy is planned.

Police say there is no danger to the public and a suspect has been identified. No additional details were expected to be provided before Monday.

3 members of Blackfeet Nation sue IHS over sexual abuse

KALISPELL, Mont. (AP) — Three members of the Blackfeet Nation have filed a civil lawsuit against the Indian Health Service and are seeking \$9 million in damages, alleging the organization violated their treaty rights by failing to prevent a former IHS doctor from sexually abusing them.

The lawsuit refers to Stanley Patrick Weber, who was convicted of sexually assaulting boys while working for the IHS on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in Federal Claims Court by three men who are in their 30s and who allege they were abused in the early 1990s, Montana Public Radio reported. Weber was convicted of abusing one of the plaintiffs.

The IHS declined to comment on the lawsuit, which alleges the agency ignored warning signs about Weber's abuse in violation of the plaintiffs' rights under the U.S. Government's 1855 treaty with the Blackfeet Tribe.

"They specifically agreed that they would protect Blackfeet National Members from depredations and other unlawful acts committed by white men residing on the reservation. That's the language in the treaty," said attorney Peter Janci.

IHS issued a general statement saying the agency is working to revise its policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment for patients.

Rapid City man sentenced to prison for killing brother

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for fatally stabbing his brother during a drunken argument.

James Ladeaux, Sr., 55, was sentenced Friday. He pleaded guilty last month to second-degree manslaughter, admitting he killed his brother Fred in March.

The Rapid City Journal reported that three years of Ladeaux's sentence will be suspended and he'll get credit for the 311 days he's already spent in jail.

Fred Ladeaux was found dead in an alley on March 18, and James was found next to him crying, with a bottle of vodka at his feet a knife in his hand.

At Friday's sentencing, Judge Jane Wipf-Pfeifle told Ladeaux that he had much to offer when he was sober, but "this is what happens when we have drugs and alcohol and we carry weapons."

Turkish teams hunt for quake survivors as death toll hits 35

By ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Working against the clock in freezing temperatures, Turkish rescue teams pulled more survivors from collapsed buildings Sunday, days after a powerful magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit the country's east.

Authorities said the death toll rose to at least 35 people.

Turkish television showed Ayse Yildiz, 35, and her 2-year-old daughter Yusra being dragged out of the rubble of a collapsed apartment building in the city of Elazig. They had been trapped for 28 hours after the earthquake struck on Friday night.

The magnitude 6.8 quake also injured over 1,600 people but 45 survivors have been pulled alive from the rubble so far, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a news conference Sunday in Istanbul.

As overnight temperatures dropped to -5 degrees Celsius (23 degrees Fahrenheit), emergency teams set up more than 9,500 tents for displaced residents and distributed 17,000 hot meals.

Rescue teams concentrated their efforts in the city's Mustafa Pasa neighborhood and the nearby town of Sivrice, the closest residential area to the quake's epicenter.

Nearly 680 aftershocks rocked the region as more than 3,500 rescue experts scrambled through wrecked buildings to reach survivors, working around the clock. A magnitude 4.3 quake hit also neighboring Malatya province on Sunday morning, the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) said.

The agency said 76 buildings were destroyed and more than 1,000 damaged in the quake. Unmanned aerial drones were being used to survey damaged neighborhoods and coordinate rescue efforts.



Rescue workers try to save people trapped under debris following a strong earthquake that destroyed several buildings on Friday, in Elazig, eastern Turkey, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020. Rescue workers were continuing to search for people buried under the rubble of apartment blocks in Elazig and neighboring Malatya. Mosques, schools, sports halls and student dormitories were opened for hundreds who left their homes after the quake. (Ismail Coskun/IHA via AP)

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Erdogan said every effort was being made to alleviate conditions and promised to house displaced residents as soon as possible.

"Turkey has begun to heal the wounds of this great disaster in unity, togetherness and coming together," he said.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu promised financial help for the victims of the quake.

The president visited the disaster zone on Saturday to inspect the rescue operation, meet with injured people in the hospital and attend the funeral of a mother and son.

Erdogan also condemned what he called a "smear campaign" on social media by those questioning the Turkish government's preparations for earthquakes. A prosecutor in Ankara has opened an investigation into social media posts about Friday's quake.

Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey, which sits atop two major fault lines.

Across Turkey, there was an outpouring of support for victims of the quake. Some soccer clubs announced they would donate the receipts of their weekend matches while fans of the Fenerbahce soccer club threw scarves and hats on to the pitch during a game in Istanbul, chanting "Cold Elazig, Fenerbahce is with you!"

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Sunday that 104 people were receiving hospital treatment after the quake, 34 of them in intensive care but not in critical condition.

Victims of the quake were taking refuge in tents, mosques, schools, sports halls and student dormitories. Authorities warned people not to return to homes that could be unsafe.

A prison in Adiyaman, 110 kilometers (70 miles) southwest of the epicenter, was evacuated due to damage, with more than 800 prisoners transferred to nearby jails.

Friday's main quake hit at 8:55 p.m. in the city that lies 565 kilometers (350 miles) east of Ankara. It's not the first time Elazig has seen a fatal quake — a magnitude 6.0 earthquake killed 51 people there in 2010.

Turkey's worst quake in decades came in 1999, when a pair of strong earthquakes struck northwest Turkey, killing around 18,000 people.

Simmons doc, sans Oprah, receives huge ovation at Sundance

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Without Oprah or Apple, the Russell Simmons documentary "On the Record" went ahead with its premiere Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival, where the women who came forward with sexual assault allegations against the hip-hop mogul received one of the festival's most roaring receptions.

The lead-up to Sundance was especially rocky for "On the Record." Oprah Winfrey, an executive producer, on Jan. 10 withdrew from the film because she felt it needed more reporting. Her exit, which stunned the directors, Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering, also meant "On the Record" no longer had a distributor in Apple TV Plus.

Ahead of the film's premiere, Ziering thanked Sundance "for standing strong and never blinking."

"On the Record" is centered on the story of Drew Dixon, a former music executive for Def Jam Recordings, the record label co-founded by Simmons. It chronicles her decision to come forward and go on the record in a 2017 New York Times article, along with numerous other women, in accusing Simmons of harassment and rape.

Simmons has denied any wrongdoing. The filmmakers said he declined to be interviewed for the film.

More than a dozen other women, many of whom also appear in "On the Record," have also come forward with allegations of assault or harassment against Simmons. Along with Dixon, in attendance Saturday were Sherri Hines, a member of the all-female hip-hop group Mercedes Ladies who alleged that Simmons raped her in his office in the early 1980s; and Sil Lai Abrams, who has said Simmons raped her in 1994.

In the crowd in Park City was the actress Rosanna Arquette, who has accused Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment. Arquette stood up during the Q&A to salute the women in the film. "I'm so proud of you," she said.

"On the Record" also delves into the place black women have in the #MeToo movement and the racial

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dimensions of sexual assault. One audience member noted that the film, despite being about black women accusing a black man of rape, is directed by two white people.

"A lot of this is about power and ecosystems of power," Dixon said. "And all of us have kept our stories to ourselves for decades, and there are people within that ecosystem who knew our stories."

"Some of those people are filmmakers," she continued. "It's an entertainment industry story after all, right? But nobody told our story. Because the people who knew our story were subject to the same ecosystem. And to me, this is where allies matter. Allies who are not subject to that same dynamic. They have traction that they can use to pull you forward."

Ziering and Dick have made several documentaries before about sexual assault. Their "The Hunting Ground" focused on rape on college campuses. "The Invisible War" scrutinized sexual assault in the military.

"On the Record" depicts the personal struggle of coming forward and the years of pain and self-doubt that can follow sexual assault. Dixon says she ultimately retreated from the music industry after she said she was again harassed by another executive, L.A. Reid. Reid has denied it.

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, an attorney and civil rights advocate, after the film alluded to the history of black women who have accused public figures of assault, citing the treatment of Anita Hill and Desiree Washington, who accused Mike Tyson of rape.

"You've seen this film. The question is will anyone else see it?" Crenshaw said. "So whatever can be brought to bear to make sure that this doesn't get snuffed out — think of all the history of what has already happened and say never again."



This undated photo provided by Chain Camera Pictures shows a scene from "On the Record." Without Oprah or Apple, the Russell Simmons documentary "On the Record" went ahead with its premiere Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, at the Sundance Film Festival. (Omar Mullick/Chain Camera Pictures via AP)

'Sesame Street' comforts children displaced by Syrian war

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Sesame Street" in the past year has tackled everything from foster care to substance abuse. Now its latest effort is trying to help children suffering as a result of the Syrian civil war.

Sesame Workshop — the nonprofit, educational organization behind "Sesame Street" — has launched a new, locally produced Arabic TV program for the hundreds of thousands of children dealing with displacement in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

"The thing that became very apparent in our work on the ground is how critical the need was for the children of this region and children who have been affected by traumatic events to have the social and emotional skills they need," said Sherrie Westin, president of Social Impact & Philanthropy at Sesame Workshop.

Called "Ahlan Simsim," which means "Welcome Sesame" in Arabic, the show will feature Elmo, Cookie Monster and Grover, as well as two brand new Muppets — the boy monster Jad, who had to leave his home, and Basma, a purple girl monster who befriends the young stranger. An adorable goat named Ma'zooza adds comic relief.

Each 26-minute show will explore emotions experienced by all kids but particularly relevant to those dealing

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with trauma and will offer coping skills for feelings like anger, fear, frustration, nervousness and loneliness. In one episode, Basma shares her toys with Jad, since he left his behind. Some of the strategies include belly breathing and expression through art.

A variety show in the second half of each episode offers creators the chance to bring in local celebrities and attract an adult audience to hammer home the message. "The humor has to be there always, which is the 'Sesame' spirit," said Khaled Haddad, an executive producer.

