

Groton Daily Independent

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 23, 2020

11:00am- 4:00pm: Youth Wrestling Tournament at Groton Area High School

Monday, February 24, 2020

Life Touch pictures at elementary and middle/high school

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Double header basketball vs. Deuel at Clear Lake. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 4 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m. and Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.

Friday, February 28, 2020

National Qualifier at Brookings High School.

State Wrestling Tournament at Sioux Falls.

Boys' Basketball make-up game at Sisseton. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV game then the varsity game.

Saturday, February 29, 2020

National Qualifier at Brookings High School.

State Wrestling Tournament at Sioux Falls.

Robotics at Mitchell Technical Institute

Show Choir competition at Vermillion

Sunday, March 1, 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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton


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

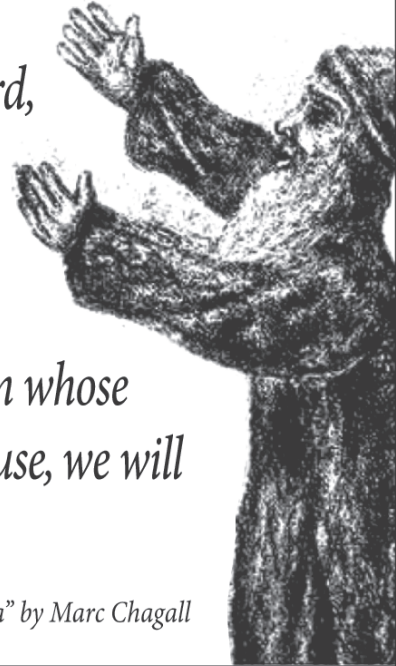
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Sunday Extras



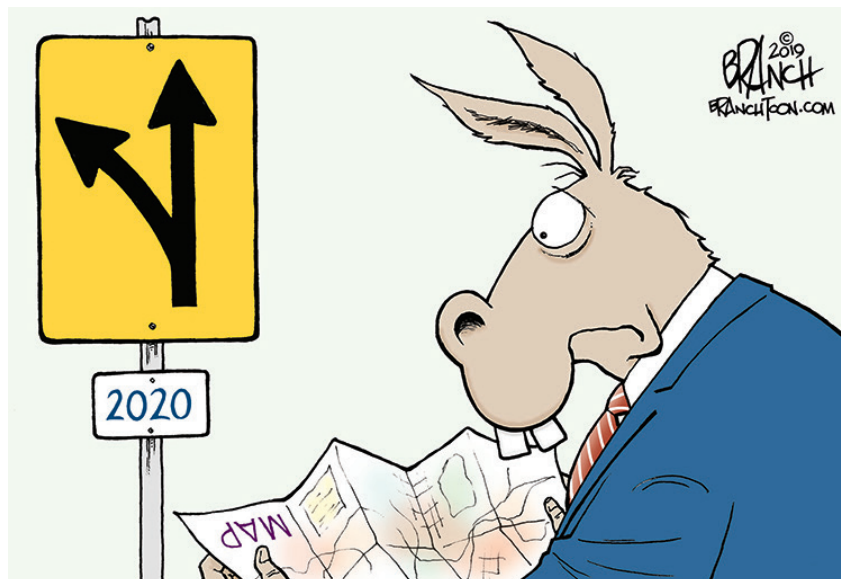
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. JOSHUA 24:15 



Detail of "The Exhortation of Joshua" by Marc Chagall

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 John in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Esther 7, who met his death on the gallows he had built for another man? *Ahab, Elijah, Haman, Dathan*

3. In Proverbs 30, which is not listed as small, but exceedingly wise? *Ants, Flies, Locusts, Conies, Spiders*

4. From Genesis 37, who dreamed that the sun, moon and stars bowed to him? *Moses, Abraham, Aaron, Joseph*

5. Who were the two sisters of Lazarus: Mary and ... ? *Ruth, Martha, Sarah, Miriam*

6. The name Barnabus means "son of ..."? *The field, Fasting, Encouragement, Tempest*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Haman; 3) Flies; 4) Joseph; 5) Martha; 6) Encouragement

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

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Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Almond Crunch Coffee Cake

Knowing this special breakfast treat is waiting makes it worth crawling out of a warm bed on a cold winter morn. Prepare it the night before and warm it up in the microwave, and it will be ready before your eyes are wide open!

- 1½ cups reduced-fat baking mix*
Sugar substitute to equal 1/4 cup, suitable for baking
- 2/3 cup fat-free milk*
- 2 tablespoons fat-free sour cream*
- 1 egg or equivalent in egg substitute*
- 1 teaspoon almond extract*
- 1/4 cup chopped almonds*

1. Heat oven to 375 F. Spray a 9-inch round cake pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine baking mix and sugar substitute. Add milk, sour cream, egg and almond extract. Mix gently just to combine. Spread batter in prepared cake pan. Evenly sprinkle almonds over top. Lightly spray top with butter-flavored cooking spray.

3. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Place cake pan on a wire rack and let set for at least 15 minutes. Cut into 8 wedges.

• Each serving equals: 124 calories, 4g fat, 4g protein, 18g carb., 285mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1/2 Fat.

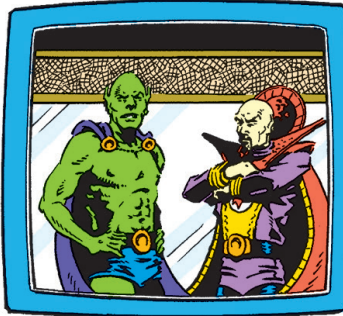
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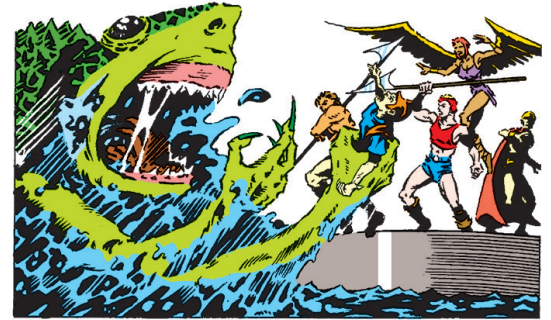
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Our Story So Far...

AS THE BROADCAST FROM THE SHARKMEN'S CITY BENEATH THE SEA BEGINS, KING KALA'S ALLEGIANCE WITH MING IS REVEALED.



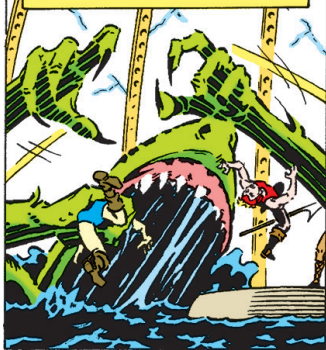
EXPECTING A PEACE CONFERENCE, VIEWERS FROM THROUGHOUT MONGO ARE INSTEAD WITNESS TO A HORRIFYING SIGHT!



FLASH GORDON

2-16 BY JIM KEEFE

WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, THE DELEGATES ARE SAVAGELY ATTACKED!



TRUST ME, PRINCESS, WE'RE NOT BEATEN YET.

TRUST YOU...?! YOU'RE AS HELPLESS AS THE REST OF US!



THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

MY FIRST CHANCE TO REPRESENT MY PEOPLE...

TO PROVE MYSELF TO MY FATHER...

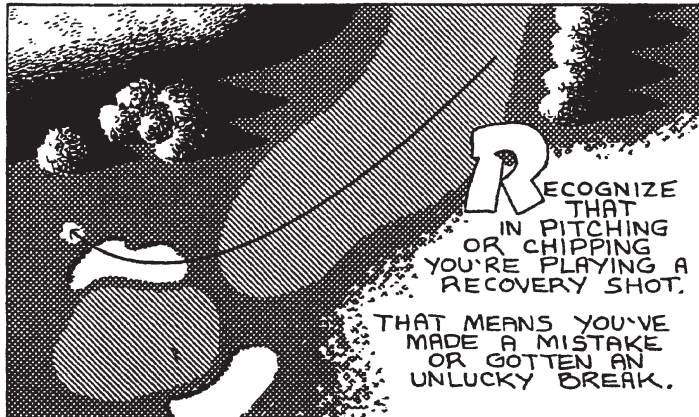
TYREE!



Noo!

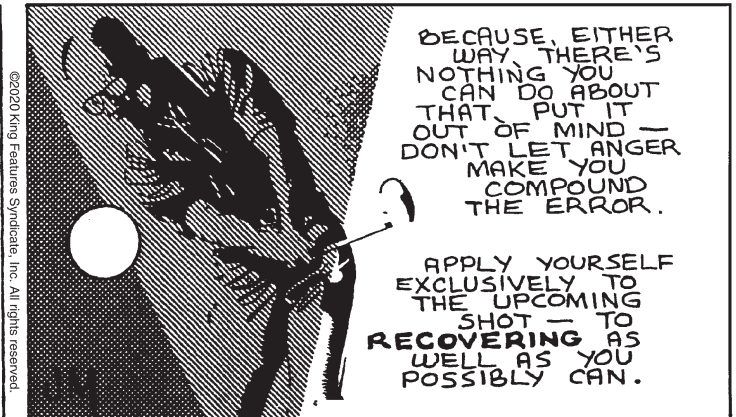
TO BE CONT'D..!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



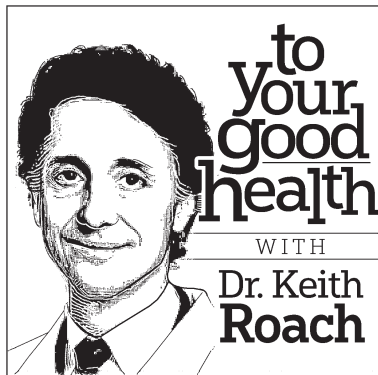
RECOGNIZE THAT IN PITCHING OR CHIPPING YOU'RE PLAYING A RECOVERY SHOT.

THAT MEANS YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE OR GOTTEN AN UNLUCKY BREAK.



BECAUSE, EITHER WAY THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT THAT, PUT IT OUT OF MIND — DON'T LET ANGER MAKE YOU COMPOUND THE ERROR.

APPLY YOURSELF EXCLUSIVELY TO THE UPCOMING SHOT — TO RECOVERING AS WELL AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.



How Bad Is Drinking a Bottle of Wine

DEAR DR. ROACH: I know drinking a bottle of wine isn't good for me, but is it really that bad? I'm a 74-year-old female in excellent health who stays active and enjoys relaxing with wine — before, during and after dinner. I seriously want to know if I'm really harming myself with this habit. — *N.R.*

ANSWER: A bottle of wine is indeed more than is recommended daily. For women, the recommendation is one glass of wine with meals. A bottle of wine contains five glasses. This amount of alcohol is thought to increase overall risk of death by about 30 percent, mostly from accidents, kidney and liver disease and congestive heart failure. There is fairly strong evidence that this much alcohol also increases risk of developing dementia. Alcohol may have a greater effect on older women, because at age 74, your liver probably does not work as well as it did when you were 20.

Put another way, your current risk of death due to the alcohol is closer to that of an 80-year-old than that of a 74-year-old, roughly speaking. Cutting down on alcohol now stops further damage and allows your body to heal itself, to some extent.

I hope I have convinced you that from your health standpoint, five glasses of wine is far too much, and I would really encourage you to stay below two glasses of wine a day.

DEAR DR. ROACH: You have mentioned diseases of the blood marrow in the column before, but

what does the bone marrow actually do? — *T.S.B.*

ANSWER: The main job of the bone marrow is to produce the different blood cells: red blood cells to carry oxygen; white blood cells to fight infection and cancers; and platelets to stop bleeding. Diseases of the bone marrow can cause problems by making something abnormal (such as leukemia cells), but also by failing at its job and not making what it is supposed to. Low red cell counts lead to anemia; low white cell counts increase risk of infection; and low platelet counts contribute to abnormal bleeding.

Bone marrow diseases sometimes can be treated directly, but often treatment involves replacing blood products, and possibly using growth factors to make the bone marrow work better.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My 22-year-old daughter was diagnosed with overactive bladder. She tried medications, but they made her sick. She was given a prescription for a physical therapist to work with her for her condition. Unfortunately, she has hit dead ends. How can she find a physical therapist to work with her? — *A.F.*

ANSWER: Physical therapists, like most other health care professionals, have individual skill sets. Pelvic-floor physical therapy requires a level of expertise that not all physical therapists have. I suspect she may have just been calling physical therapist offices near her and not finding a therapist with that expertise. A quick internet search found a good number of specially trained therapists in the area where she lives.

There are many online reviews of physical therapists, just as there are reviews of doctors and dentists. They have some value, but I would be cautious about both overenthusiastic and overly negative reviews.

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. Which Beatle was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1997?

2. What Ricky Nelson song was introduced to him because of a broken-down car?

3. Which group started out with the name Smile?

4. What No. 1 song by Paper Lace was inspired by the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Like a fool I went and stayed too long, Now I'm wondering if your love's still strong."

Answers

1. Paul McCartney, for his "services to music." In 1965, all four Beatles were given MBE (Member of the British Empire) medals.

2. "Poor Little Fool." It was written by a teenage girl, Sharon Sheeley, who decided the only way to present it to Nelson was to show up at his house and claim her car had broken down.

3. Queen. They came up with Smile as part of a college project. When Freddie Mercury joined the group, he changed the name to Queen. He also designed their logo, with the members' astrological signs.

4. "The Night Chicago Died," in 1974.

5. "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours," by Stevie Wonder in 1970. Wonder credited his mother for coming up with the title and chorus while he was dabbling with the melody.

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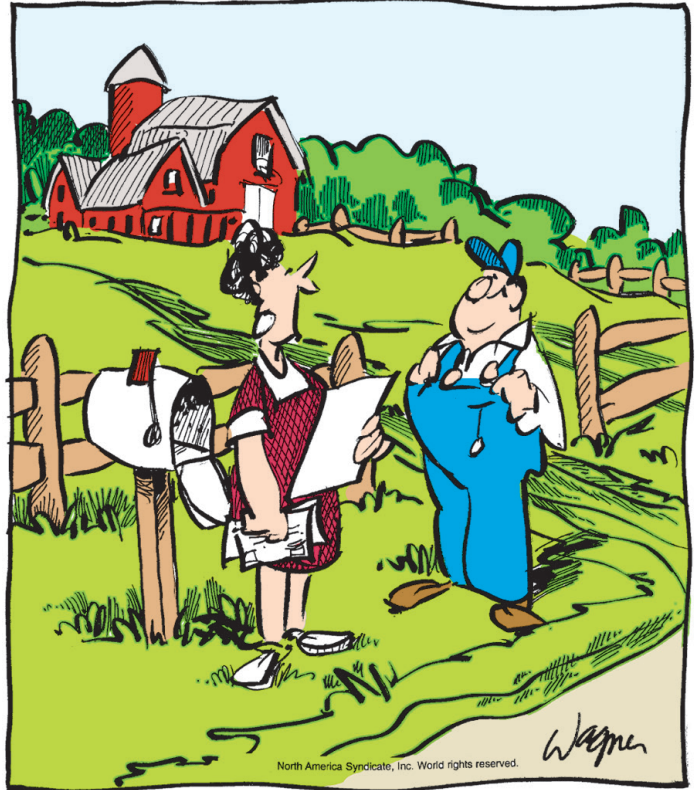
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



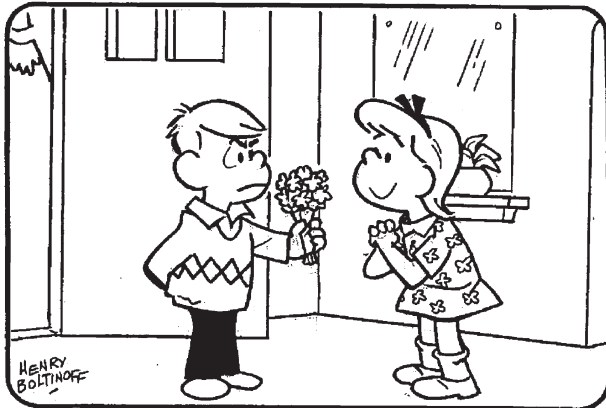
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



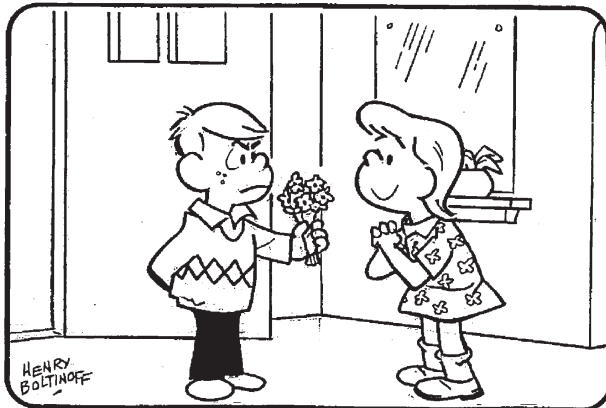
"You made centerfold in the seed catalog!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bow is missing. 2. Plant is different. 3. Freckles are added. 4. Girl's shoe has changed. 5. Tree is missing. 6. Flowers are different.

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• “If there is only a light snow on the ground, you can use your leaf blower to clear walkways or a deck.” — *D.E. in Minnesota*

• You might think your dishwasher cleans itself every time you use it, but it could use a hand. Run this cleaning cycle monthly: Fill a two small bowls with white vinegar, and put one each on the upper and lower racks. When the clean cycle is done, sprinkle a cup of baking soda on the bottom and run again.

• **Cooking Tip:** After you have rotisserie chicken for dinner, throw the carcass in a pot and make a quick stock. All you need are: a quartered onion; two carrots and two celery stalks, roughly chopped; a bay leaf and other spices you enjoy; a bit of salt; your rotisserie chicken carcass; and enough water to cover. Boil and let simmer for up to two hours. Strain and store.

• If you need to chop bacon for a garnish or slice chicken or beef for fajitas, freeze the meat before you chop. It will make it much easier to get the slices uniform because it doesn't slide around.

• “Look closely at extra-large size boxes of cereal. I was surprised to find that the bulk size of my favorite was actually costing me more per ounce. Now I always check the per-unit price, which is often found on the price tag.” — *J.C. in Oklahoma*

• “If you get gum stuck in your hair, try massaging it with a little dab of butter. The fat breaks down the gum, and it's easier to separate the strands. Just go slow and it will come out.” — *K.R. in Indiana*

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

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RIDDLE CARD

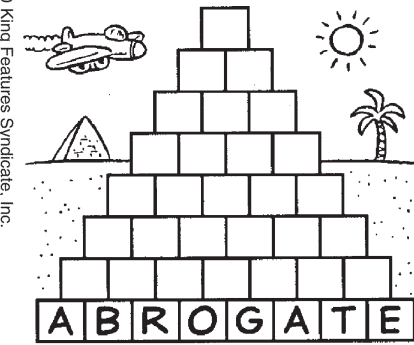
1. What jack is a sailor?
2. What jack is a game?
3. What jack tastes good?
4. What jack clouds your windows?
5. What Jack is seldom hit?
6. What Jack has no body?



