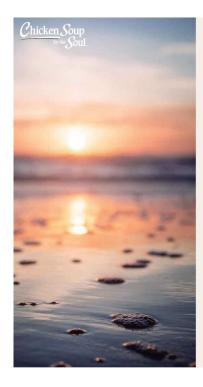
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YOU MUST TRAIN
YOUR INTUITION-YOU MUST TRUST
THE SMALL VOICE
INSIDE YOU
WHICH TELLS YOU
EXACTLY WHAT
TO SAY, WHAT TO
DECIDE.

-INGRID BERGMAN

Church Services

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: Worship in the church at 8:30 a.m. (https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/)

Groton Christian & Missinary Alliance Church: Worship in the church at 10:30 a.m.: (https://www.face-book.com/GrotonCMA/)

St. John's Lutheran Church: Worship in the church at 9 a.m. (https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/) Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Worship online at 9 a.m.

(https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/)

United Methodist Church: Worship in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. (https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc)
Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, 10:30 a.m. People will stay in their vehicles and listen to the service on their FM radio.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont has worship on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the basement.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel

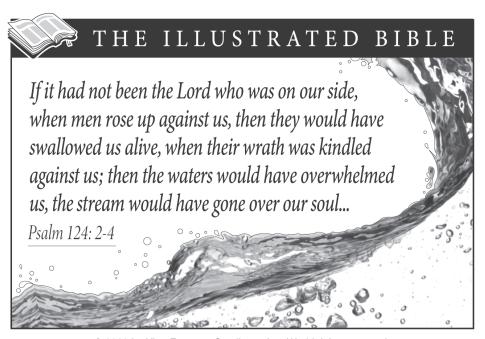


OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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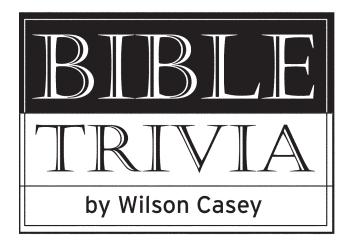
Sunday Extras



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- 1. Is the book of Colossians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Whose first chapter (KJV) begins, "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month ..."? *Ezra*, *Ezekiel*, *Micah*, *Malachi*
- 3. From Exodus 10, what was blown out of Egypt by a strong west wind? *Rivers*, *Locusts*, *Sinners*, *Nightness*
- 4. In 1 Chronicles, who killed a 7 1/2-foot tall Egyptian giant? *Beniah*, *Gideon*, *Jannes*, *Baruch*
- 5. From Genesis 28, what city was the site of Jacob's famous dream? *Lachish*, *Perga*, *Haran*, *Bethel*
- 6. In Colossians 4, what city was home to Philemon? *Berea, Shechem, Beersheba, Colossae*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Ezekiel; 3) Locusts; 4) Beniah; 5) Bethel; 6) Colossae

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

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by Healthy Exchanges

Creole Shrimp Gumbo

Tomatoes are at their all-time peak in late summer. Don't let this "love apple season" pass by without trying this succulent gumbo, especially created with that juicy red tomato in mind!

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 cups peeled and chopped fresh tomatoes
- 2 teaspoons chili seasoning
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley or 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1½ cups reduced-sodium tomato juice
 - 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1 (6-ounce) package frozen cleaned shrimp, thawed
 - 1 cup chopped fresh okra or frozen cut green beans
- 1½ cups cooked spaghetti, rinsed and drained
- 1. In a medium saucepan sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute onion for 5 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, chili seasoning, parsley flakes and black pepper. In a covered jar, combine tomato juice and flour. Shake well to blend.
- 2. Pour tomato-juice mixture into tomato mixture. Add shrimp and okra. Mix well to combine. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring often. Stir in spaghetti. Lower heat and simmer for 6 to 8 minutes or until mixture is heated through, stirring often. Makes 4 (1 cup) servings.
- Each serving equals: 205 calories, 1g fat, 15g protein, 32g carb., 281mg sodium, 5g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 3 Vegetable, 1 1/2 Meat, 1 Starch.

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WRITTEN BY

DASHIELL HAMMETT
AND ILLUSTRATED BY
ALEX RAYMOND,
"SECRET AGENT X-9"
FIRST APPEARED IN
NEWSPAPERS ON
JANUARY 22, 1934.



DURING RAYMOND'S
TENURE ON
"SECRET AGENT X-9"
HE WORKED
SIMULTANEOUSLY
ON TWO OTHER
COMIC STRIPS...

...INTERNATIONAL APVENTURER "JUNGLE JIM" AND A SCI-FI STRIP CALLED "FLASH GORDON".





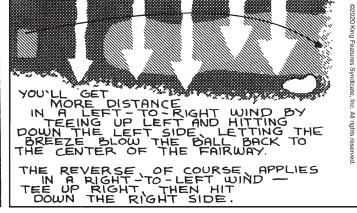






Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





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Insomnia One of Many Prednisone Side Effects

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was prescribed prednisone 5 mg twice daily, but I had insomnia, itching and hot flashes from it. I stopped after four days but am still suffering from sleeplessness. Has the prednisone had a permanent effect on my body?

— J.W.S.L.

ANSWER: Prednisone, a powerful anti-inflammatory and immune system-inhibiting steroid, has many side effects on the body, especially insomnia. Hot flashes and itching are uncommon side effects.

Insomnia is more common when prednisone is taken twice daily. Anytime a person gets insomnia, it can create a situation where they become worried about sleeping, which can lead to a persistent problem, even though the effect of the prednisone is gone.

I recommend some routine steps for treating insomnia, such as avoiding bright lights, including any electronic screen, for two hours or so before bed; regular exercise, if the condition for which you took prednisone allows it; and a warm bath before bed. A mild sleep aid, such as melatonin 1 mg or less, may help reset your system, but daily use is not necessary.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife had a heart attack. They did what they could for her, but she had a 100% blocked artery. They did clean it out, but a week later she had a fatal heart attack.

Five or six months earlier, she called me quite often by a former friend's name. I am wondering if blood was not getting to her brain or if she was starting to get dementia? — G.M.

ANSWER: I am very sorry about your wife.

People who have blockages in the heart often have blockages in other blood vessels, such as those in the leg, but also those going to the brain. Poor blood flow to the brain may cause changes to memory and other specific problems.

A stroke is very much like a heart attack. Most strokes are caused by poor blood flow to a specific area of the brain, and if it is severe enough, long enough, brain tissue will die, causing loss of function. People who have had multiple strokes are more frequently affected by dementia, called vascular dementia or multi-infarct dementia.

I don't know if this was the case for your wife, but it is certainly plausible. People who notice loved ones having memory lapses should get an evaluation sooner rather than later, as sometimes there are therapies that work better when started earlier.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Does BPH increase the possibility of prostate cancer?—A.L.

ANSWER: Benign prostatic hypertrophy is a common condition in men. About half of men in their 50s have an enlarged prostate, and the proportion gets even higher as men age. The major symptoms of enlarged prostate are difficulty with urine flow, a sensation of decreased emptying, difficulty initiating urination, and increased frequency of urinating, including at night. As symptoms worsen, incontinence can occur and even kidney damage may result due to the high pressure in the bladder.

The first word in "BPH" is "benign": It is not a cancerous condition. It does not protect against developing cancer, but there does not appear to be an increased risk either, according to the most recent studies.

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

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- 1. Name the band that started out as Mighty Joe Young.
- 2. Did the Beatles ever nab a Grammy for Song of the Year?
 - 3. Who released "Want Ads"?
- 4. Name the duo that wrote and released "Little Latin Lupe Lu."
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Hey, where did we go, days when the rains came? Down in the hollow, playing a new game."

Answers

- 1. Stone Temple Pilots, aka STP. Legend says that the group first came together when it was learned that two band members were dating the same girl. They dumped her and became friends.
- 2. Yes, for "Michelle" in 1967. They also picked up nominations for "A Hard Day's Night" in 1965, "Yesterday" in 1966, "Hey Jude" in 1969 and "Let It Be" in 1971.
- 3. The Honey Cones, in 1971. It originally was to be called "Stick Up," but went through a rewrite to become "Want Ads." Later they did release the original "Stick Up."
 - 4. The Righteous Brothers, in 1962.
- 5. "Brown Eyed Girl," by Van Morrison in 1967. The song was a bit suggestive for many radio stations, so a sanitized version changed one line for radio play.

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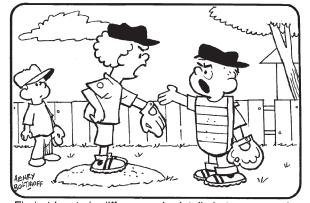
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps





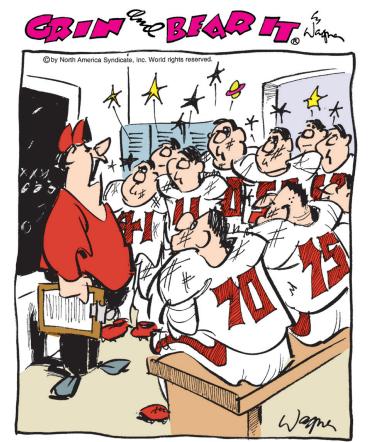
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Baseball has been added. 2. Building is gone. 3. Catcher's shoes are different. 4. Fence has been repaired. 5. Pitcher's pants are longer. 6. Boy's hat is different.



"You're not supposed to fight over the coin!"

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- "In my shop, I have stored small bits of hardware in baby-food jars. They were all on a shelf together, and when I needed one, I would have to move bottles around until I found the right one. I took a piece of 1-by-4 and cut it into 2-foot sections. Then I glued the bottoms of the bottles in a row to the wood. Now, they still sit on the shelf, but all I have to do is slide the 1-by-4s out and find the right jar. I can still see in the sides, and it makes them so much easier to deal with."—I.N in Missouri
- "My child has so many toys that they were starting to take over his room and our house. We got three big plastic storage tubs and distributed the toys among them. Now the rule is that only one tub can be open at a time, so if he wants to play with other toys, he must pick up all the toys from the tub he is playing with first. It has made such a difference since the house gets picked up at least once a day." C.I. in Tennessee

- Here's a boating safety tip: Make sure you check the weather before you head out for a day on the water. And everyone needs a life vest, large or small!
- "Lots of people are selling things online now to make a few bucks, and that's cool. I know I have things I've picked up that I don't use. Why not make a little money? Here's a tip though: Do a little research on price for your item. You want to avoid listing it for too much (no interest) or too little (yes, it gets snapped up quickly, but you could have gotten more for it). A little homework goes a long way." *C.A. in Florida*
- No red wine for your recipe? You can substitute an equal amount of grape juice or beef broth in most recipes.

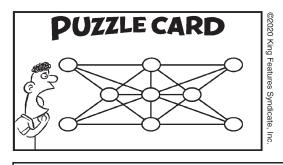
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

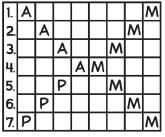
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A CLASSIC COIN PUZZLE! Place 9 coins on the table and challenge your friends to arrange them in 10 rows, each row containing 3 coins. Below is our solution.







Illustrated by David Coulson

THIS MAN is about to install a new door in his house. Can you take the letters in NEW DOOR and rearrange them to make one word?

> ONE WORD, just what we asked for. Answer: The letters in NEW DOOR can be arranged to spell



Β

Α

D

G

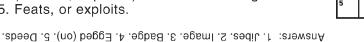
E

B A E

G

SUMMER CAMP BADGES! At right is a word square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

- 1. Made jeering remarks.
- 2. Copy of an object.
- 3. (BADGE, in place.)
- 4. Encouraged to act.
- 5. Feats, or exploits.





THE ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT, BIG **WORDS PUZZLE!**



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

DEFINITIONS:	ANAGRAM:
 A place to wait. 	tome + roan
Football break.	fail + them
A railroad job.	make + bran
4. Used in mining.	many + diet
5. Fictional news-	menu + spar
paper reporter.	

6. Long-snouted moss + soup animals.

7. To announce mail + crop publicly.

Answers: 1. Anteroom. 2. Halftime. 3. Brakeman. 4. Dynamite. 5. Superman. 6. Opossums. 7. Proclaim.

GE

















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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Drink heartily
- 5 Coffee, in slang
- 8 Snatch
- 12 Maze option
- 13 Possess
- 14 Elderly
- 15 Not all one kind
- 17 Clinton's Arkansas hometown
- 18 Delivery co.
- 19 Source
- 21 Song of praise
- 24 "East of Eden" character
- 25 Charged bits
- 26 Lit into
- 30 Explosive letters
- 31 External
- 32 Eisenhower
- 33 Lent a hand
- 35 Appear
- 36 Dud
- of address
- 38 1954 doowop hit for The Crew-Cuts
- 41 Pirouette pivot
- 42 Deserve
- 43 Transferred, in law
- 48 List-ending

- 10 11 13 12 14 15 17 16 20 22 23 24 21 25 28 29 26 30 31 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 46 47 48 49 50 52 53 51
- abbr.
- 49 Mad Hatter's 10 Military party drink
- 50 Continental coin
- 51 Say it isn't so 20 Bellow
- 52 Listener
- 37 Familiar form 53 Unforeseen problem
 - **DOWN**
 - 1 Hot tub
 - 2 Existed
 - 3 Part of FWIW 26 Convert to
 - 4 Grave robbers

 - 7 Backed

- 9 Quite eager
 - visored hat
- 11 Paradise
- 16 Spinning stat 35 Prolonged
- 21 Pocket bread 37 Japanese
- 22 Half of the offspring
 - ers
- 24 in the right 40 Cereal choice
- computers
- 5 Writes quickly 27 Told a tale
- 6 Have bills
- 8 Sesame paste 29 Showroom

- 23 Picnic invad-
- direction

- 28 out (supplemented)

- sample
- 31 Norway's capital
- 34 "I wish"
- attacks
- pond carp
- 38 Caraway, for one
- 39 Loathe
- 41 Despot
- 44 Vast expanse
- 45 Sister
- 46 Mound stat
- 47 Pooch

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— **King** Crossword — *Answers*

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	W	-	G		J	0	Е		Т	Α	K	Е
Р	Α	Т	Н		0	W	N		Α	G	Е	D
Α	S	S	0	R	Т	Е	D		Н	0	Р	Е
			U	Ρ	S		0	R	_	G		Ν
Р	S	Α	┙	Μ		А	R	0	Z			
	0	Ν	S		Α	S	S	Α	_	L	Е	D
Т	Z	\vdash		0	U	Т	Е	R		_	K	Ш
Α	S	S		S	Т	Е	D		S	Е	Е	М
			F	┙	0	Р		K	—	D	D	0
S	Η	В	0	0	М		Τ	0	Е			
E	Α	R	Ν		Α	S	S	_	G	Ν	Е	D
E	T	Α	L		Т	Е	Α		Е	U	R	0
D	Ε	Ν	Υ		Ε	Α	R		S	Ν	Α	G

LAFF-A-DAY



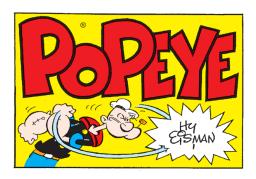
"You'll like this report card, Mom.
I traded with Joey!"

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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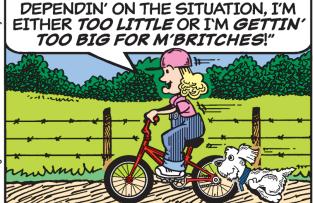
R.F.D.

CAN I RIDE MY BIKE TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR? YOU'RE PAREN CONFUS CONFUS CONFUS





by Mike Marland



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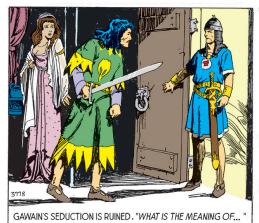


"... OF COURSE, I THOUGHT ONLY OF THE SUSTENANCE AN EGG WOULD BRING MY FRIENDS AND – WHAT? WHAT IS THAT CONFOUNDED RACKET AT THE DOOR?"



THAT "CONFOUNDED RACKET," AS IT TURNS OUT, WOULD BE PRINCE VALIANT, WHO IS BEYOND PATIENCE WITH LOCKS AND BARRICADES.

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The Spats



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by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Rising Food Costs

Prices on so many necessary items have gone up over the past six months. Most worrisome is food.

Of all the grocery store price increases, beef and veal went up the most. But they've all gone up: bread, seafood, cereal, vegetables. Fresh fruit, on the other hand, reportedly went down (although not at my store), as did milk (again, not at my store, which saw a ridiculous increase).

It likely won't get better for the rest of the year.

What hasn't gone up is our income. In fact, for those seniors who had part-time jobs to supplement Social Security, incomes have gone down because of the loss of those jobs. Yes, many of us got that \$1,200 stimulus check ... how many months ago?

For so many of us, the time has come to admit that we need help. It's not easy, but it's really not giving up any independence. There are many organizations and groups out there giving away food. Have you seen the lines of cars waiting for food pickups? The trunks of those vehicles get loaded with bags and boxes of food, gallons of milk, sacks of potatoes, frozen meat and fresh bakery goods. Other groups focus on seniors and deliver individual boxes of food to the door.

Don't jeopardize your health because of lack of food. Pick up the phone, make calls. Find out where the free or low-cost food is in your area. Call the senior center, all the churches, the food pantry and your state's National Council on Aging (www. ncoa.org). Get on the internet and look for seniors dining sites and Meals on Wheels, senior food boxes, Commodity Supplemental Food Program and "free food for seniors in (your state)."

This pandemic might last for a very long time. Get your food support system in place. It's one less thing to worry about.

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- 1. Which team won more head-to-head games in the Michigan vs. Ohio State "Ten Year War" football rivalry from 1969-78?
- 2. Retired boxer, kickboxer, wrestler and mixed martial arts star Eric Esch is better known by what nickname?
- 3. What was Colorado Rockies rookie shortstop Clint Barmes carrying up the stairs of his apartment when he fell and broke his collarbone in 2005?
- 4. In 2017, what English footballer performed his signature robotic dance to celebrate his 100th Premier League goal?
- 5. What was the name of the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics' official mascot?
- 6. A computer worm created by Dutch student Jan de Wit in 2001 was named after what popular pro tennis player?
- 7. What actor played Pop Fisher, manager of the fictional New York Knights, in the 1984 baseball drama film "The Natural"?

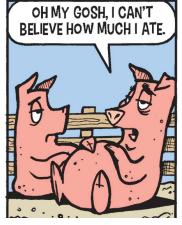


Answers

- 1. Neither. The series tied at 5-5.
- 2. Butterbean.
- 3. A package of deer meat.
- 4. Peter Crouch.
- 5. Sam the Olympic Eagle.
- 6. Anna Kournikova.
- 7. Wilford Brimley.

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Amber Waves







by Dave T. Phipps



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Over the last week, many schools across South Dakota resumed classes – both in-person and online. This marks the beginning of a sense of normalcy many of our kids are experiencing for the first time in several months.

Although there's nothing normal about wearing masks or attending classes virtually, this is our reality for the time being and thankfully our students and teachers are making the best of it. Our kids are just thankful to see their friends and teachers.

Leading up to the start of the school year, I made it a point to visit several schools across the state of South Dakota. As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, hearing from our teachers firsthand allows me to better do my job and bring back a "boots on the ground" perspective to my Congressional colleagues.

Last week, I visited Meadowbrook Elementary in Rapid City. Rapid City schools are kicking off the year with a unique in-person paired with virtual learning approach. This pandemic has forced everyone to become more innovative and collaborative — Meadowbrook's teachers are no exception. The teachers there are teaming up to prepare lesson plans and share recorded materials, each is focused on a different subject to share the workload and ensure students aren't receiving repeat lessons. Regardless of how one feels about decisions being made by individual school boards and administrators, it is clear that South Dakota is blessed with hard-working and dedicated teachers who are trying to make the best of a difficult situation.

I'm encouraged that schools in South Dakota are taking the necessary steps to protect our kids and our teachers. But there's more to be done. As Congress continues to debate an additional COVID-19 relief package specifically for our schools, I've been hearing from teachers in South Dakota that are buying their own personal protective equipment (PPE).

Under normal circumstances, teachers often cover some classroom costs out of pocket. Add a pandemic into the mix and there's bound to be additional costs for our educators. Currently, teachers can deduct up to \$250 of supplementary classroom materials and equipment on their tax filing. PPE costs are not listed as eligible for this deduction. Which is why this week, Senator Tillis and I urged Secretary Mnuchin to allow purchases made for COVID-19 prevention be a deductible expense. I'm confident this easy fix can be made for our teachers.

