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"THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I BELIEVE IN WHAT I CAN'T EXPLAIN OR UNDERSTAND, EVEN MORE THAN THE THINGS THAT ARE EXPLAINABLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE."

-LILLIAN GISH

Girls lose to Elk Point/Jefferson

Groton Area's girls basketball team lost to Elk Point/Jefferson at the NEC-DAK12 round of games Saturday in Madison. Elk Point/Jefferson won, 61-50.

The game was tied at nine after the first quarter before Elk Point/Jefferson took a 27-21 lead at half time and a 47-35 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with 15 points and six rebounds while Alyssa Thaler had nine points, Alyssa Locke had eight and Trista Keith had seven. Brooke Gengerke had six rebounds while Kaycie Hawkins had five and Locke four.

Groton Area made 10 of 36 field goals for 28 percent, five of 20 three-pointers for 25 percent and was 17 of 20 from the line for 85 percent.

The Tigers had eight offensive and 20 defensive rebounds, two steals, 38 assists and nine turnovers.

Elk Point/Jefferson's Lily Kempf led all scorers with 31 points while Riley Donnelly had 13 and Kenna Curry 10. Curry was the leading rebounder with five.

Elk Point/Jefferson made 24 of 47 field goals for 51 percent, five of 15 three-pointers for 33 percent and eight of 12 free throws for 66 percent. They had four offensive and 21 defensive rebounds, six steals, seven turnovers, two blocks and 12 assists.

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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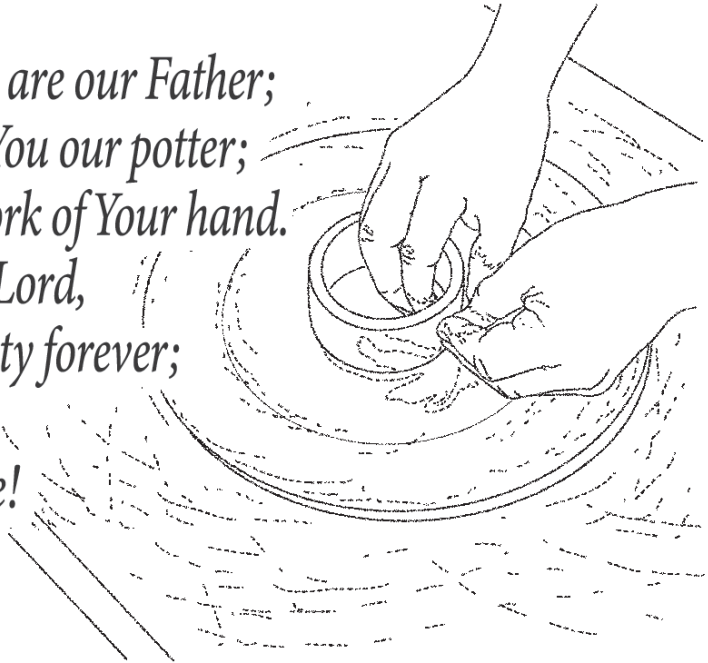
Sunday Extras



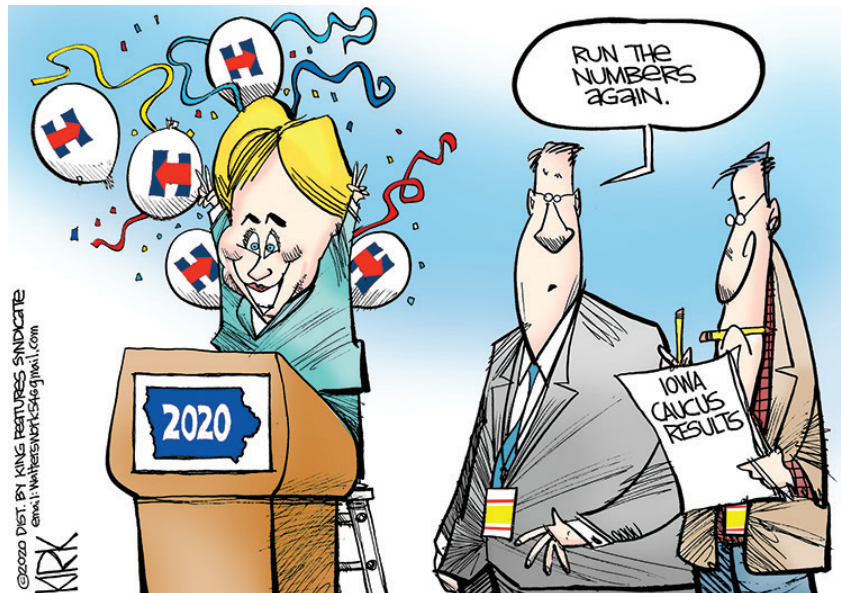
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*But now, O Lord, You are our Father;
We are the clay, and You our potter;
And all we are the work of Your hand.
Do not be furious, O Lord,
Nor remember iniquity forever;
Indeed, please look
we all are Your people!*

ISAIAH 64:8,9



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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which book could be summarized, "By human standards you're looking OK, but by God's, you're failing"? *Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah*

3. From Genesis 41, who had the vision of seven fat cows coming out of a river? *Adam, Moses, Pharaoh, Abraham*

4. Who was suspended by a lock of hair between heaven and earth in a vision? *Samson, Esau, Elijah, Ezekiel*

5. What church did John describe as one with an "open door"? *Sardis, Philadelphia, Antioch, Smyrna*

6. From Acts 10, where did Cornelius encounter an angel? *Temple, Well, House, Field*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Amos; 3) Pharaoh; 4) Ezekiel; 5) Philadelphia; 6) House

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

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Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Chocolate Cherry Cobbler

Even if George Washington didn't cut down the cherry tree, he'd be first in line for a tasty piece of this ultra-easy dessert!

1 (4-serving) package sugar-free cherry gelatin

1 (4-serving) package sugar-free vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix

1 (16-ounce) can tart red cherries, packed in water, drained and 1/2 cup liquid reserved

1/4 cups water

3/4 cup biscuit reduced-fat baking mix

3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa

Sugar substitute, suitable for baking, to equal 1/2 cup sugar

3 tablespoons chopped pecans

1/3 cup plain fat-free yogurt

1/4 cup fat-free mayonnaise

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a medium saucepan, combine dry gelatin, dry pudding mix, reserved cherry liquid and 1 cup water. Stir in cherries. Cook over medium heat until mixture thickens and starts to boil, stirring often and being careful not to crush cherries. Spoon hot mixture into prepared baking dish.

3. In a large bowl, combine baking mix, cocoa, sugar substitute and pecans. Add yogurt, mayonnaise, remaining 1/4 cup water and vanilla extract. Mix gently just to combine. Drop by spoonfuls onto cherry mixture to form 6 mounds.

4. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Place baking dish on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Divide into 6 servings.

• Each serving equals: 147 calories, 3g fat, 4g protein, 26g carb., 389mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Fruit, 1/2 Starch, 1/2 Fat.

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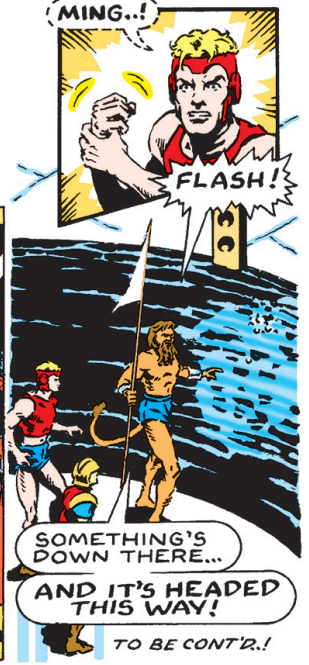
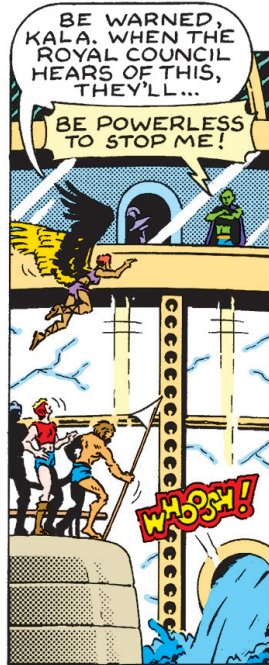
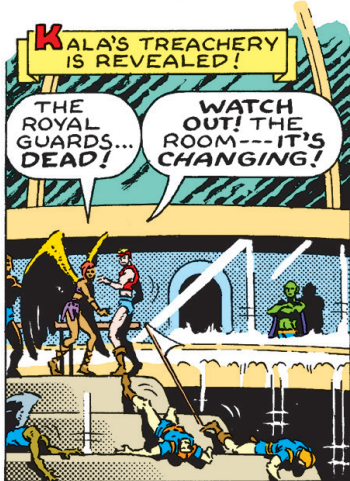
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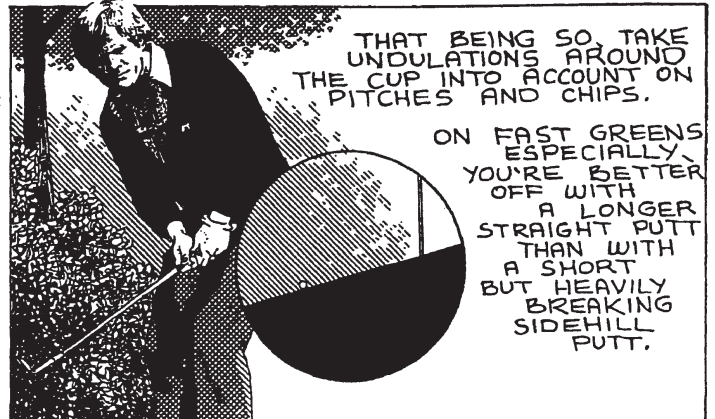
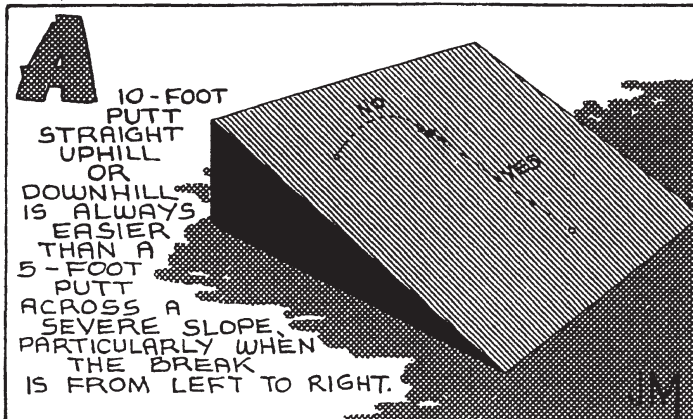


FLASH GORDON BY JIM KEEFE

2-2



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





90-Pound Chemo Patient Should Stop Fasting

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter-in-law has stage 1 breast cancer and has just started her chemotherapy. I am concerned about her decision to fast for two days before and one day after each treatment. She weighs only 90 pounds, and fasting while you are trying to fight cancer does not sound like a good idea. What is your opinion of fasting during chemotherapy? — *K.B.*

ANSWER: In theory, fasting may make cancer cells more susceptible to chemotherapy, and there have been studies in mice suggesting this approach might have value. However, during chemotherapy, the whole body needs good-quality nutrition, and I could not recommend fasting for someone who weighs so little, nor could I recommend two full days of fasting before chemotherapy. Until there is clear evidence that intermittent fasting is of benefit, I don't recommend it. Your daughter-in-law, in particular, is not a good candidate, being so very thin (assuming she is of near-normal height).

DEAR DR. ROACH: A couple of years ago, a letter writer asked if you knew anything about the effect of Advil on men with enlarged prostates. It seemed that ibuprofen decreased his trips to the bathroom. I have found the same thing myself. Taking two Advil allows me to wait five to six hours before having to urinate. Has there been more research on why this happens? — *S.Z.*

ANSWER: There is some more information. Men with symptoms of enlarged prostate often have increased urinary frequency, combined with incomplete emptying. This makes sense; if you can't empty your entire bladder, you will have to empty it more frequently. So it seems the ibuprofen is letting you empty the bladder more completely. There are two major reasons for incomplete emptying, and different theories for why ibuprofen might work on each.

Benign (not cancerous) enlargement of the prostate is one reason. In this case, it is hypothesized that ibuprofen stops the growth of cells in the prostate, but the exact mechanism isn't clear. Reducing the size of the prostate can allow better, more complete urine flow.

The other common cause of the prostate symptoms is inflammation of the prostate. In this case, ibuprofen's anti-inflammatory effect reducing symptoms is easier to understand. The fact that it works so quickly for you suggests that the anti-inflammatory effect is more important in your case.

Ibuprofen does have possible side effects, but two ibuprofen once a day is unlikely to cause significant problems.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My teen likes vegetables and eats right. He also drinks a lot of water, works out and doesn't like soda. He and my sister have chronic constipation. They both now take a magnesium supplement and feel great. Is that OK? — *T.M.S.*

ANSWER: Magnesium is a common and safe treatment for constipation. A healthy diet, exercise and drinking plenty of water are good ideas for anyone with constipation, but some people do need additional help. I have previously mentioned prunes (or prune juice) as an option, but magnesium, if taken at a dose to ensure regular but not excessive bowel movements, is a fine treatment.

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 band that started with the name Mookie Blaylock.

2. Which album was "Rocky Raccoon" on?

3. Name the Billy Ocean song that was inspired by a line from Johnny Burnette's "You're Sixteen": "You walked out of my dreams and into my arms."

4. Which artist released the "Still Crazy After All These Years" album?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I am glad you've finally called me on the phone, I've been waiting here tonight but not alone."

Answers

1. Pearl Jam. The real Mookie Blaylock was a basketball player, and the band put one of his sports cards in their cassette tape cases. Eventually they realized they couldn't sell their merchandise with his name on it.

2. The Beatles white album, in 1968. The song, originally titled "Rocky Sassaon," inspired a comic cartoon character called Rocket Raccoon in 1976.

3. "Get Outta My Dreams, Get into My Car," in 1988.

4. Paul Simon, in 1975.

5. "He'll Have to Stay," by Jeanne Black in 1960. This was an answer song to Jim Reeves' "He'll Have to Go," which came out six months earlier. Both songs did well on the charts.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT

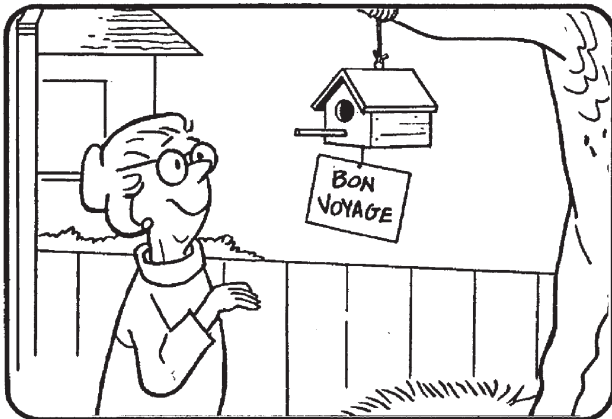
Wagner



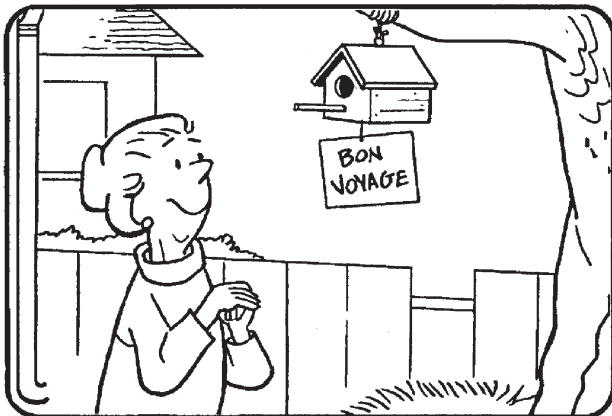
"Son, it's time for that father-son talk ... during halftime."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is added. 2. Birdhouse is higher. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Downspout is added. 5. Glasses are removed. 6. Fence is broken.



- “For uniform cookies, roll and freeze your dough for 10-15 minutes. Most doughs will harden enough to slice into perfectly even slices, and the freezing doesn’t really affect cooking time too much. (Watch your first batch, though.)” — *R.L. in Missouri*

- If you are reattaching a button to shorts or pants, try using dental floss, the unwaxed kind. It’s much stronger and can hold the button better than regular thread. Use a marker to darken it if the color is an issue.

- “Here’s a use for large plastic jugs: Cut off the bottom and use as a megaphone at sports games. Assemble the younger siblings off field and let each have his or her own megaphone. They can be decorated with stickers. Have the kids make up a cheer.” — *T.T. in Texas*

- Dampen a paper towel with vinegar and put it into your kid’s lunchbox after you wipe it out. Zip up and leave overnight. It absorbs smells.

- “Use a hair dryer on the warm setting to dry out boots that have gotten wet inside. Check often to make sure it’s not getting too hot inside. Remove insoles if possible.” — *D.E. in Nebraska*

- Need an easy substitute for buttermilk? Squeeze lemon juice into milk, and let it sit for 10-15 minutes before using.

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

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THIS popular young lady is running out of room to display her valentines. We counted at least 25. How many can you find?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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

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Illustrated by David Coulson



HIDDEN in the diagram at left are 13 words associated with Valentine's Day. They can be found by reading up or down, side to side or diagonally. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the 13 words you're looking for:

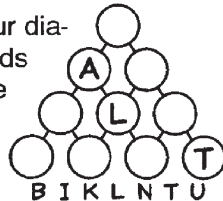
- Arrows
- Holiday
- Candy
- Love
- Cards
- Poems
- Cupid
- Red
- February
- Roses
- Flowers
- Sweets
- Heart

FOUR-BY-FOURS. Here's an interesting dictionary quiz. See if you can find four 8-letter words that contain, in turn, four A's, four F's, four G's and four L's.



Answer: Maharaja, rrrraff, giggling and bellpull.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight 4-letter words can be read top to bottom along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answer: The words are, top to bottom, left to right: Ball, ball, ball, balk, bull, bulk, bunn, bunt.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Docket entry
- 5 Heidi's range
- 9 One's years
- 12 Greatly
- 13 Inquisitive
- 14 Present
- 15 Madison's place
- 17 Exist
- 18 Ardor
- 19 Cuts into cubes
- 21 Extra
- 24 Rover's friend
- 25 Difficult
- 26 Hawk trainer
- 30 Carte lead-in
- 31 Eliot's Marner
- 32 Rotation duration
- 33 Outwardly curved on both sides
- 35 Bouquet holder
- 36 Reed instrument
- 37 Essential points
- 38 Prenatal test, for short
- 40 — morgana
- 42 Island neck-wear
- 43 Grayish metallic element
- 48 A Gershwin
- 49 Author Hunter
- 50 Medicinal

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		

- amount
- 9 Huge snakes
- 28 Right on the map?
- 51 X rating?
- 10 Bush opponent
- 29 Deli loaves
- 31 Took a nap
- 52 Force measure
- 11 Rams fans?
- 34 Japanese sash
- 53 Unseen hitch
- 16 U.K. ref. bk.
- 37 Classic muscle car
- 20 Altar affirmative
- 21 Moby-Dick's pursuer
- 38 Settled down
- 22 "The Persistence of Memory" painter
- 39 nembellished
- 23 Severe
- 24 Linen source
- 40 Drescher or Lebowitz
- 26 Basketball team
- 41 Zits
- 27 Brewery product
- 44 Poison —
- 45 Charged bit
- 46 Portion of N.A.
- 47 "Family Guy" daughter

DOWN

- 1 Crow's call
- 2 Clay, now
- 3 "Help!"
- 4 Left an impression
- 5 Actress Paquin
- 6 Missing
- 7 Omega preceder
- 8 Municipal magistrates

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY



"Remember that awful dinner the Shipleys had us over for? This stuff would make a wonderful revenge."

