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REGIONAL

CHOIR

EVENT

On GDILIVE.COM

Monday, April 19, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Aberdeen Civic Center



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 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

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Conde Ad Council 5:00 PM

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ad Council 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, April 11

9 a.m.: Worship/Communion

Milestones: 1st & 4th grade

Monday, April 19

6:30 a.m.: Bible Study

Tuesday, April 20

Newsletter Items Due

Wednesday, April 21

6 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, April 25

9 a.m.: Worship

Milestones: Freshman & Sophomores

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 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.

Monday, April 19

Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20

Quilting, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Confirmation, 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 25, 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.

Heaven Bound Ministries

Pierpont

Buffalo Lake Lutheran

Rural Eden

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

Saturday, April 24: Worship at Pierpont, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 25: 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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Spring!**



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Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36-month monitoring contract ranging from \$45.99-\$59.99/mo. with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,439.76), enrollment in ADT EasyPay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.

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Education leaders see need for improved Native American education in South Dakota

By: Danielle Ferguson

South Dakota educators who were part of a recent statewide panel say a new initiative regarding civics and history education proposed by Gov. Kristi Noem should increase the focus on teaching of Native American history and culture in the K-12 public school system.

In a panel discussion hosted by South Dakota News Watch on Wednesday, April 14, four experienced educators from across the state also said they want the South Dakota Civics and History Initiative to represent the good and the bad of the state's history and to make social studies relevant to student lives by connecting classroom lessons to real-world examples.

The initiative, supported by \$900,000 in state money, will take about two years to create and will be optional for use by school districts. A four-pronged approach aims to offer new teaching methods developed through pilot programs, create a depository of information and resources, review current instructional materials and improve teacher training in social studies. Teachers or schools will be able to choose the materials they use and how it works in their classroom.

A major part of Wednesday's discussion was whether Native American studies should be a requirement for South Dakota schools, and not an optional part of the curriculum as it is now.

Jace DeCory, a Lakota elder and history professor emeritus at Black Hills State University, said that by the time South Dakota students entered her college classes, most had never had courses focused on American Indian history.

"When you omit a chunk of material like major historical events, (you also omit) philosophical thoughts and inclusion of how this particular minority group thinks about certain kinds of things," she said. "We're not invisible. We're still here. Native people are still on this earth. We still are contributing members of society. That has to be dealt with."

South Dakota social studies standards currently have the option for schools to teach the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards, which includes content on Native American history, culture, citizenship and land use.

Jacqueline Sly, chair of the South Dakota Board of Education Standards who also serves on the Indian Education Advisory Council, said there's no way to track how many schools use the materials or how they use them. She suggested some level of tracking may be needed in the future to ensure K-12 students are learning about the state's largest minority group.

Part of the reason some schools may not focus on Native American history is because some teachers don't feel comfortable or equipped to do so, both DeCory and Sly said. Part of the initiative is aimed at

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enhancing teacher preparedness.

"What kind of bridge do we have to help them feel confident in teaching this history?" Sly said. "We have work to do in South Dakota. If we could improve that, we would be worlds and great strides ahead of where we're at right now."

DeCory noted that Montana and North Dakota require schools to include Native American education and said those states could provide a model for South Dakota. The North Dakota Legislature this year passed a bill mandating that Native American history be part of the curriculum in all elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools in the state.

Montana was a national leader in 1972 when it added to the state constitution the requirement to teach all students on "the unique cultural heritage of American Indians" and says the state is "committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity."

The panelists agreed that input on the new teaching materials, educational efforts and training programs should come from diverse voices, accurately represent the state's history and be functional in the classroom.

Secretary of Education Tiffany Sanderson, a panelist, said the time is right to heighten the focus and enhance the depth of social studies teaching in South Dakota Schools, including on Native American history and issues.

"We need to have open conversations about Native American history and that part of our story in South Dakota to make sure our students understand and appreciate the ins and outs," Sanderson said. "Within the standards revision process, I've tasked the team leading that work to ensure that we have an open conversation about what of our Native American history, how native tribal government works, we talked about sovereignty, citizenship and all those kinds of things. We need to have a conversation about how that shows up in standards, specifically around the Native American context versus generally."

Sanderson said the federal Nation at Risk initiative in 1983 put a spotlight on measuring student achievement and highlighted math and reading skills "at the expense" of social studies teaching, especially at the elementary level.

When asked how Noem's suggestion that the siege of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 by pro-Trump rioters was due to a lack of civics education, and about how the events could be portrayed in history books, Sanderson noted that other states may have taken out requirements for civics and history education but that South Dakota should use real-world examples to illustrate history.

Rhoda Bryan, a history teacher in Rapid City, said she didn't feel the proposed initiative was an attack on educators' current practices, but will create an opportunity to bring history and social studies back to the forefront of education in the state.

"I saw it as an opportunity," Bryan said.

The educators were hesitant to support a standardized test for civics that would be required before students graduate. Instead they emphasized that success in civics and government education should be based more on critical thinking skills and the connection students make in the classroom to their real lives rather than just memorizing facts.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



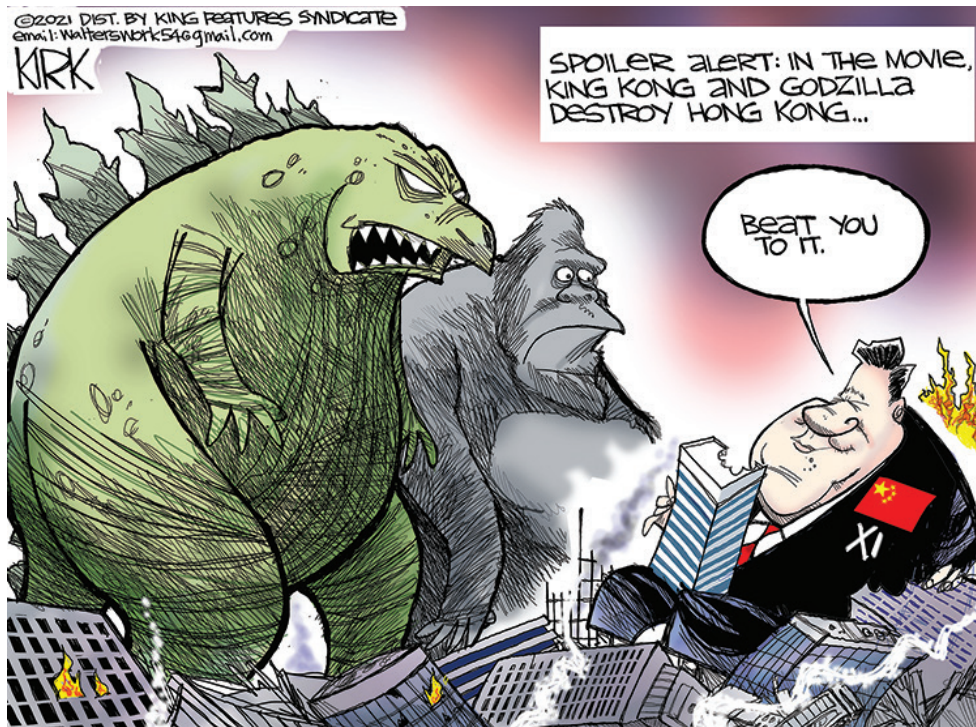
Detail of "Pensive Girl" by Irving Amen (1918-2011)

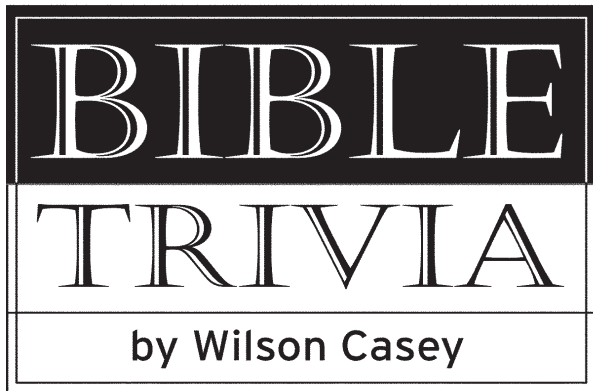
*Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my strength
and my Redeemer.*

Psalm 19:14



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

2. Which book repeats this paraphrased counsel three times to the young women of Jerusalem, "Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases"? *Proverbs, Psalms, Song of Solomon, Genesis*

3. By Roman reckoning, what time of day did Jesus meet the Samaritan woman at the well? *Daybreak, Noon, Mid-afternoon, Dusk*

4. On the island of Patmos, to whom was the Book of Revelation given? *John, Paul, Matthew, Luke*

5. Who hid 100 prophets in two caves and supplied them food and water? *Solomon, Philemon, Obadiah, Hosea*

6. The Semites were descended from Shem, the son of ...? *Moses, Noah, Paul, Jacob*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Song of Solomon (2:7, 3:5, 8:4); 3) Noon; 4) John; 5) Obadiah; 6) Noah

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

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Pepperoni Pasta Salad

Pack this in your lunchbox and see if you don't get an "attitude adjustment" with the first bite!

1 (15-ounce) can stewed tomatoes, chopped and undrained

1/4 cup finely chopped onion

1/4 cup fat-free Italian dressing

1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

3 cups cold cooked penne or rotini pasta, rinsed and drained

1/3 cup sliced ripe olives

1 (3.5 ounce) package Hormel reduced-fat pepperoni, diced

1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat mozzarella cheese

1/4 cup grated reduced-fat Parmesan cheese

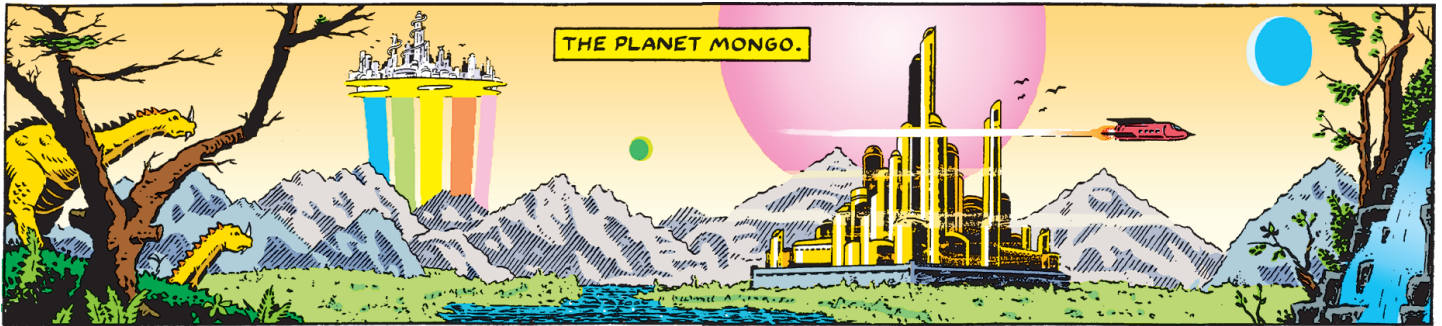
In a large bowl, combine undrained stewed tomatoes, onion, Italian dressing and Italian seasoning. Stir in pasta, olives, pepperoni and mozzarella cheese. Add Parmesan cheese. Mix gently to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Makes 6 (1 cup each) servings.

* Each serving equals: About 205 calories, 5g fat, 13g protein, 27g carb., 729mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Meat, 1/2 Vegetable.

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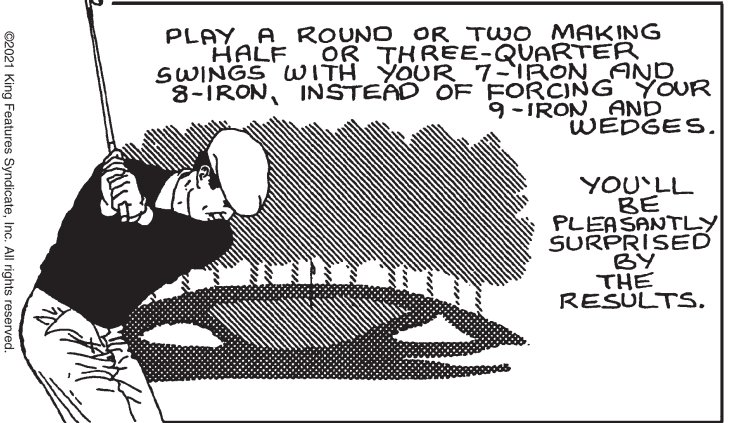
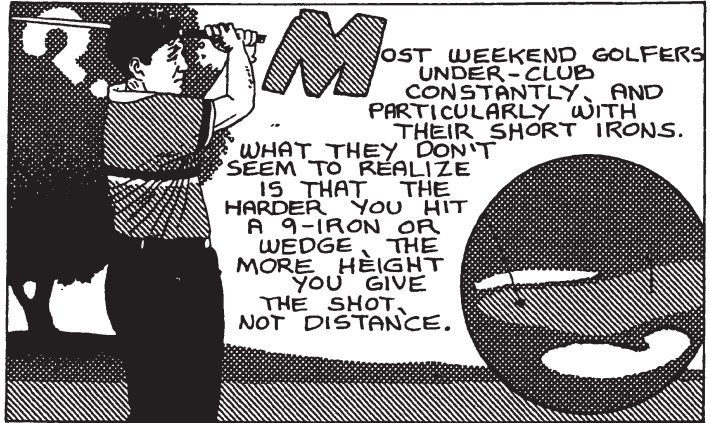
FLASH GORDON
By JIM KEEFE
4-11



DRAWING FROM A STOCKPILE OF WEAPONRY PILFERED FROM VICTIMS, KRORE AND HIS LIZARD-MEN PREPARE AN ASSAULT ON A DOWNED ROCKET SHIP.



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Homemade 'Foot Box' Relieves Night Cramps

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a very healthy 74-year-old male. I am not on any medications and enjoy normal blood pressure and great stats from my regular bloodwork. I weigh 140 pounds and have been exercising every day faithfully for decades.

A couple of years ago, I started getting cramps in both legs throughout the night. My toes would curl down and my entire leg would get stiff; the pain was horrible. I had a terrible time "walking it off," and very often when finally got it to pass, as soon as I got back in bed the whole thing would start all over again. Sometimes I would go a few nights without having a problem, but there was always the fear that I would have another episode.

I read online advice to get the weight of the sheet and covers off the feet. I took a strong cardboard box and sleep with my feet in the open end of the box. The first time I got in bed with this rigged up, it felt very strange not having anything on my bare feet, but eventually I got used to it. The remarkable news is that I have not had a single episode since fabricating the box over six months ago. -- G.K.

ANSWER: I appreciate your writing in. I have had many patients use a box during sleep for acute gout, where even a sheet on top of the affected toe can be exquisitely painful, but I had not heard this used for nocturnal leg cramps. Some patients have noticed that the symptoms do seem to be started or exacerbated by the weight of blankets.

Before resorting to that, I recommend regular exercise, even a few minutes of riding a stationary bicycle before bed can help. Couple that with regular stretching of the calf and hamstring muscles and adequate hydration. Although many readers ask about it, I do not recommend quinine for most people, and it's quite rare for the cause to be disturbances of sodium, potassium, calcium or other electrolytes. B complex vitamins and magnesium are helpful in some people, but I restrict iron to people with proven iron deficiency.

If all else fails, prescription medications such as verapamil may be helpful.

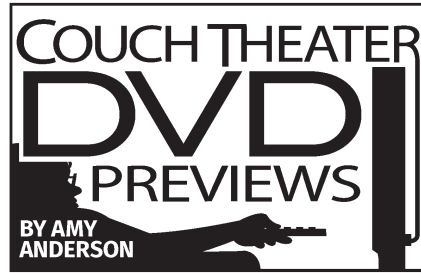
DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm getting low grade tumors in my bladder. I just had my second operation after the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin treatment didn't work. I read that tumors can't grow in an alkaline environment. Should I eat vegetables, like broccoli and sprouts? Also, would vitamin E and selenium be helpful? -- R.G.

ANSWER: It is true that having an acid urine pH is a risk factor for bladder cancer. Many fruits and vegetables make urine pH more alkaline, whereas meat and dairy make the urine more acid. Smoking also makes the urine more acid.

Eating more fruits and vegetables (and abstaining from smoking) will help reduce recurrence of bladder cancer, though I'm not sure it's through urine acidity. Please don't stop your doctor's recommendations, though, as diet alone is not adequate therapy for bladder cancer.

A 2012 study found no benefit in selenium and vitamin E on prevention of bladder cancer. It's unlikely to be significantly effective in treatment.

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.



Mr. Melvin Kaminsky, the Brooklyn-born, 93-year-old comedy mastermind better known as Mel Brooks, really knows his satire. As a writer and director, he's shepherded several movies to the top of the American Film Institute's list of best comedies, holds a coveted EGOT status (meaning, he has won Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony awards) and boasts multiple films in the National Film Registry, a list of culturally significant films that are worthy of preservation by the Library of Congress. In the business of making a darn good movie that's making fun of another movie, he has no equal.

Blazing Saddles — A 1974 masterpiece of black comedy, this film stars Cleavon Little as Bart, a Black sheriff installed as a patsy to offend townspeople seeking protection from a group of ne'er-do-wells sicced on them by an underhanded government official looking to get rich off their land. Gene Wilder backs up Bart as a boozy gunslinger named Jim, aka "The Waco Kid." Hijinks ensue, as you'd expect.

Young Frankenstein — Also in 1974 — and done on a promise to Gene Wilder for his involvement in "Blazing Saddles" — Brooks parodies the Universal monster franchise with Wilder in the title role and Peter Boyle playing his monster.

High Anxiety — Brooks, as Dr. Richard Harpo Thorndyke, takes on the full lead, supported by Madeline Kahn, Cloris Leachman, Harvey Korman and more in this 1977 sendup of Hitchcockian suspense.

History of the World — Historical retelling gets its own Brooks treatment in 1981's "History of the World: Part 1," which skewers the Stone Age to the French Revolution. Brooks' roles range from Moses (who brings God's

15 ... I mean 10 Commandments to the people), to Torquemada in a musical salute to the Spanish Inquisition.

Spaceballs — This 1987 "Star Wars" spoof has Bill Pullman as Lone Starr, hired to track down Princess Vespa (Daphne Zuniga), whose planet is in the crosshairs of Dark Helmet (Rick Moranis). Lone Starr and his sidekick Barf (John Candy) launch a renegade rescue effort in their Winnebago spaceship. Mel Brooks holds dual roles as President Skroob and Yogurt (can you guess who he's parodying there?).



Mel Brooks in "Spaceballs"

Robin Hood: Men in Tights — Cary Elwes is behind the bow as do-gooder Robin of Loxley, who returns from the Crusades to find that the local sheriff (of "Rottingham," played by Roger Rees) has plunged his home into a hot mess. He takes to the forest with a band of merry men while pursuing justice and the lovely Amy Yasbeck as Maid Marian, with her Everlast chastity belt.

Dracula: Dead and Loving It — Leslie Nielsen stars as a more modern Dracula, who purchases an abbey in Merry Olde England and sets about installing himself there with the help of an unwitting solicitor-turned-servant played by Peter MacNicol. Brooks plays Dracula's foil and enemy, Professor Van Helsing.

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1. The Beatles held the No. 1 slot on the charts for three months with consecutive hits in 1964. Name the song and artist that finally broke their lock on the top of the charts.

2. Which group released "Island Girl"?

3. Who was the first to release "Spanish Harlem"?

4. Isaac Hayes was best known for his work on the music for what film?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Cause we'll all stick together, And you can take that to the bank, That's the cowboys and the hippies, And the rebels and the yanks."

Answers

1. "Hello, Dolly" by Louis Armstrong, the oldest artist to ever reach No. 1. The song was from the

musical of the same name.

2. The Beach Boys on their "Still Cruisin'" album in 1989. Elton John had released a different song by the same title in 1975.

3. Ben E. King, in 1960. The song was released as a B-side, but climbed the charts on its own.

4. "Shaft," in 1971.

5. "In America," by the Charlie Daniels Band, in 1980. The song is a patriotic answer to all the problems facing the country at the time, from Watergate, to unemployment, to high interest rates (mortgages had reached 18%).

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NOW HIRING

MJ's Sinclair of Groton is looking for someone to work weekends and nights. Stop out and see Jeff for an application.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



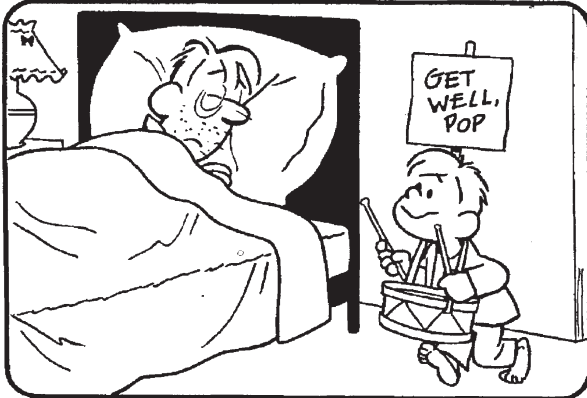
GRIN and BEAR IT



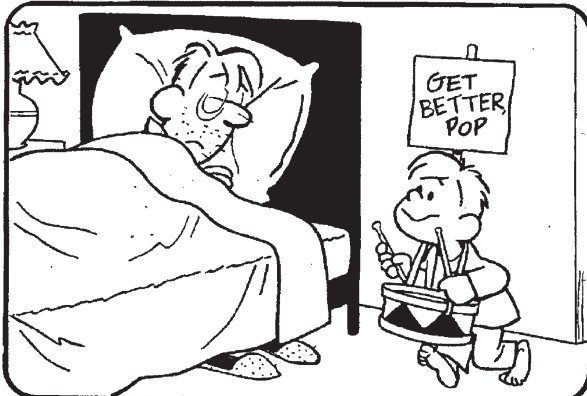
"Someday this will all be your fault, son."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pillow is smaller. 2. Sign is different. 3. Drums/tick is shorter. 4. Bow is missing. 5. Slippers are added. 6. Drum is different.



- Spring clean your tools. Ditch half-used tubes of caulk, stiff paintbrushes, random hardware that doesn't have any obvious use, especially screws or nails that have been pulled out of the wall.

- “When cleaning the microwave, boil a couple of cups of water in the microwave first. The steam will help loosen any stuck-on food.” — *O.D. in Idaho*

- Defrost meats on the bottom shelf only. Ideally, you should have a large bowl or container to put packages of meat in that require defrosting, so that if they leak, the leakage will be contained and will not get on any of your other foods.

- “The plastic liner in cereal boxes makes a good, strong container for kitchen scraps if you are saving them for composting.” — *Y.T. in Oregon*

- Another reason to get the newspaper: Crushed newspaper makes a great rag for shining windows in your home and in the car. No lint left behind!

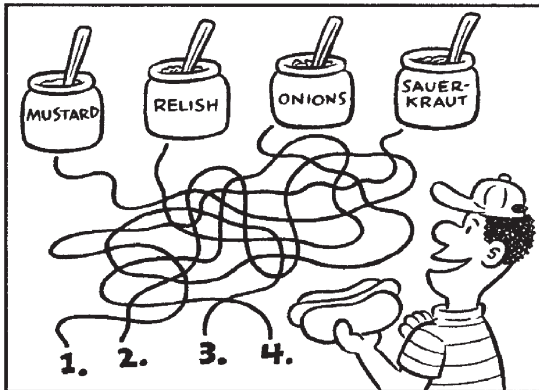
- “Wipe out the insides of a cornstarch container to make a handy catch-all for craft supplies or crayon sets for kids (labeled so they all have their own). These are a really good size, and several brands seem to come with a clear lid.” — *H.D. in Florida*

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

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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Illustrated by David Coulson

DINER LINGO!

Back in the golden age of diners, the staff had a colorful way of describing the items on the menu. Below is a list of diner expressions along with the items as they appeared on the menu. Can you match them up?

DINER LINGO

1. "Gimme a shimmy!"
2. "Limy with china!"
3. "Bossy in a bowl!"
4. "Clean the kitchen, red lead!"
5. "A Garibaldi!"
6. "Hook it through the garden!"
7. "Shoe in the pan!"

MENU ITEMS

- A. Hash with ketchup.
- B. Tuna-salad plate.
- C. An order of Jell-O.
- D. Fried fillet of sole.
- E. English muffin with tea.

F. Beef stew.
G. Italian hero sandwich.
Above, our waitress is calling out an order. What is she actually requesting?

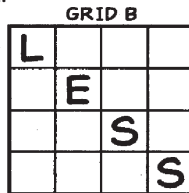
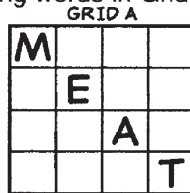
1. C-2-E-3-F-4-A-5-G-6-B-7-D. "Two poached eggs on toast."

HOT DOG! Jimmy likes to "decorate" his hot dogs in the following order: mustard first, then relish, onions and sauerkraut. What routes should Jimmy take?

GREEN STUFF! When Farmer Brown closed up his roadside stand for the day, he found that he took in \$700 in dollar bills, half-dollars and quarters. He also noted that he had an equal number of each. Can you figure out how many of each denomination he had?
He had 400 of each. (\$400 + \$200 + \$100 = \$700.)

NO MEAT BALL! Pictured below are two puzzle grids, A and B. Each contains four words that you must figure out. Hints are given beside each word and one letter has already been filled in. Also, the words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. Type of race.
2. A joke.
3. Type of rug.
4. Broken-leg feature.

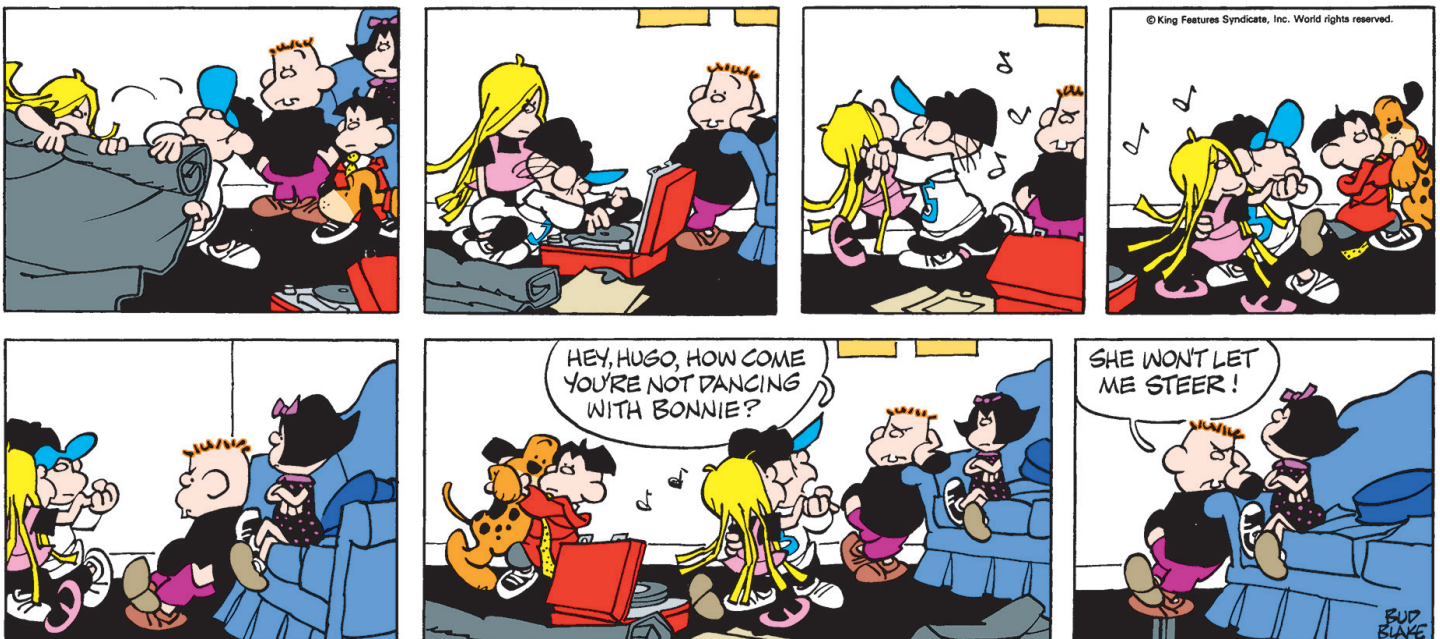


1. Citrus fruit.
2. Fast planes.
3. Type of cut.
4. Famous musical.

1. Mille-lime. 2. Jet-lets. 3. "Cats." 4. Cast-gash.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Civil-rights org.
- 6 Crunchy sandwich
- 9 Eastern "way"
- 12 D-Day beach
- 13 Kanga's kid
- 14 Pirates' quaff
- 15 Stopwatch
- 16 "Charlotte's Web" author
- 18 Van Gogh painting
- 20 Black, in verse
- 21 Lass
- 23 Pouch
- 24 Raiment
- 25 "Rule, Britannia!" composer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
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44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

- 27 Bush
- 29 Refines, as ore
- 31 Decrees
- 35 Void
- 37 Old U.S. gas brand
- 38 "West Side Story" song
- 41 Stashed
- 43 Science room
- 44 Shortly
- 45 Party snack
- 47 "The War of the Worlds" author
- 49 Did yard work
- 52 Enzyme suffix
- 53 Granola grain
- 54 Speak one's mind
- 55 USPS delivery
- 56 "— Clear Day"
- 57 Egg holders
- 9 Navajo or Hopi
- 10 Ones for the road?
- 11 Signs
- 17 Disney's "Love Bug"
- 19 Impudent
- 21 Ozone, for one
- 22 Branch
- 24 Flop
- 26 Broadway's Stritch
- 28 Pine product
- 30 TV schedule abbr.
- 32 "The Chronicles of Narnia" author
- 33 Airport screening org.
- 34 Weep
- 36 California peak
- 38 Taj —
- 39 Uneasy feeling
- 40 Crew member
- 42 Matt of Hollywood
- 45 Family
- 46 Francis, e.g.
- 48 Privy
- 50 Tolkien creature
- 51 — Moines

DOWN

- 1 Word of denial
- 2 French pal
- 3 "Winnie-the-Pooh" author
- 4 "Moonstruck" actress
- 5 Seine city
- 6 Rifle part
- 7 High tennis shots
- 8 AAA job

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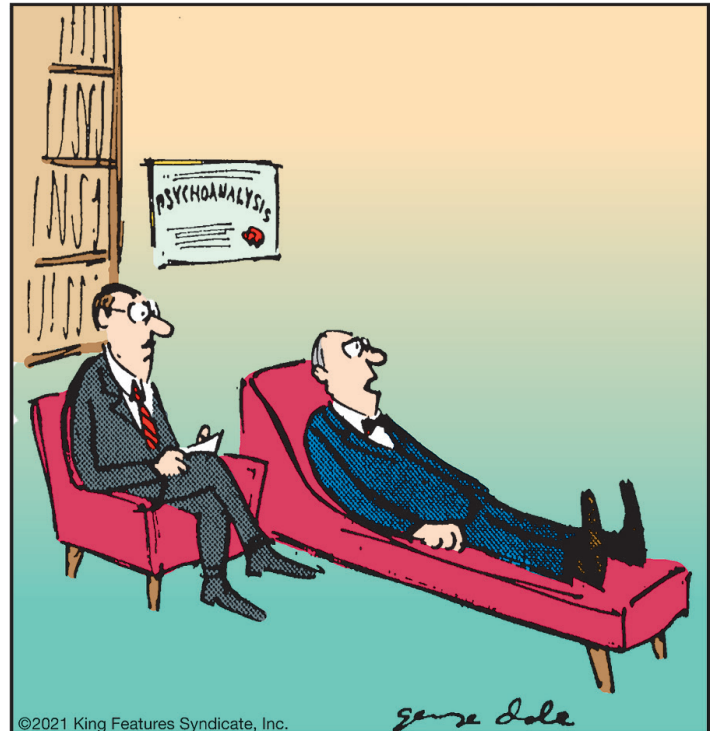
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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S	M	E	L	T	S		E	D	I	C	T	S	
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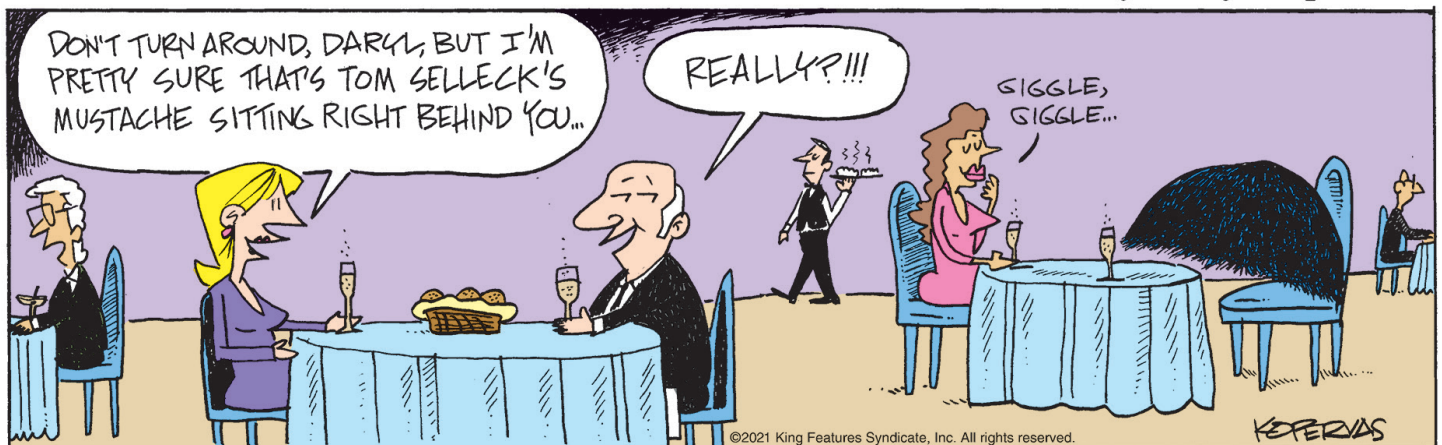
LAFF - A - DAY



"I had a very happy childhood. What does a child know about taxes?"

