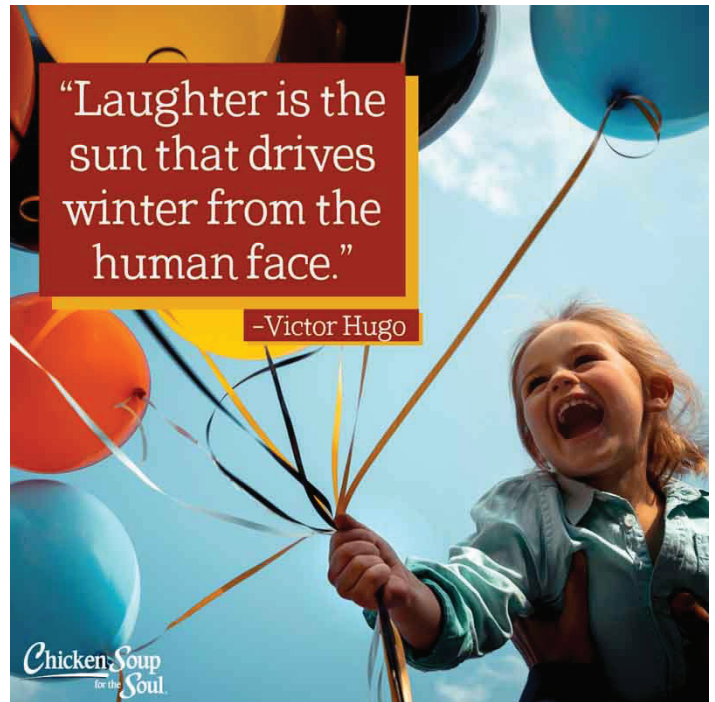


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OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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, May 2, 2021

Communion in Worship

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Graduation Sunday 10:00 AM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Groton Worship with special music by Sunday

School 11:00 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, May 2

9am Worship/Communion

Milestones; 6th graders

Monday, May 3

6:30 a.m.: Bible Study

Wednesday, May 5

5:00pm Sarah Circle

6:00pm Confirmation

Thursday, May 6

2:00pm Nigeria Circle

Sunday, May 9

9am Worship/Senior milestones/Faith Forever

Scholarship awards

Happy Mother's Day!!

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, May 2, 2021

Bible Study, 8 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

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

Zion Lutheran Worship 11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 3, 2021

Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Bible Study, 8 a.m.

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

Zion Lutheran Worship 11 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries

Pierpont

Buffalo Lake Lutheran

Rural Eden

Sunday, May 2: Worship at Buffalo Lake 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 8: Worship at Pierpont, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 9: Worship at Buffalo Lake 10:30 a.m.

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

Groton Music Contest Results

Superior + Ratings: Carlee Johnson, horn; Cadence Tullis, solo; Braden Freeman, tuba; Ashlynn Warrington flute; Blake Lord, tuba; Gretchen Dinger, flute; Kianna Sander, tenor sax; Jayden Schwan, trumpet.

Superior Ratings: junior high band; Julianna Kosel, solo; Ashtyn Bahr, solo; Shaylee Peterson, solo; Carter Barse, solo; Braden Freeman, solo; Axel Warrington, mallets; Sam Pappas, bari sax, Elianna Weismantel, piano; Garrett Schultz, baritone; Addison Hoffman, trumpet; Liby Althoff, flute; Jeslyn Kosel, flute; Avery Crank, trumpet; Gavin Kroll, trombone; Jackson Hopfinger, trombone; Brody Lord, trombone, Ben Hoeft, trumpet.

Superior - Ratings: Teagan Hanten, snare; Lincoln Krause, snare; Rylee Dunker, snare; Christian Ehresmann, snare; Lincoln Krause, mallets; Teagan Hanten mallets; Emily Clark, piano; Kira Clocksene, clarinet; Kayla Lehr, clarinet; Noah Theisen, tuba; Natalia Warrington, clarinet; Payton Mitchell, trumpet; Isaiah Scepaniak, trumpet; Emerlee Jones, alto sax; Logan Clocksene, trombone; Nathan Unzen, trumpet.

Excellent + Ratings: Axel Warrington, snare; Lydia Meier, trumpet; Kellen Antonsen, baritone; Kella Tracy, trumpet; Kaden Kampa, alto sax.

Excellent: McKenna Tietz, clarinet; Bradyn Wienk, trombone; Logan Warrington, trumpet.

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Saving a life
from a potential catastrophe
EVERY 10 MINUTES!

I live
alone

but I'm never alone.
I have **Life Alert**®.

One press of a button
sends help fast, 24/7,
even when you
can't reach a phone.



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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



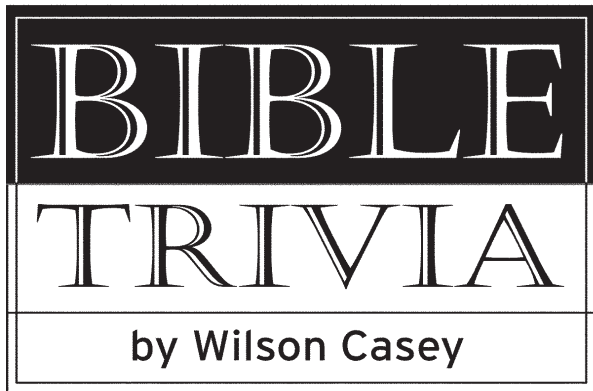
*But we were gentle among you,
just as a nursing mother
cherishes her own children.
So, affectionately longing for you,
we were well pleased to impart to
you not only the gospel of God,
but also our own lives, because
you had become dear to us.*

1 THESSALONIANS 2: 7, 8

Detail of "Mother and Child" by Pablo Picasso (1921)

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

2. The King James translation of the Bible contains more than how many references to gems and precious stones? *100, 500, 1,700, 2,200*

3. Which book recounts the story of the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years? *Titus, Hebrews, James, Romans*

4. From 2 Samuel 14, how many shekels did Absalom's hair weigh after he cut it off? *2, 10, 50, 200*

5. Two hundred shekels weighed around how many pounds by royal standard in biblical times? *1/2, 1, 3, 5*

6. Where did Jesus attend a wedding where the wine was exhausted? *Sardis, Antioch of Syria, Joppa, Cana of Galilee*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 1,700; 3) Hebrews; 4) 200; 5) 5; 6) Cana of Galilee

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's book "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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Cute Zucchini Meatloaf Muffins

Even if the men in your family aren't wild about zucchini, they'll go wild over these cute muffin meatloaves.

16 ounces extra-lean ground turkey or beef
1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon dried fine breadcrumbs
1/4 cup finely chopped onion
3/4 cup shredded unpeeled zucchini
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
1 cup (one 8-ounce can) tomato sauce
Sugar substitute suitable for baking to equal 1 tablespoon sugar
1/3 cup shredded reduced-fat mozzarella cheese

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray a 6-well muffin pan with olive oil-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine meat, breadcrumbs, onion, zucchini, 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning and 1/2 cup tomato sauce. Mix well to combine. Evenly divide meat mixture between prepared muffin cups and make indentation in the center of each.

3. In a small bowl, combine remaining 1/2 cup tomato sauce, sugar substitute and remaining 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning. Stir in mozzarella cheese. Evenly spoon about 1 tablespoon sauce mixture over top of each "muffin."

4. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Place muffin pan on wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Remove "muffins" from pan and serve at once. Freezes well. Serves 6.

* Each serving equals: 188 calories, 8g fat, 17g protein, 12g carb., 457mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 Vegetable, 1/2 Starch.

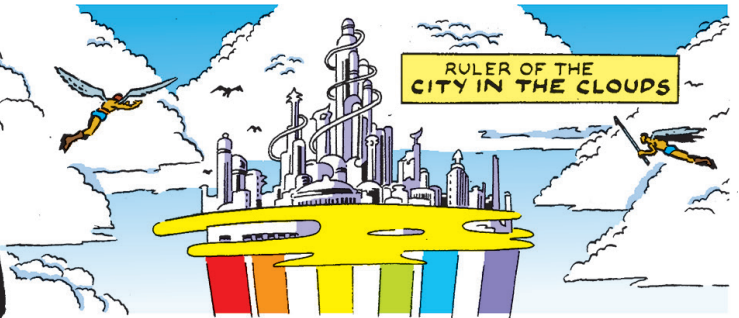
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Character Profile:
Vultan



RULER OF THE CITY IN THE CLOUDS

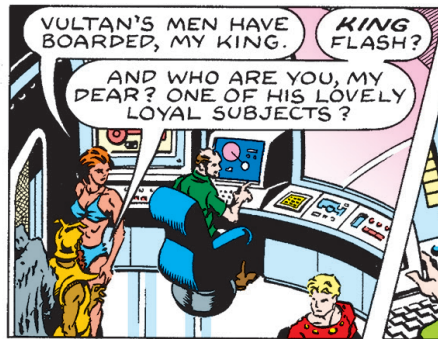
FLASH GORDON

4-25
By JIM KEEFE

PICKING UP CREW MEMBERS EN ROUTE, FLASH'S TASK FORCE RACES TO THE LOCATION OF A DOWNED CRAFT.

APPROACHING RENDEZVOUS SITE WITH VULTAN AND HIS HAWKMEN.

PAYLOAD BAY DOORS OPEN.



VULTAN'S MEN HAVE BOARDED, MY KING.

KING FLASH?

AND WHO ARE YOU, MY DEAR? ONE OF HIS LOVELY LOYAL SUBJECTS?

HER NAME IS TENGSI AND SHE'S PART OF OUR CREW. I'VE ALREADY TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON HER THE UNNECESSARY USE OF REFERRING TO FLASH AS ROYALTY.

PALE...

AND AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER!

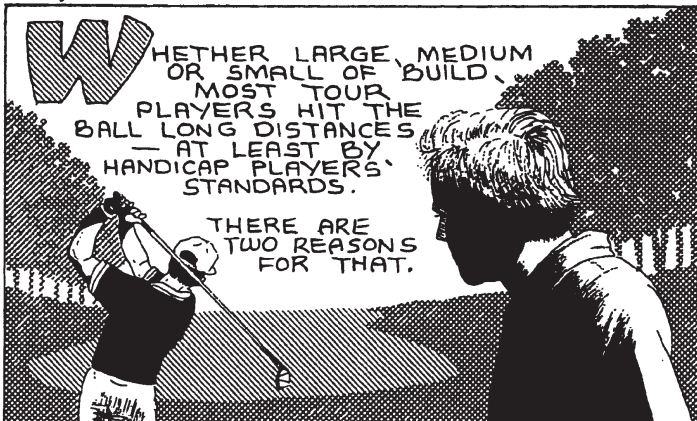


DOCTOR ZARKOV, WOULD YOU MIND TURNING UP THE HEAT?

IT SEEMS TO BE RATHER CHILLY IN HERE...

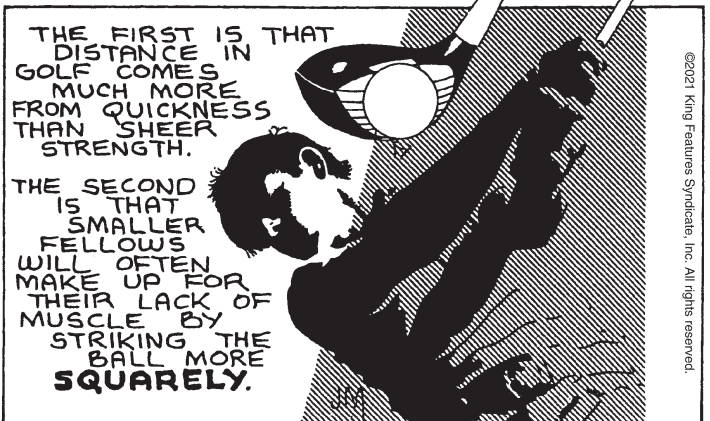
TO BE CONTINUED~

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



WHETHER LARGE, MEDIUM OR SMALL OF BUILD, MOST TOUR PLAYERS HIT THE BALL LONG DISTANCES — AT LEAST BY HANDICAP PLAYERS' STANDARDS.

THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR THAT.



THE FIRST IS THAT DISTANCE IN GOLF COMES MUCH MORE FROM QUICKNESS THAN SHEER STRENGTH.

THE SECOND IS THAT SMALLER FELLOWS WILL OFTEN MAKE UP FOR THEIR LACK OF MUSCLE BY STRIKING THE BALL MORE SQUARELY.

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Myasthenia Gravis Hits Nerve/Muscle Juncture

DEAR DR. ROACH: What can you tell me about myasthenia gravis? My dear friend was diagnosed with it and hospitalized for eight days. She is able to walk and move about, but now, six weeks later, she is still on a liquid diet and unable to move any of her facial muscles. -- I.M.

ANSWER: Myasthenia gravis, from the Latin and Greek for "serious muscle weakness," is an autoimmune disease that attacks the connection of nerves to muscles. Specifically, the body attacks the acetylcholine receptor or its associated proteins, where nerves connect to skeletal muscles. This causes weakness of the muscles and increased susceptibility to fatigue.

The diagnosis of MG is suggested by typical symptoms, the most common of which are eye symptoms like double vision or droopy eyelid (ptosis). A smaller number of people will have symptoms that involve eating and chewing -- this sounds like your friend's primary problem -- and a few will have weakness in the limbs, neck or face, or of the breathing muscles. The diagnosis is usually confirmed by blood testing, but a few people will need more sophisticated testing, such as an electrical muscle stimulation test.

MG commonly affects women under 40 and men over 60, but it can occur in any age group. The thymus, an immune organ that is located in the upper chest behind the sternum (breastbone), is an important origination point for MG, and 10% to 15% of people with MG have tumors of the thymus. Surgical removal of the thymus is often performed to improve symptoms.

In addition to removal of the thymus, there are three other types of treatment for MG. The first is medicines that help the nerve-muscle receptor work better, such as pyridostigmine. This starts working within minutes. The second is treatments to get rid of the antibodies attacking the receptor. Plasmapheresis, the physical removal of antibodies, takes a few days to start working; intravenous immune globulin takes a week or two to work. It's not clear exactly how these work in MG. The third type, anti-immune system drugs, take much longer: a few weeks for prednisone but several months at least for others, such as cyclosporine and mycophenolate.

Your friend is in a period where many of the treatments have not had time to work yet, and I expect that she will get better as the treatments take hold. Her doctors may be talking to her about removing the thymus, but she needs to be well controlled before surgery. Some experts use plasmapheresis or immune globulin to get good control quickly before surgery, especially in people whose symptoms involve eating and facial functions.

You can read more at www.tinyurl.com/NIHmyasthenia.

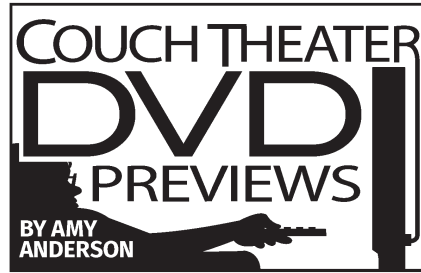
DEAR DR. ROACH: I read that people are not being paid for donating blood anymore. Is this true? -- R.F.T.

ANSWER: Yes. Blood donation is not compensated. Plasma donation, on the other hand, often is compensated. Plasma, which contains the proteins in the blood, can be highly purified so that there is no risk of infection, as opposed to blood -- every precaution is taken to reduce infection, but it can never be brought to zero.

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

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From a Cinderella story (“Ever After,” with Drew Barrymore as cute as a button) to ruthless, empire-building strategy that plays out over years (“Game of Thrones,” anyone?), people just love royalty. However, there’s one family that seems to captivate Western attention again and again: the throne keepers of Merry Old England.

In any grocery store aisle you’ll see magazines filled with stories of William and Kate, Harry and Meghan, and a solitary Queen Elizabeth mourning the recent loss of husband Prince Phillip. Some 750 million people tuned in to watch Lady Diana wed Prince Charles. And that was 1981! Here is a royal flush of films to satiate your need for nobility.

Elizabeth — The most fascinating of the English queens, Elizabeth I (Cate Blanchette), rises to the throne upon the death of her half sister Mary. The prevailing advice is for Elizabeth to marry in order to solidify her claim of the crown. She instead carries on an affair with an English lord (Joseph Fiennes). But her court is awash in conspiracy and intrigue, so with the help of her ruthless adviser Frances Walsingham (Geoffrey Rush), Elizabeth establishes her place as the “Virgin Queen,” who needs no man.

Mary, Queen of Scots — A liberal dose of history and two fantastically intriguing characters converge in this film that chronicles two strong women’s struggle to find respect in 16th-century England and Scotland. Margot Robbie is Queen Elizabeth I, unable to conceive and so with a tenuous command of the English crown. Saoirse Ronan is Mary, the Catholic queen returned from France to take her place on the Scottish throne.

Victoria & Abdul — Dame Judy Dench dons the crown as Queen Victoria. Ali Fazal plays Abdul

Karim, a Muslim clerk from India dispatched to the court of Victoria to present her an honor: a gold coin printed with her likeness. Abdul is a welcome change from the suffocating pleasing of the courtiers, and Victoria adopts him as a friend, a friendship not without adversity.

The King’s Speech — Colin Firth (himself a bit of dreamy English star royalty) takes the central role as Prince Albert, future king of England, George VI. He suffers from a debilitating stutter for which he employs an Australian speech therapist (Geoffrey Rush). The film — a Best Picture Oscar winner — follows their long relationship, from the days before his older brother abdicates the throne through the preparation to deliver his most monumental of speeches: Britain’s declaration of war on Nazi Germany.



Focus Features

Margot Robbie in “Mary Queen of Scots”

The Queen — In a sublime performance, Helen Mirren captures Queen Elizabeth II in the days surrounding and following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car accident in Paris. Beloved by the public as Diana was, the response to her loss was botched by official royal sources. Michael Sheen plays Tony Blair, the British prime minister who attempts to manage the public and private perceptions about the role of the monarchy in a modern age.

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1. Who wrote and released "Hang On in There Baby"?
2. How did The Eagles get their start?
3. What was John Denver's first U.S. No. 1 hit?
4. Which singer wrote and released "Tracks of My Tears"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "How many roads must a man walk down before they call him a man?"

Answers

1. Johnny Bristol, in 1974. Bristol was the songwriter/producer behind dozens of Motown hits, including "Your Precious Love," "If I Could Build My Whole World Around You" and "Twenty-Five Miles."
2. Linda Ronstadt recruited some of them (Glenn

Frey, Don Henley and Bernie Leadon) to tour with her and play on her third album before they went out on their own.

3. "Sunshine on My Shoulders," in 1974.
4. Smokey Robinson, in 1965. But it was Johnny Rivers' own version that topped the charts in 1967.
5. "Blowin' in the Wind," by Bob Dylan in 1962. The song asks questions about freedom, peace and war, and ended up on Rolling Stone's 500 best songs list in the No. 14 slot. It started as only two verses with the middle one added later.

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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



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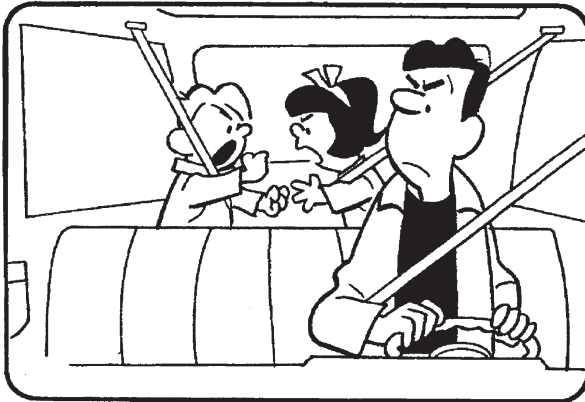
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



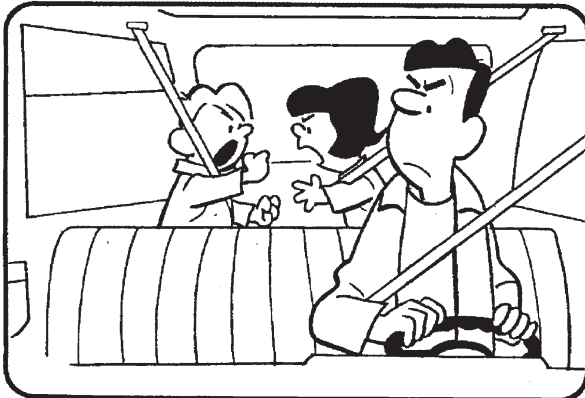
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Bow is missing. 2. Shirt is different. 3. Arm is lowered. 4. Steering wheel is different. 5. Window is open. 6. Seat is different.

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- We heard from J.D. in Northern Colorado about a recent tip on egg carton use. He wanted to remind me that while Styrofoam egg cartons may be easily recyclable in some places (I take them to my local grocery store), that's not true for all states. Thanks for the reminder, J.D., and for being a reader. Maybe it's time to lobby our grocery chains to switch to cardboard cartons.

- "I put dryer sheets in any size wastebasket. One can put three or four folded out to stand up and put a bag in the basket for a fresher smell. Change dryer sheets as often as you like." — *S.H. in Minnesota*

- B.H. in Washington has an interesting tactic to keep ants off her hummingbird feeder, which hangs from a pole. "Cut a small hole out of the bottom of a grocery sack, thread the hole

on the pole, slide down about two-thirds of the way, tape the edges to the pole tightly, and let the sack hang down like a bell. You will never have another ant climbing up your feeder pole."

- Get lots of extra bathroom storage by hanging an organizer over the back of the door. Look online and you'll find fancy versions made with drawers and hooks, or just use a good old-fashioned plastic shoe organizer that you can pick up at your local big box for less than \$10.

- To remove a persistent smell from a lunchbox, wash thoroughly with baking soda and dish soap, then hang to dry. Stuff the lunchbox with crumpled up newspaper and seal for a day. Remove the newspaper, and hopefully the smell with it.

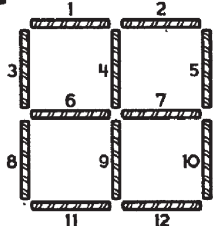
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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PUZZLE CARD

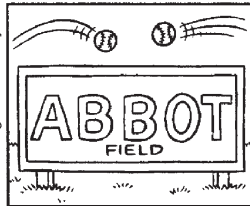


Your problem is to remove only two straws from the 12 shown and have two squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 4 and 6, you will be left with two squares, one small and one large.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



DOUBLE TROUBLE!

When the local baseball team, the Lodi Leopards, played at Abbot Field, a puzzler in the stands noticed an interesting thing. When two Lodi cheerleaders stood in front of the field sign, the name was changed to ALLOT. He puzzled over how many other words had double letters in them that could be changed to another word by substituting a different pair of letters. Here's what he came up with:

1. Accord ---- A _ _ ord
2. Fiddle ---- Fi _ _ le
3. Cheese --- Ch _ _ se
4. Offer ----- O _ _ er
5. Haggie ---- Ha _ _ le
6. Balloon --- Ba _ _ oon
7. Slimmer -- Sli _ _ er
8. Connect -- Co _ _ ect

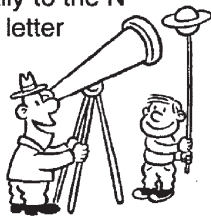
Which double letters would be needed to turn each of the above words into different words?

Other answers are possible.
 1. Accord--afford, 2. Fiddle--fizzle, 3. Cheese--choose, 4. Offer--offer, 5. Haggie--hassle, 6. Balloon--bassoon, 7. Slimmer--slipper, 8. Connect--collect.

SEE SAW! Charlie "Crosscut" Callaway has a 1-by-12-inch board, 18 feet long, that he wants to cut into 18 equal pieces. If it takes him one minute to saw through the board, how long will it take him to cut all 18 pieces?

Answer: 17 minutes. He doesn't have to saw off the last piece.

HEAVENLY WORDS! In the grid at right there are 25 letters that spell out all the planets in our solar system. Can you find them? Go from one adjoining box to another -- horizontally, vertically or diagonally. For example, you can spell SUN by starting at the letter S, moving up diagonally to U, and finish by moving vertically to the N above. You can enter the same letter box more than once. Also, the letters can appear in more than one name. Adjust your telescope and start spelling!

