

Groton Daily Independent

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OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Sunday Extras

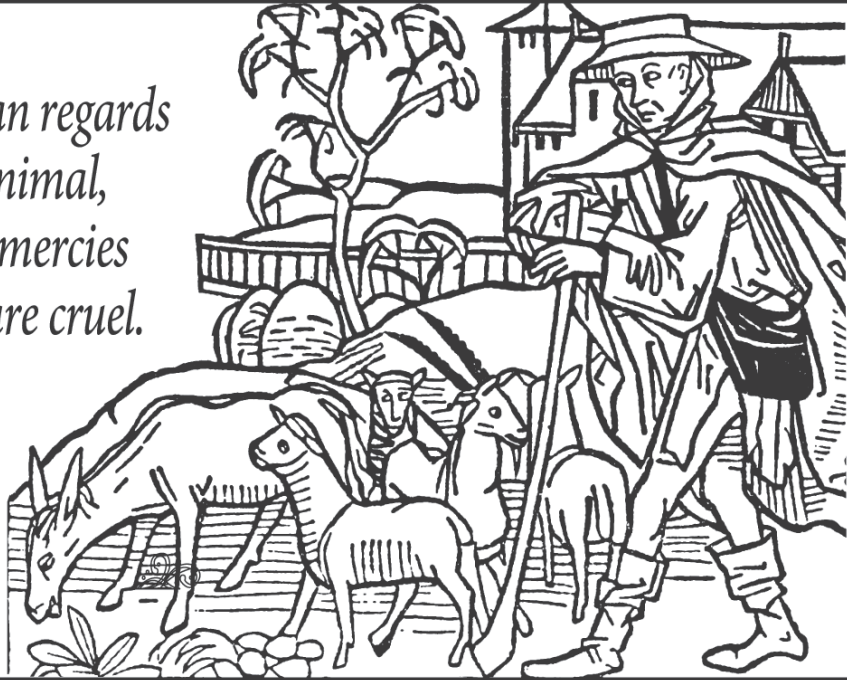


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*A righteous man regards
the life of his animal,
but the tender mercies
of the wicked are cruel.*

PROVERBS 12:10

Detail of
15th-century
woodcut



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The Trump Investigation Must go on!!...



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Mike Stelton
cartoonists.com
@RealCartooner with apologies to Inspector Clouseau and Boris Badenov

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which book could be summarized, "God will hold us accountable for all our actions"? *Daniel, Hosea, Zephaniah, Haggai*

3. In Genesis 28, who had the vision of angels going up and down a ladder reaching into Heaven? *Joseph, Ahab, Ehud, Jacob*

4. What does Paul say is the supreme gift of the spirit to believers? *Faith, Love, Holiness, Eternity*

5. In Genesis 19, where did Lot encounter an angel? *Wilderness spring, City gate, New temple, Tent door*

6. Where did Jesus turn water into wine? *Bethany, Nazareth, Cana, Gethsemane*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Zephaniah; 3) Jacob; 4) Love; 5) City gate; 6) Cana

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Chicken a la King Casserole

Chicken is an almost universal favorite — and especially when served in tasty, easy dishes like this.

- 1½ cups diced cooked chicken breast
- 1 (2.5 ounce) jar sliced mushrooms, drained
- ½ cup frozen peas
- 1½ cups cooked noodles, rinsed and drained
- 1 (10 ¾-ounce) can reduced-fat cream of mushroom soup
- ¼ cup fat-free milk
- 1 (2-ounce) jar diced pimiento, undrained
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

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

2. In a large bowl, combine chicken, mushrooms, peas and noodles. Add mushroom soup, milk, undrained pimiento and parsley flakes. Mix well to combine.

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

• Each serving equals: 241 calories, 5g fat, 23g protein, 26g carb., 440mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 ½ Starch.

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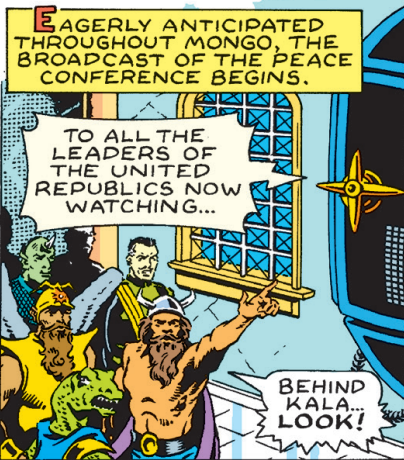
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FLASH GORDON

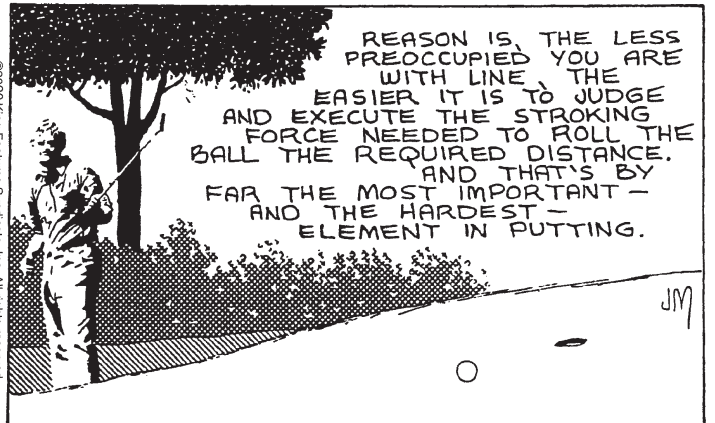
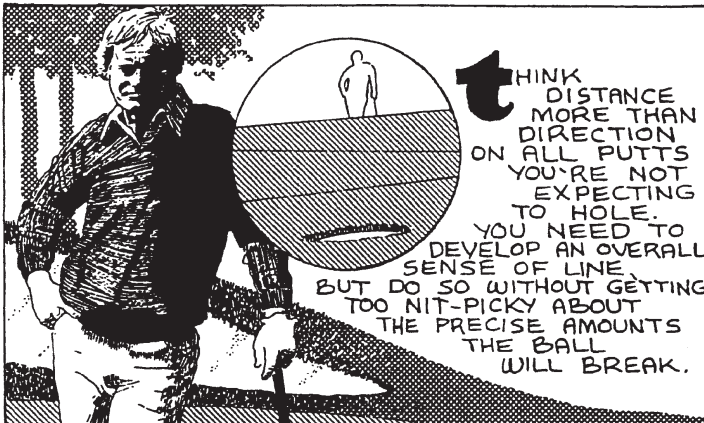
BY JIM KEEFE

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Cancer Treatments Kill Not Cure, Friends Say

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a relative with cancer who is about to begin multiple therapeutic interventions. My friends tell me that all cancer treatments are toxic and kill people instead of curing them, and that I should tell my relative to look into other forms of treatment. What do you suggest I do? — *K.C.*

ANSWER: There are hundreds of different types of cancer, and they vary widely in their capacity to grow and damage the individual, and in their response to treatment. For decades, this has meant mostly surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, but now includes newer treatments, including immune therapy. While not all cancers are curable in everybody, every year brings sometimes incremental, sometimes dramatic improvements in life expectancy for individual cancers. Some cancers that were rapidly fatal even a few years ago are now curable in most cases. Getting the right diagnosis quickly and getting to an expert in treating that cancer are critical to having the best chance of a good outcome.

Treating some cancers remains difficult, and in many cases the treatments have significant side effects. Surgery scars may impair function, and chemotherapy can cause severe symptoms and may permanently affect body systems, as can radiation. It can be very hard on a family member observing these treatments, and if his or her loved one nevertheless succumbs eventually to the cancer, it is understandable to think the suffering the person went through was in vain.

So, while I understand where your friends may be coming from, their well-meaning advice, based on bad

experiences possibly a long time ago, might cause your relative with cancer to delay the potentially lifesaving treatments that are available now. A study published in July 2018 showed that people who use alternative medical treatments for cancer are less likely to be cured and have a shorter life expectancy.

My advice is that you encourage your relative to find the most expert cancer treatment available. It's up to your relative to accept the recommendations of the expert, but delaying the best available treatment in order to consider unproven therapies is likely to result in harm.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have had the same problem forever: I don't understand why buttermilk coffee creamer seems to get outdated faster than regular creamer. Does the butter in it have anything to do with this? — *C.H.*

ANSWER: Buttermilk doesn't have butter in it. It was so named because it was originally made with what was left after separating butter from the unhomogenized cream that had been allowed to ferment with airborne bacteria, making it slightly acidic. Modern cultured buttermilk is made from pasteurized, homogenized milk, usually 1% to 2% fat, and inoculated with healthy bacteria, which makes lactic acid from the sugars in the milk. This acid makes buttermilk resistant to the unhealthy bacteria that causes spoilage. It also causes a slight sour taste, which some people like and others don't.

Commercial heavy cream, and coffee creamers made from heavy cream, have a very long shelf life largely because they are pasteurized at ultra-high temperatures, so they last even longer than buttermilk. The high fat content also retards bacteria growth.

Both buttermilk-based and cream-based creamers will stay good longer than their expiration date. Your nose is very good for telling when it has gone bad.

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. During the Vietnam War, Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler, an Army Special Forces medic, wrote a No. 1 hit song. What was it?

2. How did James Taylor get the title to his "Suite for 20 G"?

3. Name the group that had a hit with "Waterloo."

4. "Everybody's Talkin'" by Harry Nilsson was used in which film?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I know you don't know what I'm going through, standing here looking at you."

Answers

1. "The Ballad of the Green Berets," in 1966. The song has been widely used in movies and television, including "12 Strong," the 2018 film about the Special Forces in Afghanistan.

2. Taylor would be paid \$20,000 as soon as he finished recording the "Sweet Baby James" album. He quickly melded together parts of three different songs to create this one.

3. ABBA, in 1974. The song, written for the Eurovision song contest that year, netted ABBA a win.

4. "Midnight Cowboy," in 1969.

5. "Hurt So Bad," by Little Anthony & The Imperials, in 1964. The song was covered by The Lettermen in 1969 and later by Linda Ronstadt.

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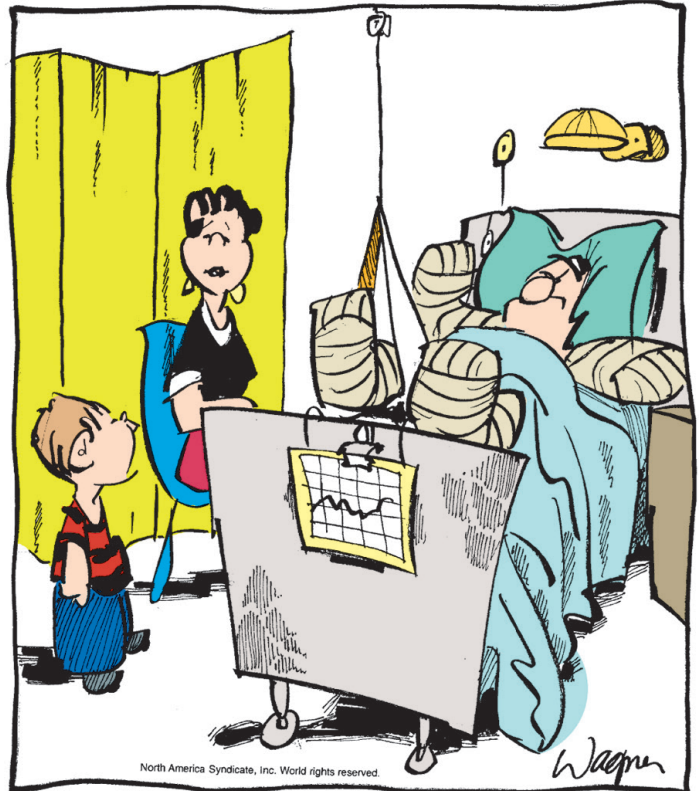
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Waqar}



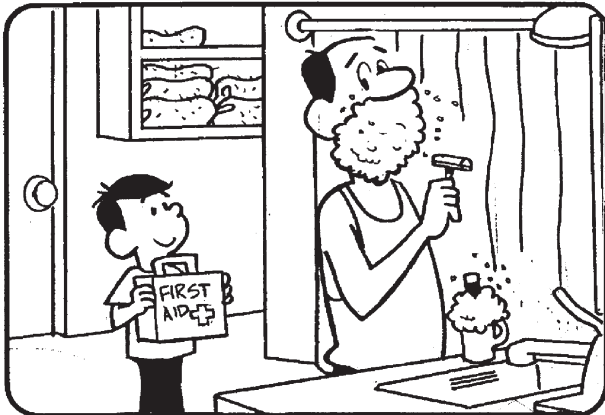
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Waqar

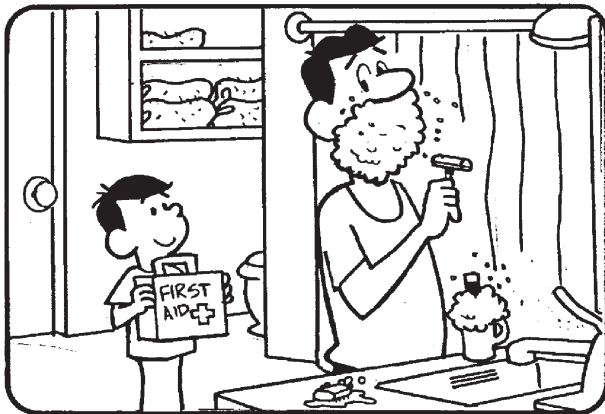
"That was cool, Dad! Just like a Roadrunner cartoon!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Towel is missing. 2. Toilet is added. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Hair is added. 5. Pants are different. 6. Soap is added.



- Lightly spoon flour into your measuring cup. Never pack it down or tap the cup to level. Simply fill and then use the flat edge of a knife to remove the excess back to the original container. It's best to weigh dry goods if possible, for the most consistent results.

- "Here's a delicious recipe that's also beautiful: Homemade sugar scrub! Mix a cup of sugar with a tablespoon of salt and a quarter cup of olive oil. Use in the bath to scrub away rough patches and leave your

skin smooth and hydrated. You can add a drop of perfume or essential oil for scent." — *R.K. in Indiana*

- "It feels like we have less and less time with our doctors, and mine feels that way, too. Before I head to my appointment, I make a list of my top three discussion items and copy it out again for the doctor. When he walks in, I hand him the list so we stay on topic." — *C.E. in Massachusetts*

- Use clean tin cans to make and decorate tiny cakes. They can be used just like a regular cake pan, just grease and dust with flour. Be sure to use only cans that are not lined with anything, because some cans are lined with BPA plastic!

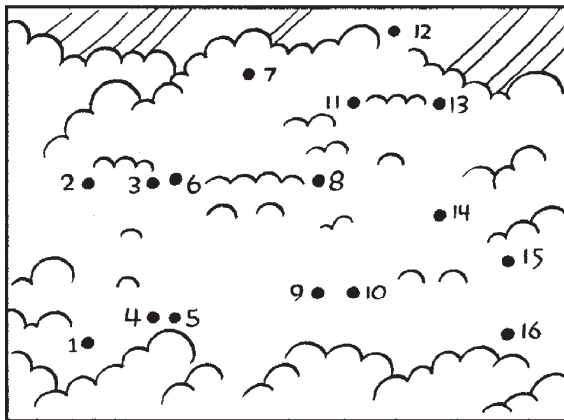
- "I have heard the tip to spray a thread end with hairspray to keep it stiff for threading, but I didn't have any hairspray. I used a touch of hair gel, and it worked too." — *T. in Kentucky*

- "You can reuse the envelopes that come in junk mail and solicitations. I use them to keep coupons together for when I go to the store, and magazine clippings that I save for my daughter." — *M.W. in Alabama*

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

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RIDDLE-DOTS! Connect the dots and find out what the most beautiful things ever built are.

Castles in the air.
Answer:

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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



IT'S TEATIME!

SEE IF you can "urn" an "A" on this vocabulary quiz by finding the letters that are missing from the six words pictured here. They all end with the word URN.

DEFINITIONS:

1. To plow the soil.
2. To stir up vigorously.
3. A color.
4. A temporary stay.
5. Habitually untalkative.
6. Result of overeating.

Illustrated by David Coulson

A CORNY PROBLEM! A squirrel found nine ears of corn in Farmer Brown's barn. Every day, for nine days, he carried three ears away. Why did it take him so long to empty the barn?



Answer: Every day he removed one ear of corn and his own two ears.

FINGER FLICKIN' FUN! Balance a card, with a quarter on top, on the tip of your middle finger. Bet that you can remove the card and leave the coin balanced on your finger, without touching the coin.

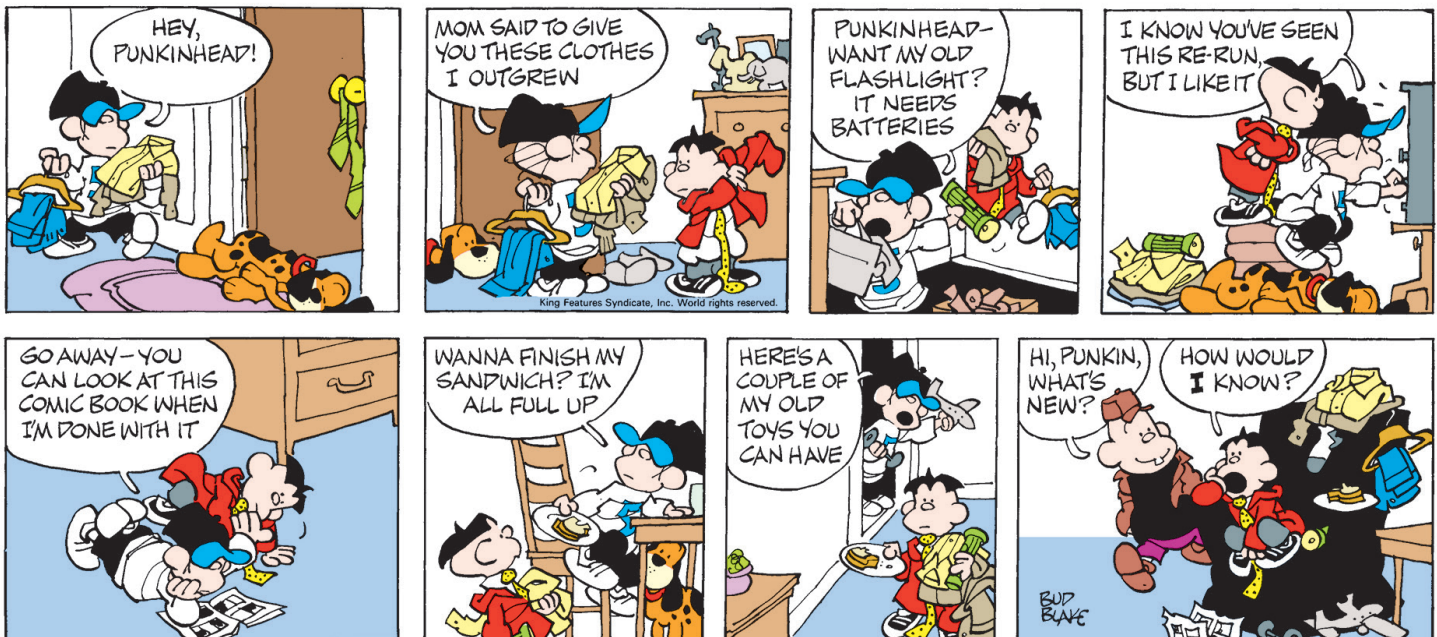
SECRET: With your other hand, snap a finger against the card edge, sending it spinning. The coin will remain on your finger.