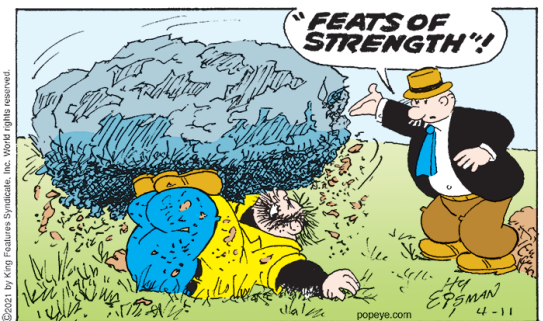
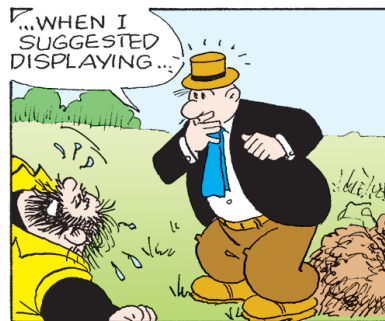
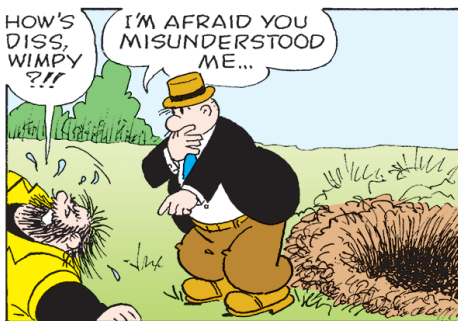
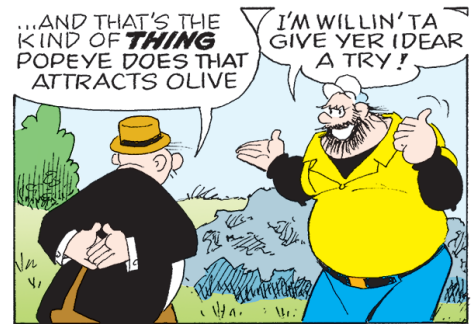
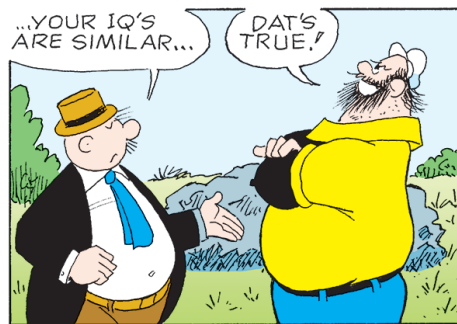
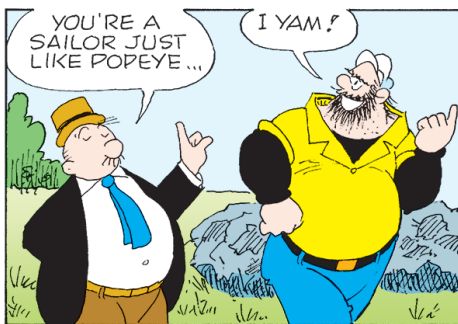
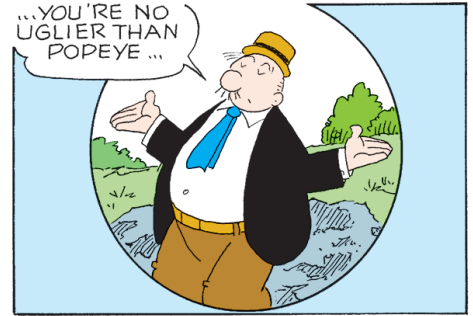
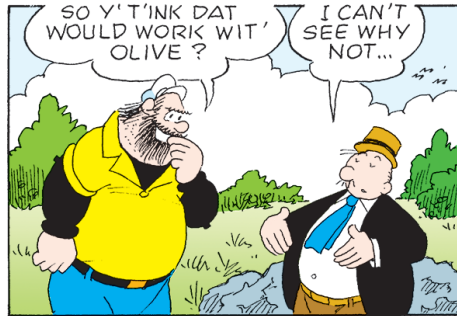
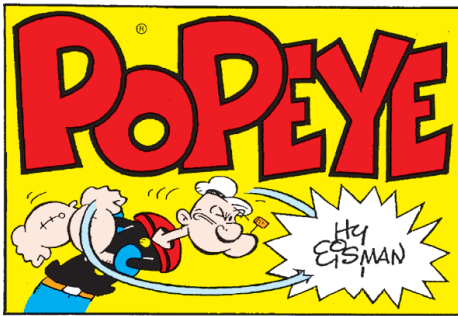
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



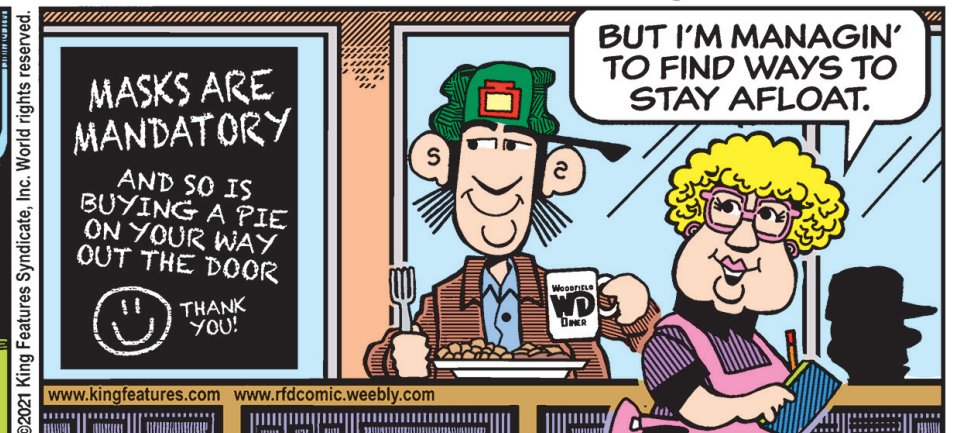
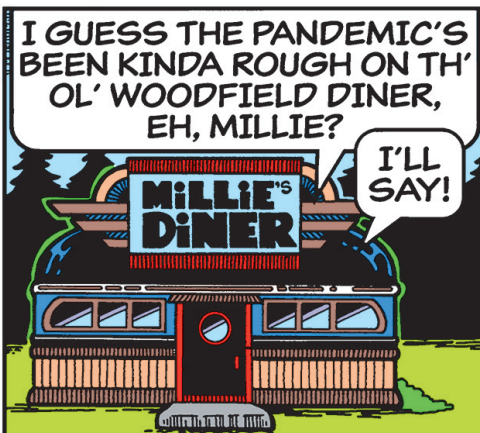
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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HAL FOSTER'S BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant



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"... BY MERLIN AMBROSIUS!"
VAL STARES, DUMBFOUNDED.

"CLOSE YOUR MOUTH, YOUNG PRINCE. IT IS INDEED I, ALTHOUGH YOU'LL FIND ME ADVANCED TO A SOMEWHAT ETHEREAL STATE. I HAVE CLOSELY FOLLOWED YOUR TRAVAILS AND MISSTEPS SINCE GAWAIN BROKE INTO MY CHAMBERS AND - AHM - BORROWED MY RADIANT STAR STONES."



Our Story:

NIGH TO DROWNING, VAL IS SNATCHED FROM THE RIVER TO A MYSTERIOUS, PHOSPHORESCENT SHORE. "THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS..."

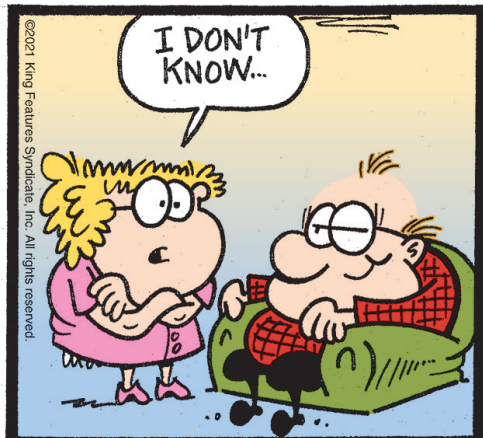
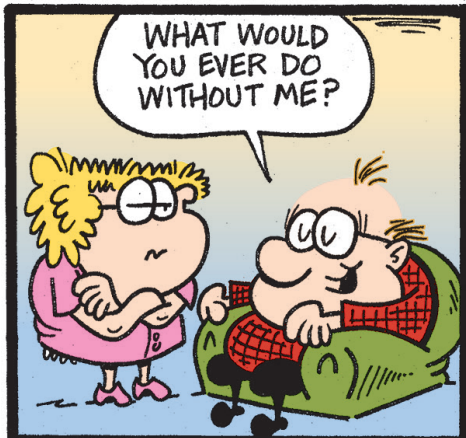
... AN EQUALLY BEDRAGGLED GAWAIN AND IG CROUCH BY HIM. "DON'T THANK US - WE HAVE ONLY JUST BEEN RESCUED OURSELVES..."



NEXT: 5810
A soggy miracle

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Scammers Try New Ways to Trick You

How many phone calls did you receive today? Of those, how many were scam calls? So far today I've received eight.

This is nothing new, but the tricks that scammers use are changing, and we need to be up on all of their tactics to steal our identities and money.

The latest scammer craze is something called tele-transformer. This is step one in the scammer bag of tricks before handing you off to the closers who will pull you into a deal. Sometimes the message will leave a call-back number. Or they'll claim they're returning your call, or calling because you recently bought one of their products.

If you answer, a typical message will say, "This is Kristen with benefits advisers calling on a recorded line. How are you today?" No matter what you say, they launch into their spiel, sometimes about Medicare, sometimes about Social Security, or your mortgage or your student loan, or car insurance, your disability or senior-living home improvement. The range of topics is long.

Just hang up.

With other types of calls, however, what they're looking for is "yes." With that simple word, they can steal your identity and your money.

Here's how it works: The first question they usually ask is "Can you hear me?" What they want is for you to say "yes." Sometimes the question is "Are you having a good day?" or "Is this X?" if they have your real name.

Do not say "Yes"!

Once they have a recording of that one word from you, they're free to do all kinds of things. They can sign you up for a service or send items to you in the mail. They have proof, they claim, that you agreed to those ... because they have your "yes" recorded in your own voice!

Just hang up.

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1. On May 6, 2019, what caused an 18-minute delay in the start of a game between the San Francisco Giants and the Cincinnati Reds at Great American Ball Park?

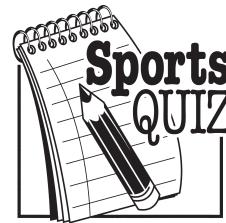
2. The Billiken — a charm doll described as “The God of Things as They Ought to Be” — is the mascot for what Jesuit university’s athletic programs?

3. What horse beat Triple Crown winner War Admiral in a head-to-head match at Pimlico Race Course in 1938?

4. Goodison Park in Liverpool is the home stadium of what English Premier League football club?

5. Billy Johnson, an NFL wide receiver and return specialist who was famous for his touchdown dances, was known by what popular nickname?

6. Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky and Bo Jackson were animated super-



by Ryan A. Berenz

heroes in what Saturday-morning cartoon series that aired on NBC in 1991?

7. What all-female professional baseball team, sponsored by Coors Brewing Company, barnstormed across America from 1994-97?

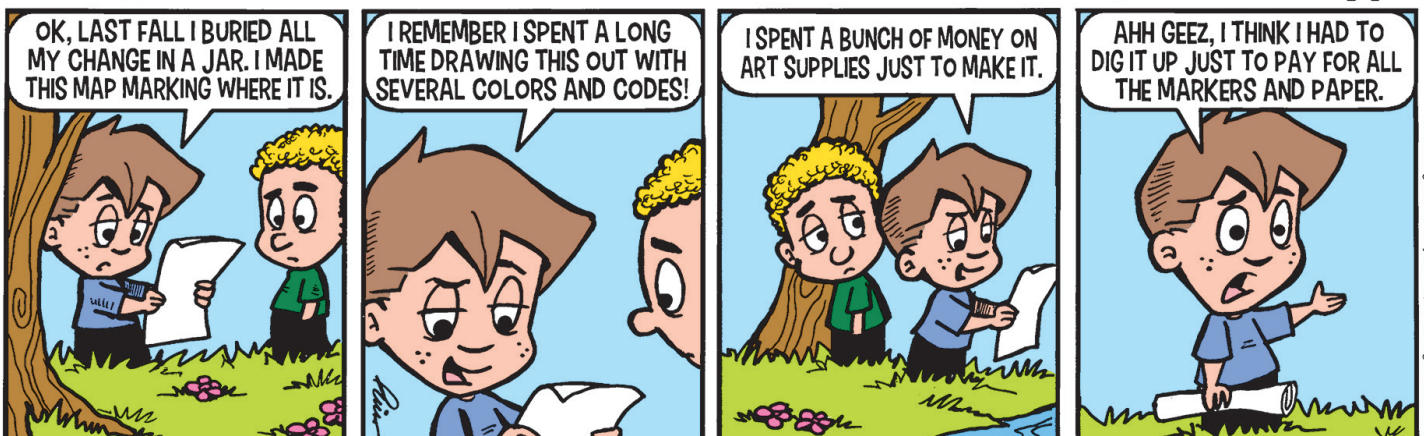
Answers

1. A swarm of bees.
2. Saint Louis University.
3. Seabiscuit.
4. Everton F.C.
5. “White Shoes.”
6. ProStars.
7. The Colorado Silver Bullets.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Dog's First Encounter With Skunk Ends Badly

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We have a big fenced backyard and have no problem letting our dog "Ace" out to roam. However, for the first time, Ace ran into a skunk! Now I'm trying to get rid of that horrible skunk odor, with no luck. What can I use to clean his fur? And how do I keep skunks off my property? — *Suzie H., via email*

DEAR SUZIE: I agree, skunk encounters are pretty awful. And when a dog gets a good soaking from the skunk's defensive spray, it can be very tough to get out of its hair. The American Kennel Club's website (www.akc.org) has some expert advice on getting rid of the skunk smell on dogs. Rule No. 1: Do not bring the dog in the house if you can avoid it.

The AKC recommends a homemade solution to break up and remove the

odiferous oil that makes up skunk spray: Mix a quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide (available over the counter at the local pharmacy) with two teaspoons of mild dish soap and a quarter cup of baking soda. This mixture will start foaming immediately, so have Ace ready. (Don't wet down his fur yet.) Rub the foamy solution into his coat, soaking it completely. (Avoid getting into his eyes or ears.) Leave it on for five minutes, then rinse. Discard any unused solution.

To keep the skunk from coming back, determine where it's getting into your yard and when. Skunks raising young like nesting spots like wood or debris piles. Open trash cans or compost piles are attractive foraging spots. Skunks are most active after sundown or in the early morning hours. Ace may be fine in the yard during the day, but you should accompany him on potty breaks before sunrise or after sundown to prevent another stinky encounter.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose once earned \$8 an hour for smoking cigarettes, for a science experiment at California's UCLA.

* If you translate "Jesus" from Hebrew to English, the correct translation is "Joshua." The name "Jesus" comes from translating the name from Hebrew, to Greek, to Latin, to English.

* The tongue is the only muscle in one's body that is attached from one end.

* In 2007, Scotland spent 125,000 British pounds

devising a new national slogan. The winning entry was: "Welcome to Scotland."

* The suicide palm gets its name from how it meets its demise. At the end of its life, the stem tips explode in a massive array of tiny flowers capable of being pollinated and developing into fruit, and their nectar attracts insects and birds. However, the flowers also exhaust the plant and drain its nutritional supply until it dies.

* There is a punctuation mark used to signify irony or sarcasm that looks like a backward question mark.

* Lipstick was considered an essential item for female nurses in the armed forces during the World War II, both to remind women they were ladies first and military second, and because it might have a calming effect on the male soldiers.

* A 2013 exhibition in Dublin displayed a variety of cheeses made with bacteria samples obtained from people's feet, armpits and navels. No one actually ate them, so we can't comment on the taste.

* We goofed! Our Feb. 8 "Strange But True" column contained this statement: "Baked beans aren't baked. They're stewed." It should have read, "In the U.K., baked beans aren't baked, but stewed." We apologize for the error.

Thought for the Day: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."
-- Robert Louis Stevenson

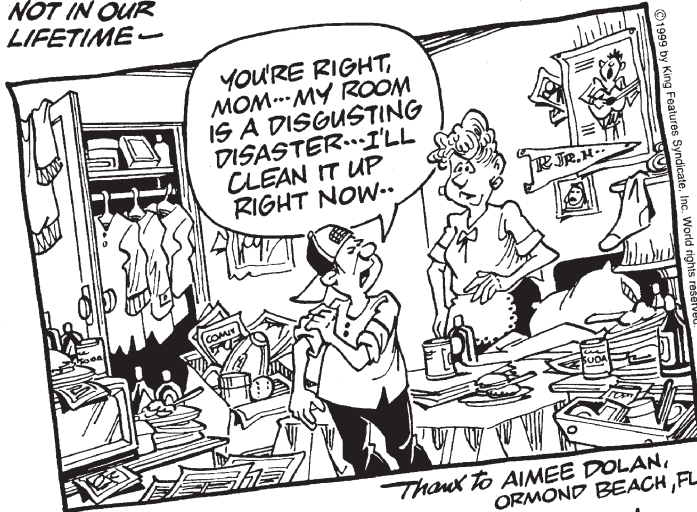
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

NOT IN OUR LIFETIME—



—Thank to AIMEE DOLAN, ORMOND BEACH, FLA.

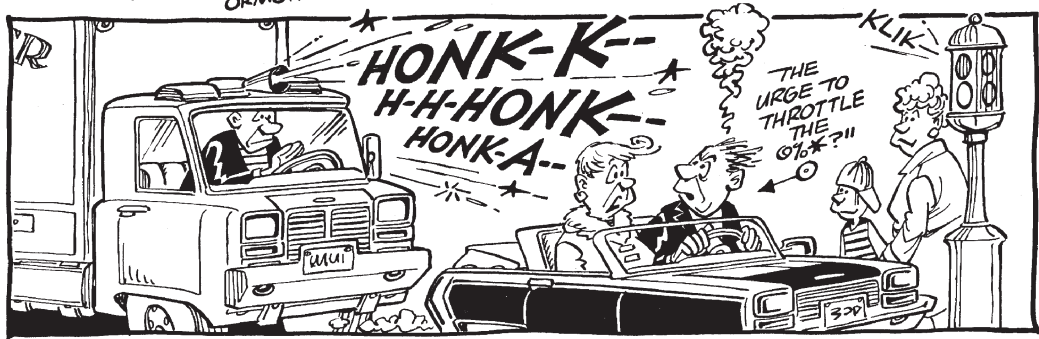
BY AL SCADUTO



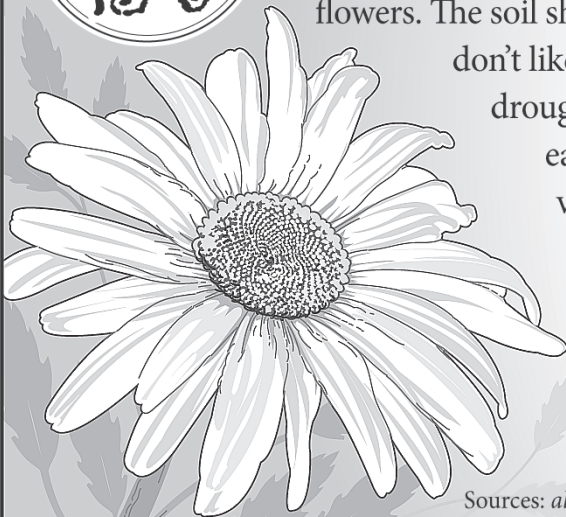
5-23

AMONG THOSE WHO SHOULD BE POSTED ON AMERICA'S MOST WANTED LIST— THE ITCHY GUY WHO HONKS HIS HORN THE SECOND THE LIGHT TURNS GREEN RIGHT? RIGHT!

—Thank to R. BECKERMAN, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.



The Garden Bug



Planting Shasta daisies

Daisies love full-sun locations. They need fertile soil, but not too rich, or there will be more vegetation than flowers. The soil should also drain very well, as Shastas don't like soggy soil; in fact, they can tolerate drought conditions to some degree. Space each plant about 1-2 feet apart. Dwarf varieties won't need much protection from the wind, but the taller types likely will, and possibly support stakes also. Divide plants at the roots when they grow too thickly together. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: almanac.com, americanmeadows.com

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

For These Vets, Haircuts Are Life-Changing

I pushed through the coffee shop's back door and found the attic dormitory crowd in the kitchen.

Sarge had arranged for the lady who gave free haircuts at the senior center to come in and "neaten up" the homeless veterans, as he'd expressed it to her, before they went on job interviews. She breezed through the door with a plastic tarp for the floor, fancy salon wraps for their shoulders, a hand mirror, and a bag of scissors, combs, razors, sprays and gels, plus a stack of cosmetology magazines from which each veteran could choose his preferred hairstyle. All just opted for "something shorter."

For one of the veterans, the one with long, tangled hair past his shoulders and a full bushy beard and mustache that covered half of his face,

the "something shorter" turned into "more, please" as she cut.

"Hello again," he quietly said to his image in the small mirror, touching his chin and cheek after the haircut and shave. "Haven't seen you in a long time." He handed the lady a few bills, even though he didn't need to pay, and then trotted up the street to the drug store, where he bought a pack of disposable razors and shave cream.

Seeing this, Sarge made arrangements for the lady to come back twice a month for trims and cut her a check that she refused to take.

Standing outside under the streetlight after the haircuts, Sarge was subdued. "Did you see how his eyes lit up, seeing himself in the mirror like that? All trimmed and shaved? And all of them confident now about finding jobs?"

He quietly muttered an uncharacteristic string of profanities, then spun to face me. "We have to do better for them. The VA has to do better. Towns have to do better."

As he stared off across the parking lot, I pointed out that he'd singlehandedly changed the lives of these four men by opening the dormitory.

He faced me again and said, "Well, I'm not done yet."

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



Keep the Nine

At the start of the 117th Congress when control of the Senate and White House changed, I had concerns regarding legislation coming down the pipeline. I saw politically-motivated changes to the Supreme Court coming from a mile away – that’s why the first bill I introduced this year was to safeguard the Supreme Court by capping the number of justices at nine. We’ve had nine justices since 1869 – nine justices are the right number for deliberation – and in recent years both Justice Breyer and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg have agreed.

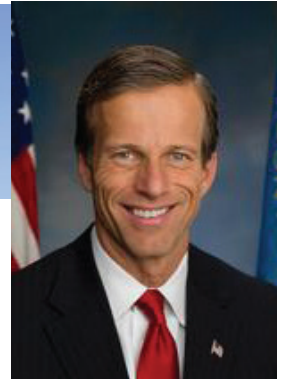
Unfortunately, my intuition was correct and yesterday, prominent House and Senate Democrats introduced legislation to expand the Supreme Court to thirteen justices. I’m strongly opposed to this proposal – the size of the court shouldn’t bounce up and down based on who has won the most recent election. We’ve weaponized almost everything in our modern political system, but our courts have managed to stay somewhat above this fray. We shouldn’t endanger that tradition with court packing.

Speaker Pelosi said she would not bring the bill to pack the court to the House floor for a vote – that’s the right call. However, just this week, President Biden announced a commission to examine what impact expanding the court may have on our country. I’m hopeful this commission will follow the advice of Justices Breyer and Ginsburg, people who spent their lives adjudicating our laws, and recommend maintaining a nine-seat Supreme Court.

I won’t take that chance though which is why I’ve been building a coalition to protect the court in the House of Representatives. My bill to “Keep the Nine” has more than 140+ cosponsors has gained serious traction amongst like-minded conservatives.

Our Supreme Court can’t become a political football every time power shifts in Washington. We can’t risk compromising public trust of the highest court in the land, that’s why I support keeping the nine.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Another Day, Another Liberal Power-Grab Attempt

In what is fast becoming a theme of his presidency, President Biden caved to the demands of the far left and officially established his court-packing commission. Yes, court-packing. An idea that had been consigned to the ash heap of history almost a century ago has been given new life by the far left, who are upset that a duly elected Republican president was able to get his justices confirmed to the Supreme Court.

The terrible crisis we're facing is that a Republican president was able to fill three vacancies on the Supreme Court. I confess I had missed the part in the Constitution that said the Supreme Court is only legitimate if a majority of its members were nominated by a Democrat president – or at least reliably deliver liberals' preferred outcomes. But Liberals didn't. Now they're eager to "restore balance" to the Supreme Court by expanding the number of Supreme Court justices and ensuring that a Democrat president fills the new spots.

President Biden – the same man who once called President Roosevelt's failed court-packing proposal a "bonehead idea" and a "terrible, terrible mistake to make" – is apparently falling in with the far left's demands. His commission – composed largely of left-leaning scholars, Democrat operatives, and a few conservatives as bipartisan window-dressing – will consider court-packing and other structural "reforms," like term limits for Supreme Court justices.

Republicans – and a lot of independent and Democrat voters as well – will see this for exactly what it is: an attempt by Democrats to undermine an essential institution to ensure that Democrats get the Supreme Court rulings they want. Democrats can dress up their openness to court-packing proposals in lofty language and faux expressions of concern for the institution, but no one is fooled. This is about power, pure and simple. Democrats want power. They want to be able to impose the policies they want, when they want them. Justice Breyer, a reliable liberal vote on the Supreme Court, recognizes the extraordinary damage court-packing would do to the legitimacy of the Supreme Court, recently stating that "[i]t is wrong to think of the Court as another political institution. And it is doubly wrong to think of its members as junior-league politicians. Structural alteration motivated by the perception of political influence can only feed that perception, further eroding that trust."

Let's suppose Democrats actually succeed in expanding the Supreme Court and adding more Democrat nominees. What do they think is going to happen next time there's a Republican president and a Republican Congress? I can tell you. Republicans would make their own move to "restore balance" and add some more Republican Supreme Court nominees. Then I imagine when Democrats retook power they'd do the same thing. In a decade or so, the Supreme Court could be expanded to laughable proportions.

