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**An Afternoon
at the POPS**
Sunday, April 11, 2021
2 p.m.
GHS Gym

**An Evening
at the POPS**
Sunday, April 11, 2021
5 p.m.
GHS Gym



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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United Methodist Church

Groton and Conde

Sunday, April 11, 2021

2nd Sunday of Easter (white)

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

UMYF 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 15, 2021

UMW 1:30 PM

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Native American Ministries Sunday

Newsletter Items Due

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Drive Thru Spring Meal - Fried Chicken Dinner
12:00 PM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, April 11

9 a.m.: Worship

Milestones: Kindergarten

Jr Kindergarten

Monday, April 12

6:30 a.m.: Bible Study

Tuesday, April 13

7 p.m.: Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 14

6 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, April 18

9 a.m.: Worship/Communion

Milestones: 1st & 4th grade

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton &

St. Joseph Catholic

Groton and Turton

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30pm Groton

Sunday 8:30am Groton & 11:00am Turton

Weekday

Tues 5:00pm Turton, W-F 8:30am Groton

Sat 10am Newman Center

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Each morning before Weekday Mass at 7:15am

Tues 3:45pm Turton

Confessions:

Sat. 3:45-4:15pm & Sun. 7:45am to 8:15am (G)

Sun. 10:30-10:45am (T)

St. John's Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Bible Study, 8 a.m.

St. John's Worship, 9 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Worship 11 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Confirmation, 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Bible Study, 8 a.m.

St. John's Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Worship 11 a.m.

Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries

Pierpont

Buffalo Lake Lutheran

Rural Eden

Sunday, April 11: Worship at Buffalo Lake 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 17: Worship at Pierpont, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 18: Worship at Buffalo Lake 10:30 a.m.

**To submit your monthly or weekly church calendar, email to
news@grotonsd.net**

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Educators and historians want politics kept out of new history and civics initiative

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

Educators, historians and some elected officials are urging South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and the state Department of Education to keep politics and personal bias out of the process to develop a new and enhanced civics and history education initiative for public K-12 schools across the state.

In her State of the State speech in January, the governor proposed one-time funding to enhance and expand teaching of civics and history in public schools, and the state Legislature approved her \$900,000 request during the spring session.

In response, the state education department has embarked on development of the South Dakota Civics and History Initiative, a two-year, four-pronged plan to create new teaching content, provide new resources and training for teachers, and increase access to civic and historical lessons and experiences for students, especially at the elementary level. When the plan is finalized, use of the program will be optional for school districts.

Noem joined many other state and national leaders who in recent years have raised concerns that the two subjects have been deemphasized in the public school system, or that students have failed to learn basic facts about state history and how government works.

Noem, a conservative Republican, has supported efforts to improve civics education before, but her recent funding allocation and initiative come as she has taken an increasingly strong position on social issues and has sought to raise her profile in the national political arena.

Noem has been an ardent supporter of former President Donald Trump, who in December 2020 released the final report of the 1776 Commission, which promoted "patriotic education" and criticized "progressive educators" who the commission alleged have tried to shape student thinking to align with their liberal personal and political views.

Some criticism arises

In the months since Noem announced her civics and history proposal, the volatility of proposing a new statewide initiative was made clear as criticism arose on several fronts.

Some lawmakers argued that the state, which historically has left classroom teaching decisions to local



Gov. Kristi Noem and other state and national leaders believe young Americans need a deeper knowledge of history and how government works in order to be exceptional citizens and to reach their pull potential in life. Photo: News Watch file

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school districts, was trying to influence the curriculum. While the state regularly sets education standards — the goals for what students should learn by what grade — decisions on what teaching materials and instructional methods are used in the classroom should be left to local school districts, they said.

Some educators have questioned whether the update is needed, arguing that South Dakota teachers are already doing a good job of teaching history and civics.

Sioux Falls School Board President Cynthia Mickelson took the governor's proposal as a criticism of teachers and their commitment to vigorous teaching of civics and history.

"Anyone who is worried about history/civics instruction should 1st visit SFschools," Mickelson wrote in a tweet on Jan. 12. "Our team and all educators have been put through the wringer and to now pile on them and say they are indoctrinating their students and not doing a good job is inexcusable."

The governor has added political fuel to the debate by blaming a lack of civics education in part for the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. In a column she wrote in January, Noem decried the violence but argued that a lack of civics education was "the root cause" of the insurrection, without mentioning the role of Trump and his supporters in the attack. She also referred to the 2020 presidential election as "rigged" and has not backed off that claim when asked to clarify.

Noem has said that her goal for the civics and history initiative is to teach students that the United States is "the most unique nation in the history of the world" and to give all state residents the knowledge needed to "pursue their own American dream."

Ian Fury, spokesperson for Noem, declined a News Watch request to interview the governor and referred all questions about the civics and history initiative to the Department of Education, which he said is leading the effort to implement a program.

At this point, still very early in the initiative process, it is unclear who or what group will have the final say in what the content and new teaching materials will contain. No specific committee or panel has been created to make final calls on teaching materials or new historical resources.

Past civics/history efforts

Noem has supported efforts to improve civics education in the past. A bill she supported in 2019 to require that South Dakota students pass a civics exam in order to graduate was heavily debated before being killed by the state Senate.

Other South Dakota officials have attempted to ramp up civics education in the past without much lasting effect.

Dave Munson, a former Republican lawmaker and former mayor of Sioux Falls, backed an effort in 2014 to enhance civics education and require that public school students pass an exam similar to what immigrants must pass before becoming U.S. citizens. Munson said he supports the new effort to enhance civics and history education, but said that great care must be taken to remove politics or inherent bias of government leaders or individual educators from decisions on teaching materials. The current polarized and highly politicized state of American government may make that more difficult than in the past, Munson said.

"If we're going to teach it, we have to teach it in an unbiased way, because it's hard to get the unvarnished version out there," he said. "You have to be very careful so both sides are brought out, and you're not trying to shove one version of history down somebody's mind."

Munson said he hopes educators will lead the discussion on developing the plan as opposed to the governor, elected officials or those from organizations with a political bent. "Every organization is getting more political all the time, and I wish we could get away from that and teach kids what both sides of the story are," he said.

Regardless of who suggests or proposes funding for a new teaching focus, and in spite of the polarized state of American politics and



Molly Rozum

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Jacqueline Sly

government, caution is always needed to ensure that truth and a multitude of perspectives form the pillars of any new history-teaching plan, said Molly Rozum, a history professor at the University of South Dakota.

Rozum said those who guide classroom teaching should create content that highlights greater complexity rather than oversimplification of events in the past.

"It's always an inherent risk, and you don't want it to be 'political' or from a particular perspective, and I would be concerned about that whenever a process like this occurs," Rozum said. "I think you have to include multiple perspectives on events, look through different eyes, and create a layering of complications and complexities to be truthful about historical events."

The public should understand that the new civics and history initiative is not trying to create an entirely new curriculum for South Dakota schools, said Jacqueline Sly, a former Republican lawmaker from Rapid City who now chairs the state Board of Education Standards.

Instead, she said the initiative will provide more resources for teachers and make it easier for them to obtain the tools they need to teach history in more vibrant, relevant ways.

"It's not like throwing out the baby with the bathwater; it's taking what we have and working to strengthen it and make it better," Sly said. "We'll provide them with ways to make history come alive."

Sly also noted that the effort to improve civics and history education in South Dakota has been ongoing for years, and that whatever comes from the new initiative will be optional for schools to use if they see fit.

"It won't be top-down where you have to use this," Sly said. "But why not have this be the time to look if there are ways to strengthen our social studies teaching in South Dakota?"

Native American perspectives

Most educators and historians agree that it is critical that any new teaching resources in South Dakota provide a fair, realistic approach to the experiences of Native Americans, the state's largest minority group.

Noem's proposal for a new focus on state history and civics comes during a tenure in which she has sparred with leaders in the South Dakota Native American community. Noem threatened to sue tribes over highway checkpoints designed to protect tribal residents from COVID-19, and she was banned from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for about six months in 2019 after pushing a so-called riot-boosting law aimed at pipeline protesters.

State Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission, said it is critical that elected officials and politicians stay out of the process of choosing materials for schools or leading the new civics and history initiative.

"Anytime we start down this path, we have to be cautious of who's bringing it and asking if what they are promoting is accurate," said Heinert, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe who is minority leader in the Senate. "I know that the governor and Legislature are not supposed to write curriculum; that scares me on the face of it."



The burial of Native Americans killed by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee, South Dakota in 1890 is one of the events that some state historians feel must be part of any history initiative provided to public schools. Photo: Courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society

Photo: Courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society

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Jace DeCory

Heinert said that he reviewed some civics exams that asked students to choose from a list of answers about what the United States gained when it made the Louisiana Purchase of land from France in 1803. The purchase put a large swath of land under American government control, including almost all of South Dakota and the western half of North Dakota, where Native Americans were the dominant population at the time.

"For far too long, history and civics have been a one-sided affair," said Heinert, who was a public school teacher for a decade. "From our perspective, the question is, What did we as a people lose in the Louisiana Purchase, and the fact that we were not even made aware of what was happening?"

Jace DeCory, a Lakota elder and educator who is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, said any committee that determines the content of expanded history teaching in South Dakota must have input from several Native Americans in order to present a full picture of state history.

DeCory, who is a professor emeritus in the American Indian Studies Program at Black Hills State University, said education in Native American history and issues has improved but remains inadequate in South Dakota K-12 schools.

"Some of these kids coming from high schools in South Dakota, a lot of things we talk about in our history, they couldn't believe and they were like deer in the headlights," said DeCory, who taught history for more than 30 years at the college level. "In this day and age, you think our young people would have learned something about Wounded Knee, the Battle of Sand Creek, the Trail of Tears, some of these major events that occurred throughout the nation."

Without learning the truth about Native history, including the boarding-school experience that stripped thousands of Natives of their language and culture, South Dakota students will be unable to understand some of the historical trauma and other challenges that still face indigenous people today, DeCory said.

"I think it's important because I want to know the truth, I want them to know the truth, even though the truth hurts sometimes," DeCory said.

DeCory said she is happy that the South Dakota social studies standards include the option for schools to teach the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards, which provides content on Native history, culture and land use. But she is hopeful the new civics and history program will provide greater opportunities and incentives for South Dakota schools to infuse lessons about Native Americans into all subjects. Learning more about Native history and culture will benefit students throughout their lives, she said.

"As Native people, we have been here for thousands of years, and yet there are many folks that don't know about us, our history and our cultural beliefs," she said. "I think especially during times of stress and whatnot, we offer something as Lakota people to the rest of the world. I really believe that our traditional way of life is a gift from the Creator, and those of us who believe in those traditional beliefs are trying to make the world a better place."

Waiting and seeing

Officials in some school districts contacted by News Watch appeared reluctant to discuss the civics and history initiative.

DeeAnn Konrad, spokeswoman for the Sioux Falls School District, said the district had no comment on the initiative since the contents of the program have not yet been developed.

"Our schools teach with fidelity the content standards outlined by the state which can be found on the DoE website," Konrad wrote to News Watch in an email.

Katy Urban, spokeswoman for the Rapid City Area Schools, said the district is also waiting to see what comes out of the initiative but noted that teachers in the district feel they already do a good job of teach-

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ing to the state social studies standards.

"The state dictates what we teach, so it's always been led by the state," Urban said. "It was interesting when this came forward because it was stuff our teachers already thought we were covering pretty well, so it will be interesting to see what is included when that is developed."



Rhoda Bryan

Rhoda Bryan, a history teacher who is the head of the Social Studies Department at Central High School in Rapid City, said she feels that South Dakota students are receiving a good education in civics and history now.

But Bryan said she welcomes a

greater focus on those topics, especially at a time when many teachers and students have been urged to spend more time on STEM topics, or science, technology, engineering and math.

"I feel like we do a really great job in what we do right now, but as a social studies teacher, if there is more funding or resources or more focus, I'm always going to be a supporter of that," Bryan said. "I think that social studies are just as important as the three other core areas of English, math and science because these students are learning to become citizens."

Bryan, a Missouri native who has taught for seven years, said she is not overly concerned that bias or political leanings will enter into the creation of a new civics and history program for South Dakota schools.

"I don't really see new standards or a new program changing the content that we teach all that much," she said. Social studies teachers, she said, are already skilled at leaving personal feelings out of the conversations in the classroom.

Bryan often poses to her students a daily question to spur them to think about the world around them. Sometimes the question will refer to current events, but the larger focus is to prompt students to consider how current events relate to history and to understand the modern by placing it in the context of the historical.

For example, a daily question about the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020 would ultimately blend into lessons about the civil rights movements of the 1960s and 1970s, Bryan said. Similarly, Bryan used the 2020 presidential election as a way to discuss the First Amendment, its roots and its application in modern society, rather than examining the election from a horse-race or political-party perspective.

"Whichever side of the aisle people are on, they may not realize that history and government teachers are not really here teaching current events," Bryan said. "It's not that we don't draw comparisons to today, but we see it as more that we're teaching the past and what happened in history."

Data from several studies and standardized tests make it clear that American youths and adults do not have a deep understanding of history, civics and the workings of government.

A 2016 survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center found that only 26% of Americans could name the three branches of government. That year, only 23% of eighth graders scored as proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Programs civics exam. NAEP scores show that student scores across the



Individual school districts in South Dakota will have a choice of whether or not to implement the new civics and history initiative now in development. Photo: News Watch file

country fell from 2014 to 2018 in history, civics and geography, though there were some improvements compared with tests taken in 1994.

Potential benefits of social studies



Ben Jones

Ben Jones, state historian and director of the State Historical Society who served two years as state secretary of education, said the political climate in the country at any given time is mostly considered by educators to be “noise” that does not play into decisions on revising or creating educational initiatives.

“Nothing will be improved by waiting to do this,” Jones said. “If you

look at the national scores for history and civics, they’re nothing to be proud of.”

Jones said South Dakota and the country would benefit from enhancing civics and history education because doing so will teach students about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and provide them with context on how those rights came to be.

“It’s been a concern since the framers, because a republic doesn’t work if the citizenry doesn’t know what their rights are,” Jones said. “Hopefully, you’re inspiring them to once in a while pick up a book about their country and read something about Abraham Lincoln or the Underground Railroad or Wounded Knee and have some curiosity about the history that is embedded within them.”

Rozum, the USD history professor, said she would like to see instruction in South Dakota history taught beyond the fourth grade, where most state history curricula end or taper off. Students are taught more about U.S. and world history as they progress into high school, according to the current state standards.

Rozum said the teaching of history at any age is a critical element of the successful development of people as individuals and as members of a vibrant, collective society.

“You don’t just learn facts,” she said. “There’s a skill set needed to learn history, including analytics, writing, communicating effectively and understanding the complexity of the world. People who know history have a higher quality of life because you can engage in the world around you in a much more complicated way.”

In general, Rozum is hopeful about what might result from the process to develop a new civics and history initiative in South Dakota.

“That’s one of the great things about the United States; we can look at our past mistakes and then reform and revise and do better,” she said. “We can be critical of things that happened in the past in order to perfect Democracy in the present and move forward, and that should not be stunted in any way.”



Many historians believe that knowledge of civics and history is critical to being a good citizen and for a prosperous society. One facet of the new civics and history initiative in South Dakota will be creation of a depository of historic artifacts teachers can easily access for use in classroom lessons.

Photo: Courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society

NEWS WATCH TO HOST WEBINAR ON CIVICS AND HISTORY ON APRIL 14

South Dakota News Watch will host a one-hour live webinar with education experts on Wed., April 14 at 7:30 p.m. Central.

The free webinar will be available for viewing by members of the public, who will also be able to submit questions to the panelists.

So far, panelists include Rhoda Bryan, Rapid City history teacher; Jace DeCory, history professor emeritus at Black Hills State University; and Jacqueline Sly, former teacher and lawmaker who heads the state Board of Education Standards.

Watch for details on how to sign up and attend the event coming soon.

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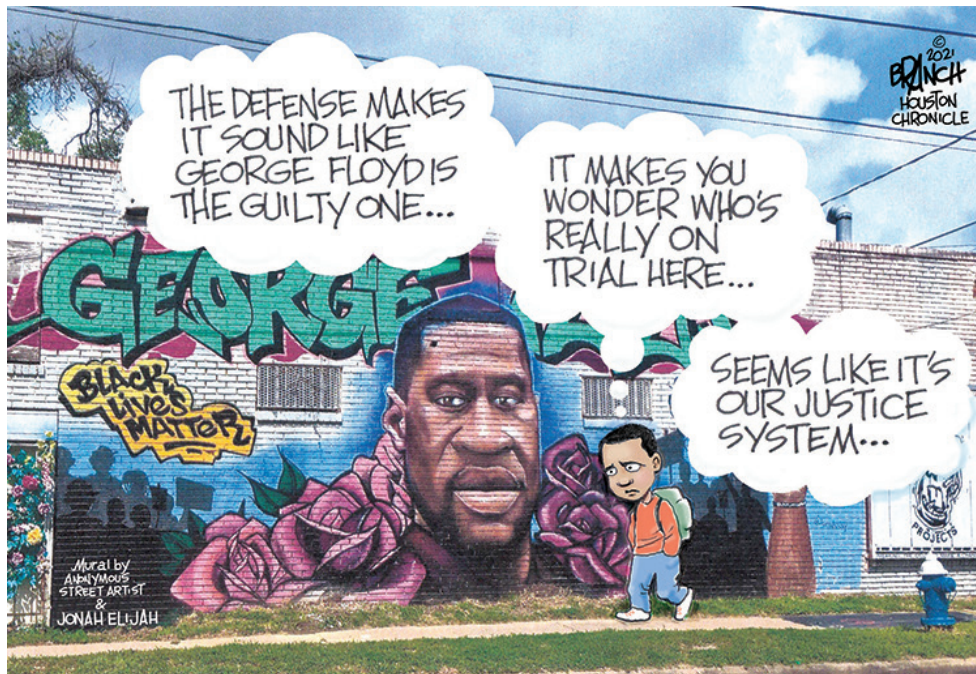
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

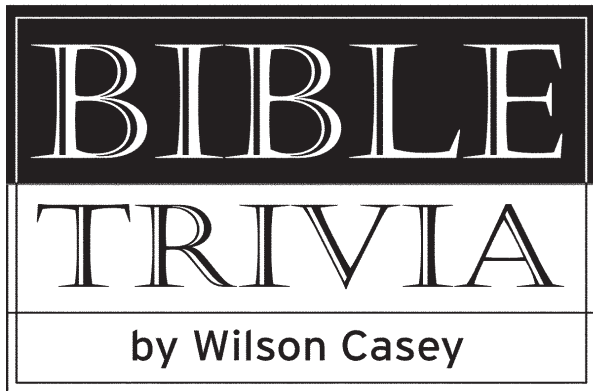
*Let us know, let us pursue
the knowledge of the
Lord. His going forth
is established as the
morning; He will
come to us like the rain,
like the latter and former
rain to the earth.*

HOSEA 6:3



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

2. Solomon asked, what biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder? *Woman's scorn, Evil brother, Tax collector, Wine*

3. From John 1:42, what name did Jesus give to Simon Peter? *Macedonia, Nahu, Cephas, Eli*

4. In Psalms 68 what are the dove's feathers covered with? *Manna, Gold, Leaves, Blood*

5. From John 3, who came to Jesus under the cover of night? *Elijah, Amos, Nicodemus, Mesha*

6. Who was the "Gloomy Prophet"? *Gehazi, Joel, Jeremiah, Jehoshaphat*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Wine; 3) Cephas; 4) Gold; 5) Nicodemus; 6) Jeremiah

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

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Tuna Corn Chowder

It's no wonder kids of all ages love canned tuna. It tastes good, it's inexpensive, it's versatile, it's found in every grocery store, and when it comes to good nutrition -- it's a virtual "treasure chest" from the sea. Just when you thought you'd heard of every way possible to prepare tuna, along comes this recipe!

- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat cream of celery soup
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated fat-free milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 (6-ounce) can white tuna, packed in water, drained and flaked
- 1 1/2 cups frozen whole-kernel corn, thawed
- 3/4 cup diced cooked potatoes
- 1 (2.5-ounce) jar sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning

1. In a large saucepan sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute onion for 5 minutes. Stir in celery soup, evaporated milk and water. Add tuna, corn, potatoes, mushrooms and seafood seasoning. Mix well to combine.

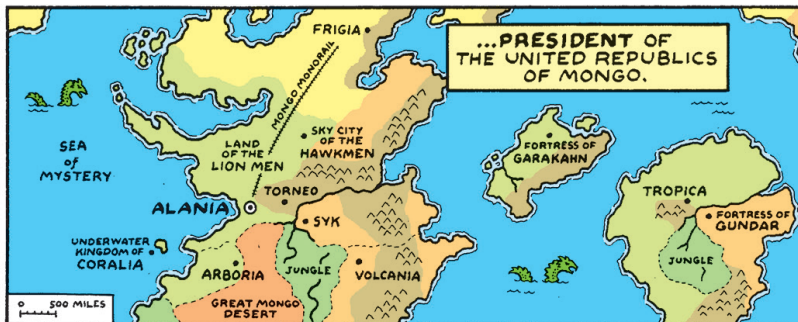
2. Lower heat and simmer 6 to 8 minutes or until mixture is heated through, stirring occasionally. Makes 4 (1 1/2 cup) servings.

* Each serving equals: About 242 calories, 2g fat, 21g protein, 35g carb., 559mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Fat-Free Milk, 1/2 Vegetable.

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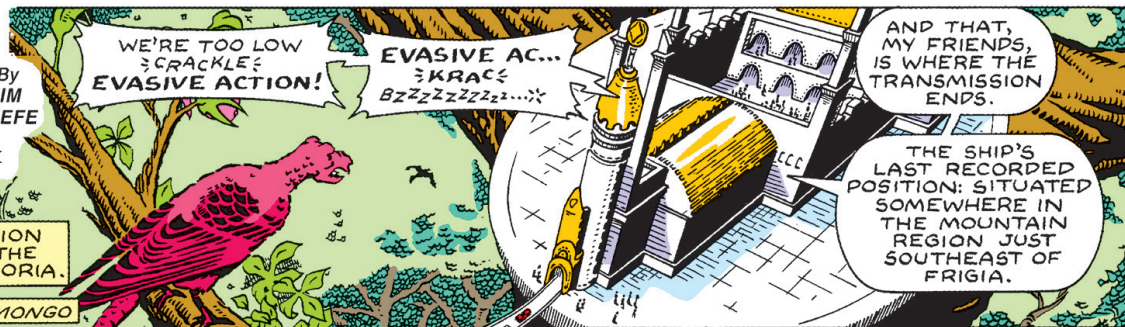
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FLASH GORDON

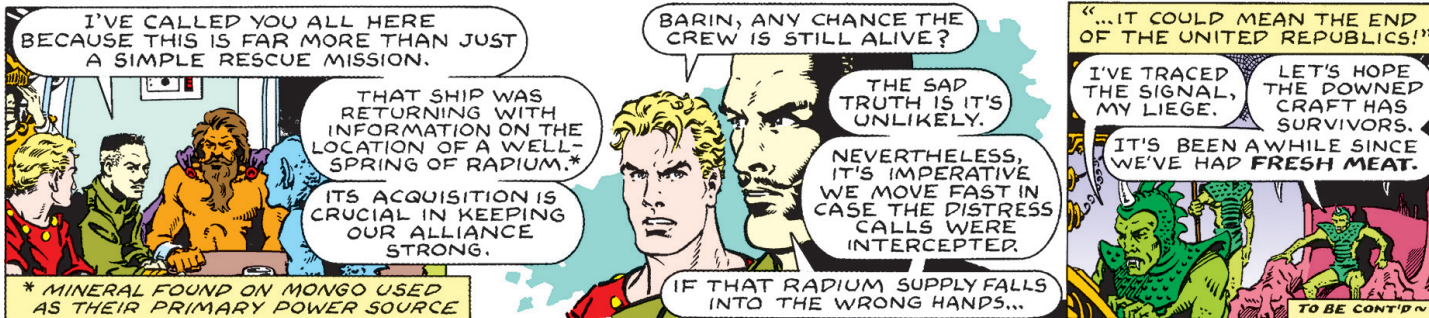
By JIM KEEFE
4-4



A N EMERGENCY SESSION OF DELEGATES FROM THE U.R.M.* CONVENES IN ARBORIA.

* UNITED REPUBLICS OF MONGO.