Answers: 1. Turn, 2. Churn, 3. Auburn, 4. Sojourn, 5. Tacturn, 6. Heartburn.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Satchel
- 4 Nowhere to be seen
- 8 Visored military cap
- 12 — out a living
- 13 State
- 14 Object of worship
- 15 Have a bug
- 16 Dilute
- 18 Up to
- 20 Finish
- 21 Second letter
- 24 Sponsorship
- 28 Negative aspect
- 32 Took the bus
- 33 Fire residue
- 34 Oodles
- 36 Wager
- 37 Amorphous lump
- 39 Onion rings, e.g.
- 41 Takes to the skies
- 43 Carry on
- 44 "That feels so good!"
- 46 Black board?
- 50 Exemplar of dullness
- 55 Cattle call
- 56 Leading man
- 57 Volcanic flow
- 58 Request
- 59 Floor cleaners
- 60 Gasoline, e.g.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45		46		47	48	49	
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 61 Born
- 22 Twitches
- 40 Society newbie
- 23 Fire-fighting legend Red
- 42 Tool with teeth
- 25 Asian desert
- 45 50 percent
- 26 Mid-month date
- 47 Muscat's land
- 27 Green or Rogen
- 48 Small winning margin
- 28 Slight touches
- 49 Oxen's harness
- 29 Norway's capital
- 50 Water barrier
- 30 "Halt!"
- 51 Berlin's "What'll —?"
- 31 Icelandic poetry
- 52 Potential syrup
- 35 More than just a few
- 53 Greek cross
- 38 Lullaby composer
- 54 56-Across' partner

DOWN

- 1 Suitor
- 2 Related
- 3 Moolah
- 4 Anarchic
- 5 Eggs
- 6 Prepared
- 7 Genealogy chart
- 8 Actress Margot
- 9 "Green" prefix
- 10 "Bam!"
- 11 Hostel
- 17 Genetic stuff
- 19 — Saud

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY

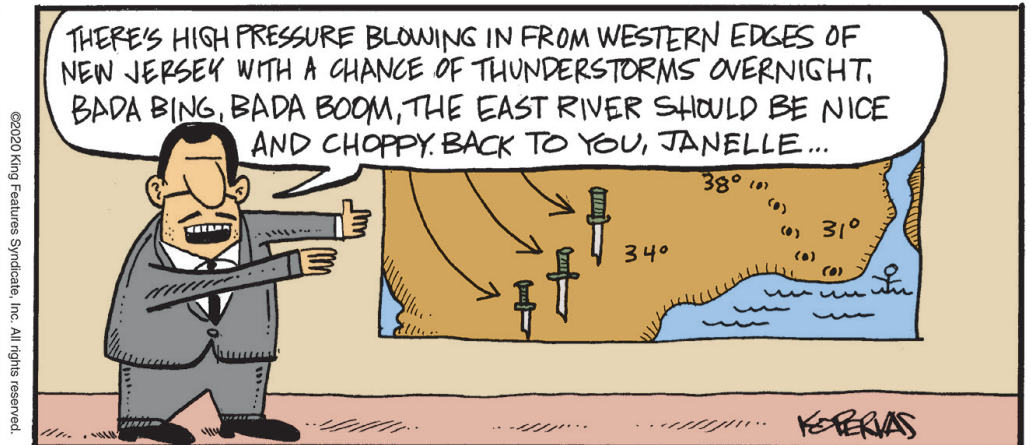


"I hope you're diagnosing something I can afford."

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

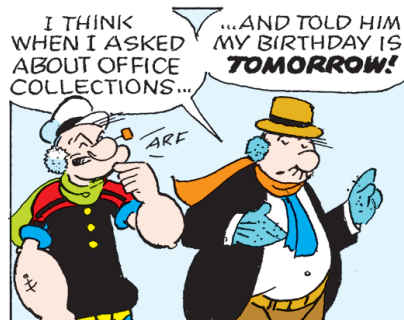
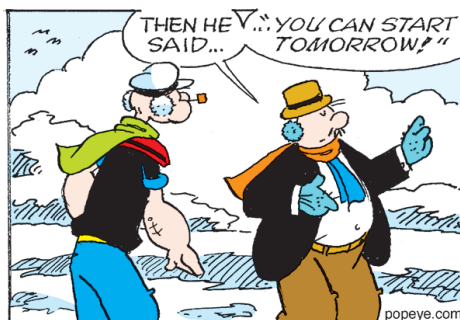
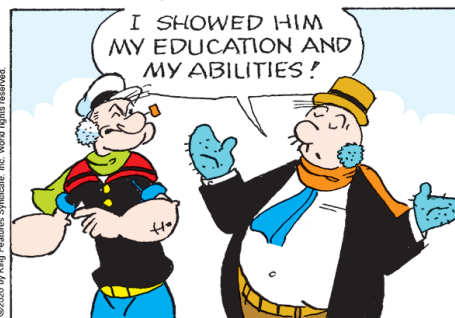
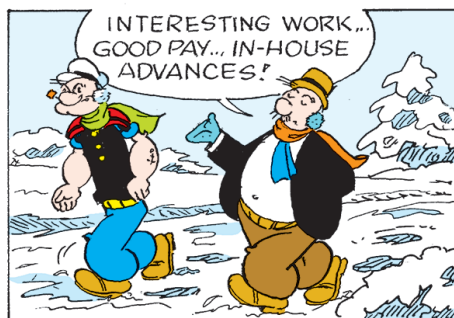
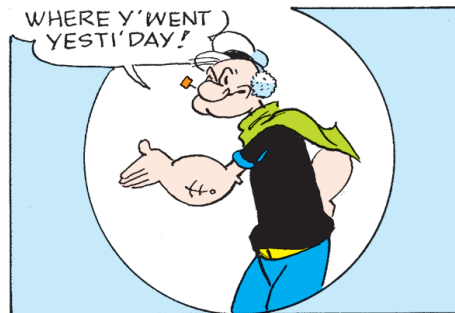
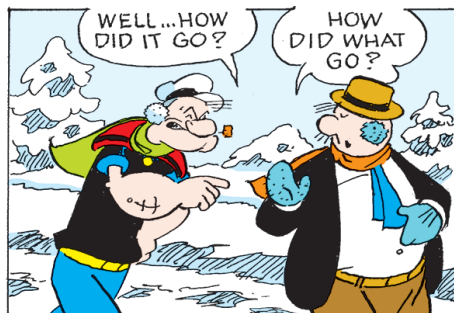
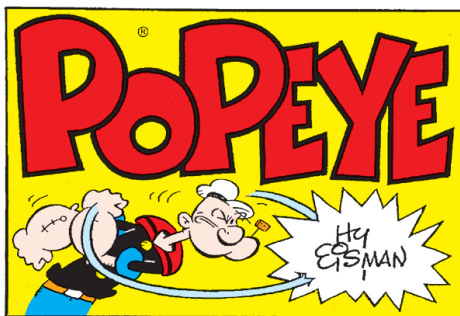
AND NOW...
JIMMY VISCONTI
WITH THE
WISE GUY WEATHER...



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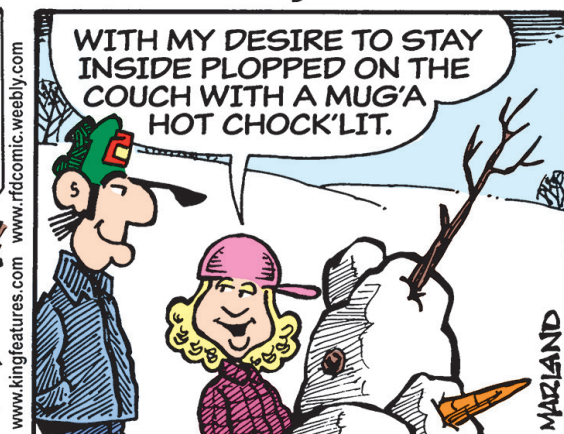
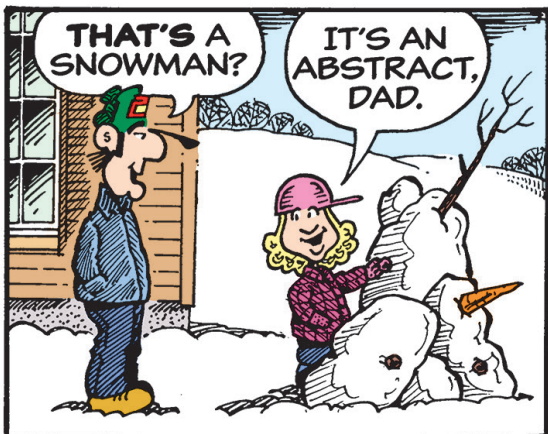
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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www.rfdcomic.weebly.com

MARLAND

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Hal FOSTER'S BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant

Our Story: VAL AND HIS COMPANIONS MAKE A BOLD BREAK FOR FREEDOM, SLOGGING OVER THE SEA OF WEED ON STOLEN SKIDS.



BUT THE WEAPONLESS MEN HAVE NOT GONE FAR BEFORE THREE PURSUING BEAST MEN SWIFTLY OVERTAKE THEM.



VAL BRACES FOR A RESISTANCE WHEN, TO EVERYONE'S ASTONISHMENT, THE BRUTES - THE VERY SAME WHO HAD FIRST CAPTURED THEM - RACE PAST WITH NO SIGN OF HOSTILE INTENT!



"HURRY!" ONE OF THEIR ERSTWHILE CAPTORS ROARS BACK AT THEM. "GRU-ZOR IS ANGRY AND WOULD KILL US ALL! TAKE US AWAY WITH YOU!"

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VAL BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF. "THEY WANT TO JOIN US. THEY HAVE WEAPONS - WE DON'T. I SUGGEST WE HONOR THEIR WISHES."

NEXT:
Dinner guests

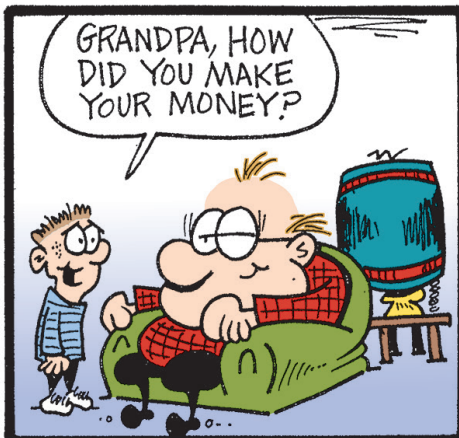


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Gianni
12-14-08

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Pickering

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Less Money Despite Social Security Increase

I'll be worse off financially this year, despite the Social Security increase we just received. I won't be the only one.

For the average recipient who receives \$1,460 per month, that 1.6% equates to a gain of \$23.36 per month. Medicare went up \$9.10 to \$144.60, so that drops the extra cash to \$14.26.

Except my Medicare supplement went up \$42 and the drug plan went up as well. Rent went up \$20 per month, justified by management with the "big increase" in Social Security we all got.

With so many of us in the same situation, we need to think of ways to save money:

If you take a daily newspaper and pay for it by the month, calculate whether you'll save money if you pay for it by the year. If you have a tablet, ask if they offer a digital subscription

at a lower rate. Making yearly payments might also work for your car or homeowner insurance.

Call the local food bank about getting free food. Don't worry about running into someone you know. Just make the call. Whatever you get from them you won't have to buy at the store.

Check into "senior helper" groups in your area. These are people who volunteer to take care of home repairs for free, instead of paying a plumber \$150 per hour.

If you have a credit card, make payments on time. Check AARP's member discounts. Buy at Goodwill. Ask for lower prices. Buy generic groceries. Get serious about clipping coupons. Ask about senior discount day.

If you love movies, consider that the price of Netflix for one month is the same as seeing one movie at a theater.

Check online for a FreeCycle in your area (freecycle.org) and get things you need or want for free.

And always, always ask for your senior discount.

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1. The New York Yankees set a record in 2019 for most players with double-digit home runs for the season (14)? Who of the 14 had the lowest double-digit total?

2. With how many different teams did Reggie Jackson lead the American League in home runs for a season?

3. In 2018, Eric Dungey became Syracuse's all-time passing leader (9,340 yards). Who had been the school's leader?

4. Golden State's Stephen Curry set a record in 2018 for most consecutive games with at least five 3-pointers (seven). Who had held the mark?

5. In 2019, Mika Zibanejad became the second player in New York Rangers history to record eight points through his first two games of the season. Who was the first to do it?

6. When was the last time before 2019 that the U.S. men's national soccer team lost to Canada?

7. Name either of the two heavy-

weight boxers who fought for the WBA title in 1965 after Muhammad Ali was stripped of the belt for having a rematch with Sonny Liston?

Answers

1. Cameron Maybin, with 11.

2. Three — the Oakland A's (twice), the New York Yankees and the California Angels.

3. Ryan Nassib, who threw for 9,190 yards (2009-12).

4. Dallas' George McCloud in 1995-96, with six consecutive games. (Curry set a new record of nine straight games in 2019).

5. Rod Gilbert, in the 1976-77 season.

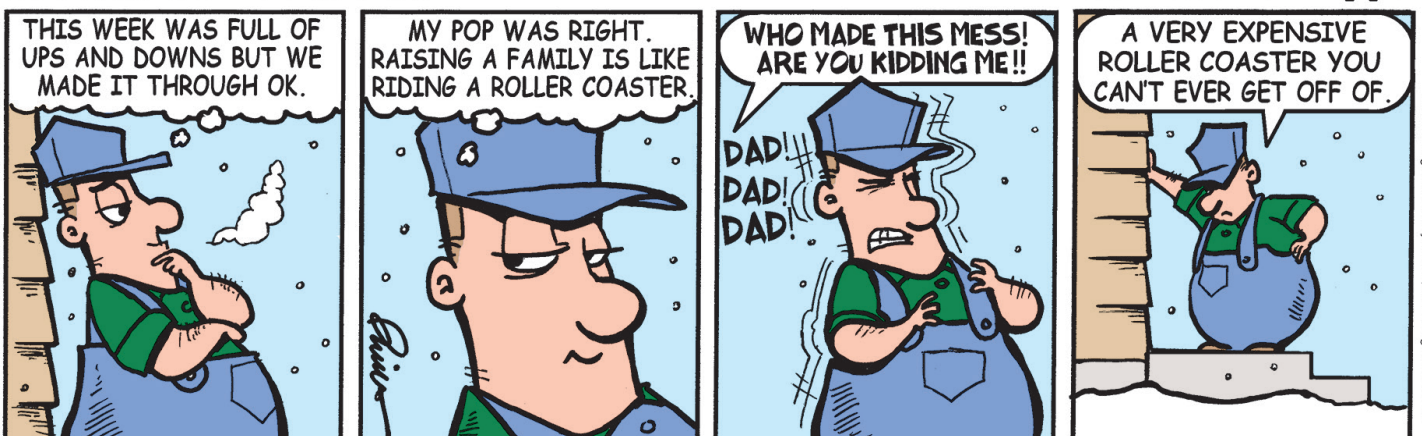
6. It was 1985.

7. Ernie Terrell and Eddie Machen, with Terrell winning the title.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



An Ounce of Prevention

As the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This is a concept that is often lost in Congress, however, this week was the exception. Legislation unanimously passed the House that will work to protect our borders and our number one industry – agriculture.

On Monday, the House passed S. 2107, Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019, which authorizes additional U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agricultural specialists to help intercept contraband and quarantine items to prevent African Swine Fever, an animal disease affecting only pigs and with no human health or food safety risks, and other foreign agricultural diseases that could devastate U.S. agriculture.

CBP's and USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are tasked with preventing foreign introduction of pests into the country. One common prevention method is canine inspections from highly trained beagles that look for any plant or meat material that could be a potential carrier of a disease. Known as the "beagle brigade," these dogs can quickly sniff out any contraband that poses a threat.

To understand the importance of keeping our borders secure from outside disease, look no further than the devastation of African Swine Fever in China. According to Rabo Research, even conservative estimates of losses suggest that the fatal hog disease is impacting an estimated 150-200 million pigs, a loss larger than total U.S. pork production and equivalent to Europe's annual pork supply.

This has resulted in a tremendous opportunity for the growing pork industry in South Dakota and throughout the country. U.S. pork exports posted new volume and value records in 2019, reaching nearly \$7 billion, according to data released by USDA. Pork exports soared to 282,145 metric tons in December 2019, up 34% year-over-year and surpassing the previous high by 9%.

Growth in the pork industry has had a ripple effect across the state. As livestock move into a county, there is a noticeable basis bump for corn and beans. According to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, hogs consume 23 million bushels of corn annually. That's value-added demand right here in South Dakota.

U.S. agriculture has proven time and time again that we are the most efficient producers in the world. Producers across the state do their best to maintain a healthy herd and we must do what we can to keep emerging threats at bay. Today, African Swine Fever represents a huge opportunity to provide safe, affordable pork to consumers in China and around the globe, but also a threat to our domestic pork industry. We must do what we can to secure our points of entry for the sake of our producers and domestic food security.

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Improving Life in Rural America

The majority of South Dakota is rural. We're a large state with a small population—we average just under 11 people per square mile. Comparatively, New York's population density is nearly 40 times that, with approximately 421 people living per square mile. In New York City, the population jumps to more than 26,000 people per square mile. As Americans, we celebrate our country's diversity and differences. But it also means we have unique challenges in different parts of the country. Rural and urban areas have different needs. Working as a senator from one of the most rural states, I've taken steps to shine a light on issues important to rural America and make sure the needs of rural communities are at the forefront of policy discussions in Washington.