This may seem like all talk and no action from a few radical fringe Democrats, but recently, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and senior Senate Democrats stood on the steps of the Supreme Court to announce they had introduced legislation to expand the court from nine to 13. History will not look kindly on those who seek to intimidate the Supreme Court by threatening to pack it with partisans, in much the same way history does not look kindly on President Roosevelt's effort to do the same thing back in 1937.

I understand Democrats' passion for their political beliefs, as I'm also pretty passionate about advancing my political principles, but I believe we should be advancing our principles the democratic way, by persuading people to vote for us – not by undermining our democratic institutions to give our party an advantage.

I am deeply disappointed that President Biden found himself unable to stand up to pressure from the radical left. I hope that at least some Democrats will find the courage to oppose these dangerous attempts to undermine our system of government. The Biden court-packing commission is a solution in search of a problem – and an attempt at a raw power grab by Democrats. I will work to ensure it fades into the obscurity it deserves.

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

A Safer South Dakota

One of my main responsibilities as Governor is to keep South Dakota safe. It's something that I take very seriously. After all, I love this state. I love the people who live here. In a small state like ours, we're all really neighbors. We get to know one another. And we work together to take care of each other.

Part of that responsibility means calling out when other people are making our state less safe. If you look at our nation's southern border right now, that's exactly what's happening. President Biden has undone years of progress securing our border, and it's led to a massive surge of illegal immigration into our country.

We can't possibly know who all these people are. In fact, media outlets have reported that Border Patrol has apprehended several individuals on the terrorism watch list coming into our country. The number of illegal drugs like fentanyl crossing the southern border are up by 233% compared to previous years. Border Patrol needs more help, and they aren't able to catch everything, so we have no idea what else may be getting through.

When President Biden started asking states to take some of these illegal immigrants and house them, I told him "No way" before he asked South Dakota. Those illegal immigrants can call us when they're an American. I wanted to make sure he got that message loud and clear. We don't know who these individuals are, so taking them would make South Dakota less safe.

Over the past four years, President Trump took decisive action to make America safer. He worked to secure the border. He built hundreds of miles of border wall. And he improved the vetting of people coming into our country, especially in the refugee resettlement program.

In fact, I took some criticism two years ago for taking in refugees to our state. But I did so because I was confident that President Trump and his administration had vetted these people. They'd weeded out the bad actors. We had a good idea who these folks were, and having them here would not make our state less safe.

Another part of keeping our state safe is attracting high quality law enforcement officers to protect and serve our communities. Over the past year, law enforcement has been attacked and demeaned in other communities across the country. We responded to these attacks by recruiting more law enforcement officers to move to South Dakota, and we've had tremendous success in those efforts.

In the wake of the recent riots in Minneapolis and other places, I am going to be relaunching that campaign to recruit law enforcement officers to move to our state. In South Dakota, we respect them. We won't defund them. Instead, we'll work with them to make South Dakota safer.



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South Dakota Upland Outfitters Association Assists 25 Youth Trap Shooting Teams

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Upland Outfitters Association (SDUOA) has announced that it will assist 25 youth trap shooting teams statewide with the distribution of 12 and 20 gauge trap shells for the upcoming 2021 season.

Due to high demand and limited manufacturing capacity, there is a national ammunition shortage and many clubs and organizations were unable to locate enough ammo for the year.

Curt Korzan, President of the South Dakota Upland Outfitters (SDUOA) said, "Our association began working last fall to secure shotgun shells for our members '2021 hunting season. We quickly realized that if outfitters were struggling to find shells, youth trap shooting teams may find it impossible."

"Twenty-five teams responded to our assistance and were given access to an average of 15 cases of shells. Many of us volunteer time to our local youth shooting sports programs and we know that without shells, these teams cannot hold practices," said SDUOA board member Sal Roseland. "We decided to get involved and help youth teams stay active this year."

GFP Commission Discusses Statewide Deer and Elk Carcass Disposal Rules

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission continued discussions on a proposal to change the way deer and elk hunters must dispose of carcass remains for the management of chronic wasting disease (CWD).

Under the proposal, all hunters transporting a deer or elk from the county of harvest, must dispose of all carcass remains in a garbage container or at a permitted landfill. This would apply statewide regardless of CWD status in the respective county. For taxidermists and processors, all carcass remains need to be disposed of in the same way regardless of harvest location.

"Our previous rule required only those hunters in CWD endemic areas to follow this rule," said John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief of the Division of Wildlife.

"With the detection of CWD in a good portion of South Dakota, we are proposing that this rule go statewide to help reduce the spread of CWD," Kanta said.

Individuals can comment on this proposal by visiting gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To hear the discussion on this proposal, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive. To see the proposal in its entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on May 2.

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held May 6-7 at Custer State Park.

GFP Commission Discusses Creation of Disabled Veterans Deer and Pheasant Hunting Seasons

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission continued discussions on creating an avenue for nonprofit organizations to apply for deer licenses for disabled veterans and purple heart recipients.

The proposal would allow nonprofit organizations to obtain up to 10 any deer licenses that would be valid on private lands only.

The proposal would require the sponsoring nonprofit organization to complete and submit an application to the Department stating the name, address, and phone number of the sponsoring organization; the

requested date of the season; the location of the hunt; and the name of any landowner providing private land access for the hunt.

In a separate proposal, the Commission laid out rules that would create a pheasant hunt for disabled veterans. The new rules detail the process for nonprofits to offer pheasant hunts for qualifying veterans, beginning Sept. 1 and running through the end of the regular pheasant hunting season. Individuals can comment on these proposals by visiting gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To hear the discussion on this proposal, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive. To see the proposal in its entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on May 2. The next GFP Commission meeting will be held May 6-7 at Custer State Park.

GFP Commission Discusses Changes to 2021-2022 Apprentice, Youth and Mentored Deer Hunting Seasons

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission proposed a simplification of the Youth and Apprentice deer licenses. The proposal would state that any resident or nonresident hunter under the age of 18 would be able to purchase a Youth license. Any resident hunter over the age of 18 who has not had a deer license in the past 10 years would qualify for an Apprentice license. This proposal would also remove the rule that requires adult accompaniment for apprentice license holders.

In addition, the commission continued discussions on proposals that would reduce the harvest of antlerless mule deer in select units for the 2021 and 2022 mentored, youth and apprentice deer hunting seasons. These changes would align mentored, youth, and apprentice deer license types and hunting units.

The change would create two units, Unit MHD-03/YOD-03/APD-03 (shaded) and Unit MHD-13/YOD-13/APD-13 (white) for mentored, youth, and apprentice licenses.

Mentored, Youth, and Apprentice hunters could obtain either a single tag "any antlerless deer" license for Unit MHD-03/YOD-03/APD-03 or a single tag "antlerless whitetail deer" license for Unit MHD-13/YOD-13/APD-13.

The establishment of these units and license types will reduce harvest of antlerless mule deer in select hunting units to increase mule deer population numbers, while maintaining current apprentice, youth, and mentored deer harvest and desired growth rates in other hunting units.

The proposed Mentored, Youth, and Apprentice Hunter Deer Seasons would be:

- Sept. 11, 2021 – Jan. 1, 2022
- Sept 10, 2022 – Jan. 1, 2023

Individuals can comment on this proposal by visiting gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To hear the discussion on this proposal, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive. To see the proposal in its entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on May 2.

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held May 6-7 in Custer State Park.

GFP Commission Proposes Increases to West River Deer Licenses; Decrease to Black Hills and Custer State Park Licenses

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission made changes to their proposed West River and Black Hills Deer Hunting Seasons at their April meeting.

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The commission proposed to increase the number of licenses available for the 2021 and 2022 West River Deer Hunting Seasons.

The proposal calls for 12,373 single tag, 9,688 double tag, and 864 triple tag resident licenses and 920 single tag, 718 double tag and 63 triple tag licenses available for nonresidents.

All units excluding Gregory County: November 13-28, 2021

- Gregory County (Unit 30A): November 6-9 and November 22-28, 2021
- Gregory County (Unit 30B): November 13-28, 2021
- Antlerless deer tags only: December 11-19, 2021

The commission also proposed to decrease the number of "any whitetail" licenses to 3,000 for residents and 240 for nonresidents for the Black Hills Deer Hunting Season. Additionally, the proposal would decrease the number of "antlerless whitetail" licenses to 300 resident and 24 nonresident licenses.

The Black Hills Deer Hunting Season would run Nov. 1-30.

The proposal would keep the number of "any deer" licenses at 200 for resident and 16 for nonresidents.

The Commission also proposed 25 "any whitetail" and 50 "antlerless whitetail" licenses for the Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season.

Individuals can comment on these proposals by visiting gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To hear the discussion on these proposals, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive. To see the proposal in its entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on May 2.

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held May 6-7 in Custer State Park.

GFP Commission Proposes Muzzleloader, Refuge Deer Seasons; Decrease in East River Deer Licenses

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission continued discussions on the Muzzleloader Deer and East River Deer Hunting Seasons at their April meeting.

The commission proposed to change the area where "antlerless whitetail" licenses are valid during the muzzleloader season

The proposed season dates for the muzzleloader seasons would be:

- December 1, 2021 – January 1, 2022
- December 1, 2022 – January 1, 2023

The commission also proposed to decrease available licenses for the East River Deer Hunting Season.

The proposal calls for 24,940 single tag and 1,300 double tag licenses for the 2021 and 2022 seasons.

The proposed East River Deer Hunting Seasons would be:

- November 20 – December 5, 2021
- December 11-19, 2021 – for antlerless deer tags only

The commission proposed deer seasons for three National Wildlife Refuges.

The proposed seasons would be:

Sand Lake NWR

- November 13-17, November 18-22, November 23-28, November 29 – December 5, December 6-12, and December 13-21 (unfilled antlerless licenses only)

Lacreek NWR

- October 20-19 and November 24-30

Waubay NWR (Including the Waubay State Game Bird Refuge)

- November 13-21 and November 27 – December 5

License numbers available for each refuge would be:

Sand Lake NWR

- Resident: 80 "any deer" and 25 "antlerless whitetail deer" licenses
- Nonresident: 8 "any deer" and 2 "antlerless whitetail deer" licenses

Lacreek NWR

- Residents: 20 "any deer" licenses
- Nonresidents: 2 "any deer" licenses

Waubay NWR

- Residents: 20 "any deer" licenses
- Nonresidents: 2 "any deer" licenses

Individuals can comment on these proposals by visiting gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To hear the discussion on these proposals, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive. To see the proposal in its entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on May 2.

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held May 6-7 in Custer State Park.

Commission Continues Discussion on Grouse and Pheasant Hunting Seasons

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission continued discussions on their proposal to extend the Prairie Grouse Hunting Season to the end of January at their April meeting.

The commission proposal would align with the changes made to the 2020 pheasant hunting season.

Also included in their proposal would be to modify the grouse hunting season on the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge to begin the third Saturday in September, extending that season by a month.

The proposed grouse hunting season for 2021 be Sept. 18, 2021 – Jan. 31, 2022.

The commission also proposed to change the closing dates of the pheasant seasons on the Renzienhausen Game Production area and the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge to align with the statewide season's closing date of January 31.

Proposed dates for those seasons would be:

Renzienhausen GPA – Dec. 1, 2021 – Jan.31, 2022

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge – Dec. 13, 2021 – Jan. 31, 2022.

Individuals can comment on these proposals by visiting gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To hear the discussion on these proposals, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive. To see the proposal in its entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on May 2.

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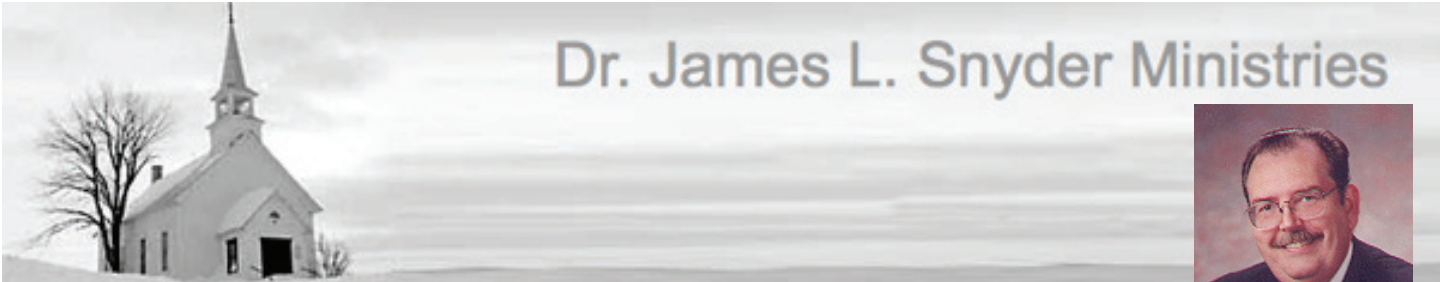
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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



That's Why Doctors Call Us Patients

For the past month I have been engaging with my eye doctor. I've had two cataracts removed which isn't a serious thing in itself. But what goes into this surgery is what baffles me.

I've often wondered why doctors call us patients. I have figured out that the doctors are not patient, so they expect us to be patient. I need to work on that.

I had two cataract surgeries two weeks apart. It took a whole month to go through the process. After the surgery, it'll take another 4 to 6 weeks to get the proper glasses I need to read.

Talk about being patient!

However, needing this procedure, I had to take what came with it. I must say I am not more patient today than I was a month ago.

The first time I went to the eye doctor, he scheduled me for a 9:15 appointment. No problem. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got me there 15 minutes ahead of time to make sure I wouldn't be late.

An hour later, I finally got in to see the doctor. I think he is, on the side, trying to develop patience in my life.

On the first visit, I had to wear a mask, and it's no problem for me. If it makes other people feel happy, so be it. I'm just not real happy about wearing a mask.

As I was sitting waiting for my appointment, the lobby began filling up with new patients. An old guy sat next to me, and we nodded heads. I went back to what I was doing.

In a few minutes, I begin to smell something rather disgusting. I didn't want to look over to the guy next to me, but I did not smell that before he sat down, so I decided that I could not take that stench any longer.

I got up to get a drink of water prepared for us, washed my hands, and then sat at another place.

And of course, within a minute or two another man walked in and sat two chairs away from me. They had it set up so you could not sit next to somebody. I smiled and nodded my head, then went back to reading.

In a relatively short time, I began smelling that odor, and it seemed to worsen as I sat there. I don't like to make a fuss or embarrass anybody, so I sat there as long as I could.

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Then, I got up to get another drink of water, washed my hands, and walked across the room to another seat. This time an older woman came in and sat two seats away. Again I nodded my head, smiled, and went back to reading.

Then I smelled that smell again. This was getting to be rather ridiculous. I can understand some old man smelling that bad, but I was a little confused as to why this woman smelled like that.

At this point, I didn't know what to do. I got up two times before, and the third time draws attention to yourself.

I was wearing a mask, and so I couldn't figure out how I could smell anything through that mask. It's supposed to protect me from outside particles, whatever that means.

Then I got to thinking, if my mask can't protect me from the outside stench, what makes me think it can protect me from some floating germs?

As I was thinking, a terrible thought rumbled in my head. This thought cannot be true, I said to myself. But what if this stench is not coming from the outside but rather from the inside of my mask?

That idea was preposterous, and I wanted to throw it out as quickly as possible. But you know how it is; a thought will haunt you until you pay attention to it.

Cautiously, I pulled my mask down, took a deep smell of my breath and almost passed out. That stench was my breath.

The problem was that my mouth was in close proximity to my eyes of which the doctor was going to be working on. Something had to be done before the doctor called me in.

As I was thinking of this, the nurse walked into the room and called my name and took me into the surgical room. My prayer at the time was that all of these masks worn by myself, the nurse, and particularly the doctor would actually work. I did not want the stench to go out from my mask to enter the doctor's mask working on me.

I prayed a quick prayer, and before I could say "amen," the doctor walks in.

I tried keeping my mouth closed as much as possible, hoping that a closed mouth and several masks would work.

The doctor finished his surgery, and just as he was going out the door, he turned and looked at me and said, "Are you sure you didn't have any breakfast? Smells like you ate garbage this morning."

My patience deflated right there.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain" (James 5:7).

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From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What's the latest on hydrogen powered fuel cells? Not long ago they were touted as the energy source of the future, but news has been scant of late. -- J. Gorman, Columbia, SC

Indeed, around the turn of the millennium, the development of hydrogen fuel cells to power our transportation sector with renewable, non-polluting power was all the rage among environmentalists and techies alike. Fuel cells combine hydrogen and oxygen via an electrochemical reaction to make electricity, with water as the only "exhaust." The first crude fuel cells were invented in England in the 1830s, but the technology really gained momentum in the 1960s when NASA developed them for the space program.

Unlike traditional batteries, which need to be regularly recharged, fuel cells operate continuously as long as they have a steady supply of oxygen and hydrogen. Oxygen is available anywhere and anytime from the air around us. Hydrogen, though also one of the planet's most common elements, isn't easily separated from the compound molecules it is usually part of. So, either gasification or electrolysis are used to separate the hydrogen out. But this requires copious amounts of energy, which is most often derived from fossil fuel sources, calling into question just how sustainable fuel cells actually may be.

Start-ups working on fuel cells for the auto industry (Ballard Power, Plug Power) became the darlings of investors in the 1990s and 2000s, but in the intervening two decades hybrids and EVs started to take over the auto sector instead of cars powered by hydrogen, and fuel cell makers shifted most of their attention to the aviation industry. So, what happened? Why aren't we all driving around in fuel cell cars today?

One major hurdle was the lack of a refueling infrastructure. Internal combustion cars and trucks (and hybrids) can get gasoline at just about every other corner and highway exit across the country. Meanwhile, EV drivers just need an electrical outlet, one of the most ubiquitous pieces of "infrastructure" in our world, to recharge their cars' batteries for the next 80-200 miles.

But if you do happen to drive one of the 300 fuel cell vehicles sold (or leased) in the U.S. in recent years—Toyota Mirai or Honda Clarity, to name a few, you'll have to find a hydrogen refueling station to keep the road trip alive. And if you don't live in California, home to 43 of the nation's 48 hydrogen refueling stations thanks to the forward-looking state's Clean Transportation Program, a fuel cell vehicle probably doesn't make a lot of sense.

While fuel cells may not have lived up to their initial hype as the future of the automotive transportation sector, they are playing an increasingly larger role in powering various aspects of the aviation and aerospace industries, where hydrogen production and refueling operations can be relatively centralized. Another growth area for fuel cells is stationary applications. Our existing natural gas distribution system could be modified to pipe hydrogen into our buildings to feed fuel cells to take care of our energy needs. While fuel cells alone may not be the answer to our environmental problems, they are proving to be one of the arrows in the quiver of those trying to be part of the solution.

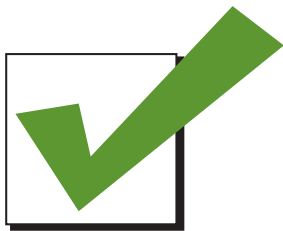


Consider yourself lucky to see a Toyota Mirai or any other "FCV" (fuel cell vehicle) out in the wild — there are only about 300 on the road in the U.S., with the vast majority of those in California. Credit:

Aaron Smart, FlickrCC.

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#419 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I am editing just after midnight as the daily numbers finally posted. Not much to see. We're up to 31,655,400 total cases in the US, 0.2% more than yesterday. There were 63,900 new case reports today. Hospitalizations are unchanged at 45,497. There were 826 deaths reported today, bringing us to 566,452, which is 0.1% more than yesterday. The world death toll passed three million today; that is more than the population of Chicago.

On April 17, one year ago today, there were 699,448 case in the US, still tapering, even though there were increases in various states across the country. Decreases in highly-populous states in the Northeast muted the effects of all those surges. The largest case cluster in the US was at Smithfield Foods, a meat packing plant in South Dakota, which had 733 cases. The US Theodore Roosevelt was up to 660, and the rest of the large clusters were all in correctional institutions and other food processing plants. There had been 32,790 deaths.

Mass testing in some homeless shelters in Boston and on the USS Theodore Roosevelt was bringing home to us just how large our problem with asymptomatic spread was, worse because we were not doing the amount of testing needed to get our arms around transmission. Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, said in a briefing that it was "unclear" that we had enough testing capacity to responsibly reopen the states which were starting to reopen anyway, even though they hadn't met the benchmarks set by the CDC for safe reopening. And we all know how that ended, don't we?

Hawaii closed its beaches. People were purchasing and taking a miracle cure for Covid-19 that was pretty much an industrial-strength solution of bleach. It will not surprise you to learn those folks were suffering what the FDA called "adverse effects": respiratory failure, life-threatening low blood pressure, and acute liver failure. With Ramadan coming up in less than a week, Muslim authorities were asking followers to pray at home, not in the usual gatherings. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) sent a potful of money to Moderna to accelerate the development of its experimental vaccine built on an mRNA platform, something no one had ever brought to market before, even though similar work on influenza had been underway for some time. Phase 1 clinical trials had been underway for about a month at this point. This is where we started to spend lots of money on manufacturing capability for totally unproven vaccines on the off-chance one of them would be the one. We know how that worked out too. There were 2,196,109 cases and 149,024 deaths worldwide.

We are not making progress, despite our breakneck pace in vaccinating. The reason is that we are taking fewer precautions in the face of more transmissible variants—a bad, bad combination. The University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is out with its latest deaths projection, and we haven't really moved the needle at all: They are predicting as many as 679,000 deaths by August 1. If we got to universal mask wearing within a week (highly unlikely), the number of deaths would drop, but the model sees people dropping mask use and precautions, something that comports with my observations. I was in some stores today, and here folks apparently think the pandemic is over. We're living in the pre-pandemic world despite our increasing case numbers. I can't explain that, but it is a concern. We're on another surge, and I don't see much appetite across the nation for doing anything about that problem. I am very concerned.

Florida moved into the "unchecked transmission" category on April 2. Given the timing of spring break, it's tough to escape the conclusion that this is linked to the mobs of unmasked people crowding the beaches and bars over the break. And today, another couple of weeks later, we see six-fold rise in the number of infections in the state due to variants, likely brought in by those spring break revelers. There are increases in five variants of concern (VOC), variants that make the virus more transmissible, more deadly, or more resistant to treatments and vaccines. Yes, this is the sort of thing we've been predicting for weeks now. Because testing is so deficient, we can't know exactly how this plays out, but it doesn't look good since visitors don't only take their virus home with them—they tend to leave it with the locals too. The strain most prevalent at this time is B.1.1.7, the one first identified in the UK; and there are also cases with P.1,

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the variant first identified in Brazil, and B.1.351, the variant first identified in South Africa and with the greatest recognized potential to evade our immune responses. There are also cases spreading rapidly with B.1.427 and B.1.429, both of which were first identified in California and are considered moderately more difficult to treat.

Pfizer/BioNTech is engaged in a phase 1 pediatric trial in children aged two to five years; it is now fully enrolled. This trial is testing three doses for safety and to see how well-tolerated they are. When the optimal dose is established, a larger study for efficacy can commence.

It took a while, but the verdict is in on convalescent plasma to prevent or treat Covid-19. You will recall that convalescent plasma is derived from blood taken from recovered patients. These folks could reasonably be presumed to have circulating antibodies against the virus, and so if we separate the fluid portion of blood, called plasma, from whole blood, returning the solid elements, the blood cells, to the donor, that plasma will have the patient's antibodies in it. We can then give that plasma to patients, either people at risk who have been exposed or those who are already ill; and maybe those antibodies will help the patient. [Now because plasma doesn't have just anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, but all the various antibodies the donor had circulating, we do need to match donor and recipient for blood type; that's because one of the things people make antibodies to is other people's red blood cells (even if they've never had a blood transfusion—long story there, but it's a sure thing), and the last thing you want to do is give someone antibodies that will destroy their red blood cells. That's what happens in a transfusion reaction, and people die of those.] There's no sure bet this will work: Maybe the concentration of antibodies is too low or maybe the antibodies the patient develops aren't all that protective, but in theory it's a good place to start.

Now it's problematic to test therapeutics in the middle of an emergency, but we do what we have to do. This was, as the New York Times put it, "biologically plausible and safe," so it was definitely worth a try. I would encourage this sort of experimentation in the future too; but alas, this one was a fail. By the end of last year, it became more and more apparent that convalescent plasma wasn't getting the job done. When you're not running controlled double-blind studies, which by now you know are the gold standard for figuring out whether a therapy or prophylactic measure works, it takes a lot longer to sort out whether something works; but eventually you get answers. There may be conditions under which convalescent plasma helps, but overall, it has little effect, especially in people who are really sick, the ones we're most interested in treating. We spent \$800 million in taxpayer dollars for this long shot that didn't pan out. I don't love paying taxes, and I don't love spending money; but I do not view this as a mistake, and I do not blame the folks making decisions for giving it a shot. Remember all the money we sank into vaccines without knowing whether they would work? See how that turned out? Yes, in a situation like this pandemic, you're going to waste some money, but if even a small number of your risky ventures pan out, you find yourself vaccinating hundreds of millions of people long before you would have in a more traditional, cost-conscious environment, and you get your economy up and running. Win some, lose some. On balance, we've done OK with our investments in science.

And with that, I'm finished for the night. Be well. We'll talk again.

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County	Total Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased Among Cases	Community Spread	% PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)
Aurora	466	447	918	15	Minimal	0.0%
Beadle	2912	2838	6317	40	Moderate	8.8%
Bennett	388	378	1224	9	Minimal	5.9%
Bon Homme	1530	1490	2233	27	Moderate	7.4%
Brookings	4092	3875	13174	37	Substantial	7.6%
Brown	5429	5258	13592	91	Substantial	10.3%
Brule	702	689	1965	9	Minimal	4.3%
Buffalo	423	410	917	13	Minimal	0.0%
Butte	1020	992	3420	20	Moderate	3.7%
Campbell	130	126	273	4	None	0.0%
Charles Mix	1364	1312	4250	21	Moderate	1.9%
Clark	445	430	1004	5	Substantial	9.1%
Clay	1894	1861	5832	15	Moderate	3.8%
Codington	4476	4306	10293	80	Substantial	16.6%
Corson	477	464	1067	12	Minimal	5.6%
Custer	817	780	2873	12	Substantial	27.5%
Davison	3176	3063	7099	66	Substantial	7.8%
Day	690	653	1920	29	Moderate	0.0%
Deuel	515	493	1242	8	Moderate	2.6%
Dewey	1449	1419	3990	27	Minimal	3.9%
Douglas	453	437	981	9	Minimal	0.0%
Edmunds	504	481	1122	13	Moderate	21.4%
Fall River	581	557	2822	15	Moderate	7.1%
Faulk	367	352	731	13	Minimal	0.0%
Grant	1027	969	2421	42	Moderate	7.9%
Gregory	577	541	1379	30	Minimal	3.2%
Haakon	262	250	573	10	Minimal	0.0%
Hamlin	788	731	1964	39	Substantial	19.8%
Hand	360	348	894	6	Minimal	5.6%
Hanson	384	375	784	4	Minimal	14.3%
Harding	94	93	199	1	Minimal	11.1%
Hughes	2444	2352	7055	38	Substantial	2.0%
Hutchinson	884	821	2566	26	Substantial	15.7%

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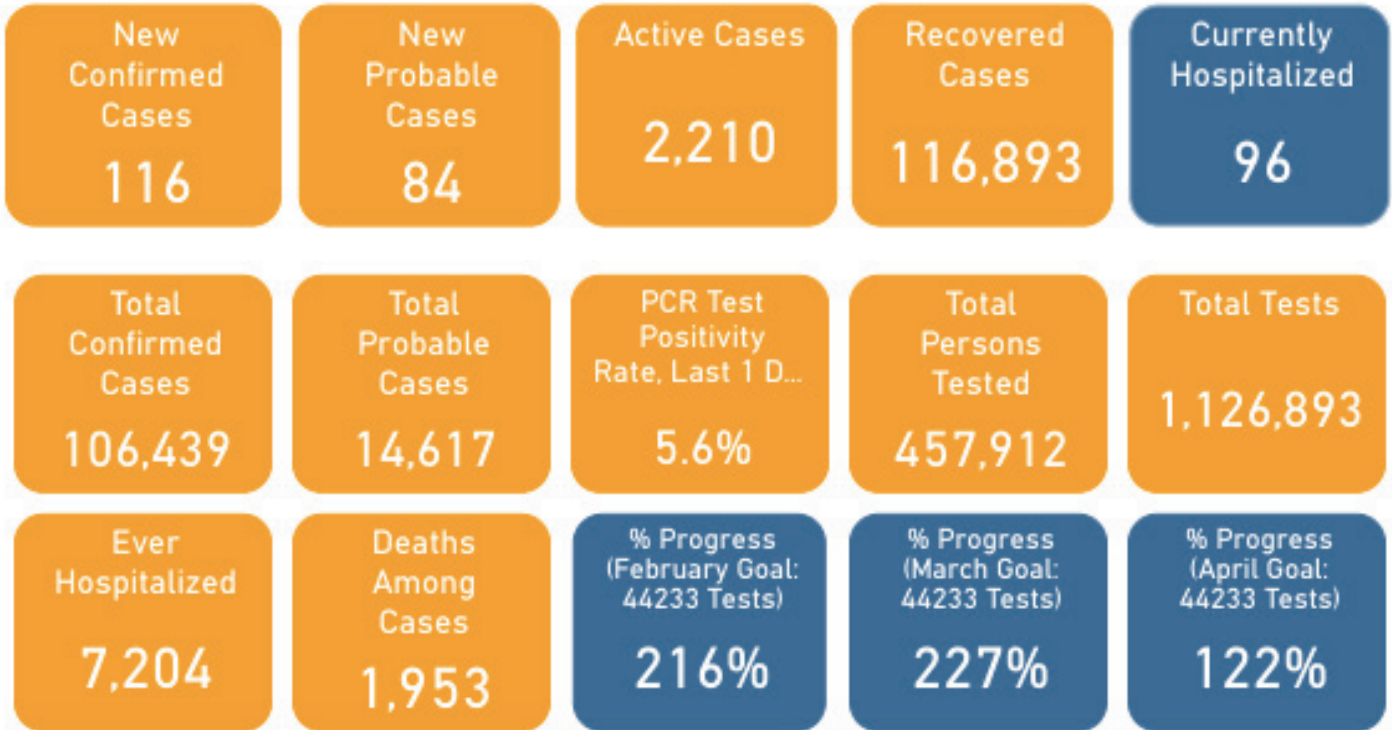
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Hyde	140	139	446	1	Minimal	0.0%
Jackson	289	274	948	14	Minimal	9.1%
Jerauld	273	257	594	16	None	0.0%
Jones	93	93	249	0	Minimal	0.0%
Kingsbury	804	744	1813	14	Substantial	21.4%
Lake	1343	1294	3708	18	Substantial	13.0%
Lawrence	2925	2854	8858	47	Moderate	6.0%
Lincoln	8494	8233	21908	77	Substantial	14.9%
Lyman	634	616	1998	11	Moderate	5.7%
Marshall	367	358	1295	6	None	0.0%
McCook	799	766	1793	24	Moderate	4.8%
McPherson	243	239	605	4	Minimal	0.0%
Meade	2731	2673	8171	31	Moderate	6.6%
Mellette	258	252	787	2	Minimal	8.7%
Miner	296	285	624	9	Minimal	9.1%
Minnehaha	30865	29739	84791	348	Substantial	12.0%
Moody	635	610	1857	17	Moderate	3.2%
Oglala Lakota	2098	2038	6955	49	Moderate	3.4%
Pennington	13454	13112	41643	190	Moderate	7.9%
Perkins	353	338	857	14	Minimal	0.0%
Potter	388	383	889	4	Minimal	5.0%
Roberts	1345	1288	4442	38	Substantial	7.0%
Sanborn	340	336	743	3	Minimal	0.0%
Spink	837	802	2248	26	Moderate	5.1%
Stanley	344	337	1012	2	Minimal	0.0%
Sully	140	134	336	3	Minimal	9.1%
Todd	1221	1189	4339	29	Minimal	1.1%
Tripp	750	726	1569	17	Moderate	6.7%
Turner	1150	1082	2923	56	Moderate	6.3%
Union	2201	2122	6799	42	Substantial	9.6%
Walworth	764	739	1910	16	Moderate	8.1%
Yankton	3020	2918	9963	30	Substantial	7.2%
Ziebach	342	332	912	9	Minimal	0.0%
Unassigned	0	0	1777	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	5173	0
10-19 years	14099	0
20-29 years	21392	8
30-39 years	19963	19
40-49 years	17336	39
50-59 years	16986	116
60-69 years	13752	262
70-79 years	7162	448
80+ years	5193	1061