"Ahlan Simsim" will premiere Feb. 2 on MBC3, a pan-Arab satellite network that reaches 20 countries in North Africa, the Gulf and the Levant, as well as YouTube and national broadcasters across the region.

Production is based in the Jordanian capital Amman, with input from writers and performers from across the region. Dialects will be diversified, from Jordanian to Saudi.

"We know a lot about children and children's development and what's needed. But we always want to learn from people on the ground," said Westin. "We know that when children can see themselves, identify with these characters and when they can relate to the story lines, we are the most effective."

Targeted for children ages 3-8, the show will steer clear of the larger political, social or religious issues. "To the best of our ability we are not making political statements," Westin said.

"The spirit behind 'Sesame Street' has always been it doesn't matter if you have purple fur or yellow fur," said Scott Cameron, a two-time Emmy Award-winning producer who serves as executive producer of the new show. "It's a place where children can feel safe and supported and where real things are tackled — like fear of the dark, frustration or loneliness. We try to always do it with comedy alongside the heartfelt."

The show is at the center of a wider push together with the International Rescue Committee that includes direct services, including home visits, classrooms and health clinics, all enhanced by Sesame materials like storybooks, puzzles, games and videos. One episode, for example, will show Jad terrified of going to the doctor and then will explore that fear.

"It's more than a TV show. It's a massive intervention," said Cameron. "It's a world where children and their families can feel safe and secure. And it's a world where the media content is meant to be a portal into a fuller, broader set of humanitarian assistance."

The program was initially funded by a \$100 million award by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The LEGO Foundation then awarded an additional \$100 million to deepen the play-based learning of "Ahlan Simsim" and gave Sesame Workshop the chance to expand to Bangladesh to serve families affected by the Rohingya crisis.

Since the Syrian conflict broke out in 2011, some 5 million children have been displaced internally and outside Syria, according to the U.N.-backed Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. Its report this month said the youngsters have been "robbed of their childhood" by violations from all sides.



This image released by Sesame Workshop shows, from left, Grover, Basma, Ma'zooza and Jad with Rami Delshad, who portrays Hadi in "Welcome Sesame," a new, locally produced Arabic TV program for the hundreds of thousands of children dealing with displacement in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. (Sesame Workshop via AP)

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"Sesame Street" has had a presence in the Middle East for decades, starting when the show "Iftah Ya Simsim" premiered in 1979 in Kuwait, followed by local Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli versions of "Sesame Street."

This time, to assess which early childhood interventions work best in crisis settings, Sesame Workshop is working with New York University's Global TIES for Children center to independently evaluate both the direct services and mass media components of the program.

Creators hope the lessons learned in the Middle East can be translated to other regions, just as things "Sesame Street" learned in American inner cities can help all children. "It will reach children throughout the Middle East but the benefits will be to all children," said Westin.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

Philippine volcano alert lowered, thousands return home

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine authorities on Sunday lowered the alert level at Taal Volcano, two weeks after it began spewing ash, steam and rocks, a move that will allow many of the more than 376,000 displaced villagers to return home.

A popular tourist destination just south of Manila because of its picturesque setting in the middle of a lake, Taal erupted on Jan. 12. It caused no known deaths but delivered an early crisis this year for one of the world's most disaster-prone nations.

"Taal volcano's condition in the two weeks ... has generally declined into less frequent volcanic earthquake activity, decelerated ground deformation ... and weak steam and gas emissions at the main crater," the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The government's agency lowered the alert level from 4 to 3, which means there's a "decreased tendency toward a hazardous eruption." The highest level-5 alert indicates a major and much more dangerous eruption.

The agency also reduced to half the danger zone where residents have to be evacuated, from the 14-kilometer (8.7-mile) radius around the volcano. Taal had last erupted 43 years ago.

"We have to be careful of Taal because of the danger it may still bring, so at the lower level, there should be heightened preparedness. People should brace for rapid evacuation," Renato Solidum, the head of the institute, said in a televised news conference.

Mayor Daniel Reyes of Agoncillo, a town along the western shores of Taal Lake overlooking the island where the volcano lies, said he was relieved but remained concerned. Residents of Agoncillo and nearby Laurel could still not return home because of the towns' proximity to the volcano. Thousands of villagers



In this Jan. 21, 2020, handout photo provided by the Office of Civil Defense, Taal volcano emits small amounts of ash in Batangas province, southern Philippines. The government will no longer allow people to live on the crater-studded island that's home to the volcano. (Office of

Civil Defense via AP)

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who used to reside and work on Volcano Island will not be allowed to return permanently, Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas said.

Mandanas warned returning villagers to assess the safety of their villages and houses, many of which remained blanketed by volcanic ash or had been damaged by the eruption and earthquakes.

"It's somehow a relief but we're still under a total lockdown," Reyes told The Associated Press, adding all the 44,000 villagers of his town will remain in evacuation centers.

Footage showed thousands of elated villagers yelling "thank you" as they drove back in droves to their still-dusty towns and cities on board motorcycles, motorcycle taxis and some cars.

More than 376,000 people fled to safety from ash-blanketed towns and cities in hard-hit Batangas province. Nearly half of them sought accommodation in some 500 state-run emergency shelters, mostly school and government buildings. The eruption had shut Manila's main international airport for a night due to volcanic ash, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights.

A thriving tourism industry in Batangas and in upland Tagaytay city, where hundreds of hotels, venues, spas and parks have benefited from its vantage view of one of the world's smallest volcanoes, came to a halt for days.

Resort towns around Taal Lake resembled ash-covered ghost towns. Police set up barricades and checkpoints to prevent residents from sneaking back to the danger zone to check their homes, rescue pets or retrieve food, documents and belongings, sparking arguments.

The 1,020-foot (311-meter) Taal is the second-most restive of about two dozen active Philippine volcanoes and precariously lies near densely populated areas. On the small island where the volcano lies, more than 5,000 villagers, many of them working as tourist guides, fled as the ground shook and the volcano belched a tall plume of dark-gray ash and steam into the sky. Hundreds of horses, cows and other animals were left behind.

The Philippine archipelago lies in the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," a seismically fragile region around the ocean basin, where most of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

Democratic race in Iowa heats up as caucus approaches

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Democratic presidential candidates have roared back into Iowa touting fresh endorsements, critiquing their rivals and predicting victories in the caucuses that will soon launch the process of deciding who will challenge President Donald Trump.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren said Saturday she was "delighted" to pick up a coveted endorsement from The Des Moines Register. The state's largest newspaper called the Massachusetts Democrat "the best leader for these times" and said she "is not the radical some perceive her to be." But Warren's progressive rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, predicted victory in Iowa and campaigned alongside Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., one of the most prominent leaders on the left.

Joe Biden, meanwhile, appeared for the first time alongside Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, who is the latest in a growing list of local politicians backing the former vice president's candidacy. And Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, sought to position himself a Washington outsider above the partisan fray.

But as the candidates set out to make their best case to voters, the volatility of the race was evident. Several candidates began their day in Washington, sitting as jurors in Trump's impeachment trial. They will have to return to Capitol Hill early next week as the trial continues, sidelining them from campaigning during a critical period.

More fundamentally, there's no clear front-runner despite the fact that many candidates have now spent more than a year courting Iowans. A New York Times/Siena College poll released Saturday showed Sanders with a slight — but not commanding — edge in Iowa. But several polls show Biden, Buttigieg and Warren remain among the front-runners.

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"There's still plenty of time for movement," said Kurt Meyer, chairman of the Tri-County Democrats in northern Iowa. "Every part of the ground game counts."

Still, Sanders returned to Iowa exuding a sense of confidence. Hundreds of supporters filled the municipal auditorium in Ames and additional voters crowded an overflow room. Earlier in the night, he told voters in Marshalltown that he had an "excellent chance to win here in Iowa" and argued that his is the only campaign that can weave broad support from voters.

"I believe that our campaign, our energy, our grassroots movement, our agenda is the approach that will speak to working people who, in many cases, have given up on politics," he said. "I think we will resonate with them. I think we have in the past, I think we will in the future."

Polls suggest Biden also has a substantial appeal among Democratic voters, especially African Americans. While he has been critical of Sanders in the past, he kept his focus instead on the threat of four more years of Trump in the White House.

"I don't believe we are the dark, angry nation that Donald Trump tweets about at night," he told a large crowd in Ankeny. "We are so much better than Donald Trump."

Biden scored the endorsement of the Sioux City Journal, which called him "the candidate best positioned to give Americans a competitive head-to-head matchup with President Trump" and said he would be best at attracting support from "independents and disgruntled Republicans."

Compared to Biden, Buttigieg was more dire in his reaction to the prospect of Sanders gaining strength in the Democratic contest. Hours after The New York Times/Siena College poll was released, his campaign sent an email to supporters with the subject line: "Bernie Sanders could be the nominee."

"We need a nominee who can galvanize our country," the email said. "The Trump presidency will end one way or another, and when it does we need a president who can rally this country around a vision for the next generation. We know that candidate is Pete."

Speaking to reporters later in the day, Buttigieg stopped short of directly hitting Sanders, but noted that "we are getting into the heart of the competition."

"I believe that we should be very mindful that the very worst risk we can take at a time like this is to recycle the same Washington-style of political warfare that that brought us to this point," he said. "If we believe it's important to win, and I sure do, then the best thing we could do is put forward a candidate who offers something new."



Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., Democratic presidential candidate, speaks during a town hall meeting Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, in Muscatine, Iowa. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

Associated Press writers Hannah Fingerhut in Washington, Thomas Beaumont in Storm Lake, Iowa, Sara Burnett in Muscatine, Iowa, and Will Weissert in Marshalltown, Iowa contributed to this report

Trump lawyers argue Democrats just want to overturn election

By ERIC TUCKER, LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's lawyers plunged into his impeachment trial defense Saturday by accusing Democrats of striving to overturn the 2016 election, arguing that investigations of Trump's dealings with Ukraine have not been a fact-finding mission but a politically motivated effort to drive him from the White House.

