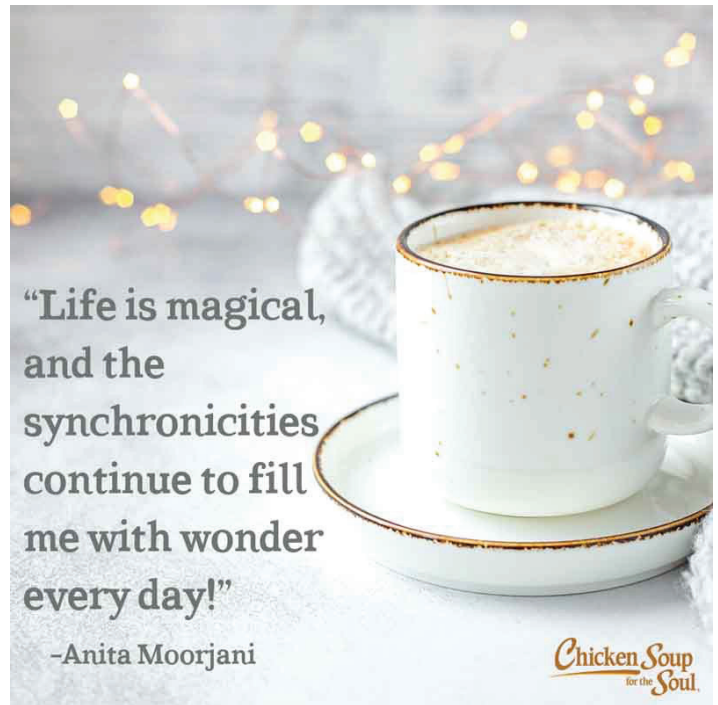


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## Church Services

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 online only 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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## Upcoming Schedule

### Monday, Jan. 11

4 p.m.: Basketball Doubleheader at Webster with Girls JV at 4 p.m. followed by Boys JV, Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

### Tuesday, Jan. 12

6 p.m.: Girls Basketball vs. Aberdeen Christian at Aberdeen Civic Arena with JV followed by varsity.

### Thursday, Jan. 14

5 p.m.: Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli with C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and then varsity

### Friday, Jan. 15

6 p.m.: Girls Basketball at Roncalli with JV game followed by varsity

### Saturday, Jan. 16

10 a.m.: Wrestling at Potter County Invitational (Gettysburg)



The service of  
*Sandra Mayou*  
Tuesday, Jan. 12th, 11 a.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

**GDILIVE.COM**  
**GDIRADIO Locally 89.3FM**

## Death Notice: Delores Leonhardt

Delores Leonhardt, 88, of Groton passed away January 9, 2021 at Sun Dial Manor in Bristol. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.



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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

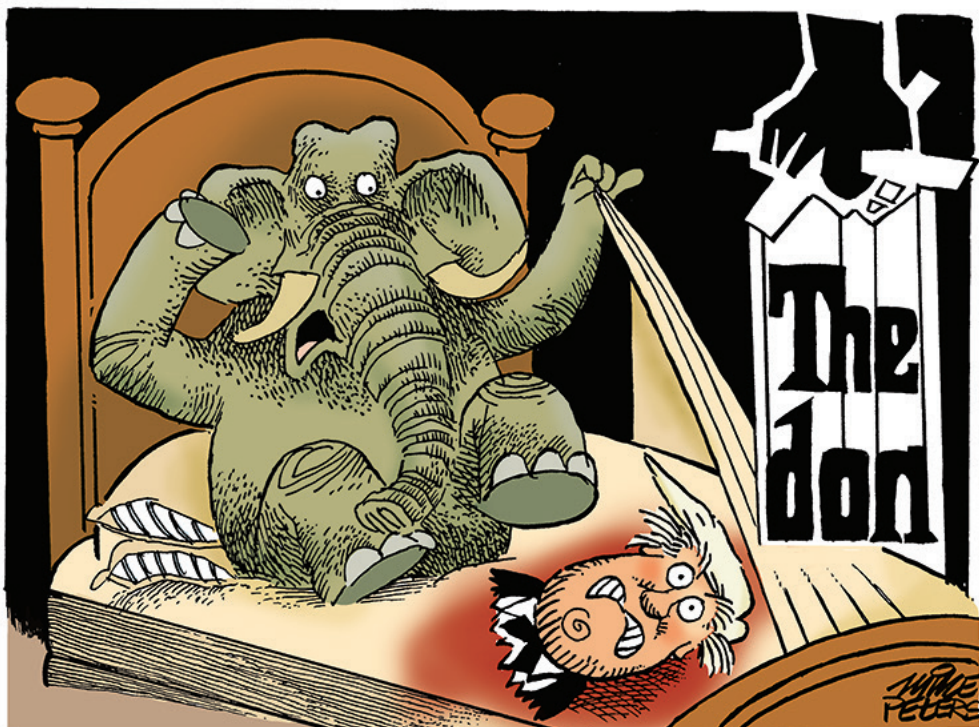
*For a thousand  
years in Your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
and like a watch in the night.*

PSALM 90:4

*The "Night Watchman" statue (Grapevine, Texas)*



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grimmy.com

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Genesis, what was the act of God in making the heavens and the earth bringing forth life? *Confirmation, Calvary, Creation, Communion*

3. When the disciples argued about who would be the greatest, who/what did Jesus point to? *Peter, Birds, Lilies, Little child*

4. How many books of the Bible (KJV) begin with the letter "E"? *0, 2, 5, 6*

5. From 2 Timothy 1, who was Timothy's devout grandmother? *Dorcus, Lydia, Lois, Hannah*

6. In biblical times, a "daric" was a Persian ...? *Gold coin, Headwear, Sailing ship, Well*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Creation; 3) Little child; 4) Six (Ecclesiastes Ephesians, Esther, Exodus, Ezekiel, Ezra); 5) Lois; 6) Gold coin

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patron.com/triviaguy](http://www.patron.com/triviaguy).*

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## Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Creamed Celery and Peas

Usually vegetable dishes get no respect. Kids and husbands often say, "Thanks, but no thanks" unless it's french fries. But we're betting this ultra-easy veggie dish will get remarks more like, "Wow, this is good! When can we have this again!?"

- 1½ cups finely chopped celery*
- 1 (2-ounce) jar chopped pimiento, undrained*
- 2 cups frozen peas, thawed*
- 1/3 cup fat-free sour cream*
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes*
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper*

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute celery for 6 to 8 minutes or just until tender. Stir in undrained pimiento and peas. Continue cooking for 3 to 4 minutes, stirring often.

2. Add sour cream and parsley flakes. Mix well to combine. Lower heat and simmer for 3 to 4 minutes or until mixture is heated through, stirring often. Makes 4 (3/4 cup each) servings.

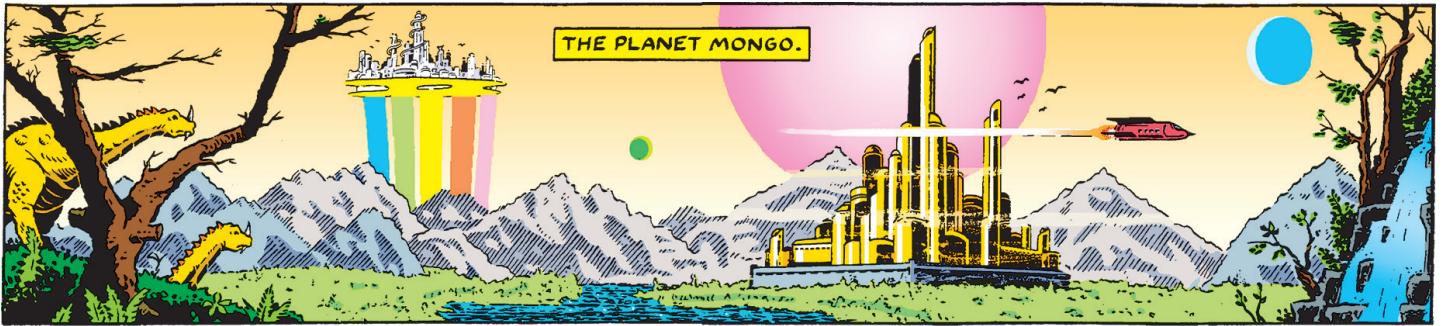
• Each serving equals: 80 calories, 0g fat, 5g protein, 15g carb., 148mg sodium, 4g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1/2 Vegetable.

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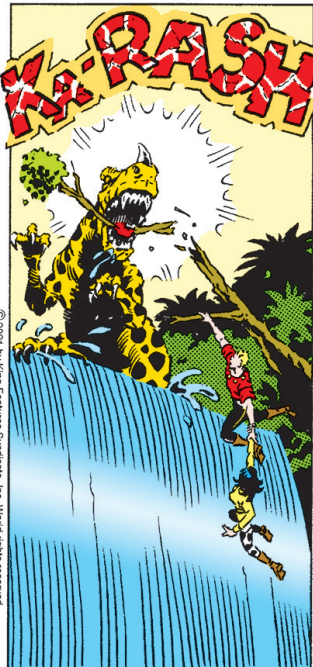
**FLASH GORDON**  
1-3  
By JIM KEEFE

**F**LASH AND PALE ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE MONSTER AND THE FALLS!

THE CURRENT... **CHOKES** IT'S TOO STRONG!

GRAB MY HAND!

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THE MONSTER'S GONE. WE'RE SAFE.

BUT...WHAT ABOUT OUR SUPPLIES? WE LOST THEM IN THE RIVER.

HOW WILL WE BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN THE WILDS OF MONGO WITHOUT THEM?

DON'T WORRY, MY LOVE, WE'LL FIND A WAY.

TOGETHER WE CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING.

**NEXT: NEW ADVENTURE**

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

AWARE OF OVER-AGGRESSIVENESS IN INITIATING THE THROUGH-SWING WITH YOUR FEET AND LEGS TO THE POINT WHERE YOUR BODY SPINS TARGETWARD TOO QUICKLY.

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START DOWN WITH A SMOOTH SHIFT OF WEIGHT TO YOUR FORWARD FOOT, ALONG WITH CONTROLLED SHUTTLE OF YOUR KNEES TARGETWARD.

KEEPING YOUR RIGHT HEEL GROUNDED WHILE WORKING ON THE KNEE ACTION WILL GIVE YOU THE PROPER FEEL.



## Office Test Alone Can't Diagnose COPD

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am a healthy 70-year-old woman. The only prescription medication I take is for dry eyes. I recently visited my new primary physician for the first time, and she had me do a breathing test, where I exhaled into a tube to measure airflow. I was told to breathe deeply and exhale completely into the tube three times in succession. It took less than a minute to complete. It is apparently a routine test she orders for new patients.

She then told me I have COPD, on the basis of that test alone. She asked if I had ever smoked or been exposed to secondhand smoke. That was her only question — coughing or shortness of breath was never mentioned. I have never smoked, but my father was a smoker when I was growing up. I actually do have a slightly productive cough most mornings. I probably walk about 10 miles a week, and I do notice some shortness of breath on long uphill sections, though I can walk briskly in level areas for miles with no problem.

She said it is not advanced enough to require an inhaler at this time. I am bothered by this very easy “diagnosis” on the basis of one simple test. I wonder if I should ask to be referred to a pulmonologist for a more thorough evaluation. — O.P.

**ANSWER:** The test your doctor performed is called office spirometry, and it is useful for monitoring known pulmonary diseases, especially COPD and asthma. However, by itself, it is inadequate to make the diagnosis of

COPD, which I am not sure you have.

The diagnosis of COPD is made in people with persistent respiratory symptoms, usually shortness of breath or coughing. Spirometry will usually show obstruction to airflow. Formal pulmonary function testing, which is an extensive process taking an hour or so with a skilled and experienced technician, is ideal for determining severity.

The problem with getting a breathing test in someone who has no significant symptoms is that you can find someone whose test results are at or just below the lower limit of normal, and the diagnosis is unclear. The prognosis for people with mild airway obstruction but with no symptoms of COPD is much better than for people with COPD and who continue to smoke. For this reason, using spirometry as a screening test for everyone is not recommended.

Without knowing the exact results of your spirometry, I suspect you do not have COPD, given your absence of smoking and your extremely mild symptoms. A comprehensive exam by a pulmonologist would be definitive and may help you be less anxious about the results you have now.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I saw your recent column on enlarged prostate, and I have the same problem. I have no history of cancer, but I do have a high PSA and symptoms of frequent urination. Because of other medications, I cannot take ibuprofen, so I am curious if Tylenol has the same anti-inflammatory effect. I do occasionally use Tylenol for headaches and arthritis pain. — J.B.

**ANSWER:** The exact mechanism of how Tylenol reduces pain remains a mystery. However, it is not an anti-inflammatory drug like ibuprofen, so would not be expected to have the benefit in prostate symptoms that some men get from taking an ibuprofen at bedtime.

\*\*\*

*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 wrote and released “Papa’s Got a Brand New Bag”?
2. Name the artist who originally released “Long Tall Sally.”
3. Where did Mungo Jerry get their name?
4. Who was the lead singer for “Love Grows (Where My Rosemary Goes)”?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “Listen boy, it’s not automatically a certain guarantee, To insure yourself you’ve got to provide communication constantly.”

### Answers

1. James Brown, in 1965. The versions in the single and in the 1991 box set aren’t the same. The box set version was as written, while the single version was speeded up.
2. Little Richard, in 1956. The song was so up-tempo that he had to practice to fit all the words in, building up more speed.
3. They took their name from a T.S. Eliot poem “Mungojerrie and Rumpelteazer” in the “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats.”
4. Tony Burrows. He has a long history of fronting different bands, sometimes simultaneously.
5. “Tell Her About It,” by Billy Joel, 1983. The song encourages a boy to tell his lady love how he feels, while he has the chance. The song appeared on the album “An Innocent Man.”

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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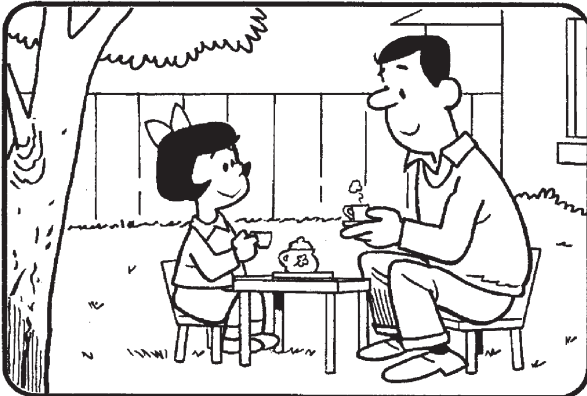
## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Wagner



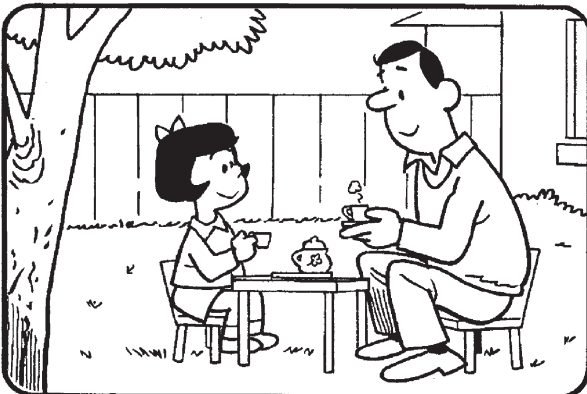
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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Skirt is shorter. 3. Table leg is missing. 4. Teapot is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Cuffs are missing.

"The jury's verdict in the Michael Jackson case is noted. However, this is the Figby case."



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• N.B. of Texas, writes: “I never could find the time to exercise. When I got home, I had to rush to get supper, etc., and afterward all I wanted to do was plop down and watch television. Then I got an exercise mat and a stationary bicycle. When I couldn’t work out very long, I worked out during commercials. I’ve lost 3 pounds so far!” Great idea for all those with fitness on their New Year’s Resolution lists, Nancy!

• Two wonderful tips came in from G.K. of Minnesota: “To protect floors from being damaged by chairs being pushed around, glue rounds of carpeting beneath the chair legs. They are easily removed for replacing as they wear down. Also, when making bread or rolls, warm the flour in the oven or microwave so as not to chill the butter. The dough will rise faster.”

• B.W. of Colorado swears by brake cleaner to get rid of bad spots on carpets. “Regular automotive brake

cleaner on the spot and a clean rag will remove almost all stains,” he says.

• “In cold winter months, keep your robe (and slippers or whatever else) under the covers with you when you sleep. Pull it next to or over you a few minutes before you get up. It’ll be toasty and will help make the transition into the cold a little less harsh.”  
—*B.M. in New York*

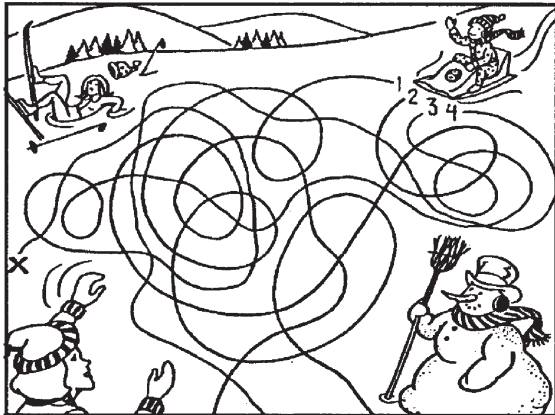
• If your animals try to get out when you go into or out of the house, keep some toys or treats in your pocket or near the door to throw across the room, giving you a few seconds to slip in or out.

• As tax time draws closer, try taping a large manila envelope to the fridge, leaving the top open. Immediately place all tax-related forms and receipts in the envelope as they come in. This way, when you are ready to start your taxes, all items will be together and easy to find.

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

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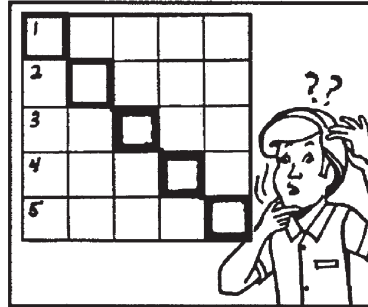


**SNOW GO!** Which path does our snowmobiler pal take to reach point X below? Choose route 1, 2, 3 or 4.

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

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### SCREEN TWO-COUNTRY PACKAGE DEAL

PENCIL IN words in accord with definitions below to form the name of a European country diagonally.

1. Playground device.
2. Magical power.
3. Jonah's transport.
4. Misrepresent.
5. Utter disdain.

Then, erase diagonal letters and form words in accord with these definitions for a South American country:

1. Adhere tightly.
2. Nut covering.
3. A space of time.
4. — of the ball.
5. Number of points.

What are the countries?

Countries: Spain and Chile. Words: 1. Swing, 2. Spell, 3. Whale, 4. Belle, 5. Scorn, Then: 1. Cling, 2. Shell, 3. While, 4. Belle, 5. Score.

**CUP-LETS!** Match trophy cups and related sports. Cups: 1. America's Cup. 2. Ryder Cup. 3. Stanley Cup. 4. Wightman Cup. Sports: (a) Golf. (b) Tennis. (c) Yachting. (d) Hockey.

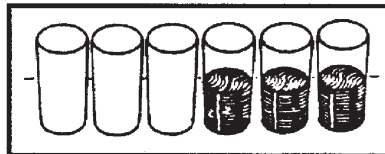
1—(c). 2—(a). 3—(d). 4—(b).

**WATER WINGER!** Arrange six water glasses in a row, with three at the left empty and three at the right half full. Now, challenge someone to move just one glass so that no empty glass is next to another, and every other glass is half full.

How is it done?

Remember, only one glass is to be moved, and alakazam, you're to achieve the required goal.

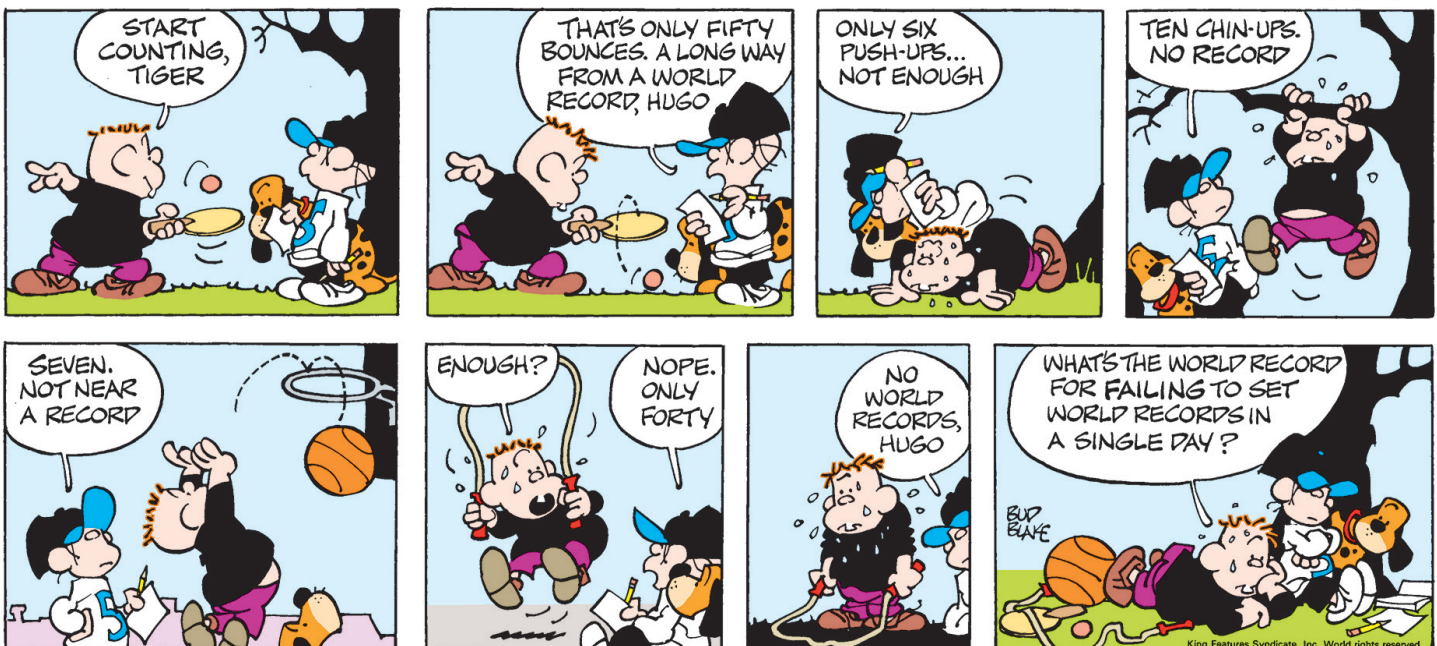
Don't take this too seriously, folks; it has a catch, natch.



Pour the middle half-glassful into the middle empty glass. Is that a catch, or what!

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



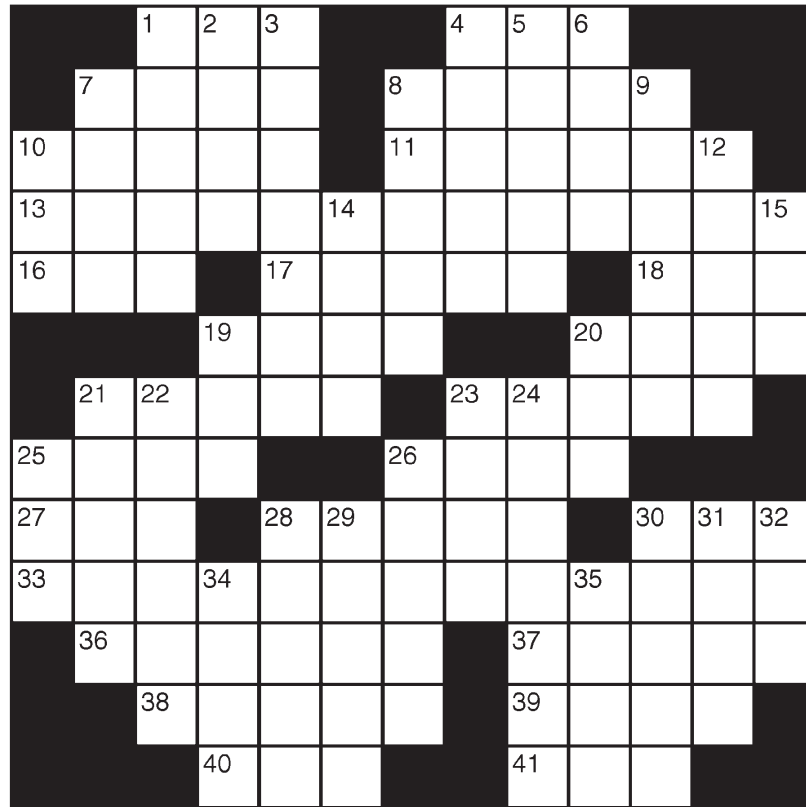
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Opening
- 4 Cartoon frame
- 7 Vend
- 8 "Dallas" matriarch
- 10 Sleep problem
- 11 Court hammers
- 13 1998 Bruce Willis thriller
- 16 Shock partner
- 17 Hoodwinks
- 18 Water tester
- 19 Gum flavor
- 20 Roll call reply
- 21 Fry lightly
- 23 Belted area
- 25 Cooking fat
- 26 Uttered



- 27 Chemical suffix
- 28 Up and about
- 30 Quilters' get-together
- 33 Wimbledon champ of 2008
- 36 Wife of Jacob
- 37 Edition
- 38 Nodded off
- 39 D.C. baseball team
- 40 Picnic crasher

- 41 Ram's mate land
- 9 Upper crust
- 10 Docs' org.
- 12 Bull's sound
- 14 Ancient letter
- 15 "My word!"
- 19 Wet dirt
- 20 Secreted
- 21 Less loony
- 22 Sports venues
- 23 Banshee's cry
- 24 Delta, for one
- 25 Actress Tyler
- 26 Long-legged shorebird
- 28 Wan
- 29 Used a broom
- 30 Butter up the turkey
- 31 Flightless birds
- 32 Compass pt.
- 34 Bruins' sch.
- 35 Caesar's "vidi"

### DOWN

- 1 Category
- 2 Sir Guinness
- 3 Enthusiastic approval
- 4 County of Ireland
- 5 Graceland idol
- 6 Fibs
- 7 Gush
- 8 Pharaoh's



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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.



## LAFF - A - DAY



"That sure WAS a surprise party. She actually gave her right age!"