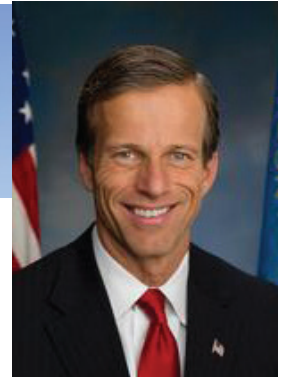
I recently partnered with Senators Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) to form the Bipartisan Senate Rural Working Group. Our group's focus is to highlight what's working in rural parts of the country, listen to people from our states about their concerns and find commonsense solutions to the unique challenges facing rural areas. My Senate office has been working on issues in rural areas since I took office, but collaborating with senators from other states and other political parties about what's working and not working in their states can help us find the best possible solutions for South Dakota.

Our working group recently held our first meeting with groups that represent a wide range of rural priorities and topics. Our plan is to continue to partner with these groups so we can address the most challenging issues facing rural America, including reliable energy sources, adequate rural water systems, safe roads and bridges and access to services such as high-speed internet, essential air service, quality education, health care and lending services. We'll also focus on affordable rural housing, veterans' issues and tribal issues in rural areas.

While it may seem like a lot to tackle—and it's true, there's plenty of work to do—many of these issues are interconnected. We can work to expand broadband and create incentives for medical professionals to set up practices in rural areas, but we must also make sure local businesses have access to capital so they can grow and provide jobs for community members who will raise families in our small towns. We need to create opportunities for the next generation so that they have the ability to make a good living and raise their own families in their hometown.

South Dakota is the best place in the world to live and raise a family. We want to make sure it remains the best place in the world so our grandkids, great-grandkids and great-great grandkids get to enjoy it like we do. The success of rural America is vital for our state's long-term economic health, as well as the prosperity of our nation. I'm looking forward to partnering with the other members of the working group to make changes that will benefit South Dakota.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A Tale of Two Economies

It's no secret that the agriculture economy has seen better days. Bad weather, low commodity prices, and protracted trade disputes have created an untenable situation for many folks in the heartland. What's flyover country to some is home to others, particularly those who help feed the world, and I'll never stop fighting for them or their way of life.

In 2018, we passed a pro-farmer, pro-agriculture farm bill that made meaningful improvements to existing agriculture policy, including by strengthening critical safety net programs. It also created new policy like my Soil Health and Income Protection Program, a pilot program for states like South Dakota that will serve as a short-term alternative to the popular Conservation Reserve Program.

As important as farm bills are, agriculture policy doesn't begin and end once the bill is signed into law. It would be a lot easier if that were true, but the issues that are important to the agriculture community can evolve quickly, and it requires policymakers to stay focused and forward-thinking.

One of the most important things we can do to help the agriculture economy thrive is to continue negotiating good trade deals. I was a strong advocate for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), a 21st century update to the decades-old North American Free Trade Agreement. USMCA, which was signed into law in January, maintains and expands access to the two biggest markets for American agriculture products and provides certainty about what these markets will look like in the foreseeable future.

The president also recently signed phase one of a trade agreement the administration has been negotiating with China. While we must ensure China maintains its end of the deal – something I'm committed to doing – increased U.S. agriculture exports would be a boon to producers in South Dakota and around the country.

In what can best be described as a tale of two economies, the agriculture economy has lagged far behind the broader U.S. economy. In fact, today's economy is one of the strongest I've ever seen, thanks, in large part, to policies like tax reform.

The unemployment rate is near its lowest level in 50 years and has been below 4 percent for the past 12 months. The labor force participation rate – a reflection of the number of people who have found a job or decided to start looking again – is at its highest level in seven years. The economy has created an average of 171,000 jobs per month over the last year. Wages are growing. The stock market is up, which means 401ks and pensions are, too. If you could create a blueprint for a booming economy, this would be it.

While this is good news for American workers, they're merely words on a page for producers who are worried about what steps they might have to take to make ends meet ahead of what could be another difficult planting season. Others are anxious that further trade disputes could close or further restrict market access around the globe. They crave certainty in what has been a highly uncertain time.

Farming and ranching is a tough business, and it always seems like the hardest day is yet to come. Thankfully, South Dakota is full tough men and women who always seem to make it look a lot easier than it is, especially during hard times like these. That's why we can't let the strong economy overshadow what's happening in farm country or cause lawmakers to overlook this reality.

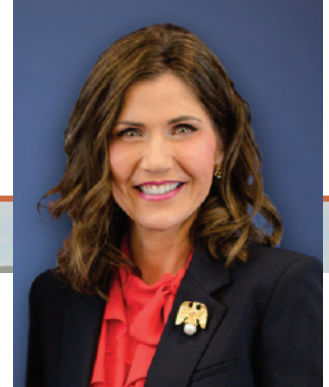
As someone who is proud to represent America's heartland and the hardworking people who help feed the world, farm country's priorities are my priorities, and I stand ready to fight for them day in and day out.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Driving Economic Growth, Protecting Local Control

South Dakota is the best state in the nation to do business. We have a lot of great things going for us – low taxes, low regulations, a strong work ethic – but we must constantly work to expand our horizons and advance our communities. We’re aggressively pursuing new industries and businesses that create good-paying jobs for our kids and grandkids. As we do that, we must also take a close look at existing issues that may hold back progress.

One of those problems is the conditional use permitting process – a sometimes long, cumbersome process that can take months, even years, to complete. This uncertainty is unfair to everyone involved.

Last month, I announced a plan that creates a fairer, more predictable process for businesses and families who want to create or expand their operations in South Dakota. Let me take you through some of the details of the legislation.

My proposal protects local control. This is incredibly important to me, as I believe the best decisions are made at the local level. Folks who live in a community should have a say in what is developed, so my bill establishes a majority vote process that ensures the local community gets to make decisions, not a fringe few. Nothing is changed in my legislation regarding public input or public notice.

Because local control is so important, my bill does not take away existing zoning standards adopted by a county, nor does it take away local ability to appeal a conditional use permit. Rather, the bill provides added clarity on how a county may adopt special permitted use criteria. Counties that require zoning may either follow the conditional use permit or allow certain projects that meet county established criteria to be approved by a special permitted use. The special permitted use is an existing county option.

Simply put, I want to set up a fair, certain, and reliable system for everyone - both community members and economic developers. We want to roll out the red carpet, not the red tape for those who want to create or expand their business.

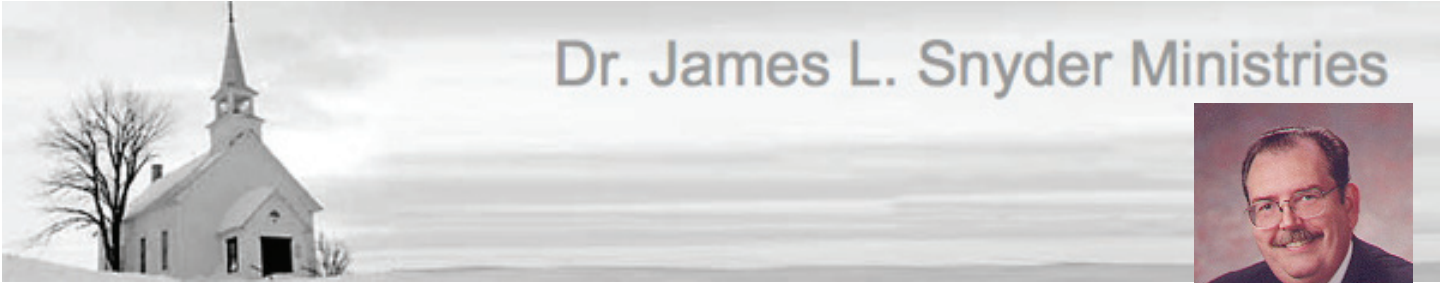
While attending a national governor’s meeting in early February, I learned this problem is widespread.

Douglas Peterson, the CEO at S&P Global, said the thing that most frustrates companies, financial institutions, designers, and architects is the permitting process. Diane Leopold, the executive Vice President of Dominion Energy, echoed Peterson’s sentiments and said we need “consistency of process.”

To ensure economic progress is possible for our communities, this legislation is critical. I look forward to working with your legislators in the coming weeks to make sure our communities are equipped to open their doors to projects and industries that keep our kids in South Dakota for generations to come.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



I Sure Miss My Old Typewriter

I was going through my office the other day looking for something, and then I saw it for the first time in many years. It was my old typewriter.

Most people today have no idea what the typewriter is. I remember, however, my very first typewriter. I was so excited to get it and begin writing with it. I wrote a bunch of poems on that typewriter, and I sure wish I had copies of those poems.

Up until I got my typewriter, I was writing everything by hand, which can get very tiring after a while. There were typewriters in my school, and I went to a class to learn how to use a typewriter. However, I had no typewriter at home.

That Christmas, my parents surprised me with my very own typewriter. I was so excited about it, and I spent a lot of time typing nonsense. I used that typewriter for many years, and it was quite a companion with me.

Then I decided to upgrade to an electric typewriter. That was a significant upgrade for me. An afterthought: I wished I would've kept that first typewriter. When I got the electric typewriter, I could type faster than I was ever able to type before. I could not keep enough paper in the typewriter while typing.

Using those typewriters, you put in one sheet at a time, but since I knew nothing better, it was a wonderful thing. I went through a lot of paper.

In those old typewriters, what you typed was exactly what you got. If you mistyped a word, it was mistyped. I cannot remember how many times I yanked the paper out of the typewriter, put in a new piece and started typing all over again.

The thing so exciting was if I wanted several copies of what I was typing, I could use carbon paper between each page. What I typed on the first page was typed on the second and third pages. That sure was exciting because now I had copies of what I was typing.

The problem was, when I made a typo on the first page, it went all the way through to the last page. You could not fool those carbon copies. What was on one was precisely on the other.

I was thinking about that the other day and was wondering how I used up a forest of trees just learning to type.

That typewriter was a friend of mine, and we worked like a well-oiled machine. The thing about that typewriter, it never tried to correct me. It always went along with what I said and wrote — and never talked back to me. I was actually in charge.

I could always tell where my typewriter was because it was where I put it, and it never moved. To move that typewriter would have been a big job, and so it always remained on my desk in my room exactly where I put it. I could not take it traveling with me; I had to use it where it was.

At the time, I thought I had no better friend than that old typewriter of mine. To look at it now, I kinda smile as I remember how things have changed.

I was writing my first book, typing each page, when I learned about this new thingamajig called a computer. Well, I was not going to get anything modern. I was going to do things the old way. After all, Ernest Hemingway did all his typing on a typewriter.

The more I learned about these computers, the more interested I became. According to the people I was talking to, I could increase my output 100 times faster. I initially did not believe that.

Finally, halfway through that first book, I decided to switch over to a computer. Those first computers

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had no hard drive, so you had to put a floppy disk in to run any program that you might be using. You also had to save what you were writing to a floppy disk.

I set that new computer up in my office and started fiddling around with it to try to understand how it worked. Much to my surprise, the more I fiddled, the more I liked the music I was hearing.

I did not have to use paper until the manuscript was completed and I could print it out on a printer. If I made a typo, I could correct it right there on the screen, no problem.

Getting adjusted to it was difficult for me. I remember the first chapter I did and worked very hard to complete, but I forgot to save it on a disk and lost that whole chapter. I was a little provoked because my old typewriter would never have done that!

Through the years, I have regularly upgraded my computers to the point where I do not have to do much typing anymore. I can dictate into my computer and see words appear on the screen.

Looking at that old typewriter, I thought of what Solomon once said. "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Maybe the way I do certain things today has changed, but the message is always the same. Techniques change, but words never will.



California energy firm will turn S.D. farm wastes into usable natural gas

By: Nick Lowrey

A new industry launching in South Dakota will use manure from dairy farms to generate usable natural gas, creating a new income stream for some South Dakota farmers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions along the way.

California-based renewable energy company Brightmark Energy announced plans on Feb. 5 to capture, refine and sell methane gas rising off the decaying manure produced at three dairy farms in Minnehaha County near Sioux Falls. The project could be the first of many renewable natural gas projects built at South Dakota dairy and hog farms and is being driven by rising demand for cleaner, more sustainable energy, experts say.

The Brightmark Energy project will collect manure from nearly 12,000 dairy cows at the Boadwine, Pioneer and Moody County dairy farms. The manure will be placed in large, oxygen-free tanks and, essentially, left to rot. One of the byproducts of rotting manure is methane gas, a major component of the natural gas already piped to thousands of South Dakota homes. Brightmark expects to harvest enough of the gas each year to cover the annual average energy needs of more than 2,400 homes, based on average energy consumption as reported by the Energy Information Administration.

"Basically what we're doing is, we're taking the manure and putting it in a process that is highly efficient and environmentally friendly ... so we can use (methane) for heating, cooking, powering cars, etcetera that otherwise would just end up not being utilized and create a greenhouse gas impact," said Bob Powell, CEO of Brightmark Energy.

Methane gas traps heat in the earth's atmosphere at a far greater rate than carbon dioxide, making it a significant contributor to global warming.

Capturing methane and burning it to heat homes or to fuel trucks can significantly reduce the impact that concentrated animal feeding operations and landfills can have on climate change, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Once filtered, the manure-derived methane is essentially the same gas that is already used as fuel at homes and businesses across South Dakota. Brightmark's plan is to pump the gas collected from the dairies directly into an existing interstate natural gas pipeline system located near the farms.

Exactly how Brightmark will inject its gas into the pipeline hasn't been worked out yet, Powell said. The project is still at least 18 months away from producing any gas but there are really only two options: connecting a pipeline from the collection sites to the interstate pipeline or loading the gas into pressurized



Brightmark Energy, a California-based company specializing in repurposing waste products, is hoping to use anaerobic digesters to harvest natural gas from the manure generated by these and other cows at the Boadwine Dairy in South Dakota. Demand for gas derived from renewable sources such as cow manure has surged over the past decade thanks to federal and state regulations aimed at promoting cleaner fuels. Photo: Submitted

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tanks and trucking it to a pipeline terminal.

For Lynn Boadwine, majority owner of the Boadwine, Pioneer and Moody County dairies, the chance to turn a small profit from a potentially harmful animal byproduct was an opportunity he did not want to miss. But just as important, he said, is the potential to produce a cleaner fertilizer that can be used to help grow food for his dairy cows.

Part of the methane harvesting process keeps manure under heat for long periods of time which can kill harmful bacteria. There is also a chance that keeping the manure contained in closed tanks while it decomposes will help reduce the odors generated by each dairy, Boadwine said.

"We have done a lot of things around sustainability and environmental stewardship just in an effort to survive," Boadwine said. "We're just trying to do the right thing, whether it's from working on things with soils to proper nutrient management. So this, for us, is the next step."

Turning wastes into energy

Manure is a natural byproduct of livestock operations that must be handled with care as it carries the potential for environmental damage but also serves as a valuable form of fertilizer for crops.

The three dairy farms operated by Boadwine produce roughly 55.6 million gallons of waste combined each year.

The manure is pumped from the barns into large holding lagoons before it is distributed as fertilizer onto nearby farm fields once or twice a year. The process is regulated and monitored by the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources. But one of the problems with the system is that as the manure sits in the storage lagoons, it creates methane that escapes into the atmosphere.

In the spring or summer of 2020, Brightmark Energy will begin building a set of large covered tanks known as anaerobic digesters at Boadwine's farms. Manure will be pumped into the digesters, which are kept as oxygen-free as possible. The result is an ideal environment for microorganisms called methanogens to become active.

As the name suggests, methanogens produce methane as a byproduct of digestion of organic material. Methanogens actually play a key role in the decomposition of almost all organic material. Because they produce so much methane, methanogens are a big reason why landfills and animal agriculture are considered contributors to climate change.

In the closed environment of an anaerobic digester, methane can be captured before it escapes into the atmosphere. Brightmark expects to collect around 217,000 million British Thermal Units worth of renewable gas each year from the digesters on Boadwine's farms, or roughly enough energy to power 2,411 average U.S. households for a year. The final step in the gas collection process includes filtering and pressurizing the gas to meet pipeline specifications, Powell said.

Boadwine's farms, meanwhile, get what amounts to royalty payments for hosting the digesters and for providing the raw material needed to create the gas. Neither Boadwine nor Powell was willing to discuss how much the farms would be paid for the use of their manure, though Boadwine noted the financial



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:

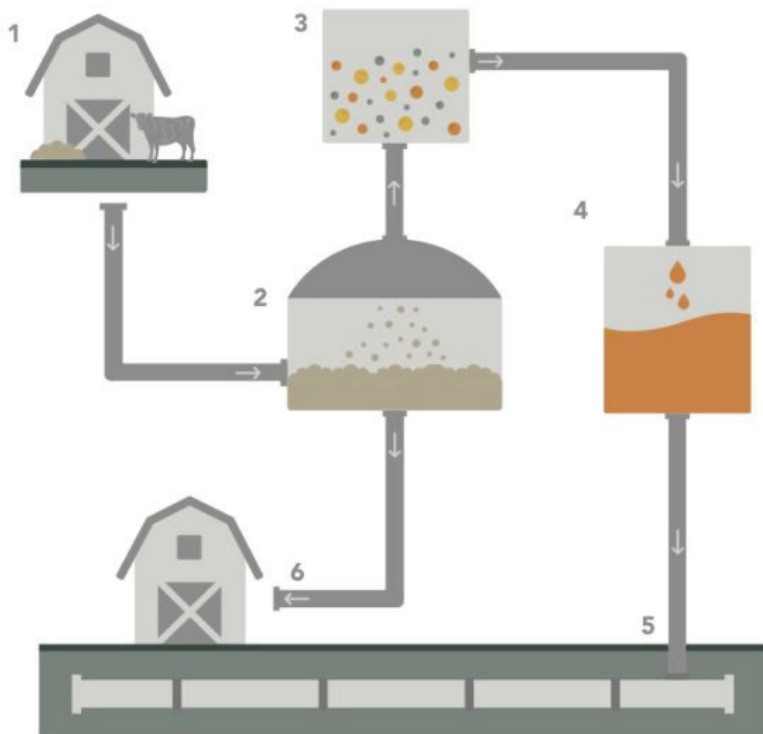
Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

incentive was only a small part of his decision to work with Brightmark.

The farms also get to keep the nutrient-rich solids left in the digesters after the methanogens have finished their work. Those solids will then be used as fertilizer to grow crops used to feed each dairy's cattle, Boadwine said.

"It's a huge circular value to us," Boadwine said of the gas project. "It's another way of extracting and using a byproduct out of our waste stream."