"They're here to perpetrate the most massive interference in an election in American history," White House counsel Pat Cipollone told senators. "And we can't allow that to happen."

The Trump legal team's arguments in the rare Saturday session were aimed at rebutting allegations that the president abused his power when he asked Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and then obstructed Congress as it tried to investigate. The lawyers are mounting a wide-ranging, aggressive defense asserting an expansive view of presidential powers and portraying Trump as besieged by political opponents determined to ensure he won't be reelected this November.

"They're asking you to tear up all the ballots across this country on your own initiative, take that decision away from the American people," Cipollone said.

Though Trump is the one on trial, the defense team made clear that it intends to paint the impeachment case as a mere continuation of the investigations that have shadowed the president since before he took office — including one into allegations of Russian election interference on his behalf. Trump attorney Jay Sekulow suggested Democrats were investigating the president over Ukraine simply because they couldn't bring him down for Russia.

"That — for this," said Sekulow, holding up a copy of special counsel Robert Mueller's report, which he accused Democrats of attempting to "relitigate." That report detailed ties between the 2016 Trump campaign and Russia but did not allege a criminal conspiracy to tip the election.

From the White House, Trump tweeted his response: "Any fair minded person watching the Senate trial today would be able to see how unfairly I have been treated and that this is indeed the totally partisan Impeachment Hoax that EVERYBODY, including the Democrats, truly knows it is."

His team made only a two-hour presentation, reserving the heart of its case for Monday.

Acquittal appears likely, given that Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and a two-thirds vote would be required for conviction and removal from office. Republican senators already eager to clear Trump said Saturday that the White House presentation had shredded the Democratic case.

Several of the senators shook hands with Trump's lawyers after their presentation. The visitors galleries were filled, onlookers watching for the historic proceedings and the rare weekend session of Senate.

The Trump attorneys are responding to two articles of impeachment approved last month by the House — one that accuses him of encouraging Ukraine to investigate Biden at the same time the administration withheld military aid from the country, and the other that accuses him of obstructing Congress by directing aides not to testify or produce documents.

Trump's defense team took center stage following three days of methodical and passionate arguments



In this image from video, White House counsel Pat Cipollone speaks during the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. (Senate Television via AP)

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from Democrats, who wrapped up Friday by warning that Trump will persist in abusing his power and endangering American democracy unless Congress intervenes to remove him before the 2020 election. They also implored Republicans to allow new testimony to be heard before senators render a final verdict.

"Give America a fair trial," said California Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead Democratic impeachment manager. "She's worth it."

In making their case that Trump invited Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 election, the seven Democratic prosecutors peppered their arguments with video clips, email correspondence and lessons in American history. At stake, they said, was the security of U.S. elections, America's place in the world and checks on presidential power.

On Saturday morning, House managers made the procession across the Capitol at 9:30 to deliver the 28,578-page record of their case to the Senate.

Republicans accused Democrats of cherry-picking evidence and omitting information favorable to the president, casting in a nefarious light actions that Trump was legitimately empowered to take. They focused particular scorn on Schiff, trying to undercut his credibility.

Schiff later told reporters: "When your client is guilty, when your client is dead to rights, you don't want to talk about your client, you want to attack the prosecution."

The Trump team had teased the idea that it would draw attention on Biden and his son, Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukraine gas company Burisma, while his father was vice president. But neither Biden was a focus of Saturday arguments.

Instead, Republicans argued that there was no evidence that Trump made the security aid contingent on Ukraine announcing an investigation into the Bidens and that Ukraine didn't even know that the money had been paused until shortly before it was released.

Trump had reason to be concerned about corruption in Ukraine and the aid was ultimately released, they said.

"Most of the Democratic witnesses have never spoken to the president at all, let alone about Ukraine security assistance," said deputy White House Counsel Michael Purpura.

Purpura told the senators the July 25 call in which Trump asked Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the Biden investigation was consistent with the president's concerns about corruption, though Trump never mentioned that word, according to the rough transcript released by the White House.

Purpura said everyone knows that when Trump asked Zelenskyy to "do us a favor," he meant the U.S., not himself.

"This entire impeachment process is about the house managers' insistence that they are able to read everybody's thoughts," Sekulow said. "They can read everybody's intention. Even when the principal speakers, the witnesses themselves, insist that those interpretations are wrong."

Defense lawyers say Trump was a victim not only of Democratic rage but also of overzealous agents and prosecutors. Sekulow cited mistakes made by the FBI in its surveillance of a former Trump campaign aide in the now-concluded Trump-Russia election investigation, and referred to the multi-million-dollar cost of that probe.

"You cannot simply decide this case in a vacuum," he said.

One of the president's lawyers, Alan Dershowitz, is expected to argue next week that an impeachable offense requires criminal-like conduct, even though many legal scholars say that's not true. Sekulow also said the Bidens would be discussed in the days ahead.

The Senate is heading next week toward a pivotal vote on Democratic demands for testimony from top Trump aides, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton, who refused to appear before the House. It would take four Republican senators to join the Democratic minority to seek witnesses, and so far the numbers appear lacking.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican ally of Trump's, said he thought the legal team had successfully poked holes in the Democrats' case and that the Democrats had "told a story probably beyond what the market would bear."

He said he had spoken to Trump two days ago, when he was leaving Davos, Switzerland. Asked if Trump had any observations on the trial, Graham replied: "Yeah, he hates it."

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram, Andrew Taylor, Laurie Kellman, Matthew Daly and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

Xi calls situation grave as China scrambles to contain virus

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's leader on Saturday called the accelerating spread of a new virus a grave situation, as cities from the outbreak's epicenter in central China to Hong Kong scrambled to contain an illness that has infected more than 1,200 people and killed 41.

President Xi Jinping's remarks, reported by state broadcaster CCTV, came at a meeting of Communist Party leaders convened on Lunar New Year — the country's biggest holiday whose celebrations have been muted — and underlined the government's urgent, expanding efforts to control the outbreak.

Travel agencies have been told to halt all group tours, the state-owned English-language China Daily newspaper reported, citing the China Association of Travel Services.

Millions of people traveling during the holiday have fueled the spread of the outbreak nationwide and overseas after it began in the city of Wuhan in central China. The vast majority of the infections and all the deaths have been in mainland China, but fresh cases are popping up.

Australia and Malaysia reported their first cases Saturday — four each — and Japan, its third.

Canada reported its first case Saturday in Toronto. Officials said the man is in his 50s and recently flew from Wuhan to Guangzhou, China and then on to Toronto on Jan. 23.

France confirmed three cases Friday, the first in Europe, and the U.S. identified its second, a woman in Chicago who had returned from China.

In the heart of the outbreak where 11 million residents are already on lockdown, Wuhan banned most vehicle use, including private cars, in downtown areas starting Sunday, state media reported. Only authorized vehicles would be permitted, the reports said.

The city will assign 6,000 taxis to neighborhoods, under the management of resident committees, to help people get around if they need to, China Daily said.

In Hong Kong, leader Carrie Lam said her government will raise its response level to emergency, the highest one, and close primary and secondary schools for two more weeks on top of next week's Lunar



Shoppers wearing face masks pay for their groceries at a supermarket in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. The virus-hit Chinese city of Wuhan, already on lockdown, banned most vehicle use downtown and Hong Kong said it would close schools for two weeks as authorities scrambled Saturday to stop the spread of an illness that is known to have infected more than 1,200 people and killed 41, according to officials.

(Chinatopix via AP)

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New Year holiday. They will reopen Feb. 17.

Lam said direct flights and trains from Wuhan would be blocked.

In a sign of the growing strain on Wuhan's health care system, the official Xinhua news agency reported that the city planned to build a second makeshift hospital with about 1,000 beds. The city has said another hospital was expected to be completed Feb. 3.

The new virus comes from a large family of what are known as coronaviruses, some causing nothing worse than a cold. It causes cold- and flu-like symptoms, including cough and fever, and in more severe cases, shortness of breath. It can worsen to pneumonia, which can be fatal.

China cut off trains, planes and other links to Wuhan on Wednesday, as well as public transportation within the city, and has steadily expanded a lockdown to 16 surrounding cities with a combined population of more than 50 million — greater than that of New York, London, Paris and Moscow combined.

China's biggest holiday, Lunar New Year, unfolded Saturday in the shadow of the virus. Authorities canceled a host of events, and closed major tourist destinations and movie theaters.

Temples locked their doors, Beijing's Forbidden City and Shanghai Disneyland closed, and people canceled restaurant reservations ahead of the holiday, normally a time of family reunions, sightseeing trips and other festivities in the country of 1.4 billion people.

"We originally planned to go back to my wife's hometown and bought train tickets to depart this afternoon," said Li Mengbin, who was on a stroll near the closed Forbidden City. "We ended up canceling. But I'm still happy to celebrate the new year in Beijing, which I hadn't for several years."

Temples and parks were decorated with red streamers, paper lanterns and booths, but some places started dismantling the decor.

People in China wore medical masks to public places like grocery stores, where workers dispensed hand sanitizer to customers. Some parts of the country had checkpoints for temperature readings and made masks mandatory.

The National Health Commission reported a jump in the number of infected people, to 1,287. The latest tally, from 29 provinces and cities across China, included 237 patients in serious condition.

Of the 41 deaths, 39 have been in Hubei province, where Wuhan is the capital city. Most of the deaths have been older patients, though a 36-year-old man in Hubei died this week.

French automaker PSA Group says it will evacuate its employees from Wuhan, quarantine them and then bring them to France. The Foreign Ministry said it was working on "eventual options" to evacuate French citizens from Wuhan "who want to leave." It didn't elaborate.

The National Health Commission said it is bringing in medical teams to help handle the outbreak, a day after videos circulating online showed throngs of frantic people in masks lined up for examinations and complaints that family members had been turned away at hospitals that were at capacity.