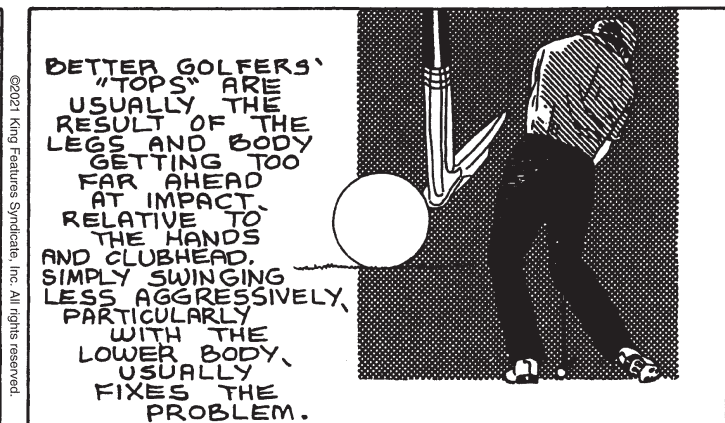
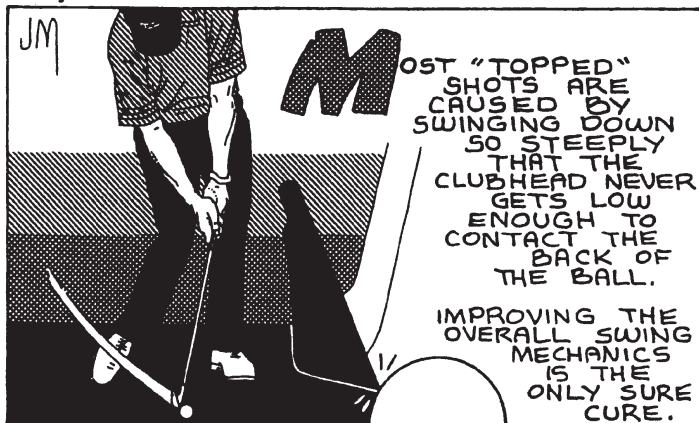
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* MINERAL FOUND ON MONGO USED AS THEIR PRIMARY POWER SOURCE

TO BE CONT'D ~

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Heart Attack vs. Stroke: Balancing the Risks

DEAR DR. ROACH: Your recent article on statins/strokes piqued my interest since you mentioned that statins might cause hemorrhagic strokes. My husband had a hemorrhagic stroke in 2014, cause unknown. The stroke caused aphasia and seizures. He was prescribed Crestor 10mg and then increased it to 20mg. His calcium score is very high.

He also had an ischemic stroke in February 2019 and was prescribed aspirin and 40 mg of atorvastatin. I am more concerned now as to whether he should be taking statins. His LDL is 63 and HDL is 47. Your comments on this would be appreciated. -- F.D.

ANSWER: Before I comment on your husband's situation, let me make a few of the terms clear. An intracranial hemorrhage is a bleed inside the brain. The resultant pressure inside the head can cause permanent damage to nearby brain structures: a hemorrhagic stroke. Risk factors for a hemorrhagic stroke include anticoagulants -- aspirin has a very small risk, but other agents, especially warfarin (Coumadin) and to a lesser extent, newer agents such as dabigatran (Pradaxa), have a more significant risk.

Poorly controlled high blood pressure is a risk, as is consumption of large amounts of alcohol. Some people have no identifiable risk.

Your husband's case is a situation that requires clinical judgment and more knowledge than I possess to give the most informed answer. However, for most people, the risk of an ischemic stroke and of a heart attack is significantly higher than the risk of hemorrhagic stroke. Further, the benefit in statins helping with heart attack and ischemic stroke is well-studied and moderate in magnitude.

By contrast, the increase in hemorrhagic stroke risk, if any, is likely to be small. The balance of risks would be in favor of treating. His high calcium score indicates a higher risk for heart attack, making a statin more important for him. If he had a risk factor for his previous hemorrhagic stroke that can be modified, then I would be more confident of the net benefit of a statin.

DEAR DR. ROACH: What is the safest and most effective way to clean wax from ears? I have worn hearing aids for roughly 40 years, but with a new set of high-tech hearing aids, ear wax has become a problem. How can I best remove it without using a sharp tool to dig it out? -- M.L.W.

ANSWER: Most people do NOT need to do anything about ear wax, and many traditional home remedies are unsafe. The old advice to never put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear is a good one for most people. Candling is unsafe and ineffective. Anything sharp is very dangerous.

For someone with recurrent ear wax, especially with a hearing aid, one approach is to use a cotton ball dipped in mineral oil and place in the external ear canal for 10-20 minutes once a week. This can be followed by a gentle rinse with warm water using a rubber bulb syringe. The cotton ball treatment can be used to prevent symptoms as well as to treat mild cases.

Another option is the use of an ear wax removing agent, such as carbamide peroxide. These can be irritating and should not be used routinely -- only for symptoms.

If you don't get relief after a few days of home treatment, you'll need to have your clinician look into your ears.

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.



If you need to know what's going on inside of a typical business, the place to go is to an administrative assistant, or what used to be called a secretary. Depending on your age, the word "secretary" might summon up images of stenography pads and typewriters, Rolodex and telephones, guarding the door to some executive office in a high-rise. Today's administrative assistant is more likely armed with a cellphone and spreadsheet, hopefully coordinating daily activities or serving customers with the grace of a master conductor.

Here's a Couch Theater salute to all the unsung heroes out there — the customer service reps, receptionists, accounting reps and account specialists! For a laugh, I present some of the most memorable assistants on the big screen.

Working Girl — Tess (Melanie Griffith) goes from receptionist to corporate dealmaker after her idea-stealing boss (Sigourney Weaver) gets laid up with a bum leg.

Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead — Christina Applegate plays a teen fashionista who takes up bread-winning for the family while mom is out of town. She fudges a resume and gets a job as assistant that lets her flex her design muscle.

Swimming With Sharks — Frank Whaley stars as Guy, a Hollywood executive who starts working for a thankless, domineering movie mogul (Kevin Spacey). Guy's best opportunity may come from kidnapping and revenge on his boss.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off — The

cult classic might be all about Ferris and friends, but when Ferris calls in "sick," Principal Rooney goes bananas trying to catch him, setting up some memorable scenes for his assistant Grace (Eddie McClurg).

Set It Up — Two executive assistants (Zoey Deutch and Glen Powell) plot to get their bosses (Taye Diggs and Lucy Lui) together, figuring if they find love, they'll find far less time to be overbearing!



Focus Features

Dakota Johnson in "The High Note"

The High Note — Maggie (Dakota Johnson) works as a personal assistant in the music biz, despite her dreams of becoming a music producer. Her boss, Grace (Tracee Ellis Ross), is a diva of the highest order. When they find the intersection of their talents, they make sweet, sweet music.

Iron Man — As the executive assistant and true businesswoman of Stark Industries, we can all appreciate Pepper Potts' (Gwyneth Paltrow) dedication to her job.

Ghostbusters — In a role that's been parodied and applauded, who can forget Annie Potts as receptionist Janine Melnitz? "We got one, boys!"

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you've done everything there is to do.

3. Gerry and the Pacemakers, in 1964. They'd first given the song to a solo artist who didn't do well with it, then decided to record the song themselves.

4. The Drifters, in 1956. Dion followed in 1962.

5. "I Will Follow Him," by Little Peggy March in 1963. The song started in 1961 as an instrumental titled "Chariot." While the song was considered a one-hit wonder, March had a 30-year career in Europe with many foreign language releases.

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1. Which Bee Gees song was written to the rhythm of the sound their car made when they drove over a Miami bridge?

2. Who wrote and released "Take It to the Limit"?

3. Which group wrote and released "Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying"?

4. Who was the first to release "Ruby Baby"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "There isn't an ocean too deep, A mountain so high it can keep, keep me away, away from my love."

Answers

1. "Jive Talkin'," in 1975. It was originally titled "Drive Talking."

2. The Eagles, in 1975. Co-writer Randy Meisner wrote the song to describe how it feels to know

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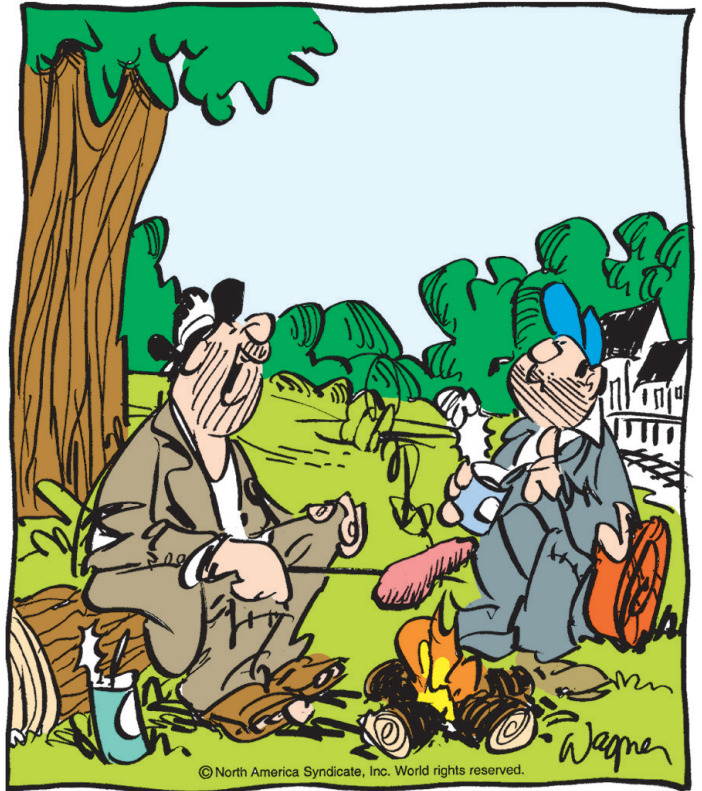
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

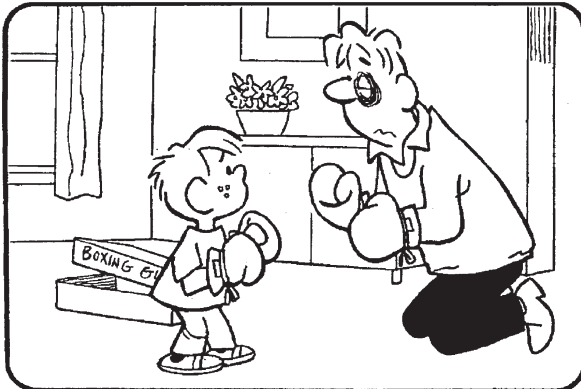


GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by} Wagner

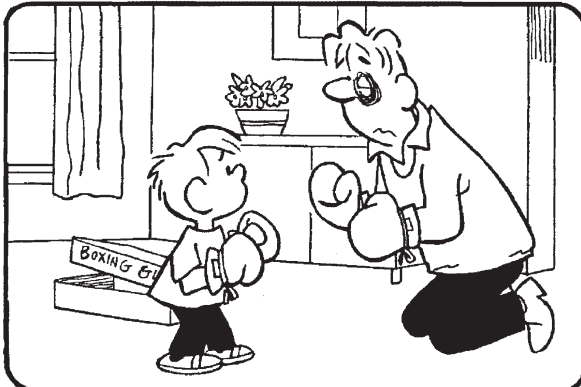


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Curtain is wider. 2. Flower is missing. 3. Frame is smaller. 4. Freckles are missing. 5. Pants are different. 6. Flowerpot is different.

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- “If you have dogs, keep a towel near your door. Then you can wipe off muddy paws before they have a chance to get the carpets dirty!” — *T.Y. in Mississippi*

- If you’re reattaching a button to shorts or pants, try using dental floss, the unwaxed kind. It’s much stronger, and can hold the button better than regular thread. Use a marker to darken it if the color is an issue.

- Here’s a great way to get a longer life from a bar of soap: Press the plastic top of a pop bottle into one side of a wet bar of soap. When you set the bar down in your soap dish, put it plastic side down. This way, the bar doesn’t sit in any residual water and turn into a goopy mush. The plastic top comes out easily if you need to remove it.” — *Y.P. in Illinois*

- Store brooms either handle down or on a hook that allows the bristles to suspend over the floor. When brooms rest their bristles on the floor, it bends them and breaks the ends. Broken ends make it hard for the broom to work efficiently.

- “After a recent bathroom redecoration, we had a toilet paper holder left over. I mounted it on the wall in my shop, and I use it to dispense twine. It’s actually working well and is the perfect size, since it’s not really wide enough for more than one duct tape roll.” — *A.L. in Texas*

- It’s easy to leave a group text chain on an iPhone. There’s a setting for this. It’s not as easy on an Android phone, but it’s doable. Simply mute the conversation and delete the text thread. If you have a big family group and you’re getting too many notifications, you can always mute the conversation until you’re finished with whatever you’re doing.

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

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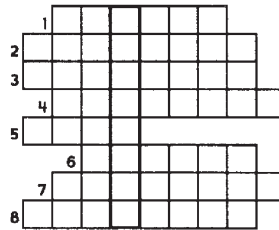
MAVIS LOVES TO MAKE PAPER CHAIN DECORATIONS. See how many paper links you can count in the above drawing.

Answer: We found 58. How about you?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

DON'T THROW AN AIR BALL SOLVING THIS ONE



Sink the following eight words and win the game. In the grid there is room to enter eight words or terms pertaining to basketball. The following hints should help you dribble to victory.

Illustrated by David Coulson

- • • **A NEAT WAGER!** Draw nine dots on a sheet of paper (Fig. 1). Challenge your friends to connect them up by drawing four straight lines through them without lifting the pencil from the paper. (See Fig. 2 for solution.)

FIG.1



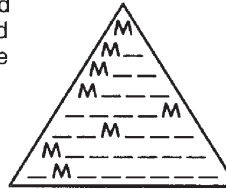
FIG.2

1. A credit for scoring.
2. For some, a sure point maker.
3. You can't play without them.
4. Shooting while in the air.
5. To pass the ball.
6. What teams need to win.
7. To score off the backboard.
8. To shoot over your head.

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out the name of a spectacular shot.

THE "M" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the M's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Roman numeral for 1000.
2. Rebus for "none left."
3. Found in a wrestling ring.
4. A radio antenna.
5. A source of power.
6. Poorest excuse.
7. Short-handled hammers.
8. Baby Bear's bed.

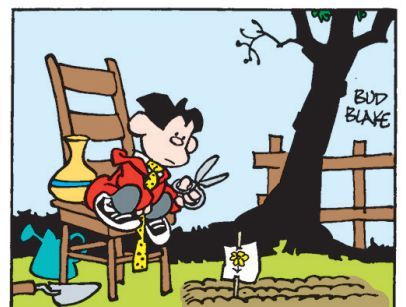
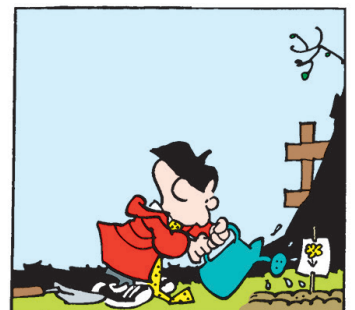
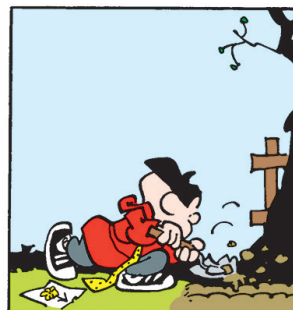
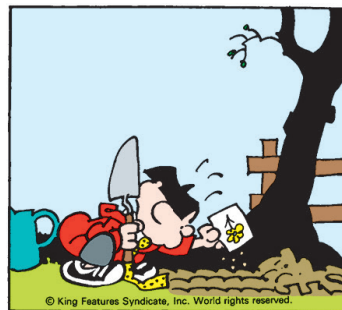
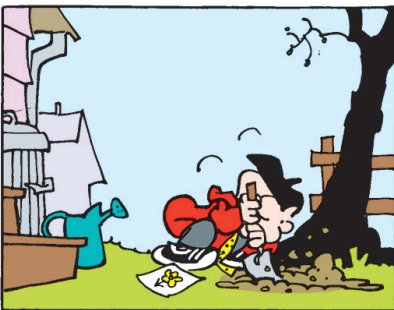


Answers: The words are: M, MT (empty), mat, mast, steam, iarnest, mallets, smallest.

Answers: 1. Assist. 2. Foul shot. 3. Sneakers. 4. Jump shot. 5. Feed. 6. Hustle. 7. Bank shot. 8. Hook shot. The dark framed column spells "Slam dunk"

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Repast
- 5 "Ben- —"
- 8 Lawman Wyatt
- 12 "Frozen" snow queen
- 13 "Right you —!"
- 14 Computer brand
- 15 Slightly
- 16 Actress Long
- 17 Hindu royal
- 18 Tidy up
- 20 Toto, to Dorothy
- 22 Peyton's brother
- 23 Commonest English word
- 24 Easter entrees

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

- 27 Vinegar variety
- 32 X-ray's cousin
- 33 Chopper
- 34 Hostel
- 35 "Becoming" author Obama
- 38 Read quickly
- 39 Knock
- 40 Wildebeest
- 42 "Yippee!"
- 45 Held up
- 49 "Mamma Mia" group
- 50 Gardner of Hollywood
- 52 Actress Kate

- 53 Fibs
- 54 Diarist Anais
- 55 Footnote abbr.
- 56 Minus
- 57 Young fox
- 58 Till bills
- 6 Swiss canton
- 7 Harvest
- 8 Sultry singer Kitt
- 9 Campus figure
- 10 Gambling mecca
- 11 Bluenose
- 19 Chicago transport
- 21 UFO crew
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 "Exodus" hero
- 26 Germs
- 28 Rocker Rose

DOWN

- 1 Intend
- 2 North Sea feeder
- 3 Largest continent
- 4 Coffee bar orders
- 5 Carthaginian general
- 6 "Shampoo" Oscar winner
- 7 — pickle
- 8 Blitzer's channel
- 9 Badger
- 10 Clean-air org.
- 11 Hand in
- 12 "Forget it!"
- 13 Corridor
- 14 Theater award
- 15 Tug
- 16 Innocent one
- 17 Ms.
- 18 Brockovich
- 19 June honorees
- 20 Half of XIV

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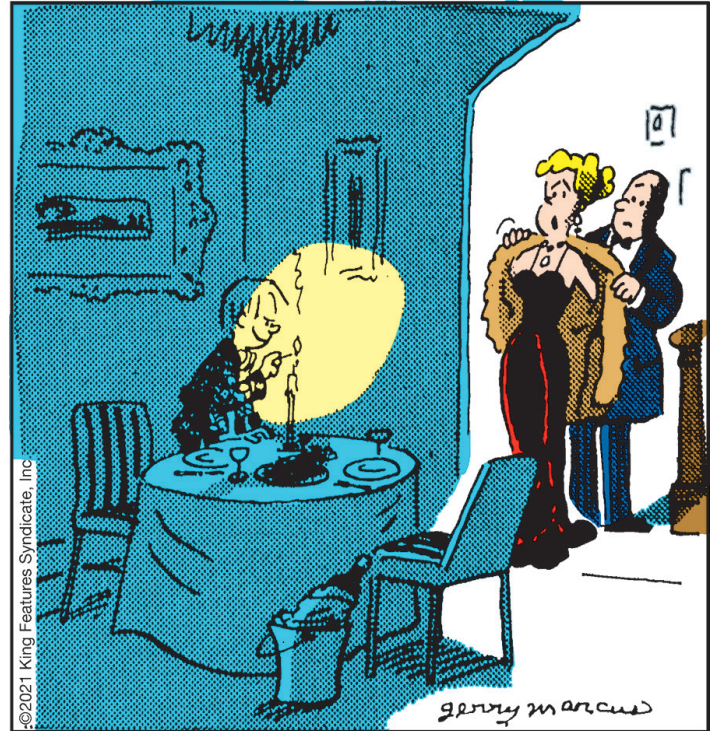
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

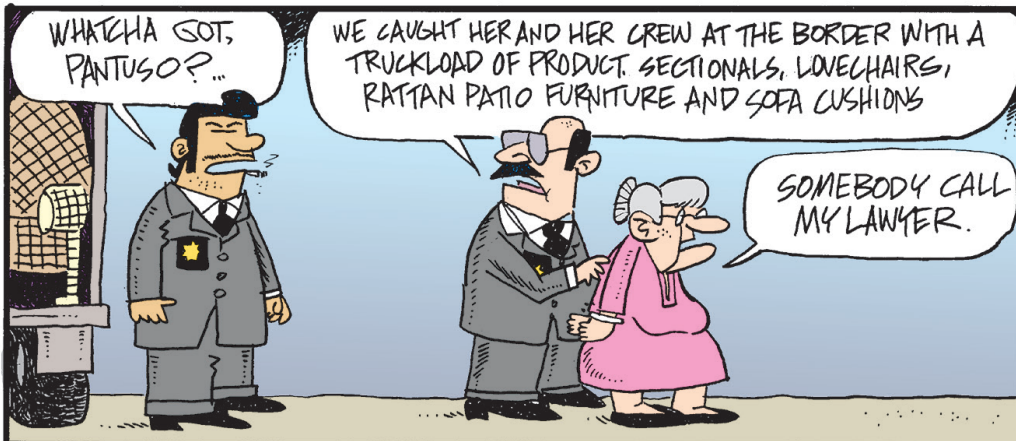
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E	L	S	A		A	R	E		A	C	E	R
A	B	I	T		N	I	A		R	A	N	I
N	E	A	T	E	N		P	E	T	D	O	G
			E	L	I				T	H	E	
H	A	M	S		B	A	L	S	A	M	I	C
M	R	I			A	X	E			I	N	N
M	I	C	H	E	L	L	E		S	C	A	N
		R	A	P			G	N	U			
H	O	O	R	A	Y		R	O	B	B	E	D
A	B	B	A		A	V	A		M	A	R	A
L	I	E	S		N	I	N	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

LAFF - A - DAY



"Maybe he's getting too old for a baby-sitter."

Out on a Limb



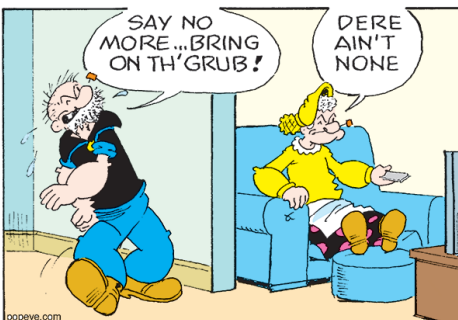
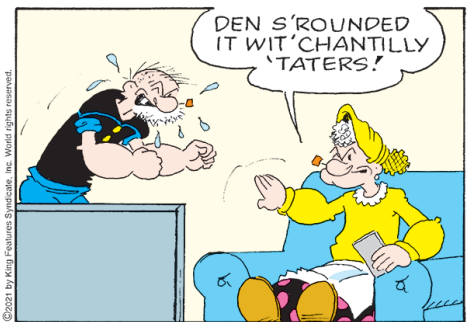
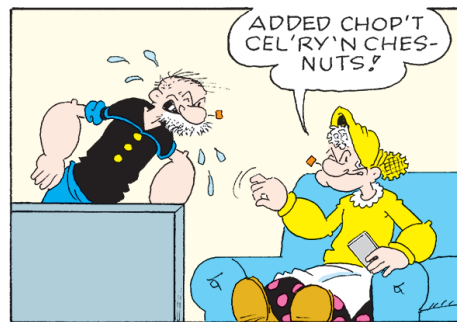
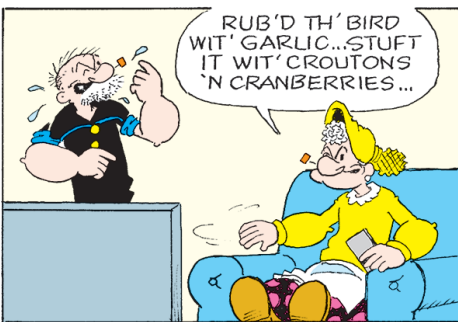
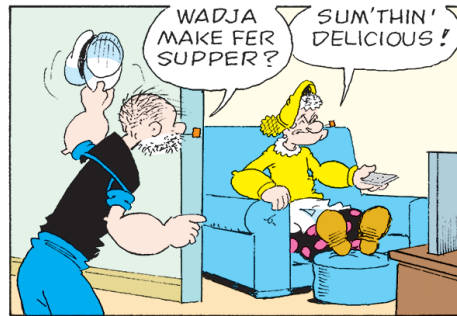
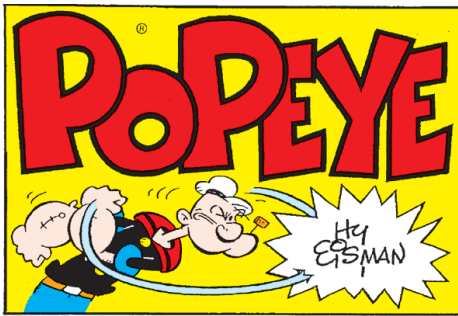
by Gary Kopervas

AFTER MONTHS OF SURVEILLANCE, THE AUTHORITIES FINALLY BUSTED LOTTIE WITZIG, HEAD OF THE WICKER CARTEL

KOPERVAS

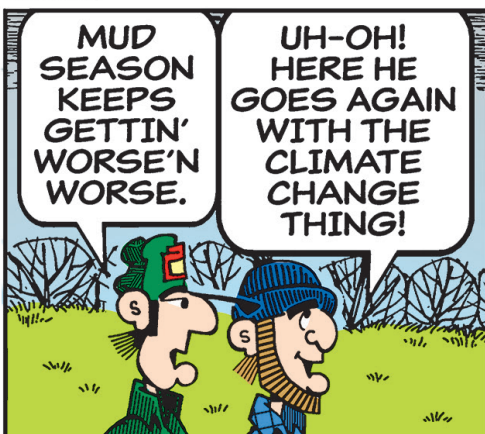
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R.F.D.