- Answers:
1. Jack tar.
 2. Jackstraws.
 3. Flapjack.
 4. Jack Frost.
 5. Jackpot.
 6. Jack-o-Lantern.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

Starting with the word ABROGATE at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time, as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. To make the challenge harder, the following helpful hints are not in ascending order:

1. A period of time.
2. To speak formally.
3. An airplane stunt.
4. An Egyptian sun god.
5. To abolish.
6. To pull apart.
7. A straw hat.
8. A blood type.

WHAT KIND of a puzzler will you be if you solve all of these riddles?

Answer: You will be a Crackerjack puzzler!

DON'T STEW OVER THIS ONE! The label on the basket has nothing to do with ounces or the Wizard of Oz. What does the basket contain?



Answer: Turn the page on its side and read down. The basket contains an "onion".

A COLONIAL PUZZLE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids. Each grid contains 4 words which the reader must discern. Hints are given for each word and the words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. Superman has one.
2. Told a falsehood.
3. Found in a church.
4. Affirmative votes.

C			
L			
A			
Y			

P			
I			
P			
E			

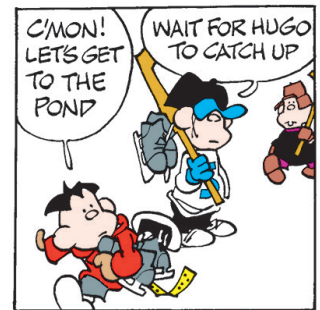
1. A rate of speed.
2. Not employed.
3. Some are sweet.
4. Posing no difficulty.

Answers: 1. Cape-pace. 2. Lied-idle. 3. Apse-peas. 4. Yeas-easy.

Answers (from the bottom up):
Abrogate, aerobat, boater, orate,
tear, era, ra, a.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tummy muscles, for short
- 4 Slapstick arsenal
- 8 Scallopini meat
- 12 Press for payment
- 13 Ireland
- 14 Not working
- 15 Classic Anne Murray song
- 17 Location
- 18 Charlotte's creation
- 19 Capitol VIP
- 21 Pamper
- 24 Gun the engine
- 25 Melody
- 26 Sprite

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		

- 28 Thin smoky streaks
- 52 Increase rapidly
- 5 Square root of IX gets
- 31 Remain
- 32 Messy sort
- 56 Scandinavian city
- 6 Blunders
- 33 Blessing
- 34 Cut the grass
- 57 Sagan or Sandburg
- 7 Passover feast
- 35 Bankroll
- 36 Fit of peevishness
- 58 Shooter ammo
- 8 Compared to
- 38 Ply oars
- 37 High-strung
- 59 Adolescent
- 9 Tend texts
- 40 Talks Dixie-style
- 39 Michael Jackson album
- 60 Has bills
- 10 Choir member
- 43 Mirror-ball venue
- 41 — budget
- 61 Dr. Ruth's subject
- 11 Ogle
- 45 Sphere
- 42 Affirmative action?
- DOWN**
- 23 Shade provider
- 47 Relaxation
- 44 About to fall asleep
- 1 Billboards
- 48 Portrayal
- 46 Old-style hairpiece
- 2 Chignon
- 49 Chew like a chipmunk
- 50 Curved line
- 3 White-flowered amaryllis
- 53 Tramcar contents
- 51 Neighbor of Cambodia
- 4 Little rock
- 27 Watch chain
- 54 Shelter
- 30 Bowlers' target
- 29 Mountain peak covers, often
- 55 Remiss

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY

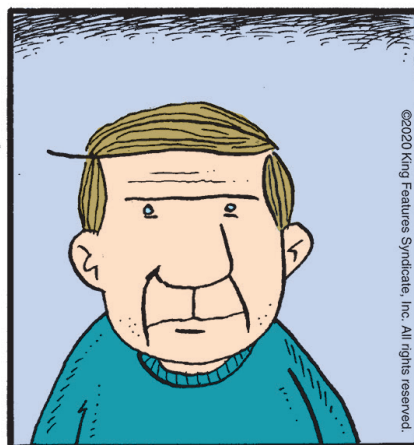
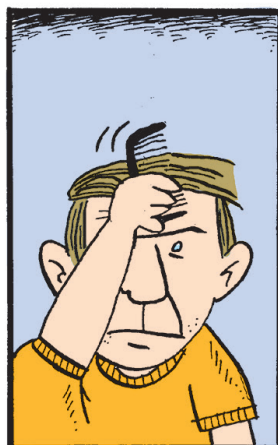
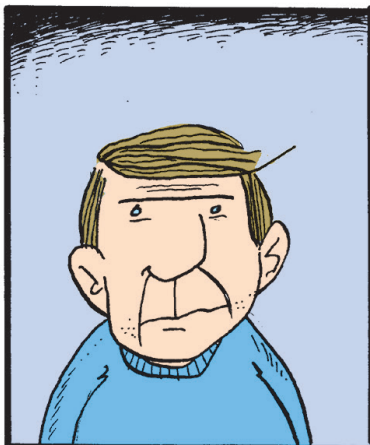


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"It says, 'Serve at room temperature — do not chill.' I wish they'd make up their mind!"

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



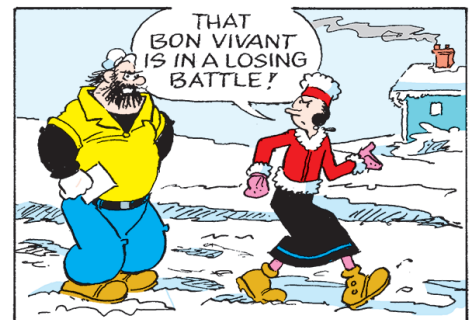
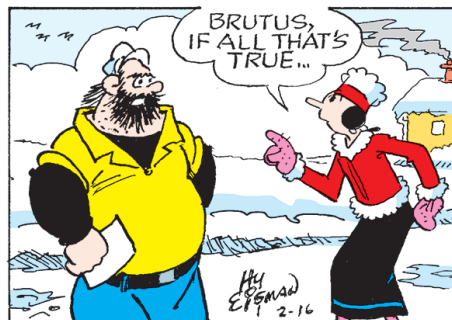
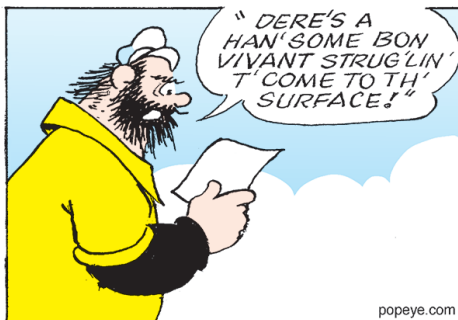
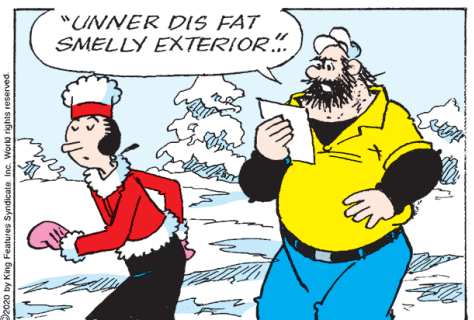
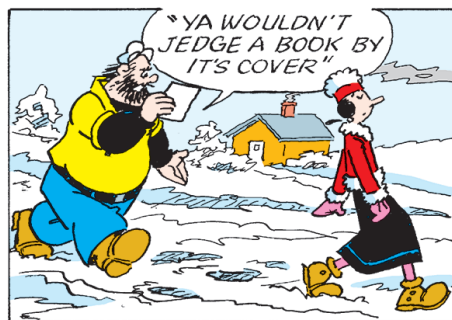
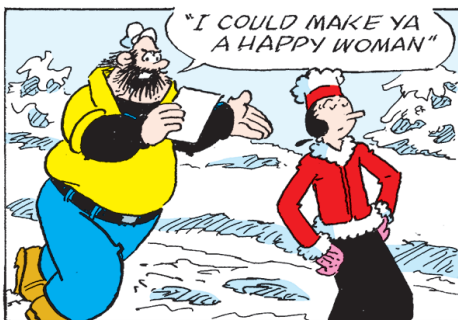
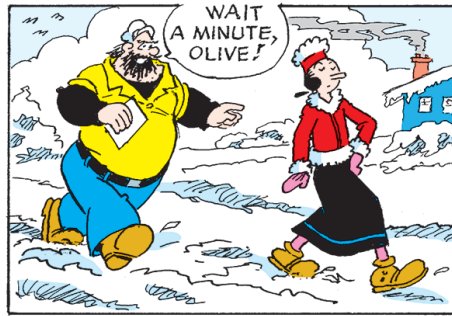
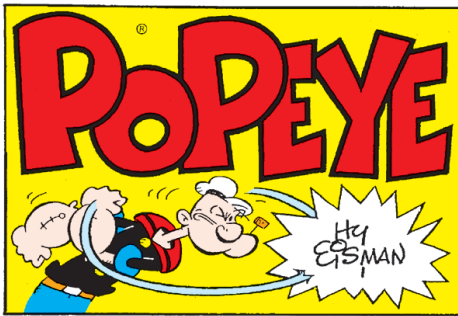
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DARYL WELCOMES EVERY NEW DECADE BY CHANGING THE PART IN HIS HAIR

KOPERVAS

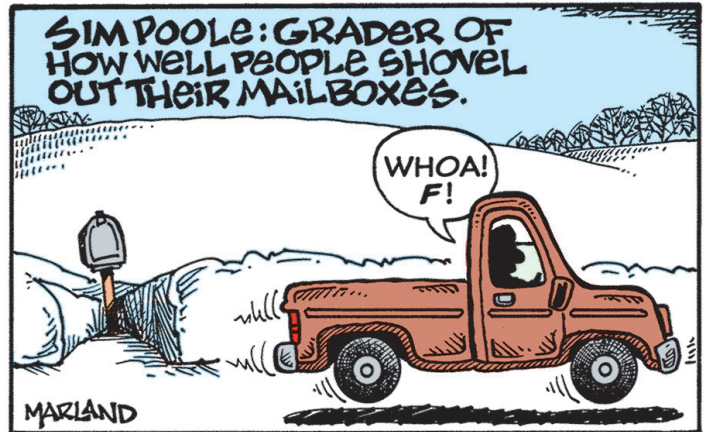
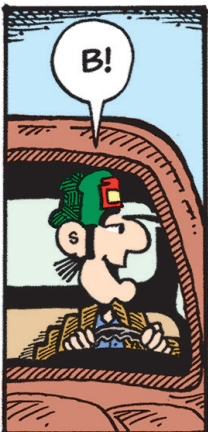
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

Our Story:
VAL'S COMPANY AND THE THREE RENEGADE BEASTMEN MAKE AN ALLIANCE IN THEIR DESIRE TO ESCAPE THIS MISERABLE SEA OF WEED.

THE BEASTMEN FREELY RETURN WEAPONS TO THEIR ERSTWHILE CAPTIVES AS THEY WORK THROUGH THE MENACING WATERS.

WHEN IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT PURSUIT BY GRU-ZOR IS NOT COMING, VAL ORDERS A STOP AT THE DERELICT SHIP PREVIOUSLY EXPLORED.

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THERE, HE DIRECTS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SLEDGE, WHICH IS LOADED WITH THE CASKS OF FRESH WATER. THE TRANSPORT IS A CRUDE THING ...

... AND MANY EXHAUSTING HOURS FOLLOW BEFORE THE WEARY BUNCH DRAWS CLOSE TO HOME.

3750

ON DECK, ALETA IS RELIEVED TO SEE VAL - BUT: "WHAT'S THIS? UNANNOUNCED COMPANY? I'VE HAD NO TIME TO PREPARE A PROPER DINNER!"

NEXT: *Introductions*

Glanna
012-21-08

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

DO YOU BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION? YES!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BELIEVED?

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EVER SINCE I WAS A PUPPY.

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Realistic Decluttering

There's decluttering by the book, and then there's realistic decluttering. Too often we follow the experts' advice and end up unhappy with the result.

Clothing styles run in cycles. Pant legs go from wide to skin tight, and shirt hems go up and down. While it's likely that your fairly new pair of wide leg pants might come back in style soon, the 2-foot wide bell bottoms of the '70s probably won't make a reappearance.

You thought you would like that magazine subscription you got two years ago. You read three issues and the other nine are in a stack that keep sliding off the coffee table. Out they go.

And what about that coffee table that you threatened to take to Goodwill ages ago because it's just too big for the room? Is it time to let it go? Or the spare end table your daughter said she wanted? Give her one opportunity to come get it now. Otherwise, out it goes.

Those treasured mementos your mother passed down to you (that you never really liked) have been taking up shelf space for many years. Is it time to let them go? Put them in a box in the closet and leave them there for a month. If you don't miss them, you don't need to keep them.

Have you collected dozens of coffee cups over the years and kept them all just in case you have a party with 27 people? Choose six to keep.

The idea is to make room. Over the course of one month, spend a little time every day gathering a few things to put in bags in a closet. If you're feeling especially brave, don't wait until the month is over. Take them to Goodwill right away. Eventually you'll come to enjoy the extra space you have.

It's being more realistic.

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1. Who was the last Minnesota Twins pitcher before Jose Berrios in 2018 to record at least 200 strikeouts in a season?

2. When was the last time before the 2019 season (Gerrit Cole, Justin Verlander) that the major leagues had two pitchers with 300 or more strikeouts in a season?

3. The Chargers' Philip Rivers set a record in 2018 for most consecutive completed passes to start an NFL game (25). Who had held the mark?

4. Between 2001 and 2019, how many years were there in which the No. 12 seeds in men's basketball failed to win at least a game in the NCAA Tournament?

5. Patrick Marleau is the all-time leader in goals scored for the San Jose Sharks. Who is No. 2?

6. Who was the only Olympian to win gold medals in both the 100 meter sprint and the 100 meter hurdles?

7. Golfer Steve Stricker set a U.S.

Senior Open 72-hole record in 2019 with a 19-under 261. Who had held the mark at 264?

Answers

1. Francisco Liriano, with 201 strikeouts in 2010.

2. It was 2002 (Arizona teammates Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling).

3. Mark Brunell completed 22 consecutive passes to start an NFL game in 2006.

4. Three times — 2007, 2015 and 2018.

5. Joe Pavelski, with 355 goals scored (2006-19).

6. American Harrison "Bones" Dillard, in 1948 (sprint) and 1952 (hurdles).

7. Kenny Perry, who did it in 2017.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



Where Are They Now – Intern Edition

South Dakota's congressional office has a tight-knit team – there are eight full time staff in Washington, three in Sioux Falls, two in Rapid City, and one in Aberdeen. That's 14 folks, plus me, who handle all the congressional-related work in our entire state.

On a day-to-day basis, our offices stay busy. There's policy to analyze, bills to write, hearings to attend, media interviews to prepare for, casework to handle, and constituents to meet. Now, most people I know in South Dakota are busy, so I don't say this to complain. I say this to highlight the people behind the scenes making a lot of what we do possible with such a small staff – our interns.

South Dakota is overflowing with talent. In the last year we've welcomed nearly twenty interns to our various offices and each student has been exceptional. They help keep the wheels turning and are thrown into the swing of things from day one.

Our interns help us a lot, but I'd be remiss if I didn't highlight the benefits of interning full-time in a congressional office. South Dakota's congressional interns go from understanding the basics of a professional office to learning how to assist legislative staff on policy analysis – it's a win-win for both parties.

The internship experience in one of our offices is a great stepping stone as well. Ally Brandner interned with my office for several months before starting a full-time position with one of our state's health care systems. Ally said, "My internship with Dusty solidified my decision to pursue a career in government relations. I saw firsthand the role government plays in the health care arena, and I am able to utilize the skills I gained from my internship every day at work."

Our first session of 2019 summer interns included Michaela Goldammer, who ended up briefly working full-time with our Washington staff before making the transition back to South Dakota. Michaela said, "My internship was so much more than giving tours. I went to work every day knowing the staff was depending on me to do my part. Dusty's team asked what I was interested in and gave tasks in that area so I could grow." Michaela now works full-time fundraising for children at a non-profit foundation.

Internships and apprenticeships provide valuable experience before students enter the workforce. Often, they even lead to a full-time job. One of our latest interns, Julia Loudenburg, started in our office last fall and now manages front office operations as our Washington Staff Assistant. She's finishing up her degree in the evening and works full-time during the day.

Our office is now accepting internship applications for Summer 2020 in all locations - Washington, D.C., Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and Rapid City. If I didn't make it clear enough, our interns are an integral part of the team, and we want you to join.

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Maintaining the Integrity of Our Election Process

Our system of government in the United States is founded on free and fair elections. With the 2020 election already underway, protecting the integrity of our election process remains a priority of mine. As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Cybersecurity Subcommittee, I've worked to make certain the Department of Defense (DOD) can fulfill its role for election security.

While I've been working with senior DOD officials, the responsibility to keep our elections secure crosses many agencies. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently unveiled to the public the steps they are taking to secure this year's elections. The DHS plan focuses on four main points: protect election infrastructure, assist political campaigns with closing security gaps, increase public awareness about foreign intrusion and help to share information on vulnerabilities and potential threats between the public and private sectors.

While each of these four areas is important, I'd like to focus on one that has received a lot of attention since the 2016 election: foreign intrusion. As we know, Russia used misinformation – largely through social media channels – to attempt to influence the 2016 election. They also tried to get into at least 21 of our state election systems. Fortunately, they weren't successful in changing the outcome. But these tactics aren't news. Russia has long used propaganda to influence elections. Before social media, it was spread through newspaper articles, pamphlets and manifestos. Now, it's on the apps we check on our phones throughout the day: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and more are all used by those who wish to spread "fake news" and sow discord in American politics.

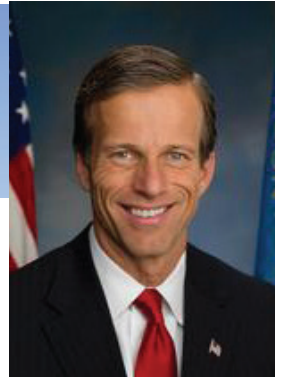
Since then, we've taken steps to improve our cybersecurity protocols. Through our work on the Cybersecurity Subcommittee, I can tell you that it was no accident that the 2018 midterm election was free from outside interference. Changes in our public policy allowing us to respond with offensive and defensive capabilities outside of a declared war zone were critical in our success.

More recently, the delayed result of the 2020 Democrat caucus in Iowa gained national attention and raised new concerns about our election system. It's important to note that the caucuses were not the target of a cyberattack, but rather the new app they attempted to use to count delegates wasn't able to function correctly. While what happened in Iowa demonstrates the importance of using proven, tested methods for determining election outcomes, we should not be worried that this type of mishap will happen on a larger scale. This is because each state is responsible for administering its own elections.

Recently, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been trying to bypass regular Senate procedure to pass legislation they claim will make our elections more secure. The reality is that the bills they're pushing would take control of elections away from the states and give more power to the federal government. Such a move could be disastrous—imagine if the federal government ran voting systems and they were hacked. All of the results would be put into question. If that were to happen to an individual state, the results would have to be recounted but it would be less disruptive than if it happened on a nationwide basis.