The Chinese military dispatched 450 medical staff, some with experience in past outbreaks, including SARS and Ebola, who arrived in Wuhan late Friday to help treat many patients hospitalized with viral pneumonia, Xinhua reported.

Xinhua also said medical supplies are being rushed to the city, including 14,000 protective suits, 110,000 pairs of gloves and masks and goggles.

The rapid increase in reported deaths and illnesses does not necessarily mean the crisis is getting worse but could reflect better monitoring and reporting of the virus.

It is not clear how lethal the new coronavirus is or even whether it is as dangerous as the ordinary flu, which kills tens of thousands of people every year in the U.S. alone.

Associated Press writer Rob Gillies, Associated Press researcher Henry Hou and video journalist Dake Kang contributed to this report.

General: US committed to Syria fight; Missions up against IS

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

GREEN VILLAGE MILITARY OUTPOST (AP) — U.S. troops at military outposts in eastern Syria asked variations of the same question to their top commander Saturday: What is our future here? What are the goals we need to think about?

Gen. Frank McKenzie, the U.S. Middle East commander, knows the future is not certain. But at least for today, he said, "this is an area where we made a commitment. I think we're going to be here for a while."

In an unannounced tour of five military bases in Syria stretching from the northeastern part of the country to the Middle Euphrates River Valley, McKenzie offered reassurances that the U.S. remains committed to its mission in Syria. And he said that operations against Islamic State militants are on the rise again, after the U.S. cut back due to the increased tensions with Iran and the need to concentrate on increasing security.

But these are uncertain times. And America's mission to train and partner with Syrian Democratic Forces in the fight against the Islamic State group has been tested.

Just last year President Donald Trump ordered U.S. troops to withdraw from Syria - part of his vow to bring forces home and halt the endless wars. Over time, his military commanders, members of Congress and other leaders convinced Trump to keep a scaled-back force in Syria to protect an expanse of Kurdish-controlled oil fields and facilities from falling into IS hands.

So while some troops did leave Syria, the Pentagon ordered others to move into the east, with armored vehicles and security forces to help the SDF guard the oil.

McKenzie, who met with the SDF's commander, Mazloum Abdi, at an undisclosed military base in eastern Syria Saturday morning, said the Kurdish leader wanted assurances that the U.S. would continue to help his fighters.

His answer, McKenzie said, was that the U.S. will continue to conduct anti-IS missions, partner with the rebel forces and help protect the oil fields. But, he said, he did not put a deadline on it.

"He knows, and I agree, that we're not going to be here for 100 years," McKenzie said during a stop at Green Village military outpost, east of Deir el-Zour. "I frankly don't know how long we're going to be here and I have no instructions other than to continue to work with our partner here."

McKenzie criss-crossed the east, flying by helicopter over long stretches of desert flecked with intermittent patches of green and scattered villages. It was his first trip to the five bases.

The U.S. declared an end to the Islamic State's physical caliphate last March. But in recent months there have been growing concerns that the insurgents are regrouping, particularly in the west where U.S. forces are not present.



Gen. Frank McKenzie, center front, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East, walks as he visits a military outpost in Syria, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. McKenzie made the unannounced visit to Syria, traveling to five different military outposts to meet with troops, hear from commanders and talk with the leader of the Syrian Democratic Forces. (AP Photo/Lolita Baldor)

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Operations against IS, however, were interrupted in recent weeks, in the aftermath of the U.S. drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in Iraq. Fearing reprisals by Iran and Iranian-backed proxy forces, the U.S. paused or slowed operations to beef up security in Iraq and Syria. Iran, after several days, launched ballistic missiles at two military bases in Iraq where U.S. troops are stationed. Several dozen were diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, but no one was killed in the attacks.

According to officials, US operations against the Islamic State group in Syria were reduced by half over that time. But as McKenzie took stock of the situation during his day-long sprint across eastern Syria he said that has now changed.

"Certainly, the pace of operations went down earlier in the year, based on events in Iraq" McKenzie told two reporters from The Associated Press and The Washington Post traveling with him into Syria. "We're now back up to, I think, probably three or four operations a week with our partners here — so that pace is beginning to pick up and we are very pleased with that."

Maj. Gen. Eric Hill, commander of the special operations forces in Iraq and Syria, was with McKenzie for most of the day. He said his forces continue to train and conduct operations with the SDF to root out IS insurgents who are "hiding in the valleys, in the caves, in the desserts, trying to regroup."

Hill spoke to reporters at the military base located at the Conoco gas field near Deir el-Zour, where military trucks and aircraft sit alongside looming plant buildings and old homes that have been turned into high-tech operations centers and barracks.

According to officials, there are now about 750 U.S. troops in eastern Syria, spread across a swath of land that stretches more than 90 miles (150 kilometers) from Deir el-Zour to the border region east of al-Hassakeh.

The U.S.-Syrian Kurdish relationship, which dates back to 2014, was strained after Trump last month ordered American troops out of northern Syria, making way for a Turkish invasion of Kurdish-held towns and villages along a stretch of the border.

Kurdish and American forces are now operating in a region that is more complicated and crowded with troops since the Turks began their attack on northeast Syria in early October, aimed at pushing the Kurdish fighters away from the border.

While talking to troops on Saturday, McKenzie warned that Iranian proxy forces in Syria continue to be a significant risk to them.

He said that while Iran appears to be deterred right now from launching another attack against the U.S., "you always worry about their ability to command and control their proxy elements which they have equipped very well."

Border Patrol allows replanting after bulldozing garden

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Border Patrol, reacting to a breach it discovered in a steel-pole border wall believed to be used by smugglers, gave activists no warning this month when it bulldozed the U.S. side of a cross-border garden on an iconic bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

On Saturday, after a public apology for "the unintentional destruction," the agency allowed the activists in a highly restricted area to plant sticky monkey-flowers, seaside daisies and other native species in Friendship Park, which was inaugurated by first lady Pat Nixon in 1971 as a symbol of bilateral bonds. The half-acre plaza separating San Diego and Tijuana has hosted cross-border yoga classes, festivals and religious services.

The garden's rebirth is the latest twist in a sometimes-adversarial, sometimes-conciliatory relationship between security-minded border agents and activists who consider the park a special place to exercise rights to free expression.

"It's hard to reconcile because we have two different agendas, but we're both in the same place, so we're trying our best," said Daniel Watman, a Spanish teacher who spearheads the garden for the volunteer group, Friends of Friendship Park.

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During an art festival in 2005, David Smith Jr., known as "The Human Cannonball," flashed his passport, lowered himself into a barrel and was shot over the wall on the nearby beach, landing on a net with U.S. Border Patrol agents nearby. In 2017, professional swimmers crossed the border from the U.S. in the Pacific Ocean and landed on the same beach, where a Mexican official greeted them with stamped passports and schoolchildren cheered.

The Border Patrol has been less receptive to events that carry an overtly political message or that, in its view, take things too far. In 2017, it rejected the Dresdner Symphony Orchestra's plans for a cross-border concert named, "Tear Down This Wall." It also nixed a "Let Them Hug" signature campaign to allow "touch time" across the border on weekends.

Agents briefly opened a heavy steel gate several times a year but ended the practice after an American man and Mexican woman wed in a cross-border ceremony in 2017. They were furious to learn later that the groom was a convicted drug smuggler whose criminal record prohibited him from entering Mexico.

Friends of Friendship Park, which advocates for "unrestricted access to this historic meeting place," said the garden was created in 2007, shortly before a second barrier created a buffer enforcement zone that the Border Patrol opens to the public on weekends only. People can barely touch fingertips through a steel mesh screen during those weekend encounters.

The Border Patrol said in a statement after the garden was bulldozed that it was being used "as cover to hide smuggling activities." It released photos that showed a padlock on the Mexican side, which smugglers apparently used to keep the roughly 18-inch (46-centimeter) opening to themselves.

Walls are often breached. Manny Bayon, president of the National Border Patrol Council union local that represents San Diego-area agents, said some have cut through President Donald Trump's new wall of high, concrete-filled steel bollards. Smugglers use cordless grinders that cost about \$100.

Friends of Friendship Park met Jan. 15 with Douglas Harrison, the Border Patrol's interim San Diego chief, and settled on a plan to resurrect the garden. Harrison said the intent was to trim, not destroy, it.

"We take full responsibility, are investigating the event, & look forward to working with (Friends of Friendship Park) on the path forward," Harrison said on Twitter.

A compromise called for the garden to be set back 4 feet (1.2 meters) from the wall to give agents better visibility with minimal planting on the next 4 feet to better facilitate temporary removal when construction crews replace the existing barrier with Trump's wall.



Smugglers allegedly cut a roughly 18-inch (1.2-meter) opening in the steel-pole of a border wall, since repaired, a breach that the U.S. Border Patrol said led to the "unintentional destruction" of a cross-border garden earlier this month in Friendship Park, located within California's Border Field State Park, in San Diego, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. The U.S. Border Patrol gave activists no warning this month after the breach believed to be by smugglers when it bulldozed the U.S. side of the cross-border garden which overlooks the Pacific Ocean. On Saturday, after a public apology for "the unintentional destruction," the agency allowed the activists in a highly restricted area to resurrect the garden. (AP Photo/Elliot Spagat)

There was last-minute misunderstanding Saturday when Watman said the group's willingness to set the garden back came with permission to plant over a larger space, which the agents on duty wouldn't allow. Watman agreed to shrink his blueprint and take it up later.

"Things are always up in the air somewhat," he said. "There's a little bit of playing it by ear."

The Border Patrol released a statement Saturday that said it values "the friendships we have built over the years with the community."

"We are confident that this relationship will continue as we move into a new era of the bi-national garden," it said.