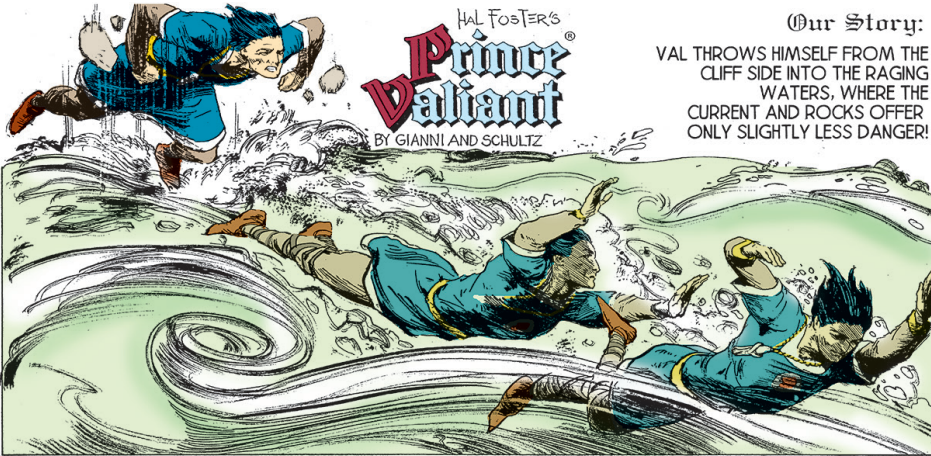
by Mike Marland



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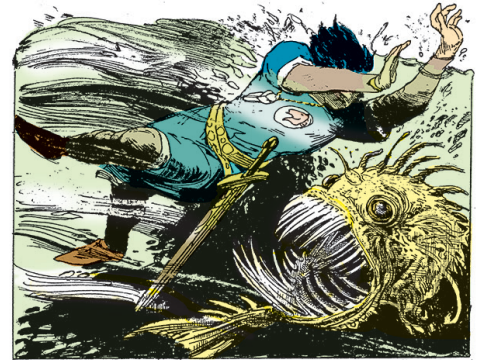
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Our Story:
VAL THROWS HIMSELF FROM THE CLIFF SIDE INTO THE RAGING WATERS, WHERE THE CURRENT AND ROCKS OFFER ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS DANGER!

FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY, HE IS TOSSED AND BATTERED. FINALLY THE CURRENT LESSENS—AND SOMETHING LUNGES FROM BELOW.



THE NEAR-DROWNED PRINCE FINDS HIMSELF FLUNG LIKE A RAG DOLL AGAINST A JAGGED OUTCROPPING...



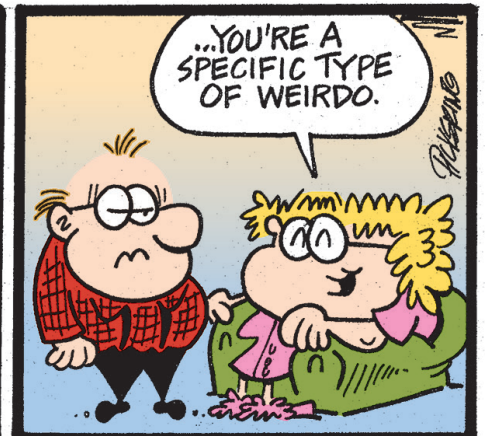
...AND, AS UNCONSCIOUSNESS TAKES HIM, HE IS DIMLY AWARE OF STRONG ARMS LIFTING HIM FROM THE DARKENING WATER.

NEXT: *The Mystic*

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Pickering

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

A Box of Greeting Cards

A few months ago, I got the idea to send greeting cards to some residents of a local nursing home who were locked down and not allowed to have visitors. It started small: a box of greeting cards and the first names of some of the residents, courtesy of the facility director. The idea has, to put it mildly, expanded.

First there was the call from the facility director wanting to know if I could enlarge my list because the residents were talking among themselves about who got cards and who didn't.

"Certainly," I said, and bought more cards.

A further expansion came when a woman called me saying that her mother was in that facility, but her mother-in-law was in another local place, and would I send cards to a few people there as well?

"Certainly," I said, and bought more cards.

You see where this is going? It wasn't long before I knew I needed some help. It wasn't only signing and addressing the cards, it was writing an individual letter to go in each envelope.

I called the guidance counselor at the high school and the ideas just flew. The service club is writing letters; they roped in the art club, which is producing individual drawings and paintings for each nursing home resident. The chorus stepped up and is planning an outdoor concert in the front of each facility when the weather warms up. (At this point they practice their music on Zoom calls.) And two students have initiated a project wherein they're collecting craft supplies for the therapist at the nursing home to use with the residents.

Does this sound like something you can start in your own area? You can start small. All it takes is a box of greeting cards — and a few ideas.

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1. What Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender set an NHL record for the longest unbeaten streak to begin a career, going 14-0-2 in his first 16 games during the 1996-97 season?

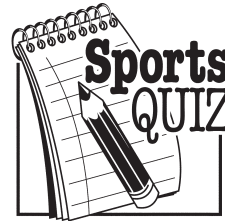
2. Left-handed pitcher Vida Blue won the AL Cy Young Award and was named AL MVP in 1971 as a member of what team?

3. What 7-foot 7-inch Romanian-born center played with the Washington Bullets (1993-97) and the New Jersey Nets (1998-2000)?

4. What boxer, known as the "Cincinnati Cobra," amassed a 95-25-1 record in a pro career spanning 1940-59?

5. What three New York Yankees became the first players in MLB history to hit back-to-back-to-back home runs in the postseason when they did it versus the Cleveland Indians in Game 1 of the 1997 AL Division Series?

6. Cornelius "Dutch" Warmerdam



by Ryan A. Berenz

held the world record in what athletic sport from 1940-57?

7. In 1975, who became the first African-American golfer to play in Masters tournament?

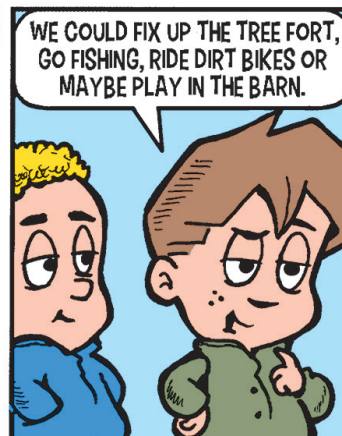
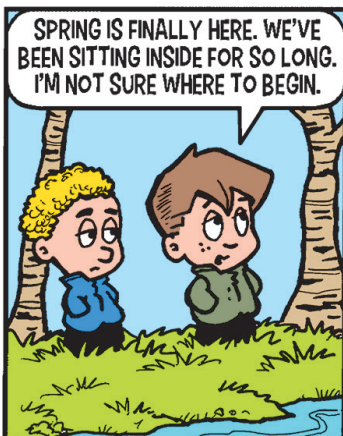
Answers

1. Patrick Lalime.
2. The Oakland A's.
3. Gheorghe Muresan.
4. Ezzard Charles.
5. Tim Lincecum, Derek Jeter and Paul O'Neill.
6. Pole vault.
7. Lee Elder.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Wild Animal Threat in Tennessee

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read your recent column about whether cats will be threatened by snakes or other wildlife in rural Tennessee. I lived over 50 years in Henrietta, New York; I had raccoons, possums, deer, foxes, skunks and a plethora of other animals in my backyard every night — many more than when I lived in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Tell your reader not to worry: Almost all wild animals are much more (for good reason) afraid of you than you should be of them. Just ignore them, and you probably won't get to enjoy them and have all the pleasure I do in seeing them in my yard. If you have a cat, you should probably keep it in at night, but they should be in anyhow. Hope this helps. — *N.Z.C.*

DEAR N.Z.C.: Thank you for the information! Wild animal activity can

vary quite a bit depending on your region, how close you are to a town or city, the amount of undeveloped property or a wildlife reserve adjacent to your home, and more.

It can even vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. For example, when I relocated from one area outside of Boston to another, the wildlife in my yard shifted drastically. I had put up with free-roaming turkeys and the occasional glimpse of a coyote in the early mornings on my suburban street for years; in my new neighborhood, the only wild pests were rabbits, with no nearby predators to keep their numbers down.

In short, enjoy the rural life, make sure trash-can lids are secure, and don't worry too much about predators menacing you and your pets. They prefer to stay out of your way.

Send your questions, tips or comments to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Alligators will give manatees the right of way if they swim near each other.

* A day on Mars lasts 24 hours, 39 minutes and 35 seconds. You'd assume therefore that there are fewer days in a Martian year than an Earth year, right? Nope -- because Mars orbits the sun more slowly than Earth, a Martian year actually comprises 687 days.

* The board game Cranium was the first non-coffee product to be sold at Starbucks.

* A Mickey is the smallest detectable movement of a mouse cursor on a screen. The term was coined by computer scientists, who use it when programming mice and other input devices.

* And while we're on the subject of "small," the tiniest item ever photographed is the shadow of an atom, captured via a super-high-resolution microscope by a team at Australia's Griffith University in 2012.

* The Welsh word for jellyfish is "Psygod wibli wobli."

* Out of the millions of creatures that inhabit planet Earth, humans are one of just three species capable of laughter, the other two being chimpanzees ... and rats!

* "The Galop Infernal," composed for an opera as a soundtrack to a man descending into hell, is better known to most of us as "The Can-Can" song.

* Proof that some things never change: the world's oldest known joke is a Sumerian fart joke.

* The most expensive pizza in the world will set you back a cool \$12,000. Why? Well, it takes 72 hours to make, can only be produced in your home by three Italian chefs, and is topped with three types of caviar, bufala mozzarella, lobster from Norway and Cilento, and pink Australian sea salt!

Thought for the Day: "Don't worry about failures, worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try." -- Jack Canfield

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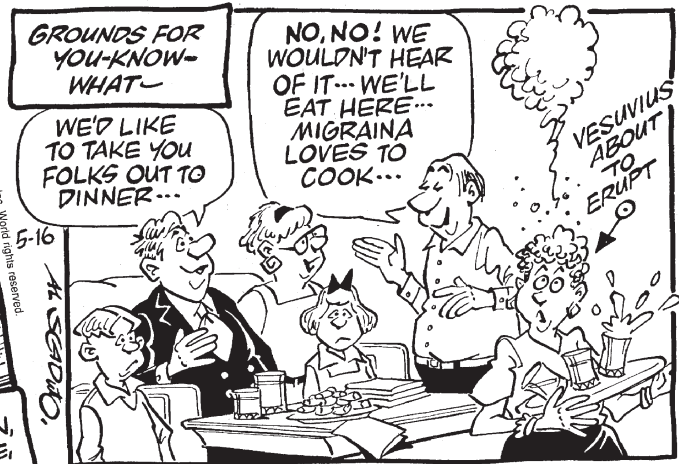
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

SCHOOL DAZE-



Thank to "BARBARA Z.", HALIFAX, FL.

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? THE PHONE IN THE TV SHOW RINGS AND...

Thank to QUITE A FEW CONTRIBUTORS ALL OVER U.S.A.



"Shakespeare" gardens

honor the famous playwright and have been set up in parks all over the world, often near theatres. They contain plants, flowers and trees found in his many works, such as almond, birch, blackberries, camomile, carraway, cedar, daffodil, ebony, fig, gooseberry, hazel, hyssop, lettuce, marjoram, mulberry, nutmeg, oats, olive, pear, pomegranate, quince, radish, rye, rosemary, saffron, strawberry, sycamore, thorn, violet, wormwood and yew. - Brenda Weaver

Rosemary (18th-century woodcut)

Sources: *The Plant-Lore and Garden-Craft of Shakespeare* by Henry Ellacombe, 1884; www.botanicalshakespeare.com

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Why Such a Long Wait for Copies of Records

If you've been waiting for copies of military records so you can apply for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, you've likely been waiting for a long time. Unfortunately, your wait might continue, depending on the reason for your request.

Due to COVID, the National Personnel Records Center is closed, with a 10% staffing level and a backlog of half a million records requests. Most of the 60 million older records are on paper, so they must be accessed and touched by humans. The only exceptions are emergencies: burials, medical treatments or homeless veterans who are trying to get into a homeless shelter.

For anything else, the NPRC is specifically requesting that you don't ask for records. If it's records research, corrections to records or replacement

medals, it's not an emergency... at least for the NPRC.

I can foresee situations where getting medal replacements for an elderly, ill veteran might well be considered an emergency if that veteran wants to see his medals one last time, and tell stories and maybe give them in person to a grandchild.

If you have a genuine emergency, as defined by the NPRC, you'll need to submit a Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records (find it online). Sign it and then fax it to (314) 801-0764.

The good news is that newer records might be online. Check www.archives.gov, click Veterans' Service Records, then click on More Ways to Get Service Records on the left.

It could be much worse: In 1973, up to 18 million files were destroyed in a fire the St. Louis record center. Plus, VA had loaned the NPRC millions of records, which also went up in smoke.

Over time they've tried to re-create those records using auxiliary sources, but the Certificate of Service they send you contains only basic service information — like a Little League participation trophy.

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CONGRESSMAN

DUSTY JOHNSON

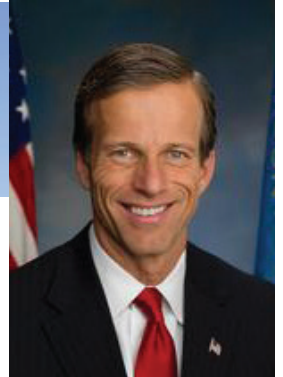
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John Thune
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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*



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South Dakota Reaches Vaccination Milestone SD-DOH Calls on Young Adults to get Vaccinated



South Dakota's Health Secretary, Kim Malsam-Rysdon, receiving her COVID-19 vaccine in Pierre, S.D.

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, the South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) announced the percentage of state residents who have received at least 1-dose of the COVID-19 vaccine has reached the 50% threshold. This places South Dakota among the top nationwide leaders in vaccination efforts, with over 208,485 South Dakotans having completed their vaccination series. This translates to approximately 25% of the state having been fully vaccinated against the virus.

"This milestone would not have been possible without the help of our healthcare professionals and all responsible South Dakotans who've chosen to be vaccinated," said Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Secretary of Health. "I encourage young adults, especially those ages 20-29, to get vaccinated as soon as possible—and to do it for themselves, their friends, and loved ones. Vaccinations is the quickest way out of this pandemic."

On April 5, 2021, the SD-DOH began Phase II of the state's [vaccination plan](#). This move made COVID-19 vaccines available to all state residents, age 16 and over, in addition to any persons from Phase I who have not yet been vaccinated. All residents can connect directly with a health partner serving their area by [clicking here](#).

According to recent data, there has been a 7% jump in COVID-19 cases among those who are 20-29 years old in the past six weeks. From March 23 to April 5 alone, 479 cases were linked to this age group, totaling 19% of all identified cases.

"In addition to getting vaccinated, this is a great time to remind folks of the importance of continued testing. It's fast, its easy and free," added Malsam-Rysdon. To request a free at-home COVID-19 test, [click here](#).

To get the most up to date COVID-19 data, updated daily, please visit the Department of Health [dashboard](#).

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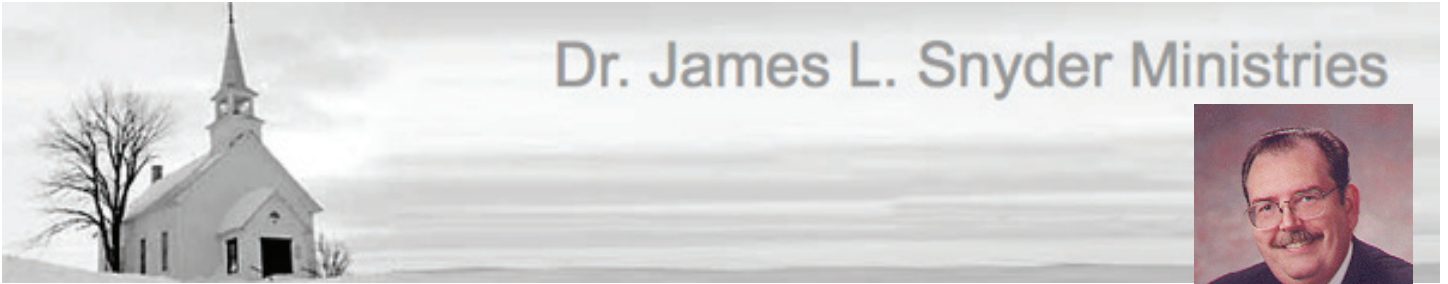
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Something Seems to Be Missing



Did you ever have a week when it felt like something was missing, but you didn't quite know what it was?

I had that kind of a week this past week. It felt like something was missing, and I could not figure out what it was.

The past week was typical in many regards. Everything seemed to be going normal as normal could be. But I had this nagging thought in the back of my head that I was missing something. I really couldn't get a handle on it.

At first, I thought maybe I had missed my Apple Fritter. My New Year's resolution for this year was only to eat one Apple Fritter at a time. And as far as I can recollect, I have not missed one so far this year.

So, it wasn't an Apple Fritter that I was missing. It was something, and it was beginning to get on my nerves.

I got out my weekly planner to see if there was a meeting that I had missed or forgotten about. I went very carefully, and everything I was supposed to do this past week I did. And yet, something was missing.

I went back in my weekly planner for five or six weeks, and nothing was missing.

Maybe, I thought, I had a meeting that I had forgotten to schedule. So, I asked the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if she knew of anything I missed.

Well, that sure was a mistake. She had a whole list of things that, according to her schedule, I had forgotten to do,. It was almost a book full of "missing activities" that she thought I needed to catch up on.

I should've known better, but after completing all her "tasks," I still had this little itch that there was something I was missing.

Again, I made the mistake of talking aloud and mentioning that I felt I was missing something.

That's all the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage needs to hear, and once again, she was on her game and gave me a whole list of things that she thought I was missing.

You would think at my age I would know when to keep my mouth shut. But I was being aggravated that I was missing something, and I don't like that. I like to do my job and get everything done as quickly as

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possible.

I happened to go to the bathroom, glanced in the mirror and saw that I had not had a haircut for quite a while. I thought that this was probably the thing I was missing. That sure would solve my anxiety.

So, I headed off to the barber, got a haircut, and returned home. I was smiling all the way home because I thought I had found that missing thing for the week. I try to get my haircut every other week, and sometimes I mess up, and I get out of routine. But now, the haircut was done, and I was heading home.

As I opened the door to enter the house, I began to feel that itching feeling again that I was missing something. The haircut wasn't really what I was missing, and so I was back to square one.

As I pondered this, my wife comes up to me and says, "Could you run to the grocery store and get a few things that I need for tonight?"

Of course, I was willing to go and do some shopping. I'm not a shopaholic, but when given a list, I can do the shopping.

I had just put the last item into the shopping cart and was headed toward the checkout counter, and then, there it was!

I never thought that I would solve my itching problem in the grocery store. But there it was. I was walking by the candy aisle, and there it was; several shelves full of CHOCOLATE.

There were all sorts of chocolate candy on those shelves. I just froze and stared at all of that CHOCOLATE and let the ambience fill my mind.

My wife cannot eat chocolate for some reason, but I love chocolate. We've not had chocolate in the house since before the pandemic, which may explain my nervous feelings. Nothing is more soothing and comforting to me than a cup of Joe in one hand and the delicious chocolate candy bar in the other hand.

My only problem at this point was what not to buy. The chocolate that I love the most is the one I'm eating at the time.

Not being judgmental, I selected one piece of chocolate from every shelf in that aisle. I filled my basket with chocolate candy. When I got to the cashier's counter, there seemed to be a huge weight lifted off me, and there seemed to come into my life a peace that I had not experienced for some time.

Driving home, I began to think about how I will get all of this chocolate past my wife. I quickly put that aside focused on the delicious piece of chocolate I was eating at the time.

I thought of a wonderful verse of Scripture. "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

God's peace is the thing that most people are missing from their life today.

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EARTHTALK

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What exactly is "climate feminism?"
-- Jim M., Lorton, VA

Climate change impacts the everyday lives of all citizens around the globe, but certain communities are disproportionately affected. Women, in particular, shoulder a disproportionate burden as they are most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods but lack the needed resources to properly respond to climate disasters. With women representing over 70 percent of the total global population living in poverty, the United Nations estimates that 80 percent of those displaced by climate change are women.

At the very core of female climate change vulnerability is the pervasiveness of patriarchy and gender hierarchies. Throughout history, women have been suppressed in politics, economics and labor, and many are forced to remain in the domestic sphere with the primary duties of raising children. Flooding, drought and other effects of climate change, such as increased heat and air pollution, can disproportionately impact women, particularly pregnant women, causing premature births, stillbirths and other problems.

"[The climate crisis] grows out of a patriarchal system that is also entangled with racism, white supremacy and extractive capitalism,"

says author and climate activist Katharine K. Wilkinson. And while women may be the most impacted by climate disasters, they have limited opportunities to participate in decision-making processes. Wilkinson, co-editor of a recent book of essays on climate feminism called *All We Can Save*, adds that the unequal impacts of climate change make it harder to achieve a "gender-equal world."

Despite historical setbacks, climate feminists have made much progress in recent years, with increased female representation in government roles and leadership positions. Today, many of our climate justice leaders are women. Youth activist Greta Thunberg has captured the attention of global leaders, demanding they take immediate action against climate change. U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez developed and proposed the Green New Deal, pushing the U.S. government a step closer to recognizing the scale of our climate crisis and enacting drastic environmental policy changes.

Climate feminists believe women should be leaders in the environmental movement because their experiences with institutional sexism and other inequalities resulting from the way our society is structured engender a deeper commitment to fighting for justice and equality. Additionally, women tend to prioritize making change over being in charge—and recognize the importance of nurturing a sense of community in the broader climate movement.

That said, how can we help advance climate feminism? Men in positions of power can certainly change the face of climate leadership by listening to the ideas of women from diverse backgrounds—and stepping back for women to make the decisions and set the vision. Most important, women need more leadership positions in local sustainable management and development in addition to increased representation in the federal government. National climate policies that are gender-responsive can not only bring greater responsiveness to the public's needs but also help dismantle ethnic or gender divides in the environmental field, pointing toward a more peaceful and sustainable future.

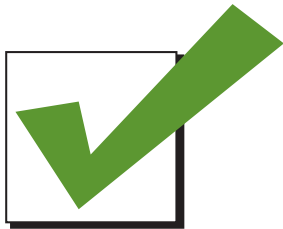
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Climate feminists march outside international climate talks in Poland in December 2018. Credit: Greenpeace.

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#412 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

We have a persistent bump in case numbers. We reported 68,700 new cases today. That brings us up to 31,162,600 total cases in the US in the pandemic, which is 0.2% more than yesterday. We are at a persistent 0.2% rate of increase, and this is worrying because it should be coming down as more are vaccinated, and it is not coming down. Hospitalizations were apparently not reported over the weekend, staying steady at 43,904. And deaths are now up to 561,200, which is 0.1% more than yesterday. If there is a silver lining in all of this, it is that so far deaths are not rising as fast as cases are. There were 773 deaths reported today. It is probably reasonable to conclude this failure of deaths to keep up with new cases is related to the fact that we have fairly successfully vaccinated a disproportionate share of our most vulnerable residents—the elderly and the medically at-risk.

April 10, 2020, one year ago today, was Good Friday, the start of the Easter weekend. We in the US were up to 495,259 cases and 18,592 deaths, but things were definitely slowing down. We hadn't peaked yet, but it was getting closer and there was real hope this would be the worst. I don't know what sort of response we would have had if we'd been able to see a few months into the future. I'd like to think it would have been different, but I am not sanguine about the possibilities: I have lost much of my faith in my fellow humans over the past year. New York on this day had more total cases than any country in the world except, of course, for the US. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington had revised its estimate for deaths by late summer down from almost 94,000 to 60,400 based on the restrictions and compliance with restrictions that were being seen at the time. Of course, we all know what really happened by late summer as either we decided we were smarter than this virus or we just didn't give a damn: On August 27, there were 187,635 deaths with so very many yet to come.

We were starting to see cases at meat packing plants, a plague that swept across the country as time went on, sickening and killing these workers as well as endangering our food supply. We still didn't have enough tests. There were more FDA warnings to folks selling quack cures, including "SuperSilver Whitening Toothpaste," "SuperSilver Wound Dressing Gel," and "Superblue Fluoride Free Toothpaste." I am not entirely clear on how any of these were supposed to be used or why anyone would believe they would help; but then I didn't make a purchase either. It was announced that dozens of federally-supported testing sites slated to stop operation would remain open after all; this was almost certainly in response to a wave of protest that greeted the closings announcement. There had been over 1.67 million global cases, and deaths passed 100,000 on this day, reaching 101,700.

The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington has its latest projection for US deaths from the coronavirus at 618,523 by August 1, assuming the current rate of vaccination continues and considering the current rate of spread for B.1.1.7 across the country. That presupposes we continue to do things pretty much as we are doing them now; the best-case projection if 95 percent of us wore masks is for 604,413 deaths, and the worst-case projection for if we return to pre-pandemic levels of mobility is a scary 697,573. The outcome is in our hands.

