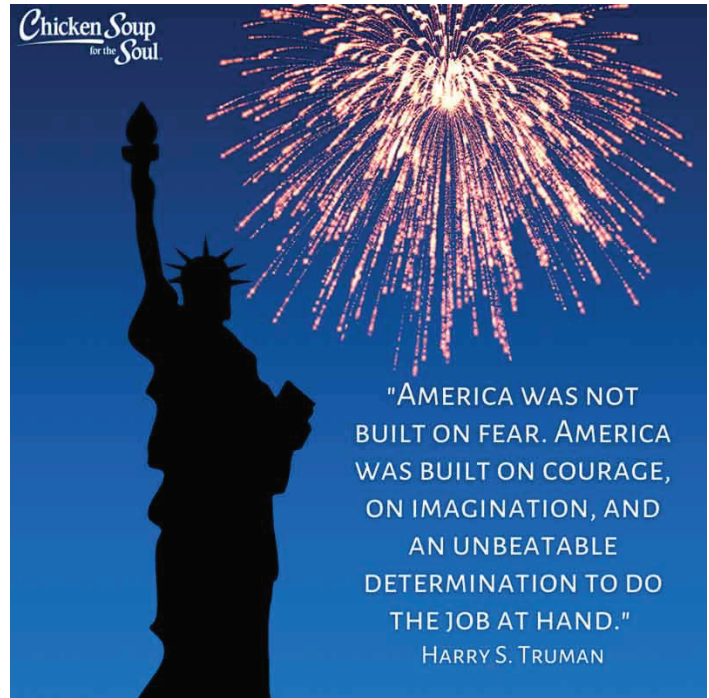


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- [2- Weekly Church Calendar](#)
- [3- John Sieh Agency Help Wanted Ad](#)
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- [24- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [25- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
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HIRING!**

## Day shift and night shift assemblers!

**Competitive starting wage  
with monthly tier increases!  
Full benefit package!**

**To apply:  
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call Diane at 605-448-2929**

**Britton**



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Wall Systems**  
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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, July 4, 2021**

Communion in Worship

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

NO Bible Study 10:00 AM

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**

**Conde Worship 9:00 AM**

**Groton Worship 11:00 AM**

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

**Sunday, July 4, 2021**

9am Worship w/

Pastor Jacobson/ Comm

**Monday, July 5, 2021**

No Bible Study

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

7 p.m. Sarah Circle

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**

9am Worship

## 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, July 4, 2021**

8 a.m.: Bible Study

Worship with Communion

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

11 a.m.: Zion's Worship

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**

8 a.m.: Bible Study

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

11 a.m.: Zion's Worship

To submit your monthly or weekly church calendar, email to  
[news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)



**JOIN  
OUR TEAM**

**John Sieh Insurance Agency 702 S Main, Aberdeen SD is hiring a Personal Lines Sales & Customer Service Representative, full benefits, competitive wage, full time-40 hours per week, licensing necessary but not required to apply. Proficiency in Excel and Microsoft Office programs, phone skills with professional etiquette required. Primary job responsibility is to service & sell personal lines policy for the agency and assist other producers in the office with quoting and new applications, claims, payments and helping customers with questions or concerns. Self-motivated and team player are required for this position. Please email resume to [kathy@jsains.com](mailto:kathy@jsains.com) or drop off at 702 S Main, Aberdeen, SD 57401. (0629.0713)**



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

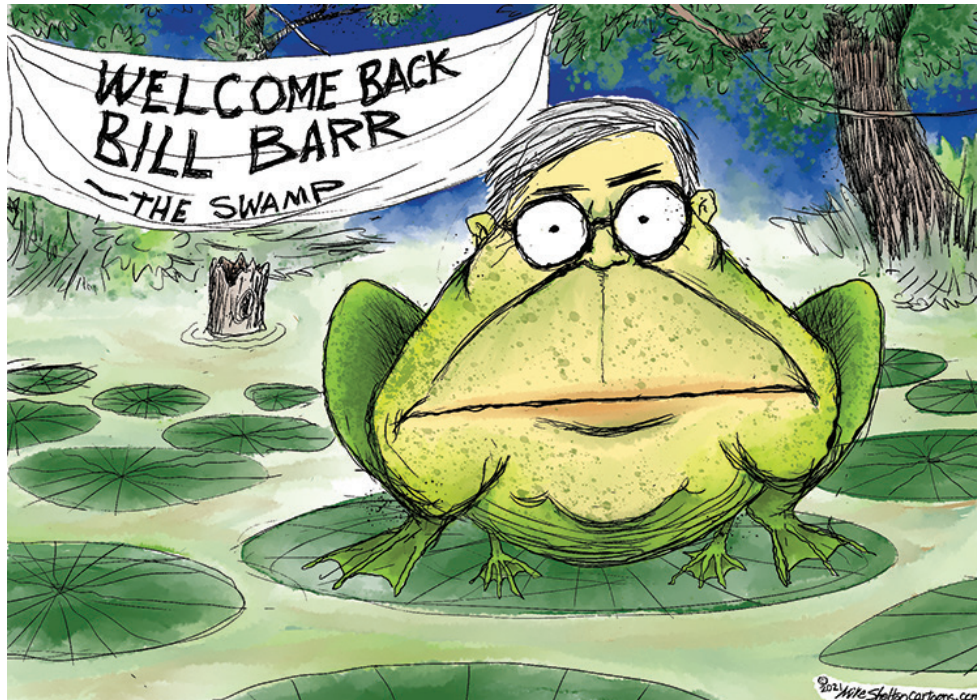
*Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.*



LUKE 24: 30, 31 ☞

“Emmaus” by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (1918)

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## BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. What young man went to sleep and fell out of a window while listening to Paul speak? *Eutychus, Goliath, Peter, Stephen*

3. From Daniel 6, why was he (Daniel) thrown into the lions' den by King Darius? *War spy, Caught praying to God, Deep in debt, Affair with king's daughter*

4. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is/was translated as? *Ruth, Dorcas, Sarah, Esther*

5. What did Samuel's mother bring him when she visited year after year? *Sweet cake, Letters from friends, Flute, Little coat*

6. From John 12, which disciple stole from the treasury? *Thomas, Judas, James, John*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Eutychus; 3) Caught praying to God; 4) Dorcas; 5) Little coat (robe); 6) Judas

*Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com)*

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by Healthy Exchanges

### Southwestern Pasta Salad

Call it a reunion, a get-together or just a picnic in the backyard. What can be better than gathering together with family and celebrating with food, fellowship and fun? Take this layered pasta salad to the next "potluck" and be sure to enjoy yourself!

1 1/2 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained

1/4 cup fat-free Ranch dressing

2 cups finely shredded lettuce

1 cup chopped fresh tomato

1/4 cup chopped green onion

1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper

3/4 cup fat-free mayonnaise

1/2 cup chunky salsa

3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese

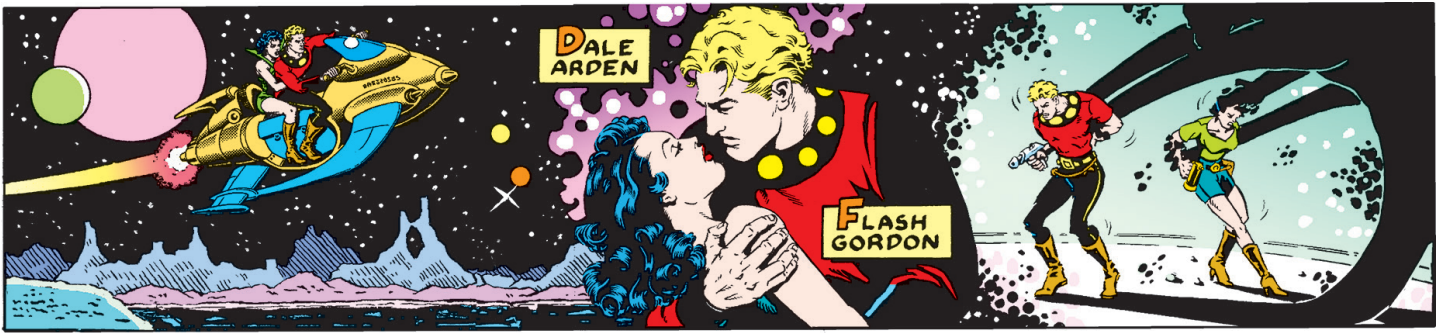
1. In a medium bowl, combine rotini pasta and Ranch dressing. In an 8-by-8-inch dish, layer lettuce, rotini pasta, tomato, onion and green pepper. 2. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise and salsa. Evenly spread dressing mixture over vegetables. Sprinkle Cheddar cheese evenly over top. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Divide into 6 servings.