We've made good strides in making sure our election systems are protected in the wake of emerging technologies and tactics. I'll continue to work on commonsense policies to strengthen our election integrity and punish bad actors who attempt to interfere. We must make it very clear to Russia and others that attempts to meddle in our elections will be met with swift and severe punishments.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota-Inspired Conservation Program Set to Begin

Ask any farmer about his land, and he would be able to describe every inch of it without skipping a beat – the high spots, the low spots, the wet spots, and the dry spots. He could walk you to the corner of his plot that each year, despite even the best growing conditions, never seems to meet his expectations. He knows his land like the back of his hand and wants to do everything within his control to maximize its production capability.

While most producers would prefer that each acre of land was equally profitable, sometimes the most effective strategy is taking some or all of it out of production altogether. Farmers who choose this option have a variety of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation programs available to them to help offset the cost of lost production and ensure the land is being managed as efficiently as possible.

My Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP), which I first rolled out in early 2017 and was later included in the 2018 farm bill, is a new USDA conservation pilot program that is expected to open soon in Prairie Pothole Region states, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Montana. My staff and I have been actively engaged in this process since the farm bill became law, and I'm eager to see the rubber finally meet the road.

SHIPP, which was inspired by feedback I received from South Dakota producers in 2016 and 2017, is a short-term alternative to the widely popular Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). While most D.C.-based acronyms are often considered a foreign language in the real world, everyone in farm country knows about CRP and its benefits. SHIPP, which I'm confident will become an equally recognizable tool, offers many of the same benefits as CRP but with far shorter contract commitment options (three, four, or five years).

Under this new program, farmers can enroll up to 15 percent of a farm's least productive acres, as long as they were planted or considered planted to a commodity crop for three consecutive years prior to enrollment. In return, the enrollee would receive an annual rental payment. Once enrolled, the acreage must be planted to a perennial conserving use cover that can be hayed or grazed outside the designated primary nesting and brood-rearing season in the county in which the land is located. Importantly, SHIPP is a low-cost program because it encourages the removal of poor land from taxpayer-subsidized crop insurance premium subsidies and indemnities.

Farming is far more complicated than simply digging a hole, planting a seed, and watching it grow, as most folks who are out of touch with farm country might inaccurately assume. Farmers know what it takes, and so do the communities across America's heartland that help support their mission to feed the world. In today's sluggish agriculture economy, we need to keep our eye on the ball and do everything we can to help farm country, and I believe SHIPP will create some much-needed certainty in these highly uncertain times.

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Five Groton Area wrestlers advance to state

Five of the seven wrestlers competing at the regional tournament Saturday in Sisseton have qualified for the state tournament. Dragr Monson was the regional champion at 113 pounds and also got his 100th win at the regionals. Grady O'Neill was the runner-up at 285 pounds. Christian Ehresmann placed third at 106 pounds and Lane Krueger at 182 pounds and Thomas Cranford at 160 pounds both placed fourth.

106: Christian Ehresmann (27-14) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 27-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 27-14 won by fall over Gannon Gilligan (Kingsbury County) 25-19 (Fall 4:41)

Semifinal - Gunnar Kvistad (Clark/Willow Lake) 38-5 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 27-14 (Dec 6-0)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 27-14 won by fall over Ethan Opitz (Webster Area) 17-22 (Fall 1:54)

3rd Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 27-14 won by decision over Jaxon Quail (Deuel) 22-17 (Dec 5-1)

113: Dragr Monson (36-7) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 36-7 won by fall over Parker Gill (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 8-20 (Fall 1:19)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 36-7 won by fall over Joshua Kannegieter (Clark/Willow Lake) 24-22 (Fall 1:15)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 36-7 won by decision over Cael Larson (Webster Area) 35-9 (Dec 4-2)

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 36-7 won by decision over Riley Whitley (Redfield Area) 17-1 (Dec 7-5)

152: Cole Bisbee (6-21) place is unknown and scored 2.5 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 6-21 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Cullen McNeil (Redfield Area) 27-11 won by fall over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 6-21 (Fall 0:24)

Cons. Round 2 - Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 6-21 won by tech fall over Braeden Johnson (Clark/Willow Lake) 5-26 (TF-1.5 4:11 (15-0))

Cons. Round 3 - Kadyn Weisser (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 11-9 won by decision over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) 6-21 (Dec 9-6)

160: Thomas Cranford (17-12) placed 4th and scored 17.5 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-12 won by forfeit over forfeit forfeit (Tiospa Zina) 2-10 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Joe Hornick (Sioux Valley) 28-23 won by decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-12 (Dec 2-1)

Cons. Round 2 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-12 won by tech fall over Grant Weisser (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 15-23 (TF-1.5 4:05 (16-0))

Cons. Semi - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-12 won by fall over Nate Kersting (Kingsbury County) 20-17 (Fall 4:35)

3rd Place Match - Joe Hornick (Sioux Valley) 28-23 won by decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 17-12 (Dec 10-3)

182: Lane Krueger (23-17) placed 4th and scored 13.5 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 23-17 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 23-17 won by decision over Sam Grantham (Hamlin/Castlewood) 24-19 (Dec 7-3)

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Semifinal - Gage Carter (Faulkton Area) 34-5 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 23-17 (Fall 2:47)
Cons. Semi - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 23-17 won by tech fall over Dylan Geary (Kingsbury County) 11-15 (TF-1.5 4:53 (17-2))

3rd Place Match - Sean Domke (Redfield Area) 26-11 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 23-17 (Fall 2:17)

195: Caleb Furney (4-9) placed 6th and scored 3.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Michael Stevenson (Hamlin/Castlewood) 27-19 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-9 (Fall 4:28)

Cons. Round 1 - Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Owen Kerkvliet (Kingsbury County) 16-14 won by decision over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-9 (Dec 11-4)

5th Place Match - Connor Appel (Redfield Area) 21-15 won by fall over Caleb Furney (Groton Area) 4-9 (Fall 1:47)

285: Grady O`Neill (25-16) placed 2nd and scored 18.0 team points.

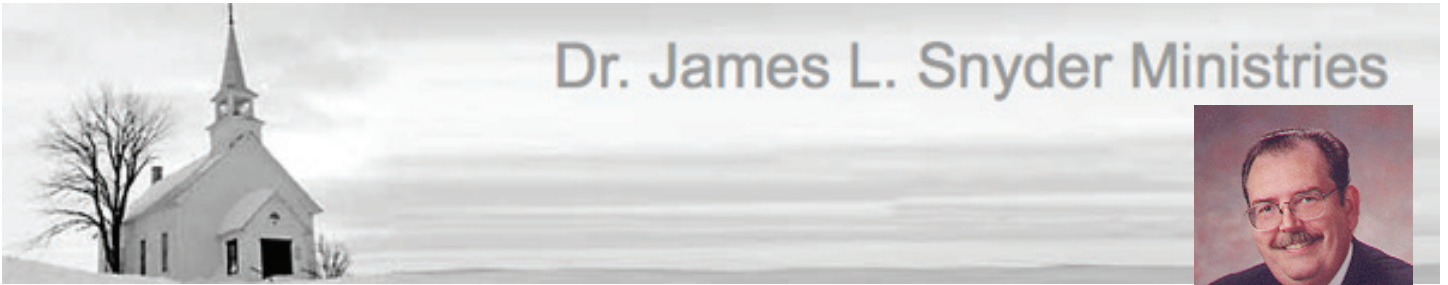
Quarterfinal - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 25-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 25-16 won by fall over Ethan Skarnagel (Sisseton) 12-24 (Fall 4:49)

1st Place Match - Joey Hubsch (Webster Area) 33-5 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 25-16 (Fall 1:35)

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The World Needs More Grandfathers

As time has gone by, I have learned a few things. According to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I have not learned enough yet, but that's just her opinion. She gave me a great compliment the other day when she said, "Dear, you're as smart as you will ever be."

I am still not over that, and I walk around with my chest pushed out a little bit, not in front of her, though. Honesty will make me say that I do not know as much as I really ought to know. So much I do not know that I am not quite sure how much that is. I really won't ever come to that conclusion.

I would say, and do not repeat this to my wife, but I am smarter today than I ever was in my life. To put it bluntly, I am smarter today than the day she married me. That is as far as I am going to go on that topic.

Although I do not know everything, I have figured out a few things. We live in a very complicated world, and it just seems to get more complicated every day. I long for those days when a cell phone was what a prisoner used to call somebody.

As people, mostly men, get older, they get a little grumpy. I did not know I was getting grumpy until the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Why are you so grumpy today?"

With a face like mine, it is tough to hide any grumpiness.

Because I know she is always right, I began to think about the idea that maybe I am getting grumpy. Thinking along that line, I wanted to know what good could come from being grumpy.

I begin to think about myself, and what in the world has made me so grumpy? And, more importantly, how in the world can I overcome this infectious disease called grumpy-itis?

The more I thought about it, the grumpier I became. Believe me, I do not want to be grumpy around my wife. I need to work out a solution before I get any grumpier.

Nothing seemed to help me understand this until one day the grandchildren came over for the day. It was then I begin to understand one solution to get over this grumpy-itis disease.

When the grandchildren are around, especially the younger ones, there is no time to be grumpy. Their infectious laugh cures just about any kind of grumpiness I might ever have.

If I had time to think about it, which I do not with the grandchildren around, I would wonder why and how these kids can laugh so much. Everything and anything is a target for their laughter. And my laughter.

Try not to laugh when your grandchildren are around laughing and creating a wonderful sense of chaos. It is impossible.

After the grandchildren left, my wife and I sat down in the living room and said to each other, "Boy, was that fun." Then we fell asleep with smiles on our faces.

It was then I found the remedy for my grumpy-itis. As a grandfather, I need grandchildren in my life to make sure my life is not grumpy. Even days after they leave I'm still smiling and even laughing.

Every once in awhile, my wife will say, "Do remember..." Then she goes on about something that happened when the grandchildren were here.

Once I quieted down a little from all the grandchildren's activity, a thought took hold of my mind, which even brought another smile.

I knew I needed those grandchildren as therapy from my grumpy-itis, but there was something even better than that. Those grandchildren needed me.

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In a million years, I never would have thought about that myself. Those grandchildren have so much going for them today that I never thought they would need somebody like me.

When the grandchildren are under my "supervision," they have a freedom that they do not have anywhere else. As a grandfather, I have a hard time pronouncing the word N O. It did not take those grandchildren long to figure that out.

Every once in a while, I'll hear, "Let's ask Granddad." Then I know they are asking me for something that maybe nobody else would approve. After all, grandfathers are just like that.

In such a world that we live in, our grandchildren need to understand that there's something in this world that they can really enjoy. That's my job as a grandfather. To give them reasons to laugh and enjoy themselves.

As much as my grandchildren do for me, I do for them as well. We're a team, and we work well together.

Grandchildren need someone in their life not stressed with schedules and finances and all of that stuff. They need to see someone in their life that is happy and glad to see them.

Don't let this get out, but they need to see someone in their life that has them as a priority. Nothing is more important in a grandfather's life than his grandchildren. If he does his job well, they will come to understand that they are the most important people in his life.

I like this one Bible verse. "Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children" (Proverbs 17:6).

The key for grandchildren to be genuinely grand are grandfathers.

S.D. hunter residency investigation and arrest create 'nightmare' for retired combat veteran

By: Bart Pfankuch

The legal language describing who qualifies as a South Dakota resident when it comes to in-state hunting privileges is laid out in state law, but the real-world definition is now murkier than ever.

A recent drawn-out, highly charged criminal case in South Dakota could have further defined residency, particularly when it comes to so-called "snow birds" or part-time residents. Instead, the case has done the opposite, adding confusion rather than clarity to what it takes to become a resident and upending the life of a retired combat veteran along the way.

The recently settled criminal case in Aurora County has left the retired optometrist and veteran outraged and feeling persecuted, and has left state game officials and a local prosecutor disappointed that they were unable to convict the doctor of fraudulently obtaining resident hunting licenses.

Neither side of the equation says it feels good about the outcome of the case that involved an extensive two-year state investigation and cost the doctor nearly \$20,000 in legal fees, and which even swelled to involve Kelly Hepler, secretary of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department.

The case has also called into question the language in the GFP "Hunting and Trapping Handbook" — of which 180,000 free copies are distributed annually — that guides people on how to qualify as a legal resident for hunting purposes.

The defendant in the 2019 case was Jeffrey Peters, 64, a retired optometrist and a lieutenant colonel who served 30 years combined in the Army and National Guard, including a stint with the 101st Airborne Division in 2003-04 in which he treated the medical and ocular issues of U.S. soldiers while at Camp Anaconda and other sites on the front lines of the war in northern Iraq.

A state game official involved in the case said Peters' military record is laudable but is not relevant to the criminal case or whether he is a legal resident.

Peters was born and raised in Stickney, S.D., graduated from South Dakota State University, and spent most his career as an optometrist in Colorado.

Peters owns 581 acres of pastureland in Aurora County, and Peters' goal in 2017, he said, was to shift his life back to South Dakota in retirement, including establishing residency and hunting on his farm.

But because Peters still has a home in Colorado where his wife still lives and where he spent most of his time from 2017 to 2019, a local GFP game warden, his supervisors and the Aurora County state's attorney



Jeffrey Peters holds his South Dakota driver's license while sitting at the kitchen table of the home he owns in White Lake, S.D. In the video, Peters describes how the investigation into his life and whereabouts have affected him.

Photo/video: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

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became determined to prove that Peters was not a legal South Dakota resident and had committed fraud.

Their certainty that Peters had violated the law led them to engage in an investigation that lasted nearly two years, delved deeply into Peters' life and cost untold thousands of state dollars.

Before filing four misdemeanor charges against Peters in November 2018, state investigators obtained nearly two years of Peters' cellphone records and correlated which cell towers were pinged; they drove by his South Dakota house at least 27 times and took 65 photos; they tracked his Facebook use; they interviewed his neighbors in White Lake and a contractor who worked on the property; they obtained real estate transaction and utility usage data; they recorded phone calls between Peters and an investigator; they examined UPS delivery information to both his homes; and they sent a state investigator to the Denver area in a failed attempt to interview Peters' wife.

Peters called the investigation and prosecution "a nightmare" that has cost him more than \$18,000 in legal fees, prevented him from hunting on his own land and shaken his faith in the GFP and the local prosecutor's office. He also had a potential one-year jail sentence hanging over his head for nearly a year.

"It's been a circus, a disgraceful circus what they put me through, an annoyance and a frustration for two full years," Peters said. "Here I am a combat veteran, a doctor with a successful practice, and for some reason the state decided that no way are we going to let some high-speed doctor come in here and violate our residency rules."

David Jencks, the Madison, S.D., attorney who represents Peters, said the state wanted to use Peters and the fact he owned a home elsewhere to set an example and clarify what he called "vague language" in state hunting-residency laws. He called the state's prosecution "arbitrary and capricious" and said he believed the case somehow became personal for the local game warden and prosecutor and ultimately led to an unreasonable level of investigation.

"This wasn't a rape or a murder or a million-dollar fraud, and in all my years I've never seen even close to this level of effort put forth on a misdemeanor case," Jencks said. "This went on far too long, was over-investigated, over-thought and irrationally thought. How and why they picked on this guy, a decorated military veteran with more ties to South Dakota than most South Dakotans, I just don't understand it and am at a loss to understand it."

In the end, just days before a trial was about to begin in September 2019, the four charges against Peters were dropped, and the state offered a plea agreement to a single, lower misdemeanor administrative count of "applying for a license when ineligible." On the advice of Jencks, Peters pleaded no contest, paid \$310 in fines and court fees and did not lose his hunting privileges.

State: Peters is not a S.D. resident

Aurora County GFP conservation officer Lynn Geuke led the investigation into Peters' residency. He refused to speak to News Watch but did say of Peters in a brief phone call, "Well, he was convicted."

John R. Steele, the Aurora County State's Attorney at the time of the Peters prosecution, pointed out that Peters had taken a homestead tax exemption on his Colorado property and that Peters had a prior misdemeanor conviction for illegally obtaining a resident hunting license in Lake County, S.D.

Peters pleaded guilty to that charge in 2016 and received a suspended imposition of sentence, effectively sealing the records from public view. Peters said he had researched residency laws before applying for that resident license and believed at the time he was in compliance by claiming residency at his brother's house in Madison, but now acknowledges that he likely was mistaken. He said he learned a lesson from that incident and sought in 2017 to obtain residency legally according to guidelines in the hunter handbook.



This is the home that Jeffrey Peters co-owns on North Main Street in White Lake, S.D. This photo is one of dozens taken by a state Game, Fish & Parks investigator who sought to show that Peters did not live in the home enough to qualify as a state resident. Photo: Submitted

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The cellphone information tracked by the state indicated that Peters spent 52 days in South Dakota in 2017 and 67 days in 2018, according to records obtained by News Watch.

In an interview and a subsequent letter to News Watch, Steele said that given the results of the investigation, he and the GFP did not consider Peters a resident for hunting purposes, and that the prosecution was based on that decision.

Steele acknowledged that South Dakota hunter-residency laws as written create "a gray area that involves making some judgment calls" and that Peters' dual residency became "the nub" of the case.

He said Peters may have generally followed the residency rules in the hunting handbook, but that Steele and the GFP took the position that a person's true residency is ultimately based "on where you actually live."

"The language of the handbook; I don't know that it's terribly relevant," said Steele, who resigned as Aurora County state's attorney in January and now serves as an unpaid deputy in the state's attorney's office. "The law speaks of residence, where you actually live ... you can do everything on the checklist but if you don't live here, you're not entitled to resident hunting privileges."

Based on the cost difference between resident and non-resident deer-hunting licenses in South Dakota, the monetary gain to Peters in the four crimes Peters was charged with would be about \$700.

But the state's motivation for prosecuting Peters goes far beyond the financial advantage he obtained by getting a resident license, said Emmett Keyser, southeast regional supervisor for the GFP Division of Wildlife.

Residents of South Dakota enjoy several opportunities for hunting that non-residents do not, such as being able to hunt waterfowl and pheasants in longer seasons, to hunt bighorn sheep or mountain goats, and to hunt elk in the Black Hills, Keyser said.

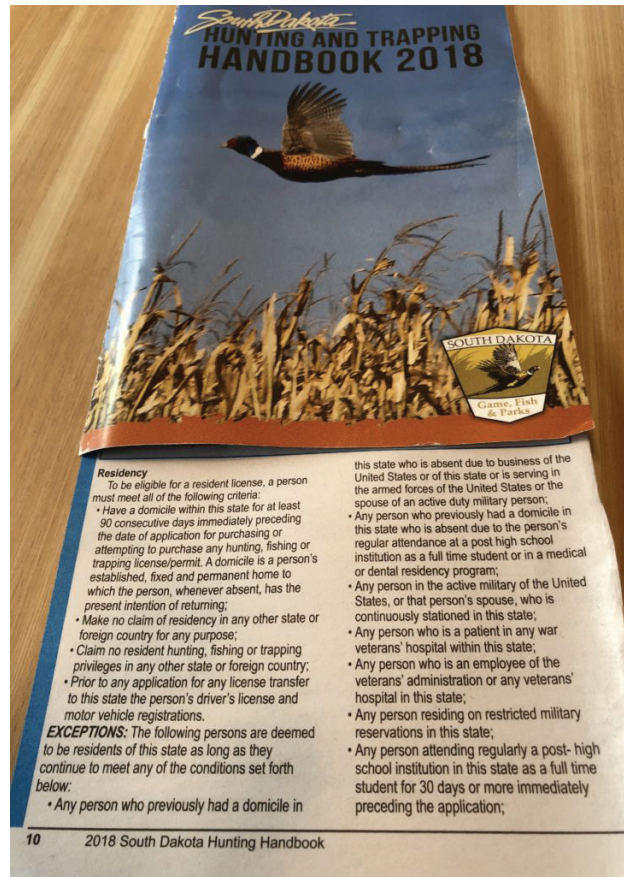
Legal residents expect that the GFP will uphold residency laws and investigate and prosecute those who may violate the laws, he said.

