

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Worship inside 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. Worship inside or stay in vehicle and listen on the FM.

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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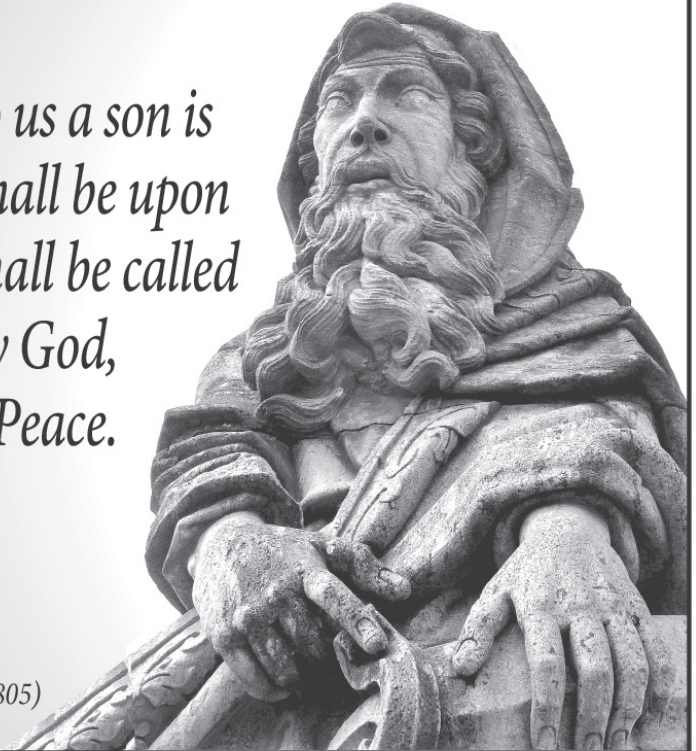


## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6

*"The Prophet Isaiah" by Antônio Francisco Lisboa (1805)*



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"SO WE WENT AHEAD AND HAD A HUGE THANKSGIVING DINNER WITHOUT FACE MASKS OR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND NOW WE NEED TO SCHEDULE OUR NEXT BIG FAMILY EVENT."

## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament and is divided into how many verses? *21, 64, 101, 164*

3. Who climbed the Mount of Olives (Mount Olivet) while barefoot and weeping? *Moses, David, Abraham, Noah*

4. Which New Testament chapter is known to many as the "Love Chapter"? *1 John 4, Jude 1, James 5, 1 Corinthians 13*

5. From 1 Samuel 25:3, what's the name of Abigail's first husband? *Aaron, Solomon, Ethan, Nabal*

6. What are the two gospels that feature the Lord's Prayer? *Matthew/Mark, Luke/John, Matthew/Luke, Mark/John*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) 21; 3) David; 4) 1 Corinthians 13; 6) Nabal; 7) Matthew 5:9-13/Luke 11:2-4

*Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," makes a great and is available in bookstores and online.*

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## Comfort foods

Made fast  
and  
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Bacon and Tomato Party Cups

I think I get almost as many requests for holiday finger-food recipes as Santa does for gifts! While I can't guarantee what you'll find under your tree, I can assure you that this recipe is perfect for just about any special festivity you'll host or attend this season.

- 1 (7.5 ounce) package refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 1/4 cup bacon bits
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 cup peeled and chopped fresh tomatoes
- 1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon dried basil

1. Heat oven to 375 F. Spray 20 wells of 2 miniature muffin pans with butter-flavored cooking spray. Separate biscuits and cut each in half. Press each half into prepared muffin wells.

2. In medium bowl, combine bacon bits, onion, tomatoes and Cheddar cheese. Add mayonnaise and basil. Mix well to combine. Spoon about 1 tablespoon mixture into each biscuit "cup."

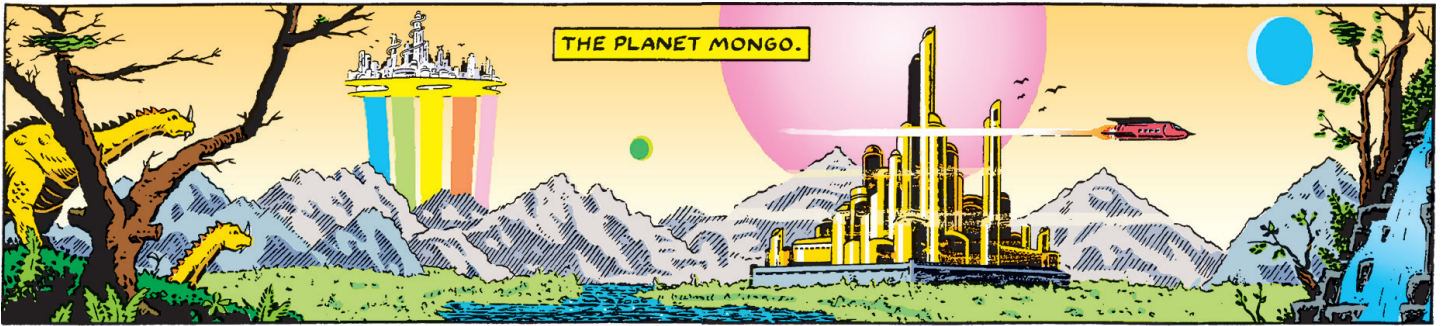
3. Bake for 18 to 22 minutes. Place muffin pans on wire racks and let set for 5 minutes. Remove muffins from pans and continue cooling on wire rack. Good warm or cold. Makes 10 (2 each) servings.

• Each serving equals: 94 calories, 2g fat, 5g protein, 14g carb., 447mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 starch.

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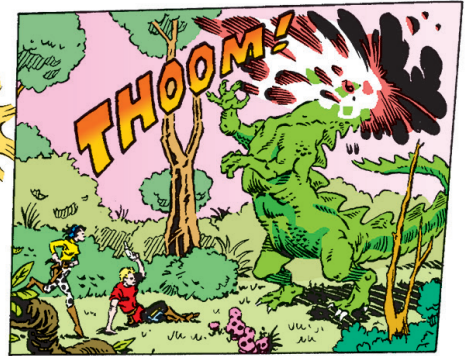
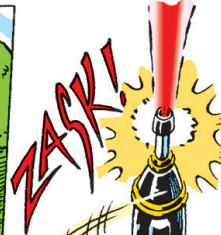
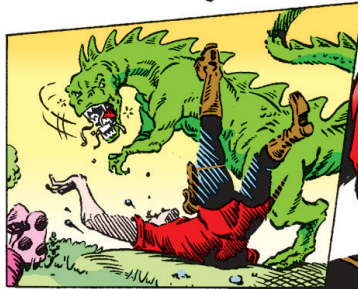
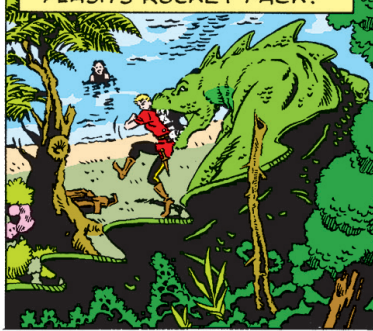
## FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

11-22  
Pencils: MARK McMURRAY

WITHOUT WARNING, THE MONSTROUS CARNIVORE STRIKES...

...ITS JAWS LOCKING ONTO FLASH'S ROCKET PACK!



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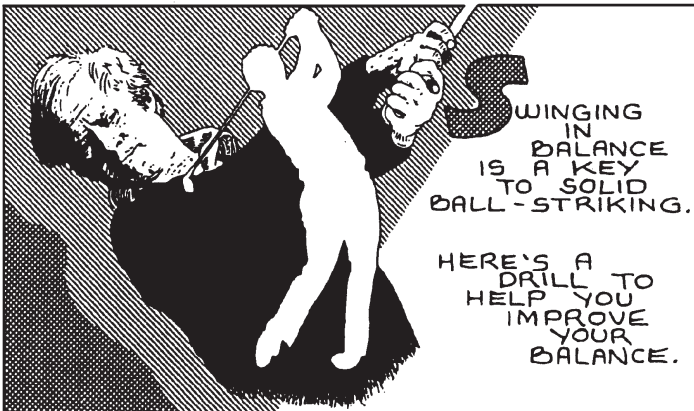


WE BETTER CLEAR OUT...

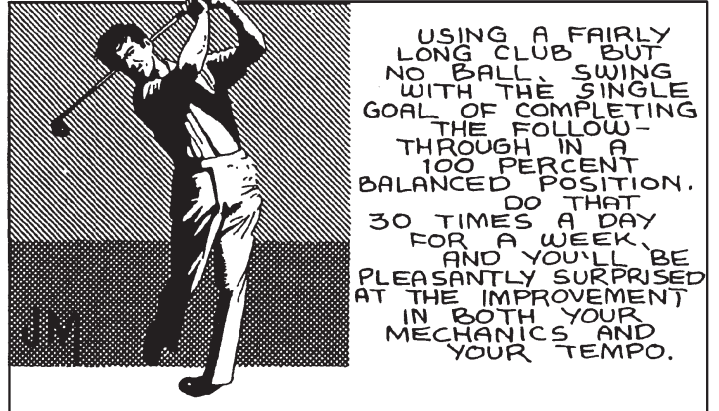
...SOUNDS LIKE WE WOKE UP THE NEIGHBORS!

TO BE CONT'D

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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## Questions About COPD

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I was diagnosed with COPD a year and a half ago and have several questions. I seem to be unable to get answers from my pulmonary doctor, as he is always busy and doesn't have a lot of time to spend with me.

How fast does COPD progress? I'm 78 years old, in reasonably good health and exercise regularly. I have chronic bronchitis with a slight amount of emphysema. I had been coughing a little during the day, had mucus in the morning and coughed at night for two to three hours after bedtime — to the extent of having to use a rescue inhaler to settle down and get back to sleep. After he put me on Trelegy, all of those symptoms disappeared, and I feel perfectly normal except for shortness of breath.

My other question is what is the life expectancy of a person diagnosed with COPD? I've read about answers to this all over the map, from two or three years after diagnosis to 15 or more years. I would presume that it depends on other factors such as physical condition, exercise, weight, etc. But I would like some kind of guideline for someone in my condition. — *T.J.*

**ANSWER:** There are two major types of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: chronic bronchitis, where the primary problem is productive cough; and emphysema, which is destruction of the small airways. Shortness of breath is a common feature of all types of COPD. The most prevalent cause is smoking.

I can't answer your questions on rate of progression and overall prognosis without much more information, but it

is certainly a good sign that many of your symptoms are well-controlled on treatment. The single biggest factor in rate of progression of COPD is whether you are a smoker, but not being able to exercise, being male and being very underweight are additional risk factors for faster progression.

Lung function falls inexorably over time. In people who have no lung disease, the normal decline with aging is never enough to cause symptoms during normal activity. In someone with COPD, the decline over months to years can cause symptoms to occur first with exercise, and then when at rest. Once people have severe symptoms at rest, the prognosis becomes quite poor.

No medication can reverse lung damage. Inhaled steroids reduce inflammation and can slow progression somewhat. Inhaled bronchodilators open airways and make breathing easier. Inhaled anticholinergics reduce secretions. Your medication, Trelegy, contains all of these medicines, and is appropriate for people with severe COPD or those who do not have good symptom control with a less intensive regimen.

An online calculator for prognosis can be found at <https://bit.ly/2N1UEoy>. It can be used if you know how far you can walk in six minutes and the results of your breathing test (specifically, the FEV1%).

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** After reading your recent column on mercury, I wonder how dangerous mercury amalgam for cavity fillings is. I'd guess that the amount of metallic mercury ingested is insignificantly small and of no consequence to overall health. But is it better to replace that type of filling with newer, less-toxic fillings? — *J.G.*

**ANSWER:** Many studies have looked at potential health harms to dental fillings using mercury-containing amalgam, and the consensus is that they are very safe, and that there is no good reason to remove them.

*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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*

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1. Who was called the “Godfather of Soul”?

2. What do these songs have in common: “Rumble” by Link Wray (1958), “Apache” by Incredible Bongo Band (1972) and “Eruption” by Van Halen (1978).

3. Name the group that had an album titled “Freeze-Frame.” Hint: The hit “Centerfold” was on that album.

4. Who sang “Christmas Don't Be Late”?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “Just five hundred dollars and they'll set us free, I couldn't raise a penny if ya threatened me.”

## Answers

1. James Brown. He was among the first inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986.

2. They were all instrumentals. Instrumentals have a wide fan base, and nearly every music magazine has their own list of faves.

3. J. Geils Band. The album came out in 1981 and the song followed months later.

4. The Chipmunks, Theodore, Simon and Alvin, in 1958. Ross Bagdasarian (aka David Seville) recorded the song himself and then played it at higher speeds to create the chipmunk voices.

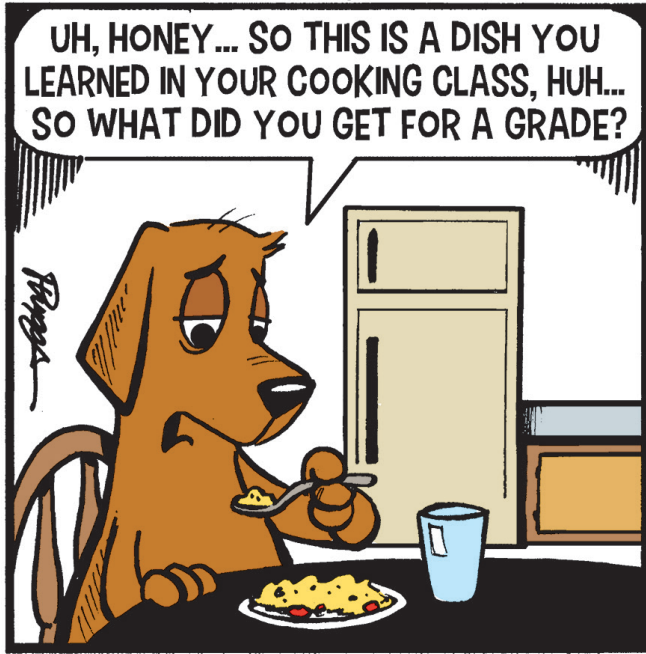
5. “Tijuana Jail,” by the Kingston Trio in 1959. A group of guys head for Mexico to drink and gamble. When they're arrested, they don't have cash for bail.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Wagner



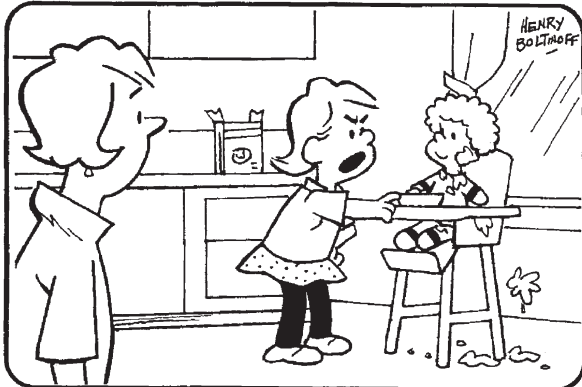
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Wagner

"Care to join me for happy hour?"

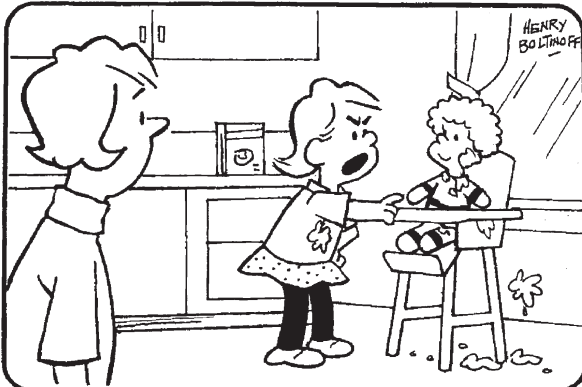
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Earring is missing. 2. Box is closed. 3. Doll's collar is different. 4. Cabinet handles are added. 5. Mom's dish is missing. 6. Girl's shirt is stained.

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- Looking for a great cause for gifting this year? Go to [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) to find out more about how your prospective charities rank in areas like CEO pay, money spent on fundraising, etc.

- Need a quick batch of cookies? Keep a box of cake mix on hand. Instead of the listed ingredients, add two eggs and a half-cup of oil to the mix. Mix and shape, then bake at 350 F for 10 minutes. They are really good, and you can get pretty creative.

- Inexpensive gift idea: A cute holiday coffee mug with a bar of chocolate, a packet of hot cocoa or instant coffee, a peppermint stick and a decorative holiday craft pick. Place inside a gallon-size zipper-top bag, tie with a ribbon, then trim off the zipper-top, leaving just the plastic. Looks nice.

- When holiday cookie time comes, I keep a plastic pitcher of hot water in the sink. I toss cookie cutters into

it when I'm finished with them, so the corners are soaking. They really seem to only need a rinse and a quick brush-off afterward. Mine don't get caked up with dough. -- *JoAnn*

- Dogs and chocolate just don't mix, so keep those holiday plates full of delicious chocolate morsels up and out of the reach of pets.

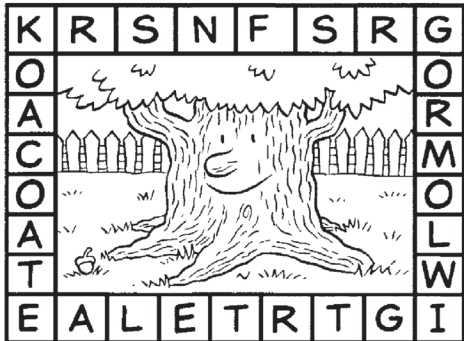
- Use last year's Christmas cards as gift tags on this year's gifts: Just cut out great-looking images and write your own to and from on the back.

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

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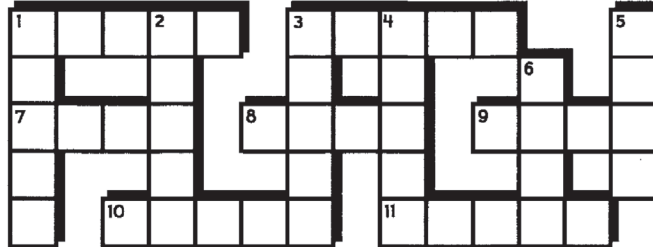
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**THIS PUZZLE WILL GROW ON YOU!** Hidden in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with "G" in the bottom rail: "Great oaks from little acorns grow."



DON'T FALL ASLEEP SOLVING THIS ONE!



Below are words pertaining to winter, animals and hibernation that you will need to complete the puzzle grid above. Use the trial-and-error method. Try to finish before the first snow arrives!

**4-letter words:**

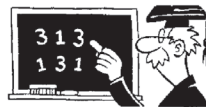
- DOZE
- NAPS
- SAFE
- SNOW
- WOLF

**5-letter words:**

- BEARS
- BEAST
- BIRDS
- BISON
- FROST
- RAWER
- RESTS
- SLEEP

**THE ONE IN A MILLION PROBLEM!**

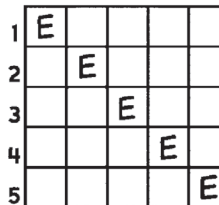
Professor Flunkem challenges you to create a mathematical expression that is equal to 1,000,000 using eight digits. However, the digits can only be 3's and 1's.



Answer: The Professor's answer is: (333,333 x 3) + 1 = 1,000,000.

**HERE'S AN EEEEEASY PUZZLE FOR YOU!** Each of the five words needed to fill in our "word power grid" contain the same five letters. We give you one letter and plenty of hints below.

1. Famous western sheriffs.
2. Found in fruit trees.
3. An ancient weapon.
4. Reduces by cutting.
5. A bowling score.

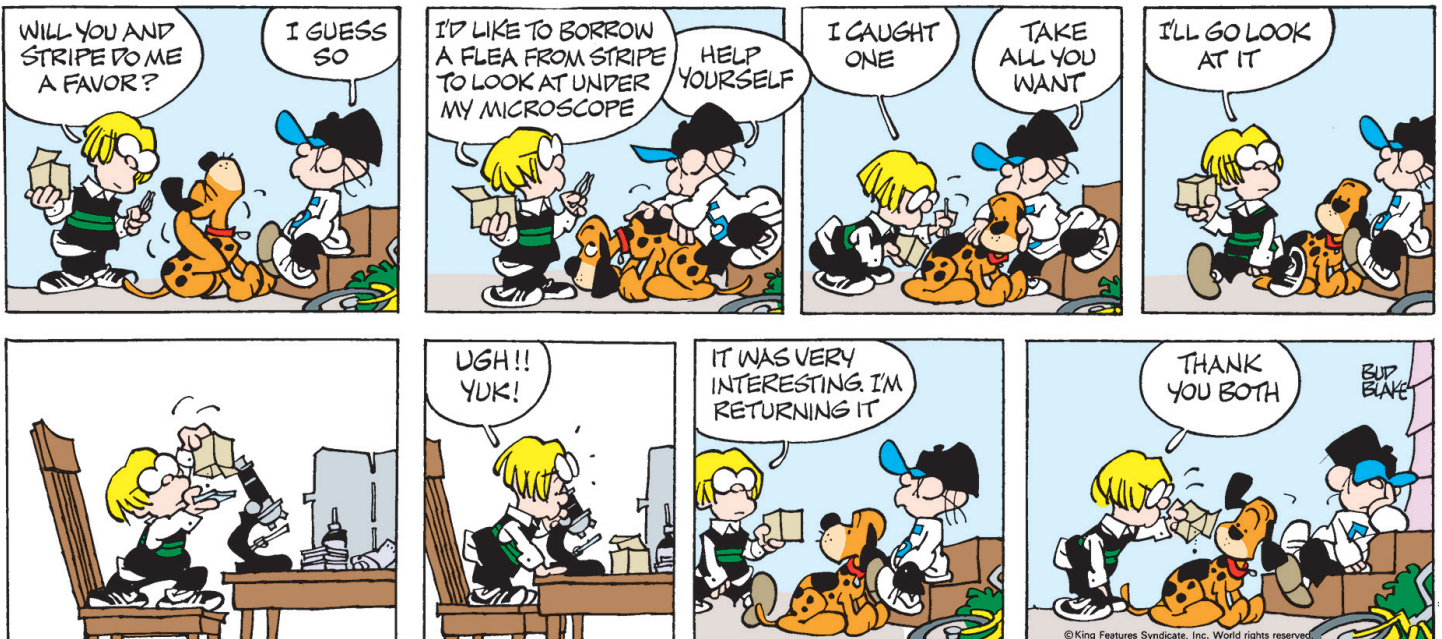


Answers: 1. Earps. 2. Pears. 3. Spear. 4. Pares. 5. Spare.

Answers: (Across) 1. Bears. 3. Birds. 7. Snow. 8. Naps. (Down) 1. Bison. 2. Rawer. 3. Beast. 4. Rests. 5. Safe. 6. Doze. 9. Wolf. 10. Frost. 11. Sleep.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 "Grand"
- 5 Letterman's network
- 8 Out of control
- 12 Suspend
- 13 Weeding tool
- 14 Wise one
- 15 Killer whale
- 16 Lineage
- 18 Astronauts' descent to Earth
- 20 Locations
- 21 Comic DeLuise
- 22 Satchel
- 23 "Forget it!"
- 26 Nation
- 30 Lawyers' org.
- 31 Sly one
- 32 Nay opponent

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

- 33 Racism, e.g.
- 54 Possess
- 10 Shrek, for one
- 35 Forum garment
- 36 Aden's land
- 55 Duel tool
- 11 Jailer's janglers
- 36 Second person
- 38 Bill and —
- DOWN**
- 17 Jacob's brother
- 37 Intertwine
- 39 Adams or Ameche
- 1 Valhalla VIP
- 19 Plaything
- 39 Senior member
- 40 Clean software
- 2 Aesopian also-ran
- 22 Carton
- 40 Soap brand
- 43 Turducken, e.g.
- 3 Formerly
- 23 Apprehend
- 41 Advantage
- 47 Immoderate devotion
- 4 Landlocked African nation
- 24 Japanese sash
- 42 Drill
- 49 Met melody
- 5 Amulet
- 25 Witty one
- 43 Front of a ship
- 50 Taj Mahal city
- 6 Skeletal
- 26 Coquettish
- 44 Snare
- 51 Trouble
- 7 Moment
- 27 Scot's hat
- 45 Irritate
- 52 Ring up
- 8 Delegate
- 28 Deli bread
- 46 New Haven campus
- 53 Lecherous
- 9 Dillon or Damon
- 29 Longing
- 31 To and —
- 48 Pair
- 34 Eye-related

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

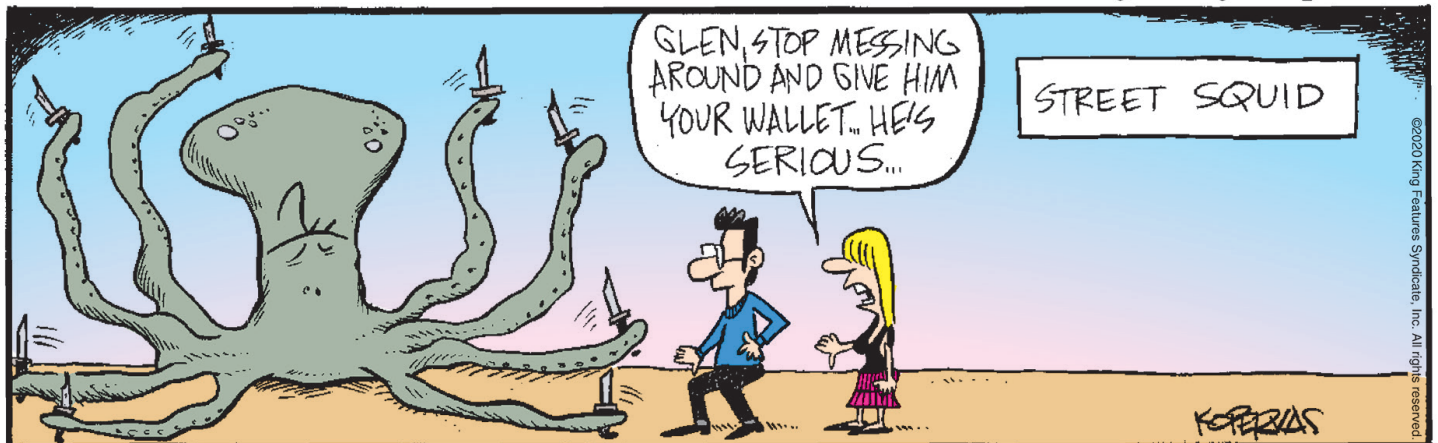
## LAFF - A - DAY



"You'll be happy to know that I've been voted the most-dressed girl on our block!"