French carmaker to evacuate workers from China amid outbreak

By ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France and a major automaker said Saturday that they are moving to get citizens out of a locked-down Chinese city where a deadly outbreak of a new virus originated and has spread worldwide.

French automaker PSA Group says it will evacuate its employees and their families from Wuhan in central China, quarantine them in another major Chinese city and then bring them back to France.

The Foreign Ministry said French officials were studying "eventual options" for all its nationals to leave if they wish.

It comes a day after France announced that three cases of the new virus are being treated in two French hospitals — the first confirmed in Europe. All the patients are Chinese who had recently returned from China and are doing well, officials said.

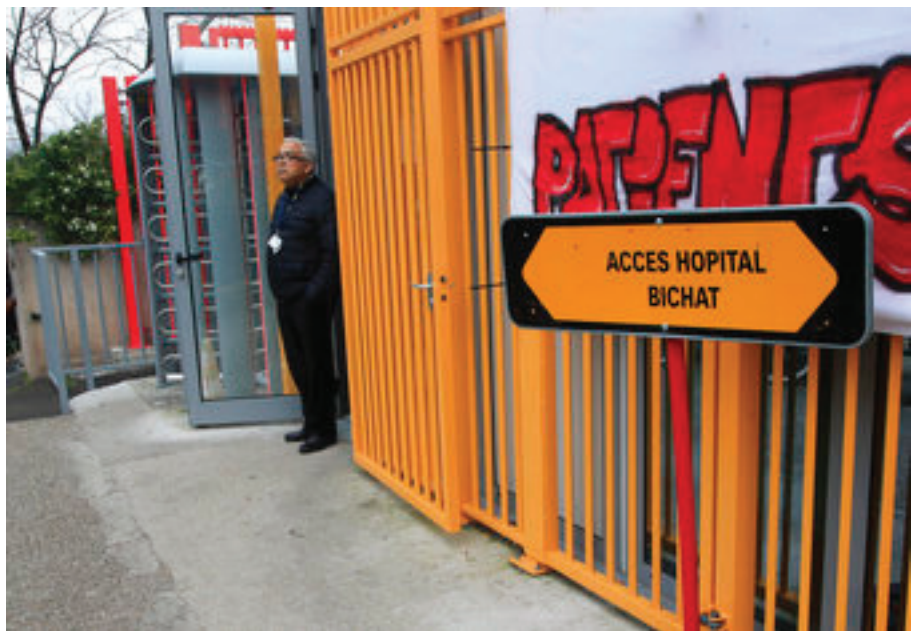
A leading infectious disease specialist treating two of the patients said the illness appears less serious than comparable outbreaks in the past, like SARS, and that the chance of a European epidemic appears weak now.

The respiratory virus has spread to a handful of other countries from Wuhan, which is under strict rules to isolate the city of 11 million. The virus has sickened more than 1,200 people and killed at least 41. The vast majority of the infections and all the deaths have been in mainland China.

The virus comes from a large family of what are known as coronaviruses and causes cold- and flu-like symptoms. It can worsen to pneumonia, which can be fatal.

PSA Group did not say how many employees would be part of an evacuation. In a series of tweets, the automaker said transportation, housing and other organizational considerations are being worked out. PSA, which sells its Peugeot and Citroen cars in China, has a joint venture with Dongfeng Motor Corp. in Wuhan.

PSA said it was working closely with Chinese authorities and the French Consulate. The French Foreign Ministry's statement made no mention of PSA's plans.



A man stands in the entrance door of the Bichat hospital in Paris, Saturday Jan. 25, 2020. France has announced three confirmed cases of the deadly new virus from China, the first cases in Europe and the first outside Asia and the United States. One of people who caught the virus is hospitalized in the southwestern city of Bordeaux. The others are in Paris. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

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The automaker did not say how long the quarantine period would last. However, French medical experts have said the incubation period for the virus appears to be 14 days.

PSA also said it is working with Chinese partner DFM and authorities to take care of Chinese employees. It didn't elaborate.

French authorities cautioned against panic at home but were concerned about its citizens in Wuhan and those arriving in France, which has direct flights to China.

Starting Sunday, medical teams will be at France's airports, notably Paris' Charles de Gaulle, to help passengers arriving from Chinese cities with questions or medical needs, French health chief Jerome Salomon said.

Dr. Yazdan Yazdanpaneh said the two patients at Paris' Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital are a couple from Wuhan.

The 31-year-old man and 30-year-old woman arrived in France on Jan. 18 without symptoms, but developed them soon afterward, the doctor said. They were taken Friday to Bichat and tested positive for the virus, Yazdanpaneh said.

The two are staying in separate, specially equipped rooms where air enters but cannot escape to guard against transmission. They are doing well, but Yazdanpaneh could not speculate when they might be released. Ways in which the virus can be transmitted remain unclear.

Yazdanpaneh, a leading French expert who heads Bichat's infectious diseases unit, said that cases imported from China were "not a surprise" and that France had prepared, including by developing a test that provides rapid results for suspected cases.

On the other hand, he said, the chance of "an epidemic in France or in Europe is weak, extremely weak."

"This illness is a lot less serious — and we don't say this based on two patients, but talking to our international colleagues — than, for example, SARS," Yazdanpaneh said, referring to the 2002 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome that killed hundreds of people.

The mortality rate for the virus identified last month is thought to be less than 5%, whereas it was double that for SARS, he said.

The "virulence and dangerousness" of the new strand of coronavirus "is something you evaluate by looking at the number of deaths over the number of infections," said Jerome Salomon, France's health chief. "The number of deaths is increasing but more slowly than the growing number of cases."

He added that authorities think "there are many more cases than those that have been confirmed, which automatically brings down the mortality rate."

But Salomon stressed a series of unknowns, including the source.

"We still need data," he said.

Alex Turnbull in Paris contributed to this report.

Pompeo lashes out at journalist; NPR defends its reporter

By LYNN BERRY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lashed out in anger Saturday at an NPR reporter who accused him of shouting expletives at her after she asked him in an interview about Ukraine. In a direct and personal attack, America's chief diplomat said the journalist had "lied" to him and he called her conduct "shameful."

NPR said it stood by Mary Louise Kelly's reporting.

Pompeo claimed in a statement that the incident was "another example of how unhinged the media has become in its quest to hurt" President Donald Trump and his administration. Pompeo, a former CIA director and Republican congressman from Kansas who is one of Trump's closest allies in the Cabinet, asserted, "It is no wonder that the American people distrust many in the media when they so consistently demonstrate their agenda and their absence of integrity."

It is extraordinary for a secretary of state to make such a personal attack on a journalist, but he is following

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the lead of Trump, who has repeatedly derided what he calls "fake news" and ridiculed individual reporters. In one of the more memorable instances, Trump mocked a New York Times reporter with a physical disability.

In Friday's interview, Pompeo responded testily when Kelly asked him about Ukraine and specifically whether he defended or should have defended Marie Yovanovitch, the U.S. ambassador in Kyiv whose ouster figured in Trump's impeachment.

"I have defended every State Department official," he said. "We've built a great team. The team that works here is doing amazing work around the world ... I've defended every single person on this team. I've done what's right for every single person on this team."

This has been a sensitive point for Pompeo. As a Trump loyalist, he has been publicly silent as the president and his allies have disparaged the nonpartisan career diplomats, including Yovanovitch, who have testified in the impeachment hearings. Those diplomats told Congress that Trump risked undermining Ukraine, a critical U.S. ally, by pressuring for an investigation of Democrat Joe Biden, a Trump political rival.

Yovanovitch, who was seen by Trump allies as a roadblock to those efforts, was told in May to leave Ukraine and return to Washington immediately for her own safety. After documents released this month from an associate of Trump's personal attorney suggested she was being watched and possibly under threat, Pompeo took three days to address the matter and did so only after coming under harsh criticism from lawmakers and current and former diplomats.

Pompeo was rebuked Saturday by four Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who said his "insulting and contemptuous comments" were beneath the office of the secretary of state.

"Instead of calling journalists 'liars' and insulting their intelligence when they ask you hard questions you would rather not answer, your oath of office places on you a duty and obligation to engage respectfully and transparently," the letter to Pompeo said. It was signed by Sens. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, the top Democrat on the committee, Tim Kaine of Virginia, Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

After the NPR interview, Kelly said she was taken to Pompeo's private living room, where he shouted at her "for about the same amount of time as the interview itself," using the "F-word" repeatedly. She said he was not happy to have been questioned about Ukraine.

Pompeo, in his statement, did not deny shouting at Kelly and did not apologize. Instead, he accused her of lying to him when setting up the interview, which he apparently expected would be limited to questions about Iran, and for supposedly agreeing not to discuss the post-interview meeting.

Kelly said Pompeo asked whether she thought Americans cared about Ukraine and if she could find the country on a map.

"I said yes, and he called out for aides to bring us a map of the world with no writing," she said in discussing the encounter on "All Things Considered." "I pointed to Ukraine. He put the map away. He said, 'people will hear about this.'"



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a visit to an anti-narcotics police base in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020. (AP Photo/Ivan Valencia)

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Pompeo ended Saturday's statement by saying, "It is worth nothing that Bangladesh is NOT Ukraine." Nancy Barnes, NPR's senior vice president of news, said in a statement that "Kelly has always conducted herself with the utmost integrity, and we stand behind this report."

In recording Trump asks how long Ukraine can resist Russians

By ZEKE MILLER, COLLEEN LONG, MIKE BALSAMO and LYNN BERRY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump inquired how long Ukraine would be able to resist Russian aggression without U.S. assistance during a 2018 meeting with donors that included the indicted associates of his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani.

"How long would they last in a fight with Russia?" Trump is heard asking in the audio portion of a video recording, moments before he calls for the firing of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. She was removed a year later after a campaign to discredit her by Giuliani and others, an action that is part of Democrats' case arguing for the removal of the president in his Senate impeachment trial.