South Dakota's massive agricultural industry could prove fertile ground for the renewable gas industry. As of October 2019, the state was home to 452 permitted CAFOs, or concentrated animal feeding operations, that were allowed to house up to 9.6 million animals. Of those CAFOs, 47 were dairies housing about 145,000 cows and 142 were hog farms housing about 750,000 animals.



BME Brightmark Energy

brightmarkenergy.com

How Renewable Natural Gas is Made

- 1 Dairy, food, animal and other organic waste are collected from the farm.
- 2 Dairy waste is processed by the digester which releases biogas/methane.
- 3 Biogas is captured in the digester.
- 4 Biogas is then processed into Renewable Natural Gas.
- 5 The Renewable Natural Gas is injected into interstate pipelines.
- 6 Remaining digestate (90% of original product) is turned into commercial fertilizer or given back to the farm.

This diagram provided by Brightmark Energy shows the basics of how methane generated by cow manure and other organic waste can be harvested and sold as a clean, renewable fuel source.



Lynn Boadwine, majority owner of Boadwine, Pioneer and Moody County dairies

"We have done a lot of things around sustainability and environmental stewardship just in an effort to survive. We're just trying to do the right thing, whether it's from working on things with soils to proper nutrient management. So this, for us, is the next step."

-- Lynn Boadwine, South Dakota dairy operator

Renewable gases a growing industry

Collecting usable gas from manure or even food waste isn't a new idea. European countries in particular have taken a keen interest in what has been dubbed "renewable natural gas," a market driven by high natural gas prices and the need to avoid importing gas from countries such as Russia. There are more than 4,000 renewable gas capture facilities in Germany, according to the USDA.

Cities in the U.S. have found several ways to profit from harvesting methane from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities. Sioux Falls, for example, has received more than \$17 million from a deal to sell methane generated by the city landfill to a POET Biorefining ethanol

plant in Chancellor, S.D.

Still, renewable natural gas collection has been slow to catch on in the U.S., in part because natural gas mined thousands of feet below the earth's surface is cheap and easy to get domestically. The equipment needed to collect and process methane from animal and food waste, meanwhile, can be expensive. Large landfill gas collection projects can cost tens of millions of dollars, said David Cox, director of operations for the national Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas, which advocates for the expansion of renewable gas production.

Powell wouldn't provide an estimate for what Brightmark expects to spend on the gas collection systems at Boadwine's farms. Such systems can cost anywhere from \$500,000 to \$5 million, depending on the operation's size, according to the USDA national Cooperative Extension Service.

Demand for renewable gas skyrocketed in 2014. That year, the EPA included renewable natural gas on its list of cellulosic biofuels that can be used to meet the federal Renewable Fuel Standard. In 2020, the RFS is set to require that about 20 billion gallons of the nation's transportation fuel come from renewable sources such as corn ethanol. Renewable natural gas can be used to fuel vehicles such as buses and garbage trucks, Cox said. Today, as much as 95% of the 590-million-gallon cellulosic biofuel production standard is provided by renewable natural gas, Cox said.

State-level efforts to address climate change, such as California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, are starting to play a bigger role in renewable gas development, Cox said. Under the California law, utilities and businesses can buy credits from renewable gas producers, such as Brightmark, as long as the gas they produce is injected into an interstate pipeline system that eventually connects to California, Powell said.

California is Brightmark's biggest market for renewable gas. Customers in California can either pay Brightmark directly for gas out of a pipeline or they can buy credits from Brightmark that will pay for renewable gas production in far flung places such as South Dakota as a way to offset the consumer's use of fossil-based gas. Brightmark also takes advantage of federal renewable energy tax credits in order to make a profit, Powell said.

One of the biggest advantages of renewable natural gas is that it doesn't need expensive new infra-

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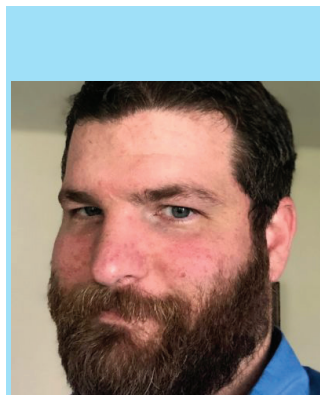


Anaerobic digesters, such as those pictured here, provide an ideal environment for microorganisms called methanogens to digest manure and produce methane that can be harvested, filtered and sold as natural gas. Three Sioux Falls-area dairy farms will become home to similar digesters within the next two years. Photo: Submitted

structure to be sold to consumers, said Emily O'Connell, director of energy market policy for the American Gas Association. The utility companies that own existing natural gas pipelines actually are looking forward to being able to sell renewable gas to interested customers at a higher rate than traditional natural gas, she said.

Growing demand for renewable gas has left Brightmark and other companies hopeful of expanding their renewable gas footprint in South Dakota. Brightmark is already working with operators of several other dairy and hog CAFOs in an effort to capture more gas, Powell said.

"You have the opportunity to have a project in South Dakota and have folks in the state of California help support farming communities because they value renewable natural gas more than regular natural gas," Powell said.



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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Groton Area boys pull out thriller win over Moberidge-Pollock

Groton Area overcame a game-long deficit and rallied at the end from the free throw to line to edge past Moberidge-Pollock in boys' basketball action, 57-54. It was part of a double header played in Groton on Saturday.

Moberidge-Pollock jumped out to a 4-0 lead and held a 14-point advantage at one point at 25-22. Moberidge-Pollock led at the end of the first quarter, 16-6. Groton Area closed to within three at halftime, 29-26, but Moberidge-Pollock would regain a 10-point lead, 39-29. Moberidge-Pollock led at the end of the third quarter, 42-35. Groton Area rallied to tied the game at 43 with 5:40 left in the game and then took its first lead with 3:22 left at 44-43. A minute later, Moberidge-Pollock was back on top, 47-44. Groton Area took the lead with 1:29 left, 49-47. Groton Area had a four-point lead, 54-50, but Caden Halsey of Moberidge-Pollock was fouled while attempting a three-pointer, he made all three free throws and it was 54-53 with 10 seconds left in the game. Moberidge-Pollock would foul and Groton Area made just enough free throws for the win, 57-54.

In the fourth quarter, Groton Area was 12 of 17 from the free throw line and Moberidge-Pollock was eight of 15.

Brodyn DeHoet led the Tigers with 21 points, 14 rebounds, three assists and three seals. Kaden Kurtz had 14 points and two assists. Cade Guthmiller had eight points, three rebounds, three assists, one steal and one block. Jonathan Doeden had six points, four rebounds and one assist. Lane Tietz had five points and one steal. Isaac Smith made a three-pointer, Austin Jones had two rebounds and one steal, Tristan Traphagen had one assist and Jayden Zak had one block.

Groton Area made nine of 17 field goals, six of 17 three-pointers and 21 of 32 free throws off of Moberidge-Pollock's 24 team fouls, had 23 rebounds, 12 turnovers, 10 assists, six steals and two block shots.

Moberidge-Pollock made 19 of 39 field goals for 49 percent and was 13 of 20 from the line for 65 percent off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls. Zane Reinert led Moberidge-Pollock with 13 points followed by Caden Halsey with 11, Cayden Eisemann 10, Reese Cerney six, Bryston Geohring six, Trace Cerney five and Braden Goehring three.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 38-30. Scoring for Groton Area: Chandler Larson 9, Lane Tietz 8, Isaac Smith 6, Tate Larson 4, Wyatt Hearnen 3, Jayden Zak 3, Tristan Traphagen 3, Lucas Simons 2.

Scoring for Moberidge-Pollock: Uriah Sitting Dog 12, Gavin Reinert 5, Brady Bauer 4, Ashton Pfitzer 4, Caelan McCollam 4, Kobe Good Shield 1.

The Lady Tigers lost a hard fought game that was near the opposite of the boy's game. Groton Area led for most of the game and held a 14-point lead at one point, 24-10. Groton Area led after the first quarter, 12-8, and at half time at 28-17. The game was tied at 34 at the end of the third quarter. Groton Area had a 39-37 lead, but then could not score any more points and Moberidge-Pollock the last nine points of the game for the win, 46-39.

Alyssa Thaler led Groton Area with nine points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals. Allyssa Locke had six points, three rebounds, two assists and one steal. Kaycie Hawkins had six points, five rebounds, one assist and one steal. Madeline Flihs had six points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal. Gracie Traphagen had five points, 11 rebounds, one assist and one block. Trista Keith had four points, three rebounds and two assists. Brooke Gengerke had three points, three rebounds and one assist. Maddie Bjerke had one rebound.

Groton Area made 11 of 27 field goals for 41 percent, four of 25 three-pointers for 16 percent and was five of eight from the line for 63 percent off of Moberidge-Pollock's seven team fouls. Groton Area had 33 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 11 assists, five steals, 17 team fouls and one block shot.

Moberidge-Pollock made 16 of 41 field goals for 39 percent and was nine of 14 from the line and had 14 turnovers.

Megan Zahn led Moberidge-Pollock with 13 points followed by Landyn Henderson with eight, Mariah Goehring and Maya Nobles each had six, Heidi Olson five, Emily Hatzenbuhler three and Emma Keller and Keena DeMarrias each had two points.

Moberidge-Pollock won the junior varsity game, 32-13. Maddie Bjerke had six points for Groton Area while

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Carly Guthmiller, Madeline Flihs and Marlee Tollifson each had two and Trista Keith had one.

Mobridge-Pollock was led by Mariah Goehring with nine points followed by Maya Nobles with five, Brooklyn Vogel and Keena DeMarrias with four each, Draeya Halsey three, Katy Kemnitz, Madison Ross and Emma Keller each had two points and Heidi Olson added a free throw.

All four games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

The two varsity games were sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Tyson DeHoet Trucking.

The boys junior varsity game was sponsored by Olson Development and the girls junior varsity game was sponsored by Ronayne Law Office.

The boys will be hosting Aberdeen Roncalli on Monday with a C game starting at 5:15 p.m. The girls will travel to Webster Area on Tuesday with the junior varsity game starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Lady Tigers fall to 6-11 on the season while Mobridge-Pollock goes to 8-7. The Groton Area boys got to 13-3 while Mobridge-Pollock falls to 11-4.

- Paul Kosel

Northern State Breezes Past St. Cloud State on the Road

St. Cloud, Minn. – The Northern State University men's basketball team (20-6, 16-4 NSIC) cruised to a third straight win Saturday night over St. Cloud State (13-13, 10-10 NSIC) by a score of 88-68.

One day removed from Gabe King's career best performance, it was once again Parker Fox's turn to lead his team to victory. Fox went 10-of-14 for 26 points, while also grabbing seven rebounds and adding another six blocked shots.

Northern started the game with an exclamation as a no look pass from Mason Stark to Parker Fox turned into a 3-point play. The fancy start kicked off a 7-0 run for the Wolves, setting the tone for the rest of the night.

The Huskies put together a good run to close the gap, but Northern turned on the afterburners soon after. Fox in particular was having himself a game. By the end of the first half he had already cashed in 17 points, sending NSU to the locker room with a 50-35 lead.

The second half began with more of the same as Fox slammed home a stylish reverse dunk followed by a 3-point play to extend the Wolves' advantage to 18. Northern was able to manage the double-digit lead for most of the first half, consistently shooting well and responding to the Huskies' excellent 3-point shooting.

With under two minutes remaining in regulation the Wolves had their biggest lead of the night, allowing them to send in the bench players to close out the win. The victory guarantees a first-place finish in the North Division with just two home games remaining before the NSIC Tournament.

Northern shot 53.4% from the floor, 36.4% from beyond the arc and 94.7% from the foul line. They tallied 40 points from the paint, 18 points from the bench and 10 points off of turnovers. On defense, the Wolves limited the Huskies to 38.2% from the floor and 36.8% from the 3-point line.

Leading the team in scoring was Parker Fox with 26, closely followed by Andrew Kallman who went 6-of-9 for 19 points. Also scoring double digits was Tommy Chatman, cashing in 15 while tying his career high in rebounds with six.

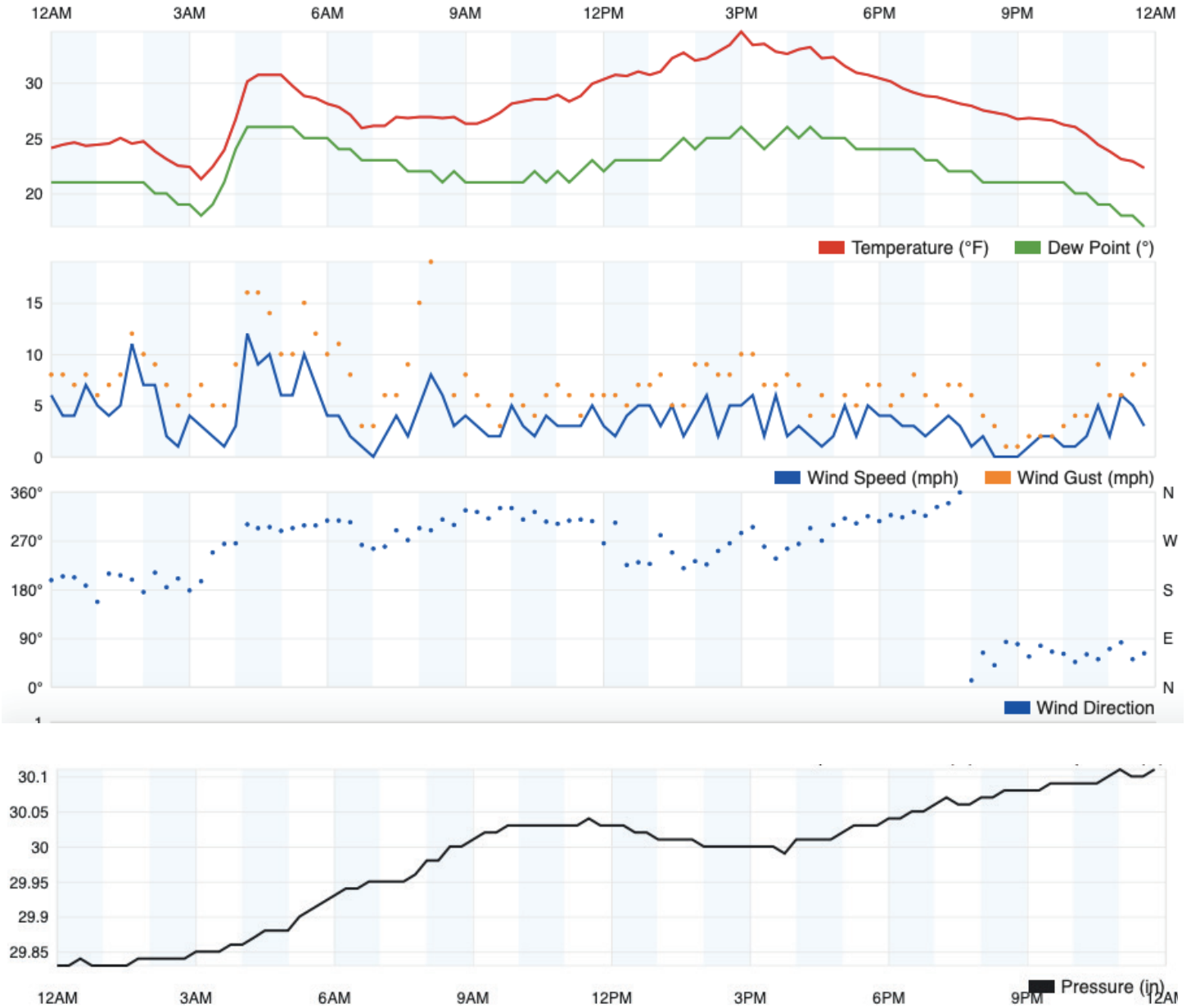
Leading the team off the bench was Cole Dahl with nine points, just ahead of Jordan Belka and Mason Stark who each scored six points. Rounding out the scoreboard was Gabe King and Gus Reede with four and three points respectively.

The Wolves will finish out their season with a two game homestand against the University of Mary and Minot State. Tip-off for the first game against U-Mary is set for 7:30 p.m. on February 21 from Wachs Arena.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Upcoming Events

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Life Touch Pictures at MS/HS

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Girls Basketball hosts Milbank. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV then Varsity

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

Monday, February 24, 2020

Life Touch pictures at elementary school

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Sunday



Slight Chance
Snow then
Cloudy

High: 26 °F

Sunday
Night



Chance Snow

Low: 17 °F

Washington's
Birthday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 26 °F

Monday
Night



Partly Cloudy

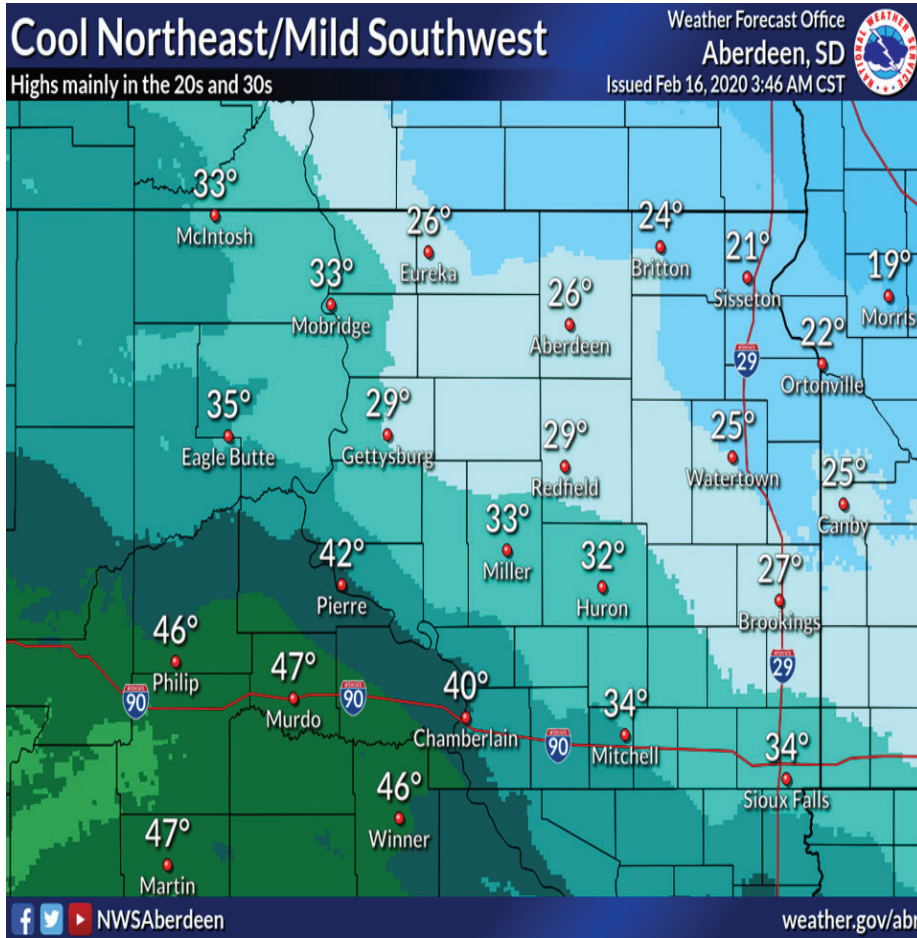
Low: 3 °F

Tuesday



Partly Sunny

High: 11 °F



An Arctic boundary nosing into northeast South Dakota will result in highs today ranging from around 20 degrees northeast to the upper 40s southwest. Some light snow/flurries will pass across the northeast early this morning with little if any accumulation.