\* Each serving equals: 143 calories, 3g fat, 7g protein, 22g carb., 465mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Vegetable, 1/2 Meat.

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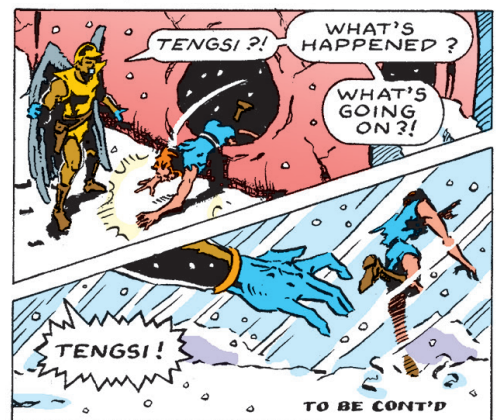
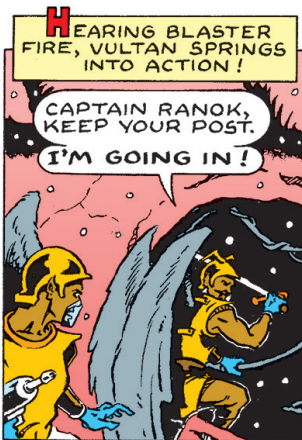
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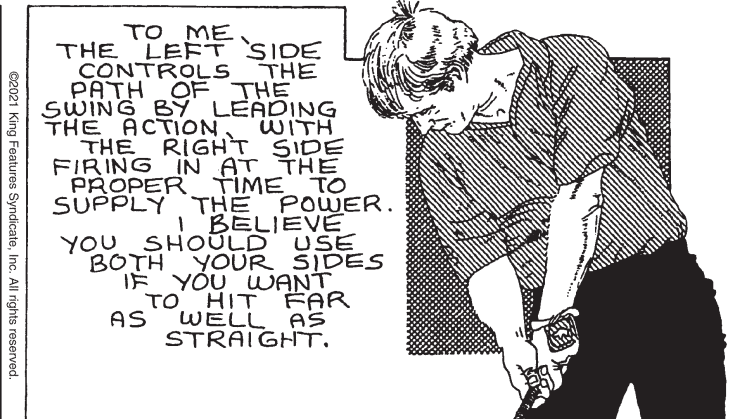
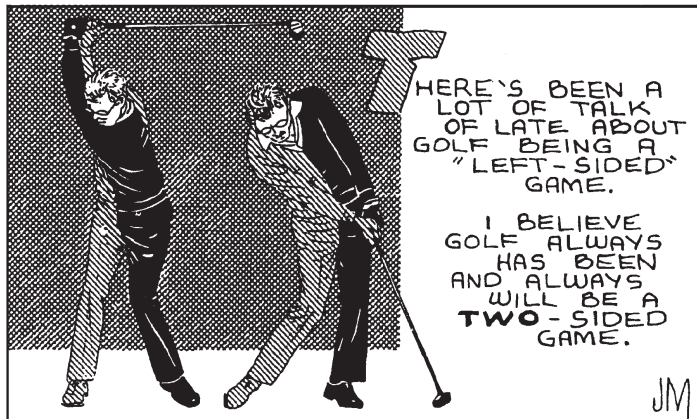


## FLASH GORDON

6-27 By JIM KEEFE



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## What Is Treatment for a Fatty Liver?

---

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 77-year-old woman. I am 5 feet, 2 inches tall and weigh 107 pounds. I take no medication. When I went to the doctor last week, he found that my alkaline phosphatase was 176, my ALT 10, and my AST 11. He told me I had fatty liver and to get a scan, but I had no way to get to the place to have it done. He did not say anything else about it. I have no symptoms. Does this sound like fatty liver to you? I did not really like my doctor, but with my insurance it is hard to change doctors.

If I do have fatty liver, is there anything I can do for it? -- J.F.

ANSWER: Fatty liver is an increasingly common problem. Risk factors include being overweight and having diabetes, high blood pressure and abnormal blood cholesterol levels. Alcohol use is also a cause of fatty liver, and all people with fatty liver are strongly recommended to abstain from alcohol entirely. The primary treatment is diet and weight loss.

It sounds like there was some missed communication between you and your doctor. Fatty liver is a possibility; however, it does not seem likely to me, as you have not identified any of the risk factors, and you are certainly not overweight (if anything, you are a bit underweight). Further, although the alkaline phosphatase can be elevated in fatty liver (yours is just a bit high), it is more common for AST and ALT to be elevated, which yours are not.

An ultrasound scan is a good, but not definitive, way of looking for fatty liver. A liver biopsy is still the definitive test, but it's often not done in people whose history, physical exam and ultrasound are all suggestive.

A slightly abnormal alkaline phosphatase does not necessarily mean you have a liver problem. Bone issues (fractures, Paget's disease of bone, high thyroid and parathyroid hormone levels) can cause a high alkaline phosphatase, too. Additional liver tests -- checking the GGT level or specifically what kind of alkaline phosphatase you have (by isoenzyme analysis) -- can make the source of the elevated alkaline phosphatase clearer.

Getting an ultrasound scan and additional blood tests is a reasonable place to start. Unfortunately, lack of confidence in your physician is a different problem. If you really can't get a new doctor, then you need to have a conversation about proceeding with evaluation in such a way that you can do so while being confident that you are getting good advice.

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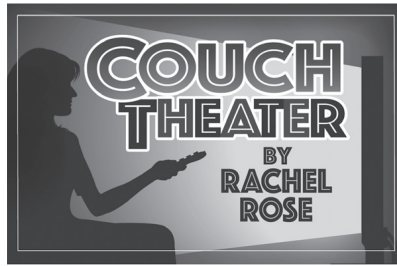
DEAR DR. ROACH: A few years ago, I read that the herbal supplement feverfew may help with some migraines. Having suffered with severe migraine for over 50 years, I decided to try it. I take one capsule four times a day, and it has completely rid me of my migraines. Would you please mention it again? -- B.J.F.

ANSWER: Feverfew is a common herbal remedy to prevent migraine, and although not all trials have shown benefit, the majority of studies I have read showed that it is more effective than a placebo and the side effect risk is very small. Other nonprescription treatments that have been shown in most studies to be beneficial include magnesium, riboflavin and coenzyme Q10. They are generally safe and well-tolerated, and I hope others may get the same relief you have found.