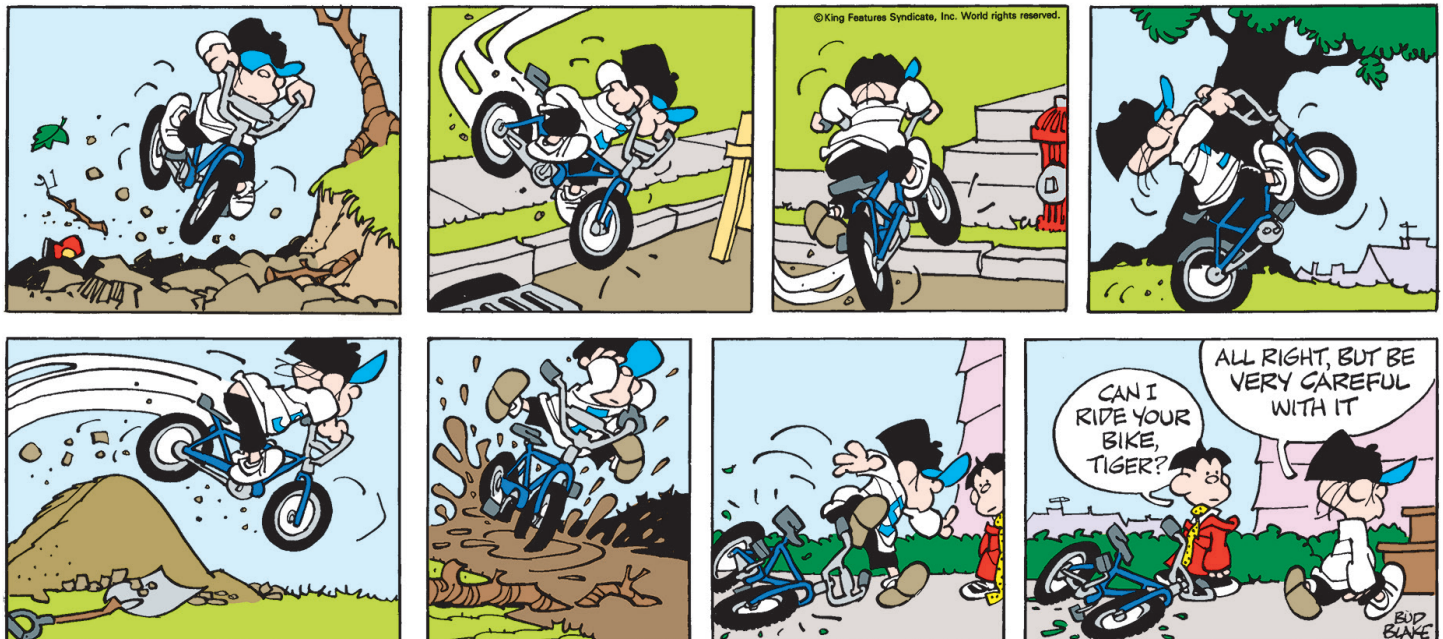


C	U	Y	T	V
E	R	N	E	I
M	A	U	P	R
R	S	T	J	L
T	H	O	U	B

Answer: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Put two and two together?
- 4 Recede
- 7 Crib cry
- 11 Weaving frame
- 13 Standard
- 14 Author Hunter
- 15 Falco of "The Sopranos"
- 16 "The Greatest"
- 17 Donate
- 18 Line dance
- 20 Wife of Jacob
- 22 Moreover
- 24 Like bell-bottoms
- 28 Fragrant flower
- 32 Ouzo flavor
- 33 Sparkling Italian wine
- 34 Nile biter
- 36 Complain
- 37 Daily trio
- 39 Flying horse
- 41 Soup grain
- 43 — of 1812
- 44 Victor's cry
- 46 Small boat
- 50 TV clown
- 53 Tool set
- 55 Traditional tales
- 56 Ms. Brockovich
- 57 Scratch (out)
- 58 List-ending abbr.

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11			12		13			14				
15					16			17				
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32				
33					34		35		36			
37				38		39		40				
41					42		43					
			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56					57				58			
59					60					61		

- 59 Lights-out tune
- 60 Gender
- 61 Hill dweller
- 9 Dallas hoopster, briefly
- 10 Chemical suffix
- 12 Multi-state lottery with a huge jackpot
- 19 Blackbird
- 21 In the style of
- 23 "CSI" evidence
- 25 Ocho —, Jamaica
- 26 Isaac's eldest
- 27 Cozy rooms
- 28 Doorframe piece
- 29 Cruising
- 30 Flag feature
- 31 Mentalist's gift
- 35 Church seat
- 38 Stitch
- 40 Helium, for one
- 42 Oxen harnesses
- 45 Goddess of victory
- 47 Tiny bit
- 48 Drescher or Tarkenton
- 49 Fedora fabric
- 50 Wager
- 51 Man-mouse link
- 52 Energy
- 54 — -Mex cuisine

DOWN

- 1 Mr. Guinness
- 2 Nitwit
- 3 Slay
- 4 Ecol. watchdog
- 5 Event for Cinderella
- 6 Fleeting
- 7 The Duchess of Sussex who once starred in "Suits"
- 8 Bird (Pref.)

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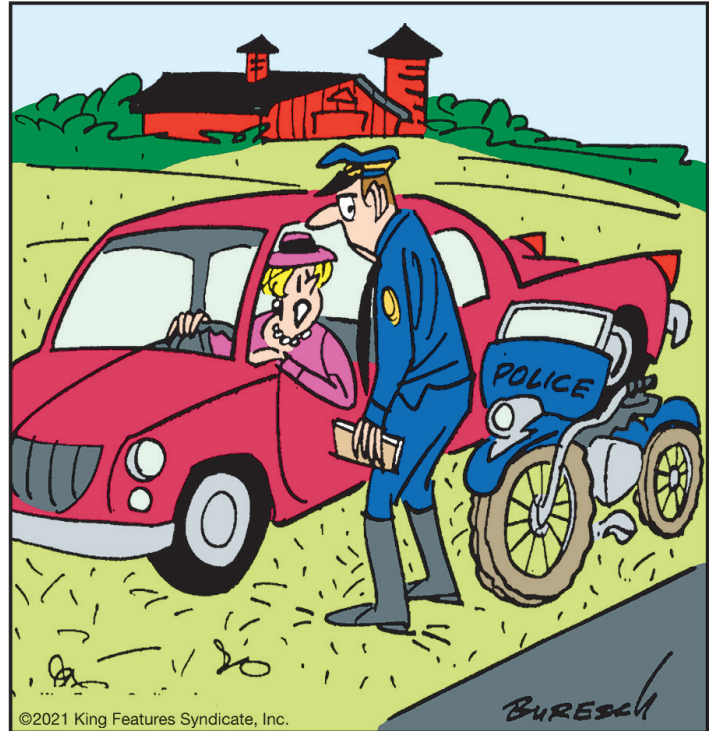
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	D	D		E	B	B		M	A	M	A		
L	O	O	M	P	A	R		E	V	A	N		
E	D	I	E	A	L	I		G	I	V	E		
C	O	N	G	A		L	E	A	H				
				A	N	D		F	L	A	R	E	D
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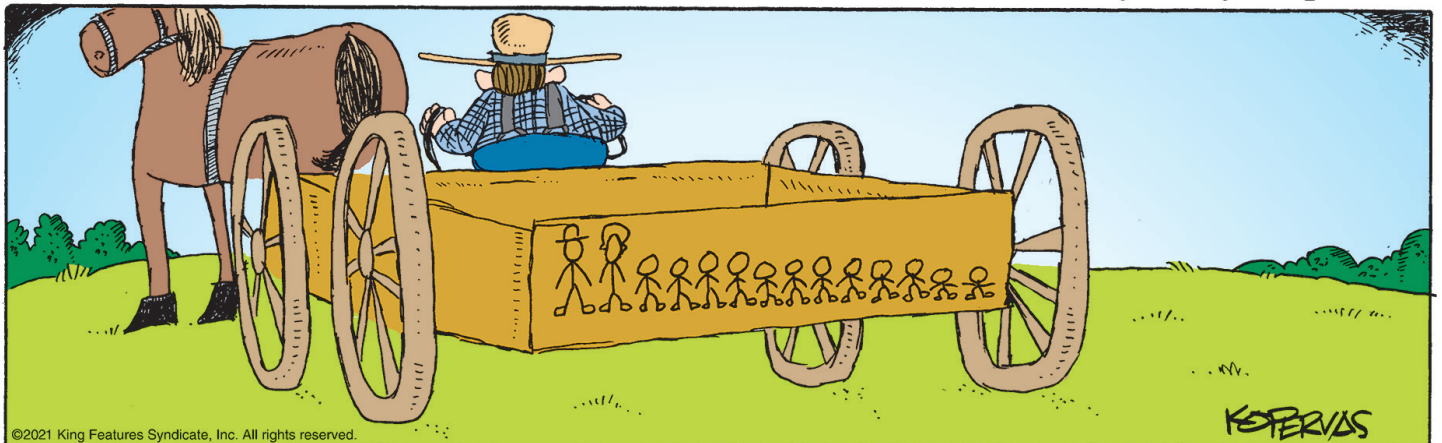
LAFF - A - DAY



“Oh, dear! Did I miss a stop sign while admiring you in my rearview mirror?”

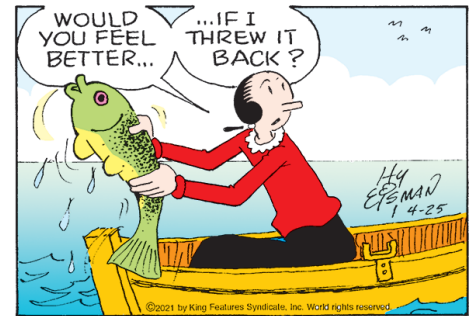
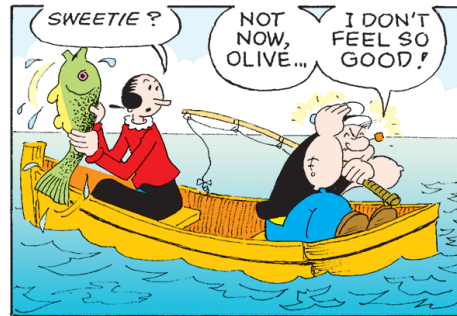
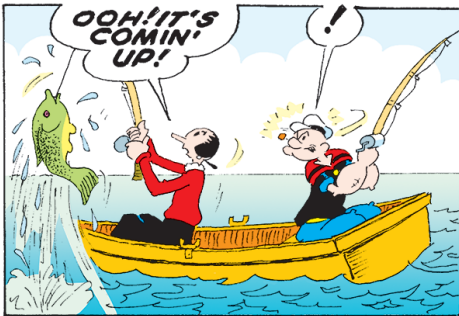
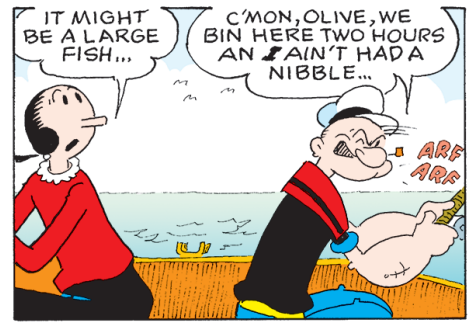
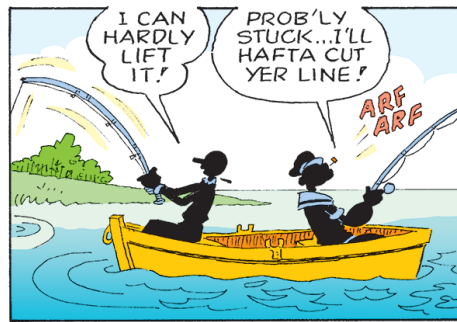
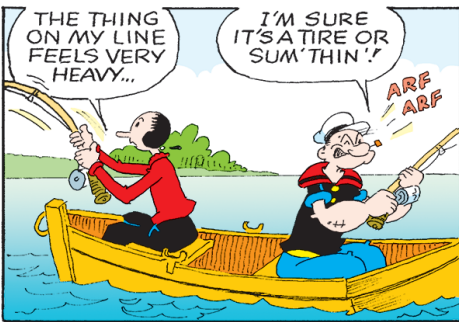
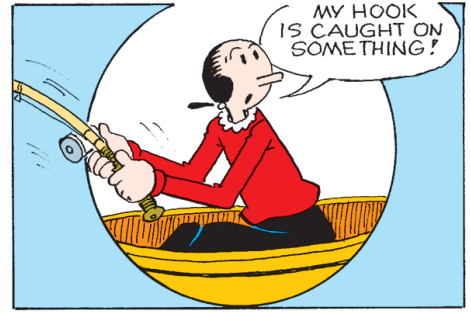
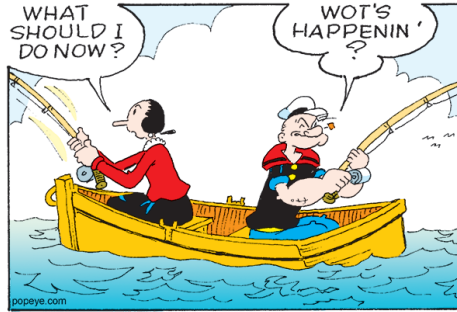
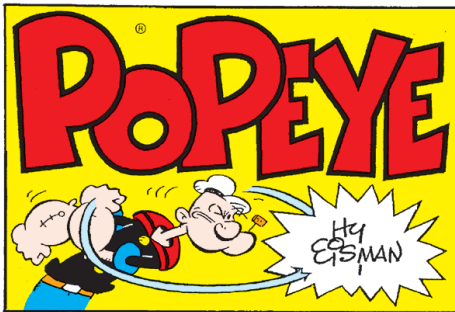
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



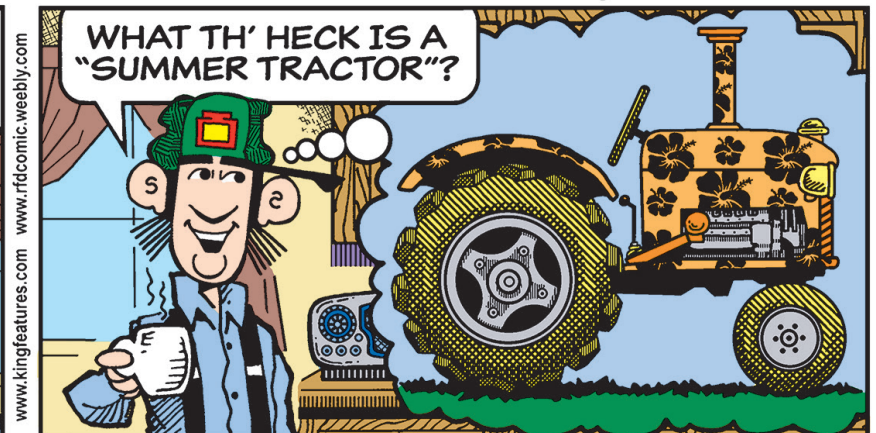
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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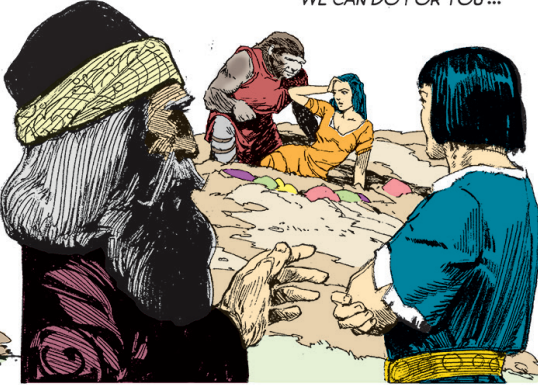
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Hal Foster's
**Prince
Valiant**
BY GANNI AND SCHIETZ

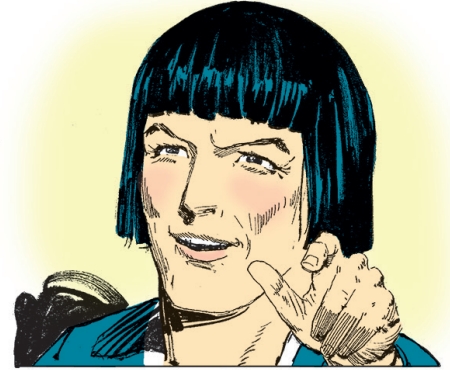
Our Story:
NIMUE TOUCHES PRUDENCE, AND THE SEEMINGLY DROWNED HAND/MAIDEN HEAVES TO LIFE, WRINGING TEARS OF RELIEF FROM IG.



"NIMUE HAS CERTAIN WAYS WITH WATER," MURMURS MERLIN. "THERE IS LITTLE MORE WE CAN DO FOR YOU..."



IT IS ALL TOO STRANGE, THINKS VAL. "IS IT REALLY YOU, MERLIN? YOU APPEAR SO- ALTERED." MERLIN CHUCKLES...



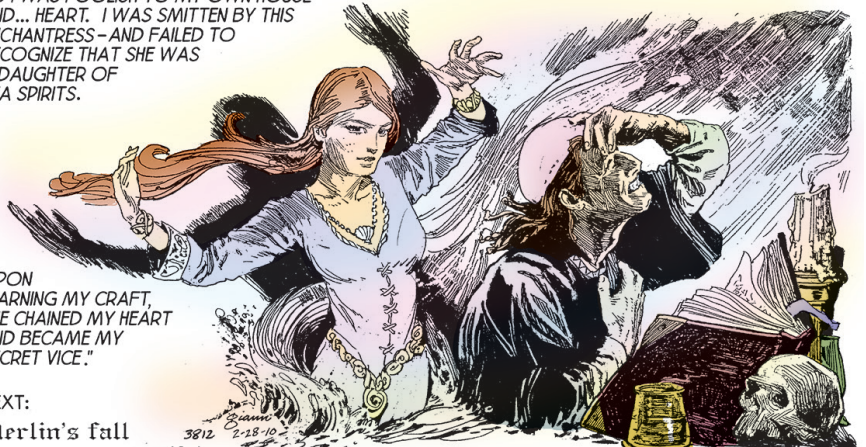
"I WILL TELL YOU A STORY: MANY YEARS AGO, WHILE SETTLING A DISPUTE AMONG THE FOREST ANIMALS, I WAS APPROACHED BY A LOVELY CREATURE WHO BEGGED TO BE TAUGHT MY CRAFT."

"I WAS RELATIVELY YOUNG AND MORTAL, SO I WAS FOOLISH TO MY OWN HOUSE AND... HEART. I WAS SMITTEN BY THIS ENCHANTRESS - AND FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT SHE WAS A DAUGHTER OF SEA SPIRITS."

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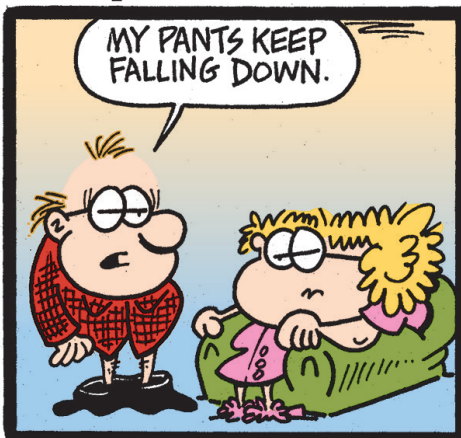
"UPON LEARNING MY CRAFT, SHE CHAINED MY HEART AND BECAME MY SECRET VICE."

NEXT:
Merlin's fall



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Lessons Learned From Buying Online

So many things have changed in how we live our lives in the time of COVID. It's been a year since it all began in earnest and, despite the vaccines, nothing has really gone back to normal. Even small tasks have a layer of "more difficult" on them ... such as buying a new handheld vacuum cleaner.

My little handheld vac began dying after just a short time. I tried to baby it along, but now even with a full overnight charge, it only runs for 42 seconds before it quits again and wants another long charge.

Used to be I'd go off to a local store, examine several possibilities and buy one. This time I went online, where thousands of selections awaited me, as well as hundreds of reviews for each item. I changed the list to lowest price first. I changed the list to most popular. I searched for only the manufacturer of my current handheld vac. It didn't help.

Here are some things I learned along the way. If you're faced with making a purchase online and are hit with too

many choices, call your local stores and ask what they recommend. Then look up the item online. If an item description (such as for a big fry pan) says it weighs 5.2 pounds, take your current fry pan into the bathroom and weigh it on your scale for comparison. If you want new shirts and the sizing chart online is iffy, order more of what you already have, but in different colors.

The end result of this saga is that I purchased the same brand and model as my current vacuum. If nothing else, I know it will last approximately 2.5 years, which is right after the warranty expires. But at least I'll know what to expect while it works.

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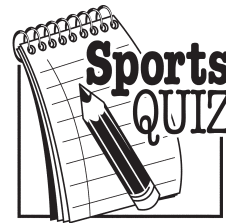
1. What South African golfer completed the second-place career Grand Slam — finishing second in all four majors — with his runner-up finish at the 2017 PGA Championship?

2. National Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Early Wynn Jr. retired in 1963 with how many career wins?

3. In 1991, Los Angeles Kings owner Bruce McNall, hockey great Wayne Gretzky and actor/comedian John Candy jointly purchased what pro football team?

4. A motorsport circuit named after Formula One driver Carlos Pace, who died in a 1977 plane crash, is located in what country?

5. Name the starting quarterback for the 1964 NFL champion Cleveland Browns who also produced a doctoral dissertation titled “A Characterization of the Set of Asymptotic Values of a Function Holomorphic in the Unit Disc.”



by Ryan A. Berenz

6. In 2020, what team hired Kim Ng as the first female general manager in Major League Baseball history?

7. What famous Seattle rock band was originally named after NBA player Mookie Blaylock?

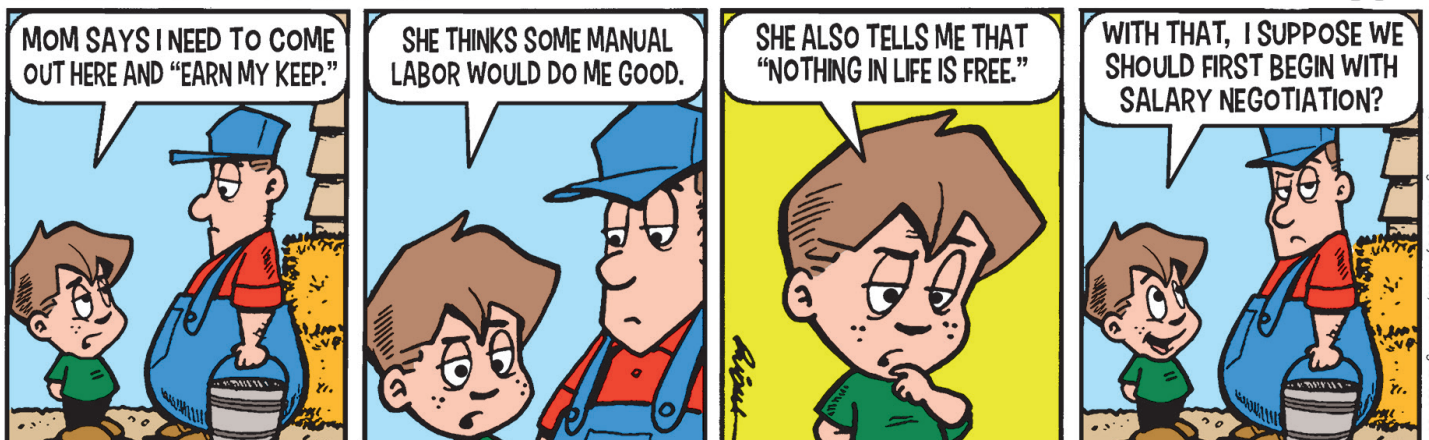
Answers

1. Louis Oosthuizen.
2. 300.
3. The CFL's Toronto Argonauts.
4. Brazil.
5. Frank Ryan.
6. The Miami Marlins.
7. Pearl Jam.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Flea Baths Offer Cats Only Temporary Relief

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: After my mother passed away last year, I brought her two cats to live with me. They're sweet and have settled in nicely, but they also have fleas. These came with them from my mom's house. Giving them a bath removes the fleas temporarily, but after a couple of weeks both cats are covered again. How can I get rid of these pests once and for all? — *Jeremy in Knoxville*

DEAR JEREMY: My condolences on your mother's passing, and thank you for caring for her pets.

While it may be impossible to completely get rid of fleas, you can drastically reduce the level of infestation on your cats. Here's how:

— Continue regular treatment of the cats through flea baths, collars or topical treatments.

— Comb through the cats' fur daily using your fingers or a brush: Tiny dark specks indicate that fleas are still present.

— Don't let cats outdoors: Fleas and ticks will hitch a ride on their fur.

— Two to four times a year, treat your entire home for fleas. These pests can lay hundreds or thousands of tiny eggs in your cats' hair, in carpets and rugs, and in dusty corners. Close your cats in a safe room and sprinkle flea powder across the carpet and into the corners, let sit for as many hours as the instructions say, then vacuum up. Wash rugs, if possible.

— Dust and vacuum your home once a week. Vacuum twice per week in peak flea season, during the warmer months. This helps remove unhatched flea eggs.

Vigilance and a proactive cleaning and treatment routine will keep those fleas at bay.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Are you a fan of hot peppers? One you might want to avoid is the Dragon's Breath chili pepper, which could kill you by causing a type of anaphylactic shock, burning and even closing your airway. But Mike Smith, its inventor, never intended it to be eaten: It was actually developed for use as a topical numbing agent for people who are allergic to regular anesthetics.

* Only two countries use the color purple in their national flags -- Dominica and Nicaragua.

* Steven Spielberg's adaptation of Peter Benchley's "Jaws" made a lot of folks afraid to go back in the water, but perhaps what they should have been more concerned about is the fact that the sea is also home to nearly 200,000 different kinds of viruses!

* It is illegal to enter the House of Parliament while wearing a suit of armor.

* The first person to be charged with driving too fast was Walter Arnold, of the English village Paddock Wood in Kent. On Jan. 28, 1896, he clocked in at four times the speed limit in his Benz -- or a whopping 8 mph. A constable chased him down on a bicycle and issued Arnold a ticket.

* Just as earth has earthquakes, the moon has -- you guessed it -- moonquakes. While less common and less intense than the shakes we know and dread, they're believed to result from tidal stresses connected to the distance between the two bodies.