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

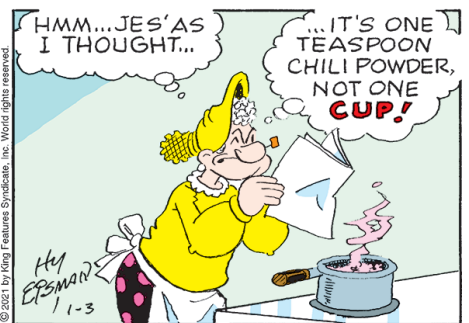
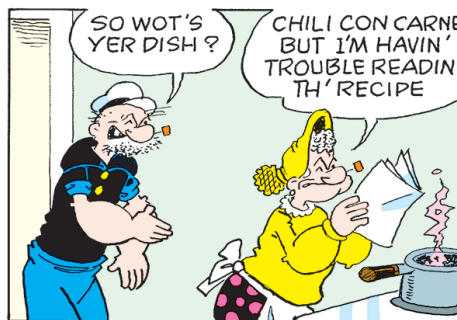
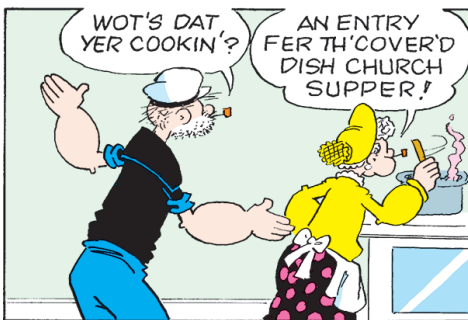
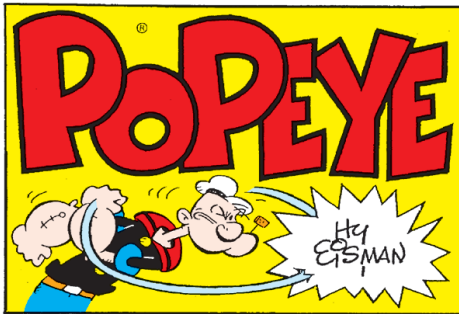


WHY DOGS MAKE LOUSY NEWS REPORTERS

KOPERVAS

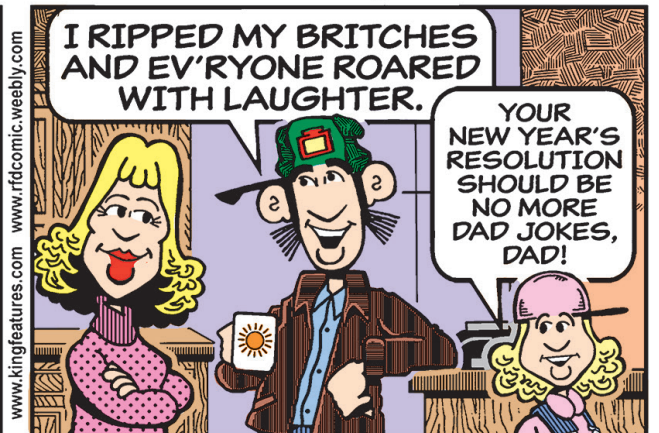
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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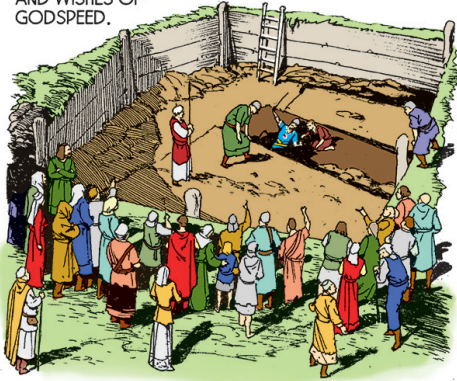
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Hal Foster's GIANNI AND SCHULTZ  
**Prince Valiant**

**Our Story:** VAL CHOOSES THE TEUTONIC SIR TROLLENBERG - WHO BOASTS MUCH EXPERIENCE IN MOUNTAINS AND CRAGGY PLACES - TO COMPLETE HIS RESCUE TEAM...

... WHICH AT LAST BEGINS ITS DESCENT INTO THE UNKNOWN, ACCOMPANIED BY MANY PRAYERS AND WISHES OF GODSPEED.



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VAL, GAWAIN, IG AND TROLLENBERG SQUEEZE DOWN THE NARROW CLEFT FOR WHAT SEEMS A HARROWINGLY GREAT DISTANCE...

... AND THEN EMERGE INTO A FANTASTIC UNDERWORLD!

NEXT: Sign of life

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Art: Unlocking Your Creativity

Creating art can be emotionally healing and freeing. Who among us can't use a little of that nowadays? Once you get started, you'll wonder why you didn't begin sooner.

#### Here are some ideas:

*Collage Wish Board:* Collect pictures of things you miss and hope to have or do again. You'll need a poster board, school glue, scissors and magazines (or print out pictures you find online). If you hope to travel, gather travel magazines and snip out pictures of places you want to go once the ban on travel disappears. Paris? Add the Eiffel Tower. London? Add Buckingham Palace.

If you plan a garden for next summer, collect gardening magazines or look for pictures on seed catalog sites. Add in a small plan of your garden. A collage wish board can be made for nearly any interest and topic. (Mine is a mixture of all the things that didn't happen this year: the annual music festival, square dance classes and month-

ly museum exhibits.)

*Coloring:* There's something very relaxing about taking a handful of fine-point markers and filling in the designs on a page in front of us. Search for "adult coloring books" online and print out the free pages. The topics are endless. (I'm a fan of the Celtic knots and mandalas.)

*Crafts:* If creating things is more to your liking, search online for "craft kits for adults" and see what appeals to you. Stained glass window art, jewelry-making, macrame, birdhouse kit, origami, wind chimes, mosaics, oil painting or watercolor ... the kits are endless. Look at the website for your local hobby and craft store. Chances are they have curbside pickup. (I'm in the middle of a 1:250 scale model of Notre Dame Cathedral.)

Have fun!

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1. What Canadian boxer, known for a powerful left-handed punch he called "The Smash," lost two heavy-weight elimination bouts to Mike Tyson in 1991?

2. Renowned college basketball broadcaster Dick Vitale compiled a 34-60 record as head coach of what NBA team from 1978-79?

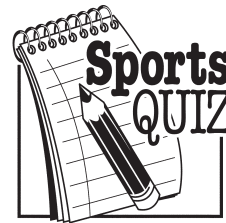
3. Italy's Armin Zoggeler won six medals at the Winter Olympics from 1994-2014 competing in what sport?

4. What two New York Mets players reached the 30-30 club (30 home runs and 30 stolen bases) in the 1987 season?

5. What Los Angeles Sparks player was named both WNBA Rookie of the Year and MVP in 2008?

6. NBA great Shaquille O'Neal played the character of Neon Boudeaux in what 1994 basketball drama film starring Nick Nolte?

7. Name the Welsh golfer who won



by Ryan A. Berenz

his lone major championship at the Masters in 1991.

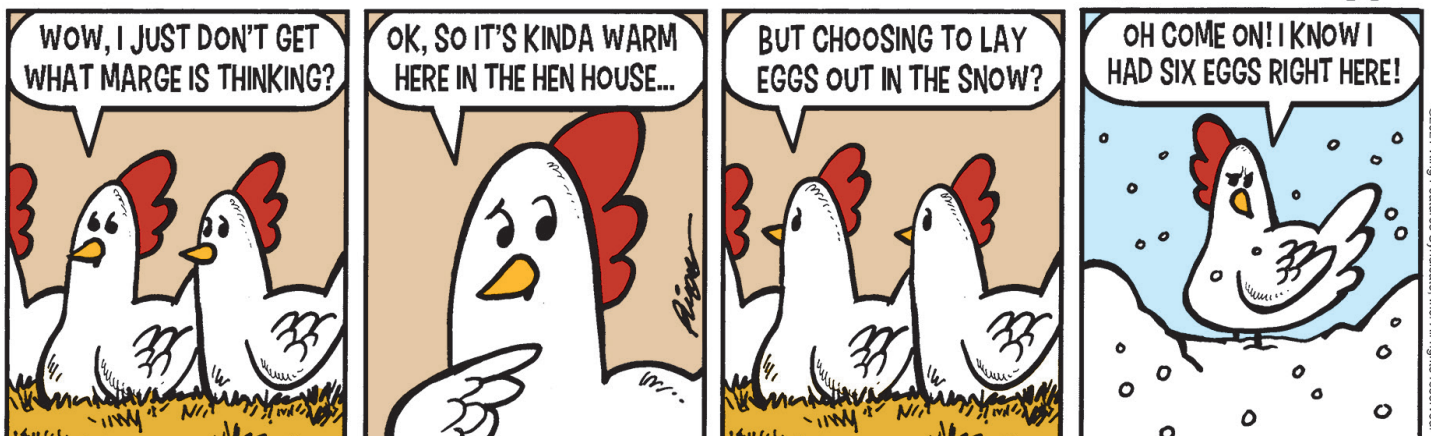
## Answers

1. Donovan "Razor" Ruddock.
2. The Detroit Pistons.
3. Luge.
4. Howard Johnson and Darryl Strawberry.
5. Candace Parker.
6. "Blue Chips."
7. Ian Woosnam.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Emergency Help for Hungry Pets

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** So many people are out of work right now, and there is little to no assistance available to them just to pay rent, much less buy food for themselves. I am wondering, how will people be able to feed their pets in this desperate situation? — *Jamie G., Atlanta*

**DEAR JAMIE:** One of the bright spots in this pandemic is the way that individuals have responded to help each other and fill the needs of tens of thousands — maybe millions — of pets.

Shelters in many parts of the country have opened or expanded food pantries for pets to help owners keep their dogs and cats healthy and fed. Napa County, California, for example, transformed two empty shipping containers into a community pet pan-

try offering free supplies this summer. (Search for “Napa County’s new pet pantry” to learn more.)

In Tuscon, Cody’s Friends, a charity started in 2010 by a 10-year-old boy, has seen a huge surge of demand for pet food and is distributing to area shelters and clinics as fast as possible (<https://codysfriends.org>). And in North Carolina, the Davidson County Animal Alliance extended its holiday pet food collection drive because there was so much need.

If you are struggling to pay for pet food for any reason, contact your local shelter first and ask if there is a pet food program available. You may not be able to pick up food directly from a shelter; it may be distributed at a different location. Contact local food banks, churches and municipal offices. And of course, search online or on Facebook for these services as well.

Also, if you’ve been waiting to donate food, pet supplies or cash to a local shelter or charity, now is your moment to shine.

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



## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- To train new operatives during the Cold War, the Soviets built fully functional replicas of American towns. Their residents consisted of retired deep-cover operatives who taught the trainees everything they needed to know about blending into American life.

- In 1963, the Bronx Zoo had an exhibit called “The Most Dangerous Animal in the World.” It was a mirror.

- The U.S. Navy has a tradition that no submarine is ever considered lost at sea. Subs that don’t return, including 52 lost during World War II, are considered “still on patrol.” Every year at Christmas, sailors manning communications hubs send holiday greetings to those listed as still on patrol.

- An outbreak of the common cold occurred at an Antarctic base after 17 weeks of complete isolation.

- In the category of Best Song Titles Ever, country music stars Loretta Lynn

and Conway Twitty recorded a duet titled “You’re the Reason Our Kids Are So Ugly.” (Despite which fact, the lyrics make clear that the couple is still in love.)

- After high school senior Allison Closs dressed up a cardboard cutout of Danny DeVito to go with her to prom, the actor returned the favor by bringing a cardboard cutout of Allison to the set of “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.”

- A \$3 million lottery winner was sentenced to 21 years in prison after using his winnings to finance a meth trafficking ring.

- Actual town names in the U.S. include Rabbit Hash (Kentucky), Two Egg (Florida), Ding Dong (Texas) and Bacon (Delaware).

- Ever have trouble finishing your veggies? Try taking a tip from Leigh Knight, who in 2006 sold an unwanted brussels sprout left over from his Christmas dinner for £1,550 (\$2,100.72 USD) to aid cancer research.

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**Thought for the Day:** “May your coffee kick in before reality does.” —  
*Unknown*

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## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

VACUUMING NEAR THE SOCKET, DAD SEZ ...



AL SCADUTO

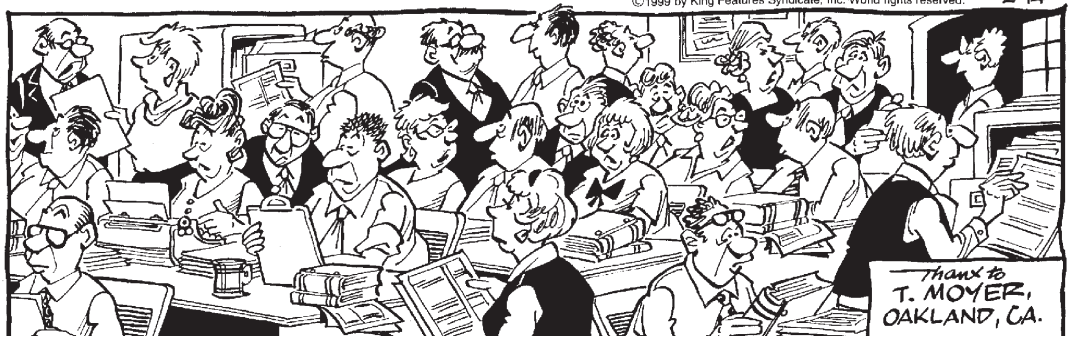
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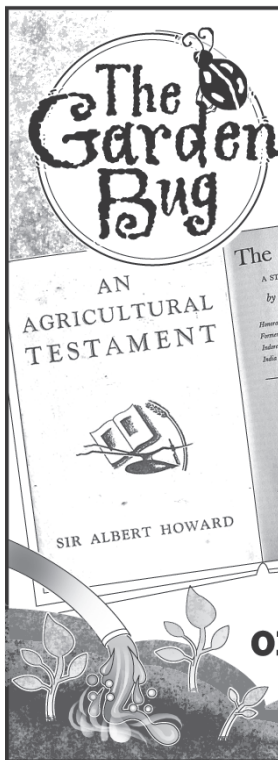
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2-14

SIGN OF THE TIMES— NEWS FLASH: HOSPITALS ARE SHORT-HANDED... HEH-HEH... NOT IN THE BILLING DEPARTMENT HOWEER....



Thank to  
T. MOYER,  
OAKLAND, CA.



Sir Albert Howard was a British botanist who became an agriculture advisor in Indore, India in 1905. He studied the cultivation methods of the local farmers, such as composting, that returned nutrients to the soil, and observed that healthy people, healthy animals and healthy food all benefited from the effects of recycling earth-based materials. His influential 1940 book, *An Agricultural Testament*, is a classic organic farming text and helped develop wide-spread adoption of **organic agriculture** techniques. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: ifoam.org, inthevintagekitchen.com



## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### The COVID Vaccine Is Coming for Vets

The COVID vaccine is currently being distributed to 37 VA locations around the country. The logistics to move 300 million doses to where they need to be (Operation Warp Speed) are overwhelming, but the Department of Veterans Affairs has plans in hand for us.

The first thing to remember is that you likely won't be first in line to get the vaccine. Until you get the two shots (spaced weeks apart), your job is to stay healthy. Just because you get the first shot doesn't mean you're in the clear. And depending how things are going in your area, you'll likely need to keep wearing a mask and doing social distancing, even after you've had both doses.

The order of vaccination is still being organized, but it will likely start with medical staff and residents of long-term care facilities, and those with high-risk medical conditions.

Once they move down the list, the vaccines will be available to all veterans who get VA health care. The fine print says they'll contact you when it's available, but it can't hurt to check with your health team to make sure they have your info. If you're not signed up for VA health care, you can apply online with VA form 10-10EZ.

Other tidbits:

If they come out with multiple vaccines, no, you won't be able to pick which one you get, at least not initially when there are shortages.

If you haven't had a flu shot but plan to get one, do it now. You likely will not be able to take the COVID vaccine too soon after getting a flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is still deciding about this.

For more info on the vaccines and VA, go to [www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine). Scroll down for lots of information and resources.

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



## Tested

Our U.S. Constitution was tested this week.

As you most of South Dakota now knows, on January 6th, I voted to uphold the 2020 election results that were certified, recounted, and audited from various states across the nation.

Like many South Dakotans, I am frustrated with how certain states handle their elections, and in the weeks following the 2020 election, I supported the president's right to his day in court. Legal challenges were filed in dozens of state and federal courts, but failed to overturn any votes. Despite claims, the evidence was not there.

The Constitution is more important than my personal political views or my political popularity.

There is no constitutional basis for Congress to substitute its judgement for that of the states and the courts. There is only one sentence in the Constitution that addresses Congress's role on Jan 6. In Article 2, Section 1, Clause 3 the U.S. Constitution states:

"The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted."

The only person performing an official act is the President of the Senate, who counts the votes. Other than being present, there is no constitutional role for Congress in the January 6 process. I cannot assume powers that are not legally provided to me.

I did not take this decision lightly. I heard from thousands of my fellow statesmen, friends, and long-time political allies. Ultimately, my duty to the Constitution is greater than any political favor voting against it may have provided me. Tough votes such as this one are never easy, and I can only hope this constitutional foundation does not fall on deaf ears.

South Dakotans would raise hell if the Nancy Pelosi-controlled House overturned South Dakota's election results for President Trump, and I'm grateful we saw no such attempt on January 6. Our founders knew well the grave risks associated with concentrating power in Washington, D.C., especially the power to select our President. They placed that power with the states, and just as I would resolutely defend the results of South Dakota's elections from federal interference, I cannot overturn the legally certified election results of another state and its voters.





## Rounds Statement Following the Formal Count of the Electoral College Votes by Congress

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) made the following statement on the formal count of the Electoral College votes by Congress:

“Going into the joint session, I said I would keep an open mind and listen to the objections and evidence presented. Despite the unacceptable attack on the U.S. Capitol, we pressed forward and I kept my promise.

“I take very seriously Congress’ role in certifying the Electoral College, as outlined in the Constitution and the Electoral Count Act. After much consideration, it was my determination that the objectors did not present the necessary evidence or actions profound enough to gain my support. In fact, they presented no new facts whatsoever.

“Absent overwhelming evidence of constitutional violations in an election process, objecting to the Electoral College vote count is dangerous and unwise. It flies in the face of our Founding Fathers, who intended individual states to operate their own election processes and entrusted the adjudication of election disputes to the courts.

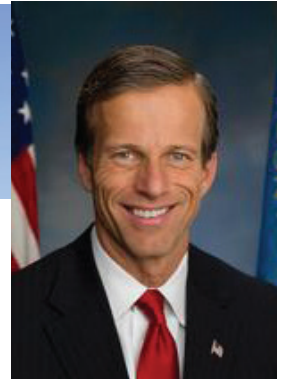
“I’ve talked to many South Dakotans and heard many of the concerns about the irregularities in this election, ranging from fraud to technological errors and questionable processes.

“In South Dakota, we do our elections right. Our voters can trust the integrity of our election process and know their vote will be counted. However, this is also a states rights issue, a constitutionally-protected issue. Asking the federal government to upend state elections would have profound and negative consequences on every American.

“As I said previously, my decision was based on the Constitution, not political expediency. The reality is that refusing to certify the election results had no viable path to actually changing the outcome of the election. Even so, Americans’ faith in our electoral process is in jeopardy, and we must get to the bottom of the allegations of voting irregularities that continue to exist. That is why I support a full, comprehensive investigation into the 2020 election.

“I recently agreed to cosponsor a bill to create a 2020 Bipartisan Advisory Committee that will study the integrity and administration of the election of November 2020 and make recommendations to state legislatures to improve the security, integrity and administration of federal elections.”

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



## My Oath

January 6 was a horrifying day. Violent protesters stormed the Capitol, attacking law enforcement and endangering everyone working inside, from senators' staffers to maintenance workers. Peaceful protest is a hallmark of our country. The right of assembly is a sacred American right. What happened at the Capitol was not a peaceful protest. It was violent, unlawful, and fundamentally un-American.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of Capitol Police officers, who put their lives on the line to protect us, and thanks to law enforcement officers from across the Capitol region, the Capitol was secured. Undeterred, members and staff returned to the building to carry out the business of the day. We followed the law, counted the votes, and certified the election.

The oath I swear as senator for South Dakota is not to any one person, but to the U.S. Constitution:

I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution and the 12th Amendment make clear that the Senate's role in presidential elections is limited to counting the electoral ballots certified by the states. The applicable federal law, enacted in 1887, further clarifies the limited role of Congress. It provides that Congress must accept all electoral ballots that are lawfully certified by the submitting state so long as there are not competing submissions. Otherwise, Congress has no authority to overturn the results of this or any other presidential election.

As is the case with any election, Americans should not tolerate a single fraudulent vote. I believe any credible accusation, now or in the future, should be investigated, and those who have violated our nation's trust should be held to account, period. I will also support relevant efforts to examine and strengthen the integrity of our federal elections.

As a senator, my guideposts are the Constitution and the rule of law, and I have striven to perform the duties they require of me. Under our constitutional system, in which I have tremendous faith, the results of this election could not be undone by Congress.

I will continue to fight every day for conservative principles. During my time in Congress, I have worked with multiple presidential administrations. There have been areas where I have agreed and areas where I have disagreed with presidents of both parties. No matter what, you can be sure that whatever the circumstance, I will strive to uphold my oath of office and I will always stand up for South Dakotans.



South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

## Protecting and Preserving South Dakota's Agriculture and Natural Resources

South Dakota's values and beliefs are rooted in our agricultural heritage and our boundless natural resources. Together they drive our economy, feed our families, and provide world class outdoor recreational opportunities. We all have a vested interest in protecting and preserving South Dakota's agriculture and natural resources for our kids and grandkids.

In August, I announced my plan to merge the Department of Agriculture (SDDA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) into one department – the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR). The goal is to better serve the citizens of South Dakota while taking advantage of synergies in state government.

I believe a diverse agricultural industry and a healthy environment are crucial to the health and well-being of our families. In fact, I know this firsthand, as a third generation farmer and rancher, and with an extended family where more of us farm than don't. Along with Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden, a rancher himself, South Dakota is the only state in the country led by a farmer-rancher duo who personally understand every facet of this industry. My passion for strengthening agriculture in this state, paired with smart conservation of our natural resources, is part of my DNA.

The new department will continue to implement South Dakota's long-standing agriculture and environmental regulatory programs while taking advantage of opportunities for our producers, conservationists, and environmentalists to work together towards our common goal: protecting and preserving agriculture and natural resources. By having our agriculture and environmental experts in one department, we will achieve the best outcomes for South Dakota.

Agriculture, conservation, and natural resource protection go hand-in-hand, and this new structure streamlines these functions in one department. For example, DANR will have a Livestock Services Program managing CAFO permitting, inspections, manure management planning, and dairy and egg licensing. These functions used to be split between two departments. Now, we will have a one-stop shop for producers, providing consistent regulatory oversight and assistance with permitting, engineering, compliance, and waste management. It also allows us to cross-train inspectors and field staff, which would result in eliminating redundant inspections from multiple departments. By providing more effective and efficient services, we can help our producers focus less on government requirements and more on getting their work done.

We all know conservation is critical to successful agriculture and natural resource protection. It makes logical sense for SDDA Conservation staff to work with DENR's Watershed Protection Program. Both programs provide on-the-ground resources for ag producers to protect our state's environment. Also, by merging portions of the two agencies, we can create efficiencies and streamline the regulatory process. Combining inspectors and spill response resources from both departments makes DANR more responsive

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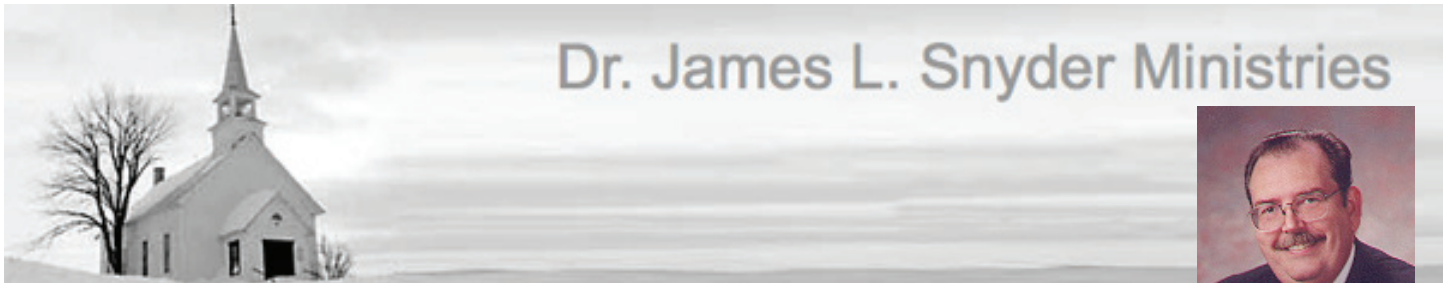
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to environmental emergencies and complaints while also reducing redundancies.

Lastly, the merger will save taxpayers money. By reducing duplication of services, we can eliminate five full-time positions including a high-paying cabinet secretary position.

As you know, I've asked DENR Secretary Hunter Roberts to lead the new department. Hunter is a fifth generation South Dakota farmer and rancher. He loves South Dakota, understands the value of our natural resources, and knows our producers are the best conservationists.

This merger is good for South Dakota, our families, and our future. It puts us in the best position to protect and preserve South Dakota's agriculture, environment, and natural resources, today and tomorrow.



## Well, Here We Go Again

I have lived long enough to know that the only change that has any kind of reality is the change in my pocket. I keep track of that change with great supervision and count it every day.

When people tell me that this is a New Year and there will be a lot of changes this year, I search my pocket because that's the only change I want to know about.

Looking back over my life, the most significant change that ever came to me was the day I said "I do" to the future Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. At the time, and it's good for me that I didn't know, I didn't know what "I do" really meant.

Oh yes, I understood it had to do with marriage, but at that time, I had no idea what marriage was all about. I thought, as many of the songs tell me, love will conquer everything. All you need to do is have love, and that will be all you need.

When I said, "I do," my life changed like I never expected it to change. And mostly, I must admit, for the better. I have no complaints.

Knowing a young lady and then living with that young lady for 50 years was quite a change in my life. I will never know how she put up with me, and believe me, I will never ask.

That is the only change that had any real significance in my life. Of course, when the children came along, there was some aspect of change but not so much. Children come and go, and then they leave the nest.

As we start a New Year, everybody is anticipating change. But I don't believe in that kind of change, as I said. I think everything will be quite the same as it was last year. Sure, there will be a few modifications, but as far as change is concerned, I don't believe it's going to happen.

When we began last year, everybody was excited about the New Year. Then certain things happen that

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brought all of that to the floor. Who would've expected what had happened?

There were change-like happenings in people's lives this past year. But really, we all ended up almost where we started. That may not seem to be true, but here we are.

Whenever we go through something that people call a "change," on the other side everything is about the same. Maybe a little bit of variation, but nothing really changes when you come right down to it.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage made this pretty clear to me just recently. As we were thinking about the New Year, she said, "What change do you see in the coming year?"

The only change I can think of came from a song from the sixties, "Oh my friend, we're older but no wiser" (Mary Hopkin).