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

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**Summer of Soul** (PG-13) — Overshadowed by the Woodstock festival held the same summer, the Harlem Cultural Festival celebrated African-American music, culture and Black pride. But footage of the multiple concerts sat idle and unseen for decades despite featuring some of the biggest names in popular music, like Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight and the Fifth Dimension. More than 50 years later, the 1969 festival is finally brought forth in full color by musician and first-time director Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson. This remarkable treasure of 1960s Black culture was named the 2021 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize winner. (Hulu, theaters)

**Monsters at Work** — Ever wondered what becomes of graduates of Monsters University? Like many of us, recent grad Tylor Tuskmon finds out the work world isn’t always what we anticipate. Starting his new job as a mechanic on the Monsters, Inc. facilities team, he finds that instead of scares, it’s laughter they’re after. This animated series sees the return of familiar “Monsters, Inc.” characters Sulley and Mike, along with a host of new ones, including Val (voiced by Mindy Kaling) and Fritz (Henry Winkler). Four weekly episodes begin airing July 7. (Disney+)

**Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil** (R) — If you missed this 1997 mystery thriller, pour yourself a bourbon neat and get comfortable. Highfalutin parties, eccentric Southern locals and romantic betrayal are supporting cast members to a high-society murder that centers the plot. Based on the best-selling novel by John Berendt, “Midnight” is directed by Clint Eastwood and stars Kevin Spacey, John Cusack and Jude Law.

It’s based on real events that occurred in 1981 in Savannah, Georgia, and was filmed on location there. If you love moonlight, magnolias and Old South finery — as well as a whodunit and why — this movie is a dream. (HBOMax)

**Luxe Listings Sydney, Season 1** — I can’t get enough of programs that remind me just how house poor I am. Even better is when they take place in locales I’ve never visited. If you, too, are curious what the power-posing, suit wearing, over-made-up men and women of real estate “down under” are doing, this is the series for you. This Amazon Original series features beautiful and pretentious people selling beautiful and pretentious homes for ridiculous prices throughout the coastal Australian real estate market. (Amazon Prime Video)



Courtesy Searchlight Pictures

## B.B. King in “Summer of Soul”

**High on the Hog** — This four-episode Netflix original documentary series traces the connection of traditional and modern-day Black cuisine back to its basic roots in pre-slavery Africa. Chef and food writer Stephen Satterfield travels to Western Africa and throughout the American South to learn how Black cuisine evolved, or sometimes, stayed exactly the same over centuries. With the help of African-American culinary historians and cultural preservationists, Satterfield explores how food traditions bridge the generations on two continents. While the interviews with locals are at times sleepy, the emotional and spiritual reactions Satterfield experiences are striking. Each episode is historically informative and culturally relevant. (Netflix)



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1. What song was Jan and Dean's only No. 1 hit?
2. Where did Procol Harum get its name?
3. Which artist released "You Should Hear How She Talks About You"?
4. What was the Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth" about?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Sometimes in the mornin' when shadows are deep, I lie here beside you just watching you sleep."

## Answers

1. "Surf City," by Jan and Dean in 1963. The lyrics claimed that in Surf City there were two girls for every boy. The song was written by Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys.

2. From a cat, per the legend. Originally known as

the Paramounts and then the Pinewoods, the band took its name from a Burmese Blue named Procul Harun.

3. Charlie Dore, in 1981. But it was Melissa Manchester's 1982 version that netted a Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

4. Although often considered an anti-war song, it was actually about street riots on Sunset Strip in response to youth curfews in 1966.

5. "My Cup Runneth Over," by Ed Ames in 1967. The song was used in the 1966 Broadway musical "I Do! I Do!" While many others covered the song, it was the Ames version that was most popular.

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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

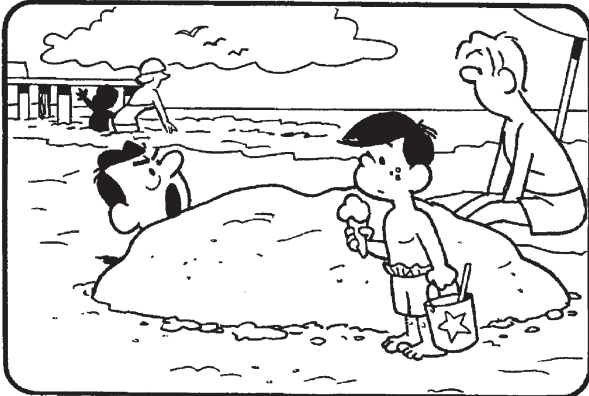


## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Wagner

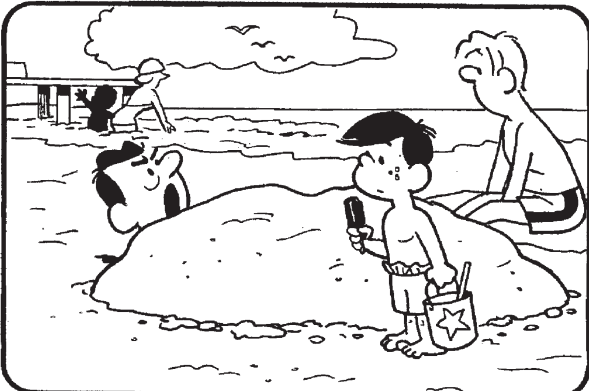


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Birds are moved. 2. Cloud is smaller. 3. Trunks are different. 4. Pier support is removed. 5. Ice cream is missing. 6. Umbrella is missing.

"We have a special on camouflaged golf balls from the Officers' Club."



- Get cobwebs off a window screen with a lint roller.
- Want to make that summer at-home pedicure last? Don't skip the base coat or a UV topcoat. The base coat will allow the color to adhere evenly and better. Then the topcoat will protect the color from the sun while giving it a little extra shine.
- "Use an over-the-door shoe holder to house your makeup and hair accessories, plus jewelry and other personal items. You can trim a curtain or piece of fabric to fit over the length of it, and tie it to the top if it looks too messy in your room." —*M.K. in North Carolina*
- Use this trick to freshen your stuffed animals. Dust with baking soda and put several together in a large paper grocery bag until it's half full. Fold the top of the bag down and

shake vigorously. Remove the stuffed friends and shake off any excess baking soda. For good measure, put the dusted-off toys in a low- or no-heat dryer cycle for 10-15 minutes.

- Hashbrowns can be made on a waffle iron. Coat liberally with canola oil or butter-flavored nonstick spray, and add shredded potatoes and finely diced onion. Allow the iron to cook the potatoes to your desired level of crispness, and flip out both sides onto a plate. They will be both crisp and soft!

- Honey has amazing properties, and one of them is its antiseptic powers. You can even use it on pimples. Just a tiny dab will help keep bacteria responsible for breakouts from taking over.

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

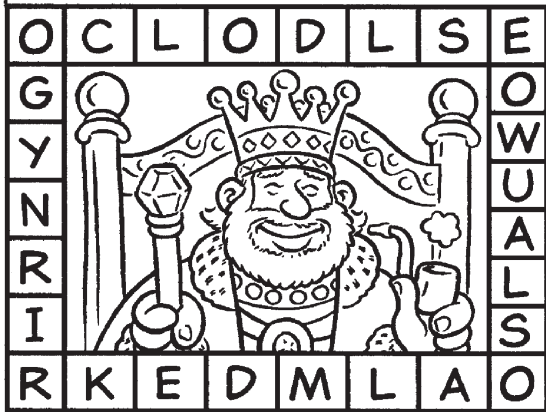
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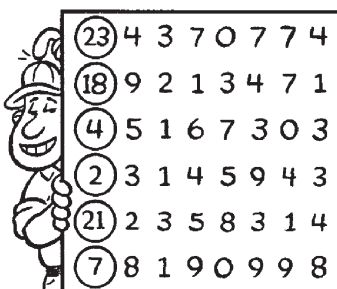
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**THE HAPPY KING!** Find the first line of a famous nursery rhyme by reading every other letter as you go around the frame clockwise.



## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



### MEMORY MAGIC!

Hand the card at left to a friend and state that you have memorized all of the numbers on it. To prove it, when he gives you a circled number, you tell him what the seven-digit number to the right of it is.