I'm headed to Brookings to tour SDSU and also up to Watertown to visit with Lake Area Tech on Friday. I'll continue to bring South Dakota's message of personal responsibility and unique innovation back to Washington.

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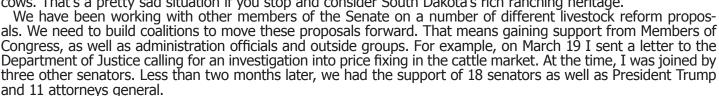


Feds Continue to Miss the Mark on Livestock Policy

I read a quote from my local sale barn operator Bryan Hanson, the other day: used to be able to survive on a 100 head operation; now you have to have a full-time job and run 100 cows.

Anyone that knows Bryan or has read his market report knows that he doesn't pull punches. I've known his dad, Dennis, for many years, and I've enjoyed that same no-nonsense style from him as well. But I'd také Bryan's statement oné step further -I'd actually contend that without another full time job, you couldn't afford to run 100

cows. That's a pretty sad situation if you stop and consider South Dakota's rich ranching heritage.



We've worked hand-in-hand with Senators Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.), who have led the charge to push commonsense cattle market legislation forward. I'm thankful for their leadership. However, despite the bipartisan support for meaningful reforms, even stalwarts like them have been completely jammed up by the bureaucracy and the national lobby associations that continue to protect the status quo.

In the last several weeks, we demanded (and were denied) a vote on the New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act, bipartisan legislation that I authored with Senator Angus King (I-Maine) – and that has 11 other Senate cosponsors. Basically, this proposal would allow smaller meat processors to inject competition into the marketplace by allowing facilities with a state-inspected certification the ability to sell products across state lines. A locker in Hudson can sell to a resident of Lemmon, hundreds of miles away, but they can't sell across the Iowa border, just 25 miles away. Additionally, the state inspection certification is equal or stronger than federal certification. The current system doesn't make any sense.

Today, we are actually giving an unfair and unnecessary advantage to the large, sometimes foreignowned meat processing facilities. Large facilities typically pursue licensing through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) federal meat inspection process, which gives them a certification allowing them to sell across state lines.

Recently, we saw firsthand how strong our opposition is. Apparently, their stranglehold on certain members of Congress is so tight that they wouldn't even allow a vote. Frankly, the deck is stacked in their favor and we need to find the force to tip it over.

The dysfunction in Washington, D.C., is maddening. Even commonsense proposals like this don't get a fair shake. However, the dysfunction isn't confined to Congress. The bureaucracy is entrenched and hard to move. These bureaucrats, who have never been to a sale barn or stepped foot on a ranch, have the audacity to claim to know better than our producers and processors.

It's going to take a groundswell of support and a commitment to the cause to make progress. That's the honest truth. It's also going to take a unified effort.

I've been left to wonder: if the swamp will fight so hard about something so commonsense as state inspected locker plants - imagine how hard they'll fight greater market transparency, Product of the U.S.A. labeling and Mandatory Country Of Origin Labeling (MCOOL).

As an industry we need to reach out to consumers and leaders from other states. Consumers are being misled under the current system and there is an entire army of opponents desperately trying to keep it that way. If the COVID-19 pandemic didn't teach us anything else, it should have taught Americans that the source of their food matters and dependence on foreign countries is dangerous.

We need to expand the tent, stay the course and push together. We're in this fight together.

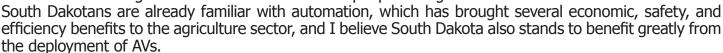


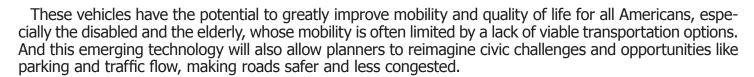
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John Thune U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA

Staying on Course to Advance Self-Driving Vehicles

Each year, more than 35,000 people die in automobile accidents on our nation's roads. Approximately 90 percent of those accidents can be attributed to human error, which is why self-driving or automated vehicles (AVs) present an opportunity to make incredible gains in the safe movement of people and goods on our roads.





Back in 2017, when I chaired the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I introduced the American Vision for Safer Transportation Through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies – or AV START Act – which, if enacted, would provide the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) with new tools to safely test and deploy AVs.

AVs will only be able to operate safely when the companies developing them are certain these vehicles can safely react to driving situations we all encounter each day. That is why AV testing is so critical. It ensures AVs are capable of safely navigating roadways and constantly changing traffic conditions. DOT recently launched the Automated Vehicle Transparency and Engagement for Safe Testing, or AV TEST Initiative, to facilitate greater awareness and engagement by industry, consumers, and the general public as AV testing becomes increasingly prevalent across the nation.

While Congress is often slow to react to new technologies, I remain committed to working in a bipartisan manner to ensure a strong legislative framework is put in place to promote the safe deployment of these vehicles. Any AV legislation should preserve the traditional roles of federal and state regulators, build on DOT's current efforts to update regulatory requirements that were not written with AVs in mind, and continue to expand AV testing and data collection.

I'm optimistic the AV TEST Initiative will encourage the development of advanced solutions to improve vehicle safety, while providing necessary data to inform safe and nationally consistent rules for AVs. Importantly, this initiative will promote engagement by industry stakeholders and the public in the development of AV testing guidelines at the federal level.

This engagement is critical for acceptance of AVs by the general public and to ensure that we can all feel safe around AVs undergoing roadway testing. I'm glad that DOT launched this important initiative, and I look forward to continuing my efforts to harness the safety, quality of life, and economic benefits of this critical emerging technology.



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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR

KRISTI NOEM



You've heard me say many times that South Dakota never closed. We allowed South Dakotans to make the best decisions for themselves, their families, their businesses, and their communities. But we were unique in this path; other states made different choices. In fact, in some places businesses have been closed for the past six months. How are small business owners supposed to make ends meet in states that have locked down their economies for six months straight?

This isn't a hypothetical question to me. As a former small business owner, I've personally dealt with the struggles of keeping a business afloat. When my dad passed away, I had to take charge of our family's farming operation. We struggled to balance paying our IRS bill with payroll and all the other expenses that are a regular part of running a small business. If we'd been forced to shut down for six months in the middle of it all, our business would not have made it.

That's exactly what we're seeing play out across the country. As a result of extended lockdowns, countless businesses are closing. In July, Yelp announced that more than 72,000 businesses on the site had closed for good since the start of the pandemic, and that was more a month ago. Retailers and restaurants have been hit especially hard.

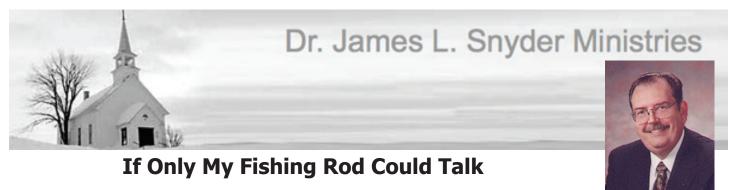
These businesses are more than just storefronts – they're people's livelihoods. They put food on the table, not only for for small business owners, but also for their employees. Without businesses to employ these workers, states that have been shut down will struggle to recover even after they reopen.

Here in South Dakota, because we didn't shut down our state, the recovery story is far stronger. According to the Minneapolis Federal Reserve, South Dakota had the fewest low-income job losses of any state in our region, and as of the end of June, we'd already recovered nearly all of those losses. Our weekly initial unemployment claims continue to drop. This is positive news coming into the Labor Day weekend.

Our tourism industry is rebounding strongly as well. South Dakota is the third best state in the country for domestic tourism bookings compared to the start of the pandemic. Interest in visiting South Dakota has surged, meaning we'll continue to see friendly faces visiting our state in the weeks, months, and years to come.

We're hearing from lots of folks interested in not only visiting South Dakota, but moving here full-time. If business owners are sick and tired of the lockdowns in other states, I want them to know that they have another option. They can come to South Dakota. We respect our people's rights, and we won't shut businesses down. We're open for opportunity, and on my watch, we always will be.

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It has been a busy week, more so than any other week. Just when I thought I was caught up, something else presented itself without my permission.

That seems to be what life is all about. I remember my father telling me when I complained to him how busy my life was and how my employer wanted me to do a lot of work, "Son, that's life.

To be sure, he was right. My father has been right many times, and if only I would have listened to him, I would not have experienced some of the problems that I did. Just don't let him know I said that.

In the middle of trying to sort out my mess this week, I sat back in my chair, took a deep sigh, and then noticed my old fishing rod in my office corner.

It has been there ever since we moved into this house. I forgot that it was there, and as I looked at it, I remembered some of the times I had with that old fishing rod.

I smiled and thought to myself, "If only that fishing rod could talk," what stories could the fishing rod tell? As a young person, I spent a lot of time fishing. My grandfather taught me the art of fishing. He was a great fisherman and had many great stories about his fishing adventures.

I remember one day I spent fishing with him. That night around the kitchen table, he began telling about his fishing exploits. I sat there listening in awe. The stories he told had nothing to do with the day we spent together fishing.

He would look at me in the middle of the story and say, "Ain't that so?" Of course, I am never going to contradict my grandfather. I know that I will be in his shoes one day, and I want to make sure I have earned the right to wear them.

Enthusiastically nodding my head, I would say, "It sure is, grandpa." He would smile and go on with the story.

Looking back, I wished I had taken notes of all his stories. It would have been a fascinating book to read, I am sure.

It is not that fishermen tell lies; they rearrange the truth. What good is the truth unless you can embellish it to the entertainment of those listening?

My grandfather certainly entertained people with his stories. I never knew if people believed his stories or not; nobody ever contradicted him. They listened, laughed, and enjoyed every story he told.

One time, after one of his storytelling episodes, we were out in the garage working on some of his fishing equipment. We were alone, so I thought it might be a good time to get the scoop on what he was doing.

"Grandpa," I said thoughtfully, "where do you get all of those stories about fishing that you tell us?"

He looked at me, laughed most heartily, and said, "I get all those fishing stories from going out to the creek and fishing."

Then he looked at me, winked, and said, "Just, remember. There is some truth in every story I tell. It's up to the listener to figure out what is true and what is not." Then he let a burst of hearty laughter.

With a solemn look on his face, he continued, "The thing about fishing is not simply catching fish, but entertaining your family and friends with what you could've done if it went your way."

As I was sitting in my office looking at my fishing rod, I begin to understand for the first time what my grandpa was trying to say.

I spent a little time reflecting on some of grandpa's stories, and even now, I was chuckling. His stories

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never get old, and my laughter never goes away.

One of the things I learned from my grandfather in connection with fishing is that you have to make the most out of everything you do.

I remember a friend who went fishing and came back grouchy and complained that he did not catch anything. He wasn't fun to be around, to be sure. All he could think about was what he did not do.

My grandpa was quite different.

"Did I tell you," grandpa would begin a story, "about the fish that got away?" He never waited for a response but went directly into the story, and every time he told that story, the fish got just a little bit bigger. Everybody would laugh and enjoy the story almost as much as grandpa did telling it.

The fish that got away was more important to my grandpa than the fish he caught and brought home. Once you bring the fish home, cook it and eat it, that is its end. But the fish that got away is a story that goes on and on.

I never could figure out if my grandpa was lying or just exaggerating. Being my grandfather, I gave him the benefit of the doubt and just reminisced about his stories.

Thinking about my grandpa's stories, I remembered something that Jesus said. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

My grandpa could exaggerate his fishing stories for the enjoyment of everybody listening. When it comes to real truth, the only truth that matters is Jesus Christ. Only His truth can really set us free.

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#195 in a series Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

We're a bit lower in both new cases and deaths today. Could be a weekend effect, although that's generally more noticeable on Sunday/Monday. I suppose, with a three-day weekend, the pattern might be off a bit; but this could also be a bit of a reprieve for now. Today, let's be content with what we see here. We have 41,200 new cases today, a 0.7% increase to 6,259,000. South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois have seen double-digit rises in per capita case numbers this week. South Dakota has also seen an increase in its positivity results, along with North Dakota, Minnesota, and Michigan; this is a sign of increasing transmission. We are also seeing a resurgence in states that have had low transmission rates; West Virginia just hit a record for seven-day total new cases and had its third-highest single-day number today. I maintain running lists of states with increasing, steady, and declining rates of infection; I periodically update you on how these are looking. I saw fairly large shifts over the past couple of days, and every single state that moved from one list to another—eight of them in all—were all in the wrong direction. All of them. We're going to talk in a few minutes about why this is a particularly bad time of year for this sort of thing.

Deaths are quite a lot lower today, only 725. This is a 0.4% increase, and the total now stands at 188,401. We're creeping up on that 200,000 mark. We see deaths trending upward in Hawaii, Montana, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Alabama, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia, with North Carolina moving in that direction as well.

That wedding in Maine is the gift that just keeps on giving. The case count is up by a few today to 147, among them 72 at a jail, 10 at the church whose minister officiated, and 19 at a nursing home. A staff member at the jail attended the wedding and was one of the first cases reported there. The count there includes 46 inmates, 16 corrections officers, 2 administrators, an outside vendor, and 7 household members of staff, according to the Maine CDC. The church continues to hold services despite its outbreak. As for the nursing home, a staff member was a secondary contact of a wedding guest and spread it from there; there are 8 cases among residents and 11 among staff. Investigations are underway to determine whether additional cases are also linked to this wedding and reception.

The body count following this wedding is now up to three. None of those three attended the wedding; that means someone else's decision to attend a social event that blew past the state's restrictions on crowd size at the time cost these people their lives; the deceased had nothing to say about it. This is the thing I'm having trouble with: A lot of folks are claiming their right to decide what level of risk is OK for them, and I'd be good with that if it didn't mean they're also taking away from others the right to decide what level of risk is OK for themselves. When your acceptable level of risk involves exposing me to a level of risk I didn't sign up for, that's not OK; that interferes with my rights—my right to be healthy, to be alive, to someday be able to freely go places and do things. I remember learning as a kid in some social studies class that "your right to swing your fist ends where someone else's nose begins." I'm seeing a lot of bloody noses around these days. Not OK. Not OK at all.

Most public health people are expecting a surge in new cases to result from this weekend. The more infections there are in a population, the more opportunities the virus has to spread until we take active measures to stop that. This means we went into this weekend in a whole lot worse place than we were going into Memorial Day or Independence Day; we're at about twice the number of active infections now as we had before Memorial Day, and it was about a month later that we hit our highest peak yet, averaging well over 60,000 new cases per day in the US. Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public health tweeted on Thursday,

"We must lower infection burden We all know what happens in fall weather cools people spend more time indoors flu arrives

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Huge challenge to control the virus

Starting at a baseline of 40K daily cases a bit of a disaster

And no, vaccine on October 22 won't bail us out."

In some ways things look better now than they did in the spring: The spread is broader, so not many hospitals are overwhelmed, more treatments are available, and fewer are sick, hospitalized, or dying. But deaths are trending upward in 12 states with a couple more states moving into that territory. These states all have caseloads that were already high or trending upward.

Pretty much all of the infectious disease experts and epidemiologists are predicting a sharp rise in cases across the country, starting right about now and peaking sometime after mid to late November. For example, Eili Klein, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, says, "My feeling is that there is a wave coming, and it's not so much whether it's coming but how big is it going to be." Andrew Noymer, epidemiologist at the University of California Irvine, says, "I firmly believe we will see distinct second waves, including in places that are done with their first waves. . . . I expect fall waves beginning in mid-October and getting worse as fall heads into winter. . . . Some places will peak around Thanksgiving, some places will peak around Christmas, some places not until January and February."

This is a typical pattern with respiratory viruses: faster transmission to more people in cool, less humid weather and as people spend more time indoors. The upward trend typically begins a couple weeks after schools start in late summer. This virus, being new to the population, is not seasonal at this point—jury's still out on whether it will become so in the future; but all the evidence points to a surge in a few weeks. Klein warns the fall wave is likely to be worse than the one we had in the spring, foreseeing maybe twice the hospitalizations this fall as we were seeing in the spring. That would be catastrophic in some locales.

To add to the fun, flu season is coming on. That's going to create a whole new world of questions. For example, we have no idea how influenza and Covid-19 will interact. It is possible having one will make you more vulnerable to serious disease with the other; a lot of experts are thinking this is likely. On the other hand, no one thinks having one will protect you in any way from the other. Some think that, if we are all taking precautions to prevent being exposed to Covid-19, that will result in a lower number of influenza cases this winter since the same sorts of precautions will help to prevent both. We do know from last winter it is possible to have both simultaneously; we don't have enough data yet to know how bad that might be. A member of a Stanford team investigating the overlap last winter, clinical virologist Benjamin Pinsky, said, "That's an experiment we're going to conduct in October, whether we want to or not." Which is just what we wanted to hear, right?

Another important issue will be figuring out when you have symptoms which of these infections you have, and that matters. There are antiviral treatments for influenza which do nothing to help those with Covid-19. Also, there is a far greater need to isolate cases of Covid-19 than to isolate cases of influenza, which is far less contagious and, with about one-tenth the mortality rate (as far as we know), far less deadly. These infections—and some other seasonal viruses like adenovirus or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)—share initial symptoms like cough, fever, fatigue, and muscle aches. With Covid-19 testing still ridiculously slow to return results, we need to figure out how to tell the difference clinically.

Here's a start: About 85% of Covid-19 patients lose their sense of smell and taste, according to the findings of a European research group's multi-center study of more than 400 patients. Some people with influenza or a bad cold also report diminished taste and smell, particularly if they have stuffy noses. There is a difference, however: With Covid-19, the loss is sudden and more profound, affecting every aspect of taste, including the ability to distinguish between sweet and bitter; also, it happens without a stuffy nose. A smaller study reported in the journal Rhinology found ways to discriminate among these infections with taste-testing, what they fancily call "chemoreceptor tests." It could be we'll get to a place where you can screen yourself at home by sniffing various foods like oranges and coffee; we'll see what turns up on this. [This small study also suggests there may be a link between genetic variation in your sweet and bitter taste receptors (so called pf G-Protein coupled receptors or GPCRs) and a predisposition to Covid-infection, based on the known association of GPCRs with innate immunity. Things get complicated fast when you

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consider this; we'll see what further research brings. Learning more every day.]

Professor Carl Philpott at the University of East Anglia's Norwich Medical School, a participant in the first study, says, "This is very exciting because it means that smell and taste tests could be used to discriminate between Covid-19 patients and people with a regular cold or flu. Although such tests could not replace formal diagnostic tools such as throat swabs, they could provide an alternative when conventional tests are not available or when rapid screening is needed—particularly at the level of primary care, in emergency departments or at airports."

For now, it will help to be familiar with the symptoms of influenza and Covid-19 so you can make a reasonable assessment what might be going on when you're feeling under the weather. Common symptoms of influenza include fever/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, and vomiting and diarrhea. For Covid-19, you're likely to see fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Similar, but not the same: While they have in common the fever/chills, cough, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, and vomiting and diarrhea; you're more likely to see a sore throat with influenza and shortness of breath/difficulty breathing and loss of taste and smell with Covid-19.

The CDC recommends that, when you're feeling ill, you should stay home except to visit a doctor, rest and stay hydrated, avoid public transportation or other travel that exposes others, and call a doctor immediately if experiencing trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

There is real concern about the health care system's capacity to deal with both flu season and Covid-19 cases at the same time; even a mild flu season could strain already-beleaguered resources past the breaking point pretty quickly. For the record, influenza vaccine is now available, and the CDC also highly recommends you get it, this year more than most. For most folks, the sooner you get vaccinated, the better; but for those over 65, you would be smart to wait until October, closer to the season, because your immunity will wane faster than it will in younger people. Older folks should also inquire about two vaccines especially formulated to induce a stronger immune response in their age group, either Fluzone High-Dose, which contains four times the amount of antigen as a regular shot and is associated with a stronger immune response, or Fluad, the adjuvanted flu vaccine we discussed a few weeks ago here which produces a significantly higher response than the standard vaccine. These both do have a higher incidence of side effects like pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site, headache, muscle aches, and malaise, but these are typically mild and temporary (1-3 days), so shouldn't deter you from seeking the greater protection they offer.