The only change I can see on my horizon is that I'm going to get older. And believe me, I plan to get as old as I possibly can because I know what happens if you don't get older.

And that song is right; we are older but no wiser, and that's not going to change. When I think I have arrived at a certain level of wisdom, I find out I didn't know all of the facts.

So, I explained to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "The only change I can see for me this year is I'm going to get older."

She looked at me with one of her penetrating stares and said, "I don't think getting older is going to make any change in your life."

Of course, she was right. No matter how old I get, nothing is really going to change in my life.

Oh yes, I walk a little slower, and there are pains in my body in areas I didn't know I had. I forget a lot of things that I once could remember. I remember things that never happened. To me, that's a good thing.

To show that I'm not going to be changing this year, I said to my wife, "What change do you see in the coming year?"

It wasn't long before I realized that her idea of change and my idea of change had no connection whatsoever. She had a list of things she was going to change in the house.

The first is she's going to change her craft room to get more stuff in the room. Then, she's going to change this room and that room and help me change my office room, and by the time she was done, everything in our world according to her was going to change.

I'm not going to contradict that change because I know the ramifications of doing such a thing. Chaos is not my idea of happiness.

While she was describing all the changes she's going to see accomplished this year, I happened to think of what old Solomon said. "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

When my wife changes her craft room, it will still be "her craft room." Sometimes changing things makes us feel good about ourselves and our life. In the end, everything is the same.



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## Wrestling Results from Wolsey-Wessington Quad

### Groton Area 39, Deuel 18

- 106: Jaxon Quail (Deuel) wins by forfeit
- 113: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Hayden Landmark (Deuel) (Fall 0:33)
- 126: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 132: Easten Ekern (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 138: Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) over Tucker Adkins (Deuel) (Fall 1:02)
- 145: Korbin Whitley (Deuel) wins by forfeit
- 160: Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) over Brian Blachford (Deuel) (Fall 0:28)
- 170: Dominic Constant (Deuel) wins by forfeit
- 195: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Justin Granum (Deuel) (Dec 8-2)
- 285: Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

### Sioux Valley 40, Groton Area 18

- 106: Tate Steffensen (Sioux Valley) wins by forfeit
- 120: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 126: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) over Zane Miller (Sioux Valley) (Fall 0:14)
- 132: Easten Ekern (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 138: Skylar Trygstad (Sioux Valley) over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) (Fall 3:10)
- 152: Russell Sheets (Sioux Valley) wins by forfeit
- 160: Seth Heidenreich (Sioux Valley) over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) (Fall 2:40)
- 170: Joe Hornick (Sioux Valley) wins by forfeit
- 182: Owen VandeWeerd (Sioux Valley) wins by forfeit
- 195: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Dillen Sheely (Sioux Valley) (Fall 3:38)
- 285: Connor Logan (Sioux Valley) over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) (MD 8-0)

### Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington 48, Groton Area 16

- 113: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Kaydin Carter (WS-W-WW) (MD 10-1)
- 120: Cale Mohling (WS-W-WW) wins by forfeit
- 126: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) over Troy Fastnacht (WS-W-WW) (Fall 1:28)
- 132: Joey Hoverson (WS-W-WW) over Easten Ekern (Groton Area) (Fall 0:16)
- 138: Tyson Eddy (WS-W-WW) over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) (Fall 0:38)
- 145: Brayden Labore (WS-W-WW) wins by forfeit
- 152: Keegan Haider (WS-W-WW) wins by forfeit
- 160: Carter Grohs (WS-W-WW) over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) (Fall 3:39)
- 170: Eric Klanchnik (WS-W-WW) wins by forfeit
- 182: Tyler Eddy (WS-W-WW) wins by forfeit
- 195: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Brock Stevens (WS-W-WW) (Fall 5:40)
- 285: Quinton Christensen (WS-W-WW) over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) (Fall 1:45)

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**#321 in a series**

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

We have weekend reporting. It's a reprieve, even if it's a false one. I'm going to enjoy my delusions for a couple of days before we go back into the trenches. Things are down a bit, not great, but lower.

There were 249,900 new cases reported today, a 1.1% increase over yesterday's total. The bad news is that, as predicted, we broke 22 million today—by quite a lot with 22, 221,500, so the time to 23 million will be short too, I'd guess. We've added more than two million cases so far this year, and we're just over a week in. That's awful. Here it is:

April 28 – 1 million – 98 days  
June 11 – 2 million – 44 days  
July 8 – 3 million – 27 days  
July 23 – 4 million – 15 days  
August 9 – 5 million – 17 days  
August 31 – 6 million – 22 days  
September 24 – 7 million – 24 days  
October 15 – 8 million – 21 days  
October 29 – 9 million – 14 days  
November 8 – 10 million – 10 days  
November 15 – 11 million – 7 days  
November 21 – 12 million – 6 days  
November 27 – 13 million – 6 days  
December 3 – 14 million – 6 days  
December 7 – 15 million – 4 days  
December 12 – 16 million – 5 days  
December 17 – 17 million – 5 days  
December 21 – 18 million – 4 days  
December 26 – 19 million – 5 days  
December 31 – 20 million – 5 days  
January 5 – 21 million – 5 days  
January 9 – 22 million – 4 days

If you're wondering why I bore you with this list every few days, I do it because it is horrible—shocking—and I don't want us to lose sight of just how horrible it is. If producing this lengthening list twice a week gives any of us a wake-up call, then good. If not, I can say I gave it a shot.

Hospitalizations are a bit off yesterday's peak at 131,889. We were last under 100,000 hospitalized in November. Deaths are up to 372,398, 0.9% more than yesterday. It is important to recognize that, while the holiday cases are starting to roll in, they are not, for the most part, hitting the hospitals and, in particular, the ICUs yet. There is typically some time lag between first symptoms and the need for hospitalization. That means our already-overwhelmed hospitals haven't even seen their worst days yet. It's going to get worse. A lot worse. Worse than we are probably even imagining yet. There were 3155 deaths reported today. We have lost over 26,000 Americans to this virus this year.

We are in particular trouble in Florida which is at almost a million and a half cases and adding well over 10,000 per day lately. Deaths are occurring in large numbers, and hospitals are filling up and under significant strain. Arizona is also heating up with increasing numbers of new cases and increasing death reports as well. Texas hospitals are filling up again and reporting real stresses on the system as case numbers climb again. And California remains in a serious situation with available ICU capacity virtually gone in many areas.

The number of people dying of Covid-19 each day in Los Angeles County is running higher than the number of homicide deaths they see in a year, and morgues are not able to keep up. One chain that has six mortuaries reports they've gone from a pre-pandemic number of about 28 services per day across the six establishments to 56 services per day. Seventy percent of those are Covid-19 deaths. Asked about the

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claims this is a hoax, owner Richard Gutierrez told CNN, "Try telling that to families that have just lost those people. . . . No, this is not fake. This is real, And it's time that you either grow up and face facts or take your blinders off." Mortuaries say they're turning away dozens of families each day; they just cannot go any faster. Employees report the same kinds of stress and distress we hear about in health care workers.

I wouldn't have thought we'd need to have this talk, but it is becoming ever more apparent to me that we do. Way back when I was a kid, some great teacher taught me that every paragraph should have a topic sentence and that the purpose of this topic sentence should be made clear to the reader. Because this is a big-deal topic, I'm going to make very sure you get it for this paragraph, so here it is: You do not want to get this virus. You do not want to get this virus at all, Really, you don't.

Now some of you have probably already had this virus, and if you're reading this, you may be thinking, "Hmm. It wasn't that big a deal." Well, bully for you. Sit down and listen, please. You do not want to get this virus.

Why?

Because you might end up dead.

Because, even if you don't end up dead, you could end up really, really sick, and that is painful and frightening.

Because, even if you don't end up dead or really, really sick, you could end up with lingering health problems that go on and on, maybe for the rest of your life.

Because, even if you don't have a single ill effect, you could give it to someone and it could kill that person.

Because, even if it doesn't kill that person, it could make him really, really sick.

Because, even if it doesn't make him really, really sick, it could give him lingering health problems.

Because, even if he doesn't experience a single ill effect, he could give it to someone else.

I trust this is becoming clear. But, as they say in the informercials, that's not all.

You will also contribute to community spread. Every person you expose could go on to expose another person and another person and another person, and each of them can go on to expose more people yet. You do not have the right to decide for any other person, much less an entire community, how much risk they should take. Even if you think it's not a big deal. The other people around you get to decide for themselves whether they think it's a big deal, and when you expose them, you take away their ability to choose.

Here's another reason: Because the more transmission you have, the greater the chance a mutated variant will show up which is more well-suited to spread in your community and in communities all across the globe. Every transmission is another opportunity for this virus to mutate, and even though the overwhelming majority of those mutations will be no big deal, there is a non-zero chance one in a case that you caused will be a big deal.

It looks very much as though this British variant, B.1.1.7, is more transmissible than the virus we have mostly circulating at the moment. That British variant has begun to circulate in the US. It has been picked up in multiple locations across the country, many times in people who have not traveled, so that we can be sure it is circulating in the communities where it is found, not just a new import. It looks very much as though it's going to be harder to control, a lot harder. It looks as though we're going to need to serious up about mitigating spread, and it would be a great idea if we did this sooner rather than later.

So that people don't die or get really, really sick, or have lingering effects.

Also because our hospitals are buckling under the strain, and things are getting worse, not better. And we haven't even begun to address the costs for all of this treatment for all of these super-sick people. When I hear people hollering about the stores and the restaurants and the shops, I want to get right in their faces and shout, "Do you have any idea what our economy could do with the billions and billions of dollars we're flushing down the drain, just trying to keep folks alive?" Of course, I can't do that because it would require breaking the proper social distancing rules. That's why I'm not slapping people either, but make no mistake: I've been tempted.

OK, so here's the message. You will note I'm not bothering with the "It's a hoax" people because they're lost to reason; they're going to just keep going around exposing everything in sight because their delu-



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sions are more important to them than their communities. I can't do anything with that. But nope. I am not talking to them; in fact, I'm a whole lot happier when they just stay away from these posts.

I'm talking to those of you who believe this is a real threat, who are committed to staying well, to not spreading it. Because you're spreading it. Oh, sure, you tell me you're "being careful," and you think you are; but you're not.

I cannot begin to tell you how many people get in touch with me to tell me their story about their own diagnosis and how sick they got or how their mom got sick and died (or almost died or really suffered) or how their grandpa didn't last two days on the vent. Every single damned one of those people said to me something like, "I just don't understand where I got it. I was being careful." I know you mean that, but you're wrong. You were not being careful. I don't say this to beat you up; I say this to wake you up, to wake us all up.

If you're going to restaurants or bars and eating and drinking indoors in these places, you are not being careful. I don't care how far apart the tables are, if you are taking off your mask and breathing air for a couple of hours along with people who don't live with you, you are not being careful.

If you were at the work Christmas party, you are not being careful.

If you're going to church indoors, worse yet if you're calling out in prayer or joining in the singing—even if there is calling out or singing at all, you are not being careful.

If you're going to the basketball game or the winter concert or the wrestling tournament, you are not being careful.

If you're shopping in person for anything beyond essentials, you are not being careful.

If you're getting together with friends indoors (I know, it's just the same five friends in your bubble, right?), you are not being careful.

If you had just your one son and his family and his mother-in-law over for Christmas or New Year's dinner, you are not being careful.

If your kids are playing with the neighbor's kids because kids need to socialize and it's always the same neighbor (so no big deal, right?), you are not being careful.

If you flew to Mexico or Las Vegas or Florida that one time because you always go on this certain weekend every year and you really, really needed to get away this year in particular (because mental health, am I right?), you are not being careful.

Look, I know many of you need to go to work and, in many families and in many places, your kids need to go to school. I get that. But there are risks any time you spend time indoors with other people. The more people there are, the closer together you are, the more frequently and more loudly you speak, the more you exert yourselves physically, the longer the time you're together, the poorer the ventilation, the greater the risk. If people are unmasked, the risk is astronomical.

I know you need groceries and not everyone has access to curbside pick-up or shopping services—and not everyone can afford them. But there are risks any time you spend time indoors with other people. The more people there are, the closer together you are, the more frequently and more loudly you speak, the more you exert yourselves physically, the longer the time you're together, the poorer the ventilation, the greater the risk. If people are unmasked, the risk is astronomical.

I know you're getting lonely and isolated and you long to see the people you love. But there are risks any time you spend time indoors with other people. The more people there are, the closer together you are, the more frequently and more loudly you speak, the more you exert yourselves physically, the longer the time you're together, the poorer the ventilation, the greater the risk. If people are unmasked, the risk is astronomical.

We are entering a critical time in the life cycle of this pandemic. We are setting records for new cases, for people in the hospital, and for funerals. Now we have a highly transmissible new variant jockeying for position with the bad-enough old less-transmissible ones. If you ever were going to actually, really, genuinely be careful, batten the hatches and apply every possible precaution, this is the time. I cannot emphasize strongly enough what a big deal this is.

I don't want our society to lock down; I don't think the economy can take much more. I don't want busi-

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nesses to close. I don't want people to lose their jobs. But I really don't want people to die, to suffer, to have health problems for the next 10 or 20 or 40 years. I want this virus to stop. And we can't vaccinate fast enough to beat this current surge. I do not want us to collapse on the finish line because we couldn't control ourselves for a couple more months. And, incidentally, I don't want to die because one of you just had to have beers and pizza with your buddies.

So for the rest of this month, can we just find ways to delay gratification? Yes, go to work and to school, do the essential shopping; but get take-out so you can support local restaurants that need your business without sitting down to dinner. Reduce your trips to the store, going as seldom as possible and making a shopping plan to get in and out in a jiffy. Postpone for just a bit longer your social occasions and your family events and your travel. Wear a mask outside your home. Avoid indoors with others not from your household as much as possible. Avoid crowds, especially indoors. Observe social distance—more than six feet is better. Keep the duration of indoor contacts as brief as possible. Avoid poorly ventilated spaces; go for large, airy spaces instead. Observe hand hygiene. Don't "be careful;" instead be actually careful, the kind of careful that can slow this virus down until we can get folks vaccinated.

Remember how freaked out we all were almost a year ago—like in March or so? Well, things are immeasurably worse today. Immeasurably worse. Disastrously worse. Calamitously worse. Please put the brakes on. Our lives all depend on that.

Be well. We'll talk again.

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## Jan. 9 COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

South Dakota: Community Spread for week of Jan. 4:

**Moderate:** Aurora, Gregory, Haakon, Marshall downgraded from Substantial to Moderate; Sully upgraded from Minimal to Moderate.

**Minimal:** Faulk, Hand, Jackson downgraded from Moderate to Minimal.

Positive: +321 (102,901 total) Positivity Rate: 7.2%

Total Tests: 4446 (801,691 total)

Total Persons Tested: 1301 (383,093 total)

Hospitalized: +20 (5871 total) 234 currently hospitalized (-13)

Avera St. Luke's: 7 (-1) COVID-19 Occupied beds, 0 (-0) COVID-19 ICU Beds, 0 (-0) COVID-19 ventilators.

Sanford Aberdeen: 4 (-0) COVID-19 Occupied beds, 0 (-0) COVID-19 ICU Beds, 0 (-0) COVID-19 ventilators.

Deaths: +14 (1570 total)

Females: 8, Males: 6

Age Group: 40s=1, 50s=1, 60s=2, 70s=5, 80+=5

Counties: Butte-1, Charles Mix-1, Faulk-1, Hand-1, Hutchinson-1, Jerauld-1, Lawrence-2, Marhsall-1, Minnehaha-3, Pennington-1, Yankton-1.

Recovered: +508 (96,291 total)

Active Cases: -201 (5040)

Percent Recovered: 93.6%

Vaccinations: +4673 (36221)

Vaccinations Completed: +2096 (4063)

Brown County Vaccinations: +160 (1816) 11 completed

Beadle (38) +7 positive, +1 recovered (73 active cases)

Brookings (31) +17 positive, +32 recovered (237 active cases)

Brown (66): +16 positive, +28 recovered (272 active cases)

Clark (2): +2 positive, +2 recovered (11 active cases)

Clay (12): +5 positive, +2 recovered (74 active cases)

Codington (71): +9 positive, +23 recovered (204 active cases)

Davison (53): +10 positive, +9 recovered (92 active cases)

Day (21): +2 positive, +0 recovered (29 active cases)

Edmunds (4): +4 positive, +6 recovered (56 active cases)

Faulk (13): +0 positive, +0 recovered (4 active cases)

Grant (35): +2 positive, +3 recovered (28 active cases)

Hanson (3): +2 positive, +2 recovered (12 active cases)

Hughes (28): +7 positive, +4 recovered (96 active cases)

Lawrence (31): +11 positive, +6 recovered (106 active cases)

Lincoln (68): +22 positive, +43 recovered (359 active cases)

Marshall (5): +1 positive, +4 recovered (11 active cases)

McCook (22): +5 positive, +5 recovered (30 active cases)

McPherson (2): +1 positive, +1 recovery (13 active case)

Minnehaha (284): +64 positive, +121 recovered (1179 active cases)

Pennington (143): +37 positive, +74 recovered (650 active cases)

Potter (3): +2 positive, +3 recovered (26 active cases)

Roberts (32): +7 positive, +7 recovered (97 active cases)

Spink (24): +0 positive, +2 recovered (29 active cases)

Walworth (14): +1 positive, +2 recovered (50 active cases)

### NORTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Daily Report, Jan. 8:

- 4.7% rolling 14-day positivity
- 125 new positives
- 3873 susceptible test encounters
- 76 currently hospitalized (-9)
- 1984 active cases (-138)
- 1,352 total deaths (+0)



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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased Among Cases	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)
Aurora	418	391	788	10	Moderate	17.24%
Beadle	2546	2435	5307	38	Substantial	10.66%
Bennett	362	347	1091	8	Moderate	5.49%
Bon Homme	1493	1442	1907	23	Substantial	14.04%
Brookings	3173	2905	10313	31	Substantial	13.28%
Brown	4629	4291	11288	66	Substantial	22.44%
Brule	651	617	1706	7	Moderate	26.09%
Buffalo	415	402	855	10	Minimal	19.05%
Butte	921	866	2882	19	Substantial	15.96%
Campbell	116	108	212	4	Minimal	25.00%
Charles Mix	1155	1083	3578	13	Substantial	10.84%
Clark	322	309	873	2	Moderate	2.22%
Clay	1678	1592	4655	12	Substantial	17.89%
Codington	3583	3308	8684	71	Substantial	19.61%
Corson	453	439	906	11	Moderate	24.24%
Custer	695	665	2459	9	Substantial	12.79%
Davison	2786	2641	5822	53	Substantial	16.12%
Day	560	510	1577	21	Substantial	19.12%
Deuel	433	394	1019	7	Substantial	11.76%
Dewey	1338	1218	3543	12	Substantial	19.23%
Douglas	391	366	840	9	Substantial	27.78%
Edmunds	409	348	895	5	Substantial	9.09%
Fall River	468	438	2332	13	Substantial	10.59%
Faulk	316	299	617	13	Minimal	14.29%
Grant	848	785	1974	35	Substantial	22.08%
Gregory	492	457	1104	26	Moderate	0.00%
Haakon	237	219	476	9	Moderate	10.00%
Hamlin	629	559	1554	36	Substantial	9.78%
Hand	317	305	710	4	Minimal	0.00%
Hanson	321	306	624	3	Moderate	23.81%
Harding	89	88	160	1	Minimal	0.00%
Hughes	2080	1956	5787	28	Substantial	4.76%
Hutchinson	716	668	2086	19	Substantial	13.21%

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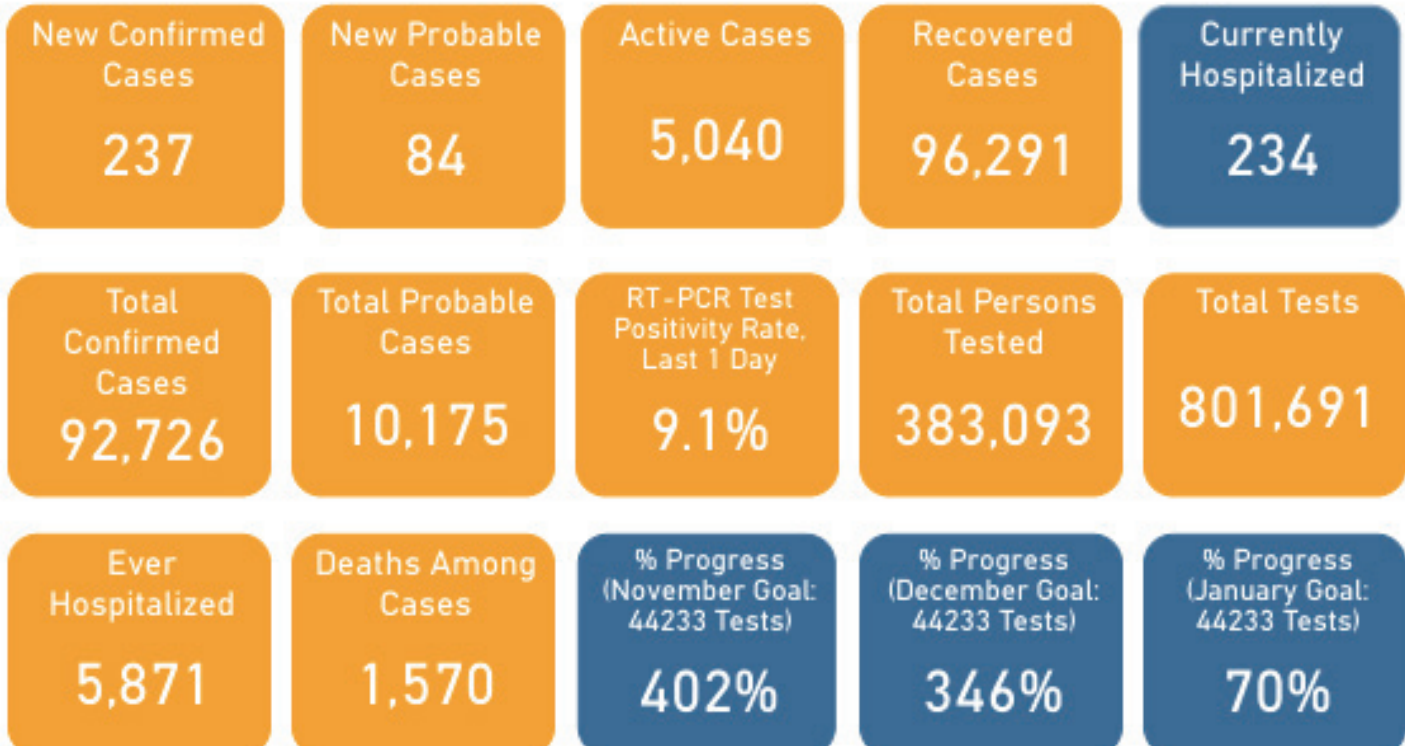
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Hyde	134	130	371	1	Minimal	0.00%
Jackson	267	248	867	11	Minimal	27.27%
Jerauld	265	241	507	16	Minimal	15.79%
Jones	70	67	187	0	Minimal	11.11%
Kingsbury	555	513	1459	13	Substantial	8.11%
Lake	1066	999	2846	16	Substantial	30.19%
Lawrence	2645	2508	7693	31	Substantial	11.54%
Lincoln	7052	6625	17889	68	Substantial	19.26%
Lyman	550	511	1729	9	Moderate	16.67%
Marshall	267	251	1032	5	Moderate	4.00%
McCook	704	652	1426	22	Substantial	29.31%
McPherson	196	179	504	2	Moderate	2.94%
Meade	2337	2192	6860	24	Substantial	20.97%
Mellette	225	217	669	2	Minimal	10.34%
Miner	235	209	513	7	Moderate	9.52%
Minnehaha	25838	24375	69460	284	Substantial	16.11%
Moody	554	516	1604	14	Substantial	24.44%
Oglala Lakota	1971	1850	6285	36	Substantial	16.17%
Pennington	11755	10962	34829	143	Substantial	20.97%
Perkins	299	263	689	11	Substantial	18.92%
Potter	326	297	737	3	Moderate	8.57%
Roberts	1057	928	3804	32	Substantial	19.55%
Sanborn	310	297	623	3	Minimal	40.00%
Spink	718	665	1896	24	Substantial	10.20%
Stanley	286	273	800	2	Substantial	6.52%
Sully	121	104	252	3	Moderate	10.00%
Todd	1185	1135	3889	19	Substantial	8.37%
Tripp	639	612	1348	13	Substantial	12.12%
Turner	996	902	2424	49	Substantial	22.00%
Union	1688	1545	5534	30	Substantial	14.33%
Walworth	657	593	1656	14	Substantial	23.76%
Yankton	2576	2401	8413	27	Substantial	12.66%
Ziebach	317	274	709	8	Moderate	14.29%
Unassigned	0	0	2064	0		

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## South Dakota



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

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	3898	0
10-19 years	11370	0
20-29 years	18680	4
30-39 years	17005	14
40-49 years	14731	29
50-59 years	14584	81
60-69 years	11711	197
70-79 years	6195	344
80+ years	4727	901