"It's important to note how passionate residents are in protecting those opportunities and ensuring that people do not attempt to fraudulently become residents," he said.

That view is supported by Chris Hesla, executive director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, a Pierre-based group whose motto is "Working to Preserve South Dakota's Hunting & Fishing Heritage."

Hesla said the state must be vigilant in prosecuting residency scofflaws to protect the rights of bona fide resident hunters, but also because actual residents pay regular taxes and license fees that support their ability to hunt. He added that people who live in South Dakota endure things like bad weather and low-pay jobs in order to obtain the benefits of "quality hunting and fishing and clean living" in a great environment.

"There's a big distinction between a resident and a non-resident, and the money has nothing to do with it in terms of the different price of the licenses," Hesla said. "Hunting and fishing is the reason a lot of people stay in South Dakota, and there has to be benefits to living here, because it certainly isn't our pay."



About 180,000 copies of the 2018 South Dakota Hunting and Trapping Handbook were distributed free across the state and provided instructions, on Page 10, about requirements to establish residency to gain in-state hunting privileges. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

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Peters: I followed the law as written

Peters and his attorney say Peters followed the law as laid out both in the hunting handbook and state statutes.

Before applying for a resident deer license in 2017, Peters bought a house in White Lake more than 90 days before applying. He paid to have it fixed up and built a shed in the back yard.

He also obtained a South Dakota driver's license, registered his vehicles in Aurora County and registered to vote in South Dakota. He said he relinquished his Colorado residency and even purchased a non-resident license when he once returned to Colorado to hunt pheasants.

He applied for and received a South Dakota resident East River landowner deer license and resident small-game license in 2017.

But the day before the 2017 deer season opened, Peters said he received a phone call from Geuke, the GFP conservation officer. Peters said Geuke told him that he did not consider Peters a resident and that his deer tags were not valid. Furthermore, Peters said Geuke told him that if Peters killed a deer, he could be liable for civil penalties. Though frustrated, Peters decided not to hunt that year.

Thus began the full investigation into Peters' living arrangements, movements, habits and use of his White Lake home.

The next fall, Peters once again applied for and received resident hunting licenses for deer and small game. Again, Geuke waited until just before the deer season started to confront Peters, though this time he appeared at his home with a sheriff's deputy to confiscate the hunting tags and inform Peters that he was being charged with four counts of unauthorized procurement of a hunting license, a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail, a \$2,000 fine or both. He was immediately released on his own recognizance.

While the hunter handbook lays out basic elements of residency, state law has language that is open to interpretation, indicating that a person must have a domicile for 90 consecutive days before applying for a license, make no claim of residency elsewhere and have a state driver's license and vehicle registrations.

Defining the word 'domicile'

The critical definition in Peters' case, and the one that the case could have clarified, is that of "domicile."

The law states: "A person's domicile is that person's established, fixed and permanent home to which the person, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning."

Jencks notes that nowhere does the law say how many days a year a person must live in the domicile, or whether the person needs to stay there for any specific period of time, only that the person intends to return at some point, which Peters did at the White Lake home on a fairly regular basis.



For three years straight, from 2017-19, the state Game, Fish & Parks Department issued resident deer tags to Jeffrey Peters, but he was unable to hunt in 2017 and 2018 due to an ongoing criminal case against him. In 2019, Peters was able to hunt as a legal resident using these tags as part of a plea agreement with the state. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

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South Dakota also has an uneven track record in regard to establishing residency. A 2019 South Dakota News Watch investigation revealed that thousands of people who only spend one night in the state have qualified as residents in terms of obtaining a driver's license, registering a vehicle and becoming a legal South Dakota voter.

Peters and Jencks prepared for trial and agreed to continuances requested by the state. Steele had issued a dozen subpoenas in the case, both for witnesses and information such as Peters' cellphone records.

Less than two weeks before the start of the Sept. 30, 2019, trial, Jencks filed a subpoena asking the court to require GFP Secretary Hepler to appear in court. Jencks wanted Hepler to explain how GFP defines a resident, what he knew about the investigation into Peters, and who had authorized such an extensive investigation.

Paul E. Bachand, special assistant to the state attorney general, filed a motion on Sept. 23, 2019, to quash the subpoena, arguing in part that, "some of the information sought would invade the client-attorney privilege and that other ideas were outside Secretary Hepler's knowledge."

The judge in the case, however, denied the state's motion to quash and ordered that Hepler would have to appear and testify at the trial.

Just prior to the trial, Jencks said he was contacted by Steele, the prosecutor, offering to drop the higher charges and instead offer Peters a plea deal with no jail time, a small fine and no loss of hunting privileges. It was also agreed that Peters would be able to hunt as a resident moving forward.

In an interview with News Watch, Hepler said he was aware of the Peters case but only because he was subpoenaed to testify. None of the decisions surrounding the case or investigation rose beyond the level of regional GFP supervisors, Hepler said.

Hepler said departmental attorneys fought the subpoena because Hepler felt he had nothing to add to the case. He said he would have appeared if ordered to do so, and added that to his knowledge, his subpoena and the judge's ruling upholding it had nothing to do with Peters' being offered a reduced charge before trial.

"I would have appeared, but I thought it was foolish because I had no interaction with these people whatsoever," Hepler said. "If they were making an assumption that I was directly involved in this case or that I directly made a decision on statutory law, that's way outside what I do for a living."

Steele would not discuss his reason for offering a plea.

Keyser, the GFP law enforcement supervisor, pointed out that the definitions of residency and domicile in state law are relatively new and somewhat open to interpretation. He noted that the Peters case could "potentially" have been a case that set precedent in terms of narrowing and clarifying those definitions.

Keyser said he still believes that Peters is not a South Dakota resident and that his home in Colorado is the permanent residence where he and his wife both live.

"In his defense, Mr. Peters has attempted to look at all the facts and try to meet all these standards as best he can, but it still boils down to whether his domicile is in South Dakota or in Colorado, and it can only be one," Keyser said. "I'm sure he argues that, 'I live in South Dakota and I live in this small little house in small-town South Dakota and never mind that \$700,000 house or whatever I have in Colorado, this is where I live.'"

Keyser acknowledged that the investigation into Peters' residency was extensive, and that someone who is the subject of a potentially precedent-setting case may suffer some cost and hardship.

"It probably seems like it's kind of odd the we would look at that with that much scrutiny," Keyser said. "But it could, as with any case, it has the potential to set precedent."

Keyser said the investigation was initially driven forward by Geuke, the local game warden, but that eventually Steele, the state's attorney, became the key player in deciding what investigative options would be pursued.

Steele told News Watch that, in regard to the extent of the investigative effort, "that's not my bailiwick.



Kelly Hepler, secretary of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department

The Game, Fish & Parks Department runs its affairs and it decides what investigations are warranted." He added: "We did not run the investigation; that was run by GFP."

Keyser said it was necessary to get all the facts needed to make a strong case that Peters was a non-resident when he applied for a hunting license.

"If you want to paint that in a negative light, that it seemed like we wasted a lot of resources to determine if he was really domiciled in South Dakota, you can make that argument," Keyser said. "But at the same time, the public would always want us to do the right thing. At some point there's probably a level of reasonableness in terms of the expenditure of time and effort, but it was still our intent to look at the definition of domicile to make sure we had all the facts we needed to have in terms of this case."

Unusual step: Local guidelines written

After the case, Steele took the unusual step of authoring a new set of residency guidelines called, "Prosecution standards for part time residents seeking SD hunting licenses."

Steele told News Watch the guidelines are "an internal policy" in place only for Aurora County and that the policy was distributed only to Jencks, Peters, Officer Geuke and Steele's staff.

Steele and new Aurora County State's Attorney Rachel Mairose told News Watch the policy was discussed as part of the plea agreement with Peters and then written and provided to Peters, Jencks and Geuke after the case had ended.

"It was our attempt to formulate a consistent policy that would be applicable to people who fall between the cracks, who have two residences in the sense of houses or other abodes and spend time in both of them," Steele said. "How are we going to consistently handle those situations so that we've got clear lines of demarcation as to what we will look at as a violation of game laws and what we won't?"

However, the local policy includes elements of residency that are not addressed in state law, such as defining "dwelling" as a structure with permanent electrical service, an indoor, functional kitchen and bathroom with hot and cold running water, and a sewage connection.

Now that the Peters case has ended, Steele said he still does not consider Peters a South Dakota resident but has agreed not to prosecute him further.

"Do I think he's a bona fide resident at this point? No, I don't," Steele said. "But he's jumped through enough hoops that, yeah, we're going to make the call that we're not going to prosecute this case. That's what that policy is all about."

Peters went deer hunting in November and had no interactions with Geuke or any other game warden. He said in February that he was considering a move to Rapid City.

Peters said he deserves an apology for the stress and heartache he has endured during the investigation and prosecution.

"I feel it's very disgraceful that the GFP has had the opportunity to invade my life for the past two years," he told News Watch. "With no apology from the game, fish and parks, nor the [GFP] commission nor the secretary nor the game warden. No one has offered an apology for taking control of my life for the past two years."



Jeffrey Peters holds his 2019 deer hunting tags while standing on the porch of the home he owns in White Lake, S.D. In the video, Peters discusses his disappointment with how the state investigated him and pursued criminal charges against him. Photo/video: Bart Pfankuch,

South Dakota News Watch

and provided to Peters, Jencks and Geuke after the

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The Wolves Take Down Minot State to Become NSIC Champions

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State men’s basketball team (22-6, 17-4 NSIC) finished off the Minot State Beavers (10-18, 4-17 NSIC) by a score of 67-53 on Saturday night, becoming NSIC Champions for the third year in a row.

After putting themselves in position to win the conference last night, the Wolves capitalized with a decisive win over Minot State to take their third NSIC regular-season crown in as many years. The championship gives Northern all of the momentum as they start NSIC tournament play this Wednesday.

The game began with another good start for Parker Fox, picking up five of Northern’s first seven points. The Beavers were able to keep pace however, using effective shooting to keep the score knotted up at 11 after five minutes.

As the half continued the lead changed hands multiple times, keeping either team from gaining a clear advantage. However, the Wolves’ 3-point shooting, which had been absent for most of the half, came to life as Gabe King and Mason Stark rattled off six long balls in quick succession, propelling Northern to a 39-28 halftime lead

Despite Northern’s lead, it was the Beavers who seemed to come out of the locker room with momentum, allowing them to quickly cut their disadvantage in half. But before things could get out of hand Gabe King once again came up clutch from beyond the arc, helping Northern extend their lead back into double digits.

Once the Wolves had built a comfortable margin, they didn’t look back. With just over a minute remaining in regulation their advantage had grown to 17 points, at which point coach Phillips sent in his bench players to finish the job.

Northern shot 49.1% from the floor, 47.1% from beyond the arc and 70.0% from the free throw line. 30 of their points came from the paint, 13 off of turnovers and 10 from the bench players. The Wolves’ defense held Minot to 41.7% from the floor and 36.4% from the 3-point line.

In the final regular season game of his illustrious NSU career, Gabe King led the team in scoring with 20 points. Mason Stark and Parker Fox were the only other players with double digits, scoring 16 and 11 points respectively.

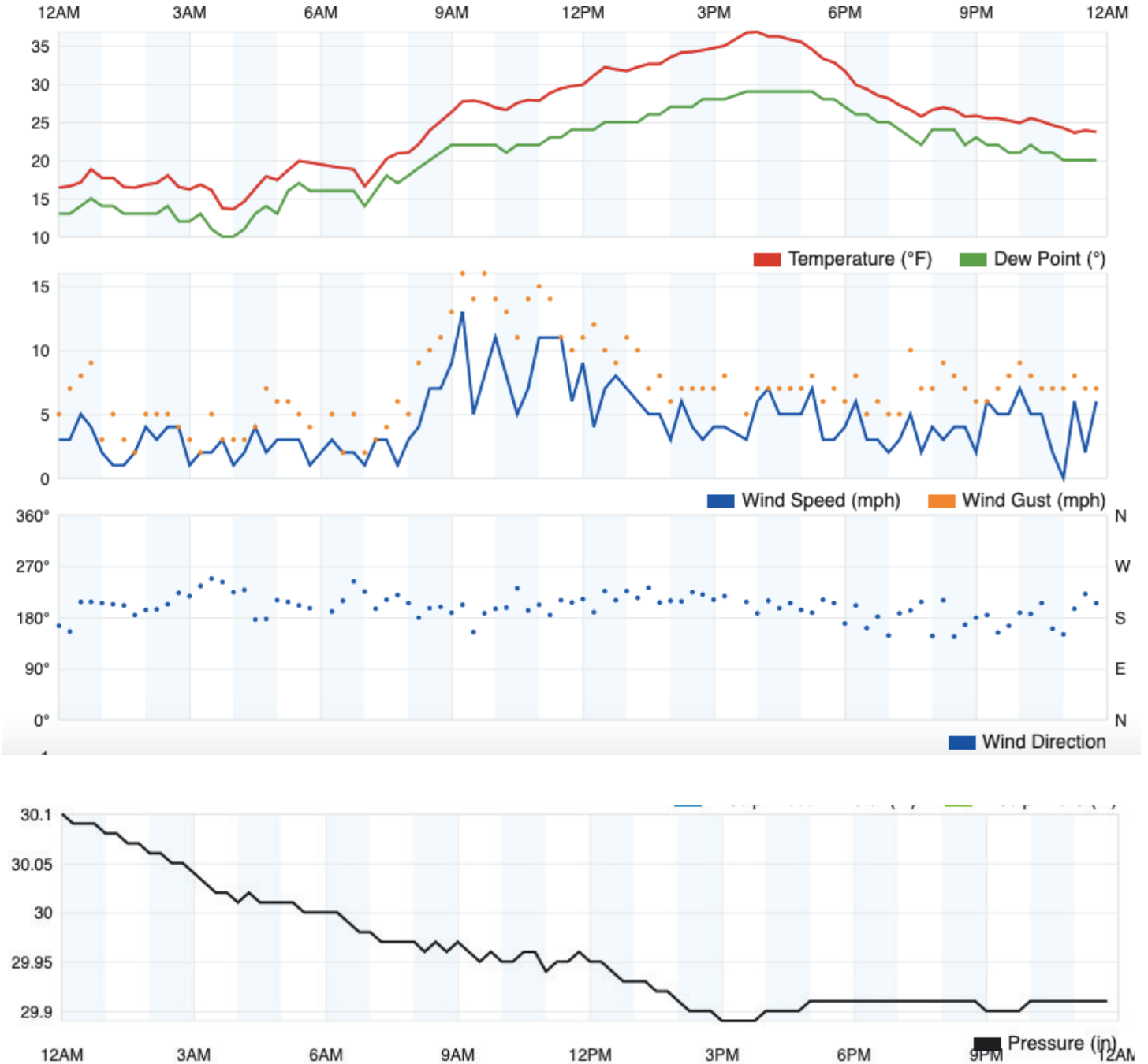
Andrew Kallman was next on the scoreboard with eight points and five rebounds, closely followed by Jordan Belka who led the bench with six points. Rounding out the sheet were Tommy Chatman, Cole Dahl and Roko Dominovic, each notching two points.

With the regular season now concluded, the Wolves begin NSIC tournament competition this Wednesday against the SMSU Mustangs. Tip-off is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. from Wachs Arena on February 22.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 35 °F

Tonight



Patchy Fog

Low: 13 °F

Monday



Cloudy then
Chance Snow

High: 31 °F

Monday
Night



Chance Snow

Low: 22 °F


Tuesday





Blustery.
Chance Snow
then Slight
Chance Snow



High: 26 °F

Mild Today, Chance Snow Mon/Tue

Today  *Mostly Sunny and Mild.*
30-52°

Mon/Tue  *Good Chc Snow/Rain*
Highs Mon in 20s & 30s
Highs Tue in 20s



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen

Today will be relatively mild with plenty of sunshine. However, a system will bring some snow and even rain to the region, especially Monday night into Tuesday. The central part of the state has the highest chance of seeing measurable snow with an inch or two possible.

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Today in Weather History

February 23, 1977: A storm center developed over Colorado the morning of the 22nd and moved to southeast Nebraska by midnight Wednesday the 23rd with snow and rain entering southern Minnesota. The low-pressure center advanced to Iowa by sundown and weakened somewhat with precipitation across all of Minnesota. Snow fell over the north, and a combination of rain and freezing rain were in the south. The low then intensified over southeast Minnesota during the nighttime of Thursday the 24th before continuing northeast into Wisconsin with snow and blowing snow continuing over much of the state before ending on the 26th. There was a combination of rain, freezing rain, and the winds over southern Minnesota with 4 to 12 inches of snow in the north. Freezing rain and the heavy icing on power lines caused the worst power failure in a decade in the twin cities with 125,000 homes affected. Power outages occurred over numerous areas of southern and central Minnesota. Many roads were ice-covered with multiple vehicle accidents and many cars in the ditch. Many roads were blocked or closed, with numerous schools closed. The ice storm also damaged many trees.

February 23, 2007: A strong area of low pressure tracking across the central plains brought widespread snowfall to parts of central and much of northeast South Dakota along with west-central Minnesota. The precipitation initially began as freezing rain and sleet late in the evening of the 23rd as it lifted across the area through the morning of the 24th. The freezing rain and sleet then changed over to snow during the morning hours of the 24th. Thundersnow also occurred at some locations across the area. Snowfall amounts of 6 to 15 inches occurred by the end of the storm. With the roads slippery from the freezing rain and then the heavy snow, travel conditions became tough. The South Dakota State Emergency Management, Highway Patrol, and Department of Transportation issued a travel advisory for no travel for Interstate-90 and many highways in central South Dakota. There were numerous accidents along the interstate. Some snowfall amounts included, 7 inches at Browns Valley, 9 inches at Bryant, Webster, Wheaton, Artichoke Lake, and Tintah, 10 inches at Toronto, Roy Lake, Garden City, and Ortonville, 11 inches at Faulkton, 12 inches at Watertown, and 15 inches at Clear Lake.

February 23, 2010: Pierre sets a new record with a streak of 84 consecutive days with high temperatures failing to reach 40 degrees.

February 23, 2012: An area of low pressure sliding across the region brought heavy snow to much of central and north-central South Dakota. Travel became difficult, with many schools canceled.