I saw a nice round-up of where we are with vaccines versus these new variants that have popped up. Here's what I have:

The B.1.1.7 variant first identified in the UK appears to be susceptible to all of the vaccines in current use in the US—Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. There is accumulating evidence some of the other vaccines in use around the world show similar ability to protect against this variant.

There's been a lot of work done on the other variants of concern. One of the more worrisome variants is B.1.351, first identified in South Africa and the one we are currently seeing that has the effectiveness of our immune responses is most reduced. A large study of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine shows it is very effective—about 85 percent—at preventing severe disease from this variant. There is a smaller study of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine showing it prevents as much as 100 percent of cases, even mild ones, from this variant. The Novavax candidate, based on antibody tests, looks to be only maybe 50 percent effective in preventing mild disease against this variant, which is not great. And a study of the

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Oxford/AstraZeneca candidate shows pretty much no efficacy for mild disease. We don't have much data on how well these two cover more severe disease, so we can't say much about that at this time.

There aren't any clinical studies for other vaccines, so for these lab studies have been done. These tests look at how much antibody is required to inactivate the virus. For the Moderna vaccine, the evidence seems to show that it would likely still be effective against B.1.351. These data can be compared to Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine data, and from that it seems reasonable to conclude Moderna is quite comparable to Pfizer/BioNTech.

The next most worrisome variant is P.1 which first emerged in Brazil. We don't have as much data on this one, but what we have seems to lean toward a belief that vaccines will retain their effectiveness against it too.

And all of this is before we consider the cell-mediated response. This, mediated by CD8+ T cells, seems to be equally effective against all of the variants we've identified so far. T cells don't generally prevent infection, but they're very good at limiting it after it's underway. This would lead to a conclusion that, while cell-mediated responses might not bring down infection rates, they may well serve to keep folks out of the hospital and out of coffins. That's pretty important.

There is still much we don't know; but we're getting a better handle on things every day. With a virus this new, there are going to be lags in what we can predict and how we'll manage this pandemic. Honestly, the worst outcomes have not been the result of things we don't know; they've been the result of things we choose not to do despite knowing better. Science can't really help with that.

I've had a busy day and the news is light; so I'm giving myself a break this weekend. This is what I have for you tonight; we'll see what tomorrow brings.

Stay well. We'll talk again.

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- **Medicare benefits** many retirees may not be aware of

Information will be provided by Physicians Life Insurance Company

We are not connected with, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program. I understand I have no obligation. This is a solicitation of insurance. A licensed agent/producer may contact you. Policy form number L030, L035, L036, L037, L038, F001, F002 (OK: L0300K, L0350K, L0360K, L0370K, L0380K; TN: L030TN, L035TN, L036TN, L037TN, L038TN, F001TN, F002TN)

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County	Total Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased Among Cases	Community Spread	% PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)
Aurora	461	440	910	15	Minimal	9.5%
Beadle	2890	2811	6252	40	Substantial	8.5%
Bennett	387	378	1220	9	Minimal	11.8%
Bon Homme	1518	1483	2203	27	Moderate	3.1%
Brookings	3985	3776	12940	37	Substantial	8.3%
Brown	5387	5204	13477	91	Substantial	9.4%
Brule	700	688	1956	9	Minimal	2.0%
Buffalo	423	408	913	13	Minimal	0.0%
Butte	1016	989	3398	20	Minimal	6.6%
Campbell	130	126	270	4	None	0.0%
Charles Mix	1356	1305	4181	21	Substantial	5.8%
Clark	432	407	995	5	Substantial	19.2%
Clay	1883	1848	5764	15	Substantial	3.9%
Codington	4285	4122	10222	80	Substantial	8.8%
Corson	476	464	1037	12	Minimal	6.7%
Custer	808	768	2844	12	Moderate	14.8%
Davison	3154	3024	6995	66	Substantial	13.2%
Day	683	646	1899	29	Minimal	5.4%
Deuel	502	485	1217	8	Moderate	19.4%
Dewey	1443	1411	3968	26	Minimal	5.0%
Douglas	450	433	975	9	Moderate	11.8%
Edmunds	497	478	1111	13	Minimal	5.6%
Fall River	573	548	2789	15	Moderate	3.5%
Faulk	365	351	725	13	Minimal	0.0%
Grant	1017	962	2400	42	Moderate	5.7%
Gregory	574	537	1361	30	Moderate	6.9%
Haakon	262	250	569	10	None	0.0%
Hamlin	768	707	1901	39	Moderate	16.7%
Hand	355	348	872	6	None	0.0%
Hanson	382	373	782	4	Minimal	10.5%
Harding	94	93	196	1	None	0.0%
Hughes	2411	2331	6958	37	Substantial	5.1%
Hutchinson	866	798	2533	26	Substantial	13.8%

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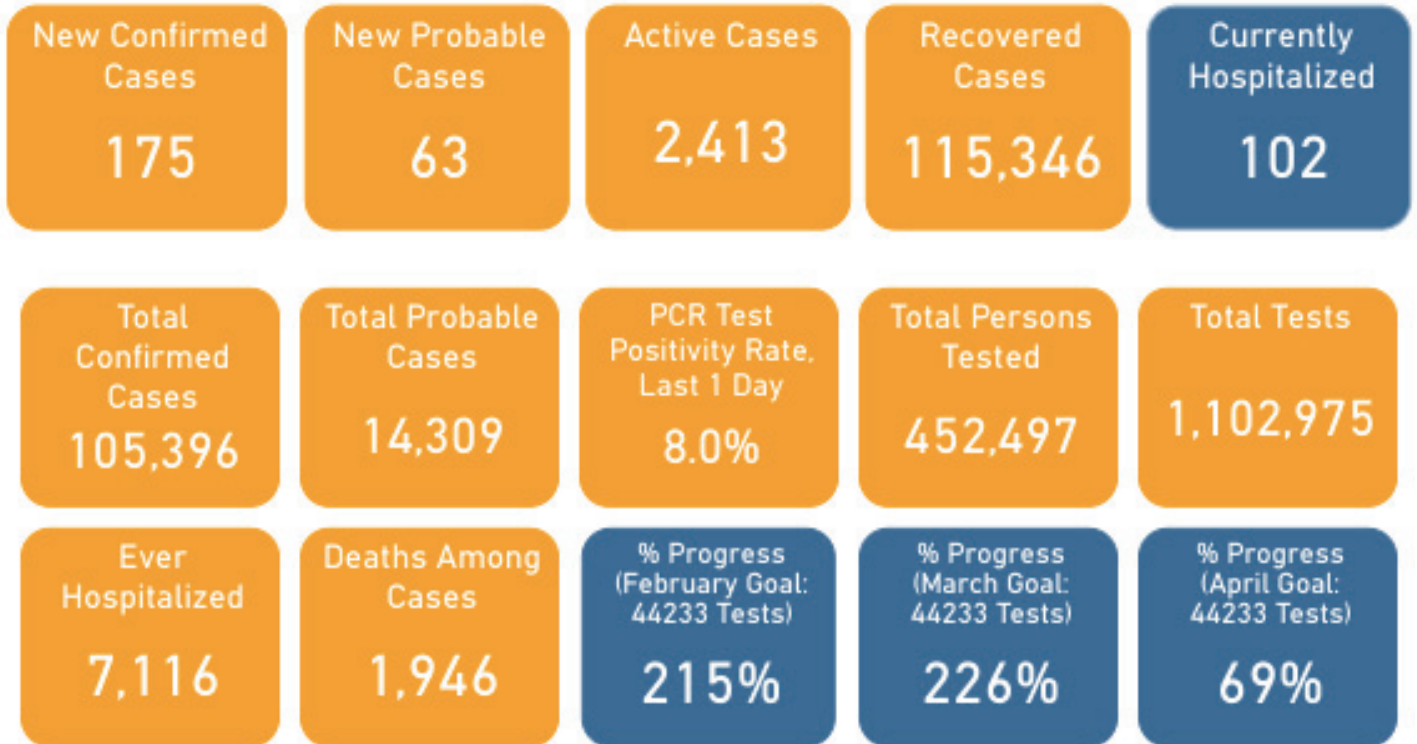
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Hyde	140	138	440	1	Minimal	7.1%
Jackson	288	271	943	14	Minimal	0.0%
Jerauld	273	257	588	16	None	0.0%
Jones	93	92	245	0	Minimal	0.0%
Kingsbury	782	712	1784	14	Substantial	25.8%
Lake	1330	1275	3640	18	Substantial	3.7%
Lawrence	2915	2839	8872	45	Moderate	5.9%
Lincoln	8404	8113	21536	77	Substantial	10.1%
Lyman	633	612	1966	11	Moderate	3.8%
Marshall	364	358	1279	6	Minimal	0.0%
McCook	797	763	1765	24	Substantial	17.5%
McPherson	243	238	597	4	Minimal	0.0%
Meade	2716	2653	8092	31	Moderate	7.0%
Mellette	257	252	779	2	Minimal	3.3%
Miner	295	280	616	9	Moderate	18.8%
Minnehaha	30455	29214	83430	348	Substantial	12.2%
Moody	629	610	1844	17	Minimal	1.3%
Oglala Lakota	2094	2037	6882	49	Moderate	3.6%
Pennington	13371	13034	41254	191	Moderate	6.1%
Perkins	353	337	849	14	Minimal	0.0%
Potter	387	383	879	4	Minimal	3.3%
Roberts	1331	1274	4398	38	Substantial	8.4%
Sanborn	340	333	732	3	Minimal	9.5%
Spink	829	795	2228	26	Minimal	4.5%
Stanley	341	337	993	2	Minimal	0.0%
Sully	138	133	333	3	Minimal	20.0%
Todd	1220	1189	4296	29	Minimal	0.7%
Tripp	747	716	1556	17	Moderate	23.8%
Turner	1141	1073	2883	55	Substantial	12.2%
Union	2186	2090	6724	41	Substantial	14.3%
Walworth	760	731	1894	16	Moderate	9.1%
Yankton	2979	2884	9847	28	Substantial	7.0%
Ziebach	341	331	893	9	Minimal	3.2%
Unassigned	0	0	1902	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	5066	0
10-19 years	13885	0
20-29 years	21155	7
30-39 years	19750	19
40-49 years	17152	38
50-59 years	16802	116
60-69 years	13619	261
70-79 years	7104	446
80+ years	5172	1059

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases
B.1.1.7	52
B.1.429	8
B.1.351	1
B.1.427	1
P.1	0

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
White	89845	75%
Native American	13872	12%
Unknown	5568	5%
Hispanic	4384	4%
Black	2687	2%
Other	1720	1%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1629	1%

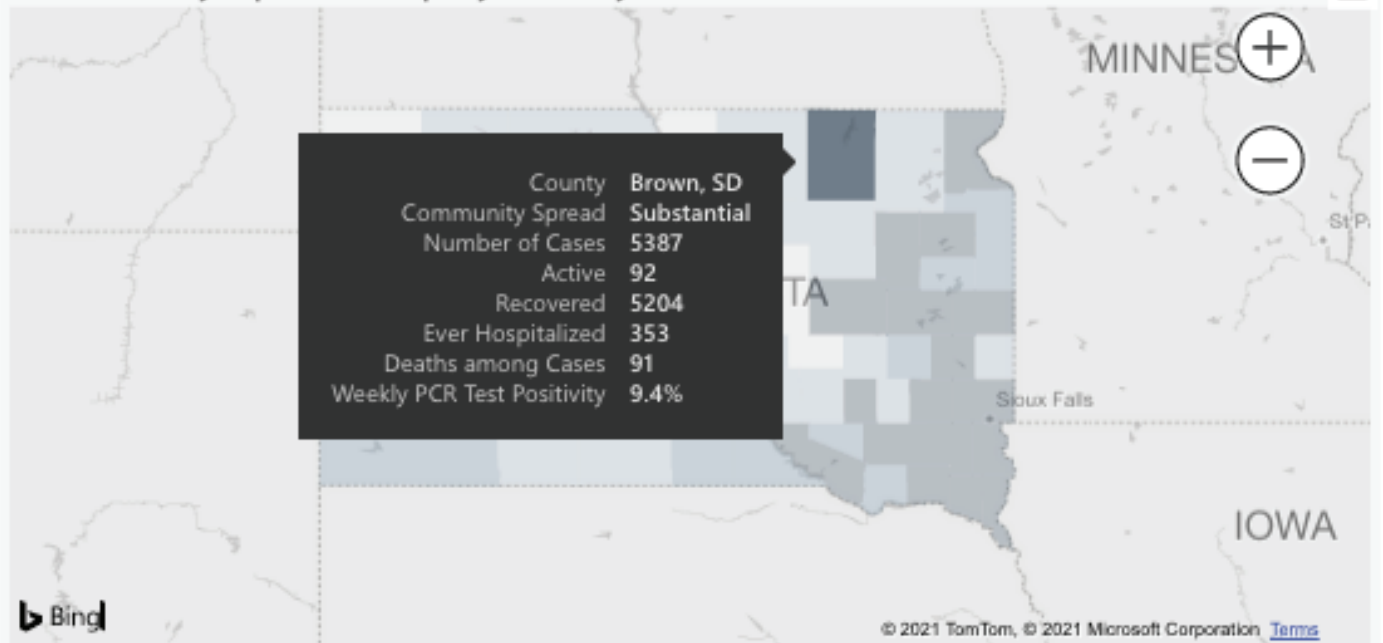
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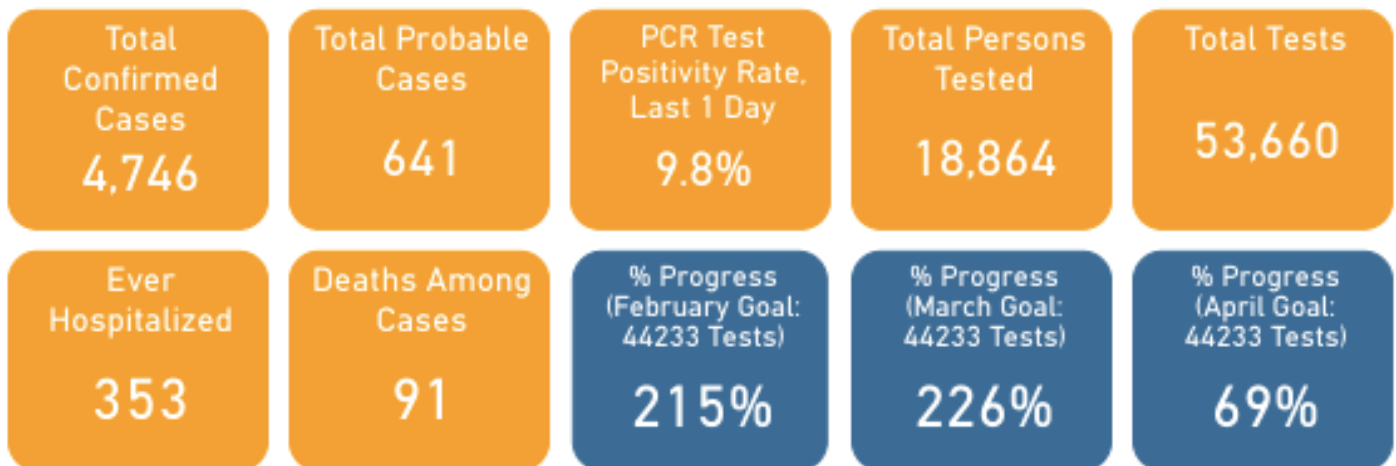
Brown County



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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



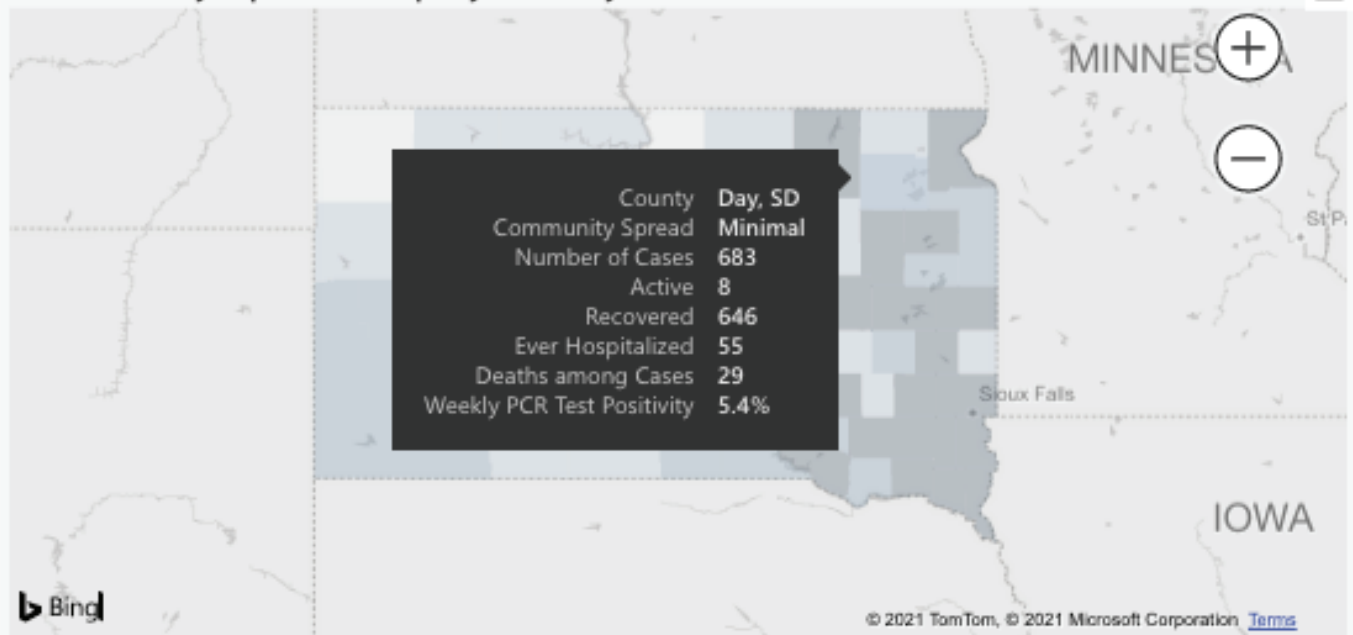
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Day County

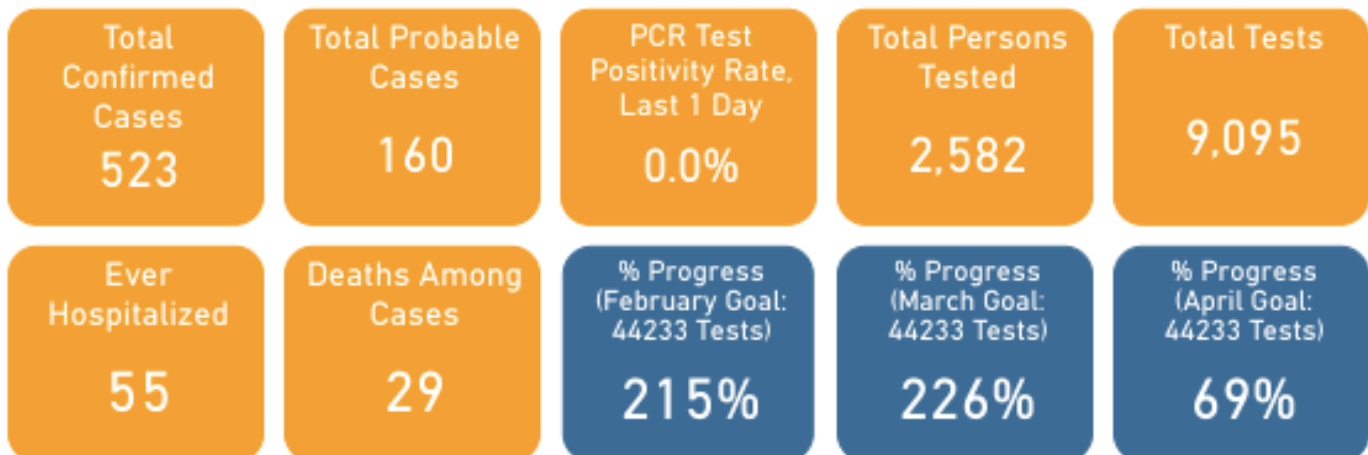


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● None ● Minimal ● Moderate ● Substantial

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



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Vaccinations

Total Doses Administered*

493,060

Total Persons Administered a Vaccine*

298,820

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

50%

Manufacturer	# of Doses
Janssen	14,253
Moderna	225,093
Pfizer	253,714

Doses	# of Recipients
Janssen - Series Complete	14,253
Moderna - 1 dose	40,485
Moderna - Series Complete	92,304
Pfizer - 1 dose	49,858
Pfizer - Series Complete	101,928

Doses	% of Pop.
1 dose	49.75%
Series Complete	34.92%

Based on 2019 Census Estimate for those aged 16+ years.

County	# Doses	# Persons (1 dose)	# Persons (2 doses)	Total # Persons
Aurora	1,558	380	589	969
Beadle	10,435	2,328	4,053	6,381
Bennett*	654	124	265	389
Bon Homme*	5,093	605	2,244	2,849
Brookings	17,842	4,932	6,455	11,387
Brown	23,651	5,441	9,105	14,546
Brule*	2,504	430	1,037	1,467
Buffalo*	163	81	41	122
Butte	3,533	847	1,343	2,190
Campbell	1,392	180	606	786
Charles Mix*	4,577	915	1,831	2,746
Clark	1,984	546	719	1,265
Clay	8,551	2,291	3,130	5,421
Codington*	15,902	4,046	5,928	9,974
Corson*	423	47	188	235
Custer*	4,325	803	1,761	2,564
Davison	12,492	3,066	4,713	7,779
Day*	3,862	802	1,530	2,332
Deuel	2,327	557	885	1,442
Dewey*	476	66	205	271
Douglas*	1,783	355	714	1,069
Edmunds	2,161	391	885	1,276
Fall River*	3,762	656	1,553	2,209
Faulk	1,581	321	630	951

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Haakon*	738	94	322	416
Hamlin	2,729	749	990	1,739
Hand	2,175	429	873	1,302
Hanson	877	233	322	555
Harding	212	66	73	139
Hughes*	12,461	2,831	4,815	7,646
Hutchinson*	5,239	1,046	2,096	3,142
Hyde*	758	124	317	441
Jackson*	556	100	228	328
Jerauld	1,355	227	564	791
Jones*	898	132	383	515
Kingsbury	3,942	882	1,530	2,412
Lake	6,935	1,933	2,501	4,434
Lawrence	13,380	3,112	5,134	8,246
Lincoln	39,290	7,881	15,704	23,585
Lyman*	1,186	252	467	719
Marshall*	2,918	756	1,081	1,837
McCook	3,385	839	1,273	2,112
McPherson	394	88	153	241
Meade*	9,725	1,803	3,961	5,764
Mellette*	69	9	30	39
Miner	1,346	298	524	822
Minnehaha*	127,807	27,386	50,208	77,594
Moody*	2,853	575	1,139	1,714
Oglala Lakota*	241	49	96	145
Pennington*	54,878	9,318	22,780	32,098
Perkins*	1,043	107	468	575
Potter	1,457	337	560	897
Roberts*	6,015	879	2,568	3,447
Sanborn	1,580	374	603	977
Spink	4,379	785	1,797	2,582
Stanley*	1,870	394	738	1,132
Sully	615	147	234	381
Todd*	236	50	93	143
Tripp*	2,819	379	1,220	1,599
Turner	5,121	935	2,093	3,028
Union	5,449	1,613	1,918	3,531
Walworth*	2,700	386	1,157	1,543
Yankton	15,455	2,563	6,446	9,009
Ziebach*	82	20	31	51
Other	9,852	3,040	3,406	6,446

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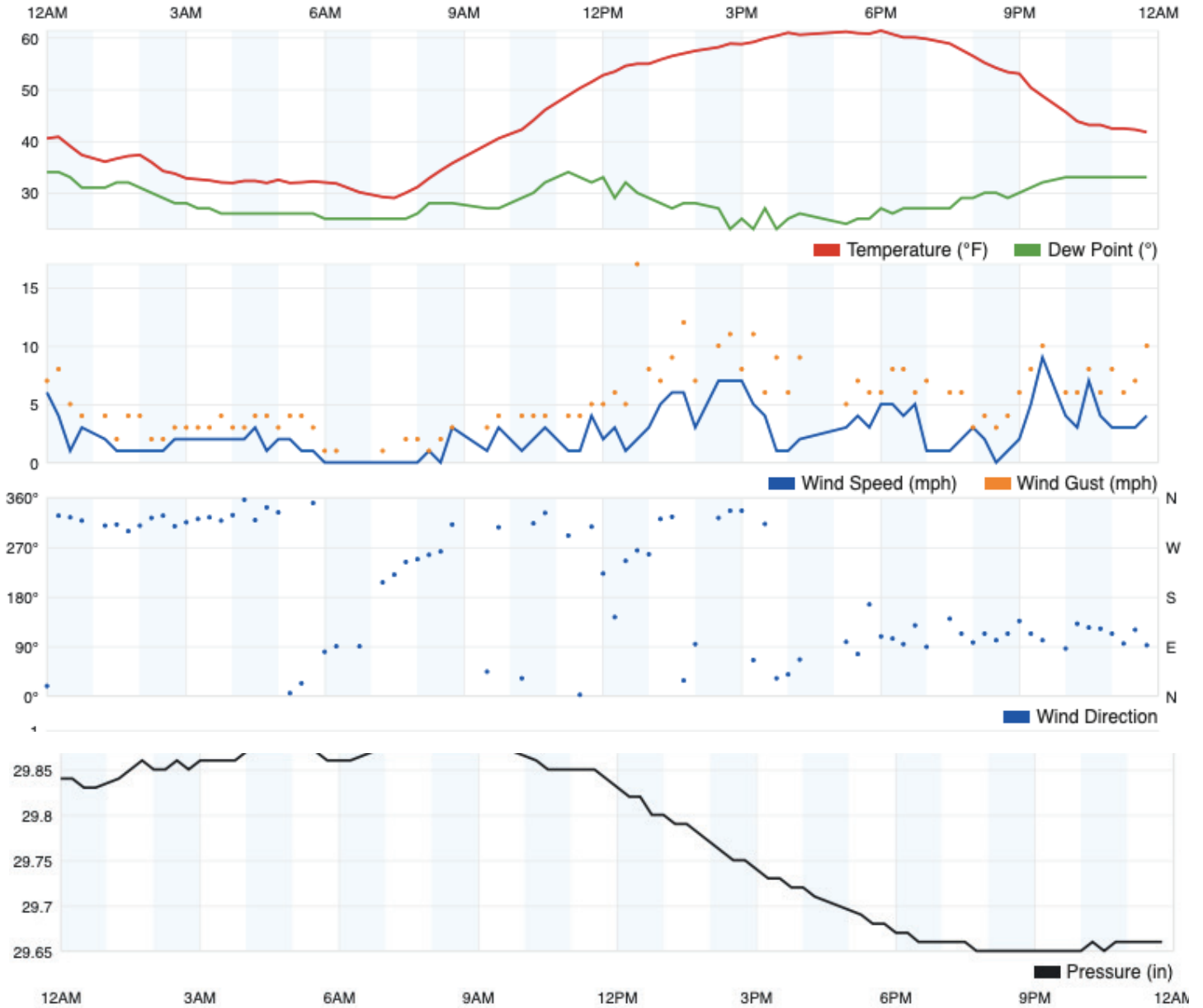
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Groton Daily Independent






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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
 20%	 50% 40%	 30% 30%	 20%	 20% 20%
Sunny then Slight Chance Showers	Breezy. Chance Showers then Chance Rain/Snow	Breezy. Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Slight Chance Snow Showers	Slight Chance Snow Showers then Slight Chance Rain/Snow
High: 58 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 39 °F

Colder and Breezy!