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	53817	754
Male	49084	816



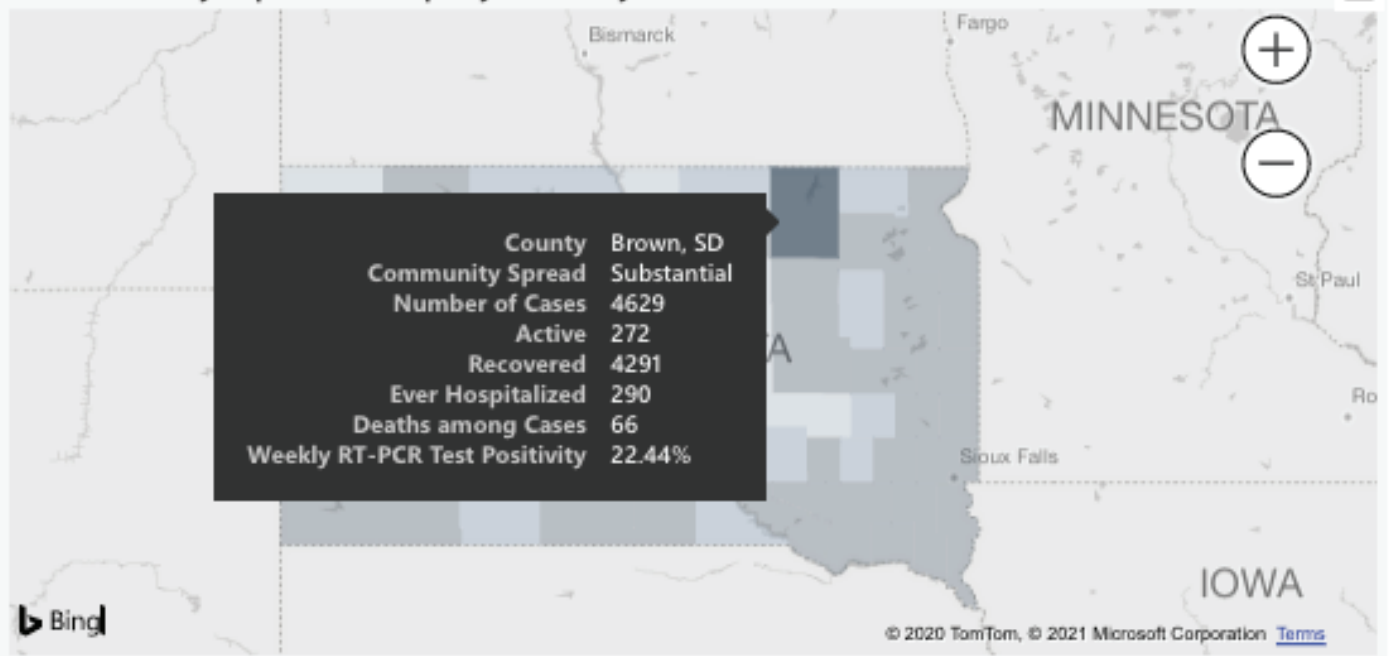
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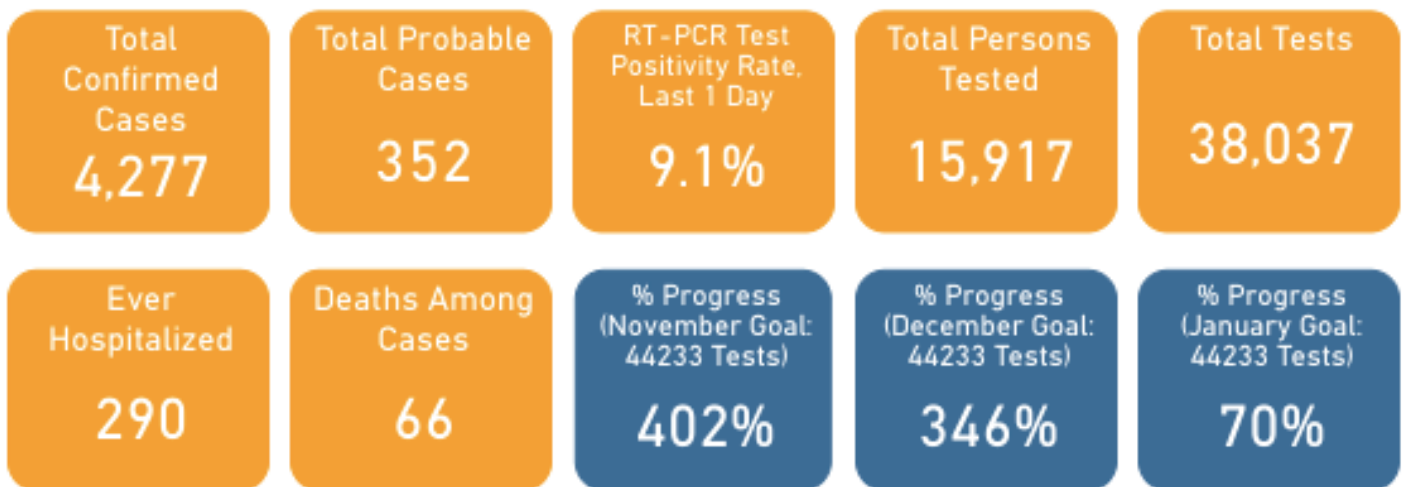
## Brown County



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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



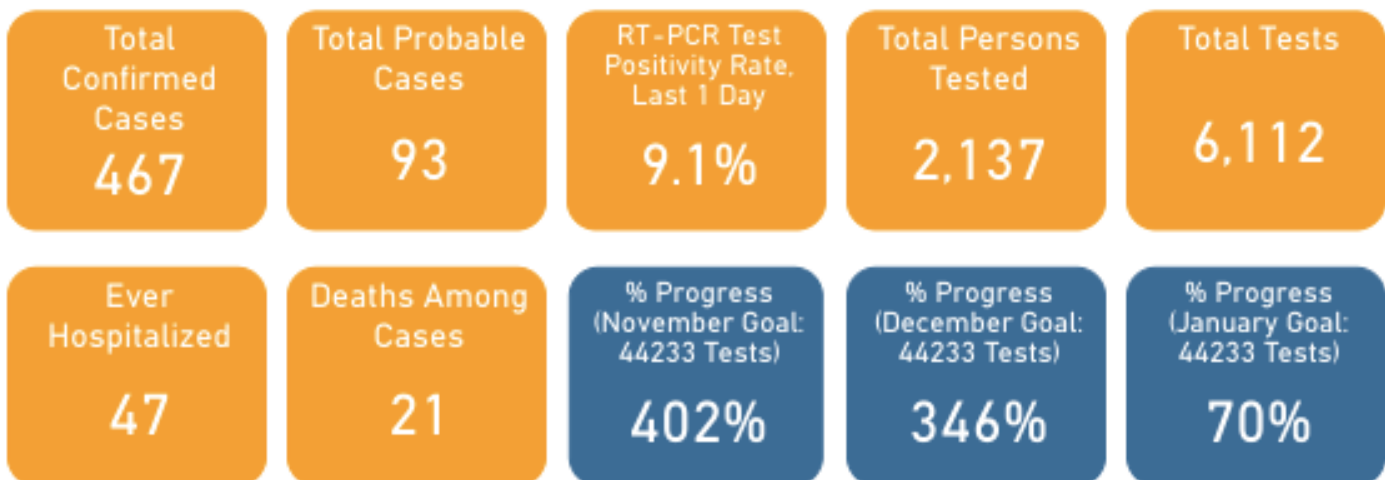
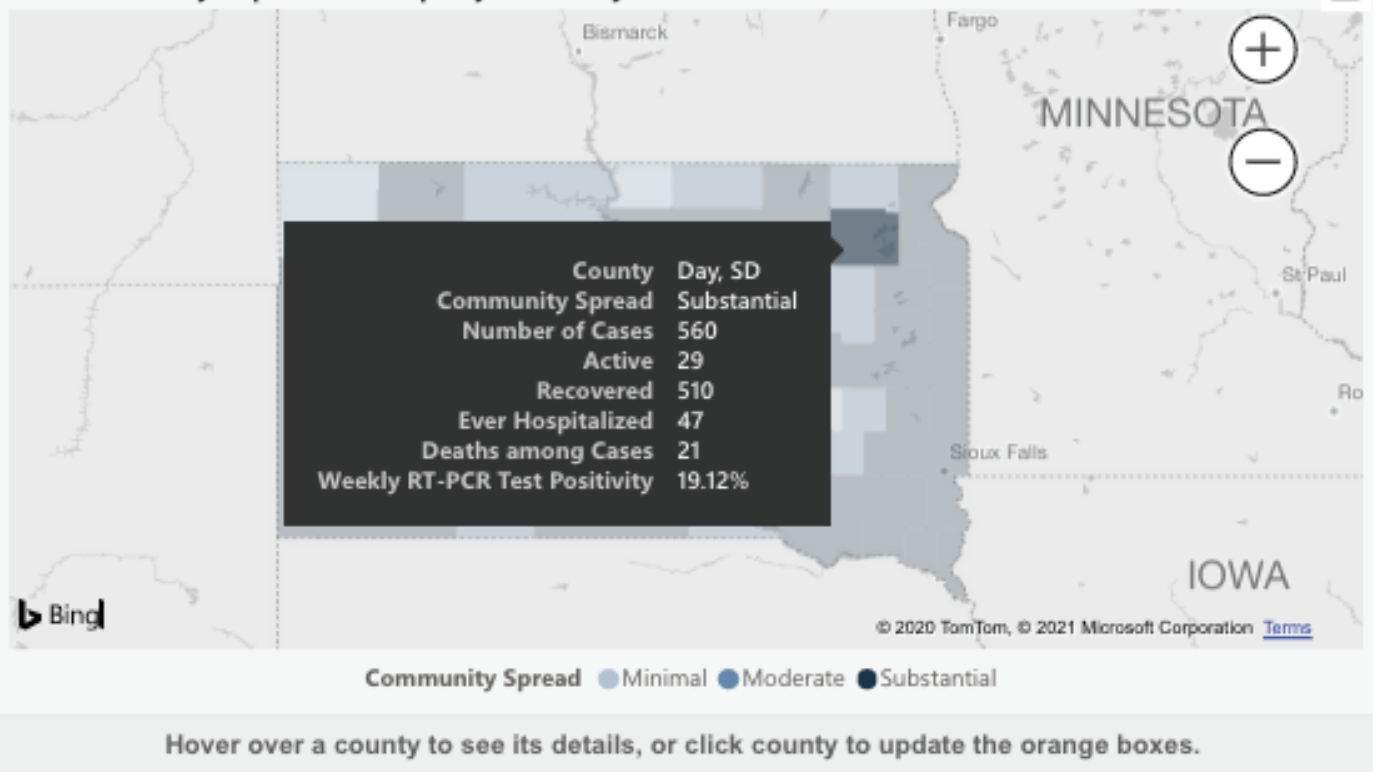
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## Day County



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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## Vaccinations

Total Doses Administered

40,284

Total Persons Administered a Vaccine

36,221

Manufacturer	Number of Doses
Moderna	20,699
Pfizer	19,585

Doses	Number of Recipients
Moderna - 1 dose	20,698
Moderna - Series Complete	1

County	# Doses	# Persons (1 dose)	# Persons (2 doses)	Total # Persons
Aurora	62	62	0	62
Beadle	807	441	183	624
Bennett*	47	45	1	46
Bon Homme*	342	330	6	336
Brookings	1132	776	178	954
Brown	1816	1,794	11	1,805
Brule*	165	161	2	163
Buffalo*	3	3	0	3
Butte	76	72	2	74
Campbell	146	120	13	133
Charles Mix*	273	269	2	271
Clark	99	87	6	93
Clay	634	600	17	617
Codington*	1395	1,047	174	1,221
Corson*	13	11	1	12
Custer*	236	214	11	225
Davison	1095	1,063	16	1,079
Day*	245	233	6	239
Deuel	164	138	13	151
Dewey*	63	61	1	62
Douglas*	137	135	1	136
Edmunds	120	120	0	120
Fall River*	165	163	1	164
Faulk	34	32	1	33
Grant*	377	367	5	372
Gregory*	217	215	1	216
Haakon*	80	80	0	80



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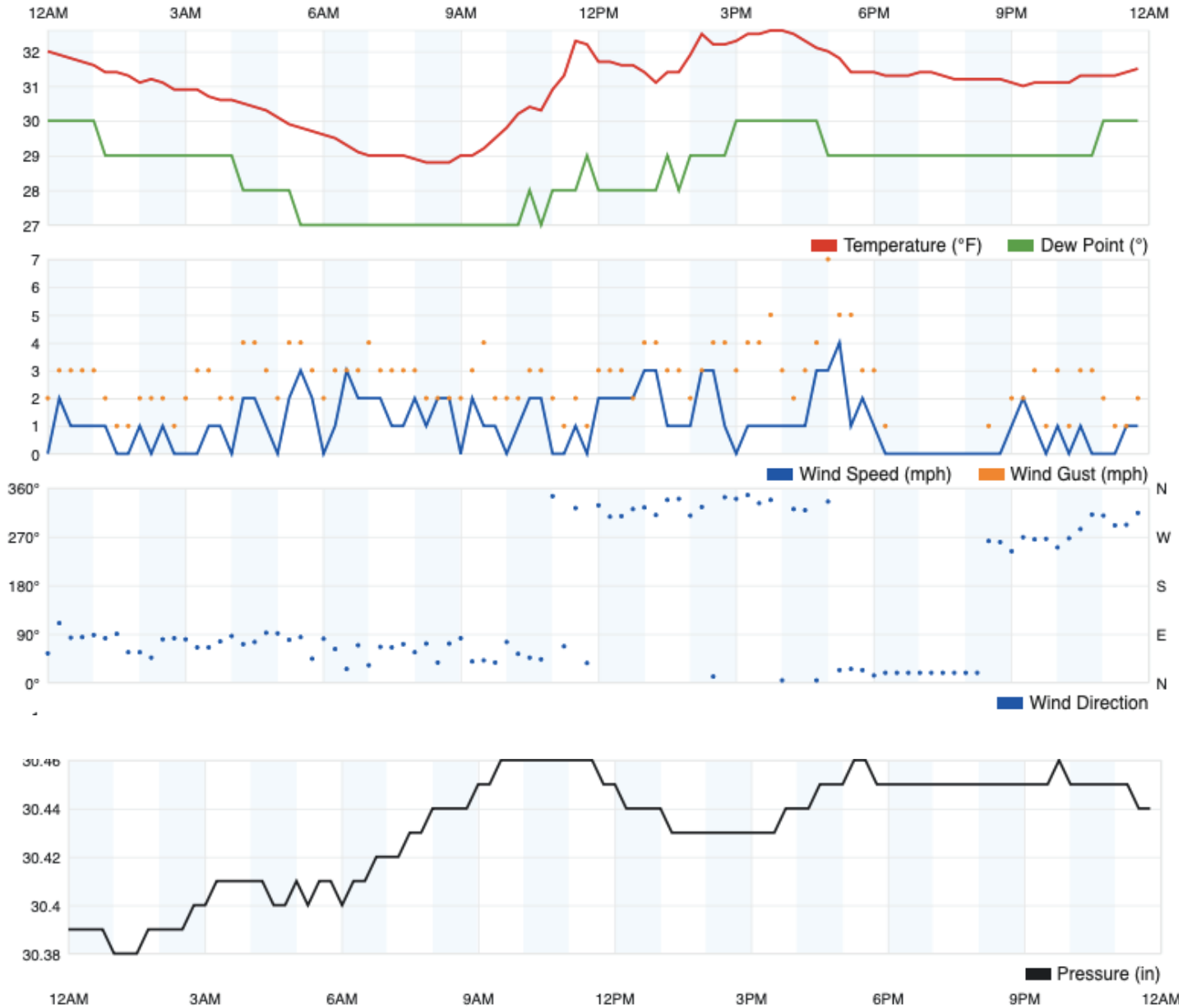
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Hamlin	190	154	18	172
Hand	170	154	8	162
Hanson	57	55	1	56
Harding	0	0	0	0
Hughes*	835	815	10	825
Hutchinson*	520	504	8	512
Hyde*	92	92	0	92
Jackson*	38	38	0	38
Jerauld	73	59	7	66
Jones*	45	43	1	44
Kingsbury	277	205	36	241
Lake	525	271	127	398
Lawrence	402	378	12	390
Lincoln	4840	3,450	695	4,145
Lyman*	55	55	0	55
Marshall*	147	143	2	145
McCook	245	191	27	218
McPherson	19	19	0	19
Meade*	531	385	73	458
Mellette*	4	4	0	4
Miner	82	68	7	75
Minnehaha	12346	9,462	1,442	10,904
Moody*	207	187	10	197
Oglala Lakota*	13	7	3	10
Pennington*	3987	2,623	682	3,305
Perkins*	37	37	0	37
Potter	77	75	1	76
Roberts*	261	251	5	256
Sanborn	83	79	2	81
Spink	405	389	8	397
Stanley*	120	116	2	118
Sully	28	22	3	25
Todd*	20	18	1	19
Tripp*	223	223	0	223
Turner	538	488	25	513
Union	192	176	8	184
Walworth*	304	142	81	223
Yankton	1196	1,186	5	1,191
Ziebach*	10	10	0	10
Other	1147	945	101	1,046

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 34 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 41 °F

## Warming Temps This Week

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

	32° - 50°		40° - 56°	
	• Partly cloudy to mostly sunny skies		• Record-warmth not out of the question for some	
<b>Today</b> Jan 10, 2021		<b>Tuesday</b> Jan 12, 2021		<b>Thursday</b> Jan 14, 2021
	<b>Monday</b> Jan 11, 2021		<b>Wednesday</b> Jan 13, 2021	
• Clouds begin eroding from west to east		• Increasingly mild, especially central SD		• Windy • Possible precipitation
30° - 42°		36° - 52°		36° - 46°

Cloud cover will give way to sunshine from west to east today and Monday across the area. Dry and increasingly mild temperatures will characterize the next several days.



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## Today in Weather History

January 10, 1911: The temperature at Rapid City, South Dakota plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes.

January 10, 1975: An intense area of low pressure moved from eastern Iowa through eastern Minnesota. The storm center set many low-pressure records as it moved across eastern Minnesota. New snow of 3 to 6 inches across much of Minnesota began to blow and drift on the morning of the 10th and then developed into a full-blown blizzard with heavy snowfall developing. The blizzard continued through the 11th with winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts of 60 to 80 mph. Drifts up to 20 feet high in west-central Minnesota paralyzed the area. Snowfall amounts from 1 to 2 feet occurred. Numerous roads were closed due to drifting and low visibility. Numerous sustained power outages occurred, particularly in rural sections. Thousands of people were stranded with 168 people trapped in a train in Willmar. Wind chills ranged from 50 below to 80 below the storm. Extensive losses to life and property occurred. There were 35 deaths during the storm and many injuries. Tens of thousands of livestock and poultry losses also occurred, with 140 farm buildings damaged or destroyed. Losses to livestock and property were over 20 million. It took 11 days to clear some areas.

In South Dakota, snow began to fall on the 10th in the afternoon, and then the winds increased and reached blizzard conditions by evening. These severe blizzard conditions continued through the 11th and the morning of the 12th. Wind chills fell to 50 below to 70 below zero. Many cars stalled on roads due to poor visibility, icy roads, and blowing and drifting snow. Eight people lost their lives. Thousands of livestock and poultry were lost. During the blizzard, a 2000 foot radio and TV antenna just east of Sioux Falls collapsed.

January 10, 2000: High winds gusting to over 60 mph caused some spotty damage across central and north-central South Dakota. Near Mobridge, the high winds blew a semi-tractor-trailer off the road and tipped it over while heading westbound on Highway 12. The semi tractor-trailer sustained quite a bit of damage as a result. The high winds also damaged the windmill at the museum in Mobridge, breaking off the tail and bending several blades. Some high wind reports include; 56 mph at McLaughlin, 58 mph at Onida and Mobridge, and 63 mph at Pierre.

1949: Snow was reported in San Diego, California, for the first time since 1882. The snow was noted on some of the beaches in parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

1982: Bitterly cold weather was found across Illinois. Of the 109 weather reporting stations in the state, 48 of those reported lows of 20 degrees below zero or colder. Some of the most frigid temperatures included 27 below zero at Rockford, 26 below zero at Chicago, and 25 below zero at Kankakee and Peoria.

1800 - Savannah, GA, received a foot and a half of snow, and ten inches blanketed Charleston SC. It was the heaviest snowfall of record for the immediate Coastal Plain of the southeastern U.S. (David Ludlum)

1911 - The temperature at Rapid City, SD, plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - Snow was reported at San Diego, CA, for the first and only time since 1882. Snow was noted even on some of the beaches in parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Burbank reported 4.7 inches, and Long Beach and Laguna Beach received one inch of snow. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1975 - The "Storm of the Century" hit Minnesota. A severe blizzard moved northward across the state producing up to two feet of snow. High winds drove wind chill readings to 80 degrees below zero, and at Duluth MN the barometric pressure dipped to 28.55 inches. The storm, which claimed 35 lives, occurred on the 102nd anniversary of the infamous "Pioneer Blizzard" in Minnesota. (David Ludlum)

1982 - The temperature at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, IL, plunged to an all-time record of 26 degrees below zero, and high winds drove the wind chill reading to 77 degrees below zero. The temperature in Downtown Chicago reached 23 degrees below zero. A week later a second arctic surge sent the temperature plunging back down to 25 degrees below zero. (Weather Channel) (National Weather Summary)

1987 - Bitter cold air invaded the Rocky Mountain Region, with subzero readings reported as far south as Gallop NM. Pocatello ID reported a record low reading of 14 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

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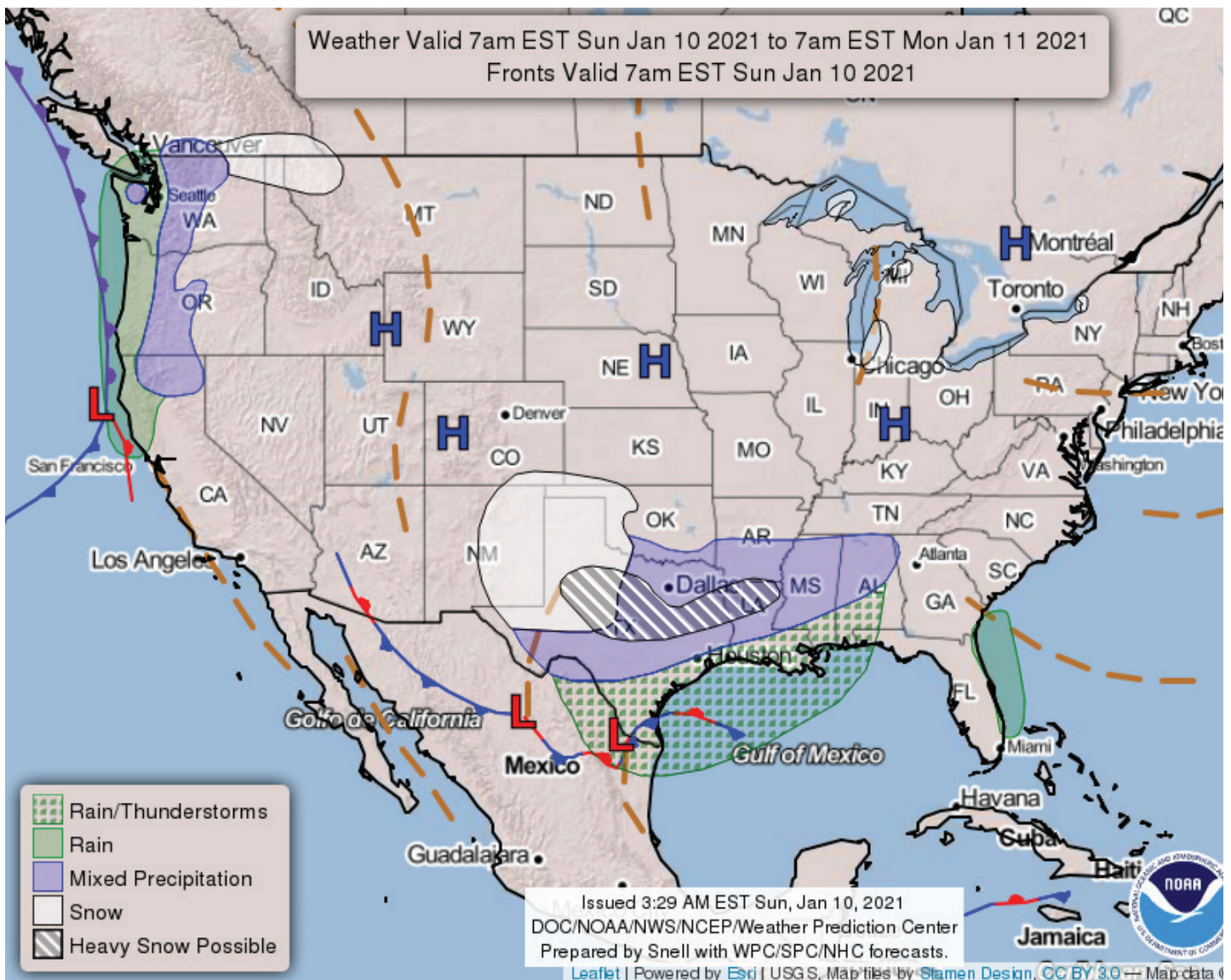
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 33 °F at 3:43 PM**  
**Low Temp: 29 °F at 7:59 AM**  
**Wind: 7 mph at 4:56 PM**  
**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 56° in 2012**  
**Record Low: -30 in 1978**  
**Average High: 22°F**  
**Average Low: 1°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.16**  
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.16**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:11 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.**



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## GUIDED BY GOD

The oldest map ever discovered was drawn on a clay tablet in 2300 B.C. It pictures a mountain-lined valley in Babylonia. A thousand years later, in 1300 B.C., the Egyptians began making maps. The Greeks were the first to make accurate maps. But, it was the Romans who used those maps to conquer nations and countries and begin collecting taxes.

The Muslims were the next "map makers." But they made maps for a different purpose. Their faith demands that they face their "holy city" when they pray. They needed to know the location of Mecca so they could face and bow in that direction when they prayed.

The people of Europe began their map making in the Middle Ages. They made their maps by reading the Bible.

However, no nation or people made maps of the world until the 1400s A.D.

Today, no one would begin a journey without a map or GPS. Yet, we are forever moving into the "unknown" because of our need for detailed guidance and directions.

A Psalmist once prayed, "Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness...make straight Your way before me."

Our Lord knows our end from the very beginning. He is all-wise, never-failing, ever-present, and constantly waiting to protect us from harm's way. He can be our "travel consultant" and GPS on life's journey and will personally counsel us on the safest, most satisfying paths.

With God above us, the Savior beside us, and the Holy Spirit within us, we will end our journey with Him.

Prayer: Thank You, Heavenly Father, for the plan You have established for each of us. May we follow it patiently and willingly until our journey ends with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face. Psalm 5:8



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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

05-15-17-23-24

(five, fifteen, seventeen, twenty-three, twenty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$75,000

Lotto America

09-25-29-30-39, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 4

(nine, twenty-five, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-nine; Star Ball: ten; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.45 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$600 million

Powerball

14-26-38-45-46, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2

(fourteen, twenty-six, thirty-eight, forty-five, forty-six; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$470 million

## Plitzuweit lifts South Dakota past Kansas City 68-62

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A.J. Plitzuweit registered 19 points and six assists as South Dakota got past Kansas City 68-62 on Saturday night.

Stanley Umude had 13 points and seven rebounds for South Dakota (6-6, 4-0 Summit League), which earned its fifth consecutive victory. Mason Archambault added 13 points. Xavier Fuller had six rebounds.

Josiah Allick had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Roos (5-8, 1-3). Brandon McKissic added 15 points. Demarius Pitts had 13 points and six rebounds.