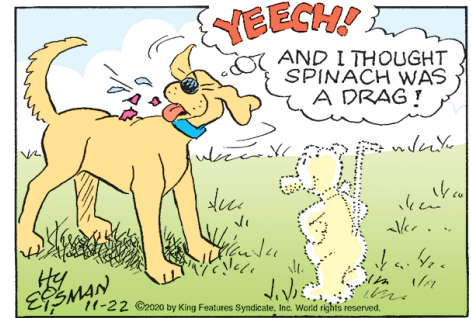
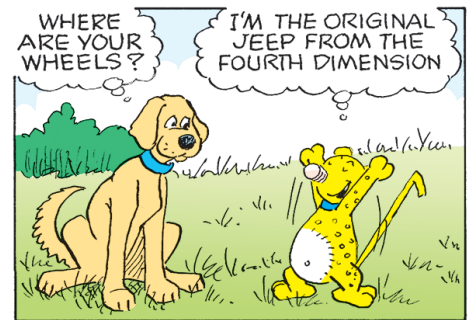
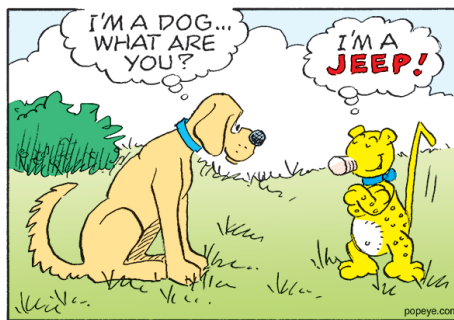
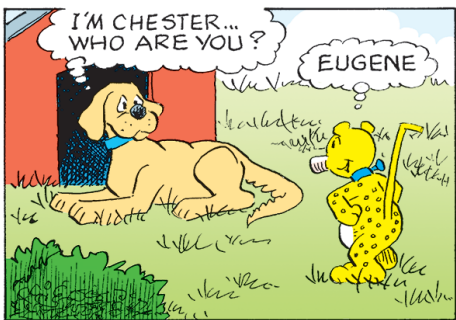
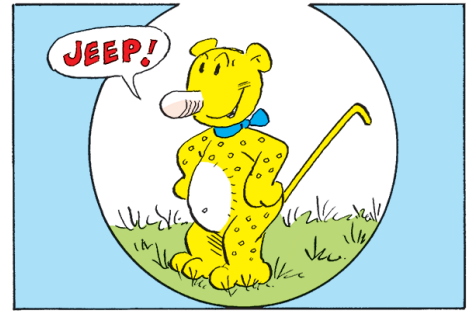
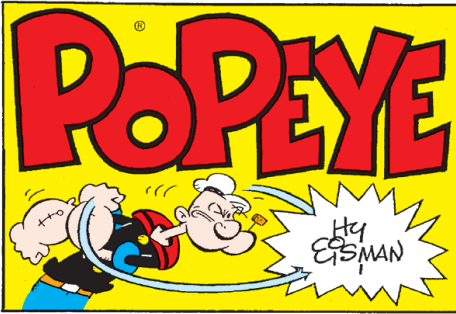
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



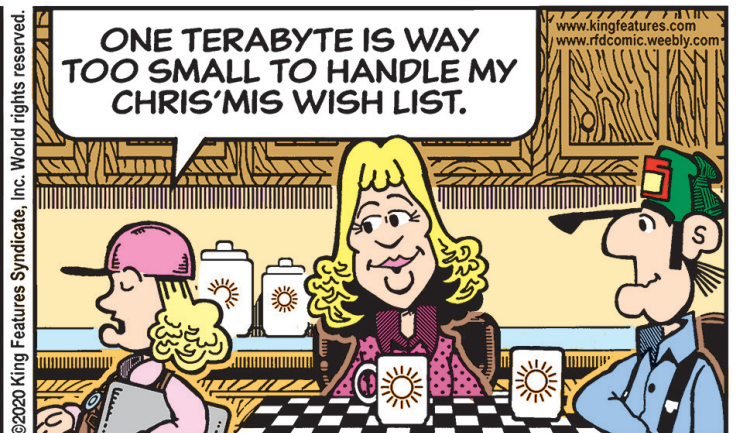
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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HAL FOSTER'S BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ  
**Prince Valiant**  
 Our Story:  
 THE JUDGMENT OF ARTHUR IS SWIFT. ALETA AND VAL ARE SUMMONED TO THE RETURNED SOVEREIGN'S PRESENCE.

TO ADD TO THE HUMILIATION, THEIR STERN SON IS AT HIS SIDE. "ARN, WHO REMAINS REGENT, WILL SERVE AS WITNESS..."

"...AS I JUDGE THE WILLFULNESS AND IMPRUDENCE THAT RESULTED IN MATERIAL DAMAGE TO CAMELOT. VALIANT, YOU ARE FORFEIT YOUR LAND AND HOLDINGS, WHICH SHALL HELP COVER REBUILDING EXPENSES."

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"ALETA, YOU HAVE GREAT WEALTH THAT I CANNOT TOUCH. YOU WILL NEED ALL OF IT TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR PENNILESS HUSBAND. I THINK THAT IS QUITE ENOUGH PUNISHMENT FOR BOTH."

RETURNING TO THEIR CHAMBERS, THE COUPLE PASS THROUGH A DAMAGED PORTION OF THE CASTLE. "THAT WASN'T SO BAD!" BUBBLES ALETA, ALREADY DREAMING OF HOME WITH A HUSBAND HELD CLOSE BY PURSE STRINGS.

3190

UNBEKNOWNST TO EITHER, GLOWING EYES WATCH THEM CLOSELY, WITH EVIL INTENT.  
 NEXT: Garden of doom

Gianni 9.27.09

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

MY WIFE SAYS THAT I NEVER LISTEN TO HER.

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AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT SHE SAID.

Pickering

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Keeping Busy This Winter

Winter is fast approaching, but at least we're no longer getting those constant election phone calls, and the endless calls about signing up for a Medicare Advantage Plan have ceased. The one thing that hasn't gone away is the coronavirus, and our lives are nowhere back to normal. After we've baked yet another loaf of pandemic bread and can log on to a Zoom neighborhood chat with our eyes closed, it's time to look for other things to do.

Here are some of the things I'm checking into to stay busy (and indoors) this winter:

— *Becoming a remote reading tutor for a child.* This would be done via the school's chat program, so there's no risk of transmission of the virus. A school aide will send me links to copied pages of books that my assigned child is learning to read, and we'll hook up while he or she is at school.

— *Growing plants with grow lights.* I've arranged shelving in a spare room with space for plenty of plants, both houseplants and herbs. The plan is to have a mixture of small houseplants such as pothos and spider plant, and give them as gifts to neighbors once they are big enough to divide. With fingers crossed, I'm also going to try growing English ivy and asparagus fern from seed.

— *Experimenting with pottery.* I've been curious about air-dry pottery, so I've ordered 10 pounds of white modeling clay and a smaller package of terra cotta. The reviews say it's good for sculpting and doesn't require a kiln or baking in the oven. If it works, I'm thinking of creating jewelry and painting them with acrylics or trying to produce miniatures of famous sculptures from museum websites. (Rodin's "The Thinker" seems appropriate right about now.)

These projects should keep me busy over the winter. How about you?

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1. The Little Brown Jug is a trophy awarded in the rivalry between what two college football teams?

2. Where did former British basketball standout Pops Mensah-Bonsu play college basketball from 2002-06?

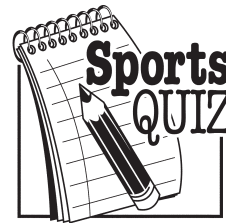
3. What defensive back was known for wearing a “pro cap” on his helmet during his career with the Buffalo Bills from 1986-93?

4. Who did Ashley Force defeat in the Top Fuel Funny Car final race to win the 2008 NHRA Summit Southern Nationals?

5. What Puerto Rican boxing great, a champion in three weight classes, was shot to death in November 2012?

6. What two-time NFL rushing yards leader (1938, '40) went on to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1962-93?

7. In 2011, who became the oldest player ever — at age 43 — to score a



by Ryan A. Berenz

goal in the Stanley Cup Finals?

## Answers

1. The Michigan Wolverines and the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

2. George Washington University.

3. Mark Kelso.

4. Her father, John Force.

5. Hector “Macho” Camacho.

6. Byron “Whizzer” White.

7. Mark Recchi, Boston Bruins.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Cat-Scratch Fever Leaves Sofa in Shreds

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** My new cat, "Corky," is absolutely shredding the fabric legs of my sofa! I buy plenty of toys for him, so why is he so attracted to my expensive furniture? — *Leo in Little Rock, Arkansas*

**DEAR LEO:** Welcome to cat ownership! Shredded furniture frequently comes with the territory. But please don't think I'm telling you to get used to it. This is a common problem.

You will find plenty of advice online on ways to stop your cat from scratching up all of the vertical surfaces in your house. Cats adore fabric sofas; they are ideal because the wood underneath sharpens their claws while the fabric provides just the right amount of resistance.

You'll need to attack this problem from a few angles. First, by teaching Corky not to scratch furniture. Put a

scratching post next to the sofa. When he reaches up to the sofa leg, gently reach under his paws and lift them up and away. Then, place Corky in front of the scratching post and pet him. Repeat this every time.

A faster way to stop the problem is to shake a can of coins or hiss loudly, but this is negative reinforcement that provides no alternative for his scratching. And cats need to scratch! Once Corky starts going to the scratching post first, gradually move the post away from the sofa.

To save your sofa fabric during this time, cover it with a thick layer (or multiple layers) of plastic sheeting either stapled or duct taped into place. The added benefit is that plastic is not a pleasurable scratching material, so Corky will eventually start ignoring it.

*Send your tips, questions or comments to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).*

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Adult mayflies have no functional mouth. Because of this, they die of malnutrition. This is an evolutionary occurrence that happens so aging mayflies don't pass on genetic defects to the next generation.

- Steven Spielberg, who executive-produced the film "Gremlins," requested the effects team make Gizmo's fur orange and white to match his beagle, Chauncey.

- If you do a Google search on the word "askew," the resulting content will tilt slightly to the right.

- St. Lucia is the only country in the world named after a woman. Originally called the Island of the Iguanas by early Carib settlers, the name was later changed after French seamen were shipwrecked there on Dec. 13, the feast day of St. Lucy.

- The color of Facebook is blue

because Mark Zuckerberg is red-green colorblind.

- Ever noticed how some mass-produced ballpoint pens, such as the Bic Cristal, have a hole in the cap? No? Well, in case you someday do, now you'll know why — it's not just to prevent leaks, but choking as well. Lots of folks like to chew on pen lids, and in the event they accidentally swallow the cap, the hole ensures it won't completely block their airway.

- After an 8.0 magnitude earthquake hit Mexico City in 1985, nearly all newborn babies survived a collapsed hospital for seven days without nourishment, water, warmth or human contact.

- Major League Baseball umpires are required to wear black underwear while on the job in case they split their pants.

•••

**Thought for the Day:** "Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again." — *Og Mandino*

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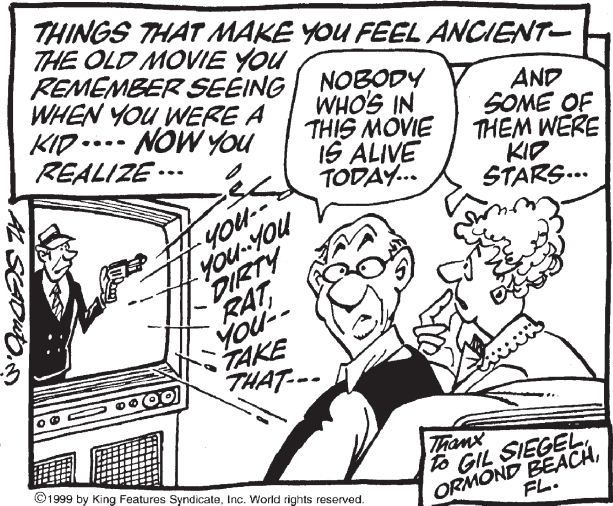
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## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

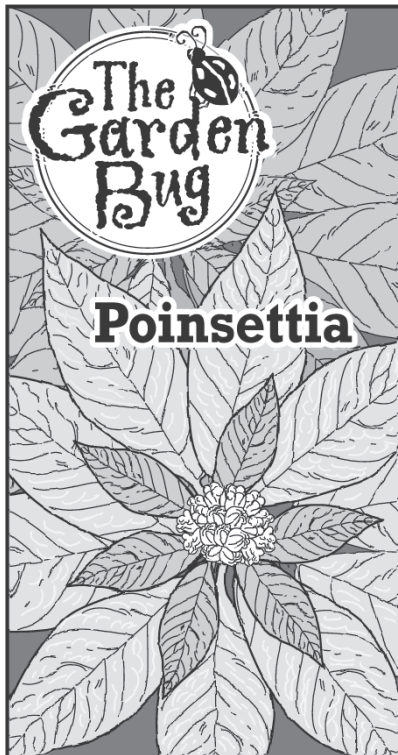
SNAPPY COMEBACKS (PEOPLE WITH NO TACT DEPT.-)



## BY AL SCADUTO



## LOOK WHO'S TALKING DEPT.-



The plant called “Flor de la Noche Buena” grows in the wild as a shrub from Mexico down to South America, covering the hills with its bright red foliage. Dr. Joel Poinsett, a United States minister to Mexico in the early 1800s, was visiting an area south of Mexico City and noticed this plant’s showy mid-winter color. Cuttings of it were sent to a nursery in the United States, and by 1836 the plant was widely known as the “poinsettia” and sold as a Christmas houseplant. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: [www.sundaygardener.net](http://www.sundaygardener.net), [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### VA Expands Video Health Care Access

Afraid to go into a doctor's office right now because of COVID? You're not the only one. Or maybe the nearest facility is far away, or transportation is a problem. The Department of Veterans Affairs knows this and is stepping up efforts to keep us connected to our health care team.

The VA has reopened five telehealth access points after being closed down since April due to the COVID outbreak. The Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations sites are part of a program to bring health care to veterans in rural areas or places without good internet access, the Anywhere to Anywhere initiative. ATLAS offers services that don't require hands-on exams: social work, nutrition, clinical pharmacy, primary care,

mental-health counseling and more.

The locations now reopened are at Walmarts in Keokuk, Iowa; Howell, Michigan; Asheboro, North Carolina; Boone, North Carolina and Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. In addition to Walmarts, the VA has collaborated with Philips North America (think: small appliances such as razors and soup makers), the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. What these locations offer is a private room and encrypted video broadband connection access for meeting with VA providers, two very valuable services. The VA had over 294,000 video appointments last year.

When you go to an appointment at one of those locations, an attendant will check you in and help solve any video technical issues, and then leave. They're not VA employees, but they are trained to get you hooked up.

To learn more about ATLAS and see the full list of locations, go online to VA's Office of Connected Care at [connectedcare.va.gov/partners/atlas](https://connectedcare.va.gov/partners/atlas). You'll find the town and state, address, telephone, hours of appointments and the associated medical center. There's also a list of future locations.

If you're not able to stay at home for a health care video conference, these

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



## Shop Local

Thanksgiving marks the official start of the holiday season – although I think we all put our Christmas trees up a little earlier this year.

Although COVID-19 may put a damper on the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I know South Dakotans will make the best of things – we always do.

So as you start to think ahead to your Christmas shopping keep one thing in mind this year – shop local.

While most physical store sales across the country are down, online sales for big retailers are up. Online shopping through places like Amazon or Walmart can be convenient, but don't forget your local mom and pop shops up the street this Christmas.

There is a safe way to shop local even during a pandemic. Many of our stores have been forced to adapt with COVID-19, which means they now offer online sales or curbside pick-up options. I'd encourage all South Dakotans to wear masks when shopping in-store this year.

On Black Friday, rather than put my money in the pockets of one of the tech giants, my wife and I are heading to Chamberlain. Our friends are opening a kitchen goods store – supporting local business like these creates jobs, gives back to South Dakotans, and betters our communities.

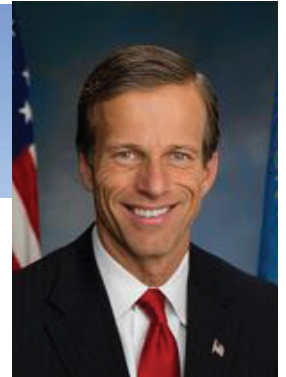
A dollar spent in South Dakota is a dollar invested back into our own economy.

I'm looking forward to popping in and ordering online from some of my favorite small retail stores during the holidays – I hope you'll do the same and shop local.

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**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## We're in This Together

The Great Plains were homesteaded by men and women with a strong yearning for freedom and liberty – seeking an opportunity for their hard work and resourcefulness to cultivate enough prosperity to provide for their families, build some savings, and see the next generation do a little better than themselves. Many who followed in their footsteps and made South Dakota home, like my grandparents, were immigrants who sought the same freedom and opportunity. Enriched by the indigenous heritage of the state, these timeless ideals remain woven in the fabric of our communities to this day and continue to make our state a special place to live, work, raise families, and worship.

Within our deeply rooted sense of self-reliance and determination also lives an ingrained sense of community and civic duty. Our nation recently reflected on the military service of generations of men and women on Veterans Day. From the airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base, to the strong participation in the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard from across the state, and through decades of service across the armed forces, patriotic South Dakotans have always demonstrated their sense of service.

This sense of civic duty is also evident from our larger cities to our smallest of towns. It's the thread that so tightly holds the fabric of our communities sewn together. We see it in our schools and churches, assisting an elderly neighbor, and sending over a meal to help a family stay nourished through tough times. We see it in helping to pull a tractor out of a muddy field, sandbagging homes and businesses during a flood, and rebuilding after a storm. We see it in police officers keeping our neighborhoods safe and in volunteer firefighters responding to an alarm. We see it in supporting a family while a spouse is deployed, or pitching in during the harvest when a tragedy has struck a family.

This is the best of South Dakotans, and it happens every day in every town.

We now face a collective hardship, and there has never been a more important time to act on our sense of community. The coronavirus pandemic has upended the world and thrown our nation and state a multitude of health and economic challenges. Scientists and doctors are making great strides in understanding the virus and are seeing promising breakthroughs toward vaccines and therapeutics. There is great reason to be hopeful—but it is incumbent on us to do our part to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors safe until these treatments are authorized and can be widely distributed. There's plenty to be optimistic about, but we're not out of the woods yet.

There are no cure-alls, but there are simple, straightforward, and common-sense ways to limit the spread of COVID-19: Practice good hygiene by washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes. Stay socially distant and avoid crowds, especially indoors. When social distancing is not possible, please wear a mask. These are steps all of us can take out of the strong sense of civic duty that binds South Dakotans together. Remember, we're in this together.

Winters in South Dakota are notoriously tough, and I know I am not alone in recognizing that this winter may be tougher yet. Navigating this holiday season – a time of family, gratitude, and celebration – during a pandemic may challenge our traditions and test our resolve. And for those who have lost loved ones or are separated from those who are in recovery or are isolated by their risk category, you will especially be in my thoughts.

South Dakotans are resilient, and we have overcome many challenges together. And it is together that we may get one step ahead of the coronavirus and buy additional time until vaccines can be delivered and our way of life begins to return to normal. This holiday season, I remain blessed to call South Dakota home, and know I am fortunate to live in a state that can unify behind this common challenge with a common set of tools to fight it.

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## Shop Locally This Holiday Season

This year, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the first Small Business Saturday, the annual event that encourages customers to shop at local businesses during the holiday season.

South Dakota's small businesses play a critical role in our communities. In our state, 99 percent of businesses are considered small businesses. In total, that's nearly 90,000 small businesses in the state of South Dakota. Those businesses employ over 200,000 employees which make up about 60 percent of our state's workforce. When you support small businesses in South Dakota, you are actually supporting your friends and family. But remember, be courteous and wear a mask when shopping so that both you and your neighbors can be safe.

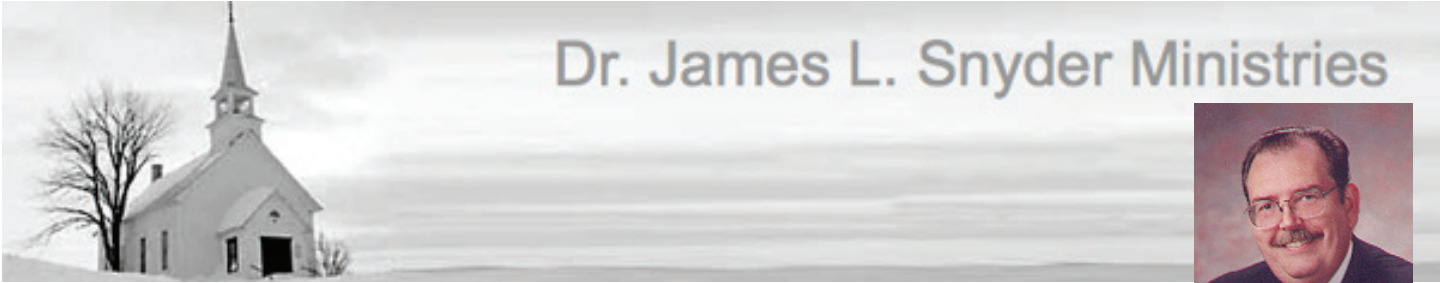
2020 has been a tough year for everyone. That is especially true for many main street businesses in South Dakota who closed their doors to the public temporarily due to the pandemic. For those small businesses, this holiday shopping season will be especially important. The National Retail Federation estimates that nearly 20 percent of a business's sales come during the holiday season. With the pandemic taking its toll earlier this year, I anticipate that the support from holiday shopping will be more critical than ever before for many small businesses.

This year, I look forward to shopping at local small businesses in Pierre. While I can't spoil the surprise for my kids and grandkids by telling you what I'll be buying locally, I can tell you I will be shopping at one of our local jewelry stores. Jean has come to expect jewelry under the tree from me, as I buy her some every year. Creative, I know but at least I'm consistent. She knows it's coming, and she knows it's coming from a local store, but what's in the box is always a surprise. And I'm doing my part to shop locally.

This holiday season, I hope you consider shopping at small businesses in your local community. Regardless of what is on your Christmas list, there's a store in South Dakota that's got you covered.

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## It's All Over But The Lying

The one thing I don't like is when somebody deliberately lies to me. Trust me; this has happened quite a few times in my life.

Sometimes, by accident, they say something that isn't true; they just got their facts mixed up.

Other times, it's a ploy to deceive me and get something from me.

As I often say, if you can't con me you can't con anyone.

I must say I have become very suspicious when somebody I don't know promises me something "free." If you follow through with these "free" things, it's like my aunt used to say, "Sonny, there ain't nuthin free."

I'm sure my aunt would not lie to me.

Don't let this get around, but my opinion is every time a politician opens his mouth, he's lying. But you didn't hear it from me.

I've had to learn how NOT to lie. It's been challenging, but I have been persistent in this goal of mine. There have been stumbling, but I have gotten up every time and started over again. I don't lie as much as I used to.

Not that I intentionally lie, at least I don't think so. I sometimes get the facts wrong.

Like when I'm talking to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I remember once she interrupted me and said, "You're not lying, are you?"

I was stunned. If there's somebody I'm not going to lie to, it is my wife because she will discover the lie somewhere down the line. When she discovers the lie, there are consequences, as you well know.

I try not to lie; that's why I try not to talk too much. When I'm talking, I'm mixing up facts from different situations, which ends in confusion. I'm not lying; I'm just confused.

The only exception is for fishermen. My uncle, for example, was a great fisherman, or so he told us. If he caught all the fish he said he caught, there would be no fish left in the world. Because he was my uncle, I went along with his stories.

Besides that, I don't think there's any reason to lie.

Then there are those situations when you're trying to do something behind your wife's back, and you don't want her to know about it because it's a surprise. Have you ever tried surprising your wife?

Around Christmas time is the worst time in the world for this kind of thing. It's not that I'm lying to her; I just want to surprise her with a Christmas gift. I'm trying to hide something from her.

Coming home the other day, I walked into the living room, and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Where have you been?"

That is the question. It's not where have I been, but where in the world am I going? If I tell her where I was, she would get the hint because it's Christmas time and I'm getting her a present. Is it wrong to conceal something like this? Do you think Santa would forgive me?

I have a hard time hiding anything from my wife. She knows what I'm doing three weeks before I do it.

Last year, she asked me where I was, and I fumbled around, trying to cover my tracks. I don't think I was that good at doing it. When we were opening our Christmas presents on Christmas day, she opened hers and said, "Oh, that's where you were when I ask you where you were." Then she laughed. I was relieved.

This year I'm wrestling with a certain situation. I've had some physical problems, nothing serious. But my wife is the kind of person who sees something and is obsessed with trying to fix it. That's a really

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good quality for her. And I appreciate it. Nobody can get things done quite like the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Often she'll ask me, "How are you doing?"

I take it as a trick question and reply, "I'm fine; thanks for asking." As if that will solve the problem.

Then she sees me go to the basket where we have our medicines. I have a pain so I pick up the Tylenol and take several out and turn around and guess who I see?

"What do you need that for?"

Now, I'm in a pickle. I can't lie, and yet I don't want to tell the whole truth. What in the world do I do?

"What? This Tylenol? Oh, I'm taking it in precaution of a pain in my knee I might get later this afternoon."

Then she said, "Which knee do you have the pain?"

Now I'm in a dill pickle. So, I tell her it's my right knee. I just hope I remember that the next time she asks.

The next morning as I was walking through the kitchen, my wife said, "Do you need some more Tylenol for your knee?"

Then she asked "the" question, "Which knee did you say it was?"

I can't remember hardly anything, she can remember everything, and so I had a 50-50 chance of getting it right.

Later that day, I thought of what David said, "Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue." (Psalm 120:2).

No good comes from lying. My great challenge is to acknowledge that I'm lying and then do something to correct that.

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**#279 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Updates: by Marie Miller**

Another day of weird reporting. No attempt to interpret these numbers; I'll just report them for whatever they happen to be worth. We had 155,800 new cases reported today, a 1.2% increase over yesterday's total. We're at 13,306,300 cases in the US. After 17 days of record hospitalizations, we're down slightly at 89,834 today.