1802 - A great snowstorm raged along the New England coast producing 48 inches of snow north of Boston. Three large ships from Salem were wrecked along Cape Cod. (David Ludlum)

1887: The Central Bureau of Meteorology of Rome began receiving the first reports of a massive earthquake from northern Italy Observers. This estimated magnitude earthquake of 6.0 kills more than 2,000 people in southern France and northern Italy.

1936 - A severe blizzard in the Sierra Nevada Range closed Donner Pass. It stranded 750 motorists and claimed seven lives. (David Ludlum)

1977: A very rare February tornado touched down briefly in Mason City, Iowa, inflicting F1 damage on a home and injuring one person inside. This is the only known February tornado on record in Iowa.

1987 - A winter storm buried the Middle Atlantic Coast Region under heavy snow. Totals ranged up to 24 inches at Lancaster PA, with 23 inches at Coatesville PA. During the height of the storm Philadelphia PA received five inches of snow in just one hour. The Washington D.C. area was blanketed with up to 15 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong northwesterly winds ushered arctic air into the central U.S., and temperatures in Missouri were thirty degrees colder than the previous day. The strong winds produced squalls along the shore of Lake Superior, with up to 15 inches of snow reported over the Keweenaw Peninsula of Upper Michigan. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Nineteen cities in the central U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date, including Lincoln NE with a reading of 19 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

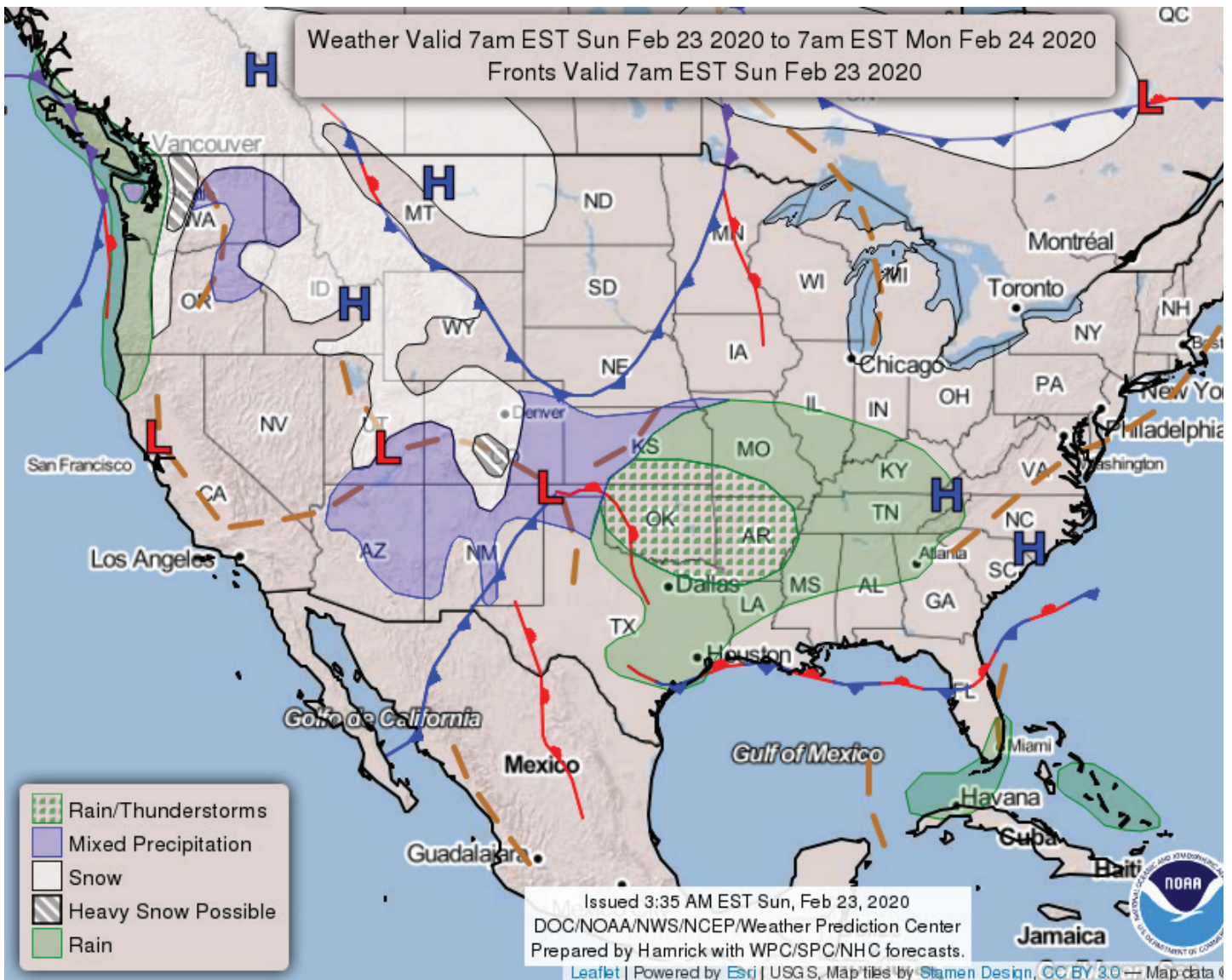
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 37 °F at 3:46 PM
Low Temp: 13 °F at 3:54 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 9:10 AM
Snow

Record High: 60° in 1976, 1905
Record Low: -25° in 1910
Average High: 31°F
Average Low: 11°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.40
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.87
Precip Year to Date: 0.35
Sunset Tonight: 6:12 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:21 a.m.



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TODAY

A young Marine was leaning against the side of his tank early one morning during the Korean War. He was slowly and cautiously eating beans from a can with his penknife. It was cold and foggy and damp and the silence was deafening and frightening.

A reporter, aware of the impending battle, softly asked, "If I were God and could give you anything you wanted, what would you ask for?"

After a lengthy pause, he answered, "Today!"

All that any of us can really have is today. Few of us, however, realize the importance of "today" – and the value of the gift that "today" offers us.

The Psalmist said, "Teach us to make the most of our time..." Time is a gift, and we must be aware of each tick of the clock and moment of the day. Once gone, time can never be reclaimed or recycled or returned. What we have done with "today" becomes a part of history.

Realizing the significance of time and the uncertainties of life should help us put our priorities in order. The first priority is our relationship with God. Is it all that it can be? Is there more of God's love that I can discover? Second is our responsibility to others. Is there someone, somewhere who needs God's love and salvation? Who is my "one" to love today? And, finally, do I need to make things right, first with God, and then with others? Today is the day to seize!

Prayer: Lord, help us to understand the value of time and not waste one minute. May we use each moment of every day wisely realizing "it's all we can be sure of!" In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 90:12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

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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)
 - 05/11/2020 Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 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
 - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
 - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 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
 - 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 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 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
 - 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 undefined

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

Dakota Cash

04-17-19-20-35

(four, seventeen, nineteen, twenty, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$75,000

Lotto America

25-35-36-40-46, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(twenty-five, thirty-five, thirty-six, forty, forty-six; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.34 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

Powerball

25-37-39-61-62, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 3

(twenty-five, thirty-seven, thirty-nine, sixty-one, sixty-two; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Central 69, Harrisburg 51

Alcester-Hudson 53, Colome 49

Centerville 76, Avon 58

Chamberlain 55, Mobridge-Pollock 50

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 52, Pine Ridge 49

Corsica/Stickney 67, Burke 55

Faith 69, Philip 31

Huron 67, Yankton 65

Madison 61, Sisseton 46

Marty Indian 67, Freeman Academy/Marion 57

Northwestern 58, Miller 44

Oelrichs 72, Edgemont 41

Sioux Falls Lincoln 67, Pierre 60

St. Thomas More 86, Hill City 22

Tiospa Zina Tribal 75, Richland, N.D. 60

Todd County 83, White River 77

Tripp-Delmont/Armour 61, Gayville-Volin 47

Wall 65, Newell 39

Watertown 50, Brandon Valley 46

Warner Classic=

Aberdeen Roncalli 53, Warner 46

Arlington 58, Langford 45

Herreid/Selby Area 52, Florence/Henry 45

Sully Buttes 56, Little Wound 26

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Waverly-South Shore 45, Ipswich 39
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=
Aberdeen Roncalli 61, Dell Rapids 30
Brandon Valley 53, Watertown 37
Pine Ridge 63, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 53
Sioux Falls Christian 57, Milbank 36
Sioux Falls Lincoln 66, Pierre 56
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 58, Mitchell 48
Sioux Falls Washington 58, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 48
Yankton 57, Huron 33

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

No. 20 South Dakota women claim outright Summit League title

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Chloe Lamb scored 22 points, Madison McKeever added 19 and the two combined for 19 fourth-quarter points to help No. 20 South Dakota fend off South Dakota State 77-67 and claim the outright Summit League championship Saturday.

The Coyotes (26-2, 15-0) won their 15th straight game, all in conference play, but received a sterner test from the second-place Jackrabbits (20-9, 12-3) than in the 83-48 romp on Jan. 19.

Leading by seven entering the final quarter, the Coyotes quickly expanded their margin to double figures and it remained that way until an 11-3 run got the Jackrabbits within seven with 2½ minutes to play. It was a six-point game with 45 seconds left but South Dakota made six straight free throws — four by McKeever — to ensure the win.

Lamb, who scored 13 points in the first half, made four 3-pointers. Ciara Duffy added 17 points and eight assists and Taylor Frederick 10 points. South Dakota shot 58%, 70% in the second half.

Tagyn Larson scored 18 points with nine rebounds, Tori Nelson added 12 points and Paiton Burckhard 11 for South Dakota State.

South Dakota goes for a perfect conference season next Saturday when it plays host to North Dakota.

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

Corps closes Missouri River levee break near Rock Port

ROCK PORT, Mo. (AP) — Work crews have closed the final breach of a Missouri River levee in the far northwest corner of Missouri that broke open during massive flooding last year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha District said in a news release.

The break just southwest of Rock Port was one of several along the levee section that saw thousands of acres of mostly farmland submerged and a section of Interstate 29 and other roads in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas damaged and closed to traffic for weeks.

Crews will continue finalizing repairs to restore the levee section to its pre-flood height, the Corps said. Crews have been scrambling to make repairs ahead of spring and the possibility of renewed flooding along the river.

The National Weather Service has said Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri and eastern North Dakota and South Dakota face an above-average flood risk this spring. The flood risk is close to normal in Montana and the western half of the Dakotas.

There are more than 500 miles of levees on the Missouri, Platte and Elkhorn rivers, and tributaries that experienced significant flood damage since March 2019.

Fire chief: Man dies in Brookings apartment explosion, fire

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a man was killed in an explosion and fire at a Brookings apartment.

Brookings Fire Chief Darrell Hartmann tells the Argus Leader the explosion and fire Thursday morning was caused by natural gas leak.

Hartmann said the back half of the building was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

Neighboring buildings were evacuated by authorities.

Hartmann said a man was found dead on the first floor of the building after the fire was under control. He said the structure is a rental property separated into three apartments.

Authorities are not releasing the man's identity until an autopsy is completed Monday.

S. Korea leader: 'Unprecedented' steps needed to fight virus

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said Sunday that he was putting his country on its highest alert for infectious diseases and ordered officials to take "unprecedented, powerful" steps to fight a soaring viral outbreak that has infected more than 600 people in the country, mostly in the last few days.

China also reported hundreds of more infections for a total of about 77,000, and Iran raised its death toll from the virus to eight — the highest toll outside of China. While the number of patients worldwide is increasing, some virus clusters have shown no link to China and experts are struggling to trace where those clusters started.

The Iranian health ministry said there were now 43 confirmed cases in Iran, which did not report its first case of the virus until Wednesday.

In Italy's northern Lombardy region, which includes the nation's financial capital, Milan, the governor announced Sunday that the number of confirmed cases in the region stood at 89. Italy now has 132 cases, including two deaths.

Venice, which is full of tourists for Carnival events, reported its first two cases, said Veneto Gov. Luca Zaia, whose region includes the lagoon city. It wasn't immediately known if the two infected had participated in Carnival festivities.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said his government had decided to increase its anti-virus alert level by one notch to "Red," the highest level. The step was last taken in 2009 to guard against a novel influenza outbreak that killed more than 260 people in South Korea. Under the highest alert level, authorities can order the temporary closure of schools and reduce the operation of public transportation and flights to and from South Korea.

Moon's education minister, Yoo Eun-hae, said later Sunday that the new school year for kindergartens, elementary, middle and high schools in South Korea has been put off by one week and will start on March 9.

Moon said that the outbreak "has reached a crucial watershed," and that the next few days will be "critical." "We shouldn't be bound by regulations and hesitate to take unprecedented, powerful measures," he said.

South Korea announced 169 more cases of the new virus, bringing the country's total to 602. The country also reported three more fatalities, raising its death toll to six.

Mainland China reported 648 new infections for a total of 76,936. The daily death toll fell slightly to 97. In all, 2,442 people have died in the country from COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

The number of new Chinese cases has seesawed daily but has remained under 1,000 for the past four days. Several changes to how the infections are counted, however, have made it difficult to draw conclusions from the figures.

The central Chinese city of Wuhan and other parts of Hubei province, where the outbreak first emerged in December, remain under lockdown. More than 80% of the country's cases are in Hubei, where the death toll has also been higher than in the rest of the nation.

Most of the South Korean cases have been reported in the country's fourth-largest city, Daegu, and the surrounding area. According to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some 320 cases

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have also been confirmed to have links to a branch of the local Shincheonji church in Daegu, which has become the biggest cluster of viral infections in South Korea.

Shincheonji, which has been viewed as a cult movement by mainstream Christian organizations, tried to defend itself from growing public anger directed at the church.

In a video statement posted on its website, church spokesman Simon Kim said Shincheonji has shut down all its 1,100 local churches and other facilities since one of its church members tested positive for the virus on Feb. 18, the first patient in Daegu.

Earlier Sunday, Daegu Mayor Kwon Yong-jin said there were concerns that the number of those infected in the city could see yet another massive increase because authorities were launching intensive examinations of church members with virus-related symptoms.

China's Politburo, made up of senior officials of the ruling Communist Party, cautioned Friday that while the epidemic has been "preliminarily contained," the country has yet to see a turning point.

Officials signaled that regular activities should gradually resume after the virus prompted an extension of last month's Lunar New Year holiday. Many workplaces have opted to have their employees work remotely, and schools are conducting online classes.

In Beijing, most residential communities have implemented "closed management," limiting the number of people per household who can go in and out using exit-entry cards and requiring those just returning to the Chinese capital to isolate themselves at home for 14 days.

A cluster of infections was reported out of Beijing's Fuxing Hospital. The facility, which has 34 confirmed cases, has been closed off to protect the surrounding community, said a statement from Xicheng district authorities.

More than 500 cases also have been found in prisons across the country.

Meanwhile, a diplomatic row erupted after Israel turned back a South Korean airliner, underscoring fear and tensions over the fast-spreading outbreak.

A Korean Air flight with 188 passengers that landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport Saturday evening was taxied away from the allotted terminal while authorities allowed only 11 Israelis to enter the country. The plane returned to South Korea with the rest of the passengers on Sunday, according to airline officials.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Sunday that it was closely monitoring the incident and providing active consular assistance to South Koreans staying in Israel. It said it will evacuate South Korean tourists from Israel if necessary.

Yonhap news agency cited South Korea's Foreign Ministry as registering a strong protest with the Israeli government. The ministry told Israel that no excessive, unreasonable measures should be taken against South Korean nationals, according to the report.

South Korea earlier informed Israel that a group of tourists who traveled to Israel and the West Bank for a week this month tested positive for the virus upon returning home. Israeli and Palestinian health authorities asked people who were in close contact with the tourists to quarantine themselves.

South Korean health authorities said Sunday that 18 of the 39 South Koreans from the southeastern region who had made a group pilgrimage to sites in Israel later tested positive for the virus. She said the 21 others were being tested. Forty-one Catholic churches in their neighborhoods halted Sunday Masses and other gatherings.

Downtown Daegu was mostly deserted Sunday, with shelves at some supermarkets and stores empty. Many restaurants, bars, real-estate offices and tour agencies shut down as traffic nosedived and people stayed home, ordering food and supplies online.

Kim Mi-yeon, who opened her cake shop in Daegu on Sunday despite worries about infection, said she received only one group of customers.

"I'm also worried about being infected, but I still opened my shop today to make a living," she said by phone. "On weekends, I used to hire five part-time employees, but I've recently told all of them not to come. How can I hire them at a time when I have fewer than 10 customers a day?"

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Associated Press writers Yanan Wang in Beijing and Frances D'Emilio in Rome and researcher Henry Hou in Beijing contributed to this report.

2nd person in days killed by Mardi Gras float in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A man was struck and killed by a Mardi Gras float during a raucous Saturday night street parade in New Orleans, becoming the second person in days killed along a parade route during this year's Carnival season, authorities said.

The man was fatally injured just before 7 p.m. as the popular Krewe of Endymion was rolling, New Orleans police said in a statement. He was pronounced dead at the scene, and the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office was to release his name and cause of death after completing an autopsy and notifying his family.

The remainder of Endymion's parade was scrapped Saturday evening. Police said 13 floats had already gone ahead when the accident occurred with the 14th float in the formation. Remaining floats that followed, along with marching groups, were diverted from the accident scene on Canal Street, a wide route popular with parade viewers in the Mississippi River port city.

New Orleans police said first responders swiftly converged on the site, tweeting out calls for crowds to avoid the area.

The float, with its gaudy lights still twinkling, was cordoned off by police on horseback and on foot. All around, streets were strewn with tossed bead necklaces and trinkets thrown from the floats, along with other party debris. A somber mood had taken hold of members of the parade group, TV stations reported.

The fatality came as New Orleans was still mourning the death of a 58-year-old woman who — witnesses said — was run over by a parade float Wednesday night.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell said Saturday night that the south Louisiana city was grieving.

"To be confronted with such tragedy a second time at the height of our Carnival celebrations seems an unimaginable burden to bear. The City and the people of New Orleans will come together, we will grieve together, and we will persevere together," Cantrell said in a statement. "Our hearts break for those lost and for their loved ones, and our prayers and deepest sympathies are with them."

Wednesday's fatality had occurred during the parade of the Mystic Krewe of Nyx, an all-female Carnival group. Witnesses said the woman, New Orleans native Geraldine Carmouche, had apparently tried to cross between two parts of a tandem float and tripped over a hitch connecting the sections.

Tandem floats are multiple floats connected together and pulled by one tractor. It wasn't immediately clear if a tandem float was involved in Saturday night's fatality, but city agency NOLA Ready tweeted that tandem floats would not be allowed for the few days remaining in the 2020 festival season. Each float will require its own tractor, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported NOPD Superintendent Shaun Ferguson said.

The Carnival season is nearing its traditional all-out Fat Tuesday celebration, the raucous climax of a week or more of parades, merrymaking and partying.

The Krewe of Bacchus will split its tandem floats for its Bacchus Sunday evening parade, per the city's request, the group said in a statement. A statement from the Krewe of Orpheus said it would follow the city's safety recommendations for its parade Monday.