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases
B.1.1.7	55
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	90920	75%
Native American	13957	12%
Unknown	5594	5%
Hispanic	4474	4%
Black	2719	2%
Other	1744	1%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1648	1%

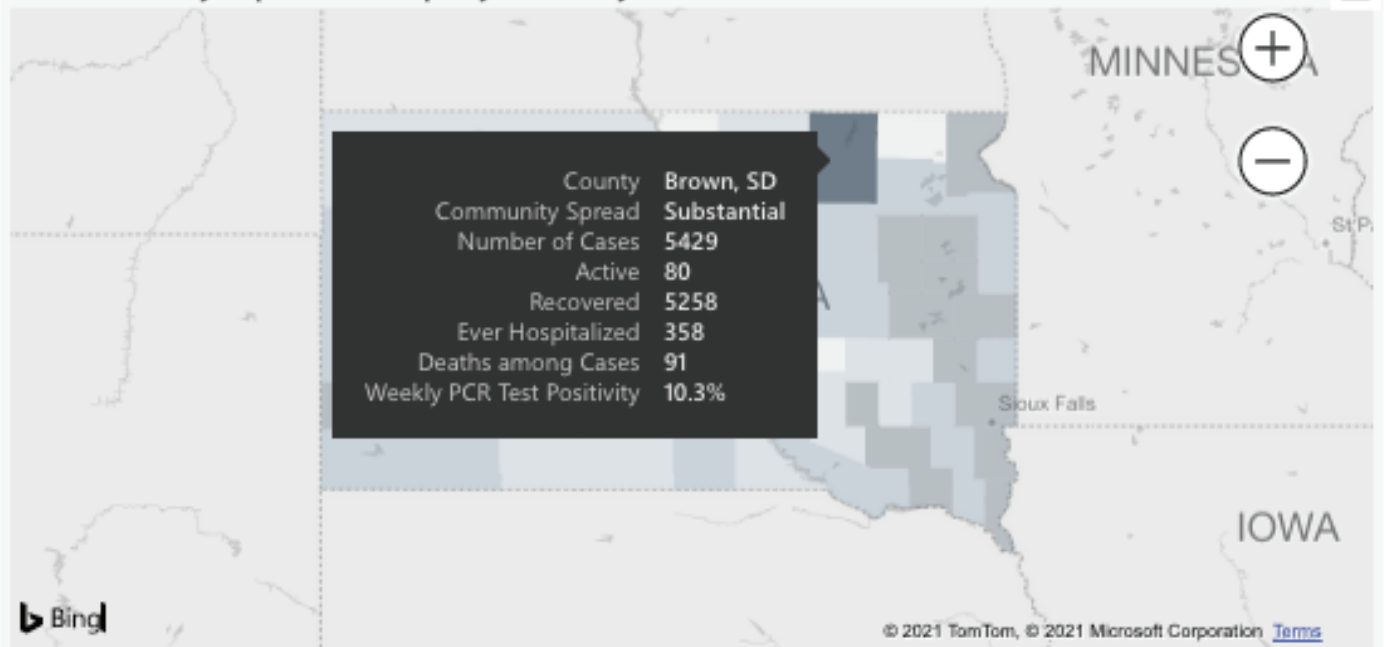
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Brown County

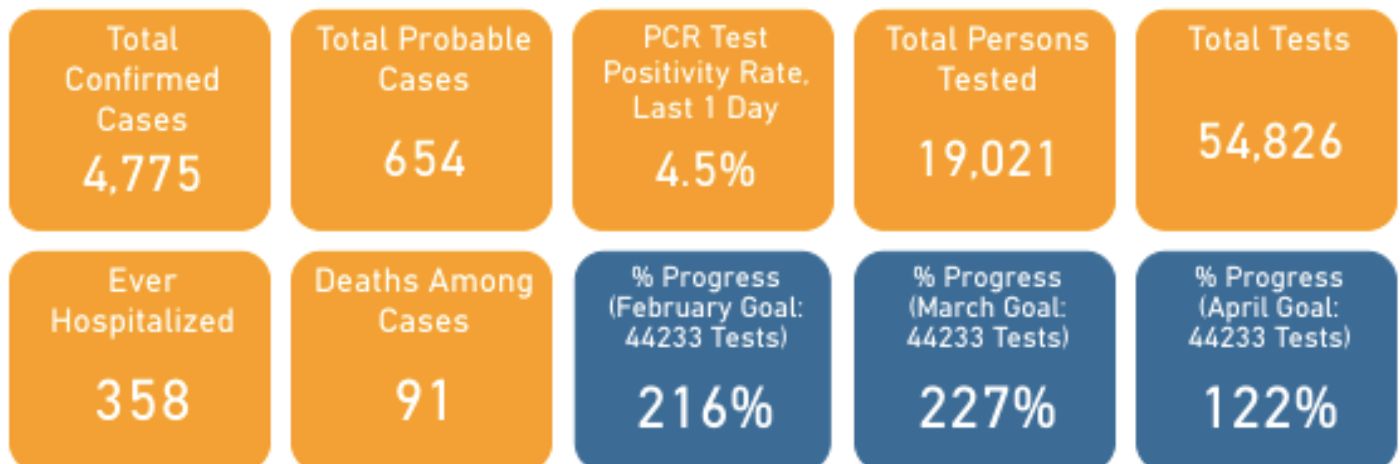


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread: None (white), Minimal (light blue), Moderate (medium blue), Substantial (dark blue)

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



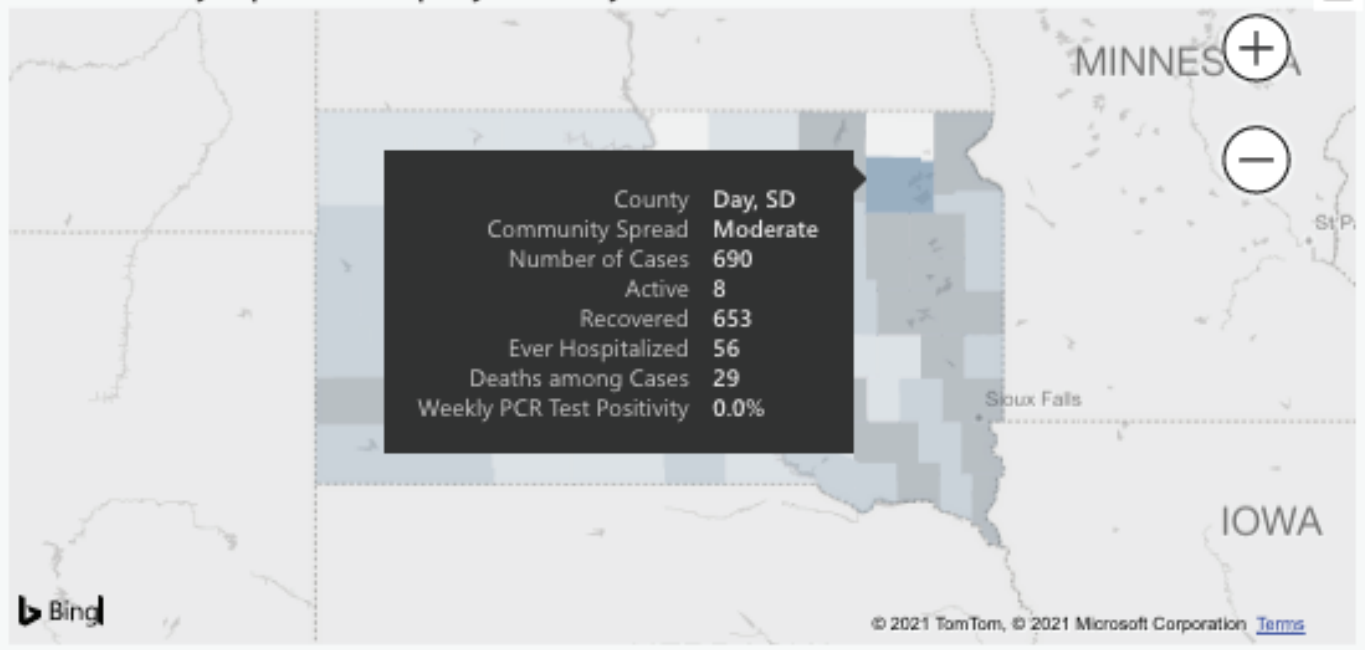
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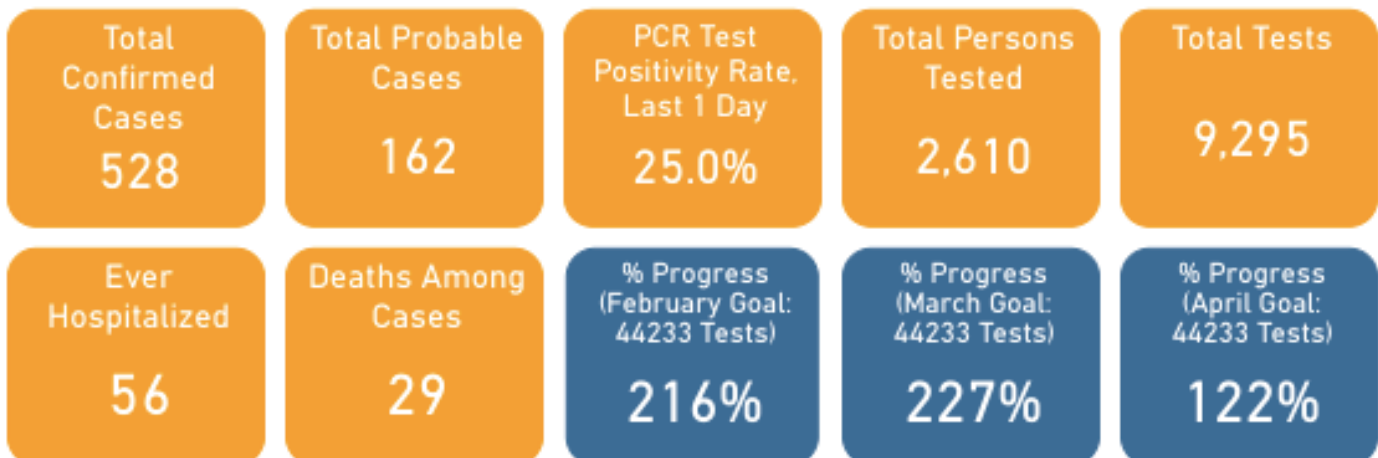
Day County



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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



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Vaccinations

Total Doses Administered*

528,055

Total Persons Administered a Vaccine*

314,649

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

52%

Manufacturer	# of Doses
Janssen	16,288
Moderna	238,251
Pfizer	273,516

Doses	# of Recipients
Janssen - Series Complete	16,288
Moderna - 1 dose	37,922
Moderna - Series Complete	100,162
Pfizer - 1 dose	47,106
Pfizer - Series Complete	113,204

Doses	% of Pop.
1 dose	52.35%
Series Complete	38.44%

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

County	# Doses	# Persons (1 dose)	# Persons (2 doses)	Total # Persons
Aurora	1,691	303	694	997
Beadle	11,192	2,143	4,524	6,667
Bennett*	681	117	282	399
Bon Homme*	5,332	556	2,388	2,944
Brookings	19,486	5,681	6,902	12,583
Brown	25,478	5,275	10,101	15,376
Brule*	2,607	407	1,100	1,507
Buffalo*	166	82	42	124
Butte	3,765	865	1,450	2,315
Campbell	1,507	145	681	826
Charles Mix*	4,835	809	2,013	2,822
Clark	2,110	498	806	1,304
Clay	9,053	2,357	3,348	5,705
Codington*	17,042	3,995	6,522	10,517
Corson*	423	49	187	236
Custer*	4,634	796	1,919	2,715
Davison	13,366	2,845	5,260	8,105
Day*	4,108	736	1,686	2,422
Deuel	2,486	532	977	1,509
Dewey*	485	61	212	273
Douglas*	1,900	278	811	1,089
Edmunds	2,260	374	943	1,317
Fall River*	3,924	654	1,635	2,289
Faulk	1,680	268	706	974

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Haakon*	790	96	347	443
Hamlin	2,951	701	1,125	1,826
Hand	2,370	318	1,026	1,344
Hanson	942	208	367	575
Harding	221	59	81	140
Hughes*	13,427	2,509	5,458	7,967
Hutchinson*	5,607	911	2,347	3,258
Hyde*	807	95	356	451
Jackson*	609	85	262	347
Jerauld	1,446	172	637	809
Jones*	944	122	411	533
Kingsbury	4,233	787	1,723	2,510
Lake	7,619	2,011	2,804	4,815
Lawrence	14,306	2,932	5,687	8,619
Lincoln	41,929	7,652	17,135	24,787
Lyman*	1,250	248	501	749
Marshall*	3,165	625	1,270	1,895
McCook	3,527	849	1,339	2,188
McPherson	430	90	170	260
Meade*	10,485	1,812	4,336	6,148
Mellette*	74	10	32	42
Miner	1,428	312	558	870
Minnehaha*	137,095	26,930	55,074	82,004
Moody*	3,098	468	1,315	1,783
Oglala Lakota*	259	57	101	158
Pennington*	58,523	8,903	24,809	33,712
Perkins*	1,100	130	485	615
Potter	1,581	279	651	930
Roberts*	6,234	814	2,710	3,524
Sanborn	1,666	353	656	1,009
Spink	4,681	577	2,052	2,629
Stanley*	1,997	353	822	1,175
Sully	682	124	279	403
Todd*	249	53	98	151
Tripp*	2,950	348	1,301	1,649
Turner	5,442	879	2,281	3,160
Union	6,019	1,359	2,329	3,688
Walworth*	2,746	366	1,190	1,556
Yankton	16,620	2,582	7,019	9,601
Ziebach*	83	21	31	52
Other	10,808	3,247	3,780	7,027

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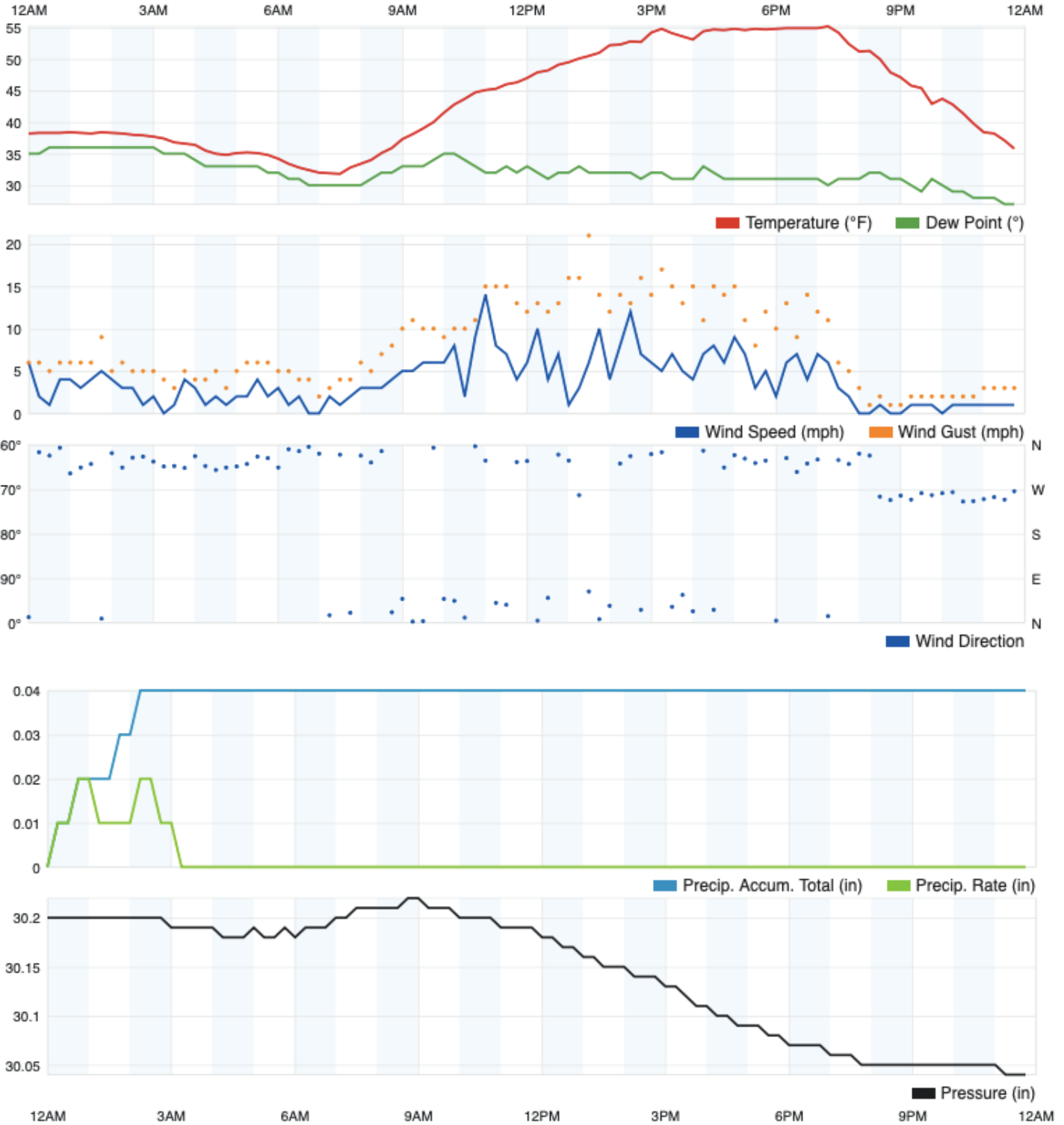
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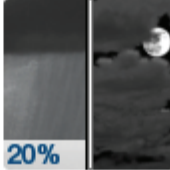



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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Partly Sunny then Chance Showers and Breezy	Slight Chance Showers and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers
High: 53 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 42 °F

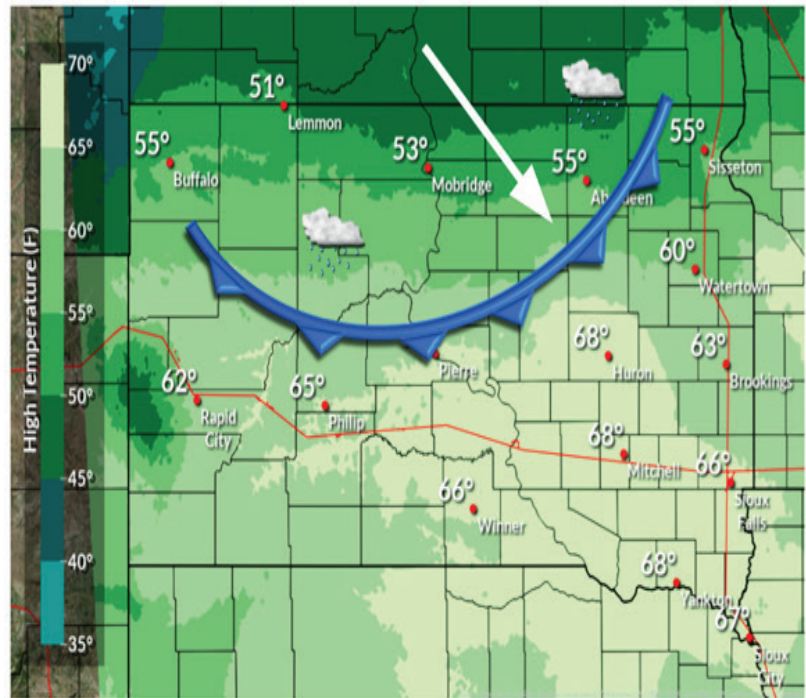


Mild With Chance of Showers Today

April 18, 2021
3:24 AM

Key Messages

- Mild this morning
- Falling temperatures possible this afternoon
- Breezy behind the front this afternoon
- Scattered to isolated showers possible
- Light rainfall amounts



Today's Max Temperatures



Aberdeen, South Dakota

A front will move through today, with gusty winds behind it, as well as a few showers. High temperatures may occur this morning. #sdwx #mnwx



Radar Down For Repairs

Where

The WSR-88D at the National Weather Service Office in [Aberdeen, SD \(KABR\)](#).

What

A new part has been ordered and will likely arrive and be installed on [Monday, April 19th](#).



Our radar went down unexpectedly today, and will be out through the rest of the weekend. Surrounding radars that can be accessed in the meantime include Rapid City (KUDX), Bismarck, ND (KBIS), Sioux Falls (KFSD), and Grand Forks, ND (KMXV) Thank you for your patience.

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Today in Weather History

April 18, 1995: Eight inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a two day period from the 17th to the 18th. Many businesses, schools, and roads closed on the 18th. Hundreds of power poles were downed due to the heavy snow and high winds in Faulk, Hughes, Sully, Hyde, Hand, Lyman, and Buffalo Counties leaving thousands of people without power. Some significant calf losses also occurred (around 10 to 20 percent in some areas), especially in Hand County. Snowfall amounts included 24.0 inches at Vivian, Ree Heights, and in the Murdo area; 23.0 inches at Kennebec, 18.0 inches at Highmore, 16.0 inches at Blunt, 15.0 inches at Miller and Faulkton, and 8.0 inches at Gettysburg.

1880: More than two dozen tornadoes were reported from Kansas and Arkansas to Wisconsin and Michigan. More than 150 persons were killed, including 99 people in Marshfield, Missouri.

1906: At 5:12 AM, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hits San Francisco. A devastating fire soon broke out in the city and lasted for several days. About 3,000 people died, and over 80 percent of San Francisco was destroyed.

1880 - More than two dozen tornadoes were reported from Kansas and Arkansas to Wisconsin and Michigan. More than 100 persons were killed, including 65 persons at Marshfield MO. (David Ludlum)

1906 - A severe earthquake shook San Francisco, and unusual easterly winds spread fires destroying the city. (David Ludlum)

1944 - California experienced its worst hailstorm of record. Damage mounted to two million dollars as two consecutive storms devastated the Sacramento Valley destroying the fruit crop. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - A dust devil near Dracut MA lifted a small child three feet into the air, and rolled two other children on the ground. Fortunately none of the three were hurt. The dust devil was accompanied by a loud whistling sound as it moved westward. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - Rapid City, SD, received a record 22 inches of snow in 24 hours. (17th-18th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-one cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls MN with a reading of 88 degrees, and Bismarck ND with a high of 92 degrees. A sharp cold front produced high winds in the western U.S. Winds in Utah gusted to 99 mph at the Park City Angle Station, and capsized a boat on Utah Lake drowning four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the southeastern U.S. A strong (F-2) tornado severely damaged seventeen mobile homes near Bainbridge GA injuring three persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. A thunderstorm in Pecos County of southwest Texas produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Imperial. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Heavy snow blanketed the west central valleys and southwest mountains of Colorado with up to 18 inches of snow. Nine cities from the Mid Mississippi Valley to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region reported record low temperatures for the date, including Fort Wayne IND with a reading of 23 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

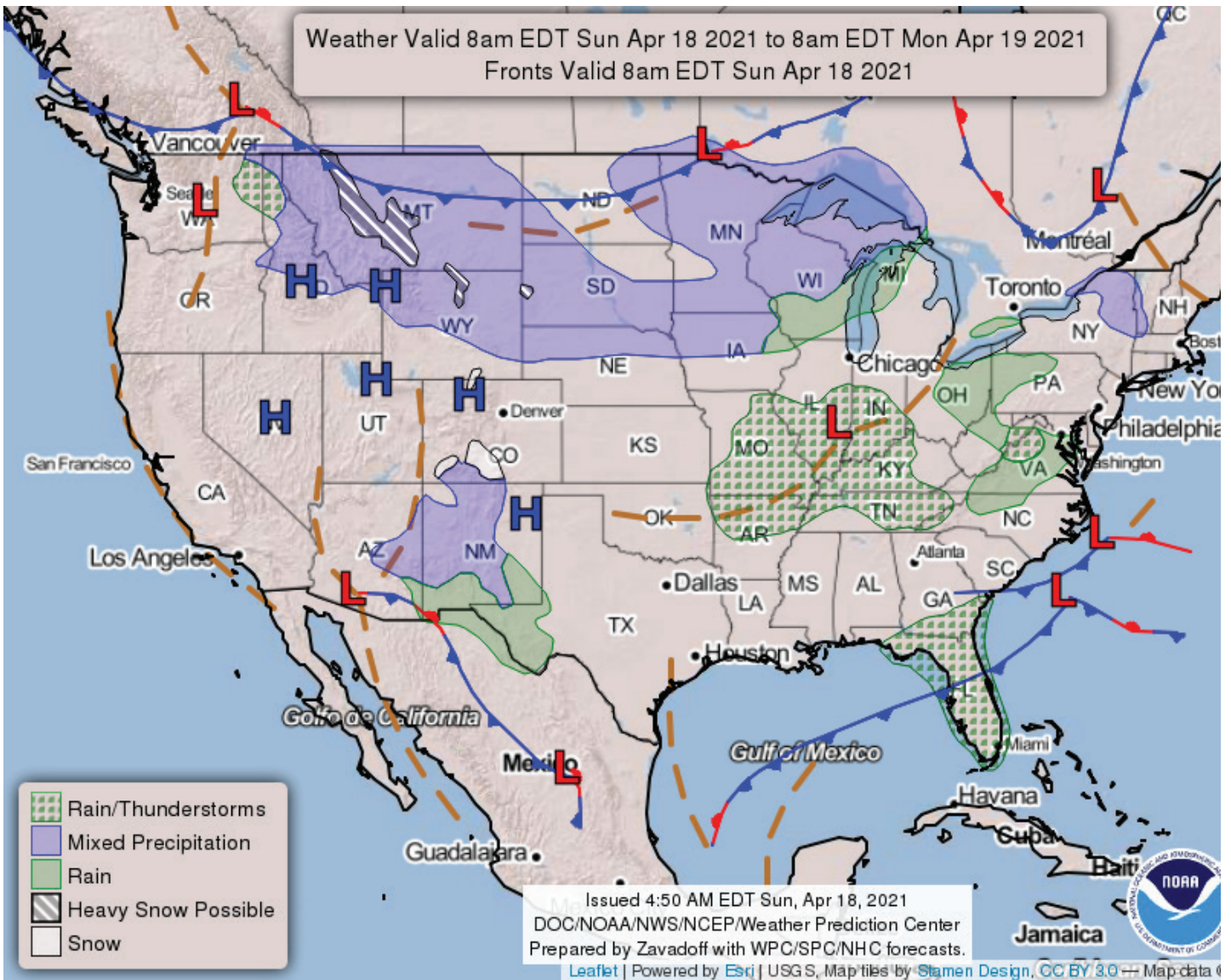
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 55 °F at 7:12 PM
Low Temp: 32 °F at 7:09 AM
Wind: 21 mph at 1:23 PM
Precip: .04

Record High: 89° in 1985
Record Low: 13° in 1953
Average High: 59°F
Average Low: 33°F
Average Precip in Apr.: 0.86
Precip to date in Apr.: 2.33
Average Precip to date: 3.04
Precip Year to Date: 2.51
Sunset Tonight: 8:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:41 a.m.



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SINGING HIS PRAISES

“Congratulations” is a word of encouragement that we all enjoy hearing. Being recognized for any of our accomplishments means that someone has noticed what we have done. It usually brings us feelings of worth and value, importance and significance. Often we swell with pride saying, “Look at me! I’m someone doing something special.”