We're reaching milestones no one wanted to reach—adding 1.9 million new cases during the month of October, which is about what we saw in July at the peak of the summer surge, and now adding four million in the month of November, which I will remind you, isn't quite over yet. Everyone thinks December will be worse. Factors in that projection include further movement indoors as the weather gets colder in much of the country, the millions of Americans who traveled for Thanksgiving, and store crowding today for Black Friday. We will not start to see the Thanksgiving effect on case numbers for a week or more. We are currently reporting almost as many cases on the average day as we did in the entire month of March.

We've now lost 265,919 Americans to this disease, a number 0.5% higher than yesterday's total. There were 1210 deaths reported today.

Twenty-five states have set seven-day death records this month. Daily death reports are rising toward our record set on April 15, which was 2752. We've been about 500 off that so far this fall with plenty of room for growth there considering the numbers we're seeing diagnosed and hospitalized. I'm not sure when we'll eclipse that record, but I'm betting we will. Even after new cases level off, death numbers continue to rise for some time: Almost 40% of all Covid-19 deaths in Wisconsin happened in November, and in nine states, more than 1 in 1000 residents have died of this infection—not 1 in 1000 of those infected, 1 in 1000 of everybody. These states are North Dakota, South Dakota, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. That is truly awful.

Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota and a member of President-elect Joseph Biden's coronavirus task force, said, "We are at risk of repeating what happened in April. I shudder to imagine what things might be like in two weeks. . . . Once you go over the case cliff, where you have so many cases that you overwhelm the system, basically at that point when you fall off that case cliff, you're going to see mortality rates go up substantially."

Pfizer has begun shipment of vaccines to be ready for distribution whenever FDA approval occurs. United Airlines started shipments this week. AstraZeneca has requested protocol changes to its trial in the US to accommodate testing the modified dosing schedule so that the half-then-full dose regimen can be tested.

While Black Friday crowds were certainly less today than in the past, there were still crowding situations in many malls and stores today. Many were wearing masks, but not all. Stores employed temperature checks and social distancing. Mall Santas are equipped with Plexiglas shields. Retailers have spread the discounts across more weeks in an attempt to avoid stores being packed this weekend.

We're looking at winter sports these days because most of those happen indoors where we know transmission of the virus is greater. Of course, outdoor is better; we know this. While some outdoor sports have been associated with outbreaks, the risk decreases in open air. In Minnesota, health authorities have announced that at least 10% of cases in schools were associated with sports; there were 46 outbreaks for hockey, 41 for volleyball, 35 for football, 20 for basketball, and 15 for soccer.

You put people in proximity in an indoor space while breathing heavily, and your odds of transmission go up. Remembering that, with a virus as new as this one, we're still working with incomplete information, here's what we know: You should assess risk according to ventilation, number and proximity of players, adherence to mask-wearing, and community rates of infection.

Mask-wearing reduces risk in any sport where the mask can stay dry (i.e., not swimming). There is now plenty of evidence that masks do not impede access to oxygen for athletes, so there really isn't a good reason to practice without one, however uncomfortable that is.

Moving air, by itself, is not all that useful; if all you're doing is blowing viruses around the place, you're not helping matters. What you're looking for is cross-ventilation, where there are doors and/or windows



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open on opposite sides of the space so that air moves out. Older buildings are frequently better than newer ones because they leak more, although state-of-the-art ones may be built with ventilation in mind—thinking specifically of ice rinks here where we've fairly recently come to realize the risks associated with the gas engines on Zambonis and built newer buildings to exhaust those fumes. What's good with Zambonis is good with virus. In other spaces, look for big overhead fans and large spaces. Higher ceilings are better.

Proximity is an issue, indoors or outdoors. Sports where players are in one another's face are a problem—hockey, basketball, wrestling. You can't ventilate well enough to overcome the risks associated with that sort of proximity.

Duration and crowding are other issues. The chances of inhaling virus increase the longer you're in a space and the more people who share that space. It's a good idea to assess the space you're contemplating for safety.

The last concern is community spread, which is, honestly, terrible pretty much everywhere. Your tolerance for this risk depends a lot on your overall tolerance for risk and your underlying health. It is also important to consider factors beyond the actual sports venue—locker room, after-game gatherings, etc.

We have new data, as yet unpublished (or peer-reviewed), from the Mayo clinic on mask-wearing. This was an experimental study using masked and unmasked mannequins to emit respiratory droplets and measuring spread at various distances. Findings were that disposable paper medical masks and two-layer cloth masks "were effective in reducing droplet transmission" and that there was "not a difference in mask types in terms of how well they blocked aerosol particles emitted by the wearer." They also found that overall, "particle counts were reduced with increasing distance which supports current CDC guidance of maintaining physical separation of six feet from others."

Elie Berbari, MD, chair of the department of infectious diseases at Mayo Clinic, said, "I think we had some knowledge about the importance of masks and there's been a number of studies that have showed masks are effective in blocking viruses, but what's really important here is just how effective masking is when done by both parties."

Rebel Hays, 4th grader, has been running in high school cross-country meets this fall. He's not old enough to compete on his own, but he's been acting as guide runner for a blind 9th grader, Paul Scott all year. Scott says, "He inspires me to run faster."

In order to keep up with kids so much older, Hays has to push himself hard, so he runs every day. "If I don't run this distance, it's like I'm cheating on Paul. I can't cheat on Paul so, I have to run this distance, or this time no matter what." They use a rope when running to keep Scott on course, and they've moved from two-mile races to 5Ks; their goal is to get the 5K to 20 minutes or less. Hays adds, "I'll admit it's pretty hard, but it's all for Paul. I have to do it."

His mom says he loves to run, and he loves to help others. When the high school was looking for volunteers, he was right there.

And once again, we have someone just carving out a little corner of the universe where he can make a difference, even at 10 years of age. See a need, meet a need. Easy when you do it one step at a time. Be well. I'll be back tomorrow.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Nov. 18	Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21	Nov. 22	Nov. 23	Nov. 24
Minnesota	236,949	242,043	249,906	256,700	262,952	270,157	276,500
Nebraska	103,805	106,617	109,280	111,661	113,029	114,061	115,921
Montana	49,398	50,582	51,818	53,293	54,542	55,580	56,381
Colorado	172,044	176,694	182,801	188,566	194,679	198,600	202,289
Wyoming	21,047	21,750	22,489	23,347	23,567	24,309	25,560
North Dakota	65,967	67,230	68,612	70,016	71,540	72,683	73,397
South Dakota	67,284	68,671	69,742	71,070	72,214	73,065	73,848
United States	11,360,125	11,530,345	11,718,867	11,913,945	12,090,469	12,247,487	12,421,216
US Deaths	248,707	250,548	252,564	254,424	255,905	256,783	257,707

Minnesota	+5,931	+5,094	+7,863	+6,794	+6,252	+7,205	+6,343
Nebraska	+2,204	+2,812	+2,663	+2,381	+1,368	+1,032	+1,860
Montana	+1,371	+1,184	+1,236	+1,475	+1,249	+1,038	+801
Colorado	+4,331	+4,650	+6,107	+5,765	+6,113	+3,921	+3,689
Wyoming	+1,162	+703	+739	+858	+220	+742	+1,251
North Dakota	+1,082	1,263	+1,382	+1,404	+1,524	+1,143	+714
South Dakota	+1,006	+1,387	+1,071	+1,328	+1,144	+851	+783
United States	+154,640	+170,220	+188,522	+195,078	+176,524	+157,018	+173,729
US Deaths	+1,487	+1,841	+2,016	+1,860	+1,481	+878	+924

	Nov. 25	Nov. 26	Nov. 28	Nov.29
Minnesota	282,916	289,303	295,001	304,023
Nebraska	117,682	120,076	124,066	125,323
Montana	57,504	58,565	59,796	60,845
Colorado	206,439	210,630	220,953	225,283
Wyoming	25,975	26,677	27,597	27,737
North Dakota	74,401	75,478	77,232	77,935
South Dakota	74,859	76,142	78,280	79,099
United States	12,597,333	12,780,410	13,092,661	13,247,386
US Deaths	259,962	262,282	264,866	266,074

Minnesota	+6,416	+6,387	+5,698	+9,022
Nebraska	+1,761	+2,294	+2,990	+1,257
Montana	+1,123	+1,061	+1,231	+1,049
Colorado	+4,150	+4,191	+10,323	+4,330
Wyoming	+415	+702	+920	+140
North Dakota	+1,004	+1,077	+1,754	+703
South Dakota	+1,011	+1,283	+2,138	+819
United States	+176,117	+183,077	+312,251	+154,725
US Deaths	+2,255	+2,320	+2,584	+1,208

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## November 28th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

I'm not sure of what to make of the numbers for today. Death totals are unusually high while those that recovered is extremely low. I'm guessing that that it make take a couple of days before the figures stabilize. The recovered number is only 41 for the state. Positive numbers I do like at just 819. Time will tell.

Deaths by county: Aurora-2, Beadle-1, Brown-1, Buffalo-2, Charles Mix-1, Codington-4, Davison-4, Day-2, Faulk-2, Grant-1, Gregory-1, Hamlin-1, Hanson-1, Hutchinson-1, Jackson-2, Lincoln-2, Minnehaha-11, Oglala Lakota-2, Pennington-4, Roberts-2, Tripp-2, Turner-2, Union-2, Walworth-1. There were 23 females and 31 males. Age groups: 50s=5, 60s=11, 70s=13, 80+=25.

Glacial Lakes hospital beds being occupied by COVID-19 patients as well as Minnehaha and Pennington counties: Walworth: 6 (+0) Occupied Beds.; Potter: 3 (+1) Occupied Beds; Hughes: 12 (-1) Occupied Beds, 3 (-1) ICU Beds, 2 (-1) Ventilation; Hand: 2 (-1) Occupied Beds; Faulk: 2 (+1) Occupied Beds; Edmunds: 2 (+0) Occupied Bed; McPherson: 1 (+0) Occupied Bed; Brown: 33 (-3) Occupied Beds, 5 (-1) ICU, 1 (-0) Ventilation; Spink: 1 (-2) Occupied Beds; Day: 3 (+1) Occupied Beds; Marshall: 1 (+0) Occupied Beds; Grant: 1 (-0) Occupied Beds; Codington: 8 (+1) Occupied Beds, 1 (-0) ICU, 1 (-0) Ventilation; None (some counties have no hospitals): Clark, Hyde, Stanley, Sully, Campbell, Roberts; Minnehaha: 270 (-15) Occupied

Beds, 62 (-2) ICU, 40 (-7) Ventilation; Pennington: 84 (+5) Occupied Beds, 14 (+0) ICU, 10 (+0) Ventilation.

Hills Region 116 (-3), Glacial Lakes Region 75 (-3) Sioux Empire Region 285 (-19), South Central Plains 63 (-5).

ICU Units: Total 95 (-9), BH 15 (-1), GL 9 (-2), SE 62 (-2), SCP 9 (-4).

Ventilation: Total 55 (-8), BH 10 (+0), GL 3 (-2), SE 40 (-7), SCP 2 (+1).

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 19% Covid, 42% Non-Covid, 39% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 47% Covid, 36% non-covid, 18% available.

Staffed Adult + Pediatric ICU Bed Capacity: 66% Occupied, 34% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 13% Covid, 14% Non-Covid, 74% Available

#### Brown County:

Total Positive: +44 (3588) Positivity Rate: 9.0%

Total Tests: +488 (27,575)

Total Individuals Tested: +77 (13,697)

Recovered: +9 (2,810)

Active Cases: +34 (757)

Ever Hospitalized: +4 (208)

Deaths: +1 (21)

Percent Recovered: 78.3%

Hospital Reports:

Avera St. Luke's: Covid-19 Occupied 25 (-2); ICU 2 (+0), Ventilation 0 (0).

Sanford Aberdeen: Covid-19 Occupied 8 (-1); ICU 3 (-1), Ventilation 1 (-0)

Sanford Webster: Covid-19 Occupied 3 (+1).

Marshall County Healthcare: Covid-19 Occupied: 1 (-1).

#### South Dakota:

Positive: +819 (79,099 total) Positivity Rate: 14.6%

Total Tests: 5,612 (601,521 total)

Total Individuals Tested: 1892 (325,376)

Hospitalized: +47 (4400 total). 539 currently hospitalized -30)

Deaths: +54 (942 total)

Recovered: +41 (61,051 total)

Active Cases: +724 (17,106)

Percent Recovered: 77.2%

Total COVID-19 Occupied Beds: 539 (-30), Black

Beadle (29) +13 positive, +1 recovered (488 active cases)

Brookings (16) +22 positive, +0 recovered (452 active cases)

Brown (21): +44 positive, +9 recovered (757 active cases)

Clark (1): +3 positive, +0 recovered (67 active cases)

Clay (10): +11 positive, +0 recovered (280 active cases)

Codington (50): +15 positive, +1 recovered (489 active cases)

Davison (36): +21 positive, +2 recovered (656 active cases)

Day (9): +8 positive, +0 recovered (121 active

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cases)

Edmunds (2): +3 positive, +0 recovered (47 active cases)

Faulk (10): +1 positive, +1 recovered (26 active cases)

Grant (12): +12 positive, +1 recovered (165 active cases)

Hanson (2): +7 positive, +1 recovered (89 active cases)

Hughes (18): +16 positive, +1 recovered (359 active cases)

Lawrence (22): +12 positive, +1 recovered (392 active cases)

Lincoln (51): +32 positive, +0 recovered (1105 active cases)

Marshall (3): +6 positive, +0 recovered (62 active cases)

McCook (15): +4 positive, +1 recovered (140 active cases)

McPherson (1): +2 positive, +0 recovery (48 active case)

Minnehaha (183): +202 positive, +13 recovered (4079 active cases)

Pennington (77): +90 positive, +8 recovered (1841 active cases)

Potter (1): +5 positive, +0 recovered (71 active cases)

Roberts (19): +12 positive, +2 recovered (163 active cases)

Spink (14): +3 positive, +1 recovered (118 active cases)

Walworth (12): +10 positive, +1 recovered (129 active cases)

## NORTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Daily Report, Nov. 27:

- 13.8% rolling 14-day positivity
- 797 new positives
- 7,302 susceptible test encounters
- 309 currently hospitalized (+7)
- 8,226 active cases (-119)
- 902 total deaths (+5)

## Yesterday

Global Cases

**61,765,098**

13,092,661 US

9,351,109 India

6,238,350 Brazil

2,248,209 France

2,223,500 Russia

1,628,208 Spain

1,593,260 United Kingdom

1,538,217 Italy

1,407,277 Argentina

1,290,510 Colombia

1,078,594 Mexico

1,038,649 Germany

973,593 Poland

956,347 Peru

Global Deaths

**1,445,154**

264,866 deaths  
US

171,974 deaths  
Brazil

136,200 deaths  
India

104,242 deaths  
Mexico

57,648 deaths  
United Kingdom

53,677 deaths  
Italy

51,999 deaths  
France

47,486 deaths  
Iran

## Today

**62,369,397**

13,247,386 US

9,392,919 India

6,290,272 Brazil

2,260,789 France

2,249,890 Russia

1,628,208 Spain

1,609,150 United Kingdom

1,564,532 Italy

1,413,375 Argentina

1,299,613 Colombia

1,101,403 Mexico

1,052,494 Germany

985,075 Poland

960,368 Peru

Global Deaths

**1,454,745**

266,074 deaths  
US

172,561 deaths  
Brazil

136,696 deaths  
India

105,459 deaths  
Mexico

58,127 deaths  
United Kingdom

54,363 deaths  
Italy

52,212 deaths  
France

47,874 deaths  
Iran

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)
Aurora	356	260	729	5	Substantial	29.41%
Beadle	2255	1738	4640	29	Substantial	31.43%
Bennett	313	259	1034	5	Substantial	20.33%
Bon Homme	1359	1196	1732	14	Substantial	38.50%
Brookings	2404	1936	8680	16	Substantial	15.98%
Brown	3588	2810	10109	21	Substantial	20.21%
Brule	563	450	1587	5	Substantial	20.99%
Buffalo	376	320	816	8	Substantial	32.61%
Butte	708	585	2515	13	Substantial	10.58%
Campbell	103	91	185	1	Moderate	28.57%
Charles Mix	850	574	3325	5	Substantial	28.29%
Clark	250	182	768	1	Substantial	21.02%
Clay	1349	1059	4107	10	Substantial	24.87%
Codington	2626	2087	7510	50	Substantial	22.71%
Corson	377	308	837	5	Substantial	49.23%
Custer	533	409	2090	7	Substantial	14.55%
Davison	2375	1683	5259	36	Substantial	35.89%
Day	368	238	1389	9	Substantial	20.65%
Deuel	302	233	907	2	Substantial	25.00%
Dewey	822	509	3377	3	Substantial	33.82%
Douglas	293	229	748	5	Substantial	18.58%
Edmunds	245	196	844	2	Substantial	9.14%
Fall River	359	288	2091	9	Substantial	7.02%
Faulk	277	241	554	10	Substantial	10.53%
Grant	610	433	1754	12	Substantial	31.12%
Gregory	435	331	962	20	Substantial	24.58%
Haakon	140	117	456	3	Substantial	8.51%
Hamlin	476	308	1365	4	Substantial	20.69%
Hand	281	209	649	1	Substantial	31.96%
Hanson	261	170	531	2	Substantial	46.15%
Harding	72	62	133	0	Minimal	14.29%
Hughes	1640	1263	4889	18	Substantial	14.50%
Hutchinson	562	385	1835	8	Substantial	23.81%

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Hyde	124	83	339	0	Substantial	25.53%
Jackson	198	155	816	8	Substantial	11.90%
Jerauld	237	187	437	13	Substantial	20.69%
Jones	61	46	150	0	Moderate	30.30%
Kingsbury	437	312	1250	9	Substantial	18.72%
Lake	853	632	2517	10	Substantial	18.91%
Lawrence	1978	1564	6660	22	Substantial	11.76%
Lincoln	5353	4197	15512	51	Substantial	27.09%
Lyman	452	355	1555	8	Substantial	24.17%
Marshall	176	111	904	3	Substantial	25.78%
McCook	589	434	1265	15	Substantial	33.12%
McPherson	148	99	465	1	Substantial	12.64%
Meade	1715	1354	5993	13	Substantial	13.69%
Mellette	172	136	617	1	Substantial	54.55%
Miner	188	152	463	5	Moderate	8.82%
Minnehaha	20247	15985	60836	183	Substantial	24.52%
Moody	413	298	1478	10	Substantial	32.50%
Oglala Lakota	1619	1270	5933	23	Substantial	25.95%
Pennington	8465	6547	29780	77	Substantial	16.13%
Perkins	188	112	547	2	Substantial	49.07%
Potter	265	193	651	1	Substantial	12.98%
Roberts	698	516	3586	19	Substantial	22.38%
Sanborn	270	171	540	1	Substantial	37.25%
Spink	548	414	1745	14	Substantial	16.82%
Stanley	227	165	678	0	Substantial	19.68%
Sully	91	68	202	3	Substantial	23.40%
Todd	941	694	3589	12	Substantial	61.54%
Tripp	505	371	1240	4	Substantial	33.91%
Turner	777	614	2115	42	Substantial	17.80%
Union	1237	967	4787	25	Substantial	25.64%
Walworth	476	335	1455	12	Substantial	27.57%
Yankton	1751	1234	7509	9	Substantial	16.65%
Ziebach	172	121	600	7	Substantial	27.27%
Unassigned	0	0	1656	0		

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## South Dakota



### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	2731	0
10-19 years	8612	0
20-29 years	14977	2
30-39 years	13237	9
40-49 years	11317	17
50-59 years	11222	58
60-69 years	8851	124
70-79 years	4580	202
80+ years	3572	530

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	41274	463
Male	37825	479

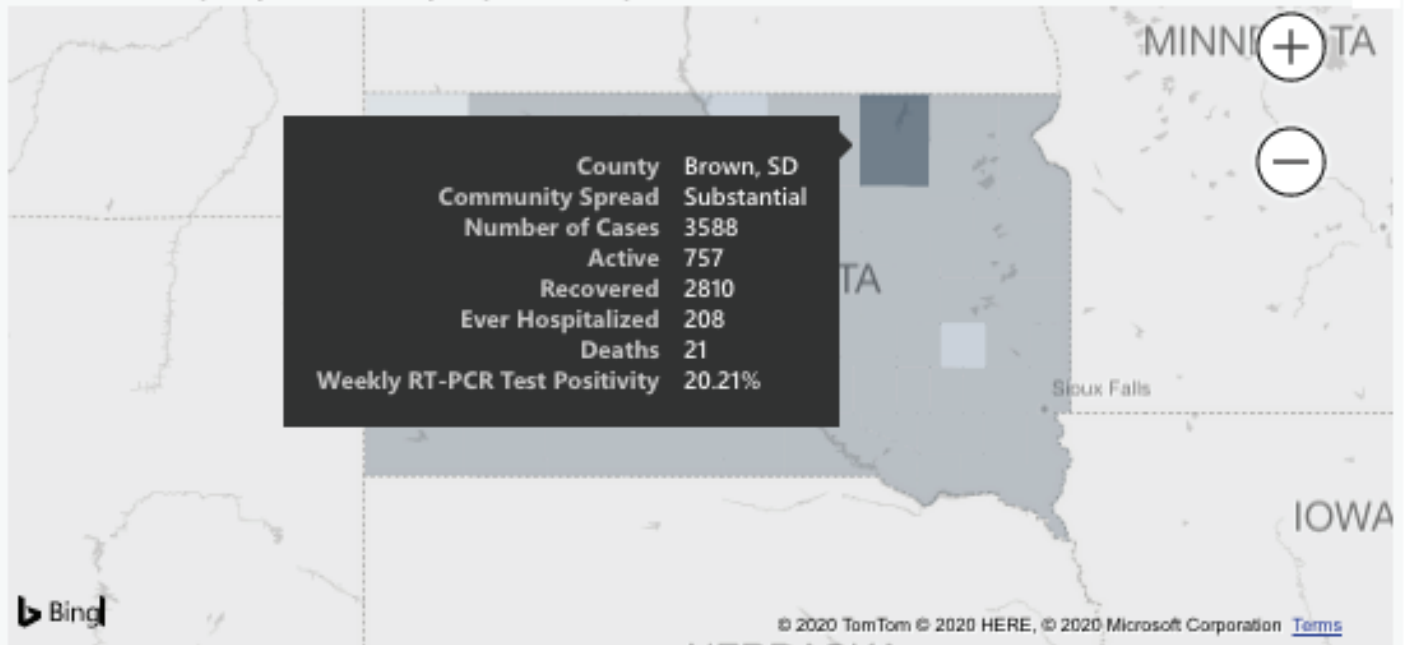
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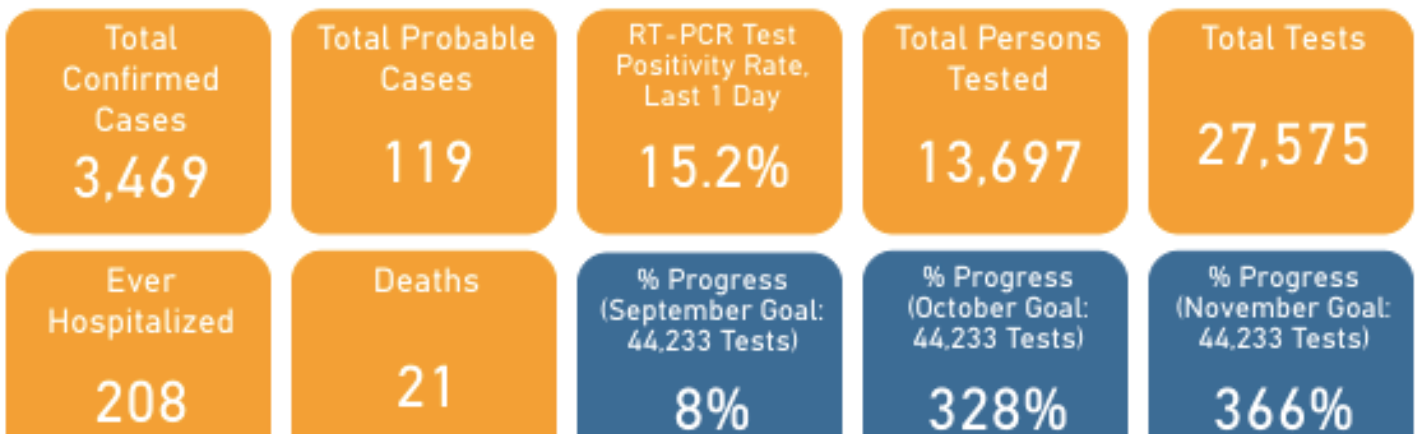
## Brown County



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.