The deaths also come just a year after a car sped into a bicycle lane near a parade route, hitting nine people and killing two bicyclists not far from where the Krewe of Endymion formation had just passed. A man identified as the driver was subsequently charged with two counts of vehicular homicide.

Before this year, the most recent Carnival float-related fatality in Louisiana happened in 2009, when a 23-year-old rider fell from a float and in front of its wheels in Carencro, about 120 miles (195 kilometers) west of New Orleans.

In 2008, a rider getting off a three-part float after the Krewe of Endymion parade in New Orleans was killed when the float lurched forward and the third section ran over him, police said.

Israel's Lieberman still holds keys to future government

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel finds itself in a familiar place after a tumultuous election campaign — with maverick politician Avigdor Lieberman still seemingly in control of the country's fate.

The run-up to Israel's third election in less than a year saw criminal charges filed against the prime minister, an American Mideast plan unveiled and various party mergers and machinations. Yet once again, opinion polls suggest that neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor his chief challenger Benny Gantz will be able to form a coalition without Lieberman.

Lieberman remains cagey about his intentions, raising the possibility his brinkmanship could end up forcing yet another election.

Lieberman's nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party bolted from Netanyahu's right-wing camp last year to spark the unprecedented stalemate in Israeli politics. Though Lieberman has all but ruled out sitting in a government led by his one-time mentor Netanyahu, saying his "era is over," he has also driven a hard bargain with Gantz and has taken out campaign ads against the former military chief.

Lieberman insists a future coalition cannot include Arab-led parties, whose lawmakers he considers terrorist sympathizers because several have sided with Israel's adversaries and refused to condemn attackers. He has also ruled out governing jointly with ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties that he says have long wielded disproportionate power that has harmed Israel's secular majority and, in particular, his base of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Lieberman himself immigrated to Israel in the 1970s from the former Soviet republic of Moldova.

His preferred solution after the last election was to play matchmaker between Gantz's centrist Blue and White party and Netanyahu's Likud and coax them into a unity government.

But that option appears off the table even if the numbers don't seem to add up to any other realistic alternative. Gantz refuses to partner with the indicted Netanyahu and Likud appears unwilling to part ways with its longtime leader, even as he goes on trial next month.

Still, Lieberman, who declined interview requests, insists this vote will produce a breakthrough and he'll be the one to dictate how it all plays out.

"The reality is different. There won't be another election. This time we will pick a side," said Eli Avidar, a lawmaker from Lieberman's party who often serves as his voice to foreign audiences.

Avidar, a former diplomat, said that with Netanyahu heading to trial on March 17, other options have emerged across Israel's fractured political landscape. For starters, Lieberman has indicated a newfound openness to sitting in government with left-wing parties he once shunned and has hinted that other nationalists could follow suit to give Gantz the edge he needs.

Either way, Avidar said that with Iran believed to be pursuing nuclear weapons and a huge deficit to overcome, there was simply too much at stake to risk dragging on the government paralysis any longer.

Israel's attorney general charged Netanyahu in November on three counts of bribery, fraud and breach of trust. The trial begins two weeks after the election, and just as the new parliament is sworn in and coalition negotiations will be getting under way.

Opinion polls show Likud and Blue and White in a tight race. Unless Likud somehow defies the polls and emerges as the most dominant party, Netanyahu's precarious legal position will make it difficult for him to form a new coalition.

"It's not a game," Avidar said. "The minute Netanyahu shows up to court people will finally realize that it's over for him and it's time to move on."

If this indeed is the end of the road for Netanyahu, it would carry no small degree of irony that Lieberman was the one to finally push him out.

Lieberman started out as a top Netanyahu aide in the 1990s and as Netanyahu's chief of staff during his first term in office later that decade. He then embarked on a political career of his own as a nationalist hard-liner and champion of fellow former Soviet Union immigrants. Over the next two decades, the pair enjoyed a roller-coaster relationship in which Lieberman held a series of senior Cabinet posts under

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Netanyahu and often served as a staunch partner and defender, while occasionally emerging as a rival, critic and thorn in Netanyahu's side.

Lieberman resigned as defense minister in 2018 because Netanyahu kept blocking his plans to strike hard against Gaza militants. He passed up the chance to return to the post following last April's election when he refused to join Netanyahu's emerging coalition and forced the do-over vote. He stuck to his guns after the September vote as well and helped prevent Netanyahu from securing the parliamentary immunity he sought to avoid an embarrassing trial.

If, as polls forecast, Netanyahu fails to secure a 61-seat majority in Israel's parliament, Israel's longest-ever leader may be out of cards to play.

With another deadlock looming, Lieberman leaves observers pondering what he ultimately hopes to achieve.

Israeli commentator Nahum Barnea said he believes Lieberman isn't driven by political ambition at this stage, noting he has already held a number of senior Cabinet posts. "There's nothing out there that truly charms him," he said. "I think he mostly wants to prove that Israel can have a government without Netanyahu."

The 61-year-old Lieberman derives most of his power from a devout following of both immigrants and native-born Israelis drawn to his straight-talking persona and his dual nationalist-secular credo. Perhaps more than any other Israeli political leader, he exercises complete control over his party. That gives him great leverage in coalition negotiations.

But Barnea says Lieberman may have overplayed his hand by "creating too many enemies" in ruling out both the Arab-led and ultra-Orthodox parties. Even so, polls still have his party as a tipping point that could block Netanyahu from staying in power.

"Lieberman started out as the kingmaker, but he turned into the king-slayer," Barnea said.

Follow Aron Heller at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

Sanders wins Nevada caucuses, takes national Democratic lead

By STEVE PEOPLES, MICHELLE L. PRICE, JONATHAN J. COOPER and BRIAN SLODYSKO

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Bernie Sanders scored a commanding victory in Nevada's presidential caucuses, cementing his status as the Democrats' national front-runner but escalating tensions over whether he's too liberal to defeat President Donald Trump.

As Sanders celebrated Saturday night, Joe Biden was in second place with votes still being counted. Pete Buttigieg and Elizabeth Warren trailed further behind. They were all seeking any possible momentum heading into next-up South Carolina and then Super Tuesday on March 3.

Nevada's caucuses were the first chance for White House hopefuls to demonstrate appeal to a diverse group of voters in a state far more representative of the country as a whole than Iowa and New Hampshire. Sanders, a 78-year Vermont senator and self-described democratic socialist, won by rallying his fiercely loyal base and tapping into support from Nevada's large Latino community.

In a show of confidence, Sanders left Nevada for Texas, which offers one of the biggest delegate troves in just 10 days on Super Tuesday.

"We are bringing our people together," he declared. "In Nevada we have just brought together a multi-generational, multiracial coalition which is not only going to win in Nevada, it's going to sweep this country."

Saturday's win built on Sanders' victory earlier this month in the New Hampshire primary. He essentially tied for first place in the Iowa caucuses with Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who has sought to position himself as an ideological counter to Sanders' unabashedly progressive politics.

But for all the energy and attention devoted to the first three states, they award only a tiny fraction of the delegates needed to capture the nomination. After South Carolina, the contest becomes national in scope, putting a premium on candidates who have the resources to compete in states as large as Cali-

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fornia and Texas.

While Sanders' victory in Nevada encouraged his supporters, it only deepened concern among establishment-minded Democratic leaders who fear he is too extreme to defeat Trump. Sanders for decades has been calling for transformative policies to address inequities in politics and the economy, none bigger than his signature "Medicare for All" health care plan that would replace the private insurance system with a government-run universal program.

Trump gloated on social media, continuing his weeks-long push to sow discord between Sanders and his Democratic rivals.

"Looks like Crazy Bernie is doing well in the Great State of Nevada. Biden & the rest look weak," Trump tweeted. "Congratulations Bernie, & don't let them take it away from you!"

Buttigieg congratulated Sanders, too, but then launched an aggressive verbal assault on the senator as too divisive.

"Before we rush to nominate Senator Sanders in our one shot to take on this president, let's take a sober look at what is at stake for our party, for our values and for those with so much to lose," he said. "Senator Sanders believes in an inflexible, ideological revolution that leaves out most Democrats, not to mention most Americans."

For Biden, a second place finish in Nevada could be the lifeline he needed to convince skeptics he still has a path to the nomination as the primary moves to more diverse states. He took aim at Sanders and billionaire Mike Bloomberg, who wasn't on the Nevada ballot, but has emerged as a threat to Biden in contests that begin next month.

"I ain't a socialist. I'm not a plutocrat. I'm a Democrat," Biden declared.

Warren, who desperately needed a spark to revive her stalled bid, ignored Sanders and instead took a shot at Bloomberg's height as she thanked Nevada "for keeping me in the fight."

Rallying supporters in Seattle, she said she wanted to talk about "a big threat — not a tall one, but a big one: Michael Bloomberg."

Also still in the fight: Billionaire Tom Steyer, who spent more than \$12 million on Nevada television and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who hoped to prove her strong New Hampshire finish was no fluke.

Klobuchar, campaigning in her home state of Minnesota Saturday night, claimed Nevada success no matter her poor showing.

"As usual I think we have exceeded expectations," she said.

The first presidential contest in the West tested the candidates' strength with black and Latino voters for the first time in 2020. Nevada's population aligns more with the U.S. as a whole, compared with Iowa and New Hampshire: 29% Latino, 10% black and 9% Asian American and Pacific Islander.

Bloomberg, the former New York mayor who dominated the political conversation this week after a poor debate-stage debut, wasn't on the ballot. He's betting everything on a series of delegate-rich states that begin voting next month.

The stakes were high for Nevada Democrats to avoid a repeat of the chaos in the still-unresolved Iowa caucuses, and it appeared Saturday's contest was largely successful.

Unlike state primaries and the November election, which are run by government officials, caucuses are overseen by state parties.

Nevada Democrats sought to minimize problems by creating multiple redundancies in their reporting system, relying on results called in by phone, a paper worksheet filled out by caucus organizers, a photo of that worksheet sent in by text message and electronic results captured with a Google form.

In addition, it appeared Nevada Democrats were able to successfully navigate a complicated process for adding early voting to the caucus process. Nearly 75,000 people cast early ballots over a four-day period, and the party was able to process those in time for Saturday so they could be integrated into the in-person vote.

At the Bellagio casino caucus site, 41-year-old Christian Nielsen, a scuba diver for the Cirque du Soleil show "O," said he backed Sanders because he believes the country needs a "major change in the White House."

"We need somebody in the White House who has been on the right side of history for their entire career,

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somebody who stands with the working class, and will make things more fair for everybody," Nielsen said. The Democrats' 2020 nomination fight shifted beyond Nevada even before the final results were known. Only Biden, Buttigieg and Steyer were still in the state when news of Sanders' victory was announced. Sanders and Klobuchar spent the night in Super Tuesday states, and Buttigieg was headed to a third, Virginia. Warren, who began Saturday in Las Vegas, was to finish the day in Washington state, which hosts its election on March 10 but has already begun offering early voting.

Peoples and Slodysko reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe in Washington, Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta and Yvonne Gonzalez, Ken Ritter and Nicholas Riccardi in Nevada contributed to this report.

Brazilian transgender dancer shatters Carnival parade taboo

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — When dancer Camila Prins entered Sao Paulo's Carnival parade grounds, a costume of feathers clinging to her sinuous body, she fulfilled a dream of feminine beauty nearly three decades old.

Prins says she first realized she wanted to be a woman at a Carnival party at age 11, when, like the other boys, she was allowed to dress like a girl as part of the burlesque festivities. Now, in the final minutes of Saturday, she became the first transgender woman to lead the drum section of a top samba school in either of the renowned Carnival parades put in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Prins, 40, was hand-picked to be "godmother" of the Colorado do Brás samba school's drum section, an iconic role fought over by dozens of models and TV celebrities. Her duty was to dance infectiously for 65 minutes in front of the drummers, using her legs to drive their rhythm while judges assessed the school's parade.

"Gorgeous women wanted to be here. I'm very excited because this shows we can be anywhere. We can be godmother of the drummers, we can be owners of a samba school," Prins told The Associated Press before the parade. "Soon they will see many other transgender girls, who will find it easier than I did."

Colorado do Brás, which rose to Sao Paulo's top samba league only two years ago, made a bold decision in picking Prins for the role, despite Brazil's Carnival being a party at which few things have never been tried.

Transgender people remain something of a taboo among Brazilians, even in Sao Paulo, the country's most cosmopolitan city and host to the world's largest gay pride parade. Brazil has more slayings of transvestites and transgender people than any country in the world. In 2019, 124 were killed, 21 of them in Sao Paulo state.

As godmother of the drum section, Prins teamed up with a drum queen who has a similar role, and together they worked to dazzle fans in the Sambadrome bleachers with their beauty and sex appeal. Prins said she was counting on her penetrating brown eyes, long blond hair, strong legs, open smile and imposing breasts to help win points from the judges.

Colorado do Brás finished the 2019 parade in 11th place, only two spots above the cutoff for being relegated back to a lower league. Directors of the samba school decided to try for something different this year, since the group has fewer resources than richer samba schools. Its floats and costumes were clearly less luxurious than the main challengers for the title.

Keila Simpson, president of Brazil's National Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals, was happy Prins secured her prominent Carnival role, and said their community aims to make cases like hers the new normal.

"We have to be proud of Camila and hope her symbolic message allows us to think of reducing violence against trans people. Why can people celebrate her at the Sambadrome while trans people on the street are subject to violence?" Simpson said. "We don't have data, but there are many violent cases against us during Carnival. Because there's more of us outside, there's more attacks."

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Sao Paulo is trying to root out persecution of LGBT people during Carnival, and this year set up 20 tents spread among major street parties to handle cases of violence against the community. Psychologists, police officers and social workers are on hand until Wednesday for revelers who are victimized.

English teacher Alessandra Salvador, a transgender woman who encouraged revelers to come to the city hall tent at the LGBT street party Minhoqueens, said she was excited by Prins' selection.

"I don't even watch parades that much, but this year I will when she is on," Salvador said. "It is good to see one of us being talked up. We don't get it so often. If we don't get that in Carnival, we won't get it anywhere else."

It's been a long road for Prins to reach the big leagues. She has worked as a professional dancer for 20 years and, though she lives in a small town in Switzerland with her husband, practices her steps at home all year and listens to samba incessantly. As Carnival nears, she splits her dance routine with ab workouts and squats at a gym, then makes her annual return to Brazil.

Prins' first time dancing as a samba school's godmother came in 2018, in the second division of Sao Paulo's Carnival league. And it wasn't easy.

"Many people turned their backs, because they thought I shouldn't be there. They thought it was a role for a woman," Prins said. "Little by little I won them over with a lot of respect and true dancing."

Prins said her friends in Switzerland feared for her because of the increase in violence against transgender people, and because of the rise of far-right political groups in Brazil. She said she was worried about an increase in hateful comments aimed at LGBT people since President Jair Bolsonaro took office Jan. 1, 2019, but she planned to keep her smile and march on.

Just before midnight, when Colorado do Brás finally started its parade, a TV Globo reporter approached a tearful Prins in front of her drummers. She was already the most talked about of all 2,200 members of the samba school, even more than eight young topless women dressed as "goddesses of the sea."

"I feel so blessed this is happening. I came here to hold my banner and dance samba to the face of prejudice, for all the LGBT community," she said. "Trans girls, I am sure your day will come, too. I am just the first, many more of you will follow."

Nassar victim slams Michigan for response to doctor abuse

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — The first woman who publicly accused convicted sports doctor Larry Nassar of sexual abuse said she is "horrified," and "deeply disappointed" with the University of Michigan for how it has handled allegations of abuse by a late doctor at the school.

The university announced earlier this week five former patients of Dr. Robert E. Anderson alleged he sexually abused them during exams and a complaint in 2018 led to a police investigation.

"They had the choice 19 months ago to do the right thing and become leaders," former gymnast Rachael Denhollander said Saturday in an interview with The Associated Press. "They chose corruption - again - and they put the survivors in a place where they had no choice but to speak publicly."

Robert Julian Stone said this week Anderson assaulted him during a medical appointment at the university's health center in 1971. Stone said he alerted university officials last summer, inspired by the national #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct.

Stone was first interviewed by The Detroit News, which began reporting on the allegations before the university announced its investigation. Stone, 69, said he contacted the newspaper because he felt "stonewalled" by the school when he sought documentation on the investigation.

"Instead of immediately pursuing transparency, and saying 'How could this happen on our watch? We are going to make sure this never happens again.' They kept it quiet and buried it," Denhollander said in a telephone interview. "They forced the survivors to have to speak publicly to get anything to happen. That's despicable. It's re-victimizing and re-violating."

In announcing the investigation Wednesday, University of Michigan officials said they were making the information public now following a determination the previous day by the Washtenaw County prosecutor's

office that no criminal charges would be authorized because Anderson is deceased.

University spokesman Rick Fitzgerald said Saturday the school had been asking the Washtenaw County prosecutor's office if charges would be coming against Anderson for months and found out none would be authorized on Tuesday at the same time the Detroit News was notified.

"I understand why it may look differently to people reading about it, but I can say with complete confidence that we were waiting on the prosecutor to make a decision," Fitzgerald said. "As soon as we learned there would be no charges, we put out a press release, made information available, established a hotline to get more information and offered to provide counseling for those affected in the communities in which they live.

"We're also engaged with an independent law firm to drill down to get the answers to the many questions we all have about how this happened at the University of Michigan. We very much want to get to the bottom of that," said Fitzgerald.

Nassar was sentenced two years ago to 40 to 175 years in prison for molesting some of the nation's top gymnasts, including Denhollander, under the guise of medical treatment.

Nassar, a University of Michigan alumnus, worked as a trainer in the athletic department in the 1980s.

Russ Miller, who was the school's supervisor of athletic training for a decade, told police Nassar was a student trainer of his at the university and recalled how shocked he had been to learn what Nassar did.

Miller made those comments during an interview with university police as part of the department's investigation into Anderson. They appear in the nearly 100 pages' worth of records released Friday by the Washtenaw County prosecutor's office in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by The Associated Press.

Miller said he was similarly surprised to hear accusations of sexual misconduct also had been made against Anderson. Miller remembered Anderson as one of the top doctors with whom he worked during his career.

Records obtained by the AP revealed University of Michigan officials were warned more than four decades ago Anderson was fondling patients during medical exams. He continued working there despite a demotion and went on to allegedly abuse again as a physician with the school's athletic department.

Associated Press writer Mike Householder in Ann Arbor, Michigan, contributed to this report.

Follow Larry Lage on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LarryLage>

Security adviser: I've seen no intel of Moscow helping Trump

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's national security adviser said he's seen no intelligence to show that Russia is interfering in the U.S. presidential campaign in hopes of reelecting President Donald Trump.

Robert O'Brien's comments come after conflicting accounts emerged from a recent closed-door briefing by intelligence officials, who spoke to lawmakers about Russian interference in the 2020 campaign. One intelligence official said that lawmakers were not told that Russia was working to directly aid Trump.

But other people familiar with the meeting said they were told the Kremlin was looking to help Trump's candidacy. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the classified briefing.