A video recording of the entire 80-minute dinner at the Trump Hotel in Washington was obtained Saturday by The Associated Press. Excerpts were first published Friday by ABC News. People can be seen in only some portions of the recording.

The recording contradicts the president's statements that he did not know the Giuliani associates Lev Parnas or Igor Fruman, key figures in the investigation who were indicted last year on campaign finance charges. The recording came to light as Democrats continued to press for witnesses and other evidence to be considered during the impeachment trial.

On the recording, a voice that appears to be Parnas' can be heard saying, "The biggest problem there, I think where we need to start is we got to get rid of the ambassador." He later can be heard telling Trump: "She's basically walking around telling everybody, 'Wait, he's gonna get impeached. Just wait.'"

Trump responds: "Get rid of her! Get her out tomorrow. I don't care. Get her out tomorrow. Take her out. OK? Do it."

Ukraine came up during the dinner in the context of a discussion of energy markets, with the voice appearing to be Parnas' describing his involvement in the purchase of a Ukrainian energy company.

The group then praises Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to which the president says: "Pompeo's going to be good. He's doing a good job. Already he's doing a good job."

At the beginning of the video, Trump is seen posing for photos before entering the blue-walled dining room. A voice that appears to be Fruman's is heard saying that "it's a great room" before a chuckle. "I



This undated image released by the House Judiciary Committee from documents provided by Lev Parnas to the committee in the impeachment probe against President Donald Trump, shows a photo of Lev Parnas with Rudy Giuliani. Parnas, a close associate of Trump's personal lawyer Giuliani is claiming Trump was directly involved in the effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden. Trump on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, repeated denials that he is acquainted with Parnas, despite numerous photos that have emerged of the two men together.(House Judiciary Committee via AP)

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couldn't believe myself."

Also visible in the video are the president's son Donald Trump Jr. and former counselor to the president Johnny DeStefano. Jack Nicklaus III, the grandson of the golf icon, and New York real estate developer Stanley Gale also attended the event for a pro-Trump group.

Just a few minutes into the conversation, Trump can be heard railing against former President George W. Bush, China, the World Trade Organization and the European Union. "Bush, he gets us into the war, he gets us into the Middle East, that was a beauty," Trump says. "We're in the Middle East right now for \$7 trillion." He later says: "China rips us off for years and we owe them \$2 trillion." The president blames the WTO because it "allowed China to do what they're doing."

"The WTO is worse," than China, he declares. "China didn't become great until the WTO."

Trump also seemed to question the U.S. involvement in the Korean War: "How we ever got involved in South Korea in the first place, tell me about it. How we ended up in a Korean War."

Trump provided the guests with an update ahead of his first meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, revealing that he'd settled on a date and location. One of the people in attendance sought to pitch a different location: Songdo, South Korea, which is 70% owned by Gale International and features a Nicklaus-designed golf course.

"You know that Kim Jong Un is a great golfer," Trump is heard telling the guests, who roar with laughter.

Trump also discussed the border crisis and plans for a border wall with Mexico, insisting that he wants to build a concrete wall but had heard from law enforcement officials that it isn't viable. "You do have to be able to see through the wall, I think," Trump says. He says drug dealers would throw heavy bundles of drugs over the wall, which could kill Border Patrol agents.

"They have a catapult and they throw it over the wall, and it lands on the other side of the wall and it can hit people. Can you imagine you get hit with 100 pounds?" the president says. "The whole thing is preposterous. I would've loved to have seen to see a concrete wall, but you just can't do that."

Toward the end of the dinner, the discussion turns to the upcoming election and media.

"Magazines are dead," Trump says.

"I think cable TV is OK. If we ever lost an election, cable TV is dead," he says, the party goes laughing. "Can you imagine if they had a normal candidate? It's all they talk about. If they had Hillary, crooked Hillary, their ratings would be one-fifth."

Trump says that he believes he would have had a harder time in 2016 if Bernie Sanders had been the Democratic nominee.

Near the end of the dinner Parnas can be heard presenting what he says is a gift to Trump from "the head rabbi in Ukraine" and rabbis in Israel drawing a parallel between Trump and the messiah. "It's like messiah is the person that's come to save the whole world. So it's like you're the savior of the Ukraine."

"All Jew people of Ukraine, they are praying for you," Fruman says, as Parnas tells Trump to show the gift to Jared Kushner, the president's Jewish son-in-law and senior adviser, to explain its meaning. In the video, it appears Fruman is seated across the narrow part of the rectangular table and one seat over from the president.

Trump also tells the assembled guests that it is "ridiculous" and "wrong" that he can't hold political fundraisers inside the White House, saying it would save the government money compared to driving him the four blocks to his hotel.

Trial highlights: Transcript talk, handshakes for defense

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's lawyers on Saturday argued a robust version of one of his favorite phrases to tweet: "Read the transcript!"

It was the first day of defense arguments in Trump's impeachment trial as the Senate gathered for two quick hours in a rare Saturday session. The White House lawyers had said it would be a "sneak preview" of their defense, continuing Monday, and they spent the morning rebutting the House impeachment manag-

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ers' arguments by charging that they were politically motivated.

To begin, they read parts of a rough transcript of a July call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that is at the heart of the House impeachment case. While Democrats point to the conversation as a prime reason to remove the president, the White House lawyers say it points to Trump's innocence. Trump often tweets, sometimes in all caps, that people should read the transcript in an effort to clear himself.

Highlights of Saturday's session and what's ahead as senators conduct just the third impeachment trial of a president:

THE CALL TRANSCRIPT

The House is charging that Trump abused power in a broad campaign

to push Ukraine to investigate Democrats, including presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. They point to the July call, in which Trump asked Zelenskyy to probe Biden. At the time, Trump had ordered the U.S. to withhold military aid from Ukraine.

The defense argued that there's no evidence that the military aid was a "quid pro quo" for the investigations. They said Trump was concerned about general corruption in the country and noted he eventually released the aid.

Deputy White House counsel Michael Purpura argued that everyone knows that when Trump asked Zelenskyy to "do us a favor," he meant the U.S., not himself. Democrats have disagreed and said Trump didn't release the aid until he "got caught."

The defense lawyers said the House managers didn't know what Trump's motivations were.

DIFFERENT STYLES, SUBSTANCE

Trump's defense team used just two hours of the senators' time on and promised not to run out the 24-hour clock allotted for the days ahead the way House Democrats nearly did prosecuting the case.

The White House team also displayed quick-cut video presentations on the Senate's overhead screens, turning soundbites from key players in the impeachment case into fast-snapping clips. It all seemed to command the attention of senators, likely a welcome change of pace for those who had grown tired of the prosecution's long and often repetitive presentations.

Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow gave his word to the senators, "We're not going to play the same clips seven times." That prompted smiles from some senators.

The president's team arrayed in the well of the chamber also looked different than the House managers — defending Trump were four white men. One woman, attorney Pam Bondi, is also on Trump's team. The seven-person House manager team reflected a cross section of America that included women and people of color.

On Saturday the counsel's table was without its TV-famous lawyers, Alan Dershowitz and Ken Starr, who have yet to appear before the Senate but are expected on Monday.

FOCUS ON SCHIFF

In arguing that the Democrats' case is politically motivated, the White House lawyers focused on the person who has been at the head of the inquiry: lead impeachment manager and House Intelligence



In this image from video, White House counsel Pat Cipollone speaks during the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. (Senate Television via AP)

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Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif.

As part of their presentation, they played video of one of Schiff's opening statements during a hearing early in the impeachment probe. In the statement, Schiff parodied Trump's push for the investigations, comparing it to a mafia shakedown. Republicans, and Trump in particular, have focused on the monologue and said that Schiff made up a conversation that didn't exist.

Schiff, in the chamber as a prosecutor in the impeachment trial, looked straight ahead as they played the video, sitting just feet from the lawyers.

The lawyers also played video of Schiff saying early in the investigation that the Intelligence Committee hadn't had any contact with the whistleblower who first revealed the call between Trump and Zelenskiy. In fact, the whistleblower had talked to committee staff. Schiff later said he should have been clearer in his comments.

After the session adjourned, Schiff said that the defense was employing an old courtroom trick. "When your client is guilty, when your client is dead to rights, you don't want to talk about your client, you want to attack the prosecution," he said.

NOT QUITE HIGH FIVES, BUT HANDSHAKES

As the Senate adjourned, several Republican senators, some closely allied with the president, made their way to the defense counsel's table to shake their hands.

Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, John Barrasso of Wyoming and Mike Lee of Utah stopped by. Sekulow and Purpura walked through an aisle greeting more senators as the cameras shut off, including John Thune of South Dakota. Sekulow also checked in with the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jim Risch of Idaho.

One GOP senator mentioned in the impeachment inquiry Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, engaged for several minutes in conversation with the counsel team. Last year, Johnson attended Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's inauguration with other U.S. officials and was cited in the House proceedings as having discussed the Ukraine situation with Trump.

The Trump team's outreach did have some bipartisan moments. At one point, White House counsel Pat Cipollone chatted extensively with Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and later appeared to be lingering to say hello to Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, a Democratic presidential candidate.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's fusillade of misfires on fateful week

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abroad, at home and in Twitter's ether, President Donald Trump unleashed a fusillade of statements over the past week as the Senate impeachment trial unfolded and the Davos economic forum played out in Switzerland.

On impeachment, the state of the country, abortion, pollution and more, Trump didn't tell the story straight.

A week in review:

MISSILE ATTACK

TRUMP, on U.S. troops targeted by the Iranian missile attack in Iraq this month: "I heard they had headaches and a couple of other things ... and I can report it is not very serious. ... No, I don't consider them very serious injuries relative to other injuries that I've seen. ... No, I do not consider that to be bad injuries, no." — news conference Wednesday in Davos, Switzerland.