And if you're in this older age group, go ahead and spring for the pneumococcal vaccine too; it protects you against pneumonia, meningitis, and septicemia (bloodstream infections) caused by the pneumococcus. This sort of pneumonia is the most common fatal complication of the flu and, even when not associated with the flu, is a common infectious cause of death in older people. With that vaccination added, you're doubly protected.

And if you need a further nudge to go get vaccinated, I have a couple of other pieces of news for you. First, there is new research which indicates annual flu and pneumococcal vaccination are strongly associated with lower prevalence of dementia—things like Alzheimer's disease. I don't suppose anyone's against lowering that risk, especially when it's so easy. And secondly, two studies, one from a group at Johns Hopkins University and Harvard's TH Chan School of Public Health and the other from a group at the University of Basel (Switzerland) and the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), "suggest a potential protective effect of the influenza vaccine on COVID-19 mortality in the elderly population." They have not identified the underlying biological mechanism, but it appears these vaccines may offer you some cross-protection from Covid-19. That is certainly motivating.

I consider myself extraordinarily fortunate that in my life I've never been laid off from a job. Thinking I would not have coped well at all; so when I read these stories of people who did lose their jobs and turned things around, I am always inspired to stop being such a whiner about whatever seems difficult in my life

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at the moment. Here's another one:

Barney Corrigan is a catering chef, that is, used to be a catering chef. You can imagine what's happened to catering jobs during this pandemic. Well, like so many of the folks we've met during our time together, Corrigan's not one to crawl into a dark corner, licking his wounds. It was a bit of good luck that his wife's job held, so they're eating, which made him think about people who aren't able to do that.

He said, "People are being forced to choose between paying their bills or feeding their kids. No one should have to make that decision. It's sickening." So he started a food pantry. It started small with a little cabinet on his front lawn filled with dry goods, labeled "Barney's Place," which reminds me of the blessings boxes we talked about a week or so ago, although this one went a little different direction.

His idea was that people who were too embarrassed to ask for help could slip in, pick up what they needed, and leave without having to feel embarrassment at all. Corrigan said, "When I heard car doors outside my place at three in the morning, that made me smile."

Demand grew, so he asked a few friends for donations; then the word spread on social media, and soon he had a lot more food than would fit in his pantry box. He moved the project into his garage and opened it to the public every two weeks. In early April when he started that phase of his project, he had about eight families relying on him for their groceries; now in early September, he has more than 60 people stopping in every two weeks. This reflects the generosity of a lot of folks who've kicked in what they could to help. It's no longer an anonymous, middle-of-the-night thing; but families can stop in and pick up whatever they need: nonperishable goods and fresh items like produce and dairy purchased with cash donations received. So people don't get a predetermined box of items; they shop for what they need just as they would in a store if they had money. And this project is no longer the work of a few friends; Barney's Place Food Pantry receives regular donations from community members and strangers on the Internet, which, it turns out, isn't only a force for evil, right?

Corrigan receives around 20 food deliveries per day, and so there are no limits on what people can take. "I'm always telling people to take more. I have four kids, so I know how much food families really need." And about all those donations, "It's a good problem to have. People really want to help each other right now." Clearly, among those people who want to help is Corrigan himself. One "customer" said, "Just talking with him was sort of like therapy. When someone is more concerned about the well-being of others, it sheds that light needed on the darker days of those in need and gives them hope that everything will truly be all right, and we will get through this difficult time."

Corrigan's not done. He's thinking bigger—thinking this thing should be his next job, full-time. He wants to expand into a warehouse so he can help more people, and he wants to get back into cooking too—to serving hot meals in addition to providing groceries. Barney's Place is in New Jersey, but I'm betting there is need where you live too. Take a look around. Figure out what you can do to ease that need. We are still building that better society; it's a big job, so we all need to pitch in.

Stay healthy. We'll talk again.

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COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLDWIDE

3 Weeks Ago	2 Weeks Ago	Last Week	This Week
21,367,163	Global Cases 23,235,028	25,026,014	Global Cases 26,906,338
5,357,396 US	5,668,564 US	5,961,582 US	6,246,162 US
3,317,096 Brazil	3,582,362 Brazil	3,846,153 Brazil	4,123,000 Brazil
2,526,192 India	3,044,940 India	3,542,733 India	4,113,811 India
915,808 Russia	954,328 Russia	987,470 Russia	1,022,228 Russia
583,653 South Africa	607,045 South Africa	639,435 Peru	683,702 Peru
516,296 Peru	576,067 Peru	622,551 South Africa	658,456 Colombia
511,369 Mexico	556,216 Mexico	599,884 Colombia	636,884 South Africa
445,111 Colombia	533,103 Colombia	591,712 Mexico	629,409 Mexico
383,902 Chile	395,708 Chile	439,286 Spain	498,989 Spain
342,813 Spain	386,054 Spain	408,009 Chile	471,806 Argentina
Global Deaths	Global Deaths	Global Deaths	Global Deaths
768,952	805,176	842,892	880,008
169,432 deaths US	176,371 deaths US	182,779 deaths US	188,540 deaths US
107,232 deaths Brazil	114,250 deaths Brazil	120,262 deaths Brazil	126,203 deaths Brazil
55,908 deaths Mexico	60,254 deaths Mexico	63,819 deaths Mexico	70,626 deaths India
49,036 deaths India	56,706 deaths India	63,498 deaths India	67,326 deaths Mexico
46,791 deaths United Kingdom	41,509 deaths United Kingdom	41,585 deaths United Kingdom	41,638 deaths United Kingdom
35,392 deaths Italy	35,430 deaths Italy	35,473 deaths Italy	35,534 deaths Italy

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Area COVID-19 Cases

Minnesota Nebraska Montana Colorado Wyoming North Dakota South Dakota United States US Deaths	Aug. 26 70,707 32,348 6,624 55,800 3,089 10,229 11,505 5,779,395 178,533	Aug. 27 71,236 32,727 6,785 55,993 3,135 10,467 11,571 5,823,685 179,743	Aug. 28 72,390 33,101 6,929 56,343 3,166 10,800 12,194 5,869,692 180,857	Aug. 29 73,240 33,436 7,063 56,773 3,196 11,109 12,517 5,919,670 181,798	Aug. 30 74,257 33,753 7,251 57041 3,210 11,484 12,942 5,961,582 182,779	Aug. 31 75,189 34,046 7340 57,223 3245 11,702 13,322 5,997,622 183,068	Sept. 1 75,864 34,287 7,421 57,424 3264 11,816 13,509 6,031,286 183,602
Minnesota Nebraska Montana Colorado Wyoming North Dakota South Dakota United States US Deaths	+409 +301 +135 +459 +21 +229 80 +41,339 +1,504	+529 +379 +161 +193 +46 +238 +66 +44,290 +1,210	+1,154 +374 +144 +350 +31 +333 +623 +46,007 +1,114	+850 +335 +134 +430 +30 +309 +323 +49,978 +941	+1,017 +317 +188 +268 +14 +375 +425 41,912 +981	+932 +293 +89 +182 +35 +218 +380 +36,040 +289	+607 +241 +81 +201 +19 +114 +187 +33,664 +534
Minnesota Nebraska Montana Colorado Wyoming North Dakota South Dakota United States US Deaths	Sept. 2 76,355 34,574 7,509 57,775 3,282 12,000 13,749 6,073,121 184,644	Sept. 3 77,085 34,995 7,691 58,019 3,311 12,267 14,003 6,115,098 185,752	Sept. 4 78,123 35,469 7,871 58,287 3,334 12,629 14,337 6,151,101 186,606	Sept. 5 78,966 35,661 8,018 58,655 12,974 14,596 6,210,699 187,874	Sept. 6 79,880 35,805 8,164 58,989 3,386 13,334 14,889 6,246,162 188,540		
Minnesota Nebraska Montana Colorado Wyoming North Dakota South Dakota United States US Deaths	+491 +287 +88 +351 +18 +184 +240 +41,835 +1,042	+730 +421 +182 +244 +29 +267 +254 +41,977 +1,108	+1,038 +474 +180 +268 +23 +362 +334 +36,003 +854	+843 +192 +147 +368 +345 +259 +59,598 +1,268	+914 +144 +146 +334 +52 +360 +293 +35,463 +666		

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September 5th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Three more deaths were recorded in South Dakota and five more in North Dakota. Here in South Dakota, there were two females and one male. Two in the 80+ age group and the other was in their 70s. Custer County recorded its first death. Clay County had its third death. Lawrence County recorded its fourth death.

There were 293 positive cases in South Dakota with a positivity rate of 9.8 percent. Localy, Brown County had a record high of 32 positive cases and a positivity rate of 18.7 percent. Other local counties have Day County having one positive case reassigned making the active cases at 11, Edmunds having one recovered with seven active cases, Marshall having two recovered leaving two active cases, McPherson having one positive case with three active cases now and Spink having three positive and one recovered leaving 22 active cases.

Brown County:

Total Positive: +32 (774) Positivity Rate: 18.7%

Recovered: +14 (603) Active Cases: +18 (168) Total Tests: 177 (8351) Ever Hospitalized: 0 (29)

Deaths: 0 (3)

Percent Recovered: 77.9 (-1.5)

South Dakota:

Positive: +293 (14,889 total) Positivity Rates: 9.8%

Total Tests: 2,979 (204,462 total)

Hospitalized: +6 (1068 total). 86 currently hospitalized (down 3 from yesterday)

Deaths: +3 (173 total)

Recovered: +265 (11,659 total) Active Cases: +25 (3,057) Percent Recovered: 78.3 +0.3

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 4% Covid, 50% Non-Covid, 46% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 6% Covid, 60% Non-Covid, 34% Available Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 81% Available

Fully recovered from positive cases: Aurora 42-42, Harding 2-2, Jackson 12-11-1, Sully 8-8.

The following is the breakdown by all counties. The number in parenthesis right after the county name

represents the number of deaths in that county.

Aurora: Fully Recovered

Beadle (9): +1 positive, +5 recovered (24 active cases)

Bennett: +2 positive (16 active cases)

Bon Homme (1): +3 positive, +2 recovered (15 active cases)

Brookings (1): +37 positive, +30 recovered (189 active cases)

Brown (3): +32 positive, +14 recovered (168 active cases)

Brule: +4 positive, +3 recovered (15 active cases)

Buffalo (3): 4 active cases

Butte (1): +1 positive, +1 recovered (25 active cases)

Campbell: Fully Recovered

Charles Mix: +2 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)

Clark: +1 positive (5 active cases)

Clay (3) +37 positive, +23 recovered (192 active cases

Codington (2): +15 positive, +9 recovered (183 active cases)

Corson: 15 active cases

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Custer (1): +5 positive, +3 recovered (62 active case)

Davison (2): +4 positive, +7 recovered (28 active cases)

Day: -1 positive (11 active cases)
Deuel: +1 recovered (16 active cases)

Dewey: -1 positive, +5 recovered (30 active cases)

Douglas: +1 recovered (11 active cases) Edmunds: +1 recovered (7 active cases) Fall River (1): +3 positive (34 active cases) Faulk (1): +1 positive (8 active cases) Grant: +3 positive (16 active cases)

Gregory (1): 24 active cases

Haakon: +1 recovered (1 active case) Hamlin: +4 recovered (19 active cases) Hand: +1 recovered (2 active cases) Hanson: +1 positive (4 active cases)

Harding: Fully Recovered

Hughes (4): +3 positive, +4 recovered (21 active cases)

Hutchinson (1): +4 positive, +2 recovered (20 active cases)

Hyde: 4 active cases

Jackson (1): Fully Recovered Jerauld (1): 4 active cases Jones: 2 active cases

Kingsbury: +1 positive, +1 recovered (5 active cases)

Lake (6): +4 positive, +2 recovered (16 active cases)

Lawrence (4): +6 positive, +13 recovered (105 active cases)

Lincoln (2): +14 positive, +13 recovered (163 active cases)

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	495	0
10-19 years	1557	0
20-29 years	3790	2
30-39 years	2659	7
40-49 years	2059	7
50-59 years	2003	19
60-69 years	1260	30
70-79 years	597	27
80+ years	469	81

Lyman (3): +1 recovered (13 active cases)
Marshall: +2 recovered (2 active cases)
McCook (1): +4 positive (18 active cases)
McPherson: +1 positive (3 active case)

Meade (1): +6 positive, +6 recovered (136 active cases)

Mellette: 1 active case Miner: 2 active cases

Minnehaha (70): +52 positive, +41 recovered (660 active cases)

Moody: +3 positive (14 active cases)

Oglala Lakota (2): +6 positive, +4 recovered (34 active cases)

Pennington (33): +38 positive, +31 recovered (449 active cases)

Perkins: 13 active cases

Potter: +4 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)

Roberts (1): +1 positive (16 active cases)

Sanborn: 5 active cases

Spink: +3 positive, +1 recovered (22 active cases)

Stanley: 2 active cases Sully: Fully Recovered

Todd (5): +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)

Tripp: +2 recovered (3 active cases)

Turner: +4 positive, +1 recovered (21 active cases) Union (5): +2 positive, +9 recovered (44 active cases)

Walworth: +3 positive, +2 recovered (20 active cases)

Yankton (3): +1 positive, +4 recovered (66 active cases)

Ziebach: +2 positive, +9 recovered (12 active cases)

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, September 5:

- 7,334 tests (1,963)
- 13,334 positives (+360)
- 10,640 recovered (+330)
- 155 deaths (+5)
- 2,539 active cases (+26)

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex _	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	7533	87
Male	7356	86

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread
Aurora	42	42	439	0	None
Beadle	645	612	2068	9	Substantial
Bennett	32	16	574	0	Substantial
Bon Homme	57	41	996	1	Substantial
Brookings	468	278	3551	1	Substantial
Brown	774	603	5703	3	Substantial
Brule	74	59	901	0	Substantial
Buffalo	110	103	685	3	Minimal
Butte	52	26	892	1	Substantial
Campbell	4	4	119	0	Minimal
Charles Mix	124	113	1786	0	Moderate
Clark	22	17	450	0	Minimal
Clay	446	251	1902	3	Substantial
Codington	414	229	3671	2	Substantial
Corson	67	52	638	0	Moderate
Custer	136	73	851	1	Substantial
Davison	152	122	2791	2	Substantial
Day	42	31	777	0	Moderate
Deuel	53	37	528	0	Substantial
Dewey	91	61	2550	0	Substantial
Douglas	32	21	464	0	Moderate
Edmunds	34	27	489	0	Moderate
Fall River	63	28	1184	1	Substantial
Faulk	37	28	237	1	Minimal
Grant	50	34	871	0	Minimal
Gregory	35	10	515	1	Substantial
Haakon	6	5	310	0	Minimal
Hamlin	65	46	827	0	Substantial
Hand	15	13	361	0	Minimal
Hanson	25	21	261	0	Minimal
Harding	2	2	59	0	None
Hughes	141	116	2200	4	Substantial
Hutchinson	55	34	1029	1	Moderate

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Hyde	8	4	170	0	Minimal
Jackson	12	11	496	1	None
Jerauld	44	39	297	1	None
Jones	5	3	72	0	None
Kingsbury	24	19	674	0	Moderate
Lake	126	104	1102	6	Moderate
Lawrence	258	149	2373	4	Substantial
Lincoln	972	807	8448	2	Substantial
Lyman	104	88	1116	3	Substantial
Marshall	19	17	557	0	Moderate
McCook	58	39	752	1	Substantial
McPherson	12	9	257	0	None
Meade	338	201	2342	1	Substantial
Mellette	25	24	410	0	None
Miner	17	15	292	0	None
Minnehaha	5548	4817	32918	71	Substantial
Moody	51	37	740	0	Minimal
Oglala Lakota	193	157	3100	2	Moderate
Pennington	1598	1116	12769	33	Substantial
Perkins	23	10	232	0	Moderate
Potter	24	6	362	0	Substantial
Roberts	105	88	2250	1	Substantial
Sanborn	16	13	269	0	Minimal
Spink	60	38	1343	0	Substantial
Stanley	22	20	319	0	Minimal
Sully	8	8	112	0	Minimal
Todd	87	72	2523	5	Minimal
Tripp	25	22	684	0	Minimal
Tumer	92	71	1076	0	Substantial
Union	290	241	2311	5	Substantial
Walworth	52	32	937	0	Substantial
Yankton	253	184	3719	3	Substantial
Ziebach	55	43	469	0	Minimal
Unassigned	0	0	12848	0	

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Legion Auxiliary takes part in backpack project for Veterans

The Groton American Legion Auxiliary is taking part in a Backpack and personal care items challenge for our Veterans in VA centers in South Dakota.

Just like our children needing backpacks to go back to school our veterans are in need of a backpack or luggage to help take their personal items home in once they leave the hospital or clinic. Backpacks and luggage can be new or gently used. Please drop off your donated items at the Legion in Groton and place them in the boxes provided.

Items will be delivered on Wednesday, September 16 to Hot Springs VA. Every month items will be delivered to VA centers in South Dakota so you may continue to donate items through the month of December .

Personal care items include: new or used

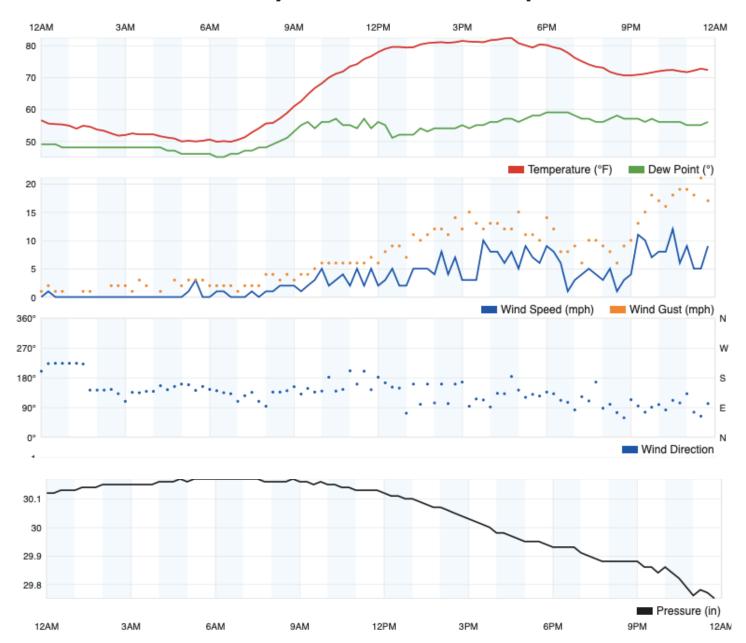
men's jeans (big need) men's belts men's shirts men's shoes blankets gloves hats kitchen items backpacks suitcases

New items only:

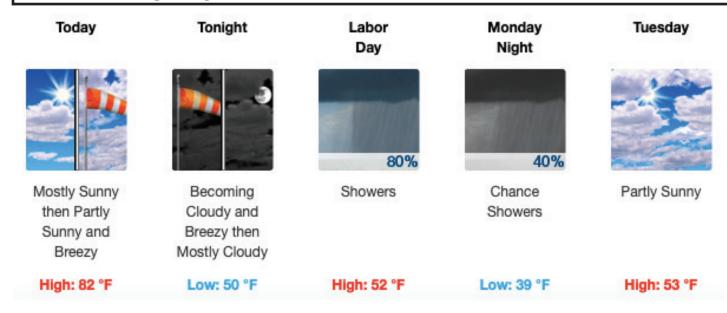
pillows
long underwear
underwear
socks
toothbrushes and toothpaste
combs
brushes,
deodorant
large shampoo
lotion

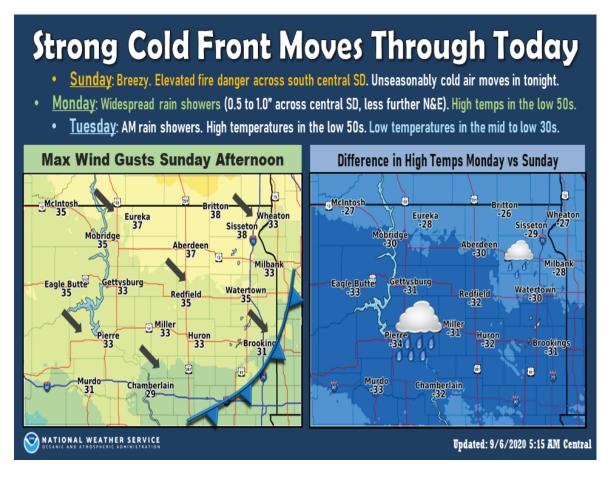
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Northwest winds following a cold frontal passage today will usher in much colder air for Monday... some 25 to 35 degrees colder for highs! Rain is also expected throughout the day Monday. Clouds clear Tuesday afternoon/evening, setting the stage for a frosty Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.