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Today in Weather History

February 16, 1969: Freezing drizzle and thick fog formed a heavy glaze on utility lines resulting in several broken power and telephone lines across northern South Dakota.

1899 - Washington D.C. received 1.26 inches of rain in six hours atop a snow cover more than 30 inches deep making it the soggiest day of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1903 - The temperature at Pokegama Dam MN plunged to 59 degrees below zero to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1943 - Record cold prevailed in the northeastern U.S. The mercury plunged to 43 degrees below zero at Concord NH, and to -39 degrees at Portland ME. The morning low of -32 degrees at Falls Village CT established a state record, yet the afternoon high that day was 20 degrees above zero. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm produced snow and ice in the Ohio Valley and the Appalachian Region. Snowfall totals in Virginia ranged up to 14 inches around Farmville, while Granville NC reported eight inches of sleet and ice. Freezing rain in eastern North Carolina caused extensive damage to power lines. Gales lashed the coast of Virginia and North Carolina. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Santa Ana winds in southern California gusted to 50 mph in the Rancho Cucamonga area. Quiet weather prevailed across the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A surge of arctic air produced all-time record high barometric pressure readings of 31.08 inches at Duluth MN, 30.97 inches at Chicago IL and 30.94 inches at South Bend IN. Readings of 31.00 inches at Milwaukee WI and 30.98 inches at Rockford IL tied their all-time records. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southeastern U.S. Highs of 81 degrees at Athens GA, 87 degrees at Charleston SC, 85 degrees at Macon GA, and 86 degrees at Savannah GA were records for February. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Strong thunderstorms developing ahead of an arctic cold front produced severe weather across the southeastern U.S. between mid morning on the 15th and early evening on the 16th. Thunderstorms spawned thirteen tornadoes, including one which, prior to dawn on the 16th, injured eleven persons near Carrollton GA. There were also 121 reports of large hail or damaging winds. A late afternoon thunderstorm on the 15th produced baseball size hail at Jackson MS, and prior to dawn on the 16th, a thunderstorm produced high winds which injured four persons at Goodwater AL. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 35 °F at 2:56 PM

Low Temp: 21 °F at 3:19 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 8:08 AM

Snow

Record High: 56° in 1981

Record Low: -40° in 1936

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 8°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.25

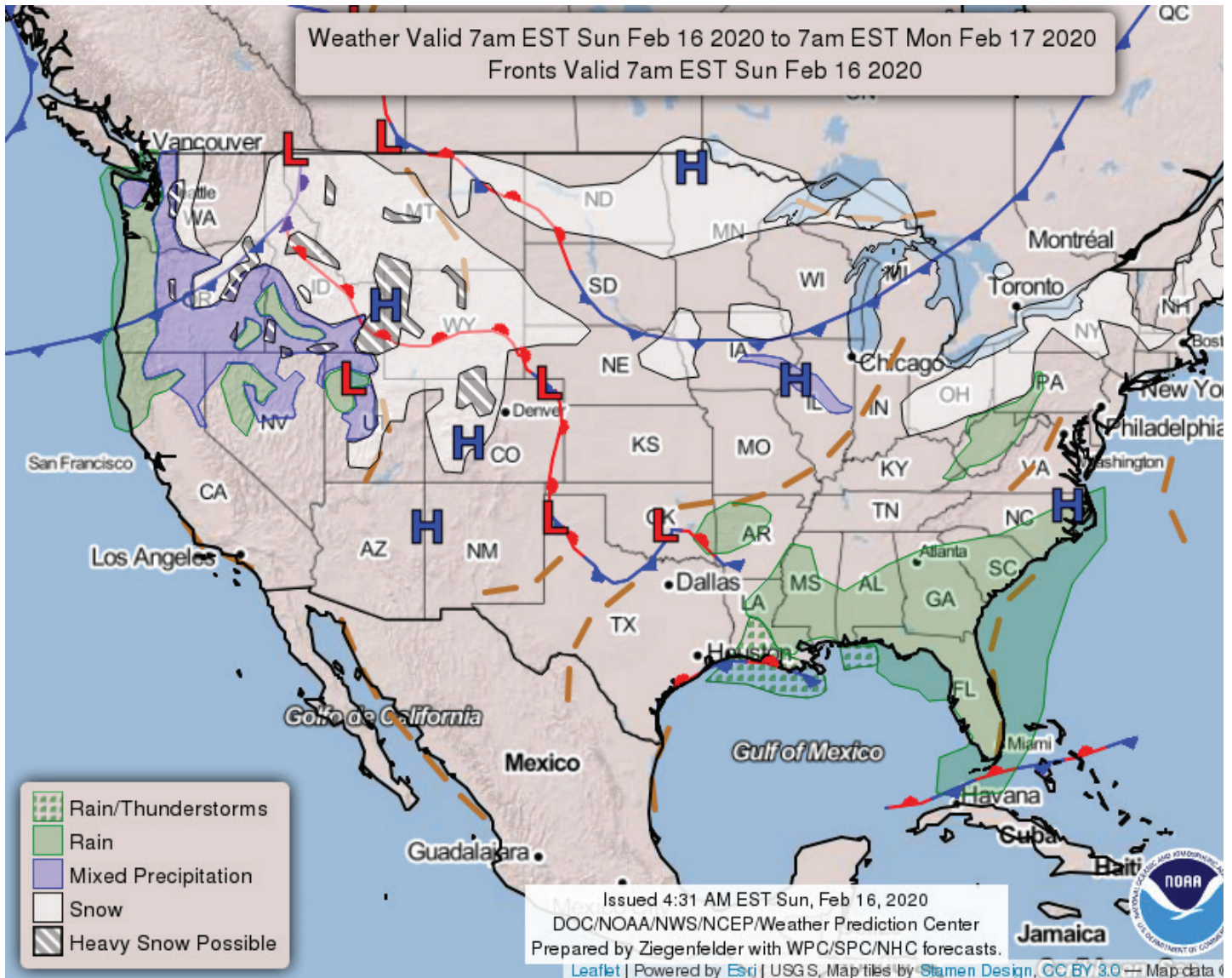
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.72

Precip Year to Date: 0.35

Sunset Tonight: 6:02 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:33 a.m.



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PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Early in life, Michael Johnson was taught how to plan for success. Each time he would share his dreams with his father, he was asked, "How do you plan to do that?" He was then expected to list each step involved in reaching his goals, research everything that was involved to accomplish his goals, and list every step involved in attaining his goals. Life was all about "the goals!"

When he became a sprinter, he applied the same rules to running. As a result of his goal-setting skills, his careful planning, and extensive training, he won four gold medals as a sprinter in the Olympics. After his victorious achievements, he was "crowned" the world champion sprinter eight times and still holds two world records. In the world of running, everyone acknowledges his success.

For the Christian, success is victorious living and honoring God with the gifts He has given us. We must take our goals and plans to God and ask for His blessings on them. We must make certain that they are deeply rooted in God's Word, that He can empower them with His blessings, have integrity and honesty, and be consistent with God's will for our lives and His world. There is a vast difference in worldly success and Godly success, however. Godly success comes to the Christian when we honor Him in everything we do. And, we can be assured that we are honoring Him when He blesses our lives for being faithful to Him. We may never set any world records or receive a single one of this world's medals, but we will inherit the "Crown of Life" if we are faithful.

Prayer: Lord, may we always set goals and make plans that You can bless. May we strive to honor You in all that we do. May each achievement in our lives be blest by You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 03/14/2020 Youth Girls/Boys Basketball Tourney Grades 4th-6th (Baseball/Softball Foundation Fundraiser)
 - 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
 - 04/04/2020 Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
 - 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
 - 04/25-26/2020 Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
 - 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
 - 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
 - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
 - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
 - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
 - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
 - 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
 - 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
 - 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
 - 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
 - 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
 - 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
 - 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
 - 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
 - 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
 - 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
 - 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
 - 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
 - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
-
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
-
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

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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

11-12-19-28-34

(eleven, twelve, nineteen, twenty-eight, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$64,000

Lotto America

04-09-12-23-32, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(four, nine, twelve, twenty-three, thirty-two; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.04 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

16-32-35-36-46, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 3

(sixteen, thirty-two, thirty-five, thirty-six, forty-six; Powerball: three; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Burke 41, Alcester-Hudson 37

Castlewood 91, Hitchcock-Tulare 54

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 62, Aberdeen Roncalli 46

Elkton-Lake Benton 55, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 34

Faith 59, Lemmon 49

Flandreau 50, Clark/Willow Lake 44

Gregory 59, Jones County 38

Groton Area 57, Mobridge-Pollock 54

Kadoka Area 62, Edgemont 30

Leola/Frederick 55, Webster 53

Madison 82, Canton 52

Marty Indian 97, Centerville 76

Menno 56, Colome 41

Milbank 63, Tri-Valley 56

Northwestern 58, North Central Co-Op 23

Rapid City Stevens 65, Sioux Falls Lincoln 54

Red Cloud 64, Hot Springs 32

Redfield 54, Langford 39

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 69, Brookings 51

Sioux Falls Washington 65, Rapid City Central 53

Sioux Valley 77, Parker 67

Stanley County 62, Wall 34

Timber Lake 81, Potter County 72

Todd County 77, Miller 52

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DWU/Culver's Classic=

Aberdeen Christian 54, Viborg-Hurley 49

Bridgewater-Emery 69, Lyman 59

Canistota 57, DeSmet 45

Dell Rapids 87, Rapid City Christian 60

Hanson 78, Dell Rapids St. Mary 52

Mitchell 58, Harrisburg 50

Platte-Geddes 52, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 40

St. Thomas More 77, Sioux Falls Christian 70

White River 76, Corsica/Stickney 55

Sacred Hoops Classic=

Crow Creek 70, Crazy Horse 40

Little Wound 74, Flandreau Indian 45

Lower Brule 61, Oelrichs 45

McLaughlin 79, Winnebago, Neb. 77

Mitchell Christian 45, Wakpala 36

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Brandon Valley 46, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 36

Burke 49, Alcester-Hudson 24

Centerville 56, Marty Indian 53, OT

Deubrook 58, Chester 36

Faith 57, Lemmon 32

Flandreau 74, Clark/Willow Lake 47

Gregory 62, Jones County 38

Lead-Deadwood 48, Bison 35

Menno 68, Colome 37

Miller 63, Todd County 47

Mobridge-Pollock 46, Groton Area 39

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 54, Sioux Falls Christian 52

Northwestern 41, North Central Co-Op 37

Potter County 57, Timber Lake 40

Rapid City Stevens 58, Sioux Falls Lincoln 54

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 78, Brookings 19

Sioux Falls Washington 55, Rapid City Central 44

Sioux Valley 60, Parker 30

Tri-Valley 55, Milbank 19

Wall 57, Stanley County 31

Watertown 61, Aberdeen Central 44

Webster 36, Leola/Frederick 30

DWU/Culver's Classic=

Bridgewater-Emery 62, Jones County 38

Burke 49, Menno 24

Sacred Hoops Classic=

Crazy Horse 40, Sunshine Bible Academy 27

Crow Creek 76, Hill City 48

New Underwood 43, Lower Brule 33

Oelrichs 73, Flandreau Indian 70

Pine Ridge 49, Chamberlain 38

Wakpala 75, St. Francis Indian 65

Winnebago, Neb. 60, Dupree 52

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Warner Classic=

Aberdeen Roncalli 68, Langford 40

Florence/Henry 61, Sully Buttes 55

Freeman Academy 57, Little Wound 39

Herreid/Selby Area 57, Waverly-South Shore 48

Highmore-Harrold 48, Warner 32

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

Nzekwesi lifts Oral Roberts over South Dakota 94-80

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Emmanuel Nzekwesi had 23 points and 12 rebounds as Oral Roberts defeated South Dakota 94-80 on Saturday night. Deondre Burns added 21 points for the Golden Eagles.

Max Abmas had 17 points for Oral Roberts (14-12, 7-6 Summit League). R.J. Fuqua added 17 points.

Stanley Umude had 26 points for the Coyotes (19-9, 9-4), whose eight-game win streak was broken. Tyler Hagedorn added 12 points, seven rebounds and three blocks. Tyler Peterson had 11 points.

The Golden Eagles leveled the season series against the Coyotes with the win. South Dakota defeated Oral Roberts 91-80 on Jan. 25. Oral Roberts plays Denver on the road on Thursday. South Dakota takes on North Dakota State at home on Wednesday.

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>

Lamb scores 24, No. 21 South Dakota women edge Tulsa 77-73

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Chloe Lamb scored a career-high 24 points and No. 21 South Dakota jumped to a big early lead and held on to defeat Oral Roberts 77-73 on Saturday.

The Coyotes (25-2, 14-0 Summit League), who won their 14th straight, had their first league game decided by single figures as the Golden Eagles (12-14, 7-5) used a 26-14 advantage in the second quarter to close within 35-31. South Dakota had a 21-5 lead after one quarter.

Oral Roberts, which lost the first matchup 76-56, tied the game at 44 on a Keni Jo Lippe 3-pointer midway through the third quarter, but Taylor Frederick hit a layup and a 3 as the Coyotes regained the lead.

Inside the final two minutes, Oral Roberts got within two several times but Monica Arens scored six points, going 4 for 4 from the foul line and Madison McKeever and Ciara Duffy went 2 for 2 at the stripe for the win.

McKeever and Arens had 11 points apiece, while Frederick and Duffy scored 10 each for South Dakota. Katie Kirkhart led Tulsa with 22 points, Lippe had 17 points and Montserrat Brotons scored 16.

More AP women's basketball: <https://apnews.com/Womenscollegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

South Dakota couple sentenced to prison after fatal crash

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota couple has been sentenced to federal prison after two of their children died in a vehicle crash on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

The Rapid City Journal reports Dakota Horned Eagle, 29, was sentenced to 4 years and three months years in prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter and causing a serious injury to a minor while operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

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Ashley Stoneman, 25, was sentenced 1 ½ years in prison Monday after pleading guilty to child abuse. The charges stem from a July 12, 2019 crash that killed two of the couple's sons, ages 12 and 7. Stoneman, Horned Eagle and four surviving children received non-life threatening injuries. Authorities said none of the children were restrained in car seats or wearing seat belts.

Horned Eagle told authorities he was highly intoxicated that day and he may have blacked out. Stoneman told authorities she also had been drinking and was holding an infant on her lap. She told authorities she knew that Horned Eagle was intoxicated before they got in the vehicle.

Xi's early involvement in virus outbreak raises questions

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A recent speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping that has been published by state media indicates for the first time that he was leading the response to a new virus outbreak from early on in the crisis.

The publication of the Feb. 3 speech was an apparent attempt to demonstrate that the Communist Party leadership had acted decisively from the beginning, but also opens Xi up to criticism over why the public was not alerted sooner.

In the speech, Xi said he gave instructions on fighting the virus on Jan. 7 and ordered the shutdown that began on Jan. 23 of cities at the epicenter of the outbreak. His remarks were published by state media late Saturday.

"On Jan. 22, in light of the epidemic's rapid spread and the challenges of prevention and control, I made a clear request that Hubei province implement comprehensive and stringent controls over the outflow of people," Xi told a meeting of the party's standing committee, its top body.

The number of new cases in mainland China fell for a third straight day, China's National Health Commission reported Sunday. The 2,009 new cases in the previous 24-hour period brought the total to 68,500.

Commission spokesman Mi Feng said the percentage of severe cases has dropped to 7.2% of the total from a peak of 15.9% on Jan. 27. The proportion is higher in Wuhan, the Hubei city where the outbreak started, but has fallen to 21.6% from a peak of 32.4% on Jan. 28.

"The national efforts against the epidemic have shown results," Mi said at the commission's daily media briefing.

China reported 142 more deaths, almost all in Hubei, raising the mainland China death toll to 1,665. Another 9,419 people have recovered from COVID-19, a disease caused by a new coronavirus, and have been discharged from hospitals.

Four people have died outside of mainland China, as the virus has spread to more than two dozen countries.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe convened an experts meeting to discuss measures to contain the virus in his country, where one person has died and more than a dozen cases emerged in the past few days without any obvious link to China.

"The situation surrounding this virus is changing by the minute," Abe said.

About 400 Americans on a quarantined cruise ship in Japan were awaiting charter flights home, as Japan announced another 70 infections had been confirmed on the Diamond Princess. Canada, Hong Kong and Italy said they were planning similar flights.

Xi's role was muted in the early days of the epidemic, which has grown into one of the biggest political challenges of his seven-year tenure.

The disclosure of his speech indicates top leaders knew about the outbreak's potential severity weeks before such dangers were made known to the public. It was not until late January that officials said the virus can spread between humans and public alarm began to rise.

Zhang Lifan, a commentator in Beijing, said it's not clear why the speech was published now. One message could be that local authorities should take responsibility for failing to take effective measures after Xi gave instructions in early January. Alternatively, it may mean that Xi, as the top leader, is willing to take

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responsibility because he was aware of the situation, Zhang said.

Trust in the government's approach to outbreaks remains fractured after the SARS epidemic of 2002 and 2003, which was covered up for months.

Authorities in Hubei and Wuhan faced public fury over their initial handling of the epidemic. Wuhan on Jan. 23 became the first city to impose an unprecedented halt on outbound transportation, a measure since expanded to other cities with a combined population of more than 60 million.

The anger reached a peak earlier this month following the death of Li Wenliang, a young doctor who was reprimanded by local police for trying to spread a warning about the virus. He ended up dying of the disease himself.

In apparent response, the Communist Party's top officials in Hubei and Wuhan were dismissed and replaced last week.

Even as authorities have pledged transparency through the current outbreak, citizen journalists who challenged the official narrative with video reports from Wuhan have disappeared and are believed to be detained.