The Coyotes improve to 2-0 against the Roos on the season. South Dakota defeated Kansas City 66-64 last Friday.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

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## Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Central 60, Rapid City Central 57

Aberdeen Christian 75, Oakes, N.D. 50

Belle Fourche 48, Sturgis Brown 41

Chamberlain 62, Custer 47

Dickinson Trinity, N.D. 57, Rapid City Christian 50

Douglas 76, Spearfish 55

Edgemont 52, Sioux County, Neb. 20

Elkton-Lake Benton 59, Alcester-Hudson 38

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Faith 58, Harding County 50  
Faulkton 50, North Central Co-Op 26  
Freeman Academy/Marion 53, Mitchell Christian 44  
Houston, Tenn. 84, Brandon Valley 59  
Kadoka Area 43, Dupree 34  
Kimball/White Lake 39, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 37  
Lake Preston 66, Iroquois 24  
Langford 53, Herreid/Selby Area 32  
Miller 49, Aberdeen Roncalli 42  
Mitchell 54, Huron 34  
Potter County 85, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 50  
Rapid City Central 66, Pierre 59  
Redfield 59, Deuel 50  
Sioux Falls Christian 70, Unity Christian, Iowa 50  
St. Thomas More 44, Alliance, Neb. 28  
Sully Buttes 62, James Valley Christian 36  
Tea Area 62, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 53  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 60, Lower Brule 56  
Viborg-Hurley 84, Elk Point-Jefferson 59  
Wagner 69, Corsica/Stickney 59  
Wall 58, Bennett County 45  
Waverly-South Shore 65, Leola/Frederick 58  
Winner 76, Gregory 55  
Big East Conference Tournament=  
Championship=  
Sioux Valley 72, Chester 48  
Fifth Place=  
Flandreau 69, Beresford 60  
Seventh Place=  
Baltic 53, Garretson 50  
Third Place=  
McCook Central/Montrose 56, Parker 52  
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=  
Aberdeen Central 52, Rapid City Stevens 46  
Aberdeen Roncalli 57, Miller 29  
Bishop Heelan Catholic, Sioux City, Iowa 54, Yankton 30  
Clark/Willow Lake 49, Wilmot 34  
Corsica/Stickney 56, Wagner 50  
Custer 49, Newell 41  
Elkton-Lake Benton 45, Alcester-Hudson 28  
Faith 51, Harding County 42  
Faulkton 51, North Central Co-Op 35  
James Valley Christian 51, Sully Buttes 47  
Lennox 47, Chamberlain 33  
Mitchell 69, Huron 46  
Oakes, N.D. 54, Aberdeen Christian 19  
Philip 61, Bison 40  
Pierre 46, Rapid City Central 45  
Potter County 48, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 38  
Rapid City Christian 62, Jones County 44

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Sioux Falls Lincoln 42, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 37  
Sioux Falls O’Gorman 67, Watertown 38  
Spearfish 56, Douglas 22  
St. Thomas More 70, Bridgewater-Emery 34  
Sturgis Brown 43, Belle Fourche 41  
Tea Area 71, Garretson 56  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 31, Kimball/White Lake 30  
Unity Christian, Iowa 58, Sioux Falls Christian 46  
Wall 48, Bennett County 25  
Waverly-South Shore 47, Leola/Frederick 17  
Winner 85, Gregory 32  
Redfield Pheasant Classic=  
Dupree 56, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 43  
Estelline/Hendricks 47, Colome 42  
Florence/Henry 56, Deubrook 30  
Northwestern 43, Stanley County 38  
Platte-Geddes 64, Langford 34  
Redfield 52, Wolsey-Wessington 39

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

## Freidel lifts South Dakota St. over Western Illinois 92-63

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Noah Freidel had 25 points as South Dakota State easily beat Western Illinois 92-63 on Saturday night.

Freidel made 5 of 7 3-pointers. He added eight rebounds.

David Wingett had 15 points for South Dakota State (8-3, 4-1 Summit League). Douglas Wilson added 14 points. Baylor Scheierman had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Tamell Pearson had 13 points for the Leathernecks (2-9, 0-4), who have lost five straight games. Adam Anhold added 11 points and seven rebounds.

The Jackrabbits improve to 2-0 against the Leathernecks for the season. South Dakota State defeated Western Illinois 83-77 on Friday.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

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

## South Dakota governor calls new Georgia senators communists

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A day after she called for peace and healing following the riots at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem called Georgia’s two incoming Democratic senators communists.

Noem made her comments about incoming Sens. Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock in an op-ed published Friday by the conservative online magazine The Federalist. In her piece, which focuses on her views about what the Republican Party must do going forward, Noem criticized the election of Ossoff and Warnock in Tuesday’s runoff election.

“The idea that Georgia, of all places, could elect two communists to the United States Senate was ridiculous,” wrote Noem, a staunch Trump supporter who campaigned for Georgia’s Republican incumbents, David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler.



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Just a day earlier, Noem used her gubernatorial Twitter account to denounce Wednesday's storming of the U.S. Capitol, saying, "There are consequences for how we talk to each other in this country. Today, let's all pray for healing and peace for our nation."

South Dakota Democrats criticized Noem's op-ed, the Argus Leader reported.

"Gov. Noem claims that 'words have consequences,' and there is no better example of this than her emulating President Trump's rhetoric as she campaigned for him across the country," said Pam Cole, executive director of the state's Democratic Party. "Now she states we should all join together, but in the next breath berates her own Republican Party for allowing 'communists' to be elected in Georgia."

Asked by the newspaper if Noem's op-ed met the standard of conduct she called for in her tweet, her spokesman, Ian Fury, doubled down on her false claim.

Republicans tried to paint Ossoff and Warnock as socialists during the campaign leading up to Tuesday's election, with Perdue running ads that lobbed a false claim that Ossoff was endorsed by the Communist Party USA. A fact check by The Associated Press debunked that claim.

## South Dakota reports 14 more COVID-19 deaths, 321 new cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota reported an additional 14 people have died from COVID-19 and another 321 people have been confirmed to have the virus, according to data released Saturday by the state's Department of Health.

A total of 1,570 people have died from COVID-19 in the state since the pandemic began, and 102,901 people have been infected.

The state said Saturday that 234 people remained hospitalized with COVID-19, 13 less than Friday's number of 247. The number of active cases in the state is 5,040.

The Department of Health also reported that 36,221 residents have been vaccinated as of Saturday,

Over the past two weeks, there were 684 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people in South Dakota, putting the state 34th in the country for new cases per capita. One in every 258 people in South Dakota tested positive in the past week, according to Johns Hopkins University.

## Indonesian divers find parts of plane wreckage in Java Sea

By VICTORIA MILKO and EDNA TARIGAN Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Authorities said they determined the location of the crash site and black boxes of a Boeing 737-500 on Sunday, a day after the aircraft crashed into the Java Sea with 62 people on board shortly after taking off from Indonesia's capital.

The head of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency, Bagus Puruhito, said officials believe they identified the location of the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder — the so-called black boxes — because emergency signals transmitted by the devices were detected by a navy ship's sonar system.

"Hopefully we can lift the black boxes in short time to determine the cause of the crash," military chief Hadi Tjahjanto said.

Earlier Sunday, search and rescue operations resulted in parts of the plane being found in the sea at a depth of 23 meters (75 feet), leading rescuers to continue searching the area.

"We received reports from the diver team that the visibility in the water is good and clear, allowing the discovery of some parts of the plane," Tjahjanto said in a statement. "We are sure that is the point where the plane crashed."

He said the objects found included broken pieces of fuselage with aircraft registration parts.

Earlier, rescuers pulled out body parts, pieces of children's clothing and scraps of metal from the surface.

The break in the search for Sriwijaya Air Flight 182 came after the navy ship's sonar equipment detected a signal from the aircraft at a location that fit the coordinates from the last contact made by the pilots before the plane disappeared Saturday afternoon, Tjahjanto said.

The plane was en route from Jakarta to Pontianak, the capital of West Kalimantan province on Indonesia's Borneo island, on a flight that was expected to take around 90 minutes.

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It was still unclear what caused it to crash. There was no sign of survivors.

"I represent the government and all Indonesians in expressing my deep condolences for this tragedy," Indonesian President Joko Widodo said.

"We are doing our best to save the victims. We pray together so that the victims can be found," he said, adding that he had asked the National Transport Safety Committee to conduct an investigation.

Fishermen in the area between Lancang and Laki islands, part of an archipelago around Thousand Islands north of Jakarta's coast, reported hearing an explosion around 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

"We heard something explode — we thought it was a bomb or a tsunami since after that we saw a big splash from the water," Solihin, who goes by one name, said by phone.

"It was raining heavily and the weather was so bad, so it was difficult to see around clearly," Solihin said. "But we saw the splash and a big wave after the loud sound. We were very shocked and saw the plane debris and the fuel around our boat."

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said the flight was delayed for an hour before it took off at 2:36 p.m. It disappeared from radar four minutes later, after the pilot contacted air traffic control to ascend to an altitude of 29,000 feet (8,839 meters), he said.

There were 62 people on board, all of them Indonesian nationals, including three babies and seven other children. The plane was carrying 50 passengers, six working crew members and six other crew for another flight.

"Our thoughts are with the crew, passengers, and their families," Boeing said in a statement. "We are in contact with our airline customer and stand ready to support them during this difficult time."

Authorities established two crisis centers, one at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, where the plane departed from, and one at port. Families gathered to wait for news about their loved ones.

On social media, people began circulating the flight manifesto with photos and videos of those who were listed as passengers. One video shows a woman with her children waving goodbye while walking through the airport.

Sriwijaya Air president director Jefferson Irwin Jauwena said the plane, which was 26 years old and previously used by airlines in the United States, was airworthy. He told reporters Saturday that the plane had previously flown to Pontianak and Pangkal Pinang city on the same day.

He said the plane was delayed due to bad weather, not because of any mechanical problems.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, with more than 260 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents on land, sea and air because of overcrowding on ferries, aging infrastructure and poorly enforced safety standards.

In October 2018, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet operated by Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea just minutes after taking off from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board. The plane involved in Saturday's disaster did not have the automated flight-control system that played a role in the Lion Air crash and another crash of a 737 MAX 8 jet in Ethiopia five months later, leading to the grounding of the MAX 8 for 20 months.

The Lion Air crash was Indonesia's worst airline disaster since 1997, when 234 people were killed on a Garuda airlines flight near Medan on Sumatra island. In December 2014, an AirAsia flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea, killing 162 people.

Sriwijaya Air has had only minor incidents in the past, though a farmer was killed in 2008 when a plane went off the runway while landing due to a hydraulic issue.

The United States banned Indonesian carriers from operating in the country in 2007, but reversed the decision in 2016, citing improvements in compliance with international aviation standards. The European Union has previously had similar bans, lifting them in June 2018.

## Spain shovels out of snowdrifts left by Storm Filomena

MADRID (AP) — Emergency crews in central Spain cleared 500 roads and rescued over 1,500 people stranded in vehicles as the country slowly shovels out of its worst snowstorm in recent memory.

Madrid's Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas International Airport remained closed Sunday as it has since Fri-

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day night. Train lines traversing the capital were also shut down and over 150 roads were still impassable.

Storm Filomena has lost strength as it moved eastward but authorities are still urging people to remain at home to limit the risk of falls on icy streets ahead of a severe drop in temperatures in the coming days.

Spain's weather service forecasts temperatures to drop as low as -14 degrees Celsius (6 degrees Fahrenheit) in the eastern province of Albacete by Tuesday.

Army emergency brigades are focusing on clearing access to Madrid's main fresh food distribution center and to hospitals as Spain also grapples with its coronavirus crisis, with infections on the rise following the Christmas holidays.

Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said the government will take extra steps to ensure that the country's weekly shipment of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine on Monday can be distributed to regional health authorities via police-escorted convoys.

Spain has seen over 51,800 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic.

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

## The Latest: England invites over 80s to get virus vaccine

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — Thousands of people 80 and older have started receiving invitations to get the coronavirus vaccine in England, officials said Sunday, as Britain ramps up its national vaccination program in a bid to meet its target of inoculating about 15 million people by the middle of February.

More than 600,000 invitations are due to arrive at doorsteps across England this week, asking the elderly to sign up for jabs at new mass vaccination centers near them.

The government has given a first dose of the vaccine to more than 1.2 million people so far.

The seven new large-scale vaccination centers join some 1,000 other sites across the country, including hospitals, general practitioners' clinics and some drugstores.

Officials are hoping a speedy mass vaccination rollout will help get Britain out of its third national lockdown, which was ordered this month to curb an alarming surge of COVID-19 infections and deaths. Britain has seen 81,000 deaths in the pandemic, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

### THE VIRUS OUTBREAK:

- California reports record one-day total of 695 coronavirus deaths
- UK PM Boris Johnson under fire as Britain again faces onslaught of COVID-19
- Overwhelmed hospitals in Ukraine see the consequences of widespread New Year's festivities
- Israelis protest Netanyahu amid third virus lockdown
- Nightly curfew for pandemic takes effect across Quebec

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

### HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

BERLIN — More than 40,000 people have died of COVID-19 in Germany.

The sad record of 40,343 deaths was reached Sunday when the country's disease control center reported 465 new deaths.

Germany initially managed to keep death numbers low in comparison to its European neighbors, but since October both new infections and deaths have been creeping up steadily. On Sunday Germany recorded 16,946 new infections.

The country entered a second hard lockdown last month, which was recently extended until the end of January. Schools and most stores are closed, hospitals in the country are on edge and some morgues



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don't have enough space to cool the relentless flow of incoming bodies.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has warned that the coming weeks will be the most difficult in the pandemic. However, the chancellor also said mass vaccinations, which started in late December, will eventually bring relief.

"A few hundred thousand have been vaccinated and it will become more every day. The speed will pick up," Merkel said in her weekly podcast.

Germany and the European Union have so far approved the vaccines by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. More than 530,000 people, mostly the elderly and medical staff, had been vaccinated by Saturday.

**LVIV, Ukraine** — A medical college in western Ukraine has been transformed into a temporary hospital as the coronavirus inundates the Eastern European country.

The foyer of the college in the city of Lviv holds 50 beds for COVID-19 patients, and 300 more are placed in lecture halls and auditoriums to accommodate the overflow of people seeking care at a packed emergency hospital nearby.

The head of the hospital's therapy division, Marta Sayko, said the college space has doubled treatment capacity. She hopes a broad lockdown ordered Friday will reduce the burden on the Ukrainian health care system.

Many medical workers have criticized the government for ordering the lockdown only after the Christmas and New Year's holidays rather than risk angering the public.

"We saw large-scale New Year's festivities almost in every city," Borys Ribun, chief of the regional pathology bureau in Lviv, said. "I think there will be consequences. We shall see them in a week or two."

**BEIJING** — More than 360 people have tested positive in a growing coronavirus outbreak south of Beijing in neighboring Hebei province.

China's National Health Commission reported Sunday that 69 new cases had been confirmed, including 46 in Hebei.

The outbreak has raised particular concern because of Hebei's proximity to the nation's capital. Travel between the two has been restricted, with workers from Hebei having to show proof of employment in Beijing to enter.

Hebei has recorded 183 confirmed cases and an additional 181 asymptomatic cases over the last eight days. China does not include those who test positive but do not show symptoms in its official case count.

Almost all of the cases are in Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital, which is 260 kilometers (160 miles) southwest of Beijing. A handful have also been found in Xingtai. Both cities have conducted mass testing of millions of residents, suspended public transportation and restricted residents to their communities or villages for one week.

**MEXICO CITY** — Mexico has posted another daily record for newly confirmed coronavirus cases, with 16,105 new infections reported Saturday, and a near-record of 1,135 deaths related to COVID-19 in the latest 24-hour period.

The country has now topped 1.5 million total infections and over 133,000 deaths so far in the pandemic. Given Mexico's extremely low level of testing, official estimates suggest the real death toll is over 180,000.

Health authorities said 6,722 shots of coronavirus vaccine were administered Friday, for a total so far of about 75,000. In Mexico City, the current center of the pandemic in Mexico, 90% percent of hospital beds are full.

**MONTREAL** — A curfew meant to curb a rising tide of COVID-19 cases took effect across Quebec on Saturday evening.

Premier Francois Legault says the measure is needed to prevent gatherings that have fueled the rampant spread of the virus. The French-speaking Canadian province has a population of more than 8.4 million

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The rules will see most residents face police questions or fines of up to \$6,000 Canadian (U.S. \$4,728) if they're out between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. for the next four weeks. There are exceptions for essential workers, people walking dogs, and those who have medical reasons to be out, such as a doctor's appointment.

**TOKYO** — Japanese opposition lawmakers slammed the government's emergency declaration Sunday as too little too late to stem the surging coronavirus case.

They also pushed for more testing, which has lagged in Japan, being expensive and hard to get unless severely ill.

"It's essential to consider the worst possible scenario, but the response has always been based on an overly optimistic outlook," Yukio Edano, a former economy minister, said on broadcaster NHK TV.

Opposition lawmakers Toranosuke Katayama and Kazuo Shii also criticized the state of emergency as too limited in scope, area and duration. The declaration, which kicked in Friday, asks restaurants to close at 8 p.m., lasts a month and focuses on the Tokyo area.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga defended the focus of the declaration and said the rising curve in the infection's spread will get flattened in a month.

Deaths related to COVID-19 have totaled about 4,000 nationwide so far. Worries are growing about hospitals getting stretched thin. Tokyo's cases have surged recently to more than 2,000 a day.

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** — Rhode Island Lt. Gov. Daniel McKee is quarantining at home after coming into close contact with someone who later tested positive for COVID-19, officials said Saturday.

The lieutenant governor learned of the close contact Saturday morning, has since tested negative and is showing no symptoms, officials said. He will continue to be tested and will remain quarantined until midnight on Jan. 12, officials said.

McKee is poised to serve the remaining two years of Gov. Gina Raimondo's term after Raimondo was named Democrat Joe Biden's pick for commerce secretary.

**LAS VEGAS** — Nevada is reporting one of the state's highest daily increases in coronavirus deaths since the pandemic began, and its worst week yet.

The state on Saturday reported 2,648 additional known COVID-19 cases and 56 additional deaths. That's close to the record of 60 deaths reported only on Wednesday. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that the state's one-week total of 299 COVID-19 deaths was the worst yet.

Nevada has now had 246,309 known COVID-19 cases and 3,450 deaths since the pandemic began.

The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases in Nevada increased from 2,115.3 on Dec. 25 to 2,373.6 on Friday while the rolling average of daily deaths rose from 33.6 to 35.4, according to data from Johns Hopkins University and The COVID Tracking Project.

**LOS ANGELES** — California health authorities on Saturday reported a record high of 695 coronavirus deaths as many hospitals strained under unprecedented caseloads.

The state Department of Public Health said the number raises the state's death toll since the start of the pandemic to 29,233.

A surge of cases following Halloween and Thanksgiving produced record hospitalizations in California, and now the most seriously ill of those patients are dying in unprecedented numbers.

Already, many hospitals in Los Angeles and other hard-hit areas are struggling to keep up and warned they may need to ration care as intensive care beds dwindle.

**OKLAHOMA CITY** -- An Oklahoma judge has extended a temporary restraining order allowing bars and restaurants across Oklahoma to stay open past an 11 p.m. curfew issued in November by Gov. Kevin Stitt in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

District Judge Susan Stallings heard arguments in the case Friday and extended the Dec. 29 order while she considers ruling in the lawsuit by bar owners who argue the governor doesn't have legal authority to

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impose the curfew, according to court records.

Attorneys for the governor say state law gives Stitt "broad and flexible authority needed" to combat the spread of the virus.

On Saturday, Oklahoma has the sixth most new cases per capita in the nation with 1,218.16 per 100,000 residents, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. The state health department on Saturday reported 2,738 deaths since the pandemic began.

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday received the second dose of the coronavirus vaccine after becoming the first Israeli to be inoculated last month.

Israel is in the midst of a third nationwide lockdown after seeing a surge in cases despite unleashing one of the world's fastest vaccination campaigns. The country has given the first of two vaccine doses to nearly 20% of its population. Netanyahu said Saturday that it has secured enough vaccines to inoculate the whole adult population by the end of March.

Netanyahu has placed the vaccination drive at the center of his campaign for reelection in March, when Israel will hold its fourth nationwide vote in less than two years. In the meantime, he has called on Israelis to make "one last big effort" to halt transmission by adhering to the tightened restrictions.

Most schools and businesses were closed starting Friday, with people required to remain within 1,000 meters (yards) of home except for essential needs. Public gatherings are heavily restricted and public transportation is limited. The restrictions are to last for at least two weeks.

## US consulate a turning point for disputed Western Sahara

By MOSA'AB ELSHAMY Associated Press

DAKHLA, Western Sahara (AP) — Trawlers pack the bustling Western Saharan port of Dakhla, where fish scales glisten from workers' arms as they roll up their nets and buyers shout bids in a sprawling auction warehouse. Nearby, turquoise waters lap wide, nearly empty Atlantic beaches and diners sip tea in sidewalk cafes.

Plans by the United States to open a consulate in Western Sahara mark a turning point for the disputed and closely policed territory in North Africa. The U.S. move recognizes Morocco's authority over the land — in exchange for Morocco normalizing relations with Israel. Top American and Moroccan officials are in the region this weekend to lay the groundwork for the project.

While this shift in U.S. foreign policy frustrates indigenous Sahrawis who have sought Western Sahara's independence for decades, others see new opportunities for trade and tourism that will provide a welcome boost for the region and sun-kissed coastal cities like Dakhla.

A portrait of Moroccan King Mohammed VI, waving from behind his sunglasses, hangs from the crenelated archway that greets people arriving in Dakhla. The king's face is juxtaposed on a map that includes Western Sahara as an integral part of Morocco.

Morocco annexed the former Spanish colony in 1975, which unleashed a 16-year war and then 30 years of diplomatic and military stalemate between Morocco and the Polisario Front, an organization seeking Western Sahara's independence that is based in and backed by Algeria. The long-running territorial dispute has limited Western Sahara's links with the outside world.

Khatat Yanja, head of Dakhla's regional council, looks forward to the U.S. arrival opening up his city to new markets and persuading more tourists to enjoy its beaches, local wares and breathtaking sunsets. He expressed hope for U.S. investment in tourism, renewable energy, farming and especially fishing.

"We appreciate such a gesture," Yanja said of the future consulate. "It will open a new chapter altogether when it comes to investment in this region, via employing people and creating more resources. It will also open more doors for international trade."

The main fishing port is the lifeline of the local economy, employing 70% of Dakhla's work force. Thousands of boats bring in 500,000 tons of fish per year, for exports worth 2.2 billion dirhams (\$249 million)



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annually, according to port director Bintaleb Elhassan.

Beneath flocks of honking seagulls, fishermen haul sardines and mackerel to warehouses where the catch is auctioned off from neatly lined trays. In nearby processing plants, rows of women, including migrants from around Africa, clean and sort the fish.

Morocco tightly polices the region. On a recent visit to Dakhla, authorities closely monitored an Associated Press reporter in the way both visitors and residents often are.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David Schenker visited Dakhla and Western Sahara's biggest city, Laayoune, on Saturday. He and Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita are expected to unveil a temporary diplomatic outpost on Sunday.

While the consulate isn't expected to open for another six to 12 months, Schenker's trip is a way for the U.S. to cement its commitment to Western Sahara before President Donald Trump leaves office.

Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, helped broker a normalization deal between Morocco and Israel announced last month, part of a series of historic accords that won Arab countries major favors from Washington in exchange.

Trump said the goal of the Western Sahara consulate would be "to promote economic and trade opportunities in the region," which is about the size of Colorado and is believed to have considerable offshore oil deposits and mineral resources.

The Polisario Front's representative at the United Nations, Sidi Omar, appealed Saturday for the incoming administration of U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to reverse Trump's decision.

"The U.S. cannot both support the U.N.'s role in resolving Western Sahara conflict and endorse Moroccan sovereignty," Omar tweeted.

Western Sahara's economy is run by Morocco, which has built most of the territory's infrastructure and encouraged Moroccans to settle there. But the United Nations and most world governments don't recognize Moroccan sovereignty over the land, limiting Morocco's ability to export its resources and complicating trade deals.

For many people in Dakhla, at least those who are allowed to speak to visiting journalists, local concerns appear to outweigh geopolitical ones. Residents commute to work, sell clementines, shop for jewelry, enjoy local specialties in sidewalk cafes and frolic with their dogs on tranquil beaches.

The U.S. recognition of Western Sahara as Morocco's drew criticism from the U.N. and America's allies. African observers have said it could destabilize the broader region, already struggling against Islamist insurgencies and migrant trafficking.

The action has particularly angered Sahrawis, who want a referendum on the territory's future, and neighboring Algeria, which hosts Sahrawi refugees and backs the Polisario. Schenker also visited Algeria in recent days.

The U.S. will be joining a small but growing number of countries with consulates in the territory, the most recent representing Gambia.

"Gambia feels a sense of gratitude for Morocco's support, including Morocco building the new Foreign Ministry building in Gambia. Also, Morocco continues to grant educational grants for Gambian students," Consul General Ousmane Badjie told The AP in his office, where a portrait of the Moroccan king also hangs.

Sahrawi activists held protests in several Spanish and French cities over the U.S. move, but Washington didn't directly address their concerns when the State Department formally notified Congress on Dec. 24 of its plans to open a consulate.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said only that the United States "will continue to support political negotiations to resolve the issues between Morocco and the Polisario within the framework of Morocco's autonomy plan."

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Matt Lee in Washington and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

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This story corrects the spelling of Yanja in the sixth paragraph.

## Asia Today: China reports 380 cases south of Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — More than 380 people have tested positive in a growing COVID-19 outbreak south of Beijing in China's Hebei province.

Hebei health authorities said that 40 new cases had been confirmed Sunday morning, bringing the total to 223. Another 161 people tested positive but showed no symptoms. China does not include such asymptomatic cases in its official tally.

The outbreak has raised particular concern because Hebei borders the nation's capital. Travel between the two has been restricted, with workers from Hebei having to show proof of employment in Beijing to enter the city.

Almost all the cases are in Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital, which is about 260 kilometers (160 miles) southwest of Beijing. A handful have also been found in Xingtai city, 110 kilometers (68 miles) farther south.

Both cities have conducted mass testing of millions of residents, suspended public transportation and taxis, and restricted residents to their communities or villages for one week.

Earlier Sunday, China's National Health Commission reported that 69 new cases had been confirmed nationwide the previous day, most of them in Hebei. The others included 21 people who had arrived recently from overseas.

Beijing had one new case, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 32 in a smaller outbreak that surfaced about three weeks ago. Almost all the cases have been in Shunyi in the city's northeastern suburbs.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— Japanese opposition lawmakers slammed the government's emergency declaration as too late to stem the surging coronavirus cases. They also pushed for more testing, which have lagged in Japan, being expensive and hard to get unless people who take them are severely ill. "It's essential to consider the worst possible scenario, but the response has always been based on an overly optimistic outlook," Yukio Edano, a former economy minister, said on public broadcaster NHK TV. Opposition lawmakers Toranosuke Katayama and Kazuo Shii also criticized the state of emergency as too limited in scope, area and duration. The declaration, which kicked in Friday, centers around asking restaurants to close at 8 p.m. It lasts a month and focuses on the Tokyo area. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga defended the measure and stressed that the rising curve will get flattened in a month. Deaths related to COVID-19 have totaled about 4,000 nationwide. Worries are growing about hospitals getting stretched thin. Tokyo's cases have surged recently to more than 2,000 a day. Other urban areas have also asked the central government for similar emergency measures.