**SECRET:** Mentally, take the number your friend gives you, add 11 to it and reverse it. This gives you the first two digits of the number you've "memorized." Then you add these two digits together to get the next digit. For each number, add the previous two digits. When this sum is two digits long, use only the second digit. Example:  $23 + 11 = 34$ . Reversed gives you 43, the first two digits of number. Next,  $4 + 3$  gives you 7, the next number. Seven plus three is 10, and so on.

Starting at O in the lower right-hand corner, read: "Old King Cole was a merry old soul."

**MONEY MATTERS!** Which would you rather have, an old one-hundred-dollar bill or a new one?



Illustrated by David Coulson

Take the old bill. An old one-hundred-dollar bill is worth 99 dollars more than a new one-dollar bill.

**THE SPIRIT OF '76!** When you finish this magic square, each row, column and diagonal will add up to 76. Fill in the empty squares with the numbers 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. Trial and error is the best way to solve it.

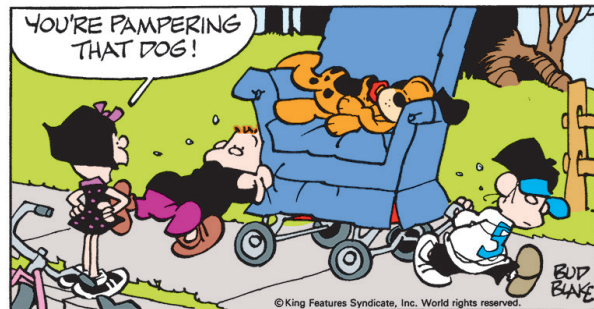
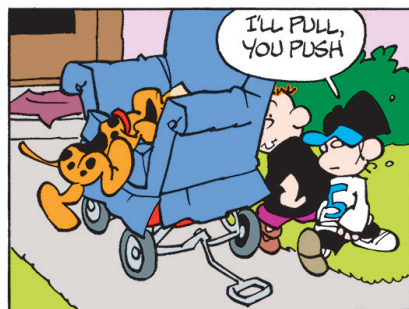
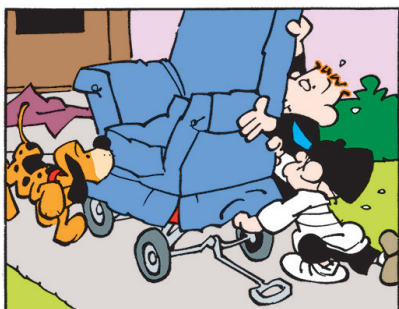
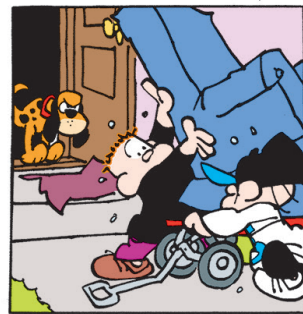
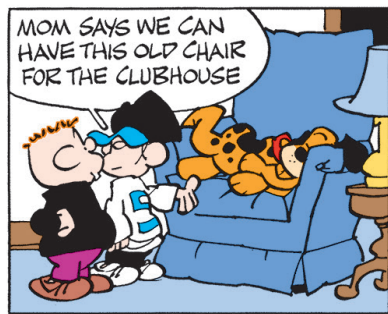
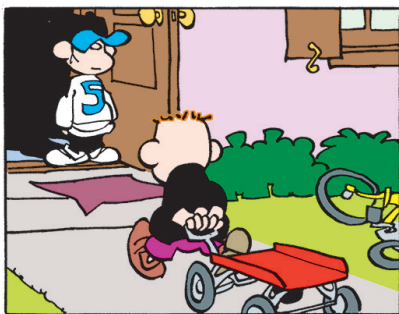


	21	26	
25			22
	28	19	
20			27

1st row: 18, 21, 26, 11, 2nd row: 25, 12, 17, 22, 3rd row: 13, 28, 19, 16, 4th row: 20, 15, 14, 27, it.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Pack cargo
- 5 Billboards
- 8 On — with
- 12 Vagrant
- 13 Old Oldsmobile
- 14 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 15 Actress Falco
- 16 Rep.'s rival
- 17 Apple product
- 18 Criminal's "why"
- 20 Latin love
- 22 Whiskey variety
- 26 Dishonor
- 29 Succor
- 30 Blue
- 31 Runner's tempo

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
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		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 32 Greek H
- 33 "Three Sisters" sister
- 34 Last (Abbr.)
- 35 Nay undoer
- 36 Void
- 37 Outing for two couples
- 40 Bedouin
- 41 Boston athlete
- 45 Wrinkly fruit
- 47 Dhabi predecessor
- 49 "— la Douce"
- 50 Thaw
- 51 Allow
- 52 Pants part
- 53 Adams and Schumer
- 54 Grant's foe
- 55 Vegas game
- DOWN**
- 1 Son of Noah
- 2 Commotion
- 3 Life story
- 4 "Alas ..."
- 5 "As You Like It" setting
- 6 Actor Billy — Williams
- 7 Neighbor of Kenya
- 8 Self-evident truth
- 9 Pre-game morale booster
- 10 Year in Spain
- 11 "Awesome!"
- 19 Compete
- 21 Club —
- 23 Like some exclusive communities
- 24 Cabin components
- 25 "— the night before ..."
- 26 Tater
- 27 Head light?
- 28 In reality
- 32 Size up
- 33 Washington Monument, e.g.
- 35 Carte lead-in
- 36 Chowd down
- 38 Londoners, e.g.
- 39 Keen
- 42 Nest setting
- 43 One-named supermodel
- 44 Roman censor
- 45 Actress Thurman
- 46 Tiara sparkler
- 48 Spell-off

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

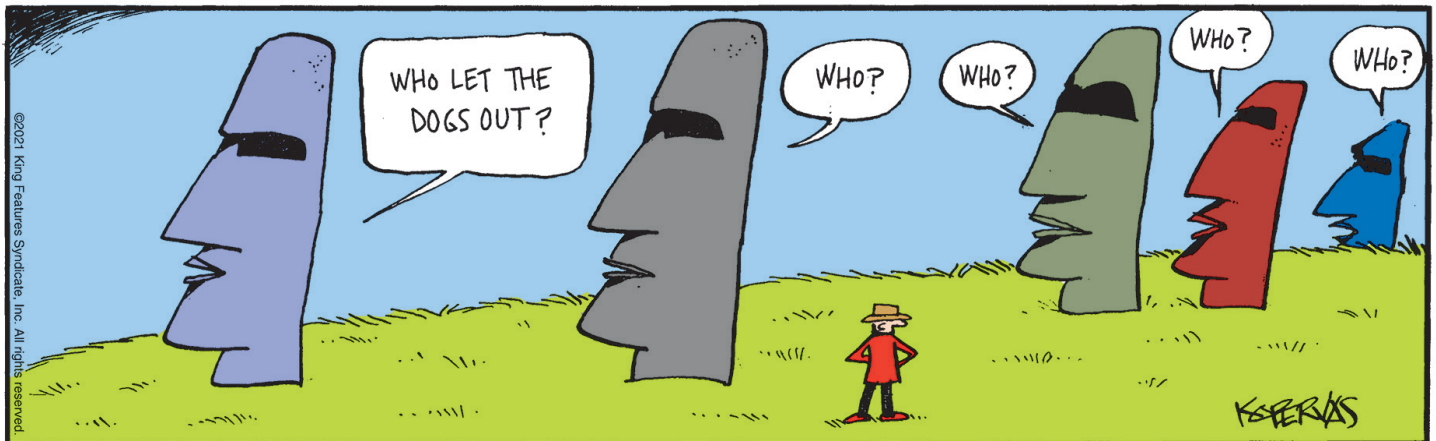
## LAFF - A - DAY



“Try to finish everything.  
We’re all out of doggie bags.”