* The Elysia cf. marginata, a type of sea slug, can not only survive decapitation, but grow an entire new body afterward.

* Pineapple works as a natural meat tenderizer. It's packed with the enzyme bromelain, which breaks down protein chains.

Thought for Today: "Towering genius disdains a beaten path. It seeks regions hitherto unexplored." -- Abraham Lincoln

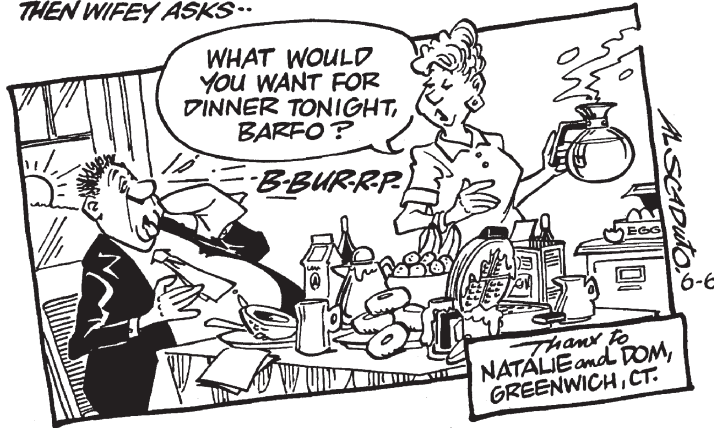
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

WRONG TIME-WRONG QUESTION-AFTER YOU'VE DEVoured EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN DRAPES... THEN WIFEY ASKS...



BY AL SCADUTO

WHYZZIT? BANK PENS HAVE CHAINS ON THEM...WHY? THEY NEVER WORK ANYHOW...

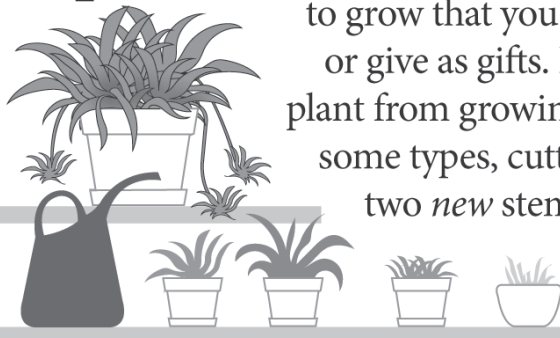


EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?

AT LAST.. A CUTE, GENTLE, NONVIOLENT ANIMATED MOVIE JUST FOR CHILDREN.. SO YOU BRING THE KIDDIES..BUT ONCE YOU'RE SEATED..THEN YOU'RE SHOWN THE PREVIEWS FOR NEXT WEEK.. OH, YEAH!



Mother plant



This is a source from which a grower gets new planting material that is identical to its "mother" plant. In choosing a plant for this purpose, pick one you like, that also has strong roots, a strong stem, a strong stem, is resistant to pests and fungi and matures steadily and easily. Pruning the branches of mother plants regularly encourages new branches to grow that you might replant in your garden, sell or give as gifts. Pruning the top keeps the mother plant from growing too large. Keep in mind that for some types, cutting a stem near its end may cause two new stems to grow! Some types grow their own "babies." - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.advancednutrients.com

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Still Waiting on Records?

Weeks ago, I wrote about the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) being mostly closed due to COVID-19 with staff unable to process requests for information. I warned that unless you have one of a very short list of essential reasons for asking, your request is going back on the pile to be handled later.

Now, the Department of Veterans Affairs is going to work with the National Archives and Records Administration to get COVID-19 vaccines to on-site staff so that they can return to work to process compensation claims. The VA is going to provide enrollment specialists and medical staff with vaccines provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The short list of requests the NPRC is able to handle are true emergencies: records information so veterans

can get medical treatment, burials and homeless veterans trying to get into homeless shelters.

And, no, in answer to one Missouri veteran who asked if he could just show up in St. Louis and do his own research. All National Archives research rooms are closed. All museums are closed. No tours, no school visits, nothing involving the public strolling in.

If you have a genuine emergency, you'll need to fax them Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. The NPRC's website says its fax machines are down, but here are alternate fax numbers to send your emergency request: 314-801-0764, 314-801-0762, 314-801-0569, 314-801-0984, 314-801-9195. Include an email address.

On the off chance the records you need have already been digitized online, check www.archives.gov, click Veterans' Service Records. Unfortunately, at this point, all records digitizing has come to a halt.

One has to wonder about the true size of the records request backlog. A letter signed by 185 members of Congress gave the number as 480,000. It also mentions the \$15 million given to NPRC to help get the backlog cleared, the emergency number that isn't answered and the call center that isn't staffed.

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



100 Days and \$6,000,000,000,000

Nearly 100 days ago, President Biden stood before America and promised unity and a path forward. He told us that path forward would include Republicans – it hasn't yet. I'm an optimist though, and during my first two years in Washington, when faced with a global pandemic, Congress stepped up to the plate and passed bipartisan legislation to help all Americans. I believe we can get back to that place.

This week during his first joint address to Congress, he offered similar sentiments of unity. He said, "We can't be so busy competing with one another that we forget the competition we have with the rest of the world." But for the next hour, the president went on to introduce proposals that will cost the American taxpayer trillions.

His first bill to pass the Democrat-controlled House and Senate cost \$2 trillion. His other agendas will cost \$4 trillion. $\$2 + \$4 = \$6$ trillion. To give you some context, the federal budget Congress passed for fiscal year 2021, which includes all discretionary and defense spending, was \$1.4 trillion. His plans don't include standard budget spending to provide for our national defense, Social Security, and other yearly functions of government. That's a lot of money.

Investment in our children & infrastructure doesn't need to be partisan. As a fiscal conservative, I believe America can continue to be a superpower without spending ourselves into oblivion. We do need infrastructure investments throughout America, but not to the tune of \$2 trillion.

Republicans have introduced more modest proposals in the \$300-500 billion range. I was invited to the White House recently along with a few other members of the Problem Solvers Caucus to meet with the president's chief of staff regarding infrastructure. His team seemed genuine, but we are on vastly different pages.

There have been some glimmers of hope over the past 100 days – as the US has surpassed 200 million administered COVID-19 vaccine doses. The president and his team deserve a lot of credit for that as does Operation Warp Speed and the CARES Act. Because of the vaccine, confidence in the American economy is back, and the light at the end of the tunnel is nearing.

If President Biden is serious about working together and passing bipartisan legislation, his proposals can't all start with a "T." Let's get serious on prescription drug pricing, infrastructure investment, and job creation.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

The Power of Travel

In South Dakota, we have so much to be proud of. Our beautiful landscapes, thriving business climate, and welcoming residents all combine to make this state truly the land of "Great Faces, Great Places." But this week, we have a very special reason to celebrate something that combines all the state's greatest qualities: our travel and tourism industry.

From May 2 through 8, join me in celebrating National Travel and Tourism Week (NTTW). This year's NTTW theme – the "Power of Travel" – seems more important than ever in 2021. Last year, our friends and neighbors in the tourism industry found innovative ways to serve their customers.

By remaining open and free, South Dakota survived – and some even thrived – during a challenging year. It was tough, but determination, hard work, and perseverance – qualities that come naturally to South Dakotans – got us through the storm. And now, South Dakota is welcoming visitors that are more excited than ever to travel.

There are plenty of reasons to celebrate tourism, our state's second-largest industry. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, South Dakota was one of the best-performing states in the country. We welcomed 12.6 million visitors to the Mount Rushmore State in 2020.

Those guests spent a total of \$3.4 billion, generating \$276 million in tax revenue. Together, these visitors support almost 50,000 South Dakota jobs in our tourism industry. In fact, because of visitor spending in our state, South Dakota taxpayers save \$780 per household. On average, national visitor spending declined by 45%, but South Dakota saw only an 18% decline in spending.

Outdoor recreation is always something to enjoy in South Dakota, but it was especially popular at a time when fresh air and wide-open spaces were a priority nationwide. State park visitation was up 31% last year, and we issued record numbers of trail permits and youth hunting licenses. For the first time ever, we welcomed more than 2 million visitors to Custer State Park.

This is why we are celebrating the "Power of Travel" in South Dakota during this year's NTTW – and there are so many ways to get involved. Write a letter or social post thanking travel workers – including your favorite SoDak businesses – for everything they do to attract and entertain visitors. Tag your messages with #NTTW21, #HifromSD and #PowerOfTravel to show your appreciation for hard-working tourism folks.

When the going got tough, tourism stepped up. And the folks in the tourism industry deserve our gratitude. Whether you're from out of state or are a lifelong resident, I hope you'll find ways to enjoy South Dakota's many incredible opportunities, whether it's catching a sunrise at Badlands National Park or cruising our scenic roads and byways, or just supporting your local diner.

2020 proved that a united state can weather any storm. That's the "Power of Travel." 2020 was an incredible year for South Dakota's tourism industry, and I'm so excited for what 2021 has in store.

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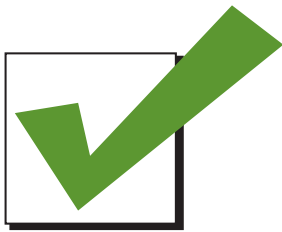
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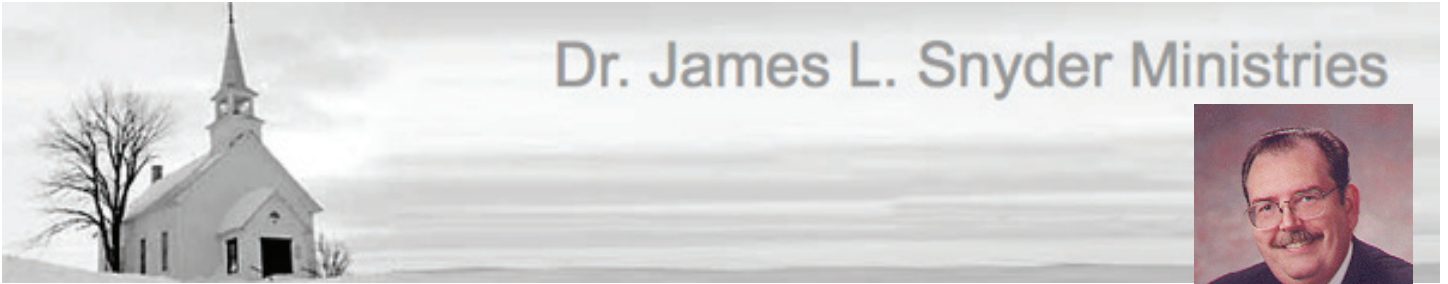
*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years.

Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID; OK: L770OK; TN: L770TN).

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A Shortcut Is Not Always That Short

I have always appreciated shortcuts in life. If I can find a shortcut, I will take it because time is valuable to me. I take pride in coming up with a shortcut that actually saves me time.

However, not all of my shortcuts have really been that short and I have paid the price.

Last week, for example, I had to go clear across town for my appointment with my eye doctor. Somehow I think they try to figure out where to place a doctor's office, so it isn't easy to get there, especially when there's a time element involved.

My eye appointment went rather well, and I was happy with the results. I had made the appointment very close to the next appointment I needed on the other side of town.

Have you ever noticed when you have two appointments on the same day, they are at the opposite ends of town? I hate that.

But I was going to take advantage, and I was going to find a shortcut across town.

I am a very careful driver. Every time I leave the house, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always says, "Drive careful." As if she thought I would be a crazy driver.

As I left the doctor's office, I thought I would take a different route to go on the other side of town for my next appointment. I've lived in this town for quite a few years, and I thought I knew every street in this town. But I guess I didn't know everything I needed to know.

When I'm driving, I'm always careful to watch out for the other drivers. It's not that I'm a lousy driver; it's that other people can be and sometimes are bad drivers. So I am careful about the drivers that are in front of me and behind me.

I usually have a GPS with me, but I had taken it out and used it somewhere else for some reason. Who knows where?

That didn't bother me because I knew exactly where I was going. I was going to map out a shortcut to save time.

Driving down one block, I noticed a street to my right that I thought I recognized, and so I made the turn and followed that street. Then I came to a street that took another right, and so I followed that. As I was driving through, I didn't recognize anything that I could remember.

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My problem is, as I drive, I sometimes get thinking about a project I'm working on. It might be an article, it might be a sermon, it might be just about anything. Once I get thinking about that project, I'm not too conscious of my environment. Yes, I do pay attention to the other cars.

I planned to make it to my next appointment at least 20 minutes ahead of time to sit back and relax and wait for that appointment. I always carry a notebook, so when I have a little off time, I can jot down some notes and make sure I'm not forgetting what I've been thinking of while driving.

I really hate it when I have an excellent idea, but I can't remember that idea when I stop and want to write it down.

Just then, I saw a street sign to the right that I kind of remembered and gladly turned down that street believing I was going to get their way ahead of my schedule and I would have plenty of time just to get caught up on my notes. I was smiling as I was driving down that street.

As I was driving, I recognized some of the buildings on both sides of the street and was very confident that I had it made.

My only regret was that I didn't have the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage with me to boast about my shortcuts. If there's one thing she doesn't like, it's my shortcuts. According to her, my shortcuts always create problems. Boy, I wish she was with me now!

The more I drove down the street, the more familiar the buildings became. And then I saw it and could not believe what I saw.

On the right side of the street was the eye doctor's office I had left about 20 minutes ago. I could not believe this was happening to me. Looking at my watch, I realized I'm not going to make my next appointment on time. I did not know what to do.

The only thing I could do at the time was call and cancel that appointment. The bad side is, I would have to explain to my wife why I canceled that appointment. When she hears of my shortcut plan, she is going to stare at me with one of "those stares" and then say, "What have I told you about your shortcuts?"

I just couldn't put a new plan together that would solve the problems that I had right now.

As I drove away from the eye doctor's office, I thought of what David said, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8).

Sometimes I'm tempted to take a shortcut in my relationship with God. I sometimes think that I know better than God, and it always ends up in some level of tragedy.

Medicare has changed. Find out how it can affect you.

Important changes to the federal Medicare program became effective at the beginning of the year. As a result, retirees in your state may be eligible for coverage with new options.

Find out if you qualify for Medicare Supplement insurance that can help limit your out-of-pocket expenses.

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6243_D

EARTHTALK ™

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: You see a lot of people putting solar panels on their homes these days, but windmills not so much. Is there any future for small residential wind turbines as we transition to more renewable forms of energy?
-- M. Simon,
Portland, ME



Backyard wind turbines could help us make the transition away from fossil fuels.

Credit: Cowrin, FlickrCC.

Wind power will likely play a key role in the transition to a zero-emission economy—especially if we can start to distribute it more widely and harness its benefits on a building-by-building basis. Could your own small wind turbine next to your home be the next way to keep up with the Joneses while augmenting the electricity you already get from the grid or solar panels?

The short answer is...definitely. Large wind turbines lined up along the highway in commercial wind farms typically stand at least 150 feet tall, each powering thousands of households per year. But smaller, much less obtrusive turbines might output just enough power to serve as a back-up to your existing solar system or reduce what you need from the grid. Limitations on how much electricity a turbine can extract as well as the variability of the wind itself means that wind power might never be your primary energy source. But there's no reason it can't meet an increasingly larger share of your energy needs.

Small stand-alone wind systems might make sense for a larger residence or for a commercial entity like a farm or small factory or warehouse. Turbines that can share the electricity generated among a group of homes or buildings as needed tend to be much more energy- and cost-efficient. And extra capacity in a wind system can be sold to the utilities via so-called Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), which can help offset the up-front costs of installing turbines in the first place.

Ultimately, the most important factor in determining whether to invest in a wind power system is the local climate. To maximize the efficiency of wind turbines, free-standing pole-mounted turbines need to be installed at a high-elevation locations with steady, strong sources of wind. After assessing wind conditions, work with an expert to choose the correct size turbine and tower. If the location is on the power grid, it'll serve you well to connect it to take advantage of RECs.

Overall, small, residential wind energy systems are essential to the nation's transition away from fossil fuels and toward a greener future. Though initial costs may seem unfavorable compared to cheap, non-renewable energy, investment in wind electricity will pay off in the long run. Both grid-tied and stand-alone wind systems are more energy and cost effective on wider scales, meaning that the more expansive the system, the more energy is generated and the overall cost goes down. Moving forward, higher demands for wind energy will lead to increased advancements in this technology, possibly offering even greater benefits and pointing toward a future powered by 100 percent renewable energy.

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#433 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Steady decline, small, but there. Today there were 45, 873 new cases reported. We're up to 32,419,050, which is 0.1% more than yesterday's total. The average hospitalizations is slightly down again today at 43,718. And we're up to 576,337 total deaths, 0.1% more than yesterday. There were 714 deaths reported today.

On May 1, 2020, one year ago today, we had 1,109,200 cases and 64,870 deaths. This was the night I addressed the charges that the death rates from Covid-19 are no worse than influenza's by explaining just how influenza deaths are "counted" (actually estimated). If you missed that and are curious, you can check it out in my Update #68 posted May 1, 2020, at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3557028290980218>.

Worldwide, we were over 3.2 million cases and 233,000 deaths. That means over a third of those cases were in the US. We were the worst single place to be on that day. Experts were predicting a second wave in the fall and winter; guess that summer mess came as something of a surprise then. We just kept exceeding everyone's worst expectations. Looking back is often difficult as I relive all of the missed opportunities and missteps along the way. I knew at the time it could have been so different, and now with the benefit of seeing where we went, I really get how different it could—should—have been. Airlines were starting to require passengers to wear face masks. The USS Theodore Roosevelt was up to 1102 active cases; few of those required hospitalization, which is to be expected among a particularly young, fit work force. Still, we were getting how contagious this thing was.

While the nationwide picture is improving today, we still have some hot spots. Michigan is one, although cases are declining and have been for a couple of weeks now. Colorado is showing a worrisome increase in cases in adults and children. West Virginia has increases in young people. And of course, Oregon continues to have troubles as well.

Most experts think we've reached or are reaching a tipping point where we finally have enough of our population vaccinated (43 percent with at least one dose) or previously infected (maybe 35 percent) to put a dent in transmissions. We know these two groups—vaccinated and previously infected—overlap to some large extent, but the public health folks are putting our "protected" population at maybe close to 60 percent. The recent steady decrease in new infections supports this line of thinking. We have some significant disagreement whether we're already there or won't be there for a few weeks; but the overall is that vaccinations are likely having a real impact. We're not clear yet: This virus is tricky, and as we come up against the wall of vaccination hesitance, we're going to face some real challenges. There are areas or regions where vaccination rates are low and likely to remain so; they're probably looking at another surge and more sickness and death. And if the percentage of us remaining unvaccinated stays too high over the summer, we likely face yet another surge over the fall and winter, mostly among the unvaccinated with some spillover to the few vaccinated people whose responses weren't what we'd hoped. That means some people who did the right things will die because a whole bunch of folks decided not to do the right thing. I'm good with choosing for yourself, but I am having trouble with you choosing death for people who weren't on board with your decision. In the meantime, we must make sure everyone who is willing has access to vaccine. We must help those who simply need more information or to hear it from someone they trust to meet their needs. And we need to face the fact that we're unlikely to reach herd immunity through vaccination because we have some hard-core resistance I don't think we're going to be able to soothe and educate away. That's just how it is, but we do have some trend lines going in the right direction.

So now that we have a good third of the country fully vaccinated, these vaccinations are finally having an effect on transmissions, and case numbers are declining in most places, let's talk about risk and about what you should and should not be doing. We'll get a couple of things up front. First, if you are not vaccinated and you don't have a medical reason to avoid vaccine—one your doctor says is a reason, not some nebulous feeling of unease—then get vaccinated. There is no single thing you can do to protect yourself—and the rest of us—that will have more impact. Second, different people will have different situ-

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ations and different tolerance for risk, so don't automatically leap to the conclusion your friend/neighbor/coworker is being irresponsible and selfish or ridiculously scared of shadows simply because they are making different choices from yours—that is, beyond the choice to vaccinate: If your friend or neighbor is choosing not to do that, judge away. I am.

Vaccination is not 100 percent effective; we knew that would be the case going in. Last numbers I've seen, out of 87 million fully vaccinated people, a tiny percentage (7157 people or 0.008%) of fully vaccinated people is getting Covid-19; a smaller percentage of them (498 or 0.0006%) is getting sick enough to be hospitalized, and an even smaller percentage of those folks (88 people or 0.0001%, just over one in a million) is dying. So that's the reality. There is a non-zero chance you can get sick and die from this virus, even if you've been fully vaccinated. To put that chance into perspective, your chance of being in a car accident is 0.27% for every 1000 miles driven, and your chance of dying in an accident is about 0.0027% for every 1000 miles driven—far lower than your risk to die from Covid-19 if you're fully vaccinated.

The only way to be 100 percent safe from Covid-19 is to lock yourself into your home and refuse to let anyone from the outside come into contact with any member of your household. (An isolated cabin in the woods, cut off entirely from civilization, would probably work too.) Don't go to the store, don't go to the doctor, don't go to work. Have groceries delivered; order everything else online. Hunt and gather, if you're in a place to do that. Lather, rinse, and repeat until there is zero transmission in the community, understanding that the day may never come. Most of us, however risk averse, are probably not OK with that—or couldn't talk our household members into it. Also, there are risks posed by that lifestyle too—to your physical and your mental health—isolation, missed health check-ups, etc. So where does that leave us?

Experts suggest you consider three things: (1) the medical risk in your household, (2) your tolerance for risk, and (3) the situation.

As for medical risk, if everyone in your household is vaccinated, your medical risk is low. That changes if you have a household member who is unable to respond well to the vaccine—a transplant recipient on immunosuppressives or someone with a serious immune system disorder. It may or may not change if you or another household member is taking an immunosuppressive for a specific condition, some of these don't seem to increase the risk for Covid-19 much if at all. I suggest you visit with your physician if you're in this situation; he or she will be able to explain the data on the particular medication. Having an unprotected adult, whether because the person is not vaccinated or because the person is unable to respond to vaccine, makes your household high-risk and changes your decision-making considerably.

If you have unvaccinated, but generally healthy, children in the household, then your overall risk is probably still low because children are so much less likely to become very ill. Only 0.8 percent of pediatric infections lead to hospitalization; risk of death from Covid-19 in children is maybe 50 percent to a few times higher than risk of death from influenza in a typical flu season. You may still make some decisions differently than those in households without children because overall risk is different from individual risk.

Your tolerance for risk is going to be different from that of others. Now I think joining a tightly-packed indoor crowd of thousands without a mask isn't just a matter of reasonable varying risk tolerance; it's a matter of stupid. But within the parameters of what's generally responsible—taking reasonable precautions—there's room for disagreement as to what is acceptable risk at this point in the pandemic. Some people aren't close to ready to step out of the safe bubble they've been inhabiting, and I think we should respect that decision; others will be comfortable taking some calculated risks greater than you might choose, and I think we should respect this decision too.

Dining in an indoor restaurant following CDC guidelines for distancing can be a reasonable choice in an area where transmission isn't running rampant; hanging out in a crowded bar, singing along with the band and eschewing a mask probably isn't. So we're going to be making the same sorts of calculations as we did before—indoors or out, good ventilation or poor, distancing or none, masking or not, only we'll be making them with the additional reassurance that we are vaccinated, which can be a real game-changer.

A household containing only young and healthy vaccinated adults probably has a higher tolerance for risk than one containing elderly or compromised vaccinated adults or one that includes one or more children too young to be vaccinated. So then we look at the situation we're proposing to enter, and we're already

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accustomed to assessing this risk: Vaccinated is safer than unvaccinated, outdoor is safer than indoor, well-ventilated is safer than poorly-ventilated, distanced is safer than crowded, masks are safer than no masks.

As an old person who is fully vaccinated and pretty darned risk-averse, I'm not personally quite ready for indoor dining, but I'm getting closer; I wouldn't judge someone who chooses to go ahead with it. I'd be completely fine with outdoor dining. Crowded indoor spaces are not on my agenda for quite some time yet, especially if others are not routinely masking. I would not bring children into an indoor dining situation, but I would bring them for outdoor dining. I would not fret about going out to eat without the kids and then going home to them; the odds I'm bringing virus home with me are pretty slim. I am also not quite ready for full-capacity church services or some such, even if everyone is masked; others may choose differently, and this isn't crazy. I'd be OK with children on playdates or at school as long as everyone is masked; otherwise, I'd insist on outdoors only, especially now that it's getting warm enough to do that. I would attend an outdoor gathering as long as it wasn't crowded. I would attend an indoor gathering where vaccination is required. No way on indoor, no mask, unvaccinated gatherings.

I am preparing to travel—by car with a hotel stay and lots of precautions along the way in a couple of weeks and by air a week or so later. I am doing this because the trajectory of new transmissions is sharply down, and I am hoping they'll be much lower by the time I leave. I wouldn't dream of air travel at this time if masks were not required, and I have not yet decided whether I'm comfortable removing my mask to eat or drink on the plane—I'm thinking about that and tracking transmission rates. I would not take a child on a plane right now, especially one under two who can't wear a mask.