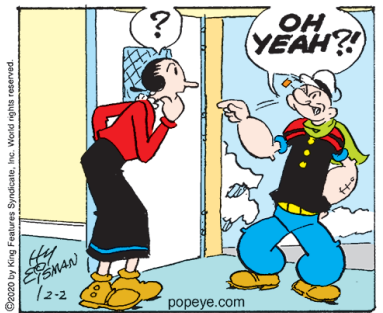
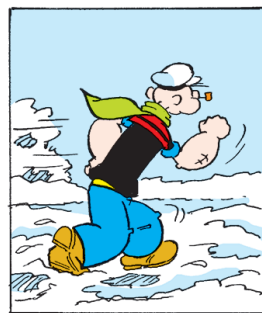
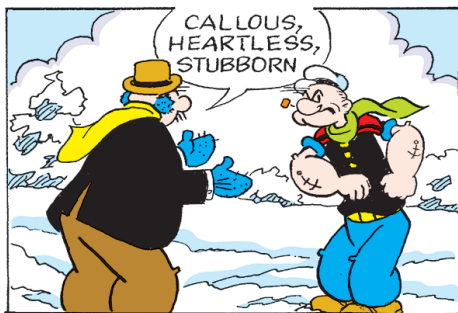
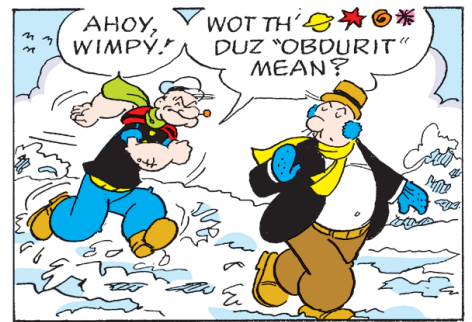
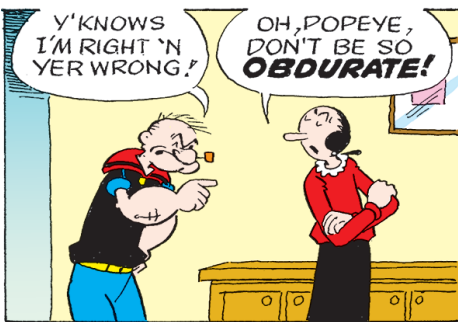
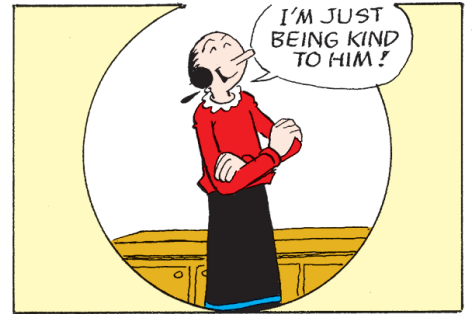
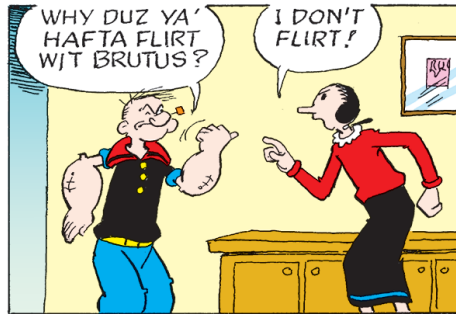
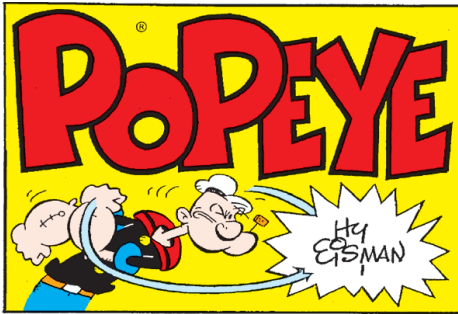
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



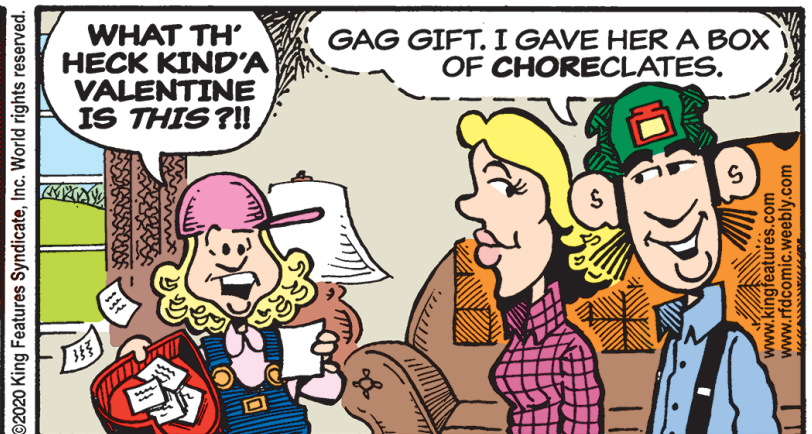
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Our Story:

A HALF-SEEN GIANT OCCUPIES THE BEAST MEN, ALLOWING VAL AND HIS COMPANIONS TO DARE AN ESCAPE.

THEY REACH THE SHORE, WHERE BUKOTA DISCOVERS A CACHE OF THE BRUTES' SKINS. ALTHOUGH WEAPONLESS, THE FOUR SEE NO CHOICE BUT TO BRAVE THE MONSTER-INFESTED WEED ...

... AND TO HOPE THAT THEY CAN GAIN SOME DISTANCE BEFORE THEIR CAPTORS RECOVER AND BEGIN PURSUIT. THEIR PROGRESS IS SLOW AND UNSTEADY.

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"I FEAR," SAYS GAWAIN, "THAT OUR LACK OF WEED-WALKING SKILL WILL MEAN OUR DEATH." VAL KEEPS AN EYE TRAINED TO THEIR REAR AND, TOO SOON, THEIR FEARS ARE REALIZED.

OUT OF THE MISTS, FIGURES BECOME DIMLY VISIBLE.

THEY MOVE SWIFTLY, AND SOON COME INTO FOCUS.

THE BRUTES ARE HEAVILY ARMED.

NEXT
A new development

Gianni
©12-7-08

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I'M GOING TO DONATE MY BODY TO SCIENCE.

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SCIENCE FICTION?

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Remembering Our Music

Have you ever tried to remember all the words to a song from your childhood or teenage years, or something you heard your parents sing? If you can remember one or two lines of a verse or the title, you can find the whole song on the Internet.

Here's an example. I put one line of a song in Google, and there it was! Not only did all the lyrics pop up but there were links to videos of groups singing the song. There were links, too, to more information. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that the song was written in 1911.

World War II was full of good music, and chances are you remember at least parts of some of the songs. Search online for World War II songs or any other era you're interested in. Wikipedia even has categories such as "Songs of 1950s." Or search Wikipedia by singer and click on their discography

for all the songs they released.

Remember "Any Bonds Today?", the 1941 song written for a war bond drive and presented in a Bugs Bunny cartoon? Or for younger seniors, how about "Blowin' in the Wind," Bob Dylan's 1962 song. How many verses do you remember?

When the weather warms up, you might consider haunting garage sales and antique marts for old sheet music. If you no longer have a keyboard, look on Amazon for compact 54-key electronic keyboards for less than \$100.

And what do you do once you've collected all the music from your youth? Consider sharing it. If you play well enough, ask about visiting a retirement facility and playing for the residents. Make copies of the lyrics and hand them out for a sing-along. For Alzheimer's patients, hearing or singing music can animate silent patients, reduce stress and strengthen memory.

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1. Name either of the starting pitchers before Chris Sale and Jacob deGrom in 2018 to face each other with a sub-2.00 ERA and at least 100 innings pitched for that season. (Hint: The year was 1985.)

2. Washington Nationals rookie Juan Soto set a record in 2018 for the youngest player (19) to steal three bases in a game. Who had been the youngest?

3. Minnesota's Adam Thielen tied an NFL record in 2018 by having eight straight games of at least 100 receiving yards. Who else holds the mark?

4. When was the last time before 2019 that a first-time men's basketball champion was crowned in the NCAA Tournament?

5. The Detroit Red Wings swept the Stanley Cup Finals two consecutive years (1997 and 1998). Name either team the Red Wings beat.

6. Name the only driver other than Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel to win the Formula One season cham-

pionship between 2010 and 2019.

7. Entering 2020, how many of tennis star Serena Williams' 23 grand slam titles were won in the decade of 2010-2019?

Answers

1. Dwight Gooden and John Tudor.

2. Rickey Henderson was 20 years, 241 days old when he did it for Oakland in 1979.

3. Detroit's Calvin Johnson, who did it in 2012.

4. It was 2006 (the University of Florida).

5. The Philadelphia Flyers in 1997 and the Washington Capitals in 1998.

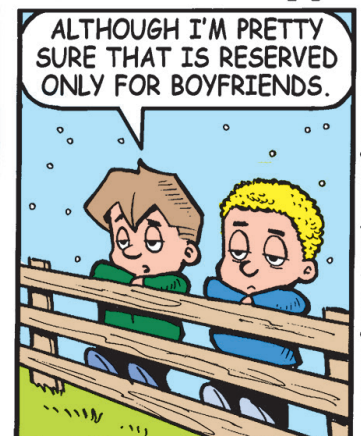
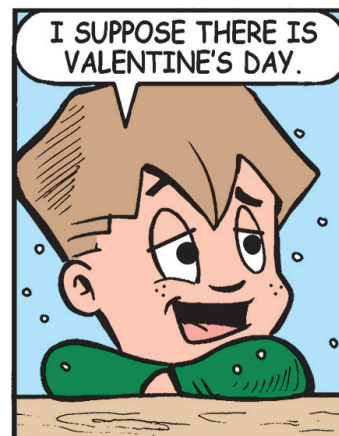
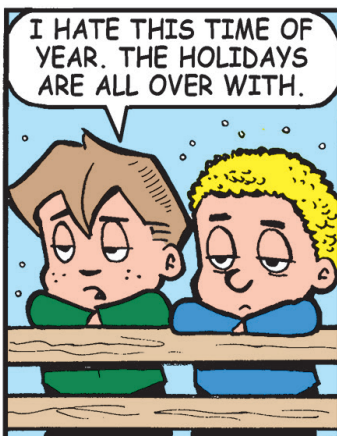
6. Nico Rosberg, in 2016.

7. She won 12, with four of them at Wimbledon.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



Relentless

On days I'm home in South Dakota, I sit down for my morning bowl of Wheaties and flThirteen-year-old teenagers are not commonly known for their persistent dedication to serving others. I know I certainly wasn't. But every once in a while, I'm privileged to meet someone who challenges that norm.

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Floyd Korzan and his parents at Mitchell Middle School. Those early years of young adulthood are difficult for most, but amongst the woes of finding his way in middle school, Floyd made a decision to start an organization that encourages individuals to be relentless. Relentless when facing cancer, relentless in overcoming obstacles, and relentless in dreaming big dreams.

Floyd's relentless journey started eight years ago when his father, Matt, collapsed while hiking in the Black Hills and was subsequently diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. It's a path many South Dakota families are forced to walk – the trials of a cancer diagnosis, painful and tiring treatments, and a future filled with uncertainty. Friday nights at the Korzan house looked different than they did before. Instead of pizza and a movie, family nights were spent in a hospital room.

Years passed and after several remissions and relapses, Matt received a successful stem cell transplant from his sister in 2017 and has been cancer-free ever since. Matt's relentlessness rubbed off on Floyd in a way I doubt Matt even realized. In honor of his father, Floyd's taken it upon himself to develop the Relentless Pledge and to hand out relentless wristbands to cancer patients across the globe, as well as to local heroes who according to Floyd, "get up every day and work tirelessly to make our community a better place."

I wear my light-blue relentless wristband with an incredible amount of pride. In fact, I told Floyd I would wear it at this year's State of the Union address. As President Trump gave his remarks, I found myself glancing down at my wrist – a visible reminder of the tenacity we should all bring to our daily lives in order to make this country an even better place to call home.

I feel a sincere commitment to Floyd, his family and everyone back home in South Dakota, to hold myself to this relentless pledge. More importantly, I hope Friday nights at the Korzan household are filled with many more pizzas and movies in the months and years to come.

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With Impeachment Behind Us, It's Time to get Back to Work for South Dakotans

The Senate recently voted to acquit the president of the two Articles of Impeachment sent to us by the House of Representatives, falling 19 and 20 votes short of the 67 needed to remove him from office. I voted against the articles of impeachment, in keeping with the constitutional intent our framers expected.

Throughout the process, I listened carefully as the House Managers and the president's defense team made their cases to the Senate, taking over 130 pages of notes over the course of the trial. I also studied the text of the Constitution related to impeachment and our Founding Fathers' intent when they included it in our constitutional framework. This historical context is important to understanding why the House failed to make its case in removing the president from office.

Our Founding Fathers included impeachment in the Constitution after much deliberation – to be used only as a last resort. They also put great thought into the impeachment process. They trusted the Senate, requiring more solemn judgement than their counterparts in the House, to decide whether an allegation by the House has the substantiality to require removal from office.

While the Senate does not have the power to impeach, it does have the authority to judge the sufficiency of articles presented to it. The Senate, as a trier of facts, should not overstep its role. It is the House's responsibility to bring the evidence to make its case, not simply make an allegation. This does not mean that the Senate cannot call witnesses, but it most certainly should not be the Senate's obligation to do so because the House failed to do its job in the first place.

Upon the founding of the Senate, James Madison explained that the Senate would be a "necessary fence" against the "fickleness and passion" that tended to influence the attitudes of the general public and members of the House of Representatives. George Washington is said to have told Thomas Jefferson that the framers had created the Senate to 'cool' House legislation, just as a saucer was used to cool hot tea.

For impeachment, there can be no difference.

When the House is ignited by partisan passions, eager to reach a desired result, the Senate must be cool and firm in its heightened review.

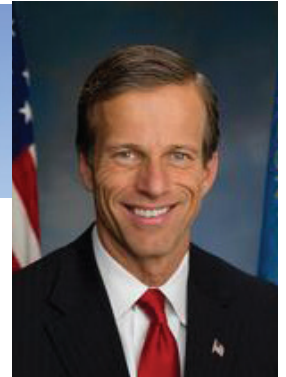
In recognizing the haste and half-hearted attempt by our colleagues in the House, I also recognize these articles of impeachment to be wholly insufficient, not warranting a removal from office. The rightful place for such a decision to be made is with the American electorate at the ballot box.

From the beginning, the Senate conducted a fair, impartial trial. Senators asked 180 questions, 28,578 pages of documents were made available to us and we watched 193 video clips. We did our due diligence and fulfilled our constitutional duty. And now that the impeachment process is behind us, we can get on with the work the American people sent us here to do: improve the lives of hardworking families. Impeaching an elected official is incredibly serious, as it effectively overturns the will of the American electorate. The House failed miserably to make its case, and the Senate rightly voted to acquit the president.

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John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Let's Get Back to Business

The U.S. Senate has only confronted a presidential impeachment trial three times in American history. The first was President Andrew Johnson's trial in 1868, which reflected the lingering divisions of the Civil War. The second was President Bill Clinton's trial more than 130 years later in 1999. At that time, I was serving South Dakota as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I assumed and hoped that would be the last time I would be involved with the very rarely used impeachment provision in the U.S. Constitution. Regrettably, it was not.

Impeachment is extraordinarily divisive and disruptive. It is, after all, overturning the will of the American people by attempting to remove a duly elected president from office.

Our Founding Fathers intended impeachment to be an extreme remedy used only in extreme circumstances. The history of the Constitutional Convention clearly demonstrates that impeachable behavior must meet a very high threshold. To guard against misuse of this extraordinary power, the Founders split the impeachment power – assigning the authority to impeach solely to the House of Representatives and the power to try impeachments solely to the Senate. As a final check, the Founders required a two-thirds supermajority vote in the Senate to remove a president from office.

For this third presidential impeachment trial in American history, I literally had a front-row seat. My Senate desk is in the front row of the chamber, and I was able to look squarely at the participants in this historic constitutional proceeding.

In the end, I joined a majority of the Senate in voting to acquit the president. My conclusion was based on four key considerations: the facts of the case, the threshold imposed by the Constitution for conviction and removal from office, the deeply flawed and completely partisan House process that led to this impeachment, and the fact that there's a national election just months away from now.

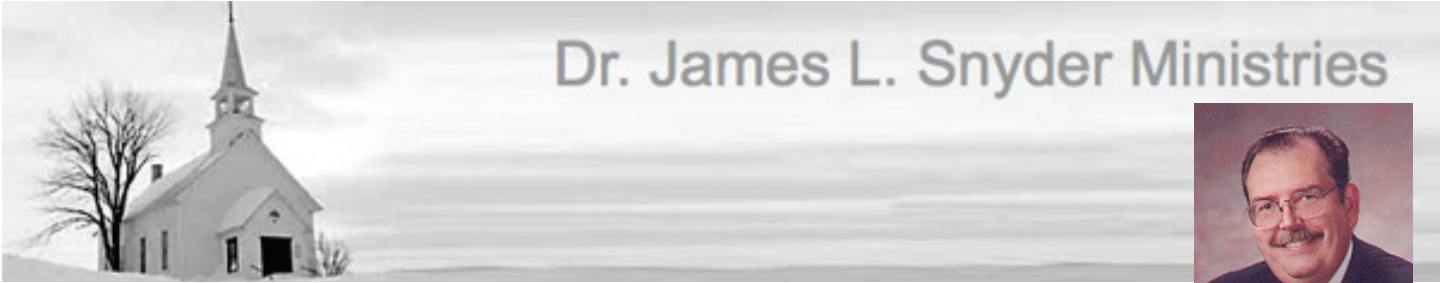
I listened carefully to the House managers' case, which included the testimony of more than a dozen witnesses and nearly 30,000 pages of documents. I entered the Senate trial with an open mind, knowing the president's team would be afforded the fairness and impartiality that were lacking in the House's highly partisan and one-sided process. In total, I listened to nearly 70 hours' worth of testimony, questions, and answers from both the House managers and the president's counsel. While we can debate the president's judgment, or even conclude that his actions were inappropriate, I determined that this case did not meet the high threshold that our Founders envisioned.