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Today in Weather History

September 6, 2000: Eight miles southwest of Miller, ninety mph winds destroyed three barns and a small garage along with severely damaging a creeper feeder and an enclosed trailer. Another building was moved from its foundation and damaged. An empty school bus was rolled several times before it came to rest atop a fence. Also, a window was broken out of the house.

1667: The "dreadful hurricane of 1667" is considered one of the most severe hurricanes ever to strike Virginia. On the first, this same storm was reported in the Lesser Antilles. The hurricane devastated St. Christopher as no other storm had done before. The "great storm" went on to strike the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Area crops (including corn and tobacco) were beaten into the ground.

1776: Called the Pointe-à-Pitre hurricane, this storm is one of the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes on record. While the intensity and complete track are unknown, this storm struck Guadeloupe on this day, killing 6,000.

1881: Forest fires in "The Thumb" of Michigan and Ontario resulted in "Yellow Day" over the New England states. Twenty villages and over a million acres burned in Michigan. The smoke from these fires caused the sky to appear yellow over several New England cities. Twilight appeared at noon on this day.

1929 - Iowa's earliest snow of record occurred as a few flakes were noted at 9 AM at Alton. (The Weather Channel)

1933: The remnant low of the Treasure Coast Hurricane dumped 10.33" of rain in Charleston, which is the second-highest 24-hour rainfall total on record for the downtown station. The storm produced wind gusts of 51 mph and also spawned a tornado near the city.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced more than seven inches of rain in Georgia. Four persons drowned, and two others suffered injury, as three couples attempted to cross Mills Stone Creek at Echols Mill in their automobile. Smoke from forest fires in California and Oregon spread across Utah into western Colorado. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Joseph MO with a reading of 38 degrees. A low of 44 degrees at Indianapolis IN was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Hibbing MN and Philips WI. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 104 mph at Winterhaven, FL, flipping over four airplanes, and damaging five others. The high winds also damaged a hangar and three other buildings. A cold front produced strong winds and blowing dust in the Northern High Plains, with gusts to 54 mph reported at Buffalo SD. Powerful Hurricane Gabrielle and strong easterly winds combined to create waves up to ten feet high along the southern half of the Atlantic coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003: Hurricane Isabel was first named on September 6th, 2003. It would reach Category 5 status and eventually make landfall in North Carolina as a Category 2.

2017: Category 5 Hurricane Irma affected the US Virgin Island and Puerto Rico. Maximum sustained winds were at 180 mph when the storm hit St. Thomas & St. John. Catastrophic damage was reported over the US Virgin Island & significant damage over Puerto Rico, especially over Culebra.

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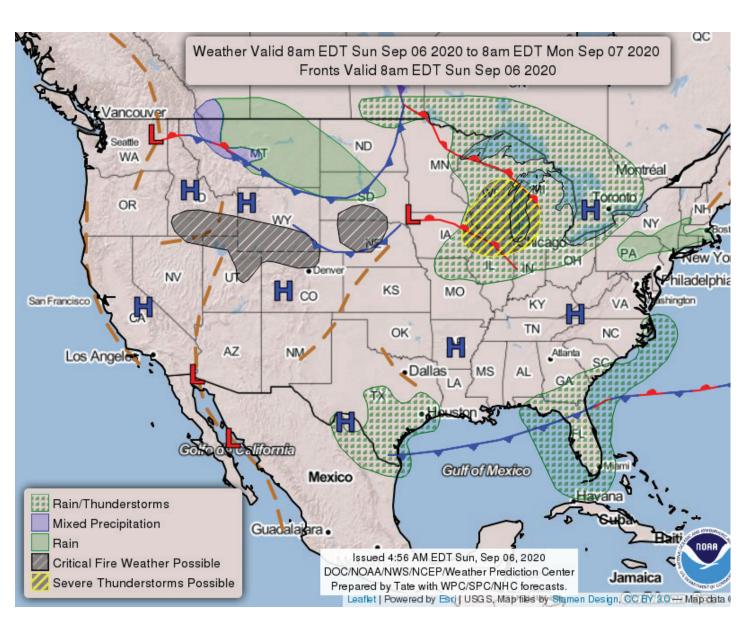
Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info Record High: 103° in 1970

High Temp: 82 °F at 4:36 PM Low Temp: 50 °F at 5:23 AM Wind: 21 mph at 11:27 PM

Precip: .00

Record Low: 32° in 1956 **Average High: 76°F** Average Low: 50°F

Average Precip in Sept..: 0.37 **Precip to date in Sept.:** 0.00 **Average Precip to date: 16.66 Precip Year to Date: 13.35 Sunset Tonight:** 8:01 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:03 a.m.



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OUR NEEDS FROM HIS RICHES

An architect designed a cluster of office buildings around a central green area. After they were built, he called a landscape architect and asked him to plant grass in the field among the buildings.

Puzzled, the landscape architect asked, "But where do you want me to allow space for the walks?" "Don't worry about that. Just plant the grass," said the architect.

A few months later, the buildings were filled with occupants. As the people walked from one building to another, they made pathways in the grass. The architect then decided it was time for the walkways.

"Do you see those paths created by the people?" he asked the landscape architect.

"Yes," came the reply.

"That is where I want you to place the walks," said the architect. "It was important for me to see the needs of the people going from one building to another before we located the walks."

That's the way our Lord works. When we have a need, He is ready to respond to us from His perspective, His plan, and His riches. He sees our needs before we do.

When we are afraid, He will increase our faith. When we grieve, He will give us His comfort and compassion. When we are overcome with problems, He will give us His solutions. When we are troubled, He will give us His peace. Whatever our need, He can meet it!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to trust You completely for all that we need. We have the promise of Your Word, that if we ask, You can and will meet our every need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

- CANCELLED Groton Lions Club Éaster Egg Hunt City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
 - CANCELLED Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
 - CANCELLED Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
 - POSTPONED Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
 - CANCELLED Father/Daughter dance.
 - CANCELLED Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
 - CANCELLED Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
 - 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
 - 07/24/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ferney Open Golf Tourney
 - 07/25/2020 City-Wide Rummage Sales
 - CANCELLED State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
 - 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 09/12-13/2020 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In at the Groton Airport north of Groton
 - 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
 - 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
 - 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
 - 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
 - 10/30/2020 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

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News from the App Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central def. Sturgis Brown, 25-11, 25-16, 25-11

Hill City def. Belle Fourche, 25-15, 25-11, 25-23

New Underwood def. Bennett County, 25-9, 25-8, 25-13

Northwestern def. Arlington, 25-11, 25-8, 25-13

Waverly-South Shore def. Milbank, 25-17, 25-13, 25-10

Gregory Triangular=

Colome def. Gregory, 25-17, 25-22, 25-23

Colome def. Jones County, 25-18, 25-18, 25-13

Stanley County Triangular=

Timber Lake def. Stanley County, 26-24, 25-13, 25-17

Timber Lake def. White River 25-20, 25-22, 23-25

White River def. Stanley County 25-19, 25-20, 21-25

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, https://scorestream.com/

South Dakota reports 293 COVID-19 cases, three deaths

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Coronavirus cases in South Dakota continued to climb on Saturday with health officials reporting 293 new cases and three deaths.

The state has experienced one of the nation's fastest infection rates over the last two weeks, with 421 new cases per 100,000 people. That ranks third in the country for new cases per capita. The number of active infections in the state hit a new high at 3,057.

As the nation's top health experts warned to avoid large gatherings over the Labor Day weekend, events in South Dakota like the state fair have proceeded.

Health officials have said they are watching the number of deaths and hospitalizations from the disease. There are currently 86 people hospitalized and 46% of hospital beds are open statewide.

Over the course of the pandemic, 14,889 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the state. About 78% of them have recovered, but 173 have died and over 3,000 have active infections.

Of the three deaths reported Saturday, one person was in their 70s and the other two were over the age of 79.

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City police chief has cautioned against any proposed laws that would

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City police chief has cautioned against any proposed laws that would mandate police to release video footage to the public, saying he prefers the current protocol of releasing written reports after police use force.

Rapid City Police Don Hedrick, who stepped into the role last month, told the Rapid City Journal that he would "caution" lawmakers considering bills to regulate when video footage is released.

Police killings and shootings of Black people have set off unrest and protests across the nation this summer, as well as calls for greater police accountability in the state. South Dakota law does not require law enforcement agencies to release records on investigations to the public.

Hedrick said the Attorney General's practice of investigating and releasing written reports when police use force is "a good protocol already allowing the public to best understand these types of critical incidents." Hendrick said that situations when police use force are "highly complex incidents" and videos don't show

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the full picture of what happened leading up to the incident.

Sen. Reynold Nesiba, a Sioux Falls Democrat, proposed a bill to regulate the use of police body cameras last year, but it failed.

Berlusconi responding to virus drugs but in "delicate" phase

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi is responding "optimally" to COVID-19 treatment but is the most vulnerable type of patient and is in "the most delicate phase" of the virus, his personal doctor said Sunday.

Dr. Alberto Zangrillo repeated Sunday that he nevertheless remained "cautiously optimistic" about Berlusconi's recovery.

The three-time premier turns 84 in a few weeks and has had a history of heart problems that required being fitted with a pacemaker several years ago. He checked into the San Raffaele hospital in Milan early Friday after testing positive for the virus earlier in the week. At the time he had the early stages of a lung infection.

"The patient is responding optimally to treatment," Zangrillo told reporters outside the hospital. "This doesn't mean we can claim victory because, as you know, he belongs to the most fragile category," given his age.

Data from Italy's Superior Institute of Health indicates that men aged 80-87 have the highest COVID-19 death rate among all cases in Italy, at 47%.

Zangrillo suggested Berlusconi wouldn't be released anytime soon, recalling that the virus "requires adequate treatment and takes its time."

Berlusconi spent some of his summer vacation at his seaside villa on Sardinia's Emerald Coast. Many of Italy's recent cases of COVID-19 have been linked to clusters in people who vacationed in Sardinia.

Zangrillo, Berlusconi's longtime doctor, is head of intensive care at San Raffaele. To date, Berlusconi is believed to still be in a VIP ward of the clinic.

Zangrillo has been criticized for having asserted at the end of May, when Italy's lockdown had greatly slowed its rate of new infections, that "clinically speaking the virus doesn't exist anymore." Zangrillo has since acknowledged that statement was too strong and "off-key" and was based merely on observing that fewer patients required intensive care at the time.

The week in AP images from around the world

AUG. 29 - SEPT. 4, 2020

This photo gallery highlights some of the most compelling images made or published by The Associated Press from around the world.

The selection was curated by AP photo editor Patrick Sison in New York.

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California wildfire traps campers in national forest

Associated Press undefined

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. (AP) — More than 60 people were rescued from a California campground by military helicopter, including two who were severely injured in one of three fast-spreading wildfires that sent people fleeing as a brutal heat wave pushed temperatures into triple digits in many parts of the state.

The fire trapped campers Saturday at a reservoir in the Sierra National Forest. Of the 63 people rescued, two were severely injured, 10 were moderately injured and 51 others had minor or no injuries, according

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to a tweet by the Fresno Fire Department.

"Aircraft are returning to continue rescue operations," the agency posted. "Unknown how many more." The wildfire burning near Shaver Lake exploded to 56 square miles (145 square kilometers), jumped a river and compromised the only road into the Mammoth Pool Campground, national forest spokesman Dan Tune said. At least 2,000 structures were threatened in the area about 290 miles (467 kilometers) north of Los Angeles, where temperatures in the city's San Fernando Valley reached 117 degrees (47 degrees Celsius).

The Madera County Sheriff's Department said in a tweet earlier Saturday that about 150 people were at the campground's boat launch, and 10 of them were injured. "All are safe at this time," the department tweeted.

Officers also were evacuating Beasore Meadows, a large ranch in the Sierra National Forest, on Saturday night, the department tweeted.

Agencies were coordinating an aircraft rescue for crews to safely evacuate them, The Fresno Bee reported. Tune said the campers were told to shelter in place until fire crews, aided by water-dropping aircraft, could gain access to the site. Tune said he didn't know how close the fire was burning to the campsite.

"All our resources are working to make that escape route nice and safe for them," he said.

The lake 35 miles (56 kilometers) northeast of Fresno is surrounded by thick pine forests and is a popular destination for boating and fishing. Bone-dry conditions and the hot weather fueled the flames.

"Once the fire gets going, it creates its own weather, adding wind to increase the spread," Tune said.

The fire broke out Friday evening. Crews worked through the night, but by Saturday morning authorities issued evacuation orders for lakeside communities and urged people seeking relief from the Labor Day weekend heat to stay away from the popular lake.

"Adjust your Labor Day weekend plans. Access to Shaver Lake is completely closed to the public due to the #CreekFire," the Fresno County sheriff's office tweeted after announcing evacuation orders for campsites and communities by the lake.

The California Highway Patrol shut State Route 168 to only allow access for emergency responders and evacuees.

In Southern California, a fire in the foothills of Yucaipa east of Los Angeles prompted evacuation orders for eastern portions of the city of 54,000 along with several communities, including Oak Glen, Mountain Home Village and Forest Falls. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as Cal Fire, said the fire scorched at least 1.5 square miles (3.9 square kilometers) and was burning at a "moderate to dangerous" rate of spread.

A portion of the San Gorgonio Wilderness was closed, and hikers were urged to leave.

In eastern San Diego County, fire officials warned a fire near Alpine was burning at a "dangerous rate of speed" after spreading to 400 acres (0.6 square miles) within an hour. A small community south of Alpine in the Cleveland National Forest was ordered to evacuate.

Cal Fire said nearly 12,500 firefighters were battling 22 major fires in the state. Despite the heat, fire-fighters were able to contain two major fires in coastal Monterey County.

California has seen 900 wildfires since Aug. 15, many of them started by an intense series of thousands of lightning strikes. The blazes have burned more than 1.5 million acres (2,343 square miles). There have been eight fire deaths and nearly 3,300 structures destroyed.

The heat wave was expected to spread triple-digit temperatures over much of California through Monday. Officials urged people to conserve electricity to ease the strain on the state's power grid.

Pacific Gas & Electric, the state's largest utility, warned customers Saturday that it might cut power starting Tuesday because of expected high winds and heat that could create even greater fire danger. Some of the state's largest and deadliest fires in recent years have been sparked by downed power lines and other utility equipment.

Germany: 800 mourn death of 5 kids allegedly killed by mom

BERLIN (AP) — More than 800 people came together for a memorial for the five children who were

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allegedly killed by their mother at their home in the western city of Solingen, the German news agency dpa reported Sunday.

Neighbors, friends and others mourning the deaths of the five young children lit candles Saturday night in front of the building where they had lived. They brought flowers, toys and balloons with the names of the dead children them: Melina, Leonie, Sophie, Timo and Luca, dpa reported.

"It's hard to mourn on your own, to express your sadness," Hans-Peter Harbecke, a neighborhood organizer, told public broadcaster WDR. ""It's easier when you're together, it's more intensive as a community."

Prosecutors have charged the 27-year-old mother of the five children, who were found dead at their home on Thursday, with murder. The killings have caused widespread shock in Germany.

Investigators have said that postmortem examinations on the children, who were between 1 to 8 years old, showed signs of sedation and suffocation, but it was still unclear how exactly they died.

The woman sent a sixth child, her eldest, to stay with his grandmother Thursday before attempting to take her own life by jumping in front of a train at the Duesseldorf railway station. She suffered serious but not life-threatening injuries, and investigators have not questioned her yet, officials said.

The 11-year-old boy is still with his grandmother and both are receiving trauma counseling, dpa reported. Local media reported that the mother separated from the father of her four youngest children a year ago, and that the mother had been showing signs of being stressed and overwhelmed by her situation for a while.

Hong Kong police arrest 90 at protests over election delay

HONG KONG (AP) — At least 90 people were arrested Sunday at protests against the government's decision to postpone elections for Hong Kong's legislature, police and a news report said.

The elections were to have taken place Sunday but Chief Executive Carrie Lam on July 31 postponed them for one year. Lam blamed an upsurge in coronavirus cases, but critics said her government worried the opposition would gain seats if voting went ahead on schedule.

Anti-government protests have been held in Hong Kong almost every weekend since June 2019. They erupted over a proposed extradition law and spread to include demands for greater democracy and criticism of Beijing's efforts to tighten control over the former British colony.

On Sunday, one woman was arrested in the Kowloon district of Yau Ma Tei on charges of assault and spreading pro-independence slogans, the police department said on its Facebook page. It said such slogans are illegal under the newly enacted National Security Act.

The ruling Communist Party's decision to impose the law in May prompted complaints it was violating the autonomy promised to the territory when it was returned to China in 1997. Washington withdrew trading privileges granted to Hong Kong and other governments suspended extradition and other agreements on the grounds that the territory of 7 million people is no longer autonomous.

Also Sunday, police fired pepper balls at protesters in Kowloon's Mong Kok neighborhood, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

At least 90 people were arrested, most of them on suspicion of illegal assembly, the police department said on a separate social media account.

In the Jordan neighborhood, protesters raised a banner criticizing the election delay, the Post said.

"I want my right to vote!" activist Leung Kwok-hung, popularly known as Long Hair, was quoted as saying. The newspaper said Leung was later arrested.

Unruly Portland protests not abating after 100 straight days

By ANDREW SELSKY Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Hundreds of people gathered for rallies and marches against police violence and racial injustice Saturday night in Portland, Oregon, as often violent nightly demonstrations that have happened for 100 days since George Floyd was killed showed no signs of ceasing.

Molotov cocktails thrown in the street during a march sparked a large fire and prompted police to declare

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a riot. Video posted online appeared to show tear gas being deployed to clear protesters from what police said was an unpermitted demonstration. Arrests were made, but it wasn't immediately clear how many.

At least one community member was injured, police said. A person's shoes caught fire after flames broke out in the street, video showed. People were "engaging in tumultuous and violent conduct thereby intentionally or recklessly creating a grave risk of causing public alarm," the department tweeted. "Fire bombs were thrown at officers."

Protesters, most wearing black, had gathered around sunset Saturday at a grassy park in the city. Wooden shields were placed on the grass for protesters to use as protection.

Demonstrations in Portland started in late May after the police killing of Floyd in Minneapolis. During the clashes, some have broken windows, set small fires and pelted police with rocks and other objects.

On the 100th day of protests in Portland, demonstrators vowed to keep coming into the streets.

Tupac Leahy, a 23-year-old Black man from Portland, said he had probably been out to protests for about 70 of the 100 days of demonstrations.

Leahy said he wanted to see a significant reduction to the local police budget, with the money directed to other community needs. He said the demonstrations would continue for some time.

"I think it's going to keep going on until the election," Leahy said. "I don't see it slowing down."

Chelsea Jordan, 30, of Portland, said: "I feel the people here have a lot of heart and a lot of commitment." Jordan was helping spray yellow paint on cutouts to mark the names of Black people killed by police.

"I want to keep at it until the full abandonment of the police, so I think it's going to be a long fight," she said.

Earlier Saturday, hundreds of people gathered in a park just north of Portland in Vancouver, Washington, for a memorial service for Aaron "Jay" Danielson, a supporter of a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer, who was killed Aug. 29. The suspect was himself shot and killed by police Thursday.

Families showed up at the event with their kids, lining up for the free BBQ and picnicking on the grass at Esther Short Park. As various speakers addressed the audience on stage, attendees waved their flags enthusiastically, occasionally breaking out into chants of "U-S-A!"

Many of the crowd were President Donald Trump supporters, wearing MAGA hats and shirts or holding Trump-Pence flags. Some also waved flags and wore T-shirts showing support for the police.

The crowded regularly erupted in boos with any mention of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, whom Patriot Prayer founder Joey Gibson demanded apologize to Danielson's family because they felt he had been unfairly portrayed.

"This is about truth and lies," Gibson said. "Jay was not a white supremacist."

Authorities released additional court documents late Friday detailing the moments before Danielson's slaying.