THE FACTS: That assurance is misleading at best. The Pentagon said Friday that 34 service members suffered traumatic brain injury in the attack and half were taken to Germany or back to the U.S. for further observation and treatment.

Traumatic brain injury can be severe enough to cause life-long debilitation or death. The severity of the brain injuries has not been described in detail by the Pentagon; evaluation of the wounded troops continues.

In the first few days after the attacks, Trump inaccurately told the nation that no American service members were hurt.

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ABORTION

TRUMP on Gov. Ralph Northam, D-Va.: "The governor stated that he would execute a baby after birth." — remarks at anti-abortion rally Friday.

THE FACTS: No, Northam he didn't.

Trump routinely twists Northam's words, which were convoluted to begin with.

Noting that late-term abortions usually only happen if a fetus is severely deformed and unlikely to survive, Northam laid out a scenario in which such a fetus is not aborted and the baby is delivered. Then, he said, the baby would be "resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue" between doctors and the mother about what to do.

In extremely rare instances, babies are born alive as a result of an attempted abortion. "Execution" is not an option.

When a baby is born with anomalies so severe that he or she would die soon after birth, a family may choose what's known as palliative care or comfort care. This might involve allowing the baby to die naturally without medical intervention. Providing comfort without life-extending treatment is not specific to newborns. It may happen with fatally ill patients of any age.

BLUE-COLLAR 'BOOM'

TRUMP: "This is a blue-collar boom. Since my election, the net worth of the bottom half of wage earners has increased by plus-47% -- three times faster than the increase for the top 1%." — remarks in Davos on Tuesday.

THE FACTS: It isn't a boom for blue-collar workers.

They haven't done much better than everyone else, and some of their gains under Trump have faded in the past year as his trade war hurt manufacturing. The mining and logging industry, for example, which includes oil and gas workers, lost 21,000 jobs last year. Manufacturers have added just 9,000 jobs in the past six months, while the economy as a whole gained more than 1.1 million jobs during that period.

The U.S. economy is still heavily oriented toward services. While factory jobs have grown, other jobs have grown faster, so manufacturing has slightly shrunk as a proportion of the work force since Trump took office.

He's right that net worth among the bottom half has risen, but from such a low base that no boom can be claimed. The Federal Reserve says the bottom half has just 1.6% of the nation's wealth, compared with 1.1% when Trump took office. It was 2.1% in 2006.

TRUMP: "For the first time in decades we are no longer simply concentrating wealth in the hands of a few. We are concentrating and creating the most inclusive economy to ever exist." — Davos remarks.

THE FACTS: That's not true. Wealth is overwhelmingly concentrated in the hands of a few: The richest



FILE - In this Jan. 22, 2020, file photo, President Donald Trump leaves after a news conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. It's been a week packed with rhetoric from President Donald Trump. This, as his Senate impeachment trial unfolded and the economic forum in Davos, Switzerland, played out. An AP Fact Check put his statements under scrutiny and found distortions on a range of topics. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

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1% of Americans own 32% of the nation's wealth, about the same as in early 2017 when the president was inaugurated. The middle-class share — defined by the Fed as those from the exact middle of the wealth distribution up to the top 10% — remains at about 29%. This, despite the slight gains of the bottom half.

The percentage of Americans who own their own homes, a key source of wealth-building, has improved modestly under Trump but remains below the level seen as recently as 2013.

OCEAN DEBRIS

TRUMP: "We have to do something about other continents. We have to do something about other countries. ... We have a beautiful ocean called the Pacific Ocean, where thousands and thousands of tons of garbage flows toward us, and that's put there by other countries." — Davos news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He's right that garbage from abroad has come to U.S. shores by sea. What he does not say is that garbage from the U.S. also makes it over the ocean to other countries and that Americans have plenty to do with trashing their own shores.

Debris from Asia was most noticeable after the 2011 Japanese tsunami, said marine debris expert Kara Lavender Law of the Sea Education Association, "but the same can be said about debris entering the ocean from the U.S. and washing ashore in Asia." In fact, she said, most debris is not tracked to the country of origin.

The United States produces the largest amount of plastic waste in the world by weight, Law said.

"Most debris we find on the coast of the U.S. is likely from the U.S.," Denise Hardesty, a scientist who researches ocean trash for Australia's federal science organization, said by email.

IMPEACHMENT and UKRAINE

TRUMP, on military aid to Ukraine: "Remember this, they got their money and they got it early." — interview Wednesday with Fox Business Network.

TRUMP: "They got their money long before schedule." — Davos news conference.

THE FACTS: They got the money months late.

Congress approved nearly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine in the early months of 2019. U.S. officials involved with the aid learned in the summer that Trump had ordered the assistance to held back, as he pressed Ukraine to announce an investigation of Democrats.

It was released Sept. 11, only after a whistleblower's complaint about Trump's pressure on Ukraine had surfaced and a few days after Democrats in Congress opened the investigation.

Previous rounds of assistance were not similarly disrupted.

TRUMP, on Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the lead impeachment manager for the Senate trial: "He makes a statement that I made, and it was a total fraud. I never made it. That's why I released the conversation, because if I didn't release it, people would have said that I made the statement that he made. This guy is a fraud." — Fox interview Wednesday.

THE FACTS: No, Schiff spoke after Trump released the rough transcript of his July phone call, not before. Trump's claimed motive for coming out with the transcript is demonstrably untrue.

The White House released the account of the conversation on Sept. 25. Schiff gave his account on Sept. 26, while leading a House Intelligence Committee hearing on the matter, as the committee chairman.

Trump has made much of Schiff's account, seizing on how the Democrat put words in Trump's mouth in describing the president's conversation with Ukraine's leader. Schiff made clear in the hearing that he was not to be taken literally. He said he was characterizing Trump's conversation "in not so many words," attempting to describe "the essence" of it, and doing something of a "parody."

Schiff based his account on the rough transcript. He did not cause it to be released.

TRUMP LAWYER JAY SEKULOW, on special counsel Robert Mueller: "We had the invocation of the ghost of the Mueller report. I know something about that report. It came up empty on the issue of collusion

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with Russia. There was no obstruction, in fact." — impeachment trial Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He's wrong to suggest that Mueller's report cleared the Trump campaign of collusion with Russia. Nor did the report exonerate Trump on the question of whether he obstructed justice.

Instead, the report factually laid out instances in which Trump might have obstructed justice, leaving it open for Congress to take up the matter or for prosecutors to do so once Trump leaves office.

"If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so," Mueller said after the report was released.

Mueller's two-year investigation and other scrutiny revealed a multitude of meetings with Russians. Among them: Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with a Russian lawyer who had promised dirt on Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee in 2016.

On collusion, Mueller said he did not assess whether that occurred because it is not a legal term.

He looked into a potential criminal conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign and said the investigation did not collect sufficient evidence to establish criminal charges on that front.

SEKULOW: "During the proceedings that took place before the Judiciary Committee, the president was denied the right to cross-examine witnesses. The president was denied the right to access evidence. And the president was denied the right to have counsel present at hearings." — impeachment trial Tuesday.

THE FACTS: That's false. The committee, which produced the articles of impeachment, invited Trump or his legal team to come. He declined.

Absent White House representation, the hearings proceeded as things in Congress routinely do. Time was split between Democratic and Republican lawmakers to ask questions and engage in the debate. Lawyers for Democrats and Republicans on the committee presented the case for and against the impeachment articles and members questioned witnesses, among them an academic called forward by Republicans.

The first round of hearings was by the House Intelligence Committee and resembled the investigative phase of criminal cases, conducted without the participation of the subject of the investigation. Trump cried foul then at the lack of representation, then rejected representation when the next committee offered it.

BLACK COLLEGES

TRUMP, on historically black colleges and universities: "I saved HBCUs. We saved them. They were going out and we saved them." — Davos remarks Tuesday.

THE FACTS: That's a big stretch.

Trump signed a law in December restoring money that lapsed for several months when Congress failed to reauthorize some \$255 million in financing on time. The money came back because Senate education leaders reached a compromise on a broader dispute that had entangled financing for black schools.

Neither the lapse nor the restoration was directly tied in any way to the Trump administration.

The administration generally has supported historically black colleges, as previous administrations have done, and it's true that such schools have faced financial struggles and some have closed. The Trump administration has expanded access to federal support for black schools with religious affiliations and in 2018 forgave federal loans given to several of them after hurricanes.

But this segment of university education was not vanishing.

AIR & WATER

TRUMP: "I'm proud to report the United States has among the cleanest air and drinking water on Earth -- and we're going to keep it that way. And we just came out with a report that, at this moment, it's the cleanest it's been in the last 40 years." — Davos remarks.

THE FACTS: No, air quality has worsened under his administration. And it's a stretch to say the U.S. is among the countries with the cleanest air. Dozens of nations have less smoggy air.

In the U.S. and other countries, air is better than it was during the days of full-on coal power, leaded gasoline and belching smokestacks, before the advent of modern pollution regulation decades ago. But

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by multiple measures, air quality has deteriorated in the last few years.

Trump this month proposed the latest enforcement rollbacks for the bedrock environmental acts credited with beginning that clean-up of U.S. air and water a half-century ago.

As to water quality, one measure, Yale University's global Environmental Performance Index, finds the U.S. tied with nine other countries as having the cleanest drinking water.

But after decades of improvement, progress in air quality has stalled.

There were 15% more days with unhealthy air in America in 2017 and 2018 than there were on average from 2013 through 2016, according to an Associated Press analysis of EPA data. And deadly air particle pollution increased 5.5% in the U.S. between 2016 and 2018 after declining by 24% from 2009 to 2016, says a Carnegie Mellon University study.

The Obama administration set records for the fewest air-polluted days.

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "We have the greatest economy we've ever had in the history of our country. And I'm in Europe today because we're bringing a lot of other companies into our country with thousands of jobs -- millions of jobs, in many cases." — Davos remarks.