Rescinding the results of a democratic election would be incredibly disruptive under any circumstance, but that's especially true when there is a presidential election less than 10 months from now. It is the American people, not a bunch of Washington politicians, who should decide this case. I believe a sizable majority of South Dakotans share that view and wanted me to vote to acquit the president. That is how I cast their vote in the Senate.

At one point in the trial, during one of our breaks, a senator from the other side of the aisle approached me on the floor and said, "I sure hope we can still work together when all of this is done." Throughout this process, there were strong, and at times heated, arguments made by the House managers and the president's team. Republicans expressed their opinions, and Democrats expressed theirs. But I strongly believe that we should always follow the rule that we can disagree without being disagreeable. This period in our history should be no different, and I look forward to working with my colleagues – Republican and Democrat – now that this trial is finally behind us. Let's get back to business.

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Did I Just Call Myself?

I am old enough to remember those days when there was nothing like cell phones. Oh, those quiet, golden silent days. At the time, I did not realize just how wonderful that time was.

Every time you needed to make a phone call, you had to go to where a phone was. Those were the days of the telephone booth. Remember those? That's where Clark Kent turned into Superman. We don't have Superman today because there are no telephone booths.

I well remember the day I bought my first cell phone. I hesitated because I enjoyed my quiet time. However, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was enthusiastic about getting cell phones. That way, she could call me whenever she wanted.

I thought that was rather nice, and we went out and bought our first pair of cell phones. But it took me a little bit of time to learn how to operate this new technology. Unfortunately, at the time, I had no grandchildren who could walk me through this process.

All went well for the first couple of years. Then, a new phenomenon developed. My cell phone was ringing all the time. Most of the time, from some silly old telemarketer trying to sell me something I didn't need and certainly didn't want.

How they got my number, I have no idea. As far as I am concerned, it is all a scam.

Then a certain idea hit me. If these people were calling and wasting my time, why not use it to waste their time?

It did not take me long to have a little bit of fun out of these people calling me.

If it was a recorded message, I hung up right away. After all, you cannot talk to a recorded message.

But, if it was a real person, then my table had been set. I found delightful ways of frustrating them and wasting their time. After all, isn't that their business?

For example, they always ask, "How are you doing?"

That seems like a very simple and innocent question. I know, and so do you, they have no interest in finding out how I am. They are setting me up for sales talk.

I then had an idea. I know it is not often I have an idea, but when I do, boy, is it an idea. When they asked me how I am, I tell them in all the monotonous detail I can think of at the time. I go on and on how bad my day is and how terrible life feels. Then there is that familiar "click," and they've hung up on me.

After all, they asked how I was doing, and I was simply responding to their question.

Another ruse I use is when they ask me how I am, I say, "I'm terrible." To which they respond by saying, "That's nice..." and go on with their sales pitch.

I am not multilingual, but I can speak gibberish better than anybody I know. At least, that's what my wife tells me. So, if I have this talent, why not use it?

The first time I used this gibberish language, the person on the other end said, "Speak English, please." To which I continued with my gibberish. They repeat their request, and I continue with my gibberish. Finally, there comes that familiar sound I look forward to, "Click."

My wife is very annoyed when she receives any of these telemarketing calls. She demands her number taken off the list and right now!

I take a different view. Like they used to say, if life gives you lemons, then make lemonade. So, I make

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telemarketing lemonade as often as I can.

I must confess I have enjoyed some of these telemarketing calls.

One call was for pain in my body. Someone sent in my name, reporting that I had pain in my body, and they had a medicine that could help me with all my pain.

"Where do you have pain in your body?"

"Well," I said as seriously as possible, "I have this terrific pain in my neck."

This information excited the telemarketer, and he wanted to know how I got this pain and where it came from. To which I said, "My pain in the neck comes from people like you calling me every day."

"Click."

I look forward to those calls.

Then, the other day I got a strange call on my cell phone. I looked to see who was calling, and to my surprise, it was me. It was my name and phone number that showed up on my cell phone screen. I was calling myself.

I cannot tell you how anxious I was to talk to myself. I was going to give myself a piece of my mind. Of course, it would be good to talk to myself about certain things.

So, I answered the phone. "Hello, Pastor Snyder, how in the world are you?"

To my great disappointment, it was not me calling me. Rather, it was some telemarketer wanting to know how much my electric bill was each month.

I remember what David said, and he did not have a cell phone. "Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live" (Psalm 116:2).

I do not need a cell phone to call God because I have put my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and I now am connected with God.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

Concerns arise that new S.D. electronic bill monitoring system makes state government less transparent

By: Nick Lowrey

A new online system for drafting, co-sponsoring and tracking bills through the South Dakota Legislature has some people concerned that the modernized system has made the legislative process less transparent and has removed some of the human element from lawmaking.

State officials said the new system was needed to update South Dakota's legislative process and make legislative work more efficient. Jason Hancock, director of the Legislative Research Council, which manages the drafting and flow of proposed laws, said the new workflow system is housed within the Legislature's website — sdlegislature.gov — and replaced the old pen-and-paper-based system for drafting, seeking co-sponsors and amending legislation.



"We've automated and made electronic a lot of the functions around here that have been paper functions up to this point. You're going to see more of that electronic functionality in terms of how the committee secretaries work and how the front desk staff works and obviously how the legislators work," Hancock said. "So, I think for some of those players this is probably the biggest change yet."

Legislative leaders and LRC staff say the new system comes with a new suite of publicly available features that make it easier for the public to follow the Legislature's work.

Yet some critics of the new system say that the state's attempt to bring the legislative process into the 21st century may have inadvertently cut the public out of a key part of the legislative process — gathering co-sponsors for legislation. Others worry that the new, digital legislative workflow system may create more distance between legislators and the public.

Furthermore, some lobbyists in Pierre say the Legislature's new system is less transparent than the old way of doing business. Legislators are now working with LRC staff to draft bills and amendments as well as inviting their colleagues to co-sponsor legislation electronically, using a system only legislators have access to. That means lobbyists and the public have been partially cut out of a process they used to play a key role in.

"We used to circulate a piece of paper and we could get all the co-sponsors we needed ... the fact that (prime sponsors) have to be more involved now slows things down," said David Owen, who has been lobbying on behalf of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 1999.

Legislative leaders say the new system is a long overdue improvement over the old paper-based system. Amendments are easier to file and can be distributed much more quickly, said House Speaker Pro Tempore Spencer Gosch, R-Glenham.

Other new features allow anyone to create a customizable digital binder for tracking legislation, through a system called "MyLRC+". Included in the digital binder is a customized calendar and an option to receive alerts tailored to individual needs, which may improve a citizen's ability to follow a bill.

"I think for what little time they had, it's going well," Gosch said of the system's launch.

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The Legislative Research Council's information staff built the new bill drafting and legislative workflow system from the ground up in less than a year. Bills and amendments are now drafted online through a portion of the legislature's website. Legislators also seek co-sponsors for their bills and move bills from one chamber to the next through the website. There is no longer a need to print bills and obtain physical signatures.

Before the 2020 session, legislators and lobbyists were carrying paper copies of bills around the Capitol as they sought co-sponsors. Once a bill was ready to be introduced they would take it to LRC bill drafters, who then had to verify each co-sponsor's signature by hand and physically enter each name into each bill's page on the website. That is all done automatically now, Hancock said.

Existing LRC staff and a contracted programmer named Jordan Block worked together on the project, Hancock said. Block's business, Developing Today LLC, was awarded a contract worth up to \$250,000 through March 2021. So far, LRC has paid the company about \$85,400, according to documents on the state's financial transparency website, open.sd.gov. The costs of the project including the contractor fees have been covered by the LRC existing budget, Hancock said.

One big advantage to building the website mostly in-house is that fixing bugs in the system is a relatively quick process, Hancock said. Gosch said the longest he's heard of anyone waiting for a fix was about two hours.

Gosch acknowledged that there were some hiccups as the system was rolled out during the first few weeks of the 2020 legislative session. One notable problem was that the bills listed and displayed to the public on the legislature's website, sdlegislature.gov, were difficult to view on smartphones.

Within a few days of receiving the first complaints, LRC staff eliminated the problem, said Hillary Caruthers, an LRC information support specialist.

Veteran lobbyists, though, say their transparency concerns are about the website's features, not its bugs. Under the Legislature's old system, face-to-face contact between lobbyists and legislators was baked in. Lobbyists were able to explain and seek support for bills directly with legislators, answer questions and, most importantly, get a feel for legislators' thinking on certain issues. Such information could then be passed along to the lobbyists' employers whether they were nonprofits, associations or businesses.

"It's important to remember that lobbyists represent actual people," Owen said.

At any given time during the legislative session, a legislator might be working with three to five organizations on multiple pieces of legislation, Owen said. Legislators work part time and don't have staffs, so lobbyists, who tend to specialize in issues and industries, sometimes play a bigger role in gathering co-sponsors and explaining bills than legislators.

"I get that we're viewed skeptically," Owen said. "But we're the ones who know the issues, so we're able to put things in context. That is really important."

Under the new system, a bill's primary legislative sponsor has to send an electronic invitation to potential co-sponsors. Once an invitation has been sent, recipients have the option to click buttons that deny, accept or ignore the request. Face-to-face discussion is no longer a given and that needs to change, said



Jason Hancock, executive director of the South Dakota Legislative Research Council, is shown in his office in Pierre. Hancock spearheaded the creation of the state legislature's new, online system for drafting, co-sponsoring and amending legislation. He said the new system was necessary to make the legislature's work more efficient. Photo:

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

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Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert, D-Mission. "We have to make it more personal, like the old system," Heinert said.

Speaking directly to fellow legislators, lobbyists and the public about legislation is a necessary component of lawmaking and makes for better legislation, Heinert said.

Ultimately, lobbyists and legislators will have to adjust to the new way of doing business, Owen said. He attended a training event hosted by LRC staff on Jan. 27 to help lobbyists navigate the new system, which he said helped lessen some of his anxiety.

Rep. Gosch noted that lobbyists still are allowed to work with LRC staff on legislation, so long as they have permission from a legislator. And there is nothing stopping lobbyists from coordinating with legislators when it comes to seeking co-sponsors or for promoting legislation, he said.

"If a lobbyist wants to sell their product, they still have to have face-to-face contact," Gosch said.




Hillary Carruthers, a Legislative Research Council informational support specialist, is the main point of contact for getting technical glitches in the state Legislature's new online workflow system fixed. The LRC built the new system using its existing staff and can therefore fix problems on the fly, Carruthers said. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch



Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission

**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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Chamberlain suffers biggest loss to Groton Area

Chamberlain scored the least number of points in the season and suffered the largest margin of defeat all to the hands of the Groton Area Tigers Saturday afternoon. Groton Area never trailed in the game as the boys defeated Chamberlain, 66-39.

The game was played at the Groton Area Arena and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Tyson DeHoet Trucking.

The Tigers led at the quarterstops at 17-9, 35-15 and 54-26.

Brodyn DeHoet led the Tigers with 26 points, nine rebounds, five assists and three steals. Jonathan Deden had nine points, two assists and one steal. Kaden Kurtz had nine points, one rebound, six assists and three steals. Jayden Zak had five points, one rebound and two steals. Lane Tietz had five points. Austin Jones had four points and three rebounds. Cade Guthmiller had two points, two rebounds, five assists and three steals. Isaac Smith and Tristan Traphagen each had two points and one rebound. Chandler Larson had two points, one rebound and one assist. Kannon Coats had two rebounds.

Groton Area made 13 of 27 two-pointers for 48 percent, 10 of 20 three-pointers for 50 percent and made 10 of 13 free throws for 77 percent off of Chamberlains 11 team fouls.

Chamberlain out rebounded Groton Area, 23-20. The Tigers had eight turnovers, three of which were steals. Chamberlain had 18 turnovers, 12 of which were steals.

Chamberlain made 18 of 43 field goals for 42 percent, attempted and missed three free throws off of Groton Area's eight team fouls and had 19 assists.

Sellyck McManus led the Cubs with 20 points while Keshahme Thigh had 12, Hayden Evans five and Ty Graesser added two points.

Groton Area's junior varsity team had a 21-point run in the second half to post a 54-30 win. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Kathy and Jerry.

There were six lead changes and the game was tied three times before Chamberlain held a 13-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. The game was tied once and there was one lead change and Groton Area took command at half time, 27-19. It was 40-29 by the end of the third quarter.

Lane Tietz led Groton Area with 13 points followed by Wyatt Hearnen with nine, Isaac Smith and Chandler Larson each had six, Lucas Simon four, Jackson Cogley, Cole Simon, Tate Larson and Tristan Traphagen each had two points and Cade Larson and Steve Paulson each had a free throw.

Chamberlain was led by Jeren Herron with 13 points and by Ivis Lee with 10.

Groton Area made 20 of 41 field goals for 48 percent and made 11 of 20 free throws. Chamberlain made 13 of 28 field goals for 46 percent and was two for four from the line.

- Paul Kosel

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Monson, Krueger take second at Big Dakota Conference Tourney

Dragr Monson and Lane Krueger both took second place at the Big Dakota Conference Wrestling Tournament held Saturday at Ft. Pierre.

The Groton Area results are as follows:

106: Christian Ehresmann (22-13) scored 3.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Taylon Carmondy (Mobridge-Pollock) 10-6 won by major decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 22-13 (MD 12-2)

Cons. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 22-13 won by fall over Devyn Anderson (Chamberlain) 2-13 (Fall 2:08)

Cons. Round 2 - Chase Hanson (Stanley County) 27-9 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 22-13 (Dec 12-6)

113: Dragr Monson (29-7) placed 2nd and scored 23.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-7 won by fall over Mario Oliva-Gaytan (Chamberlain) 2-2 (Fall 0:58)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-7 won by fall over Gunner Brueggeman (Miller/Highmore-Harrold) 26-16 (Fall 3:47)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-7 won by major decision over Bryson Muirhead (Lyman) 36-8 (MD 9-1)

1st Place Match - Riley Whitley (Redfield Area) 10-0 won by decision over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 29-7 (Dec 4-2)

145: Cole Bisbee (4-10)

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Champ. Round 2 - Mason Heath (Bennett County) 25-23 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-10 (Fall 2:50)

Cons. Round 2 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Joey Baas (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 5-7 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 4-10 (Dec 8-4)

182: Lane Krueger (20-14) placed 2nd and scored 23.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 20-14 won by fall over Elijah Johnson (Bennett County) 16-18 (Fall 3:59)

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 20-14 won by fall over Jesse Bears Heart (Mobridge-Pollock) 9-11 (Fall 3:51)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 20-14 won by major decision over Owen Duffy (Winner) 6-22 (MD 9-1)

1st Place Match - Brock Stevens (Wess Springs/Woon/Wolsey-Wessington) 12-15 won by decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 20-14 (Dec 8-2)

195: Caleb Furney (4-6) scored 3.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Gunner Ristau (Chamberlain) 19-13 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-6 (Fall 5:22)

Cons. Round 2 - Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-6 won by fall over Harley Brewer (Pine Ridge) 0-2 (Fall 0:15)

Cons. Round 3 - Charley Pravecek (Winner) 9-8 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-6 (Fall 0:52)

285: Grady O`Neill (22-15) scored 5.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 22-15 won by fall over Clancy Adolph (Harding County) 5-19 (Fall 0:41)

Quarterfinal - Waylon Marshall (Todd County) 26-5 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 22-15 (Fall 1:56)

Cons. Round 2 - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 22-15 won by decision over Kameron Styles (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) 23-15 (Dec 7-5)

Cons. Round 3 - Dylan Endres (Stanley County) 18-12 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 22-15 (Fall 2:31)

The Wolves Come Up Clutch for Comeback Victory over Mustangs

Marshall, Minn. – The Northern State men’s basketball team (18-6, 14-4 NSIC) came back against South-west Minnesota State (4-14, 7-17 NSIC) for a 74-66 win on Saturday night.

Midway through the second half the Wolves hadn’t held the lead once, and it looked like they were still down after their tough loss the day before. However, when they needed it most the defense was able to shut down the Mustangs’ offense, propelling Northern to the lead and the comeback victory.

Northern didn’t get off to a good start as the mustangs were outmuscling them in the paint, but the long ball was keeping the Wolves in the game. Seven minutes into regulation Northern had gone 3-of-3 from beyond the arc for all nine of their points.

The occasional 3-pointer wasn’t enough to stop the Mustangs from building a big lead, however. SMSU boasted a double-digit advantage in the ladder minutes of the half, but after not doing much to start the game Parker Fox finally began to heat up, allowing the Wolves to close to a 33-38 halftime deficit.

As the second half got underway Northern was able to stay consistent on offense, which allowed them to stay within striking distance of the lead. The long ball also remained strong for the Wolves as they were shooting 50.0% from beyond the arc midway through the second half.

After putting consistent pressure on the Mustangs, Northern was able to put together a 12-2 run for their first lead of the game, and they wouldn’t look back. Northern was forced to weather a fierce comeback attempt, but did so convincingly, allowing the Wolves to complete the comeback victory.

Northern shot 48.2% from the floor, 40.0% from the 3-point line and 66.7% from the foul line. 34 of their points came from the paint, 15 came off of turnovers and 16 were scored by the bench players.

No player dominated the score sheet as the top three scorers were all within one point of each other. Gabe King held a slight advantage with 15 points, while Parker Fox and Mason Stark each scored 14 points and combined for 12 rebounds.