Light snow possible tonight – Monday morning

Today

50 to 60°

Becoming cloudy.
Chance of Rain.
Windy along & west
of the Missouri River.



Breezy

Tonight

25-30°

Rain, changing to
snow in northeast SD
and western MN.
Breezy



Breezy

Monday

35 to 45°

Wind gusts 35-45 mph
possible.
Chance of rain/snow in
northeast SD and
Western MN.



Windy



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

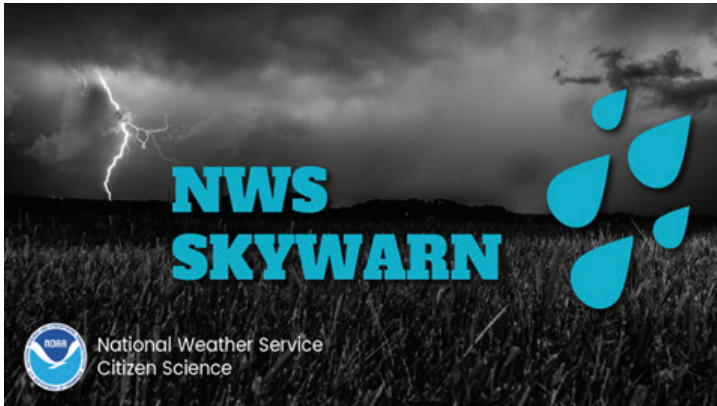
www.weather.gov/abr

graphic created
4/11/2021 5:09 AM

A cold front sliding across the region today will bring a chance of rain, cooler temperatures, and gusty northwesterly winds. The highest winds will occur along and west of the Missouri River. The light rain should change over to light snow later tonight into the morning hours on Monday.

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April is Citizen Science Month! NOAA is celebrating the hundreds of thousands of volunteers that contribute millions of observations across the country through projects supported all across our agency. Citizen scientists play a significant role in helping NOAA meet its mission of observing, predicting and understanding the environment. Thank you for helping us solve the challenges we face through the power of the crowd! More here: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/stories/countdown-to-earth-day-noaa-unlocks-citizen-science-project-of-day>

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Today in Weather History

April 11, 1993: Heavy wet snow fell over a portion of northeast South Dakota, mainly east of Aberdeen and north of Watertown. The snowfall began on the 10th and carried into the 11th. 2 to 6 inches were reported across the area. However, 8 inches were reported near Summit and 7 inches near Sisseton.

April 11, 2007: A large upper-level low-pressure area wrapped snow into far northeast South Dakota. Snow covered and slushy roads resulted from the heavy wet snow making travel tough. Some schools and events postponed or canceled. Snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Sisseton and Milbank, 7 inches at Castlewood, 8 inches at Bryant, 9 inches at Toronto and Clear Lake, and 12 inches at Summit.

April 11, 2008: An intense area of low pressure moving northeast across the Central Plains brought widespread heavy snow and strong winds to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts from 3 to 16 inches combined with north winds of 30 to 45 mph brought widespread blowing and drifting snow with blizzard conditions and heavy drifting affecting much of the area. A few thunderstorms also occurred, bringing rapid snowfall rates to some areas. Many vehicles went into the ditch with many other accidents occurring. Most roads became nearly impassable with no travel advised for parts of central and much of northeast South Dakota. There were many people stranded to wait out the storm. Also, many schools and businesses were closed on Friday the 11th. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Faulkton, Ree Heights, Kidder, and Hayti, 7 inches at Garden City, Castlewood, Miller, Britton, and near Stephan, 9 inches at Waubay, Bryant, and Roy Lake, 10 inches at Big Stone City and Milbank, 11 inches at Wilmot, Watertown, and Victor, 15 inches at Summit, and 16 inches at Clear Lake.

1965: Severe thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest spawned fifty-one tornadoes killing over 250 people and causing more than 200 million dollars damage. Indiana, Ohio and Michigan were hardest hit in the "Palm Sunday Tornado Outbreak". Although no F5's were officially reported, at least 22 were rated as F3 or F4. This is the third deadliest day for tornadoes on record, behind the Super Outbreak of 4/3/1974, and the outbreak that included the Tri-State Tornado of 3/18/1925. Dr. Ted Fujita discovered suction vortices during the Palm Sunday tornado outbreak. It had been believed the reason why tornadoes could hit one house and leave another across the street completely unscathed was because the whole tornado would "jump" from one house to another. However, the actual reason is because most of the destruction is caused by suction vortices: small, intense mini-tornadoes within the main tornado.

1988: Sixteen cities in the western U.S., nine in California, reported new record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 95 degrees at Sacramento and 96 degrees at Bakersfield, California were the warmest of record for so early in the season.

1989: Forty-four cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 25 degrees at Conway Arkansas, 29 degrees at Dallas/Fort Worth Texas, and 22 degrees at Ozark Arkansas, were April records. Lows of 26 degrees at Hot Springs Arkansas and 31 degrees at Shreveport Louisiana equaled April records.

2012: The deluge began around 3:30 a.m. Over the next few hours, fast-moving hailstones pummeled the area north of Amarillo, Tex., which had lately been sitting in dust due to a lack of precipitation, according to the news organization. The hail mixed with melting hail turning the dust to mud and the mix create four-foot high mounds that shut down a major highway for the next 18 hours.

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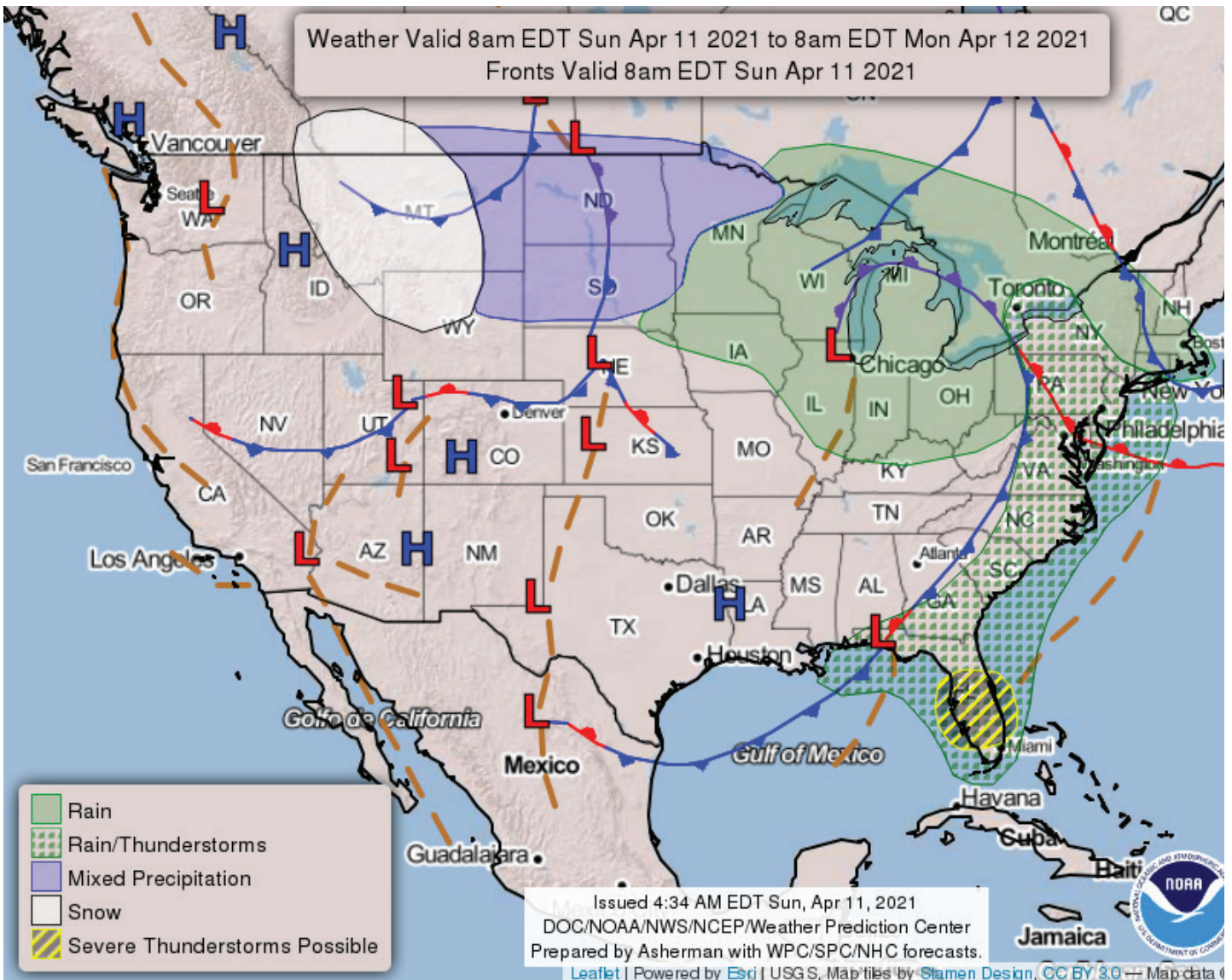
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 62 °F at 4:54 PM
Low Temp: 29 °F at 7:20 AM
Wind: 26 mph at 2:08 PM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1910
Record Low: 8° in 1939
Average High: 55°F
Average Low: 30°F
Average Precip in Apr.: 0.47
Precip to date in Apr.: 2.11
Average Precip to date: 2.65
Precip Year to Date: 2.29
Sunset Tonight: 8:15 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:53 a.m.



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FALLING IS NOT FAILING

Watching a child take his or her first steps is a marvelous sight to behold. Pictures are taken, memories are created and lives changed.

Recently a mother and father brought their infant son to the Garden for his first steps. After finding the "perfect" location for this historic event, the father gently placed his hands under the child's arms. As the child looked down at his tiny feet and with uncertainty began to "toddle" forward, the father relaxed his grip. Slowly, as the child began to walk on his own, he removed his hands completely. After a few staggering and uncertain steps the little fellow began to carry his weight on his own two feet. The parents were thrilled!

Suddenly, the child lost his balance and fell to the ground. Rushing to pick him up the father smiled, hugged him, and encouraged him to "try again." There was no scolding or rejection for falling. Rather, the father lifted him, dried his tears, hugged him, and helped him to begin again.

How like our Heavenly Father. If the Lord is delighted in the way we walk – even though we fail and fall – He will rescue us, lift us, and "make our steps firm." As long as we do our part to walk in His ways, He will do His part and give us the stability to "move on."

When we falter and fall, He does not consider us a failure. He lovingly lifts us, tenderly dries our tears, and then carefully watches over us as we struggle to walk with Him in His ways. He will never leave us nor forsake us if we fall.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your care, concern, and compassion that always supports and sustains us. May we trust Your arms to hold us up! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand. Psalm 37:23-24

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2021 Community Events

- Cancelled** Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 03/27/2021 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/10/2021 Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/24/2021 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/25/2021 Princess Prom (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/01/2021 Lions Club Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/31/2021 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 6/7-9/2021 St. John's Lutheran Church VBS
- 06/18/2021 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
- 06/19/2021 Lions Crazy Golf Fest at Olive Grove Golf Course, Noon
- 07/04/2021 Firecracker Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
- 07/11/2021 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 10am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/22/2021 Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/30/2021-08/03/2021 State "B" American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 08/06/2021 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/11/2021 Lions Club Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/12/2021 Sunflower Classic Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
- 09/18-19 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 10/08/2021 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/09/2021 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/29/2021 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2021 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/13/2021 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/25/2021 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
- 12/11/2021 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-Noon

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

02-08-18-19-25

(two, eight, eighteen, nineteen, twenty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$121,000

Lotto America

16-24-43-49-52, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(sixteen, twenty-four, forty-three, forty-nine, fifty-two; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.8 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$220 million

Powerball

14-16-23-50-53, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 3

(fourteen, sixteen, twenty-three, fifty, fifty-three; Powerball: three; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

One dead, three hurt after SUV flips near Box Elder

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — One person is dead and three others hurt after their SUV overturned west of Box Elder.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported Saturday that the crash occurred late Thursday afternoon.

The Department of Public Safety said preliminary information indicates a 2005 Jeep Cherokee overturned on Country Road. A 27-year-old man died from his injuries. The 26-year-old female driver and two other male passengers, ages 21 and 25, were hurt as well.

No names have been released pending notification of family.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. Department of Public Safety spokesman Tony Mangan said charges are pending against the driver.

Woman's trial in baby's death 40 years ago delayed again

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The trial for a woman accused of killing her newborn son 40 years ago has been delayed again.

Theresa Bentaas' trial was supposed to start Monday in Minnehaha County court. But the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported Friday that the trial has now been delayed indefinitely. Randy Sample of the Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office said both sides agreed to a postponement and a new start date hasn't been set.

Bentaas, 58, is charged with murder and manslaughter in the 1981 death of the infant found abandoned in a cornfield ditch in Sioux Falls. The baby died of exposure. Investigators used DNA to link Bentaas to the newborn in 2019.

The postponement marks the third delay in her trial since she was charged in March 2019. The parties in September 2019 said they were having trouble finding times when all witnesses were available. Bentaas' attorney delayed again this past November, citing a rise in COVID-19 cases.

One dead, one injured after Rapid City motel shooting

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police are trying to piece together how a man was shot to death and another

injured at a Rapid City motel.

Police got a call of shots fired at the South Dakota Rose Inn on Friday afternoon, the Rapid City Journal reported. They arrived to find a man shot to death in a room and another injured man in the area. That man was taken to a hospital but police spokesman Brendyn Medina declined to say how he was hurt.

Investigators used surveillance video to identify a car witnesses saw flee the hotel as they heard gunfire. An officer located the car on Friday evening. By the time the officer had turned around to stop the vehicle the driver had parked in a driveway. A group of people got out and ran into a house.

The group later surrendered. Medina said the entire group was detained for questioning but not arrested. Investigators still have to determine who was responsible for the shooting, the relationships between the victims and the people in the car and their connection to the home they fled into, Medina said.

The Latest: Official says Chinese vaccines not very powerful

By The Associated Press undefined

BEIJING — In a rare admission of the weakness of Chinese coronavirus vaccines, the country's top disease control official says their effectiveness is low and the government is considering mixing them to get a boost.

Chinese vaccines "don't have very high protection rates," said the director of the China Centers for Disease Control, Gao Fu, at a conference Saturday in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

Beijing has distributed hundreds of millions of doses abroad while trying to promote doubt about the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine made using the previously experimental messenger RNA, or mRNA, process.

"It's now under formal consideration whether we should use different vaccines from different technical lines for the immunization process," Gao said.

Officials at a news conference Sunday didn't respond directly to questions about Gao's comment or possible changes in official plans. But another CDC official said developers are working on mRNA-based vaccines.

Experts say mixing vaccines, or sequential immunization, might boost effectiveness. Researchers in Britain are studying a possible combination of Pfizer-BioNTech and the traditional AstraZeneca vaccine.

THE VIRUS OUTBREAK:

- Ecuador, Peru head to polls under strict virus measures
- COVID-19 produces division in the European Union
- Thailand hits new daily record with nearly 1,000 virus cases
- Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic> and <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-vaccine>

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

PARIS — France's health minister said Sunday that residents over age 55 will be granted access to COVID-19 vaccinations starting Monday, which is earlier than had been anticipated.

Health Minister Olivier Veran said citizens in the over-55 age bracket will be eligible for for the AstraZeneca vaccine or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine that is expected to arrive in France a week ahead of schedule.

Veran told the newspaper Le Journal de Dimanche that "many family caregivers are between 55 and 60, while others are in couples with older partners...They were worried about having to wait another month. Now, they can protect themselves."

The shortened timeline comes as France is trying to increase the pace of its vaccination program, which has been criticized as sluggish, and to gain ground on the spread of the more contagious virus variant first identified in Britain.

At the same time, French officials have defended a policy of reserving the AstraZeneca vaccine for people over 55 with serious health problems. Unusual blot clots have been found in a small number of younger

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recipients of that vaccine.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea says it will resume administering AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine to all eligible people between the ages of 30 and 60.

Last week, South Korea suspended the use of AstraZeneca vaccines for those 60 years old or younger while awaiting the outcome of the European Medicine Agency's review.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said Sunday it will restart the use of AstraZeneca vaccine beginning Monday, citing studies showing that the vaccine's benefits outweighs the risk of side effects.

An agency statement said those aged 30 or younger will be excluded, as U.K. authorities have recommended they take alternative vaccines.

It says it's found three cases of blood clots from vaccinated people in South Korea — but none belong to the type of side effects determined by European authorities.

Those who would get AstraZeneca vaccines from Monday include medical workers and people in long-term care facilities, those at special schools and welfare centers for disabled people and homeless people.

BEIJING — China has reported 10 new confirmed coronavirus cases and no deaths.

All the new infections were believed have been acquired abroad, the National Health Commission announced Sunday.

China's death toll stood at 4,636 out of 90,410 confirmed cases.

ISLAMABAD— Pakistan has reported it's highest single-day death toll from COVID-19.

The National Command and Control Center announced Sunday that 114 deaths from coronavirus had been confirmed, as well as more than 5,000 new cases.

A weekend ban on inter-city transport has been extended until mid-April, as part of measures to control a surge in virus infections and deaths. The ban will not apply on freight, ambulance services and supplies of medical equipment.

Pakistan, with a population of 220 million people, has vaccinated more than a million people using the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine since February.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lankan health authorities have imposed tough restrictions ahead of this week's New Year festival in a bid to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Health officials on Sunday banned musical shows and many other traditional games, including the tug-of-war, for the April 14 holiday.

They've also ordered other gatherings not to exceed 100 people, and asked that gatherings for rituals be limited to immediate family members and close relatives.

The country's New Year festival typically involves large-scale events, games, competitions and musical shows.

Armed man fired shots, barricaded inside Honolulu hotel room

HONOLULU (AP) — An armed man barricaded himself inside a hotel room at a resort in Honolulu and fired shots through the door, a police official said.

No one was hurt in the gunfire late Saturday at The Kahala Hotel & Resort, Honolulu police Capt. Brian Lynch told news outlets. The resort said in a statement that hotel security and law enforcement evacuated the area around the room and everyone was sheltering in place.

Photos and videos shared by local media showed about 100 people locked down in the hotel's ballroom. Other images from outside the resort showed a large police presence, including a SWAT team.

Lynch said police were waiting for the man to come out of the room. Police believe the man is in the military.

'Suspicious' blackout strikes Iran's Natanz nuclear site

By JON GAMBRELL and ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's underground Natanz nuclear facility lost power Sunday just hours after starting up new advanced centrifuges capable of enriching uranium faster, the latest incident to strike the site amid negotiations over the tattered atomic accord with world powers.

As Iranian officials investigated the outage, many Israeli media outlets offered the similar assessment that a cyberattack darkened Natanz and damaged a facility that is home to sensitive centrifuges. While the reports offered no sourcing for the evaluation, Israeli media maintains a close relationship with the country's military and intelligence agencies.

If Israel caused the blackout, it further heightens the tensions between the two nations already engaged in a shadow conflict across the wider Middle East.

It also complicates efforts by the U.S., Israel's main security partner, to re-enter the atomic accord aimed at limiting Tehran's program so it couldn't pursue a nuclear weapon if it chose. As news of the blackout emerged, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin landed in Israel on Sunday for talks with Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Power at Natanz had been cut across the facility comprised of above-ground workshops and underground enrichment halls, civilian nuclear program spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi told Iranian state television.

"We still do not know the reason for this electricity outage and have to look into it further," Kamalvandi said. "Fortunately, there was no casualty or damage and there is no particular contamination or problem."

Asked by the state TV correspondent if it was a "technical defect or sabotage," Kamalvandi declined to comment.

Malek Shariati Niasar, a Tehran-based lawmaker who serves as spokesman for the Iranian parliament's energy committee, wrote on Twitter that the incident was "very suspicious," raising concerns about possible "sabotage and infiltration." He said lawmakers were pursuing details of the incident as well.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, which monitors Iran's program, said it was "aware of the media reports," but declined to comment.

Natanz was largely built underground to withstand enemy airstrikes. It became a flashpoint for Western fears about Iran's nuclear program in 2002, when satellite photos showed Iran building its underground centrifuges facility at the site, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the capital, Tehran.

Natanz suffered a mysterious explosion at its advanced centrifuge assembly plant in July that authorities later described as sabotage. Iran now is rebuilding that facility deep inside a nearby mountain.

Israel, Iran's regional archenemy, has been suspected of carrying out that attack as well as launching other assaults, as world powers now negotiate with Tehran in Vienna over its nuclear deal.

Iran also blamed Israel for the killing of a scientist who began the country's military nuclear program decades earlier. The Stuxnet computer virus, discovered in 2010 and widely believed to be a joint U.S.-Israeli creation, once disrupted and destroyed Iranian centrifuges at Natanz.

"It's hard for me to believe it's a coincidence," said Yoel Guzansky, a senior fellow at Tel Aviv's Institute for National Security Studies, of Sunday's blackout. "If it's not a coincidence, and that's a big if, someone is trying to send a message that 'we can limit Iran's advance and we have red lines.'"

Israel has not claimed any of the attacks, though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly has described Iran as the major threat faced by his country in recent weeks.

Meeting with Austin on Sunday, Gantz said Israel viewed America as an ally against all threats, including Iran.

"The Tehran of today poses a strategic threat to international security, to the entire Middle East and to the state of Israel," Gantz said. "And we will work closely with our American allies to ensure that any new agreement with Iran will secure the vital interests of the world, of the United States, prevent a dangerous arms race in our region, and protect the state of Israel."

The Israeli army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, also appeared to reference Iran.

The Israeli military's "operations in the Middle East are not hidden from the eyes of the enemy," Kochavi

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said. "They are watching us, seeing (our) abilities and weighing their steps with caution."

Multiple Israeli media outlets reported Sunday that a cyberattack caused the blackout in Natanz. Public broadcaster Kan said Israel was likely behind the attack, citing Israel's alleged responsibility for the Stuxnet attacks a decade ago. Channel 12 TV cited "experts" as estimating the attack shut down entire sections of the facility. None of the reports included sources or explanations on how the outlets came to that assessment.

In Tehran, Iranian officials meanwhile awaited the arrival of South Korean Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun, the first visit by a premier from Seoul since before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran on Friday released a South Korean oil tanker held since January amid a dispute with Seoul over billions of dollars of its assets frozen there.