The documents included shots of security footage that showed the suspect, Michael Forest Reinoehl, ducked into a parking garage and reached toward a pocket or pouch at his waist before emerging to follow the victim. Danielson was holding bear spray and an expandable baton and had a loaded Glock handgun in a holster at his waist, according to the documents.

Witnesses told police that just before they heard gunshots someone said something like, "wanna go," which is frequently a challenge to a fight. Danielson, 39, was shot in the chest and died at the scene.

The court documents were filed to support second-degree murder charges against Reinoehl, who was a supporter of antifa — shorthand for anti-fascists and an umbrella description for far-left-leaning militant groups.

Late Friday and early Saturday morning protests continued in Portland, with police declaring an unlawful assembly and arresting 27 people.

Associated Press writer Jaimie Ding reported form Vancouver, Washington.

Pope: Gossiping is "plague worse than COVID"

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VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis said Sunday that gossiping is a "plague worse than COVID" that is seeking to divide the Catholic Church.

Francis strayed from his prepared text to double down on his frequent complaint about gossiping within church communities and even within the Vatican bureaucracy. Francis didn't give specifics during his weekly blessing, but went on at some length to say the devil is the "biggest gossiper" who is seeking to divide the church with his lies.

"Please brothers and sisters, let's try to not gossip," he said. "Gossip is a plague worse than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big effort: No gossiping!"

Francis' comments came as he elaborated on a Gospel passage about the need to correct others privately when they do something wrong. The Catholic hierarchy has long relied on this "fraternal correction" among priests and bishops to correct them when they err without airing problems in public.

Survivors of sexual abuse have said this form of private reprimand has allowed abuse to fester in the church and let both predator priests and superiors who covered up for them escape punishment.

Germany ups pressure on Russia in Navalny poisoning probe

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BÉRLIN (AP) — Germany on Sunday increased pressure on Russia over the poisoning of Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, warning that a lack of support by Moscow in the investigation could "force" Germany to rethink the fate of a German-Russian gas pipeline project.

"I hope the Russians won't force us to change our position regarding the Nord Stream 2" pipeline being built under the Baltic Sea, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told weekly Bild am Sonntag.

Maas also said that "if there won't be an contributions from the Russian side regarding the investigation in the coming days, we will have to consult with our partners."

He did not exclude possible punishments against Russia, telling the newspaper that "if we think about sanctions, they should be pinpointed effectively."

However, Maas also admitted that halting the building of the nearly completed gas pipeline would harm German and European companies.

"Whoever demands this has to be aware of the consequences," he said. "More than 100 companies from 12 European countries are involved (in the construction), about half of them from Germany."

The German government has come under growing pressure to use the joint German-Russian pipeline project as leverage in getting Russia to provide answers on Navalny. The Nord Stream 2 project would deliver Russian gas directly to Germany under the Baltic Sea when completed, bypassing Ukraine.

Navalny, a Kremlin critic and corruption investigator, fell ill on a flight to Moscow last month and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk. He has been in an induced coma in a Berlin hospital since he was flown to Germany for treatment on August 22.

German authorities have said that tests showed that he had been poisoned with a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group. British authorities previously identified the nerve agent, developed during the Soviet era, as the poison used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018.

"We have high expectations from the Russians to bring light into this severe crime," Maas said. "If they have nothing to do with this attack then it's in their own interest to put the facts on the table."

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman has brushed off allegations that the Kremlin was involved in poisoning Navalny and said last week that Germany hadn't provided Moscow with any evidence about the politician's condition.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Navalny's poisoning an attempted murder that aimed to silence one of Putin's fiercest critics and called for a full investigation.

Merkel personally offered the country's assistance in treating Navalny. He's now in stable condition at Berlin's Charite hospital, but doctors expect a long recovery and haven't ruled out that the 44-year-old could face long-term effects to his health.

Merkel has previously rejected the idea that the Navalny case should be linked to the Nord Stream 2

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gas pipeline.

The U.S. has long opposed the project, which has been increasingly a source of friction between Berlin and Washington. In early August, three Republican senators threatened sanctions against an operator of a Baltic Sea port located in Merkel's parliamentary constituency over its part in Nord Stream 2. The Mukran port is a key staging post for ships involved in its construction.

The U.S. argues the project will endanger European security by making Germany overly dependent on Russian gas. It's also opposed by Ukraine and Poland, which will be bypassed by the pipeline under the Baltic, as well as some other European nations.

In addition to the security concerns, the U.S. also wants to sell more of its own liquefied natural gas, or LNG, to Europe.

Experts warn China-India standoff risks unintentional war

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — As a monthslong military standoff between India and China along their disputed mountain border protracts, experts warn that the nuclear-armed countries — which already have engaged in their bloodiest clash in decades — could unintentionally slide into war.

For 45 years, a series of agreements, written and unwritten, maintained an uneasy truce along the border on the eastern edge of the Himalayan region of Kashmir. But moves and clashes over the past few months have made the situation unpredictable, raising the risk that a miscalculation from either side could have serious consequences that resonate beyond the cold-desert region.

"The situation is very dangerous on the ground and can spiral out of control," said Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, who was head of the Indian military's Northern Command from 2014 to 2016. "A lot will depend on whether the two sides are able to control the volatile situation and make sure it doesn't spread to other areas."

The two Asian giants have held several rounds of talks, mainly involving military commanders, without success. In a sign that the talks are now shifting to the political level, their defense ministers met in the Russian capital on Friday to try end the impasse. It was the first high-level direct contact between the sides since the standoff erupted in the Ladakh region four months ago.

Last week, the world's two most populous nations, which share thousands of kilometers (miles) of disputed border, accused each another of fresh provocations, including allegations of soldiers crossing into each other's territory.

India said its soldiers thwarted "provocative" movements by China's military twice last week. In turn, China's Defense Ministry accused Indian troops of crossing established lines of control and creating provocations along the border.

Tensions first erupted in early May with a brawl between soldiers from the two sides. The situation escalated dramatically in June when they fought with clubs, stones and fists, leaving 20 Indian soldiers dead and dozens wounded. China did not report any casualties.

The standoff is over disputed portions of a pristine landscape in a region that boasts the world's highest landing strip and a glacier that feeds one of the largest irrigation systems in the world.

Hooda said that while he doesn't think either side is looking for full-scale war, the "real calamity" is the breakdown of existing agreements and protocols.

Wang Lian, a professor of international relations at Peking University in Beijing, said the possibility of open warfare is unlikely because both sides have shown restraint in recent encounters. But he also said that New Delhi is under pressure from domestic anti-China sentiment and has been emboldened by tougher U.S. measures against Beijing.

"I don't think (India) would go so far as to escalate military conflict of a larger scale, but I believe both sides are making some preparations," Wang said.

India and China share a disputed and undemarcated 3,500-kilometer (2,175-mile) border, known as the Line of Actual Control, that stretches from the Ladakh region in the north to the Indian state of Sikkim.

The two nations fought a border war in 1962 that also spilled into Ladakh and ended in a fragile truce.

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Since then, troops from both sides have patrolled and guarded the undefined border area, according to protocols worked out by the two countries that included not using firearms against each other.

But defense analyst Rahul Bedi said that India changed the rules of engagement along the border following the deadly June clash. He said local commanders have been given "freedom to initiate adequate and proportionate responses to any hostile acts" by Chinese troops.

Members of India's strategic community, including defense analysts and retired generals, say China's army is opening new fronts, deepening mistrust and delaying immediate disengagement before winter, when temperatures in the region can fall to minus 50 degrees Celsius (minus 58 Fahrenheit). They argue that the cost of deployments through the winter would be punishing for an Indian economy already decimated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Another area of concern for India's military is the country's decades-old territorial dispute over Kashmir with archrival Pakistan, a key ally of China. Indian military policymakers say that if a full-scale conflict erupts between India and China, Islamabad could throw its support behind Beijing, creating an even more dangerous situation for New Delhi.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan. Its eastern edge, the cold, high-altitude desert region of Ladakh, borders China on one side and Pakistan on the other, and is home to the world's only three-way nuclear-armed junction. Most Kashmiri Muslims on the Indian side support an armed movement that demands the territory be united either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

Gen. Bipin Rawat, India's chief of Defense Staff, warned Pakistan last week not to exploit the crisis with China.

"Pakistan could take advantage of any threat developing along northern borders (from China) and create trouble for us," Rawat said, warning that Islamabad "may suffer heavy losses should they attempt any misadventure."

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory and separated it from Kashmir in August 2019, ending its semi-autonomous status and straining the already prickly relationship between New Delhi and Beijing. China was among the countries to strongly condemn the move, raising it at international forums including the U.N. Security Council.

According to some Indian and Chinese strategic experts, India's move exacerbated existing tensions with China, leading to the June border clash.

"We are entering into a very difficult phase," said Pravin Sawhney, a defense analyst and China expert. "Disengagement is a criticality to avoid war, which the two nations don't want. But if any war breaks out, Pakistan will pitch in, and so would Kashmiris. It will be a three-front conflict."

Associated Press writer Ashok Sharma in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Follow Aijaz Hussain on Twitter at twitter.com/hussain_aijaz

Cohen memoir casts him as 'star witness' against Trump

By JIM MUSTIAN and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Cohen's tell-all memoir makes the case that President Donald Trump is "guilty of the same crimes" that landed his former fixer in federal prison, offering a blow-by-blow account of Trump's alleged role in a hush money scandal that once overshadowed his presidency.

Of all the crises Cohen confronted working for Trump, none proved as vexing as the porn actress Stormy Daniels and her claims of an extramarital affair with Trump, Cohen writes in "Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump."

Trump, despite his later protestations, green-lighted the \$130,000 payment to silence Daniels ahead of the 2016 election, reasoning he would "have to pay" his wife a far greater sum if the affair ever became known, Cohen writes, adding the president later reimbursed him with "fake legal fees."

"It never pays to settle these things, but many, many friends have advised me to pay," Trump said, ac-

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cording to Cohen. "If it comes out, I'm not sure how it would play with my supporters. But I bet they'd think it's cool that I slept with a porn star."

The White House called Cohen's memoir "fan fiction."

"He readily admits to lying routinely but expects people to believe him now so that he can make money from book sales," White House spokesman Brian Morgenstern said in a statement. "It's unfortunate that the media is exploiting this sad and desperate man to attack President Trump."

The Associated Press obtained an early copy of the book, which is scheduled to be released Tuesday.

Cohen, who pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations and other crimes, including lying to Congress, calls himself the "star witness" of a hush-money conspiracy that still could culminate in charges for Trump after he leaves office. He described his new book as a "fundamental piece of evidence" of the president's quilt.

Cohen's allegations — his most detailed to date — are part of an unsparing and deeply personal putdown of Trump. Cohen assails Trump as an "organized crime don" and "master manipulator," but allows that he saw much of himself in a man he once considered a father figure.

"I care for Donald Trump, even to this day," Cohen writes, "and I had and still have a lot of affection for him."

Cohen remains at a loss to explain his unswerving allegiance to a cutthroat businessman who abandoned him at the most vulnerable point in his life. He likens his fealty to Trump to a mental illness and said he thought of himself as acting like a drug user in need of an intervention.

"It seemed to (my family) that I wouldn't listen to anyone, not even the people who loved me most, as I gradually gave up control of my mind to Trump," Cohen writes.

"I confess I never really did understand why pleasing Trump meant so much to me," Cohen adds. "To this day I don't have the full answer."

The memoir offers an introspective — and at times self-loathing — apology for the role Cohen played in Trump's political ascent. He urged Trump for years to run for president but now laments that his election "led the nation and maybe even the world to the brink of disaster."

"I thought Trump was a visionary with a no-nonsense attitude and the charisma to attract all kinds of voters," he writes. But the real reason he wanted Trump in the White House, Cohen concedes, "was because I wanted the power that he would bring to me."

Cohen expresses little to no remorse for his federal crimes, saying he was "railroaded" by the government and pleaded guilty after prosecutors threatened to indict his wife.

He writes that Trump's three oldest children came to Cohen's office after Trump's campaign announcement in 2015, in which Trump referred to people coming to the U.S. from Mexico as rapists and murderers. Cohen says they asked him to convince their father to drop out of the race, arguing his rhetoric was "killing the company."

Cohen says Trump was unconcerned with any harm to his businesses. "Plus, I will never get the Hispanic vote," Trump said, according to Cohen. "Like the blacks, they're too stupid to vote for Trump. They're not my people."

Cohen returns to Trump's treatment of women throughout the book.

He describes the married Trump ogling contestants at his Miss Universe pageant and boasting he could "have all of them" if he wanted. He also claimed to have seen Trump corner and forcibly kiss women at his office.

In a far more personal episode, Cohen writes of Trump leering at Cohen's then-15-year-old daughter at Trump's New Jersey golf club in 2012. Cohen writes that when he told Trump that it was his daughter, Trump replied: "When did she get so hot?"

Cohen also sheds light on Trump's admiration of Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying he admired him most because he "had the balls to take over an entire nation and run it like it was his personal company." But he added that Trump's campaign had been "far too chaotic and incompetent to actually conspire with the Russian government."

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Beyond his dealings with Trump, Cohen waxes nostalgic about experiences he says informed his fierce loyalty and attack-dog persona. The Long Island native, a Holocaust survivor's son, writes of rubbing shoulders with mobsters at his uncle's club, where he worked as a teen. After witnessing a poolside shooting, he says he felt a duty to keep quiet. A few days later, he writes, a tough-looking fellow handed him an envelope stuffed with \$500 cash.

Cohen has led a publicity blitz around his memoir even as he serves his federal sentence in home confinement. A judge ruled this summer that authorities had retaliated against him, sending him back to prison in upstate New York after he was furloughed because of the coronavirus pandemic, for publishing the book ahead of the November election.

Cohen was released to home confinement in July and the government lifted a ban on him speaking publicly. "This story is all I have left for my wife, my children and the country I love so much," Cohen writes.

Associated Press national writer Hillel Italie contributed to this report.

On Twitter, follow Jim Mustian at twitter.com/jimmustian and Michael Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

For Lebanese, recovery too heavy to bear a month after blast

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A month after Beirut's devastating explosion, Ghassan Toubaji still sits under a gaping hole in his ceiling — he can look up through the dangling plaster, wires and metal struts and the broken brick roof and see a bit of sky.

The 74-year-old survived the Aug. 4 blast with bruises, but his fall from its impact worsened his heart and blood circulation diseases. Between that and Lebanon's crumbled economy, he can't go back to work. He used the last of the dollars his wife had been hoarding — a precious commodity as the local currency's value evaporates — to fix the windows shattered by the explosion.

Teams of volunteers, a symbol of the help-each-other spirit that's grown up from the failures of Lebanon's corrupt political class, came by his apartment and assessed the damage. They put plastic on the windows and promised glass for free eventually. Four weeks later they hadn't come back.

With a sweet patient smile, he said he appreciated how well meaning the young volunteers were. But he couldn't wait — with humidity reaching 80% some days and the summer sun directed all day into his apartment, he had to do something.

"Our house is hot as hell," he said, sitting in baggy shorts and a tank top as he watched the news in the room with the hole overhead.

Lebanese families are still struggling with rebuilding in the wake of the massive explosion centered at Beirut's port. Many, already unable to make ends meet because of the country's economic meltdown, now can't bear costs of making homes livable. Frustration is high, with the state almost nowhere to be seen and promised international help slow in coming.

With winter and the rainy season only weeks away, aid groups are concerned they may not have time or resources for the mammoth job of repairing and rebuilding.

Around 200,000 housing units, approximately 40,000 buildings, were damaged in the blast, 3,000 of them so severely they are currently uninhabitable, according to U.N. estimates.

The loss of homes is just one of the indignities from the explosion, the result of nearly 3,000 tons of improperly stored and rotting ammonium nitrates igniting at the port. The blast, one of the strongest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded, killed more than 190 and injured thousands.

A month later, Beirut is still a wounded, grieving city struggling with the calamity that abruptly altered so many lives. Tall buildings still face the port with blown-up facades. Hundreds-year old stone buildings have gaping holes and missing balconies. Features of small streets parallel to the port have been totally erased. Residents walk around with patched up eyes, bandaged arms or on crutches.

Social media are still awash with people sharing their stories and videos and recounting their persist-

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ing trauma. Pictures of the dead are plastered in neighborhoods. "He is a victim, not a martyr," read one poster, rebuffing authorities' attempts to give the dead that esteemed label of self-sacrifice for a cause, seen as a way to water down their own responsibility.

The United Nations appealed for \$344.5 million in emergency funds to last until November, and a donor conference was co-hosted by France and the U.N. days after the blast. But so far only 16.3% of the funds have been received.

Of the total pledges, \$84.5 million is meant for securing and repairing shelter, but only \$1.9 million has been dispersed, said Elena Dikomitis, advocacy adviser for Norwegian Refugees Council for Lebanon.

Aid groups worry the funds are not robust enough.

"The cold and rain could start as early as October," she said. "For sure, tens of thousands of houses can't be repaired in time. That we know for sure, even with all the ongoing efforts."

The NRC is working in two of the hardest-hit neighborhoods, Karantina and Mar Mikhail. It is targeting 12,400 people for help with shelter and 16,800 for water, sanitation and hygiene interventions before March 2021, she said.

Lebanon already has highly vulnerable populations that need help for shelter in winter, including more than 1 million Syrian refugees, the majority of whom live in substandard conditions and now risk being overlooked. "On top of those people ... you also now have all the new homeless of Beirut," Dikomitis said.

The international community, aware of public anger in Lebanon over rampant corruption, has said it would funnel money away from government institutions and work only through international organizations and the U.N.

Many Beirutis say they are sick of hearing about aid on the way, as they struggle to stay above water in the financial crisis.

The currency has crashed in value to the dollar, and banks locked down dollar accounts to prevent capital flight. Prices have skyrocketed, and imports are limited in a country that imports nearly everything. Unable to access their money, even the most able are struggling to secure materials for repairs.

"Nobody has helped us with even a nail," said Robert Hajj, owner of a scooter center wrecked in the blast. "Each day's delay is deteriorating our companies ... Our money is blocked in the banks."

"They made us give up," he said.

With little to no safety net, elderly like Toubaji are hit hard.

He has no pension, no social or medical insurance, so he and his wife, both over 70, had to keep working. Toubaji worked charging fees from people to get papers signed for them at the Finance Ministry, wading through the bureaucracy.

He was forced to stay home by the slump and the ensuing nationwide protests that began in October. His wife, a seamstress, is also virtually out of work.

They have been eating away at the 30 million Lebanese pounds in their bank account. Overnight in the financial crisis, their savings' value dropped from \$20,000 to just above \$3,000. His wife had kept some dollars at home, away from the banks, but that went into fixing their windows.

"You know how much the meter of glass costs? \$160," Toubaji said.

If the ceiling is not fixed, rain will come in. Or worse — a few days ago brick from a neighbor's damaged house hit his roof and knocked a chunk more of the broken ceiling down onto a sofa. His home's main wooden door also remains damaged, its splintered shards glued back in place.

"I don't have a leader that I follow to chase and secure money," Toubaji said, referring to Lebanon's sectarian-based patronage system that fills the place of the absent state.

When the blast happened, Toubaji fell on his face, and shattered glass covered his back. He now walks slowly, worried his knees cannot keep him up straight.

He said Lebanon, too, had fallen because of violence and conflict before and every time, it managed to stand up "and good people came to help."

This time, he is not so sure.

Politicians "have robbed the country and the banks are broke. Who would help the country get up on

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its feet this time?"

Pandemic turns summer into European tourism's leanest season

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUGES, Belgium (AP) — Bruges mayor Dirk De fauw first realized something was desperately wrong with European tourism when on a brisk March morning he crossed the Burg square in front of the Gothic city hall and there was nothing but silence.

"There are always people. Always," De fauw said. That morning?

"Nothing. Nobody is on that large square" at the heart of one of Europe's most picturesque cities, he said. Six months later, as Europe's meanest tourist summer season in history is starting to draw to a close, COVID-19 is yet to loosen its suffocating grip on the continent.

If anything the pandemic might tighten it over the coming months, with losses piling up in the tens of billions of euros across the 27-nation European Union, and the continent's vaunted government support and social security system under increasing strain to prop up the sector.

The upheaval so far, the bloc's executive European Commission said, shows that "revenue losses during the first half of 2020 for hotels, restaurants, tour operators, long distance train operators and airlines were roughly 85-90%." No country has been exempt in an area spanning from Greece's beaches to the trattorias in Rome and the museums of Paris.