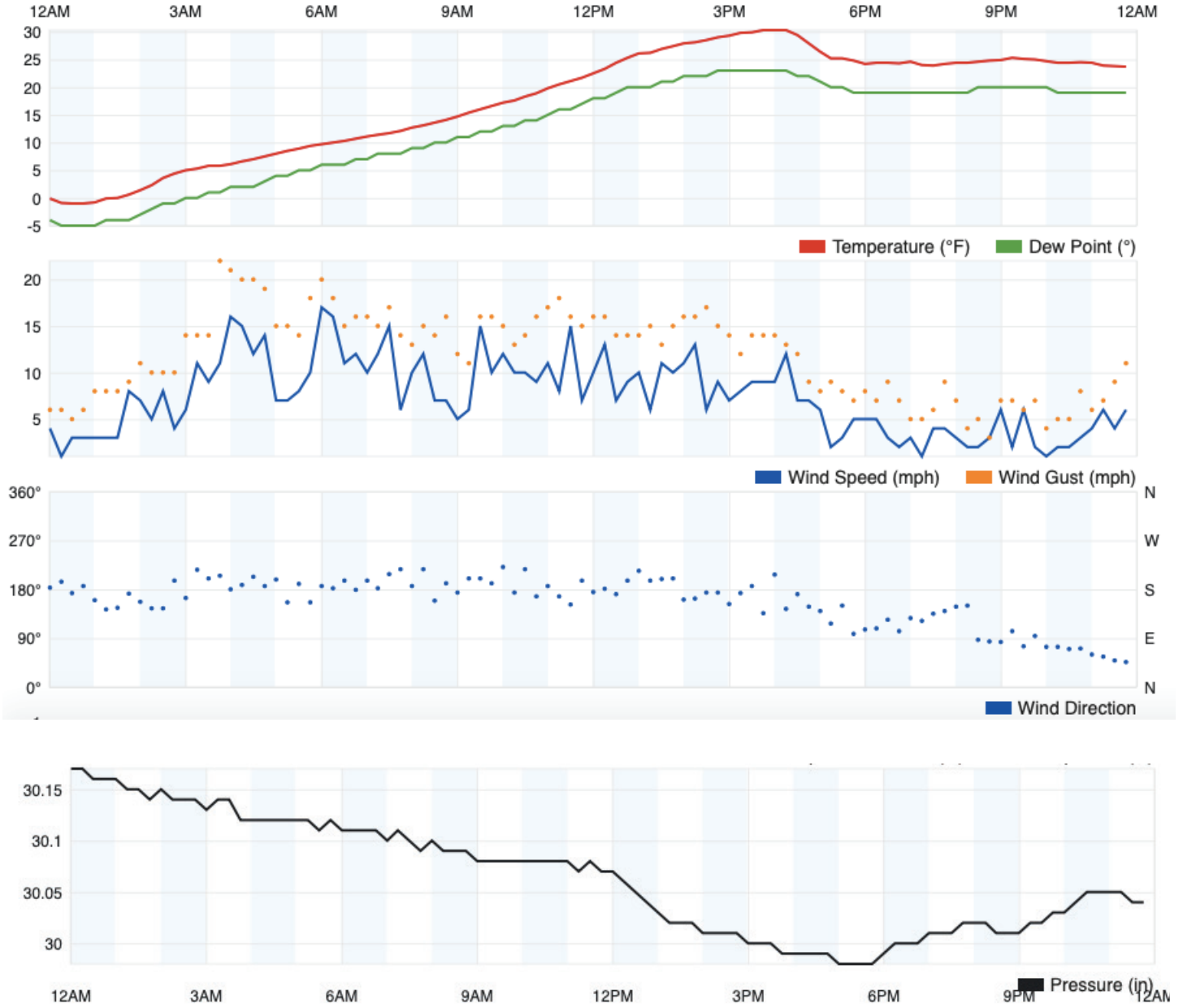
Andrew Kallman was just shy of the double-digit mark with nine points as he shot 100.0% from beyond the arc. Cole Dahl led the team off the bench with eight points, closely followed by Tommy Chatman with six points and three assists. Rounding out the scoreboard were Jordan Belka and Roko Dominovic with five and three points respectively.

The Wolves’ next game will be on the road at Minnesota Duluth on February 14. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. from the Romano Gymnasium.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 9, 2020

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, February 10, 2020

5:15 p.m.: Junior High Boys Basketball hosts Webster Area. 7th grade at 5:15 p.m., 8th grade at 6:15 p.m.

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Junior High Boys Basketball at Ipswich. 7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.

Girls Basketball travels to Aberdeen Roncalli. Junior Varsity at 6:30 p.m followed by varsity game.

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Small Group Music Contest at Northern State University

Thursday, February 13, 2020

1:30pm- 8:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences at GHS Gymnasium, Groton Area Elementary School

Friday, February 14, 2020

Rushmore Challenge Debate at Harrisburg High School

NO SCHOOL - Faculty Inservice

Basketball Double Header at Warner. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m followed by the Boys Varsity Game.

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Rushmore Challenge Debate at Harrisburg High School

10:00 a.m.: Junior High State Wrestling Tournament at Pierre High School

Basketball Doubleheader with Mobridge-Pollock coming to Groton Area. Girls JV at 2 p.m., Boys JV at 3 p.m., Girls Varsity at 4:30 p.m. followed by the Boys Varsity Game.

Sunday, February 16, 2020

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, February 17, 2020

President's Day - NO SCHOOL

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV then Varsity.

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Girls Varsity at Webster Area. JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by Varsity Game.

7 pm.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Girls Basketball hosts Milbank. JV game at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity Game.

Friday, February 21, 2020

Boys Basketball at Milbank. C game at 5 p.m., followed by JV then Varsity.

6:30pm: Elementary PAC Science Night at Groton Area Elementary School






Saturday, February 22, 2020

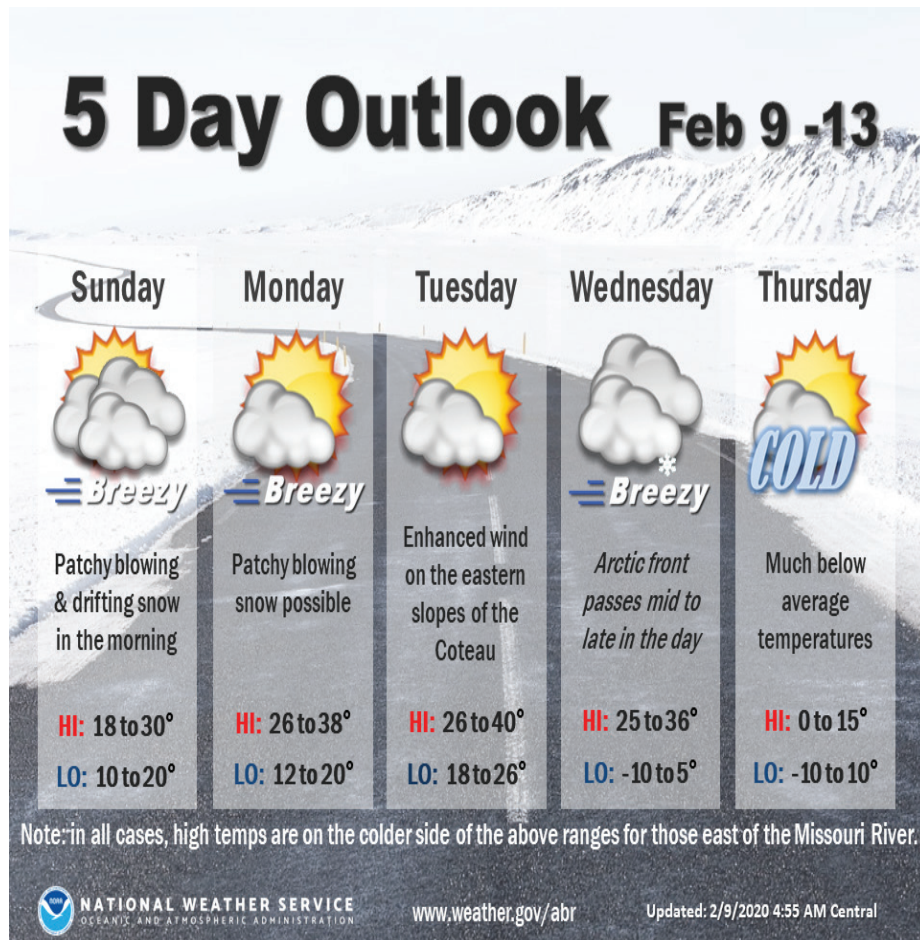
Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Jamboree at Britton-Hecla High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Varsity Regions at Sisseton

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 24 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 31 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 29 °F



Looking ahead, beyond this storm system, we see mostly dry conditions though breezy at times with occasional blowing and/or drifting snow. Temperatures will be seasonable until a cold blast moves through Wednesday evening.

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Today in Weather History

February 9, 1899: Extreme cold blanketed most locations east of the Rocky Mountains during the first half of February. For South Dakota, the minimum temperature was the lowest that has been experienced for many years, at least, and probably since its settlement. The week ending the 13th of February, the Weather Bureau stated: "With respect to temperature, this week is probably the most remarkable in the history of the Weather Bureau, over the greater part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains a large number of stations reporting the lowest temperatures recorded since their establishment. Over the whole region, extending from the eastern Rocky Mountain slope to the Atlantic coast and from the Gulf to the Great Lakes, the average daily deficiency exceeded 20 degrees and ranged from 30 degrees to 35 degrees over an extensive area embracing the central valleys and portions of the Lake Region."

The cold weather that culminated in the extremes, in South Dakota, began on January 26th and continued with little abatement over most of the state, until February 12th. During the first twelve days of February the daily average temperatures, at the Weather Bureau stations ranged from zero to 27 degrees below zero.

Some low-temperature readings from February 8th through the 12th include:

-29 in Spearfish on the 11th	-30 in Yankton on the 11th
-34 in Milbank on the 9th	-34 in Rapid City on the 11th
-35 in Aberdeen on the 8th and 12th	-36 in Chamberlain on the 9th
-36 in Waubay on the 8th	-37 in Ipswich on the 8th
-38 in Watertown on the 11th	-39 in Mellette on the 11th
-39 in Mitchell on the 11th	-39 in Pierre on the 12th
-39 in Wessington Springs on the 9th	-40 in DeSmet on the 10th
-40 in Highmore on the 12th	-42 in Gann Valley on the 8th
-40 in Redfield on the 9th	-42 Sioux Falls on the 9th

February 9, 1994: Widespread record cold occurred across central, north central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Record lows were set at Aberdeen, Mobridge, Pierre, Sisseton, Timber Lake, and Wheaton. Overnight lows were in the 30s to 40s below zero across the entire area. Aberdeen fell to 45 degrees below zero or one degree off the all-time record low of 46 degrees below zero. Mobridge dropped to 38 degrees below zero and Pierre fell to 35 degrees below zero. Watertown came just one degree short of their daytime record with 35 degrees below zero.

1870: The U.S. Congress authorized the War Department to take weather observations at key marine ports, assigning this function to the Army Signal Service. The intention was to provide advanced warning of storm systems that could adversely affect marine interests. This service was the forerunner to the current National Weather Service.

1899: One of the most significant cold outbreaks to ever impact the United States occurred in early to mid-February. From the 8th-11th the statewide average temperature across Iowa was 14.6 degrees below zero making it the coldest four-day stretch on record in the state. On the 8th Sioux City experienced their coldest day on record with a daily average temperature of 24 degrees below zero, then on the 11th, they reached their second-coldest temperature on record with a low of minus 31. Overall the coldest readings were obtained on the morning of the 9th when reported low temperatures included -21 at Keokuk, -23 at Des Moines, -33 at New Hampton, -35 at Le Mars, -38 at Estherville, and -40 at Sibley. The cold across the middle of the country was so extreme and persistent that ice floes down the Mississippi River all the way into the deep south, emerging into the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans on February 17th. This has happened only one other time: February 13, 1784. The temperature dropped to 63 degrees below zero at Norway House, Manitoba Canada setting the province's low-temperature record.

1994: A devastating ice storm struck Mississippi, Louisiana and extreme northwest Alabama. Freezing rain began falling over North Mississippi during the early morning hours and continued until midday on the 10th. Ice accumulated 3 to 6 inches thick on exposed objects in the affected area. Due to the weight of the ice, power lines, trees and tree limbs were downed. Nearly one million people were without power after the storm, some for a month.

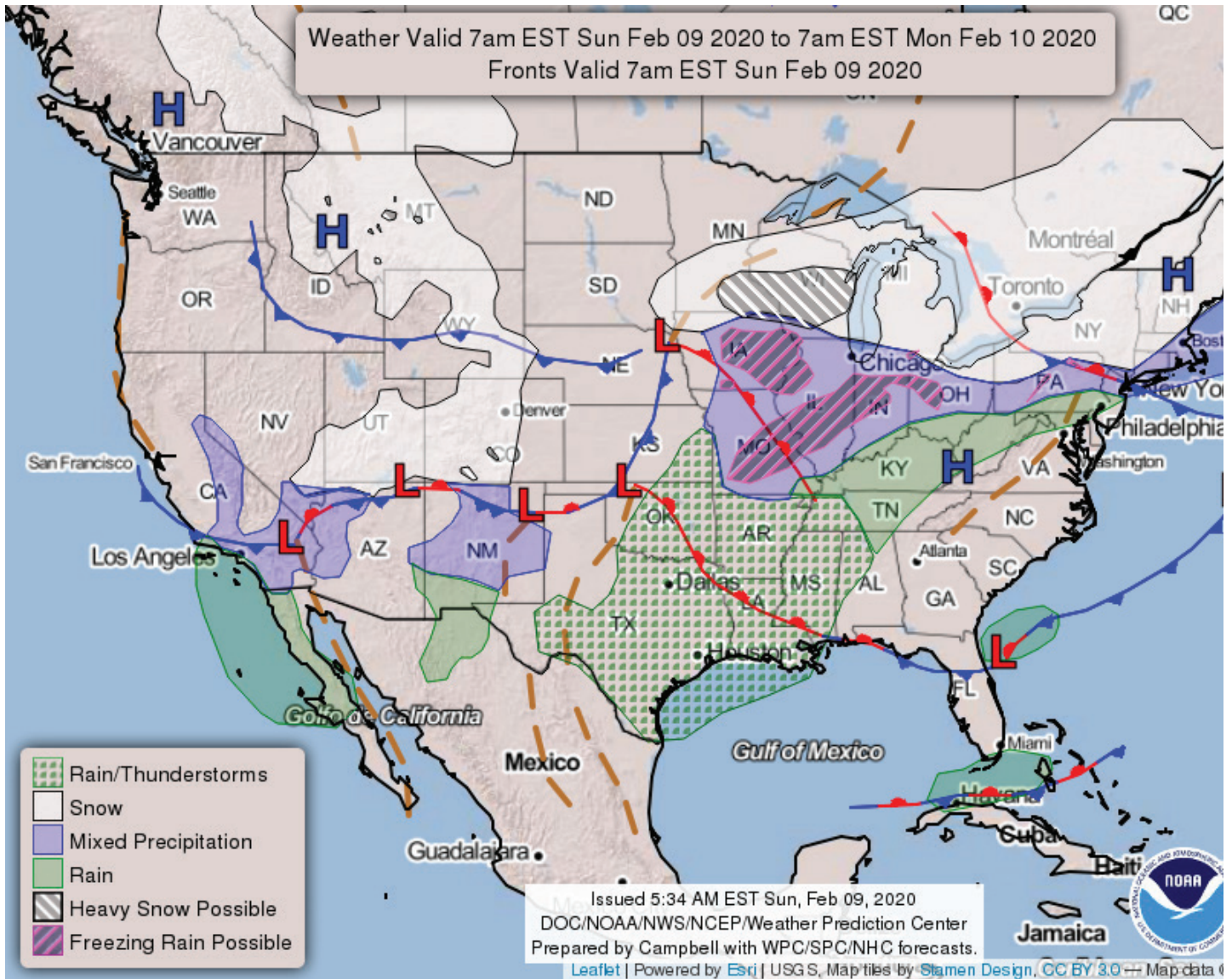
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 30 °F at 3:55 PM
Low Temp: -1 °F at 12:24 AM
Wind: 22 mph at 3:39 AM
Snow

Record High: 53° in 1987, 1977
Record Low: -45° in 1994
Average High: 26°F
Average Low: 5°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.12
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.59
Precip Year to Date: 0.35
Sunset Tonight: 5:52 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



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"HONORABLE HUSBANDS

Two longtime friends met at a class reunion. One turned to the other and asked, "Has your husband lived up to his promises?"

"Oh yes," she answered quickly. "Shortly after we were married, he said that he wasn't good enough for me and has spent the last fifteen years proving it."

What makes a good husband and a husband good? The letter to the Ephesians provides the answer to this critical question: "You husbands must love your wives with the same love that Christ showed the church." At first, that may seem almost impossible. When carefully considered, however, it has great meaning and significance. This love that Paul speaks of has three elements in it: sacrifice, care, and equality.

The sacrificial love mentioned here means that the husband must be willing to give up – even sacrifice, if necessary - his life's goals for his wife if it is in the best interest of the marriage. Nothing will ever be so important to him that his individual pursuits will overshadow her well-being. His goals will always have her in first place, and he will care for her physical needs as if they were his own – equality. Husbands must love their wives as "Christ loved the church."

Prayer: Father, May Your Spirit trouble and convict husbands of their primary responsibility: to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and as Scripture requires. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

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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

01-20-21-24-26

(one, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-four, twenty-six)

Estimated jackpot: \$53,000

Lotto America

02-09-17-36-40, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 3

(two, nine, seventeen, thirty-six, forty; Star Ball: seven; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$7.76 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$202 million

Powerball

35-49-50-59-66, Powerball: 6, Power Play: 2

(thirty-five, forty-nine, fifty, fifty-nine, sixty-six; Powerball: six; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 68, Britton-Hecla 49

Arlington 71, Great Plains Lutheran 55

Bennett County 67, Hay Springs, Neb. 37

Canistota 85, Gayville-Volin 41

Clark/Willow Lake 71, Castlewood 66

Crazy Horse 40, Wakpala 39

Crow Creek 63, Pine Ridge 60

DeSmet 61, James Valley Christian 26

Dell Rapids 64, Milbank 38

Dell Rapids St. Mary 61, Deubrook 34

Huron 63, Sturgis Brown 40

Irene-Wakonda 49, Menno 36

Langford 64, Wilmot 59

Little Wound 76, Standing Rock, N.D. 47

Marty Indian 67, Flandreau Indian 57

Mitchell 73, Spearfish 49

Mobridge-Pollock 63, Todd County 45

Northwestern 56, Waubay/Summit 46

Pierre 70, Brandon Valley 42

Platte-Geddes 67, Miller 38

St. Francis Indian 78, McLaughlin 77

Wagner 73, Avon 45

Wessington Springs 57, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 39

Highmore-Harrold Action Club Classic=

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Herreid/Selby Area 79, Gregory 72
Leola/Frederick 69, Jones County 32
North Central Co-Op 68, Colome 47
LMC Tournament=
Dupree 61, Bison 37
Harding County 69, Timber Lake 59
Lemmon 57, Faith 55
McIntosh 50, Tiospaye Topa 47
Sanford Pentagon Classic=
Corsica/Stickney 59, Redfield 58
Dakota Valley 68, Tiospa Zina Tribal 63
Harrisburg 81, Madison 57
Lyman 61, Warner 54
Moorhead, Minn. 59, Sioux Falls Lincoln 55
Sioux Falls Washington 51, Western Christian, Iowa 40
Sioux Valley 66, Viborg-Hurley 51
St. Thomas More 62, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 58
Tea Area 51, St. Mary's, Remsen, Iowa 42

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 41, Britton-Hecla 40
Arlington 49, Great Plains Lutheran 33
Bennett County 63, Hay Springs, Neb. 44
Brandon Valley 57, Pierre 37
Bridgewater-Emery 56, Bon Homme 48
Canistota 48, Gayville-Volin 45
Crow Creek 54, Pine Ridge 42
DeSmet 46, James Valley Christian 32
Ethan 66, Warner 23
Flandreau Indian 70, Marty Indian 57
Huron 66, Sturgis Brown 39
Irene-Wakonda 55, Menno 50
Langford 51, Wilmot 17
McLaughlin 49, St. Francis Indian 42
Northwestern 64, Waubay/Summit 61
Oelrichs 72, Alliance, Neb. 46
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 47, Aberdeen Central 38
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 59, Sioux Falls Lincoln 55
Spearfish 46, Mitchell 44
Standing Rock, N.D. 43, Little Wound 32
Todd County 77, Mobridge-Pollock 52
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 48, Wessington Springs 27
Viborg-Hurley 63, Sioux Valley 33
Wagner 52, Avon 46
Wakpala 78, Crazy Horse 55
Highmore-Harrold Action Club Classic=
Colome 47, Leola/Frederick 35
Gregory 71, Philip 67
Herreid/Selby Area 50, Highmore-Harrold 39
NEC/Dak-XII Conference Clash=
Canton 68, Webster 33

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Dakota Valley 64, Redfield 54
Dell Rapids 64, Tiospa Zina Tribal 43
Elk Point-Jefferson 61, Groton Area 50
Hamlin 54, Tea Area 53
Lennox 54, Aberdeen Roncalli 36
Madison 67, Sisseton 64, OT
Sioux Falls Christian 58, Milbank 29
Tri-Valley 62, Deuel 29
Vermillion 60, Clark/Willow Lake 43
West Central 43, Parkston 38

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

South Dakota St wins 4th straight, tips Nebraska Omaha 81-64

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Douglas Wilson had 24 points as South Dakota State defeated Nebraska Omaha 81-64 on Saturday.