On Saturday, Iran announced it had launched a chain of 164 IR-6 centrifuges at the plant. Officials also began testing the IR-9 centrifuge, which they say will enrich uranium 50 times faster than Iran's first-generation centrifuges, the IR-1. The nuclear deal limited Iran to using only IR-1s for enrichment.

Since then-President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018, Tehran has abandoned all the limits of its uranium stockpile. It now enriches up to 20% purity, a technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. Iran maintains its atomic program is for peaceful purposes.

On Tuesday, an Iranian cargo ship said to serve as a floating base for Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard forces off the coast of Yemen was struck by an explosion, likely from a limpet mine. Iran has blamed Israel for the blast. That attack escalated a long-running shadow war in Mideast waterways targeting shipping in the region.

Thailand hits new daily record with nearly 1,000 virus cases

By BUSABA SIVASOMBOON Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Health Ministry warned Sunday that restrictions may need to be tightened to slow the spread of a fresh coronavirus wave, as the country hit a daily record for new cases.

The ministry confirmed 967 new infections, the highest ever in a 24-hour period, bringing Thailand's total to 32,625 cases since January last year — including 97 deaths. The expanding outbreak comes after the country kept the virus largely in check for most of last year.

If the number of cases is still rising in two weeks, measures beyond the current restrictions on nightlife and longstanding social distancing rules will need to be put in place, said Dr. Sophon Iamsirithaworn, deputy director general of the Department of Disease Control.

Most of the recent cases have been traced to an outbreak that originated last month at several nightlife entertainment venues in Bangkok, Sophon said. He said people should be working from home and exercise vigilance.

Tests among those infected at the Bangkok nightspots found some patients infected with the U.K. variant of the coronavirus, which has been found to be more infectious than the original strain.

The rapid rise in cases has been most marked in the capital, Bangkok, and the tourist destinations of Chiangmai in the north and Chonburi province in the east, home to the seaside resort town of Pattaya.

As a hub for commerce and transport throughout the country, Bangkok is a potential vector for the transmission of any disease. The risk is heightened this week as Thais celebrate their traditional Songkran new year's holiday, during which many normally leave the capital to celebrate with their families in their old hometowns.

Despite the risk, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha did not issue any ban on inter-provincial travel when he announced measures last week to combat the spread of the virus.

His government ordered 41 provinces to close their entertainment venues for 14 days. Provincial governors were given the power to take additional measures, including entry bans, closures, curfews and tests of visitors from other provinces.

Chiang Mai provincial health officials are requiring visitors from Bangkok and four surrounding provinces to self-quarantine for the duration of their stay, up to 14 days, the state Thai News agency reported. A

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280-bed field hospital has been set up to treat COVID-19 patients.

Bangkok Criminal Court on Saturday sentenced the managers of two clubs to which the outbreak was traced to two months in jail for violating emergency measures instituted last year covering health regulations to guard against the virus, said Maj. Gen. Sophon Sarawat, chief of the district where the establishments are located.

The outbreak has become a political issue because of charges that senior members of government may have patronized the clubs and flouted health regulations. The country's transport minister tested positive for the virus, but he and other Cabinet members have denied the allegations.

Dr. Sophon explained that another reason the situation is "worrisome" is because the age groups among which most cases are found are in the 20-29 and 30-39 age brackets.

"These groups have active lifestyles, therefore they can spread the virus to larger numbers of people," Sophon said. He noted also that they are relatively young and strong, tending to show little or no symptoms, thus masking their illness.

Bangkok has already made arrangements for hospitals to expand their number of beds and to set up field hospitals on military property.

A longer-term concern is that Thailand has been lagging in vaccinating its 69 million population, making it more difficult to bounce back from the latest outbreak. According to Deputy Government Spokesperson Traisree Taisaranakul a total of 537,380 coronavirus vaccine doses were administered in 77 provinces though Friday.

Official: Chinese vaccines' effectiveness low

By JOE McDONALD and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — In a rare admission of the weakness of Chinese coronavirus vaccines, the country's top disease control official says their effectiveness is low and the government is considering mixing them to get a boost.

Chinese vaccines "don't have very high protection rates," said the director of the China Centers for Disease Control, Gao Fu, at a conference Saturday in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

Beijing has distributed hundreds of millions of doses abroad while trying to promote doubt about the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine made using the previously experimental messenger RNA, or mRNA, process.

"It's now under formal consideration whether we should use different vaccines from different technical lines for the immunization process," Gao said.

Officials at a news conference Sunday didn't respond directly to questions about Gao's comment or possible changes in official plans. But another CDC official said developers are working on mRNA-based vaccines.

"The mRNA vaccines developed in our country have also entered the clinical trial stage," said the official, Wang Huaqing. He gave no timeline for possible use.

Experts say mixing vaccines, or sequential immunization, might boost effectiveness. Researchers in Britain are studying a possible combination of Pfizer-BioNTech and the traditional AstraZeneca vaccine.

The coronavirus pandemic, which began in central China in late 2019, marks the first time the Chinese drug industry has played a role in responding to a global health emergency.

Vaccines made by two state-owned drug makers, Sinovac and Sinopharm, have been exported to 22 countries including Mexico, Turkey, Indonesia, Hungary, Brazil and Turkey, according to the foreign ministry.

The effectiveness of a Sinovac vaccine at preventing symptomatic infections was found to be as low as 50.4% by researchers in Brazil, near the 50% threshold at which health experts say a vaccine is useful. By comparison, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been found to be 97% effective.

Health experts say Chinese vaccines are unlikely to be sold to the United States, Western Europe and Japan due to the complexity of the approval process.

A Sinovac spokesman, Liu Peicheng, acknowledged varying levels of effectiveness have been found but said that can be due to the age of people in a study, the strain of virus and other factors.

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Beijing has yet to approve any foreign vaccines for use in China.

Gao gave no details of possible changes in strategy but cited mRNA as a possibility.

"Everyone should consider the benefits mRNA vaccines can bring for humanity," Gao said. "We must follow it carefully and not ignore it just because we already have several types of vaccines already."

Gao previously questioned the safety of mRNA vaccines. He was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as saying in December he couldn't rule out negative side effects because they were being used for the first time on healthy people.

Chinese state media and popular health and science blogs also have questioned the safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

As of April 2, some 34 million people in China have received both of the two doses required for Chinese vaccines and about 65 million received one, according to Gao.

The Sinovac spokesman, Liu, said studies find protection "may be better" if time between vaccinations is longer than the current 14 days but gave no indication that might be made standard practice.

EU and COVID-19: When a vaccine only adds to the trouble

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders no longer meet around a common oval summit table to broker their famed compromises. Instead, each of the 27 watches the other heads of state or government with suspicion via a video screen that shows a mosaic of faraway capitals.

This is what COVID-19 has wrought.

Lofty hopes that the crisis would encourage a new and tighter bloc to face a common challenge have given way to the reality of division: The pandemic has set member nation against member nation, and many capitals against the EU itself, as symbolized by the disjointed, virtual meetings the leaders now hold.

Leaders fight over everything from virus passports to push tourism to the conditions for receiving pandemic aid. Perhaps worse, some attack the very structures the EU built to deal with the pandemic. Last month, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz decried how vaccine-buying in the bloc had become a "bazaar," alleging poorer countries struck out while the rich thrived.

"Internal political cohesion and respect for European values continue to be challenged in different corners of the Union," the European Policy Center said in a study one year after the pandemic swept from China and engulfed Europe.

In some places, there have been demands for political accountability.

In the Czech Republic on Wednesday, Prime Minister Andrej Babis fired his health minister, the third to be sacked during the pandemic in one of Europe's hardest-hit countries. Last week, Slovakia's government resigned over a secret deal to buy Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, and in Italy, Premier Giuseppe Conte was forced to resign over his handling of the economic fallout of the pandemic.

But overall, political upheaval across the EU has been muted, considering that half a million people have died in the pandemic. At the EU level, there has been no serious call for the ouster of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the bloc's chief executive, despite her acknowledgment that serious mistakes were made.

It is clear that the EU has not risen to the occasion so far — and it's not clear if it can. The European Policy Center noted that "there is no immediate end in sight to the health crisis, not to mention the inevitable structural economic challenges."

The EU and its countries, of course, fell victim to some events beyond their control, as other nations around the globe did. Good arguments can be made that part of the the bloc's problems are due to delayed deliveries from Anglo-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. But some of the crisis was plainly self-inflicted.

The typical complaint is that there is no united EU health structure to tackle the pandemic and that largely health is still a national domain. But for years, the bloc has had a common drug regulator, the European Medicines Agency. And since last summer, the EU decided to pool vaccine purchases and spread them

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equitably among the 27 nations, big and small, richer and poorer.

But while some non-EU nations were speeding ahead with emergency use authorizations, the EMA moved more slowly, at least in part because it followed a process that was largely similar to the standard licensing procedure that would be granted to any new vaccine. The agency's first vaccine greenlight came some three weeks after one was OK'd in the United Kingdom — the first country to authorize a rigorously tested COVID-19 shot.

The bloc never caught up. On Friday, the U.K., for example, had given 46.85% of their citizens at least one dose, compared to 14.18% in the EU.

The EU also made the mistake of overly equating securing vaccines with getting shots in the arms — and underestimating the difficulties involved in mass producing and distributing such a delicate product. While EU negotiators were focusing on liability clauses in a contract, other nations were thinking about logistics and pushing for speed and volume.

And while nations like the United States were sealing their borders to vaccine exports, the EU took the high moral ground and kept exports flowing — to the extent that over the first quarter of the year almost as many doses left the bloc for third countries as were delivered to the clamoring EU member states.

On top of missteps with the vaccine rollout, the EU will be slow to disburse money from its 750 billion-euro (\$890 billion) rescue package, which will share debt and give out grants to poorer members in an unprecedented way. But bickering among leaders over some clauses and intricate rules have made it anything but a speedy process. What's worse, the German constitutional court could still torpedo or further delay the whole initiative.

The nature of the crisis may be different from past ones, but familiar obstacles arose: onerous bureaucracy, unnecessary delays as legalistic and technical disputes overshadowed the bigger picture, and bickering politicians putting self-interest before the common good.

This past week was a case in point. The EMA reiterated its advice for all member nations to stand together — this time to keep on using the AstraZeneca jabs for all adults despite a possible link to extremely rare cases of blood clotting.

Instead, hours after the announcement, Belgium went against that recommendation, barring AstraZeneca for citizens 55 and under, and others issued or kept similar restrictions.

"If government leaders don't trust the science, trust in vaccination is gone. If we don't rely on (the EMA), ANY common EU approach is doomed," said leading EU parliamentarian Guy Verhofstadt, normally the staunchest of EU backers.

It is noteworthy that the EU nations insisted on delaying their vaccination drives in December specifically because they wanted to wait for the EMA's decision. But many have repeatedly ignored the EMA advice in the months since, setting more restrictions on vaccine use than the agency has called for.

This extreme hesitancy by many countries — in addition to often seesawing advice — has become a hallmark of a vaccination rollout gone wrong. It has exacerbated the supply and issues of trust the bloc has faced.

With barely half of the doses that the EU had contracted for the first quarter delivered — 105 million instead of 195 million — the video summit last month saw EU nations squabbling over shots and a distribution system that a few thought unfair.

Now there are expectations the EU can turn it around. It is hoping for 360 million shots this quarter — that would keep the promise alive to vaccinate 70% of adults by the end of summer in the bloc of 450 million inhabitants.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron gave a glimmer of hope to millions when he said that a return to a semblance of normal life could perhaps come by mid-May when people could "reclaim our art de vivre embodied by our restaurants and our cafes that we love so much."

By then, EU leaders might even mingle in person again at summits that go through the night.

AP source: Electric vehicle battery firms settle trade spat

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By MATTHEW DALY and TOM KRISHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two big South Korean electric vehicle battery makers have settled a long-running trade dispute that will allow one of them to move ahead with plans to make batteries in Georgia, a person briefed on the matter says.

LG Energy Solution and SK Innovation reached the settlement, ending the need for President Joe Biden to intervene in the dispute, the person said Saturday. The person asked not to be identified because the companies have not yet announced the settlement. No details were available.

The U.S. International Trade Commission decided in February that SK stole 22 trade secrets from LG Energy, and that SK should be barred from importing, making or selling batteries in the United States for 10 years.

The decision could have left Ford and Volkswagen scrambling for batteries as they both roll out additional electric vehicle models. SK has contracts to make batteries for an electric Ford F-150 pickup truck and an electric Volkswagen SUV.

The commission said SK could supply batteries to Ford Motor Co. for four years and to Volkswagen AG for two years.

The decision jeopardized a \$2.6 billion battery factory that SK is building in Commerce, Georgia.

Politicians were calling on Biden to overrule the commission's decision. Biden had until Sunday night to make a decision.

US-Philippines officials discuss concerns over China's ships

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Saturday discussed with his Philippine counterpart China's recent positioning of "militia vessels" near the Philippines in the South China Sea.

Austin spoke by phone with Philippine Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana while Austin was flying from Washington to Israel to begin an international trip.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said Austin and Lorenzana discussed the situation in the South China Sea and the recent massing of Chinese vessels at Whitsun Reef, which has drawn criticism from Manila.

China has said its vessels are there for fishing.

In their phone call, Austin proposed to Lorenzana several measures to deepen defense cooperation, including by "enhancing situational awareness of threats in the South China Sea," Kirby said. He did not elaborate.

Kirby said earlier this week that the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group, as well as the amphibious ship USS Makin Island, are operating in the South China Sea.

The U.S. has no military forces based permanently in the Philippines but sometimes rotates forces to the country under the U.S.-Philippines Visiting Forces Agreement.

The recent gathering of Chinese vessels near the Philippines is among moves the United States has criticized as efforts by Beijing to intimidate smaller nations in the region.

Reports: Myanmar forces kill 82 in single day in city

YANGON (AP) — At least 82 people were killed in one day in a crackdown by Myanmar security forces on pro-democracy protesters, according to reports Saturday from independent local media and an organization that keeps track of casualties since the February coup.

Friday's death toll in Bago was the biggest one-day total for a single city since March 14, when just over 100 people were killed in Yangon, the country's biggest city. Bago is about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Yangon. The Associated Press is unable to independently verify the number of deaths.

The death toll of 82 was a preliminary one compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which issues daily counts of casualties and arrests from the crackdown in the aftermath of the Feb.

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1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Their tallies are widely accepted as highly credible because cases are not added until they have been confirmed, with the details published on their website.

In its Saturday report, the group said that it expected the number of dead in Bago to rise as more cases were verified.

The online news site Myanmar Now also reported that 82 people had been killed, citing an unnamed source involved with charity rescue work. Myanmar Now and other local media said the bodies had been collected by the military and dumped on the grounds of a Buddhist pagoda.

At least 701 protesters and bystanders have been killed by security forces since the army's takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

The attack on Bago was the third in the past week involving the massive use of force to try to crush the persistent opposition to the ruling junta.

Attacks were launched Wednesday on hardcore opponents of military rule who had set up strongholds in the towns of Kalay and Taze in the country's north. In both places, at least 11 people -- possibly including some bystanders -- were reported killed.

The security forces were accused of using heavy weapons in their attacks, including rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, though such allegations could not be independently confirmed by The Associated Press. Photos posted on social media from Bago appeared to show fragments of mortar shells.

Most protests in cities and town around the country are carried out by nonviolent demonstrators who consider themselves part of a civil disobedience movement.

But as the police and military escalated the use of lethal force, a hardcore faction of protesters armed themselves with homemade weapons such as firebombs in the name of self-defense. In Kalay, activists dubbed themselves a "civil army" and some equipped themselves with rudimentary hunting rifles that are traditional in the remote area.

A report by Myanmar Now said residents of Tamu, a town in the same region as Kalay, used hunting rifles Saturday to ambush a military convoy, and claimed to kill three soldiers.

The junta has taken other measures as well to discourage resistance. It recently published a wanted list of 140 people active in the arts and journalism charged with spreading information that undermines the stability of the country and the rule of law. The penalty for the offense is up to three years' imprisonment. Arrests of those on the list have been highly publicized in state media.

State television channel MRTV reported Friday night that a military court had sentenced to death 19 people -- 17 in absentia -- for allegedly killing an army officer in Yangon on March 27. The attack took place in an area of the city that is under martial law, and the court action appeared to be the first time the death sentence has been imposed under the junta's rule.

The U.N. special envoy for Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, arrived Friday in the Thai capital Bangkok on a regional mission to resolve the crisis in Myanmar. She intends to sound out several Southeast Asian governments for their ideas but has been denied permission to visit Myanmar.

A masterpiece from Hideki Matsuyama to take Masters lead

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The storms that stopped play for a little more than hour Saturday at the Masters were expected. The masterpiece delivered by Hideki Matsuyama after the break was not.

Matsuyama played the final eight holes in 6-under par, turning a two-shot deficit into a four-shot lead. With four flawless swings and three putts late on the back nine at Augusta National, he went from part of a logjam on the leaderboard to the cusp of becoming the first Japanese player to win a major.

The final touch was a superb par save from 25 yards behind the 18th green for a 7-under 65, the only bogey-free round this week at the Masters.

"I wouldn't have believed it," Matsuyama said through his interpreter. "But I did play well today. And my game plan was carried out, and hopefully, tomorrow I can continue good form."

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It all started in his car, where the 29-year-old waited out the storm delay. Part of the time was playing on his phone. He also thought about his last shot, a drive into trees right of the 11th fairway.

"During the rain delay, I just figured I can't hit anything worse than that," Matsuyama said. "And so maybe it relieved some pressure. I don't know. But I did hit it well coming in."

Matsuyama was at 11-under 205, four shots clear of Xander Schauffele (68), Justin Rose (72), Marc Leishman (70) and Masters rookie Will Zalatoris (71).

It was 10 years ago when Matsuyama first played in the Masters as the Asia-Pacific Amateur winner. He learned then he could handle Augusta National as the only amateur to make the cut in 2011, finishing on the same score (1-under 287) as defending champion Phil Mickelson.

Now comes the real test.

"If Hideki plays well, he can control his own destiny, I guess," Leishman said. "But a lot can happen around here. I've seen what can happen. I've had bad rounds here myself and I've had good rounds. You can make up four shots fairly quickly, but you have to do a lot of things right to do that."

Matsuyama did just about everything right, starting with his first shot after the delay — a 7-iron he punched under the trees and onto an 11th green slightly slowed by the moisture to 20 feet for birdie.

After his birdie from 10 feet on the 12th, Augusta National came to life. Imagine the roars if there had been a full capacity of spectators.

In a sequence that took no more than two minutes, Schauffele ran in a 60-foot eagle putt across the 15th green to momentarily tie for the lead at 7 under; back on the 12th, Rose made a 25-foot putt for his first birdie since the second hole, giving him the lead at 8 under.

That lasted as long as it took Matsuyama to cash in on his 5-iron to the 15th by making a 5-foot eagle putt to reach 9 under, his first time in the lead. And no one could keep up.

"I've been playing with the lead the whole week, and obviously there's been an hour where Hideki has sort of moved out there in front," Rose said. "All the guys chasing at 7-under par are all capable of that little run Hideki has had. So it's all up for grabs tomorrow."

Matsuyama followed with an 8-iron to 5 feet to the front right shelf on the par-3 16th for birdie, and his pitching wedge to the back pin on the 17th had enough spin to settle 10 feet from the hole for another.

Corey Connors had a hole-in-one on No. 6 in a 68 and was at 6-under 210. Jordan Spieth was within two shots of the lead despite a double bogey on the seventh hole, but he couldn't keep pace and shot 72 to fall six shots behind.

Matsuyama will play in the final group with Schauffele, a comfortable pairing. Schauffele's mother was raised in Japan and he speaks enough Japanese to share a few laughs with Matsuyama during Saturday's pairing.

That won't eliminate all the pressure. A major is on the line, and no other course than Augusta National is capable of serving up surprises.

Matsuyama's lone shot at a major was at Quail Hollow in the 2017 PGA Championship when he was one shot behind with three holes to play and missed a crucial par putt. He was in tears after that round, a player under enormous pressure in golf-mad Japan.

Matsuyama wasn't the first Japanese star of his generation — that was close friend Ryo Ishikawa — but he is by far the most accomplished. Matsuyama has 14 worldwide wins, five on the PGA Tour. He has reached as high as No. 2 in the world.

He rarely can go anywhere on the PGA Tour without a dozen or more Japanese media following. Their numbers are limited this year because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

"Being in front of the media is still difficult. It's not my favorite thing to do," Matsuyama said through his interpreter. "It's been a lot less stress for me. I've enjoyed this week."

A victory would give Japan a sweep this week. Tsubasa Kajitani won the Augusta National Women's Amateur last Saturday.

"I wasn't able to watch it. I was playing last week in Texas," Matsuyama said. "It was fantastic. I hope I can follow in her shoes and make Japan proud."

Trump addresses GOP as power to shape national debate wanes

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump insists he's enjoying his life off Twitter. The press releases his aides fire off on an increasingly frequent basis are more "elegant," he says. Plus there's no risk of backlash for retweeting unsavory accounts.

But since Trump was barred from major social media channels after helping incite the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, his power to shape the national conversation is being tested.

Trump transformed from a reality television star to a politician and president by bending the tools of communication and the media to his will. He still connects with his supporters through his releases and appearances on Fox News and other conservative outlets, where he repeats misinformation about the 2020 election. And he remains a powerful force in the Republican Party, with a starring role Saturday at a Republican National Committee event at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida.

Still, the sway over American life he once enjoyed appears to be eroding — at least for now.

"It'll never be the same for Trump unless he's a candidate again," said Harold Holzer, an historian who is director of Hunter College's Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute and wrote a book about presidents and the press. "I don't think it's unnatural for coverage to diminish. I'm sure it's tough on his ego, given how much oxygen he sucks up and how much ink he generates, but it's not unnatural for an ex-president to get less attention."

It's been a dramatic adjustment nonetheless. Trump's tweets used to drive the news cycle, with CNN, MSNBC and Fox News often spending dozens of hours a week combined displaying his missives, according to a GDELT analysis of television news archives. Since he was barred from Twitter and other platforms, Trump can no longer speak directly to large swaths of his audience and must now rely on his supporters and conservative and mainstream media to amplify his messages.

To compensate for the ongoing blackout, Trump aides have been pumping out statements and endorsements that often sound just like the tweets he used to dictate. "Happy Easter to ALL, including the Radical Left CRAZIES who rigged our Presidential Election, and want to destroy our Country!" read one sent from his political action committee. ("Happy Easter!" was the more subdued version offered by his official government office.)

At the same time, Trump has been ramping up his appearances on conservative media — even sitting down with his daughter-in-law for her online program. But few of those comments have reverberated as mainstream outlets, long criticized for allowing Trump to dictate coverage, have become increasingly wary of repeating his falsehoods, especially pertaining to the 2020 election.

While Trump still garners coverage, Google search results for his name are at their lowest point since 2015, as noted this week by The Washington Post. And on late night TV, some have tried to scrub him out entirely, with "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert refusing to say his name.

After five years of wall-to-wall Trump, the contrast is jarring.

"He was unlike any prior president in the amount of oxygen he sucked up. But he increasingly resembles many former president in how little oxygen he now gets," said Ari Fleischer, who served as press secretary to George W. Bush. While that is the reality for any former president, Fleischer argued that Trump continues to "loom large" in the party and could return to the spotlight if he chooses to run again.

And though his dominance of cable news has dropped precipitously from its peak in fall 2016, when he was mentioned tens of thousands of times a month, per GDELT data, he remains a presence on cable news channels nonetheless.

"Two months out of office, he's still roughly where he was in March of last year when the pandemic largely displaced him," said Kaley Leetaru, the project's creator. "It shows that even two months out of office, he's still looming large."

While most of Trump's statements garner relatively little coverage, some, like one that blasted Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell as "a dour, sullen, and unsmiling political hack," dominated news cover-

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age, with CNN, in particular, running with it for more than 44 minutes.

"President Trump is the greatest news generator in American history," Trump spokesman Jason Miller said, insisting, "There was never this type of media interest in the post-Presidential careers of Clinton, Bush or Obama."

Others see it differently.

"I think he lost all momentum when he got pulled from the platforms. Politics is about momentum and he has none now," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley.

While Trump has tried to inject himself into news coverage, Brinkley said his comments are largely treated as add-ons to coverage focused on other matters. "Where it used to be he was shooting tweets like Zeus, they were like thunderbolts from up high, and now it's little squeaks from the mouse of Mar-a-Lago," he said.

Yet Trump remains a commanding figure for the Republican Party. His endorsement is highly coveted heading into the 2022 Republican primaries. And he continues to publicly flirt with running again for president in 2024.

And Holzer believes Trump could reemerge if he is allowed to rejoin Twitter or goes through with much-hyped plans to launch his own social media outlet, as aides have said he is still considering.

GOP strategist Alex Conant argued Trump's power "is waning by the day" as other Republicans make plans to run in 2024, and said Trump could be taking a more strategic approach if he wants to remain part of the daily conversation.

"When you're president of the United States, it's very easy to insert yourself into every news cycle. But once you've left office, it has to be more strategic," Conant said, arguing Trump could have announced a book, sat for primetime interviews, or delivered a series of major speeches about the future of the party.