THE FACTS: His persistent depiction of the U.S. economy as the greatest ever is false. As for jobs pouring into the country, investment by foreign companies has slumped under Trump, according to a report by the Organization for International Investment, a Washington-based association that represents foreign businesses.

Foreign companies directly invested \$268 billion into the U.S. economy in 2018, a decrease of nearly \$220 billion from its record-breaking level in 2016 when Democrat Barack Obama was still president.

On the broader picture, economic growth under Trump is not nearly the greatest ever.

In the late 1990s, growth topped 4% for four straight years, a level it has not reached on an annual basis under Trump. Growth reached 7.2% in 1984. The economy grew 2.9% in 2018 — the same pace it reached in 2015 under Obama — and hasn't hit historically high growth rates.

The unemployment rate is at a 50-year low of 3.5%, but the proportion of Americans with a job was higher in the late 1990s. Wages were rising at a faster pace back then, too.

This much is true: The Obama-Trump years have yielded the longest economic expansion in U.S. history. But not the greatest.

TRUMP: "The average unemployment rate for my administration is the lowest for any U.S. president in recorded history. We started off with a reasonably high rate." — Davos remarks.

THE FACTS: Actually, Trump started with a rate that, if anything, was reasonably low, not "reasonably high." The unemployment rate was 4.7% when Trump replaced Obama in the White House. That is below the long-term U.S. average unemployment of 5.7% since the Labor Department began compiling the data in 1948.

Obama inherited a rate of 7.8%. It remained high for years -- topping 8% for a record length of time -- but gradually fell to the below-average level Trump inherited.

TRADE

TRUMP: "Just last week alone, the United States concluded two extraordinary trade deals — the agreement with China and the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement — the two biggest trade deals ever made." — Davos remarks.

THE FACTS: No, there have been larger trade deals.

For instance, 123 countries signed the Uruguay Round agreement that liberalized trade and produced the World Trade Organization in 1994. The organization's initial membership accounted for more than 90% of global economic output, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston found, and that was before China joined the organization.

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Also bigger: the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would have joined North America with Pacific Rim countries in freer trade. Trump took the U.S. out after the deal was negotiated and before the U.S. ratified it. The European Union, with its liberalized trade regimen, was itself formed from a giant deal.

The China deal leaves tariffs in place on about \$360 billion in imports from China and pushes substantial remaining disputes ahead to a second phase of negotiations. Trump's U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement is much larger, though it's an update of the long-standing North American Free Trade Agreement worked out by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

TRUMP: "Real median household income is at the highest level ever recorded." — Davos remarks.

THE FACTS: Not really, but it would be misleading even if it were true. Real median household income in 2018 matched the previous high of \$63,200 first reached in 1999. That's according to adjusted figures the Census Bureau released to account for changes in its surveys over time.

Trump is presumably referring to an unadjusted number that does show the 2018 figure as the highest on record. Either way, what the data show is that income for the median household — the one at the exact middle of the income distribution — essentially stagnated for nearly 20 years. The Census data also show that household income fell sharply after the Great Recession, then began rebounding in 2015, before Trump took office.

Associated Press writers Robert Burns, Jill Colvin, Christopher Rugaber, Josh Boak, Eric Tucker and Ellen Knickmeyer in Washington, Collin Binkley in Boston and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbx8bd>

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Cardinal at center of 2 Popes storm doubles down on celibacy

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A Vatican cardinal at the center of a storm over a book about celibacy and the Catholic priesthood is denouncing the "brutality" of criticism directed at him and his collaborator, Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI.

In an interview with Italian daily newspaper *Il Foglio* published Saturday, Cardinal Robert Sarah doubled down on his argument in the book, "From the Depths of Our Hearts," that the Catholic priesthood is incompatible with marriage.

"If you weaken the law of celibacy, you open a breach, a wound in the mystery of the church," Sarah told the newspaper.

Sarah, who heads the Vatican's liturgical office, insisted on the sacramental link between the priesthood and celibacy, even though the Catholic Church has for centuries had married priests in its Eastern Rites as well as in the ranks of Anglican and other Protestant converts.

The book's publication earlier this month sparked furious debate, given that Pope Francis is currently weighing whether to allow married priests in the Amazon to counter a priest shortage there.

Benedict's involvement appeared to be a clear effort to influence his successor's decision and called into question Benedict's promise to live "hidden from the world" after he retired in 2013.

The controversy prompted Sarah to announce that future editions of the book would list Benedict as a contributor, rather than co-author. The Italian version of the book, which came out this week, has on its cover "Robert Sarah with Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI."

Sarah has insisted he acted in good faith and denied allegations that he manipulated the 92-year-old Benedict into participating in a frontal attack on Francis. The cardinal tweeted amid the initial criticism

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that he had visited the retired pope and "there is no misunderstanding between us."

Sarah, a Guinean prelate who is a hero to the church's conservative and traditionalist wing, has insisted he remains obedient to Francis. But the two have clashed repeatedly, and the Vatican under the progressive Francis has found itself in the unusual position of issuing public corrections of Sarah's positions.

The Holy See, for example, intervened in 2016 after Sarah told a London liturgical conference that it was "very important" for the church to return "as soon as possible" to its old practice of the priest celebrating Mass facing east, with his back to the faithful.

The Vatican press office insisted Sarah's call was taken out of context by the media.

A year later, Francis publicly reprimanded Sarah for misinterpreting a new instruction giving bishops' conferences the right to translate Mass missals. Sarah had already sent his interpretation off to a French journal for publication.

Sarah is due to offer his resignation to Francis in June when he turns 75, the mandatory retirement age for Catholic bishops.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2020. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 26, 2005, a U.S. Marine helicopter crashed in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and a Navy medic aboard. A man parked his SUV on railroad tracks in Glendale, California, setting off a crash of two commuter trains that killed 11 people. (The SUV's driver, Juan Alvarez, was convicted of murder and sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms.)

On this date:

In 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

In 1837, Michigan became the 26th state.

In 1870, Virginia rejoined the Union.

In 1934, the 125th Street Apollo Theater opened in New York City's Harlem district.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon — but the probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.

In 1973, actor Edward G. Robinson died in Los Angeles at age 79.

In 1988, Australians celebrated the 200th anniversary of their country as a grand parade of tall ships re-enacted the voyage of the first European settlers. The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, appearing with his wife, Hillary, on CBS' "60 Minutes," acknowledged "causing pain in my marriage," but said past problems were not relevant to the campaign.

In 1993, Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) was elected president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

In 1994, a scare occurred during a visit to Sydney, Australia, by Britain's Prince Charles as college student David Kang lunged at the prince, firing two blank shots from a starter's pistol. (Kang was later sentenced



FILE - In this Monday, March 4, 2013 file photo, Cardinal Robert Sarah, of Guinea, walks in St. Peter's Square after attending a cardinals' meeting, at the Vatican. Retired Pope Benedict XVI wrote the book, "From the Depths of Our Hearts: Priesthood, Celibacy and the Crisis of the Catholic Church," along with his fellow conservative, Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah, who heads the Vatican's liturgy office and has been a quiet critic of Francis. (AP

Photo/Andrew Medichini, File)

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to 500 hours of community service.)

In 1998, President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

In 2009, the impeachment trial of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich) opened in Springfield, with Blagojevich refusing to take part, saying the rules were biased against him. Nadya Suleman gave birth at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center in California to six boys and two girls, the world's longest-surviving set of octuplets. Criticism came after the public learned that the unemployed, single mother had gotten pregnant with the octuplets and six elder children through in vitro fertilization.

Ten years ago: Toyota suspended U.S. sales of several popular vehicle models to fix sticking accelerator pedals; the suspension was on top of a recall of 2.3 million vehicles. Louis Auchincloss, 92, a prolific author of fiction and nonfiction, died in New York.

Five years ago: Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid had surgery to remove a clot and blood from his right eye and repair broken facial bones suffered in an accident while exercising. A 2-foot-long drone flown by a hobbyist crashed on the White House grounds, raising questions about the president's security and a growing threat from the sky.

One year ago: Naomi Osaka won the Australian Open for a second consecutive Grand Slam title, edging Petra Kvitova (kuh-VIHT'-oh-vuh); the win allowed the 21-year-old to become the first tennis player from Japan to reach No. 1 in the rankings. Flight operations at major airports returned to normal, and park rangers again greeted visitors at some national parks, a day after a partial government shutdown came to an end. Oscar-winning composer and pianist Michel Legrand died at the age of 86.

Today's Birthdays: Cartoonist Jules Feiffer is 91. Sportscaster-actor Bob Uecker is 85. Actor Scott Glenn is 81. Singer Jean Knight is 77. Activist Angela Davis is 76. Actor Richard Portnow is 73. Rock musician Corky Laing (Mountain) is 72. Actor David Strathairn (streh-THEHRN') is 71. Producer-director Mimi Leder is 68. Alt-country singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams is 67. Rock singer-musician Eddie Van Halen is 65. Reggae musician Norman Hassan (UB40) is 62. Actress-comedian-talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is 62. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 60. Hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky is 59. Musician Andrew Ridgeley is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jazzie B. (Soul II Soul) is 57. Actor Paul Johansson is 56. Director Lenny Abrahamson is 54. Actor Bryan Callen is 53. Gospel singer Kirk Franklin is 50. Actor Nate Mooney is 48. Actress Jennifer Crystal is 47. Rock musician Chris Hesse (Hoobastank) is 46. Actress Matilda Szydagis is 46. Actor Gilles Marini (ZHEEL ma-REE'-nee) is 44. Gospel singer Tye Tribbett is 44. NBA player Vince Carter is 43. Actress Sarah Rue is 42. Actor Colin O'Donoghue is 39. Country musician Michael Martin (Marshall Dyllon) is 37.

Thought for Today: "Time is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels, and what one achieves." — Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian statesman (1889-1964).

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