Alex Arians had 19 points for South Dakota State (18-8, 9-2 Summit League), which earned its fourth straight victory. Matt Dentlinger added 19 points and seven rebounds. David Wingett had 10 points and eight rebounds.

South Dakota State passed for a season-high 22 assists.

KJ Robinson had 20 points for the Mavericks (12-13, 5-5). Marlon Ruffin added 14 points. Matt Pile had 10 points and 12 rebounds.

The Jackrabbits evened the season series against the Mavericks with the win. Nebraska Omaha defeated South Dakota State 81-78 on Dec. 29. South Dakota State takes on Denver at home on Friday. Nebraska Omaha plays Oral Roberts on the road on Wednesday.

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

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Hagedorn lifts South Dakota over North Dakota 82-68

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Tyler Hagedorn had 15 points and seven rebounds as South Dakota won its seventh straight game, defeating North Dakota 82-68 on Saturday.

Stanley Umude had 13 points for South Dakota (18-8, 8-3 Summit League). Tyler Peterson added 13 points as did Triston Simpson, who also had six assists.

North Dakota made 10 3-pointers, six more than South Dakota, but the Coyotes were 22 of 25 at the free-throw line to 10 of 14 for the Fighting Hawks, who also committed 20 turnovers.

Marlon Stewart had 23 points for the Fighting Hawks (11-14, 5-6). De'Sean Allen-Eikens added 18 points and seven rebounds. Kienan Walter had 10 points.

Both teams take on Western Illinois in their next game. South Dakota heads home for its matchup against the Leathernecks on Wednesday, while North Dakota visits Western Illinois on Saturday.

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

This was generated by Automated Insights, <http://www.automatedinsights.com/ap>, using data from STATS LLC, <https://www.stats.com>

South Dakota man pleads not guilty to murder; bond reduced

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man charged with shooting and killing a man who was in a relationship with his daughter has pleaded not guilty

The Aberdeen News reports Jarrett Jones, 48, of Bath appeared in court on Friday and asked for a jury trial. A judge also reduced Jones' \$1 million bond to \$400,000.

Jones is accused of killing 28-year-old Jon Schumacher on Jan. 2. Defense attorney Marshall Lovrien said Schumacher was in a relationship with Jones' daughter and had made threats against her.

According to court records, Jones' daughter showed investigators photos of bruises she received from Schumacher. Court documents also show Schumacher was arrested on charges of driving under the influence hours before he was shot. Schumacher was driving a pickup owned by Jarrett Jones, who retrieved the vehicle after Schumacher was arrested.

Schumacher returned to Jones' home after he was released from custody and was shot twice after an altercation between the men.

Brown County Chief Deputy State's Attorney Ernest Thompson says video surveillance shows Jones pointing a gun at Schumacher, looking over his shoulder, then approaching Schumacher before shooting

He said Schumacher made no move toward Jones, who shot Schumacher a second time when he was on the floor.

Lovrien said Schumacher was reaching for his pocket before he was shot a second time, and that a knife was found in his pocket.

Meatless 101: Ag center offers course on plant-based foods

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Move over meat. An agriculture research center on the North Dakota State University campus is plugging plants as an alternative protein source.

The Northern Crops Institute is planning a three-day course this spring to provide information on the basics of plant-based foods and show participants how to produce the best products. The seminar is targeting foodies, restaurateurs, food bloggers and "pretty much anyone with an interest in it," institute spokesman Grant Christian said.

Many restaurants and fast food chains have recently bolstered their menus with vegetarian offerings. That includes the introduction of meatless tacos, meatless burgers and meatless wings.

"The plant-based protein trend is significant in today's marketplace," Christian said. "We're seeing people gravitate toward these products because of their nutritional and economic benefits."

The course is scheduled for May 19-21 at the Northern Crops Institute. It will feature crops such as soy, wheat and pulses and include hands-on training in using raw ingredients and developing final products.

The Northern Crops Institute is funded by the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, as well as commodity groups in those states and Montana. The group promotes domestic and international markets and value-added processing for regional crops.

Soldier kills 26 in bloodiest mass shooting in Thailand

By SAKCHAI LALIT and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (AP) — A soldier with a grudge gunned down 26 people and wounded 57 in Thailand's worst mass shooting before he was fatally shot inside a mall in the country's northeast on Sunday, officials said.

Officials said the soldier was angry over a financial dispute, first killing two people on a military base and then went on a far bloodier rampage Saturday, shooting as he drove to the mall where shoppers fled in terror.

It took police sharpshooters 16 hours to end the crisis.

Authorities said Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma was behind the attack in Nakhon Ratchasima, a hub for

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Thailand's relatively poorer and rural northeastern region. Much of the shooting took place at Terminal 21 Korat, an airport-themed mall filled with colorful Lego sculptures, a merry-go-round and huge replicas of landmarks from around the world.

"This incident was unprecedented in Thailand," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters as he gave the final tally Sunday morning after visiting the wounded in hospitals.

"I hope this is the only one and the last incident, and that it never happens again. No one wants this to happen. It could be because of this person's mental health in this particular moment," he said.

Prayuth said he was worried that people inside the mall could be accidentally hit by bullets fired by police, but added, "I have checked, that didn't happen."

Video taken outside the mall showed people diving for cover as shots rang out mid-afternoon Saturday. Many were killed outside the mall, some in cars, others while walking.

Nattaya Nganiem and her family had just finished eating and were driving away when she heard gunfire.

"First I saw a woman run out from the mall hysterically," said Nattaya, who shot video of the scene on her phone. "Then a motorcycle rider in front of her just ran and left his motorcycle there."

Hundreds of people were evacuated from the mall in small batches by police while they searched for the gunman.

"We were scared and ran to hide in toilets," said Sumana Jeerawattanasuk, one of those rescued by police. She said seven or eight people hid in the same room as her.

"I am so glad. I was so scared of getting hurt," she said.

Shortly before midnight, police announced they had secured the above-ground portion of the mall, but were still searching for the shooter. About 16 hours later, officials held a news conference outside the mall to announce the gunman was fatally shot.

Defense Ministry spokesman Kongcheep told Thai media that the first person killed was the commanding officer of the 22nd Ammunition Battalion, in which the suspect also served. He said the gunman had fired at others at his base and took guns and ammunition before fleeing in an army Humvee.

City and neighborhood police officers, who asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to release information, said the man fired shots as he drove to the mall. Thai Rath television aired mall security camera footage showing a man with what appeared to be an assault rifle.

The man also posted updates to his Facebook page during the rampage.

"No one can escape death," read one post. Another asked, "Should I give up?" In a later post, he wrote, "I have stopped already."

A photo circulated on social media that appeared to be taken from the Facebook page shows a man wearing a green camouflaged military helmet while a fireball and black smoke rage behind him. Jakrapanth's profile picture shows him in a mask and dressed in military-style fatigues and armed with a pistol. The background image is of a handgun and bullets. The Facebook page was made inaccessible after the shooting began.

Terminal 21 Korat, a multi-level glass and steel mall, is designed to resemble an airport terminal, complete with a mock control tower and departure gates. A large model passenger jet dangles from wires beside one of the main escalators.

Each of its seven retail floors is decorated to represent a different country. A giant replica of Paris' Eiffel Tower soars to the ceiling, while a model of London's Big Ben dominates another area, and a massive model of California's Golden Gate Bridge spans an open courtyard. A two-story golden Oscar statue towers over a food court.

Many malls in Thailand, including Terminal 21's namesake in Bangkok, have metal detectors and security cameras at entrances manned by uniformed but unarmed security guards. Checks on those entering are often cursory at best.

In Bangkok, the original Terminal 21 in the bustling heart of the city was filled with shoppers as usual Sunday morning. There were no signs of increased security or commemoration of the tragedy that unfolded a few hours' drive away.

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Gun violence is not unheard of in Thailand. Firearms can be obtained legally, and many Thais own guns. Mass shootings are rare, though there are occasional gun battles in the far south of the country, where authorities have for years battled a long-running separatist insurgency.

The incident in Korat comes just a month after another high-profile mall shooting, in the central Thai city of Lopburi. In that case, a masked gunman carrying a handgun with a silencer killed three people, including a 2-year-old boy, and wounded four others as he robbed a jewelry store. A suspect, a school director, was arrested less than two weeks later and reportedly confessed, saying he did not mean to shoot anyone.

Vejjongsra reported from Bangkok. Associated Press journalists Grant Peck, Preeyapa T. Khunsong and Adam Schreck contributed to this report.

Where did they go? Millions left city before quarantine

By ERIKA KINETZ Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — For weeks after the first reports of a mysterious new virus in Wuhan, millions of people poured out of the central Chinese city, cramming onto buses, trains and planes as the first wave of China's great Lunar New Year migration broke across the nation. Some carried with them the new virus that has since claimed over 800 lives and sickened more than 37,000 people.

Officials finally began to seal the borders on Jan. 23. But it was too late. Speaking to reporters a few days after the the city was put under quarantine, the mayor estimated that 5 million people had already left.

Where did they go?

An Associated Press analysis of domestic travel patterns using map location data from Chinese tech giant Baidu shows that in the two weeks before Wuhan's lockdown, nearly 70% of trips out of the central Chinese city were within Hubei province. Baidu has a map app that is similar to Google Maps, which is blocked in China.

Another 14% of the trips went to the neighboring provinces of Henan, Hunan, Anhui and Jiangxi. Nearly 2% slipped down to Guangdong province, the coastal manufacturing powerhouse across from Hong Kong, and the rest fanned out across China. The cities outside Hubei province that were top destinations for trips from Wuhan between Jan. 10 and Jan. 24 were Chongqing, a municipality next to Hubei province, Beijing and Shanghai.

The travel patterns broadly track with the early spread of the virus. The majority of confirmed cases and deaths have occurred in China, within Hubei province, followed by high numbers of cases in central China, with pockets of infections in Chongqing, Shanghai and Beijing as well.

"It's definitely too late," said Jin Dong-Yan, a molecular virologist at Hong Kong University's School of Biomedical Sciences. "Five million out. That's a big challenge. Many of them may not come back to Wuhan but hang around somewhere else. To control this outbreak, we have to deal with this. On one hand, we need to identify them. On the other hand, we need to address the issue of stigma and discrimination."

He added that the initial spread of travelers to provinces in central China with large pools of migrant workers and relatively weaker health care systems "puts a big burden on the hospitals ... of these resource-limited provinces."

Baidu gathers travel data based on more than 120 billion daily location requests from its map app and other apps that use Baidu's location services. Only data from users who agree to share their location is recorded and the company says data is masked to protect privacy. Baidu's publicly available data shows proportional travel, not absolute numbers of recorded trips, and does not include trips by people who don't use mobile phones or apps that rely on Baidu's popular location services.

Public health officials and academics have been using this kind of mapping data for years to track the potential spread of disease.

A group of researchers from Southampton University's WorldPop research group, which studies population dynamics, used 2013-2015 data from Baidu's location services and international flight itineraries to make a predictive global risk map for the likely spread of the virus from Wuhan.

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It's important to understand the population movements out of Wuhan before the city's lock down, said Lai Shengjie, a WorldPop researcher who used to work at China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Maybe they hadn't developed symptoms but could transmit the virus. We need to look at destinations across China and the world and focus on the main destinations and try to prepare for disease control and prevention," he said.

The last trains left Wuhan the morning of Jan. 23, cutting off a surge of outbound travel that had begun three days earlier, Baidu data shows. Nearby cities rushed to impose travel restrictions of their own. From Jan. 23 to Jan. 26, the 15 cities that Baidu data shows received the most travelers from Wuhan — a combined 70% — all imposed some level of travel restrictions.

Other nations soon followed suit, including the United States, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and the Philippines, all of which have sharply restricted entry for people coming from China. Others, like Italy and Indonesia, have barred flights.

WorldPop researchers found that travel out of Wuhan has historically ramped up in the weeks before Lunar New Year's Day. Based on historical travel patterns, they identified 18 high-risk cities within China that received the most travelers from Wuhan during this period. They then used 2018 flight itineraries from the International Air Transport Association to map the global connectivity of those cities.

They note that travel patterns after restrictions started rolling out on Jan. 23 will not match historical norms and that the cities they identified are initial ports of landing; travelers could have subsequently moved elsewhere.

The top 10 global destinations for travelers from high-risk Chinese cities around Lunar New Year, according to their analysis, were Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, the United States, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Australia.

In Africa, Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria and Kenya topped the list.

The African continent is particularly vulnerable because of the weaker health infrastructure in many countries, and the longer cases go undetected, the more likely they are to spread.

"Capacity is quite weak in many African health services," Dr. Michel Yao, emergency operations manager for the World Health Organization in Africa, told the AP. This new virus "could overwhelm health systems we have in Africa."

The Africa Centers for Disease Control, formed three years ago in response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, said screening has been stepped up at ports of entry across Africa. Egypt began screening passengers from affected areas in China on Jan. 16. Over the next eight days, Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mauritius and Kenya all put screening systems in place. No confirmed cases have been reported.

Lai and his colleagues said they found a "high correlation" between the early spread of coronavirus cases and the geographical risk patterns they identified.

The first case of the virus outside China was reported on Jan. 13 in Thailand, followed two days later by Japan, the countries with the highest connectivity risk, according to WorldPop's analysis. Within 10 days of Wuhan's quarantine, the virus had spread to more than two dozen countries; nine of the 10 countries with the most flight connections to at-risk mainland cities also had the highest numbers of confirmed cases, mostly afflicting people who had been in China.

The pattern isn't perfect; Zhejiang province, for example, was not a top destination from Wuhan this year, according to Baidu data, but now has among the highest numbers of confirmed cases.

"Our aim was to help guide some of the surveillance and thinking around the control measures," said Andrew Tatem, the director of WorldPop, adding that his group plans to update their analysis.

"There was a huge amount of movement out of the Wuhan region before the controls came into place," he said. "Now we're getting to stage of having data from multiple places on the scale of outbreaks elsewhere."

Scientists have identified the new virus as a coronavirus, a family of viruses that includes ones that can cause the common cold, as well as others that cause more serious illnesses, like SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Many are now focused on what will happen after the second wave of the Lunar New Year rush as people

once again crowd onto trains, buses and planes to head back to work. The Chinese government extended the holiday, which was supposed to end on Jan. 30, to Feb. 2. Shanghai, Beijing and several Chinese provinces ordered businesses to remain shut through Sunday, leaving the nation's great megalopolises feeling like ghost towns.

"It's in cities where people interact much more," Tatem said. "That's potentially the worry of lots of people coming back in. A few people seeding that could result in a bigger problem."

Associated Press writers Cara Anna in Johannesburg and Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed to this report. Follow Kinetz on Twitter at twitter.com/ekinetz

China's virus death toll surpasses SARS but new cases fall

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's virus death toll rose by 89 on Sunday to 811, passing the number of fatalities in the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, but fewer new cases were reported in a possible sign its spread may be slowing as other nations stepped up efforts to block the disease.

Some 2,656 new virus cases were reported in the 24 hours ending at midnight Saturday, most of them in the central province of Hubei, where the first patients fell sick in December. That was down by about 20% from the 3,399 new cases reported in the previous 24-hour period.

"That means the joint control mechanism of different regions and the strict prevention and control measures have worked," a spokesman for the National Health Commission, Mi Feng, said at a news conference.

Also Sunday, new cases were reported in Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia and Spain.

More than 360 cases have been confirmed outside mainland China.

"Dramatic reductions" in the spread should begin this month if containment works, said Dr. Ian Lipkin, director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity. He assisted the World Health Organization and Chinese authorities during the outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Warmer weather will reduce the virus's ability to spread and bring people out of enclosed spaces where it is transmitted more easily, Lipkin said in an online news conference. However, he said, if new cases spike as people return to work after the Lunar New Year holiday, which was extended to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, then "we'll know we're in trouble."

The fatality toll passed the 774 people believed to have died of SARS, another viral outbreak that originated in China. The total of 37,198 confirmed cases of the new virus vastly exceeds the 8,098 sickened by SARS.

The latest developments:

JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, VIETNAM, MALAYSIA, SPAIN REPORT NEW CASES

Six more cases were reported in Japan among 3,700 passengers and crew aboard the quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess.

South Korea reported a new case in a 73-year-old woman whose relatives visited Guangdong province in southern China, raising its total to 27. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the family members, a 51-year-old South Korean man and a 37-year-old Chinese woman, were confirmed infected later Sunday.

Vietnam reported its 14th case. The Health Ministry said she is a 55-year-old woman in Vinh Phuc province, northwest of Hanoi, where six earlier patients were found to be infected.

Malaysia reported its 17th case. The 65-year-old woman's son-in-law was diagnosed earlier with the virus.

Spain confirmed its second case in Mallorca, a popular vacation island in the Mediterranean. The first case was a German tourist diagnosed a week ago in the Canary Islands off northwest Africa.

HONG KONG RELEASES QUARANTINED CRUISE SHIP

The 1,800 passengers and 1,800 crew members of the cruise ship Dream World were released from quarantine after Hong Kong authorities said tests of the crew found no infections.

The ship was isolated after eight mainland Chinese passengers were diagnosed with the disease last month.

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Port official Leung Yiu-hon said some passengers with symptoms tested negative but there was no need to test all of them because they had no contact with the infected Chinese passengers.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong began enforcing a 14-day quarantine for arrivals from mainland China. The territory's chief executive, Carrie Lam, has refused demands by some hospital workers and others to seal the border completely.

WUHAN OPENS NEW HOSPITAL, FARMERS PROMISED SUPPORT

A 1,500-bed hospital built in two weeks in Wuhan, the city at the center of the outbreak, accepted its first patients on Saturday, the government announced. Another 1,000-bed hospital built in 10 days opened last week.

The government of the city of 11 million people said it would begin carrying out twice-daily disinfection of hospitals, markets, public toilets and other facilities starting Sunday.