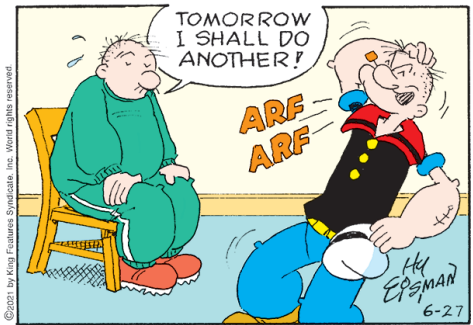
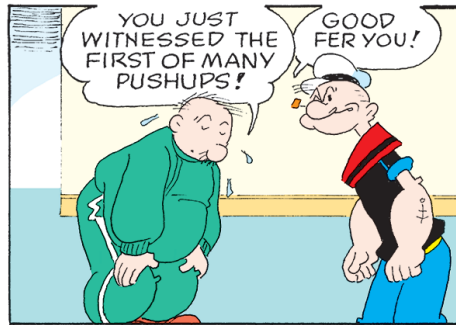
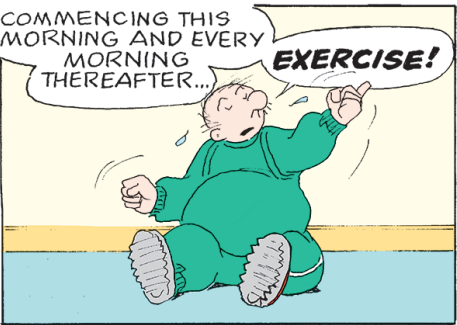
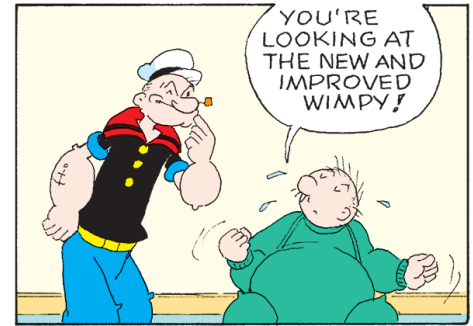
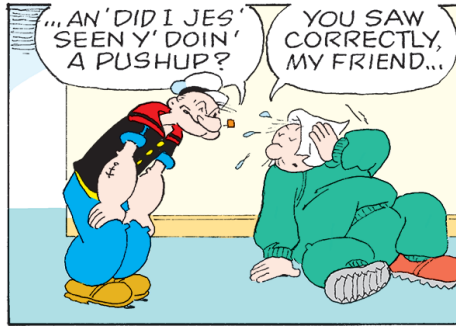
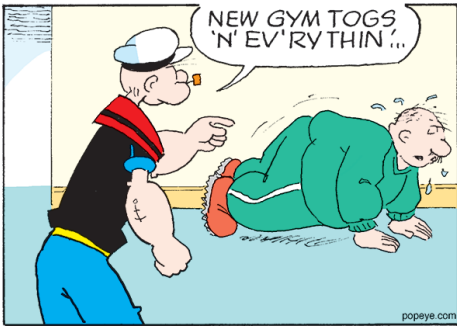
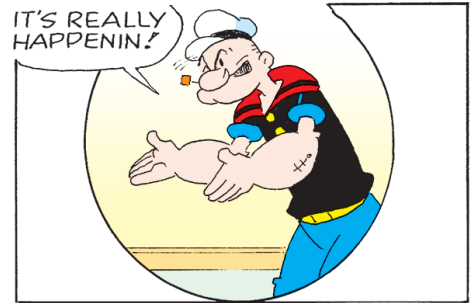
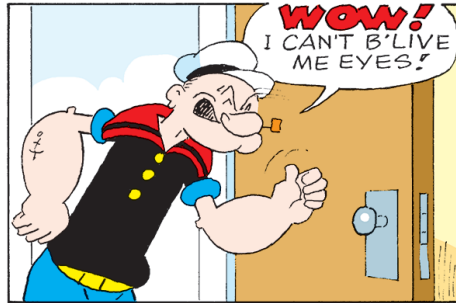
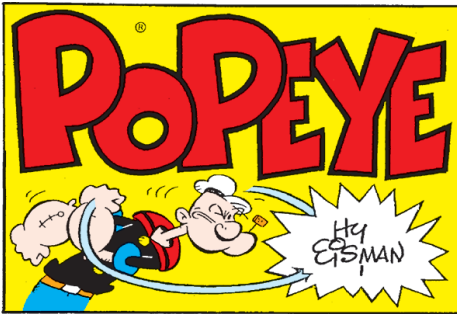
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