"The national security adviser gets pretty good access to our intelligence," O'Brien said. "I haven't seen any intelligence that Russia is doing anything to attempt to get President Trump re-elected."

O'Brien's comments were released Saturday in a transcript of an interview with ABC's "This Week" set to air on Sunday.

A nearly two-year investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller concluded there was a sophisticated, Kremlin-led operation to sow division in the U.S. and upend the 2016 election by using cyberattacks and social media as weapons. Intelligence officials have warned Russia is doing the same in 2020.

But it's a sore subject for Trump, who has played down the findings and said they are an attempt to

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de-legitimize his victory. And Sen. Bernie Sanders acknowledged Friday that he was briefed last month by U.S. officials about Russian efforts to boost his chances for becoming the Democratic presidential nominee — something that could be seen as beneficial to Trump's reelection prospects.

O'Brien claimed he had not seen any intelligence or analyses indicating that Russia was aiding Trump and neither had top leaders in the intelligence agencies.

"All I know is that the Republicans on the side of the House hearing were unhappy with the hearing and said that there was no intelligence to back up what was being said," O'Brien said. "But here's the deal: I don't even know if what's been reported as being said (by the briefers) is true. You know those are leaks coming out of that hearing."

O'Brien also denied reports that Trump became angry when he was told about the briefing and that he confronted former acting national intelligence director Joseph Maguire and subsequently replaced him with the U.S. ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell.

O'Brien said Trump was not angry with Maguire and would have liked Maguire to stay in government in a different role. He said Maguire's time as acting director of national intelligence was up in early March and the White House needed an individual — someone who had already been confirmed by the Senate — to temporarily replace him.

"Ambassador Grenell is there for a temporary period of time," O'Brien said, adding that Trump was expected to announce a nominee to be quickly confirmed by the Senate as full-time director. The president has said he is considering three or four candidates.

Judge halts plan to move virus patients to California city

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — A court temporarily blocked the U.S. government from sending up to 50 people infected with a new virus from China to a Southern California city for quarantine after local officials argued that the plan lacked details about how the community would be protected from the outbreak.

A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order late Friday to halt the transportation of anyone who has tested positive for the new coronavirus to Costa Mesa, a city of 110,000 in the heart of Orange County. U.S. District Judge Josephine L. Stanton scheduled a hearing on the issue Monday.

City officials quickly sought court intervention after learning from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services that U.S. officials planned to start moving patients to a state-owned facility in Costa Mesa as early as Sunday.

They said in court documents that local officials were not included in the planning effort and wanted to know why the Fairview Developmental Center was considered a suitable quarantine site and what kind of safeguards were in place to prevent the possible transmission of the virus that has spread worldwide.

"The city has not been part of any of the process that led to the consideration of the site, and it would be unfair to not include us in this kind of significant decision that has great impact on our community," Mayor Katrina Foley told the Orange County Register.

The California Health and Human Services Agency said in a statement Saturday that it was working with federal authorities to find a place for people who were evacuated from a quarantined cruise ship in Japan and taken to Travis Air Force Base in Northern California.

Anyone who tested positive for the virus cannot stay at the base and must be sent either to the hospital or if they're not sick enough, isolated until the infection has cleared.

The Fairview center in Costa Mesa is being considered as a place to send them.

"If Fairview were chosen, the federal government would be responsible for providing health care — easing the burden on our hospitals during flu season — and for providing robust security to ensure the public safety and public health of the surrounding community," the state's statement said.

Fairview is a 109-acre campus that was once home to about 2,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It's now nearly empty as the state has moved residents into community homes and other living situations.

A state lawmaker whose district includes Costa Mesa said he feared the virus could travel through the

facility's air vents.

"The coronavirus patients should be treated humanely and with the best medical care available. But the first priority must be to contain the virus and make sure it doesn't jump into the local population," Republican state Sen. John Moorthach said.

Globally, the virus has infected nearly 78,000 people in 29 countries, and more than 2,300 have died.

Infections climb in South Korea as world fights virus

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea reported an eight-fold jump in viral infections Saturday with more than 400 cases mostly linked to a church and a hospital, while the death toll in Iran climbed to six and a dozen towns in Italy effectively went into lockdowns as health officials around the world battle a new virus that has spread from China.

Some virus clusters have shown no direct link to travel to China. The spread in Italy prompted local authorities in the Lombardy and Veneto regions to order schools, businesses, and restaurants closed and to cancel sporting events and Masses. Hundreds of residents and workers who came into contact with an estimated 79 people confirmed infected in Italy were in isolation pending test results. Two people infected with the virus have died.

South Korea has reported 433 cases and its third death from the virus, a man in his 40s who was found dead at home and posthumously tested positive. There's concern that the country's death toll could grow. In and around South Korea's fourth-largest city, Daegu, health workers scrambled to screen thousands. Virus patients with signs of pneumonia or other serious conditions at the Cheongdo hospital were transferred to other facilities, 17 of them in critical condition, Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip told reporters.

He said that the outbreak had entered a serious new phase, but still expressed cautious optimism that it can be contained to the region surrounding Daegu, where the first case was reported on Tuesday.

Globally, nearly 78,000 people have been infected in 29 countries, and more than 2,300 have died.

A team of global experts with the World Health Organization is on the way to China's Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Saturday. It has been visiting other parts of China this week.

Tedros also told a meeting of African health ministers that the WHO is concerned about cases with "no clear epidemiological link, such as travel history to China or contact with a confirmed case." He is especially concerned about the growing number of cases in Iran.

But Tedros said the top concern is the potential spread to countries with weaker health systems, including in Africa. The 20% of virus patients with severe or critical disease require intensive care equipment that is "in short supply in many African countries," he said. Just one case of the virus has been confirmed in Africa, in Egypt.

In some positive news, China said Saturday that the daily count of new virus cases there fell significantly to 397, though another 109 people died of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus. Most of the new cases and all but three of the deaths were in Hubei province, where the outbreak started.

The new figures, along with an upward revision of Hubei's earlier count, brought the total number of cases in mainland China to 76,288, with 2,345 deaths. China has severely restricted travel and imposed strict quarantine measures to stop the virus from spreading.

A few Chinese provinces, eager to restart factories and their economies, began easing those restrictions after reporting no new cases in recent days. Liaoning and Gansu provinces both lowered their emergency response level, and two cities in Shaanxi province resumed bus services and removed checkpoints at railway stations, bus stations and on some highways.

Of the 229 new cases in South Korea, 200 are from Daegu and nearby areas. By Saturday morning, the city of 2.5 million and surrounding areas counted 352 cases, including two fatalities in the Cheongdo hospital. Both patients had pneumonia.

The central government has declared the area a "special management zone" and is channeling support

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to ease a shortage in hospital beds, medical personnel and equipment.

While some experts say the virus has started to spread nationwide, pointing to a number of infections in Seoul and elsewhere that weren't immediately traceable, government officials remained hopeful of containing the outbreak.

"Although we are beginning to see some more cases nationwide, infections are still sporadic outside of the special management zone of Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province," Kim said during a briefing. He called for maintaining strong border controls to prevent infections from China and elsewhere from entering South Korea.

Nationwide, the numbers told of a ballooning problem. There were 20 new cases reported Wednesday, 53 on Thursday and 100 on Friday.

Around 230 of those have been directly linked to a single house of worship, a Daegu branch of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, where a woman in her 60s attended two services before testing positive for the virus.

Officials are also investigating a possible link between churchgoers and the spike in infections at the Cheongdo hospital, where more than 110 people have been infected so far, mostly patients at a mental illness ward.

Health officials were screening some 9,300 church followers, and said that 1,261 of them have exhibited cough and other symptoms.

Among them, four had traveled abroad in recent months, including one to China, although that trip came in early January and was not near Hubei.

All 74 sites operated by the Shincheonji Church have been closed and churchgoers have been told to instead watch services online for a sect whose leader claims to be an angel of Christ, but who is dismissed by many outsiders as a cult leader. Its teachings revolve largely around the Book of Revelation, a chapter of the New Testament known mostly for its apocalyptic foreshadowing.

Health and city officials say the woman who first tested positive had contact with some 1,160 people, both at the church, a restaurant and a hospital where she was treated for injuries from a car accident.

But officials say it's unlikely that the woman set off the chain of infections, and that she was probably just the first person to be detected in an area where the virus was circulating in the population.

Anxiety is also palpable in other parts of the country. In Seoul, South Korea's capital, fear of the virus led many to avoid shops and restaurants and instead eat at home and order necessities online. Buses and subways were full of mask-clad commuters.

Rallies were banned in downtown Seoul, but hundreds went ahead with an anti-government protest on Saturday.

The first three cases in the country's 600,000-member military also sprung up on separate bases Friday, bringing added concern. A U.S. Army garrison in Daegu restricted access and imposed self-quarantine for American troops.

"There remain zero confirmed cases of USFK personnel with COVID-19 despite the rise in confirmed South Korean cases," U.S. Forces Korea said in a statement.

In Japan, new cases of the virus include a middle school teacher in her 60s, prompting concern for the health of other teachers and students in Makuhari in Chiba prefecture southeast of Tokyo.

Iranian health authorities on Saturday reported the country's sixth death from the virus. The governor of Markazi province told the official IRNA news agency that tests of a patient who recently died was positive for the virus. Ali Aghazadeh said the person also had a heart problem. So far, 28 cases have been confirmed in Iran, including at least five of the six who died.

Saudi Arabia barred travel to Iran and said anyone coming from there can enter only after a 14-day quarantine. The decision directly impacts thousands of Iranians who travel to Mecca and Medina for Islamic pilgrimages, effectively barring them from the kingdom.

In the United States, 35 people have tested positive for the virus, including 18 who returned home from a quarantined cruise ship in Japan and one new case reported Friday in California.

Egypt is among 13 countries that the WHO identified as high priority in Africa because of direct travel

links to China or a high volume of Chinese travel.

A growing number of African nations now have the laboratory ability to test for the virus, up from two early this month. About 11,000 health workers have been trained about the virus, Tedros said, and the WHO has shipped more than 30,000 sets of personal protective equipment to several African nations.

Associated Press writers Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

Charter bus rollover kills 3, injures 18 outside San Diego

PALA MESA, Calif. (AP) — A charter bus swerved on a rain-slicked Southern California highway and rolled down an embankment Saturday, killing three people and injuring 18 others, authorities said.

Several passengers were thrown from the bus, and one of the dead was trapped under the vehicle after it landed on its roof shortly after 10 a.m. off Interstate 15 in Pala Mesa, an unincorporated community about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of San Diego, North County Fire Protection District spokesman John Choi said.

"There were no seat belts on this bus," Choi said. Another person who died was trapped inside the bus, he added.

The wounded were taken to three hospitals with varying injuries, Choi said.

A California Highway Patrol officer told the San Diego Union-Tribune that one of the patients was in critical condition and three others suffered major injuries.

The bus driver suffered minor injuries and remained at the scene. He apparently swerved and lost control of the bus, Officer Mark Latulippe said.

The bus was going from Los Angeles to San Ysidro, the San Diego neighborhood just north of the U.S.-Mexico border, the officer said. Passengers included adults and children.

Authorities have not released the name of the bus owner.

Rescue crews were concerned that the bus may slide farther down the embankment and had to secure the vehicle before using ropes to pull up the victims to the roadside, Choi said. Crews planned to pull the bus from the embankment and recover the body pinned under it, he said.

The crash caused southbound traffic on I-15, a major route connecting San Diego to inland regions of Southern California, to back up for miles.

This story has been corrected to show that the crash happened off Interstate 15, not State Route 76.

After learning of Whitey Bulger LSD tests, juror has regrets

By MICHAEL REZENDES Associated Press

EASTHAM, Mass. (AP) — One of the jurors who convicted notorious crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger says she regrets her decision after learning that he was an unwitting participant in a covert CIA experiment with LSD.

Bulger terrorized Boston from the 1970s into the 1990s with a campaign of murder, extortion, and drug trafficking, then spent 16 years on the lam after he was tipped to his pending arrest.

In 2013, Janet Uhlar was one of 12 jurors who found Bulger guilty in a massive racketeering case, including involvement in 11 murders, even after hearing evidence that the mobster was helped by corrupt agents in the Boston office of the FBI.

But now Uhlar says she regrets voting to convict Bulger on any of the murder charges.

Her regret stems from a cache of more than 70 letters Bulger wrote to her from prison. In some, he describes his unwitting participation in a secret CIA experiment with LSD. In a desperate search for a mind control drug in the late 1950s, the agency dosed Bulger with the powerful hallucinogen more than 50 times when he was serving his first stretch in prison — something his lawyers never brought up in his

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federal trial.

"Had I known, I would have absolutely held off on the murder charges," Uhlar told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "He didn't murder prior to the LSD. His brain may have been altered, so how could you say he was really guilty?" At the same time, Uhlar says she would have voted to convict Bulger on the long list of other criminal counts, meaning he still would likely have died in prison.

Uhlar has spoken publicly about her regret before but says her belief that the gangster was wrongly convicted on the murder charges was reinforced after reading a new book by Brown University professor Stephen Kinzer: "Poisoner in Chief: Sidney Gottlieb and the CIA Search for Mind Control." The book digs into the dark tale of the CIA's former chief chemist and his attempts to develop mind control techniques by giving LSD and other drugs to unsuspecting individuals, including colleagues, and observing the effects.

"It was encouraging to know I wasn't losing my mind, thinking this was important," Uhlar said. "It told me, this is huge. I mean, how many lives were affected by this? We have no idea."

Gottlieb's secret program, known as MK-ULTRA, enlisted doctors and other subcontractors to administer LSD in large doses to prisoners, addicts and others unlikely to complain. In Bulger's case, the mobster and fellow inmates were offered reduced time for their participation and told they would be taking part in medical research into a cure for schizophrenia.

"Appealed to our sense of doing something worthwhile for society," Bulger wrote in a letter to Uhlar reviewed by the AP.

But nothing could have been further from the truth.

"The CIA mind control program known as MK-ULTRA involved the most extreme experiments on human beings ever conducted by any agency of the U.S. government," Kinzer said. "During its peak in the 1950s, that program and its director, Sidney Gottlieb, left behind a trail of broken bodies and shattered minds across three continents."

After Bulger was found guilty by Uhlar and the other jurors, a federal judge sentenced him to two life terms plus five years. But his life behind bars ended a little more than a year ago, at age 89, when he was beaten to death by fellow inmates shortly after arriving in his wheelchair at the Hazelton federal prison in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia. No criminal charges have been filed.

Although much had been written about the CIA's mind control experiments before Bulger's trial, Uhlar said she knew nothing about them until she began corresponding with the renowned gangster following his conviction.

Uhlar started writing Bulger, she said, because she was troubled by the fact that much of the evidence against him came through testimony by former criminal associates who were also killers and had received reduced sentences in exchange for testifying against their former partner in crime.

"When I left the trial, I had more questions," she said.

After Bulger started returning her letters, Uhlar noticed he often dated them with the time he had started writing in his tight cursive style. "He always seemed to be writing at one, two, or three in the morning and when I asked him why, he said it was because of the hallucinations," Uhlar said.

When Uhlar asked him to explain, Bulger revealed what he had already told many others: that since taking part in the LSD experiments at a federal prison in Atlanta, he'd been plagued by nightmares and gruesome hallucinations and was unable to sleep for more than a few hours at a time.

"Sleep was full of violent nightmares and wake up every hour or so — still that way — since '57," he wrote.

"On the Rock at times felt sure going insane," he wrote in another letter, referring to the infamous former prison on Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay, where he was transferred from Atlanta. "Auditory & visual hallucinations and violent nightmares — still have them — always slept with lights on helps when I wake up about every hour from nightmares."

The mobster also recalled the supervising physician, the late Carl Pfeiffer of Emory University, and the technicians who would monitor his response to the LSD, asking him questions such as, "Would you ever kill anyone? Etc., etc."

That question struck a nerve with Uhlar. After hearing from Bulger about MK-ULTRA, "as if I should have

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known about it," she visited him at a Florida federal prison on three occasions to discuss the experiments and started reading everything she could find about them.

At one point, she reviewed the 1977 hearings by the U.S. Senate Committee on Intelligence, which was looking into MK-ULTRA following the first public disclosures of the top-secret program.

The hearings included testimony from CIA director Stansfield Turner, who acknowledged evidence showing that the agency had been searching for a drug that could prepare someone for "debilitating an individual or even killing another person."

"That's just horrifying, in my opinion," Uhlar said. "It opens up the question of whether he was responsible for the murders he committed."

According to at least two of the several books written about Bulger and his life of crime, associates including corrupt former FBI agent John Morris said they assumed Bulger would use the LSD experiments to mount an insanity defense, if he were ever caught and tried.

But in 2013 Bulger's Boston attorneys, J.W. Carney Jr. and Hank Brennan, unveiled a novel defense in which they admitted Bulger was a criminal who made "millions and millions of dollars" from his gangland enterprise, but was enabled by corrupt law enforcement officers, especially those in Boston office of the FBI.

Neither Carney nor Brennan would comment on their decision — attorney client privilege outlasts a client's death. But Anthony Cardinale, a Boston attorney who has represented numerous organized crime defendants, said he would have opted for an insanity defense, in part because of the abundant evidence against Bulger.

"I would have had him come into court like Harvey Weinstein, all disheveled, and in a wheelchair," he said.

Still, Cardinale acknowledged there would have been challenges to presenting an insanity defense, including the fact that Bulger spent 16 years outwitting several law enforcement agencies, before he was captured in 2011 in Santa Monica, Calif., where he'd been living quietly with his longtime girlfriend while on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List.

"The problem is, he lived for a very long time on the lam in a very secretive and a very smart way," Cardinale said. "But that doesn't diminish the notion that, based on the LSD experiments, and the doses he was experiencing, he could have convinced himself of things that were not true, including that he had immunity from prosecution and could do whatever he wanted."

To his dying day, Bulger insisted he'd received criminal immunity from a deceased federal prosecutor who once headed the New England Organized Crime Strike Force.

John Bradley, a former Massachusetts federal prosecutor and assistant district attorney, agreed that defense lawyers would have faced high hurdles waging an insanity defense, noting that most end in convictions.

"The flip side is that jurors are sometimes swayed by morality more than legality," he said. "The whole shtick that the government played a role in creating this monster, uses him as an informant and then goes after him — that's an argument that could affect one or two jurors."

And it only takes one to vote not guilty on all the criminal charges to produce a hung jury, Bradley noted, forcing prosecutors to decide whether to retry a case.

Given Bulger's decades as a crime boss who corrupted the Boston office of the FBI, paying cash and doing favors in exchange for information that helped him thwart multiple investigations, a retrial would have been a near certainty. Nevertheless, Cardinale said, a hung jury in the Bulger case "would have been a monster victory" for the defense.

Even if Bulger were convicted on the other criminal charges and received a sentence that would have kept him behind bars for life, a refusal to find him guilty on the murder charges would have meant anguish for family members of his victims.

"As in any case involving a tragic murder, a conviction of the perpetrator helps family member obtain closure and move on with their lives," said Paul V. Kelly, a former federal prosecutor who has represented the family of one of Bulger's murder victims. "An acquittal of Whitey Bulger on the murder charges would have just caused additional pain and anguish."