The government of the surrounding province of Hubei it will pay subsidies to farmers, other food producers and supermarkets and give tax breaks to companies that donate to anti-virus work, the official Xinhua news agency said. It said the government will subsidize overtime for employees of companies making medical supplies.

China's leaders are trying to keep food flowing to crowded cities despite anti-disease controls and to quell fears of possible shortages and price spikes following panic buying after most access to Wuhan and nearby cities was cut off.

Two more flights from Wuhan carrying American citizens, permanent residents and close relatives landed in the United States, the State Department said. A spokesman said more than 800 Americans have been evacuated from Wuhan.

A plane evacuating more than 200 people from Wuhan landed Sunday in Britain. British officials said the flight, the country's second evacuation plane, brought back 105 British citizens and family members, as well as 95 European citizens and family members. The passengers will be quarantined at a hotel for 14 days.

A charter flight carrying Filipinos from Wuhan arrived in the Philippines. The 29 adults and one infant will be quarantined for 14 days. At least 56 Filipinos initially planned to join the flight home, but some changed their mind and others feared they couldn't immediately return to their jobs and lives in Hubei due to travel restrictions, officials said.

Elsewhere in China, the industrial metropolis of Chongqing in the southwest told residential communities to close their gates and check visitors for fever. The government said the spread of the virus through "family gatherings" had been reported in Chongqing but gave no details.

FRANCE CLOSES SCHOOLS, ITALIAN STUDENTS RETURNING FROM CHINA TOLD TO STAY HOME

France closed two schools and tried to reassure vacationers in the Alps after five Britons contracted the virus at a ski resort.

France stepped up a travel alert, recommending against all visits to China except for "imperative reasons."

Italy recommended students returning from China stay home from school for two weeks after the government reported three cases.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SENDING EXPERTS

The WHO director-general said it will send experts to China starting Monday or Tuesday.

Asked whether that will include members of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus replied, "We hope so."

Associated Press writers Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea; Yves Dam Van in Hanoi, Vietnam; Yuri Kayegama in Tokyo and Barry Hatton in Lisbon contributed to this report.

"Where it begins": Young hungry locusts bulk up in Somalia

By JOSPAT KASIRE and BEN CURTIS Associated Press

GAROWE, Somalia (AP) — At a glance, the desert locusts in this arid patch of northern Somalia look less

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ominous than the billion-member swarms infesting East Africa in the worst outbreak some places have seen in 70 years.

But their time will come.

Small and wingless, the hopping young locusts are the next wave in the outbreak that threatens more than 10 million people across the region with a severe hunger crisis.

And they are growing up in one of the most inaccessible places on the planet. Large parts of Somalia south of this semi-autonomous Puntland region are under threat, or held by, the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group. That makes it difficult or impossible to conduct the aerial spraying of the locusts that experts say is the only effective control.

Somalia has declared the outbreak a national emergency. Across the region, it has the potential "to be the most devastating plague of locusts in any of our living memories if we don't reduce the problem faster than we're doing at the moment," U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said.

As an armed Somali policeman stood by, experts on Thursday walked across the dry land crawling with the young locusts and explained the threat to come if the world doesn't act right now.

"The world needs to know this is where it all begins," said Alberto Trillo Barca, a spokesman for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. "In the next three or four weeks, these nymphs, as we call them, will develop wings."

Then they are expected to set off for neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia, where a handful of planes spraying pesticide can only do so much if such swarms keep arriving.

Climate experts have pointed to unusually heavy rains, aided by a powerful cyclone off Somalia in December, as a major factor in the outbreak. The locusts were carried in by the storm's winds from the Arabian Peninsula and parts beyond, and now they are feeding on Somalia's fresh vegetation.

With more rains expected in the region in the coming weeks, the number of locusts if unchecked could grow by up to 500 times by June, when drier weather is expected.

But that drier weather is not necessarily the solution, said Dominique Burgeon, the FAO's emergency and resilience director.

The density of the locusts is now so high that even normal moisture can lead to another generation, he said.

"We cannot believe in Mother Nature to solve it," he explained.

Without enough spraying to stop the swarms, the already worrying outbreak could turn into a plague, "and when you have a plague, it takes years to control," he said.

Against that sweeping outlook, a few masked workers with white protective suits and pesticide containers strapped to their backs stood in the camel-crossed Somali desert, spritzing the thousands of locusts clinging to thorny bushes.

The world's changing climate brings the risk of more cyclones coming in from the warming Indian Ocean off East Africa, climate experts say. With that, the likelihood of further locust outbreaks grows.

The "sort of new normal," Burgeon said.

And that means Kenya, Ethiopia and other East African countries that rarely see such outbreaks and found themselves largely unprepared for this one could join "frontline countries" in parts of West Africa and the Middle East, experts say. Those countries have well-trained monitoring and prevention systems in place for more frequent locust outbreaks.

The FAO has asked international donors to give \$76 million immediately to help control this outbreak. So far \$19 million is in hand, Burgeon said.

"The biggest challenge is the scale of the breeding, as you can see all around us," Barca said. These locusts, he said, will be migrating to southern Somalia and parts of Kenya and Ethiopia just as crops are germinating there.

"If at that time there are huge quantities of locusts around, it will have a devastating impact on the crops," Burgeon said.

Other East African countries including Uganda, South Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti are also at risk, Burgeon said. Millions of people in some of these places are already facing hunger in the wake of civil war or more

common challenges such as poverty.

Here in rural Somalia, where about 50% of the people depend on animals for their livelihoods, the locusts are eating the pasturage. The animals weaken, their milk decreases and small children, who depend on the milk to survive, suffer skyrocketing malnutrition, the experts said.

Those fighting the locust outbreak may try to negotiate with Somalia's extremist fighters to allow spraying in rural areas where they are active, Burgeon said. Already emergency workers are going in where they can.

In a few weeks the young locusts will shed their skin, said Keith Cressman, a senior locust forecasting officer with the FAO.

"It takes a few days to warm up their wings," he said. Some test flights follow and they're on the move.

The locusts at that stage are bright pink and in their most voracious state, like "very hungry teenagers," Cressman said. By now, many people in Kenya and Ethiopia know them well.

After a month or so, the locusts will be mature adults, ready to reproduce.

Soon after copulating and laying eggs the locusts will die, "but their progeny will be hatching," Cressman said. "And we have another generation of locusts to contend with, with about another 20-fold increase."

Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed.

Flashing signs, cheering fans as Dems make NH closing pitch

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — The battle for momentum in New Hampshire, for at least one night, came down to how expressive fans in the cheap seats could be.

Democrats made an effort to project an aura of unity at a party dinner Saturday designed to pump up the party base and each campaign's core supporters three days ahead of the first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

But there was little love between supporters of Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders, the leading delegate winners in Iowa's caucuses. One side stared down the other as their candidates tried to build off the momentum delivered to them by results that remained muddled.

Buttigieg, who spoke first before the dinner crowd of thousands of Democrats, encountered loud chants of "Wall Street Pete" and "Medicare for All" from Sanders supporters making their presence known with blinking pink "Bernie" signs. Buttigieg's supporters, in yellow T-shirts and armed with noisemakers, began loud chants of "Boot-Edge-Edge" and waved blue and yellow signs as Sanders declared victory in the Iowa, citing the popular vote.

The Associated Press has not called a winner in the contest, but Buttigieg and Sanders were leading, and both have taken on strength in recent days.

Flashing signs, noisemakers and color-coordinated outfits filled the hockey arena hosting the event, with Elizabeth Warren's and Buttigieg's campaigns packing in the most supporters. Sanders' contingent, while smaller, made its presence known early on by chanting repeatedly over Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, the state's senior elected official, as she spoke.

Beyond their barbs at Buttigieg, Sanders' supporters were quiet or applauding during most other candidates' remarks. Amy Klobuchar even played along during her remarks, turning to the Sanders section and saying, "Hi, Bernie people!"

When Sanders took the stage, he acknowledged his supporters directly. "I see more enthusiasm over here than over there," he said, gesturing to his supporters over Warren's.

Joe Biden, meanwhile, had a tiny contingent by comparison that was buttressed on either side by Warren supporters. A campaign spokeswoman said the campaign made a strategic decision to keep its supporters out knocking on doors rather than attending the dinner.

Tickets to the event started at \$20, and the level of support for each candidate either demonstrated how much a campaign was willing to spend to get its supporters in place, or how much grassroots energy existed. Many people in the audience were from out of state.

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Klobuchar's supporters wore bright green T-shirts and held giant, light-up letters saying "Win Big," a nod to her refrain that she's won with strength in her home state of Minnesota. Klobuchar drew large cheers from the crowd as she reprised her closing argument from Friday night's debate that she understands and will fight for all voters.

Warren similarly fired up her supporters, though she largely stuck to her stump speech.

The campaigns of Andrew Yang, Tulsi Gabbard, Michael Bennet and Tom Steyer had far smaller contingents.

After Sanders spoke, many people from the major campaigns left the arena before former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick spoke. His campaign, despite being considered a long shot, made its presence with supporters in bright blue hats, and the crowd that remained gave enthusiastic applause.

When Bennet finally took the stage, he quipped, "Thank you for hanging around."

From Pitt to '1917,' what to anticipate at Sunday's Oscars

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Oscars are here, already.

After the shortest awards season in decades, the 92nd annual Academy Awards will get underway Sunday evening at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The red carpet is being rolled out two to three weeks earlier than usual in a bid to freshen up a ceremony and potentially boost ratings.

The truncated time table has put the normally bloated Oscars season on a diet (Sunday's show will also, for the second straight year, be hostless) and sent film academy members scrambling to finish their movie-watching — no small task in a year featuring a few three-hour epics like "The Irishman" and "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood."

Fittingly for a fast race, a movie about a mad dash has risen to the top of the heap. After winning nearly every major precursor award, Sam Mendes' "1917," about a pair of British soldiers sent with an urgent message to deliver through recently-held enemy territory, is the favorite for best picture. Thanks to its technical dazzle, the seemingly one-continuous-shot "1917" is also likely to come away with the most awards Sunday, even without any acting nominations.

Although Joaquin Phoenix, Renée Zellweger, Brad Pitt and Laura Dern all appear to be all-but-certain locks in the acting categories, there's still the potential for a history-making upset. Momentum has swung behind Bong Joon Ho's South Korean thriller "Parasite," and some believe it has a chance to become the first non-English language film to win best picture.

Such a win would be a watershed moment for the Academy Awards, which has long been content to relegate international films to their own category. But in an effort to diversify its largely white and male membership, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has inducted more overseas members in recent years. And just about no one has a bad word to say about the widely praised class satire "Parasite," the Palme d'Or winner at last year's Cannes Film Festival and the first foreign language film to win top honors from the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

The official pre-show will begin at 6:30 p.m. EST on ABC. Among the presenters the academy will lean on in the absence of a host are Tom Hanks, Maya Rudolph, Spike Lee, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Chris Rock, Timothée Chalamet, Will Ferrell, Diane Keaton and Kelly Marie Tran.

The ceremony will come just days after the death of Kirk Douglas, one of the last surviving stars of Hollywood's golden age. Kobe Bryant, a 2018 Oscar winner for the short "Dear Basketball," is expected to be included in the ceremony's In Memoriam segment.

ABC and the academy will be hoping a widely watched field of nominees — including the \$1 billion-grossing "Joker," up for a leading 11 awards — will help viewership. Last year's show garnered 29.6 million viewers, a 12% uptick.

This year's Oscars comes amid a streaming overhaul throughout Hollywood. Hurrying to catch up to Netflix and Amazon, most of the major studios are prepping or have already launched their own streaming services, as have new entrants like Apple. Netflix comes into the Oscars with a leading 24 nominations

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thanks to "The Irishman," "Marriage Story," "The Two Popes" and the likely best documentary winner, "American Factory."

But despite spending heavily through awards season, Netflix may go home with only a few awards. The streamer is still seeking its first best picture win after Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" came up just shy last year.

Instead, this year's Oscar favorites are largely movies released widely in theaters. They also predominantly feature male characters and come from male directors.

After a year in which women made significant gains behind the camera, no female directors were nominated for best director. The acting categories are also the least diverse since the fallout of #OscarsSoWhite pushed the academy to remake its membership. Cynthia Erivo ("Harriet") is the only actor of color nominated. Those results, which have been a topic in speeches through awards season, stand in contrast to research that suggests the most popular movies star more people of color than ever before.

Ticket sales slumped about 4% last year despite the Walt Disney Co.'s record \$13 billion in worldwide box office. Disney, which acquired 20th Century Fox last spring, accounted for an overwhelming 38% of domestic ticket sales. And yet Disney, aside from owning the network the Oscars are broadcast on, will likely play a minor role at the Academy Awards. The studio may win best animated feature with "Toy Story 4" and possibly best editing for the Fox film "Ford v Ferrari."

And while Democratic candidates are vying for the presidency and votes are still being counted in Iowa, former President Barack Obama may well notch another win. The first film from his and Michelle Obama's production company, "American Factory," is favored to win best documentary.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

CBS News head calls threats against Gayle King reprehensible

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The CBS News chief called threats against journalist Gayle King "reprehensible" Saturday as backlash grew against rapper Snoop Dogg and others critical of King for an interview where she asked about a sexual assault charge against the late Kobe Bryant.

Snoop Dogg issued a warning to King online this week following her interview with WNBA player Lisa Leslie about Bryant, the former Los Angeles Lakers star killed in a helicopter crash with his young daughter and seven others on Jan. 26.

"We fully support Gayle King and her integrity as a journalist," CBS News President Susan Zirinsky told The Associated Press. "We find the threats against her or any journalist doing their job reprehensible."

CBS would not discuss the nature of any private threats against King. Her friend, Oprah Winfrey, said in an NBC interview that King had received death threats and was traveling with security.

The rapper had joined with others, including LeBron James, 50 Cent and even Bill Cosby, in criticizing King for asking Leslie whether Bryant's legacy had been complicated by the accusation that he raped a woman at a Colorado resort in 2003. Bryant said the two had consensual sex, but he later apologized for his behavior and settled a civil suit against him.

In a profane video posted on Instagram and shared on other social media platforms, Snoop Dogg criticized King for attacking "your people." He told her to "back off ... before we come get you."

King's questions had attracted little notice as part of a wide-ranging interview shown on "CBS This Morning." But then CBS — mistakenly, it said later — posted a video online that focused strictly on the discussion about the assault case.

"The interview with Lisa Leslie was comprehensive and thoughtful," Zirinsky said. "We are a country where differences of opinion are welcome, but hateful and dangerous threats are completely unacceptable."

King's critics essentially voiced some variation of what Leslie answered — that the media should be more respectful of Bryant so soon after his death and not discuss this stain upon his record — although usually in sharper terms.

Besides her boss, other people have begun coming to King's defense, including Sen. Cory Booker, former

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U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice and NBC morning show host Willie Geist.

"For those threatening her and inciting violence, stop it immediately," the New Jersey senator tweeted. "This is unacceptable. We must do better."

Rice, on Twitter, said Snoop Dogg's video was despicable and she told him to back off.

"You come against Gayle King, you come against an army," Rice wrote. "You will lose, and it won't be pretty."

On Saturday, Snoop Dogg posted a message on his Instagram that said he meant King no harm.

"I'm a non-violent person. When I said what I said, I spoke for the people who felt that that Gayle was very disrespectful toward Kobe and his family," he said. "I didn't want no harm to come to her, I didn't threaten her."

He added: "We speak from the heart. Some of you who have no heart don't understand that."

Geist, from the "Today" show and MSNBC's "Morning Joe," tweeted that "the threats against Gayle King for asking a fair question in the course of a long interview are absolutely disgusting. Gayle is one of the most thoughtful people in our business."

New Yorker writer Jelani Cobb tweeted that there was a way to disagree with King's questions "without lapsing into misogyny, threats and ignorance."

In an essay posted on the web site The Undeclared, Morehouse College journalism professor David Dennis Jr. wondered why it was two black women — King and Leslie — who were the ones publicly wrestling with this aspect of Bryant's legacy.

"We, myself included, have to take time in our healing to try to understand why we either forgave Bryant or never bothered to hold him accountable," Dennis wrote. "It's fair to believe that the work Bryant put in for women in sports in the years since the rape allegation have shown true contrition and rehabilitation, but nothing will erase that night ... To demand silence over the case does an injustice to the victims of sexual violence as well as the work Bryant did to try to make it right."

NYPD: Officer shot, wounded in 'assassination attempt'

NEW YORK (AP) — Two New York City police officers narrowly escaped with their lives when a gunman fired into their patrol van Saturday night, wounding one of them in an attack officials called an attempted assassination.

The ambush, which Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said "should outrage all New Yorkers," happened just before 8:30 pm in the South Bronx.

The officer at the wheel of the van was grazed in the chin and neck, but he avoided serious injury, Shea said. He was expected to be released from the hospital Sunday.

"He is lucky to be alive," Shea said. "He is expected to make a full recovery and it is a miracle."

Shea recalled other unprovoked assaults on police officers sitting in their patrol vehicles.

In 2017, a gunman killed Officer Miosotis Familia as she sat in her patrol vehicle in the Bronx. In 2014, two officers, Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, were shot dead in their patrol car in Brooklyn by a man upset about recent police killings of unarmed black men. Shea said Ramos and Liu's deaths were "not something that engenders anything but the worst memories."

Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, condemned the latest attack at a news briefing outside the Bronx hospital where the wounded officer was being treated.

"There's too much hatred in general, there's too much hatred being directed at our officers, and it has to end," the mayor said. "We have to move forward in a situation like this and find a way to create a peaceful society, not one where those who protect us are in danger in this way."

The two uniformed officers, partners for eight years and friends since middle school, were sitting in their van with emergency lights activated when a man approached them and engaged them in conversation, Shea said.

The man asked the officers for directions, then pulled out a gun "without provocation," the commissioner said. The man fired multiple shots, striking the officer behind the wheel. Shea said the officer's carotid

artery narrowly avoided injury.

Neither officer returned fire. The officer's partner drove him to a hospital nearby. Shea called both officers "heroic" for their composure and said their long association made for "an amazing story."

Officers had a basic description of the gunman, who fled after the shooting, but his identity was unknown. Security video that appeared to capture the shooting shows the van driving quickly away as a man appeared to point something at the fleeing vehicle.

The officers had been stationed in the neighborhood because of recent drug activity and violence, Shea said.

The president of the police union, Pat Lynch, said the department will use "all its resources" to bring the shooter to justice.

US says 2 soldiers killed, 6 wounded in Afghanistan attack

By RAHIM FAIEZ and KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Two U.S. soldiers were killed and six wounded in a so-called insider attack in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province late Saturday when an Afghan dressed in an Afghan army uniform opened fire, the U.S. military said.

A member of Nangarhar's provincial council, Ajmal Omer, told The Associated Press that the gunman was killed. There have been numerous attacks by Afghan national army soldiers on their allied partners during 18 years of America's protracted war in Afghanistan.