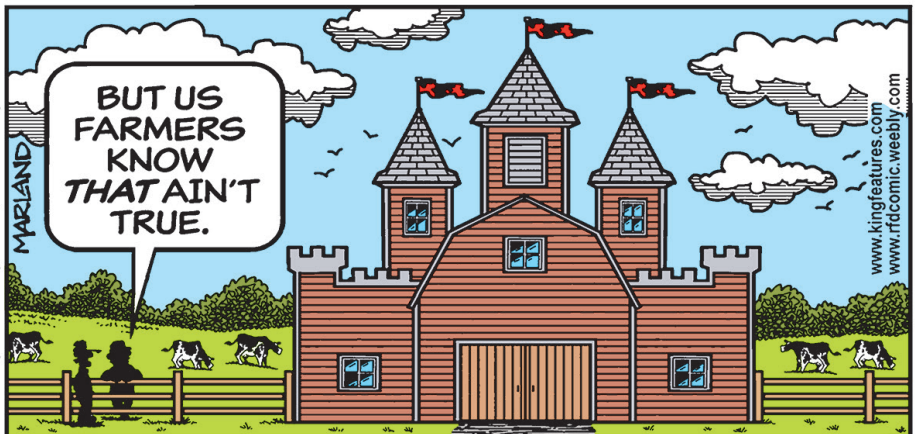
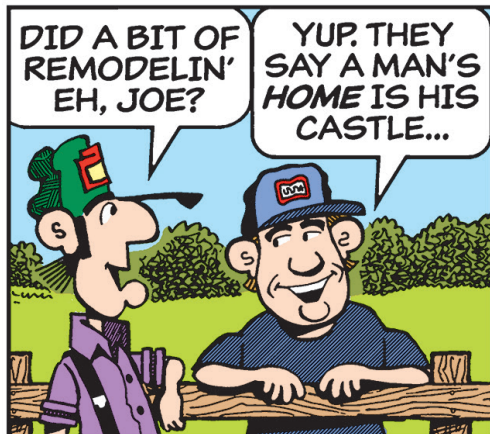
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MARLAND  
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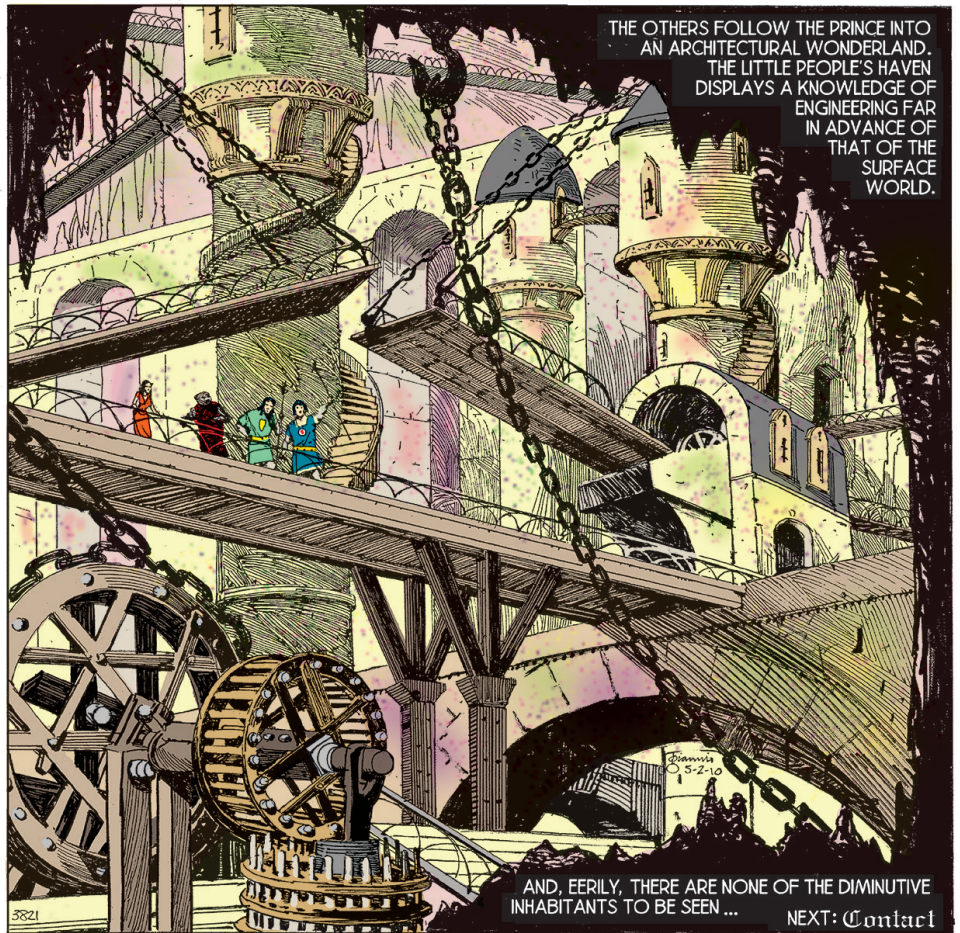
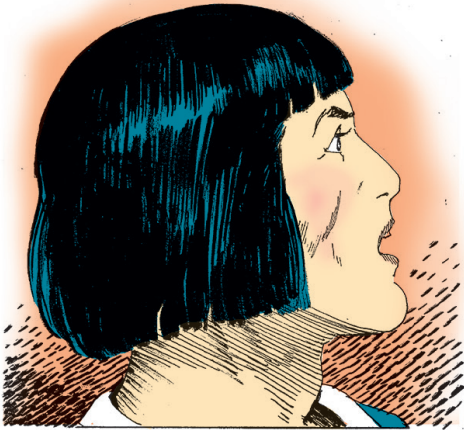
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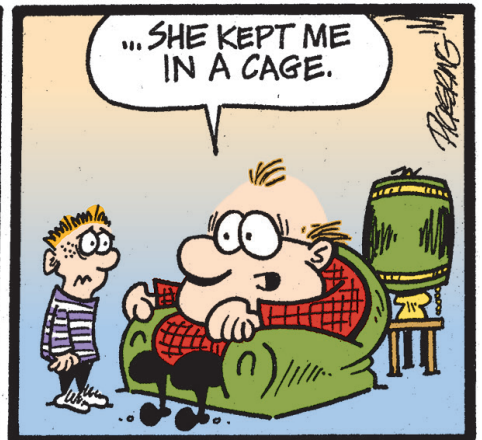
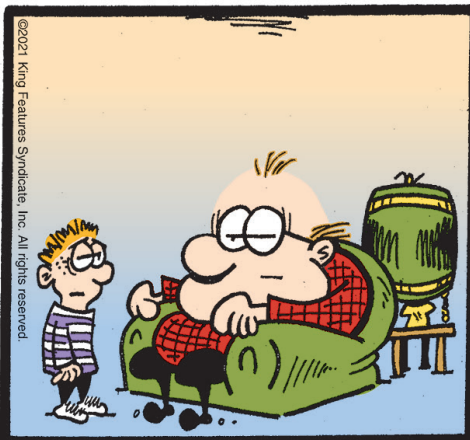
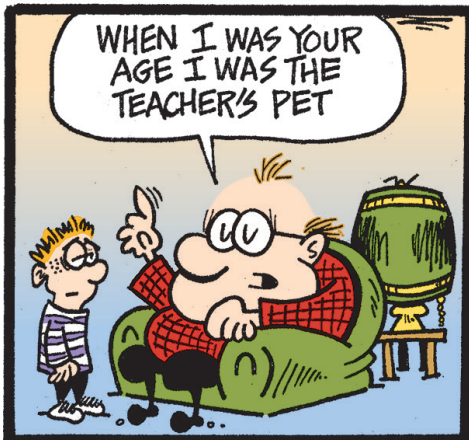
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"BY ARTHUR'S BEARD!" HE GASPS.



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Keeping Track

At some point we need to start making notes. Maybe you're not there yet. But that day might sneak up on you when you discover that you've forgotten to mail the check for your property taxes. Or worse, when a police officer stops you and says your license tags expired — three months ago.

Forgetting the car tag might be excusable if your town no longer sends out notices. Or if you had the same vehicle for eight years and tags were always due the same month each year, and now you have a new vehicle with a different due date.

But when you've lived in the same home for 30 years and you forget to pay the property taxes ... that's when you know you need to start making notes.

A good way to do this is with an annual calendar. When you flip the page, there in bright letters are your tasks for the month. If one of the tasks happens to fall in the first week of the next month, make a note in the last week of the previous month. Use the previous year's calendar, flip through

all the pages, make your notes and you'll be all set.

... Unless those tiny squares just won't do the trick, which is possible if you're still working or have a long list of tasks to accomplish on a weekly basis.

For many years I've used an 8-by-11 notebook. Each page is a week, divided with lines into six boxes, dated. The weekend, when theoretically there are no urgent tasks, gets Saturday and Sunday in one box.

It might seem silly to start keeping such a detailed calendar of things you need to do. After all, haven't you always remembered when the car tags are due? Until you don't, and are reminded by a police officer.

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1. Name the player from Senegal who was the first-round pick for the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2001 NBA Draft.

2. Before Phil Mickelson won the PGA Championship at age 50, who was the oldest golfer to win a major tournament?

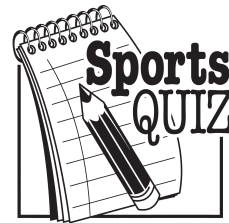
3. What racecar driver, nicknamed "Lone Star JR," won the Indianapolis 500 in 1974, '76 and '80?

4. What Detroit Tigers right-handed pitcher had a 31-6 win-loss record in 1968?

5. "El Derbi Madrilen0" is a match between which two rival Spanish football clubs?

6. What Irish stick-and-ball sport is similar to hurling but is traditionally played only by females?

7. What rapper and Toronto Raptors superfan got into a verbal altercation with the Cleveland Cavaliers' Ken-



by Ryan A. Berenz

drick Perkins in Game 1 of the 2018 Eastern Conference semifinals?