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

## Voters in Kyrgyzstan cast ballots in early presidential vote

MOSCOW (AP) — Voters in Kyrgyzstan cast ballots Sunday in an early presidential election that will also determine how much power the next president has.

The vote follows the ouster of the previous president in October.

The ex-Soviet Central Asian nation sank into turmoil after a parliamentary election that was swept by pro-government parties. Opposition supporters accused authorities of rigging the vote and forced President Sooronbai Jeenbekov to step down on Oct. 15.

Sadyr Zhaparov, a 52-year-old politician who was freed from jail by protesters and then spearheaded Jeenbekov's removal from office, is widely expected to win the presidency.

The unrest marked the third time in 15 years when a leader of the 6.5-million nation on the border with China was forced out by a popular uprising. Like the previous uprisings that toppled presidents in 2005 and 2010, the latest turmoil was driven by clan rivalries that shape the country's politics.

Zhaparov, who had been in prison since 2017 on a kidnapping conviction, became the country's interim

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leader, but he renounced that position to be able to run for president as required by law. But despite that he has continued to call the shots, relying on his allies in parliament and is broadly expected to win the race against 16 other contenders.

He also pushed for the constitutional referendum Sunday that will determine whether the country should strengthen the powers of the presidency.

Kyrgyzstan, which is a member of Russia-dominated economic and security alliances, hosts a Russian air base and depends on Moscow's economic support. It formerly was the site of a U.S. air base that served as a key transport hub for the war in Afghanistan.

Russia has voiced concerns about the turmoil in Kyrgyzstan but refrained from supporting any of the presidential candidates.

## Johnson under fire as UK again faces onslaught of COVID-19

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The crisis facing Britain this winter is depressingly familiar: Stay-at-home orders and empty streets. Hospitals overflowing. A daily toll of many hundreds of coronavirus deaths.

The U.K. is the epicenter of Europe's COVID-19 outbreak once more, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government is facing questions, and anger, as people demand to know how the country has ended up here — again.

Many countries are enduring new waves of the virus, but Britain's is among the worst, and it comes after a horrendous 2020. More than 3 million people in the U.K. have tested positive for the coronavirus and 81,000 have died — 30,000 in just the last 30 days. The economy has shrunk by 8%, more than 800,000 jobs have been lost and hundreds of thousands more furloughed workers are in limbo.

Even with the new lockdown, London Mayor Sadiq Khan said Friday that the situation in the capital was "critical," with one in every 30 people infected. "The stark reality is that we will run out of beds for patients in the next couple of weeks unless the spread of the virus slows down drastically," he said.

Medical staff are also at breaking point.

"Whereas before, everyone went into a mode of, 'We just need to get through this,' (now) everybody is like, 'Here we go again — can I get through this?'" said Lindsey Izard, a senior intensive care nurse at St. George's Hospital in London. "That's really, really hard for our staff."

Much of the blame for Britain's poor performance has been laid at the door of Johnson, who came down with the virus in the spring and ended up in intensive care. Critics say his government's slow response as the new respiratory virus emerged from China was the first in a string of lethal mistakes.

Anthony Costello, professor of global health at University College London, said "dilly-dallying" in March about whether to lock down the U.K. cost thousands of lives.

Britain locked down on March 23, and Costello said if the decision had come a week or two sooner, "we would be back down at 30,000-40,000 deaths. ... More like Germany."

"And the problem is, they've repeated these delays," said Costello, a member of Independent SAGE, a group of scientists set up as an alternative to the government's official Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies.

Most countries have struggled during the pandemic, but Britain had some disadvantages from the start. Its public health system was frayed after years of spending cuts by austerity-minded Conservative governments. It had only a tiny capacity to test for the new virus. And while authorities had planned for a hypothetical pandemic, they assumed it would be a less deadly and less contagious flu-like illness.

The government sought advice from scientists, but critics say its pool of advisers was too narrow. And their recommendations were not always heeded by a prime minister whose laissez-faire instincts make him reluctant to clamp down on the economy and daily life.

Johnson has defended his record, saying it's easy to find fault when looking back.

"The retro-spectroscope is a magnificent instrument," Johnson said in a BBC interview last week.

"Scientific advisors have said all sorts of different things at different times," he added. "They're by no



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mean unanimous.”

A future public inquiry will likely pore over the failings in Britain’s coronavirus response, but the inquisition has already begun.

Parliament’s Science and Technology Committee said in a report published Friday that the government was not transparent enough about the scientific advice it received, failed to learn from other countries and responded too slowly when “the pandemic has demanded that policy be made and adapted on a faster timescale.”

The government points out, correctly, that there has been huge progress since last spring. Early problems getting protective equipment to medical workers have largely been resolved. Britain now carries out almost half a million coronavirus tests a day. A national test-and-trace system has been set up to find and isolate infected people, though it struggles to cope with demand and can’t enforce requests to self-isolate.

Treatments including the steroid dexamethasone, whose effectiveness was discovered during a U.K. trial, have improved survival rates among the most seriously ill. And now there are vaccines, three of which have been approved for use in Britain. The government has vowed to give the first of two shots to almost 15 million people, including everyone over 70, by mid-February.

But critics say the government has continued to repeat its mistakes, adapting too slowly to a changing situation.

As infection rates fell in the summer, the government encouraged people to return to restaurants and workplaces to help revive the economy. When the virus began to surge again in September, Johnson rejected advice from his scientific advisers to lock the country down, before eventually announcing a month-long second national lockdown on Oct. 31.

Hopes that move would be enough to curb the spread of the virus were dashed in December, when scientists warned that a new variant was up to 70% more transmissible than the original strain.

Johnson tightened restrictions for London and the southeast, but the government’s scientific advisory committee warned Dec. 22 that would not be enough. Johnson did not announce a third national lockdown for England until almost two weeks later, on Jan. 4.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland make their own public health policies and have similar restrictions in place.

“Why is this prime minister, with all the scientific expertise at his disposal, all the power to make a difference, always the last to grasp what needs to happen?” said Jonathan Ashworth, health spokesman for the opposition Labour Party. “The prime minister hasn’t been short of data, he has been short of judgment.”

Costello said Johnson should not bear all the blame. He said a sense of “exceptionalism” had led many British officials to watch scenes from Wuhan, China, early in 2020 and think “that’s all happening over in Asia and it’s not going to come here.”

“We were found wanting,” he said. “And I think that’s a wakeup call.”

John Bell, Regius professor of medicine at the University of Oxford, said people should be more forgiving of official missteps.

“It’s very easy to be critical about how we’ve done, but you do have to remember that there’s nobody who’s really managed a pandemic like this, who’s ever done it before,” he told the BBC. “We’re all trying to make decisions on the run, and some of those decisions will inevitably be the wrong decisions.”

“Everybody should be doing their best, and I think on the whole people are — including, I have to say, the politicians. So don’t beat them up too badly.”

Follow AP coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at:

<https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

<https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-vaccine>

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**Minister: Massive power outage leaves Pakistan in the dark**

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By ZARAR KHAN Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A major technical fault in Pakistan's power generation and distribution system caused a massive power outage that plunged the country into darkness overnight, the energy minister said.

Hours after the late Saturday outage, Energy Minister Omar Ayub said on Twitter that power was being restored in phases, starting with Islamabad. He said later Sunday that power had been restored to much of the country.

The blackout was initially reported on social media by residents of major urban centers, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Multan. The minister and his spokesman then took to Twitter to update the country.

Ayub urged people to be patient. He said the cause of the power outage was being investigated and work was being done to fire up Pakistan's main Tarbela power station in the northwest, which would lead to a restoration of power in the rest of the country in phases.

Ayub said in a news conference Sunday that the Guddu power plant in southern Sindh province developed a fault at 11:41 p.m. that triggered the shutdown of other power plants in seconds.

Later, Zafar Yab, spokesman for the Ministry of Energy, said the Tarbela and Warsak plants, both in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, had come back online and power was being restored to the transmission system.

Yab said restoration of power to all areas of the country would take some time, however.

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Associated Press writer Asim Tanveer in Multan, Pakistan contributed to this report.  
up."

## UN envoy: Britain is 'gung ho' about world role after Brexit

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Britain's new U.N. ambassador says the government is feeling "gung ho" about continuing its role as an important player on the world stage despite its exit from the European Union.

Barbara Woodward pointed to the United Kingdom's permanent seat on the powerful U.N. Security Council, its presidency this year of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations, its membership in the Group of 20 leading economic powers and NATO, and its hosting of the next United Nations global climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

"Don't underestimate the power of the relationship with the EU," she stressed in an interview with The Associated Press this past week. "There's a lot of values and principles which we share with European partners which I think will stand us in good stead."

Britain's long and sometimes contentious divorce from the EU became final on Dec. 31, a split that left the 27-member bloc without one of its major economic powers and the U.K. freer to chart its future but facing a world trying to confront a deadly pandemic and cope with rising unemployment, growing divisions between haves and have-nots, and a climate crisis.

An article in the U.S.-based World Politics Review in October identified three visions for Britain's future: "Catastrophists who argue that the U.K. has become completely irrelevant on the international stage as a result of Brexit; the nostalgics, who see a powerful Britain through the lens of a great colonial power; and the denialists, who refuse to accept that Britain must adapt to a changing global context."

Authors Ben Judah, a British-French journalist and author, and Georgina Wright, a Brexit researcher at the Institute for Government, a U.K. think tank, said that since Britain voted to leave the EU in 2016 "it is undeniable that both British leadership and influence over global affairs have taken a hit."

"In international circles, it has become fashionable to be overly dismissive of Britain's weight in world affairs," they said. "Yet the country continues to carry weight."

Woodward, who came to the U.N. after more than five years as ambassador to China and previously served in Russia, agrees.

"We've had a pretty introspective three years with Brexit negotiations and managing COVID," she said, but with the upcoming climate summit and Britain's presidency of the G-7 as the group grapples with

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economic recovery from the pandemic, "I think we've got quite a big role to play."

She said Prime Minister Boris Johnson is "very keen on multilateralism." On Dec. 31, as Britain was leaving the EU, he said the U.K. is now "free to do trade deals around the world, and free to turbocharge our ambition to be a science superpower."

Early this month, the Economist magazine said the U.K. has the opportunity "to cut a dash on the world stage," with its G-7 presidency -- including possible invitations to Australia, India and South Korea to attend the group's sessions -- and hosting the climate summit in Glasgow, "the most important diplomatic event of the year."

Johnson is expected to visit India and be Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guest of honor on Republic Day on Jan. 26, "part of a much-touted 'tilt to the Indo-Pacific,'" the Economist said, adding that Britain has also opened discussions to join the 11-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership and is pushing to become a "dialogue partner" of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Woodward said the U.K.'s exit from the EU makes the United Nations and Britain's permanent Security Council seat "more important because the U.N. has always been the biggest multilateral forum."

She pointed to Sunday's hybrid commemoration of the first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in London 75 years ago which Britain is hosting, saying the world is very different today "but so many of the divisions are perhaps even deeper now."

In the coming year, Woodward said, there are three major issues that need to be tackled:

—Vaccinating rich and poor people everywhere against the coronavirus and taking action to revive economies devastated by the pandemic.

—Making climate change a top priority, focusing on preventing temperature rises, and raising the billions needed to make progress;

—Dealing with a range of global security problems.

Woodward said Iran will be a central security issue whether or not U.S. President-elect Joseph Biden goes through with his inclination to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal that President Donald Trump pulled out of. She cited the Iranian role in other conflicts including in Yemen and Syria.

There are also security problems elsewhere in the Middle East and in Africa, where terrorist attacks in the Sahel are especially worrying, as well as security questions around protecting digital data.

"I think the relations that the new (U.S.) administration decides to have with all of its allies -- European partners, NATO allies, how it builds a relationship with China, will be critical, as well as how we work together in the U.N. Security Council," Woodward said.

## Top Republican says Trump committed 'impeachable offenses'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats' momentum for a fresh drive to quickly impeach outgoing President Donald Trump has gained support, and a top Republican said the president's role in the deadly riot at the Capitol by a violent mob of Trump supporters was worthy of rebuke.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., said Saturday he believed Trump had committed "impeachable offenses." But he did not explicitly say whether he would vote to remove the president from office at the conclusion of a Senate trial if the House sent over articles of impeachment.

"I don't know what they are going to send over and one of the things that I'm concerned about, frankly, is whether the House would completely politicize something," Toomey said Saturday on Fox News Channel, speaking of the Democratic-controlled House.

"I do think the president committed impeachable offenses, but I don't know what is going to land on the Senate floor, if anything," Toomey said.

Late Saturday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent a letter to her Democratic colleagues reiterating that Trump must be held accountable — but stopped short of committing to an impeachment vote. Still, she told her caucus, "I urge you to be prepared to return to Washington this week."

"It is absolutely essential that those who perpetrated the assault on our democracy be held account-

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able," Pelosi wrote. "There must be a recognition that this desecration was instigated by the President."  
Pelosi said House Democrats "will be proceeding with meetings with Members and Constitutional experts and others."

The new Democratic effort to stamp Trump's presidential record — for the second time and days before his term ends — with the indelible mark of impeachment gained more supporters Saturday. Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., a leader of the House effort to draft impeachment articles — or charges — accusing Trump of inciting insurrection, said his group had grown to include 185 co-sponsors.

Lawmakers plan to formally introduce the proposal on Monday in the House, where articles of impeachment must originate. If Democrats decide to move forward, a vote could be possible by Wednesday — exactly one week before Democrat Joe Biden becomes president at noon on Jan. 20.

The articles, if passed by the House, could then be transmitted to the Senate for a trial, with senators acting as jurors who would ultimately vote on whether to acquit or convict Trump. If convicted, Trump would be removed from office and succeeded by the vice president.

Earlier Saturday, Pelosi told her San Francisco constituents during an online video conference that it is "a decision that we have to make."

Potentially complicating that decision is what it means for Biden and the beginning of his presidency. While reiterating that he has long viewed Trump as unfit for office, Biden on Friday sidestepped a question about impeachment, saying what Congress does "is for them to decide."

If the House decided to impeach, the soonest the Senate could begin an impeachment trial under the current calendar would be Jan. 20, Inauguration Day.

A violent and largely white mob of Trump supporters overpowered police, broke through security lines and rampaged through the Capitol on Wednesday, forcing lawmakers to scatter as they were putting the final, formal touches on Biden's victory over Trump in the Electoral College.

The crowd surged to the domed symbol of American democracy following a rally near the White House, where Trump repeated his bogus claims that the election was stolen from him and urged his supporters to march in force toward the Capitol.

Five people, including a Capitol police officer, died as a result of the siege.

"It has been an epiphany for the world to see that there are people in our country led by this president, for the moment, who have chosen their whiteness over democracy," Pelosi said of the attack.

She added: "This cannot be exaggerated. The complicity, not only the complicity, the instigation of the president of United States, must and will be addressed."

No. 4 House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York reiterated support for moving against what he deemed "an act of sedition that was incited and encouraged by Donald Trump."

Speaking of Trump, Jeffries said Saturday: "He should be impeached, convicted and thrown out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and forever banished to the dustbin of history."

Outrage over the attack and Trump's role in egging it on capped a divisive, chaotic presidency like few others in the nation's history. There are less than two weeks until Trump is out of office but Democrats have made clear they don't want to wait that long.

Trump, meanwhile, has few fellow Republicans speaking out in his defense. He's become increasingly isolated, holed up in the White House as he has been abandoned in the aftermath of the riot by many aides, leading Republicans and, so far, two Cabinet members — both women.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who has long voiced her exasperation with Trump's conduct in office, told the Anchorage Daily News on Friday that he simply "needs to get out."

Sen. Ben Sasse, another Trump critic, said more important than what happens to Trump "is what happens to the United States people and this union 12 days and beyond."

But the Nebraska Republican also told "CBS This Morning" on Friday that he "will definitely consider" whatever articles the House sends over because he believes Trump "has disregarded his oath of office" to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.

After spending many weeks refusing to concede defeat in the November election, Trump promised —



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after the Capitol riot — to oversee a smooth transfer of power to Biden. He called for reconciliation and healing, but then announced he will not attend the inauguration — the first such presidential snub since just after the Civil War.

Superville reported from Wilmington, Delaware. Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe, Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## Squelched by Twitter, Trump seeks new online megaphone

By FRANK BAJAK AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — One Twitter wag joked about lights flickering on and off at the White House being Donald Trump signaling to his followers in Morse code after Twitter and Facebook squelched the president for inciting rebellion.

Though deprived of his big online megaphones, Trump does have alternative options of much smaller reach. The far right-friendly Parler may be the leading candidate, though Google and Apple have both removed it from their app stores and Amazon decided to boot it off its web hosting service. That could knock it offline for a week, Parler's CEO said.

Trump may launch his own platform. But that won't happen overnight, and free speech experts anticipate growing pressure on all social media platforms to curb incendiary speech as Americans take stock of Wednesday's violent takeover of the U.S. Capitol by a Trump-incited mob.

Twitter ended Trump's nearly 12-year run on Friday. In shuttering his account it cited a tweet to his 89 million followers that he planned to skip President-elect Joe Biden's Jan. 20 inauguration that it said gave rioters license to converge on Washington once again.

Facebook and Instagram have suspended Trump at least until Inauguration Day. Twitch and Snapchat also have disabled Trump's accounts, while Shopify took down online stores affiliated with the president and Reddit removed a Trump subgroup. Twitter also banned Trump loyalists including former national security advisor Michael Flynn in a sweeping purge of accounts promoting the QAnon conspiracy theory and the Capitol insurrection. Some had hundreds of thousands of followers.

In a statement Friday, Trump said: "We have been negotiating with various other sites, and will have a big announcement soon, while we also look at the possibilities of building out our own platform in the near future."

Experts had predicted Trump might pop up on Parler, a 2-year-old magnet for the far right that claims more than 12 million users and where his sons Eric and Don Jr. are already active. Parler hit headwinds, though, on Friday as Google yanked its smartphone app from its app store for allowing postings that seek "to incite ongoing violence in the U.S." Apple followed suit on Saturday evening after giving Parler 24 hours to address complaints it was being used to "plan and facilitate yet further illegal and dangerous activities." Public safety issues will need to be resolved before it is restored, Apple said.

Amazon struck another blow Saturday, informing Parler it would need to look for a new web-hosting service effective midnight Sunday. It reminded Parler in a letter, first reported by BuzzFeed, that it had informed it in the past few weeks of 98 examples of posts "that clearly encourage and incite violence" and said the platform "poses a very real risk to public safety."

Parler CEO John Matze decried the punishments as "a coordinated attack by the tech giants to kill competition in the marketplace. We were too successful too fast," he said in a Saturday night post, saying it was possible Parler would be unavailable for up to a week "as we rebuild from scratch."

Earlier, Matze complained of being scapegoated. "Standards not applied to Twitter, Facebook or even Apple themselves, apply to Parler." He said he "won't cave to politically motivated companies and those authoritarians who hate free speech."

Losing access to the app stores of Google and Apple — whose operating systems power hundreds of millions of smartphones — severely limits Parler's reach, though it will continue to be accessible via web browser. Losing Amazon Web Services will mean Parler needs to scramble to find another web host — in

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addition to the re-engineering.

Gab is another potential landing spot for Trump. But it, too, has had troubles with internet hosting. Google and Apple both booted it from their app stores in 2017 and it was left internet-homeless for a time the following year due to anti-Semitic posts attributed to the man accused of killing 11 people at a Pittsburgh synagogue. Microsoft also terminated a web-hosting contract.

Online speech experts expect social media companies led by Facebook, Twitter and Google's YouTube to more vigorously police hate speech and incitement in the wake of the Capitol rebellion, as Western democracies led by Nazism-haunted Germany already do.

David Kaye, a University of California-Irvine law professor and former U.N. special rapporteur on free speech believes the Parlers of the world will also face pressure from the public and law enforcement as will little-known sites where further pre-inauguration disruption is now apparently being organized. They include MeWe, Wimkin, TheDonald.win and Stormfront, according to a report released Saturday by The Alethea Group, which tracks disinformation.

Kaye rejects arguments by U.S. conservatives including the president's former U.N. ambassador, Nikki Haley, that the Trump ban savaged the First Amendment, which prohibits the government from restricting free expression. "Silencing people, not to mention the President of the US, is what happens in China not our country," Haley tweeted.

"It's not like the platforms' rules are draconian. People don't get caught in violations unless they do something clearly against the rules," said Kaye. And not just individual citizens have free speech rights. "The companies have their freedom of speech, too."

While initially arguing their need to be neutral on speech, Twitter and Facebook gradually yielded to public pressure drawing the line especially when the so-called Plandemic video emerged early in the COVID-19 pandemic urging people not to wear masks, noted civic media professor Ethan Zuckerman of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Zuckerman expects the Trump de-platforming may spur important online shifts. First, there may be an accelerated splintering of the social media world along ideological lines.

"Trump will pull a lot of audience wherever he goes," he said. That could mean more platforms with smaller, more ideologically isolated audiences.

A splintering could push people towards extremes — or make extremism less infectious, he said: Maybe people looking for a video about welding on YouTube will no longer find themselves being offered an unrelated QAnon video. Alternative media systems that are less top-down managed and more self-governing could also emerge.

Zuckerman also expects major debate about online speech regulation, including in Congress.

"I suspect you will see efforts from the right arguing that there shouldn't be regulations on acceptable speech," he said. "I think you will see arguments from the democratic side that speech is a public health issue."

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This story has been updated to correct the spelling of Alethea.

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Associated Press writers Barbara Ortutay in Oakland, California, and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

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No. 4 House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York reiterated support for moving against what he deemed "an act of sedition that was incited and encouraged by Donald Trump."

Speaking of Trump, Jeffries said Saturday: "He should be impeached, convicted and thrown out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and forever banished to the dustbin of history."

Outrage over the attack and Trump's role in egging it on capped a divisive, chaotic presidency like few others in the nation's history. There are less than two weeks until Trump is out of office but Democrats have made clear they don't want to wait that long.

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Trump, meanwhile, has few fellow Republicans speaking out in his defense. He's become increasingly isolated, holed up in the White House as he has been abandoned in the aftermath of the riot by many aides, leading Republicans and, so far, two Cabinet members — both women.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who has long voiced her exasperation with Trump's conduct in office, told the Anchorage Daily News on Friday that he simply "needs to get out."

Sen. Ben Sasse, another Trump critic, said more important than what happens to Trump "is what happens to the United States people and this union 12 days and beyond."

But the Nebraska Republican also told "CBS This Morning" on Friday that he "will definitely consider" whatever articles the House sends over because he believes Trump "has disregarded his oath of office" to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.

After spending many weeks refusing to concede defeat in the November election, Trump promised — after the Capitol riot — to oversee a smooth transfer of power to Biden. He called for reconciliation and healing, but then announced he will not attend the inauguration — the first such presidential snub since just after the Civil War.

Superville reported from Wilmington, Delaware. Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe, Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## The Latest: Mexico sees record 16,105 new virus cases

By The Associated Press undefined

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has posted another daily record for newly confirmed coronavirus cases, with 16,105 new infections reported Saturday, and a near-record of 1,135 deaths related to COVID-19 in the latest 24-hour period.

The country has now topped 1.5 million total infections and over 133,000 deaths so far in the pandemic. Given Mexico's extremely low level of testing, official estimates suggest the real death toll is over 180,000.

Health authorities said 6,722 shots of coronavirus vaccine were administered Friday, for a total so far of about 75,000. In Mexico City, the current center of the pandemic in Mexico, 90% percent of hospital beds are full.

### THE VIRUS OUTBREAK:

Ten months into America's viral outbreak, low-income workers are still bearing the brunt of job losses — an unusual and harsh feature of the pandemic recession that flattened the economy last spring. The most populous U.S. state needs more medical workers at facilities swamped by coronavirus patients. But almost no help is coming from the California Health Corps, a program that recruited 95,000 volunteers and has just 14 now working in the field. And the pandemic meets politics in Germany, where the start of 2021 heralds the end of the Angela Merkel era. With a federal election scheduled for September, frustration over the slow start of vaccinations has brought jockeying among potential successors to the chancellor. Elsewhere,

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

### HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

MONTREAL — A curfew meant to curb a rising tide of COVID-19 cases took effect across Quebec on Saturday evening.

Premier Francois Legault says the measure is needed to prevent gatherings that have fueled the rampant spread of the virus, The French-speaking Canadian province has a population of more than 8.4 million

The rules will see most residents face police questions or fines of up to \$6,000 Canadian (U.S. \$4,728) if they're out between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. for the next four weeks. There are exceptions for essential work-



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ers, people walking dogs, and those who have medical reasons to be out, such as a doctor's appointment.

**TOKYO** — Japanese opposition lawmakers slammed the government's emergency declaration Sunday, as too little too late to stem the surging coronavirus case.

They also pushed for more testing, which have lagged in Japan, being expensive and hard to get unless severely ill.

"It's essential to consider the worst possible scenario, but the response has always been based on an overly optimistic outlook," Yukio Edano, a former economy minister, said on public broadcaster NHK TV.

Opposition lawmakers Toranosuke Katayama and Kazuo Shii also criticized the state of emergency as too limited in scope, area and duration.

The declaration, which kicked in Friday, centers around asking restaurants to close at 8 p.m., lasts a month and focuses on the Tokyo area.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga defended the focus of the declaration as needed for it to be effective. He stressed the rising curve in the infection's spread will get flattened in a month.

Deaths related to COVID-19 have totaled about 4,000 nationwide so far. Worries are growing about hospitals getting stretched thin. Tokyo's cases have surged recently to more than 2,000 a day. Other urban areas have asked the central government for emergency declarations.

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** — Rhode Island Lt. Gov. Daniel McKee is quarantining at home after coming into close contact with someone who later tested positive for COVID-19, officials said Saturday.

The lieutenant governor learned of the close contact Saturday morning, has since tested negative and is showing no symptoms, officials said. He will continue to be tested and will remain quarantined until midnight on Jan. 12, officials said.

McKee is poised to serve the remaining two years of Gov. Gina Raimondo's term after Raimondo was named Democrat Joe Biden's pick for commerce secretary.

McKee said in a statement that "no one is above the rules of quarantine."

"As a state official, I am committed to modeling the kind of response to this virus that I hope all Rhode Islanders would have. I will continue to meet with public health leaders and receive other critical briefings remotely," he said.

**LAS VEGAS** — Nevada is reporting one of the state's highest daily increases in coronavirus deaths since the pandemic began, and its worst week yet.

The state on Saturday reported 2,648 additional known COVID-19 cases and 56 additional deaths. That's close to the record of 60 deaths reported only on Wednesday. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that the state's one-week total of 299 COVID-19 deaths was the worst yet.

Nevada has now had 246,309 known COVID-19 cases and 3,450 deaths since the pandemic began.