Six U.S. service members have been killed in Afghanistan since the start of 2020, including Saturday's casualties. Last year, 22 U.S. service personnel died in combat there.

An Afghan defense ministry official, who was not identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the shooter was an Afghan soldier who had argued with the U.S. forces before opening fire. He was not a Taliban infiltrator, the official said.

In a statement, the U.S. military said "an individual in an Afghan uniform opened fire on the combined U.S. and Afghan force with a machine gun. We are still collecting information and the cause or motive behind the attack is unknown at this time."

Omer, the provincial council member, is from Nangarhar province's Sherzad district, where he said the incident took place. An Afghan soldier was also wounded, Omer said.

The U.S. military said American and Afghan military personnel were fired on while conducting an operation in Nangarhar province.

Last July, two U.S. service members were killed by an Afghan soldier in the southern Kandahar province. The shooter was wounded and arrested. In September, three U.S. military personnel were wounded when an member of the Afghan Civil Order Police fired on a military convoy, also in Kandahar.

The incident came as Washington has sought to find an end to the war in Afghanistan.

Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has been meeting with Taliban representatives in the Middle Eastern state of Qatar in recent weeks. He's seeking an agreement to reduce hostilities to get a peace deal signed that would start negotiations among Afghans on both sides of the conflict.

In his State of the Union Address on Tuesday, President Donald Trump referenced the peace talks, saying U.S. soldiers were not meant to serve as "law enforcement agencies" for other nations.

"In Afghanistan, the determination and valor of our war fighters has allowed us to make tremendous progress, and peace talks are now underway," he said.

Gannon contributed from Islamabad. Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

In the Pink: Border collie wins Westminster agility contest

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — She might have looked like a black-and-white blur, but this dog is pretty in Pink. Pink the border collie streaked to the Westminster Kennel Club's agility title Saturday night with determination, dazzle and a stream of barks.

No wonder the vocals: She's named after the singer of such pop hits as "Get the Party Started" and "Trouble."

And no wonder the win: "She is 110% all the time," says handler Jennifer Crank, a dog agility trainer from Pickerington, Ohio.

Meanwhile, a 10-year-old border collie- and-probably- Labrador retriever mix named Moses won a special award for the top mixed-breed dog. Bounding with gusto, he outdid some purebred rivals.

"He doesn't have papers, but he's still a dog with four paws and a tail," said handler Jordan York, an emergency room nurse from Evansville, Indiana.

"He's one of those 'show him once, and he'll do it'" dogs, York said.

Pink's prize extended an all-but sweep for border collies in agility's seven years at Westminster, save for an Australian shepherd's 2016 win.

Traditional judging toward Westminster's best in show award begins Sunday, with the finals set for Tuesday night.

Some 325 dogs from dachshunds to Doberman pinschers took on Saturday's serpentine agility course of jumps, ramps, tunnels and other obstacles.

Top "awwws" — if no formal awards — went to competitors including Carly Rae, a poodle that puzzled over a line of weave poles, and Lobo, a lovably wayward Siberian husky.

Scores depend on both speed and accuracy, with handlers using verbal cues and body language to guide the animals.

"You have to memorize. You have to strategize ... It's a delightful challenge," said Marcia Lyons of Seattle. She reached the finals with her Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever, Liberty.

To border collie owners, their success in this event is no surprise.

"They're very focused, and they love to work and learn new stuff," said Westminster competitor Jim Koras, who has three border collies.

But dogs that aren't quite such naturals at the sport "actually teach you the most," says Koras, of Wethersfield, Connecticut. "You have to learn more about them, and it's harder to build that teamwork, but it's really satisfying to do."

He was at Westminster on Saturday with his first and so far most accomplished agility dog, a husky-border collie mix named Cote.

If there were border collies, Shetland sheepdogs and golden retrievers by the dozens, there were also some far rarer dogs, such as Valur the Saluki.

The leggy, ancient Middle Eastern hounds are fleet but known for independent-mindedness, so owner Christine Klein of Sharon, Vermont, makes sure to "keep it fun."

As a pug, Niner comes from a breed more associated with snuggling than speed.

But after a bystander spotted her zipping around a dog park some years ago and suggested agility, "we saw how much she liked it," said one of her owners, Cindy Pichotta of Minneapolis.

Seven-year-old Niner made her Westminster debut Saturday, handled by Pichotta's partner, Dan Webster.

"People are surprised when they see her," Pichotta allows. "You don't expect to see a pug."

Biden tells NH Democrats that Buttigieg 'not a Barack Obama'

By JULIE PACE and HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Scrambling to salvage his presidential campaign, Joe Biden escalated his criticism of Pete Buttigieg on Saturday, mocking Buttigieg's experience as a small city mayor and cutting down the comparisons Buttigieg has drawn to the last Democratic president, declaring: "This guy's not a Barack Obama."

Biden's biting attacks on Buttigieg's relatively thin resume mark a new, more aggressive attempt to slow

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the momentum of the youngest candidate in the Democratic field. The 38-year-old emerged from Iowa in an effective tie with Sen. Bernie Sanders, but faces questions about whether his eight years as mayor of South Bend, Indiana — a city of about 100,000 people — prepared him for the presidency.

"I do not believe we're a party at risk if I'm the nominee," Biden told voters in Manchester. "I do believe we're a party at risk if we nominate someone who has never held a higher office than the mayor of South Bend, Indiana."

Buttigieg also faced criticism from Sanders, who said he had billionaires "by the dozens" contributing to his campaign.

"If you're serious about political change in America, change is not going to be coming from somebody who gets a lot of money from the CEOs of the pharmaceutical industry," Sanders said.

Both Sanders and Buttigieg appear in strong position in New Hampshire ahead of Tuesday's primary, while Biden has conceded he expects to take a "hit" in the state.

Biden's campaign is urgently trying to recalibrate, shaking up its senior leadership and signaling that the former vice president won't go down without a fight. On Saturday morning, the campaign posted an online video attacking Buttigieg that was one of the harshest intraparty broadsides of the Democratic primary.

The 90-second video compares Biden's record as vice president with Buttigieg's service as mayor. While Biden helped President Barack Obama pass sweeping health care legislation and orchestrate a bailout of the auto industry, the ad says, Buttigieg was installing decorative lights on bridges and repairing sidewalks.

Buttigieg's inexperience is among his chief vulnerabilities as he pitches voters on his preparedness for the Oval Office. He's argued that his tenure as mayor, particularly of a Rust Belt city, gives him a better feel for the concerns of voters Democrats need to win back in 2020. But he has not yet had to defend the substance of his record against the kind of specific attack Biden launched.

His campaign accused Biden of trivializing the work that goes on in small cities across the country, and of political desperation. The campaign also highlighted criticism from other mayors around the country who said Biden was denigrating the importance of small cities.

Buttigieg himself also issued a sharp retort Saturday night at a Democratic Party dinner in Manchester: "Americans in small rural towns in industrial communities and in pockets of our country's biggest cities are tired of being reduced to a punchline by Washington politicians and ready for somebody to take their voice to the American capital."

Buttigieg's calls for generational change and his criticism of Washington has irked some of his rivals, including Biden, who has accused the former mayor of undercutting the work of the Obama administration.

Buttigieg has argued that while the Obama administration had successes, the country is in a different place than it was four years ago and requires new leadership. He's also tried to draw comparisons to Obama, highlighting his ability to overcome questions about his own inexperience during the 2008 campaign.

The former vice president made clear on Saturday that he sees the comparison as ill-fitting.

"This guy's not a Barack Obama," he told reporters. "Barack Obama had laid out a clear vision of what he thought the international society should look like and what the order should be. Barack Obama had laid out in detail what he thought should happen with regard to the economy."

Biden's advisers are well-aware that two weak performances will chip away at Biden's core argument: that he's the most electable candidate in a general election faceoff against President Donald Trump. The former vice president hopes to stay viable through South Carolina, which votes at the end of the month and is the first state on the primary calendar with a large black population. Biden has polled significantly better than his rivals with black voters throughout the campaign.

Buttigieg, meanwhile, has struggled to build support with black voters, raising questions about whether his early momentum will be blunted when the campaign heads south.

"This is a diverse party," Biden said. "It's the reason why we're strong. Our nominee has to reflect that strength."

It's not just Buttigieg who is blocking Biden's path. Sanders also appears poised for a strong showing in New Hampshire, a state he won by more than 20 percentage points in 2016.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, still faces questions from some Democrats about whether

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he would damage the party in the general election. Biden and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar have led that charge, with Klobuchar being the only candidate to raise a hand in Friday's debate when moderators asked if anyone was worried about having Sanders at the top of the ticket.

"People know I'm straightforward and I tell them the truth," Klobuchar said of the moment on Saturday. She also announced to voters that her campaign had raised \$1.5 million since the debate.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who represents neighboring Massachusetts in the Senate, also needs a strong finish in New Hampshire to prove her campaign viability in the primary. As she spoke to supporters before they headed out to knock on doors, she noted that it had been three years since Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., admonished her on the Senate floor with the phrase "nevertheless, she persisted" — an expression that Warren has turned into a motto for her campaign.

"I've been winning unwinnable fights pretty much all my life," she said.

Associated Press writers Holly Ramer in Durham, New Hampshire; Kathleen Ronayne in Manchester; and Will Weissert in Rochester, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

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

Robert Conrad, star of "The Wild, Wild West," dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Robert Conrad, the rugged, contentious actor who starred in the hugely popular 1960s television series "Hawaiian Eye" and "The Wild, Wild West," died Saturday. He was 84.

The actor died of heart failure in Malibu, California, family spokesperson Jeff Ballard said. A small private service is planned for March 1, which would have been his 85th birthday.

"He lived a wonderfully long life and while the family is saddened by his passing, he will live forever in their hearts," Ballard said.

With his good looks and strong physique, Conrad was a rising young actor when he was chosen for the lead in "Hawaiian Eye." He became an overnight star after the show debuted in 1959.

Conrad played Tom Lopaka, a daring private investigator whose partner was Tracy Steele, played by Anthony Eisley. They operated out of a fancy office overlooking the pool at a popular Waikiki hotel.

The two private eyes alternated on simple investigations with help from the island's colorful characters, including a singer named Cricket Blake (Connie Stevens) and a ukulele-strumming taxi driver named Kazuo (Poncie Ponce).

After five seasons with the show, Conrad went on to embrace the television craze of the time, period Westerns, but with a decidedly different twist.

In "The Wild, Wild West," which debuted in 1965, he was James T. West, a James Bond-like agent who used innovative tactics and futuristic gadgets (futuristic for the 1800s anyway) to battle bizarre villains. He was ably assisted by Ross Martin's Artemus Gordon, a master of disguise.

The show aired until 1970.

The series "Baa Baa Black Sheep" followed in 1976 and was roughly based on an autobiography by Marine Corps ace and Medal of Honor recipient Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, who wrote of the raucous fliers he commanded during World War II.

Conrad played Pappy Boyington, so nicknamed because he often rescued his pilots from severe punishment. Bringing his customary intensity to the role, he even learned to fly.

The CBS series was enjoyed by male viewers but not so much by women and it was dropped after its first season. It was revived in December 1977 as "Black Sheep Squadron," after the network's new shows failed to find audiences. It continued on for another season.

Conrad, meanwhile, interspersed his long, successful TV career with numerous roles in films. After a couple of small parts, his TV fame elevated him to stardom, starting in 1966 with "Young Dillinger," in which he played Pretty Boy Floyd. Other films included "Murph the Surf," "The Bandits" (which he also directed), "The Lady in Red" (this time as John Dillinger) and "Wrong Is Right."

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At the same time, he found plenty of time for arguments.

Throughout Hollywood, Conrad had a reputation as a tough customer and was sued more than a half-dozen times as a result of fist fights. Playing himself in a 1999 episode of the TV series "Just Shoot Me," he lampooned his threatening, tough-guy persona. He was also featured in 1970s commercials for Eveready Batteries, with a battery on his shoulder, a menacing stare and a popular catchphrase, "I dare you to knock this off."

"I'm only about 5-feet-8 and only weigh 165 pounds as of this morning, so I'm not the world's meanest guy," he told an interviewer in 2008.

"If you treat me nicely, I'll treat you nicer," he added. "If you're rude to me, put your headgear on. Here it comes."

His daughter Nancy Conrad, who appeared in some of his pictures, explained it this way: "Dad is a hard worker. If people drag their feet, he gets impatient. He starts ranting and raving. It takes a while to patiently take him aside and show him why things might not be going well."

He frequently employed his offspring in his movies and TV shows.

An example was the 1988 television series "High Mountain Rangers," which Conrad had proposed, bankrolled with his own money and directed. He hired sons Shane and Christian as co-stars, daughter Joan as producer and daughter Nancy as caterer. His first wife handled financial matters.

The show, about a group of law enforcement officers, was filmed in the High Sierra mountain range near Lake Tahoe.

Conrad's later film credits included 1996's "Jingle All The Way" with Arnold Schwarzenegger and 2002's "Dead Above Ground."

He was born Konrad Robert Falkowski in Chicago on March 1, 1935. His great-grandfather had emigrated from Germany, and his grandfather founded several meat shops in Chicago called Hartman's.

Conrad moved from one school to another, and at 15 he left his parents' house for a place known only to his girlfriend and his great-grandmother who sometimes fed him.

A football player in school, Conrad's first job was loading trucks. Then at 18 he was hired to drive milk wagons.

He tried boxing and nightclub singing for a time before drifting into acting and eventually moving to Hollywood, where he found work as a stuntman.

In lieu of flowers, Conrad's family is requesting donations to the Wounded Warrior Project and The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

Conrad is survived by eight children and 18 grandchildren.

Bob Thomas, a long-time and now deceased staffer of the Associated Press, was the principal writer of this obituary.

21 dead, 31 hurt in Thai mass shooting; gunman hides in mall

By SAKCHAI LALIT and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (AP) — A gunman described as a soldier angry over a financial dispute killed two people and then went on a far bloodier rampage Saturday in northeastern Thailand, shooting as he drove to a busy mall where shoppers fled in terror. At least 21 people were killed in all, 31 were injured and others were believed to be still inside the building as more gunshots rang out early Sunday.

Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Kongcheep Tantrawanich said Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma was behind the attack in Nakhon Ratchasima, a hub for Thailand's relatively poorer and rural northeastern region. Much of the shooting took place at Terminal 21 Korat, an airport-themed mall filled with colorful Lego sculptures, a merry-go-round and huge replicas of landmarks from around the world.

Video taken outside the mall showed people diving for cover as shots rang out mid-afternoon Saturday. Many were killed outside the mall, some in cars, others while walking.

Nattaya Nganiem and her family had just finished eating and were driving away when she heard gunfire.

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"First I saw a woman run out from the mall hysterically," said Nattaya, who shot video of the scene on her phone. "Then a motorcycle rider in front of her just ran and left his motorcycle there."

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said a doctor was shot while helping an injured person. A police officer also was killed, pushing the death toll to 21, Anutin said.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from the mall in small batches by police while they searched for the gunman.

"We were scared and ran to hide in toilets," said Sumana Jeerawattanasuk, one of those rescued by police. She said seven or eight people hid in the same room as her.

"I am so glad. I was so scared of getting hurt," she said.

Shortly before midnight, police announced they had secured the above-ground portion of the mall, but were still searching for the shooter. Anutin said there were no more bodies left inside, but added, "we don't know whether there are any additional injuries or deaths or not."

Some shoppers remained trapped in the mall, presumably in the below-ground portion.

"We are worried for those who are still trapped inside. Some still couldn't come out," Lt. Col. Poonsap Prasertsak, a senior police commander for the region, said early Sunday morning. He told reporters police were in touch with some of those still trapped.

"We told them to stay calm, stay still and keep their heads down," he said.

Gunfire could be heard coming from the mall around 3 a.m. as ambulances were brought closer to the scene, but reporters were kept away and no announcements were immediately forthcoming.

A police officer contacted by phone in Nakhon Ratchasima, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) northeast of Bangkok, said the gunman initially killed another soldier and a woman, and wounded a third person, apparently over a land dispute.

Defense Ministry spokesman Kongcheep told Thai media that the first person killed was the commanding officer of the 22nd Ammunition Battalion, in which the suspect also served. He said the gunman had fired at others at his base and took guns and ammunition before fleeing in an army Humvee.

City and neighborhood police officers, who asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to release information, said the man fired shots as he drove to the mall. Thai Rath television aired mall security camera footage showing a man with what appeared to be an assault rifle.

The man believed to be the gunman appears to have posted updates to his Facebook page during the rampage.

"No one can escape death," read one post. Another asked, "Should I give up?" In a later post, he wrote, "I have stopped already."

A photo circulated on social media that appeared to be taken from the Facebook page shows a man wearing a green camouflaged military helmet while a fireball and black smoke rage behind him. Jakrapanth's profile picture shows him in a mask and dressed in military-style fatigues and armed with a pistol. The background image is of a handgun and bullets. The Facebook page was made inaccessible after the shooting began.

Terminal 21 Korat, a multi-level glass and steel mall is designed to resemble an airport terminal, complete with a mock control tower and departure gates. A large model passenger jet dangles from wires beside one of the main escalators.

Each of its seven retail floors is decorated to represent a different country. A giant replica of Paris' Eiffel Tower soars to the ceiling, while a model of London's Big Ben dominates another area, and a massive model of California's Golden Gate Bridge spans an open courtyard. A two-story golden Oscar statue towers over a food court.

Nattaya did not know the full extent of the carnage until she arrived home. When she learned of the death toll, she fainted.

"I can't believe this is happening in my hometown," she said. "I mean, this shopping mall, we go there almost every other day."

Many malls in Thailand, including Terminal 21's namesake in Bangkok, have metal detectors and security

cameras at entrances manned by uniformed but unarmed security guards. Checks on those entering are often cursory at best.

Gun violence is not unheard of in Thailand. Firearms can be obtained legally, and many Thais own guns. Mass shootings are rare, though there are occasional gun battles in the far south of the country, where authorities have for years battled a long-running separatist insurgency.

The incident in Korat comes just a month after another high-profile mall shooting, in the central Thai city of Lopburi. In that case, a masked gunman carrying a handgun with a silencer killed three people, including a 2-year-old boy, and wounded four others as he robbed a jewelry store. A suspect, a school director, was arrested less than two weeks later and reportedly confessed, saying he did not mean to shoot anyone.

Tassanee Vejpongsa reported from Bangkok. Associated Press journalists Grant Peck, Preeyapa T. Khun-song and Adam Schreck contributed to this story.

Top 3 parties in dead heat after Irish parliament elections

By **DANICA KIRKA** and **NICOLAE DUMITRACHE** Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Ireland's three biggest political parties are likely to face a difficult process of forming a new government, with an exit poll suggesting they finished in a virtual dead heat in parliamentary elections Saturday.

The survey conducted for national broadcaster RTE, the Irish Times, TG4 television and University College Dublin by pollster Ipsos MRBI said the Fine Gael party of Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, Fianna Fail and Sinn Fein all got about 22% of first preference votes.

The exit poll was based on 5,376 interviews conducted immediately after people voted at 250 polling stations. It has a margin of error of plus or minus one percentage point.