And even now, the European Commission told The Associated Press, "bookings for September and October remain abnormally low," as dire as 10% of capacity in Bruges. It dents hopes that a brief uptick in business in July would be a harbinger of something more permanent. Over the summer, though, came fresh spikes in COVID-19 contamination, new restrictive measures and regional color codes that spelled disaster for local tourism when they turn red.

It left the European tourism industry relying on hope more than anything else. It was all evident on a late summer's day in Bruges, when usually throngs of American and Asian tourists should have been mixing with Europeans along the cobblestone streets below gabled houses to help boost the annual visit numbers to over 8 million in the city of 110,000.

"The swans have it all to themselves," muttered Michiel Michielsens as he slowed his boat behind a bank of swans who gracefully obstructed a quick passage on the canals. On a normal day — not like the one when he had 114 customers instead of 1,200 — tourists instead of birds would rule the waters. Now a boat could be seen showing a single couple around while normally 40 people fit in one.

For tourists who can live with wearing masks for hours, there are some advantages. In Bruges, it extends to the city's famed museums where the medieval Flemish Primitives take center stage. Instead of craning over other tourists flashing smartphones, any visitor could now be alone for minutes on end to study in detail one of Jan Van Eyck's most famous pictures "Our Lady with the Child Jesus, St. George, St. Donaas and canon van der Paele."

All this is bittersweet to museum officials though. Across Europe, just about all have had to close for months early this year, and the outlook is bleak.

Attendance has now slumped to a quarter of what it was in 2019 at Bruges museums. But during the uptick in July "we had 50%."

"So it's declining gradually. Every month we see the numbers declining," said Jonathan Nowakowski, the business director of Bruges Museums. "I can tell you that we're looking at losses of 3.4 to 4 million euros this year," all happening despite expectations being high in a Van Eyck memorial year with special exhibits.

"We had we thought we would have had huge numbers of visitors," he said.

It all quickly trickles down to hotels, restaurants, shops and the survival of families. For those who own the building it is more manageable than for those who rent a building, since often those monthly payments must continue to come. With reservations down for the next months, some hotels will just close down, knowing the costs will never match up to the puny revenue. Others are using the low winter rates in summer.

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A great many put staff on temporary unemployment, and they acknowledge government aid has been a help. But they fear that will whittle down soon despite the 750-billion-euro recovery fund that EU recently agreed to.

"In the next few months, we will see a lot of places that will go bankrupt. A lot of people will be unemployed," said Luc Broes, co-owner of the hotel-restaurant Duc de Bourgogne, which overlooks a canal.

Social protection, he said, only goes so far.

"We also have to pay our rent for the building. We also have to pay all the staff. We have to pay the insurances. We have to — we are not protected. In the moment we can't pay anymore, we will go bankrupt as well," Broes said.

Despite the 19th-century novel "Bruges-La-Morte" ("Bruges, the Dead City") that turned the city into a metaphor of melancholy and decay, there is a steadfast conviction that people can turn this around — that tourism will survive.

It is a feeling felt through much of the bloc and a special EU summit is already planned for early October on how to reinvigorate and reform tourism in general.

Unsure how long the pandemic will last, Bruges has already decided to forego any blockbuster exhibits. Instead, it will center on local artists who have been hart hit financially by the pandemic. It includes a photographer tasked to show the solitude that COVID-19 has spawned in the city.

"They get funds. They get paid, They can survive, and we can offer the visitors something new, something inspiring without having all the logistical difficulties that corona(virus) brings," Nowakowski said.

The question of whether there will be more lockdowns, nationwide restrictions or limits on international travel still haunts everyone.

Renowned chocolatier Dominique Persoone was lucky to survive on a big local fan base so he could do without the big cruise ship crowds that come and buy his chocolates from his shop, in the shadows of the cathedral.

"The hardest thing is that you don't know what the future will bring. We don't know how it's gonna be in September, October, when the real chocolate season starts. Then it's Halloween, Santa Claus, Christmas." Now, winter and more uncertainty beckons.

"We thought we were safe and we had a wonderful life. And, now, this is happening," Persoone said.

Typhoon unleashes rain, strong winds in southern Japan

By YURI KAGEYAMA Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The second powerful typhoon to slam Japan in a week unleashed fierce winds and rain on southern islands on Sunday, blowing off rooftops and leaving homes without power as it edged northward into an area vulnerable to flooding and mudslides.

Weather officials warned that the rainfall from what could be a record storm would be fierce. Warnings were issued days in advance for people to be ready to take shelter and stock up on food and water.

Several rivers on the main southwestern island of Kyushu were at risk of overflowing, officials said. Public broadcaster NHK TV said evacuation warnings were issued for more than 50,000 people in Okinawa and Kyushu, including Kagoshima and And Nagasaki prefectures.

News footage showed people in Kyushu starting to gather at gymnasiums, before winds gather momentum in the evening. Social distancing will be in place to guard against the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said Typhoon Haishen, which means "sea god" in Chinese, was packing sustained winds of up to 162 kilometers (100 miles) per hour after battering Okinawa and the southern Kyushu island of Amami Oshima early Sunday. Alerts for strong winds, waves, high tides, rainfall and lightning were issued for Amami Oshima alongside evacuation orders.

There were no immediate reports of any injuries in Okinawa, home to more than half of the roughly 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan under a bilateral treaty.

Haishen was not only powerful — equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane — but also large in its reach, according to the meteorological agency.

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Bullet trains were temporarily halting services, and dozens of flights were canceled. All Nippon Airways said such cancellations will continue Monday and possibly on Tuesday for flights in southern Japan, such as Yamaguchi, Kochi and Fukuoka.

Haishen's projected course has it hitting the Korean Peninsula later in the week.

Haishen's course is similar to Typhoon Maysak, which lashed southern Japan last week, injuring dozens of people and cutting power to thousands of homes.

A cargo ship carrying 43 crew members and 5,800 cows from New Zealand capsized off the coast of Japan. Two people were rescued, and one body was recovered. The search has been halted because of Haishen.

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter https://twitter.com/yurikageyama

Cohen memoir casts him as 'star witness' against Trump

By JIM MUSTIAN and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Cohen's tell-all memoir makes the case that President Donald Trump is "guilty of the same crimes" that landed his former fixer in federal prison, offering a blow-by-blow account of Trump's alleged role in a hush money scandal that once overshadowed his presidency.

Of all the crises Cohen confronted working for Trump, none proved as vexing as the porn actress Stormy Daniels and her claims of an extramarital affair with Trump, Cohen writes in "Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump."

Trump, despite his later protestations, green-lighted the \$130,000 payment to silence Daniels ahead of the 2016 election, reasoning he would "have to pay" his wife a far greater sum if the affair ever became known, Cohen writes, adding the president later reimbursed him with "fake legal fees."

"It never pays to settle these things, but many, many friends have advised me to pay," Trump said, according to Cohen. "If it comes out, I'm not sure how it would play with my supporters. But I bet they'd think it's cool that I slept with a porn star."

The White House called Cohen's memoir "fan fiction."

"He readily admits to lying routinely but expects people to believe him now so that he can make money from book sales," White House spokesman Brian Morgenstern said in a statement. "It's unfortunate that the media is exploiting this sad and desperate man to attack President Trump."

The Associated Press obtained an early copy of the book, which is scheduled to be released Tuesday.

Cohen, who pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations and other crimes, including lying to Congress, calls himself the "star witness" of a hush-money conspiracy that still could culminate in charges for Trump after he leaves office. He described his new book as a "fundamental piece of evidence" of the president's guilt.

Cohen's allegations — his most detailed to date — are part of an unsparing and deeply personal putdown of Trump. Cohen assails Trump as an "organized crime don" and "master manipulator," but allows that he saw much of himself in a man he once considered a father figure.

"I care for Donald Trump, even to this day," Cohen writes, "and I had and still have a lot of affection for him."

Cohen remains at a loss to explain his unswerving allegiance to a cutthroat businessman who abandoned him at the most vulnerable point in his life. He likens his fealty to Trump to a mental illness and said he thought of himself as acting like a drug user in need of an intervention.

"It seemed to (my family) that I wouldn't listen to anyone, not even the people who loved me most, as I gradually gave up control of my mind to Trump," Cohen writes.

"I confess I never really did understand why pleasing Trump meant so much to me," Cohen adds. "To this day I don't have the full answer."

The memoir offers an introspective — and at times self-loathing — apology for the role Cohen played in Trump's political ascent. He urged Trump for years to run for president but now laments that his election

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"led the nation and maybe even the world to the brink of disaster."

"I thought Trump was a visionary with a no-nonsense attitude and the charisma to attract all kinds of voters," he writes. But the real reason he wanted Trump in the White House, Cohen concedes, "was because I wanted the power that he would bring to me."

Cohen expresses little to no remorse for his federal crimes, saying he was "railroaded" by the government and pleaded guilty after prosecutors threatened to indict his wife.

He writes that Trump's three oldest children came to Cohen's office after Trump's campaign announcement in 2015, in which Trump referred to people coming to the U.S. from Mexico as rapists and murderers. Cohen says they asked him to convince their father to drop out of the race, arguing his rhetoric was "killing the company."

Cohen says Trump was unconcerned with any harm to his businesses. "Plus, I will never get the Hispanic vote," Trump said, according to Cohen. "Like the blacks, they're too stupid to vote for Trump. They're not my people."

Cohen returns to Trump's treatment of women throughout the book.

He describes the married Trump ogling contestants at his Miss Universe pageant and boasting he could "have all of them" if he wanted. He also claimed to have seen Trump corner and forcibly kiss women at his office.

In a far more personal episode, Cohen writes of Trump leering at Cohen's then-15-year-old daughter at Trump's New Jersey golf club in 2012. Cohen writes that when he told Trump that it was his daughter, Trump replied: "When did she get so hot?"

Cohen also sheds light on Trump's admiration of Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying he admired him most because he "had the balls to take over an entire nation and run it like it was his personal company." But he added that Trump's campaign had been "far too chaotic and incompetent to actually conspire with the Russian government."

Beyond his dealings with Trump, Cohen waxes nostalgic about experiences he says informed his fierce loyalty and attack-dog persona. The Long Island native, a Holocaust survivor's son, writes of rubbing shoulders with mobsters at his uncle's club, where he worked as a teen. After witnessing a poolside shooting, he says he felt a duty to keep quiet. A few days later, he writes, a tough-looking fellow handed him an envelope stuffed with \$500 cash.

Cohen has led a publicity blitz around his memoir even as he serves his federal sentence in home confinement. A judge ruled this summer that authorities had retaliated against him, sending him back to prison in upstate New York after he was furloughed because of the coronavirus pandemic, for publishing the book ahead of the November election.

Cohen was released to home confinement in July and the government lifted a ban on him speaking publicly.

"This story is all I have left for my wife, my children and the country I love so much," Cohen writes.

Associated Press national writer Hillel Italie contributed to this report.

On Twitter, follow Jim Mustian at twitter.com/jimmustian and Michael Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

Chinese group plans to recover WWII American plane from lake

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BÉIJING (AP) — A Chinese group plans to try to recover a fighter plane from the legendary Flying Tigers group of American pilots that crashed in a lake during World War II.

The Flying Tigers, who were sent to China in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt before Washington joined the war, have long been one of the most potent symbols of U.S.-Chinese cooperation. The Tigers fought Japanese invaders from December 1941 until they were absorbed into the U.S. military the following July.

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The Curtiss P-40 crashed in 1942 in Dianchi Lake near Kunming, the southwestern city that was the Tigers' base.

"We hope the project of salvaging the P-40 can be a warm current in the cold wave and ease people's worries about Chines-U.S. ties," said Han Bo, chairman of the China Adventure Association, a nongovernment group that promotes outdoor activities and historical monuments.

The Tigers were credited with shooting down almost 300 Japanese aircraft while losing 14 of their own pilots. Their battles were some of the earliest American aerial victories in the war.

"Before the P-40 planes were deployed, the Japanese planes had the advantages in China," said Han.

The body of the P-40's pilot, John Blackburn, was recovered after the crash and returned to the United States. The plane sank into the lakebed.

Han said his group found the wreckage using magnetic surveying equipment in 2005 but couldn't safely lift it out of the silt. He said divers recovered a shoe insole and a wire used to control the plane's rudder.

The group plans to build a barrier around the aircraft, remove the silt and then lift it by crane to the surface, Han said.

"Now the technology is ready," he said.

The group is trying to raise 30 to 40 million yuan (\$5 to \$7 million) in public donations to pay for salvaging the plane, Han said. The plan is to display it in a museum but it hasn't been decided where.

Han said he is inviting surviving Flying Tigers and their families to visit for the raising of the wreckage.

Associated Press researcher Henry Hou contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump on McCain; Biden's stretch on virus

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he never called John McCain a loser — he did — and denigrated the record of the late Republican senator on veterans affairs despite routinely appropriating one of McCain's crowning achievements on that front as his own.

Trump distorted events in Kenosha, Wisconsin, over the past week and his own hand in them before a furor over his reported comments on fallen soldiers diverted his rhetoric.

Democratic rival Joe Biden claimed to have been the first person to have called for the use of emergency production powers in the pandemic, when he was not, and he tried to shed light on the history of the incandescent bulb, but was a bit hazy.

A review:

VETERANS and McCAIN

TRUMP: "I was never a big fan of John McCain, disagreed with him on many things including ridiculous endless wars and the lack of success he had in dealing with the VA and our great Vets." — part of a series of tweets Thursday.

THE FACTS: He's ignoring McCain's singular successes on behalf of fellow veterans.

McCain was a leading force in the Senate behind the law that gave veterans an option to go outside the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system and get private care at public expense under certain conditions. President Barack Obama signed the VA Choice legislation into law. Ignoring that reality, Trump persistently claims that he brought Choice into law when no one else could.

Trump signed a law in 2018 that expanded the options for using the Choice program established by Obama, McCain and other lawmakers.

The 2018 law is named after three lawmakers who were veterans of war. All of them now are dead. They are Rep. Samuel R. Johnson, R-Texas, and Democratic Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii, and McCain, R-Ariz.

TRUMP: "Also, I never called John a loser and swear on whatever, or whoever, I was asked to swear on, that I never called our great fallen soldiers anything other than HEROES." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: He called McCain a loser.

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In addition, The Associated Press has confirmed many of the comments Trump was reported by The Atlantic to have made disparaging fallen or captured U.S. service members, such as his description of the American dead in a military graveyard as "losers."

As for McCain, Trump told a conservative forum in Iowa in 2015 that his view of McCain changed when McCain lost the 2008 presidential election to Obama. "He lost, so I never liked him as much after that, 'cause I don't like losers," he said. Trump went on to dismiss McCain's war service: "He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured."

Trump in 2015 also tweeted a news article on Twitter calling McCain a "loser."

PANDEMIC

BIDEN: "When it got up to March, I kept saying, 'Look, you've got to invoke,' and you remember, I think I was the first — I may be mistaken — person calling for the Defense Production Act." — comment after a news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He is correct about being mistaken.

Biden issued a statement March 18 saying he was issuing a call for Trump to invoke the Defense Production Act to give priority to "and immediately increase domestic production of any critical medical equipment required to respond to this crisis — such as the production of ventilators and associated training to operate." His call came the same day Trump signed an order to use his authority under the act.

Five days earlier a group of Democrats in Congress wrote to Trump asking him to use powers under the act, a step that Trump officials and others had been discussing publicly for several weeks.

LIGHT BULB

BIDEN: "Why in God's name don't we teach history in history classes? A Black man invented the light bulb, not a white guy named Edison." — in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Thursday.

THE FACTS: Biden is shading the actual story a bit. Thomas Edison invented the incandescent electric light bulb, but it burned out quickly. It was Lewis Latimer, an African American inventor who worked with Alexander Bell and later with Edison, who made light bulbs practical to use. Latimer created a light bulb with a durable carbon filament and sold the patent to the U.S. Electric Co. in 1881.

According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Although today's light bulbs use filaments of tungsten, which lasts even longer than carbon, Latimer will always be remembered for making the wide-spread use of electric light possible, in public and at home." Latimer is a member of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

PROTESTS and VIOLENCE

TRUMP, on Wisconsin officials and the National Guard: "Once they responded and once we took, you know, control of it, things went really well." — remarks in Kenosha on Tuesday.

TRUMP: "One of the reasons I'm making the trip today and going to Wisconsin is we've had such a big success in shutting down what would be, right now, a city — that would've been Kenosha — a city that would've been burnt to the ground by now. ... And it all stopped immediately upon the National Guard's arrival." — remarks Tuesday before visiting Wisconsin.

THE FACTS: Not true. He had nothing to do with the deployment of the National Guard in Wisconsin. The federal government never "took control of it."

Gov. Tony Evers, D-Wis., activated the state's National Guard the day after a Kenosha police officer shot Jacob Blake, sparking protests and violence over police actions and racism. When National Guard forces from three other states came in to help, it was because the governor had asked for that help from fellow governors, not the White House.

Evers said National Guard troops from Arizona, Michigan and Alabama were operating under the control of those states and Wisconsin, "not in a federal status." National Guards answer to governors and sometimes state legislatures, not Washington.

The federal government sent deputy marshals from the U.S. Marshals Service and agents from the FBI

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and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, about 200 in all. The restoration of order was primarily in the hands of National Guard units and local law enforcement.

As of Monday, 1,000 National Guard troops from Wisconsin were in Kenosha along with 500 National Guard troops from the other three states, said Wisconsin National Guard Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp.

 $\overline{\text{TRUMP}}$, asked if he would condemn the actions of Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old charged in the shooting deaths of two men during Kenosha protests: "You saw the same tape as I saw. And he was trying to get away from them, I guess; it looks like. And he fell, and then they very violently attacked him. And it was something that we're looking at right now and it's under investigation. But I guess he was in very big trouble. He would have been — I — he probably would have been killed." — news conference Monday.

THE FACTS: His implication that Rittenhouse only shot the men after he tripped and they attacked him is wrong. The first fatal shooting happened before Rittenhouse ran away and fell.

Trump did not say whom he meant by "they" — the two men he shot or others in pursuit of him. But he spoke in defense of someone who opposed racial justice protesters, who authorities say was illegally carrying a semi-automatic rifle and who prosecutors accuse of committing intentional homicide.

According to the criminal complaint released by prosecutors, victim Joseph Rosenbaum was shot and killed first, after following Rittenhouse into a parking lot, where Rosenbaum threw a plastic bag at the gunman and tried to take the weapon from him.

The medical examiner found that Rosenbaum was shot in the groin and back — which fractured his pelvis and perforated his right lung and liver — and his left hand. He also suffered a superficial wound to his left thigh and a graze wound to his forehead.

Rittenhouse then ran down the street and was chased by several people trying to stop him and shouting that he just shot someone, according to the criminal complaint and cellphone video footage.

He tripped and fell. Anthony Huber, who was carrying a skateboard, was shot in the chest after apparently trying to wrest the gun from Rittenhouse, the complaint said. A third man was shot and injured. Rittenhouse's lawyer said he acted to defend himself.

VOTING FRAUD

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM BARR on fraud in the vote-by-mail process: "Elections that have been held with mail have found substantial fraud and coercion." — CNN on Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Actually, multiple studies have debunked the notion of pervasive voter fraud in general and in the vote-by-mail process.

The five states that relied on mail-in ballots even before the coronavirus pandemic — Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Utah — have said they have necessary safeguards in place to ensure against fraud and to prevent hostile foreign actors from co-opting the vote. More states intend to rely more heavily on mail-in voting this fall because of the pandemic.

The attorney general cited a report from more than a decade ago from a commission led by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker that said vote-by-mail was vulnerable to fraud. But the commission pointed out in a statement in May that it had found little evidence of fraud in states such as Oregon that had sufficient safeguards.

Barr also said he was basing on "logic" his concern that a hostile foreign actor could produce bogus ballots for the election. But senior U.S. officials said on a conference call with reporters last month that they had no intelligence to suggest that was happening.

JOBS

BIDEN: "Donald Trump may be the only president in modern history to leave office with fewer jobs than when he took office." — Wilmington, Delaware, speech Friday.

THE FACTS: Maybe yes, maybe no.

Not since Depression-era Herbert Hoover has a president left office with a record of fewer jobs than when he began.

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This could happen to Trump because of the pandemic, but he could also end up with a small gain.