The fall in new cases follows a spike of more than 15,000 on Thursday, when Hubei began to include cases that had been diagnosed by a doctor but not yet confirmed by laboratory tests.

Overwhelmed by the number of suspected cases, the province has not been able to test every person exhibiting symptoms. The clinical diagnosis is based on doctors' analyses and lung imaging and is intended to allow probable cases to be treated as confirmed ones without the need to wait for a lab result.

About 400 Americans aboard the cruise ship docked at Yokohama, near Tokyo, were told to decide whether to stay or take chartered aircraft arranged by the U.S. government to fly them home, where they would face another 14-day quarantine. Those going were to begin leaving the ship Sunday night. People with symptoms were to be banned from the flights.

About 255 Canadians and 330 Hong Kong residents are on board the ship or undergoing treatment in Japanese hospitals. There are 35 Italians, of which 25 are crew members, including the captain. The 70 new cases on the Diamond Princess raised the number of infected to 355.

American passenger Matthew Smith told The Associated Press that he and his wife were not taking the flights, because the 14-day quarantine for the ship is set to end on Wednesday. The evacuees will be taken to Travis Air Force Base in California, with some continuing to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Malaysia said it would not allow any more passengers from another cruise ship to transit the country after an 83-year-old American woman from the MS Westerdam tested positive for the virus.

She was among 145 passengers who flew from Cambodia to Malaysia on Friday. Her husband also had symptoms but tested negative for the virus. The Westerdam was turned away from four ports around Asia before Cambodia allowed it to dock in Sihanoukville late last week.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said that her country would bar cruise ships that came from or transit any Chinese ports from docking.

Cambodia said earlier that all 1,455 passengers on the Holland America-operated ship had tested negative for the virus.

Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu and researcher Henry Hou in Beijing and writers Yuri Kageyama and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo, Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sopheng Cheang in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Frances D'Emilio in Rome and Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed to this report.

Boyfriend of British TV presenter heartbroken by her death

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The boyfriend of Caroline Flack, the British TV host for the controversial reality show "Love Island," said Sunday that his "heart is broken" at her death as criticism swelled at her treatment by some British media.

Flack, 40, was found dead Saturday at her home in east London after taking her own life, according to

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a family lawyer. Flack hosted "Love Island" from its launch in 2015 before stepping down last year after being charged with assaulting her 27-year-old boyfriend, Lewis Burton.

Flack denied the charge and was to stand trial next month. She was also not allowed to have any contact with Burton. He objected to that bail restriction and did not want Britain's Crown Prosecution Service to go ahead with the trial.

Over the past few months, Flack had been the focus of several negative articles and was trolled across social media for the assault charge. On Sunday, the story of her suicide dominated the front pages of British newspapers.

Beside a picture of them together, Burton said on Instagram that he was in "so much pain."

He added: "I promise I will ask all the questions you wanted and I will get all the answers nothing will bring you back but I will try make you proud everyday."

Britain's ITV network, which broadcasts "Love Island," said in a statement that "everybody at 'Love Island' and ITV is shocked and saddened by this desperately sad news."

The sixth season of the show is currently airing. A "Love Island" highlights episode titled "Unseen Bits" was pulled from its scheduled broadcast on Saturday evening on ITV2 after Flack's death was announced.

The next new "Love Island" episode is scheduled to air Sunday. The network did not indicate if it will still broadcast it.

"Love Island" puts young, attractive contestants in a tropical paradise, where they must pair up or risk being exiled. Critics claim the program places vulnerable young people under intense scrutiny and pressure, which is magnified by blanket coverage of the show by tabloids and TV talk shows. Two former "Love Island" contestants, Sophie Gradon and Mike Thalassitis, died by suicide in 2018 and 2019.

Until her arrest, Flack enjoyed a meteoric career rise after co-hosting Saturday morning children's television shows. She also hosted companion shows to the popular ITV programs "I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" and "The X-Factor."

Flack's career blossomed further after she won the BBC show "Strictly Come Dancing" in 2014, the British version of "Dancing With The Stars." While hosting "Love Island," Flack made her West End stage debut in 2018, playing Roxie Hart in the musical "Chicago."

Her death led to a flood of tributes from fellow TV hosts and criticism of her treatment by the media. The Sun tabloid, for example, removed negative online articles about her soon after her death was announced.

Talent agent Jonathan Shalit told BBC radio that Flack received "more negative press than a terrorist or a paedophile" over the trial.

"These people might be famous, but they're still vulnerable individuals," Shalit said.

Jill Lawless contributed.

Biden in Vegas takes on Sanders' gun votes in fiery speech

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Joe Biden, standing on a Las Vegas stage roughly 1,000 feet from the scene of the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, took on White House rival Bernie Sanders for his past vote to exempt gun manufacturers from liability for shootings.

The former vice president devoted the majority of his Saturday night speech at a Democratic gala on the Las Vegas Strip to deliver a fiery charge against the National Rifle Association and gun manufacturers, vowing to hold gun makers accountable if elected president.

"When I'm the president, we'll take them on, remove the immunity and allow those parents who are trying now to sue for the pain and mayhem they have caused," Biden said on stage at the Tropicana casino-resort. The resort sits adjacent to the grounds where a gunman in 2017 unleashed a torrent of gunfire on a country music festival—an incident that only Biden referred to Saturday night.

Biden, after decrying "carnage in our streets" and the anguish of families whose loved ones were killed in gun violence, said he "will not rest until they're able to sue the gun manufacturers and get a ban on

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assault weapons.”

Biden didn't cite Sanders by name when referring to a 2005 federal law that shields gun makers from liability in most crimes, but said, "some of the people running for office voted for that exemption."

"Ladies and gentlemen that immunity was granted. Granted. And it was a horrible, horrible decision," he said.

Sanders has since changed his position, co-sponsoring legislation to repeal the protections for gun manufacturers. He's also called in his campaign this year for sweeping gun control measures.

Biden's speech came after a frenzied Saturday of campaigning across Las Vegas on the first day of early voting in Nevada's Democratic caucuses. Biden, counting on Nevada's diverse population to keep his campaign alive after disappointing finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, faces his biggest challenge in the Western state from Sanders. The progressive icon is seen as the most well-positioned in the state and has reached deep into Latino neighborhoods.

After holding forth on gun violence, Biden lased in on health care, a sticking point for Sanders with Nevada's most politically powerful labor group, the casino workers' Culinary Union. Again without naming Sanders, Biden repeated a recent argument from the powerful Culinary Union that a single-payer "Medicare for All" system would eliminate union members' health coverage won through collective bargaining. Biden touted his idea to add a "public option" to existing health insurance markets.

And, he added, "I can actually get my plan passed."

Sanders, who was the first candidate to take the stage Saturday night, laced into billionaire candidate Mike Bloomberg, rattling off a list of heresies against the Democratic Party he accused the former New York mayor of committing. Bloomberg implemented "racist policies like stop and frisk" in New York, opposed the minimum wage and higher taxes on the wealthy during the Obama administration, Sanders said.

"The simple truth is that Mayor Bloomberg, with all his money, will not create the kind of excitement and energy we need to have the voter turnout we must have to defeat Donald Trump," Sanders said.

It was a rare attack by name from Sanders. Bloomberg is skipping the Nevada caucuses and was not at the Clark County Democratic Party dinner where Sanders, Biden and other 2020 contenders spoke.

While the state's formal presidential caucuses are still a week away, Democrats opened the first of four days of early voting across more than 80 locations. State party officials at some sites across Nevada were overwhelmed by long lines.

A spokeswoman for the Nevada Democrats, Molly Forgey, downplayed concerns related to the large early turnout as the political world anxiously watched from afar less than two weeks after Iowa's presidential caucuses turned disastrous. Forgey said Nevada Democratic Party staff and volunteers were working to make every site as efficient as possible.

Early votes cast on paper ballots will be added to in-person caucus votes made on Feb. 22, when Democrats will attend about 2,000 precinct meetings around the state. The Nevada State Democratic Party abandoned its plans to use an app like the one that caused trouble in Iowa and has scrambled to come up with a new system to tabulate results.

Former Sen. Harry Reid, an icon in Nevada's Democratic politics, told reporters that "people should not be counting Joe Biden out of the race yet," but also offered warm words for Sanders' candidacy. When asked he downplayed concerns from some Democrats that Sanders might hurt other candidates should he become the nominee.

Elizabeth Warren, reeling after a weak performance last week in New Hampshire, took the stage Saturday night with a raggedy voice, having lost it after a day barnstorming the city. Warren talked about Reid tapping her over a decade ago to oversee the bank bailout after the mortgage crisis, which hit Nevada particularly hard.

"When I saw the crash and saw how many millions of people lost their homes and lost their savings and lost their jobs, I was determined that this would never happen again."

Earlier Saturday, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar began to introduce herself to the state's voters, addressing an African American festival in a Las Vegas park. She praised the state's voting protections and

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Democratic legislative majority while pitching her appeal to pivotal Midwestern voters.

"In the middle of the country where I'm from I want a little more Nevada there," Klobuchar said. "My plan is to build a great blue wall around those states and make Donald Trump pay for it."

Former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Peter Buttigieg, who is looking to show he can win support from voters of color after strong finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire pitched his brand of moderation to the Latin Chamber of Commerce in Las Vegas, noting his tax plans would touch top earners "but it's not unreasonable."

"We don't have to go back to the tax levels of the 1960s to deliver on our promises. At least not my promises," Buttigieg said, noting the massive expense of Sanders' health care plans. "I'm not interested in creating a tax just because..."

Campaigning in a state with a large immigrant population, Buttigieg also drew on his own background as the son of an immigrant from the tiny Mediterranean island nation of Malta.

His father, Buttigieg said, was "drawn to America and chose to become an American as an immigrant, but also was always wanting America to be closer to its ideals."

Billionaire philanthropist Tom Steyer, who like Biden is banking on a most diverse pool of voters in Nevada and later South Carolina to lift his campaign, pledged Saturday night to take on President take on corporations, fight for a living wage and "will kick Donald Trump's ass on the debate stage."

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writers Nicholas Riccardi, Bill Barrow and Jonathan J. Cooper in Las Vegas and Scott Sonner in Reno contributed to this report.

Writer AE Hotchner, friend to Hemingway, Newman, dead at 102

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

A.E. Hotchner, a well-traveled author, playwright and gadabout whose street smarts and famous pals led to a loving, but litigated memoir of Ernest Hemingway, business adventures with Paul Newman and a book about his Depression-era childhood that became a Steven Soderbergh film, died Saturday at age 102.

He died at his home in Westport, Connecticut, according to his son, Timothy Hotchner, who did not immediately know the cause of death.

A. E. Hotchner, known to friends as "Ed" or "Hotch," was an impish St. Louis native and ex-marbles champ who read, wrote and hustled himself out of poverty and went on to publish more than a dozen books, befriend countless celebrities and see his play, "The White House," performed at the real White House for President Bill Clinton.

He was a natural fit for Elaine's, the former Manhattan nightspot for the famous and the near-famous, and contributed the text for "Everyone Comes to Elaine's," an illustrated history. Hotchner's other works included the novel "The Man Who Lived at the Ritz," bestselling biographies of Doris Day and Sophia Loren, and a musical, "Let 'Em Rot!" co-written with Cy Coleman.

In his 90s, he completed an upbeat book of essays on aging, "O.J. in the Morning, G&T at Night." When he was 100, he wrote the detective novel "The Amazing Adventures of Aaron Broom." At 101, he adapted Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" for the stage.

He was a memorable storyteller — sometimes too memorable. Hotchner wrote an article about Elaine's for Vanity Fair that included an anecdote about director Roman Polanski making advances on a woman on the way to the funeral of his wife, Sharon Tate, who was murdered in 1969 by Charles Manson's followers. Polanski sued the magazine's publisher, Condé Nast, for libel and in 2005 was awarded some \$87,000, plus court costs, by a jury in London.

The son of a furrier who went broke during the Depression, Aaron Edward Hotchner was born in 1917 in St. Louis, a city he would recall with deep affection despite times so dire he claimed to have eaten paper to fight hunger. Hotchner wrote about his youth in "King of the Hill," published in 1972 and adapted 20 years later into a Soderbergh film of the same name.

Clever and determined, Hotchner managed a scholarship to Washington University, where he and Ten-

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nessee Williams both worked on the school's student magazine. Hotchner then joined the Air Force, a time he recalled good-naturedly in the memoir "The Day I Fired Alan Ladd, and Other World War II Adventures." After the war, Hotchner settled in New York and became an editor at *Cosmopolitan*, and worked on literary fiction.

One submission was J.D. Salinger's "Needle On a Scratchy Phonograph Record," a World War II story the author gave to Hotchner under the condition that nothing — not a comma — be altered. Hotchner, who had been friendly with Salinger, came through — almost. The actual story was printed intact, but *Cosmopolitan* changed the title to "Blue Melody."

Salinger never spoke to Hotchner again.

Around the same time, however, Hotchner lucked his way into literary history. *Cosmopolitan* wanted Hemingway to write an article about "The Future of Literature" and sent Hotchner to Cuba to track him down. So began a friendship that lasted until Hemingway's suicide, in 1961. From Spain to Idaho, they hunted, drank and attended bullfights. They lived through Hemingway's inspiring highs and fatal lows, chronicled by Hotchner in "Papa Hemingway," which came out in 1966 and has been translated into more than 25 languages.

But the book has a troubled history. Hemingway's widow, Mary Hemingway, sued unsuccessfully to stop publication, alleging that Hotchner had violated the privacy of her husband and herself. She was reportedly upset that he contradicted her contention that her husband had only accidentally shot himself. Critics, meanwhile, doubted the accuracy of the many long dialogues between Hotchner and Hemingway.

"Once you learn the rhythms of speech of a person, the actual words resonate with you," Hotchner explained during a 2005 interview with *The Associated Press*. "I can hear him right now: 'How do you like it now, gentlemen?' Things he said. You're sort of born with that I guess, a kind of tape that runs through your head."

Their relationship was also professional. Hotchner often served as his agent, helped edit his bullfighting book "The Dangerous Summer" and helped come up with the title for the posthumous release of Hemingway's memoir about Paris, "A Moveable Feast." In the 1950s and early '60s, he adapted several Hemingway stories for television, including "The Battler," which led to his first meeting with Newman.

James Dean had agreed to star as the titular faded ex-boxer, but Newman took the role after Dean died in a car crash. Newman and Hotchner became friends, pranksters, fishing buddies, neighbors and business partners. When the actor wanted to sell his homemade salad dressing at some local shops, he called on "Hotch" to help out.

"That was just a joke," Hotchner told the AP in 2005. "It was something on the fly. 'Let's put up \$40,000 and we'll be businessmen.'"

Their caper turned into the multimillion-dollar Newman's Own nonprofit empire of salad dressing, popcorn, lemonade and assorted recipes; all proceeds went to charity, notably the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for kids with life-threatening illnesses.

After Newman's death in 2008, Hotchner wrote about his friend in "Paul and Me." Other projects in recent years included a collection of letters between himself and Hemingway and a reissue of his Hemingway memoir. In 2013, he was among the commentators seen in Shane Salerno's documentary about Salinger.

Hotchner was married three times, most recently to actress Virginia Kiser, and was the father of three children. He had numerous animals over the years, including peacocks, pedigreed chickens, and an African parrot named Ernie.

This story has been corrected to show the title of A.E. Hotchner's detective novel is "The Amazing Adventures of Aaron Broom," not "The Amazon Adventures of Aaron Broom," and the original name of J.D. Salinger's short story was "Needle On a Scratchy Phonograph Record," not "Scratchy Needle On a Phonograph Record."

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Cost of China's anti-virus fight rises with workers idle

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Real estate agent Du Xuekun's sales usually jump after the Lunar New Year holiday. But this year, Du has been at home for a month with no income after vast swathes of China's economy were shut down in a sweeping effort to contain a virus outbreak.

Du, who lives in Jiaozhuo, near the central city of Zhengzhou, is one of millions of people who are bearing the soaring cost of the most extreme anti-disease measures ever imposed. Some businesses are reopening, but Beijing has told the public to stay home if possible.

"People will buy food and clothes online but for sure won't buy an apartment without seeing it," said Du.

Industries from auto sales to travel to retailing effectively shut down after curbs were imposed starting Jan. 23 with the suspension of most access to Wuhan, an industrial metropolis of 11 million people at the center of the outbreak.

Travel restrictions expanded to cities with more than 60 million people, while curbs on business spread nationwide. The Lunar New Year holiday was extended to keep factories and offices closed. Nationwide, thousands of restaurants and cinemas have been shut to prevent crowds from gathering.

The rising losses threaten to become a political liability for the ruling Communist Party. Local officials have been ordered to revive business activity but are moving cautiously.

By Sunday, some 1,665 deaths and 68,500 cases had been reported in the two months since the first infections in December.

Economists warn optimism that the disease might be under control is premature. Even if auto manufacturing and other business resumes as planned, activity won't be back to normal until at least mid-March.

Losses are expected to be so large that forecasters have cut estimates for China's economic growth.

Forecasters including Capital Economics say growth, already at multi-decade lows, might fall to 2% in the three months ending in March, down from the previous quarter's official figure of 6%.

"If the economy really gets into a tailspin, the challenge for the party will be substantially increased," said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Locking down Wuhan might have hurt more than it helped by causing panic and was "very damaging to the economy," said Tsang.

"They will have to rethink the lockdown approach," he said.

The ruling party has responded to the mounting economic pressure by promising tax breaks and subsidies to companies hurt by the anti-disease measures.

The government needs to "maintain stable economic operation and social harmony," President Xi Jinping said Wednesday.

On Friday, the Ministry of Finance announced that companies with monthly sales below 100,000 yuan (\$14,000) will be exempt from value-added and other taxes. It said companies that cannot repay loans might be allowed to invoke "force majeure," a last-resort legal measure that can waive obligations in disasters.

Travel and hospitality were hardest-hit after the government canceled group tours and told businesspeople to put off travel. Airlines canceled thousands of flights and hotels closed.

The manager of a travel agency in Shenyang, the biggest city in China's northeast, said its monthly revenue, usually 100,000 yuan (\$14,000), fell to zero. He said the agency still is paying rent and wages of 20,000 yuan (\$2,800) a month.

"We don't expect to see a recovery until May or June," said the manager, who would give only his surname, Xu. "We do hope the government can give us a tax exemption or reduction, but we still have seen no subsidies."

Property sales have fallen to almost zero over the past three weeks. The industry employs millions of people and drives demand for appliances, furniture and other consumer goods.

Du, the real estate salesman, said he usually closes two sales a month and earns 7,000-8,000 yuan (\$1,000-\$1,100). He needs to make a 3,000-yuan (\$430) monthly loan payment whether he works or not.