Vote counting starts Sunday, and it could be Monday before the election's results are determined.

With none of the three main parties likely to gain enough seats to govern alone, a coalition of some kind was almost inevitable.

But Sinn Fein was in a slightly weaker position than its two main rivals, because it fielded only 42 candidates for the 159 seats available and might be unable to find enough like-minded left-leaning allies to form a workable government.

Fine Gael and Fianna Fail — the two parties that have dominated Irish politics since independence — have shunned Sinn Fein because of its links to the IRA.

While Sinn Fein is a major force in Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom region where it is part of the power-sharing government that helped end decades of sectarian violence, it has long been a minor player south of the border in the Irish Republic. But the party has attracted voters with left-wing proposals for tackling Ireland's housing crisis and bolstering the nation's creaking health-care system.

Support for the traditionally dominant parties has fallen since the 2008 financial crisis, which hit Ireland's debt-fueled "Celtic Tiger" economy particularly hard. Ireland was pushed to the brink of bankruptcy and forced to seek a humiliating international bailout that was followed by years of austerity.

"I do think there is need to change," Noleen Kelly, who works in the public sector, said outside a Dublin polling station. "So, I'm looking forward to see something positive."

Varadkar, the country's first openly gay leader, became Taoiseach — prime minister — in 2017 after the resignation of his predecessor. His party has governed Ireland since 2011, first in coalition with the smaller Labour Party and since 2016 as the leader of a minority administration with the tacit support of Fianna Fail.

The election campaign was dominated by domestic problems, especially a growing homelessness crisis, house prices that have risen faster than incomes and a public health system that hasn't kept up with demand.

Both Fine Gael and Fianna Fail said they would build more houses, ease hospital overcrowding and cut waiting times for medical treatment. Sinn Fein offered a more radical plan to raise taxes on the wealthy, freeze rents, build tens of thousands of new homes and lower the state pension age.

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The focus on domestic issues overshadowed Varadkar's greatest success: protecting Irish interests during negotiations over Britain's departure from the European Union.

Varadkar was the face of Ireland during the talks, which were crucial to Ireland because it is the only EU country that shares a land border with the U.K. While most people applaud his success in securing guarantees that people and goods will continue to flow freely between Ireland and the north, the prime minister had difficulty persuading voters that he needed another term in office to cement those gains in the next round of talks with Britain.

Recent opinion polls had indicated Sinn Fein was gaining ground, prompting the larger parties to remind voters of the party's ties to past violence.

Sinn Fein's links with the IRA, which disarmed after the 1998 peace accord in Northern Ireland, became an issue late in the election. The mother of a Northern Ireland man who was beaten to death in 2007 — a killing the family blames on the IRA — accused party members of slandering her son as a criminal and failing to reveal what they knew about his death.

Fianna Fail's leader, Micheal Martin, said Sinn Fein was not fit to govern because "they have not cleansed themselves of their bloody past."

Sinn Fein denied that Irish republicans were involved in the killing, but the party was put on the defensive.

Party leader Mary Lou McDonald condemned the slaying as "barbaric." McDonald, a Dubliner, has helped Sinn Fein shed its hard-line image since replacing Gerry Adams, a Belfast native who led the party from 1983 to 2018.

Sinn Fein's struggle for a united Ireland was on the back burner during the election, but the party is calling for a referendum on reunification within five years.

That is not something an Irish government could deliver without the support of Britain and Northern Ireland — highly unlikely in the short term. But Brexit looks likely to nudge Northern Ireland's economy closer to that of its southern neighbor, and could increase pressure for a vote on unification.

Associated Press Writer Jill Lawless contributed.

Week 3 of Weinstein trial: Fake names and raw emotions

By **MICHAEL R. SISK** and **TOM HAYS** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the third week of testimony at Harvey Weinstein's rape trial, the prosecution rested, the defendant dozed off and there was the most intense testimony yet, with jurors being sent home early one day after a key accuser started sobbing uncontrollably.

After several witnesses described explicit details of Weinstein's anatomy, jurors Tuesday were shown nude photographs of him that authorities took after his 2018 arrest.

Prosecutors appeared to be using the images to corroborate testimony that Weinstein had "extreme scarring" on his body, as well as specific details about his genitalia that came up in witness testimony.

The images were meant to be seen only by the jury and weren't projected in court or passed out to the media. Nevertheless, some courtroom sketch artists using binoculars were able to get a gander at the photos and incorporated them into their renderings.

It was among several notable moments and odd twists in court this week.

KEY ACCUSER'S EMOTIONAL TESTIMONY

In the most dramatic moment of the trial so far, a key accuser broke down in tears on the witness stand, ending court early Monday as a defense lawyer grilled her about her complex relationship with Weinstein.

The woman, now 34, said she tried to make Weinstein "my pseudo father," and sent him flattering emails and kept seeing him after an alleged rape in 2013 because "I wanted him to believe I wasn't a threat."

She became emotional while reading an email passage about her having been abused earlier in her life. Sobbing as she left the courtroom, her cries could be heard from a nearby witness room.

The woman returned after about a 10-minute break but couldn't continue. She wept loudly, resting her head on the witness stand and blotting tears with a tissue as a prosecutor tried to calm her.

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When she returned on Tuesday, the woman was more subdued. She turned to the jury and defiantly declared: "He is my rapist."

The charges against Weinstein involve the woman's rape allegation as well as an allegation that he forcibly performed oral sex on a different woman in 2006. Weinstein, 67, has insisted that any sexual encounters were consensual.

The Associated Press has a policy of not publishing the names of sexual assault accusers without their consent. It is withholding the name of the rape accuser because it isn't clear if she wishes to be identified publicly.

WEINSTEIN NODS OFF

Weinstein appeared to be asleep at times in court this week. On Monday, during emotional testimony from the woman he is charged with raping, he was seen with his eyes closed and his head drooped as he sat in a chair at the defense table.

As he left the courtroom, a reporter asked Weinstein why he was sleeping. He turned, scowled at her and said: "Oh please."

The New York Post later reported that Weinstein hosted a Super Bowl party for his supporters the night before, offering a possible explanation for his fatigue.

Weinstein's spokesman said the party was "a small get-together to say thank you" and that guests included his lawyers and a couple of friends.

A juror also nodded off for a spell during Monday's testimony, leading to a scolding from the judge.

WEINSTEIN LAWYER UNDER FIRE

Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno came under fire on social media and in court Friday for a podcast interview in which she blamed victims for getting sexual assaulted. Rotunno told The New York Times' "The Daily" she'd never been attacked "because I would never put myself in that position."

Kenidra Woods, a teen mental health advocate, tweeted that the lawyer's comments were "beyond sickening."

Stephanie Fisher, a social media director at Save the Children, tweeted that her Alexa device suddenly shut off in the middle of the interview, quipping, "I guess even she doesn't think this horrible woman deserves to have a public voice."

By lunchtime, Rotunno's name was trending on Twitter in the U.S.

In court, prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon questioned the timing of the interview and rebuked Rotunno for "calling our witnesses liars."

"That was taped a long time ago," Rotunno interrupted, claiming that she hadn't talked to anyone in the media since the case began.

She was later contradicted by a Times spokeswoman, who told reporters the interview was recorded on Jan. 28 — five days after opening statements and the start of testimony.

In another part of the interview, conducted by Meghan Twohey — half of the Times' duo that recounted their reporting on Weinstein in the book "She Said" — Rotunno said Weinstein is "well aware of the fact that his life is on the line here" and that he "deserves to have a voice out there."

DUN-DUN: DEFENSE DITCHES 'LAW & ORDER' WITNESS

The defense scrapped plans to call to the witness stand a Hollywood writer and director who, it turns out, also wrote a #MeToo-themed episode of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" based on the Weinstein saga.

Warren Leight showed up to the courthouse Thursday, but the first witness ran long and his planned testimony about directing one of Weinstein's rape accusers in a movie in the early 1990s was bumped back to Friday. That's when Weinstein's lawyers decided to ditch him.

Leight was expected to be asked about actress Annabella Sciorra's behavior on the set of the 1993 romantic comedy "The Night We Never Met," where she's acknowledged she was hooked on Valium.

Sciorra, now 59, alleges Weinstein barged into her apartment and raped her in late 1993 or early 1994, long after shooting wrapped up. Testifying last week, she rebuffed defense suggestions she was on the drug during the alleged raped, saying she'd weaned herself off by then.

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Leight, a top producer on "SUV," wrote the Weinstein-inspired episode, "I'm Going to Make You a Star," for this season's premiere in September.

In it, the head of a big media studio is arrested after he's accused of raping young actresses and forcing one to watch him masturbate at an audition. In a line evoking what accusers have said of Weinstein, the mogul character tells a victim: "You want this part, don't you?"

In a People magazine interview, Leight took a shot at the legal strategy employed by people like Weinstein, saying: "The first thing these guys do is get women attorneys who don't seem to worry at all about who they're defending."

'DONT ADDRESS HIM BY HIS REAL NAME'

Spilling another big secret of Weinstein's celebrity life, prosecutors revealed that the "Pulp Fiction" producer used Max Poster — derived from his father's first name and mother's maiden name — as an alias when checking into hotels.

Jurors were shown Weinstein's guest profile from the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, which instructs staff: "Always use alias Max Poster for future stays."

Weinstein used the same fake name at his other Beverly Hills home away from home, the Peninsula, and at the DoubleTree in midtown Manhattan.

A note in the DoubleTree's reservation system alerted employees to Poster's true identity. "CELEBRITY HARVEY WEINSTEIN IS THE ACTUAL GUEST," it said. Another note in the system warned: "DONT ADDRESS HIM BY HIS REAL NAME."

Prosecutors say all three hotels were sites of Weinstein's sexual misconduct in 2013. A key accuser has testified that he tried to force her into a threesome at the Montage and raped her both at the Peninsula and DoubleTree.

The Montage is also where model Lauren Marie Young testified this week that Weinstein lured her to his hotel room in February 2013, under the pretense of a career discussion, stripped off his clothes, groped her breast and masturbated.

A Montage executive noted it's common for celebrities to use aliases.

On Twitter, follow Michael Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak and Tom Hays at twitter.com/aptomhays

For more coverage of Harvey Weinstein's trial visit: apnews.com/HarveyWeinstein

Deadly fire hangs over success of top Brazilian soccer club

By DIANE JEANTET and MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — When Marília de Barros Silva heard reports that the popular Brazilian soccer club Flamengo was signing a player for almost 17 million euros (\$18.6 million), she felt sadness — but also resentment.

For a year, she has been trying in vain to reach a settlement with the Rio de Janeiro club after her teenage son Arthur Vinicius died in a fire that engulfed his dormitory at the team's academy for young players.

De Barros Silva says she was incredulous over the amount being paid for the team's new star. She says it dwarfs the amount that she and the public defender's office had been trying to get Flamengo to pay in compensation for the loss of her son, a promising defender who had played for Brazil's under-17 team.

Saturday marked one year since the fire killed 10 of Flamengo's academy players, all between 14 and 16 years old. It was "the worst tragedy" in the team's 124-year history, club president Rodolfo Landim has repeatedly said since.

Against that grim backdrop, Flamengo turned in one of its best seasons in decades. The team won the Rio state championship, its first Brazilian national league championship since 2009 and the prestigious Copa Libertadores in a nail-biting final against Argentina's River Plate. Flamengo hadn't won the South American crown for 38 years.

But while its 2019 success helped the club sign several million-dollar deals for players, it has reached

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compensation agreements with just four of the 10 victims' families. Negotiations with the others seemed stalled as the police investigation into possible homicide charges concluded Friday.

In a country where one of every five Brazilians is a Flamengo fan, de Barros Silva and other parents wonder when justice, and peace, will come.

"It's Flamengo's insensitivity, of turning that page," she said at her humble home in Rio de Janeiro state.

She and other parents were emotionally damaged by the club's lack of empathy, she said. Some didn't even receive a phone call from top executives.

Relatives of the victims gathered outside Flamengo's training center Saturday to light candles in memory of their lost sons, but most were forbidden to enter the facility.

Wedson Cândido de Matos, father of 14-year-old defender Pablo Henrique, had traveled 450 kilometers (280 miles) to join the commemoration and was the only one to be let in, his lawyer said. At the public hearing Friday, de Matos said: "Do you know what I have from my son? Only pain. Only a hole. Flamengo won titles, I got pain. I got a coffin full of ashes."

Documents that emerged shortly after the fire showed that for years the club had flouted city regulations at the training facility, accumulated fines and was targeted by state prosecutors who questioned the treatment given to academy players and the container-like structure in which they were housed. Lawyers for the academy players' families and fire experts have said that the polyurethane used in the construction of the temporary dorms could have fueled the fast-moving blaze.

Flamengo executives say the conditions at the academy have been improved since the tragedy. The club also stresses that it has been making a court-ordered monthly payment of 10,000 reais (\$2,300) to families.

"Flamengo is an immeasurable force. We feel like ants fighting giants," Mariju Maciel, a lawyer representing the family of one of the victims, said during Friday's hearing at Rio's state legislature.

In 2019, Flamengo saw gross revenues soar to 857 million reais (\$200 million) — the most a Brazilian club has earned in a single year — thanks to sponsors and TV rights. It is also making big money with its players. Recent transfers of strikers Vinicius Júnior and Reinier to Spain's Real Madrid reportedly brought the club some 75 million euros (\$82 million).

Such sums allowed the most popular club in Brazil to spend big on new players.

Just days ago, the club reportedly agreed to pay Inter Milan nearly 17 million euros to sign top scorer Gabriel Barbosa, known as Gabigol, who came last year on a loan. Flamengo's most expensive signing in 2019 was Uruguayan midfielder Giorgian de Arrascaeta, who cost nearly 20 million euros (nearly \$22 million).

The team's windfall has, paradoxically, subjected victims' families to accusations of opportunism. Some Flamengo fans have claimed the families are using the tragedy to try to cash in, staining the image of their beloved team in the process.

Flamengo, too, has been targeted. On at least three occasions, fans of rival clubs have shouted things such as "murderous team" during games. The latest incident, during a match in Rio's historic Maracana stadium last month, triggered an investigation by Rio's sports court.

On Twitter, Flamengo's official account posted the names of the youths who died, as well as a picture showing the team and coaching staff gathered in a circle for a minute of silence.

On Thursday, police investigating the Flamengo fire sent their conclusions -- in 13 volumes -- to the state prosecutors' office for review. Prosecutors will evaluate whether to bring charges for homicide or manslaughter, local media reported.

Flamengo's president, Rodolfo Landim, says the club's financial success and compensations for the victims' families shouldn't be conflated.

"These are two entirely distinct processes. One has to do with the damage that we caused to the families, and the other is the economic result of the club," Landim said in an interview that was organized by the club and released on its own YouTube channel.

Landim was joined by one of Flamengo's vice presidents, Rodrigo Dunshee, who said he believed the amount they offered families was satisfactory. "We have a limit," he added.

At the state legislature, where Flamengo CEO Reinaldo Belotti appeared before with lawmakers only after they threatened him with a bench warrant, lawyers for victims' families insisted they hadn't managed to

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sit down with the club since rejecting its compensation offer months ago.

Lawyers said Friday that the parents haven't sued the club because they don't have access to the police investigation.

As Flamengo looks for another sterling season, the relatives are learning to live with their loss.

De Barros Silva misses her son most in the evenings, when she usually found time to speak with him by phone.

"My gaze goes directly to my watch at 8:50 p.m. — the time I used to catch up with him," she said. "Interesting that, a mother's heart."

Associated Press videographers Lucas Dumphreys and Diarlei Rodrigues contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2020. There are 326 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 9, 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

On this date:

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president of the Confederate States of America at a congress held in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1960, Adolph Coors Co. chairman Adolph Coors III, 44, was shot to death in suburban Denver during a botched kidnapping attempt. (The man who killed him, Joseph Corbett, Jr., served 19 years in prison.)

In 1964, the Beatles made their first live American television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," broadcast from New York on CBS.

In 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov, 69, died 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was followed by Konstantin U. Chernenko (chehr-NYEN'-koh).

In 1986, during its latest visit to the solar system, Halley's Comet came closest to the sun (its next return will be in 2061).

In 1995, Former Senator J. William Fulbright died in Washington at age 89.

In 2002, Britain's Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died in London at age 71.

In 2007, Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters in Munich, Germany, that serial numbers and other markings on bombs provided "pretty good" evidence that Iranians were supplying either weapons or technology to Iraqi extremists.

Ten years ago: Appealing for bipartisanship, President Barack Obama sat down with Democrats and Republicans to spur cooperation on job creation, deficit reduction and health care overhaul. First lady Michelle Obama launched her "Let's Move!" campaign against childhood obesity. Iran began enriching uranium to a higher level over the vociferous objections of the U.S. and its allies. Fred Morrison, credited with inventing the Frisbee, died in Monroe, Utah, at age 90.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, meeting at the White House, rallied behind efforts to reach a long-shot diplomatic resolution in Ukraine. More than 2 feet of fresh snow piled up in parts of New England, breaking records set during the Blizzard of 1978. Ed Sabol, the NFL Films founder who revolutionized sports broadcasting, died in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 98.

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One year ago: Virginia Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax called for authorities to investigate sexual assault allegations made against him and repeated his denials that he had ever sexually assaulted anyone; Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam, meanwhile, made his first official appearance since he acknowledged wearing blackface in the 1980s. More than a foot of snow fell in parts of the Pacific Northwest, with snow covering areas that were more accustomed to winter rain.

Today's Birthdays: Television journalist Roger Mudd is 92. Actress Janet Suzman is 81. Nobel Prize-winning author J.M. Coetzee is 80. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl (kyool) (TV: "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 79. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 78. Actor Joe Pesci is 77. Singer Barbara Lewis is 77. Author Alice Walker is 76. Actress Mia Farrow is 75. Former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., is 74. Singer Joe Ely is 73. Actress Judith Light is 71. Rhythm-and-blues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & the Gang) is 69. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 65. Actor Ed Amatrudo is 64. Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe is 63. Jazz musician Steve Wilson is 59. Country singer Travis Tritt is 57. Actress Julie Warner is 55. Country singer Danni Leigh is 50. Actress Sharon Case is 49. Actor Jason George is 48. Actress Amber Valletta is 46. Actor-producer Charlie Day is 44. Rock singer Chad Wolf (Carolina Liar) is 44. Actor A.J. Buckley is 43. Rock musician Richard On (O.A.R.) is 41. Actress Ziyi (zee yee) Zhang is 41. Olympic silver and bronze medal figure skater Irina Slutskaya is 41. Actor Tom Hiddleston is 39. Actor David Gallagher is 35. Actor Michael B. Jordan is 33. Actress Rose Leslie is 33. Actress Marina Malota is 32. Actress Camille Winbush is 30. Actor Jimmy Bennett is 24. Actor Evan Roe (TV: "Madam Secretary") is 20.

Thought for Today: "You can fall in love at first sight with a place as with a person." — Alec Waugh, English author (1898-1981).

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