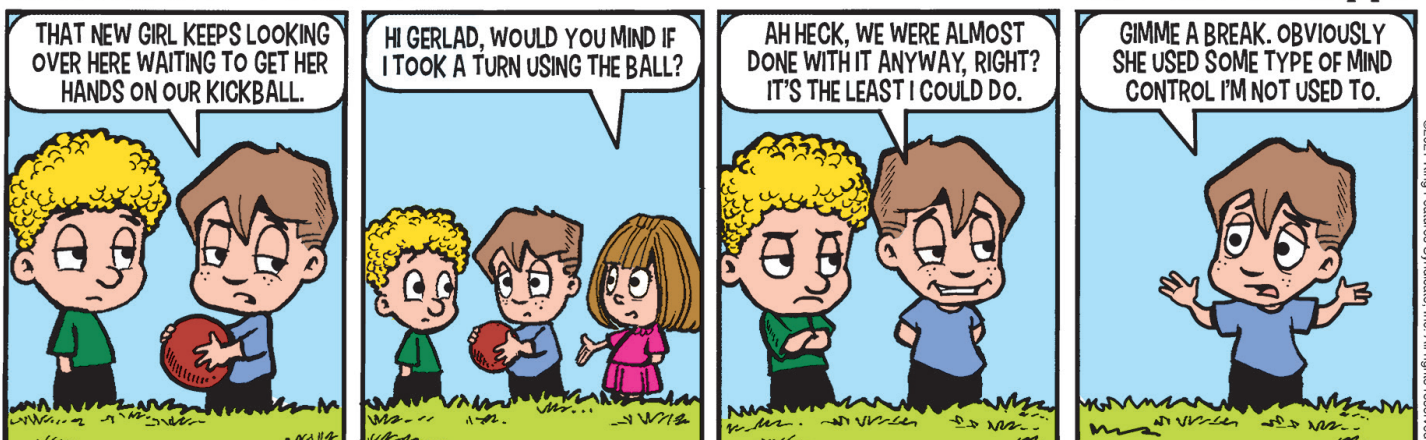
## Answers

1. DeSagana Diop.
2. Julius Boros (1968 PGA Championship at age 48).
3. Johnny Rutherford.
4. Denny McClain.
5. Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid.
6. Camogie.
7. Drake.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Help Fight Off Fleas With Brewer's Yeast

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** Regarding cats with fleas, I have had great success eliminating fleas by adding powdered brewer's yeast to their food. One of my cats even licked it out of her bowl dry. Brewer's yeast is usually available at health food stores. — *Suzanne F., via email*

**DEAR SUZANNE:** Thank you for the tip! Brewer's yeast is a great nutritional supplement for cats and dogs, and many owners have observed that their pets have fewer fleas when it's added to their food. It can certainly be a strong asset to a well-rounded flea fighting strategy.

For cats and small dogs, sprinkle about half a teaspoon on their food at mealtimes. For medium dogs up to 30 pounds, increase that to a teaspoon. For every 30 pounds over that, add a

teaspoon of brewer's yeast. Consistency is important.

Brewer's yeast, unfortunately, does not repel ticks, so pets — even those who stay indoors — should be checked regularly throughout the spring, summer and fall for these little hangers-on. Brush your pet's coat daily to remove flea eggs and any remaining fleas. Owners may need to use stronger flea and tick treatments in addition to brewer's yeast, but it's still a great ally in the fight against fleas.

Other flea prevention strategies include vacuuming your home twice a week during peak season to reduce tracked-in fleas and their eggs, and quickly ruffling your pet's coat with a towel and cleaning their paws when they come indoors. Bathing your dog or cat can help reduce irritation from flea bites, but only use shampoos designed for pets to keep their skin from drying out and becoming more irritated.

*Send your flea-fighting tips to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).*

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* "Bonobo," the common name for apes, was a typo. Researchers are said to have first found the animals in the town of Bolobo, Zaire, but misspelled the town's name as "Bonobo" on the crate in which one was shipped, and the error stuck.

\* Are you a fan of coffee breaks? Then you'll want to head to Stoughton, Wisconsin, for their annual Coffee Break Festival, featuring coffee tastings, "brew-offs" and -- seriously -- bean-spitting contests. Next one's in August.

\* The world's largest padlock measures an impressive 56.8 inches tall, 41.3 inches wide, and 10.2 inches deep, and weighs in at 916 pounds. Sorry, we don't know what it was built to protect ...

\* One of the earliest known vacuum cleaners was so large that it had to be hauled via a horse-drawn carriage. Giant hoses were inserted into customers' windows while a gas-powered motor sucked dirt into a glass container for the shock and awe of onlookers.

\* You can thank the American armed forces for the first McDonald's Drive Thru, which made its debut in Sierra Vista, Arizona, near the Fort Huachuca military installation. Rules prohibited soldiers from wearing their uniforms in public, and no one wanted to switch to civvies just to grab a burger, so restaurant manager David Rich cut a hole in the wall, allowing them to pick up their orders without leaving their vehicles. Unsurprisingly, the idea quickly caught on with the general public.

\* The next time someone tells you they're sweating like a pig, they're actually lying (though, we're sure, unintentionally!): Pigs are born without sweat glands, hence the need for a nice mud puddle to cool off in.  
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Thought for the Day: "The beauty of nature has been one of the great inspirations of my life." -- Jim Henson



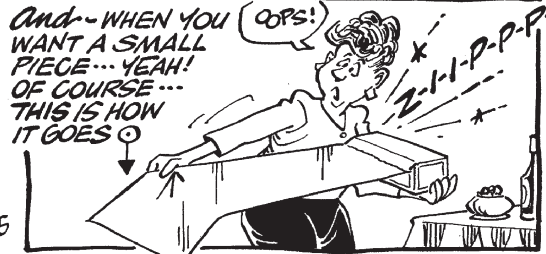
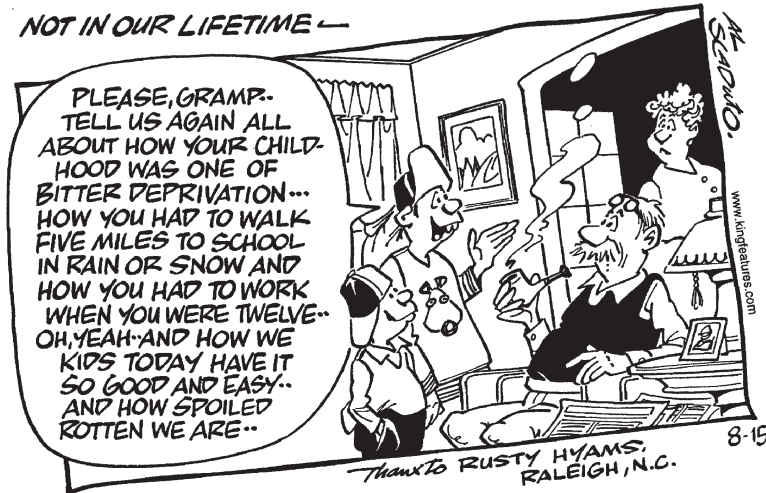
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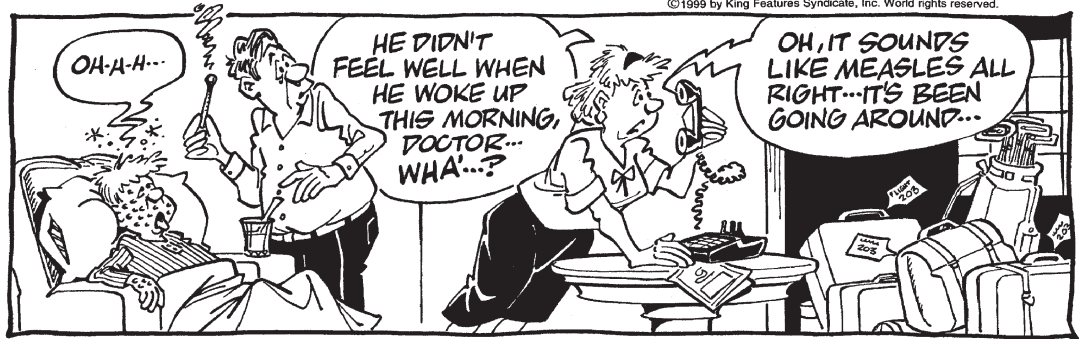
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

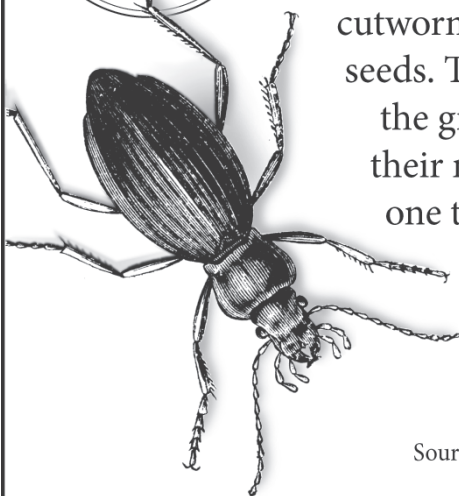
NOT IN OUR LIFETIME —



PERFECT TIMING DEP'T... THE MORNING YOU'RE ALL PACKED AND READY TO START YOUR VACATION AND...