When things had finally stabilized in David’s life, he paused briefly and rejoiced by saying, “He put a new song in my heart.” This was not the first time that God heard and answered his prayers. God had delivered him many times – perhaps more times than he could ever remember. And singing a song was not a new thing for David. It is something he did often. We hear his songs throughout the psalms because thanksgiving and praise were a central part of his life. But “a new song in his mouth, a new hymn of praise.” What could this possibly mean?

All too often we take God’s goodness and grace and gifts for granted. We expect His deliverance from “messy” situations. We expect Him to heal us when we are sick. We expect Him to provide for every one of our wants and needs. In one way or another, He does. He guides us and guards us and gives us what we need. And when He does, we should be sensitive to His love to see and understand it as a new act of deliverance.

Each day is a new day filled with new gifts because we have never been where we are at this moment in our lives. So, we are to enjoy every day as a new day because we have never experienced this particular day. Each day deserves a new song!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to stand in awe, be surprised at Your gifts and goodness, and sing a hymn of praise for your greatness and grace. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord. Psalm 40:3

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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

20-28-29-31-35

(twenty, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty-one, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$136,000

Lotto America

15-19-28-39-41, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 4

(fifteen, nineteen, twenty-eight, thirty-nine, forty-one; Star Ball: five; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$5.03 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$257 million

Powerball

10-21-26-41-49, Powerball: 25, Power Play: 2

(ten, twenty-one, twenty-six, forty-one, forty-nine; Powerball: twenty-five; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$79 million

South Dakota St. ends North Dakota St.'s 32-game home streak

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski passed for 149 yards and ran for 126 yards to help South Dakota State beat North Dakota State 27-17 on Saturday, ending the Bison's 32-home game winning streak and nine-year streak with at least a share of the Missouri Valley Football Conference title.

The No. 4 Jackrabbits (5-1, 5-1) clinched the conference's automatic qualifier for the FCS playoffs in the 17th annual Dakota Marker game, which was originally scheduled for April 3, but was postponed due to COVID-19 protocols.

The last home loss for the No. 2 Bison (6-2, 5-2) came against James Madison 27-17 on Dec. 16, 2016, in the semifinals of the FCS playoffs. Their streak ended as the fourth-longest home winning streak in FCS history behind Georgia Southern (39, 38) and Eastern Kentucky (34).

Gronowski's 55-yard scramble with five minutes to go put the Jackrabbits in the red zone prior to Isaiah Davis' 4-yard TD run that made it 27-17 with 2:50 left. Michael Griffin II intercepted Cam Miller's pass with a minute left to secure the win for South Dakota State.

Davis ran 16 times for 84 yards and a score, and Pierre Strong carried 11 times for 95 yards and a touchdown. The Jackrabbits outrushed the Bison 305-97.

Miller passed for 149 yards and ran for two touchdowns for North Dakota State. Miller replaced starter Zeb Noland at quarterback after the Bison's first drive, a three-and-out.

Rapid City man charged with sexually assaulting 4th girl

Prosecutors have added more charges against a Rapid City man accused of sexually assaulting multiple girls.

The Rapid City Tribune reported that a Pennington County jury convicted 38-year-old Teddy Guzman on Thursday of three counts of first-degree rape for sexually assaulting three girls under age 13.

The newspaper reported that prosecutors charged him on Wednesday with sexually assaulting a fourth girl in 2015 and 2016 when she was 13- and 14-years-old. Investigators learned about her after police started investigating Guzman in 2017 but she wasn't ready to testify when the other three girls' cases went to trial last year. Prosecutor Lara Roetzel said the girl has since found the strength to go forward

with her case.

Guzman is scheduled to be sentenced in his first case on June 8. He faces up to life in prison. He made his initial appearance on the new case on Friday. Magistrate Judge Sarah Morrison set cash bond at \$500,000.

"Have a good day," Guzman told Morrison as he walked out of the hearing.

Calls to Guzman's attorney's office didn't go through on Saturday.

High court takes up case on virus relief funding for tribes

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case that will determine who is eligible to receive more than \$530 million in federal virus relief funding set aside for tribes more than a year ago.

More than a dozen Native American tribes sued the U.S. Treasury Department to keep the money out of the hands of Alaska Native corporations, which provide services to Alaska Natives but do not have a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

The question raised in the case set for oral arguments Monday is whether the corporations are tribes for purposes of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, which defines "tribes" under a 1975 law meant to strengthen their abilities to govern themselves.

The case has practical impacts. Native Americans have been disproportionately sickened and killed by the pandemic — despite extreme precautions that included curfews, roadblocks, universal testing and business closures — and historically have had limited financial resources. About \$530 million of the \$8 billion set aside for tribes hasn't been distributed.

"But it also seems to me there have been bigger conceptual questions posed about who or what is an Indian tribe that have come out of this particular case and conflict," said Monte Mills, director of the Indian Law Clinic at the University of Montana. "I think that's really been the source of a lot of concern or divisiveness."

Lower courts have parsed language in the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, other federal laws and congressional intent, and arrived at different conclusions. A U.S. District Court found Alaska Native corporations can be treated as tribes for limited purposes, while a federal appeals court said they're not eligible for the CARES Act funding.

The corporations, formed under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, own most of the Native land in the state and serve as economic engines for Alaska Natives who are shareholders by birthright. The corporations also have non-Native shareholders.

They've argued that a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court could have broad impacts for services they provide to Alaska Natives. The Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act is incorporated into dozens of statutes that cover language preservation, education, workforce development, economic development, housing and health care.

It allows tribal governments or other entities on behalf of tribal governments to provide those types of services under contract with the federal government to Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The corporations argue they are interconnected with Alaska Native villages that aren't able to reach everyone, particularly in more urban areas of Alaska.

"It feels a little bit like standing at the edge of a cliff and we may fall off, the fact that our services that we have relied upon for more than 40 years will potentially be gone based on a decision of this court," said Jaeleen Kookesh, an enrolled member of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska who works for Sealaska Corp. "It just feels like we may fall and have nothing left to catch us."

Tribes argue the corporations, known as ANCs, simply aren't eligible for financial assistance meant for tribal governments that have direct responsibility for their citizens regardless of where they live.

"ANCs do not stand in the shoes of Alaska's federally recognized tribes, and allowing them to compete with tribal governments for scarce funding exclusively set aside for governments would represent a monumental and unprecedented shift in the legal status of ANCs," attorneys for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

in South Dakota wrote in court documents.

Three tribes in a related case are vying for a portion of the \$530 million, alleging in lawsuits that they were shortchanged by millions of dollars when the Treasury Department used federal data that showed they had zero citizens or less than their own enrollment figures. A hearing in that case, led by the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, is scheduled next week.

The latest federal virus relief package that President Joe Biden signed last month includes \$31 billion for Indian Country, including \$20 billion that will go directly to tribal governments and will not include Alaska Native corporations. The federal government is consulting with tribes on how to disburse the funding that must be used by the end of 2024.

Mills said the Supreme Court case is being watched around Indian Country and by those who study and practice federal law pertaining to Native Americans and Alaska Natives. More than one-third of the 574 federally recognized tribes are in Alaska.

"It just highlighted the continuing problems and burdens posed by a legacy of federal Indian law on tribal communities," he said. "That's a reason for folks outside of Indian Country to recognize this. It speaks to the broader issues of racial and social justice that are front and center right now."

Pro eater headed to Sioux Falls to take on challenge

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A professional eater is headed to Sioux Falls to take on a challenge of excess no one has ever completed.

Randy Santel, a competition eater with millions of social media followers, has accepted the "Gorilla Dumpster Challenge" at Urban Chislic, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported Friday.

Santel will have to consume six-and-a-quarter pounds of beef, lamb, chicken and pork chislic over kettle chips, double orders of cheese curds and fries and eight sauces. Urban Chislic co-owner Hong Phrommany said no one has ever completed the challenge.

If anyone can do, it's Santel. He has won more than 974 food challenges in all 50 states and 37 countries. He's also married to a professional eater.

He has competed in other food challenges in South Dakota in the past, including the The Keg Chicken's 2019 "Yard Bird" challenge, which featured two whole chickens, a pound of French fries in 45 minutes. He also took on the Boss' Pizza and Chicken "Boss Hog 28-inch Pizza Challenge" in 2017.

Phrommany acknowledged that Santel is undefeated but this challenge will be tough.

"It's predominantly meat," Phrommany said. "Most of his other challenges are pizza, subs or giant burgers. This is just so much protein."

Fashion industry evolves, as virus forces a rethink

By THOMAS ADAMSON and FRANCOIS MORI Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The pandemic has torn a multibillion-dollar bite out of the fabric of Europe's fashion industry, stopped runway shows and forced brands to show their designs digitally instead.

Now, amid hopes of a return to near-normality by the year's end, the industry is asking what fashion will look like as it dusts itself off and struggles to its well-heeled feet again.

Answers vary. Some think the Fashion Week format, in use since the 1940s, will be radically rethought. Others believe Asia will consolidate its huge gains in influence. Many see brands seeking greater sustainability to court a younger clientele.

"The impact of the pandemic will be unquestionably to increase the importance and influence of Asia on fashion," said Gildas Minvielle, economist at the Institut Francais de la Mode in Paris.

"Luxury in Europe has already rebounded but it's only because it's globalized, only because of Asian buyers," Minvielle said. "They spent on European brands."

Asian buyers are still considered a largely untapped market, yet their wealth has recently tipped over that of Westerners. China, in particular, was already considered the worldwide engine of growth in the luxury industry before the pandemic. Its quicker containment of the virus will leave it in an even stronger

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position.

"In the next 50 years money will come from the East as it has been (coming) in the last 50 years from the West," said Long Nguyen, chief fashion critic of The Impression.

This could see a designer aesthetic that panders more to Chinese tastes.

Another trend that's been strengthened during the pandemic is the decision to forgo the frenetic pace of runway calendar shows.

As the virus tore across the globe from East to West, these morphed overnight from a live, in-person, sensory experience to a pre-taped digital display released online. Many predicted devastation for the industry, but houses have proved surprisingly resilient. That's because the system was already overdue a shift.

Since the advent of social media, brands have become much less reliant on traditional advertising outlets such as fashion magazines. Now, they create their own online channels, circumventing the glossies, to get their designs out.

"Each brand is a media entity unto itself," Nguyen said, calling the way the industry operates "obsolete."

Moreover, as buyers themselves move online, houses have necessarily become much less dependent on traditional sales outlets such as department stores.

Some houses have done better than expected with the new digital format. Smaller brands, in particular, have welcomed the break from staging runway shows that can be astronomically expensive — for relatively little return.

Paris couture designer Julien Fournie said the virus has led him to question "whether fashion shows were really necessary" in the first place.

The virus saw many brands, including Balenciaga, Alexander McQueen and Bottega Veneta of French luxury giant Kering, tearing up the traditional calendar to show their new collections when it suits them — both creatively and financially. Saint Laurent started the trend last year, drawing headlines for quitting Paris Fashion Week to "take control of its pace."

The advantage for these brands is to set dates on their own terms, with collections that don't compete with others for attention at the same time. Yet many nostalgic critics, buyers and consumers argue that nothing can replace the physical runway experience.

"Brands have been deciding more and more when their optimal time to show is... They want to control their business more and that is their right," Pascal Morand, Paris fashion federation Executive President.

"But this is not the end to Fashion Week. No matter what people say they are all awaiting a return to the runway and to come back to the physical experience."

Stella McCartney, who unveiled her fall collection off-schedule last month, said that the industry has been seriously questioning the relevance of seasons "even before COVID," as climate change has sadly highlighted how absurd it is.

"There was a moment at the beginning of lockdown — in the sky there were no airplanes, you could hear birds," McCartney said. "Everyone was talking about nature reclaiming its rightful place," she added, expressing frustration with the industry's lifestyle that requires thousands of kilometers of travel per year.

McCartney said that across the industry now there is a sense that brands must embrace sustainability "in order to survive," especially to attract the young, more environmentally conscious consumer.

One example of such eco-thinking is in reducing waste in collections. Luxury giants have been criticized in the past for burning unused or unsold luxury goods.

And McCartney also doesn't seem to think that this will be the end of the runway show.

"I don't think we will throw away where we are today and I don't think we'll dismiss where we were yesterday," she said. "It took me a while, but I miss the energy at the end of the show, the engagement with my community, I miss seeing clothes in real life and moving, expressions of the models, the sound. That is the art."

In Minneapolis, armed patrol group tries to keep the peace

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By STEPHEN GROVES and JOHN MINCHILLO Associated Press

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. (AP) — As protests intensified in the Minneapolis suburb where a police officer fatally shot Daunte Wright, a group of Black men joined the crowd intent on keeping the peace and preventing protests from escalating into violence.

Hundreds of people have gathered outside the heavily guarded Brooklyn Center police station every night since Sunday, when former Officer Kim Potter, who is white, shot the 20-year-old Black motorist during a traffic stop. Despite the mayor's calls for law enforcement and protesters to scale back their tactics, the nights have often ended in objects hurled, tear gas and arrests.

The Black men at the edge of the crowd wear yellow patches on protective vests that identify them as members of the Minnesota Freedom Fighters, a group formed to provide security in Minneapolis' north side neighborhoods during unrest following the death of George Floyd last year. They are not shy about casting a forceful image — the group's Facebook page features members posing with assault-style weapons and describes itself as an "elite security unit" — but on Friday the Freedom Fighters didn't appear to be armed and said they intended only to encourage peaceful protesting.

As several people began to rattle a fence protecting the Brooklyn Center police department, the Freedom Fighters communicated to each other over walkie-talkies. They declined to say how many are in their group.

On recent nights, the Freedom Fighters have moved through the crowd in formation, wearing body armor and dark clothing, weaving past umbrella-wielding demonstrators to create separation along a double-layer perimeter security fence. Their passive tactics are intended to deescalate the tension, preventing agitators from pressing forward and provoking the law enforcement officers standing at attention with pepper-ball and less-lethal sponge grenade launchers at the ready.

"We can keep it peaceful," said Tyrone Hartwell, a 36-year-old former U.S. Marine who belongs to the group. "There's always somebody in the group that wants to incite something," adding that throwing objects at the police takes the focus away from their calls for justice and saps energy from the movement.

Minneapolis is on edge — simultaneously watching the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin in Floyd's death and reeling from the shooting of Wright. In the midst of that, Hartwell said the Freedom Fighters are trying to push the movement for racial justice forward, while keeping at bay the violence and destruction that often acutely affects minority communities.

"This is a very difficult time in the history of this country," said U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, a Democrat from California who joined the protest on Saturday. "We have to let people know that we are not going to be satisfied unless we get justice in these cases."

The 82-year-old congresswoman decried the 11 p.m. curfew set by authorities as a way to tamp down demonstrations and encouraged the crowd of roughly 150 people to "stay in the street."

But local residents have also suffered from the nightly clashes between law enforcement and demonstrators, Hartwell said. He pointed to the apartments across the street from the Brooklyn Center police department, where residents have complained of tear gas streaming into their homes.

The Freedom Fighters formed after the NAACP put out a call for armed men to organize and protect their neighborhoods from looting and arson following Floyd's death. Hartwell said groups of white people had come into predominantly Black communities and harassed children.

They have also formed relationships with the city government and police department. City spokeswoman Sarah McKenzie said there are several "formal and informal relationships" with members of the Freedom Fighters, but it does not fund or contract with the organization because it is an armed group.

However, some demonstrators said those ties mean the Freedom Fighters act at the behest of the police and are not aggressive enough in calling them to account.

The Freedom Fighters have clashed this week with umbrella-carrying demonstrators intent on provoking law enforcement officers. On Saturday, members of the group removed a group of demonstrators who had tried to cut the chains connecting the fencing outside the police department.

For much of the night, the street outside the police department was more subdued than in previous nights — protesters chanted and spat insults towards police, but at times also danced to music.

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Law enforcement also refrained from firing the flash-bang canisters and sponge grenades they had employed on previous nights. And as curfew passed, law enforcement officers did not advance on the crowd; instead, it mostly dissipated on its own.

Another group of protesters tried a different tack by traveling to Stillwater, Minnesota, to protest at the home of Washington County Attorney Pete Orput to push him to bring more severe charges against Potter. A crowd of roughly 100 people marched through the streets of his neighborhood.

One of the organizers of the protest, lawyer and activist Nekima Levy Armstrong, said Orput came out of his home at one point to explain why his office charged Potter with second-degree manslaughter, instead of more severe murder charges.

She credited him with engaging with the protesters, something she said never happened with Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman after Floyd died. The Minnesota Attorney General eventually took over prosecution, and Freeman sold his home after frequent protests.

But Levy Armstrong indicated they would not let up the pressure on Orput, saying, "We are committed to continuing to have conversations with him until we see some murder charges."

'No Sweets': For Syrian refugees in Lebanon, a tough Ramadan

By SARAH EL DEEB and MARIAM FAM Associated Press

BHANNINE, Lebanon (AP) — It was messy and hectic in Aisha al-Abed's kitchen, as the first day of Ramadan often is. Food had to be on the table at precisely 7:07 p.m. when the sun sets and the daylong fast ends.

What is traditionally a jovial celebration of the start of the Muslim holy month around a hearty meal was muted and dispirited for her small Syrian refugee family.

As the 21-year-old mother of two worked, with her toddler daughter in tow, reminders of life's hardships were everywhere: In the makeshift kitchen, where she crouched on the ground to chop cucumbers next to a single-burner gas stove. In their home: a tent with a concrete floor and wooden walls covered in a tarp. And, definitely, in their iftar meal -- rice, lentil soup, french fries and a yogurt-cucumber dip; her sister sent over a little chicken and fish.

"This is going to be a very difficult Ramadan," al-Abed said. "This should be a better meal ... After a day's fast, one needs more nutrition for the body. Of course, I feel defeated."

Ramadan, which began Tuesday, comes as Syrian refugees' life of displacement has gotten even harder amid their host country Lebanon's economic woes. The struggle can be more pronounced during the holy month, when fasting is typically followed by festive feasting to fill empty stomachs.

"High prices are killing people," said Raed Mattar, al-Abed's 24-year-old husband. "We may fast all day and then break our fast on only an onion," he said, using an Arabic proverb usually meant to convey disappointment after long patience.

Lebanon, home to more than 1 million Syrian refugees, is reeling from an economic crisis exacerbated by the pandemic and a massive explosion that destroyed parts of the capital last August.

Citing the impact of the compounded crises, a U.N. study said the proportion of Syrian refugee families living under the extreme poverty line — the equivalent of roughly \$25 a month per person by current black market rates — swelled to 89% in 2020, compared to 55% the previous year.

More people resorted to reducing the size or number of meals, it said. Half the Syrian refugee families surveyed suffer from food insecurity, up from 28% at the same time in 2019, it said.

Refugees are not alone in their pain. The economic turmoil, which is the culmination of years of corruption and mismanagement, has squeezed the Lebanese, plunging 55% of the country's 5 million people into poverty and shuttering businesses.

As jobs became scarce, Mattar said more Lebanese competed for the low-paying construction and plumbing jobs previously left largely for foreign workers like himself. Wages lost their value as the local currency, fixed to the dollar for decades, collapsed. Mattar went from making the equivalent of more than \$13 a day to less than \$2, roughly the price of a kilo and a half (about 3 pounds) of non-subsidized sugar.

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"People are kind and are helping, but the situation has become disastrous," he said. "The Lebanese themselves can't live. Imagine how we are managing."

Nerves are fraying. Mattar was among hundreds displaced from an informal camp last year after a group of Lebanese set it on fire following a fight between a Syrian and a Lebanese.

It was the fifth displacement for al-Abed's young family, bouncing mainly between informal settlements in northern Lebanon. They had to move twice after that, once when a Lebanese landowner doubled the rent, telling Mattar he can afford it since he gets aid as a refugee. Their current tent is in Bhannine.

This year, Syrians marked the 10th anniversary of the start of the uprising-turned-civil war in their country. Many refugees say they cannot return because their homes were destroyed or they fear retribution, either for being considered opposition or for evading military conscription, like Mattar. He and al-Abed each fled Syria in 2011 and met in Lebanon.

Even before Ramadan started, Rahaf al-Saghir, another Syrian in Lebanon, fretted over what her family's iftar would look like.

"I don't know what to do," said the recently widowed mother of three daughters. "The girls keep saying they crave meat, they crave chicken, biscuits and fruit."

As the family's options dwindled, her daughters' questions became more heart wrenching. Why can't we have chips like the neighbors' kids? Why don't we drink milk to grow up like they say on television? Al-Saghir recalled breaking into tears when her youngest asked her what the strawberry she was seeing on television tasted like. She later bought her some, using U.N. assistance money, she said.

For Ramadan, al-Saghir was determined to stop her daughters from seeing photos of other people's iftar meals. "I don't want them to compare themselves to others," she said. "When you are fasting in Ramadan, you crave a lot of things."

The start of Ramadan, the first since al-Saghir's husband died, brought tears. Her oldest daughters were used to their father waking them for suhoor, the pre-dawn meal before the day's fast, which he'd prepare.

A few months before he died — of cardiac arrest — the family moved into a one-bedroom apartment shared with a relative's family.

This year, their first iftar was simple — french fries, soup and fattoush salad. Al-Saghir wanted chicken but decided it was too expensive.

Before violence uprooted them from Syria, Ramadan felt festive. Al-Saghir would cook and exchange visits with family and neighbors, gathering around scrumptious savory and sweet dishes.

"Now, there's no family, no neighbors and no sweets," she said. "Ramadan feels like any other day. We may even feel more sorrow."

Amid her struggles, she turns to her faith.

"I keep praying to God," she said. "May our prayers in Ramadan be answered and may our situation change. ... May a new path open for us."

US, China agree to cooperate on climate crisis with urgency

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States and China, the world's two biggest carbon polluters, agreed to cooperate to curb climate change with urgency, just days before President Joe Biden hosts a virtual summit of world leaders to discuss the issue.

The agreement was reached by U.S. special envoy for climate John Kerry and his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua during two days of talks in Shanghai last week, according to a joint statement.

The two countries "are committed to cooperating with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis, which must be addressed with the seriousness and urgency that it demands," the statement said.

China is the world's biggest carbon emitter, followed by the United States. The two countries pump out nearly half of the fossil fuel fumes that are warming the planet's atmosphere. Their cooperation is key to a success of global efforts to curb climate change, but frayed ties over human rights, trade and China's

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territorial claims to Taiwan and the South China Sea have been threatening to undermine such efforts.

Meeting with reporters in Seoul on Sunday, Kerry said the language in the statement is "strong" and that the two countries agreed on "critical elements on where we have to go." But the former secretary of state said, "I learned in diplomacy that you don't put your back on the words, you put on actions. We all need to see what happens."

Noting that China is the world's biggest coal user, Kerry said he and Chinese officials had a lot of discussions on how to accelerate a global energy transition. "I have never shied away from expressing our views shared by many, many people that it is imperative to reduce coal, everywhere," he said.

Biden has invited 40 world leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, to the April 22-23 summit. The U.S. and other countries are expected to announce more ambitious national targets for cutting carbon emissions ahead of or at the meeting, along with pledging financial help for climate efforts by less wealthy nations.

It's unclear how much Kerry's China visit would promote U.S.-China cooperation on climate issues.

While Kerry was still in Shanghai, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng signaled Friday that China is unlikely to make any new pledges at next week's summit.

"For a big country with 1.4 billion people, these goals are not easily delivered," Le said during an interview with The Associated Press in Beijing. "Some countries are asking China to achieve the goals earlier. I am afraid this is not very realistic."

During a video meeting with German and French leaders Friday, Xi said that climate change "should not become a geopolitical chip, a target for attacking other countries or an excuse for trade barriers," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

On whether Xi would join the summit, Le said "the Chinese side is actively studying the matter."

The joint statement said the two countries "look forward to" next week's summit. Kerry said Sunday that "we very much hope that (Xi) will take part" in the summit but it's up to China to make that decision.

Biden, who has said that fighting global warming is among his highest priorities, had the United States rejoin the historic 2015 Paris climate accord in the first hours of his presidency, undoing the U.S. withdrawal ordered by predecessor Donald Trump.

Major emitters of greenhouse gases are preparing for the next U.N. climate summit taking place in Glasgow, U.K., in November. The summit aims to relaunch global efforts to keep rising global temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) as agreed in the Paris accord.

According to the U.S.-China statement, the two countries would enhance "their respective actions and cooperating in multilateral processes, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement."

It said both countries also intend to develop their respective long-term strategies before the Glasgow conference and take "appropriate actions to maximize international investment and finance in support of" the energy transition in developing countries.

Xi announced last year that China would be carbon-neutral by 2060 and aims to reach a peak in its emissions by 2030. In March, China's Communist Party pledged to reduce carbon emissions per unit of economic output by 18% over the next five years, in line with its goal for the previous five-year period. But environmentalists say China needs to do more.

Biden has pledged the U.S. will switch to an emissions-free power sector within 14 years, and have an entirely emissions-free economy by 2050. Kerry is also pushing other nations to commit to carbon neutrality by then.

After child dies, US regulator warns about Peloton treadmill

By JOSEPH PISANI AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Safety regulators warned people with kids and pets Saturday to immediately stop using a treadmill made by Peloton after one child died and others were injured.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said children and at least one pet were pulled, pinned

and entrapped under the rear roller of the Tread+ treadmill, leading to fractures, scrapes and the death of one child.

The safety commission said in a news release and in emails that it knows of 39 "incidents" with the treadmill, involving "multiple" or "dozens" of children, but it did not specify a number of children. It said the majority of the incidents resulted in injuries, including the one death.

The commission posted a video on its YouTube page of a child being pulled under the treadmill.

Of the 39 incidents, 23 involved children, according to New York-based Peloton Interactive Inc.; 15 included objects like medicine balls, and one included a pet, it said.

Peloton said in a news release that the warning from the safety commission was "inaccurate and misleading." It said there's no reason to stop using the treadmill as long as children and pets are kept away from it at all times, it is turned off when not in use, and a safety key is removed.

But the safety commission said that in at least one episode, a child was pulled under the treadmill while a parent was running on it, suggesting it can be dangerous to children even while a parent is present.

If adults want to keep using the treadmill, the commission said, they should use it only in a locked room so children and pets can't come near it. When not in use, the treadmill should be unplugged and the safety key taken out and hidden away. The commission also said to keep exercise balls and other objects away from it, because those have been pulled under the treadmill, too.

Peloton is best known for its stationary bikes, but it introduced the treadmill about three years ago and now calls it the Tread+. It costs more than \$4,000.

Sales of Peloton equipment have soared during the pandemic as virus-weary people avoid gyms and workout at home instead. The company brought in \$1 billion in revenue in the last three months of 2020, more than double its revenue from the same period a year before.

The commission did not say how many of the Peloton treadmills have been sold.

Sikh community calls for gun reforms after FedEx shooting

By CASEY SMITH and RICK CALLAHAN undefined

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Members of Indianapolis' tight-knit Sikh community joined with city officials to call for gun reforms Saturday as they mourned the deaths of four Sikhs who were among the eight people killed in a mass shooting at a FedEx warehouse.

At a vigil attended by more than 200 at an Indianapolis park Saturday evening, Aasees Kaur, who represented the Sikh Coalition, spoke out alongside the city's mayor and other elected officials to demand action that would prevent such attacks from happening again.

"We must support one another, not just in grief, but in calling our policymakers and elected officials to make meaningful change," Kaur said. "The time to act is not later, but now. We are far too many tragedies, too late, in doing so."

The attack was another blow to the Asian American community a month after authorities said six people of Asian descent were killed by a gunman in the Atlanta area and amid ongoing attacks against Asian Americans during the coronavirus pandemic.

About 90% of the workers at the FedEx warehouse near the Indianapolis International Airport are members of the local Sikh community, police said Friday.

Kiran Deol, who attended the vigil in support of family members affected by the shooting, said loopholes in the law that make it easier for individuals to buy guns "need to be closed now," and emphasized that anyone who tries to buy a firearm should be required to have their background checked.

"The gun violence is unacceptable. Look at what's happened ... it needs to be stopped," Deol said. "We need more reform. We need gun laws to be harder, stronger, so that responsible people are the ones that have guns. That's what we want to bring awareness to."

Satjeet Kaur, the Sikh Coalition's executive director, said the entire community was traumatized by the "senseless" violence.

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"While we don't yet know the motive of the shooter, he targeted a facility known to be heavily populated by Sikh employees," Kaur said.

There are between 8,000 and 10,000 Sikh Americans in Indiana, according to the coalition. Members of the religion, which began in India in the 15th century, began settling in Indiana more than 50 years ago.

One of the victims of Thursday night's shooting was Amarjit Sekhon, a 48-year-old Sikh mother of two sons who was the breadwinner of her family.

Kuldip Sekhon said his sister-in-law began working at the FedEx facility in November and was a dedicated worker whose husband was disabled.

"She was a workaholic, she always was working, working," he said. "She would never sit still ... the other day she had the (COVID-19) shot and she was really sick, but she still went to work."

In addition to Sekhon, the Marion County Coroner's office identified the dead as: Matthew R. Alexander, 32; Samaria Blackwell, 19; Amarjeet Johal, 66; Jasvinder Kaur, 50; Jaswinder Singh, 68; Karli Smith, 19; and John Weisert, 74.

Kuldip Sekhon said his family lost another relative in the shooting — Kaur, who was his son's mother-in-law. He said both Kaur and Amarjit Sekhon both began working at the FedEx facility last year.

"We were planning to have a birthday party tonight, but now we're here instead. This ... this is tough for us," Sukhpreet Rai, who is also related to Kaur and Sekhon, said Saturday. "They were both very charming."

Komal Chohan, who said Amarjeet Johal was her grandmother, said in a statement issued by the Sikh Coalition that her family members, including several who work at the FedEx warehouse, are "traumatized" by the killings.

"My nani, my family, and our families should not feel unsafe at work, at their place of worship, or anywhere. Enough is enough — our community has been through enough trauma," she said in the statement.

The coalition says about 500,000 Sikhs live in the U.S. Many practicing Sikhs are visually distinguishable by their articles of faith, which include the unshorn hair and turban.