Some people are more willing to step out and take chances than I am. That's OK, as long as they're not foolhardy in a way that threatens the rest of us. Others are more cautious and wouldn't think of traveling or going into a restaurant, indoor or outdoor. That's OK too, as long as they're not harassing the rest of us about how stupid we're being. We are embarking—thank goodness and at long last—on a time where reasonable people may differ within reasonable parameters about what is and is not OK to do. Try to offer others some grace and keep your opinions to yourself; we have a lot of difficult territory to navigate together as we emerge (I hope) from a very long, dark time.

We have a new study by CDC scientists in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Health, published by Oxford University Press for the Infectious Diseases Society of America, regarding transmissions attributable to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally held last August in Sturgis, South Dakota, largely without any sort of precautionary measures since these were never imposed in the state and that fact was, in fact, used to market the event across the country. The estimate of those in attendance was 462,000, "attending a variety of outdoor and indoor activities."

Information was collected from infected persons by 54 health departments (50 states, District of Columbia, New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles County) about risk factors and travel in the previous two weeks. Data were collected on total numbers of primary (those who traveled to South Dakota August 1 to August 30), secondary (contacts of primary cases), and tertiary (contacts of secondary cases) infections. Of the 54 jurisdictions requested, 39 provided data. Nine reported no Sturgis-associated cases. In the other 30 jurisdictions, there were 463 primary cases with most diagnosed within two weeks of the Sturgis Rally, and 186 secondary and tertiary cases in 17 jurisdictions. Most, 56 percent, were in states bordering South Dakota; 60 percent were in males, 84 percent White, and just over half between 40 and 59 years of age.

That comes to 140 cases per 100,000 attendees, which is pretty high. Because 86 percent were symptomatic, we can pretty safely assume there were many undetected cases as well; in the words of the authors, "it is likely that the true national impact of the Sturgis event is underestimated because attendees with asymptomatic or mild illness may not have been tested for SARS-CoV-2, attendees may not have reported attending the Sturgis rally and because of variability in health department resources" so that not all cases were interviewed. They also mentioned the reluctance of cases to name contacts or admit to having attended the Rally, resulting in missed detection.

Their conclusions will surprise no one: That we shouldn't be having mass events during an epidemic; that if we do have them, we should provide public messaging warning of risks and informing about mitigation strategies; that persons attending should wear masks and practice physical distancing; and that mass

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testing should be used to identify cases as soon as possible.

Something that has turned up is an increased incidence of a rare neurologic condition called acute transverse myelitis (ATM), a kind of inflammation of the spinal cord, which is appearing in survivors of Covid-19 at rates well above the background rate in the population. According to the Mayo Clinic website, "Transverse myelitis interrupts the messages that the spinal cord nerves send throughout the body. This can cause pain, muscle weakness, paralysis, sensory problems, or bladder and bowel dysfunction." They add that, while most people recover at least partially, the condition can leave "major disabilities." Did we need another reason to get this under control? If so, here it is.

We need to talk about age. There has been a dramatic shift in the ages of patients with Covid-19. I know we've talked about this before, but the shift continues to grow more stark. The largest hospitalized age group in the country is now adults under 50, outnumbering 50 to 64, even though the risk of severe disease is so much higher in the older age group. The chance of a person in this age group dying is still small, but long-term damage and long-hauler symptoms are still possible. Dr. Michelle Barron, head of infection prevention and control at UHealth in Colorado, told NPR, "A lot of them are requiring ICU care." The median age at UHealth hospitals has dropped from 59 to 48.

King County (Washington) Public Health Chief Health Officer, Dr. Jeff Duchin, reported that there are more people in their 20s hospitalized with Covid-19 in the Seattle area than people in their 70s. These folks aren't dying as often, but they're putting a real strain on resources in hospitals in general and in intensive care units in particular.

Dr. Nathaniel Schlicher, emergency physician and president of the Washington State Medical Association, told NPR he has watched patients in their 30s, an age group he is in, come in with Covid-19-associated heart failure. He added, "I understand young people feeling invincible, but what I would just tell them is—don't be afraid of dying, be afraid of heart failure, lung damage and not being able to do the things that you love to do."

I recall the early days of the pandemic when it was proposed to just protect the old people and then let this thing burn itself out in the young. Well, we failed to protect the old people, and now it seems to be burning through the young. Neither of the elements in this approach appears to be working out all that well. Maybe try something else.

Cases in the under-20 age group are rising too, at least in some places. Colorado, for example, has seen the rates of infection in middle and high school students outpace those for adults and smaller increases in younger children. A quarter of cases in Colorado were in those under 19, and two-thirds were in those under 30. Other states are reporting similar increases in the young. Some of this appears to be driven by parents, now fully vaccinated, taking their children to restaurants and gatherings they'd been avoiding earlier. There are also issues around extracurricular activities where precautions are generally abandoned, even if schools are requiring masking and distancing during the school day.

That's it for tonight. Keep yourself safe, and try to keep someone else safe too. 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	471	452	935	15	Minimal	0.0%
Beadle	2933	2868	6428	40	Moderate	7.9%
Bennett	390	380	1240	9	Minimal	2.9%
Bon Homme	1543	1501	2277	27	Moderate	12.3%
Brookings	4184	4041	13481	37	Substantial	5.0%
Brown	5509	5341	13795	91	Moderate	6.9%
Brule	712	693	2022	9	Minimal	2.6%
Buffalo	425	410	917	13	Minimal	11.1%
Butte	1043	1004	3475	20	Substantial	15.4%
Campbell	130	126	278	4	None	0.0%
Charles Mix	1376	1337	4313	22	Moderate	6.1%
Clark	454	441	1029	5	Moderate	9.1%
Clay	1917	1881	5942	15	Moderate	7.9%
Codington	4591	4394	10533	81	Substantial	14.9%
Corson	478	465	1103	12	Minimal	0.0%
Custer	830	810	2921	12	Moderate	7.1%
Davison	3219	3115	7268	66	Substantial	5.7%
Day	703	663	1947	29	Moderate	19.1%
Deuel	523	506	1253	9	Moderate	10.0%
Dewey	1462	1433	4075	27	Moderate	0.0%
Douglas	454	444	1007	9	Minimal	0.0%
Edmunds	508	492	1131	13	Moderate	0.0%
Fall River	591	571	2871	15	Moderate	11.1%
Faulk	369	353	741	13	Minimal	0.0%
Grant	1037	986	2452	42	Moderate	6.0%
Gregory	579	546	1407	30	Minimal	3.3%
Haakon	262	252	582	10	None	0.0%
Hamlin	794	751	2044	39	Moderate	6.0%
Hand	362	353	916	6	Minimal	10.5%
Hanson	386	381	790	4	Minimal	6.7%
Harding	96	93	203	1	Minimal	33.3%
Hughes	2476	2405	7244	39	Substantial	4.9%
Hutchinson	914	857	2634	27	Substantial	17.8%

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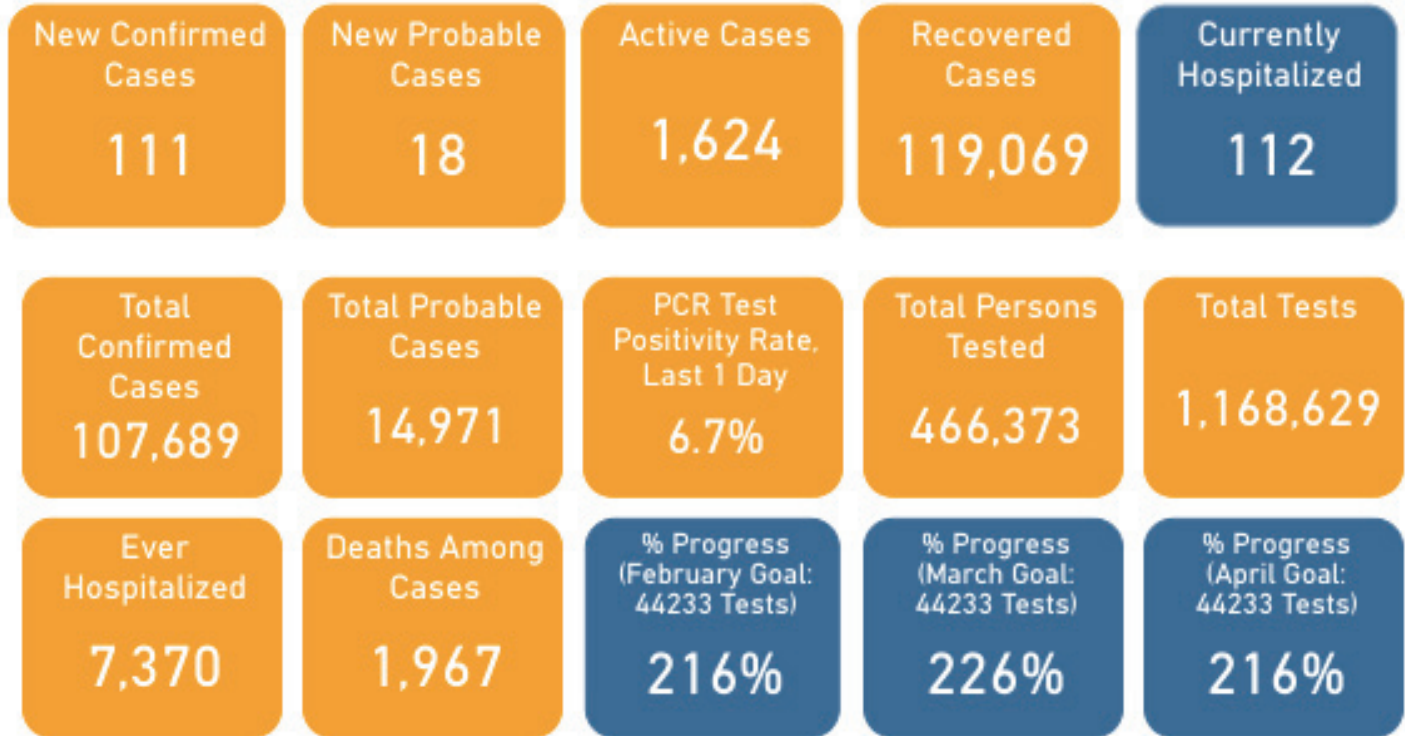
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Hyde	141	140	451	1	Minimal	0.0%
Jackson	289	275	966	14	None	0.0%
Jerauld	273	257	603	16	None	0.0%
Jones	93	93	257	0	None	0.0%
Kingsbury	814	783	1846	16	Substantial	5.9%
Lake	1362	1324	3768	18	Substantial	12.1%
Lawrence	2959	2876	8956	47	Moderate	6.8%
Lincoln	8621	8422	22427	77	Substantial	8.9%
Lyman	647	623	2027	11	Moderate	1.3%
Marshall	370	359	1325	6	Minimal	0.0%
McCook	804	773	1836	25	Minimal	7.7%
McPherson	244	239	615	4	None	0.0%
Meade	2745	2695	8302	30	Moderate	4.2%
Mellette	260	255	800	2	Minimal	0.0%
Miner	298	287	632	9	Minimal	0.0%
Minnehaha	31343	30502	87020	352	Substantial	6.6%
Moody	649	619	1897	17	Moderate	8.2%
Oglala Lakota	2107	2050	7083	49	Moderate	4.2%
Pennington	13606	13260	42252	191	Moderate	8.2%
Perkins	355	339	866	14	None	0.0%
Potter	390	385	904	4	Minimal	3.4%
Roberts	1357	1307	4535	39	Moderate	5.0%
Sanborn	342	338	751	3	Minimal	0.0%
Spink	840	808	2275	26	Minimal	0.0%
Stanley	347	342	1041	2	Minimal	5.6%
Sully	142	137	338	3	Minimal	0.0%
Todd	1226	1191	4407	29	Minimal	0.0%
Tripp	755	731	1610	17	Minimal	4.9%
Turner	1168	1097	2974	56	Substantial	8.9%
Union	2213	2149	6909	43	Moderate	6.7%
Walworth	766	747	1938	16	Minimal	3.8%
Yankton	3069	2987	10150	30	Substantial	13.7%
Ziebach	344	334	932	9	Minimal	0.0%
Unassigned	0	0	1766	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	5306	0
10-19 years	14406	0
20-29 years	21679	8
30-39 years	20240	19
40-49 years	17545	39
50-59 years	17158	116
60-69 years	13885	269
70-79 years	7220	451
80+ years	5221	1065

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases
B.1.1.7	72
B.1.429	10
B.1.351	2
B.1.427	1
P.1	1

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
White	92111	75%
Native American	14114	12%
Unknown	5620	5%
Hispanic	4585	4%
Black	2787	2%
Other	1770	1%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1673	1%

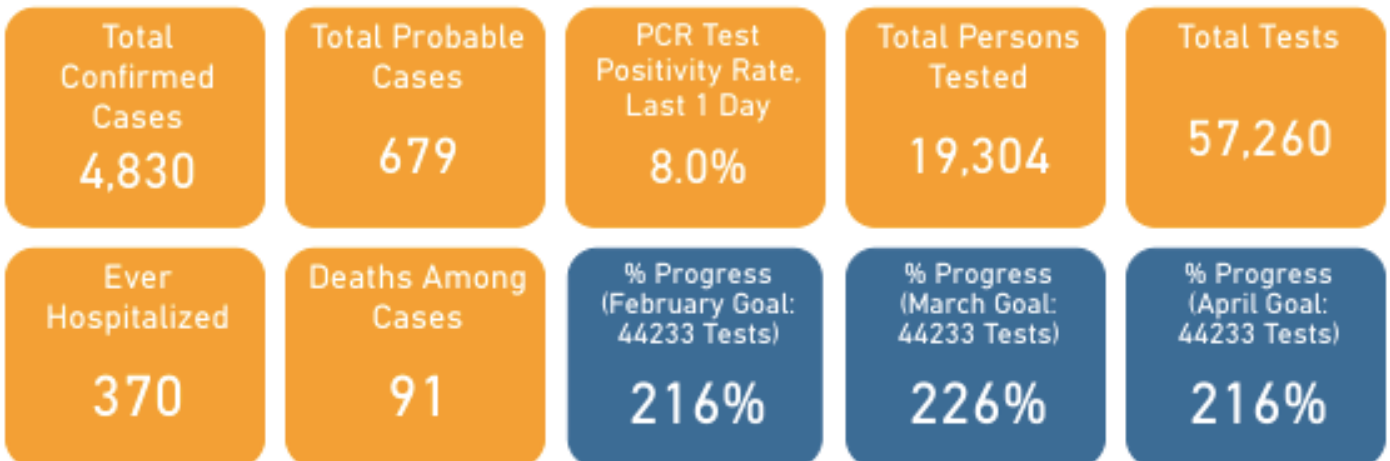
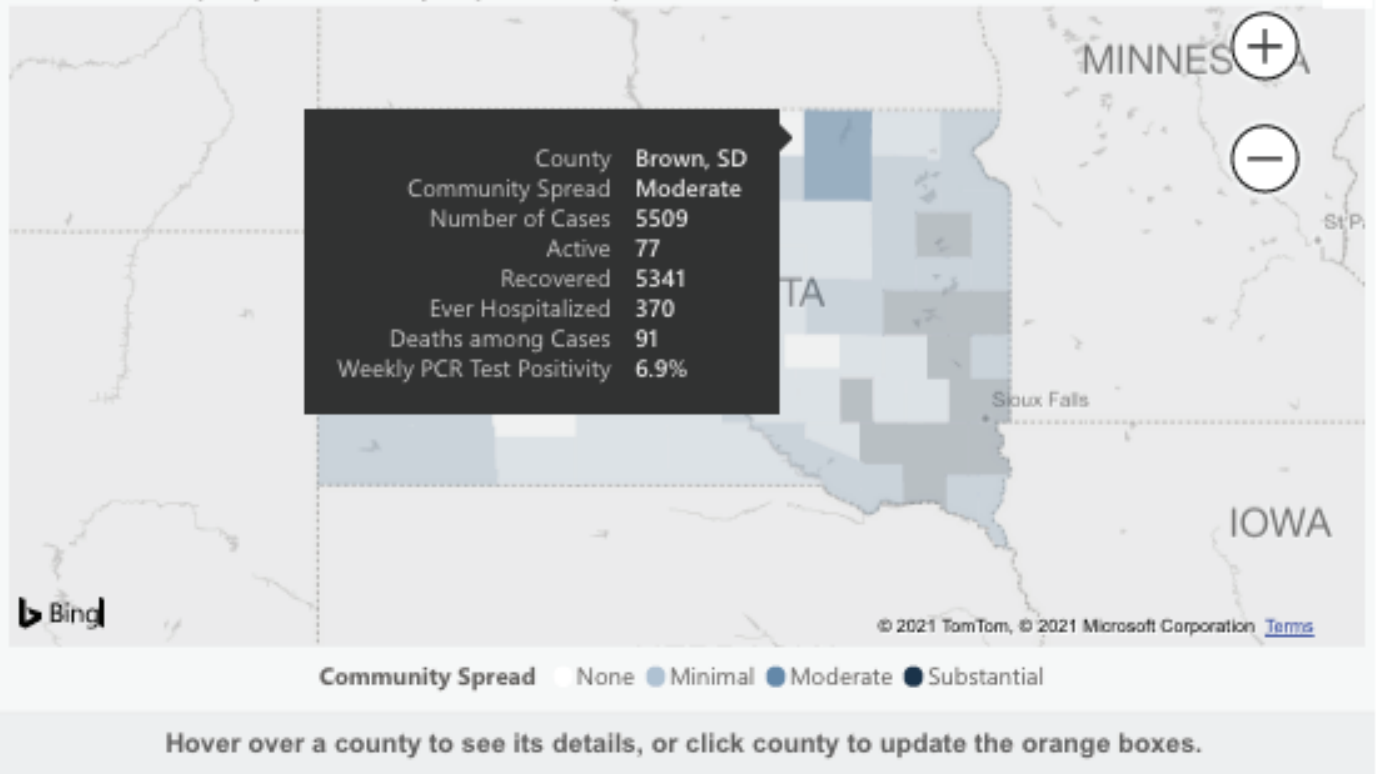
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Brown County



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



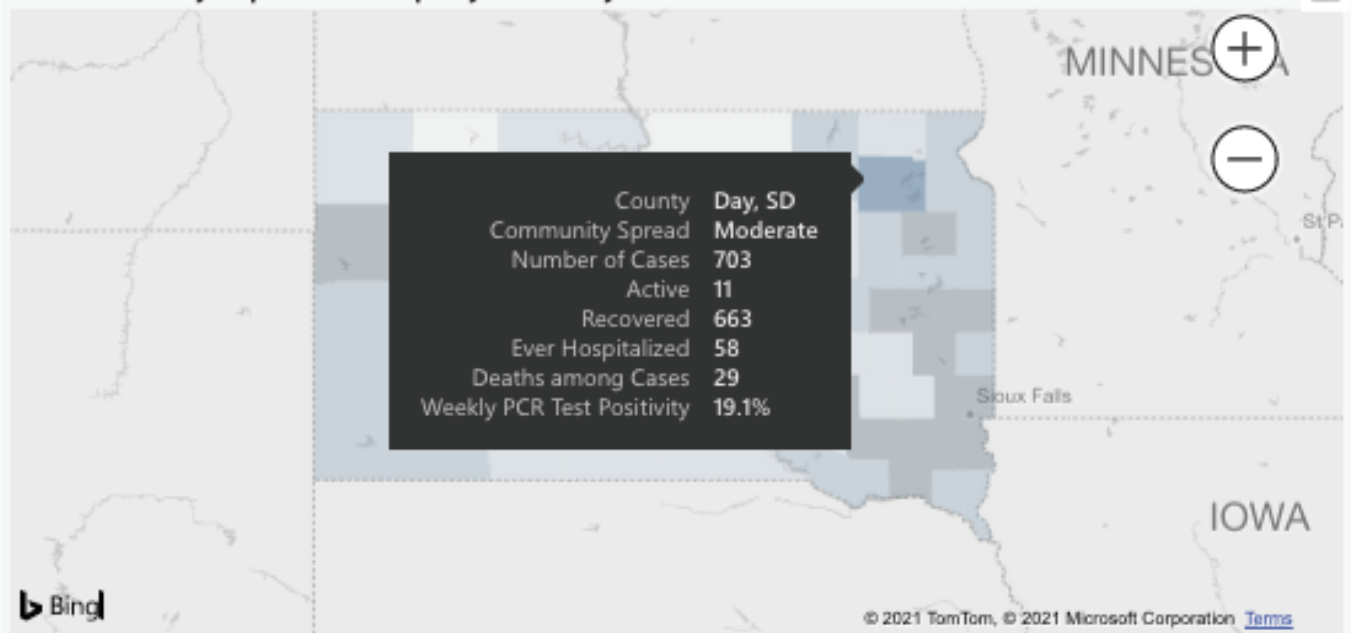
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Day County

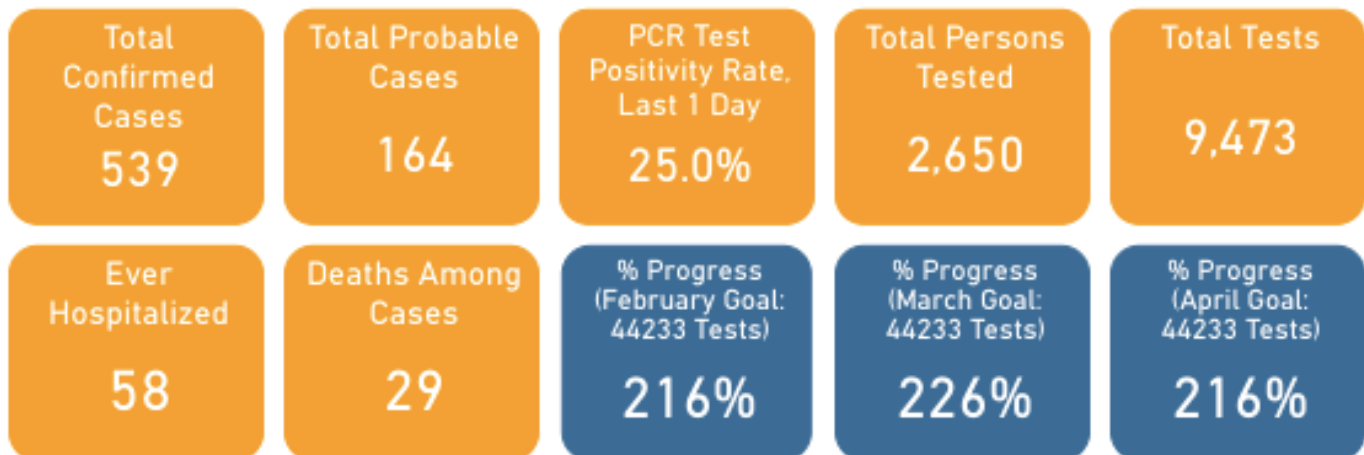


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● None ● Minimal ● Moderate ● Substantial

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



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Vaccinations

Total Doses Administered*

589,303

Total Persons Administered a Vaccine*

328,114

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

55%

Manufacturer	# of Doses
Janssen	16,514
Moderna	261,973
Pfizer	310,816

Doses	# of Recipients
Janssen - Series Complete	16,514
Moderna - 1 dose	25,509
Moderna - Series Complete	118,231
Pfizer - 1 dose	24,929
Pfizer - Series Complete	142,943

Doses	% of Pop.
1 dose	54.59%
Series Complete	45.94%

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

County	# Doses	# Persons (1 dose)	# Persons (2 doses)	Total # Persons
Aurora	1,900	192	854	1,046
Beadle	12,382	1,385	5,498	6,883
Bennett*	733	111	311	422
Bon Homme*	5,602	436	2,583	3,019
Brookings	21,669	4,994	8,337	13,331
Brown	29,102	2,584	13,259	15,843
Brule*	2,794	368	1,213	1,581
Buffalo*	177	77	50	127
Butte	4,202	710	1,746	2,456
Campbell	1,591	115	738	853
Charles Mix*	5,169	721	2,224	2,945
Clark	2,441	515	963	1,478
Clay	10,172	1,655	4,258	5,913
Codington*	19,181	2,749	8,216	10,965
Corson*	438	46	196	242
Custer*	5,134	750	2,192	2,942
Davison	15,441	1,471	6,985	8,456
Day*	4,439	533	1,953	2,486
Deuel	2,704	422	1,141	1,563
Dewey*	510	60	225	285
Douglas*	2,047	201	923	1,124
Edmunds	2,518	192	1,163	1,355
Fall River*	4,259	471	1,894	2,365
Faulk	1,878	124	877	1,001