"I have no base salary and live on commission," said Du, 27. "Without sales, there will be no income."

Chinese leaders already were struggling to shore up economic growth that slowed to 6.1% last year

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thanks to weak consumer demand and a tariff war with Washington. Some economists, citing industry surveys and other data, say real growth already was much weaker than that.

The anti-disease measures closed factories that supply the world with smartphones, furniture, shoes, toys and household appliances. That sent shockwaves through other developing countries that supply industrial components and iron ore, copper and other commodities.

South Korea and other economies that rely on China as an export market face potential job losses.

E-commerce companies are hiring extra workers to cope with a flood of demand as families stay home and buy groceries online. But streets in Beijing and other major cities are still empty and eerily quiet.

Auto sales plunged 20.2% in January from a year earlier, deepening a 2-year-old decline in the industry's biggest global market. Sales fell 9.6% last year to 21.4 million, well below their 2017 peak of 24.7 million.

That is squeezing global automakers that look to China to drive revenue as they spend billions of dollars to develop electric vehicles to meet government sales targets.

"Enterprises are under huge pressure," said a statement by an industry group, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

China rebounded relatively quickly from its 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, but economic conditions now are less rosy.

SARS struck when China was entering a history-making boom powered by construction and exports. Growth peaked at a blistering 14.2% in 2007. By contrast, the latest virus hit in the midst of a slowdown.

In smartphones, Apple, Huawei and other brands face a potential hit because China is both their No. 1 market and global production base.

Shipments might fall as much as 50% this quarter compared with the final three months of 2019, according to research firm Canalys.

There is a "high risk" that component suppliers, with factory workers still stranded in their hometowns by travel bans, "will not be able to ramp up to normal capacity if the outbreak is prolonged," Canalys said in a report.

Apple and other global vendors face a "serious impact" if the virus spreads and those suppliers close, the report said.

"The current situation will likely lead to some of the worst ever shipment numbers," it said.

US agency to pay for 11,000 miles of fuel breaks in 6 states

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Bureau of Land Management has announced plans to fund 11,000 miles (17,703 kilometers) of strategic fuel breaks in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada and Utah in an effort to help control wildfires.

The fuel breaks are intended to prop up fire mitigation efforts and help protect firefighters, communities and natural resources, The Oregonian reported Saturday.

According to the BLM, wildfires are becoming bigger and more frequent across the Great Basin states. Between 2009 and 2018, more than 13.5 million acres of BLM land burned in the project area.

"Recovering from the devastating effects of wildfires can take decades in the rugged, high-desert climate of the Great Basin. These tools will help firefighters contain fires when they break out," said acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Casey Hammond in a news release. "That's why creating fuel breaks is incredibly important to the entire basin, the people who live in these communities, and our wildland firefighters."

Fuel breaks are intended to break up fire fuels by creating breaks in vegetation that slow a blaze's progress. By implementing them strategically, they help firefighters control the spread of fire, and can protect homes and resources.

Some scientists debate the effectiveness of fuel breaks, raising questions about whether these efforts are worth funding.

But the BLM reports that assessments of more than 1,200 fuel breaks found that 78% of them helped control wildfire and 84% helped change fire behavior. According to the news release, "the BLM has ex-

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tensively documented that fuel breaks, and other types of fuel treatments, are effective.”

Jennifer Jones, a spokeswoman for the BLM, said the program will help streamline the implementation process by reducing or eliminating the need for environmental analysis.

The timeline for implementation and the location of fuel breaks will depend on what offices develop plans and apply for funding.

Because BLM offices have not requested funds, said Jones, the BLM can't provide a figure for what the plan will cost.

“Costs will depend on how many fuel breaks are actually constructed, what types of fuel breaks are constructed, where they are constructed, whether they are constructed by employees or contractors,” Jones said.

The public can comment on the plan for the next 30 days, after which the BLM will make final decisions.

Turkey, Russia to discuss grave situation in Syria's Idlib

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — A Turkish delegation will travel to Russia on Monday to discuss the situation in Syria's Idlib province amid mounting fears of a humanitarian disaster there, Turkey's foreign minister said.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians in Idlib province are scrambling to escape a widening, multi-front offensive by Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

“What matters is today around 1 million people from Idlib have been moving towards our border,” Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a statement Saturday after a phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump in which they discussed Syria and other topics. “We are already hosting 3.5-4 million people. Unfortunately we are not in a position of accepting this another 1 million.”

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said after meeting his German counterpart on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference that 2 million people could head for Turkey's border with Syria if no cease-fire is achieved.

He said a Turkish delegation was due to visit Moscow on Monday to talk discuss the situation in Idlib, much of which remains in rebel hands. The meeting follows previous visits by a Russian delegation to Ankara. Russia supports Assad, while Turkey backs the opposition.

“There are already people coming to our border and, with Germany's support, we are going to build temporary shelters but these are temporary solutions,” Cavusoglu said. “We need a cease-fire.”

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said he pushed Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who was also in Munich, for Russia to lean on Assad's government to stop the fighting.

“We are very worried that this is going become a humanitarian catastrophe if the fighting there doesn't stop,” he said.

Cavusoglu said later Saturday he held a positive meeting with Lavrov.

The Russian foreign minister told the Munich conference after that meeting that parts of Idlib remain “one of the last hotbeds of terrorism, at least the only one on the west bank of the Euphrates.”

Lavrov said that agreements between Moscow and Ankara “imply both a cease-fire and a demilitarized zone, but most importantly drawing a line between the normal opposition and terrorists.”

“These agreements do not mean the hard fighting against the terrorist the threat will stop,” he said.

Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, said at a news conference that Russia is the key to stopping the crisis since it provides the Syrian government with aerial support.

“Russia offers various excuses,” he said.

Roth acknowledged the presence of thousands of jihadists in Idlib but said “that does not justify the indiscriminate bombardment of the civilian population.”

“What is needed now as a matter of humanitarian concern for the people of Idlib and as a matter of basic avoidance of another refugee crisis, is firm pressure on (Russian President Vladimir) Putin to stop,” he said. He urged Europe to exert that pressure.

Associated Press writer Ipek Yezdani in Ankara, Turkey contributed to this report.

Sanders' bond with Latinos gets first test of many in Nevada

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE** and **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — When the Bernie Sanders for President campaign set up shop in Las Vegas last July, its first move was to open an office in the city's east side, the heart of the Latino community. Staffers decorated the stark space with brightly colored paper banners known as "papel picado" and threw an office opening party with a mariachi band and appearance from Sanders himself.

Three times a day canvassers spill out of its doors to walk the streets, knocking on doors, calling out to neighbors in Spanish and talking up Sanders — or as he is known to some Latino supporters, "Tio Bernie."

A self-declared socialist from Vermont, Sanders is sometimes pigeon-holed as the hero to white college students and lefty boomers. But his campaign believes his outreach to diverse voters, especially Latinos in places like east Las Vegas, will be the secret to his success.

That focus was clear Saturday, as early voting kicked off in Nevada. Sanders' campaign hired a truck with an electronic billboard on the back to drive around east Las Vegas, encouraging Sanders supporters to go cast early caucus ballots.

Four years ago, Sanders' failure to muster enough support from minority voters was partly to blame for his losing the Democratic nomination. This time around, he has transformed his outreach to Hispanic voters, hiring high-level Latino advisers, beefing up Spanish-speaking canvassing and digging deep into Latino neighborhoods to find voters open to his populist message.

There are signs that Sanders' work has begun to pay off. In Iowa, Sanders won two-thirds of the roughly 1,000 votes at caucus locations in majority Latino areas, according to a study by professors at the University of California-Los Angeles. While reliable polling on Latinos is scarce, a Fox News survey of Nevada Democrats in early January found Sanders had stronger support among Latinos than among whites in the state, tying Biden for the lead among the group.

But the first real test of the strategy is Nevada's caucus on Feb. 22, the third contest on the presidential nominating calendar and the first with a sizable population of Latino voters. Following quickly are California and Texas, states that are 40% Hispanic and represent nearly half the delegates up for grabs on so-called Super Tuesday on March 3. Arizona and Florida vote two weeks later. Strength among Latino voters could serve as a solid foundation of support that helps Sanders rack up delegates deep into the nomination process.

Leslye Olivas and her fiance, Miguel Jaramillo, stood holding signs reading "Families Belong Together" at a Sanders rally Saturday in a high school gym as a quartet of guitarists played mariachi music to warm up the crowd. Olivas, 25, who works as an office administrator at a casino, said her support of Sanders comes from "his consistency and he's persisted. He has a lot of track record of wanting to help minorities and help everyone."

The affection has been somewhat surprising for some Latinos activists who were frustrated with Sanders after he helped kill a 2007 immigration bill, warning it would drive down wages. But for many Latinos, like other voters, their knowledge of Sanders starts with the 2016 run, when he championed immigrant rights and promised an economic revolution.

"I just feel he's very fair, what he's running for and how he's running," said Eloisa Sandoval, a college student in Las Vegas who recently welcomed Sanders canvassers to her yard and signed a card pledging to caucus for him. She said Sanders' proposal for free college "would be fantastic."

Sanders' emphasis on good jobs, single-payer health care and free college comes up constantly with voters, said Susana Cervantes, his Nevada field director.

"Almost every parent's dream, especially immigrants, is for their children to access higher education. It represents social mobility, social economic mobility and it's a part of the American dream," she said.

It wasn't enough for Sanders to win Nevada in 2016. In its post-defeat autopsy, Sanders' campaign found it had won the votes of Latinos in almost every state it competed, albeit sometimes narrowly, said Chuck

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Rocha, a senior Sanders strategist. It decided to build on that foundation.

In his 2020 announcement speech, he stressed his impoverished parents' immigrant roots to draw a connection with Latino voters only a generation or two away from the immigrant experience. The campaign recruited high-profile surrogates like New York Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez — who held a Spanish-language town hall in Nevada late last year — and San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz. It marshaled Latino supporters from around the country to send text messages in Spanish to Latinos in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina, the four early states.

The campaign hired Latinos in high positions across every department, Rocha said. It spent millions of dollars on bilingual communications. Those ads landed on the Latin pop Pandora channels that young Latinos might listen to, but also the weekly Spanish-language newspapers and Univision current affairs shows their parents or grandparents read and watch. It all cultivated the image of Sanders as part of the family — a "tio" or uncle — as the popular campaign shirt read.

Other campaigns have taken notice. Rep. Tony Cardenas of California has endorsed Joe Biden and predicts Latinos will rally around a proven leader like the former vice president. But he said Sanders' outreach has been noticeable.

"He's going to do better with the Latino community than he did four years ago," Cardenas said.

Latinos do not vote as a solid bloc. Families in the Southwest who have lived in the country for centuries often vote differently from recent arrivals in the Midwest or Cuban immigrants in Florida and New Jersey whose experience with socialist leaders abroad can make them especially suspicious of a candidate who describes himself, as Sanders does, as a socialist.

In 2018, Latinos comprised about 11% of the Democratic electorate. About two-thirds of Latino voters backed Democratic candidates in the midterms, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of voters in that election.

And though Sanders' team believes its candidate has forged a bond with Latinos, polls show they tend to be more centrist than non-Hispanic Democrats.

"They're still more moderate and make the Democratic electorate more moderate than in some other states," said Gilberto Hinojosa, chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, who noted that many Latinos in his state would not identify as progressives, much less socialists.

But Sanders' competition for these voters is intensifying quickly. Former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg recently began his own effort, "Ganamos con Mike," or "We Win with Mike." Bloomberg has used his personal fortune to air Spanish-language spots from Puerto Rico to California. Meanwhile, Biden has racked up endorsements from several Latino members of congress. Former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, coming off a virtual first-place tie with Sanders in Iowa and a strong second-place finish in New Hampshire, has ramped up his outreach to all voters uncomfortable with Sanders' liberal positions, including his "Medicare for All" proposal, and is running Spanish-language ads in Nevada, as is billionaire environmental activist Tom Steyer.

But for some voters, including Jose Silva, a 20-year-old student who works with an environmental non-profit in Las Vegas, Sanders has already closed the deal.

Silva immigrated from Mexico and became a citizen last year. After turning out for Sanders' rally with Ocasio-Cortez in December, he celebrated what he said felt like a truly diverse campaign.

"These ideals that he has aren't just for old white people. They're for all colors," Silva said.

Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Candy, cheese soar to space station to satisfy crew cravings

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A cargo ship rocketed toward the International Space Station on Saturday, carrying candy and cheese to satisfy the astronauts' cravings.

Northrop Grumman launched its Cygnus capsule from the Virginia seashore. The nearly 4-ton shipment

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should arrive at the orbiting lab Tuesday. It took three tries over the past week to get the Antares rocket off the pad, with it finally taking flight at 3:21 p.m. — an auspicious 3-2-1.

“Awesome launch,” Joel Montalbano, NASA’s deputy space station program manager, said once the capsule reached orbit.

Besides the usual experiments and gear, the capsule holds cheddar and manchego cheeses, fresh fruit and vegetables, chocolate and three kinds of gummy candy expressly requested by the three station astronauts: Skittles, Hot Tamales, and Mike and Ike’s.

Periodic supply runs by Russia, Japan and NASA’s two private shippers, Northrop Grumman and SpaceX, usually provide more than experiments, equipment, clothes and freeze-dried meals. The capsules also bring family care packages, as well as fresh food to offset the run-of-the-mill station grub.

This latest delivery should have arrived well before Valentine’s Day. But last-minute equipment concerns at the Wallops Island launch pad halted last Sunday’s countdown for the Antares rocket, then bad weather moved in. Dangerously high wind scuttled Friday’s attempt.

This was the company’s 13th space station delivery for NASA. The Cygnus capsules get their name from the Swan Constellation.

This particular Cygnus has been christened the SS Robert H. Lawrence in honor of America’s first black astronaut. Lawrence, an Air Force major, was chosen in 1967 as an astronaut for a classified military space program known as the Manned Orbiting Laboratory. He was killed five months later in a plane crash and never flew in space.

The space station is now home for Americans Jessica Meir and Andrew Morgan and Russian Oleg Skripochka. Morgan has been up there since July and the two others since September; they’ll remain on board until April. Three other astronauts returned to Earth earlier this month.

Until astronaut launches resume from Florida — possibly by SpaceX this spring — the station crew will be limited in size to three. NASA astronauts now launch on Russian rockets from Kazakhstan.

Boeing, NASA’s other commercial crew provider, is struggling with software problems in its astronaut capsule. A December test flight was marred by coding errors.

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Mississippi braces for flooding amid cresting river

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves declared a state of emergency Saturday amid predictions that a river running in the area around the state capital of Jackson could burst its banks and spark widespread flooding.

Forecasters believe the Pearl River will crest at 38 feet (11.6 meters) Sunday evening to levels not seen in decades, following days of torrential rains across the Southeast. Reeves said the state should prepare for “the third worst flood” in its history.

“This is a historic, unprecedented flood,” Reeves said via Twitter.

Parts of Jackson and suburban Ridgeland were under evacuation orders, and some people had already filled trucks with furniture and other belongings to get out. Reeves said more than 2,400 homes and other structures in and near Jackson could either be inundated or isolated by the rising waters. That includes 1,925 structures in Hinds County, 461 in Rankin County and 31 in Madison County.

“I cannot stress to you how important the next 24 to 48 hours is for the people who are going to be affected,” Reeves said. He signed an emergency declaration to speed up spending for flood response and recovery. More than 96,000 sandbags had already been distributed by Saturday. The National Guard, the Highway Patrol and other high-water rescue teams were on standby, Reeves said.

“Have a plan to protect yourself and a plan to protect your loved ones,” Reeves said.

Although the sun was shining Saturday in central Mississippi, Reeves and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency director Greg Michel said people in low-lying areas should not be complacent about leaving

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because the river was expected to crest at night and remain high for days, with rain in the forecast for Sunday and Monday.

"Do not wait until water gets into your house to evacuate," Michel urged.

Officials were bracing for what could be the worst flooding in Jackson since 1983. Nicholas Fenner, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Jackson, said the Pearl River crested at 43.2 feet on April 17, 1979 — its highest level. The second-highest level occurred May 5, 1983, when the river got up to 39.58 feet. He also said there was between \$500 million and \$700 million worth of damage in 1979, which saw 15,000 people evacuated.

The area is currently under blue skies, but Fenner warned residents against complacency.

"Even though the weather has improved, the water will be rising soon. Don't get lulled into a false sense of security," he said.

Meanwhile, the Ross Barnett Reservoir is approaching capacity, which led officials to announce that they would begin slowly releasing water at 6 p.m. Saturday. WLBT-TV reported the move is an attempt to keep flooding to a minimum downstream, and to allow extra time for residents to get to higher ground.

John Sigman, manager of the Pearl River Water Supply District, had a phone conference with the National Weather Service and the Army Corp of Engineers on Friday. They said that areas north of the main lake have crested and were beginning to fall and described that as good news.

The crest at the reservoir is now expected Sunday morning. Officials told the television station they are holding their outflow right now at 65,000 cubic feet per second and will hold there for 48 hours, giving people downstream time to get out.

Virginia emerges as South's progressive leader under Dems

By ALAN SUDERMAN and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — In a state once synonymous with the Old South, Democrats are using their newfound legislative control to refashion Virginia as the region's progressive leader on racial, social and economic issues. Lawmakers are on the verge of passing the South's strictest gun laws, broadest LGBTQ protections, highest minimum wage and some of its loosest abortion restrictions, churning through landmark legislation on a near-daily basis.

The leap to the left has sparked fierce pushback from rural Virginians, social conservatives and others who are chafing under the political shift in the state, where a holiday honors Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson and monuments to those men dot the landscape.

"It's like a jewelry store smash and grab," Republican Sen. Bill Stanley said of Democrats' strategy. "They're going to grab everything they possibly can while they can get it before the lights go on and the siren goes off."

It's a breathtaking change after years of legislative inertia. Virginia has been a political outlier among southern states for a while, routinely electing Democrats to statewide office. But Republicans held a firm grip on the legislature until President Donald Trump's election in 2016, which mobilized disaffected suburban voters and boosted Democrats in two successive legislative elections. They have full control of the General Assembly this year for the first time in two decades.

"It's nice to finally be able to do what I think the majority of Virginians have wanted for a long time," Democratic Del. Mark Levine said.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate have voted to end a state holiday honoring Lee and Jackson and instead are making Election Day an official holiday. They spent Tuesday — the deadline for each chamber to pass its own version of legislation — passing dozens of other bills, including a measure to incrementally raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and legislation to allow local governments to remove Confederate statues. That bill comes in the wake of a 2017 white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, sparked in part by the city's attempt to remove a Lee statue, that turned violent.