The shooting is the deadliest incident of violence collectively in the Sikh community in the U.S. since 2012, when a white supremacist burst into a Sikh temple in Wisconsin and shot 10 people, killing seven.

In Indianapolis, police said Brandon Scott Hole, 19, a former worker at the FedEx facility killed eight people there before killing himself. Authorities have not released a motive.

Hole was in possession of two assault rifles, which he purchased legally in July and September of 2020, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Police said Hole was witnessed using both rifles during the assault.

Hole's family said in a statement Saturday they are "so sorry for the pain and hurt" his actions caused.

Paul Keenan, special agent in charge of the FBI's Indianapolis field office, said Friday that agents questioned Hole last year after his mother called police to say that her son might commit "suicide by cop." He said agents found no evidence of a crime and that they did not identify Hole as espousing a racially motivated ideology.

Samaria Blackwell, of Indianapolis, was a soccer and basketball player who last year graduated from Indy Genesis, a Christian competitive sports organization for homeschooled students. Her parents said Saturday in a statement that she was an outgoing "people person" who will be missed "immensely" by them and her dog, Jasper.

"As an intelligent, straight A student, Samaria could have done anything she chose to put her mind to, and because she loved helping people, she dreamed of becoming a police officer. Although that dream has been cut short, we believe that right now she is rejoicing in heaven with her Savior," they said.

Matthew Alexander, of Avon, just west of Indianapolis, was a former Butler University student and a 2007 graduate of Avon High School. Relatives and several of his former teammates on Avon's baseball team attended a game Saturday in his memory. They carried his former uniform, No. 16, onto the field, where they hugged and cried.

Albert Ashcraft, a former FedEx driver, said Alexander dispatched drivers to locations for deliveries, prepared their paperwork and was well-liked because he looked out for the drivers, even making sure they got treats.

"People would bring doughnuts in and he was always sticking doughnuts back for his drivers," he told The Indianapolis Star.

Ontario retracts new restrictions that drew the ire of many

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Ontario's premier retracted restrictions Saturday that banned playgrounds and allowed police to require anyone not at home to explain why they're out after a backlash from police forces, health officials and the public.

The pandemic restrictions imposed by Canada's most populous province immediately ran into opposition as police departments insisted they wouldn't use new powers to randomly stop pedestrians or motorists and health experts complained the rules focus on outdoor activities rather than more dangerous indoor settings.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford's government announced Friday it was giving police authority to require anyone not at home to explain why they're out and provide their address. Tickets can be written.

But Ontario Solicitor General Sylvia Jones said Saturday officers will no longer have the right to stop any pedestrian or vehicle to ask why they are out or request their home address.

But Jones said police may require a person to provide information to ensure they are complying with restrictions if the officer has reason to suspect the person is participating in an organized public event or social gathering,

Earlier at least a dozen police forces throughout Ontario, including in the capital of Toronto, said there will be no random stops of people or cars.

"We are all going through a horrific year of COVID-19 and all associated with it together. The (department) will NOT be randomly stopping vehicles for no reason during the pandemic or afterwards," Halton Police Chief Steve Tanner tweeted.

Ford's Friday announcement limited outdoor gatherings to those in the same household and closed playgrounds and golf courses. The decisions sparked widespread criticism in a province already on lockdown. Restaurants and gyms are closed as is in-class schooling. Most nonessential workers are working from home.

On Saturday, Ford retracted an initially announced ban on playgrounds, but added that the ban on "gatherings outside will still be enforced," Ford tweeted.

Ford complained about crowded parks and playgrounds, but at Friday's new conference did not mention workplaces considered essential, such as factories, where the virus is spreading

"What we need: increased restrictions to reduce indoor contact, supports for frontline essential workers, paid sick leave, a re-prioritized vaccine rollout for hard-hit communities," tweeted Joe Cressy, who is on Toronto's city council.

"What we got: the closure of outdoor amenities, which we need to keep people safe and healthy."

"I have yet to intubate a COVID patient who had become infected from being in a playground," tweeted Dr. Ian Preyra, who works at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, Ontario.

"Warehouse worker, truck driver, construction worker ... not one of my COVID patients today acquired this at the park. They are angry and they have no voice. Shameful," tweeted Dr. Aman Sidhu, a lung doctor in Toronto.

Dr. Andrew Morris, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Toronto, said that closing playgrounds and other outdoor recreation facilities "will hurt the very kids and their families whose well-being we have already damaged by being forced to close schools."

He complained the new rules don't create paid sick leave or improved protections for essential workers even as they allow "police to target whomever they choose to accost them to ensure they are appropriately outside of their home.

"This won't affect a white guy like me. This is going to target essential workers and racialized people. THIS is what people talk about when they describe systemic racism," Morris wrote in weekly email to

followers.

Ontario reported 4,362 new infections on Saturday and a record 2,065 people in hospital receiving treatment for COVID. It has pleaded with other provinces to send nurses and other health workers.

Vaccinations have ramped up in Canada, the presence of more contagious variants in Ontario has led to a third wave of infections.

Ford said a lack of vaccines made the new restrictions necessary.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Friday that that Pfizer would double its shipments of vaccines to Canada over the next month , with millions more shots than expected arriving in May and June.

Every eligible Canadian is expected to get at least one shot by July.

Ontario just closed schools days ago after insisting for weeks they were safe.)The new initial order to close playgrounds infuriated parents.

"The cognitive dissonance between the minister of education insisting schools are safe and then shutting playgrounds down boggles the mind," said Jim Vlahos, a 44 year-old father of two in Toronto.

"There's no rhyme or reason to the outdoor closures."

Owen Holliday, a 16-year old who works at a golf course in Shelburne, Ontario, is now out of work and said he was very upset, especially for seniors who get their exercise through the sport.

"With all the protocols, prepaid booking, clubhouses closed, masks on if riding with someone outside of household, no gatherings after tee times, golf is as safe as it can get," he said.

Black Americans experiencing collective trauma, grief

By KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

Carlil Pittman knows trauma firsthand.

As the co-founder of the Chicago-based youth organization GoodKidsMadCity-Englewood, he grieved the loss of Delmonte Johnson, a young community activist, more than two years ago to the very thing the teen fought fiercely against: gun violence.

He's also been angered and frustrated by the onslaught of stories of Black Americans killed at the hands of police across the nation throughout the past year.

First, there was Breonna Taylor, a Black woman who was fatally shot in her Louisville, Kentucky, home last March. Then there was George Floyd, whose Memorial Day killing by a Minneapolis officer sparked global protests. Just this week, Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old Black man, was fatally shot by a police officer during a traffic stop in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota — just minutes from where Floyd died. And on Friday, Pittman spent much of the day planning a demonstration with other Chicago organizers to protest the police killing of 13-year-old Adam Toledo, who was Latino.

"We're constantly turning on the TV, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and seeing people that look like us who are getting murdered with no repercussions," said Pittman, an organizer for A New Deal for Youth. "It's not normal to see someone get murdered by the click of a video on your phone, yet it has become the norm for our people, our Black and brown communities."

Many Black Americans are facing a collective sense of grief and trauma that has grown more profound with the loss of each life at the hands of police in America. Some see themselves and their children reflected in the victims of police violence, heightening the grief they feel. That collective mourning is a great concern to experts and medical professionals who consider the intersectionality of racism and various forms of trauma impacting communities of color a serious public health crisis facing America.

The racial trauma impacting Black Americans isn't new. It's built upon centuries of oppressive systems and racist practices that are deeply embedded within the fabric of the nation. Racial trauma is a unique form of identity-related trauma that people of color experience due to racism and discrimination, according to Dr. Steven Kniffley, a licensed psychologist and coordinator for Spalding University's Collective Care Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

"A lot of cities across the country are realizing that racial trauma is a public health issue," Kniffley said, citing health concerns such as increased rates of suicide among Black men, a life expectancy gap and

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post-traumatic stress disorder. "There's no other way that we can explain that except for the unique experiences Black and brown folks have based on their identity, and more specifically, when they encounter racism and discrimination."

Kniffley said each generation of Black Americans since slavery has faced its own unique iteration of racism and discrimination, which has manifested into a form of intergenerational trauma.

"We've essentially handed down 10 or 15 generations worth of boxes of trauma that have yet to be unpacked, and that's what's contributing to a lot of those biological and mental health related issues that we're having," Kniffley said, noting the trauma extends beyond police violence.

In a 2018 study examining the mental health impact of police killings on Black Americans, researchers found exposure to police killings of unarmed Black Americans had adverse effects on mental health among Black people. Nearly half of Black Americans who responded said they were exposed to one or more police killings of unarmed Black Americans in their state of residence — either through word of mouth or the media.

"That effect was found only in Black (Americans)," said Dr. Atheendar S. Venkataramani, one of the authors of the study and a physician at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia.

Rashad Robinson, the president of Color of Change, said the trauma has also created generations of Black Americans who have valid mistrust of law enforcement agencies. And many are experiencing further mental anguish while watching the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer who pressed his knee into Floyd's neck.

"We have a whole set of folks with badges and guns who are supposed to protect and serve and they do neither," Robinson said. "In order to survive, we have to integrate into a system in a structure which is brutal — brutal to our lives, our dignity, our health. It has collective and long-term impact."

While much of the media spotlight on police killings impacting Black Americans is focused on Black men, experts say it's important to also highlight misogynoir — misogyny directed toward Black women. Black women experience misogynoir in various aspects of their lives but also in connection with police violence. The #SayHerName campaign was launched in 2014 to bring awareness to the lesser-known stories of Black women and girls who have been victimized by police. The hashtag flourished again after Taylor's death, prompting accusations of delayed justice in her case.

"As a mom, I'm constantly in fear for my son and my heart is broken by this country over and over again," said Aimee Allison, who leads She the People. "It really calls into question how Black women in particular, who've sacrificed so much to serve this country in terms of democracy and bringing voters to the polls, upholding a vision of peace and justice for everyone else, how much more can we take?"

Chicago resident Erendira Martinez said the Little Village community, a Chicago neighborhood with a majority Latino population, is also hurting, not just from Toledo's killing but also from the trauma of losing other children to gun violence.

On Thursday night, just hours after the video of Toledo's death was released, a 17-year-old girl was shot and killed in the same neighborhood. Martinez's own teenage daughter was shot and killed in Little Village in December.

"We had just buried my daughter, and a month later, we're burying this kid that grew up with my daughter," she said. "No mother should bury their child."

Some community organizations are working to address the trauma, said Aswad Thomas, chief of organizing for Alliance for Safety and Justice, who runs Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, a network of more than 46,000 crime survivors from mostly Black and Latino communities. The group is releasing its first-ever National Crime Victims Agenda next week to address collective trauma.

"The tragic truth is that police violence is the most horrific, visible symptom of a larger systemic problem of how our public safety system is designed and we need to address that head-on," Thomas said. "But while also investing in the mom and pops who are on the front lines to violence, hosting the community vigils and interventions groups."

Uzodinma Iweala, CEO of The Africa Center, based in New York, said sometimes the thought of what

he and so many other Black Americans have experienced is rage-inducing. He thinks of the times he and his brothers have been stopped by police. Or the time his uncle was called a racial slur by an officer. And how in each instance they prayed they would make it out alive — experiences he thinks some white Americans willfully ignore.

"We're going to need a real fundamental examination of the roots of what America is," Iweala said. "America refuses to acknowledge that America is not a country without the labor of and the blood, sweat and tears of Black people. Until America values those contributions, it will never value Blackness as a life form."

Prosecutor on leave over statements about boy shot by police

CHICAGO (AP) — A prosecutor who implied in court that 13-year-old Adam Toledo was holding a gun the instant he was fatally shot by a Chicago police officer was placed on leave a day after a video showing the boy's hands were empty was released to the public.

"In court last week, an attorney in our office failed to fully present the facts surrounding the death of a 13-year-old boy," Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx spokeswoman Sarah Sinovic said in a statement. "We have put that individual on leave and are conducting an internal investigation into the matter."

During an April 10 bond hearing for 21-year-old Ruben Roman, who was with Adam when he was shot March 29, Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy appeared to suggest that the boy was still holding the gun as Officer Eric Stillman pulled the trigger.

"The officer tells (Adam) to drop it as (Adam) turns towards the officer. (Adam) has a gun in his right hand," Murphy said, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. "The officer fires one shot at (Adam), striking him in the chest. The gun that (Adam) was holding landed against the fence a few feet away."

But Murphy did not explain what the video and screen shots show: That Adam had nothing in his hands when he was shot and had dropped or tossed the weapon away less than a second before the officer pulled the trigger. Police found the gun next to a fence a short distance away after the shooting.

According to the Chicago Tribune, Foxx told staffers in an email that the language in the proffer that Murphy read in court "did not fully reflect all the evidence that had been given to our office."

But on Friday, Sinovic suggested that Murphy may not have had access to all of the video that was released to the public on Thursday when he made the comments, telling the Sun-Times: "It's still under investigation what videos were available to (Murphy). We're still trying to figure out what he had access to when he made the statements in court."

On Saturday, Sinovic in an email said the office would not comment on the question of who else in the office viewed the video footage before the April 10 hearing or respond to any other questions.

Images of the boy raising his empty hands as he was shot have elicited anger in the Little Village neighborhood where he lived and died, and elsewhere the city.

Roman was arrested at the scene on misdemeanor charges of resisting or obstructing a peace officer but he was later charged with felony counts of child endangerment, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and reckless discharge of a firearm after investigators determined that he fired the gun several times before police arrived.

He remains in custody at Cook County Jail after a judge ordered him held on \$150,000.

The queen says goodbye to Philip, continues her reign alone

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Sitting by herself at the funeral of Prince Philip on Saturday, Queen Elizabeth cut a regal but solitary figure: still the monarch, but now alone.

The queen sat apart from family members at the simple but somber ceremony at Windsor Castle, in accordance with strict social distancing rules during the coronavirus pandemic. But if the ceremony had been for anyone else, at her side would have been her husband of 73 years, who gave a lifetime of service to the crown.

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Wearing a face mask, the queen was dressed all in black, except for the diamond brooch that flashed on her left shoulder — a piece she had often worn on engagements with her husband.

The monarch's four children — Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward — sat nearby, as did the queen and Philip's eight grandchildren. The stripped-back service made their loss somehow more personal for people who often live their lives in public.

Just 30 mourners were allowed to attend the service for the prince, who died April 9 at the age of 99. The entire royal procession and funeral took place out of public view within the grounds of the castle, a 950-year-old royal residence 20 miles (30 kilometers) west of London, but was shown live on television.

Hundreds of people lined the streets outside the castle to pay their respects to the prince. Some held Union flags and clutched flowers, while others wore custom face masks featuring the royal's photo.

"We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our queen, by his service to the nation and the Commonwealth, by his courage, fortitude and faith," the dean of Windsor, David Conner, said in his call to prayer.

The nation honored Philip with a minute's silence observed across the United Kingdom at 3 p.m., its beginning and end marked by a gun fired by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. The final shot signaled the start of a funeral service steeped in military and royal tradition, but infused with the duke's personality.

Philip's body was carried to St. George's Chapel at the castle on a Land Rover that the prince himself had specially designed. It was followed by members of the Royal Family, including Princes William and Harry, who made their first public appearance together since Harry and his wife, Meghan, gave a controversial interview to U.S. television host Oprah Winfrey in which they discussed the difficulties of royal life and how the two brothers had grown apart.

The procession traversed the grounds of Windsor Castle, passing military detachments arrayed under bright blue skies.

Inside the medieval Gothic chapel, the setting for centuries of royal weddings and funerals, this service was quiet and without excessive pageantry. Philip was deeply involved in planning the ceremony. At his request, there was no sermon. There were also no eulogies or readings, in keeping with royal tradition.

Former Bishop of London Richard Chartres, who knew Philip well, said the 50-minute service reflected the preferences of the prince, who was a man of faith but liked things to be succinct.

"He was at home with broad church, high church and low church, but what he really liked was short church," Chartres told the BBC.

Philip's coffin was draped with Philip's personal standard, topped with his Admiral of the Fleet Naval Cap and sword. The sword was given to him by his father-in-law, King George VI, on the occasion of his marriage to the queen in 1947.

The monarch offered her own touches to the day. Ahead of the funeral, Buckingham Palace released a photo of the queen and Philip, smiling and relaxing on blankets in the grass in the Scottish Highlands in 2003. The palace said the casual, unposed photo was a favorite of the queen.

Composing a wreath atop the coffin were flowers chosen by the queen, including white lilies, small white roses, white freesia, white wax flower, white sweet peas and jasmine. A note from the monarch was attached, but its contents were not disclosed.

The funeral reflected Philip's military ties, both as the ceremonial commander of many units and as a veteran of the Royal Navy who served with distinction during World War II. More than 700 military personnel took part in the commemorative events, including army bands, Royal Marine buglers and an honor guard drawn from across the armed forces.

Lt. Gen. Roland Walker, regimental lieutenant colonel of the Grenadier Guards, said his unit was honored to take part because of its close relationship with the prince. Philip served as regimental colonel of the guards, its honorary leader, for 42 years.

"This is a privilege," he told the BBC. "Because my understanding is he planned this, so we're here because he wanted us to be here, and that, I think, down to the junior guardsmen, is a known fact."

William and Harry were part of the nine-member royal contingent, although their cousin, Peter Phillips,

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walked between them. There was no obvious tension between the brothers, whose relationship has been strained since Harry's decision to quit royal duties and move to California. After the service, they walked back to the castle together, seeming to chat amiably.

Their appearance at the service stirred memories of the 1997 funeral of Princess Diana, when William and Harry, then 15 and 12, walked behind their mother's coffin accompanied by Philip.

As Philip's coffin was lowered into the Royal Vault, Royal Marine buglers sounded "Action Stations," an alarm that alerts sailors to prepare for battle — included in the service at Philip's request. He will rest there, at least until the queen's death, alongside the remains of 24 other royals, including King George III, whose reign included the years of the American Revolution. The queen and Philip are expected to be buried together in the Royal Burial Ground on the Frogmore Estate close to Windsor Castle.

For decades, Philip was a fixture of British life, renowned for his founding of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards program that encouraged youths to challenge themselves and for a blunt-spoken manner that at times included downright offensive remarks. He lived in his wife's shadow, but his death has sparked a reflection about his role, and new appreciation from many in Britain.

"To be perfectly honest I didn't realize the extent (of) what his life had been, what he had done for us all," said Viv Davies, who came to pay her respects in Windsor. "He was a marvelous husband, wasn't he, to the queen and the children? Just remarkable — and I don't think we will see the like again."

No charges, but consequences still possible from Prude death

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

Newly released grand jury transcripts shed more light on why police officers who restrained Daniel Prude avoided criminal charges in his death, but the city of Rochester and the officers could still be held accountable.

Disciplinary charges are still possible against the officers, lawyers for Prude's estate have filed a civil lawsuit and a federal civil rights action also is possible. And, significantly, more than a year after the death of the 41-year-old Black man, the case remains a rallying cry for police reform in the city by Lake Ontario, and beyond.

"By no means is it over," Mikey Johnson, an organizer with Save Rochester, said Saturday. "I've been in contact with people on a daily basis, and we at almost every protest invoke the name of Daniel Prude to remind everybody that he did not receive justice."

Attorney General Letitia James on Friday released grand jury transcripts in the case of Prude's March 2020 death — a highly unusual step that detailed nine days of testimony from Prude's brother, police officers, experts and other witnesses.

James announced in February that grand jurors declined to indict any of the officers. The transcripts show that jurors voted 15-5 not to charge the three officers involved in his restraint of a criminally negligent homicide charge sought by prosecutors.

Body camera video shows Prude handcuffed and naked with a spit hood over his head as an officer pushes his face against the ground, while another officer presses a knee to his back. The video's release by Prude's family in early September sparked nightly protests in Rochester.

Police initially described Prude's death days later as a drug overdose. The county medical examiner listed the manner of death as homicide caused by "complications of asphyxia in the setting of physical restraint" and cited the drug PCP as a contributing factor. Transcripts reveal that one medical expert told the grand jury Prude died of a heart attack caused by the medical phenomenon known as excited delirium.

The fallout over Prude's death has played out for months over different fronts in Rochester. Former Police Chief La'Ron Singletary was fired and Mayor Lovely Warren has come under heavy criticism.

Here's a look at some of the remaining threads in the wake of Prude's death.

THE OFFICERS

Seven officers were suspended pending the outcome of an internal investigation, after which the police department could pursue disciplinary charges.

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"I anticipate the completion of the investigation within the next few weeks," Rochester Police Capt. Mark Mura said in an email Friday.

The Rochester city council last month passed a resolution urging city officials to consider disciplinary action for the officers up to and including termination. But it's not clear what disciplinary charge would be pursued, if any.

Lawyers for the officers have said they were strictly following their training that night, employing a restraining technique known as "segmenting."

"I don't see how they can be disciplined for it," attorney Daniel Mastrella, who is representing Officer Troy Taladay, said Saturday. "The visual isn't pretty, but the fact of the matter is that they did what they were trained to do with the belief that it was safe to do so."

FEDERAL REVIEW

To bring federal civil rights charges in cases like these, the Justice Department must prove that an officer's actions willfully broke the law and are not simply the result of a mistake, negligence or bad judgment. It has been a consistently tough burden for federal prosecutors to meet across both Democratic and Republican administrations.

To prove that crime, prosecutors would need to convince a jury that the force used was more than what would be reasonably necessary to arrest or subdue a suspect, meaning convincing jurors that in the middle of an arrest the officer made a clear and willful decision to cause someone's death.

That was a burden of proof that prosecutors said they couldn't meet in declining criminal charges against police officers in other high-profile cases in recent years, including in the deaths of Eric Garner in New York City, Tamir Rice in Cleveland and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

Asked about a federal review on Friday evening, a spokesperson for U.S. Attorney James Kennedy in western New York referred to a statement released in February when the grand jury's decision was announced. Officials with the Department of Justice and the FBI said then they would review all materials and "will determine whether any further federal response is warranted."

CIVIL LAWSUIT

Prude's estate is suing the city of Rochester and six of the police officers alleging wrongful death and civil rights violations.

Attorneys say Prude was in obvious need of physical and mental assistance when officers caught up with him early that morning. Attorney Matthew Piers said any proceeds recovered will be distributed to Prude's five children.

Lawyers for the city have denied allegations made in the lawsuit in a court filing.

Navalny's doctor: Putin critic 'could die at any moment'

MOSCOW (AP) — A doctor for imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who is in the third week of a hunger strike, says his health is deteriorating rapidly and the 44-year-old Kremlin critic could be on the verge of death.

Physician Yaroslav Ashikhmin said Saturday that test results he received from Navalny's family show him with sharply elevated levels of potassium, which can bring on cardiac arrest, and heightened creatinine levels that indicate impaired kidneys.

"Our patient could die at any moment," he said in a Facebook post.

Anastasia Vasilyeva, head of the Navalny-backed Alliance of Doctors union, said on Twitter that "action must be taken immediately."

Navalny is Russian President Vladimir Putin's most visible and adamant opponent.

His personal physicians have not been allowed to see him in prison. He went on hunger strike to protest the refusal to let them visit when he began experiencing severe back pain and a loss of feeling in his legs. Russia's state penitentiary service has said that Navalny is receiving all the medical help he needs.

Navalny was arrested on Jan. 17 when he returned to Russia from Germany, where had spent five months recovering from Soviet nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian officials

have denied any involvement and even questioned whether Navalny was poisoned, which was confirmed by several European laboratories.

Asked about Navalny's worsening condition, U.S. President Joe Biden told reporters Saturday: "It's totally totally unfair and totally inappropriate. On the basis of having the poison and then on a hunger strike."

Navalny was ordered to serve 2 1/2 years in prison on the grounds that his long recovery in Germany violated a suspended sentence he had been given for a fraud conviction in a case that Navalny says was politically motivated.

Czechs expel 18 Russians over huge depot explosion in 2014

By KAREL JANICEK Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — The Czech Republic announced Saturday that it was expelling 18 Russian diplomats who it has identified as spies in a case related to a huge ammunition depot explosion in 2014.

Prime Minister Andrej Babis said the move is based on "unequivocal evidence" provided by the Czech intelligence and security services that points to the involvement of Russian military agents in the massive explosion in an eastern town that killed "two innocent fathers."

"The Czech Republic is a sovereign state and must adequately react to those unprecedented findings," Babis said.

Interior Minister Jan Hamacek, who is also serving as the country's foreign minister, said the 18 Russian embassy staffers were clearly identified as spies from the Russian intelligence services known as GRU and SVR and were ordered to leave the country within 48 hours.

The explosion, which took place on Oct. 16, 2014 in a depot in the town of Vrbetice where 50 metric tons of ammunition was stored, claimed two victims. Another explosion of 13 tons of ammunition occurred in the depot on Dec. 3 of that same year.

Hundreds had to be evacuated from nearby villages after those explosions.

"The United States stands with its steadfast ally, the Czech Republic," Jennifer Bachus, chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Prague, said. "We appreciate their significant action to impose costs on Russia for its dangerous actions on Czech soil."

The Czech announcement came two days after the U.S. said it was expelling 10 Russian diplomats and imposing sanctions against several dozen people and companies, holding the Kremlin accountable for interference in last year's presidential election and the hacking of federal agencies.

Babis said President Milos Zeman, who is known for his pro-Russian views, has been informed about the development and has "expressed absolute support for us."

He said the investigation into the case has not yet been completed but thanked the country's security forces for their "professional job."

The announcement sent a shockwave across the country, with the politicians from the government parties and opposition united in condemning the Russian move.

"It's an act of state terrorism," said Petr Fiala, the head of the opposition Civic Democratic Party.

Jiri Sedivy, former chief the Czech military's general staff, said the Czechs have to respond "resolutely" to the Russian action.

"It was an obvious military attack on our sovereign territory," Sedivy told the Czech public television.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said her country would answer the Czech move.

"Prague is well aware of what will follow such tricks," Zakharova was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency.

Hamacek said the the case will significantly harm Czech-Russian relations. He said the country's allies in NATO and the European Union have been informed about the findings and "we've asked for their support."

"We're in a similar situation like Britain in the attempted poisoning case in Salisbury in 2018," Hamacek said, without elaborating.

Britain expelled dozens of Russian diplomats after Russian agents used a Soviet-era nerve agent to poison a former Russian spy and his daughter who were living in the English city of Salisbury.

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At the same time, the Czech police's organized crime unit on Saturday published photos of two foreign citizens who visited the country, including the Zlin region where Vrbetice is located, between Oct. 11 and Oct. 16 in 2014 and asked the public for any information about them.

The two were using Russian passports and were identified as Alexander Petrov, 41, and Ruslan Boshirov, 43. Petrov and Boshirov were charged in absentia by Britain in 2018 for trying to kill former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, with the Soviet nerve agent Novichok.

The Czech police said the two men were also using passports issued by Moldova for Nicolai Popa and a passport issued by Tajikistan for Ruslan Tabarov.

They said the two also visited the capital of Prague and another northeastern Czech region.

EXPLAINER: How is 'reasonableness' key to Chauvin's defense?

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Attorneys and witnesses have used the words "reasonable" or "unreasonable" often at the trial of the former Minneapolis police officer charged with murder and manslaughter in George Floyd's death.

It's no coincidence. The concept of reasonableness has been crucial at trials of officers ever since the landmark *Graham v. Connor* ruling 32 years ago by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Here is a look at the issue and the key role it's likely to play as Derek Chauvin's trial draws to a close.

WHAT WAS GRAHAM V. CONNOR ABOUT?

Before the *Graham v. Connor* ruling in 1989, lower courts were often at odds about how to determine whether an officer on trial used an unreasonable, and therefore illegal, amount of force.

Graham v. Connor involved a 1984 arrest in North Carolina in which officers manhandled diabetic Dethorne Graham, brushing off his pleas for treatment when he said he was having a potentially deadly insulin reaction.

It bore some similarities to the arrest of Floyd last May 25, when Floyd repeatedly said he couldn't breathe as Chauvin, who is white, kneeled on the Black man's neck for nearly 9 1/2 minutes.

WHAT CRITERIA DID THE HIGH COURT SET?

In its unanimous opinion written by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, the court said whether an officer used a proper level of force had to be viewed from the officer's perspective.

"The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight," Rehnquist wrote.

That means jurors must not consider what they would have done in Chauvin's shoes, but rather, what any reasonable officer would have done under the same circumstances.

Among the implications of *Graham v. Connor* was that an officer's actions leading to a suspect's death may be legal if the officer believed his or her life was at risk — even if, in hindsight, it becomes clear there was no such danger.

The assertion that an officer's perception of fear could trump the actual danger has led to acquittals of many officers over the years. Jurors found four Los Angeles police officers not guilty in the 1991 beating of Rodney King after being instructed to use the *Graham v. Connor* criteria.

Some legal experts believed Chauvin might have wanted to testify because of the importance the high court placed on what an officer was thinking. Chauvin said Thursday he would not testify.

HOW HAVE PROSECUTORS CITED THOSE CRITERIA?

Some lawyers for officers charged in fatal shootings have won acquittals under those criteria by arguing their clients were in chaotic situations with mere seconds to decide whether to pull a trigger.

That wasn't Chauvin's situation. Prosecutors have said it's clear Chauvin faced no imminent threat and was never forced to make the kind of split-second decisions the high court envisioned.

Prosecutor Steve Schleicher asked one defense witness to explain how Floyd could have posed a continuous threat, even if he did momentarily, since he was handcuffed and pinned face down by Chauvin's knee on his neck, as well as officers at his back and legs.

"Would you agree that the application of use of force must be reasonable at the start and at the end (of an incident) ... and at all points in between?" Schleicher asked the defense witness Barry Brodd, a former California police officer. Brodd said he agreed.

Schleicher went on to say a reasonable officer would have known Floyd stopped resisting, especially after being told, as Chauvin was, that Floyd no longer had a pulse and had stopped breathing.

WHAT'S THE DEFENSE POSITION?

Their claim is that looks can be deceiving. They've called witnesses to tell jurors that suspects, especially large men like Floyd, can suddenly present a threat even if bystanders can't see that.

Brodd testified that Floyd appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

"They (those under the influence) may have superhuman strength, or they may have an ability to go from compliant to extreme noncompliance in a heartbeat," he said.