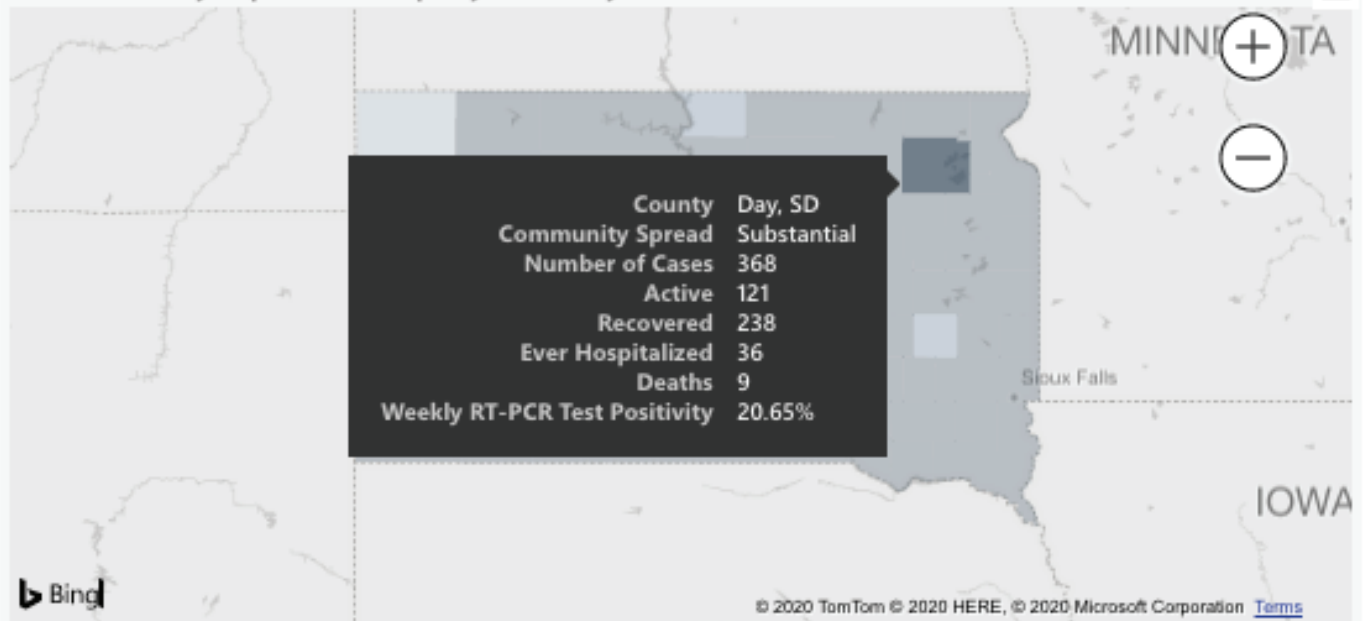
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## Day County

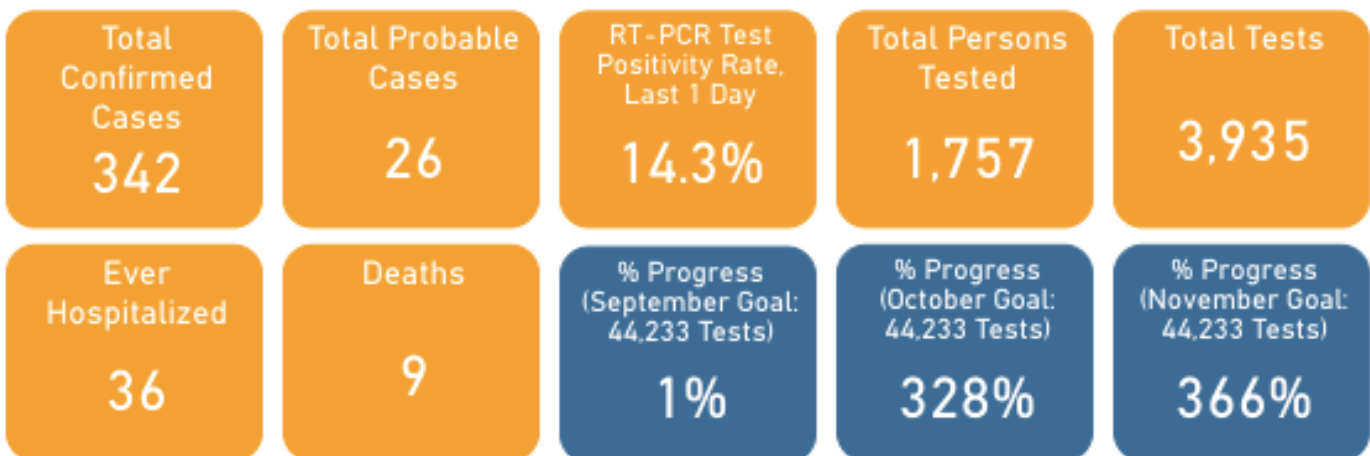


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Minimal ● Moderate ● Substantial

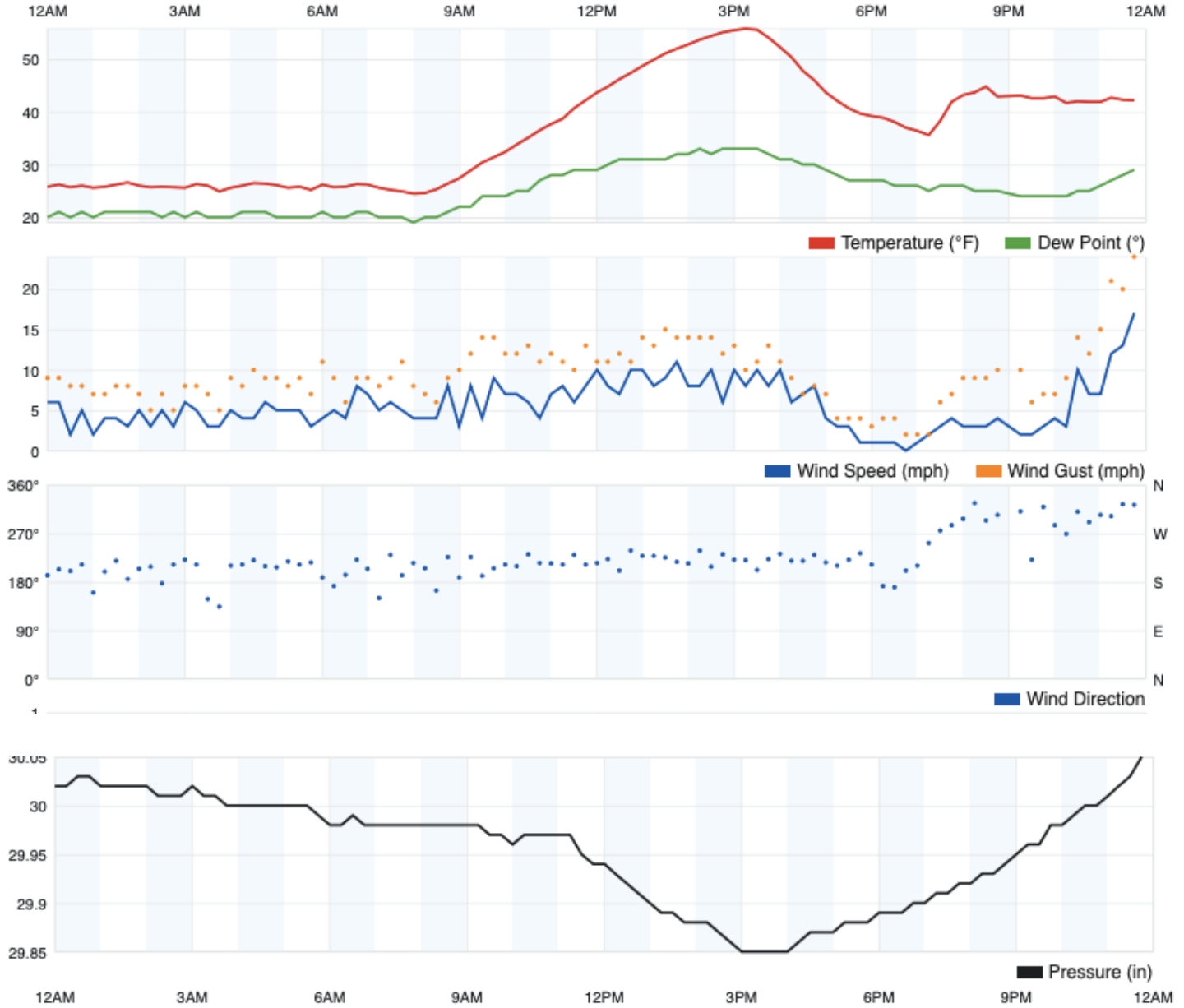
Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today

Tonight

Monday

Monday  
Night

Tuesday



Becoming  
Sunny and  
Breezy

Mostly Clear

Sunny

Mostly Clear

Partly Sunny

High: 35 °F

Low: 11 °F

High: 40 °F

Low: 17 °F

High: 38 °F

**Today**

- *Partly Sunny, Cold and Breezy.*
- *Highs 30-43<sup>o</sup>*

**Tonight**

- *Mostly Clear*
- *Lows 10-17<sup>o</sup>*

**Monday**

- *Mostly Sunny and Milder*
- *Highs 33-52<sup>o</sup>*

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Graphics Created 11/29/2020 7:09 AM

Dry conditions are expected to continue through early this week. However, temperatures today will be cold, but they'll turn milder for the beginning of the work week. #sdwx #mnwx

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## Today in Weather History

November 29, 1896: The mercury plunged to 51 degrees below zero at Havre Montana. It marked the culmination of a two week long cold wave. A stagnate high-pressure area similar to those over Siberia during the winter was the cause. During the month of November temperatures across Montana and the Dakotas averaged 15 to 25 degrees below normal. Aberdeen's low temperature on this day was 25 degrees below zero. The average temperature for the month was 9.7 degrees, or 19.6 degrees below normal.

November 29, 1996: Widespread freezing rain laid down a thick layer of ice across a large part of north-east South Dakota and west central Minnesota on the 29th and 30th, making driving on area highways and Interstate 29 treacherous. Later on the 29th, the freezing rain changed over to snow. Snowfall amounts ranged from 2 to 4 inches across the area. Numerous accidents occurred throughout the weekend with mainly minor injuries. Many cars and trucks also went into ditches. The South Dakota Highway Patrol reported in, one three hour period that along I-29, from the Clear Lake exit to the Codington County line 40 to 45 vehicles were in the ditch. Many activities and sporting events were also postponed or cancelled.

November 29, 2002: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, gusting to near 70 mph, occurred much of the afternoon across central and north central South Dakota. A tractor-trailer, carrying a load of livestock, was overturned on Highway 12 about three miles east of Mobridge. The tractor was totaled, four cattle were killed, and the driver suffered minor injuries. High winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to near 60 mph, also occurred across Roberts and Grant counties in the late afternoon hours.

November 29, 1991: A tornado struck southeast Springfield, Missouri, causing F4 damage. Shortly after touchdown, the tornado reached F3 intensity, approximately 3 miles north of the town of Nixa. While crossing Highway 65, the tornado picked up a truck and dropped it onto a frontage road, killing one passenger and injuring ten others. The tornado intensified to F4 strength as it moved through the Woodbridge and Natural Bridge Estates subdivisions where 15 homes were destroyed. Altogether, two people were killed and 64 others were injured.

1896 - The mercury plunged to 51 degrees below zero at Havre, MT. It marked the culmination of a two week long cold wave caused by a stagnate high pressure area similar to those over Siberia during the winter. During the month of November temperatures across Montana and the Dakotas averaged 15 to 25 degrees below normal. (David Ludlum)

1969 - Dense fog along the Jersey Turnpike resulted in a chain reaction of vehicle collisions during the morning rush hour. A propane truck jackknifed and was struck by a trailer truck, and other vehicles piled into the fiery mass. (David Ludlum)

1975 - Red River was buried under 34 inches of snow in 24 hours, establishing a record for the state of New Mexico. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - The temperature at Bismarck, ND, plunged to 30 degrees below zero to establish their record low for the month of November. The high that day was 4 degrees below zero. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Snow blanketed the Upper Mississippi Valley, with heavy snow reported near Lake Superior. Up to ten inches of snow was reported in Douglas County and Bayfield County of Wisconsin. Brule WI received nine inches of snow. Heavy rain soaked the Middle Atlantic Coast States, while gale force winds lashed the coastline. Flooding was reported in Maryland and Virginia. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Nine inches of snow at Alta UT brought their total for the month to 164 inches, surpassing their previous November record of 144 inches. Snowbird UT, also in the Little Cottonwood Valley, surpassed their November record of 118 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong Santa Ana winds diminished over southern California, but record cold was reported in some of the California valleys, with readings of 27 degrees at Redding and 31 degrees at Bakersfield. Gale force winds, gusting to 44 mph at Milwaukee WI, produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region. Sault Ste Marie MI finished the month of November with a record 46.8 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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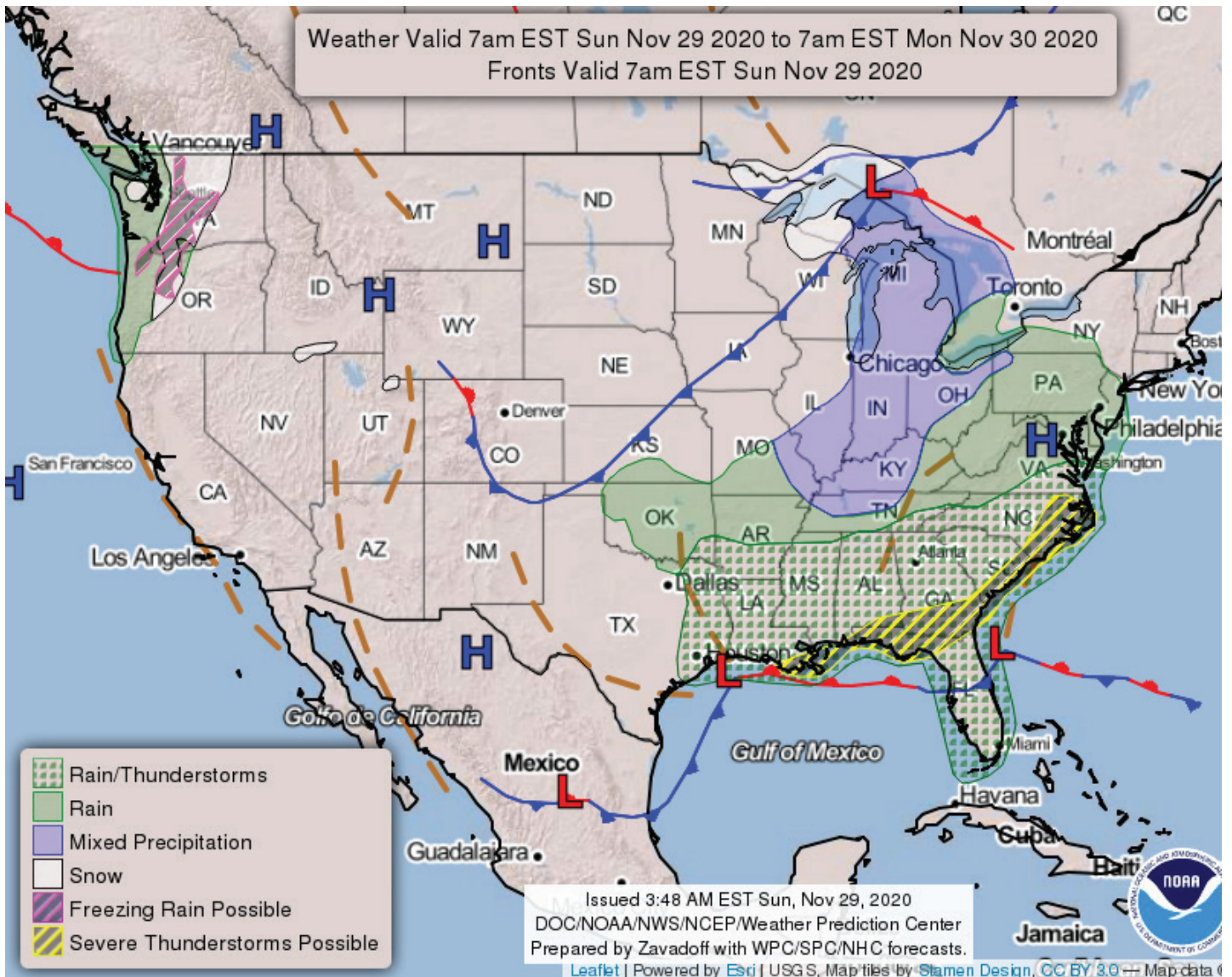
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 56 °F at 3:10 PM**  
**Low Temp: 24 °F at 7:53 AM**  
**Wind: 27 mph at 11:52 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 57° in 2017**  
**Record Low: -26° in 1964**  
**Average High: 32°F**  
**Average Low: 12°F**  
**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.69**  
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.18**  
**Average Precip to date: 21.16**  
**Precip Year to Date: 16.52**  
**Sunset Tonight: 4:53 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53 a.m.**



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## **"DAILY PLANNING GUIDE"**

Nearly all of us have some method for planning our daily activities. With no plan to follow, our time will likely be wasted and our days meaningless. On the other hand, often our carefully detailed plans can be completely disrupted by an emergency or unexpected demand. In Psalm 92, however, we find a simple way to open and close each day and bring God's presence into our lives.

The Psalmist suggests that we begin the day with a "proclamation" - we are to "proclaim the love of God." If we begin each day by proclaiming the love that God has for us, it will remind us that we are safe and secure in His love and that nothing or no one can destroy us. Then, as the day unfolds and when the unexpected occurs, and things seem upside down, we know that He is holding us close to Himself and that He will protect us from that which might harm us. It is in His love that we are safe and secure. As Paul wrote, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is His love that keeps us close to Him, and no one or nothing can break this bond that comes from Him.

As we end each day, we are advised to praise God for His faithfulness. Indeed, by His grace, He has brought us through another day, and He has proven Himself to be trustworthy. Even when tragedy strikes or the light of His presence is dim, we have the assurance that He is with us.

If "things" look bad today, we can always look back at our "yesterdays" and see God at work in our lives and praise Him for His trustworthiness and faithfulness.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your unconditional, unfathomable love! May we always be aware of Your love and faithfulness, peace and presence. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening. Psalm 92:2

## The Life of Joyce Bawek

Private family Mass of Christian Burial for Joyce Bawek, 90, of Conde will be 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 1st at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Father Tom Hartman will officiate. Services will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and will also be broadcast on GDIRADIO at 89.3 FM, available within 1 mile of Groton. Inurnment will follow in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Conde under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Private visitation will be held for one hour prior to services on Tuesday. Masks are encouraged and will be available.

Joyce passed away peacefully Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at her home in Conde surrounded by her family.

Joyce Darlene Nehls was born November 12, 1930, to John and Stella (Simpson) Nehls in Ferney, South Dakota. She grew up in Ferney, where she worked on the family farm with her parents and attended country school. She graduated from Groton High school in 1949.

Joyce was united in marriage with Morris Bawek on July 18, 1949, in Conde. Together, they raised 7 children. They made their home in various places before settling down in 1955, when they moved to Grenville. There, they opened and ran a gas station together, and she also worked as Sub-Postmaster. They eventually bought into a gravel business, and in 1974, the family moved to Conde to operate Bawek Construction, for which Joyce was the bookkeeper. Later, she was employed at the Conde School, where she spent 13 years working as a paraprofessional. Some

of her hobbies included sewing, jigsaw puzzles, playing cards, word searches, bird watching, tending to her beautiful flowers, as well as meeting and holding her grand babies and great-grandbabies.

Joyce was a member of both the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grenville and St. John's Catholic Church in Conde, both of which she served on the Altar Society. She was a member of the Conde City Board for many years. Joyce was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She was a fabulous cook and hostess. She was known for her kind heart and warm personality by everyone who knew her. She was always a listening ear and comfort to all who needed it.

Celebrating her life through memories are her children: Brenda (George) Snaza of Bridgewater, SD; Pam Monson of Aberdeen, SD; Barry (Deanna) Bawek of Conde, SD; Don (Barb) Bawek of Grenville, SD; Cindy (Curt) Haskell of Conde, SD; and Cheryl (Jim) Saylor of Aberdeen, SD; Son-in-law Lester Lentsch of Burnsville, MN; 22 grandchildren; 42 great-grand children; 11 great-great grandchildren; brother, Lester Nehls of Groton, SD; sister, Florence Schaller of Phoenix, AZ; and her special dog Summer.

Preceding her in death were her loving husband, Morris; parents, John and Stella Nehls; her brothers Ralph Nehls and Dick Nehls; daughter Bonnie (Bawek) Lentsch; and Grandson Isaiah Haskell along with multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren lost to miscarriages.

Our sweet mother will be missed by all. We will forever be grateful that she was our mama and hero.



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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter 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
- 10/30/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- **CANCELLED** 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 Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

08-11-12-17-31

(eight, eleven, twelve, seventeen, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

07-16-23-25-52, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 3

(seven, sixteen, twenty-three, twenty-five, fifty-two; Star Ball: seven; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.4 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$229 million

Powerball

08-12-18-44-51, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(eight, twelve, eighteen, forty-four, fifty-one; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$216 million

### No. 1 South Carolina stumbles, rallies to beat South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — After winning by 81 in its season opener, South Carolina found a tougher fight against South Dakota.

Destanni Henderson and Zia Cooke each scored 19 points, and the top-ranked Gamecocks pulled away after halftime for an 81-71 win in the Bad Boy Mowers Crossover Classic on Saturday.

“We’re going to be tested,” South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. “We were tested today. We’re going to be tested tomorrow. We could have scheduled differently, but this type of competition is the best type of teacher.”

Henderson finished two points shy of a career high. She was 8 of 13 from the floor and also had nine rebounds.

Chloe Lamb led South Dakota (0-1) with 18 points, and Hannah Sjerven added 15 points and 12 rebounds.

South Carolina (2-0) trailed by five during the second quarter and the game was tied 37-37 at halftime before the Gamecocks pulled away. They outscored the Coyotes 31-11 in the third quarter, and Cooke’s basket with 19 seconds left gave the Gamecocks a 20-point lead entering the final frame.

“Nothing changed,” Staley said. “I thought South Dakota played great basketball and we played subpar basketball. I thought we looked unorganized at times. We looked rushed. I knew we had another gear in us. When that gear kicked in, I thought we did a great job of exploding for a 31-point third quarter.”

They stretched the advantage to 21 in the fourth quarter before South Dakota cut it to seven with just under a minute to play.

BIG PICTURE

South Carolina’s size eventually wore down the Coyotes. The Gamecocks outrebounded South Dakota 45-37 and had 15 offensive boards.

SHE SAID IT

“This is my 21st year of coaching, and an old coach told me that a marathon isn’t won in the first mile,” Staley said about getting down in the second quarter. “You have to have a little bit of trust in your players that some of your good habits will kick in, and they did.”

ROLE PLAYER

South Carolina’s Laeticia Amihere was 1 for 8 from the floor in the first half. She finished with 11 points

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and nine rebounds on 4-of-12 shooting.

"I just needed to go stronger in the paint," she said. "I think in the first half I was going soft. I think I could be a lot stronger in the paint. Once I'm doing that — trying to get contact — and finishing through contact, is really what helped me in the second half."

UP NEXT

South Carolina plays Gonzaga in the Bad Boy Mowers Crossover Classic on Tuesday at 3 p.m. ET.

South Dakota plays Gonzaga on Wednesday at 3 p.m. ET.

<https://apnews.com/hub/womens-college-basketball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Rapid City to consider mask mandate at special meeting

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Council will consider a mask mandate for the city at a special session meeting on Monday.

The council will consider choosing between two ordinances and a resolution requiring face coverings, The Rapid City Journal reported.

One ordinance specifies masks to be required in public indoor spaces. Officials said details of a second ordinance will be posted before the meeting on Monday.

The resolution would require face coverings in certain situations, but would have no enforcement and no penalties. It also includes exemptions, including young children, law enforcement and those attending religious services.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem opposes mask mandates or other government interventions aimed at slowing the spread of infections. Cities across the state have moved to pass their own mask requirements.

Sioux Falls, the largest city in South Dakota, approved a mask mandate earlier this month. The mandate applies to retail businesses and public buildings, but does not carry a penalty.

South Dakota on Saturday reported 54 deaths from COVID-19, pushing the statewide death toll to 942 since the pandemic began.

Health officials also reported that 721 people have tested positive for the coronavirus since Friday.

The state has the nation's second-highest number of new cases per capita in the last two weeks. One in every 122 people in the state tested positive in the past week.

Hospitalizations from the virus have remained mostly steady in recent days, with 539 people in the state's hospitals on Saturday.

## Greer, Selland lead South Dakota State women by No. 15 Iowa

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Haley Greer scored 20 points, Myah Selland added 19 and South Dakota State defeated No. 15 Iowa 76-69 on Saturday.

Greer, a graduate transfer from Colgate, had three of her four 3-pointers in the first half when the Jackrabbits took a 37-33 lead. Selland, who only played in nine games last season because of a foot injury, had 12 in the second half.

South Dakota State (1-0) went 13 for 13 from the foul line in the fourth quarter and 23 of 26 in the game to hold off the Cyclones for their 12th program win over a ranked opponent.

Iowa State (1-1), playing without head coach Bill Fennelly because of COVID-19 protocol, shot just 32%, going 6 of 32 (19%) from 3-point range.

All-American Ashley Joens scored 35 points for the Cyclones. She had 22 of their 33 points in the first half. She also had 12 rebounds.

<https://apnews.com/hub/womens-college-basketball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## 3 inmates walk away from Yankton minimum security prison

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say three inmates have walked away from a minimum-security state prison in Yankton.

Officials at the Yankton Community Work Center say inmates Seth Boocock, Corey Bales and Matthew Fritz-Chappell all left the facility without authorization shortly after 11 p.m. on Friday.

Boocock is serving more than 10 years for aggravated assault. Bales is serving a nine years on multiple sentences for identity theft, forgery and possession of a controlled substance. Fritz-Chappell is serving a more than five years for possession of alcohol or marijuana by an inmate.

The men could face charges of second-degree escape, punishable by up to five years in prison, authorities said.

## Pandemic forces missionaries to do their work at home

By TRENT ABREGO Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints typically serve across the globe, but COVID-19 has thrown up obstacles and forced relocations of missionaries.

Since the pandemic began, missionaries who were serving in different countries were forced to return to their home country. In total, the church had more than 75,000 missionaries across 407 missions.

Once COVID-19 caused relocations, missionaries were given the opportunity to opt out, end their missionary work and wait a year. In total, there were about 25,000 missionaries that took the opportunity, according to North Dakota Bismarck Mission President Scott Howell.

During missionary assignments, the elders and sisters both work in communities. The brothers serve for two years, while the sisters serve for 18 months, the Aberdeen American News reported.

"It's been a unique time for these young people, they are all volunteers. They put aside their education, their girlfriends or boyfriends, everything for two years." Lori Howell, Scott's wife said. "I just thought it was wonderful to see so many who want to come back out and serve."

In the North Dakota Bismarck Mission, which serves North Dakota, South Dakota and parts of Minnesota, Montana and Nebraska, there are currently 122 missionaries on 80 different missions.

Of those in the North Dakota Bismarck Mission, 43 missionaries are from different countries and 23 languages are spoken among the group.

In Aberdeen, there are six missionaries from across the United States from California to Kentucky. Before the relocation, the missionaries served in New Zealand, Mexico, Samoa, Honduras and Brazil.

In a typical year, Aberdeen usually has one or two missionaries, according to Elder Zachary Matthews, the North Dakota Bismarck Mission Communication Specialist.

Community service projects have been a big part of the Aberdeen missionaries.

"We've volunteered at thrift stores, both Salvation Army and Kids Against Hunger," Sister Baldwin, a missionary in Aberdeen said. "We have also had the opportunity to work with the local Girl Scouts group and other miscellaneous service projects such as painting and yard work."

Since COVID-19, missionaries are unable to go door-to-door to spread their word, so they had to get creative.

"We've been spending a lot of our time doing service in the communities, working with the food banks, doing services for individuals and even making masks," Matthews said.

Missionaries are also working on a family history project and are posting pictures of graves onto a website database, billiongraves.com, so people can discover their genealogy. Currently, the missionaries have taken pictures of upwards to 200,000 graves, according to Scott Howell.

Missionaries have also been active in the Dickinson, North Dakota area – where they help ranchers and farmers and even guide pheasant hunters.