In August there were 4.7 million fewer jobs than there were when Trump was inaugurated in January 2017. But if he leaves office in five months, and if the economy adds more than 1 million jobs each month, as happened in July and August, he could end up in the black. There are signs, though, that the gains are slowing as businesses have recalled many of the workers who were temporarily laid off from restaurants, bars, retailers and other businesses. So Biden's prediction could come true.

Associated Press writers Lynn Berry, Will Weissert, Eric Tucker, Josh Boak and Christopher Rugaber contributed to this report.

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

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Facebook blocks ailing man's planned end-of-life broadcasts

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

LE PECQ, France (AP) — Facebook on Saturday blocked live broadcasts from a chronically ill bed-ridden man who appealed to French President Emmanuel Macron for a medically-assisted death and who wanted to show what he expects will be a painful end to his life after he announced that he was stopping all food and drink.

Prostrate on his bed, Alain Cocq posted video of himself Friday after taking what he said would be his last liquid meal.

"I know the days ahead are going to be very difficult," he said. "But I have taken my decision and I am serene."

In a letter this week, which Cocq also posted, Macron said that French law forbade him from granting his request for the "right to leave with dignity," with a medically-assisted death.

"With emotion, I respect your approach because it speaks to the very intimate relationship that each of us builds with the end of our life and our death," Macron said in the letter dated Thursday, sent after one of his aides spoke at length with Cocq by telephone in August.

But Macron added that "because I am not above the law, I am not in a position to grant your request." In a handwritten addition at the end, Macron signed off the letter with the words, "With all of my personal support and my profound respect."

French media have reported that Cocq, a 57-year-old former plumber, suffers from a long-term and incurable degenerative illness. He says that he has lived in great pain for 34 years and that after multiple operations, he prefers to die. In his Facebook post on Friday evening, he said the alternative would be "the degradation of my body."

"I am going to stop hydrating myself when I turn off the lights," he said. "Given my general condition, it's likely to be quick, which is what I hope for, because I'm not a masochist."

He said he would keep taking painkillers.

"The path to my deliverance is starting and, believe me, I am happy about it," he said. "To those I won't see again, I say goodbye. Such is life."

Cocq had planned to subsequently live-broadcast the end of his life that he expects will follow within days of his decision to stop all food, liquids and medicines. But a message Saturday on Cocq's account said that Facebook has blocked him from posting videos until Tuesday.

Facebook confirmed that it had blocked Cocq's live broadcasts.

"Our hearts go out to Alain Cocq and those who are affected by this sad situation," it said in a statement. "While we respect his decision to draw attention to this complex and difficult issue, based on the guidance of experts, we have taken steps to keep Alain from broadcasting live, as we do not allow the

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depiction of suicide attempts."

BLM rallies, memorial for man killed in Portland shooting

By JAIMIE DING and ARON RANEN Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — People gathered for Black Lives Matter rallies Saturday evening in Portland, Oregon, and a memorial was held for the man fatally shot last weekend after a right-wing caravan went through downtown, as daily demonstrations stretched well past the three-month mark in the city.

Hundreds of people gathered in a park just north of Portland in Vancouver, Washington, for a memorial service for Aaron "Jay" Danielson, a supporter of a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer, who was killed Aug. 29. The suspect was himself shot and killed by police Thursday.

Families showed up at the event with their kids, lining up for the free BBQ and picnicking on the grass at Esther Short Park. As various speakers addressed the audience on stage, attendees waved their flags enthusiastically, occasionally breaking out into chants of "U-S-A!"

Many of the crowd were President Donald Trump supporters, wearing MAGA hats and shirts or holding Trump-Pence flags. Some also waved flags and wore T-shirts showing support for the police.

Some attendees also wore T-shirts with "Justice for J" that were handed out at the event.

Several local members of Proud Boys, a far-right group that has been involved in skirmishes at local protests, attended.

"We honor a man who died for what he believed in," said James Johnson, who has been a member of the Proud Boys for two years.

Johnson, who is Black, said he disagreed with people who label the group as a white supremacist organization.

The crowded regularly erupted in boos with any mention of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, whom Patriot Prayer founder Joey Gibson demanded apologize to Danielson's family because they felt he had been unfairly portrayed.

"This is about truth and lies," Gibson said. "Jay was not a white supremacist."

Authorities released additional court documents late Friday detailing the moments before Danielson's slaying.

The documents included shots of security footage that showed the suspect, Michael Forest Reinoehl, ducked into a parking garage and reached toward a pocket or pouch at his waist before emerging to follow the victim. Danielson was holding bear spray and an expandable baton and had a loaded Glock handgun in a holster at his waist, according to the documents.

Authorities have said they believe Reinoehl, who was fatally shot by law enforcement officers late Thursday in Washington state, killed Danielson.

Witnesses told police that just before they heard gunshots someone said something like, "wanna go," which is frequently a challenge to a fight. Danielson, 39, was shot in the chest and died at the scene.

The court documents were filed to support second-degree murder charges against Reinoehl, who was a supporter of antifa — shorthand for anti-fascists and an umbrella description for the far-left-leaning militant groups that resist neo-Nazis and white supremacists at demonstrations and other events.

Demonstrations in Portland started in late May after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. They have often been marked by vandalism and violence. Black Lives Matter rallies were taking place in the city Saturday evening and night, and BLM supporters drove vehicles through the city earlier Saturday.

At one event Saturday afternoon, people stenciled names on a pathway of Black people killed by police. Late Friday protests continued into early Saturday in Portland, with police declaring an unlawful assembly and arresting 27 people.

A few hundred demonstrators had met at Kenton Park Friday before making their way to the Portland Police Association building, where officers warned protesters to stay off the streets and private property. Those who refused could be subject to citation, arrest, the use of tear gas, crowd-control agents or impact munitions, police said.

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The Portland Police Bureau issued a statement Saturday morning saying some officers reported that rocks, a full beverage can and water bottles had been thrown at them, prompting police to declare the gathering an unlawful assembly.

Police said one woman who was detained was bleeding from an abrasion on her head, and she was treated by medics at the scene before being transported by an ambulance. The Portland Police Bureau said she jumped out of the ambulance and ran away before it left the scene, however.

Most of those arrested were arrested on suspicion of interfering with a peace officer or disorderly conduct, police said.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Michael Forest Reinoehl was killed by law enforcement officers, not federal agents.

Ding reported from Vancouver, Washington.

NY attorney general to form grand jury after Prude death ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — New York's attorney general on Saturday moved to form a grand jury to investigate the death of Daniel Prude, a Black man who died earlier this year after Rochester police placed a hood over his head and held him down.

"The Prude family and the Rochester community have been through great pain and anguish," Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement about Prude's death, which has sparked nightly protests and calls for reform. She said the grand jury would be part of an "exhaustive investigation."

Prude's death after his brother called for help for his erratic behavior in March has roiled New York's third-largest city since video of the encounter was made public earlier this week, with protesters demanding more accountability for how it happened and legislation to change how authorities respond to mental health emergencies.

"This is just the beginning," Ashley Gantt, a protest organizer, said by email after James' announcement. "We will not be stopped in our quest for truth and justice."

Hundreds of protesters gathered Saturday for a fourth night on the street where Prude, naked and handcuffed, was held face-down as snow fell. Policy body camera video shows officers covering Prude's head with a "spit hood," designed to protect police from bodily fluids, then pressing his face into the pavement for two minutes.

Prude died a week later after he was taken off life support.

The Monroe County medical examiner listed the manner of death as homicide caused by "complications" of asphyxia in the setting of physical restraint." Excited delirium and acute intoxication by phencyclidine, or PCP, were contributing factors, the report said.

A police internal affairs investigation cleared the officers involved of any wrongdoing, concluding in April that their "actions and conduct displayed when dealing with Prude appear to be appropriate and consistent with their training."

James' office opened its investigation the same month. Under New York law, deaths of unarmed people in police custody are often turned over to the attorney general's office, rather than handled by local officials.

Police union officials have said the officers were strictly following department training and protocols.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo earlier this week called on James to expedite the probe.

"Today, I applaud Attorney General Tish James for taking swift, decisive action in empaneling a grand jury," Cuomo said in a statement Saturday. "Justice delayed is justice denied and the people of New York deserve the truth."

Mayor Lovely Warren, who is under pressure to resign over how long it took for Prude's death to become public, thanked James for taking the action in what she called "a trying time in Rochester."

Protesters on Saturday continued to criticize Warren and Police Chief La'Ron Singletary, walking and bicycling from the site of Prude's detention to City Hall, where they again called for them to step down.

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Also Saturday, the attorney for several people struck by a car as they protested Prude's death in New York City said police have opened a criminal investigation now that victims have come forward to file a police report. Sanford Rubenstein said two of those struck Thursday when the Ford Taurus drove through the crowd in Times Square have been interviewed by police and three others will meet with investigators next week.

The group wants the driver charged with reckless endangerment and assault with a deadly weapon.

Advocates say Prude's death and the actions of the seven now-suspended Rochester police officers demonstrate how police are ill-equipped to deal with people suffering mental problems.

Activists have marched nightly in the city of 210,000 on Lake Ontario since the police body camera footage of the encounter with Prude was released by his family Wednesday.

Friday night's protest resulted in 11 arrests, police said. As they had the night before, officers doused activists at police headquarters with a chemical spray and fired what appeared to be pepper balls to drive them from barricades around the building.

Authentic wins Kentucky Derby; Baffert notches 6th victory

By BETH HARRIS AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Bob Baffert endured the lowest of lows and highest of highs within minutes in the Kentucky Derby.

He was bummed before the horses left the paddock after Thousand Words reared up and fell on its side, getting disqualified and injuring Baffert's assistant trainer. That emotion was quickly replaced by Authentic's front-running victory that gave Baffert a record-tying sixth Derby win.

Then Baffert found himself down again, literally, getting knocked to the grass by a skittish Authentic in the winner's circle.

"This is the craziest year ever," he said.

Authentic kicked away from heavy favorite Tiz the Law in the stretch on Saturday, winning the 146th Derby by 1 1/4 lengths without the usual crowd of 150,000 on hand at Churchill Downs for the first time because of the coronavirus pandemic. The bay colt ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:00.61 under John Velazquez, who won his third Derby.

"I've had some great Derby rides, but what that guy did," Baffert said, gesturing toward Velazquez, who stood socially distanced in the infield winner's circle. "Johnny V. gave him an incredible ride."

Baffert tied Ben Jones (1938-52) for the most wins by a trainer. His other victories came in 1997, 1998, 2002, 2015 with eventual Triple Crown winner Justify and 2018.

"Bob, he's got the magic touch," said Jack Knowlton of Sackatoga Stable, owner of Tiz the Law. "He had this horse ready at the right time and he beat us. Hopefully, we'll get some more shots at him and we'll turn the table on him."

Sent off at 3-5 as the biggest Derby favorite in 31 years and part of a smaller field than usual, Tiz the Law settled into fourth while Authentic ran unopposed in front. With a quarter-mile to go, Tiz the Law pulled alongside Authentic and the two hit the top of the stretch together.

Under Manny Franco, Tiz the Law briefly struck his head in front only to have Authentic fight right back and spurt clear of the Belmont winner, who came in 4 for 4 this year.

"Yes! Yes!" Baffert shouted in the paddock, where he watched on the video screen.

Thousand Words acted up in the paddock, reared up and fell shortly before post time. Baffert said his assistant, Jim Barnes, broke his arm trying to get the saddle on the unruly colt. Thousand Words wasn't injured, according to the on-call veterinarian.

In the winner's circle, the long ribbons hanging off the garland of red roses kept hitting Authentic's hind leg, agitating him, and in turn he knocked the white-haired trainer to the ground.

"He spun around and he was like a bowling ball. He just spun us all around," Baffert said. "The turf course is pretty soft here, so it wasn't too bad. I was probably more embarrassed than anything when I hit the ground."

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It's been that kind of year for Baffert. The Hall of Fame trainer was loaded with promising 3-year-olds early on. Then Nadal got hurt and had to be retired and Charlatan went on the shelf with a minor injury. Authentic had issues, so Baffert gave him an extended break.

In between, Charlatan and another of Baffert's horses had positive drug tests in Arkansas. Baffert is appealing his resulting 15-day suspension. The trainer mourned the death of Arrogate, North America's all-time earnings leader, this summer.

"It's been a roller-coaster year, but thankfully it's the love of the horses that keeps me going," said Baffert, his voice breaking. "They're the best therapy a human can have. I love being around them."

Baffert was especially pleased to help deliver a first-time Derby victory to B. Wayne Hughes. Hughes, the 86-year-old founder of Public Storage, races as Spendthrift Farm and co-owns Thousand Words. Also part of Authentic's ownership is MyRaceHorse Stable, whose 4,600 participants include Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Walker Buehler and former Olympic skier Bode Miller. They paid about \$206 each for a share.

Authentic paid \$18.80, \$6 and \$5 at 8-1 odds. Tiz the Law returned \$3.40 and \$3.20. Mr. Big News was another two lengths back in third and paid \$16.80 to show at 46-1.

Wagering from all sources on the Derby was \$79.4 million, compared with \$165.5 million on last year's race. Churchill Downs officials attributed the decline to the absence of on-track wagering, less than a full field of 20 horses in the race and Tiz the Law being a prohibitive favorite.

Tiz the Law had already won the Belmont, the kickoff to the reconfigured Triple Crown that was run in June at a shorter distance. He followed that up with an easy win in the Travers, setting himself up as the dominant horse heading into the Derby.

But Velazquez hustled Authentic out of the far outside post and to the lead. Tiz the Law took up not far behind, positioning himself to pounce in his usual style. But he couldn't get past Authentic.

"Tiz has been able to pass horses all year and today he ran into one he couldn't get by," Knowlton said. "Credit Authentic. He came from the far outside and managed to get to the lead and just ran a great race. No shame on our part."

Following Baffert's instructions, Velazquez used a left-handed whip in the stretch to keep the skittish Authentic's mind on business. The colt needs ear plugs when he runs.

"He's a little flighty," Baffert said. "He's a gentle horse, but he's a little high-strung."

Without fashionably dressed fans sipping mint juleps and waiting in line at the betting windows, this Derby was unlike any other.

Jockeys chirping at their horses and whips striking flesh in the stretch drive — sounds typically drowned out by raucous fans — echoed across the swath of empty seats under the Twin Spires. Bugler Steve Buttleman played "My Old Kentucky Home" in place of the absent University of Louisville marching band. The song was preceded by a moment of silence to recognize the inequities facing society. Protesters converged outside Churchill Downs demanding justice for Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman shot dead in her home in March when police burst in to serve a search warrant in the middle of the night.

The demonstrators were peaceful as they circled the historic track. They chanted "No justice, no Derby!" and carried signs imploring people to say Taylor's name. Police watched in riot gear with clubs, some on horses and some with armored military vehicles.

"I'd love to be up here pounding my chest because I just won six," Baffert said, "but I feel for everybody in the city."

Velazquez was one of several jockeys in the race who wore black bands with the phrase "Equality for all." The field of 15 horses was the smallest since 1998.

Honor A. P. was fourth, followed by Max Player, Storm the Court, Enforceable, Ny Traffic, Necker Island, Major Fed, Sole Volante, Winning Impression, Money Moves, Attachment Rate and South Bend.

This story has been corrected to show that Honor A. P., not Max Player, finished fourth. Max Player was fifth.

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More AP sports: https://apnews.com/apf-sports and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Erdogan raises rhetoric in Greece standoff in Mediterranean

By ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday warned Greece to enter talks over disputed eastern Mediterranean territorial claims or face the consequences.

"They're either going to understand the language of politics and diplomacy, or in the field with painful experiences," he said at a hospital's opening ceremony in Istanbul.

Ankara is currently facing off against Greece and Cyprus over oil and gas exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean. All sides have deployed naval and air forces to assert their competing claims in the region.

"They are going to understand that Turkey has the political, economic and military power to tear up the immoral maps and documents imposed," Erdogan added, referring to areas marked by Greece and Cyprus as their economic maritime zones.

He stressed that Turkey was "ready for every eventuality and result."

Meanwhile, Turkish media reported that tanks were being moved towards the Greek border. The Cumhuriyet newspaper said 40 tanks were being transported from the Syrian border to Edirne in northwest Turkey and carried photographs of armored vehicles loaded on trucks.

A military official speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations said the deployment was a regular movement of forces and unconnected to tension with Greece.

The president's comments come after NATO said military officers from Greece and Turkey had begun technical discussions to reduce the risk of armed conflict or accidents.

The two NATO allies have been locked for weeks in a tense standoff in the eastern Mediterranean, where Turkey is prospecting the seabed for energy reserves in an area Greece claims as its own continental shelf. Ankara says it has every right to prospect there and accuses Athens of trying to grab an unfair share of maritime resources.

Simulated dogfights between Greek and Turkish fighter pilots have multiplied over the Aegean Sea and the eastern Mediterranean. A Turkish and a Greek frigate collided last month, reportedly causing minor damage to the Turkish frigate but no injuries.

Erdogan said Turkey had repeatedly expressed its willingness to come to a just agreement.

"Our word is sincere," he said. "The problem is those before us disregard our rights and try to situate themselves above us."

Turkey faces a wide range of opponents in the eastern Mediterranean. France, Italy and the United Arab Emirates have all sent forces to join war games with either Greece or Cyprus in recent weeks. Egypt has signed an energy exploration deal with Athens for the Mediterranean.

The European Union, which counts Greece and Cyprus as members, has also threatened possible sanctions against Ankara over its "illegal" actions.

This week, the U.S. announced it was easing a 33-year-old arms embargo against ethnically divided Cyprus. The island split in 1974 when Turkey invaded following a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Turkey is the only nation to recognize a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence and it maintains more than 35,000 troops in northern Cyprus.

The recent crisis is the most serious in Turkish-Greek relations in decades. The neighbors have come to the brink of war three times since the mid-1970s, including once over maritime resources in the Aegean.

Earlier, Ankara announced joint military exercises with northern Cypriot forces from Sunday to Sept. 10. The air, land and sea drills are held every year.

Harris' mostly virtual campaign to get Wisconsin road test

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Kamala Harris told a friendly crowd of Hollywood donors on Thursday they'd be surprised by how many states she's visiting daily, if only virtually.

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Earlier in the week, she'd campaigned before supporters in Minnesota, California and Connecticut, and she was greeting Missouri donors next.

Harris hasn't been on a plane in more than a month. Three weeks after joining Joe Biden as the Democratic vice presidential nominee, the California senator is still campaigning largely in front of a computer screen to relatively small audiences.

That's about to change. On Monday, Harris will travel to Milwaukee on her first traditional campaign trip. Biden's campaign hasn't yet said what she plans to do in the critical swing state. Her trip to Wisconsin comes after Biden visited Kenosha this past week to meet with the family of Jacob Blake, who was shot by police, and talk to the community about racial justice and protests in the city.

The coronavirus pandemic has radically altered campaigning for Democrats, who, unlike Republicans, are largely avoiding in-person gatherings and organizing digitally.

For Harris, that's so far meant a mix of fundraising and organizing events, along with local press interviews and one speech aimed at President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus. Leaning into her role as the first Black woman on a major party's presidential ticket, Harris has spoken with Black leaders and activists in events that aren't open to the press, but she did not travel with Biden to Kenosha.

"She's been on the road. She's out herself," Biden said Friday. "I talk with her almost every day. I speak with her and we work together and I have every confidence in her. There's nothing about not campaigning together, it's about being able to cover more territory."

Harris, who has not held a wide-ranging news conference since joining the ticket, was making her first solo Sunday show appearance as the nominee, a taped interview with CNN's "State of the Union."

According to an excerpt released Saturday, Harris would not say directly whether she would get a coronavirus vaccine if one were ready before Election Day. She also suggested public health experts will be "muzzled" from having the last word about a vaccine's effectiveness.

"I will say that I would not trust Donald Trump and it would have to be a credible source of information that talks about the efficacy and the reliability of whatever he's talking about," she said.

Democratic observers say Harris is so far complementing Biden in a way that's expected for a running mate. It's the role of the vice presidential nominee to boost the presidential candidate's agenda, as Harris has done, and reach out to constituencies that may not be as natural for the nominee, said Karen Finney, a Democratic strategist who ran communications for Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, Hillary Clinton's running mate in 2016.