Brodd told jurors he believed Chauvin "was justified, was acting with objective reasonableness" in how he treated Floyd.

Defense lawyer Eric Nelson also sought during cross examination to undermine one state witness who had asserted that merely placing Floyd on his stomach in the first place — even before Chauvin wedged his knee into his neck — was unreasonable and excessive.

"Reasonable minds can disagree, agreed?" Nelson asked the witness, law professor Seth Stoughton.

"On this particular point, no," he replied.

WHAT ABOUT THE JURY INSTRUCTIONS?

Before jurors deliberate, Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill will read them instructions drawn up by the court with input from prosecutors and the defense.

A draft of those instructions includes a definition of the "reasonable use of force" that adhered closely to the wording in *Graham v. Connor*.

Jurors are normally allowed to take copies of the instructions with them to the deliberation room, where many jurors rely on them as a kind of roadmap to interpreting the evidence.

Harry, William seen chatting together after royal funeral

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A year after they last saw one another, Prince William and his brother Prince Harry put their fraught relationship aside as they said farewell to their grandfather at his funeral on Saturday.

The brothers were somber and silent as they walked together in a procession behind Prince Philip's coffin before his funeral at Windsor Castle along with their father, Prince Charles, and other close relatives. They were seen chatting and walking together after the service concluded.

It was the first time the brothers had been together in public since Harry stood down from royal duties and moved to the U.S. with his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, and their son Archie in early 2020.

Tensions between Harry, 36, and William, 38, came to the fore after Harry and Meghan gave a revealing interview to U.S. talk show host Oprah Winfrey last month. The couple portrayed the royal family as indifferent to Meghan's mental health struggles, and Harry described his relationship with William as "space at the moment."

On Saturday, William and Harry walked in silence on either side of their cousin, Peter Phillips, as they joined other senior royals in Philip's funeral procession. At one point Phillips fell behind slightly to allow the brothers to walk side by side — a visual echo of the moment the pair, as boys in 1997, walked behind the coffin of their mother Princess Diana in another royal funeral televised around the world.

The brothers sat opposite each other in St. George's Chapel for the funeral, which was attended by only 30 people because of coronavirus restrictions. While William sat next to his wife Kate, Harry was on his own because Meghan is pregnant with their second child and was advised by her doctor not to make the long trip.

Afterwards, Harry, William and Kate strolled together outside the chapel. Moments later, the brothers walked together alone while Kate spoke to Zara Tindall, another of Queen Elizabeth II's eight grandchil-

dren who is William and Harry's cousin.

Rumors of a rift between the brothers — William, the heir, and Harry, the "spare" — have rumbled at least since 2019. That's when Harry and Meghan separated from the Royal Foundation, originally set up as the brothers' joint charitable venture, to set up their own platform. That year, Harry said he loved his brother dearly but they were "on different paths" and have "good days" and "bad days."

Many believe that William was angered and hurt by Harry's decision to speak so publicly about the royal family's issues during the Winfrey interview. In one explosive allegation, they said a family member — not the queen or Philip — had expressed "concerns" about Archie's possible skin color before he was born. Meghan has a Black mother and a white father.

Days after the interview aired, William insisted "we are very much not a racist family," and said he had not spoken to Harry since the broadcast.

It's unclear whether the passing of their grandfather will help the brothers heal their rift. It wasn't immediately clear how long Harry, who has been self-isolating in line with the U.K.'s coronavirus restrictions since arriving from California early this week, will stay in his home country.

Saturday's funeral was limited to only 30 people, who all had to wear masks, sit in family bubbles and remain socially distanced in the same church that had hosted hundreds of people for Harry and Meghan's royal wedding in 2018. And Britain's continued coronavirus restrictions may limit how much opportunity the brothers will get to smooth over their differences.

"Because of the restrictions of COVID, it's difficult to get down to decent conversations," said royal biographer Penny Junor. "It's probably quite difficult to sit down as they normally would over a beer and discuss things."

The Latest: Crowds line streets to pay respects to Philip

By The Associated Press undefined

WINDSOR, England — Hundreds of people have lined the streets outside Windsor Castle to pay their respects to Prince Philip. Some held Union flags and clutched flowers, while others wore custom face masks featuring the royal's photo.

People poured into the town of Windsor, west of London, for the occasion Saturday, although road signs in the area warned against all nonessential travel.

While some expressed sadness that the country could not fully commemorate Philip's death, others said the royal family were "setting an example" by limiting numbers.

"I'm quite torn about the measures. I think the country is missing out on something," local resident Ian Mawhinney said. "Having a small event is not what they would have wanted but they will adapt and honor (Philip) in their own way."

Sasha Spicer, who wore a Union flag poncho, said she turned up to say "thanks for service to the country and that we'll miss you."

"He was a fantastic role model and someone who was known for his banter. Quite a character.

"The queen is going to miss him...they were best friends. I feel for her," she said.

Prince Philip was remembered as a man of "courage, fortitude and faith" on Saturday, at a funeral that saluted both his service in the Royal Navy and his support for Queen Elizabeth II over three quarters of a century.

More coverage:

- Philip will be laid to rest at Windsor Castle
- From Russia to Britain, Philip's royal ties spanned Europe
- AP's obituary of the Duke of Edinburgh
- Follow AP's full coverage of Prince Philip's death at <https://apnews.com/hub/prince-philip>

WINDSOR, England — Prince Philip has been interred in the Royal Vault at St. George's Chapel alongside

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the remains of 24 other royals, including three kings of England. But it will likely not be his permanent resting place.

The biggest of seven interment sites inside the chapel, the vault houses the remains of King George III, whose almost six-decade reign included the years of the American Revolution. His sons King George IV and King William IV are also buried there.

The vault has also been the temporary resting place for almost 30 royals, including Philip's mother, Princess Andrew of Greece. Her remains were transferred to the convent on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, where they now lie near her aunt, Grand Duchess Serge of Russia.

King George VI, the father of Queen Elizabeth II, was interred in the Royal Vault for 17 years before his remains were moved to the King George VI Memorial Chapel at St. George's in 1969. His wife, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and daughter Princess Margaret were interred alongside him after they died in 2002.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth II, she and Philip are expected to be buried in the Royal Burial Ground on the Frogmore Estate close to Windsor Castle. Philip died on April 9 at age 99.

Prince Philip's love for horses was given a nod ahead of his funeral at Windsor Castle.

His driving carriage pulled by Fell ponies, Balmoral Nevis and Notlaw Storm, rolled into the Quadrangle ahead of the procession and included a special personal item: a small red pot used to store sugar lumps for the horses.

The container was delicately placed next to his cap, whip and brown gloves.

Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, took up carriage driving at 50 and competed in events until 2003.

Philip died at age 99 on April 9.

WINDSOR, England — Royal Marine Buglers have sounded the Royal Navy's battle alert in honor of Prince Philip's military service as his coffin was lowered into the Royal Vault at St. George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle.

"Action Stations" is the bugle call that summons sailors to their posts in preparation for battle and it is sometimes associated with naval funerals.

Philip, who took an active role in planning his own funeral, requested the piece.

Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, served in the Royal Navy for more than 12 years and maintained close ties to the armed forces throughout his life. Service personnel had large role in honoring him Saturday despite the attendance limit.

WINDSOR, England — The venue for Prince Philip's funeral service has been packed with crowds at three royal weddings in recent years, but on Saturday it was a largely empty space in accordance with coronavirus restrictions.

The nave of St. George's Chapel was occupied with just four singers and a handful of musicians. The congregation was limited to 30 people, with everyone wearing face masks and socially distanced.

Queen Elizabeth II sat alone in her usual position in the quire of the chapel. Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, sat opposite the monarch alongside his wife Camilla. Prince Andrew was closest to the queen, at two seats to her left.

Prince William and his wife Kate sat directly opposite Prince Harry, who traveled back to his home country from the U.S. without his pregnant wife Meghan.

Officials said the flowers chosen for the service were low-key, reflective of Philip's no-fuss attitude. The queen chose white lilies, small roses, freesia and other blossoms in the wreath on Philip's coffin.

WINDSOR, England — Queen Elizabeth II is sitting alone in the quire of St. George's Chapel during the funeral of Prince Philip, the man who had been by her side for 73 years.

Following strict social distancing rules during the pandemic, the queen set an example even in grief,

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sitting apart from family members arrayed around the church. Just 30 mourners are allowed to attend the service at St. George's on the grounds of Windsor Castle, where the queen has shielded from COVID-19.

Other royals who are in family bubbles are sitting together.

The service began with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby entering the chapel ahead of the coffin, followed by Philip's children and three of his eight grandchildren, as a four-member choir sang "I am the resurrection and the life."

Prince Philip's love for horses was given a nod ahead of his funeral at Windsor Castle.

His driving carriage pulled by Fell ponies, Balmoral Nevis and Notlaw Storm, rolled into the Quadrangle ahead of the procession and included a special personal item: a small red pot used to store sugar lumps for the horses.

The container was delicately placed next to his cap, whip and brown gloves.

Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, took up carriage driving at 50 and competed in events until 2003.

Philip died at age 99 on April 9 after 73 years of marriage to Queen Elizabeth II.

WINDSOR, England — A bare-chested female protester who tried to climb onto a statue outside Windsor Castle while Prince Philip's funeral service was taking place Saturday has been led away by police.

The protester shouted "Save the planet!" as she ran along a street outside the castle where members of the public were lined along the street for the occasion. She also tried to climb onto a statue of Queen Victoria.

The disturbance took place just after the crowds — and the rest of the country — observed a minute's silence for Philip.

Police led away the protester shortly after.

LONDON — Prince Harry's wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, will be watching Prince Philip's funeral from the couple's home in California because she is pregnant with their second child and not cleared for travel by her doctor, their spokesperson confirmed.

Meghan also handwrote a card accompanying the couple's wreath for Philip. The wreath features flowers including Bear's breeches, the national flower of Greece to represent Philip's heritage, and Sea Holly, to represent the Royal Marines.

The wreath also features campanula for gratitude and everlasting love, rosemary to signify remembrance, lavender for devotion, and roses in honor of June, Philip's birth month.

While none of the senior royals wore military uniforms for the funeral, Harry's spokesperson says he is wearing a number of honorary medals including an Afghanistan Campaign medal and one signifying the Royal Victorian Order.

Harry's spokesperson pointed to the royal's shared military connection with his grandfather. Both men shared active service as part of the British armed forces. Harry served a decade in the army, including two tours of duty on the frontlines of Afghanistan. Philip was a decorated naval officer whose military career spanned World War II.

LONDON — People across Britain have observed one minute of silence in honor of the late Prince Philip just before his royal ceremonial funeral got underway inside St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

Philip, who was consort to Queen Elizabeth II for 73 years, died April 9, just two months shy of his 100th birthday.

His coffin, draped in his personal standard and topped with a wreath of flowers and his naval cap and sword hilt, arrived at St. George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle. The queen and senior royals accompanied the coffin as it was carried on a specially adapted Land Rover.

Only 30 close family members and friends will attend the service, amid nationwide restrictions designed

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to slow the spread of COVID-19. While the proceedings are being broadcast live around the world, members of the public won't be able to watch any part of the procession or service in person because of the pandemic.

WINDSOR, England — Princes William and Harry didn't line up shoulder to shoulder Saturday as they took their places for the procession that will follow Prince Philip's coffin to the church for his funeral.

William and Harry's cousin Peter Phillips stood between the princes as they prepared to escort the coffin to St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

The arrangement minimized the chances of any awkward moments between the brothers, who have faced strains in their relationship since Harry's decision to step away from royal duties last year.

William, 38, is second in line to the throne. Harry, 36, and his wife, Meghan, last month gave an interview to U.S. television host Oprah Winfrey in which they said royal staffers were insensitive toward Meghan and that an unidentified member of the royal family made racist comments.

WINDSOR, England — Queen Elizabeth II has left the Sovereign's Entrance of Windsor Castle as members of the royal family prepare for the procession that will precede the funeral of Prince Philip.

The queen, accompanied by a lady-in waiting, wore a mask as she was driven in a Bentley that will carry her to St. George's Chapel for the funeral of her husband of 73 years.

Elizabeth has always sought to set an example for the nation during her long reign, and face coverings are required in England under rules designed to slow the spread of COVID-19. The rules also mean that only 30 family members and close friends will be allowed to attend the funeral.

WINDSOR, England — All of the family members taking part in the funeral procession for Prince Philip are wearing civilian clothes, not military uniforms, in accordance with the wishes of Queen Elizabeth II.

Ten members of the royal family, led by Prince Charles and his sister, Princess Anne, are walking behind the specially designed Land Rover carrying the coffin on the eight-minute journey from the State Entrance of Windsor Castle to St. George's Chapel.

The decision to wear civilian clothes came amid concerns that Prince Harry might have been the only member of the family not in uniform during the funeral of his grandfather, who died last week at the age of 99.

Members of the royal family often wear uniforms to public events by virtue of their honorary roles with the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, but Harry lost his military titles when he decided to give up frontline royal duties last year.

The decision also sidestepped another potential controversy after reports that Prince Andrew considered wearing an admiral's uniform to his father's funeral. Andrew retains his military titles even though he fell from grace after a disastrous BBC interview about his acquaintance with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

WINDSOR, England — Prince Philip's coffin has emerged from the State Entrance of Windsor Castle as those taking part in the ceremonial procession for his funeral take their places.

The coffin is being loaded on a specially adapted Land Rover, designed by Philip himself, for the eight-minute journey to St. George's Chapel. Senior military commanders are lined up in front of the vehicle, with members of the royal family following behind.

Queen Elizabeth II will ride in a state Bentley at the rear of the procession.

WINDSOR, England — Hundreds of troops are marching into the grounds of Windsor Castle for the funeral of Prince Philip.

More than 700 servicemen and servicewomen from the army, navy, air force and marines are to perform ceremonial roles in the funeral procession, reflecting Philip's Royal Navy service and ties with the military.

They include soldiers of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, who will fire a gun salute, Guards regi-

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ments in scarlet tunics and bearskin hats, Highlanders in kilts and sailors in white naval hats.

Regiments and units with links to Philip will line the route as his coffin is carried to St. George's Chapel for the funeral service, while military bands will play hymns and classical tunes.

WINDSOR, England — Prince Philip's coffin has been moved from the royal family's private chapel at Windsor Castle to the castle's Inner Hall ahead of his funeral this afternoon.

Royal officials say the coffin is draped in Philip's personal standard, and topped with his Royal Navy cap and sword and a wreath of flowers.

It was moved by a party of bearers from the Grenadier Guards army regiment and will lie in the hall until the funeral procession begins just before 3 p.m.

The coffin will be transported on a specially designed Land Rover to St. George's Chapel, where Philip will be laid to rest in the Royal Vault.

Because of coronavirus restrictions only 30 mourners will attend the funeral service, including Queen Elizabeth II, her four children and her eight grandchildren. Philip died on April 9 at age 99.

WINDSOR, England — Britain's royal family has released a montage of images in memory of Prince Philip, set to a poem by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage.

"Patriarchs -- An Elegy" remembers Philip as a member of a generation who "fought ingenious wars, finagled triumphs at sea with flaming decoy boats, and side-stepped torpedoes" -- references to his wartime naval service.

Armitage, whose job is to write poems for significant national occasions, salutes those "husbands to duty ... Great-grandfathers from birth, in time they became both inner core and outer case in a family heirloom of nesting dolls."

The royal family released a recording of Armitage reading the poem, accompanied by pictures of Prince Philip through the decades, from infancy to old age, ahead of his funeral at Windsor Castle on Saturday.

Philip died on April 9 at age 99.

TATOI, Greece — Prince Philip's life spanned a century of European history. His family ties were just as broad, with Britain's longest-serving consort linked by blood and marriage to most of the continent's royal houses.

"If Queen Victoria is considered the grandmother of Europe, Prince Philip is the uncle of Europe," said Vassilis Koutsavlis, president of the Tatoi Royal Estate Friends Association.

It's in that densely wooded estate at the foot of a mountain north of Athens that Philip's father, Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark, lies buried. The Tatoi estate housed the royal summer residence and the royal cemetery, dotted with the tombs of Philip's relatives: kings and queens of Greece, princes and princesses of Denmark, grand duchesses of Russia and even a distant relative of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Philip died on April 9 at age 99 and his funeral is on Saturday at Windsor Castle.

PORT STANLEY, Falkland Islands — A memorial service was held in the capital of the Falkland Islands on Friday to mark the passing of Prince Philip following his death last week at the age of 99.

Members of the local government, military officials and residents attended the event which took place in Christ Church cathedral in the center of Port Stanley.

Many present held their own personal memories of the Duke of Edinburgh who visited the British overseas territory in the South Atlantic in 1957 and again in 1991.

Various photographs of the two visits were on display in the church, one showing a smiling Philip alongside locals set beside a single-lit candle.

Islanders in attendance paid testament to his irascible nature, recounting stories of his visit, which included winning a horse race and a fishing trip with residents.

The Duke of Edinburgh's funeral will take place at Windsor Castle in London on Saturday.

Worldwide COVID-19 death toll tops a staggering 3 million

By DAVID BILLER, MARIA CHENG and JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press Writers

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The global death toll from the coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million people Saturday amid repeated setbacks in the worldwide vaccination campaign and a deepening crisis in places such as Brazil, India and France.

The number of lives lost, as compiled by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the population of Kyiv, Ukraine; Caracas, Venezuela; or metropolitan Lisbon, Portugal. It is bigger than Chicago (2.7 million) and equivalent to Philadelphia and Dallas combined.

And the true number is believed to be significantly higher because of possible government concealment and the many cases overlooked in the early stages of the outbreak that began in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019.

When the world back in January passed the bleak threshold of 2 million deaths, immunization drives had just started in Europe and the United States. Today, they are underway in more than 190 countries, though progress in bringing the virus under control varies widely.

While the campaigns in the U.S. and Britain have hit their stride and people and businesses there are beginning to contemplate life after the pandemic, other places, mostly poorer countries but some rich ones as well, are lagging behind in putting shots in arms and have imposed new lockdowns and other restrictions as virus cases soar.

Worldwide, deaths are on the rise again, running at around 12,000 per day on average, and new cases are climbing too, eclipsing 700,000 a day.

"This is not the situation we want to be in 16 months into a pandemic, where we have proven control measures," said Maria Van Kerkhove, one of the World Health Organization's leaders on COVID-19.

In Brazil, where deaths are running at about 3,000 per day, accounting for one-quarter of the lives lost worldwide in recent weeks, the crisis has been likened to a "raging inferno" by one WHO official. A more contagious variant of the virus has been rampaging across the country.

As cases surge, hospitals are running out of critical sedatives. As a result, there have been reports of some doctors diluting what supplies remain and even tying patients to their beds while breathing tubes are pushed down their throats.

The slow vaccine rollout has crushed Brazilians' pride in their own history of carrying out huge immunization campaigns that were the envy of the developing world.

Taking cues from President Jair Bolsonaro, who has likened the virus to little more than a flu, his Health Ministry for months bet big on a single vaccine, ignoring other producers. When bottlenecks emerged, it was too late to get large quantities in time.

Watching so many patients suffer and die alone at her Rio de Janeiro hospital impelled nurse Lidiane Melo to take desperate measures.

In the early days of the pandemic, as sufferers were calling out for comfort that she was too busy to provide, Melo filled two rubber gloves with warm water, knotted them shut, and sandwiched them around a patient's hand to simulate a loving touch.

Some have christened the practice the "hand of God," and it is now the searing image of a nation roiled by a medical emergency with no end in sight.

"Patients can't receive visitors. Sadly, there's no way. So it's a way to provide psychological support, to be there together with the patient holding their hand," Melo said. She added: "And this year it's worse, the seriousness of patients is 1,000 times greater."

This situation is similarly dire in India, where cases spiked in February after weeks of steady decline, taking authorities by surprise. In a surge driven by variants of the virus, India saw over 180,000 new infections in one 24-hour span during the past week, bringing the total number of cases to over 13.9 million.

Problems that India had overcome last year are coming back to haunt health officials. Only 178 ventilators were free Wednesday afternoon in New Delhi, a city of 29 million, where 13,000 new infections were reported the previous day.

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The challenges facing India reverberate beyond its borders since the country is the biggest supplier of shots to COVAX, the U.N.-sponsored program to distribute vaccines to poorer parts of the world. Last month, India said it would suspend vaccine exports until the virus's spread inside the country slows.

The WHO recently described the supply situation as precarious. Up to 60 countries might not receive any more shots until June, by one estimate. To date, COVAX has delivered about 40 million doses to more than 100 countries, enough to cover barely 0.25% of the world's population.

Globally, about 87% of the 700 million doses dispensed have been given out in rich countries. While 1 in 4 people in wealthy nations have received a vaccine, in poor countries the figure is 1 in more than 500.

In recent days, the U.S. and some European countries put the use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine on hold while authorities investigate extremely rare but dangerous blood clots. AstraZeneca's vaccine has likewise been hit with delays and restrictions because of a clotting scare.

Another concern: Poorer countries are relying on vaccines made by China and Russia, which some scientists believe provide less protection than those made by Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca.

Last week, the director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention acknowledged the country's vaccines offer low protection and said officials are considering mixing them with other shots to improve their effectiveness.

In the U.S., where over 560,000 lives have been lost, accounting for more than 1 in 6 of the world's COVID-19 deaths, hospitalizations and deaths have dropped, businesses are reopening, and life is beginning to return to something approaching normalcy in several states. The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits tumbled last week to 576,000, a post-COVID-19 low.

But progress has been patchy, and new hot spots — most notably Michigan — have flared up in recent weeks. Still, deaths in the U.S. are down to about 700 per day on average, plummeting from a mid-January peak of about 3,400.

In Europe, countries are feeling the brunt of a more contagious variant that first ravaged Britain and has pushed the continent's COVID-19-related death toll beyond 1 million.

Close to 6,000 gravely ill patients are being treated in French critical care units, numbers not seen since the first wave a year ago.

Dr. Marc Leone, head of intensive care at the North Hospital in Marseille, said exhausted front-line staff members who were feted as heroes at the start of the pandemic now feel alone and are clinging to hope that renewed school closings and other restrictions will help curb the virus in the coming weeks.

"There's exhaustion, more bad tempers. You have to tread carefully because there are a lot of conflicts," he said. "We'll give everything we have to get through these 15 days as best we can."

Lawyers: DOJ defense in Trump defamation suit is 'dangerous'

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

The U.S. Justice Department made a "wrong and dangerous" argument in seeking to defend former President Donald Trump against a former advice columnist's claim that he defamed her when he denied her allegation of rape, her lawyers have told a court.

During Trump's presidency, the Justice Department sought to make the United States, not him personally, the defendant in E. Jean Carroll's lawsuit — a move that would put U.S. taxpayers on the hook if she got a payout in the case.

The Justice Department has argued that the statements he made about Carroll, including that she was "totally lying" to sell a memoir and that "she's not my type," fell within the scope of his job as president. The federal lawyers said he had to respond to her claims because they essentially questioned his fitness to hold public office.

In court papers filed late Friday, Carroll's lawyers said Trump's comments were "personal, not presidential" — and that accepting the Justice Department's view would essentially create a rule allowing federal officials to slur their detractors at will.

"That rule is both wrong and dangerous," Carroll's lawyers, led by Roberta Kaplan, wrote in asking a

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federal appeals court to reject the Justice Department's argument. "It reflects a disturbing belief that federal officials should have free rein to destroy the reputations and livelihoods of any perceived critic — no matter how unrelated to the business of governance."

Justice Department attorneys declined to comment on the case. Messages seeking comment were left with the law firm that has represented Trump personally in the suit.

Carroll alleged in 2019 that Trump raped her in a New York luxury department store dressing room in the mid-1990s after they bumped into each other and started joking around about buying lingerie. She has been trying to get a DNA sample from him to test against male genetic material on a dress she says she was wearing during the encounter.

Carroll's lawsuit said his comments sullied her character and damaged her career. She was a longtime Elle magazine columnist until late 2019.

This past October, a federal judge in Manhattan turned down the government's bid to make the U.S. the defendant. In the final days of Trump's presidency, the Justice Department appealed.

Government lawyers wrote that Trump was expected to respond to questions from the media — such as queries about Carroll's allegations — and acted within the parameters of the presidency when "he seeks to defuse personal issues that threaten to impair his ability to achieve his agenda."

"Likewise, the President ... acts within the scope of his office when he responds to public critics," the lawyers said.

Carroll's lawyers are asking the appeals court to uphold the judge's decision.

Carroll said in a statement Friday that portraying Trump's remarks about her as part of his presidential work was offensive to her.

"I hope that it is offensive to the Justice Department under President (Joe) Biden," she added.

The Associated Press does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll has done.

On foreign policy decisions, Biden faces drag of pragmatism

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden this past week found himself in search of a foreign policy sweet spot: somewhere between pulling a screeching U-turn on four years of Trumpism and cautiously approaching the world as it is.

In recent days, Biden has piled new sanctions on Russia, announced he would withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan in less than five months and backed away from a campaign promise to sharply raise refugee admission caps.

"You know, we'll be much more formidable to our adversaries and competitors over the long term if we fight the battles for the next 20 years, not the last 20," Biden said in an explanation of his decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan that also summed up his topline foreign policy hopes.

Yet, as this past week has shown, Biden is finding that when it comes to the painstaking process of statecraft, the drag of pragmatism can slow the sprint toward big-picture aspirations.

First there was Biden's announcement that he would end the "forever war" in Afghanistan by the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. that triggered America's longest conflict.

Biden, long a skeptic of the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan, is setting out to do what his last three predecessors vowed to accomplish but were never able to deliver.

Biden campaigned on the promise to end the war — and former President Donald Trump set a May 1 deadline to do just that. In the end, though, Biden said he'll get Americans out, but he won't beat a "hasty" retreat under his predecessor's timeline. Instead, he called for a monthslong exit ramp even as Republicans — and a few Democrats — criticized the withdrawal as ill-advised.

Lisa Curtis, who served as National Security Council senior director for South and Central Asia in the Trump administration, said lost in Biden's desire to end the war this year is that the U.S. had effectively right-sized the American presence with roughly 2,500 troops. It's not cheap, she noted, but it's a relatively

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modest cost to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a terrorist safe haven.

It's been more than a year since an American service member has been killed in combat in Afghanistan. Curtis argued that with the relatively modest troop presence, the U.S. could maintain a crucial intelligence foothold in a dangerous part of the world, something that Biden's CIA director, William Burns, acknowledged could be diminished by the planned U.S. withdrawal.

Biden's push-pull calibrations were also evident this past week in his approach to Russia.

The president levied new sanctions on Moscow for cyberattacks and interference in the 2020 election, expelling 10 Russian diplomats and targeting Moscow's ability to borrow money by prohibiting U.S. financial institutions from buying Russian bonds.

But Biden, who in February had declared an end to the days of the U.S. "rolling over" to Vladimir Putin, simultaneously suggested that he was getting tough on the Russian president and asserted that he wants a "stable, predictable" relationship with him. The president also suggested a summer summit with Putin.

Biden said he made clear to Putin during a phone call on Tuesday, two days before the sanctions were publicly announced, that he could have been much tougher on the Russians.

"I was clear with President Putin that we could have gone further, but I chose not to do so," Biden said. "I chose to be proportionate."

The past week also brought new steps from Biden on refugee admissions that showed the administration's efforts to navigate the fraught politics of the issue. The president issued an emergency declaration stating that the limit of 15,000 refugee admissions set by Trump for this year "remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the national interest."

The move marked a dramatic departure from Biden's campaign promise to raise the refugee limit to 125,000 and then to at least 95,000 annually after that. It came as the Biden administration is struggling to deal with a sharp increase in unaccompanied young migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras arriving at the border.

After an avalanche of criticism from Democratic lawmakers, the White House within hours made a quick course correction on Friday. It said Biden next month would increase the historically low cap on refugees set by Trump — but probably not even to the 62,500 level that was in a plan submitted to Congress in February. The number actually admitted is expected to be closer to 15,000.

Before the Biden administration did its walk-back, Stephen Miller, the architect of Trump's hard-line immigration policies, cheered Biden's move in a tweet that laid bare the political ramifications of the issue.

"This reflects Team Biden's awareness that the border flood will cause record midterm losses (asterisk) if (asterisk) GOP keeps issue front & center," Miller tweeted.

Biden over the years has displayed a willingness to cut against his party's grain at times on foreign policy matters. As vice president, he frequently found himself out of sync with some of President Barack Obama's foreign policy advisers.

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, in his memoir, wrote that Biden had been "wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades." Early in Obama's tenure, Gen. Stanley McCrystal publicly suggested Biden was "shortsighted" in urging the president to focus on a smaller counterterrorism effort in Afghanistan while military leaders were urging a troop buildup.

As Biden looks to lay down his own markers on foreign policy in the opening months of his presidency, others in Obama world say the president and his team have shown an ambitious reach in the early going.

Michael McFaul, who served as U.S. ambassador to Russia during the Obama years, credits Biden's team for taking a unique step by issuing interim national security strategic guidance in March, months before the administration was required to do so. The early guidance sent a message around the globe that they're serious about breaking from the past four years, McFaul said.

"They have a much bigger ambition for their foreign policy," said McFaul, now director at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University. "I cannot think of an administration that has ever done that before."

Scott Rudin will 'step back' after allegations of bullying

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amid mounting anger over allegations of bullying, Broadway and Hollywood producer Scott Rudin broke his silence Saturday, saying he is "profoundly sorry" and will step back from his theater work.

"After a period of reflection, I've made the decision to step back from active participation on our Broadway productions, effective immediately. My roles will be filled by others from the Broadway community and in a number of cases, from the roster of participants already in place on those shows," Rudin said in a statement.

The move comes more than a week after The Hollywood Reporter's cover story on Rudin contained accounts of the producing heavyweight throwing glass bowls, staples and baked potatoes at former employees. In his statement Saturday he did not deny the allegations.

"Much has been written about my history of troubling interactions with colleagues, and I am profoundly sorry for the pain my behavior caused to individuals, directly and indirectly. I am now taking steps that I should have taken years ago to address this behavior," he said.