The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases in Nevada increased from 2,115.3 on Dec. 25 to 2,373.6 on Friday while the rolling average of daily deaths rose from 33.6 to 35.4, according to data from Johns Hopkins University and The COVID Tracking Project.

Officials anticipate a spike in cases and deaths in coming weeks, following Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's gatherings.

**LOS ANGELES** — California health authorities on Saturday reported a record high of 695 coronavirus deaths as many hospitals strained under unprecedented caseloads.

The state Department of Public Health said the number raises the state's death toll since the start of the pandemic to 29,233.

A surge of cases following Halloween and Thanksgiving produced record hospitalizations in California, and now the most seriously ill of those patients are dying in unprecedented numbers.

Already, many hospitals in Los Angeles and other hard-hit areas are struggling to keep up and warned they may need to ration care as intensive care beds dwindle.

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OKLAHOMA CITY -- An Oklahoma judge has extended a temporary restraining order allowing bars and restaurants across Oklahoma to stay open past an 11 p.m. curfew issued in November by Gov. Kevin Stitt in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

District Judge Susan Stallings heard arguments in the case Friday and extended the Dec. 29 order while she considers ruling in the lawsuit by bar owners who argue the governor doesn't have legal authority to impose the curfew, according to court records.

Attorneys for the governor say state law gives Stitt "broad and flexible authority needed" to combat the spread of the virus.

On Saturday, Oklahoma has the sixth most new cases per capita in the nation with 1,218.16 per 100,000 residents, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. The state health department on Saturday reported 324,875 total cases and 2,738 deaths since the pandemic began.

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday received the second dose of the coronavirus vaccine after becoming the first Israeli to be inoculated last month.

Israel is in the midst of a third nationwide lockdown after seeing a surge in cases despite unleashing one of the world's fastest vaccination campaigns. The country has given the first of two vaccine doses to nearly 20% of its population, and Netanyahu said Saturday that it has secured enough vaccines to inoculate the whole adult population by the end of March.

Netanyahu has placed the vaccination drive at the center of his campaign for reelection that month, when Israel will hold its fourth nationwide vote in less than two years. In the meantime, he has called on Israelis to make "one last big effort" to halt transmission by adhering to the tightened restrictions.

Most schools and businesses were closed starting Friday, with people required to remain within 1,000 meters (yards) from home except for essential needs. Public gatherings are heavily restricted and public transportation is limited. The restrictions are to last for at least two weeks.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has confirmed in an interview with an Italian broadcaster that he has an appointment to get the anti-COVID vaccine when the Vatican starts its vaccination program next week.

The pope also said everyone should get the vaccine, calling it an "ethical option, because you are playing with your health, life, but also with the lives of others."

Excerpts from the sit-down interview were released by Mediaset on Saturday, a day before it is scheduled to be aired. It is the first confirmation that the 84-year-old pope who is missing part of one lung will get the vaccine, although the Vatican had already announced it would begin administering the vaccines later this month.

The Vatican has previously said that it's "morally acceptable" for faithful to receive COVID-19 vaccines whose research used cell lines from tissue obtained from abortions. Vatican City has had at least 27 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordan announced it is expecting the first doses of a coronavirus vaccine to arrive in the kingdom late Saturday.

Wael Hayajneh, the Health Ministry's official in charge of COVID-19, said the vaccines are coming from state-owned Chinese drugmaker Sinopharm.

Another shipment of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is expected to get to the Middle Eastern kingdom on Monday, Hayajneh said.

Jordan plans to start its vaccination drive on Wednesday. It has arranged to secure 200,000 doses in the first quarter of 2021 from Pfizer and Sinopharm and possibly other vaccine suppliers.

Jordan's health minister has said the inoculations will first target 20% to 25% of the frontline workers and vulnerable groups.

Jordan, with a population of 10 million, has recorded over 4,000 deaths and 305,000 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

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ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- Health officials in Anchorage said appointments for the city's residents to receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine filled up in a matter of hours this week, leading to frustration for people still trying to sign up for vaccination clinics planned for throughout the weekend and early next week.

Local television station KTUU-TV reported that Anchorage Health Department Director Heather Harris said all 1,800 available time slots were reserved within a four-hour period on Thursday.

Clinics are not accepting walk-ins.

Harris said Anchorage is expecting to receive about 14,600 vaccine doses this month.

Residents age 65 and older are eligible to get vaccinated and there are about 33,000 people in that category.

LONDON — Another 1,035 people in the U.K. have died within 28 days of testing positive for the coronavirus, bringing the country's total death toll in the pandemic to over 80,000.

The British government reported Saturday that the number of confirmed deaths has reached 80,868, the most in Europe and the world's fifth-highest pandemic death toll. The United States, Brazil, India and Mexico are in the top four.

Hospitals around the U.K. are under heavy pressure treating COVID-19 patients. London's mayor declared the capital's COVID-19 situation to be critical Friday, when the country's daily reported deaths hit a record high of 1,325.

Official data also show that the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.K. has exceeded 3 million.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- California desperately needs more medical workers at facilities swamped by coronavirus patients, but almost no help is coming from a volunteer program that Gov. Gavin Newsom created at the start of the pandemic.

An army of 95,000 initially raised their hands, and just 14 are now working in the field.

Newsom says the program "has been incredibly effective." But very few volunteers actually met qualifications for the California Health Corps, and only a tiny sliver have the high-level experience needed to help with the most serious virus cases.

Other states have had similar difficulties making volunteer programs work.

A researcher says many eligible volunteers may have found other jobs before the latest coronavirus surge.

PHOENIX -- Arizona, which is a COVID-19 hot spot in the United States, has now recorded more than 10,000 deaths and 600,000 confirmed cases since the pandemic began.

The Department of Health Services reported 11,094 new cases and 98 deaths on Saturday, the second straight day that Arizona's new confirmed cases exceeded 11,000.

The daily numbers brought Arizona's total confirmed cases to 607,345 and the state's death toll in the pandemic to 10,036.

Arizona and Rhode Island are tied for the country's highest COVID-19 diagnosis rate, with 1 in every 109 people diagnosed with the disease between Jan. 1 and Friday.

There were 4,920 COVID-19 patients occupying hospital beds on Friday.

NEW DELHI — The government of India is planning to kick off a vaccination drive on Jan. 16 to stem COVID-19 in the world's second-most populous country.

The Health Ministry said Saturday that priority will be given to healthcare workers and others performing frontline duties during the pandemic, categories that together are estimated to include around 30 million people.

They will be followed by individuals over age 50 and younger people with underlying health conditions, numbering around 270 million, the ministry said in a statement.

Last week, India's drugs regulator gave emergency authorization for the vaccine developed by Oxford

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University and U.K.-based drugmaker AstraZeneca, and for another developed by Indian company Bharat Biotech.

The ministry said that both vaccines would be administered in two dosages.

With 10.4 million confirmed coronavirus cases, India has the second-highest total behind the United States. India has reported almost 150,800 virus-related deaths during the pandemic.

CALUMET, Michigan — A cafe in a small town in the U.S. state of Michigan has been found in contempt of court and fined \$2,500 for continuing to serve customers indoors.

A judge held a hearing on Friday involving Cafe Rosetta, which serves soup, sandwiches and more in Calumet, a town of roughly 750 in Houghton County.

"When it comes to court orders, in my opinion, civil disobedience is not an option. It just absolutely is not," Judge Wanda Stokes said.

The cafe's food permit has been yanked. State regulators then got a Dec. 30 order from Stokes to shut down the business.

Since mid-November, Michigan restaurants and bars have been restricted to outdoor service or carry-out orders to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Cafe Rosetta co-owner Amy Heikkinen said she can't afford to limit business to carry-out orders. Hundreds of people rallied to support her on Jan. 2.

Stokes suspended the contempt fine until Wednesday to allow the cafe's attorney to file legal arguments, The Daily Mining Gazette reported.

## Pompeo voids restrictions on diplomatic contacts with Taiwan

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Saturday that the State Department is voiding longstanding restrictions on how U.S. diplomats and others have contact with their counterparts in Taiwan, another move that is expected to upset China as the Trump administration winds to an end.

The Trump administration has sought to strengthen bilateral relations with Taiwan. It announced Thursday that U.N. Ambassador Kelly Craft would go to Taiwan, a move that sparked sharp criticism from Beijing and a warning that the U.S. would pay a heavy price. In August, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar became the first Cabinet member to visit Taiwan since 2014.

Pompeo said that the State Department has created complex restrictions when it comes to contacts between the two parties. He said those actions were taken to appease the Communist regime in Beijing.

"No more," Pompeo declared in a statement. "Today I am announcing that I am lifting all of these self-imposed restrictions."

The Chinese government maintains that mainland China and Taiwan are parts of "one China." China has been stepping up its threats to bring the self-governing island under its control by military force with frequent war games and aerial patrols. It has been using its diplomatic clout to stop Taiwan from joining any organizations that require statehood for membership.

Pompeo said the U.S. maintains relationships with unofficial partners around the world, and Taiwan is no exception.

"Our two democracies share common values of individual freedom, the rule of law, and a respect for human dignity," Pompeo said. "Today's statement recognizes that the U.S.-Taiwan relationship need not, and should not, be shackled by self-imposed restrictions of our permanent bureaucracy."

Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu welcomed the move.

"I'm grateful to @SecPompeo & @StateDept for lifting restrictions unnecessarily limiting our engagements these past years," Wu said in a retweet of a Pompeo tweet about the announcement.

"The closer partnership between #Taiwan & the #US is firmly based on our shared values, common interests & unshakeable belief in freedom & democracy," he wrote, drawing a distinction with China's authoritarian one-party state.



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## Rams get better of division rivals, toppling Seahawks 30-20

By TIM BOOTH AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Quietly, Aaron Donald, Jared Goff and the rest of the Los Angeles Rams seethed.

They watched less than two weeks ago as the Seattle Seahawks loudly celebrated a division title the Rams felt they gave away. Los Angeles desperately wanted another shot.

Behind a lot of Cam Akers churning yards on the ground and mostly a great defense, the Rams are moving on in the NFC playoffs at the expense of the Seahawks.

"We come up here, and all week we were told how good they are and how we snuck into the playoffs," Goff said. "Two weeks ago you saw them smoking cigars and getting all excited about beating us, and winning the division, and we were able to come up here and beat them."

Akers rushed for 131 yards and a touchdown, Darious Williams returned Russell Wilson's interception 42 yards for a score, and the Rams beat the Seahawks 30-20 in the NFC wild-card playoff game Saturday.

"A lot of guys stepped up and answered the bell in a big way," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "Darious Williams showing up, I thought that was a huge momentum shift for us."

The best defense in the league during the regular season carried its dominance into the playoffs — even while missing unanimous All-Pro tackle Aaron Donald for much of the second half. No team was better at limiting yards or points than the Rams (11-6) and they continued to torment Wilson and the Seahawks (12-5).

Seattle's quarterback was under siege from the defensive front and a secondary that minus one play never let DK Metcalf or Tyler Lockett break loose. Donald, before leaving with a rib injury, and Jalen Ramsey were superb. But so were other role players such as Troy Reeder, Jordan Fuller and Leonard Floyd.

Floyd had two of the Rams' five sacks. Two of the others belonged to Donald. The Rams allowed just 278 total yards and 11 first downs.

The victory sent the Rams into next week's divisional playoff round, likely at top-seeded Green Bay unless Chicago upsets New Orleans.

"We're excited about competing to go see who we play next and see if we can keep this thing rolling," McVay said. "But we'll enjoy this."

Williams' third interception against Wilson after picking him off twice in Los Angeles came as he jumped a wide receiver screen intended for Metcalf and returned it untouched for a 13-3 lead midway through the second quarter.

Akers added a 5-yard TD run just before halftime for a 20-10 lead. It proved enough against a Seattle offense disjointed and confused nearly from the start.

Wilson had one of his worst playoff performances. He was 11 of 27 for 174 yards. Wilson connected with Metcalf on a pair of TDs: 51 yards in the first half off a broken play, and a 12-yard TD with 2:28 left to make the score more respectable.

Seattle never played with the lead and was 2 of 14 on third downs. It's first home playoff game in four years was a dud without its raucous home crowd, and the Seahawks saw their 10-game home playoff win streak snapped.

Their last home playoff loss came in January 2005 to the St. Louis Rams.

"I told these guys I have no place in my brain for this outcome," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "We were planning on winning and moving on."

The Rams pulled off the upset without a healthy quarterback for more than three quarters. John Wolford started for the second straight week but injured his neck when he dived headfirst in the first quarter and was hit in the helmet by Jamal Adams' shoulder. Wolford was taken to a hospital as a precaution, but McVay said he was in the locker room celebrating after the victory.

"I think it was really just a stinger. He definitely seemed good," McVay said.

Goff took over less than two weeks after undergoing surgery on his right thumb; he was injured in the Week 16 loss to Seattle. Goff didn't do anything spectacular but also avoided major mistakes.

Goff was 9 of 19 for 155 yards. He capped the victory with a 15-yard touchdown pass to Robert Woods with 4:46 left after Seattle's D.J. Reed fumbled a punt.

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Akers, the Rams' rookie ball carrier, was outstanding after not playing two weeks ago. Akers had the best rushing day by a Rams running back since Marshall Faulk went for 159 against Philadelphia in January 2002.

The Rams finished with 164 yards rushing.

"He's made of the right junk. His heart, his passion for the game is special," Rams left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "Anytime you see in this league that you can run the football in the playoffs, it's about more than just all the fantasy things you see in the regular season. It's going to be about imposing your will on another team."

## INJURIES

Donald left in the third quarter with a rib injury. After going in and out of the locker room a couple of times he was a spectator most of the second half. WR Cooper Kupp limped off grabbing at his right knee in the closing minutes.

Wolford was 3 of 6 passing for 29 yards and had one run for 2 yards before getting hurt.

Seattle safety Jamal Adams said he played with a torn labrum in his left shoulder suffered last week against San Francisco.

## UP NEXT

Rams: will most likely play at the Packers next week.

Seahawks: will head into an offseason filled with questions after winning the division but experiencing another early playoff exit.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Trump pressured Georgia to 'find the fraud' in earlier call

By BEN NADLER Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — While election officials in Georgia were verifying signatures on absentee ballot envelopes in one metro-Atlanta county, President Donald Trump pressed a lead investigator to "find the fraud" and said it would make the investigator a national hero.

The December call, described by a person familiar with it who spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to describe the sensitive nature of the discussion, is yet another link in the chain of the extraordinary pressure campaign waged by Trump on state officials as he sought to overturn the results of the November election, which he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

It is one of at least three phone calls, held over the course of a month between early December and early January, where Trump sought help from high-level Georgia officials in subverting the election — only to be rebuffed each time. Trump lost to Biden in Georgia by 11,779 votes.

The call to the investigator preceded Trump's Jan. 2 call to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger where he asked election officials to "find" enough votes to overturn Biden's win in the state. It occurred as election officials were conducting an audit of signatures on absentee ballot envelopes in Cobb County.

The audit, which reviewed more than 15,000 signatures, found no cases of fraud. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation helped conduct the signature audit.

Trump and his allies have for months made false claims about Georgia's signature verification process for absentee ballots and about the results of the November election. Among other things, they demanded an audit of the signature matches.

The White House had no immediate comment. The call was first reported Saturday by The Washington Post, which said it was withholding the name of the investigator, who did not respond to requests for comment, because of the risk of threats and harassment directed at election officials.

Various election officials across the country and Trump's former attorney general, William Barr, have said there was no widespread fraud in the election. Raffensperger and other officials in Georgia have repeatedly disputed Trump's false claims about the election and said it was conducted freely and fairly.

Congress certified Biden's Electoral College win early Thursday — hours after a violent throng of pro-Trump rioters stormed the Capitol.

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During another call in early December, Trump pressed Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp to order a special session of the state legislature to subvert Biden's victory. Kemp refused.

Trump repeatedly lashed out at Raffensperger and Kemp, both fellow Republicans, and others he saw as standing in his way of overturning his election loss.

In last week's call with Raffensperger, Trump urged the secretary of state to change the certified results. "All I want to do is this. I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have," Trump said. "Because we won the state."

Raffensperger said in response: "President Trump, we've had several lawsuits, and we've had to respond in court to the lawsuits and the contentions. We don't agree that you have won."

Legal experts said the call raised questions about possible election law violations by Trump, and several Democrats in the state have called for an investigation to be opened.

## 'Brian did his job': Family remembers fallen Capitol officer

By MIKE CATALINI and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

SOUTH RIVER, N.J. (AP) — From his early days growing up in a New Jersey hamlet, Brian Sicknick wanted to be a police officer.

He enlisted in the National Guard six months after graduating high school in 1997, deploying to Saudi Arabia and then Kyrgyzstan. Joining the Guard was his means to joining law enforcement, his family said.

He would join the U.S. Capitol Police in 2008, serving until his death Thursday after being attacked as rioters seething over President Donald Trump's election loss stormed the U.S. Capitol, believing the president's false claims of a rigged election.

"His brother told me, 'Brian did his job,'" said John Krenzel, the mayor of Sicknick's hometown of South River, New Jersey. A congresswoman has asked top military officials that he be buried with honors at Arlington National Cemetery, and got a positive early response.

Sicknick's death has shaken America as it grapples with how an armed mob could storm the halls of the U.S. Capitol as the presidential election results were being certified, sending hundreds of lawmakers, staff and journalists fleeing for safety. Videos published online show vastly outnumbered Capitol Police officers trying in vain to stop surging rioters, though other videos show officers not moving to stop rioters in the building.

Police leadership badly miscalculated the threat despite weeks of signals that Wednesday could get violent. And they refused Pentagon help three days before the riot, and again as the mob descended. Under withering criticism, the police chief resigned as have the chief security officers for both the U.S. House and Senate.

The Capitol Police said in a statement that Sicknick was injured "while physically engaging with protesters." During the struggle, Sicknick, 42, was hit in the head with a fire extinguisher, two law enforcement officials said. The officials could not discuss the ongoing investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., says she has asked Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. that Sicknick be buried with posthumous honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

"Officer Sicknick died in the line of duty as a U.S. Capitol Police Officer but did so living up to the oath he swore in the military: to protect and defend the Constitution," she said in her request. She got an encouraging early response from the Army.

"The Office of the Secretary of the Army has received requests on behalf of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Brian D. Sicknick, a veteran, and fully supports the request for posthumous special honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery," said the official who asked to remain anonymous to discuss internal deliberations.

Sicknick was the youngest of three boys growing up in South River, a small borough of about 16,000 people in central New Jersey, 20 miles from Staten Island. He graduated from the Middlesex County Vo-

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cational and Technical School in East Brunswick, New Jersey, in June 1997.

Superintendent Dianne Veilleux said school records show Sicknick wanted to be in law enforcement. The school will honor him by planting an oak tree on campus to symbolize his strength.

He enlisted in the New Jersey Air National Guard that December, still a teenager, first deploying to Saudi Arabia in 1999. In 2003, he deployed to Kyrgyzstan, where the U.S. military operated a transit base supporting the war in Afghanistan. He was honorably discharged in December of that year.

After the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003, Sicknick became a vocal critic of the war, writing several letters to the editor of the local newspaper that sharply criticized former President George W. Bush for his management of the effort. In one July 2003 letter, published five months before his formal discharge, he said that "our troops are stretched very thin, and morale is dangerously low among them."

In a statement issued Friday, Sicknick's family said he "wanted to be a police officer his entire life" and had joined the Guard "as a means to that end."

A biography issued by his family says Sicknick cared for rescued Dachshunds in his spare time and rooted for the New Jersey Devils hockey team. He is survived by his parents, Charles and Gladys Sicknick, his brothers Ken and Craig, and his longtime girlfriend, Sandra Garza.

The family asked the public to respect its wishes "in not making Brian's passing a political issue."

"Brian is a hero and that is what we would like people to remember," the family said.

On Saturday, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy ordered that the U.S. and New Jersey flags be flown at half-staff at all state buildings and facilities in honor of Sicknick, saying he "embodied the selfless spirit of his native state."

"Officer Sicknick gave his life protecting the United States Capitol, and by extension, our very democracy, from violent insurrection," Murphy said. "His needless murder at the hands of a mob bent on overthrowing the Constitution he had dedicated his life to upholding is shocking. It is my fervent hope that the rioters whose actions directly contributed to his death are quickly identified and brought to justice."

Merchant reported from Houston. Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

## More arrests in Capitol riot as more video reveals brutality

By RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press

Police charged more Capitol rioters on Saturday, including a man who carried off the House speaker's lectern, as more graphic details of the insurrection emerged, revealing the violence and brutality of the mob that stormed a seat of American political power.

A bloodied officer was crushed in a doorway screaming in Wednesday's siege, which forced lawmakers to go into hiding for hours and halt their voting to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory. Another officer tumbled over a railing into the crowd below after being body-slammed from behind. Members of the media were cursed, shoved and punched.

A vast number of photos and videos captured the riot, which left five people dead. Many of the images were taken by the rioters themselves, few of whom wore masks that would have lowered not only their chances of contracting the coronavirus, but their chances of being identified. Some took pains to stand out.

Jacob Anthony Chansley, an Arizona man seen in photos and video of the mob with a painted face and wearing a costume that included a horned, fur hat, was taken into custody Saturday and charged with counts that include violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

Chansley, more commonly known as Jake Angeli, will remain in custody in Arizona pending a detention hearing that will be scheduled during an initial court appearance early in the coming week, Assistant U.S. Attorney Esther Winne told The Associated Press by email. Chansley did not immediately respond to messages left via email and telephone.

Chansley, who had become a staple in his costume at pro-Trump protests across the country, is now among dozens of people arrested in the wake of the Capitol invasion by a large mob of Trump supporters



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enraged over his election loss.

The rioters took over the House and Senate chambers, smashed windows and waved Trump, American and Confederate flags.

A Florida man accused of making off with Pelosi's lectern during the chaos was arrested Friday night on a federal warrant and was being held Saturday without bail in Pinellas County, Florida. Jail records do not show if Adam Johnson, 36, of Parrish, Florida, has an attorney.

Johnson was charged Saturday with theft, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

The married father of five was quickly identified on social media by local residents as the man in a photo smiling as he walked through the Capitol rotunda carrying Pelosi's lectern, The Bradenton Herald reported.

Johnson posted on social media that he was in Washington, D.C., during Wednesday's riots and included disparaging comments about the Black Lives Matter movement, according to The Bradenton Herald. Those posts were later deleted or taken down.

During Wednesday's violence, Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick was wounded in a confrontation with attackers and was reportedly struck by a fire extinguisher. He died Thursday night. Another officer was crushed in a doorway, but it's unclear what happened to that officer, whose plight was captured on camera and shared by the progressive organization Status Coup. Members of media organizations, including the AP and The New York Times, were also attacked.

By Saturday, prosecutors had filed 17 cases in federal district court and 40 others in the District of Columbia Superior Court for a variety of offenses ranging from assaulting police officers to entering restricted areas of the U.S. Capitol, stealing federal property and threatening lawmakers.

Prosecutors said additional cases remained under seal, dozens of other people were being sought by federal agents, and the U.S. attorney in Washington vowed Friday that "all options were on the table" for charges, including possibly sedition.

Other notable arrests in the Capitol invasion include:

— Doug Jensen, an Iowa man, was jailed early Saturday on federal charges, including trespassing and disorderly conduct counts, for his alleged role in the Capitol riot. Jensen, 41, of Des Moines, was being held without bond at the Polk County Jail and county sheriff's Sgt. Ryan Evans said he didn't know if Jensen had an attorney. Video posted online during the storming of the Capitol showed a man who appears to be Jensen, who is white, pursuing a Black officer up an interior flight of stairs as a mob of people trails several steps behind. At several points, the officer says "get back," to no avail.

— Richard Barnett, an Arkansas man who was shown in a widely seen photo sitting in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office with his boots on a desk after the storming of the Capitol, was arrested Friday by the FBI. Barnett, 60, turned himself in to FBI agents at the Benton County Sheriff's Office in Bentonville, Arkansas. He is jailed in the Washington County Detention Center in nearby Fayetteville, Arkansas, without bond pending an initial court appearance, FBI Little Rock spokesman Connor Hagan said. No attorney is listed in online jail records for the Gravette, Arkansas, man.

— Derrick Evans, a West Virginia state lawmaker who posted videos online showing himself pushing his way inside the Capitol, was arrested Friday by the FBI at his home and charged with entering restricted federal property. Evans, who faced bipartisan calls for him to step down, submitted a letter of resignation Saturday to West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice and apologized for his actions. Evans faces charges that he entered a restricted area of the U.S. Capitol after he livestreamed himself rushing into the building with a horde of rampaging Trump supporters. In the videos, Evans is seen fist-bumping a police officer and then milling around the rotunda as he shouted, "Our house!"

Callahan reported from Indianapolis. Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo and Paul Davenport contributed to this report.

## Lucky few Bills fans eager to cheer on team from stands

By JOHN WAWROW AP Sports Writer

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ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — It was just like the pre-coronavirus pandemic days on Saturday morning for Scott Hammond and his son Landon when they were among the first to get to their seats before a Buffalo Bills home game.

Everything else, however, felt different for the Hammonds, who were among the lucky 6,700 few to land tickets for the Bills' 27-24 wild-card playoff win against the Indianapolis Colts.

Having to be screened for COVID-19 and not being able to enjoy tailgating were small prices to pay for being the first to attend a Bills home game this season.

"I almost cried," said Hammond, of finding out he won tickets some 10 days ago in a lottery. "I didn't think it would be possible this year. This is something we've done since he was a little boy and we absolutely love it."

His 15-year-old son was even more excited upon learning they were going to attend Buffalo's first home playoff game in 24 years.

"I was running around the house. I was screaming. I was, 'Let's go!'" Landon Hammond said. "It was like a dream come true."

Fans eligible to attend the team's home game for the first time this season take part in the lottery that was limited to season-ticket holders who decided to roll over their payments into the 2021 season.

In allowing a limited number of fans to attend the game, state health officials required everyone — including stadium officials and media — entering the stadium to show proof of a negative coronavirus test taken within 72 hours of kickoff.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Saturday announced that of the 7,157 people who took part in the rapid testing, 137 tested positive for the virus.

Cuomo, a Democrat, had previously said he would be at the game. But he changed his mind after some Bills fans questioned why the governor would be allowed to attend when the team was limiting seating.

In a teleconference with reporters, the governor also said that there were three additional cases of New York residents infected with a new strain of the virus. Two were connected to a cluster in Saratoga, New York, while the third involved a 64-year-old man who tested positive for the variant in Nassau County, Cuomo said.

The new cases suggest that infections from the strain "are more widespread than the numbers would suggest," Cuomo said.

In Buffalo, fans were gathered in groups of two and four in being scattered around the two lower bowls of the 70,000-seat stadium, with the third deck left empty. Tailgating was forbidden and fans were required to wear masks.