Lawmakers also have advanced this year:

— a renewable energy measure that will likely raise electric rates but, environmentalists say, make the

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state among the greenest in the country

- comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation
- bills that abortion-rights advocates say will make Virginia a “safe haven” for women in neighboring conservative states
- resolutions to make Virginia the critical 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, a major victory for women’s-rights advocates
- a repeal of a provision requiring voters to show ID before casting a ballot.

The legislature, led by the first female House speaker and with the highest number of African-Americans in leadership positions in the state’s 400-year history, is set to give final passage to most pieces of landmark legislation ahead of the March 7 adjournment.

The highest-profile fight has been on Democrats’ push for stricter gun laws, including universal background checks and a ban on selling assault weapons, after last year’s fatal shooting at a government complex in Virginia Beach. Many Democrats campaigned on the issue in 2019, and gun-control groups heavily funded candidates.

Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam’s gun-control measures passed the House, but the more-conservative Senate has blocked some of the measures, including the assault-weapons ban.

Despite a largely conservative history, Democrats have had a large footprint in Virginia for years. It was the only state in the South to pick Hillary Clinton in 2016, and Democrats have made sizable gains in other legislative elections. The most recent blue shift has been fueled in large part by the state’s growing suburbs, particularly in Northern Virginia, where voters are more likely to be immigrants, college-educated, and liberal.

“The Northeast megalopolis has sort of migrated down to Virginia,” said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution.

He said Virginia is at the “vanguard” of demographic trends playing out in other Southern states such as North Carolina and Georgia, which almost elected the country’s first black female governor in 2018.

But Republican leaders say Democrats are stretching beyond what mainstream Virginia voters support.

“The policies being enacted right now are going to be a rude awakening to the majority of Virginians, even people who voted for Democrats last year, as they continue to have to dip into their pockets more and more to pay for this agenda,” House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert said.

Conservative opposition to many of the changes in Virginia, particularly on gun measures, has reached past the state’s borders. Thousands of guns-rights activists from around the country flooded the Capitol and surrounding area in protest last month, some donning tactical gear and military rifles. In West Virginia, Gov. Jim Justice and Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. have encouraged Virginia counties unhappy with the state’s new direction, particularly on gun laws, to leave the state.

Business groups also added their voice to the opposition, with alarm over labor-friendly measures Democrats passed. Only a handful of liberal states, including California, New York and Maryland, have passed laws that will eventually set a \$15-an-hour minimum wage.

“It’s not good company to be in, at all,” said Brett Vassey, president of the Virginia Manufacturers Association.

Yet progressive Democrats say the chamber hasn’t done enough on several issues. Lawmakers have rejected a bid to repeal the state’s right-to-work law that bars mandatory union membership as well as a number of criminal justice reform bills, including measures to end solitary confinement, reinstate parole, and make it easier to expunge criminal records for misdemeanor and nonviolent felony convictions.

“Some people are going to go home and brag about how much was accomplished, and some people are going to go home and say, look what was left on the table and we have to fight for more,” said Del. Lee Carter, a democratic socialist. “I’m in the latter camp.”

14-year-old charged with Barnard College student death

By JULIE WALKER and MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — A 14-year-old has been arrested in the fatal stabbing of a Barnard College student in a park during a robbery in December, a crime that rattled New York City residents, authorities said Saturday.

Rashaun Weaver has been indicted by a grand jury and was taken into custody Friday night without incident, New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said at a news conference.

Weaver, charged with second-degree murder and robbery, is the second teenager to be charged in the attack on 18-year-old Tessa Majors in a Manhattan park.

"We are confident that we have the person in custody who stabbed her," Shea said. "And that person will face justice in a court of law."

The Associated Press is naming the juvenile defendant because of the seriousness of the crime and because he has been charged as an adult. Weaver's attorney, Elsie Chandler, did not immediately return a call to Neighbor Defender Service of Harlem seeking comment.

"He's a 14-year-old child and he's presumed not guilty," Chandler told the New York Post after Weaver's bail hearing Saturday, at which he was ordered held without bail at a juvenile facility until his arraignment Wednesday.

Majors was stabbed as she walked through Morningside Park early the evening of Dec. 11. She staggered up a flight of stairs to street level and collapsed in a crosswalk.

A criminal complaint released Saturday described Majors as struggling on a landing with three people and screaming, "Help me! I'm being robbed!"

Weaver said Majors was "hanging onto her phone" when he tried to take it, according to the complaint.

Officials said they have evidence from videotapes, witness identification and DNA evidence from Major's fingernail clippings linking Weaver to the crime.

The attack, two days before the start of final exams at the women's school, troubled city residents because of its proximity to campus and its apparent randomness. Barnard is part of the Ivy League's Columbia University.

"This arrest is a major milestone on the path to justice for Tessa Majors," said District Attorney Cy Vance.

A 13-year-old who was arrested Dec. 13 and charged as a juvenile with felony murder told detectives he was at the park with other youths but wasn't the one who stabbed Majors.

Vance said his office and the police are "in active investigation in terms of other suspects, and that will continue."

Majors, of Charlottesville, Virginia, played in a rock band and had told an editor from a newspaper internship in high school that she planned to take journalism classes in college.

Hill reported from Albany, New York.

Esper says Taliban deal is promising but not without risk

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **MATTHEW LEE** Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Saturday that a truce agreement between the United States and the Taliban that could lead to the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan is not without risk but "looks very promising."

Ahead of a formal announcement of the seven-day "reduction in violence" deal, Esper said it was time to give peace a chance in Afghanistan through a political negotiation. He spoke a day after a senior U.S. official said the deal had been concluded and would take effect very soon.

Expectations are that agreement will be formally announced on Sunday and that the reduction in violence will begin on Monday, according to people familiar with the plan.

"So we have on the table right now a reduction in violence proposal that was negotiated between our ambassador and the Taliban," Esper told an audience at the Munich Security Conference. "It looks very promising."

"It's my view as well that we have to give peace a chance, that the best if not the only way forward in Afghanistan is through a political agreement and that means taking some risk," he said. "That means

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enabling our diplomats and that means working together with our partners and allies on the ground to affect such a thing.”

Esper and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met on Friday in Munich with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who has been skeptical of the scheme, which, if successful, would see an end to attacks for seven days and then the signing of a U.S.-Taliban peace deal. All-Afghan peace talks would then begin within 10 days as part of the plan, which envisions the phased withdrawal of U.S. forces over 18 months.

In remarks later to a group of reporters, Esper declined to say whether the U.S. had agreed to cut its troop levels in Afghanistan to zero. He said if the 7-day truce is successful and the next step toward Afghan peace talks begins, the U.S. would reduce its troop contingent “over time” to about 8,600. There currently are about 12,000 U.S. troops in the country.

Ghani also refused to comment on many specifics of the plan but said the time had come “find a political solution to stop the war.”

He said it was impossible to know whether the Taliban might take advantage of a draw down in American military power in Afghanistan to reassert its their own presence, but said the only way to find out was to “engage in the peace process.”

“The critical test is going to be: will the Taliban accept an election?” Ghani said.

The president rejected the idea that the Taliban could be granted greater influence in certain regions of Afghanistan, saying it was “antithetical to the Afghan vision because we are a unified country.”

“The scope of the peace must be national. It cannot be sub-national because otherwise it will be a recipe for another round of conflict,” he said.

The United States has not agreed to suspend or end its counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan, which have been focused mainly on an Islamic State affiliate, known as ISIS-K, and al-Qaida, said Pentagon spokeswoman Alyssa Farah, who was traveling with Esper.

“Under any agreement, General Miller retains the authorities necessary to protect U.S. national security interests, including the authorities and capabilities to strike ISIS-K and al-Qaida,” she said, referring to U.S. Gen Scott Miller, the commander of American and coalition forces in Afghanistan.

The agreement was finalized last week by U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban representatives in Doha, Qatar. Esper said Ghani was supportive of the deal and had pledged to do his best to support it.

“I think he is fully on board,” Esper said of Ghani. “He wants to lead his part of the process, which if we get to that would be a peace deal that would involve very soon afterward an inter-Afghan negotiation. He wants to be clearly a full partner in that and wants to lead on that and make sure that all Afghans come together.”

Ghani has bickered with his partner in the current Unity Government, Abdullah Abdullah, over who will represent Kabul at the negotiating table. Ghani has insisted he lead the talks, while his political opponents and other prominent Afghans have called for more inclusive representation.

Separately on Saturday, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg told the security conference that he also supported the plan but stressed that the alliance’s mission in Afghanistan would continue in the short- and medium-term.

“We are not leaving Afghanistan but we are prepared to adjust our force level if the Taliban demonstrates the will and the capability to reduce violence and make real compromises that could pave the way for negotiations among Afghans for sustainable peace,” he said.

David Rising contributed to this story.

Week 4 of Weinstein trial: Closing arguments, two universes

By MICHAEL R. SISK and TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Harvey Weinstein grinned as he left court, and his lawyers said he was confident heading into what could be his last weekend of freedom as his New York City rape trial moves closer to

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a verdict.

Jurors are set to start deliberating Tuesday, their task put off a day because court is closed Monday for Presidents Day.

The prosecution and defense left the panel of seven men and five women with plenty to think about as they summed up their cases for and against convicting the movie producer in closing arguments on back-to-back days, Thursday and Friday.

Weinstein, 67, is charged with raping a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performing oral sex on another woman, TV and film production assistant Mimi Haleyi, in 2006.

Jurors will also be weighing actress Annabella Sciorra's account of a mid-1990s rape in considering charges alleging Weinstein is a sexual predator, even though it is too old to be charged on its own.

Weinstein maintains any sexual conduct was consensual.

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

The closing arguments were the highlight of the fourth week of testimony and arguments at the landmark #MeToo trial.

DEFENSE: 'FACTS MATTER, EVIDENCE MATTERS'

Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno suggested Thursday that prosecutors created an "alternative universe" and a "sinister tale" because they lacked evidence to convict the former studio boss.

"In their story, they have created a universe that strips adult women of common sense, autonomy and responsibility," Rotunno said. "It is offensive, actually."

Rotunno, a #MeToo critic, argued that the two women Weinstein is charged with attacking were opportunists who willingly latched on to the powerful producer and acquiesced to sex because they thought it would help their careers.

Rotunno, continuing a theme of the defense's case, seized on the women's warm emails and other communications with Weinstein that continued for months and years after the alleged attacks.

Referring to prosecutors, she said: "In their universe, (Weinstein's accusers) are not even responsible for sitting at their computers sending emails to someone across the country."

"In this script, the powerful man is the villain, and he's so unattractive and large that no woman would ever want to sleep with him voluntarily. Regret does not exist in this world, only regret renamed as rape," the lawyer continued.

Wrapping up remarks that went on for more than 4½ hours, Rotunno told jurors: "facts matter, evidence matters, and when this case is over, we know that you'll do the right thing because justice demands it."

As he left court Thursday, Weinstein said he "loved" Rotunno's closing. "I made 'The King's Speech.' It was the queen's speech," he quipped.

PROSECUTION: FIND HIM GUILTY

Prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon went Friday and spoke about another universe — one in which Weinstein's accusers "were merely ants that he could step on without consequences."

Weinstein worried about Sciorra because she was an established star but treated other victims like "complete disposables" because they weren't in his Hollywood orbit and he had the power to make sure they wouldn't be, Illuzzi said.

One way that Weinstein kept the women quiet was by making them feel embarrassed and ashamed, as if they had done something wrong, when it was him forcing them into awkward situations, like asking them to give him a massage, Illuzzi said.

"What he wants to do is he wants to get them in a situation where they feel stupid. If you feel stupid and belittled, belittled, stupid people do not complain," the prosecutor told jurors.

Illuzzi implored jurors to focus on Weinstein's conduct, not what the alleged victims in the case may have said or done with him afterward.

For instance, she said, the woman Weinstein is charged with raping could have been madly in love and

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had his name tattooed on her arm, but "he still would not be allowed to rape her," Illuzzi said.

Illuzzi finished her three-hour talk by reminding jurors how painful it had been for Weinstein's accusers to come forward, and how, by testifying, they had "sacrificed their dignity, their privacy and their peace" to seek justice.

"They didn't come for a beauty contest, didn't come for money, didn't come for fame, they came to be heard," she said.

'IT IS NOT A PROP!'

As they prepared for closing arguments this week, Weinstein's lawyers found themselves sparring with Illuzzi over her plan to mention that his physical appearance had changed significantly since the time of the alleged assaults.

His lawyers feared she would comment about the walker Weinstein has been using to hobble into court each day, which they say he needs because of recent back surgery.

Jurors haven't seen Weinstein amble in and out of court, but Illuzzi noted during the discussion Tuesday that they can see the walker because it's parked right behind the defense table.

"The walker has been there as a prop," she said.

"It is not a prop! Enough!" Weinstein lawyer Damon Cheronis said.

"That is what it looks like," Illuzzi responded. "You can scream all you like. They did not have to have the walker back there."

After more bickering, the judge said it was fine for Illuzzi to mention Weinstein's physical changes, which she wound up doing in her closing, but warned: "Leave the walker out of it."

FACES IN THE CROWD

Big-name celebrities are staying away from Weinstein's trial, leaving the courtroom gallery filled mostly with reporters tapping notes on laptops and legal types keeping tabs on the case, along with a few rows of prosecution and defense team guests.

Actress Ellen Barkin showed up early in the trial to watch Sciorra testify and ended up flipping off photographers taking her picture. Actress Rosie Perez was there too, but as a witness to corroborate Sciorra's account. Other stars protested outside during jury selection but haven't made their way into court.

When the #MeToo movement exploded, Weinstein's case seemed like it would be a magnet for celebrities fed up with his history of mistreating women. A pretrial hearing in December 2018 attracted a big crowd from the Time's Up organization, including actresses Marisa Tomei and Amber Tamblyn and other celebrities.

Instead, the boldface names in the courtroom have been a bit more inside baseball: Jodi Kantor, the New York Times reporter and co-author of "She Said"; Robert Boyce, the NYPD chief of detectives during the Weinstein investigation; lawyers Gloria Allred and Douglas Wigdor, who represent some of Weinstein's accusers; and John Orbon, Illuzzi's husband, who had a front-row seat for her closing argument.

Vance has also been a regular in the crowd. The case had the potential to swing his legacy after years of criticism and recent calls to resign over his handling of high-profile sex assault cases, including an earlier dropped investigation into Weinstein.

'NOT REALLY RAMBO'

In her closing, Illuzzi revisited an episode in 1997 in which Sciorra says Weinstein showed up to her hotel room at the Cannes Film Festival one morning in his underwear, with a bottle of baby oil in one hand and a videotape in the other.

Sciorra, there to promote the film "Cop Land," told jurors she backed away and pushed all of the direct dial buttons on her room phone, hoping someone from the hotel staff would come help.

On cross examination, Rotunno wondered why Sciorra didn't just go to her tough-guy costars Sylvester Stallone and Robert De Niro for help keeping Weinstein away from her.

Showing a photo of Sciorra and Stallone on a big TV monitor, Illuzzi said Friday: "Here she is at that event walking the red carpet with Sly Stallone. What was Annabella asked? Why didn't you call Sly? Why didn't you call Robert De Niro for help?"

Then, looking straight ahead at the jury, the prosecutor quipped: "You guys know that Sylvester Stallone

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is not really Rambo, right? And Robert De Niro is not really the Godfather. They are just actors like she is."

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.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2020. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 2001, the United States and Britain staged air strikes against radar stations and air defense command centers in Iraq.

On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the moniker "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated in Haleyville, Alabama, as the speaker of the Alabama House, Rankin Fite, placed a call from the mayor's office in City Hall to a red telephone at the police station (also located in City Hall) that was answered by U.S. Rep. Tom Bevill.

In 1988, seven people were shot to death during an office rampage in Sunnyvale, California, by a man obsessed with a co-worker who was wounded in the attack. (The gunman is on death row.)

In 1996, eleven people were killed in a fiery collision between an Amtrak passenger train and a Maryland commuter train in Silver Spring, Md.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300 trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board, plus seven on the ground.

In 2002, authorities in Noble, Ga., arrested Ray Brent Marsh, who'd been operating a crematory where hundreds of decomposing corpses were found stacked in storage sheds and scattered in the woods behind it. (Marsh later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.)

In 2005, the NHL canceled what was left of its decimated schedule after a round of last-gasp negotiations failed to resolve differences over a salary cap — the flash-point issue that had led to a lockout.

In 2006, the U.S. Army said goodbye to its last Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, handing over equipment from the MASH unit to doctors and nurses in Pakistan, the scene of an Oct. 2005 earthquake.

Ten years ago: Officials reported the capture of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar (BEHR'-uh-dahr), the Afghan Taliban's No. 2 commander, by a joint CIA and Pakistani team. (Baradar was set free by Pakistan in Sept. 2013 in hopes he could help jumpstart Afghanistan's peace process.) President Barack Obama announced more than \$8 billion in new federal loan guarantees to build two nuclear reactors in Georgia.

Five years ago: Egyptian warplanes struck Islamic State targets in Libya, hours after the extremist group released a grisly video showing the beheading of Egyptian Coptic Christians it had held hostage for weeks. Singer-songwriter Lesley Gore, 68, died in New York. Lorena Rojas, 44, a popular Mexican soap opera and movie actress, died in Miami.

One year ago: The Vatican announced that former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who served as archbishop of Washington, D.C., had been found guilty by the Vatican of sex abuse and had been defrocked; McCarrick was the highest-ranking churchman and the first cardinal to face that punishment as the church dealt with clerical sex abuse.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz/pop singer-actress Peggy King is 90. Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 75. Actor William Katt is 69. Actor LeVar Burton is 63. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 62. Actress Lisa Loring is 62. International Tennis

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Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 61. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 59. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 55. Actress Sarah Clarke is 49. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 47. Actor Mahershala Ali is 46. Singer Sam Salter is 45. Electronic dance music artist Bassnectar is 42. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 38. Actress Chloe Wepper is 34. Pop-rock singer Ryan Follese (FAHL'-eh-say) (Hot Chelle (SHEL) Rae) is 33. Rock musician Danielle Haim (HYM) is 31. Actress Elizabeth Olsen is 31. Actor Mike Weinberg is 27.

Thought for Today: "I am content to define history as the past events of which we have knowledge and refrain from worrying about those of which we have none — until, that is, some archaeologist digs them up." — Barbara W. Tuchman, American historian (1912-1989).

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