Fleischer, too, argued Trump could have greater influence by following in the footsteps of presidents Bush and Obama, whose statements garner attention because they are rare.

"The risk for a former president is you risk starting to be seen as former senators or former congressman or contributors who are on TV on a somewhat regular basis. A former president should be at an elevated posture," he said. "But Donald Trump has always done things differently with some success."

Mother arrested after 3 children found slain in Los Angeles

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and DAMIAN DOVARGANES Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The mother of three children — all under the age of 5 — found slain inside a Los Angeles apartment Saturday morning has been arrested, police said.

Liliana Carrillo, 30, was arrested in Tulare County, about 200 miles (322 kilometers) north of Los Angeles. It wasn't immediately known if she had a lawyer who could speak on her behalf.

The children's grandmother returned home from work and found their bodies and the mother missing, Los Angeles police Lt. Raul Jovel said.

The Los Angeles Police Department tweeted the children appeared to be under 5 years old. A police spokesman initially said they were under the age of 3.

The gruesome discovery was made around 9:30 a.m. in the 8000 block of Reseda Boulevard, Jovel said.

Police said initial reports suggested the children had been stabbed to death, but no official cause of death has been released.

Jovel said investigators were still working to determine a motive.

The department received reports Carrillo was driving her car and heading north on Interstate 5 when she got in an altercation in the Bakersfield area. She abandoned her car and carjacked another vehicle, Jovel said.

Carrillo was detained in the Ponderosa area of Tulare County, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Bakersfield, police said.

"At this point, she is a suspect in this incident but that doesn't exclude other people," Jovel said.

Lupe Cuevas, a neighbor of Carrillo and her children, told the San Bernardino Sun that she interacted

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with the three children and their grandmother during afternoon walks around the neighborhood.

One of the children, a girl, was drawn to her Chihuahua, Rosie, Cuevas told the newspaper.

"Those babies were such sweet little ones," she said. "It hurts."

Cuevas said she thought the girl was the middle child of the three.

"She wasn't shy. She was sweet." Cuevas said. "An angel shouldn't have to go that way."

Ramsey Clark, attorney general under Johnson, dies at 93

NEW YORK (AP) — Ramsey Clark, the attorney general in the Johnson administration who became an outspoken activist for unpopular causes and a harsh critic of U.S. policy, has died. He was 93.

Clark, whose father, Tom Clark, was attorney general and U.S. Supreme Court justice, died on Friday at his Manhattan home, a family member, Sharon Welch, announced to media outlets including The New York Times and The Washington Post.

After serving in President Lyndon Johnson's Cabinet in 1967 and '68, Clark set up a private law practice in New York in which he championed civil rights, fought racism and the death penalty, and represented declared foes of the United States including former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman. He also defended former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

New York civil rights attorney Ron Kuby, who worked with Clark on numerous cases, called the death "very, very sad in a season of losses."

"The progressive legal community has lost its elder dean and statesman," Kuby said. "Over many generations, Ramsey Clark was a principled voice, conscience and a fighter for civil and human rights."

In courtrooms around the country Clark defended antiwar activists. In the court of public opinion, he charged the United States with militarism and arrogance, starting with the Vietnam War and continuing with Grenada, Libya, Panama and the Gulf War.

When Clark visited Iraq after Operation Desert Storm and returned to accuse the United States of war crimes, Newsweek dubbed him the Jane Fonda of the Gulf War.

Clark said he only wanted the United States to live up to its ideals. "If you don't insist on your government obeying the law, then what right do you have to demand it of others?" he said.

The lanky, soft-spoken Texan went to Washington in 1961 as a New Frontiersman in President John F. Kennedy's Justice Department.

He was 39 when Johnson made him attorney general in 1967, the second youngest ever — Robert Kennedy had been 36.

Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark, who had been Harry Truman's attorney general before he joined the high court in 1949, swore in his son as attorney general, then retired to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest.

Ramsey Clark said his work at Justice drew him into the civil rights revolution, which he called "the noblest quest of the American people in our time."

He also maintained opposition to the death penalty and wiretapping, defended the right of dissent and criticized FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover when no one else in government would dare take him on.

But as Johnson's attorney general, Clark had the job of prosecuting Dr. Benjamin Spock for counseling Vietnam-era youths to resist the draft, a position with which he sympathized.

"We won the case, that was the worst part," he said years later.

The Dallas-born Clark, who did a hitch in the Marine Corps in 1945-46, moved his family to New York in 1970 and set up a pro bono-oriented practice. He said then that he and his partners were limiting their annual personal incomes to \$50,000, a figure he did not always achieve.

"Money's not an interest of mine," he said, but at the same time he was meeting steep medical bills for his daughter, Ronda, who was born with severe disabilities. He and his wife, Georgia, who were married in 1949, also had a son, Thomas, a lawyer.

Clark took one shot at elective office, losing the 1976 Democratic Senate primary to Daniel P. Moynihan.

Clark's client list included such peace and disarmament activists as the Harrisburg 7 and the Plowshares

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8. Abroad, he represented dissidents in Iran, Chile, the Philippines and Taiwan, and skyjacks in the Soviet Union.

He was an advocate for Soviet and Syrian Jews, but outraged many Jews over other clients. He defended a Nazi prison camp guard fighting extradition, and the Palestine Liberation Organization in a lawsuit over the slaying of a cruise ship passenger by hijackers.

There were usually two to three dozen active cases on Clark's legal calendar, and about 100 more in the background. Capital punishment cases were a staple.

"We talk about civil liberties," he said. "We have the largest prison population per capita on Earth. The world's greatest jailer is the freest country on Earth?"

Trump: The key to Republican success is more Trumpism

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump staked his claim to the Republican Party in a closed-door speech to donors Saturday night, casting his populist policies and attack-dog politics as the key to future Republican success.

Trump also reinforced his commitment to the GOP in his address, according to prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press, which comes as Republican officials seek to downplay an intraparty feud over Trump's role in the party, his commitment to GOP fundraising and his plans for 2024. While Trump's advisers report he will emphasize party unity, he rarely sticks to script.

"The key to this triumphant future will be to build on the gains our amazing movement has made over the past four years," Trump told hundreds of leading Republican donors, according to the prepared remarks. "Under our leadership, we welcomed millions upon millions of new voters into the Republican coalition. We transformed the Republican Party into a party that truly fights for all Americans."

The former president delivered his remarks behind closed doors at his Florida resort, Mar-a-Lago, in the final address of the Republican National Committee's weekend donor summit in Palm Beach. Most of the RNC's invitation-only weekend gathering was set at a luxury hotel four miles away, but attendees were bused to Trump's club for his remarks.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to address donors Saturday night as well. Earlier in the weekend, a slew of candidates already positioning themselves for a 2024 presidential run made appearances. Besides DeSantis, the potential White House contenders included South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Sens. Rick Scott and Marco Rubio of Florida and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina also spoke.

In his remarks Friday night, Cotton leaned into the GOP's culture wars, attacking the Democrats' positions on transgender youth, voter ID laws and Major League Baseball's decision to move its All-Star Game to protest Republican voting laws — just as Trump does in his prepared remarks.

While a significant faction of the Republican Party hopes to move past Trump's divisive leadership, the location of the weekend gathering suggests that the GOP, at least for now, is not ready to replace Trump as its undisputed leader and chief fundraiser.

Trump's team reports that his remarks are intended to reinforce his continued leadership role in Republican affairs, a sharp break from past presidents.

"Saturday's speech will be welcomed words to the Republican donors visiting Mar-a-Lago to hear directly from President Trump," Trump adviser Jason Miller said. "Palm Beach is the new political power center, and President Trump is the Republican Party's best messenger."

Despite Saturday's intended message, Trump's commitment to the GOP is far from certain.

Earlier in the year, he raised the possibility of creating a new political party. And just a month ago, Trump's political action committee sent letters to the RNC and others asking them to "immediately cease and desist the unauthorized use of President Donald J. Trump's name, image, and/or likeness in all fundraising, persuasion, and/or issue speech."

GOP officials have repeatedly tried to downplay the fundraising tensions and see Trump's participation as

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a sign that he is willing to lend his name to the party. At the same time, Trump continues to aggressively accumulate campaign cash to fuel his own political ambitions.

Trump has also regularly attacked his Republican critics in recent weeks, especially Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and No. 3 House Republican Liz Cheney. Neither attended the weekend donor summit.

Trump did not attack Cheney or McConnell — or any Republicans — in Saturday's speech, at least according to his scripted remarks.

Ash-covered St. Vincent braces for more volcanic eruptions

By KRISTIN DEANE and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (AP) — People who ignored an initial warning to evacuate the area closest to a volcano on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent raced to get clear Saturday, a day after it erupted with an explosion that shook the ground, spewed ash skyward and blanketed the island in a layer of fine volcanic rock.

The eruption Friday of La Soufrière — its first large one since 1979 — transformed the island's lush towns and villages into gloomy, gray versions of themselves. A strong sulfur smell was unavoidable Saturday and ash covered everything, creeping into homes, cars and noses, and obscuring the sunshine that makes the island so popular with tourists.

Chellise Rogers, who lives in the village of Biabou, which is in an area of St. Vincent that's considered safe, said she could hear continuous rumbling.

"It's exhilarating and scary at the same time," she said. "(It's the) first time I am witnessing a volcano eruption."

Scientists warn that the explosions could continue for days or even weeks, and that the worst could be yet to come.

"The first bang is not necessarily the biggest bang this volcano will give," Richard Robertson, a geologist with the University of the West Indies' Seismic Research Center, said during a news conference.

About 16,000 people have had to flee their ash-covered communities with as many belongings as they could stuff into suitcases and backpacks. However, there have been no reports of anyone being killed or injured by the initial blast or those that followed. Before it blew, the government ordered people to evacuate the most high-risk area around the 4,003-foot (1,220-meter) volcano after scientists warned that magma was moving close to the surface.

Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of the 32 islands that make up the country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said on local station NBC Radio that people should remain calm, be patient and keep trying to protect themselves from the coronavirus. He said officials were trying to figure out the best way to collect and dispose of the ash, which covered an airport runway near the capital of Kingstown, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south, and fell as far away as Barbados, about 120 miles (190 kilometers) to the east.

"It's difficult to breathe," the prime minister said, adding that although the volcano was venting less, a big plume of ash remained. "What goes up, must come down."

Although Gonsalves said it could take up to four months for life to return to normal, he's confident it will.

"Agriculture will be badly affected, and we may have some loss of animals, and we will have to do repairs to houses. But if we have life and we have strength — we will build it back better, stronger, together," he said.

People who didn't heed the initial evacuation order hurried to do so Saturday. At least a few ash-covered evacuees escaped in small boats and headed to other parts of the main island, which makes up 90% of the country's total land.

About 3,200 people took refuge at 78 government-run shelters, and four empty cruise ships stood ready to take other evacuees to nearby islands, with a group of more than 130 already taken to St. Lucia. Those staying at the shelters were tested for COVID-19, with anyone testing positive being taken to an isolation center.

Nearby nations, including Antigua and Grenada, also offered to take in evacuees.

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On Saturday, some people swept outside their homes and taped their doors and windows shut in the hopes of keeping out the ash.

"We're hearing rumbling from here and witnessed the lightning flashes last night," said Rukersha Jackson, a 22-year-old marketing specialist who lives with her family a little outside the mandatory evacuation zone. That zone covers the northern third of St. Vincent and is on the opposite side than Kingstown, where most of the country's more than 100,000 people live.

The ash has forced the cancellation of several flights, and poor visibility limited evacuations in some areas. Officials warned that St. Lucia to the north and Grenada to the south could get light ash fall, though most of it was expected to head northeast into the Atlantic Ocean.

Although the ash can seem scary, it won't harm healthy people in the short term, said Claire Horwell, a professor at Durham University in the United Kingdom who will be analyzing the ash emitted by La Soufrière. She recommended that people wear face masks, long sleeves and pants to avoid irritation.

"Volcanic ash looks really scary, and it is really terrifying to people who have never been exposed to it before, but for most healthy people, it is more of a nuisance," said Horwell, who is also director of the International Volcanic Health Hazard Network.

However, she warned that the ash and gases, particularly sulfur dioxide, could affect asthmatics and others with chronic health conditions.

La Soufrière last had a sizable eruption in 1979. An eruption in 1902 killed roughly 1,600 people.

The volcano had a minor eruption in December, which led regional experts to fly in to analyze the formation of a new volcanic dome and changes to its crater lake, among other things.

The eastern Caribbean has 19 live volcanoes, including two underwater near Grenada. One of those, Kick 'Em Jenny, has been active in recent years. But the most active volcano of all is Soufrière Hills in Montserrat. It has erupted continuously since 1995, razing the capital of Plymouth and killing at least 19 people in 1997.

Maryland lawmakers override vetoes on sweeping police reform

By BRIAN WITTE Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Maryland lawmakers voted Saturday to override Republican Gov. Larry Hogan's vetoes of three far-reaching police reform measures that supporters say are needed to increase accountability and restore public trust.

One of the measures repeals job protections in the police disciplinary process that critics say impede accountability. Maryland approved the nation's first Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights in 1974, and about 20 states have adopted similar laws setting due process procedure for investigating police misconduct. Maryland is the first to repeal the law, replacing it with new procedures that give civilians a role in the police disciplinary process.

The Democrat-controlled General Assembly has been working on reforms for months, following nationwide protests against racial injustice that were fueled by the police custody death of George Floyd in Minnesota nearly one year ago.

"Last year, I attended and participated in multiple demonstrations of people demanding change — the young and the old, people of all races and walks of life," said Sen. Charles Sydnor, a Democrat who sponsored one of the measures. "With so many situations being thrust before our eyes, we could no longer deny what we see, and I thank my colleagues for believing their eyes and listening to the majority of Marylanders."

Opponents said the measures went too far. The package includes provisions to increase the civil liability limit on lawsuits involving police from \$400,000 to \$890,000. An officer convicted of causing serious injury or death through excessive force would face 10 years in prison.

Sen. Robert Cassilly, a Republican, described the legislation as "anti-cop."

"It allows for hindsight review of folks sitting in the easy chairs to judge people who made split-second decisions in volatile situations," when an officer fears for his or her life and the lives of others, Cassilly said.

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Hogan also vetoed legislation with a new statewide use-of-force policy and mandated use of body cameras statewide by July 2025.

Another vetoed measure would expand public access to records in police disciplinary cases and limit the use of no-knock warrants. Under the bill, police could only use no-knock warrants between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., except in an emergency.

In his veto message, Hogan wrote that he believed the measures would "further erode police morale, community relationships, and public confidence."

"They will result in great damage to police recruitment and retention, posing significant risks to public safety throughout our state," Hogan wrote.

But Sen. Jill Carter, a Baltimore Democrat, said erosion of public confidence occurs when nothing is done after residents file complaints against police, who are "then able to exact retaliation for the complaint with full knowledge that there'll be no transparency, there'll be no public disclosure, and there'll be no repercussions."

"It's a critically important step in the right direction," said Carter, who sponsored the bill to increase public access to police disciplinary records.

The measure is named after Anton Black, a 19-year-old African American who died in police custody in 2018 in a rural town on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Maryland has struggled with police accountability problems in recent years. Baltimore's police department entered into a federal consent decree after Freddie Gray suffered a broken neck in police custody and died, sparking unrest in the city in 2015. Lawmakers approved some police reforms the following year, but critics have said they were not enough.

Hogan wrote that two measures would go into effect without his signature.

One of them would create a unit in the attorney general's office to investigate police-involved deaths and prohibit law enforcement from buying surplus military equipment. The other would enable Baltimore voters to decide whether the state's largest city should take full control of the police department from the state.

Separately on Saturday, the legislature also overrode Hogan's veto of a bill that will ban sentences of life in prison without possibility of parole for juveniles.

Charles: Royal family 'deeply grateful' for world's support

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles offered a heartfelt tribute to his "dear Papa" on Saturday as Buckingham Palace offered the broad outlines of a royal funeral that will be attended by the family and broadcast to the world.

As Queen Elizabeth II and other relatives mourned, Charles offered a personal video message saying the royal family was "deeply grateful" for the outpouring of support they've received following the death Friday of his 99-year-old father, Prince Philip. The heir to the throne said he was touched by the number of people around the world who have shared his family's loss and sorrow.

"My dear Papa was a very special person who I think, above all else, would have been amazed by the reaction and the touching things that have been said about him," Charles said, speaking from his southwestern England home of Highgrove. "And from that point of view we are, my family, deeply grateful for all that. It will sustain us in this particular loss and at this particularly sad time."

Philip's royal ceremonial funeral will take place April 17 at Windsor Castle — a slimmed-down service amid the COVID-19 pandemic that will be entirely closed to the public. The palace insisted the royals would strictly adhere to national virus guidelines, measures that in theory would entail mask wearing in an enclosed space and social distancing. The palace declined to comment on specifics.

Philip, the queen's husband of 73 years who was also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, took part in planning his own funeral and its focus on family was in accordance with his wishes. The duke also took part in designing the modified Land Rover that will carry his coffin.

"Although the ceremonial arrangements are reduced, the occasion will still celebrate and recognize the

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duke's life and his more than 70 years of service to the Queen, the UK and the Commonwealth," a palace spokesman said Saturday while speaking on condition of anonymity in line with policy.

Prince Harry, Philip's grandson who stepped away from royal duties last year and now lives in California, will attend the service at Windsor along with other members of the royal family. His wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is pregnant and has been advised by her doctor not to make the long journey to the U.K.

Another no-show will be Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose office said he would not attend because current coronavirus restrictions limit funerals to 30 people, so by staying away that would "allow for as many family members as possible."

The palace appealed to the public not to gather in Windsor or at Buckingham Palace in London to pay their respects to Philip — advice that was roundly disregarded by many.

Earlier Saturday, military teams across the U.K. and on ships at sea fired 41-gun salutes to mark Philip's death, honoring the former naval officer whom they considered one of their own.

Batteries in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast — the capitals of the four nations that make up the United Kingdom — as well as other cities around the U.K. and the Mediterranean outpost of Gibraltar fired the volleys at one-minute intervals beginning at midday. Ships including the HMS Montrose, a frigate patrolling the Persian Gulf, offered their own salutes.

"The Duke of Edinburgh served among us during the Second World War, and he remained devoted to the Royal Navy and the Armed Forces as a whole," Gen. Nick Carter, chief of the defense staff, said in a statement. "A life well-lived. His Royal Highness leaves us with a legacy of indomitable spirit, steadfastness and an unshakeable sense of duty."

Members of the Commonwealth, a group of 54 countries headed by the queen, were also invited to honor Philip. The Australian Defense Force began its salute at 5 p.m. outside Parliament House in Canberra, and New Zealand planned to offer its own tribute on Sunday.

Philip joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1939 and once had a promising military career. In 1941, he was honored for his service during the battle of Cape Matapan off the coast of Greece, when his control of searchlights aboard the HMS Valiant allowed the battleship to pinpoint enemy vessels in the dark. Philip rose to the rank of commander before he retired from active duty.

Two years after the war ended, Philip married Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey when she was 21 and he was 26. Philip's naval career came to an abrupt end when King George VI died in 1952 and his wife became queen.

At the queen's coronation in 1953, Philip swore to be his wife's "liege man of life and limb" and settled into a life supporting the monarch. The couple had four children — Charles, the heir to the throne, Anne, Andrew and Edward.

Before he retired from official duties in 2017, the prince carried out more than 22,000 solo public engagements and supported over 780 organizations, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for young people.

Members of the public continued to honor Philip's life of service, leaving flowers Saturday outside Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

"I think everyone would like to pay their respects," Maureen Field, 67, said outside Windsor Castle. "Because of the virus, a lot of people have to stay away. He didn't want a big funeral. He wanted a very private time with his family to say their goodbyes. So, we've all got to respect that."

Mike Williams, 50, traveled from his home in Surrey, southwest of London, to Buckingham Palace to honor the prince.

"He's a massive loss to the country and to the world, I think, so we wanted to come and pay respects," Williams said. "I don't know what it achieves, but it just felt like the right thing to do."

Ex-officer's trial in Floyd's death shows courtroom tactics

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The murder trial of a former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd's death has introduced viewers from around the world to a vast array of defense and prosecution tactics aimed at swaying the jury.

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Some strategies and terms that have become part of Derek Chauvin's trial are rare outside criminal courtrooms. The Associated Press has taken closer looks into them to better explain what viewers are seeing and hearing.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Video shows Chauvin pinning Floyd to the ground, his knee on his neck, as Floyd yelled "I can't breathe" before his body went limp last May 25. But defense attorneys are tasked with casting doubt on whether the former officer was directly responsible for the Black man's death. They've sought to argue that other factors, such as drug use, may have killed him.

A medical examiner concluded last year that Floyd's heart stopped, complicated by how police restrained him and compressed his neck. However, narrowed arteries, high blood pressure, fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use also were listed on the death certificate as "other contributing conditions."

Hennepin County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Andrew Baker testified that those conditions "didn't cause the death."

Chauvin is charged with second- and third-degree murder and manslaughter.

His lawyer, Eric Nelson, has argued that the officer followed his training and suggested that Floyd died due to use of illegal drugs and existing health conditions.

"I ATE TOO MANY DRUGS"

Nelson has tried to play up Floyd's drug use and sought to show Wednesday that Floyd yelled "I ate too many drugs" as officers pinned him down.

Playing a short clip from a police body camera video, Nelson asked prosecution witness Jody Stiger, a Los Angeles Police Department sergeant who served as a prosecution use-of-force expert, if he heard Floyd say: "I ate too many drugs."

"I can't make that out," Stiger replied. Nelson later replayed it for senior special agent James Reyerson with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, who agreed that's what Floyd appeared to say.

But prosecutor Matthew Frank replayed a longer clip from the same body cam video that put Floyd's statement into broader context.

Reyerson replied: "I believe Mr. Floyd was saying, 'I ain't do no drugs.'"

EXCITED DELIRIUM

Experts and other Minneapolis officers have testified that the force used to subdue and detain Floyd on the pavement was excessive. This past week, jurors were told about the concept of "excited delirium," a term one of the officers at the scene is heard on police body camera asking as a panicked Floyd writhed and claimed to be claustrophobic as officers tried to put him in the squad car.

One Minneapolis officer who trains others in medical care described the term on the stand as a combination of "psychomotor agitation, psychosis, hypothermia, a wide variety of other things you might see in a person or rather bizarre behavior."

An expert in forensic medicine who works as a police surgeon for the Louisville Metro Police Department in Kentucky and as a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Louisville testified Thursday that Floyd met none of the 10 criteria developed by the American College of Emergency Physicians.

COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

Extensive video evidence from surveillance cameras, cellphones and police body cameras of Floyd's death may be the most critical part of the case for the defense and prosecution.

Modern courtrooms, like the one where Chauvin is being tried, use such technology as large video screens, projectors and up-to-date software.

Dr. Martin Tobin, a lung and critical care specialist at the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital and Loyola University's medical school in Illinois, used a computer animation to show how Floyd was held down on the pavement. It gave jurors a 360-degree view of where the officers were and what they were doing.

He used a composite of pictures from a bystander video to show Chauvin pressing his knee to Floyd's neck. Floyd's respiratory distress was growing at that point as officers held him down on his stomach, with his hands handcuffed behind his back. The images showed how Floyd tried to use his shoulder muscles

to draw breath, the doctor said.

Georgia governor: Loss of All-Star game will hurt minorities

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — Georgia's Republican governor on Saturday stepped up his attack on Major League Baseball's decision to pull this summer's All-Star Game from the state in response to a sweeping new voting law, saying the move politicized the sport and would hurt minority-owned businesses.

"It's minority-owned businesses that have been hit harder than most because of an invisible virus by no fault of their own," Gov. Brian Kemp said. "And these are the same minority businesses that are now being impacted by another decision that is by no fault of their own."

Kemp spoke along with Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, also a Republican, at a seafood and po'boy restaurant miles from the stadium in a suburb north of Atlanta where the game would have been held, though he said he didn't think the restaurant was minority-owned.

He has previously criticized MLB's decision. The game will now be played in Denver. Kemp noted at Saturday's news conference that Denver has a much smaller percentage of African Americans than Atlanta. And he said MLB's move has injected politics into the "great American pastime."

"People shouldn't have to go to the game and worry about if they're sitting next to a Joe Biden supporter or a Donald Trump supporter," he said. "They ought to be able to go to the game, cheer for their team just like if you're in church worshipping."

Critics say it's the voting law that's political and will disproportionately affect communities of color. Kemp's news conference was trying to deflect from that, as the governor gears up for next year's election to try to win a second term, said Aklima Khondoker, state director of the voting rights group, All Voting is Local.

"He's pivoting away from all of the malicious things that we understand that this bill represents to people of color in Georgia," she said.

About two dozen protesters turned out near Augusta National on Saturday, holding signs that said "Let Us Vote" and "Protect Georgia Voting Rights."

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred has said he made the decision to move the All-Star events after discussions with individual players and the Players Alliance, an organization of Black players formed after the death of George Floyd last year, and that the league opposed restrictions to the ballot box.

A MLB spokesman said the league had no immediate additional comment Saturday.