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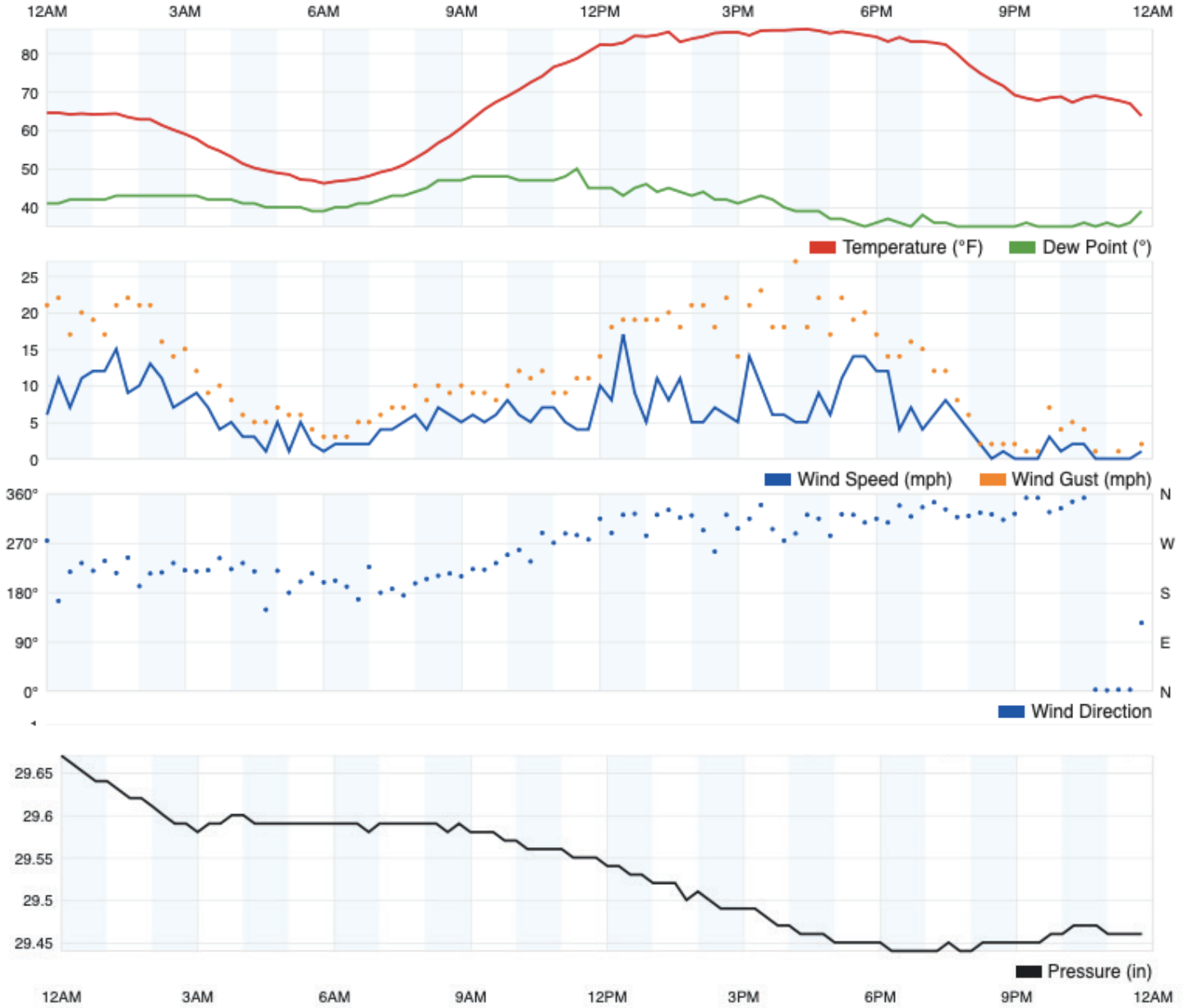
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Haakon*	814	80	367	447
Hamlin	3,316	564	1,376	1,940
Hand	2,596	170	1,213	1,383
Hanson	1,103	97	503	600
Harding	247	57	95	152
Hughes*	15,295	1,175	7,060	8,235
Hutchinson*	6,205	574	2,815	3,389
Hyde*	869	57	406	463
Jackson*	641	67	287	354
Jerauld	1,561	97	732	829
Jones*	1,032	74	479	553
Kingsbury	4,552	590	1,981	2,571
Lake	8,635	1,229	3,703	4,932
Lawrence	15,945	2,079	6,933	9,012
Lincoln	47,840	4,085	21,876	25,961
Lyman*	1,364	192	586	778
Marshall*	3,464	418	1,523	1,941
McCook	3,986	578	1,704	2,282
McPherson	472	66	203	269
Meade*	11,477	1,421	5,028	6,449
Mellette*	77	9	34	43
Miner	1,538	246	646	892
Minnehaha*	155,327	15,352	69,984	85,336
Moody*	3,361	289	1,536	1,825
Oglala Lakota*	299	71	114	185
Pennington*	63,151	7,119	28,016	35,135
Perkins*	1,136	126	505	631
Potter	1,738	184	777	961
Roberts*	6,606	704	2,951	3,655
Sanborn	1,898	164	867	1,031
Spink	5,103	373	2,365	2,738
Stanley*	2,276	162	1,057	1,219
Sully	780	62	359	421
Todd*	271	53	109	162
Tripp*	3,114	292	1,411	1,703
Turner	5,962	570	2,696	3,266
Union	6,782	898	2,942	3,840
Walworth*	2,870	298	1,286	1,584
Yankton	18,258	1,990	8,134	10,124
Ziebach*	89	17	36	53
Other	12,513	2,843	4,835	7,678

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
 30%	 50%			
Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Partly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 72 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 60 °F

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Updated: 5/2/2021 5:41 AM Central

-Cloudy Skies Today

-Morning rain ends, but more rain on the way later this afternoon through tonight

-Warmest temperatures of the week are probably today (upper 60s and 70s), with cooler temperatures to follow from Monday, onward.



First batch of rain showers is moving through eastern South Dakota this morning. The next round of showers is trying to move in from western South Dakota. Later this afternoon and this evening, the radarscope should start to show more showers developing west in the region and working their east across the Dakotas and Minnesota, persisting into the overnight hours. Compared to Saturday, it will feel a little cooler today. And, compared to today, Monday will probably feel downright chilly. Light winds to start the day will switch around to the north and increase some by the end of the day across the Missouri River valley, before spreading eastward into Minnesota overnight and persisting on Monday.

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Today in Weather History

May 2, 1984: High winds picked up a trailer home northwest of the Pierre Airport and hurled it through the air, smashing it to the ground 50 yards away. The upper sections of a home were damaged by the airborne trailer. Several branches and shed roofs were also damaged nearby.

May 2, 2008: A two-day blizzard dropped two to four feet of snow across the northern Black Hills and in Harding and Butte counties. Six to 14 inches of snow fell along the eastern foothills and in western Perkins and Meade counties.

1762: A tornado struck Port Royal Island, South Carolina. It left a path 400 yards wide, tore up trees by the roots, and carried away houses and bridges.

1899 - A storm buried Havre, MT, under 24.8 inches of snow, an all-time record for that location. The water equivalent of 2.48 inches was a record 24 hour total for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1920 - A swarm of tornadoes in Rogers, Mayes and Cherokee Counties in Oklahoma killed 64 persons. (David Ludlum)

1929: Virginia's worst tornado disaster occurred on this day. Six tornadoes, two of which were west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, killed 22 people. One tornado killed twelve children and a teacher at Rye Cove, in Scott County. The storms destroyed four schools.

Pennsylvania, and New York. One tornado even occurred in Ontario, Canada. Of the 21 tornadoes in the United States, nine were rated F3, and six were rated F2. The tornadoes caused five deaths.

1983 - Severe thunderstorms spawned twenty tornadoes across Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York State. The tornadoes caused five deaths. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Lower Mississippi Valley produced golf ball size hail in northern Louisiana, and wind gusts to 77 mph at Lake Providence LA. Thunderstorms in Arkansas produced 4.20 inches of rain at Arkadelphia and 4.00 inches at Bismarck. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful storm produced snow and high winds in the Central Rockies and the Central High Plains Region. Snowfall totals in Colorado ranged up to 12 inches at Strasburg, and winds in southeastern Colorado gusted to 87 mph at Lamar. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2010: May began with two days of historical rainfall over much of Middle Tennessee, with massive swath stretching along the I-40 corridor from Benton County to Davidson County. Some areas received nearly 20 inches of rain during this 2-day period, the highest of which was 19.41 inches reported by a CoCoRaHS observer in Camden, TN. Numerous rainfall records were broken at the Nashville International Airport, including the most rain received in a 6 hour period, highest calendar day rainfall, and wettest month, along with several others. Incredibly, the Nashville Airport experienced its wettest and third wettest days in history on back to back days. Many area rivers exceeded their record crest levels, including the Harpeth River near Kingston Springs, which rose to 13.8 feet above the previous record. The Cumberland River at Nashville reached its highest level since flood control was implemented in the late 1960s, flooding parts of downtown Nashville. Waters from the Cumberland reached as far inland as 2nd Avenue, flooding many downtown businesses. Forty-nine Tennessee counties were declared disaster areas with damage estimates of between \$2 and \$3 billion statewide. Many Nashville landmarks received damage from floodwaters, including Gaylord Opryland Hotel and the Grand Ole Opry. Other popular Nashville landmarks affected by the floods include LP Field, Bridgestone Arena, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, which received damage to the basement and its contents, including two Steinway grand pianos and the console of the Martin Foundation Concert Organ. Over \$300 million in Federal Disaster Assistance was approved for the people of Tennessee.

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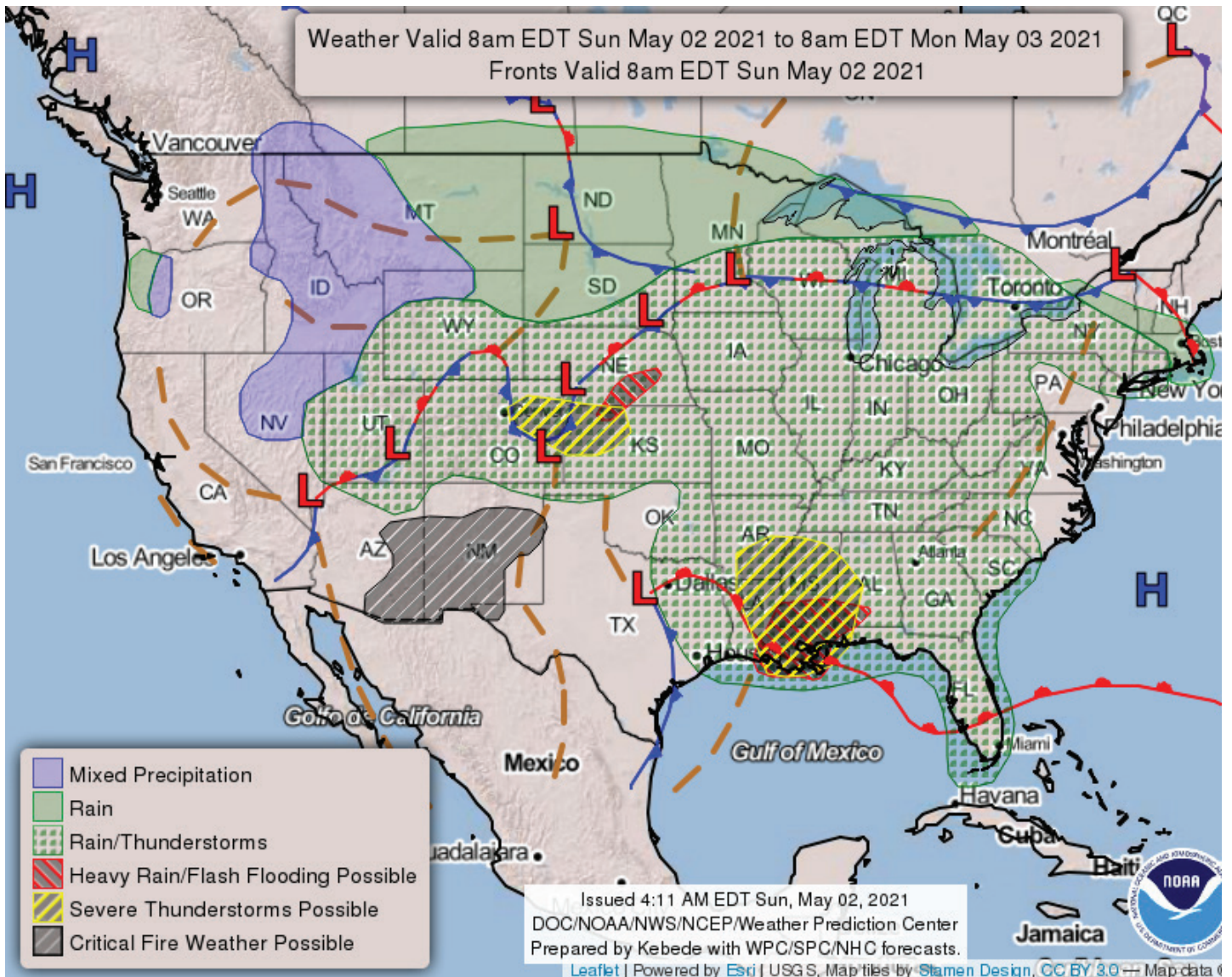
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86.2 °F at 4:30 PM
Low Temp: 46.2 °F at 6:00 AM
Wind: 27 mph at 4:15 PM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1955
Record Low: 20° in 1908, 1909
Average High: 65°F
Average Low: 39°F
Average Precip in May.: 0.10
Precip to date in May.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 5.13
Precip Year to Date: 2.77
Sunset Tonight: 8:42 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19 a.m.



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HONOR HIM!

Honor involves giving recognition to the work of someone other than ourselves. It is placing significance, importance, or value on what others have done or accomplished. It places them above us in a position that commands respect for what they have done and who they are.

To honor someone requires us, first and foremost, to be humble. We must graciously bow before them in reverence and recognition for what they have done for us or what they have contributed to our lives and our well-being. What they have done has cost them something. Perhaps they have had to make a sacrifice to attain their goal and the price they paid is more than we can afford or have the resources to pay them for what they have done for or given to us.

Honoring someone is not always easy. Pride gets in the way. Self-importance or not wanting to stand aside while others move to the front of the line often complicate honoring others. It is not easy to give credit to someone when we become obligated to them for what they have done for us. When we honor someone, we make them look good – often at our expense – and that at times is not easy. Who wants to admit their shortcomings or inadequacies even if the gift is from God?

The Psalmist wrote, "Honor Him for He is your Lord!" Not an overly complicated statement. The problem is not understanding the statement that gives so many Christians a problem. It is in applying it. Honoring or bowing down before God for His gifts, goodness, and grace is difficult because it forces us to admit we need Him. Pride gets in our way and becomes a problem for us.

Pride also keeps us from serving Him and loving others as Jesus loved them. Pride is what keeps us from being submissive to the Lord when we refuse to serve others as He commanded us to do on His behalf and witness His grace to those who are lost and seeking His love and hope.

Prayer: Lord, give us a desire to become humble so we can honor You and serve others. Remove pride from our hearts and replace it with Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: For your royal husband delights in your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord.

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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

05-12-13-18-29

(five, twelve, thirteen, eighteen, twenty-nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$167,000

Lotto America

12-17-28-29-46, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 2

(twelve, seventeen, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, forty-six; Star Ball: one; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$5.49 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$345 million

Powerball

35-36-47-61-63, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 3

(thirty-five, thirty-six, forty-seven, sixty-one, sixty-three; Powerball: three; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$129 million

Missouri latest state to thwart voter-approved policies

By SUMMER BALLENTINE Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri lawmakers recently shut down attempts to pay for Medicaid expansion, in what is the latest example of a statehouse fighting to undo voter-enacted policies.

Critics argued during a contentious debate in the state Senate on Thursday that voters didn't understand the potential cost of the federal health insurance program. Supporters, including Democrats and some Republicans, said lawmakers were going against the will of voters who amended the Missouri Constitution last year to make thousands more low-income adults eligible for government health insurance.

"The people voted for this. We put it in the Missouri Constitution. That's what they voted to do," Democratic Sen. Jill Schupp said. "Now we have people who took an oath to uphold the constitutions of the United States and the state of Missouri, and here we are with people turning their backs."

It's unclear how the decision will impact access to Medicaid once new eligibility rules take effect in July. Republican Gov. Mike Parson on Thursday tweeted that his administration will assess its options once the budget is finalized. Lawmakers expect a court battle.

Missouri is among 16 states that allow voters to enact policies by putting them on the ballot, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. South Dakota, Utah, Montana, Arizona and Florida are all states where lawmakers recently sought to undermine voter-approved measures.

In voting against funding Missouri's Medicaid expansion, the Senate's top budgeter, Republican Dan Hege- man, said: "If the voters had all the information we do, I think they would have made a different decision."

Craig Burnett, a political scientist and direct democracy expert at Hofstra University, said gaps between lawmaker and voter priorities can occur when there's an oversaturation of Democrats in urban areas or due to gerrymandering — when legislative districts are drawn to give one party an oversized advantage in elections. He said the conflict is particularly acute when it comes to social issues.

"You only get this kind of mismatch when the legislature is pretty significantly out of step with the average voter," Burnett said.

South Dakota was the first state to adopt direct democracy in 1898. There's been pushback from law- makers since then.

Recently, voters there legalized medical marijuana, raised the minimum wage and expanded casino gam-

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bling. The GOP-led Legislature responded by trying to make it harder to put initiative petitions on the ballot.

In Montana, voters last year approved a recreational marijuana program that sends a significant portion of tax revenues to conservation purposes. But a Republican-backed legislative plan seeks instead to put up to \$6 million toward an addiction treatment program before directing a third of what's left to wildlife habitat, parks and recreational facilities.

After Utah voters passed Medicaid expansion in 2018, conservative lawmakers delayed its full implementation before adding work requirements. In Arizona, Republicans are looking to eliminate about a third of the revenue from a voter-approved tax increase on the wealthy to fund education.

While Florida voters in 2018 overwhelmingly approved a measure allowing most felons to vote once they complete their sentences, the Republican-led Legislature undercut that by requiring them to pay off fines and court costs first.

Missouri's fight over Medicaid expansion isn't the first time the Legislature and voters have bumped heads over ballot measures in recent years.

Voters in 2018 repealed a law that ended mandatory union dues for non-union members, a longtime goal for Republicans.

That same year — as Republican Josh Hawley defeated Democratic former U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill and the GOP kept overwhelming control of the Legislature — voters legalized medical marijuana, raised the minimum wage and adopted a redistricting measure opposed by top Republicans.

After the success of primarily Democratic-backed policies at the polls, Republicans have sought to undo them and make it harder for voters to put issues on the ballot.

Several pending bills would increase the cost to file initiative petitions, require petitioners to go to greater lengths to gather signatures, and raise the vote threshold needed to amend the Missouri Constitution.

Burnett said that while recent tensions have primarily involved Republican statehouses and more liberal voters, it's also happened with Democratic-led legislatures. He cited California voters' 2008 decision to ban same-sex marriage, which was later overturned in court.

"It's very frustrating for all of those voters who voted for this," he said. "The whole point of the initiative petition is actually supposed to be to get around the legislature and enact policies that they're unwilling to do, or maybe they're too politically toxic."

South Dakota attractions get boost from 'Nomadland'

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Tourist attractions in South Dakota that appeared in the Academy Award-winning film "Nomadland" are seeing an increase in visitors.

Reptile Gardens animal park and Wall Drug Store, a sprawling, cowboy-themed roadside attraction, are both reporting an early bump in tourist traffic, the Rapid City Journal reported Saturday. Both were in "Nomadland," which won best picture, best director and best actress Academy Awards.

The movie follows Fern, a 60-year old widow living in her van and taking odd jobs as she meanders the American West. Badlands National Park, Wall Drug and Reptile Gardens are among the places featured.

Wall Drug Store has seen a 114% increase in sales over 2019 while year-to-date for 2020 showed a 92% increase, said Chairman Rick Husted.

"If it was up 10% we'd be happy, but these are extraordinary numbers," he said. "I think we're going into a huge season."

Husted said the family was approached in 2018 for the movie.

"It was amazing," he said.

Reptile Gardens curator Terry Phillip said he spent an entire day filming with the crew. He believes the film will boost tourism for the whole state.

"You can't go wrong with that in any way, shape or form," he said.

The state Tourism Department also anticipates a large number of visitors.

"Overall, what you'll find is we certainly noticed that film drives a great amount of inspiration for consumers," said Katlyn Svendsen, global media and public relations director for the department.

EXPLAINER: Why India's pandemic data is vastly undercounted

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

Even after more than a year of devastating coronavirus surges across the world, the intensity and scale of India's current crisis stands out, with patients desperate for short supplies of oxygen, pleas for help from overwhelmed hospitals, and images of body bags and funeral pyres.

As daily case counts soar far beyond what other countries have reported, experts caution the official COVID-19 numbers from the world's second most populous country are likely a massive undercount. But why is India's data considered inaccurate? Is the data any less accurate than what other nations report? And which numbers give a good indication of the crisis?

IS INDIA COUNTING EVERY CASE?

India is not counting every coronavirus case, but no nation can. Around the world, official tallies generally report only confirmed cases, not actual infections. Cases are missed because testing is so haphazard and because some people infected by the coronavirus experience mild or even no symptoms.

The more limited the testing, the more cases are being missed. The World Health Organization says countries should be doing 10 to 30 tests per confirmed case.

India is doing about five tests for every confirmed case, according to Our World in Data, an online research site. The U.S. is doing 17 tests per confirmed case. Finland is doing 57 tests per confirmed case.

"There are still lots of people who are not getting tested," said Dr. Prabhat Jha of the University of Toronto. "Entire houses are infected. If one person gets tested in the house and reports they're positive and everyone else in the house starts having symptoms, it's obvious they have COVID, so why get tested?"

Jha estimates, based on modeling from a previous surge in India, that the true infection numbers could be 10 times higher than the official reports.

WHAT ABOUT DEATHS?

Deaths are a better indicator of the shape of the pandemic curve, Jha said, but there are problems with the data here too.

"The biggest gap is what's going on in rural India," Jha said. In the countryside, people often die at home without medical attention, and these deaths are vastly underreported. Families bury or cremate their loved ones themselves without any official record. Seventy percent of the nation's deaths from all causes occur in rural India in any given year.

Counting rural deaths can be done, as Jha's work with the Million Death Study has shown. The pre-pandemic project used in-person surveys to count deaths in rural India, capturing details of symptoms and circumstances with results of the "verbal autopsies" reviewed and recorded by doctors.

Many low- and middle-income countries have similar undercounts of death data, Jha said, but India could do better.

"It's a country that's got a space program. Just counting the dead is a basic function," he said. "India should be doing much, much better."

DOES IT MATTER?

Knowing the size and scope of the outbreak and how it is changing helps governments and health officials plan their responses.

Even with the known problems with the data, the trajectory of COVID-19 cases and deaths in India is an alarming reminder of how the virus can rocket through a largely unvaccinated population when precautions are lifted.

"What happens in India matters to the entire world," said Dr. Amita Gupta, chair of the Johns Hopkins India Institute in a Facebook conversation Thursday. "We care from a humanitarian perspective, a public health perspective, and a health security perspective."

Over 50 police injured, 250 detained in Berlin May Day riots

BERLIN (AP) — More than 50 police officers were injured and over 250 protesters were detained after

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traditional May Day rallies in Berlin turned violent, the German Police Union said Sunday.

More than 20 different rallies took place in the German capital on Saturday and the vast majority of them were peaceful. However, a leftist march of 8,000 people through the city's Neukoelln and Kreuzberg neighborhood, which has often seen clashes in past decades, turned violent. Protesters threw bottles and rocks at officers, and burned garbage containers and wooden pallets in the streets.

"We don't have any final numbers, but regarding the known more than 50 injured colleagues and more than 250 detainments, it's clear that we were far removed from a peaceful May 1," Stephan Kelm, Berlin's deputy chief of the police union, told German news agency dpa.

He condemned the throwing of bottles and rocks and the burning barricades on the streets, saying, "These are clear signs that it's not about political expression but that the right to assemble was abused to commit severe crimes."

There's a nightly curfew in most parts of Germany currently because of the high number of coronavirus infections. But political protests and religious gatherings are exempt from the curfew.

SpaceX returns 4 astronauts to Earth; rare night splashdown

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX safely returned four astronauts from the International Space Station on Sunday, making the first U.S. crew splashdown in darkness since the Apollo 8 moonshot.

The Dragon capsule parachuted into the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Panama City, Florida, just before 3 a.m., ending the second astronaut flight for Elon Musk's company.

It was an express trip home, lasting just 6 1/2 hours.

The astronauts, three American and one Japanese, flew back in the same capsule — named Resilience — in which they launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in November.

"We welcome you back to planet Earth and thanks for flying SpaceX," SpaceX's Mission Control radioed moments after splashdown. "For those of you enrolled in our frequent flyer program, you've earned 68 million miles on this voyage."

"We'll take those miles," said spacecraft commander Mike Hopkins. "Are they transferrable?" SpaceX replied that the astronauts would have to check with the company's marketing department.

Within a half-hour of splashdown, the charred capsule — resembling a giant toasted marshmallow — had been hoisted onto the recovery ship, with the astronauts exiting soon afterward. NASA and SpaceX managers marveled at how fast and smooth the operation went. The company's senior adviser, Hans Koenigsmann, said "it looked more like a race car pit stop than anything else."

Hopkins was the first one out, doing a little dance as he emerged under the intense spotlights.

"It's amazing what can be accomplished when people come together," he told SpaceX flight controllers at company headquarters in Hawthorne, California. "Quite frankly, you all are changing the world. Congratulations. It's great to be back."

The 167-day mission was the longest for a crew capsule launching from the U.S. The previous record of 84 days was set by NASA's final Skylab station astronauts in 1974.

Saturday night's undocking left seven people at the space station, four of whom arrived a week ago via SpaceX.

"Earthbound!" NASA astronaut Victor Glover, the capsule's pilot, tweeted after departing the station. "One step closer to family and home!"