There has also been an increase in social media use by getting their word out through platforms like Facebook, Instagram and even Twitter.

"We're learning there's a lot more effective means (social media) of finding those who are ready to hear

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this message," Matthews said. "Here in North Dakota or South Dakota, we're able to find the people we need to find through social media."

While COVID-19 has changed how the Church of Latter-Day Saints operates, it doesn't mean they are doing less work – in fact, they are busier.

"We're actually starting to be busier than we were before COVID-19, as we're learning new ways to do missionary work," Matthews said.

It doesn't show signs of slowing down anytime soon, either.

"We're getting brand new missionaries that we're going to have to train in the Dakotas, and hopefully next year they can eventually go to the countries that they were assigned," Howell said.

## The Latest: Pope urges finding good even from pandemic

By The Associated Press undefined

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is encouraging people to try to take away something good "even from the difficult situation that the pandemic forces on us."

Addressing faithful gathered a safe distance apart in vast St. Peter's Square on Sunday, Francis offered these suggestions: "greater sobriety, discrete and respectful attention to neighbors who might be in need, some moments of prayer in the family with simplicity."

Francis said that "these three things will help us a lot." During the COVID-19 pandemic, the pontiff has often highlighted the economic and social suffering of many.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VIRUS OUTBREAK:

- With no action by Washington, states race to offer virus aid
- North Korea toughens rules of entry to sea to fight virus
- When Turkey changed the way it reports COVID-19 infections, it confirmed what many long suspected: The country faces an alarming surge of cases.
- The European plazas where people gather at Christmas are now just empty squares due to the pandemic..

Follow AP's coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

PARIS — French churches, mosques and synagogues can open their doors again to worshippers, but only a few of them, as France cautiously starts reopening after a second virus lockdown.

Some churches may defy the 30-person limit which they believe is too unreasonable, and other sites may stay closed until they can fully reopen.

Farid Kachour, secretary general of the association running the mosque of Montermeil, a heavily immigrant suburb northeast of Paris, says that his mosque simply wouldn't open as long as there is a 30-person limit.

"We can't choose people" allowed to enter for prayer. "We don't want to create discontent among the faithful," he said.

Kachour noted that Muslims pray five times a day and that the mosque would need 40 services a day to allow all the faithful to pray.

BAGHDAD — Iraq has reopened its schools amid a raging pandemic that has claimed more than 12,000 lives across the country, with kids returning to socially-distanced classrooms and other safety measures Sunday.

Students will be attending school only one day per week according to a rotation system meant to prevent crowding and the spread of the new coronavirus, according to the Education Ministry.

Iraq, like much of the rest of the world, has resorted to distance learning after schools closed in February

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due to the virus outbreak. But online education is out of reach for many in a country with poor infrastructure that has suffered decades of war.

Iraq has the second-highest outbreak and number of deaths in the Middle East region after Iran, with more than 500,000 confirmed cases, according to Health Ministry figures.

Daily infection rates average 2,400 cases per day — a slower rate than in previous weeks — but health workers say the number may be higher as many Iraqis with symptoms choose to stay home and avoid hospitals to get tested.

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has recorded 43 more deaths and 2,829 new COVID-19 cases. With the new figures, Pakistan's tally of COVID-19 deaths is now 7,985.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong has reported 115 new coronavirus infections, the first time it has seen cases in the triple digits since Aug. 2.

The government on Sunday also announced that classes at kindergarten, primary and secondary schools will be shut for the rest of the year in light of the worsening coronavirus situation in the city.

Of the 115 infections reported Sunday, 24 were untraceable. Another 62 were linked to recent outbreaks in dance studios across the city, taking the total number of infections in that cluster to 479, health officials said.

Employees and recent guests at three restaurants in the city have also been ordered to undergo compulsory testing after multiple positive cases had been linked to the venues.

Hong Kong has reported 6,239 coronavirus infections since the pandemic began, with 109 deaths.

PRAGUE — The Czech government has announced it is easing measures imposed to contain coronavirus infections.

Sunday's move was made possible by the falling numbers of new confirmed cases.

Health Minister Jan Blatny says all stores, restaurants and bars can reopen on Thursday while a ban on Sunday's sales is lifted.

Restaurants can be opened 6 a.m.-10 p.m. with their capacity limited to 50%. Stores and shopping centers still have to limit the number of shoppers.

An overnight curfew and a ban on drinking alcohol in public are also lifted.

Services such as hair salons, fitness centers and gyms are allowed to reopen together with zoo parks, museums and galleries.

The day-to-day increase of new cases reached 2,667 on Saturday.

The country of almost 10.7 million has had 518,649 confirmed cases since the pandemic began, with 8,054 fatalities.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea is shutting down indoor gyms offering intense workout classes and banning year-end parties at hotels in the greater Seoul area to fight the virus.

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said Sunday authorities will also ban the operation of private music institutes teaching singing and wind instruments and saunas at public bath houses in the capital area. He said fitness centers, cafes and libraries operating inside apartment complexes will also be closed. The new steps will be effective from Tuesday.

The country reported 450 new cases on Sunday. South Korea on Thursday registered more than 500 new virus cases for the first time in eight months.

PHOENIX — University of Arizona researchers say the current surge in the coronavirus outbreak will present the state with a hospital crisis that could become a disaster unless the state takes steps such as ordering a three-week stay-home shutdown and implementing a statewide mask mandate.

Members of the university's COVID Modeling Team said failing to take such steps would be like facing a

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major forest fire without evacuation orders. It also recommends providing economic aid to affected small businesses and families and preventing evictions and foreclosures.

The team has tracked the outbreak since last spring and made its recommendations in a letter Friday to the state Department of Health Services.

Many local governments have imposed mask mandates since Gov. Doug Ducey last summer lifted a prohibition on such orders. The local mandates cover an estimated 90% of the state's population but enforcement is lax or nonexistent in some places.

Arizona on Saturday reported 4,136 additional known COVID-19 cases and 36 more deaths.

**SALEM, Oregon** — The Oregon Health Authority reported 1,669 new confirmed COVID-19 cases Saturday, the state's largest daily case count since the start of the pandemic.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Oregon has now surpassed 72,000 and the death toll stands at 896.

The number of COVID-19 related hospitalizations also continues to surge with 529 people hospitalized — a 209% increase since the start of the month.

In an effort to slow down the spread of the virus, Gov. Kate Brown implemented a statewide two-week "freeze." Until Dec. 3, restaurants are limited to take-out only, social gatherings can not be more than six people and gyms, among other facilities, are closed.

**CARSON CITY, Nevada** — Nevada on Saturday reported nearly 3,000 additional known COVID-19 cases as related hospitalizations continued in large numbers.

The state's coronavirus dashboard reported 2,912 additional cases and 24 more deaths, elevating the statewide totals to more than 146,000 cases and nearly 2,100 deaths.

As of Friday, 1,338 people confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 were hospitalized in Nevada. The state set a record Wednesday with 1,414 COVID-19 patients. Concerned by the virus' continued spread, Gov. Steve Sisolak on Nov. 22 announced the state's most expansive mask mandate to date and reduced the capacity at casinos, restaurants, bars and many other businesses from 50% to 25%.

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Oklahoma health officials reported a one-day record of more than 6,000 newly confirmed coronavirus cases Saturday as experts warned the Thanksgiving holiday may make testing numbers erratic.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health reported 6,257 new cases of COVID-19 and 13 more deaths linked to the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

The record daily case count comes as the pandemic has grown worse across the state.

Infectious diseases experts have warned the holiday could cause spikes in testing and delays in processing that may make the resulting figures difficult to interpret.

**PHOENIX** — Arizona reported 4,136 additional known COVID-19 cases and 36 more deaths on Saturday. That increases the state's totals to 322,774 cases and 6,624 deaths.

The Department of Health Services' coronavirus dashboard also reports that hospitalizations related to COVID-19 reached 2,383 as of Friday, including 553 patients in beds in intensive care units.

Seven-day rolling averages of daily new cases, daily deaths and COVID-19 testing positivity in Arizona all increased in the past two weeks. That's according to data from The COVID Tracking Project and Johns Hopkins University.

## Faith takes the forefront as Georgia Senate runoffs heat up

By ELANA SCHOR and BEN NADLER Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Bishop Reginald Jackson stepped to the microphone at a drive-in rally outside a church in southwest Atlanta as his voice carried over a loudspeaker and the radio to people gathered in, around

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and on top of cars that filled the parking lot.

"Let's keep Georgia blue," Jackson said. "Let's elect Jon Ossoff, Raphael Warnock to the United States Senate." The presiding bishop of more than 400 African Methodist Episcopal churches in Georgia added a pastoral flourish as horns honked and supporters cheered: "If I have a witness, somebody say amen!"

As Georgia becomes the nation's political hotspot this winter before twin runoff elections Jan. 5 that will determine control of the Senate, faith-based organizing is heating up.

Conservative Christians are rallying behind Republican Sens. Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, while Black churches and liberal-leaning Jewish groups are backing Democratic challengers Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff. The Democrats' fates are seen as intertwined in a state that this year turned blue in the presidential election for the first time since 1992 by a razor-thin margin.

"These runoffs are critically important," Jackson said. "We want to make sure there is no decrease in turnout."

Across Georgia, the African Methodist Episcopal Church is implementing a program designed to ensure its members, and Black voters overall, cast ballots in the runoff — focusing on votes by mail and early in-person voting. Pastors at each church remind tens of thousands of congregants every week to apply for an absentee ballot and of early voting dates, Jackson said in an interview. Each local church also follows up with congregants to make sure they have a plan to vote.

The New Georgia Project, a nonpartisan voter mobilization group founded by Democrat Stacey Abrams, who ran for governor in 2018, is also preparing to tap the influence of faith communities in stoking turnout.

Rev. Billy Honor, director of faith organizing at the group, said the conservative Christian Faith & Freedom Coalition — founded by former Georgia GOP chairman Ralph Reed — has long positioned Georgia "as the home of evangelical fundamentalist types when it comes to the political space."

"But the truth is, for a very long time, there has been an active, effective movement of progressive-minded, justice-centered clergy" who have worked in the state on voting rights, health care and other issues, Honor added. He said Warnock was part of that work before his candidacy. Warnock is senior pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, the congregation led by the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Meanwhile, Loeffler and Perdue can expect to benefit from a conservative Christian base that has long boosted the state's Republicans. Faith & Freedom made Georgia one of its top three spending targets in a \$50 million get-out-the-vote program during the general election and plans increased organizing for the runoffs.

The reach of "the evangelical vote in Georgia is very large and very strong," Timothy Head, the group's executive director, said in an interview.

Head noted that while President Donald Trump kept a strong hold on white evangelical voters this year, Perdue out-performed Trump in Georgia during the general election. President-elect Joe Biden may have won over some evangelicals by contrasting his character with that of Trump, Head said, but he argued that the same sort of case would be harder for Democrats to make against Loeffler and Perdue.

Another faith-focused conservative group, the legislative affiliate of the Family Research Council, is holding trainings and pastor briefings before the runoffs. The anti-abortion group Susan B. Anthony List, whose president advised Trump's reelection campaign on Catholic outreach, has announced a \$4.1 million plan to boost Loeffler and Perdue through a partner political action committee.

Religious issues already have become a campaign flashpoint in the runoff. The GOP has resurfaced excerpts from past Warnock sermons to assail him as insufficiently supportive of the military as well as anti-Israel. The Democrat signed a letter last year comparing Israel's policy toward Palestinians to "previous oppressive regimes" and criticized it in a 2018 sermon, while also calling for a two-state solution in the region.

Warnock pushed back in a recently released television ad, saying the attacks are "trying to scare people by taking things I've said out of context from over 25 years of being a pastor."

One group criticizing Warnock as too left-leaning on Israel, the Republican Jewish Coalition, is also mobilizing on behalf of the GOP incumbents.

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Jewish Democrats in Georgia predicted that the GOP attack on Warnock's Israel record would fall flat, citing his record of friendship with the Jewish community through his pulpit at Ebenezer.

Sherry Frank, president of the Atlanta section of the National Council of Jewish Women, said she sees "no doubt in the Jewish community about (Warnock's) stance on Israel and anti-Semitism." Frank's group is conducting nonpartisan voter turnout work for the runoffs.

Georgia's Jewish Democrats also see, in Ossoff and Warnock, candidates whose joint push for the Senate harkens back to a tradition of Black and Jewish leaders working together during the civil rights movement. Warnock has a bond with a prominent Atlanta rabbi whose predecessor at the synagogue was close with King.

Warnock is viewed "as the inheritor" of King's legacy, said Michael Rosenzweig, co-chair of the Georgia chapter of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, which has endorsed both Democrats. "And to the extent that Jews were supportive of the civil rights struggle and supportive of (King), I think they look supportively on Rev. Warnock."

Ossoff, who is Jewish, has defended Warnock against GOP criticism over Israel and fondly recalled his own connection to the late Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia civil rights leader who endorsed Ossoff before his death in July. In October, Ossoff said he and Lewis talked during their first meeting about "the bond between the Black and Jewish communities, marching alongside rabbis and young Jewish activists in the mid 1960s ... and how important it was that these communities be brought together."

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Schor reported from Washington.

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## Iran newspaper: Strike Haifa if Israel killed scientist

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An opinion piece published Sunday by a hard-line Iranian newspaper urged Iran to attack the Israeli port city of Haifa if Israel carried out the killing of the scientist who founded the Islamic Republic's military nuclear program in the early 2000s.

Though the hard-line Kayhan newspaper has long argued for aggressive retaliation for operations targeting Iran, Sunday's opinion piece went further, suggesting any assault be carried out in a way that destroys facilities and "also causes heavy human casualties."

Israel, suspected of killing Iranian nuclear scientists over the past decade, has not commented on the brazen slaying of Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh. A military-style ambush Friday on the outskirts of Tehran reportedly saw a truck bomb explode and gunmen open fire on the scientist, killing him and a bodyguard.

U.S. intelligence agencies and U.N. nuclear inspectors have said the organized military nuclear program that Fakhri-zadeh oversaw disbanded in 2003, but Israeli suspicion of Tehran's atomic program and his involvement has never ceased.

Kayhan published the piece written by Iranian analyst Sadollah Zarei, who argued Iran's previous responses to suspected Israeli airstrikes that killed Revolutionary Guard forces in Syria did not go far enough to deter Israel. He said an assault on Haifa also needed to be greater than Iran's ballistic missile attack against American troops in Iraq following the U.S. drone strike in Baghdad that killed a top Iranian general in January.

Striking the Israeli city of Haifa and killing a large number of people "will definitely lead to deterrence, because the United States and the Israeli regime and its agents are by no means ready to take part in a war and a military confrontation," Zarei wrote.

While Kayhan is a small circulation newspaper in Iran, its editor-in-chief Hossein Shariatmadari was appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and has been described as an adviser to him in the past.

Haifa, on the Mediterranean Sea, has been threatened in the past by both Iran and one of its proxies,



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the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Such a strike likely would draw an immediate Israeli retaliation and spark a wider conflict across the Mideast. While Iran has never directly targeted an Israeli city militarily, it has conducted attacks targeting Israeli interests abroad in the past over the killing of its scientists, like in the case of the three Iranians recently freed in Thailand in exchange for a detained British-Australian academic.

Israel also is widely believed to have its own nuclear weapons, a stockpile it neither confirms nor denies possessing.

The Iranian parliament on Sunday held a closed-door hearing about Fakhrizadeh's killing. Afterward, parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf said Iran's enemies must be made to regret killing him.

"The criminal enemy does not regret it except with a strong reaction," he said in a broadcast on Iranian state radio.

A public session of lawmakers saw them chant: "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!"

They also began the review of a bill that would stop inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The nuclear watchdog has provided an unprecedented, real-time look at Iran's civilian nuclear program following the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

The deal has unraveled after Trump's unilateral 2018 withdrawal of the U.S. from the accord. Iran's civilian atomic program has since continued its experiments and now enriches a growing uranium stockpile up to 4.5% purity.

That's still far below weapons-grade levels of 90%, though experts warn Iran now has enough low-enriched uranium to reprocess into fuel for at least two atomic bombs if it chose to pursue them. The proposed bill reportedly also would require Iran's civilian atomic program to produce at least 120 kilograms (265 pounds) of uranium enriched to 20% — a short technical step to 90%.

Iran's 290-seat parliament is dominated by hard-liners who likely would support the bill. It ultimately would have to be approved by Iran's Guardian Council. Khamenei also has final say on all matters of state.

Khamenei has called Fakhrizadeh "the country's prominent and distinguished nuclear and defensive scientist" and has demanded the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing, without elaborating.

Fakhrizadeh headed Iran's so-called AMAD program that Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon. The IAEA says the "structured program" ended in 2003. U.S. intelligence agencies concurred with that assessment in a 2007 report.

Israel contends Iran is still intent on developing a nuclear weapon. It argues Iran's ballistic missile program and other research could help build a bomb if it pursued one — especially as provisions of the 2015 nuclear deal expire. Iran long has maintained its nuclear program is peaceful and that it has no plans to build an atomic bomb.

Amos Yadlin, a one-time head of Israeli military intelligence who now serves as the director of Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies, alleged Fakhrizadeh ran "all covert activities with weaponization of the program."

The damage of his death "cannot be measured since nobody knows exactly the scope and the depth what the Iranians are doing covertly," Yadlin said. "But no doubt that he was the core source of authority, knowledge and organization of this program."

Fakhrizadeh's killing likely complicates the plans of President-elect Joe Biden, who has said his administration will consider reentering Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. It also raises the risk of an open conflict in President Donald Trump's final weeks in office, as any retaliation could provoke an American military response, Yadlin said.

"I highly recommend to the officials to keep their mouths closed and not leak anything. They've already spoke too much," he said, referring to cryptic remarks by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to his supporters that he could not discuss everything he did last week.

"Any more evidence that will help the Iranians to decide on retaliation against Israel is a mistake," Yadlin said.

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Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writers Joseph Krauss and Josef Federman in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

## **Afghan officials say 34 killed in separate suicide bombings**

By RAHMATULLAH NEKZAD and TAMEEM AKHGAR Associated Press

GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AP) — At least 34 people were killed on Sunday in two separate suicide bombings in Afghanistan that targeted a military base and a provincial chief, officials said.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks, which took place as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban hold face-to-face talks in Qatar for the first time to end the country's decades-long war.

In eastern Ghazni province, 31 soldiers were killed and 24 others wounded when the attacker drove a military humvee full of explosives onto an army commando base before detonating the car bomb, according to an official in Afghanistan's National Security Council, who spoke anonymously because he was not permitted to speak directly to the media.

Ghazni's provincial health department chief, Zahir Shah Nikmal, also confirmed the death toll and casualty figures from the attack.

Afghanistan's Defense Ministry released a statement claiming 10 soldiers were killed and nine wounded. The ministry also offered a different account of what happened than the official at the National Security Council, saying the vehicle exploded near the army base after security forces opened fire on the car. It was not immediately clear why there was a discrepancy.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said a suicide bombing took place, though he did not provide further details.

The soldiers stationed at the base were responsible for conducting night raids, providing support to the army and police forces under siege, and taking part in large-scale operations against the Taliban and Islamic State group in eastern and southern provinces of Afghanistan.

The base is located in a desert region, about three miles (five kilometers) outside the city of Ghazni. Parts of the base and a nearby police building were partially destroyed by the powerful explosion. Windows were also blown out in buildings of the city near to where the bombing occurred.

In southern Afghanistan, another suicide car bomber targeted the convoy of a provincial council chief in Zabul province, killing at least three people and wounding 21 others, including children, according to provincial spokesman Gul Islam Sial.

The council chief, Attajan Haqbayat, survived Sunday's attack with minor injuries, although one of his bodyguards was among those killed, said provincial police spokesman Hikmatullah Kochai.

There has been a sharp rise in violence this year and a surge of attacks by the Taliban against Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces since the start of peace talks in September. There have also been deadly attacks this month claimed by Islamic State militants in Afghanistan, including a horrific attack on Kabul University that killed 22 people, most of them students.

The U.S., meanwhile, plans to withdraw an estimated 2,500 troops before the middle of January, leaving about 2,000 soldiers in Afghanistan as part of America's longest war. Afghan officials, however, have expressed concerns that a rapid reduction in American troops could strengthen the negotiating position of the Taliban.

The U.S. has been pressing in recent weeks for a reduction in violence, while the Afghan government has been demanding a cease-fire. The Taliban have refused, saying a cease-fire will be part of negotiations, although the group have held to their promise not to attack U.S. and NATO troops.

Akhgar reported from Kabul, Afghanistan.

## **Hungarian official compares George Soros to Hitler**

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

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BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — A Hungarian ministerial commissioner has come under fire for an article comparing American-Hungarian billionaire and philanthropist George Soros, a staunch critic of Hungary's government, to Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.

"Europe is George Soros' gas chamber," Szilard Demeter, ministerial commissioner and head of the Petofi Literary Museum in Budapest, wrote in an opinion article Saturday in the pro-government outlet Origo. "Poison gas flows from the capsule of a multicultural open society, which is deadly to the European way of life."

The comments drew outrage from Hungary's Jewish community, including the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation, which called the article "tasteless" and "unforgivable."

"(The article) is a textbook case of the relativization of the Holocaust, and is therefore incompatible with the government's claim of zero tolerance for anti-Semitism," the group wrote in a statement.

In the article, Demeter, appointed by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to oversee cultural production, compared Soros to Hitler, writing he was "the liberal Führer, and his liber-aryan army deifies him more than did Hitler's own."

Soros, who was born in Hungary and is a Holocaust survivor, is a frequent target of Orbán's government for his philanthropic activities that favor liberal causes. Government media campaigns targeting Soros have led to charges of anti-Semitism.

The article addressed a conflict over the European Union's next budget, which member states Hungary and Poland are blocking over provisions that could block payments to countries that do not uphold democratic standards.

Demeter referred to the two countries, both of which are under EU investigation for undermining judicial independence and media freedom, as "the new Jews."

The government of Israel, a close ally of Hungary, condemned Demeter's comments. The Israeli Embassy in Budapest tweeted, "We utterly reject the use and abuse of the memory of the Holocaust for any purpose ... There is no place for connecting the worst crime in human history, or its perpetrators, to any contemporary debate."

Gordon Bajnai, Hungary's prime minister in 2009-2010, wrote on Facebook on Sunday that if Demeter isn't removed from his post by Monday, "Hungarians and the rest of the world will obviously consider (his) statement as the position of the Hungarian government."

## **Pope, with new cardinals, warns church against mediocrity**

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis, joined by the church's newest cardinals in Mass on Sunday, warned against mediocrity as well as seeking out "godfathers" to promote one's own career.

Eleven of the 13 new cardinals sat near the central altar of St. Peter's Basilica, where Francis on Saturday had bestowed upon them the red hats symbolizing they are now so-called princes of the church.

Two of the new cardinals couldn't make it to Rome because of pandemic travel complications. The freshly-minted cardinals who did come to the Vatican wore protective masks and purple vestments, as the Church began the solemn liturgical season of Advent in the run-up to Christmas.

In his homily, Francis decried what he called "a dangerous kind of sleep: it is the slumber of mediocrity." He added that Jesus "above all else detests lukewarm-ness."

Being chosen to head Vatican departments or eventually becoming pope themselves could be in any of these new cardinals' future. Cardinals often advise popes and pick the next pontiff by conferring among themselves and then meeting in secret conclave to select one of their own to lead the Roman Catholic Church and its roughly 1.3 billion rank-and-file faithful.

Francis has often warned against clericalism during his papacy, and he picked up on that theme in Sunday's homily.

"If we are awaited in Heaven, why should we be caught up with earthly concerns? Why should we be anxious about money, fame, success, all of which will fade away?" the pope said.

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Deviating from his prepared text, he added: "Why look for godfathers for promoting one's career?"

In one of the most shocking illustrations of clericalism's dangers, earlier this month, an internal Vatican report concluded that bishops, cardinals and even popes across decades dismissed or downplayed reports of sexual misconduct by a U.S. churchman, Theodore McCarrick.

McCarrick had risen steadily through the ranks of hierarchy, eventually holding the prestigious post of archbishop of Washington, D.C. McCarrick was stripped of his cardinal's rank and defrocked in 2019 after an investigation substantiated allegations of sexual abuse against him.

While the in-house fact-finding noted the roles of Francis and Benedict XVI, his predecessor in the papacy, in not stopping McCarrick's abuse of his position, much of the fault was laid on John Paul II, the long-reigning pontiff who was quickly made saint after his death in 2005. John Paul appointed McCarrick to the Washington post and made him cardinal despite having commissioned an inquiry that confirmed the U.S. prelate shared his bed with seminarians.

Among those raised to cardinal's rank on Saturday by Francis was the current archbishop of Washington, Wilton Gregory, the first African-American cardinal.

Francis in his homily recommended charity as the way for the Church to stay on mission.

"Some people seem to think that being compassionate, helping and serving others is for losers," Francis said, after decrying indifference.

"When the Church worships God and serves our neighbor, it does not live in the night. However weak and weary, she journeys towards the Lord."

Francis also prayed that God "rouse us from the slumber of mediocrity; awaken us from the darkness of indifference."

## Dave Prowse, actor who played Darth Vader, dies at 85

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Dave Prowse, the British weightlifter-turned-actor who was the body, though not the voice, of arch-villain Darth Vader in the original "Star Wars" trilogy, has died. He was 85.

Prowse died Saturday after a short illness, his agent Thomas Bowington said Sunday.

Born in Bristol, southwest England, in 1935, Prowse was a three-time British weightlifting champion and represented England in weightlifting at the 1962 Commonwealth Games before breaking into movies with roles that emphasized his commanding size, including Frankenstein's monster in a pair of Hammer Studios horror films.

Director George Lucas saw Prowse in a small part in "A Clockwork Orange" and asked the 6-foot-6-inch (almost 2-meter) actor to audition for the villainous Vader or the Wookie Chewbacca in "Star Wars."

Prowse later told the BBC he chose Darth Vader because "you always remember the bad guys."

Physically, Prowse was perfect for the part. His lilting English West Country accent was considered less ideal, and his lines were dubbed by James Earl Jones.

Prowse donned Darth Vader's black armor and helmet for "Star Wars" (1977), "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980) and "Return of the Jedi" (1983).

He expressed some regret that, thanks to Vader's mask, "I can walk around with complete anonymity."

"All actors crave recognition and I'd like to have some like Luke Skywalker and Han Solo," he told The Associated Press in 1980. "Fortune tends to follow fame."

Prowse also worked as a trainer for other actors, helping Christopher Reeve prepare to be the Man of Steel in hit 1978 film "Superman."