Several groups already have filed suit over the voting measure, which includes strict identification requirements for voting absentee by mail.

It expands weekend early voting, but limits the use of ballot drop boxes, makes it a crime to hand out food or water to voters waiting in line and gives the State Election Board new powers to intervene in county election offices and to remove and replace local election officials. That has led to concerns that the Republican-controlled state board could exert more influence over the administration of elections, including the certification of county results.

The rewrite of Georgia's election rules — signed by Kemp last month — follows former President Donald Trump's repeated, baseless claims of fraud after his presidential loss to Biden. Democrats have assailed the law as an attempt to suppress Black and Latino votes, with Biden calling it "Jim Crow in the 21st Century."

Carr and Kemp blasted that comparison.

"This made up narrative that this bill takes us back to Jim Crow — an era when human beings were being killed and who were truly prevented from casting their vote — is preposterous," Carr said. "It is irresponsible, and it's fundamentally wrong."

Bouquet-bearing public honors Philip, ignoring COVID warning

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British authorities have implored people to stay away from royal palaces as they mourn the death of Prince Philip in this time of COVID-19, but they keep coming. Not just to honor him, but to

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support Queen Elizabeth II, who lost her husband of 73 years.

The mix included children, seniors, Sikhs and the children of African immigrants. A cross-section of British society and admirers from abroad descended on Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle on Saturday. They laid bouquets at the gates, offered prayers or just paused for a moment of reflection as they remembered a man who dedicated much of his life to public service.

Mourners talked about Philip's work with some 780 charities and organizations, particularly his Duke of Edinburgh Award, which seeks to build confidence and resilience in young people. But they also recalled his role as the consummate royal consort, supporting the queen at thousands of public engagements and state visits.

"We had a really hard year all of us and there's people uniting in a very special moment," said Carolina Przeniewska, originally from Poland, who came to Buckingham Place with her 5-year-old daughter Grace. "So I wanted her to see it and I wanted to pay respect."

At Buckingham Palace, the queen's London residence, well-wishers braved a chilly, gray day to line up and snake their way past the black iron gates, where tourists normally wait to watch the changing of the guard. People were allowed to approach the gates one at a time to lay their tributes as police tried to control the crowd amid Britain's coronavirus restrictions.

The crowd was smaller at Windsor Castle, west of the capital, where a steady stream of mourners quietly approached the gates to leave bright spring bouquets on a strip of lawn.

People want to show their respect for both Philip and the queen, who turns 95 this month and will celebrate 70 years on the throne next year, said Nick Bullen, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of True Royalty TV.

"If the queen wasn't already loved enough, this is just going to move it to another level now," Bullen said. "This is a woman who's going to bury her husband and then in a matter of days later be celebrating her birthday and stepping into her platinum jubilee year. ... So I think people will just be rallying around the queen as much as they will the Duke of Edinburgh."

Philip, the son of a Greek prince, and the future queen first met as teenagers. They were married in 1947 when she was 21 and he was a 26-year-old naval officer.

Elizabeth became queen when her father died in 1952. At her coronation, Philip swore to be his wife's "liege man of life and limb" and settled into a life of supporting the monarch.

Philip retired from public life in 2017. At the time, he had conducted more than 22,000 public engagements on his own, given 5,496 speeches and made 637 solo trips abroad, in addition to countless more appearances by the queen's side.

"He was a hero to me because he was the man I could look up to," Nurtr Omar, a 20-year-old who was born in Somalia and now lives in Britain, said outside Buckingham Palace. "He showed me what I can achieve with my life, whether you are royal or not. You need to make hard work to achieve what you want to."

The floral tributes grew throughout the day, even after the Royal Family on Friday asked people not to visit royal residences to pay their respects due to public health concerns. Instead of flowers, the family asked people to consider making donations to charity.

But for Windsor resident Billy Dohil, the day was about history. He took his children to the castle so they could be part of it.

"As they grow up, we'll remember this," Dohil, 39, said. "We'll remember the royal family and (it) will be part of their life. So we wanted to come here to pay our respects. My oldest son — five years old — wanted to bring some flowers and just put it down himself."

Fantasy no more: Blackmore 1st woman to win Grand National

By STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writer

A Hollywood fantasy turned into reality on Saturday when Rachael Blackmore became the first female jockey to win Britain's grueling Grand National horse race, breaking down one of the biggest gender barriers in sports.

Blackmore, a 31-year-old Irishwoman, rode Minella Times to a landmark victory at odds of 11-1 in the

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173rd edition of the famous steeplechase at Aintree in Liverpool, northwest England

"I don't feel male or female right now. I don't even feel human," Blackmore said. "This is just unbelievable."

Blackmore is the 20th female jockey to compete in a race that has been a mud-splattered British sporting institution since 1839. Women have only been allowed to enter the National as jockeys since 1975, making it a male-dominated event — until now.

"I never even imagined I'd get a ride in this race, never mind get my hands on the trophy," Blackmore said.

After all, the 1944 Hollywood movie "National Velvet" was the story of a 12-year-old girl, Velvet Brown — played by a young Elizabeth Taylor — who won the Grand National on The Pie, a gelding she won in a raffle and one she decided to train for the world's biggest horse race. In the story, Brown was later disqualified on a technicality, having dismounted before reaching the enclosure.

Even though Aintree was without race-goers because of the pandemic, cheers rang out as Blackmore made her way off the course — still aboard Minella Times — and into the winner's enclosure. She looked as if she couldn't believe what she had done.

"For all the girls who watched National Velvet!" tweeted Hayley Turner, a former female jockey. "Thank you Rachael Blackmore, we're so lucky to have you."

Blackmore, the daughter of a dairy farmer and school teacher, grew up on a farm and rode ponies. She didn't have a classic racing upbringing, though, making her ascent in the sport all the more inspirational.

A professional jockey since 2015, she rode the second most winners in Irish jump racing in 2018-19, the same season she won her first races at the prestigious Cheltenham Festival. She was already the face of British and Irish horse racing before arriving at Aintree, having become the first woman to finish as the leading jockey at Cheltenham three weeks ago.

Now she's won the biggest race of them all, one that even non-horse racing enthusiasts turn on to watch and one that first captured Blackmore's imagination. Indeed, her first memory of horse racing is going over to a friend's house and taking part in a sweepstake for the National.

A beaming Blackmore had special words for her parents, who "took me around the country riding ponies when I was younger."

"I can't believe I am Rachael Blackmore. I still feel like that little kid — I just can't believe I am me," she said.

"I hope it does help anyone who wants to be a jockey. I never thought this would be possible for me. I didn't dream of making a career as a jockey because I never thought it could happen."

The previous best performance by a female jockey in the National was Katie Walsh's third-place finish on Seabass in 2012. That always looked under threat by Minella Times, who went out as the fourth favorite of the 40 horses in a race run over 4 1/4 miles (6.4 kilometers) and features 30 big and often brutal fences.

Minella Times was always near the front of the field and Blackmore timed the horse's run for glory to perfection, easing past long-time leader Jett with around three fences to jump.

The famous, draining run to the line — about 500 meters from the last fence — was a procession as Minella Times won by 6 1/2 lengths.

"He was just incredible and jumped beautifully," Blackmore said. "I tried to wait as long as I could. When I jumped the last and asked him for a bit, he was there."

One of the other two female jockeys in the race, Bryony Frost, was taken to the hospital after being unseated from her horse, Yala Enki.

The Long Mile was destroyed after suffering an injury while running between two of the fences. It was the second equine fatality since safety changes to the race were introduced in 2013.

Lawmakers seek long-term limit on governors' emergency power

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

As governors loosen long-lasting coronavirus restrictions, state lawmakers across the U.S. are taking actions to significantly limit the power they could wield in future emergencies.

The legislative measures are aimed not simply at undoing mask mandates and capacity limits that have

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been common during the pandemic. Many proposals seek to fundamentally shift power away from governors and toward lawmakers the next time there is a virus outbreak, terrorist attack or natural disaster.

"The COVID pandemic has been an impetus for a re-examination of balancing of legislative power with executive powers," said Pam Greenberg, a policy researcher at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Lawmakers in 45 states have proposed more than 300 measures this year related to legislative oversight of executive actions during the COVID-19 pandemic or other emergencies, according to the NCSL.

About half those states are considering significant changes, such as tighter limits on how long governors' emergency orders can last without legislative approval, according to the American Legislative Exchange Council, an association of conservative lawmakers and businesses. It wrote a model "Emergency Power Limitation Act" for lawmakers to follow.

Though the pushback is coming primarily from Republican lawmakers, it is not entirely partisan.

Republican lawmakers have sought to limit the power of Democratic governors in states such as Kansas, Kentucky and North Carolina. But they also have sought to rein in fellow Republican governors in such states as Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana and Ohio. Some Democratic lawmakers also have pushed back against governors of their own party, most notably limiting the ability of embattled New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to issue new mandates.

When the pandemic hit a year ago, many governors and their top health officials temporarily ordered residents to remain home, limited public gatherings, prohibited in-person schooling and shut down dine-in restaurants, gyms and other businesses. Many governors have been repealing or relaxing restrictions after cases declined from a winter peak and as more people get vaccinated.

But the potential remains in many states for governors to again tighten restrictions if new variants of the coronavirus lead to another surge in cases.

Governors have been acting under the authority of emergency response laws that in some states date back decades and weren't crafted with an indefinite health crisis in mind.

"A previous legislature back in the '60s, fearing a nuclear holocaust, granted tremendous powers" to the governor, said Idaho state Rep. Jason Monks, a Republican and the chamber's assistant majority leader.

"This was the first time I think that those laws were really stress-tested," he said.

Like many governors, Idaho Gov. Brad Little has repeatedly extended his monthlong emergency order since originally issuing it last spring. A pair of bills nearing final approval would prohibit him from declaring an emergency for more than 60 days without legislative approval. The Republican governor also would be barred from suspending constitutional rights, restricting the ability of people to work, or altering state laws like he did by suspending in-person voting and holding a mail-only primary election last year.

A measure that recently passed New Hampshire's Republican-led House also would prohibit governors from indefinitely renewing emergency declarations, as GOP Gov. Chris Sununu has done every 21 days for the past year. It would halt emergency orders after 30 days unless renewed by lawmakers.

Next month, Pennsylvania voters will decide a pair of constitutional amendments to limit disaster emergency declarations to three weeks, rather than three months, and require legislative approval to extend them. The Republican-led Legislature placed the measures on the ballot after repeatedly failing to reverse the policies Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf implemented to try to contain the pandemic.

In Indiana, the Republican-led Legislature and GOP governor are embroiled in a power struggle over executive powers.

The Legislature approved a bill this past week that would give lawmakers greater authority to intervene in gubernatorially declared emergencies by calling themselves into special session. The House Republican leader said the bill was not "anti-governor" but a response to a generational crisis.

Gov. Eric Holcomb, who has issued more than 60 executive orders during the pandemic, vetoed the bill Friday. He contends the legislature's attempt to expand its power could violate the state Constitution. Legislative leaders said they intend to override the veto, potentially setting up a legal clash between the legislative and executive branches. Unlike Congress and most states, Indiana lawmakers can override a veto with a simple majority of both houses.

Several other governors also have vetoed bills limiting their emergency authority or increasing legislative

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powers.

In Michigan, where new variants are fueling a rise in COVID-19 cases, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer vetoed GOP-backed legislation last month that would have ended state health department orders after 28 days unless lengthened by lawmakers.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, contended that legislation allowing lawmakers to rescind his public health orders "jeopardizes the safety of every Ohioan." But the Republican-led Legislature overrode his veto the next day.

"It's time for us to stand up for the legislative branch," sponsoring Sen. Rob McColley told his colleagues. Kentucky's GOP-led Legislature overrode Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's vetoes of bills limiting his emergency powers, but a judge temporarily blocked the laws from taking effect. The judge said they are "likely to undermine, or even cripple, the effectiveness of public health measures."

In some states, governors have worked with lawmakers to pare back executive powers.

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a Republican, signed a law last month giving the GOP-led Legislature greater say in determining whether to end his emergency orders. It was quickly put to the test by the Arkansas Legislative Council, which decided to let Hutchinson extend his emergency declaration another two months.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, also enacted a law last month giving legislative leaders power to revoke her emergency orders. Top Republican lawmakers immediately used it to scuttle a Kelly order meant to encourage counties to keep mask mandates in place.

"The power of the executive has been emasculated when it comes to the Emergency Management Act," Democratic state Rep. John Carmichael said. "That may have very dire consequences in other circumstances and other disasters."

Kelly said it will be harder to persuade people to keep wearing masks without state or local mandates. She said her orders had relieved pressure on local leaders and businesses.

"Let me be the bad guy. Let me be the one who mandates so that they don't have to make those kinds of decisions," Kelly said.

Republican lawmakers insisted that their push to curb the governor's power is not partisan. Lawmakers said they didn't understand how broad the governor's power was until she started issuing orders last spring to close K-12 schools, limit indoor worship services and regulate how businesses could reopen.

House Speaker Pro Tem Blaine Finch said he believes the changes in Kansas' emergency management law will encourage future governors to "use that power sparingly" and collaborate with lawmakers.

"Our system is set up not to give one person of any party too much power over the lives of Kansans," he said. "We're supposed to have checks and balances."

'Clear the Capitol,' Pence pleaded, timeline of riot shows

By LISA MASCARO, BEN FOX and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — From a secure room in the Capitol on Jan. 6, as rioters pummeled police and vandalized the building, Vice President Mike Pence tried to assert control. In an urgent phone call to the acting defense secretary, he issued a startling demand.

"Clear the Capitol," Pence said.

Elsewhere in the building, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi were making a similarly dire appeal to military leaders, asking the Army to deploy the National Guard.

"We need help," Schumer, D-N.Y., said in desperation, more than an hour after the Senate chamber had been breached.

At the Pentagon, officials were discussing media reports that the mayhem was not confined to Washington and that other state capitals were facing similar violence in what had the makings of a national insurrection.

"We must establish order," said Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a call with Pentagon leaders.

But order would not be restored for hours.

These new details about the deadly riot are contained in a previously undisclosed document prepared

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by the Pentagon for internal use that was obtained by The Associated Press and vetted by current and former government officials.

The timeline adds another layer of understanding about the state of fear and panic while the insurrection played out, and lays bare the inaction by then-President Donald Trump and how that void contributed to a slowed response by the military and law enforcement. It shows that the intelligence missteps, tactical errors and bureaucratic delays were eclipsed by the government's failure to comprehend the scale and intensity of a violent uprising by its own citizens.

With Trump not engaged, it fell to Pentagon officials, a handful of senior White House aides, the leaders of Congress and the vice president holed up in a secure bunker to manage the chaos.

While the timeline helps to crystalize the frantic character of the crisis, the document, along with hours of sworn testimony, provides only an incomplete picture about how the insurrection could have advanced with such swift and lethal force, interrupting the congressional certification of Joe Biden as president and delaying the peaceful transfer of power, the hallmark of American democracy.

Lawmakers, protected to this day by National Guard troops, will hear from the inspector general of the Capitol Police this coming week.

"Any minute that we lost, I need to know why," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, which is investigating the siege, said last month.

The timeline fills in some of those gaps.

At 4:08 p.m. on Jan. 6, as the rioters roamed the Capitol and after they had menacingly called out for Pelosi, D-Calif., and yelled for Pence to be hanged, the vice president was in a secure location, phoning Christopher Miller, the acting defense secretary, and demanding answers.

There had been a highly public rift between Trump and Pence, with Trump furious that his vice president refused to halt the Electoral College certification. Interfering with that process was an act that Pence considered unconstitutional. The Constitution makes clear that the vice president's role in this joint session of Congress is largely ceremonial.

Pence's call to Miller lasted only a minute. Pence said the Capitol was not secure and he asked military leaders for a deadline for securing the building, according to the document.

By this point it had already been two hours since the mob overwhelmed Capitol Police unprepared for an insurrection. Rioters broke into the building, seized the Senate and paraded to the House. In their path, they left destruction and debris. Dozens of officers were wounded, some gravely.

Just three days earlier, government leaders had talked about the use of the National Guard. On the afternoon of Jan. 3, as lawmakers were sworn in for the new session of Congress, Miller and Milley gathered with Cabinet members to discuss Jan. 6. They also met with Trump.

In that meeting at the White House, Trump approved the activation of the D.C. National Guard and also told the acting defense secretary to take whatever action needed as events unfolded, according to the information obtained by the AP.

The next day, Jan. 4, the defense officials spoke by phone with Cabinet members, including the acting attorney general, and finalized details of the Guard deployment.

The Guard's role was limited to traffic intersections and checkpoints around the city, based in part on strict restrictions mandated by district officials. Miller also authorized Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy to deploy, if needed, the D.C. Guard's emergency reaction force stationed at Joint Base Andrews.

The Trump administration and the Pentagon were wary of a heavy military presence, in part because of criticism officials faced for the seemingly heavy-handed National Guard and law enforcement efforts to counter civil unrest in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

In particular, the D.C. Guard's use of helicopters to hover over crowds in downtown Washington during those demonstrations drew widespread criticism. That unauthorized move prompted the Pentagon to more closely control the D.C. Guard.

"There was a lot of things that happened in the spring that the department was criticized for," Robert Salesses, who is serving as the assistant defense secretary for homeland defense and global security,

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said at a congressional hearing last month.

On the eve of Trump's rally Jan. 6 near the White House, the first 255 National Guard troops arrived in the district, and Mayor Muriel Bowser confirmed in a letter to the administration that no other military support was needed.

By the morning of Jan. 6, crowds started gathering at the Ellipse before Trump's speech. According to the Pentagon's plans, the acting defense secretary would only be notified if the crowd swelled beyond 20,000.

Before long it was clear that the crowd was far more in control of events than the troops and law enforcement there to maintain order.

Trump, just before noon, was giving his speech and he told supporters to march to the Capitol. The crowd at the rally was at least 10,000. By 1:15 p.m., the procession was well on its way there.

As protesters reached the Capitol grounds, some immediately became violent, busting through weak police barriers in front of the building and beating up officers who stood in their way.

At 1:49 p.m., as the violence escalated, then-Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund called Maj. Gen. William Walker, commanding general of the D.C. National Guard, to request assistance.

Sund's voice was "cracking with emotion," Walker later told a Senate committee. Walker immediately called Army leaders to inform them of the request.

Twenty minutes later, around 2:10 p.m., the first rioters were beginning to break through the doors and windows of the Senate. They then started a march through the marbled halls in search of the lawmakers who were counting the electoral votes. Alarms inside the building announced a lockdown.

Sund frantically called Walker again and asked for at least 200 guard members "and to send more if they are available."

But even with the advance Cabinet-level preparation, no help was immediately on the way.

Over the next 20 minutes, as senators ran to safety and the rioters broke into the chamber and rifled through their desks, Army Secretary McCarthy spoke with the mayor and Pentagon leaders about Sund's request.

On the Pentagon's third floor E Ring, senior Army leaders were huddled around the phone for what they described as a "panicked" call from the D.C. Guard. As the gravity of the situation became clear, McCarthy bolted from the meeting, sprinting down the hall to Miller's office and breaking into a meeting.

As minutes ticked by, rioters breached additional entrances in the Capitol and made their way to the House. They broke glass in doors that led to the chamber and tried to gain entry as a group of lawmakers was still trapped inside.

At 2:25 p.m., McCarthy told his staff to prepare to move the emergency reaction force to the Capitol. The force could be ready to move in 20 minutes.

At 2:44 p.m., Trump supporter Ashli Babbitt was fatally shot by a Capitol Police officer as she tried to climb through a window that led to the House floor.

Shortly after 3 p.m., McCarthy provided "verbal approval" of the activation of 1,100 National Guard troops to support the D.C. police and the development of a plan for the troops' deployment duties, locations and unit sizes.

Minutes later the Guard's emergency reaction force left Joint Base Andrews for the D.C. Armory. There, they would prepare to head to the Capitol once Miller, the acting defense secretary, gave final approval.

Meanwhile, the Joint Staff set up a video teleconference call that stayed open until about 10 p.m. that night, allowing staff to communicate any updates quickly to military leaders.

At 3:19 p.m., Pelosi and Schumer were calling the Pentagon for help and were told the National Guard had been approved.

But military and law enforcement leaders struggled over the next 90 minutes to execute the plan as the Army and Guard called all troops in from their checkpoints, issued them new gear, laid out a new plan for their mission and briefed them on their duties.

The Guard troops had been prepared only for traffic duties. Army leaders argued that sending them into a volatile combat situation required additional instruction to keep both them and the public safe.

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By 3:37 p.m., the Pentagon sent its own security forces to guard the homes of defense leaders. No troops had yet reached the Capitol.

By 3:44 p.m., the congressional leaders escalated their pleas.

"Tell POTUS to tweet everyone should leave," Schumer implored the officials, using the acronym for the president of the United States. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., asked about calling up active duty military.

At 3:48 p.m., frustrated that the D.C. Guard hadn't fully developed a plan to link up with police, the Army secretary dashed from the Pentagon to D.C. police headquarters to help coordinate with law enforcement.

Trump broke his silence at 4:17 p.m., tweeting to his followers to "go home and go in peace."

By about 4:30 p.m., the military plan was finalized and Walker had approval to send the Guard to the Capitol. The reports of state capitals breached in other places turned out to be bogus.

At about 4:40 p.m. Pelosi and Schumer were again on the phone with Milley and the Pentagon leadership, asking Miller to secure the perimeter.

But the acrimony was becoming obvious.

The congressional leadership on the call "accuses the National Security apparatus of knowing that protestors planned to conduct an assault on the Capitol," the timeline said.

The call lasts 30 minutes. Pelosi's spokesman acknowledges there was a brief discussion of the obvious intelligence failures that led to the insurrection.

It would be another hour before the first contingent of 155 Guard members were at the Capitol. Dressed in riot gear, they began arriving at 5:20 p.m.

They started moving out the rioters, but there were few, if any, arrests. by police.

At 8 p.m. the Capitol was declared secure.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 11, the 101st day of 2021. There are 264 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 11, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

On this date:

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated as Emperor of the French and was banished to the island of Elba. (Napoleon later escaped from Elba and returned to power in March 1815, until his downfall in the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815.)

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln spoke to a crowd outside the White House, saying, "We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart." (It was the last public address Lincoln would deliver.)

In 1899, the treaty ending the Spanish-American War was declared in effect.

In 1921, Iowa became the first state to impose a cigarette tax, at 2 cents a package.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers played in an exhibition against the New York Yankees at Ebbets Field, four days before his regular-season debut that broke baseball's color line. (The Dodgers won, 14-6.)

In 1953, Oveta Culp Hobby became the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1961, former SS officer Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Israel, charged with crimes against humanity for his role in the Nazi Holocaust. (Eichmann was convicted and executed.)

In 1965, dozens of tornadoes raked six Midwestern states on Palm Sunday, killing 271 people.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which included the Fair Housing Act, a week after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1970, Apollo 13, with astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert, blasted off on its ill-fated mission to the moon. (The mission was aborted when an oxygen tank exploded April 13. The

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crew splashed down safely four days after the explosion.)

In 1980, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued regulations specifically prohibiting sexual harassment of workers by supervisors.

In 1996, 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff, who hoped to become the youngest person to fly cross-country, was killed along with her father and flight instructor when their plane crashed after takeoff from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Ten years ago: A bloody, four-month standoff in the West African nation of Ivory Coast ended when troops loyal to the elected president, Alassane Ouattara (ah-lah-SAHN' WAH'-tah-rah), routed and captured his rival, Laurent Gbagbo (loh-RAHN' BAHG'-boh), the longtime strongman who'd lost the vote but refused to give up power. A subway bombing in Minsk, Belarus, claimed 15 lives.

Five years ago: Secretary of State John Kerry visited the memorial to Hiroshima's atomic bombing, delivering a message of peace and hope for a nuclear-free world.

One year ago: The number of U.S. deaths from the coronavirus eclipsed Italy's for the highest in the world, topping 20,000. On the day before Easter, the Kansas Supreme Court allowed an executive order from Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly to remain in effect; it banned religious and funeral services of more than 10 people during the pandemic. A federal judge in Kentucky ruled that the city of Louisville could not halt a church's drive-in service planned for Easter. Saturday Night Live made its return on NBC after being sidelined for more than a month by the coronavirus; the all-quarantine version, hosted by coronavirus survivor Tom Hanks, featured stars delivering taped material from their homes.

Today's Birthdays: Ethel Kennedy is 93. Actor Joel Grey is 89. Actor Louise Lasser is 82. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 80. Movie writer-director John Milius is 77. Actor Peter Riegert is 74. Movie director Carl Franklin is 72. Actor Bill Irwin is 71. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 64. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 64. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford is 60. Actor Lucky Vanous is 60. Country singer Steve Azar is 57. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 55. Actor Johnny Messner is 52. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 51. Actor Vicellous (vy-SAY'-luhs) Shannon is 50. Rapper David Banner is 47. Actor Tricia Helfer is 47. Rock musician Chris Gaylor (The All-American Rejects) is 42. Actor Kelli Garner is 37. Singer Joss Stone is 34. Actor-dancer Kaitlyn Jenkins is 29.

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