Vice President Mike Pence, for example, was chosen in part to help boost Trump's support among evangelical voters, a key Republican constituency not originally seen as natural Trump allies. Harris, meanwhile, counters the 77-year-old Biden as a 55-year-old Black woman.

"They have similar values, but she also has had a different experience," Finney said.

In private events over the past two weeks, Harris has met with Black leaders and activists to thank them for their support and motivate them as the campaign enters the final stretch. Last Saturday, Harris held one with Black women leaders who had urged Biden to choose a Black woman as his running mate and another with Black men, said Donna Brazile, a former head of the Democratic National Committee, who was on the first call, where singer Bebe Winans serenaded Harris with his song "Born for This."

"We had a wonderful time just showering her with powerful energy for the battles ahead," Brazile said. Brazile said it will be important for Harris to get out for non-virtual events "where she can actually see the pulse of people," but she said the digital organizing has created strong enthusiasm. This week, Brazile joined a video call with students from historically black colleges and universities as they spoke about how to boost Harris and hold campus voter registration drives. She's also been invited by friends to join organizing groups of suburban women supporting Harris and marveled at the Harris-specific T-shirts and other merchandise people are creating and selling online.

"She did something to make the VP seem like a rock star and people are just donating," Brazile said.

The campaign declined to release fundraising numbers for Harris's events, but several organizers said on calls that interest in giving rose sharply when Harris joined the ticket. That's despite her own presidential bid ending last year before primary voting began as she struggled to raise money. Biden raised a record

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\$365 million in August.

In video calls featuring dozens of donors, Harris talks about Biden and their platform before taking questions on everything from the coronavirus to protest violence and what to do if Trump refuses to accept the election results. ("If he's foolish enough to try a stunt like that, he will fail," she said.)

Attendees range from Hollywood powerhouses like TV director Chuck Lorre and actress Kate Hudson to friends and top Kaine donors.

"It's been increasingly clear that the response from contributors went up dramatically when you were named as vice presidential nominee," Merle Ginsburg, a donor who helped organize a Connecticut-based fundraiser on Tuesday, told Harris.

Beyond raising cash, she's joined calls focused on returning to school in Minnesota, mobilizing Black women voters in Detroit and reaching out to Hispanic voters in Miami. In those events, she often gives remarks at the top and, if she takes questions, takes them from event organizers rather than participants. Minnesota, Michigan and Florida are key swing states.

Steve Benjamin, mayor of Columbia, South Carolina, said Friday it makes sense that Harris has been used mainly in a fundraising role thus far but that voters wanted to see her more.

"The importance of on-the-ground exposure, people seeing you in the community, is so important," said Benjamin, who initially supported Mike Bloomberg's 2020 Democratic presidential bid before backing Biden. He joined Harris's private call with Black male leaders, discussing issues like racial injustice and economic inequality. He said he expects there will be opportunities for Harris to get out in swing states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida and Georgia.

"It matters right now," he said. "More and more citizen engagement by Sen. Harris is what people want."

Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, and Will Weissert in Wilmington, Delaware, contributed to this report.

Refugee families face unique struggles with online school

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Samuel Lavi knew he'd have to find unique ways to stay connected to refugee families when the coronavirus pandemic shut down Valencia Newcomer School. Parents and students speak more than a dozen languages, and they'd need help navigating the technology around remote learning.

So the gregarious teaching assistant, himself a Congolese refugee, created group chats on the WhatsApp messaging app in Swahili and some of the other six languages he knows. To ensure parents who can't read or write could participate, Lavi taught them to record and share small audio clips.

With remote classes now underway at the K-8 school for refugee children in Phoenix, Lavi helps students connect from home with loaned iPads so they can learn English before transferring to mainstream schools.

"If a student has a problem, I will drive to their home and help them log in," said Lavi, 27, who began working at the school shortly after being resettled in Phoenix four years ago. "I can't sit if our kids are suffering."

The struggles connecting with refugee and immigrant families from 19 countries during the pandemic come amid a larger challenge for Valencia.

Its student body shrank to 157 from more than 220 last year after the Trump administration set a historically low cap of 18,000 refugees to be resettled nationwide this fiscal year. That could mean a major reorganization of the school, which helps children adjust to life in America and learn English.

The virus later paused resettlement of refugees who are vetted by the U.S. State Department and other federal agencies and wait for years to arrive. However, a trickle of arrivals has begun again, according to those who work with refugees.

What Valencia will look like going forward could partly depends on the November election. While President Donald Trump is expected to keep targeting both legal and illegal immigration if he wins a second term, Democrat Joe Biden promises a new annual target of 125,000 refugees, up from an average of 95,000

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over the past four decades.

"Valencia will continue to be a stable place for refugees no matter what happens," said Jessica Hauer, marketing director for Alhambra Elementary School District, which funds and operates the school. "We are committed to our students and parents."

If refugee resettlement falls, or even stops, district officials will find other immigrants and U.S. newcomers who can benefit from the school's specialized English teaching, Hauer said.

"We will find a way Valencia can thrive," she said.

School officials have shown their ability to adapt. When the campus couldn't reopen after spring break because of the pandemic, they got creative to stay connected with families.

"We set up Facebook and Twitter accounts for the school right away, and I pushed out information from the resettlement agencies and the governor's office, making sure they stayed safe," principal Lynette Faulkner said.

Lavi's language skills also proved useful when small groups of parents and students picked up iPads for the new school year and received hours of training. Students also got backpacks with supplies and earbuds to help them focus on lessons at home.

Lavi now helps a middle school teacher instruct students during online classes and translate when needed and gives families a hand signing up for free lunches and Wi-Fi access.

"Sam has been a strong advocate for our families," Faulkner said.

Students and parents rarely come to school unless there's a problem they can't resolve online or over the phone.

A tiny masked kindergartner, Fernando Barron Escalante, arrived one recent morning with Noelia Leyva, a family friend who watches the 5-year-old while his mother works. Valencia staff helped the boy resolve a password problem with his iPad.

"Hi, Fernando!" his teacher exclaimed after he logged on to see his classmates' faces on screen.

Most Valencia parents have kept working during the pandemic — in jobs like hotel housekeeping that leave them vulnerable to infection, Faulkner said.

"I know of some families who have tested positive, but they have not been on campus," she said.

Among the few U.S. public schools exclusively for refugee and immigrant students, Valencia opened in 2018 to help new arrivals from countries like Cuba, Thailand, Rwanda and Afghanistan meet basic English standards. While some students are asylum-seekers or immigrants, most are refugees fleeing war or persecution.

Faulkner didn't know what it'd be like when classes resumed remotely last month, but attendance has been perfect most days.

"The kids are happy to be back in school and see their friends in all the little squares," the principal said. When students are able to return, open-sided shelters for shade and picnic tables have been placed around campus so kids can learn outdoors. Inside classrooms, round tables where children gather with their teachers are being updated with Plexiglas dividers to try to stop the virus from spreading.

Known as Mr. Samuel, Lavi can't wait until the kids are back so he can high-five each one as they get off the bus.

Lavi left conflict-wracked Congo as a young man to attend college on a scholarship in Nairobi, Kenya. He ended up teaching at a U.N. refugee camp.

He's grateful for his life in Phoenix, where he recently bought a house and married a fellow Congolese refugee who's pregnant with their second son. He said none of it would have been possible in Congo, where his father and sister still live.

"I like my job very much," Lavi said. "It's very nice here. Very good."

Follow Anita Snow on Twitter: https://twitter.com/asnowreports.

Unions threaten work stoppages amid calls for racial justice

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By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ahead of Labor Day, unions representing millions across several working-class sectors are threatening to authorize work stoppages in support of the Black Lives Matter movement amid calls for concrete measures that address racial injustice.

In a statement first shared with The Associated Press, labor leaders who represent teachers, autoworkers, truck drivers and clerical staff, among others, signaled a willingness Friday to escalate protest tactics to force local and federal lawmakers to take action on policing reform and systemic racism. They said the walkouts, if they were to move forward with them, would last for as long as needed.

"The status quo — of police killing Black people, of armed white nationalists killing demonstrators, of millions sick and increasingly desperate — is clearly unjust, and it cannot continue," the statement says. It was signed by several branches of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Service Employees International Union, and affiliates of the National Education Association.

The broader labor movement has been vocal since the May 25 killing of George Floyd, a handcuffed Black man who died after a white police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes during an arrest over counterfeit money. The death of Floyd in Minneapolis set off an unprecedented surge of protests and unrest from coast to coast this summer. In July, organized labor staged a daylong strike with workers from the service industry, fast-food chains and the gig economy to call out the lack of coronavirus pandemic protections for essential workers, who are disproportionately Black and Hispanic.

Now, in the wake of the August shooting of Jacob Blake, who was critically wounded by a white police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the union leaders say they are following the lead of professional athletes who last week staged walkouts over the shooting. Basketball, baseball and tennis league games had to be postponed. Some athletes resumed game play only after having talks with league officials over ways to support the push for policing reforms and to honor victims of police and vigilante violence.

"They remind us that when we strike to withhold our labor, we have the power to bring an unjust status quo to a grinding halt," the union leaders said in the statement.

"We echo the call to local and federal government to divest from the police, to redistribute the stolen wealth of the billionaire class, and to invest in what our people need to live in peace, dignity, and abundance: universal health care and housing, public jobs programs and cash assistance, and safe working conditions," the statement reads.

Among the supportive unions are ones representing Wisconsin public school teachers who, ahead of the mid-September start of the regular school year, urged state legislators to take on policing reforms and systemic racism.

"We stand in solidarity with Jacob Blake and his family, and all communities fighting to defend Black lives from police and vigilante violence," Milwaukee Teacher's Association president Amy Mizialko told the AP. "Are we striking tomorrow? No," said Racine Educator United president Angelina Cruz, who represents

"Are we striking tomorrow? No," said Racine Educator United president Angelina Cruz, who represents teachers in a community that abuts Kenosha. "Are we in conversation with our members and the national labor movement about how we escalate our tactics to stop fascism and win justice? Yes."

The Nonprofit Professional Employees Union, which represents several hundreds of professionals working at more than 25 civil rights groups and think tank organizations, told the AP it signed onto the union statement because "the fights for workers' rights, civil rights, and racial justice are inextricably linked."

At the federal level, the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives has already passed the George Floyd Justice In Policing Act, which would ban police use of stranglehold maneuvers and end qualified immunity for officers, among other reforms. The measure awaits action in the Senate.

A Republican-authored police reform bill, introduced in June by South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, failed a procedural vote in the Senate because Democrats felt the measure didn't go far enough to address officer accountability.

Meanwhile, officials who serve on governing bodies in more than a dozen major U.S. cities, including Seattle, San Francisco, New York City and Austin, Texas, have voted to defund their police departments and reallocate the money to mental health, homelessness and education services.

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Although some unions have a history of excluding workers on the basis of gender and race, the marriage between the racial justice and labor movements goes back decades. That alliance was most prominently on display during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which featured the visions of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rep. John Lewis and was organized by A. Philip Randolph, a Black icon of the labor movement.

Today, Black workers are more likely to be unionized than any other segment of the workforce as a result of decades of collaboration between labor and civil rights activists, said New York University professor and civil rights historian Thomas Sugrue.

"That connection has only intensified because of the importance of workers of color, particularly African Americans, in the labor movement," Sugrue said.

Public and private employers are faced with a "Which side are you on?" moment due to growing support for the BLM movement, said Maurice Mitchell, national director of the Working Families Party and a leading organizer in the Movement for Black Lives, a national coalition of 150 Black-led organizations.

"If I was a decision-maker that was considering whether or not to meet the demands of the unions, I would be scared," Mitchell said. "This movement is spreading. We've been on the streets consistently, we're building on the electoral front, and now we're seeing this conversation at the highest levels of labor."

Morrison is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorrison.

Ex-FBI agent: Attacks from Trump 'outrageous' and 'cruel'

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Peter Strzok spent his FBI career hunting Russian and Chinese spies, but after news broke of derogatory text messages he had sent about President Donald Trump, he came to feel like he was the one being hunted.

There were menacing phone calls and messages from strangers, and anxious peeks out window shades before his family would leave the house. FBI security experts advised him of best practices — walk around your car before entering, watch for unfamiliar vehicles in your neighborhood — more commonly associated with mob targets looking to elude detection.

"Being subjected to outrageous attacks up to and including by the president himself, which are full of lies and mischaracterizations and just crude and cruel, is horrible," Strzok told The Associated Press in an interview. "There's no way around it."

A new book by Strzok traces his arc from veteran counterintelligence agent to the man who came to embody Trump's public scorn of FBI and his characterization of its Russia investigation as a "witch hunt." The texts cost Strzok his job and drew vitriol from Trump. But even among Trump critics, Strzok isn't a hero. His anti-Trump texts on a government phone to an FBI lawyer gave Trump and his supporters a major opening to undercut the bureau's credibility right as it was conducting one of the most consequential investigations in its history.

Trump's attacks have continued even as two inspector general reports found no evidence Strzok's work in the investigations were tainted by political bias and multiple probes have affirmed the Russia probe's validity.

Strzok expresses measured regret for the texts in "Compromised: Counterintelligence and the Threat of Donald J. Trump," due out Tuesday.

"I deeply regret casually commenting about the things I observed in the headlines and behind the scenes, and I regret how effectively my words were weaponized to harm the Bureau and buttress absurd conspiracy theories about our vital work," Strzok writes.

Before becoming a virtual household name, Strzok spent two decades at the FBI toiling in relative anonymity on sensational spy cases. He helped uncover Russian sleeper agents inside the U.S., worked the Edward Snowden case and led the investigation into whether Hillary Clinton mishandled classified informa-

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tion. (She did, he writes, but not in a way meriting prosecution).

After the Clinton case concluded in July 2016, Strzok opened an investigation into whether the campaign of her Republican opponent was coordinating with Russia, conceiving the "Crossfire Hurricane" codename he says proved prescient.

Strzok said he intended for his book to lend insight into the Clinton probe, Russian election interference and, "first and foremost, the counterintelligence threat that I see in Donald Trump."

"To do that," he said in the interview, "I wanted to show the reader what happened but also why they should believe me."

As the investigation progressed, Strzok came to regard the Trump administration's actions regarding Russia as "highly suspicious" and the president as compromised by Russia, including because of what Strzok says were Trump's repeated efforts to mislead the public about dealings with Moscow.

Those concerns deepened after Trump fired James Comey as FBI director and bragged to a Russian diplomat that "great pressure" was removed. That interaction was like a "five-alarm fire," Strzok says, and the FBI began investigating whether Trump himself was under Russia's sway.

"I hadn't wanted to investigate the president of the United States," Strzok writes. "But my conviction on that point had been eroded by Trump's continued suspicious behavior with the Russians and his ongoing attacks on our investigation."

Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation revealed significant contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia but found insufficient evidence of a criminal conspiracy.

Strzok documents pivotal moments during the investigation, recounting for instance how then-national security adviser Michael Flynn "baldly lied" to him and another agent about his Russian contacts even though Flynn had not shown customary signs of deceit agents are trained to look for.

Though Trump supporters contend the interview was designed to get Flynn to lie, Strzok says the FBI actually gave him multiple prompts to refresh his memory. While Attorney General William Barr has said the interview was done without a legitimate purpose, Strzok says it was necessary to better understand the Trump orbit's ties to Russia and Flynn's own "hidden negotiation with a foreign power that had just attacked our elections."

Flynn later pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI. Barr's request to dismiss the case is pending.

In another episode, he says then-Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein asked him to remain behind after a briefing and pressed him skeptically about a perjury investigation into Attorney General Jeff Sessions for statements made at his confirmation hearing. Sessions was never charged. Rosenstein declined to comment.

Strzok's stint on Mueller's team was short-lived, upended in the summer of 2017 by the inspector general's discovery of anti-Trump text messages he'd exchanged during the campaign with an FBI lawyer with whom he had had an extramarital relationship.

He was summoned to meet with Mueller, who in a "soft voice" told Strzok he was being removed.

Transferred into the more bureaucratic Human Resources Division, Strzok says current Deputy Director David Bowdich reassured him the situation could be worse, including if Trump had gotten hold of the texts.

That's exactly what happened two months later when news broke about the texts and the Justice Department disclosed them to reporters. By his own count, Strzok says, Trump has attacked him since then more than 100 times in tweets.

The text message leak is part of a lawsuit from Strzok, who also conveys discontent in his book at how his career ended.

After Trump accused Strzok of treason, Strzok appealed to the FBI for a statement condemning the remarks, but got none. The FBI scrambled to remove his access to categories of classified information so Director Chris Wray could inform lawmakers the next day. Senior leadership overturned a lower-level decision in firing him.

Today, Strzok is teaching at Georgetown University and watching from the outside for election interference from Russia, which he warns had information it did not use in 2016.

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"I can't talk in a lot of detail about that," he added, "but I do think they returned those arrows to their quiver and made them better for this year."

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 6, the 250th day of 2020. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 6, 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris. In Calcutta, India, weeping masses gathered to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

On this date:

In 1888, diplomat and financier Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr. was born in Boston.

In 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on Oct. 29.)

In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent a telegram from Indian Harbor, Labrador, announcing that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

In 1916, the first self-serve grocery store, Piggly Wiggly, was opened in Memphis, Tennessee, by Clarence Saunders.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis that claimed the lives of eleven Israelis and five Arab abductors.

In 1985, all 31 people aboard a Midwest Express Airlines DC-9 were killed when the Atlanta-bound jetliner crashed just after takeoff from Milwaukee's Mitchell Field.

In 1995, Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record by playing his two-thousand-131st consecutive game.

In 2002, meeting outside Washington, D.C. for only the second time since 1800, Congress convened in New York to pay homage to the victims and heroes of September 11.

In 2003, Justine Henin-Hardenne (EH'-nihn ahr-DEHN') won the all-Belgian women's singles final at the U.S. Open, beating countrywoman Kim Clijsters (KLY'-sturz), 7-5, 6-1.

In 2006, President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said tough interrogation had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

In 2007, opera star Luciano Pavarotti died in Modena, Italy, at the age of 71.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama rolled out a long-term jobs program that would have exceeded \$50 billion to rebuild roads, railways and runways, and coupled it with a blunt campaign-season assault accusing Republicans of causing Americans' hard economic times. (The proposal ended up being blocked by Senate Republicans.)

Five years ago: Guatemala held its general election; with no presidential candidate winning more than 50 percent of the vote, there was a runoff the following month that was won by former TV comedian Jimmy Morales.

One year ago: Zimbabwe's president announced that Robert Mugabe, the country's former leader who was forced to resign after a 37-year rule, had died at the age of 95; he had taken power after white minority rule ended in 1980. A weakened Hurricane Dorian flooded homes on North Carolina's Outer Banks, forcing people to climb to their attics. Hundreds of desperate hurricane survivors gathered at the port on the Bahamian island of Grand Abaco in hopes of getting off the devastated island. U.S. health officials again urged people to stop vaping until officials figured out why some were coming down with serious

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breathing illnesses.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 85. Country singer David Allan Coe is 81. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 77. Actor Swoosie Kurtz is 76. Comedian-actor Jane Curtin is 73. Rock musician Mick Mashbir is 72. Country singer-songwriter Buddy Miller is 68. Actor James Martin Kelly is 66. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 63. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 62. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 62. Rock musician Perry Bamonte is 60. Actor Steven Eckholdt is 59. Rock musician Scott Travis (Judas Priest) is 59. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 59. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 58. Rock musician Kevin Miller is 58. ABC News correspondent Elizabeth Vargas is 58. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 57. Actor Betsy Russell is 57. Actor Rosie Perez is 56. Rhythm and blues singer Macy Gray is 53. Country songwriter Lee Thomas Miller (Songs: "The Impossible" "You're Gonna Miss This") is 52. Singer CeCe Peniston is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Anthony (Az Yet) is 51. Actor Daniele Gaither is 50. Actor Dylan Bruno is 48. Actor Idris Elba is 48. Actor Justina Machado is 48. Actor Anika Noni (ah-NEE'-kuh NOH'-nee) Rose is 48. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 46. Actor Justin Whalin is 46. Actor Naomie Harris is 44. Rapper Noreaga is 43. Actor Natalia Cigliuti is 42. Rapper Foxy Brown is 42. Actor Howard Charles is 37. Actor/singer Deborah Joy Winans is 37. Actress Lauren Lapkus is 35. Rock singer Max George (The Wanted) is 32.