Prowse was also known to a generation of British children as the Green Cross Code Man, a superhero in a series of road safety advertisements during the 1970s and '80s.

He was a regular at "Star Wars" fan events, but was banned from official conventions by Lucas in 2010 after the pair fell out.

Mark Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker in the "Star Wars" films, tweeted that Prowse was "a kind man & much more than Darth Vader." Hamill said the actor "loved his fans as much as they loved him. #RIP"

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"Ant-Man" director Edgar Wright also paid tribute to Prowse on Twitter.

"As a kid Dave Prowse couldn't be more famous to me; stalking along corridors as evil incarnate in the part of Darth Vader & stopping a whole generation of kiddies from being mown down in street as the Green Cross Code man," he wrote. "Rest in Peace, Bristol's finest."

Prowse is survived by his wife Norma and their three children.

## Asia Today: Cambodia tracks contacts after family infected

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodian officials say a family of six and another man tested positive for the coronavirus in a rare case of local infection, and Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed concern that the woman believed to be the source had traveled extensively in the country, including the capital.

The 56-year-old woman's husband works at the Interior Ministry in charge of prisons. Hun Sen, who himself just emerged from isolation after he was exposed to the infected Hungarian foreign minister, said his three Cabinet ministers will get tested and self-quarantine.

The Health Ministry said in a statement that the woman tested positive three days after becoming feverish. She had been traveling between Siam Reap and Phnom Penh.

Hun Sen also ordered the temporary shutdown of a mall in Phnom Penh, which the woman visited last week.

Cambodia has had 315 confirmed cases of the virus since the pandemic began, most of them acquired abroad.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— Hong Kong has reported 115 new coronavirus infections, the first time it has seen cases in the triple digits since Aug. 2. The government on Sunday also announced that classes at kindergarten, primary and secondary schools will be shut for the rest of the year in light of the worsening coronavirus situation in the city. Of the 115 infections reported Sunday, 24 were untraceable. Another 62 were linked to recent outbreaks in dance studios across the city. Employees and recent guests at three restaurants in the city have also been ordered to undergo compulsory testing after multiple positive cases had been linked to the venues. Hong Kong has reported 6,239 coronavirus infections since the pandemic began, with 109 deaths.

— South Korea is shutting down indoor gyms offering intense workout classes and banning year-end parties at hotels in the greater Seoul area to fight the virus. Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said Sunday authorities will also ban the operation of private music institutes teaching singing and wind instruments and saunas at public bath houses in the capital area. He said fitness centers, cafes and libraries operating inside apartment complexes will also be closed. The new steps will be effective from Tuesday. The country reported 450 new cases on Sunday.

— India has reported 41,180 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, with the daily toll staying below the 50,000-mark for the fourth week. New Delhi also got some respite as it added fewer than 5,000 cases for the first time in a month. The New Delhi government decided that half its employees, barring senior officials, will be allowed to work from home starting Monday. India reported another 496 deaths in the past 24 hours, raising the death toll to 136,696. India's confirmed cases since the pandemic began are more than 9.3 million, second behind the U.S.

— A Chinese factory owned by South Korean semiconductor firm SK Hynix has halted operations after an employee was found to be infected with the coronavirus. According to state-owned Xinhua News Agency, the South Korean national worked in a plant in the southwestern city of Chongqing. He traveled to South Korea on Thursday. He displayed no symptoms, but was found to be infected with the virus when he was tested at Incheon airport in Seoul. The factory has been closed, and employees have been isolated and tested, Xinhua reported. The hotel where the employee lived in Chongqing has also been temporarily shut and hotel employees and recent guests were tracked down and tested. Chongqing has so far tested 3,283 people, and 2,674 have been found to be negative. China has so far reported a total of 86,512 confirmed coronavirus infections, with 4,634 deaths. China does not include asymptomatic cases in its tally.

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Follow AP's coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Mike Tyson returns to ring, draws in exhibition with Jones

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mike Tyson stepped through the ropes in his signature black trunks and heard the opening bell in a boxing ring for the first time in 15 years.

The former heavyweight champion of the world traded lively punches with Roy Jones Jr. for eight entertaining rounds that ended with two middle-aged legends wearily hugging each other in mutual admiration.

Their fight was only an exhibition, and it ended in a draw. But for Tyson, the experience evoked the joy and excitement he felt so long ago at the start of his boxing career — and it was likely the start of a new chapter in his epic life.

"I'm happy I'm not knocked out," Tyson said. "I'll look better in the next one."

Tyson showed glimpses of his destructive prime Saturday night during the 54-year-old boxing icon's return to the ring against the 51-year-old Jones.

Tyson had the most impactful punches, showing off versions of the footwork and combinations that made him the world's most feared fighter. After eight two-minute rounds, both Tyson and Jones emerged from Staples Center smiling and apparently healthy.

"This is better than fighting for championships," Tyson said of the heavyweight exhibition, which raised money for various charities. "We're humanitarians now. We can do something good for the world. We've got to do this again."

Tyson's return to the ring for this show attracted international attention, and Iron Mike did his best to demonstrate his months of work to recapture a measure of the form that made him a legend to a generation of boxing fans.

Tyson tagged Jones with body shots, head shots and a particularly nasty uppercut during a bout that was required by the California State Athletic Commission to be a reasonably safe, glorified sparring session.

Tyson was exhausted two hours afterward, but also clearly energized as he recounted his emotions with his wife and team looking on.

"I took my youth for granted," Tyson said. "This event made me find out what I was really made of. ... My body feels splendid. I want to beat it up some more."

Tyson intends to fight in more exhibitions next year, perhaps heading to Monte Carlo next to challenge a European fighter. He didn't close the door on the possibility of a full-fledged comeback, although that would be many fights in the future.

For one night, Tyson and Jones were back at the center of the sports world, and they reveled in it.

"I'm happy to scratch that off my bucket list and move on with my life," said Jones, the former four-division world champion widely considered the most skilled boxer of his generation. "He hit harder than I thought. Everything hurt. His hands hurt. His head hurts. Everything hurt when I made contact. He's an exceptional puncher still. He can do anything he wants next."

Neither fighter was deceived by the quality of the bout. While both came out throwing punches that evoked echoes of their glorious primes, they also tied up frequently on the inside, and their occasionally labored breathing could be heard on the microphones in the empty arena.

Hip hop star Snoop Dogg's witty television commentary was among the loudest noises inside Staples, and he had a handful of zingers: "This is like two of my uncles fighting at the barbecue!"

But Tyson and Jones were the headliners in the most improbable pay-per-view boxing event in years, engineered by social networking app Triller and featuring fights interspersed with hip hop performances in an empty arena.

The event was derided as an anti-sporting spectacle by some critics, yet both Tyson and Jones appeared to handle themselves capably and safely. Their fans were clearly enthralled, with the show getting enormous traction on social media.

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Some of that success was due to the co-main event, in which YouTube star Jake Paul knocked out former NBA player Nate Robinson in the second round of Robinson's pro boxing debut. Paul, in his second pro fight, recorded three knockdowns against Robinson, the three-time NBA Slam Dunk contest champion, before an overhand right put Robinson flat on his face and apparently unconscious.

But most of the fans tuned in to watch Tyson, many for the first time. Any boxing fan who came of age after Tyson retired from boxing in 2005 had never seen a live fight from the legendary figure — and within the bounds of this event, Tyson delivered.

Tyson said he no longer had "the fighting guts or the heart" after he quit in a dismal loss to journeyman Peter McBride in his final bout.

Finally free of his sport's relentless pressure, Tyson gradually straightened out his life, kicking a self-described drug addiction and eventually succeeding in acting, stage performance, charity work and even marijuana cultivation while settling into comfortable family life in Las Vegas with his third wife and their children.

The idea of a boxing comeback seemed preposterous, but Tyson started toward this unlikely fight when he started doing 15 daily minutes on a treadmill a few years ago at his wife's urging in a bid to lose 100 pounds. The workouts soon became multi-hour affairs encompassing biking, running and finally punching as he regained a measure of his athletic prime through discipline and a vegan diet.

Tyson posted a video of himself hitting pads on social media early in the coronavirus pandemic, and the overwhelming public response led to several lucrative offers for a ring comeback. With the chance to make money for himself and for charity, Tyson eventually agreed to take on Jones long after the chance of their dream matchup seemed dashed.

Tyson and Jones negotiated with the California commission over the limitations of their bout, eventually arriving at eight two-minute rounds of hard sparring with only ceremonial judging and no official winner. The WBC still stepped in to award a ceremonial "Frontline Battle Belt" to both fighters.

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-sports> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Turkey's new virus figures confirm experts' worst fears

By SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — When Turkey changed the way it reports daily COVID-19 infections, it confirmed what medical groups and opposition parties have long suspected — that the country is faced with an alarming surge of cases that is fast exhausting the Turkish health system.

In an about-face, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government this week resumed reporting all positive coronavirus tests — not just the number of patients being treated for symptoms — pushing the number of daily cases to above 30,000. With the new data, the country jumped from being one of the least-affected countries in Europe to one of the worst-hit.

That came as no surprise to the Turkish Medical Association, which has been warning for months that the government's previous figures were concealing the graveness of the spread and that the lack of transparency was contributing to the surge. The group maintains, however, that the ministry's figures are still low compared with its estimate of at least 50,000 new infections per day.

No country can report exact numbers on the spread of the disease since many asymptomatic cases go undetected, but the previous way of counting made Turkey look relatively well-off in international comparisons, with daily new cases far below those reported in European countries including Italy, Britain and France.

That changed Wednesday as Turkey's daily caseload almost quadrupled from about 7,400 to 28,300.

The country's hospitals are overstretched, medical staff are burned out and contract tracers, who were once credited for keeping the outbreak under check, are struggling to track transmissions, Sebnem Korur Fincanci, who heads the association, told The Associated Press.

"It's the perfect storm," said Fincanci, whose group has come under attack from Erdogan and his na-

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tionalist allies for questioning the government's figures and its response to the outbreak.

Even though the health minister has put the ICU bed occupancy rate at 70%, Ebru Kiraner, who heads the Istanbul-based Intensive Care Nurses' Association, says intensive care unit beds in Istanbul's hospitals are almost full, with doctors scrambling to find room for critically ill patients.

There is a shortage of nurses and the existing nursing staff is exhausted, she added.

"ICU nurses have not been able to return to their normal lives since March," she told the AP. "Their children have not seen their mask-less faces in months."

Erdogan said, however, there was "no problem" concerning the hospitals' capacities. He blamed the surge on the public's failure to wear masks, which is mandatory, and to abide by social distancing rules.

Demonstrating the seriousness of the outbreak, Turkey last month suspended leave for health care workers and temporarily banned resignations and early retirements during the pandemic. Similar bans were also put in place for three months in March.

The official daily COVID-19 deaths have also steadily risen to record numbers, reaching 13,373 on Saturday with 182 new deaths, in a reversal of fortune for the country that had been praised for managing to keep fatalities low. But those record numbers remain disputed too.

Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu said 186 people had died of infectious diseases in the city on Nov. 22 — a day on which the government announced just 139 COVID-19 deaths for the whole of the country. The mayor also said around 450 burials are taking place daily in the city of 15 million compared with the average 180-200 recorded in November the previous year.

"We can only beat the outbreak through a process that is transparent," said Imamoglu, who is from Turkey's main opposition party. "Russia and Germany have announced a high death toll. Did Germany lose its shine? Did Russia collapse?"

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca has rejected Imamoglu's claims, saying: "I want to underline that all of the figures I am providing are accurate."

Last week, Erdogan announced a series of restrictions in a bid to contain the contagion without impacting the already weakened economy or business activity. Opposition parties denounced them as "half-baked." He introduced curfews for the first time since June, but limited them to weekend evenings, closed down restaurants and cafes except for takeout services and restricted the opening hours of malls, shops and hairdressers.

Both Fincanci and Kiraner said the measures don't go far enough to contain transmissions.

"We need a total lockdown of at least two weeks, if not four weeks which science considers to be the most ideal amount," Fincanci said.

Koca has said that the number of seriously ill patients and fatalities is on the rise and said some cities including Istanbul and Izmir are experiencing their "third peak." Turkey would wait, however, for two weeks to see the results of the weekend curfews and other restrictions before considering stricter lockdowns, he said.

Meanwhile, the country has reached an agreement to receive 50 million doses of the vaccine developed by Chinese pharmaceutical company SinoVac and hopes to begin administering it to medical staff and the chronically ill next month. It is also in talks to purchase the vaccine developed by Pfizer in cooperation with the BioNTech pharmaceutical company. A Turkish-developed vaccine is scheduled to be ready to use in April.

Erdogan said he had also spoken with Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, over the possibility of procuring a vaccine developed by that country.

Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul contributed to this report.

## US reports several explosions heard in Eritrea's capital

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The U.S. Embassy in Eritrea says six explosions were heard Saturday night in the



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capital, Asmara. It follows an embassy report of another "loud noise, possibly an explosion" in the city on Friday, nearly two weeks after the government of neighboring Ethiopia's defiant Tigray region confirmed firing missiles at the city during its war with Ethiopian federal forces.

The latest explosions came just hours after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed declared victory in his government's fighting against forces of the Tigray People's Liberation Front, which runs the northern Tigray region bordering Eritrea. The army said it was in "full control" of the regional capital, Mekele, but the government said TPLF leaders remain on the run.

The TPLF leader earlier this month asserted that Eritrean forces were involved in the fighting in Tigray at the invitation of Ethiopia's government, something Addis Ababa has repeatedly denied. Fears have grown that 96,000 Eritrean refugees in camps just over the border in Ethiopia are at risk.

The U.S. has accused the TPLF of seeking to "internationalize" the deadly conflict in which humanitarians say several hundred people have been killed, including civilians.

The U.S. Embassy statement overnight advises American citizens to exercise caution and be aware "of the ongoing conflict in the Tigray region." It also advises citizens to "monitor local news" in a country regarded by watchdogs as being highly repressive and having no independent media.

The fighting has threatened to destabilize Ethiopia, which has been described as the linchpin of the strategic Horn of Africa, and its neighbors. Food, fuel, cash and medical supplies have run desperately low. Nearly 1 million people have been displaced, including more than 40,000 who fled into Sudan. Camps home to 96,000 Eritrean refugees in northern Tigray have been in the line of fire.

## North Korea toughens rules of entry to sea to fight virus

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea is further toughening restrictions on entering seawaters as part of elevated steps to fight the coronavirus pandemic, state media said Sunday, two days after South Korea said the North had banned sea fishing.

The Korean Central News Agency reported the country is mobilizing more anti-virus units and establishing strong steps to "completely remove uncivilized and unhygienic elements that could help make room for the spread of an epidemic" at winter. Some experts say the coronavirus can spread more broadly during cold weather when people typically spend more time indoors.

KCNA said officials were building firm anti-epidemic measures along border areas to prevent the coronavirus from entering the country. In front-line coastal areas, authorities were working out more stringent rules for venturing out at sea and collecting filthy materials in the waters, according to KCNA.

North Korea has maintained no single virus case has been found on its territory, a claim widely questioned by outside experts. Despite its claim, North Korea has swiftly sealed its borders, flew out diplomats and isolated residents with symptoms. A major outbreak in North Korea could have devastating consequences because of its broken health care system and a chronic lack of medicines.

North Korea has previously mentioned a restriction on entering the sea. Sunday's report came after South Korea's spy service told lawmakers Friday that the North's anti-virus steps included a ban on fishing and salt production at sea, as well as and the lockdown of the capital, Pyongyang, northern Jagang province and other areas.

Lawmakers who attended the closed-door briefing also cited the National Intelligence Service as saying that North Korea executed an official for breaching regulations restricting the import of goods in August and a money changer for a falling exchange rate in October.

Ha Tae-keung, one of the lawmakers, quoted the agency as saying North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is displaying "excessive anger" and taking "irrational measures" over the pandemic and its economic impact.

In September, South Korea accused North Korea of fatally shooting a South Korean fishery official found in the North's waters before burning his body apparently in line with an anti-virus policy that involves shooting anyone illegally crossing the border. North Korea later acknowledged and apologized for the killing, but claimed it only burnt his floating device, not his body.

## Outbreak puts Ohio State's championship hopes in jeopardy

By MITCH STACY AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State officials are unsure when the team can practice again, let alone play next week at Michigan State, after an outbreak of COVID-19 put the No. 3 Buckeyes' Big Ten title hopes in danger.

"I have no clue what this afternoon or tomorrow will bring or next week will bring," athletic director Gene Smith said Saturday.

Three more college football games across the country were canceled or postponed Saturday, including Florida State hosting Virginia. For the second straight week, the Seminoles had their home game called off hours before kickoff and after their opponent had already traveled to Tallahassee, Florida.

Last week the issue was Clemson and Florida State not agreeing on whether the game should be played after a Tigers player who was positive for COVID-19 traveled with the team to Florida.

This week, one positive test for a Florida State player returned Saturday morning led to contact tracing that left the Seminoles with only 44 scholarship players.

"We deeply regret that many Florida State and Virginia fans have already traveled to the game as well as Virginia's team," Florida State athletic director David Coburn said. "We simply had no way of knowing we would not be playing until this morning. We made every effort to play, but we could not do so in a way that was safe for the players."

Ohio State canceled its Saturday game at Illinois on Friday night. Across college football, 19 of the 58 games originally scheduled for this week were called off because of COVID-19 issues. Also called on Saturday morning was San Jose State at Boise State, a key matchup in the Mountain West. Boise State said it was pausing all football activities.

Before the day was over the first postponement of next week was announced. Miami at Wake Forest won't be played Dec. 5 as the Demon Deacons deal with COVID-19 cases. That ACC game had already been pushed back because of Miami's outbreak.

The Buckeyes' disruption could be the most significant, impacting the Big Ten and national championship race.

If Ohio State (4-0) cannot play its final two regular-season games it would likely not reach the minimum number (six) required to be eligible for the Big Ten championship game. The Buckeyes had an earlier game canceled because of a COVID outbreak at Maryland.

This time Ohio State has the outbreak. According to Dr. Jim Borchers, Ohio State's team physician, the program had virtually no positive tests this season until Wednesday's testing.

Borchers said the percentage of positive individuals among Ohio State players and staff hit one of the Big Ten's warning "guideposts" on Friday night, leading officials to cancel Saturday's game at Illinois.

Borchers said that benchmark was 7.5% of the 170 individuals deemed Tier 1 in the program, including players, coaches and staff. That means at least 13 people in the Buckeyes camp tested positive, although Borchers declined to provide specific numbers.

One of the positive tests was coach Ryan Day, who wouldn't have been on the sideline even if the team had gone to Champaign, Illinois.

Day, his voice slightly raspy, participated in a Zoom call with the reporters Saturday and said: "I'm resting comfortably, but I have an extremely heavy heart."

Players who test positive have a 10-day isolation period followed by a 10-day return-to-activity period under Big Ten protocols, Borchers said. So while Day might be able to return for the Buckeyes next week at Michigan State, the players who have tested positive will miss at least one more game — if the game is played at all.

Ohio State's final regular-season game is Dec. 12 vs. Michigan and the Buckeyes could play another on Dec. 19 even if they are not eligible for the Big Ten title game.

The College Football Playoff has no minimum number of games required to be eligible for selection.

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Ohio State has paused all football activities. Day said if the team could get back on the field by Thursday it might be able to play next Saturday.

Borchers said the Big Ten benchmark that would have forced a seven-day shutdown -- 5% positives of all tests administered -- was not reached, so the decision to cancel Saturday's game was made by Ohio State and was not forced. The positive tests were spread out among players and staff, with no identifiable clusters, he said.

"What we're seeing in our case is kind of a community type of spread," Smith said. "We didn't see spikes in specific areas. Could we have played? Sure? Was it the right thing to play? No."

Day said as the positive cases started to show on Wednesday, the team adjusted its practice schedule, meeting virtually, no helmets or hitting on the field, everyone masked up. They'd already decided to fly to Illinois on Saturday morning instead of Friday.

"It wasn't until (Friday) when we did testing, and with enhanced testing that it got to a point where it became very clear that we needed to pause," Borchers said of the late decision to cancel the game. "Unfortunately, this wasn't a decision we could make early in the week. This was not a decision from my standpoint that could be made until (Friday)."

The program will keep testing daily and no one can say when the team might be able to take the field again, if at all.

"We certainly have looked at data and looked at what's happened with other teams," Borchers said. "To try to forecast what's going to happen tomorrow, let alone for this next week, I can't do that."

Smith said there have been no conversations in the Big Ten about adjusting its minimum games requirement. The minimum could drop below six, but almost all of the 14 Big Ten games scheduled over the next two weekends would have to be canceled.

Smith said Saturday that was the last thing on his mind.

"The tactics and strategies we will put in place today, tomorrow and the next day is all with effort to ensure their safety and possibly give them a chance to compete next weekend," he said. "It's not about the Big Ten championship game, it's not about the CFP. It's not about those things. It's not about how many games we have to play. It's about one thing: Their health, their safety, and making sure each day we give them a chance to possibly play next weekend."

AP College Football Writer Ralph D. Russo contributed to this report.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Michigan St holds off No. 11 Northwestern for a 29-20 win

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — No. 11 Northwestern put itself in position to play for the Big Ten title, then it hit the road.

Michigan State was ready.

Matt Coghlin made a tiebreaking 48-yard field goal with 3:35 left, and the Spartans handed Northwestern its first loss of the season with a 29-20 victory Saturday.

The Wildcats (5-1, 5-1) were coming off a 17-7 victory over Wisconsin that moved them into contention for a spot in the College Football Playoff. That prospect likely was dashed with the loss to the Spartans, but they remain in control of the Big Ten West.

"Really disappointed in the outcome, but we have all our goals in front of us," coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "We didn't come up here and play clean football and Michigan State did and credit to them."

The Spartans (2-3, 2-3) lost a 17-0 lead, but went back ahead by forcing three turnovers in the fourth quarter and making the most of two big kicks by Coghlin.

Michigan State had dropped consecutive games against Iowa and Indiana by a combined score of 73-7, including a 24-0 loss to the Hoosiers at home on Nov. 14. Last weekend's matchup with Maryland was

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canceled because of a COVID-19 outbreak with the Terrapins.

"We needed this win as a team," said Rocky Lombardi, who got the Spartans off to a fast start with a 75-yard touchdown pass to Jalen Nailor. "It's good to get out there and beat a really good team like Northwestern because it's just the kind of confidence boost we needed.

"We know we're a good team and we know we can beat good teams, but it's kind of hard to believe yourself until you do it."

It was the second win for first-year coach Mel Tucker after the Spartans beat Michigan on Oct. 31.

"Culture doesn't change overnight — it just doesn't," Tucker said. "But wins like today show what we're capable of."

Northwestern grabbed a 20-17 lead on Cam Porter's 3-yard run early in the fourth.

The Spartans rallied on Coghlin's 44-yard field goal after forcing a turnover one snap following Lombardi's interception.

Northwestern turned the ball over again, and receiver Berkeley Holman was carted off the field following the play.

Shakur Brown broke on Peyton Ramsey's pass for his second interception and made contact with Holman, who lay motionless on the field while the school's medical staff evaluated him.

Holman was carefully strapped to a backboard and lifted onto a cart. After Holman's teammates surrounded him to offer support, he lifted his left arm and extended his thumb.

Holman was taken to a hospital as a precaution. He was talking, alert and moving.

"Great news about Berk," Fitzgerald said.

The Wildcats punted on their next possession, facing a fourth-and-10 from their 22, with a few minutes left.

Lombardi converted a third-and-8 from his 38 with a run after Northwestern called a timeout, taking time off the clock until punting from midfield with 32 seconds left.

The Wildcats ended the game by throwing laterals from deep in their end, trying to extend the play as time expired, only to have the Spartans recover the ball in the end zone for a touchdown at a fan-free game.

"A lot of self-inflicted wounds on our end," Fitzgerald said.

## POLL IMPLICATIONS

Northwestern will slip quite a bit after reaching its highest AP ranking since 1996.

## THE TAKEAWAY

Northwestern: Good fortune ran out for a team that had been a feel-good story as a surprising contender that won a lot of close games.

"I've got to coach the guys to be better than that, but I thought they were ready to play," Fitzgerald said.

Michigan State: Lombardi was 11 for 27 for 167 yards and two TDs to go along with one interception. He also made a couple of big plays with his legs, finishing with 65 yards on 10 carries.

"We're just tired of losing," Lombardi said. "That's what it comes down to. We want to win and we know we've got the players to win. We all just came together. We knew we a shot to win this game and we expected to win."

## UP NEXT

Northwestern plays at Minnesota on Saturday.

Michigan State hosts No. 3 Ohio State on Saturday, assuming the Buckeyes are cleared to play after they cancelled Saturday's game against Illinois due to a COVID-19 breakout within their program.

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Follow Larry Lage at <https://twitter.com/larrylage>

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**With no action by Washington, states race to offer virus aid**

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By CEDAR ATTANASIO and JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press/Report for America

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Faulting inaction in Washington, governors and state lawmakers are racing to get pandemic relief to small-business owners, the unemployed, renters and others whose livelihoods have been upended by the widening coronavirus outbreak.

In some cases, elected officials are spending the last of a federal relief package passed in the spring as an end-of-year deadline approaches and the fall COVID-19 surge threatens their economies anew. Democrats have been the most vocal in criticizing President Donald Trump and the GOP-controlled Senate for failing to act, but many Republican lawmakers are also sounding the alarm.

Underscoring the need for urgency, the number of new COVID-19 cases reported in the United States reached 205,557 on Friday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University — the first time its daily figure topped the 200,000 mark. Its previous daily high was 196,000 on Nov. 20.

The total number of cases reported in the U.S., since the first one in January, has topped 13 million.

The Democratic governors of Colorado and New Mexico convened special legislative sessions in the closing days of November to address the virus-related emergency. Earlier this week, the New Mexico Legislature passed a bipartisan relief bill that will deliver a one-time \$1,200 check to all unemployed workers and give up to \$50,000 to certain businesses.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said the state took action to help residents “who have real issues about keeping food on their table, a roof over their head.”

“While the United States of America is on fire, the Trump administration has left states to fight this virus on their own,” she said, noting state efforts alone simply are not enough. “It is clear no help is coming — not from this president, not from this administration. As we have done every day this year, New Mexico will step up.”

In Colorado, a special session scheduled for Monday will consider roughly \$300 million in relief to businesses, restaurants and bars, child-care providers, landlords, tenants, public schools and others.