Hopkins and Glover — along with NASA's Shannon Walker and Japan's Soichi Noguchi — should have returned to Earth last Wednesday, but high offshore winds forced SpaceX to pass up a pair of daytime landing attempts. Managers switched to a rare splashdown in darkness, to take advantage of calm weather.

SpaceX had practiced for a nighttime return, just in case, and even recovered its most recent station cargo capsule from the Gulf of Mexico in darkness. Infrared cameras tracked the astronauts' capsule as it re-entered the atmosphere; it resembled a bright star streaking through the night sky.

All four main parachutes could be seen deploying just before splashdown, which was also visible in the

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infrared.

Apollo 8 — NASA's first flight to the moon with astronauts — ended with a predawn splashdown in the Pacific near Hawaii on Dec. 27, 1968. Eight years later, a Soviet capsule with two cosmonauts ended up in a dark, partially frozen lake in Kazakhstan, blown off course in a blizzard.

That was it for nighttime crew splashdowns — until Sunday.

Despite the early hour, the Coast Guard was out in full force to enforce an 11-mile (18-kilometer) keep-out zone around the bobbing Dragon capsule. For SpaceX's first crew return in August, pleasure boaters swarmed the capsule, a safety risk. Leisure boats stayed away this time.

Once finished with their medical checks on the ship, the astronauts planned to hop on a helicopter for the short flight to shore, then catch a plane straight to Houston for a reunion with their families.

"It's not very often you get to wake up on the space station and go to sleep in Houston," chief flight director Holly Ridings told reporters.

The astronauts' capsule, Resilience, will head back to Cape Canaveral for refurbishment for SpaceX's first private crew mission in September. The space station docking mechanism will be removed, and a brand new domed window put in its place.

A tech billionaire has purchased the entire three-day flight, which will orbit 75 miles (120 kilometers) above the space station. He'll fly with a pair of contest winners and a physician assistant from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, his designated charity for the mission.

SpaceX's next astronaut launch for NASA will follow in October.

NASA turned to private companies to service the space station, after the shuttle fleet retired in 2011. SpaceX began supply runs in 2012 and, last May, launched its first crew, ending NASA's reliance on Russia for astronaut transport.

Boeing isn't expected to launch astronauts until early next year.

2 killed in shooting at Wisconsin casino; gunman slain

By MIKE ROEMER Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — A gunman killed two people at a Wisconsin casino restaurant and seriously wounded a third before he was killed by police late Saturday, in what authorities said appeared to be a targeted attack.

Brown County Sheriff's Lt. Kevin Pawlak said investigators believe the gunman was seeking a specific person he was angry at.

"He was targeting a specific victim who was not there, but he decided to still shoot some of the victim's friends or co-workers, it appears," Pawlak said.

Neither the gunman nor the shooting victims were immediately identified.

Pawlak wasn't sure if the shooter was a former employee of the restaurant, but said "it appears there's some relationship that had to do with employment."

"Whether or not they all worked there, we're still working on," he said.

The wounded person was being treated at a Milwaukee hospital, Pawlak said.

The attack happened around 7:30 p.m. at the Oneida Casino, operated by the Oneida Nation on the western side of Green Bay, with the casino tweeting that an active shooter was on the scene.

Jawad Yatim, a witness, said he saw at least two people shot.

"I know for sure two, because it happened right next to us, literally right next to us," Yatim said. "But he was shooting pretty aggressively in the building, so I wouldn't doubt him hitting other people."

Yatim said the shooting began in a casino restaurant.

"We got the hell out of there, thank God we're OK, but obviously we wish the best for everybody who's been shot," he said.

Attorney General Josh Kaul tweeted shortly before 10 p.m. that the scene was "contained. There is no longer a threat to the community."

Webster said the casino is connected to a large hotel and conference center, the Radisson, also owned

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by the Oneida Nation.

Gambler Max Westphal said he was standing outside after being evacuated for what he thought was a minor issue.

"All of a sudden we hear a massive flurry of gunshots — 20 to 30 gunshots for sure," Westphal told WBAY-TV. "We took off running towards the highway ... There had to have been 50 cop cars that came by on the highway. It was honestly insane."

Pawlak said authorities called for a "tactical alert" after receiving the report of an active shooter. That "brings every agency from around the area to the casino, to the Radisson," he said of the large law enforcement presence.

Gov. Tony Evers issued a statement late Saturday saying he was "devastated" to hear about the shooting. "Our hearts, thoughts, and support go out to the Oneida Nation, the Ashwaubenon and Green Bay communities, and all those affected by this tragedy."

The Oneida tribe's reservation lies on the west side of the Green Bay area.

Roaring tanker fire kills 7, injures 14 in Afghan capital

By TAMEEM AKHGAR Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A searing blaze that roared through dozens of fuel tankers on the northern edge of the Afghan capital of Kabul killed seven people and injured 14 others, the Interior Ministry said Sunday.

Investigators were combing through the tankers that lay in smoldering ruins and a gas station caught in the flames that lit up the area late Saturday, said ministry spokesman Tariq Arian.

There was no immediate indication of whether it was an accident or sabotage. It came on the same day the U.S. and NATO officially began the final phase of a withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending a nearly 20-year military engagement.

All 2,500-3,500 American soldiers and about 7,000 NATO allied forces will be out of Afghanistan at the latest by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the United States that first brought them into the country.

Arian said the fire began when a spark set a fuel tanker ablaze. Nearby tankers were quickly engulfed, sending giant flames and plumes of smoke into the night sky. The fire in the northern edge of the city engulfed several homes and a nearby gas station. Several structures were destroyed and electricity to much of Kabul, which usually has only sporadic power, was knocked out.

Truck drivers Sunday blocked the road leading to the area demanding the government provide compensation.

The injured were being treated mostly for burns in local hospitals.

The fire came soon after residents of the majority Muslim nation — marking the holy month of Ramadan when the faithful fast from sunrise to sunset — had ended their day-long fast.

One driver, Haji Mir, said the explosion was deafening as trucks were lined up to enter the city. He estimated that as many as 100 trucks may have burned.

"The first explosion sounded like a mine explosion," he said. "There were flames shooting from one truck and then a second truck exploded, and a third."

Dozens of tankers were moving slowly into the capital at the time of the blaze. They had been waiting until after 9 p.m. when fuel tankers and other large trucks are allowed to enter Kabul.

Obaidullah, a resident in the area who goes by one name, said the fireballs were enormous. His family and neighbors ran into their yards.

"Fire lit up the sky," he said. Drivers were screaming for help as flames leapt from vehicle to vehicle. "Drivers were yelling that their co-drivers were stuck and were burning."

Firefighters arrived at the scene but their capacity is limited and it took hours to bring the blaze under control. On Sunday morning, flames still flickered in the ruins.

Black candidate challenges political status quo in Spain

By ARITZ PARRA Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Two young Senegalese men met on a Europe-bound migrant boat in 2006, a year that saw a record influx of Africans to Spain's Canary Islands.

Since then, one died of a heart attack running away from Spanish police and the other is running in a polarized election Tuesday for a seat in Madrid's regional assembly.

Serigne Mbaye not only wants to fight what he considers to be "structural racism" against African migrants but also to defy a history of underrepresentation of the Black community and other people of color in Spanish politics.

"That's where all discrimination begins," the 45-year-old told The Associated Press.

In 2018, having failed to secure legal work and a residence permit, the man he met on the boat — Mame Mbaye, no relation — died of a heart attack eluding a police crackdown on street vendors.

After that, Serigne Mbaye, who at the time represented a group of mostly Black African hawkers, became one of the most vocal voices against Spain's Alien Law, saying it ties migrants arriving unlawfully to the underground economy. The regulation also punishes them with jail for committing minor offenses, leaving them with a criminal record that weighs against their chances of getting a residence permit.

"His image at night when we were on the boat always haunts me," said Serigne Mbaye, who is now a Spanish citizen. "The sole fact that he is dead and I'm alive is because of an unjust law that condemns and punishes us. Some of us make it. Some can spend 20 years in a vicious circle without papers."

Mbaye is running on a ticket with the anti-austerity United We Can party, the junior partner in the country's ruling, Socialist-led coalition.

Only a handful of Black people have succeeded in at the top level of Spanish politics. Equatorial Guinea-born Rita Bosaho, now the director of racial and ethnic diversity at Spain's Equality Ministry, in 2015 became the first Black national lawmaker in four decades of democratic rule. Luc André Diouf, who also migrated from Senegal, also won a seat in Spain's Lower House in 2019.

At a lower, regional level, Mbaye wants to show that "Madrid is diverse."

"That a Black person is running in the lists has surprised many. In that way, this is making many people think," he said.

Vox, the country's increasingly influential far-right party, has responded to Mbaye's candidacy with an Instagram post vowing to deport him, even though that's impossible because the far-left candidate is a Spanish citizen. With its mixture of patriotism and populist provocation, Vox has become the third force in the national parliament and might emerge as the kingmaker in Madrid's May 4 election.

"They are basically saying that because I'm Black there is no place for me here," said Mbaye. "These are the kind of messages that criminalize us and that we continue receiving."

Vox has also made waves with large subway ads citing inaccurate figures comparing Madrid's alleged public spending on unaccompanied foreign minors with the alleged average stipend for a retiree. The party blames the minors — a total of 269 people in the region's population of 6.7 million — for increased insecurity.

Judges have ruled that the billboards fall under free speech. But when Vox is accused by opponents of being racist, the party says its crusade is only against illegal migration and that a racist party wouldn't have a mixed-race spokesman in northeastern Catalonia's regional parliament. That's Rafael Garriga, a dentist of Belgian and Equatorial Guinean descent.

"By surrounding themselves with what they see as some kind of respectability, they try to legitimize clearly racist speech while not crossing certain legal lines," said Antumi Toasijé, a historian who heads the National Council Against Ethnic and Racial Discrimination.

The ascent of the far-right and the polarization in social media has normalized hate speech in Spain, he said.

The Black Lives Matter movement led last year to some of the largest protests against racism seen in Spain. But while many condemned the murder of Black citizens by police in the United States, few reflected

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on domestic racism or Spain's own history of colonialism, slavery and, according to Toasijé, "a long tradition of attempts to conduct ethnic cleansing."

In a country where the census doesn't ask about race or ethnicity, like in much of Europe, a recent government study put the number of Black people in Spain at just over 700,000.

Toasijé's own estimation elevates the figure to at least 1.3 million "visibly" Black people, including sub-Saharan Africans, Black Latin Americans and Afro-descendants born in Spain. That would be 2.7% of the population, or at least nine Black lawmakers if the 350-seat Congress of Deputies reflected the country's diversity. There is currently one Black lawmaker.

Still, quotas or other measures that would help address racial inequality aren't even part of the debate, said Toasijé.

That underrepresentation also affects Spain's Roma people, a community of 700,000 that scored a historic victory in 2019 by snatching four parliamentary seats, close to the 1.5% share it represents in the total population. But one of them failed to retain his seat in a repeated election.

The situation isn't better for descendants of Latin Americans or Moroccans, who represent some of the largest groups of non-white Spaniards, or the more than 11% of foreign-born residents who can't even run in regional or national elections.

Moha Gerehou, a Spanish journalist and anti-racism activist, said "structural racism" is inbred in Spanish life.

"It has a lot to do with education, because the main bottleneck is in access to universities, leaving low-paid and precarious employment like domestic work or harvesting, where there is rampant exploitation," he said.

Barring sports figures and some artists, people of color are pretty much invisible in high-powered Spanish circles from academia to big business, said Gerehou, who just published a book on growing up as a Black person in a provincial northern Spanish capital.

His description is of a largely white country that considers itself non-racist and welcoming to migrants, even when numerous studies have captured rampant discrimination against people of color, especially in jobs or housing.

"The problem is that the debate of racial representation is still on the fringes," Gerehou said. "We need to go much faster."

Republican Susan Wright makes US House runoff in Texas

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Republican Susan Wright of Texas, the widow of the first member of Congress to die after contracting COVID-19, advanced to a U.S. House runoff for her late husband's seat Saturday night.

But who she will face remained too early to call. With nearly all votes counted, Republican Jake Ellzey led Democrat Jana Lynne Sanchez by 354 votes in the race for the second runoff spot in Texas' 6th Congressional District, which has long been GOP territory.

Ellzey is a state lawmaker who narrowly lost the GOP nomination for the seat in 2018 and carried the backing of former Texas Gov. Rick Perry. It is the second time Sanchez has run for the seat after losing to Ron Wright in 2018.

The date of the runoff has not yet been announced.

Just weeks into his second term, Rep. Ron Wright died in February after being diagnosed with COVID-19. He was 67 and had also been battling lung cancer. Susan Wright, a GOP activist, was quickly seen as a favorite after entering the race and was endorsed by former President Donald Trump days before the election. She led with more than 19% of the vote.

The North Texas district includes the booming corridor between Dallas and Fort Worth, but it also extends to rural counties that have helped the GOP maintain control. But Trump also saw his support in the district plummet in last year's election, carrying the district by just three points — a sharp fall from his double-digit advantage there in 2016.

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Sanchez was among 10 Democrats in the running, but the race attracted virtually no attention from the party nationally after its massive expectations for Texas in 2020 foundered.

Most of the Republicans in the running had made flagrant appeals to Trump and his supporters in a race that at times has resembled a typical Texas GOP primary. The lone exception was Michael Wood, a combat veteran whose campaign was an early test for Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, who is trying to lead a revolt in his party away from Trump.

But Wood saw few voters answering his call to reject Trumpism, hovering at around 3% of the vote.

Indian court urges government action as hospitals cry help

By ASHOK SHARMA Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — With Indian hospitals struggling to secure a steady supply of oxygen, and more COVID-19 patients dying amid the shortages, a court in New Delhi said it would start punishing government officials for failing to deliver the life-saving items.

On Sunday, India recorded a slight drop in new infections with 392,488 from a high of 401,993 in the previous 24 hours. It also reported 3,689 additional deaths, bringing the total to 215,542. Experts believe both figures are an undercount.

The government has been using the railroad, the air force and the navy to rush oxygen tankers to worst-hit areas where overwhelmed hospitals are unable to cope with an unprecedented surge in patients gasping for air.

Twelve COVID-19 patients, including a doctor, on high-flow oxygen, died Saturday at a hospital in New Delhi after it ran out of the supply for 80 minutes, said S.C.L. Gupta, director of Batra Hospital.

The Times of India newspaper reported another 16 deaths in two hospitals in southern Andhra Pradesh state, and six in a Gurgaon hospital on the outskirts of New Delhi because of the oxygen shortage.

With the government unable to maintain a steady supply of oxygen, several hospital authorities sought a court intervention in the Indian capital where a lockdown has been extended by a week to contain the wave of infections.

“Water has gone above the head. Enough is Enough,” said New Delhi High Court, adding it would start punishing government officials if supplies of oxygen allocated to hospitals were not delivered.

“We can’t have people dying,” said Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Patil.

The court said it would start contempt proceedings.

New Delhi recorded 412 deaths in the past 24 hours, the highest since the pandemic started.

The army opened its hospitals to civilians in a desperate bid to control the massive humanitarian crisis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government also gave emergency financial powers to the army set up new quarantine facilities and hospitals and buy equipment.

The military also called up 600 doctors who had retired in the past few years. The navy deployed 200 nursing assistants in civilian hospitals, a government statement said.

On Saturday, India said all adults 18 and over could get shots. Since January, nearly 10% of Indians have received one dose, but only around 1.5% have received both, although the country is one of the world’s biggest producers of vaccines.

India has so far given more than 156 million vaccine doses. Some states have already said they don’t have enough for everyone, and even the ongoing effort to inoculate people above 45 is sputtering.

The United States, Britain, Germany and several other nations are rushing therapeutics, rapid virus tests and oxygen to India, along with some materials needed for India to boost its domestic production of COVID-19 vaccines.

Medina Spirit gives Baffert record 7th Kentucky Derby win

By BETH HARRIS AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — John Velazquez was in a familiar place, in the lead aboard Medina Spirit in the

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Kentucky Derby and holding off the stretch bid of three challengers. This time, Bob Baffert couldn't believe what he was seeing.

Medina Spirit won by a half-length on Saturday, giving Baffert his seventh victory, the most of any trainer in the race's 147-year history.

The jockey and trainer — both Hall of Famers — teamed up eight months ago to win a pandemic-delayed Derby in September with Authentic, who raced to an early lead and hung on. That wasn't so surprising.

This one was.

Sent off at 12-1 — astronomical odds for a colt trained by the white-haired, two-time Triple Crown winner — Medina Spirit was in a street fight thundering down the stretch.

The dark brown colt was pressed by Mandaloun on his outside. Hot Rod Charlie was coming fast outside of Mandaloun, with 5-2 favorite Essential Quality giving chase on the far outside.

"I kept waiting for all those horses to pass him," Baffert said. "When he got to the eighth pole, we said, 'This guy has got a shot.'"

Velazquez knew he had plenty of horse left.

"We got to the 16th pole and he put his ears down and kept fighting," the jockey said. "I was so proud of him."

In the paddock, Baffert watched in amazement as one of the least heralded Derby runners of his long career dug in at the front.

"You could tell he was laying it down and Johnny was riding hard," Baffert said. "He was just relentless."

Medina Spirit led all the way and ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:01.02. He paid \$26.20, \$12 and \$7.60. The victory was worth \$1.86 million.

Velazquez earned his fourth Derby victory aboard the colt that was purchased as a yearling for \$1,000 and was a bargain-basement buy at \$35,000 for current owner Amr Zedan of Saudi Arabia. By comparison, Zedan recently paid \$1.7 million for an unraced 2-year-old.

"He doesn't know how much he cost," Baffert said, "but what a little racehorse."

Baffert punched his right arm in the air after watching the finish on the video board. He was buried in celebratory hugs by his wife, Jill, and youngest son, Bode. Jill Baffert had reason to celebrate earlier, when a horse she co-owns and is trained by her husband won a \$500,000 race on the undercard.

"I'm really, really surprised," the 68-year-old trainer said of Medina Spirit.

It wasn't false modesty. Baffert had been low-key about his chances after two of his best horses — Life Is Good and Concert Tour — were derailed along the Derby trail.

Medina Spirit isn't the typical high-priced talent with a fancy pedigree in Baffert's California barn.

"I cannot believe he won this race," the trainer said. "That little horse, that was him, all guts. He's always shown that he's been an overachiever. His heart is bigger than his body."

Medina Spirit has never finished worse than second in six career starts and two of his three losses came to Life Is Good, who likely would have been the Derby favorite had he not been injured.

"I've rehearsed this speech in the shower and treadmill," Zedan said. "Never thought I was going to do it, but here I am."

Medina Spirit broke sharply out of the gate while Essential Quality and 9-2 second choice Rock Your World bumped shortly after the start.

"We were done," Rock Your World's trainer John Sadler said. "No chance."

Essential Quality was five horses wide in both the first and second turns before taking aim at Medina Spirit in the stretch and coming up short in fourth place.

"He didn't get the greatest trip," trainer Brad Cox said of the favorite. "That can happen when you start from the 14-hole."

Mandaloun — Cox's other entry — finished second and returned \$23.00 and \$13.40. Hot Rod Charlie, partly owned by five former Brown University football players, was another half-length back in third and paid \$5.20 to show.

Trainer Todd Pletcher saddled four runners, with his highest finish being ninth with Known Agenda. Sainthood was 11th, Bourbonic 13th and Dynamic One 18th.

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Baffert won back-to-back, having tied Ben Jones with his sixth victory last year when the race was run in September without spectators because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The seven wins? I can't believe I won two," Baffert said. "That's what I love about this business: Nobody knows for sure."

A week earlier, Baffert sat in front of the Arkansas Racing Commission appealing a 15-day suspension that was part of his punishment for a pair of drug positives involving two of his horses from May 2020. He was successful, with the commission voting unanimously to reduce his fines and overturn the suspension.

"I'm just so grateful I can still compete at this level," Baffert said.

Velazquez became the first jockey to win consecutive Derbies since Victor Espinoza in 2014-15. The 49-year-old rider also completed the Kentucky Oaks-Derby double for the first time since Calvin Borel in 2009, winning the \$1 million race for fillies on Friday.

Velazquez had told Baffert a night earlier not to underestimate Medina Spirit, named for the second holiest city in Islam and capital of the Medina province in Saudi Arabia.

"Every time I asked him for a little more, he gave me more," Velazquez said.

The Derby went off on a sun-splashed day with attendance of 51,838 — about 100,000 fewer than usual. Fans were told to wear masks inside the track, but plenty of them did not.

O Besos finished fifth, followed by Midnight Bourbon, Keepmeinmind, Helium and Known Agenda. Highly Motivated was 10th, ahead of Sainthood, Like The King, Bourbonic, Hidden Stash, Brooklyn Strong, Super Stock, Rock Your World, Dynamic One and Soup and Sandwich.

Bid to censure Romney for Trump impeachment votes fails

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah Republicans booed Sen. Mitt Romney but ultimately rejected a motion to censure him Saturday for his votes at President Donald Trump's impeachment trials.

The measure narrowly failed, 798 to 711, in a vote by delegates to the state GOP convention, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Romney drew heavy boos when he came to the podium earlier in the day.

Davis County delegate Don Guymon, who authored the resolution, said Romney's votes to remove Trump from office "hurt the Constitution and hurt the party."

"This was a process driven by Democrats who hated Trump," Guymon said. "Romney's vote in the first impeachment emboldened Democrats who continued to harass Trump."

The proposal, among several platform changes debated Saturday, also sought to praise the other members of Utah's congressional delegation for their support of the former president.

Others warned supporting the censure risked defining the party around Trump instead of the conservative principles most delegates treasure.

"If the point of all this is to let Mitt Romney know we're displeased with him, trust me, he knows," said Salt Lake County delegate Emily de Azavedo Brown. "Let's not turn this into a Trump or no Trump thing. Are we a party of principle or a party of a person?"

SpaceX capsule departs station with 4 astronauts, heads home

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A SpaceX capsule carrying four astronauts departed the International Space Station late Saturday, aiming for a rare nighttime splashdown to end the company's second crew flight.

It would be the first U.S. splashdown in darkness since Apollo 8's crew returned from the moon in 1968.

NASA's Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker, and Japan's Soichi Noguchi, headed home in the same Dragon capsule that delivered them to the space station last November. The ride back was expected to take just 6 1/2 hours.

"Thanks for your hospitality," Hopkins radioed as the capsule undocked 260 miles (420 kilometers) above Mali.

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SpaceX targeted a splashdown around 3 a.m. Sunday in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Panama City, Florida. Despite the early hour, the Coast Guard deployed extra patrols — and spotlights — to keep any night-owl sightseers away. The capsule of the first SpaceX crew was surrounded by pleasure boaters last summer, posing a safety risk.

Hopkins, the spacecraft commander, rocketed into orbit with his crew on Nov. 15 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Their replacements arrived a week ago aboard their own Dragon capsule — the same one that launched SpaceX's first crew last spring.

The four should have been back by now, but high offshore wind kept them at the space station a few extra days. SpaceX and NASA determined the best weather would be before dawn.

The delays allowed Glover to celebrate his 45th birthday in space Friday.

"Gratitude, wonder, connection. I'm full of and motivated by these feelings on my birthday, as my first mission to space comes to an end," Glover tweeted.

Saturday night's undocking left seven astronauts at the space station: three Americans, two Russians, one Japanese and one French.

SpaceX capsule departs station with 4 astronauts, heads home

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Black Freedmen struggle for recognition as tribal citizens

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — As the U.S. faces a reckoning over its history of racism, some Native American tribal nations that once owned slaves also are grappling with their own mistreatment of Black people.

When Native American tribes were forced from their ancestral homelands in the southeastern United States to what is now Oklahoma in the 1800s — known as the Trail of Tears — thousands of Black slaves owned by tribal members also were removed and forced to provide manual labor along the way. Once

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in Oklahoma, slaves often toiled on plantation-style farms or were servants in tribal members' homes.

Nearly 200 years later, many of the thousands of descendants of those Black slaves, known as Freedmen, are still fighting to be recognized by the tribes that once owned their ancestors. The fight has continued since the killing of George Floyd last year by a Minneapolis police officer spurred a reexamination of the vestiges of slavery in the U.S.

CHEROKEE NATION FREEDMEN

The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole nations were referred to historically as the Five Civilized Tribes, or Five Tribes, by European settlers because they often assimilated into the settlers' culture, adopting their style of dress and religion, and even owning slaves. Each tribe also has a unique history with Freedmen, whose rights were ultimately spelled out in separate treaties with the U.S.

Today, the Cherokee Nation is the only tribe that fully recognizes the Freedmen as full citizens, a decision that came in 2017 following years of legal wrangling.

"I think that we are a better tribe for having not only embraced the federal court decision but embraced the concept of equality," said Cherokee Nation Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., a longtime supporter of citizenship rights for the Freedmen.

The Cherokee Nation, among the largest Native American tribes, has about 5,800 Freedmen citizens who have traced an ancestor on the tribe's original Freedmen rolls in the late 19th century.

When the federal government sought to break up tribal reservations into individual allotments after the Civil War, they created two separate tribal rolls — one for members with American Indian blood and one for Freedmen. In many cases, tribal citizens who appeared Black were placed on the Freedmen rolls, even if they had blood ties to the tribe.