The revelations in The Hollywood Reporter also prompted the performers' unions SAG-AFTRA, Actors Equity and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802 to come together condemn illegal harassment and harassment that creates a toxic work environment for entertainment employees.

The revelations also prompted Tony Award-winner Karen Olivo to pull out of returning to "Moulin Rouge! The Musical" once it reopens. There are also plans for a protest March on Broadway on Wednesday, with stops at both Rudin's office as well as the Winter Garden Theatre, where Rudin is producing the Broadway revival of "The Music Man." There's also a campaign to persuade Actors' Equity Association to add Rudin to a Do Not Work list.

In addition to "The Music Man," Rudin's current slate of Broadway shows includes "The Book of Mormon," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and a revival of "West Side Story." It was unclear if Rudin would also step back from producing films, which includes the upcoming "The Humans" and "The Tragedy of Macbeth."

In his statement, Rudin mentioned the upcoming reopening of Broadway after the pandemic shuttered theaters for more than a year. He said he did not want to "interrupt" the work ahead.

"My passionate hope and expectation is that Broadway will reopen successfully very soon, and that the many talented artists associated with it will once again begin to thrive and share their artistry with the world. I do not want any controversy associated with me to interrupt Broadway's well deserved return, or specifically, the return of the 1,500 people working on these shows."

But Actors' Equity Association, which represents more than 51,000 professional actors and stage managers in live theater, wasn't satisfied by Rudin just stepping back.

"We hope that Scott Rudin will also release his staff from any nondisclosure agreements they may have signed as a condition of employment," the organization said. "This is an important step in creating truly safe and harassment-free theatrical workplaces on Broadway and beyond."

Italy's Salvini to stand trial for 2019 migrant standoff

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A judge on Saturday ordered former Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini to stand trial on kidnapping charges for having refused to let a Spanish migrant rescue ship dock in an Italian port in 2019, keeping the people onboard at sea for days.

Judge Lorenzo Iannelli set Sept. 15 as the trial date during a hearing in the Palermo bunker courtroom in Sicily.

Salvini, who attended the hearing, insisted that he was only doing his job and his duty by refusing entry to the Open Arms rescue ship and the 147 people it had saved in the Mediterranean Sea.

"I'm going on trial for this, for having defended my country?" he tweeted after the decision. "I'll go with my head held high, also in your name."

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Palermo prosecutors have accused Salvini of dereliction of duty and kidnapping for having kept the migrants at sea off the Italian island of Lampedusa for days in August 2019. During the standoff, some migrants threw themselves overboard in desperation as the captain pleaded for a safe, close port. Eventually after a 19-day ordeal, the remaining 83 migrants still on board were allowed to disembark in Lampedusa.

Salvini, leader of the right-wing League party, had maintained a hard line on migration as interior minister during the first government of Premier Giuseppe Conte, from 2018-2019. While demanding European Union nations do more to take in migrants arriving in Italy, Salvini argued that humanitarian rescue ships were only encouraging Libyan-based human traffickers. He claimed that his policy of refusing them port actually saved lives by discouraging the risky trips across the Mediterranean from North Africa to Europe.

His lawyer, Giulia Bongiorno, said she was serene despite the decision, saying she was certain the court would eventually determine that there was no kidnapping.

"There was no limitation on their freedom," she told reporters after the indictment was handed down. "The ship had the possibility of going anywhere. There was just a prohibition of going into port. But it had 100,000 options."

Open Arms, for its part, hailed the decision to put Salvini on trial and confirmed it has registered as a civil party in the case, along with some survivors of the rescue, the city of Barcelona where Open Arms is based, and other humanitarian aid groups.

The group's founder, Oscar Camps, said the decision to prosecute Salvini for actions taken when he was interior minister was "historic," showing that European political leaders can be held accountable for failing to respect the human rights of migrants.

"This trial is a reminder to Europe and the world that there are principles of individual responsibility in politics," Camps told a press conference Saturday. The decision to prosecute shows "it's possible to identify the responsibility of the protagonists of this tragedy at sea."

Salvini is also under investigation for another, similar migrant standoff involving the Italian coast guard ship Gregoretta that he refused to let dock in the summer of 2019.

The prosecutor in that case in Catania, Sicily, Andrea Bonomo, recommended last week that Salvini not be put on trial, arguing that he was only carrying out government policy when he kept the 116 migrants at sea for five days.

Italy and other southern EU nations like Spain and Greece have long argued that other members of the 27-nation bloc must do more to help them cope with an influx of migrants.

US West prepares for possible 1st water shortage declaration

By SAM METZ Associated Press/Report for America

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — The man-made lakes that store water supplying millions of people in the U.S. West and Mexico are projected to shrink to historic lows in the coming months, dropping to levels that could trigger the federal government's first-ever official shortage declaration and prompt cuts in Arizona and Nevada.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released 24-month projections this week forecasting that less Colorado River water will cascade down from the Rocky Mountains through Lake Powell and Lake Mead and into the arid deserts of the U.S. Southwest and the Gulf of California. Water levels in the two lakes are expected to plummet low enough for the agency to declare an official shortage for the first time, threatening the supply of Colorado River water that growing cities and farms rely on.

It comes as climate change means less snowpack flows into the river and its tributaries, and hotter temperatures parch soil and cause more river water to evaporate as it streams through the drought-plagued American West.

The agency's models project Lake Mead will fall below 1,075 feet (328 meters) for the first time in June 2021. That's the level that prompts a shortage declaration under agreements negotiated by seven states that rely on Colorado River water: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The April projections, however, will not have binding impact. Federal officials regularly issue long-term

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projections but use those released each August to make decisions about how to allocate river water. If projections don't improve by then, the Bureau of Reclamation will declare a Level 1 shortage condition. The cuts would be implemented in January.

Arizona, Nevada and Mexico have voluntarily given up water under a drought contingency plan for the river signed in 2019. A shortage declaration would subject the two U.S. states to their first mandatory reductions. Both rely on the Colorado River more than any other water source, and Arizona stands to lose roughly one-third of its supply.

Water agency officials say they're confident their preparation measures, including conservation and seeking out alternative sources, would allow them to withstand cuts if the drought lingers as expected.

"The study, while significant, is not a surprise. It reflects the impacts of the dry and warm conditions across the Colorado River Basin this year, as well as the effects of a prolonged drought that has impacted the Colorado River water supply," officials from the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Central Arizona Project said in a joint statement.

In Nevada, the agency that supplies water to most of the state has constructed "straws" to draw water from further down in Lake Mead as its levels fall. It also has created a credit system where it can bank recycled water back into the reservoir without having it count toward its allocation.

Colby Pellegrino, director of water resources for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, reassured customers that those preparation measures would insulate them from the effects of cuts. But she warned that more action was needed.

"It is incumbent upon all users of the Colorado River to find ways to conserve," Pellegrino said in a statement.

The Bureau of Reclamation also projected that Lake Mead will drop to the point they worried in the past could threaten electricity generation at Hoover Dam. The hydropower serves millions of customers in Arizona, California and Nevada.

To prepare for a future with less water, the bureau has spent 10 years replacing parts of five of the dam's 17 turbines that rotate to generate power. Len Schilling, a dam manager with the bureau, said the addition of wide-head turbines allow the dam to operate more efficiently at lower water levels. He said the turbines will be able to generate power almost to a point called "deadpool," when there won't be enough water for the dam to function.

But Schilling noted that less water moving through Hoover Dam means less hydropower to go around. "As the elevation declines at the lake, then our ability to produce power declines as well because we have less water pushing on the turbines," he said.

The hydropower costs substantially less than the energy sold on the wholesale electricity market because the government charges customers only for the cost of producing it and maintaining the dam.

Lincoln County Power District General Manager Dave Luttrell said infrastructure updates, less hydropower from Hoover Dam and supplemental power from other sources like natural gas raised costs and alarmed customers in his rural Nevada district.

"Rural economies in Arizona and Nevada live and die by the hydropower that is produced at Hoover Dam. It might not be a big deal to NV Energy," he said of Nevada's largest utility. "It might be a decimal point to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. But for Lincoln County, it adds huge impact."

Treatment ban creates uncertainty for trans youth, families

By ANDREW DeMILLO and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Before he began receiving hormone therapy eight months ago, Dylan Brandt felt insecure and out of place. Then the 15-year-old transgender boy started taking testosterone in August. His mood improved, and his mother said he became more outgoing.

But in the coming months, Dylan and his family face a difficult choice. His home state, Arkansas, passed a law prohibiting gender confirming treatments for minors, the first state to do so.

"The thought of having to go back to how I was before this is just devastating because that would set

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me back on everything," said Dylan, who lives in Greenwood, near the Oklahoma border. "I don't want to go back."

Unless opponents are successful in blocking it with a lawsuit, Arkansas' ban will take effect late this summer. The measure prohibits doctors from providing gender confirming hormone therapy, puberty blockers or surgery to anyone under 18 or referring them to other doctors who provide that care.

It's already created confusion, sadness and pain for hundreds of transgender youth, as well as their families and health care providers. With other states considering similar bans, it's a preview of the difficult choices that other families could face around the country.

"My families are in a state of panic, asking what state should they move to, saying their child is threatening to kill themselves," said Dr. Michele Hutchison, who runs a clinic at Arkansas Children's Hospital that has served about 200 families and has a waiting list of several dozen more. "They want to know what they should do next and we don't have a clear answer for them."

Hutchison's clinic is by far the biggest provider of hormone therapy and other medical support for transgender young people in the state. Gender confirming surgery is not performed on minors in Arkansas.

Since the bill was approved, four young people in Hutchison's program have attempted suicide, she said. Other patients have called the clinic to ask if they'll be able to get their medications on the black market if the ban takes effect.

"My fear is that's going to happen," she said. "They're going to find a way to get them, and it's going to be dangerous because they won't be monitored for side effects."

Those concerns were what prompted Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a social conservative who has signed other measures restricting transgender people's rights, to veto the treatment ban. Hutchinson said the bill went too far, especially since it wouldn't exempt youth already receiving care.

"If this bill is passed, what happens to those young people that are currently under treatment?" Hutchinson told reporters when he vetoed the measure. "That makes my heart hurt to think about it."

The majority-Republican Legislature easily overrode Hutchinson's veto, and supporters of the ban have said transgender youth should wait until they're 18 to make such decisions. Some compared the prohibition to other ones minors face, such as for smoking or drinking.

"We've all done some things when we're under 18 that we probably shouldn't have done, and the children of Arkansas deserve to be protected," Republican Rep. Robin Lundstrum, who introduced the ban, said during a House debate on it last month.

But comments like those, families of trans youth and health professionals say, are leaving a false impression that these treatments are available on short notice and with little thought.

Before they can even begin treatment, transgender youth must go through months if not years of counseling and therapy to ensure they're making the right decision. They also undergo lab work beforehand and are regularly monitored by doctors.

"This is not done lightly on the patient or the parent side," said Dr. Stephanie Ho, a Fayetteville physician who provides hormone therapy to about 10 to 15 trans youth. "This is not done lightly on the provider side."

Multiple medical groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, oppose the bans and experts say the treatments are safe if properly administered.

Puberty blockers, which delay the physical changes caused by puberty, are considered reversible. Hormone therapy, which can help transgender people match their bodies with their gender identity, can have outcomes that are more permanent, such as enabling transgender men to have facial hair and a deeper voice.

For Andrew Bostad, it took two years after he came out as transgender before he began hormone therapy. The 15-year-old, who lives in Bauxite in central Arkansas, described his life before the treatments as if living in a cloud that was choking him.

"I used to be very shut off, angry at the world in general. I was just shut off from everyone," Bostad said. "Once I started testosterone, I was able to live my life and just move on with who I was supposed to be my entire young adult life."

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The uncertainty transgender youth face right now is compounded by Arkansas' other restrictions on trans youth enacted this year, and the bills that are still advancing in the Legislature.

One law Hutchinson has signed bans transgender girls and women from sports teams consistent with their gender identity. Another allows doctors to refuse to treat someone because of moral and religious objections.

Arkansas lawmakers are considering a "bathroom bill" aimed at preventing transgender people from using public restrooms consistent with their gender identity. Another bill would allow teachers to use the former names and genders of transgender students, which opponents say takes away their identity and could increase an already high risk of bullying of transgender youth. Legislators are also looking at expanding the treatment ban to include criminal penalties for doctors who violate it.

Treatment bans similar to Arkansas' have been proposed in at least 20 states. Several of the measures have failed, but they have won approval in the Montana House of Representatives and the Alabama Senate. Several bills are pending in Texas, including one that would effectively categorize the targeted treatments as child abuse and expose parents to the possibility of criminal charges.

Other states are also considering transgender athlete bans similar to ones enacted so far this year in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. Another ban was sent to North Dakota's governor last week.

For many families, the cost of uprooting from Arkansas is too high. But staying and traveling across state lines regularly for doctor's appointments and prescriptions will also be expensive, and involves navigating a patchwork of surrounding states that are also considering treatment bans.

"You're basically kicking these people when they're down," Ho said. "They have very little resources to begin with and now you're gong to make them choose between rent and their child's life."

Dylan's mother, Joanna, said ending his treatments isn't a viable option. Though she's hopeful the law won't take effect, she's already looking at the possibility of moving.

Bostad and his mother say they're looking at other sources for the treatments outside Arkansas, saying they can't afford to leave. But, even if they could, they're adamant about staying in Arkansas despite the ban and other restrictions.

"We can't let them get what they want out of this," said Brandi Evans, Andrew's mother. "I've always been the person to stand up to the bullies, and this is a big one so I refuse to go down without a fight."

Iran names suspect in Natanz attack, says he fled country

By NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran named a suspect Saturday in the attack on its Natanz nuclear facility that damaged centrifuges there, saying he had fled the country "hours before" the sabotage happened.

While the extent of the damage from the April 11 sabotage remains unclear, it comes as Iran tries to negotiate with world powers over allowing the U.S. to re-enter its tattered nuclear deal and lift the economic sanctions it faces.

Already, Iran has begun enriching uranium up to 60% purity in response — three times higher than ever before, though in small quantities. The sabotage and Iran's response to it also have further inflamed tensions across the Mideast, where a shadow war between Tehran and Israel, the prime suspect in the sabotage, still rages.

State television named the suspect as 43-year-old Reza Karimi. It showed a passport-style photograph of a man it identified as Karimi, saying he was born in the nearby city of Kashan, Iran.

The report also aired what appeared to be an Interpol "red notice" seeking his arrest. The arrest notice was not immediately accessible on Interpol's public-facing database. Interpol, based in Lyon, France, declined to comment.

The TV report said "necessary actions" are underway to bring Karimi back to Iran through legal channels, without elaborating. The supposed Interpol "red notice" listed his foreign travel history as including Ethiopia, Kenya, the Netherlands, Qatar, Romania, Turkey, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates.

The report did not elaborate how Karimi would have gotten access to one of the most secure facilities

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in the Islamic Republic. However, it did for the first time show authorities acknowledging an explosion struck the Natanz facility.

There was a "limited explosion of a small part of the electricity-feeding path to the centrifuges' hall," the TV report said. "The explosion happened because of the function of explosive materials and there was no cyberattack."

Initial reports in Israeli media, which maintain close relations to its military and intelligence services, blamed a cyberattack for the damage.

The Iranian state TV report also said there were images that corroborated the account of an explosion rather than cyberattack offered by security services, but it did not broadcast those pictures.

The report also showed centrifuges in a hall, as well as what appeared to be caution tape at the Natanz facility. In one shot, a TV reporter interviewed an unnamed technician, who was shown from behind — likely a safety measure as Iranian nuclear scientists have been assassinated in suspected Israeli-orchestrated attacks in the past.

"The sound that you are hearing is the sound of operating machines that are fortunately undamaged," he said, the high-pitched whine of the centrifuges heard in the background. "Many of the centrifuge chains that faced defects are now under control. Part of the work that had been disrupted will be back on track with the round-the-clock efforts of my colleagues."

In Vienna, negotiations continued over the deal Saturday with another meeting of diplomats from Iran and the five powers that remain in the deal, with expert-level working groups on sanctions-lifting and nuclear issues set to continue activities through to next week.

Iran's negotiator told state TV that the talks had entered a new phase, adding that Iran had proposed draft agreements that could be a basis for negotiation.

"We think that the talks have reached a stage where parties are able to begin to work on a joint draft," Abbas Araghchi said. "It seems that a new understanding is taking shape, and now there is agreement over final goals."

Enrique Mora, the European Union official who chaired the talks, tweeted that "progress has been made in a far from easy task. We need now more detailed work."

The 2015 accord, which former President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from in 2018, prevented Iran from stockpiling enough high-enriched uranium to be able to pursue a nuclear weapon if it chose in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, though the West and the IAEA say Tehran had an organized military nuclear program up until the end of 2003. An annual U.S. intelligence report released Tuesday maintained the longtime American assessment that Iran isn't currently trying to build a nuclear bomb.

Iran previously had said it could use uranium enriched up to 60% for nuclear-powered ships. However, the Islamic Republic currently has no such ships in its navy.

The attack at Natanz was initially described only as a blackout in its electrical grid — but later Iranian officials began calling it an attack.

One Iranian official referred to "several thousand centrifuges damaged and destroyed" in a state TV interview. However, no other official has offered that figure and no images of the aftermath have been released.

As mask mandates end, Oregon bucks trend with permanent rule

By SARA CLINE Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — As states around the country lift COVID-19 restrictions, Oregon is poised to go the opposite direction — and many residents are fuming about it.

A top health official is considering indefinitely extending rules requiring masks and social distancing in all businesses in the state.

The proposal would keep the rules in place until they are "no longer necessary to address the effects of the pandemic in the workplace."

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Michael Wood, administrator of the state's department of Occupational Safety and Health, said the move is necessary to address a technicality in state law that requires a "permanent" rule to keep current restrictions from expiring.

"We are not out of the woods yet," he said.

But the idea has prompted a flood of angry responses, with everyone from parents to teachers to business owners and employees crying government overreach.

Wood's agency received a record number of public comments, mostly critical, and nearly 60,000 residents signed a petition against the proposal.

Opponents also are upset government officials won't say how low Oregon's COVID-19 case numbers must go, or how many people would have to be vaccinated, to get the requirements lifted in a state that's already had some of the nation's strictest safety measures.

"When will masks be unnecessary? What scientific studies do these mandates rely on, particularly now that the vaccine is days away from being available to everyone?" said state Sen. Kim Thatcher, a Republican from Keizer, near the state's capital. "Businesses have had to play 'mask cop' for the better part of a year now. They deserve some certainty on when they will no longer be threatened with fines."

Wood said he is reviewing all the feedback to see if changes are needed before he makes a final decision by May 4, when the current rules lapse.

Oregon, a blue state, has been among those with the country's most stringent COVID-19 restrictions and now stands in contrast with much of the rest of the nation as vaccines become more widely available.

At least six states — Alabama, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota and Texas — have lifted mask mandates, and some never implemented them. In Texas, businesses reopened at 100% capacity last month.

In January, Virginia became the first in the nation to enact permanent COVID-19 workplace safety and health rules.

"While the end of this pandemic is finally in sight, the virus is still spreading — and now is not the time to let up on preventative measures," Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam said following the announcement.

Besides mask and distancing requirements, Oregon's proposal includes more arcane workplace rules regarding air flow, ventilation, employee notification in case of an outbreak, and sanitation protocols.

It dovetails with separate actions issued by Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, using a state of emergency declaration, requiring masks in public statewide — and even outside when 6 feet (1.83 meters) of distance can't be maintained — and providing strict, county-by-county thresholds for business closures or reductions in capacity when case numbers rise above certain levels.

More than a third of Oregon's counties are currently limited to indoor social gatherings of six people, and the maximum occupancy for indoor dining, indoor entertainment and gyms is 25% capacity or 50 people, whichever is less. And many schools are just now reopening after a year of online learning.

The workplace rule is "driven by the pandemic, and it will be repealed," Wood said.

"But, it might not need to go away at exactly the same time the State of Emergency is lifted," he said, referring to Brown's executive orders.

Amid pandemic frustration and deprivation, the issue has gained a lot of attention. A petition on change.org opposing the rule gained nearly 60,000 signatures and spread on social media, drawing even more interest to the proposal. More than 5,000 public comments were sent to the agency, smashing its previous record of 1,100.

"The majority of comments were simply hostile to the entire notion of COVID-19 restrictions," Wood said. "The vast majority of comments were in the context of, 'You never needed to do anything.'"

Justin Spaulding, a doctor at the Cataract & Laser Institute of Southern Oregon, is among those who raised concerns about the proposal in public comments.

"I do not understand these new guidelines for business. If we put these into effect we will only continue to blunt the recent drop in business," he wrote. "We have a large subset of patients that are unwilling (or) hostile with the current guidelines, and making them permanent will only make it worse."

For Thatcher, the GOP state lawmaker, the most concerning part is "OSHA's lack of clarity" on when

the rules will be lifted.

Officials said they have every intent to repeal the rule, and that decision will be made based on a complex mix of factors, including case counts, vaccination rates, case severity and advice from the Oregon Health Authority.

"It will be a complicated assessment when we do it, and I would say it is impossibly complicated to do in advance," Wood said.

As voting fight moves westward, accusations of racism follow

By ACACIA CORONADO and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Arizona Legislature was debating one of several Republican proposals to overhaul voting when GOP Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita said she'd had enough.

"I don't like to be characterized as supporting discriminatory laws!" she told Democrats, who say the legislation will hurt Latino and Native American voters.

But Democratic Sen. Martin Quezada, a Latino from Phoenix, didn't back down. "This will hurt my community. This will hurt my neighborhood."

"And," he continued, "we're going to continue bringing this up."

Indeed, Democrats are escalating their charges that the Republican push for tighter state voting laws is designed to make it hard for people of color to vote. As the fight moves from the Deep South to the Southwest, that's put increased focus on the impact the proposals would have on Latino and Native American voters — groups with distinct histories of fighting for voting rights.

"Arizona, Texas and several states in the Southwest have a long, sordid history of voter suppression, not only against African Americans but Latinos," said Domingo Garcia, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Fighting the new voting bills, he added, "is our No. 1 priority."

But Republican lawmakers, after seeing how Democrats successfully labeled GOP-backed legislation in Georgia as racist, are fighting back. They blasted Democrats for what they say are lies about the plans. Texas Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week accused opponents of "borderline race baiting."

The debate comes amid a broader battle for the allegiance of Latino voters. While most Latinos overall lean Democratic, then-President Donald Trump, a Republican, made gains among Latinos last year. Some Democrats see the voting debate as a chance to win over those voters.

Republicans across the country have made hundreds of new proposals to tighten voting and election laws — reacting to Trump's false insistence that he was denied reelection because of voter fraud. Trump and his supporters lost more than 50 court cases challenging the election, and repeated audits turned up no significant fraud. But Trump has continued to claim widespread wrongdoing.

The first major legislative fight came in the swing state of Georgia, where Republican lawmakers proposed, among other measures, ending early voting on Sundays, when many Black voters cast ballots. That provision was dropped from the final law, but President Joe Biden, a Democrat, still condemned the measure as "Jim Crow in the 21st century," a reference to the laws that Southern states once used to keep Black citizens from voting.

Arizona and Texas, both weighing new voting laws now, have their own history of racial discrimination at the ballot.

Starting in the early 20th century, Arizona required voters to pass English language literacy tests, a requirement only outlawed in the 1965 Civil Rights Act. In 1960, future Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist helped launch Operation Eagle Eye, a poll watching operation that critics say was designed to intimidate Latino voters.

Texas also used literacy tests to limit Latino participation. The state in the early 20th century formed groups such as the Ballot Purification League to remove Latinos from the voter rolls. Crowds of armed white people swarmed Mexican American voting areas as recently as 1928.

Today, Republican proposals under consideration in Texas target the state's diverse and Democratic cities. The bills would limit polling places in counties of more than 1 million people using a formula that includes the number of eligible voters per region. That could lead to longer lines to cast ballots, particularly

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in immigrant-heavy areas. All local election officials would be forbidden to make voting easier by sending mail ballot applications to voters or creating "drive-through" voting locations. Partisan poll watchers would be allowed to videotape voters, all the way up to, but not including, when they fill out their ballots.

None of the legislation explicitly mentions race, but voting rights groups note that there's a long history of using what seems like race-neutral voting restrictions that fall hardest on voters of color.

"These bills are very much about race. They use language that has historically been associated with racist election measures," said Nina Perales, vice president of litigation at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Texas was one of the hubs for a phenomenon that surprised many analysts in November: a shift of Latino voters into Trump's column. Though the majority of Texas Latinos still voted Democratic, the shift to the right was noticeable, particularly in rural areas. An analysis by the Democratic group Equis Research found that Trump gained 12 percentage points in the largely Hispanic Rio Grande Valley.

That analysis also found that Trump gained ground in heavily Latino precincts in Arizona, but less so than in other parts of the country.

Now Democratic-aligned groups are hoping the new voting push gives them an opening with Latinos who leaned toward Trump.

"If their vote was so important to these legislators, if their voice, if their opinions, if their perspectives, were so important to these legislators, then why are they passing bills that specifically makes it more difficult for their vote to be counted?" asked Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia, executive director of the Hispanic advocacy group Jolt Action. It plans to discuss the voter restrictions with Latinos during upcoming outreach.

In Arizona, there are two main voting bills on the table. The first would remove people from the state's mail-voting list if they have missed two consecutive election cycles and don't respond to a postcard notification. Democrats say that of the 150,000 voters who would be at risk of being removed because of this legislation, as many as one-third are Latino.

The other main voting proposal would require a voter to have a driver's license number to cast a mail ballot — or, for those without it, a voter identification number. But in some Arizona counties, that is only available with a driver's license number. Activists and Democrats argue that Latinos and especially Native Americans — a key Democratic voting bloc in the state — are less likely to have licenses.

Latino groups such as Mi Familia Vota and Poder Latinx have condemned the proposals as racist, and activists have testified repeatedly in the Arizona Legislature — sometimes so heatedly that they've been shut down by Republicans for allegedly violating parliamentary rules against impugning the integrity of lawmakers.

Republican Rep. John Kavanagh, chair of the Arizona House of Representatives' Government and Elections Committee, said that the ID number bill is being rewritten and that there's no racist intent from his side of the political aisle. He noted that Republicans killed many of the most controversial proposals, including one to disqualify mail ballots that arrive after the Friday before Election Day and one that would have let the Legislature override the will of the voters and select the state's electors in a presidential race.

He said the legislation to remove people from the mail list would only trim voters who may have moved or died. "Their Jim Crow argument is not true and is a vicious political lie to deceive the public," Kavanagh said of Democrats.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, April 18, the 108th day of 2021. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning

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colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

In 1831, the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa was officially opened.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham Station in North Carolina.

In 1910, suffragists showed up at the U.S. Capitol with half a million signatures demanding that women be given the right to vote.

In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power as he became prime minister of Egypt.

In 1955, physicist Albert Einstein died in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 76.

In 1966, Bill Russell was named player-coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the NBA's first Black coach.

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

In 1995, quarterback Joe Montana retired from professional football. The Houston Post closed after more than a century.

In 2015, a ship believed to be carrying more than 800 migrants from Africa sank in the Mediterranean off Libya; only about 30 people were rescued.

In 2019, the final report from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation was made public; it outlined Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election but did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government. (Mueller offered no conclusion on the question of whether the president obstructed justice.)

Ten years ago: Standard & Poor's lowered its long-term outlook for the U.S. government's fiscal health from "stable" to "negative," and warned of serious consequences if lawmakers failed to reach a deal to control the massive federal deficit. Kenya's Geoffrey Mutai won the Boston Marathon in 2:03:02, the fastest anyone had ever run the 26.2 mile distance; fellow Kenyan Caroline Kilel won the women's race in 2:22:36.

Five years ago: The U.S. agreed to deploy more than 200 additional troops to Iraq and to send eight Apache helicopters for the first time into the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq, the first major increase in U.S. forces in nearly a year. "Hamilton," Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip-hop stage biography of America's first treasury secretary, won the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

One year ago: In an effort to show that the country was on course to gradually reopening from coronavirus shutdowns, Vice President Mike Pence delivered a commencement address to the U.S. Air Force Academy's graduating class, telling cadets that they "inspire confidence that we will prevail against the invisible enemy in our time." The daily toll of coronavirus deaths in New York state hit its lowest point in more than two weeks. Police in Hong Kong arrested at least 14 veteran pro-democracy lawmakers, activists and a media tycoon on charges of joining unlawful protests in 2019.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clive Revill is 91. Actor Robert Hooks is 84. Actor Hayley Mills is 75. Actor James Woods is 74. Actor-director Dorothy Lyman is 74. Actor Cindy Pickett is 74. Country musician Jim Scholten (Sawyer Brown) is 69. Actor Rick Moranis is 68. Actor Melody Thomas Scott is 65. Actor Eric Roberts is 65. Actor John James is 65. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 63. Author-journalist Susan Faludi is 62. Actor Jane Leeves is 60. Ventriloquist-comedian Jeff Dunham is 59. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 58. Actor Eric McCormack is 58. Actor Maria Bello is 54. Actor Mary Birdsong is 53. Actor David Hewlett is 53. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 51. Actor Lisa Locicero is 51. Actor Tamara Braun is 50. TV chef Ludovic Lefebvre is 50. Actor Fredro Starr is 50. Actor David Tennant is 50. Rock musician Mark Tremonti is 47. R&B singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 47. Actor Melissa Joan Hart is 45. Actor Sean Maguire is 45. Actor Kevin Rankin is 45. Actor Bryce Johnson is 44. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 42. Detroit Tigers first baseman and DH Miguel Cabrera is 38. Actor America Ferrera is 37. Actor Tom Hughes is 36. Actor Ellen Woglom (TV: "Marvel's Inhumans") is 34. Actor Vanessa Kirby is 33. Actor Alia Shawkat is 32. Actor Britt Robertson is 31. Actor Chloe Bennet is 29. Rock singer Nathan Sykes (The Wanted) is 28. Actor Moises Arias is 27.