"I think we consider ourselves very lucky and blessed to be here today," said Hammond, a 10-year season-ticket holder from Rochester. "I got to live through the '90s and the great run we had there, and (Landon) has literally waited his whole life for this moment."

The Bills made their third playoff appearance in four years, which followed a 17-year postseason drought which stood as the longest active streak in North America's four major professional sports.

Buffalo's previous home playoff game was a 30-27 loss to Jacksonville on Dec. 28, 1996, in what proved to be Bills Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly's final game.

Most fans came wearing Bills jerseys and brought placards, one of which read, "We're Baaaack!" Another fan held up a sign that read: "Wish you were here." And a loud cheer went up as Bills players took the field for pregame warmups.

The challenge was for members of the so-called "Bills Mafia" to provide their team something resembling a home-field advantage.

"I'm going to get as loud as I can," Hammond said, through his facemask. "If I can't talk tomorrow, I've done my job."

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## **VIRUS TODAY: California in dire need of more medical workers**

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's what's happening Saturday with the pandemic in the U.S.:

— California desperately needs more medical workers at facilities swamped by coronavirus patients, and almost no help is coming from a volunteer program that Gov. Gavin Newsom created at the start of the pandemic. An army of 95,000 initially raised their hands, but just 14 are now working in the field. Newsom said very few volunteers met qualifications for the California Health Corps, and only a tiny sliver have the high-level experience needed to help with the most serious virus cases. Other states have faced similar difficulties making volunteer programs work. California health authorities reported a record high of 695 coronavirus deaths Saturday, raising the state's death toll since the start of the pandemic to 29,233.

— Health officials in Anchorage, Alaska, say appointments for residents eager to receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine filled up in a matter of hours, leading to frustration for people still trying to sign up. Anchorage Health Department Director Heather Harris told KTUU-TV that all 1,800 available time slots were reserved by residents within a four-hour period Thursday. Clinics are not accepting walk-ins. Residents 65 and older are now able to receive the vaccine; about 33,000 people fall in that category. Harris said Anchorage is expecting about 14,600 doses this month and vaccination clinics were planned throughout the weekend and early next week.

— An Oklahoma judge has extended a temporary restraining order allowing bars and restaurants across Oklahoma to stay open past an 11 p.m. curfew Gov. Kevin Stitt issued in November in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. District Judge Susan Stallings heard arguments in the case Friday and extended the Dec. 29 order while she considers ruling in a lawsuit by bar owners who argue the governor doesn't have legal authority to impose the curfew, according to court records. Attorneys for the governor say state law gives Stitt "broad and flexible authority needed" to combat the virus' spread. On Saturday, Oklahoma had the sixth most new cases per capita in the nation with 1,218.16 per 100,000 residents, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

**THE NUMBERS:** According to data from Johns Hopkins University, the seven-day rolling average for daily new deaths in the U.S. rose over the past two weeks, going from 2,368.1 on Dec. 25 to 2,982.7 on Friday.

**DEATH TOLL:** The number of COVID-19-related deaths in the U.S. stands at 371,260.

**QUOTABLE:** "When it comes to court orders, in my opinion, civil disobedience is not an option. It just absolutely is not." — Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Wanda Stokes, who found a cafe in a small Michigan town in contempt of court for violating the state's indoor dining ban by continuing to serve customers indoors.

**ICYMI:** California's San Diego County is opening what it calls a "vaccination super station" that aims to inoculate up to 5,000 health care workers daily with a coronavirus vaccine. The effort starting Monday is one of the most ambitious yet in California to accelerate the pace of vaccinations. Only about 1% of California's 40 million residents have been vaccinated against the virus. Medical crews from the University of California, San Diego will operate the station in a parking lot near the downtown baseball stadium. Health care workers will remain in their vehicles as they are given the shot and then be asked to remain on-site for 15 minutes to be monitored for any allergic reaction.

Find AP's full coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>.

## **Dems' momentum builds to impeach Trump, Pelosi hits rioters**

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Momentum built among Democrats on Saturday for a fresh and fast push to impeach President Donald Trump, even as the House speaker accused his backers who violently invaded the Capitol of choosing "their whiteness over democracy."

Nancy Pelosi's remark came as Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., one of the chief sponsors of draft impeachment articles accusing Trump of inciting insurrection, said at midday that his group's draft had collected

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176 co-sponsors. The lawmakers plan to formally introduced the proposal Monday, with a vote possible by Wednesday.

Pelosi, addressing her hometown San Francisco constituents during an online video conference, shed no fresh light on Democrats' plans. Her party seems intent on pressing ahead against Trump, even though there is virtually no chance the Republican-led Senate will act to remove him before his term ends Jan. 20.

"Justice will be done. Democracy will prevail. And America will be healed. But it is a decision that we have to make," Pelosi said.

A largely white throng of Trump supporters broke through police lines and rampaged through the Capitol on Wednesday, forcing lawmakers to scatter as they put the final, formal touches on Democrat Joe Biden's Electoral College victory over Trump. The crowd surged to the Capitol after being urged by Trump to march there in force during remarks in which he repeated his bogus claim that his election defeat was fraudulent.

"It has been an epiphany for the world to see that there are people in our country led by this president, for the moment, who have chosen their whiteness over democracy," Pelosi said of Wednesday's attack, during which five people died.

She added: "This cannot be exaggerated. The complicity, not only the complicity, the instigation of the president of United States, must and will be addressed."

No. 4 House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., reiterated his support for moving against what he called "an act of sedition that was incited and encouraged by Donald Trump."

At a news conference in New York, Jeffries added, "He should be impeached, convicted and thrown out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and forever banished to the dustbin of history."

The outrage over the attack and Trump's role in it capped a divisive, chaotic presidency like few others in the nation's history. With less than two weeks until he's gone, Democrats want him out — now — and he has few defenders speaking up for him in his own Republican Party.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, told the Anchorage Daily News on Friday that Trump simply "needs to get out."

Trump has been holing up at the White House, abandoned by many aides, top Republicans and Cabinet members. After refusing to concede defeat in the November election, he has now promised a smooth transfer of power when Biden is sworn in. But even so, he says he will not attend the inauguration — the first such presidential snub since just after the Civil War.

In Congress, where many have watched and reeled as the president spent four years breaking norms and testing the nation's guardrails of democracy, Democrats are unwilling to take further chances. The mayhem that erupted Wednesday at the Capitol stunned the world and threatened the traditional peaceful transfer of power.

Pelosi said she had spoken to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley "to discuss available precautions for preventing an unstable president from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes" for nuclear war. She said Milley assured her longstanding safeguards are in place.

The president has sole authority to order the launch of a nuclear weapon, but a military commander could refuse the order if it were determined to be illegal. Trump has not publicly made such threats, but officials warn of grave danger if the president is left unchecked.

Biden, meanwhile, said he is focused on his job as he prepares to take office. Asked about impeachment, he said, "That's a decision for the Congress to make."

The Democrats are considering lightning-quick action. A draft of their Articles of Impeachment accuses Trump of abuse of power, saying he "willfully made statements that encouraged — and foreseeably resulted in — imminent lawless action at the Capitol."

If Trump were to be impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate, he might also be prevented from running again for the presidency in 2024 or ever holding public office again. He would be the only president twice impeached. A person on the call said Pelosi also discussed other ways Trump might be forced to resign.

Trump spokesman Judd Deere said, "A politically motivated impeachment against a President with 12



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days remaining in his term will only serve to further divide our great country.”

Twitter said late Friday it was permanently suspending Trump from its platform, citing “risk of further incitement of violence.”

The soonest the Senate could begin an impeachment trial under the current calendar would be Jan. 20, Inauguration Day.

One Trump ally, Republican Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California, did speak up, saying as the White House did that “impeaching the President with just 12 days left in his term will only divide our country more.”

Democratic leaders have called on Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to force Trump from office. It’s a process for removing the president and installing the vice president to take over.

Pelosi said later that option remains on the table. But action by Pence or the Cabinet now appears unlikely, especially after two top officials, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, suddenly resigned in the aftermath of the violence and would no longer be in the Cabinet to make such a case.

The House impeached Trump in 2019, but the Republican-led Senate acquitted him in early 2020.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: Who has been charged in the deadly Capitol riot?**

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

Dozens of people have already been arrested and prosecutors across the U.S. have vowed to bring to justice those who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, sending lawmakers into hiding as they began their work to affirm President-elect Joe Biden’s victory.

The top federal prosecutor for the District of Columbia has said “all options are on the table” for charging the rioters, many of whom were egged on by President Donald Trump’s speech hours earlier at a rally over his election loss. Investigators are combing through photos, videos and tips from the public to track down members of the violent mob.

A Capitol Police officer died after he was hit in the head with a fire extinguisher as rioters descended on the building and many other officers were injured. A woman from California was shot to death by Capitol Police and three other people died after medical emergencies during the chaos.

Some questions and answers about the investigation into the Capitol breach:

### **HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CHARGED?**

The U.S. attorney’s office for D.C., which handles both local and federal cases in the district, had filed 17 cases in federal court and at least 40 others in the Superior Court by Saturday. The cases in Superior Court mainly have to do with things like curfew violations and gun crimes. Those being tried in federal court, where prosecutors can generally secure longer sentences, are charged with things like violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, assaulting a federal law enforcement officer and threatening House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Defendants facing federal charges include Richard Barnett, the Arkansas man shown in a widely seen photo sitting in Pelosi’s office with his boots on the desk. Barnett is charged with crimes including theft of public money, property or records.

Another man being tried in federal court, Lonnie Coffman of Falkville, Alabama, was arrested after authorities say they found guns and 11 Molotov cocktail explosive devices made out of Mason jars, golf tees and cloth rags in his pickup truck.

A Florida man identified as the person seen in a photo shared widely on social media carrying the speaker of the House’s lectern also was arrested Friday. Adam Johnson faces charges including theft of government property.

### **WHY HAVEN’T MORE PEOPLE BEEN CHARGED YET?**

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Prosecutors say these charges are just the beginning. Authorities said Friday that said additional cases remained under seal and dozens of other people were being sought by federal agents.

U.S. attorneys in several states, including Kentucky, Ohio and Oregon, said people could face charges in their home states if they traveled to Washington and took part in the riot. The FBI has released photos of people inside the Capitol, urging the public to help identify them.

It takes time to build a case. Capitol Police arrested just more than a dozen people the day of the breach while D.C. police arrested around 70. Many people freely left the Capitol, which means investigators now have to work to identify them and track them down. Authorities have to distinguish between those who traveled to Washington only to participate in the rally before the riot versus those who were part of the insurrection at the Capitol. It can take weeks for investigators to go through photos and video, identify suspects, interview witnesses and write a complaint to secure an arrest.

Those who've been charged so far could also lead investigators to others who joined in the violent siege on Capitol Hill.

## COULD THEY FACE MORE SERIOUS CHARGES?

Michael Sherwin, acting U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said this week that prosecutors are not keeping anything out of their "arsenal for potential charges." As prosecutors gather more evidence, they can add more charges against those they've already arrested.

Experts say federal prosecutors could bring rarely used seditious conspiracy charges against some of the rioters. In the wake of protests across the U.S. over police brutality this summer, then-Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen told prosecutors in September that they should consider using the sedition charge, which calls for up to 20 years in prison, against violent demonstrators. Rosen, who took over the top Department of Justice job when Attorney General William Barr stepped down last month, said the charge does not require proof of a plot to overthrow the U.S. government and gave the hypothetical example of a group that "has conspired to take a federal courthouse or other federal property by force."

## COULD TRUMP BE CHARGED?

Trump urged the crowd to march on the Capitol, even promising to go with them, though he didn't in the end. The president told his supporters to "fight" to stop the "steal" of the election, while his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, called for "trial by combat."

But the legal bar for charging the president or any other speakers at the rally with inciting violence is high. Experts say it would be tough to prove that the president intended for violence to happen on Capitol Hill. Trump's speech likely would not be considered illegally inciting violence because he didn't specifically call for people to storm the Capitol, experts say.

Richer reported from Boston. Associated Press reporter Michael Balsamo contributed to this report from Washington.

## Unusual snow kills 4, brings much of Spain to a standstill

By ARITZ PARRA Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A persistent blizzard blanketed large parts of Spain with an unusual amount of snow on Saturday, killing at least four people and leaving thousands trapped in cars or at train stations and airports that suspended all services.

The national weather agency reported that as of 7 a.m., the snowfall in Madrid reached a level unseen in half a century. More than 50 centimeters (20 inches) of snow fell in the Spanish capital, according to the weather agency AEMET.

The bodies of a man and woman were recovered by the Andalucía region emergency service after their car was washed away by a flooded river near the town of Fuengirola. The Interior Ministry said a 54-year-old man was also found dead in Madrid under a big pile of snow. A homeless man died of hypothermia in the northern city of Zaragoza, the local police department reported.

More than half of Spain's provinces remained under severe weather alerts for Storm Filomena on Satur-

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day evening, seven of them at the highest level of warning. In Madrid, authorities activated a red alert for the first time since the system was adopted four decades ago and called in the military to rescue people from vehicles trapped on everything from small roads to the city's major thoroughfares.

Sandra Morena, who became trapped late on Friday as she commuted to her night shift as a security guard in a shopping center, arrived home, on foot, after an army emergency unit helped her out on Saturday morning.

"It usually takes me 15 minutes, but this time it has been 12 hours freezing, without food or water, crying with other people because we didn't know how we were going to get out of there," said Morena, 22.

"Snow can be very beautiful but spending the night trapped in a car because of it is no fun," she added.

As of Saturday evening, Spanish security services had rescued all the people who were trapped in vehicles -- over 1,500, Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said.

AEMET had warned that some regions would be receiving more than 24 hours of continuous snowfall due to the odd combination of a cold air mass stagnant over the Iberian Peninsula and the arrival of the warmer Storm Filomena from the south.

The storm is expected to be followed by a severe drop in temperatures in the coming days, the agency said.

Transport Minister José Luis Ábalos warned that "snow is going to turn into ice and we will enter a situation perhaps more dangerous than what we have at the moment."

He added that the priority was to assist those in need but also to ensure the supply chain for food and other basic goods.

"The storm has exceeded the most pessimistic forecasts we had," Ábalos added.

Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas International Airport, the main gateway in and out of Spain, will remain closed at least until Sunday, Ábalos said, after the blizzard bested machines and workers trying to keep the runways clear of snow.

All trains into and out of Madrid, both commuter routes and long-distance passenger trains, as well as railway lines between the south and the northeast of the country, were suspended, railway operator Renfe said.

The storm had caused serious disruptions or closed over 650 roads, according to Spain's transit authorities, which urged people to stay indoors and avoid all non-essential travel.

More than 100 roads were still impassable almost 24 hours after the storm began dumping snow on the central swathe of the country.

The Spanish government plans to take extra steps to ensure that the country's weekly shipment of the BioNTech-Pfizer coronavirus vaccine on Monday can be distributed to regional health authorities via police-escorted convoys, the interior minister said.

The wintry weather did disrupt the country's soccer league, with some teams unable to travel for games. Saturday's match between Spanish league leader Atlético Madrid and Athletic Bilbao was postponed after the plane carrying Bilbao's team on Friday was unable to land in the capital and had to turn around.

The regions of Castilla La Mancha and Madrid, home to 8.6 million people altogether, announced that schools would be closed at least on Monday and Tuesday.

Despite the numerous branches and even whole trees toppled by the weight of the snow, the blizzard also yielded surreal images that entertained many Madrileños, including a few brave skiers and a man on a dog sled that was seen on videos widely circulated on social media.

Lucía Vallés, a coach for a Madrid-based ski club who usually has to travel to faraway mountains with her clients, was thrilled to see the white layers of snow accumulating literally at her doorstep.

"I never imagined this, it has been a gift," the 23-year-old said. "But I've never had so many photographs taken of me," she added as she slid past the late 18th-century building that hosts the Prado Museum.

AP writer Joseph Wilson in Barcelona, Spain, contributed to this report.

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## Democratic wins could strengthen Biden's legislative push

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Joe Biden's victory in November was tempered by concerns that he would face Republican opposition in the Senate that could stymie him at every turn.

Those worries eased this past week when Democrats swept two Senate special elections in Georgia, giving the party control of Congress and the White House for the first time since 2011. And the bipartisan outrage over the violent insurrection at the Capitol by pro-Donald Trump supporters could, at least for a moment, ease the partisan tensions that have paralyzed the legislative process for years.

"I think it makes my job easier, quite frankly," Biden said Friday. He said "a number" of Senate Republicans had called him to say they "are as outraged and disappointed and embarrassed and mortified by the president's conduct as I am and Democrats are."

Biden ran for office pledging to enact the boldest legislative agenda since the Great Depression, passing everything from a massive stimulus to combat the pandemic to trillions of new spending to address climate change, expand health coverage and tackle economic inequality. To accomplish even a slice of his plans, he will have to expertly navigate a Congress that, while in Democratic hands, is closely divided.

The Senate will be split evenly, with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris casting the tiebreaking vote when needed. The 222-211 Democratic majority in the House is the party's narrowest in decades.

That means major legislation probably will not advance without at least some Republican support. GOP Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the current majority leader, has shown skill in keeping his party united against Democratic priorities.

Passing major legislation is "still a challenge in a 50-50 Senate," said Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the second-ranking Democrat.

"We can win simple majorities, but you have to face those 60-vote margins," he said, referring to the number of votes needed to overcome a filibuster.

Biden will also have to cope with higher expectations after Georgia's results than if he had faced a Republican-controlled Senate. That could lead to battles with progressive Democrats who want to push the new administration further left than it likes.

"Georgia, but obviously the election in November and really the last year, have been the American people saying, 'We need more. We need more and we want more,'" said Adrienne Shropshire, executive director of BlackPAC, which advocates for economic, justice and political reform. She acknowledged, however, that she does not think major change is "going to be a cakewalk" for Biden.

Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which is closely aligned to leading voices on the left, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, said that while activists will not get everything they want right away, "the ceiling has just been raised on the possibility of every progressive issue."

Biden, who represented Delaware in the Senate for 36 years, said he was aware of the challenges. In introducing Boston Mayor Marty Walsh as his choice for labor secretary, Biden noted that he gave "serious consideration" to progressive Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

But the president-elect added that he and Sanders decided against that, lest it cost Democrats a vital vote in a 50-50 Senate, even temporarily.

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, a Biden confidant and someone the new administration is counting on to help coordinate its legislative strategy, said an evenly divided Senate makes some policy goals championed by the party's most progressive wing "very hard to do."

"I think the message that was just sent to the people of Georgia and to the Senate and to the people of the United States by these elections" was "folks wanted to stop the division" and "work together" in Congress, Coons told CNBC this past week.

Even when Democrats had larger congressional majorities after President Barack Obama took office in 2009, they usually needed some Republican support in the Senate for legislation. Even then, they failed to get major initiatives approved on other issues Obama campaigned on, including climate change, immigration and scores of tougher limits on corporate influence in government.



Progressives also have clamored for Democrats to scrap the Senate filibuster rule, which would make things even easier for Biden's legislative agenda. But Biden has opposed doing that, and Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, poised to become the new majority leader, was noncommittal this past week.

That probably means his caucus will have to compromise with Republicans.

Others, though, say now is the time to put major policy initiatives above bipartisanship, especially in an era of such deep political divisions.

Alicia Garza, head of the Black to the Future Action Fund, said the scene of Trump supporters storming the Capitol, "blows out of the water this idea of any kind of 'Kumbaya'-ing between parties."

"Just a week ago, we were hearing a lot of conversation about moderation and working across the aisle," Garza said. "I think what we actually need to be really clear about is that we're not dealing with the parties of the 1990s and we're not even dealing with the parties of the 2000s."

Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## Indonesia jet carrying 62 goes missing on domestic flight

By NINIEK KARMINI and EDNA TARIGAN Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A jet carrying 62 people lost contact with air traffic controllers minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital on a domestic flight on Saturday, and debris found by fishermen was being examined to see if it was from the missing plane, officials said.

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said Sriwijaya Air's Flight SJ182 was delayed for an hour before it took off at 2:36 p.m. The Boeing 737-500 disappeared from radar four minutes later, after the pilot contacted air traffic control to ascend to an altitude of 29,000 feet (8,839 meters), he said.

The airline said in a statement that the plane was on an estimated 90-minute flight from Jakarta to Pontianak, the capital of West Kalimantan province on Indonesia's Borneo island. The plane was carrying 50 passengers and 12 crew members, all Indonesian nationals, including six extra crew for another trip.

Sumadi said a dozen vessels, including four warships, were deployed in a search-and-rescue operation centered between Lancang island and Laki island, part of the Thousand Islands chain just north of Jakarta.

Bambang Suryo Aji, the National Search and Rescue Agency's deputy head of operations and preparedness, said rescuers collected plane debris and clothes that were found by fishermen. They handed the items over to the National Transportation Safety Committee for further investigation to determine whether they were from the missing plane.

A commander of one of the search-and-rescue ships who goes by a single name, Eko, said that fishermen found cables and pieces of metal in the water.

"The fishermen told us that they found them shortly after they heard an explosion like the sound of thunder," Eko was quoted by TVOne as saying, adding that aviation fuel was found in the location where the fishermen found the debris.

Aji said no radio beacon signal had been detected from the 26-year-old plane. He said his agency was investigating why the plane's emergency locator transmitter, or ELT, was not transmitting a signal that could confirm whether it had crashed.

"The satellite system owned by neighboring Australia also did not pick up on the ELT signal from the missing plane," Aji said.

Solihin, 22, a fisherman from Lancang Island, said he and two other fishermen heard an explosion around 30 meter from them.

"We thought it was a bomb or a tsunami since after that we saw the big splash from the water after the explosion. It was raining heavily and the weather was so bad. So it is difficult to see around clearly. But we can see the splash and a big wave after the sounds. We were very shocked and directly saw the plane debris and the fuel around our boat," he said.

Tracking service Flightradar24 said on its Twitter feed that Flight SJ182 lost more than 10,000 feet (3,048 meters) of altitude in less than a minute, about four minutes after takeoff.

Sriwijaya Air President Director Jefferson Irwin Jauwena said the plane was airworthy. He told reporters

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that the plane had previously flown to Pontianak and Pangkal Pinang city on the same day.

"Maintenance report said everything went well and airworthy," Jauwena told a news conference. He said the plane was delayed due to bad weather, not because of any damage.

It was raining at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport when the plane took off for Pontianak, around 740 kilometers (460 miles) away.

Television footage showed relatives and friends of people aboard the plane weeping, praying and hugging each other as they waited at airports in Jakarta and Pontianak.

Chicago-based Boeing said on its Twitter feed that it was aware of the incident. It said it was closely monitoring the situation and "working to gather more information."

The twin-engine, single aisle Boeing 737 is one of the world's most popular planes for short and medium-haul flights. The 737-500 is a shorter version of the widely used 737 model. Airlines began using this type of plane in the 1990s, with production ending two decades ago.

Federal Aviation Administration records indicate the plane that lost contact Saturday was first used by Continental Airlines in 1994. The registration switched briefly to United Airlines after the two merged, then it was sold to the Indonesian airline, which started using it in 2012.

Sriwijaya Air began operations in 2003 and flies to more than 50 destinations in Indonesia and a handful of nearby countries, according to its website. Its fleet includes a variety of 737 variants as well as the regional ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop plane.

The airline has had a solid safety record until now, with no onboard casualties in four incidents recorded on the Aviation Safety Network database, though a farmer was killed when a Boeing 737-200 left the runway in 2008 following a hydraulic problem.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, with more than 260 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents on land, sea and air because of overcrowding on ferries, aging infrastructure and poorly enforced safety standards.

In October 2018, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet operated by Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea just minutes after taking off from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board. The plane involved in Saturday's incident did not have the automated flight-control system that played a role in the Lion Air crash and another crash of a 737 MAX 8 jet in Ethiopia five months later, leading to the grounding of the MAX 8 for 20 months.

The Lion Air crash was Indonesia's worst airline disaster since 1997, when 234 people were killed on a Garuda airlines flight near Medan on Sumatra island. In December 2014, an AirAsia flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea, killing 162 people.

Indonesian airlines were previously banned from flying to the United States and European Union for not meeting international safety standards. Both have since lifted the ban, citing improvement in aviation safety and greater compliance with international standards.

AP journalist David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2021. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

On this date:

In 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Massachusetts, collapsed and caught fire, killing up to 145 people, mostly female workers from Scotland and Ireland.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground

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passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1901, the Spindletop oil field in Beaumont, Texas, produced the Lucas Gusher, heralding the start of the Texas oil boom.

In 1917, legendary Western frontiersman and showman William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody died at his sister's home in Denver at age 70.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1948, future country music star Loretta Lynn (nee Webb) married Oliver "Mooney" Lynn; she was 15 at the time, he was 21 (the marriage lasted until Oliver Lynn's death in 1996).

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. That same day, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first Black person elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 2002, Marines began flying hundreds of al-Qaida prisoners in Afghanistan to a U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2007, President George W. Bush said he took responsibility for any mistakes in Iraq and announced an increase in U.S. troops there to quell violence. The Democratic-controlled House voted 315-116 to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

In 2016, David Bowie, the chameleon-like star who transformed the sound — and the look — of rock with his audacious creativity and his sexually ambiguous makeup and costumes, died in New York.

Ten years ago: The nation got its first look at Jared Loughner, the accused assailant of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, as a federal judge in Phoenix ordered the 22-year-old suspect held without bail. A judge in Austin, Texas, ordered former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay to serve three years in prison for his money laundering conviction. (DeLay's conviction was ultimately overturned.) No. 1 Auburn beat No. 2 Oregon 22-19 on a last-second field goal to win the BCS national title. Singer Margaret Whiting, 86, died in Englewood, New Jersey.

Five years ago: French President Francois Hollande and other dignitaries held a special ceremony to honor those killed in Islamic extremist attacks around Paris in 2015. At the Golden Globes, "The Revenant" won best motion picture drama while "The Martian" was recognized as best comedy film.

One year ago: The Trump administration announced a new wave of sanctions on Iran following the missile strikes earlier in the week from Iran against U.S. bases in Iraq. In the first of a series of contentious votes on gun legislation, state lawmakers in Virginia voted to ban guns at the state Capitol; Democrats held a full majority at the state house for the first time in a generation. Outfielder Mookie Betts agreed to a \$27 million contract with the Boston Red Sox, the largest-ever one-year salary for a player eligible for arbitration; he would end up being traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers ahead of the coronavirus-shortened season.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 86. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 86. Movie director Walter Hill is 81. Actor William Sanderson is 77. Singer Rod Stewart is 76. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 73. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 72. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 70. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 69. Singer Pat Benatar is 68. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 68. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 66. Singer Shawn Colvin is 65. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 62. Actor Evan Handler is 60. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 57. Actor Trini Alvarado is 54. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 43. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 42. Actor Sarah Shahi is 41. Presidential adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner is 40. American roots singer Valerie June is 39.