Of the Five Tribes, only the Chickasaw Nation never agreed to adopt the Freedmen as citizens, according to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

SEMINOLE NATION CONTROVERSY

The Wewoka-based Seminole Nation in particular faces fierce criticism after several Black tribal citizens were denied COVID-19 vaccines at a federally operated American Indian health clinic.

LeEtta Osborne-Sampson, a Seminole Freedman who has a tribal identification card and serves on the tribe's governing council, said she sought a vaccine in February at a clinic operated by the Indian Health Service, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She said a worker told her the Seminole Nation doesn't recognize Freedmen for health services. When she asked for additional explanation, the worker called over a tribal police officer, she said.

"So, I left," said Osborne-Sampson. "Even the worst person would try to help when there's a pandemic all over the world, but they don't care about the Freedmen. I feel like they want us to die."

Three other Seminole Freedmen shared similar experiences with The Associated Press about the same clinic.

The Seminole Nation says the decision about whether to provide vaccines to Seminole Freedmen rests with the IHS, not the tribe.

"To be clear, the Seminole Nation does not operate the Wewoka Indian Health Services clinic, has absolutely no policy oversight and was in no way involved with administering COVID-19 vaccines," Seminole Nation Chief Greg Chilcoat said in a statement.

The agency said in a statement that it was reviewing eligibility of Seminole Freedmen and will be working with the tribe to determine what services IHS will provide.

FIGHTING FOR CITIZENSHIP

Seminole Freedmen say they are unable to receive services other tribal citizens get, including health care, tribal license plates and housing subsidies. The Seminole Freedmen have been fighting for years to be recognized as full tribal citizens in legal battles that underscore the systemic racism that Freedmen from all Oklahoma-based tribes say they have experienced from tribal governments and their members.

Many Seminole Freedmen are descendants of freed Black slaves who joined the Seminoles in Florida during their wars against the U.S. government.

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"We fought in three wars with them to get where we're at, and now they've turned against us," said Anthony Conley, who also said he was denied a vaccine at the clinic.

Conley said he believes racism and an unwillingness of tribal citizens to share tribal funds is at the core of the tribe's decision to exclude Freedmen from full citizenship, a claim that Chilcoat disputes.

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

The Muscogee (Creek) and Choctaw nations have cited tribal sovereignty as reasons for their opposition to citizenship for Freedmen. When Democratic U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters of California last year attempted to force the tribes to reconcile the Freedmen issue by inserting language into a housing bill, Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton said the U.S. government is responsible for the Freedmen's plight, not the Choctaw Nation.

"There is no more fundamental element of tribal self-governance than the authority of a Tribe like the Choctaw Nation to determine our own citizenship," Batton wrote in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Ultimately, it might be a decision for the federal courts to make. Osborne-Sampson said she and other Freedmen are consulting with an attorney on how to proceed.

The Latest: Medina Spirit gives Baffert record 7th Derby win

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Latest on the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby (all times local):

7:15 p.m.

Medina Spirit has won the 147th Kentucky Derby by a half-length over Mandaloun, giving Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert a record seventh victory in the premier race for 3-year-olds.

The bay colt led the \$3 million race from start to finish after going off at 12-1 odds from the No. 8 post.

Medina Spirit never gave ground despite several competitors' attempts, including a late outside surge by race favorite Essential Quality entering the stretch to create a four-wide sprint.

Medina Spirit held strong to the wire for his second career victory, a strong rebound from his runner-up finish to Rock Your World in the Santa Anita Derby.

Jockey John Velazquez earned his second consecutive Derby victory and fourth overall. Medina Spirit covered the 1¼ mile in 2:01.02 and paid \$26.20, \$12 and \$7.60.

Mandaloun returned \$23 and \$13.40, while Hot Rod Charlie paid \$5.20 for show.

6:50 p.m.

Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas has stepped in to give the "Riders Up" command just before the Kentucky Derby as a last-minute substitute for originally scheduled local rapper Jack Harlow.

No reason was immediately given for the quick change that put the four-time Derby winner in charge of the traditional call for jockeys to their mounts for the 147th running. But Lukas was ready and delivered a clear, thorough command to the 19 riders gathered in the paddock for the premier race.

5:15 p.m.

Thousands of spectators are gathered in the infield at Churchill Downs, many not wearing face masks required amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Hundreds stood in lines that were not spaced out to use ATMs or buy food. Unlike some Derby tickets this year that are all-inclusive, infield tickets don't include drinks or food, so fans have to use cash to make purchases.

Sydney Lowe of Columbus, Ohio, said she and her friends were fine with not wearing masks because they were outside and had been vaccinated.

"We're outside, I feel like it's not that big a deal," Lowe said.

"I wish there were more ATMs and that it wasn't only cash, that's one thing," added her friend, Halle Vozar.

A recording played over a loudspeaker at the entrance says guests are required to wear masks over their mouths and noses. Ticket takers reminded people coming in the front gate: "Please have your mask

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on! Masks on! Masks on!"

A sign posted indoors by the wagering windows reminding spectators to wear masks largely went ignored. Others had masks pulled down covering their chins.

3:40 p.m.

A plane circling above Churchill Downs is flying a banner reading "Protect Black Women. Divest from Police."

Several racial justice groups commissioned the banner to remind spectators that the Derby is being held in the hometown of Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old emergency medical technician shot and killed by police in March 2020 in a botched raid.

The Derby comes less than two weeks after former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of killing George Floyd, a case that triggered a furious reckoning over racism and policing in the U.S. The day that Chauvin was convicted, 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant was shot and killed by police in Columbus, Ohio.

Chanelle Helm, with Black Lives Matter Louisville, said the banner flying above the Derby is designed to highlight police brutality against Black women. Helm noted that Black women often staff the Derby as servers and ticket-takers, then go home to their neighborhoods to face overzealous policing and economic inequality.

3:05 p.m.

Bob Baffert saddled Gamine to a 1 1/2-length victory in the \$500,000 Derby City Distaff at Churchill Downs, giving the trainer his record 220th Grade 1 stakes win.

Baffert broke a tie with longtime friend and fellow Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas, who had owned the old mark of 219 Grade 1 wins in North America.

"I didn't know I was that close to the record until a month ago," Baffert said. "To do it here on this big day is very special."

Baffert and Lukas have known each other for over 40 years, going back to when both men trained quarter horses before switching to thoroughbreds.

2:55 p.m.

In normal years, Derby-goers cram shoulder-to-shoulder into Churchill Downs. But with limited capacity this year, fans are breezing around easily, with no long lines weaving from the wagering windows.

"In days past, that's all you did all day: wait in line for everything. Go watch the race, then get in line, get in line for a drink, get in line for the bathroom," said Tina Cox, a local who's been to the Derby dozens of times.

Many spectators were not wearing masks despite them being required, but Cox said she didn't feel uncomfortable in the track's outdoor spaces.

"It puts a little smiley face on the city for a minute, instead of all the doom and gloom, you come to this beautiful place and feel kind of normal again," Cox said. "People are excited for something, looking forward to something. I always enjoy Derby, but this year it seems like everybody appreciates everything so much more."

1:10 p.m.

A Houston furniture dealer who owns horses is placing a big-money bet on the Kentucky Derby.

Jim McIngvale, nicknamed "Mattress Mack," is wagering at least \$2 million on Saturday's race, which will be the largest in Derby history. He doesn't have a horse of his own in the race, so he plans to bet on 2-1 morning-line favorite Essential Quality.

McIngvale will place the bet in person at Churchill Downs rather than through a legal bookmaker. The Louisville track receives about 10% of all on-track wagering, so a \$2 million bet on Essential Quality will reap about \$200,000 for purses. The amount would be far less if the money were wagered through si-

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mulcasting, online or at a casino.

"I wanted to go where the track's dollars were maximized and the horse owners' dollars were maximized to support the ecosystem of the entire game," he said.

The Derby is a pari-mutuel race in which gamblers bet against each other, so McIngvale's whopper of a wager will affect the betting pool.

McIngvale is well known for tying major sports events into promotions at his Gallery Furniture stores, where he sheltered storm victims in the wake of Houston's flooding in 2019.

He also collaborated with Churchill Downs to bring about 300 foster parents, alumni and social service workers to the Derby.

12:30 p.m.

Kentucky Derby Day is underway with near-perfect weather and masked spectators milling around Churchill Downs again after not being allowed for last fall's delayed race because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Unbeaten Essential Quality is the 2-1 morning line favorite for Saturday's 147th Run for the Roses featuring 19 horses. Post time is set for 6:57 p.m. Eastern for the 12th of 14 races, with more than 45,000 fans expected beneath the Twin Spires, or 100,000 less than usual. That's still a big improvement from last year's Derby, run on Labor Day weekend in virtual silence and out of sequence as the Triple Crown's second jewel instead of its first. It was moved from the first Saturday in May for the first time in 75 years.

Essential Quality is last year's 2-year-old champion trained by Louisville-born Brad Cox, who would make Derby history as the first native son to win. The other top contenders are Rock Your World (5-1), Known Agenda (6-1) and Hot Rod Charlie (8-1).

Season of the Slump: Baseball keeps swinging and missing

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Mattingly starred in the action-packed 1980s.

Now the Miami Marlins manager, Donnie Baseball worries about a record lack of hits -- and not just from his team's bats.

"I don't think it's cyclical at this point," he said. "There's so much swing and miss, it's kind of off the charts. I think it's something that we have to address."

It's the Season of the Slump, even for All-Stars like Marcell Ozuna (.202), Charlie Blackmon (.184) and Francisco Lindor (.189). Miguel Cabrera, the only Triple Crown winner in a half-century, is batting .140.

Major league batters are hitting just .232 overall through April, down from .252 two years ago and under the record low of .237 set in the infamous 1968 season that resulted in a lower pitcher's mound.

The Mendoza line may not mean what it used to.

Strikeouts have averaged 9.06 per team per game, on pace to set a record for the 13th consecutive full season — up from 8.81 two years ago and nearly double the 4.77 in 1979. Strikeouts already are 1,092 ahead of hits, just three years after exceeding hits for the first time over a full season.

Hits are averaging a record-low 7.63 after fluctuating from 8 to 10 from 1937 through last year, excepting 1968's dip to a then-alarming 7.91.

While it's a bear market for batters, pitchers are on bull runs.

Joe Musgrove of San Diego and Carlos Rodón of the Chicago White Sox became the second pair of pitchers in a half-century to throw April no-hitters, the first since Atlanta's Kent Mercker and Minnesota's Scott Erickson in 1994. Arizona's Madison Bumgarner pitched another, but the shortened seven-inning gem in a doubleheader was not recognized by MLB.

Mattingly, a six-time All-Star, never struck out more than 43 times in a season during a career from 1982-92.

Texas slugger Joey Gallo already has whiffed 40 times, as has Cincinnati's Eugenio Suárez.

"Pitching has always been further ahead in the analytical world, and applying information to the competi-

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tion has been much faster on the run- prevention side than the run-production side," said Detroit Tigers manager A.J. Hinch, a former big league catcher.

"I have great concern that our sport has turned into a lack of offense and the strikeout-homer-walk Three True Outcomes is not our best entertainment product. ... We're trending in the wrong direction. It doesn't mean we can just snap our fingers and make a rule change or do one simple thing and all of a sudden we're going to turn into a more balanced sport."

Detroit finished April with a .199 batting average, on track to shatter the low of .211 set by the 1910 Chicago White Sox.

Just 16.6% of pitches have been put in play this season through midweek, according to MLB Statcast, matching last year and down from 18.6% in 2015.

Perhaps it's the Rawlings baseballs, which were slightly deadened this year in a change MLB said an independent lab found would cause balls to fly 1 to 2 feet shorter when hit over 375 feet. Or maybe it's the five teams that added humidors to their stadiums, raising the total to 10 of 30 with humidity-controlled storage spaces.

Home runs have dropped from a record 1.39 per team per game in 2019 to 1.28 in 2020's shortened season to 1.14 this year, the lowest since 2015.

Data shows pitchers are throwing harder in the analytic age, where many big leaguers have had their mechanics analyzed at Driveline Baseball, Cressey Sports Performance or the American Sports Medicine Institute in an effort to gain velocity, efficiency and durability.

The average four-seam fastball velocity was 93.5 mph, according to Statcast, up from 93.4 mph last year and 92.9 mph in 2015.

And batters have refined their swing paths in an effort to hit home runs, less distressed about strikeouts than Ruth & Gehrig or even Willie, Mickey & the Duke.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred declined comment, saying it was only one month. Union head Tony Clark, a former All-Star first baseman, also declined comment.

Many baseball veterans try not to draw conclusions from Aprils, when cold and blustery weather can hold down offense. Still, a comparison to previous seasons through April is startling.

The batting average was the lowest through April since .230 in 1968, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The .309 on-base percentage was the lowest since .294 in 1968 and the .3894 slugging percentage a mark not seen since 2014's .3389, Elias said.

"It's an inconsistent weather month, which tends to depress offense a little bit. I tend to kind of hold off judgment until we get into the summer months," New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

"I would say pitching now is as good as it's been and as specific as it been. I think people really know better than ever what makes a pitcher really good and what their true strengths are other than what you think their strengths are and how you can target different matchups."

Jacob deGrom of the Mets has a 0.51 ERA, on track to break the post dead-ball era record of 1.12 set by the St. Louis Cardinals' Bob Gibson in 1968.

"You see deGrom -- you can see guys go out and punch out 14, 15, you're like, OK, it's not like not that big of a deal anymore," Mattingly said. "It seems like teams are striking out 12, 15 times a night, and that's just normal."

MLB instituted a new rule in 2020 requiring a pitcher to face three batters or complete a half-inning. Among the experiments in the minor leagues that start Tuesday are requiring Double-A infielders to keep both feet in the infield at the start of every play; and expanding bases from 15-by-15 inches to 18-by-18 at Triple-A. In the independent Atlantic League starting Aug. 3, the pitching rubber will be moved back 12 inches to 61 feet, 6 inches.

In a sign of pitching dominance, there have been 69 team shutouts this season, a pace that would total 439 and smash the record of 359 in 1915. Even accounting for additional games caused by expansion, the percentage of games in which a team failed to score would trail only 1972 and 1968 since the end of the dead-ball era in 1919.

"I think the big thing nobody talks about is the proliferation of the breaking ball," Los Angeles Angels

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manager Joe Maddon said. "Everybody's worried about velocity. It's about the breaking ball to me. That's where a lot of the numbers have gone to. Hitters normally could catch up to the velocity, if that's all they're going to see."

Maddon is against rules changes to boost batters.

"I don't like legislating hardly anything," Maddon said. "I'm much more that things change based on people making adaptations and adjustments based on what they're seeing."

Progress noted at diplomats' talks on Iran nuclear deal

By PHILIPP JENNE and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — High-ranking diplomats from China, Germany, France, Russia and Britain made progress at talks Saturday focused on bringing the United States back into their landmark nuclear deal with Iran, but said they need more work and time to bring about a future agreement.

After the meeting, Russia's top representative, Mikhail Ulyanov, tweeted that members of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, "noted today the indisputable progress made at the Vienna talks on restoration of the nuclear deal."

"The Joint Commission will reconvene at the end of the next week," Ulyanov wrote. "In the meantime, experts will continue to draft elements of future agreement."

"It's too early to be excited, but we have reasons for cautious and growing optimism," he added. "There is no deadline, but participants aim at successful completion of the talks in approximately 3 weeks."

The three Western European countries involved in the talks struck a more restrained note.

"We have much work and little time left. Against that background, we would have hoped for more progress this week," the senior diplomats said talking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be publicly named.

"We have yet to come to an understanding on the most critical points. Success is by no means guaranteed, but not impossible."

In Washington, the U.S. State Department had no immediate comment on reports of progress, incremental or not, and said the U.S. assessment of the talks remained where it was on Thursday. On that day, State Department spokesman Ned Price said there had been some movement but that an agreement was far from done or even guaranteed.

Abbas Araghchi, Iran's deputy foreign minister, participated in the Vienna talks.

"I can say that now our discussions have reached a maturity, both in the disputed topics and in the sections that we are agreed on," he told Iranian state TV. "Although we cannot yet fully predict when and how we will be able to reach an agreement, it is moving forward, although slowly."

The U.S. did not have a representative at the table when the diplomats met in Vienna because former President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the country out of the deal in 2018. Trump also restored and augmented sanctions to try to force Iran into renegotiating the pact with more concessions.

U.S. President Joe Biden wants to rejoin the deal, however, and a U.S. delegation in Vienna was taking part in indirect talks with Iran, with diplomats from the other world powers acting as go-betweens.

The Biden administration is considering a rollback of some of the most stringent Trump-era sanctions in a bid to get Iran to come back into compliance with the nuclear agreement, according current and former U.S. officials and others familiar with the matter.

Ulyanov said JCPOA members met on the side with officials from the U.S. delegation but the Iranian delegation was not ready to meet with U.S. diplomats.

The nuclear deal promised Iran economic incentives in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. The reimposition of U.S. sanctions has left the Islamic Republic's economy reeling. Tehran has responded by steadily increasing its violations of the deal, such as increasing the purity of uranium it enriches and its stockpiles, in a thus-far unsuccessful effort to pressure the other countries to provide relief from the sanctions.

The ultimate goal of the deal is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, something it insists

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it doesn't want to do. Iran now has enough enriched uranium to make a bomb, but nowhere near the amount it had before the nuclear deal was signed.

The Vienna talks began in early April and have included several rounds of high-level discussions. Expert groups also have been working on how to resolve the issues around the American sanctions and Iranian compliance, as well as the "possible sequencing" of the U.S. return.

Outside the talks in Vienna, other challenges remain.

An attack suspected to have been carried out by Israel recently struck Iran's Natanz nuclear site, causing an unknown amount of damage. Tehran retaliated by beginning to enrich a small amount of uranium up to 60% purity, its highest level ever.

Olympia Dukakis, Oscar-winning 'Moonstruck' star, dies at 89

By BROOKE LEFFERTS Associated Press

MAPLEWOOD, N.J. (AP) — Olympia Dukakis, the veteran stage and screen actor whose flair for maternal roles helped her win an Oscar as Cher's mother in the romantic comedy "Moonstruck," has died. She was 89.

Dukakis died Saturday morning in her home in New York City, according to Allison Levy, her agent at Innovative Artists. A cause of death was not immediately released, but her family said in a statement that she had been in failing health for months.

Dukakis won her Oscar through a surprising chain of circumstances, beginning with author Nora Ephron's recommendation that she play Meryl Streep's mother in the film version of Ephron's book "Heartburn." Dukakis got the role, but her scenes were cut from the film. To make it up to her, director Mike Nichols cast her in his hit play "Social Security." Director Norman Jewison saw her in that role and cast her in "Moonstruck."

Dukakis won the Oscar for best supporting actress and Cher took home the trophy for best actress.

She referred to her 1988 win as "the year of the Dukakii" because it was also the year Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, her cousin, was the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. At the ceremony, she held her Oscar high over her head and called out: "OK, Michael, let's go!"

In 1989, her Oscar statuette was stolen from Dukakis' New Jersey home.

"We're not pretentious," her husband, actor Louis Zorich, said at the time. "We kept the Oscar in the kitchen."

Dukakis, who was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, had yearned to be an actor from an early age and had hoped to study drama in college. Her Greek immigrant parents insisted she pursue a more practical education, so she studied physical therapy at Boston University on a scholarship from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

After earning her bachelor's degree, she worked at an understaffed hospital in Marmet, West Virginia, and at the Hospital for Contagious Diseases in Boston.

But the lure of the theater eventually led her to study drama at Boston University.

It was a shocking change, she told an interviewer in 1988, noting that she had gone from the calm world of science to one where students routinely screamed at the teachers.

"I thought they were all nuts," she said. "It was wonderful."

Her first graduate school performance was a disaster, however, as she sat wordless on the stage.

After a teacher helped cure her stage fright, she began working in summer stock theaters. In 1960, she made her off-Broadway debut and two years later had a small part in "The Aspern Papers" on Broadway.

After three years with a Boston regional theater, Dukakis moved to New York and married Zorich.

During their first years of marriage, acting jobs were scarce, and Dukakis worked as a bartender, waitress and other jobs.

She and Zorich had three children — Christina, Peter and Stefan. They decided it was too hard to raise children in New York with limited income, so they moved the family to a century-old house in Montclair, a New Jersey suburb of New York.

Her Oscar victory kept the motherly film roles coming. She was Kirstie Alley's mom in "Look Who's Talk-

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ing" and its sequel "Look Who's Talking Too," the sardonic widow in "Steel Magnolias" and the overbearing wife of Jack Lemmon (and mother of Ted Danson) in "Dad."

Her recent projects included the 2019 TV miniseries "Tales of the City" and the upcoming film "Not to Forget."

But the stage was her first love.

"My ambition wasn't to win the Oscar," she commented after her "Moonstruck" win. "It was to play the great parts."

She accomplished that in such New York productions as Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage and Her Children," Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night" and Tennessee Williams' "The Rose Tattoo."

In 2000, she was on Broadway in Martin Sherman's one-actor play "Rose," and received a Drama Desk Award nomination for the role of an 80-year-old survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII.

For two decades she ran the Whole Theater Company in Montclair, New Jersey, specializing in classic dramas.

Zorich died in January 2018 at age 93.

Dukakis is survived by her children Christina, Stefan and Peter; her brother Apollo Dukakis; and four grandchildren.

More perilous phase ahead for Biden after his 1st 100 days

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JOSH BOAK and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden's presidency is entering a new and more perilous phase where he is almost certain to face stiffer Republican opposition and also have difficulty keeping Democrats united as he pushes for \$4 trillion in additional spending on programs that have echoes of the New Deal and the Great Society.

Past the 100-day mark, with positive approval ratings and a far-reaching, nearly \$2 trillion COVID-19 relief bill to show for it, Biden is now facing far more uncertain terrain. The president is racing against the calendar, governing with the most slender of majorities on Capitol Hill while knowing that historically the party that holds the White House loses seats in midterm elections, which would cost Democrats control of Congress after the 2022 vote.

His next 100 days will feature his first foreign trip but will be dominated by his push to pass his expansive plans on infrastructure and children, families and education, which would expand the social safety net for children, increase taxes on the wealthy and fund projects that his critics say are infrastructure in name only.

Overall, his approach is less about stimulating the economy than stabilizing it over the long term with middle-class jobs, and proving that a democracy, even a bitterly divided one, remains capable of doing big things.

"In another era when our democracy was tested, Franklin Roosevelt reminded us: In America, we do our part," Biden said in his address to Congress on Wednesday night. "That's all I'm asking. That we all do our part. And if we do, then we will meet the central challenge of the age by proving that democracy is durable and strong."

Biden has made personal overtures to Republicans in Congress, but the efforts were aimed at least as much at Republican voters, who have been far more supportive of his plans. A nod to bipartisanship is also important to reassure moderate Democrats such as Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia that the president is at least trying to win over Republicans, even if in the end he might push ahead without them.

His task may be easier given the hopeful signs of a strong economic recovery, with an annualized growth rate of 6.4% during the first three months of the year. With the relief bill passed, Biden's economic team is now able to focus on structural issues such as income inequality, systemic racism and shortfalls in public investment.

"These were ideas that were germinating pre-pandemic," said Heather Boushey, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. "It feels like these are things that we've known we needed to do."

Several aides are now focused on distributing billions of dollars from the relief package for housing as-

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sistance, school upgrades and state and local government aid.

The administration also wants to measure the results of the spending to show Congress that its relief programs are succeeding.

One example: The expanded child tax credit is of critical importance because Biden has proposed extending the one-year increase through 2025 as part of his families plan.

"We know that implementing the enhanced child tax credit right is critical not just to cutting child poverty this year but to showing it can be done well so that it builds support for extending it on and on," said Gene Sperling, named by Biden to oversee the relief programs.

With such expensive and wide-ranging programs, Biden has not shied away from comparisons between his own ambitious legislative agenda and those championed by a pair of his Democratic predecessors, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson. When the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill was passed in March, Biden gathered with Harris and a few senior staff members in the Roosevelt Room to watch the vote.

Biden recalled that it was in that room where, as vice president, he and President Barack Obama watched the final passage of the Affordable Care Act some 11 years earlier. But he remembered that room being packed with people, something impossible to do during the pandemic.

"If we didn't have COVID, we'd probably all be raising a glass together but instead this is what we are doing," Biden said, according to two White House officials who were not authorized to speak publicly about private moments.

The meaning was clear: Even in a moment of triumph, the pandemic was ever-present. But now, with virus cases falling and vaccinations spreading, Biden must guide the nation toward reopening from COVID-19 lockdowns.

He took a cautious step Tuesday by highlighting changing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on outdoor mask-wearing. More fundamental steps are ahead as Biden tries to guide the country toward resuming normal activities, fully reopening offices and schools and safely fulfilling pent-up demand for travel, dining and entertainment.

To this point, the public has largely gone along. Gallup polling shows Biden's average approval rating over his first three months in office is 56%, higher than Donald Trump's at 41% but slightly lower than Obama's at 63%.

But Biden fares less well on some specific issues such as immigration and the border. West Wing officials were caught off guard by the rise in the number of migrants, many of them children, streaming across the U.S.-Mexico border, creating a humanitarian upheaval and handing Republicans a political cudgel.