Uhlar has written about the Bulger trial in "The Truth be Damned," a fictionalized account she published

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in 2018 and advertises on her website. She also gives occasional talks on the trial at community centers and libraries.

During her correspondence and visits with Bulger, Uhlar said, she grew fond of the gangster, though he often warned her that he was a criminal and "master manipulator." When asked if Bulger might have manipulated her, she said, "I've asked myself that many times. I'll finish reading a letter and say, 'Could he have?'"

Bulger often wrote to Uhlar as if she were a friend, even joking with her. But in one letter he also enclosed a more menacing message inscribed to her on the back of a photo taken of him on "the Rock," at a time when he was fending off LSD-induced nightmares while contemplating his return to Boston's violent criminal underworld.

"At end of Alcatraz, getting more serious and capable of about anything," he wrote. "Hard time makes hard people."

AP investigative researcher Randy Herschaft in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Associated Press investigative reporter Michael Rezendes at <https://twitter.com/mikerezendes>

Contact AP's Global Investigations team at Investigative@ap.org

Report finds Catholic charity founder sexually abused women

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A respected Catholic figure who worked to improve conditions for the developmentally disabled for more than half a century sexually abused at least six women during most of that period, according to a report released Saturday by the France-based charity he founded.

The report produced for L'Arche International said the women's descriptions provided enough evidence to show that Jean Vanier engaged in "manipulative sexual relationships" from 1970 to 2005, usually with a "psychological hold" over the alleged victims.

Although he was a layman and not a priest, many Catholics hailed Vanier, who was Canadian, as a living saint for his work with the disabled. He died last year at age 90.

"The alleged victims felt deprived of their free will and so the sexual activity was coerced or took place under coercive conditions," the report, commissioned by L'Arche last year and prepared by the U.K.-based GCPS Consulting group, said. It did not rule out potential other victims.

None of the women was disabled, a significant point given the Catholic hierarchy has long sought to portray any sexual relationship between religious leaders and other adults as consensual unless there was clear evidence of disability.

The #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements, however, have forced a recognition that power imbalances such as those in spiritual relationships can breed abuse.

During the charity-commissioned inquiry, six adult women without links to each other said Vanier engaged in sexual relations with them as they were seeking spiritual direction.

The women reported similar facts, and Vanier's sexual misconduct was often associated with alleged "spiritual and mystical justifications," the report states.

A statement released by L'Arche France Saturday stressed that some women still have "deep wounds."

The report noted similarities with the pattern of abuse of the Rev. Thomas Philippe, a Catholic priest Vanier called his "spiritual father." Philippe, who died in 1993, has been accused of sexual abuse by several women.

A statement from L'Arche International said analysis of archives shows that Vanier "adopted some of Father Thomas Philippe's deviant theories and practices." Philippe was banned from exercising any public or private ministry in a trial led by the Catholic Church in 1956 for his theories and the sexual practices that stemmed from them.

In a letter to the charity members, the Leaders of L'Arche International, Stephan Posner and Stacy Cates

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Carney, told of their shock at the news, and condemned Vanier's actions.

"For many of us, Jean was one of the people we loved and respected the most. ... While the considerable good he did throughout his life is not in question, we will nevertheless have to mourn a certain image we may have had of Jean and of the origins of L'Arche," they wrote.

Other devoted fans and Catholic commentators voiced soulful disappointment at the findings. Some held up the case as a reason to bring long waits back to the saint-making process to make sure candidates for canonization hold up to scrutiny long after death.

JD Flynn, the editor-in-chief of Catholic News Agency, said the report's conclusions hit his family particularly hard: Flynn has two children with Down syndrome, one of whom is named for Vanier.

"This is devastating for our family," he tweeted. "Please pray for us, and also for L'Arche."

John Gehring, program director at the U.S. advocacy network Faith in Public Life, said Vanier attracted so many devotees because he was a "quiet refugee from that chaos" of the institutional Catholic Church.

"Part of why the Vanier news is so gutting, I think, is that he offered an authentic path into deep spirituality for many detached from the institutional church and disillusioned with clerical leaders who abused power," he tweeted. "The truth is painful."

Vanier worked as a Canadian navy officer and professor before turning to charity work. A visit to a psychiatric facility prompted him to found L'Arche in 1964 as an alternative living environment where people with developmental disabilities could be participants in their community instead of patients.

The charity now has facilities in 38 countries that are home to thousands of people, both with and without disabilities.

Vanier, who was unmarried, also traveled the world to encourage dialogue across religions, and was awarded the 2015 Templeton Prize for spiritual work, as well as France's Legion of Honor. He was the subject of a documentary shown at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival called "Jean Vanier, the Sacrament of Tenderness."

The allegations against Vanier reveal a major gap in the Catholic Church's handling of sex abuse allegations, even for Vatican-recognized associations of the faithful, such as L'Arche. Because he was a layman, Vanier was exempt from the church's in-house sanctioning procedures for abuse, which only cover priests, bishops and cardinals. For these offenders, the worst penalty the Vatican can impose is defrocking — essentially, making the priests laymen again.

Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this story.

Ex-US envoy to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch has book deal

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and career diplomat who during the impeachment hearings of President Donald Trump offered a chilling account of alleged threats from Trump and his allies, has a book deal.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt confirmed Friday to The Associated Press that it had acquired Yovanovitch's planned memoir, currently untitled. According to the publisher, the book will trace her long career, from Mogadishu, Somalia, to Kyiv and "finally back to Washington, D.C. — where, to her dismay, she found a political system beset by many of the same challenges she had spent her career combating overseas."

"Yovanovitch's book will deliver pointed reflections on the issues confronting America today, and thoughts on how we can shore up our democracy," Houghton Mifflin Harcourt said in an announcement.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but two people familiar with the deal told the AP that the agreement was worth seven figures, even though the book is not expected until Spring 2021, months after this fall's election. They were not authorized to discuss negotiations and spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss financial terms. Yovanovitch was represented by the Javelin literary agency, where other clients include former FBI Director James Comey and former national security adviser John Bolton.

"Ambassador Yovanovitch has had a 30-year career of public service in many locations, with many les-

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sons to be drawn. This is about much more than just the recent controversy," said Houghton Mifflin Senior Vice President and Publisher Bruce Nichols, in response to a question about why her book wasn't coming out this year.

Yovanovitch told House investigators last year that Ukrainian officials had warned her in advance that Rudy Giuliani and other Trump insiders were planning to "do things, including to me" and were "looking to hurt" her. Pushed out of her job earlier in 2019 on Trump's orders, she testified that a senior Ukrainian official told her that "I really needed to watch my back."

Yovanovitch was recalled from Kyiv as Giuliani pressed Ukrainian officials to investigate baseless corruption allegations against Democrat Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who was involved with Burisma, a gas company there. Biden, the former vice president, is a contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

According to a rough transcript released by the White House, Trump told Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy last summer that Yovanovitch "was bad news and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine were bad news."

The allegations that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate a political opponent led to his impeachment in December on two counts by the Democratic-run House. Earlier this month, the Republican-run Senate acquitted him on both counts.

Yovanovitch, 61, was appointed ambassador to Ukraine in 2016 by President Barack Obama. She recently was given the Trainor Award, an honor for international diplomacy presented by Georgetown University, and currently is a non-resident fellow at Georgetown's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.

This story has been updated to correct the original headline, which referred to former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch as 'Former Ukraine diplomat'

Netflix series explores the assassination of Malcolm X

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A new Netflix series is tackling questions around the 1965 assassination of civil rights icon Malcolm X.

"Who Killed Malcolm X?" dives into questions surrounding his accused killers and allegations of a botched investigation. The show available now on the streaming service comes as Friday marked the 55th anniversary of Malcolm X's death.

The series follows activist-scholar Abdur-Rahman Muhammad, who revisits the assassination through interviews and archives. Muhammad argues in the series that at least two of the men charged with the slaying were innocent and that the real killers got away.

Three men — Muhammad Aziz, Mujahid Abdul Halim and Khalil Islam — were convicted of killing the civil rights leader and sentenced to life in prison. Aziz and Islam had long denied they were connected to any plot to kill Malcolm X, and Halim had said the two were not involved.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance's office announced earlier this month after the release of the series that it will revisit the 1965 assassination.

"(Vance) has determined that the district attorney's office will begin a preliminary review of the matter, which will inform the office regarding what further investigative steps may be undertaken," district attorney spokesman Danny Frost said in a statement.

The assassination of Malcolm X has long interested scholars and activists, who point to the feud he had with Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad after publicly breaking with the group.

A daughter of Malcolm X was charged in 1995 with trying to hire a hit man to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Malcolm X's widow, Betty Shabazz, said in a 1994 television interview that she believed Farrakhan was involved in her husband's assassination.

Farrakhan, who was recruited into the Nation of Islam by Malcolm X, wrote in the Dec. 4, 1964, issue of Muhammad Speaks, the organization's newspaper: "The die is set and Malcolm shall not escape. ... Such

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a man is worthy of death." Farrakhan was chief minister of the Nation of Islam's Boston mosque at the time the civil rights leader was killed.

Farrakhan acknowledged in a 2000 interview with CBS' 60 Minutes that his incendiary rhetoric played a role in the assassination.

The Omaha, Nebraska-born Malcolm X, who had changed his name to El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, was killed in Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom by gunmen who opened fire during a speaking engagement. He was buried at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, New York.

Russell Contreras is a member of The Associated Press' race and ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras>

University of Michigan officials told of abuse decades ago

By **LARRY LAGE, REESE DUNKLIN, KATHLEEN FOODY and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER** Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (AP) — University of Michigan officials were warned more than four decades ago that one of its doctors was fondling patients during medical exams, but he continued working there despite a demotion and went on to allegedly abuse again as a physician with the school's athletic department, records obtained Friday by The Associated Press show.

In 1980, the late Dr. Robert E. Anderson was pressed to step down as head of the University Health Service amid such concerns, according to a statement that his former supervisor gave to a campus detective who had started investigating the physician more than a year ago following a complaint from a former university wrestler.

When the detective told Tom Easthope, a former university administrator who oversaw Anderson's department, that he was investigating "inappropriate behavior" by Anderson, Easthope replied, "I bet there are over 100 people that could be on that list," according to the records.

Easthope told the detective that he had confronted Anderson about "fooling around in the exam rooms with the boy patients" and told the doctor, "You gotta go." He said the doctor didn't deny the allegations against him. By 1980, at least two students had made complaints to Michigan officials about Anderson inappropriately touching them, according to interviews and records.

When the detective informed Easthope that Anderson had continued working on campus, including with Michigan's football program, up until 2003, Easthope became "visibly shaken" and added that "he was sure that he had left the university."

On Thursday, Michigan President Mark Schlissel said in prepared remarks at the open of the school's Board of Regents meeting that its police investigation, launched in 2018, had found "indications" that staff was "aware of rumors and allegations of misconduct."

Washtenaw County prosecutors first received the police department's report in late April or early May of 2019, said Steven Hiller, assistant chief prosecuting attorney.

A prosecutor concluded that summer that no criminal charges could be authorized because the primary suspect had died and none of the offenses were within Michigan's six-year statute of limitations, Hiller said Thursday.

But the records obtained Friday by the AP add much more detail to what those indications were and show that complaints about Anderson, who died in 2008, spanned much of his tenure at Michigan, up to 2002. More men came forward this week after the investigation became public, including Olympic wrestler Andy Hrovat, who told the AP that Anderson touched him inappropriately during medical exams during his freshman year in 1998.

The revelations echo high-profile sexual abuse allegations made against sports doctors at other universities, including Michigan State and Ohio State.

The records were released by the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. The prosecutor's office had reviewed complaints following the uni-

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versity police investigation, which was triggered after a former wrestler in July 2018 sent a four-page letter to current Athletic Director Warde Manuel detailing decades-old abuse.

That wrestler wrote that in 1975, five years before Anderson's demotion, that he had informed his coach, Bill Johannesen, and the then-athletics director Don Canham that he had been fondled and given unnecessary rectal exams. Athletes on other sports teams had similar experiences with Anderson, the wrestler wrote.

"I am fully aware that it was the 1970s and it was an entirely different world then," the wrestler wrote in his letter. "I am also aware that 40-plus years is an extremely long time ago. I expect nothing. I want nothing. I just feel the need to report this."

The student, whose name was redacted in the records released to AP, also recalled Anderson being known as "Dr. Drop your drawers Anderson" by athletes in the 1970s. He accused the doctor of touching his penis and testicles, and inserting his finger into his rectum "too many times for it to have been considered diagnostic or therapeutic for the conditions and injuries that I had."

The first time this happened was during his freshman year in 1972, when he went to the doctor for treatment for facial cold sores, according to the letter. The wrestler saw the doctor several more times for that condition and was inappropriately touched each time, he wrote.

"I didn't like it, but I didn't really pay much attention to it," the letter said. "He was the doctor and it never occurred to me that he was enjoying what I was not."

The wrestler said the doctor touched him again during his junior season after he dislocated an elbow.

"I found it strange that I needed a penis and hernia check," he wrote.

The wrestler told Manuel that athletes on at least two other sports teams knew about Anderson's conduct while he was at the school.

Johannesen, who coached the Michigan wrestling team in the 1970s, told police that, while none of his athletes told him they were violated by a doctor, he did remember them "laughing" and "joking" about one particular doctor who told them to "take your pants down" for a "hurt elbow." Asked by police to recall the doctor's name, Johannesen said: "Dr. Anderson."

Attempts by the AP to reach Johannesen on Friday were not successful.

Another member of the Michigan wrestling team in the 1970s told police that the doctor gave him a rectal exam when he went for treatment of an ankle injury. His name also was redacted from the documents.

The former wrestler told police that he felt abused but that "as an 18-year-old kid, you don't think to question stuff like that."

A physician's assistant who worked at the school in the 1970s, Deborah Kowal, told police that Anderson conducted annual physicals of the athletes, including rectal exams. She said she did a couple of rectal exams until then-football coach Bo Schembechler found out. "She said that coach Schembechler did not want a women performing rectal exams on his male players, so Dr. Anderson did the physicals after this," according to the report.

The nearly 100 pages detailing the police investigation also include interviews with people who said they had not heard any complaints about Anderson. Among them was Russell Miller, who was an athletic trainer when Anderson worked with the Michigan football team. He told police that Anderson was an "unbelievable team doctor."

According to the police report, Miller said when Anderson left his job as director of Health Services, Canham, who died in 2005, worked out a deal so Anderson could work with the football team. Miller said Anderson served as a primary care physician for most of the football staff and their families.

Miller said the thought of Anderson being investigated "shatters him," according to the police report. Jack Harbaugh, who was an assistant football coach at Michigan in the 1970s and is the father of current head coach Jim Harbaugh and Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh, told police he did not know of anything negative about Anderson. He said he had "great admiration" for him.

Authorities also contacted the state's licensing and regulatory affairs agency and found that it had received a complaint of sexual misconduct against Anderson filed in May 1994. The records don't describe the outcome of the complaint, which was closed within 10 months, and the agency's records on the case

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were purged seven years later. But an agency official managed to find the name of a man who filed the complaint and provided that to the detective.

When the detective reached out, the complainant said: "I am glad someone finally called to look into this."

The man, whose name is redacted in the records, told the detective that he was a student at the University of Michigan starting in 1973. Once he went for a routine physical at a campus health center, and during that Anderson fondled him to the point of ejaculation. He said Anderson "did not appear to react to this, nor did he say anything," according to the detective's summary of the interview.

The man finally filed the complaint decades later because "I couldn't live with myself," the detective wrote.

The police report also describes an alleged sexual assault from 2002. A man affiliated with the university said in 2018 that he was sexually assaulted by Anderson while being examined for a brain tumor.

The man said he was told to take off all his clothes and lay down on the exam table. Anderson allegedly started to feel his feet and legs with both hands — in a rubbing, prodding fashion — before moving to his genitals.

"He said that he thought it was totally inappropriate and remembered the way that Dr. Anderson's breathing patterns changed while he was massaging" his genitals, the officer wrote.

Dunklin reported from Dallas. Foody reported from Chicago.

Associated Press writer David Eggert in Lansing, Mich., contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2020. There are 312 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 23, 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

On this date:

In 1822, Boston was granted a charter to incorporate as a city.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1848, the sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, died in Washington D.C., at age 80.

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, following word of a possible assassination plot in Baltimore.

In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States.

In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.

In 1965, film comedian Stan Laurel, 74, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1995, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above the 4,000 mark for the first time, ending the day at 4,003.33.

In 1998, 42 people were killed, some 2,600 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, by tornadoes in central Florida.

In 2005, a jury was selected in Santa Maria, California, to decide Michael Jackson's fate on charges that

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he'd molested a teenage boy at his Neverland Ranch. (Jackson was later acquitted.)

Ten years ago: The House Energy and Commerce Committee, looking into cases of sudden, unintended acceleration of Toyota automobiles, heard tearful testimony from Rhonda Smith of Sevierville, Tennessee, who said her Lexus had raced out of control to speeds up to 100 miles an hour. Dutch skater Sven Kramer lost the Olympic gold medal to Lee Seung-hoon of South Korea when coach Gerard Kemkers sent him the wrong way on a changeover during the 10,000-meter speedskating race at Vancouver, causing Kramer to be disqualified.

Five years ago: A jury in New York found the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization liable for their roles in terrorist attacks in Israel between 2002 and 2004 in which Americans were killed or injured; the Palestinians said later they would appeal the ruling. Tapping the anxieties of aging baby boomers, President Barack Obama called for tougher standards on brokers who manage retirement savings accounts. Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald apologized for misstating during a "CBS Evening News" segment that he had served in the military's special forces.

One year ago: Venezuelan security forces fired tear gas on protesters trying to deliver humanitarian aid from Colombia and Brazil, leaving two people dead and hundreds injured, as a U.S.-backed campaign to force President Nicolas Maduro from power met strong resistance. Storms raked parts of the Southeast; a woman was killed as a tornado hit Columbus, Mississippi. Actress Katherine Helmond, known for playing matriarchs on the ABC sitcoms "Who's the Boss?" and "Soap," died at her home in Los Angeles at the age of 89.

Today's Birthdays: Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is 77. Author John Sandford is 76. Country-rock musician Rusty Young is 74. Actress Patricia Richardson is 69. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 69. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 68. Singer Howard Jones is 65. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 58. Country singer Dusty Drake is 56. Actress Kristin Davis is 55. Tennis player Helena Sukova is 55. Actor Marc Price is 52. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 51. Actress Niecy Nash is 50. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 49. Country singer Steve Holy is 48. Rock musician Lasse (loss) Johansson (The Cardigans) is 47. Film and theater composer Robert Lopez is 45. Actress Kelly Macdonald is 44. Rapper Residente (Calle 13) is 42. Actor Josh Gad is 39. Actress Emily Blunt is 37. Actor Aziz Ansari is 37. Actor Tye White (TV: "Greenleaf") is 34. Actress Dakota Fanning is 26.

Thought for Today: "Men are more often bribed by their loyalties and ambitions than by money." — Robert H. Jackson, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1892-1954).

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