“Even as cases have exploded across the country, Congress and the president have not yet passed much-needed relief for people,” Colorado Gov. Jared Polis said in announcing the session. “Here in Colorado, we want to do the best with what we have to take care of our own.”

In New Jersey and Washington state, Republicans who are a minority in both legislatures were the ones pushing for special sessions. They want to direct more money to struggling small-business owners.

Republican lawmakers in Wisconsin, who control both houses of the Legislature, are considering whether to return in December to address effects of the latest coronavirus wave after Democratic Gov. Tony Evers put forward a \$500 million COVID-19 relief bill earlier this week. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, plans to convene lawmakers in December to contend with the virus, partially at Republicans’ urging.

“Senate Republicans are committed to recovering our economy that has been harmed by broad and prolonged shutdowns,” Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka said in a statement. “We will work with anyone to find solutions.”

State government leaders want Trump and Congress to extend the Dec. 30 deadline for spending virus relief money already allocated under the CARES Act, which was approved in March, and to provide more federal funding to deal with the consequences of the latest surge.

“It’s just heartbreaking what they’re allowing to happen with no federal government intervention,” said Washington state House Speaker Laurie Jinkins, a Democrat.

In making his decision to call the Minnesota Legislature into special session, Walz cited “a sense of urgency” around doing something on the state level due to the lack of a federal response.

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits reported that more than half of the state’s charitable organizations received forgivable loans through the CARES Act’s Paycheck Protection Program this year, while another \$12 million from the CARES Act is going to organizations that provide food to the needy. But all that will be spent — or lost — by the end of December without congressional action.

“I would reiterate to our federal partners — to the outgoing administration and to the incoming Biden administration — please work together, please find a compromise in there, please. If you have to, move a package now with the idea that you will come back and move one later,” Walz said. “COVID is not going

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to end at the end of the month. We are in an unrelenting spike.”

In Ohio, where Republicans control every branch of government, Gov. Mike DeWine and legislative leaders pushed a \$420 million pandemic spending package through a special bipartisan panel late last month. Funded through the CARES Act, it offered grants to small businesses, bars and restaurants, low-income renters, arts groups, and colleges and universities.

Pennsylvania House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff, a Republican, gives credit to the federal government for the billions in aid previously sent out, but he said small businesses and people who have lost work need more federal assistance.

“The election’s over,” Benninghoff said. “This is not a time for finger-pointing.”

In neighboring New Jersey, the partisan divide over \$4 billion in COVID-19 borrowing backed by the Democratic governor and Legislature prompted a court challenge by minority Republicans. The state’s high court sided with Gov. Phil Murphy’s administration, citing the unprecedented nature of the outbreak.

Even so, Murphy has regularly pleaded with Congress for more aid.

“It’s shameful that they have not acted in Congress, especially (Senate Majority Leader Mitch) McConnell and the Republican Senate, to throw a lifeline to small businesses,” he said.

Republicans have proposed a \$300 million aid package to small businesses and nonprofits, but the legislation is stalled. GOP lawmakers told the governor if he does not call a special session to address the need, many businesses and charities “might not survive the winter.”

Having already committed the bulk of their virus relief allotment, lawmakers in one state, Illinois, were forced to end the year with an unaddressed \$3.9 billion budget deficit. They canceled what would be their regular fall session in November, citing the health threat posed by the virus, and expressed hope for help from the nation’s capital when they return.

“If the federal government doesn’t stand up and step in, we’re in a very bad situation — for our schools, colleges and universities, health care programs, child care, senior services,” House Majority Leader Greg Harris, a Democrat, said. “This isn’t like all the blue states are hurting and all the red states are humming along. Everybody’s in bad shape.”

Carr Smyth reported from Columbus, Ohio. Associated Press writers Jim Anderson and Patricia Nieberg in Denver; Michael Catalini in Newark, N.J.; Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Wash.; Geoff Mulvihill in Davenport, Iowa; John O’Connor in Springfield, Ill.; and Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pa., contributed to this report.

Nieberg and Attanasio are corps members for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## **Pennsylvania high court rejects lawsuit challenging election**

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania’s highest court on Saturday night threw out a lower court’s order preventing the state from certifying dozens of contests on its Nov. 3 election ballot in the latest lawsuit filed by Republicans attempting to thwart President-elect Joe Biden’s victory in the battleground state.

The state Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, threw out the three-day-old order, saying the underlying lawsuit was filed months after the expiration of a time limit in Pennsylvania’s expansive year-old mail-in voting law allowing for challenges to it.

Justices also remarked on the lawsuit’s staggering demand that an entire election be overturned retroactively.

“They have failed to allege that even a single mail-in ballot was fraudulently cast or counted,” Justice David Wecht wrote in a concurring opinion.

The state’s attorney general, Democrat Josh Shapiro, called the court’s decision “another win for De-

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mocracy.”

President Donald Trump and his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, meanwhile, have repeatedly and baselessly claimed that Democrats falsified mail-in ballots to steal the election from Trump. Biden beat Trump by more than 80,000 votes in Pennsylvania, a state Trump had won in 2016.

The week-old lawsuit, led by Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly of northwestern Pennsylvania, had challenged the state’s mail-in voting law as unconstitutional.

As a remedy, Kelly and the other Republican plaintiffs had sought to either throw out the 2.5 million mail-in ballots submitted under the law — most of them by Democrats — or to wipe out the election results and direct the state’s Republican-controlled Legislature to pick Pennsylvania’s presidential electors.

In any case, that request — for the state’s lawmakers to pick Pennsylvania’s presidential electors — flies in the face of a nearly century-old state law that already grants the power to pick electors to the state’s popular vote, Wecht wrote.

While the high court’s two Republicans joined the five Democrats in opposing those remedies, they split from Democrats in suggesting that the lawsuit’s underlying claims — that the state’s mail-in voting law might violate the constitution — are worth considering.

Commonwealth Court Judge Patricia McCullough, elected as a Republican in 2009, had issued the order Wednesday to halt certification of any remaining contests, including apparently contests for Congress.

It did not appear to affect the presidential contest since a day earlier, Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, had certified Biden as the winner of the presidential election in Pennsylvania.

Wolf quickly appealed McCullough’s decision to the state Supreme Court, saying there was no “conceivable justification” for it.

The lawsuit’s dismissal comes after Republicans have lost a flurry of legal challenges brought by the Trump campaign and its GOP allies filed in state and federal courts in Pennsylvania.

On Friday, a federal appeals court in Philadelphia roundly rejected the Trump campaign’s latest effort to challenge the state’s election results.

In that lawsuit, Trump’s campaign had complained that its observers had not been able to scrutinize mail-in ballots as they were being processed in two Democratic bastions, Philadelphia and Allegheny County, which is home to Pittsburgh.

Trump’s lawyers vowed to appeal to the Supreme Court despite the judges’ assessment that the “campaign’s claims have no merit.”

Follow Marc Levy on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/timelywriter>

## **Vanderbilt K Fuller becomes first woman to play in Power 5**

By JOSEPH WALLJASPER Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Sarah Fuller was playing around with a teammate a couple months ago when she kicked a soccer ball through the uprights from 45 yards away. She joked about being able to kick a football with teammates during the Southeastern Conference soccer tournament.

On Saturday, she made history.

Fuller became the first woman to participate in a Power Five conference football game when she kicked off for Vanderbilt to start the second half at Missouri, a moment that may take some time to soak in for her.

“I just think it’s incredible that I am able to do this, and all I want to do is be a good influence to the young girls out there because there were times like I struggled in sports,” Fuller said. “But I am so thankful I stuck with it, and it’s given me so many opportunities. I’ve met so many amazing people through sports, and I just want to say like literally you can do anything you set your mind to.”

Fuller kicked with a holder rather than using a tee in a designed squib kick, and the senior sent a low kick to the 35-yard line where it was pounced on by Missouri’s Mason Pack. Fuller didn’t get any other opportunities in Vanderbilt’s 41-0 loss to Missouri.

Coach Derek Mason made clear that Fuller kicked for the Commodores due to need, not for history or

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publicity. COVID-19 protocols and restrictions left Mason with very few options, prompting him to reach out to the soccer team for help.

Fuller, a 6-foot-2 goalkeeper, decided she was up for the challenge.

"I'm not about making statements," Mason said. "This was out of necessity. You look at our week. Our students had gone home. The ability to have access to students and tryouts was almost nil in terms of like what's available. ... That just happened to be the most viable option."

After Fuller's kick, she went straight to the sideline, where she high-fived some of her new teammates and swapped some elbow bumps. Fuller's parents watched and cheered from the stands along with her boyfriend and best friend.

Fuller practiced with the Commodores this week after helping the Commodores win the SEC Tournament last weekend. Fuller said her longest field goal in practice was 38 yards.

She wore "Play Like A Girl" on the back of her helmet. The senior will get to keep the No. 32 jersey she wore Saturday, the same as her number when playing soccer.

Fuller even gave a halftime pep talk, which she usually left to her soccer teammates, telling her new teammates that Vandy won the SEC soccer tournament title by cheering for each other whether on the field or the sideline.

"We had a different mindset coming out the second half," quarterback Mike Wright said.

After her kickoff, reaction poured in on social media. Fuller was the No. 2 trending topic on Twitter, followed by Vandy. Her soccer team wrote on Twitter: "Glass. Everywhere."

As in glass ceiling.

Pat McAfee, a former NFL punter, reviewed Fuller's squib kick, noting the ball didn't go out of bounds and there was no chance of a return, setting up the defense.

"Congrats to (at)SarahFuller\_27 for being THE FIRST EVER WOMAN TO KICKOFF A POWER 5 GAME," McAfee wrote. "Incredibly rare to be the '1st ever person to do something' these days..this is really cool."

No woman had appeared in an SEC football game or for any Power Five team. Liz Heaston became the first woman to score with two extra points for Willamette in NAIA on Oct. 18, 1997.

Katie Hnida was the first woman to score at the Football Bowl Subdivision level with two extra points for New Mexico on Aug. 30, 2003.

April Goss was the second, with an extra point for Kent State in 2015. Tonya Butler was the first woman to kick a field goal in an NCAA game for Division II West Alabama on Sept. 13, 2003. New Mexico congratulated Fuller on Twitter for joining Hnida and Goss for kicking in an FBS game.

"Welcome to the club, (at)April\_Goss and I are waiting with snacks!" Hnida wrote on Twitter on Friday.

Missouri coach Eli Drinkwitz visited with Fuller before kickoff and repeated a message that Fuller has heard a lot in recent days. The father of four daughters told Fuller it was incredible they watched her make history.

"I've had girl dads come up to me and they're like, 'You're inspiring my little girls, and I want them to know that they can do anything and you're proving that point.' And I think that has been the coolest thing," Fuller said.

Fuller also made clear she'd be up for continuing to help the football team if needed. She believes she can refine her timing and technique with more practice.

Vanderbilt (0-8) visits No. 13 Georgia next week.

"If she wants to kick and she's available, we'd love to have her," Mason said.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Ex-Trump campaign aide sues over Russia probe surveillance

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Trump campaign associate who was the target of a secret surveillance warrant during the FBI's Russia investigation says in a federal lawsuit that he was the victim of "unlawful spying."



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The suit from Carter Page alleges a series of omissions and errors made by FBI and Justice Department officials in applications they submitted in 2016 and 2017 to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to eavesdrop on Page on suspicion that he was an agent of Russia.

"Since not a single proven fact ever established complicity with Russia involving Dr. Page, there never was probable cause to seek or obtain the FISA Warrants targeting him on this basis," the lawsuit says, using the acronym for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Page has received death and kidnapping threats and has suffered economic losses and "irreparable damage to his reputation," according to the lawsuit, which was filed Friday in federal court in Washington.

The lawsuit to some extent echoes the conclusions of a Justice Department inspector general report that found significant problems with the four applications. Former FBI and Justice Department leaders who were involved in signing off on the surveillance have since testified they wouldn't have done so had they known of the extent of the issues, and the FBI has initiated more than 40 corrective steps aimed at improving the accuracy and thoroughness of applications.

In the complaint, Page accuses the FBI of relying excessively for information on Christopher Steele, a former British spy whose research during the 2016 campaign into Donald Trump's ties to Russia was funded by Democrats. It says the FBI failed to tell the surveillance court that Steele's primary source had contradicted information that Steele had attributed to him, or that Page had denied to an informant for the FBI having "any involvement with Russia on behalf of the Trump campaign."

The complaint also accuses the FBI of having misled the surveillance court about his relationship with the CIA, for whom Page had been an operational contact between 2008 and 2013. A former FBI lawyer, Kevin Clinesmith, pleaded guilty in August to altering an email to say that Page had not been a source for the CIA.

The suit names as defendants the FBI and the Justice Department, as well as former FBI Director James Comey, former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe and additional officials who were involved in the Russia investigation.

Despite the problems with the warrant applications, the scrutiny of Page, who was never charged with any wrongdoing, accounted for only a narrow portion of the overall investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.

The same inspector general report that detailed problems in the applications also concluded that the FBI had a legitimate basis for opening the Russia investigation, and did not find evidence that any of its actions were influenced by political bias.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## Iran's supreme leader vows revenge over slain scientist

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader on Saturday demanded the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist who led Tehran's disbanded military nuclear program, as the Islamic Republic blamed Israel for a slaying that has raised fears of reignited tensions across the Middle East.

After years of being in the shadows, the image of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh suddenly was to be seen everywhere in Iranian media, as his widow spoke on state television and officials publicly demanded revenge on Israel for the scientist's slaying.

Israel, long suspected of killing Iranian scientists a decade ago amid earlier tensions over Tehran's nuclear program, has yet to comment on Fakhrizadeh's killing Friday. However, the attack bore the hallmarks of a carefully planned, military-style ambush, the likes of which Israel has been accused of conducting before.

The attack has renewed fears of Iran striking back against the U.S., Israel's closest ally in the region, as it did earlier this year when a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general. The U.S. military acknowledged moving an aircraft carrier back into the region, while an Iranian lawmaker suggested throwing out U.N. nuclear inspectors in response to the killing.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Fakhrizadeh "the country's prominent and distin-

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guished nuclear and defensive scientist." Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state, said Iran's first priority after the killing was the "definitive punishment of the perpetrators and those who ordered it." He did not elaborate.

Speaking earlier Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani blamed Israel for the killing.

"We will respond to the assassination of Martyr Fakhrizadeh in a proper time," Rouhani said. "The Iranian nation is smarter than falling into the trap of the Zionists. They are thinking to create chaos."

The United Nations called for restraint.

"Of course we condemn any assassination or extra-judicial killing," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "We urge restraint and the need to avoid any actions that could lead to an escalation of tensions in the region."

Both Rouhani and Khamenei said Fakhrizadeh's death would not stop the nuclear program. Iran's civilian atomic program has continued its experiments and now enriches a growing uranium stockpile up to 4.5% purity in response to the collapse of Iran's nuclear deal after the U.S.' 2018 withdrawal from the accord.

That's still far below weapons-grade levels of 90%, though experts warn Iran now has enough low-enriched uranium for at least two atomic bombs if it chose to pursue them.

Analysts have compared Fakhrizadeh to being on par with Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist who led America's Manhattan Project in World War II that created the atom bomb.

Fakhrizadeh headed Iran's so-called AMAD program that Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency says that "structured program" ended in 2003. Iran long has maintained its nuclear program is peaceful.

Fakhrizadeh's widow appeared unnamed on state television in a black chador, saying his death would spark a thousand others to take up his work.

"He wanted to get martyred and his wish came true," she said.

Hard-line Iranian media has begun circulating memorial images showing Fakhrizadeh standing alongside a machine-gun-cradling likeness of Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whom the U.S. killed in the January drone strike.

Soleimani's death led to Iran retaliating with a ballistic missile barrage that injured dozens of American troops in Iraq. Tehran also has forces at its disposal all around Israel, including troops and proxies in neighboring Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Islamic Jihad — and to a lesser extent Hamas — in the Gaza Strip. The Iranian Guard's naval forces routinely shadow and have tense encounters with U.S. Navy forces in the Persian Gulf as well.

Hours after the attack, the Pentagon announced it had brought the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier back into the Middle East, an unusual move as the carrier already spent months in the region. It cited the drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq as the reason for the decision, saying "it was prudent to have additional defensive capabilities in the region to meet any contingency."

Iran has conducted attacks targeting Israeli interests abroad over the killing of its scientists, like in the case of the three Iranians recently freed in Thailand in exchange for a detained British-Australian academic.

Iran also could throw out inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, who have provided an unprecedented, real-time look at Iran's nuclear program since the deal. Nasrollah Pezhmanfar, a hard-line lawmaker, said a statement calling to expel the "IAEA's spy inspections" could be read Sunday, the parliament's official website quoted him as saying.

Friday's attack happened in Absard, a village just east of the capital that is a retreat for the country's elite. Iranian state television said an old truck with explosives hidden under a load of wood blew up near a sedan carrying Fakhrizadeh.

As Fakhrizadeh's sedan stopped, at least five gunmen emerged and raked the car with rapid fire, the semiofficial Tasnim news agency said. The precision of the attack led to the suspicion of Israel's Mossad intelligence service being involved. The CIA separately declined to comment on the attack Saturday.

State media has only said the attack killed Fakhrizadeh, though a statement Saturday from the European Union described the incident as killing "an Iranian government official and several civilians." EU officials

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did not respond to requests for comment.

In Tehran, a small group of hardline protesters burned images of Trump and President-elect Joe Biden, who has said his administration will consider reentering Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. While burning an American and Israeli flag, the hard-liners criticized Iran's foreign minister who helped negotiate the nuclear deal, showing the challenge ahead of Tehran if officials chose to come back the accord.

On Saturday night, the family of Fakhrizadeh gathered at a mosque in central Tehran for his funeral service, a website associated with Iranian state TV reported. The scientist's body lay in a flag-draped, open coffin, his eyes closed.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## Black Friday sees record online as US shoppers stay home

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Black Friday online sales hit a new record this year as pandemic-wary Americans filled virtual carts instead of real ones.

Consumers spent an estimated \$9 billion on U.S. retail websites on Black Friday, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping. That was a 22% increase over the previous record of \$7.4 billion set in 2019.

Meanwhile, traffic to physical stores plummeted as retailers tried to prevent crowds by cutting their hours and limiting doorbuster deals. U.S. store visits dropped by 52% on Black Friday, according to Sensormatic Solutions, a retail tracker. Traffic was slower in the Northeast and West than in the Midwest and South, said Brian Field, Sensormatic's senior director of global retail consulting.

Jewelry and footwear saw some of the biggest in-person sales declines, according to RetailNext, a shopping tracker. Apparel sales were down 50%, while sales of home goods fell by 39%.

Even with that drop, Black Friday will still likely end up as one of the biggest in-person shopping days in the U.S. this year, Field said. He thinks many people will still shop for the holidays in person, but will choose mid-week days when crowds are smaller. Heavier in-store discounts and concerns about lengthy shipping times could also draw shoppers closer to Christmas.

"Black Friday had a lot to lose, but some of it is going to be distributed throughout the holiday season," Field said.

One trend that could remain after the pandemic ends is that stores could remain closed on Thanksgiving Day, Field said. Since 2013, a growing number of stores had opened on Thanksgiving to match their competitors and get a jump start on Black Friday. But it's typically not a big day for retailers, and this year many stayed closed. Thanksgiving store traffic was down 95%, he said.

Field said stores may be rethinking the cost of paying employees and opening on Thanksgiving when they could easily make up for those sales online.

"I wonder, now that we're seeing a season where they were able to cut the cord on it, if it will give them pause," he said.

Adobe expects Monday to be the largest online sales day in U.S. history, with estimated spending of \$10.8 billion to \$12.7 billion.

One reason for the big numbers is that people are shopping online for things such as groceries and alcohol that they bought in person before the pandemic, Adobe said. As for more traditional gifts, Hot Wheels cars, Lego sets, Apple AirPods, Samsung televisions and video games are among the biggest sellers.

Big retailers such as Walmart and Target benefited from the surge, but small retailers did as well, Adobe said. Sales at big stores surged by 403% on Thanksgiving and Black Friday compared to the daily average in October, but sales at smaller retailers also grew by 349%.

## Ethiopia declares victory as military takes Tigray capital

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ethiopia's military has gained "full control" of the capital of the defiant Tigray region, the army announced Saturday, and the prime minister said the taking of Mekele marked the "completion" of an offensive that started nearly four weeks ago. The regional government said the city of a half-million people was "heavily bombarded" in the final push to arrest its leaders.

"God bless Ethiopia and its people!" Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement. "We have entered Mekele without innocent civilians being targets."

Now, he said, police will pursue the leaders of the Tigray People's Liberation Front, who run the region and dominated Ethiopia's ruling coalition before Abiy came to power in 2018 and sidelined them among the sweeping reforms that won him the Nobel Peace Prize.

Abiy's government has accused the TPLF of inciting unrest and seeking to reclaim power, and each government now regards the other as illegal. The prime minister has rejected dialogue with TPLF leaders, including during a Friday meeting with three African Union special envoys.

As Abiy spoke of "returning normalcy" to the Tigray region, one of his ministers told The Associated Press in a phone interview "there is no way" the search for the TPLF leaders will take weeks.

The minister in charge of democratization, Zedig Abraha, also said the Ethiopian government doesn't yet know the number of people killed in the conflict.

"We have kept the civilian casualty very low," he asserted. Humanitarians and human rights groups have reported several hundred dead, including combatants.

Some Ethiopians at home and in the diaspora rejoiced at the news that Mekele was under the military's control. "Thanks to the Almighty God our creator. Amen. Let peace prevail in Ethiopia!!!" former Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn tweeted.

The fighting has threatened to destabilize Ethiopia, which has been described as the linchpin of the strategic Horn of Africa, and its neighbors.

As international alarm has grown since the conflict began on Nov. 4, so has a massive humanitarian crisis. The Tigray region of 6 million people has been cut off from the world as the military pursued what Abiy called a "law enforcement operation" with airstrikes and tanks.

Food, fuel, cash and medical supplies have run desperately low. Nearly 1 million people have been displaced, including more than 40,000 who fled into Sudan. Camps home to 96,000 Eritrean refugees in northern Tigray have been in the line of fire.

With communications severed, it is difficult to verify claims by the warring sides. The Tigray leader, Debretsion Gebremichael, could not be reached Saturday. The heavily armed TPLF has long experience fighting in the region's rugged terrain, and some experts had warned of a drawn-out conflict.

The TPLF turned churches, schools and densely populated neighborhoods in Mekele "into armament stores and launching pads," senior Ethiopian official Redwan Hussein asserted in a Facebook post. He said "scattered remnants" of the TPLF fighters were carrying out "sporadic shootings."

The shelling in Mekele, a densely populated city, immediately raised concerns about civilian casualties. Ethiopia's government had warned residents there would be "no mercy" if they didn't move away from the TPLF leaders in time. The United Nations said some fled as tanks closed in and Abiy's 72-hour ultimatum for TPLF leaders to surrender expired.

"I invite everyone to pray for Ethiopia where armed clashes have intensified and are causing a serious humanitarian situation," Pope Francis tweeted Saturday.

"Fighting and shelling in the Mekele area are a very grave concern. We urge an immediate end to conflict and restoration of peace in Tigray," the top U.S. diplomat for Africa, Tibor Nagy, tweeted.

As Ethiopian forces moved in, Maj. Gen. Hassan Ibrahim warned that "it is possible that some of the wanted people may go to their families or neighboring areas and try to hide for few days. But our armed forces ... will be tasked to hunt down and capture these criminals one by one."

The United Nations continues to seek immediate and unimpeded access to deliver aid.

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Zadig, the democratization minister, told the AP that "once we've made sure there's no security threat," a humanitarian corridor for that purpose will be allowed within days. As for restoring communications to Tigray, "it depends on the kind of damage sustained," he said.

Asked about allowing independent investigations into alleged abuses during the fighting, Zadig replied, "We have nothing to hide."

"One of the reforms we introduced was transparency. But it depends on the situation," he said.

The minister dismissed the idea that Ethiopia has been left with "any, like, severe wound" from the conflict, and he expressed confidence in the prime minister's ability to restore normalcy.

"He's quite an effective leader when it comes to making peace," Zadig said.

But the conflict has further inflamed tensions in a country that the former TPLF-dominated government structured along ethnic lines during more than a quarter-century in power. Massacres reported in a single community, Mai-Kadra, during the recent fighting have led to concerns about what else will be revealed.

Among Abiy's goals is welcoming back the refugees who fled, though many have reported being attacked by Ethiopian forces and now struggle to find food, shelter and care in a remote part of Sudan.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on Saturday visited Sudan's Umm Rakouba camp, which houses some 10,000 refugees. He said about \$150 million is needed over the next six months.

Worryingly, refugees have told the AP that Ethiopian forces near the border are impeding people from leaving. AP reporters saw crossings slow to a trickle in recent days. Ethiopia's government has not commented.

"We have seen the figure of people decline but continuing. Five to 600 per day is not a small figure, let's make no mistake. It is true there were days in which they were in their thousands, but it depends also on the difficulty of moving around their country and on the border," Grandi said.

Access to Tigray is "the main obstacle at the moment," he said, urging Abiy's government to "grant us corridors, or whatever they call it, to provide assistance."

## Pope elevates 13 new cardinals then puts them in their place

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis raised 13 new cardinals to the highest rank in the Catholic hierarchy Saturday and immediately warned them not to use their titles for corrupt, personal gain, presiding over a ceremony marked from beginning to end by the coronavirus pandemic.

Two new "princes" of the church, from Brunei and the Philippines, didn't make it to Rome because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, though they were shown on giant screens watching it from home in the nearly empty St. Peter's Basilica. Throughout the socially distanced ceremony, which clocked in at an unusually quick 45 minutes, cardinals new and old wore protective masks.

Most removed their masks when they approached a maskless Francis to receive their red hats, but Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the first African-American cardinal, kept his on. Gregory also was one of the only new cardinals who kept his mask on when the group paid a singing courtesy visit to retired Pope Benedict XVI.

During his homily, Francis warned the new cardinals against falling into corruption or using their new rank for personal advancement, saying that just because they have a new title, "Eminence," doesn't mean they should drift from their people.

His comments reflected Francis' constant complaint about the arrogance of the clerical class, as well as his current battles to fight corruption in the Vatican hierarchy.

"Let's think of so many types of corruption in the life of the priesthood," Francis told the new cardinals, deviating from his prepared text. If they think of themselves so grandly, "you won't be pastors close to the people, you'll just be 'Eminence.' And if you feel this way, you'll have strayed off the road," the pope warned.