"The border and immigration has been a huge challenge, and it will continue to be in the next 100 days and beyond," said David Axelrod, who was a senior advisor to Obama. "The president's desire to confront issues like gun violence and voting rights may continue to outstrip the capacity a bare Senate majority allows, which may anger his progressive base."

Biden has counseled patience to some of the left, stressing the importance of sequencing legislation, prioritizing the infrastructure plan before turning to thornier issues such as immigration, voting rights, guns and policing. The president blitzed through executive actions on those issues but will likely need cooperation with Congress for any meaningful action.

That won't be easy. The Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, derided Biden's agenda as a "multitrillion-dollar shopping list that was neither designed nor intended to earn bipartisan buy-in, a blueprint for giving Washington even more money and even more power to micromanage American families."

There has been some bipartisan momentum on policing after the guilty verdict in the killing of George Floyd, a Black man, who died under the knee of Derek Chauvin, a former Minneapolis police officer. But gridlock threatens other issues, with rising chatter from Democrats on Capitol Hill that a change to the filibuster may be needed.

"Things will begin to percolate on parallel tracks," said White House senior adviser Steve Ricchetti. "There is a lot of work on immigration and police reform and criminal justice reform being done in the committees and in the White House. We're engaged in serious, healthy dialogue. And then we'll see what's ready to go and when."

But Biden will also have to turn his focus to international affairs.

The defining relationship will be with China, which Biden invokes as an economic rival that can only be defeated if democracy is repaired at home. He has so far largely continued Trump's tough approach and maintained most tariffs.

He has ordered urgent help to India, a nation reeling from COVID-19. In a jam on Iran sanctions, the president will be forced to choose which Trump-era sanctions to lift in a bid to coax Tehran back into compliance with the multinational nuclear deal.

In June, he is scheduled to make his first trip overseas as commander in chief, heading to Britain for an economic summit and then to Brussels to pledge support to NATO, the military alliance built as a bulwark to Moscow's aggression.

And, while not finalized, negotiations are being held to add a third stop: a summit, elsewhere in Europe, with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Vaccinated faithful throng Jerusalem church for Holy Fire

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hundreds of Christian worshippers made use of Israel's easing of coronavirus restrictions Saturday, packing a Jerusalem church revered as the site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection for an ancient fire ceremony a day before Orthodox Easter.

The faithful gathered at The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, waiting for clergymen to emerge with the Holy Fire from the Edicule, a chamber built on the site where Christians believe Jesus was buried and rose from the dead after being crucified.

Only a few people in the church wore masks, and there was no distancing. Entry was restricted to those who were fully vaccinated.

As bells rang and the top clerics from different Orthodox denominations appeared, the worshippers scrambled to light their candles and pass the fire on. Within a minute, the imposing walls of the old church glowed. The source of the flame is a closely guarded secret.

Greek-Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III led the event.

The scene at the church was a stark contrast to last year's, when only a handful of religious leaders held the centuries-old ceremony in a near-empty setting enforced by the coronavirus pandemic.

Israel has significantly lifted most restrictions, including mask-wearing in public, after a world-leading vaccination drive. However, air travel to the country remains limited and requiring quarantine.

In normal years, Christian holidays, including Christmas and Easter, draw tens of thousands of tourists and pilgrims to holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Many countries will be restricting normal Orthodox Easter celebrations. Neighboring Lebanon for example went into a round-the-clock curfew to curb the spread of coronavirus, from Saturday until Tuesday morning. Churches will be allowed to hold Easter mass and prayers only at 30% capacity, and require special permits.

In Egypt, home to the Middle East's largest Christian community, primarily of the Coptic denomination, churches were told to limit attendance to 25% or less.

Worshippers in Cairo's Coptic cathedral wore face masks and sat a meter apart in pews to mark the start of the celebration on Saturday evening.

For them, the holiday comes at the end of a 55-day fast where no meat, fish or dairy is eaten. This year it partially overlapped with Ramadan, the month-long Muslim fast that lasts from sunup to sundown. The communal rituals and family gatherings around the holy days have sparked worries with some experts that they could lead to wider transmission of the virus.

10 boys and teens among the dead in Israel festival stampede

JERUSALEM (AP) — At least 10 children and teens younger than 18 were among 45 ultra-Orthodox Jews killed in a stampede at a religious festival in northern Israel, according to a partial list of names published Saturday as the identification of victims in Israel's deadliest civilian disaster continued.

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Four Americans, a Canadian and a man from Argentina were also among those killed. Two families each lost two children. The youngest victim was nine years old.

Meanwhile, calls were growing louder Saturday for establishing an official commission of inquiry, in part to gauge the responsibility of politicians and senior decision-makers for allowing the mass gathering to take place, despite repeated warnings over the years about safety lapses. In an initial response, the country's Cabinet minister who oversees the nation's police force defended the police's handling of the event.

The stampede early Friday had cut short the annual festival of Lag BaOmer on Israel's Mount Meron. The festival had drawn some 100,000 people in the largest gathering so far this year as Israel's successful vaccination campaign allowed the country to emerge from coronavirus restrictions.

As large numbers of people began to leave one of the events at the festival, they thronged a narrow tunnel-like passage that sloped downward and ended with a series of steps. The floor had become slippery with spilled water and juice, according to witnesses. As some in the crowd slipped, those behind them fell on top of those on the ground.

Veteran paramedic Yossi Halabi told Israel TV's Channel 12 on Saturday that he "encountered a wall of bodies" after he was first alerted to the disaster from his nearby post. He said it took him and fellow rescuers about 40 minutes to extract the dead and wounded from the chaos.

He said that it was "one of the worst if not the worst incident" he had seen in 30 years on the job.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared Sunday to be a national day of mourning. On Saturday night, a vigil was held in Tel Aviv, where people lit memorial candles and the municipality lit up City Hall with the Israeli flag.

Israeli media said 32 of the 45 victims were identified before the start of the Jewish Sabbath at sundown Friday. Of those, 22 were laid to rest before the Sabbath. The identification of the remaining victims and burials resumed after sundown, as did some of the funerals. Jewish law calls for swift burial of the dead.

Sixteen people remained hospitalized, including three in serious condition.

Lag BaOmer is very popular with Israel's ultra-Orthodox community to honor Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a 2nd-century sage and mystic who is believed to be buried there. The crowds light bonfires, dance and have large festive meals as part of the celebrations. Across the country, even in secular areas, smaller groups gather in parks and forests for barbecues and bonfires.

Experts have long warned that the Mount Meron celebrations were ripe for disaster due to the crowded conditions, large fires and hot weather. In a 2008 report, the state comptroller, a watchdog government office, warned conditions at the site, including escape routes, "endanger the public."

The Justice Ministry said it was launching a probe into possible criminal misconduct by police officers. Witnesses complained that police barricades had prevented people from exiting properly.

However, there were growing demands Saturday, including from retired police commanders, for an official commission of inquiry that could also review decisions by the political leadership.

In a post on Facebook, Public Security Minister Amir Ohana, who is responsible for the police and also a close confidant of Netanyahu, praised police conduct. He said he was prepared to "take responsibility" and answer all questions. "I am responsible — but responsibility does not mean guilt," he wrote.

According to Health Ministry guidelines, public gatherings continue to be limited to no more than 500 people. But Israeli media said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured ultra-Orthodox leaders that the celebrations would take place, despite objections from public health officials. Netanyahu's office did not respond to requests for comment.

Netanyahu has long relied on powerful ultra-Orthodox parties as allies. He will need their support if he wants to keep faint hopes alive of staying in power following inconclusive elections in March, the fourth in just two years. The coming week is expected to be decisive for his so far unsuccessful efforts to form a coalition government with right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties.

Netanyahu came under heavy criticism over the past year for allowing ultra-Orthodox communities to flout safety guidelines by opening schools and synagogues and holding mass funerals. The ultra-Orthodox communities were among the country's hardest hit by COVID-19.

May Day protesters demand more job protections amid pandemic

By NICHOLAS GARRIGA, NINIEK KARMINI and JOHN LEICESTER undefined

PARIS (AP) — Workers and union leaders dusted off bullhorns and flags that had stayed furled during coronavirus lockdowns for slimmed down but still boisterous — and at times violent — May Day marches on Saturday, demanding more labor protections amid a pandemic that has turned economies and work-places upside down.

In countries that mark May 1 as International Labor Day, the annual celebration of workers' rights produced a rare sight during the pandemic: large and closely packed crowds, with marchers striding shoulder-to-shoulder with clenched fists behind banners.

In Turkey and the Philippines, police prevented the May Day protests, enforcing virus lockdowns and making hundreds of arrests. In France, some marchers battled with riot police.

For labor leaders, the day was a test of their ability to mobilize workers in the face of the profound economic disruptions.

In France, thousands took to the streets with union banners and flags, hemmed in by and sometimes scuffling with riot police. The face masks worn by many marchers were a reminder of how much life has changed since the last traditional May Day celebrations — in 2019, before the spreading coronavirus wrecked lives and livelihoods and eroded civil liberties, often including the right to demonstrate.

Riot police clashed with some demonstrators in Paris and the southern city of Lyon, while burning road-blocks threw clouds of smoke into the Paris air. Police charged crowds to catch suspected troublemakers and fired small amounts of tear gas. Police in Paris said they made 34 arrests. Authorities also reported five arrests and 27 police officers injured in Lyon. But most of the dozens of marches across France passed off without incident.

Some demonstrations, constricted by coronavirus restrictions, were markedly less well-attended than those before the pandemic. Russia saw just a fraction of its usual May Day activities amid a coronavirus ban on gatherings. The Russian Communist Party drew only a few hundred people to lay wreaths in Moscow. For a second straight year in Italy, May Day passed without the usual large marches and rock concerts.

But in France, Germany other places where rallies were allowed, workers vented their concerns over jobs and protections. In Bosnia, coal miner Turni Kadric said he and his colleagues are "barely surviving."

In Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, thousands voiced anger at a new jobs law that critics fear will reduce severance pay, lessen restrictions for foreign workers and increase outsourcing as the nation seeks to attract more investment. Protesters in the capital of Jakarta laid mock graves on the street to symbolize hopelessness and marches were being held in some 200 cities.

In the Philippine capital of Manila, where a monthlong coronavirus lockdown has been extended by two weeks amid a surge in infections, police prevented hundreds of workers from demonstrating at a public plaza, protest leader Renato Reyes said. But protesters did gather briefly at a busy Manila boulevard, demanding pandemic cash aid, wage subsidies and COVID-19 vaccines amid rising unemployment and hunger.

"Workers were largely left to fend for themselves while being locked down," labor leader Josua Mata said.

In Turkey, a few labor leaders were allowed to lay wreaths in Istanbul's Taksim Square but riot police stopped many others from reaching the plaza. The Istanbul governor's office said 212 people were taken into custody for breaching coronavirus restrictions. Turks are barred from leaving home, except to collect essential food and medicine, under a lockdown until May 17 that aims to halt a surge in infections.

In Germany, where previous May Day demonstrations have often turned violent, police deployed thousands of officers and warned that rallies would be halted if marchers failed to follow coronavirus restrictions. Protests in Berlin called for lower rents, higher wages and voiced other concerns. Also marching were far-right coronavirus deniers and opponents of anti-virus measures.

Later Saturday, one of the bigger leftist rallies in Berlin turned violent with protesters throwing bottles and rocks at police and burning garbage containers and wooden pallets on the streets, news agency dpa reported. An unknown number of officers and protesters were injured and several demonstrators were detained.

In Italy, police faced off against a few hundred demonstrators in the northern city of Turin. In Rome, Italy's head of state paid tribute to workers and health care workers.

"Particularly heavy has been the impact from the crisis on female labor and on the access of young people to jobs," Italian President Sergio Mattarella said.

Across the Atlantic in Brazil, thousands of demonstrators backing President Jair Bolsonaro's anti-lockdown stance rallied at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Copacabana beach — one of several such gatherings across the country.

Bolsonaro's office said he flew in a helicopter over a similar rally in the capital, Brasilia, where some demonstrators carried banners urging him to call in the military. There were also protests in Brasilia and other cities against Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic. Brazil has seen over 400,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, a toll second only to the United States.

Governor: Indianapolis 'still reeling' from FedEx shooting

By CASEY SMITH Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana's governor told members of the Sikh community and others who gathered at a downtown Indianapolis football stadium Saturday to remember the eight people killed in a mass shooting at a FedEx warehouse that he knows their anguish from the attack is far from over.

The three-hour event at Lucas Oil Stadium came two weeks after a former FedEx employee fatally shot the eight people, including four members of Indianapolis' Sikh community, before killing himself. Authorities have not released a motive in the April 15 shooting.

Under the stadium's open roof, Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb said in his opening remarks that the capital city "is still reeling from the impact of that dark night."

"Never in my wildest imagination did I see this day or this cause of gathering as a reason for our unification," Holcomb told the hundreds of people in attendance at the stadium where the Indianapolis Colts play. "Why must any day be that dark? Why must tragedy strike and tear a community, tear humanity apart? This pain will for sure persist as we continue to live with the loss in all of our days to come."

In a letter read aloud during the ceremony, former Vice President Mike Pence emphasized particular grief for the Sikh community, whose members "add to the tapestry of this country."

"Know that our hearts and our prayers are with you all," Pence, a former Indiana governor, said in his letter. "We join fellow Hoosiers across the state of Indiana and Americans across the country in expressing our heartfelt condolences. ... You have been in our hearts since that horrific night, and you remain in our prayers today."

A monotheistic faith founded more than 500 years ago in India's Punjab region, Sikhism is the world's fifth-largest religion with about 25 million followers, including about 500,000 in the United States.

Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett said his message to the Sikh community, to immigrants and "to anyone who feels threatened by this act simply because of who they are" is that they are "welcome in Indianapolis, and it is the responsibility of every one of our residents to make sure you know that to be true."

Hogsett, a Democrat, also reiterated his previous calls for changes to gun policy, saying the shooting could have been prevented. He said the city, state and country are "far past due for transformative action."

Authorities have said that Brandon Scott Hole, 19, had two rifles that he was able to purchase legally, even after his mother called police last year to say her son might undertake "suicide by cop." Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears has faced sharp criticism for choosing not to pursue court hearings that could have prevented Hole from accessing the guns.

"When gun violence takes a life, it affects us all," Hogsett said.

Private services for victims from the Sikh community are also expected to take place in the coming week. The proceedings will begin with cremation, followed by up to 20 days of reading of the 1,400-page Guru Granth Sahib scripture.

The victims' families were granted roughly two-dozen fast-tracked visas so relatives overseas can travel for the funeral rites, said Amrith Kaur, legal director at the Sikh Coalition. They're arriving just days before the U.S. restricts travel from India — a response spurred by a rise in COVID-19 cases in the country and

the emergence of potentially dangerous variants of the coronavirus.

Booms in Idaho, Utah buck the curve of slowing US growth

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and KEITH RIDLER Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Two Western states known for their rugged landscapes and wide-open spaces are bucking the trend of sluggish U.S. population growth, which dipped to the lowest level since the Great Depression, though different forces are powering the population booms in Utah and Idaho.

In Utah, births largely drove the fastest growth in the country over the past decade. In neighboring Idaho, newcomers from California and other states helped it capture the second spot.

"I don't ever remember seeing anything like this," said Bill Rauer, executive officer of the Idaho Building Contractors Association in southwest Idaho, the state's most populous area. "(Builders) are running at a breakneck pace right now."

For both states, which have long been lightly populated, the expansion comes with rapid economic growth, sparking concerns about strains on infrastructure, rising housing prices and a sharp increase in the cost of living that could threaten the area's quality of life in the long term.

As the states tucked between the Rocky Mountains and the West Coast enter the next decade, leaders will have to wrestle with how to keep the growth rolling without letting costs spiral out of control for individual households or straining the natural resources that help draw people to the area.

The majority of Idaho's growth, about 60%, has been driven by people moving into the state between 2010 to 2019, according to data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. One in five of those came from California, many of them retirees seeking lower housing prices and some of the most pristine wilderness in the continental U.S.

The biggest growth driver in Utah, by contrast, is new births. As home to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a faith that puts a high value on family, Utah has long been among the states with the highest birth rate, largest households and youngest overall population: 31 years old compared to 38 in the U.S. as a whole in 2019.

While the fertility rate has slowed a bit in recent years, natural growth still accounts for about 70% of the state's boom. "We're still a lot younger and we still have more kids than most states," said Mallory Bateman, a senior research analyst at the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.

In-migration was also strong. The state added tech jobs and the landscape of snowy mountains and five national parks promised a strong work-life balance. The state clocked a growth rate of 18.4%, more than double the national rate.

That growth has helped power the state's largest economic expansion, increased tourism and expanded the middle class. Amid the massive economic upheaval wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, both Utah and Idaho have been ranked among states with the lowest unemployment rates.

But with that good news comes strain. In 2019, Utah housing prices surged nearly 11%, while incomes rose less than 4%. That trend has accelerated during the pandemic as people spending more time at home look to move to larger spaces while fewer people are putting their houses up for sale.

It's making it harder for young Utah families to follow the path their parents took. Matthew Clewett, 26, and his wife, Bethany, want to have a large family like the ones they grew up in, but high housing costs could put a serious damper on that plan. The couple bid on at least 10 houses in northern Utah before they could close on a starter home for themselves and their infant daughter in March.

"That was the American Dream back then: You got a job, you got married ... and you didn't really have to have a ton of money to be able to afford a home," said Clewett, who is the public policy director of the Salt Lake Board of Realtors. "Nowadays it's much harder ... for the millennial generation to get into a property."

The roots of Utah's housing crisis go back in part to the Great Recession, when many older construction workers decided to get out of the business after the crash of 2008. The labor shortage persisted even as the economy improved and demand for housing increased, said Dejan Eskic, a researcher with the Kem

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C. Gardner Policy Institute who studies housing. There's also less land available to build on.

"For the majority of middle-class Americans, their wealth is tied up in their home. It's been like that for decades," Eskic said. "If you're not able to get into a home, how do you build your household wealth and set your family up?"

Utah Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost, a Democrat, has watched many of her middle-class neighbors leave downtown Salt Lake City over the past two decades as the cost of living increases.

"If you are a dual-income family but your income is less than \$150,000 to \$200,000, you can't afford a house," she said. "Nobody should have to struggle to live on that kind of money."

Lawmakers in the GOP-dominated state took some steps toward addressing the housing crisis this year, setting aside millions for increasing and preserving affordable housing.

The growth also has provoked some political upheaval in the deeply conservative state. In recent years, voters have bucked Republican lawmakers, passing citizen-initiated liberal measures including the legalization of medical marijuana and Medicaid expansion. Still, few expect Utah to turn blue anytime soon. State lawmakers have already passed stricter rules for ballot measures and the lone congressional Democrat was voted out of office last year.

Similarly, Idaho's growth has yet to cause major shifts in what is one of the most conservative political climates in the nation. Both Utah and Idaho have grown more racially and ethnically diverse over the past decade, but remain less so than the nation as a whole.

For new northern Idaho resident Derrell Hartwick, beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities were big draws to Coeur d'Alene. He first visited the area in the early 2010s, then moved there from Arkansas in late 2019 after landing a job as the president and CEO of the Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Once I came back for the interview, I fell in love with it and was hoping and praying for the opportunity," he said.

'London to Delhi' cycle raises cash for India's COVID crisis

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — For British IT consultant Yogen Shah, India's COVID-19 crisis is deeply personal.

The pictures of people hooked up to oxygen bottles on the streets of New Delhi and patients sharing beds in overcrowded hospitals remind him of his uncle in India, who recently contracted the disease.

So Shah joined volunteers from one of Britain's largest Hindu temples who set out to raise 500,000 pounds (\$690,000) by racking up 7,600 kilometers (4,722 miles) on stationary bikes — roughly the distance from London to Delhi — in 48 hours.

"I think every single person of Indian origin will have someone affected over there," Shah, 40, said Saturday outside the temple in northwest London. "And anywhere around the world that you have COVID, you feel for that human being, you feel for that person, whether they're Indian origin or not."

The ride at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in London's Neasden neighborhood is one of many fundraising drives taking place across the U.K. as members of the Indian diaspora seek to help India battle the raging pandemic. The British Asian Trust, a charity founded by Prince Charles, has launched an emergency appeal to buy oxygen concentrators, which can extract oxygen from the air when hospital supplies run short.

India recorded more than 400,000 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, the first time daily infections topped that milestone. The country reported 3,523 coronavirus-related deaths in the past 24 hours, raising overall virus fatalities to 211,853. Experts believe both figures are undercounts.

In normal times, British Indian families might respond to a crisis in the homeland by buying a plane ticket and going back to help their relatives. But these aren't normal times for the 1.4 million people in the U.K. who have Indian roots.

Looking for a way to help, members of the Hindu temple in Neasden decided to organize a fundraiser that would be socially distanced and attract young people. They decided on the bikeathon because they also wanted to bring London and New Delhi closer together — connecting the two capitals in spirit even though most travel is barred by COVID-19 restrictions.

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The need is dire, but so is the message of solidarity, said Tarun Patel, one of the organizers.

"India is starving for oxygen," he said. "We need to help."

Organizers arranged a bank of 12 bikes in front of the temple, its domes and turrets just peaking out from scaffolding. Joining with temples in Leicester and Chigwell, they attracted 750 riders.

Each volunteer gets an hour on the bike — 50 minutes to clock up the kilometers and 10 minutes to sanitize the bike before handing it over. Each volunteer has set up a fundraising page that goes toward an overall fundraising goal.

The efforts won't solve India's pandemic catastrophe, but the bikers of Britain want everyone in India to know that they did their best to ride to the rescue.

"You are not alone in this fight," Patel said. "We are with you. We may geographically be thousands of miles away, but we are with you."

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 2, the 122nd day of 2021. There are 243 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 2, 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa's first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.

On this date:

In 1519, artist Leonardo da Vinci died at Cloux, France, at age 67.

In 1670, the Hudson's Bay Co. was chartered by England's King Charles II.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Virginia; he died eight days later.

In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory was organized.

In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Buck v. Bell*, upheld 8-1 a Virginia law allowing the forced sterilization of people to promote the "health of the patient and the welfare of society."

In 1957, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., died at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

In 1972, a fire at the Sunshine silver mine in Kellogg, Idaho, claimed the lives of 91 workers who succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died in Washington at age 77.

In 1982, the Weather Channel made its debut.

In 2005, Pfc. Lynndie England, the young woman pictured in some of the most notorious Abu Ghraib photos, pleaded guilty at Fort Hood, Texas, to mistreating prisoners. (However, a judge later threw out the plea agreement; England was later convicted in a court-martial and received a three-year sentence, of which she served half.)

In 2010, record rains and flash floods in Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee caused more than 30 deaths and submerged the Grand Ole Opry House stage. Actor Lynn Redgrave died in Kent, Connecticut, at age 67.

In 2018, two Black men who'd been arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything settled with the company for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education; they settled separately with the city for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise to set up a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

In 2019, North Carolina lawyer Cheslie Kryst won the Miss USA crown; for the first time, Black women held the titles of Miss USA, Miss Teen USA and Miss America.

Ten years ago: Osama bin Laden was killed by elite American forces at his Pakistan compound, then quickly buried at sea after a decade on the run. Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper won a coveted majority government in Canadian elections while the opposition Liberals and Quebec separatists suffered a shattering defeat.

Five years ago: The first U.S. cruise ship in nearly 40 years pulled into Havana Harbor, restarting commercial travel on waters that had served as a stage for a half-century of Cold War hostility.

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One year ago: A New York City police officer was caught on video pointing a stun gun at a man and violently taking him to the ground over an alleged social distancing violation. (The officer was stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty the next day; he and other officers later faced disciplinary charges.) Russia and Pakistan each reported their biggest one-day spikes in new coronavirus infections. Texas topped 1,000 new coronavirus cases for the third day in a row, numbers that coincided with the expiration of the state's "stay at home" order. "Game of Thrones" actor Hafthor Bjornsson set a deadlift world record by lifting 1,104 pounds at a gym in his native Iceland.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is 85. Former International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge is 79. Actor-activist Bianca Jagger is 76. Country singer R.C. Bannon is 76. Actor David Suchet (SOO'-shay) is 75. Singer-songwriter Larry Gatlin is 73. Rock singer Lou Gramm (Foreigner) is 71. Actor Christine Baranski is 69. Singer Angela Bofill is 67. Fashion designer Donatella Versace is 66. Actor Brian Tochi is 62. Movie director Stephen Daldry is 61. Actor Elizabeth Berridge is 59. Country singer Ty Herndon is 59. Actor Mitzi Kapture is 59. Commentator Mika Brzezinski is 54. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb is 53. Rock musician Todd Sucherman (Styx) is 52. Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson (AKA The Rock) is 49. Former soccer player David Beckham is 46. Rock singer Jeff Gutt (goot) (Stone Temple Pilots) is 45. Actor Jenna Von Oy is 44. Actor Kumail Nanjiani is 43. Actor Ellie Kemper is 41. Actor Robert Buckley is 40. Actor Gaius (GY'-ehs) Charles is 38. Pop singer Lily Rose Cooper is 36. Olympic gold medal figure skater Sarah Hughes is 36. Actor Thomas McDonell is 35. Actor Kay Panabaker is 31. NBA All-Star Paul George is 31. Princess Charlotte of Cambridge is six.