The ceremony, known as a consistory, is the seventh of Francis' pontificate and once again reflected the Argentine pope's effort to name cardinals from places that have never had them before or whose service to the church he wants to highlight. Nine are under age 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new

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pope, further solidifying the majority of Francis-appointed, voting-age prelates in the College of Cardinals.

Gregory, the new archbishop of Washington, told The Associated Press ahead of the ceremony that he viewed his appointment as "an affirmation of Black Catholics in the United States, the heritage of faith and fidelity that we represent."

Gregory's appointment comes after a year of racial protests in the U.S. sparked by the latest killing of a Black man by a white police officer. Francis has endorsed the protests and cited the American history of racial injustices.

"There is awareness now of the need for racial reconciliation, an awareness that I have not seen at this level and at this intensity before," Gregory said.

Another social justice-minded cardinal is the retired archbishop of Chiapas, Mexico, Cardinal Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel, who has championed the rights of Mexico's indigenous peoples and spearheaded efforts to translate the Bible and liturgical texts into native languages.

Francis visited Chiapas in 2016 and has long championed the rights of indigenous peoples. "That could be one of the reasons (he made me a cardinal) but I can't confirm it," Esquivel said during a Zoom call.

The Vatican's in-house theologian-preacher, Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, also got a red hat, but he successfully argued against being made a bishop as well, saying at his age - 86 - he couldn't take on the responsibility. He also eschewed a red cassock for Saturday's ceremony, using instead his brown hooded friar's robes covered with a white "rochet" vestment.

After the ceremony, Francis and the new cardinals paid a visit to Benedict, who lives across the Vatican gardens in a converted monastery. Francis, again sans mask, greeted his predecessor warmly. The cardinals greeted Benedict, kissed his hand and sang a prayer as the retired pope, who is 93 and frail, listened. Only Gregory and one other new cardinal kept his mask on during the encounter.

The ceremony took place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which erupted in Italy in February and has seen a resurgence this fall. The Vatican is under a modified lockdown, with the Vatican Museums shuttered and Francis' public general audiences cancelled. Instead he holds them in private, livestreamed.

The cardinal candidates and others who came to Rome from afar for Saturday's service were required to undergo 10 days of Vatican-mandated quarantine at the pope's hotel, where meals were brought to their rooms.

Usually, consistories are full of parties and crowds, with days of receptions, Masses and dinners for the new cardinals and their friends. The consistory itself is normally followed by "courtesy visits," where the new cardinals greet well-wishers and the general public from the grandeur of their own reception rooms in the Apostolic Palace or Vatican auditorium. This year, there were no courtesy visits, and each cardinal was given a 10-guest limit.

With Saturday's new cardinals, Francis has named 73 of the 128 voting-age cardinals, compared to 39 for Pope Benedict XVI and 16 for St. John Paul II. While the outcome of a future conclave can never be predicted, it's not a stretch to suggest that a hefty majority of today's electors presumably share the pastoral and doctrinal attitudes of the pope who named them.

The geographical makeup of the College of Cardinals has also shifted under Francis away from Europe, though Europe remains the greatest voting bloc with 53 electors. The Americas - North, Central and South and the Caribbean - together have 37 cardinal electors, even though an estimated 40% of the world's Catholics live in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Francis has continued the trend of naming cardinals from the "peripheries" of the Catholic Church: Brunei got its first-ever cardinal with the Vatican's ambassador to the country, Cardinal Cornelius Sim.

Rwanda also got its only cardinal with the archbishop of Kigali, Antoine Kambanda, whose family was slaughtered during the Rwandan genocide. Kambanda made the trip to Rome for the ceremony, Sim stayed home due to COVID-19 restrictions.

History's first Jesuit pope has also increased the number of cardinals who belong to religious orders, naming three Franciscans this time around in a year in which the pope, who named himself after St. Francis

of Assisi, released an encyclical inspired by the saint's call to fraternity and solidarity with the weakest.

This version has been edited to correct the spelling of the Brunei cardinal's surname in penultimate graf to Sim, not Sin.

## Tony Hsieh, retired Zappos CEO, dies at 46 after house fire

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Tony Hsieh, the retired CEO of Las Vegas-based online shoe retailer Zappos.com, who spent years working to transform the city's downtown area, has died. He was 46.

Hsieh was with family when he died Friday, according to DTP Companies, which he founded. He died of injuries suffered in a Nov. 18 fire in New London, Connecticut, Downtown Partnership spokesperson Megan Fazio told Hearst Connecticut Media on Saturday.

The Day newspaper reported the day of the fire that one person had been removed from a waterfront home in New London with possible burns and smoke inhalation. The person, whose name authorities did not release, was eventually taken to Bridgeport Hospital, which has a burn center.

Fire Chief Thomas Curcio was quoted by The Day as saying that crews arrived around 3:30 a.m. after a report of someone trapped in part of the house, that firefighters had to force their way in, and that they removed the victim, performed CPR and took him to a hospital.

Hsieh recently retired from Zappos after 20 years leading the company. The online shoe retailer shared a tribute on social media late Friday.

"The world has lost a tremendous visionary and an incredible human being," the statement said. "His spirit will forever be a part of Zappos."

Hsieh was a Harvard University graduate who joined the company — then called ShoeSite.com — in 1999. Zappos was sold to Amazon for \$1.2 billion in 2009, but Hsieh had remained with the company until his retirement.

"Tony's kindness and generosity touched the lives of everyone around him, and forever brightened the world," a DTP Companies statement said. "Delivering happiness was always his mantra, so instead of mourning his transition, we ask you to join us in celebrating his life."

For years, Hsieh also worked to revitalize downtown Las Vegas, pledging \$350 million in 2013 for redevelopment. The same year he moved Zappos' headquarters into the former Las Vegas City Hall building.

"Tony Hsieh played a pivotal role in helping transform Downtown Las Vegas," Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak tweeted Friday night. "Kathy and I send our love and condolences to Tony's family and friends during this difficult time."

Many tributes poured out on social media.

"Your curiosity, vision, and relentless focus on customers leave an indelible mark," Jeff Bezos, Amazon's CEO and president, posted on Instagram. "You will be missed by so many, Tony. Rest In Peace."

"Tony Hsieh might be the most original thinker I've ever been friends with," former venture investor Chris Sacca tweeted. "He questioned every assumption and shared everything he learned along the way. He genuinely delighted in making anyone and everyone happy."

Skateboarder and entrepreneur Tony Hawk added, "Tony Hsieh was a visionary. He was generous with his time and willing to share his invaluable expertise with anyone."

"A truly original thinker, a brilliant entrepreneur, and a kind-hearted and generous friend to so many," tweeted entrepreneur Max Levchin.

Ali Partovi, CEO of the venture capital fund Neo, was a partner in one of Hsieh's earliest ventures, the internet advertising company LinkExchange. In a tweet Saturday, Partovi said Hsieh was one of the most creative people he had ever known.

"I'll remember your unique combo of genius and mischief, and your infuriating ability to bet against all odds and win," Partovi said.

## UK appoints vaccines minister to oversee COVID inoculations

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government appointed a vaccines minister on Saturday as it prepares to inoculate millions of people against the coronavirus, potentially starting within days.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Conservative lawmaker Nadhim Zahawi will oversee the country's biggest vaccine program in decades.

The U.K. medicines regulator is currently assessing two vaccines — one developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, the other by Oxford University and AstraZeneca — to see if they are safe and effective. The Guardian newspaper reported that hospitals have been told they could receive the first doses of the Pfizer shot the week of Dec. 7, if it receives approval.

The U.K. says frontline health care workers and nursing home residents will be the first to be vaccinated, followed by older people, starting with those over age 80.

Britain has ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, enough for 20 million people, and 100 million doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

In all, the U.K. government has agreed to purchase up to 355 million doses of vaccine from seven different producers, as it prepares to vaccinate as many of the country's 67 million people as possible.

Decisions about which, if any, vaccines to authorize will be made by the independent Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency.

Pfizer and BioNTech say their vaccine is 95% effective, according to preliminary data. It must be stored at ultra-cold temperatures of around minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit).

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine can be stored at conventional refrigerator temperatures, and is also cheaper than its main rivals. But some scientists have questioned gaps in its reported results.

Oxford and AstraZeneca reported this week that their vaccine appeared to be 62% effective in people who received two doses, and 90% effective when volunteers were given a half dose followed by a full dose. They said the half dose was administered because of a manufacturing error, and they plan a new clinical trial to investigate the most effective dosing regimen.

The British government hopes a combination of vaccines and mass testing will end the need for restrictions on business and everyday life it imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Britain has had Europe's deadliest COVID-19 outbreak, with more than 57,000 confirmed virus-related deaths.

The prime minister said this week that officials hope to inoculate "the vast majority of the people who need the most protection by Easter." But he warned that "we must first navigate a hard winter" of restrictions.

A four-week national lockdown in England is due to end Wednesday, and will be replaced by three-tiered system of regional measures that restrict business activity, travel and socializing. The vast majority of the country is being put into the upper two tiers.

The restrictions have sparked protests, with police arresting scores of people at an anti-lockdown demonstration in London on Saturday.

Several bottles and smoke bombs were thrown as anti-mask and anti-vaccine demonstrators scuffled with officers in the city's West End shopping district. The Metropolitan Police force said 155 people were arrested.

Johnson also faces opposition to the measures from dozens of his own Conservative Party's lawmakers, who say the economic damage outweighs the public health benefits.

Bur Cabinet minister Michael Gove said the restrictions were "grimly" necessary to avoid the health system being overwhelmed this winter.

Writing in The Times of London, Gove said there are currently 16,000 coronavirus patients in British hospitals, not far below the April peak of 20,000. A rise in infections would mean coronavirus patients would "displace all but emergency cases. And then even those," he said.

"If, however, we can keep the level of infection stable or, even better, falling, and hold out through January and February, then we can be confident that vaccination will pull the plug on the problem," Gove wrote.



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## 2 shot, killed at Northern California mall on Black Friday

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Police are looking for a gunman who shot and killed two teens at a Northern California mall in the midst of Black Friday, sending shoppers running for safety, authorities said.

Arden Fair Mall in Sacramento was evacuated shortly after 6 p.m. when shots were fired near one of the mall's entrances, police spokesman Karl Chan said.

A 19-year-old man was found dead at the mall and a 17-year-old boy was found critically wounded at a bank outside of the mall. He was taken to the hospital and succumbed to his injuries several hours later, police told the Sacramento Bee on Saturday.

Workers at the mall said they heard up to a dozen shots.

"Heard a couple of shots go off, didn't really think anything of it," Antwon Martinez said. "And more and more kept going off, so everyone started running toward our back room. ... Everyone just started running."

He said customers and workers evacuated through the corridors and stairways in the back of the mall.

The coronavirus pandemic kept crowds thinner than usual on Black Friday, one of the busiest shopping days of the year, the newspaper reported.

Chan said the shooting appeared to be a targeted and isolated attack, though he didn't disclose the gunman's motive. Police said they were looking for a suspect in his 20s.

Other details of the shooting weren't immediately released but Chan urged people who may have witnessed the shooting to come forward and said the mall's security camera footage will be examined by homicide detectives.

"We do know that the mall does have a pretty robust surveillance footage," he said.

Gun assaults and homicides have surged in the California capital, as well as in Los Angeles and other cities. About 40 homicides have been reported this year.

"We are deeply concerned by the increase in gun violence in Sacramento and other cities during the pandemic, and have supported increasing our efforts to reach young people at risk," Mayor Darrell Steinberg tweeted. "A gun is never the answer."

## To court Latinos, Democrats have to expand strategy in 2022

By ASTRID GALVAN Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — President-elect Joe Biden's campaign credits its success in Arizona to the immigrant-rights and grassroots organizations that have been mobilizing Latinos for nearly two decades. The fruits of their labor — in triple-digit heat, no less — paid off in this traditionally conservative state, where changing demographics and suburban voters turning out to oppose President Donald Trump also worked in Biden's favor.

But what that means for the future of Democratic candidates and how the party can capitalize on these gains will be tested in 2022 and 2024 — especially because there wasn't a blue shift in statewide races or in some other parts of the country with large Latino populations.

"It was extremely important and extremely helpful to the campaign to be able to tap into that enthusiasm, to be able to tap into that incredible network. I think it made all the difference into turning Arizona blue," said Jessica Mejia, Arizona director for Biden's campaign.

A coalition of longstanding grassroots organizations known as Mi AZ started knocking on doors in July, eventually hitting 1.1 million homes, even in the hottest summer on record in Phoenix. They made nearly 8 million phone calls and managed digital and broadcast campaigns.

Their work is nothing new. In 2016, groups involved with Mi AZ helped get a minimum wage increase passed and then-Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who had long targeted immigrants, voted out of office.

Driven by years of anti-immigrant propositions and legislation — from banning bilingual education 20 years ago, forcing college students without legal status to pay out-of-state tuition in 2006 to SB 1070, the infamous "show me your papers" law from 2010 — these groups have built a network of activists and voters who turned out in huge numbers.

Latinos also now account for 24% of eligible voters in Arizona, compared with 19% in 2012, according

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to Pew Research Center.

Biden's victory and that of Mark Kelly, who unseated Republican Sen. Martha McSally, are notable gains for Democrats. Biden is only the second Democratic presidential candidate to win Arizona since 1948. Kelly's win gives the state two Democratic senators for the first time in nearly 70 years.

But a slew of Democrats who ran for the state Legislature and statewide races failed to gain enough traction. Biden also owes his victory to changing suburban demographics, with Republican areas shifting Democratic, and to Native Americans.

In parts of the country where Democrats have long reigned, more Latinos voted for Trump this year than expected, including areas of Florida and Texas. Although Latinos likely helped propel Biden to the presidency, it was a lesson in the limits of the party's grip on an increasingly diverse segment of voters.

And how or whether Democrats can keep that enthusiasm in the 2022 midterm elections will require a lot of work.

Chuck Rocha, a senior Democratic strategist, said the work by grassroots groups in Arizona helped Biden win. But it's also incumbent on campaigns to prioritize Latino voters by spending time and money in their communities consistently, not just right before an election.

Super PACs that target Latino voters are also crucial, Rocha said, adding that his, Nuestro PAC, spent \$4 million in ads in Arizona starting the last week of June, but that such spending is rare.

"I think Arizona is an example of the way to do things right, and it's more than just the grassroots groups," Rocha said.

He said Democrats will have to deploy similar tactics in other Hispanic-heavy areas of the country if they want to succeed in 2022, especially after losing several congressional seats in areas with a significant percentage of voters of color.

"If you're relying on a bunch of white consultants to Google-Translate you an ad and put it on Univision, that's not a winning strategy," Rocha said.

Antonio Arellano, interim executive director for Jolt, a Texas advocacy group that aims to grow Latinos' political power and mobilize young voters, said both parties need to invest more in their outreach efforts if they're going to win an increasingly large and diverse constituency.

They have to hire people who come from and reflect their communities and stop treating them as a safe bet, Arellano said.

"The parties know what they need to do, they're just not doing it. They have outdated strategies," he said. "The Latino electorate is incredibly young. In order to connect with them, they need to modernize civic engagement, and that requires an investment... What we've seen is that Latinos are an afterthought."

The Biden administration will keep supporters by focusing not just on immigration reform and reinstating the Obama-era program that shields from deportation immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, but by tackling the coronavirus crisis and its economic fallout, said Julie Rodríguez, Biden's deputy campaign manager who was recently named director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

"I think folks are gonna see a material difference between how we're prioritizing communities and small businesses and addressing the day-to-day issues, whether it's extending benefits or continuing to provide rent support," Rodríguez said. "And that's something this administration hasn't done."

To sway Latino voters, she said Democrats need to take the tactics used in Arizona to other states.

But the party will face stiff competition. Republicans attracted Latinos in parts of south Texas, and they will try to replicate that success elsewhere.

T.J. Shope, a longtime Republican state lawmaker newly elected to the Arizona Senate, said his party will look to its success in Texas for the midterm elections. Shope, who is Hispanic, says the Trump campaign had a significant Latino voter outreach effort, making inroads for the party in the future.

Shope, 35, says Republicans need to recruit more candidates who reflect their communities. He says it's contingent on his party to ensure Arizona doesn't turn into a reliably blue state.

"This is serious. We want to be competitive, we don't want to be Colorado," Shope said.

In Arizona, Democrats presented Trump as the boogeyman, getting voters to show up, while in south Florida, Republicans used socialism to drive voters to Trump, Shope said.

Trump won't be on the ballot in 2022, when the reigning party usually loses seats. "I guess the question I'm asking myself is, who does the boogeyman become for both parties?" Shope said.

## Biden plans swift moves to protect and advance LGBTQ rights

By DAVID CRARY and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

As vice president in 2012, Joe Biden endeared himself to many LGBTQ Americans by endorsing same-sex marriage even before his boss, President Barack Obama.

Now, as president-elect, Biden is making sweeping promises to LGBTQ activists, proposing to carry out virtually every major proposal on their wish lists. Among them: Lifting the Trump administration's near-total ban on military service for transgender people, barring federal contractors from anti-LGBTQ job discrimination, and creating high-level LGBTQ-rights positions at the State Department, the National Security Council and other federal agencies.

In many cases the measures would reverse executive actions by President Donald Trump, whose administration took numerous steps to weaken protections for transgender people and create more leeway for discrimination against LGBTQ people, ostensibly based on religious grounds.

In a policy document, the Biden campaign said Trump and Vice President Mike Pence "have given hate against LGBTQ+ individuals safe harbor and rolled back critical protections."

Beyond executive actions he can take unilaterally, Biden says his top legislative priority for LGBTQ issues is the Equality Act, passed by the House of Representatives last year but stalled in the Senate. It would extend to all 50 states the comprehensive anti-bias protections already afforded to LGBTQ people in 21 mostly Democratic-governed states, covering such sectors as housing, public accommodations and public services.

Biden says he wants the act to become law within 100 days of taking office, but its future remains uncertain. Assuming the bill passes again in the House, it would need support from several Republicans in the Senate, even if the Democrats gain control by winning two runoff races in Georgia. For now, Susan Collins of Maine is the only GOP co-sponsor in the Senate.

Critics, including prominent religious conservatives, say the bill raises religious freedom concerns and could require some faith-based organizations to operate against their beliefs.

The Equality Act "is a dangerous game changer" in its potential federal threat to religious liberty, said the Rev. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Rep. Chris Stewart, a Utah Republican, tried to strike a compromise last year that would have expanded LGBTQ rights nationwide while allowing exemptions for religious groups to act on beliefs that could exclude LGBTQ people. His proposal won support from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Seventh-day Adventist Church but was panned by liberal and civil rights groups.

"Anti-equality forces are trying to use the framework of religious liberty to strip away individual rights," said Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBTQ-rights organization.

Among the actions that Biden pledges to take unilaterally, scrapping Trump's transgender military ban would be among the most notable.

Jennifer Levi, a Massachusetts-based transgender-rights lawyer, said it's clear Biden has the authority to do so after taking office.

Nicolas Talbott, a transgender man whom Levi has represented in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the ban, called that "a huge relief."

"I look forward to being allowed to re-enroll in ROTC so I can continue to train, keep up my fitness to serve, and become the best Army officer I can possibly be," Talbott said via email.

Some of Biden's other promises:

— Appoint an array of LGBTQ people to federal government positions. There's wide expectation that Biden will nominate an LGBTQ person to a Cabinet post, with former presidential contender Pete Buttigieg among the possibilities.

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— Reverse Trump administration policies carving out religious exemptions allowing discrimination against LGBTQ people by social service agencies, health care providers, adoption and foster care agencies and other entities.

— Reinstate Obama administration guidance directing public schools to allow transgender students to access bathrooms, locker rooms and sports teams in accordance with their gender identity. The Trump administration revoked this guidance.

— Allocate federal resources to help curtail violence against transgender people, particularly transgender women of color. Rights groups say at least 38 transgender or gender-nonconforming people have been killed in the U.S. this year.

— Support legislative efforts to ban so-called conversion therapy for LGBTQ minors.

— Bolster federal efforts to collect comprehensive data about LGBTQ people in the U.S. by adding questions about sexual orientation and gender identity to national surveys.

— Ensure that LGBTQ rights are a priority for U.S. foreign policy and be prepared to use pressure tactics, including sanctions, against foreign governments violating those rights.

Whatever happens in Washington, some activists worry that Republican-controlled state legislatures may push anti-LGBTQ bills, such as curtailing the ability of transgender youth to access certain medical treatments or participate in school sports. They are also concerned that an influx of conservative federal judges appointed by Trump might lead to rulings allowing religious exemptions.

Earlier this month the Supreme Court — now with a solid conservative majority — heard arguments on whether a Catholic social services agency in Philadelphia should be able to turn away same-sex couples who want to be foster parents, while still receiving local government funding.

Tim Schultz, a religious freedom advocate, outlined two potential paths for the debate over the Equality Act: “ongoing legislative gridlock, regulatory trench warfare and judicial decisions, which will happen independently of what the president does,” or active engagement by Biden for a new strategy that can win bipartisan support in the Senate.

The first path would provide only “temporary satisfaction,” given that regulatory moves can be undone by future presidents, said Schultz, president of the nonprofit 1st Amendment Partnership.

Nathan Diamant, executive director of the Orthodox Union Advocacy Center, cited Biden’s campaign-trail appeals for unity — and his commitment to faith outreach — as positive signs for more engagement on the issue next year.

“He and his team will be very well-positioned to broker compromise if they want to, to get this done,” said Diamant, who has advised both the Trump and Obama administrations.

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## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 29, the 334th day of 2020. There are 32 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 29, 1929, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard E. Byrd, pilot Bernt Balchen, radio operator Harold June and photographer Ashley McKinney made the first airplane flight over the South Pole.

On this date:

In 1864, a Colorado militia killed at least 150 peaceful Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre.

In 1910, British explorer Robert F. Scott’s ship Terra Nova set sail from New Zealand, carrying Scott’s expedition on its ultimately futile — as well as fatal — race to reach the South Pole first.

In 1924, Italian composer Giacomo Puccini died in Brussels before he could complete his opera “Turandot.” (It was finished by Franco Alfano.)

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In 1952, President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower secretly left on a trip to Korea, keeping his campaign promise to assess the ongoing conflict first-hand.

In 1961, Enos the chimp was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft, which orbited earth twice before returning.

In 1963, President Johnson named a commission headed by Earl Warren to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.

In 1981, film star Natalie Wood drowned in a boating accident off Santa Catalina Island, California, at age 43.

In 1987, a Korean Air 707 jetliner en route from Abu Dhabi to Bangkok was destroyed by a bomb planted by North Korean agents with the loss of all 115 people aboard.

In 2000, bracing the public for more legal wrangling, Vice President Al Gore said in a series of TV interviews that he was prepared to contest the Florida presidential vote until "the middle of December."

In 2001, George Harrison, the "quiet Beatle," died in Los Angeles following a battle with cancer; he was 58.

In 2008, Indian commandos killed the last remaining gunmen holed up at a luxury Mumbai hotel, ending a 60-hour rampage through India's financial capital by suspected Pakistani-based militants that killed 166 people.

In 2009, a gunman shot and killed four Lakewood, Washington, police officers at a coffee shop (suspect Maurice Clemmons was shot to death by a Seattle police officer two days later). Iran approved plans to build 10 industrial scale uranium enrichment facilities in defiance of U.N. demands it halt enrichment.

Ten years ago: An Afghan border policeman killed six American servicemen during a training mission in a remote area near the Pakistani border. Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd), admitted for the first time that a computer worm had affected centrifuges in Iran's uranium enrichment program. Climate negotiators began a two-week conference in Cancun. Former New York Congressman Stephen J. Solarz, 70, died in Washington, D.C.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, arriving in Paris late at night for a climate conference, briefly visited the Bataclan, the concert hall that was the scene of the worst of France's terror attacks 16 days earlier. Pope Francis visited the conflict-wracked Central African Republic, where he urged the country's Christian and Muslim factions to lay down their weapons and instead arm themselves with peace and forgiveness. Andy Murray gave Britain its first Davis Cup title in 79 years when he beat Belgium's David Goffin 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 in the first of reverse singles.

One year ago: Usman Khan, who'd been released from prison early after a conviction on terrorism charges, stabbed two people to death and wounded three others next to London Bridge before being shot and killed by police. Fewer shoppers visited stores than on past Black Fridays, but they made up for it with a Black Friday record of \$7.4 billion in online transactions. Bill Peters resigned as coach of the NHL's Calgary Flames after it was disclosed he had directed racist slurs at a Nigerian-born player in the minors a decade earlier, and had kicked and punched players behind the bench during his recent time with Carolina. The NFL suspended Arizona Cardinals cornerback Josh Shaw through at least the end of the 2020 season for betting on NFL games on multiple occasions during the 2019 season. Delmer Joel Ramirez Palma, a construction worker who'd been hurt in the October collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel construction site in New Orleans, was deported to his native Honduras. Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone died at the age of 101.

Today's Birthdays: Hall of Fame sportscaster Vin Scully is 93. Blues singer-musician John Mayall is 87. Actor Diane Ladd is 85. Songwriter Mark James is 80. Composer-musician Chuck Mangione is 80. Country singer Jody Miller is 79. Pop singer-musician Felix Cavaliere (The Rascals) is 78. Former Olympic skier Suzy Chaffee is 74. Actor Jeff Fahey is 68. Movie director Joel Coen is 66. Actor-comedian-celebrity judge Howie Mandel is 65. Former Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano (neh-pahl-ih-TAN'-oh) is 63. Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is 61. Actor Cathy Moriarty is 60. Actor Kim Delaney is 59. Actor Tom Sizemore is 59. Actor Andrew McCarthy is 58. Actor Don Cheadle is 56. Actor-producer Neill Barry is 55. Pop singer Jonathan Knight (New Kids on the Block) is 52. Rock musician Martin Carr (Boo Radleys) is 52. Actor Jennifer Elise Cox is 51. Baseball Hall of Famer Mariano Rivera is 51. Actor Larry Joe Campbell is 50. Rock musician Frank Delgado (Deftones) is 50. Actor Paola Turbay is 50. Contemporary Christian

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singer Crowder is 49. Actor Gena Lee Nolin is 49. Actor Brian Baumgartner is 48. Actor Julian Ovenden is 45. Actor Anna (AH'-nuh) Faris is 44. Gospel singer James Fortune is 43. Actor Lauren German is 42. Rapper The Game is 41. Actor Janina Gavankar is 40. Rock musician Ringo Garza is 39. Actor-comedian John Milhiser is 39. Actor Lucas Black is 38. Actor Diego Boneta is 30. Actor Lovie Simone (TV: "Greenleaf") is 22.