## The Garden Bug



**Ground beetles** are considered beneficial, as the adults are voracious eaters, and prey on bothersome pests such as ants, aphids, flies, cabbage worms, potato beetles, corn earworms, cutworms and lots of slugs. Some even eat weed seeds. They cannot climb, so they are limited to the ground as they forage nocturnally (hence their name). A ground beetle can actually live one to three years, so they can provide much pest control in exchange for a humble home in your garden under some dead leaves. Avoid using any pesticides around them. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.motherearthnews.com](http://www.motherearthnews.com), [www.hoormansoilhealth.com](http://www.hoormansoilhealth.com)

## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### New Presumptives for Agent Orange

The Department of Veterans Affairs has added three presumptives to its list of illnesses caused by Agent Orange: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism.

The new ones are added to: AL amyloidosis, chronic B-cell leukemias, chloracne, diabetes mellitus Type 2, Hodgkin's disease, ischemic heart disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Parkinson's disease, peripheral neuropathy early-onset, porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers and soft tissue sarcomas.

We have *Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs* to thank for that, the 1986 class-action lawsuit that continues to give and give. If you previously filed for benefits for the three new illnesses, your case will now automatically be reviewed. No need to refile. Each time a new illness is added, *Nehmer* means that any previous

claims for illnesses will be reviewed and disability pay will be retroactive to the date of the initial claim.

But that's not all. The VA will now consider making a list of respiratory illnesses into presumptives. They're calling it "particulate matter pollution," coming from the burn pits, as well as sandstorm dust, pollution, fuels, vehicle exhaust and dirt from farming or construction. Illnesses they're looking at include asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for those who served in the Persian Gulf War after Sept. 19, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War.

When it comes to air-quality presumptives, one wonders about the incinerator outside Naval Air Facility Atsugi in Japan that ran from 1985 to 2001, spewing 90 tons of medical and industrial waste daily. The VA website says there is no scientific evidence that the incinerator caused risk of disease and therefore no presumptive illnesses ... yet the [med.navy.mil](http://med.navy.mil) site has many medical links, including one from 1994 that says air monitoring indicated there was a "significantly elevated risk to human health" from those incinerator emissions. In 2001, it followed up with a 574-page [Human Health Risk](#)

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



## Let's Hear It for the Interns

Identifying bills to cosponsor, writing memos on proposed legislation, answering constituent calls, and compiling news stories – this is a day in the life of an intern in my Congressional office.

With only 15 full-time staffers among our four offices, it requires a full team effort to optimally serve over 880,000 constituents across South Dakota and our interns play an integral part in making that happen.

As much as the internship program helps our offices run efficiently, it also provides our interns with a valuable educational experience.

From learning the basics of a professional office to better understanding the innerworkings of the legislative branch, to developing writing and policy analysis skills, a lot is to be gained over a semester or summer session.

A commonality among our interns is that they grew up in or have ties to South Dakota, yet each one brings a unique perspective to the team.

Of our five current summer interns:

Nick grew up in West River and is currently studying economics and statistics.

Sydney graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and is heading to law school in the fall.

Jakob is currently pursuing his master's in public administration at the University of South Dakota.

John is a rising sophomore studying economics and political science.

Leslie, our Ben Reifel intern is an educator at O'Kreek School and Sinte Gleska University.

South Dakota is full of many talented young people, and I am always impressed with the level of enthusiasm and creativity that our interns bring to work each day.

My office is now seeking applications for fall 2021. For more information on the internship program and how to apply, visit [dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/internships](https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/internships).

No one day is the same while interning on Capitol Hill. Who knows, you may even get a chance to write a letter to the Speaker of the House.



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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Independence

On July 4, 1776, our Founding Fathers signed a transformational document full of beautiful principles that would come to define our great nation. "We hold these truths to be self-evident," Thomas Jefferson famously wrote before outlining those principles.

Looking back, it's easy to forget how controversial those ideas were at the time. After all, throughout our nation's history we've embraced those transformational concepts. They've elevated America to unprecedented heights. But today, we see numerous challenges to those fundamental principles. While other parts of the country are tearing up the Declaration, South Dakota is working to defend the inspirational ideas laid out by our Founding Fathers.

"All men are created equal," Jefferson continued, outlining the founding ideal of the American experiment. Though it took some years before our nation lived up to this ideal, we have made great strides in advancing and preserving the equality of all human beings.

Unfortunately, today some seek to sow division in our nation, rather than emphasizing the equality that makes America so special. Misinformed ideas like critical race theory are incorrectly re-framing American history as a story of "us versus them" rather than "We the People." They seek to replace 1776 – when the Declaration was signed – as the year of our nation's founding with the lie that it actually occurred in 1619.

In South Dakota, we are not allowing critical race theory and other similar ideas to infiltrate our schools. Instead, we will teach our true, patriotic history. Our students will learn of America's triumphs and mistakes alike. And from both, they will achieve a greater love and appreciation for our principles and our history.

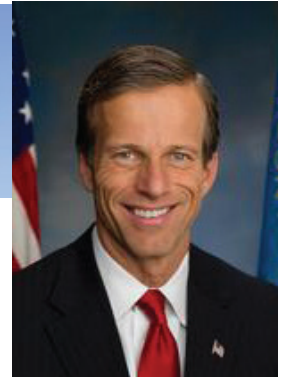
Jefferson continued his list of guiding principles with, "...That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." South Dakota is certainly standing for these rights.

South Dakota is working to protect the right to life of all of our people, born and unborn. Most recently, I signed legislation to protect the right to life even of unborn children who have been diagnosed with Down syndrome, and I also had the opportunity to sign 5 other pro-life bills. This past year, our state saw the fewest abortions of any year since the devastating Roe v. Wade decision. And to our knowledge, my office is the only governor's office in the country that has a preborn child advocate who wakes up every day looking for ways to defend life. South Dakota will continue to build a culture of life as our Founding Fathers intended.

Over the last year, South Dakota has received attention because we've defended our people's right to liberty. Our Founding Fathers were clear. Benjamin Franklin, who worked alongside Jefferson to draft the Declaration of Independence, famously stated, "Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." Unfortunately, 2020 showed leaders across our country infringing on the liberty of their people in the name of safety. South Dakota took a different path, and we are strong today as a result. That is how we will continue to operate for as long as I am governor.

I will continue to defend the principles of the Declaration of Independence. After all, our state honors Thomas Jefferson at Mount Rushmore, our Shrine of Democracy. This Independence Day, take some time with your family to reflect on our Founding ideals. America is the greatest nation on earth because our Founding Fathers took the time to articulate them, fight for them, and secure them for all of us.

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



## Rural America Deserves a Reliable Connection

South Dakotans and other Americans who live in rural areas deserve the same internet access as people living in urban areas. Expanding internet access in rural America has long been a priority for me, and building and maintaining reliable networks across the United States has never been more critical.

The pandemic highlighted the importance of the internet more than ever before. As the nation locked down, the internet became more vital to everyday life. Reliable broadband networks are an essential component to help rural Americans stay connected, and expanding broadband will spur 5G deployment in the small-town communities that have unfortunately lagged behind their big city counterparts.

5G mobile broadband technology has the power to change the way we interact with the internet. 5G will be 100 times faster and support 100 times as many devices, enabling massive breakthroughs in health care, transportation, agriculture, and other key industries. I've been supportive of this breakthrough technology from the beginning. In fact, working alongside local leaders, we made Sioux Falls one of the first cities in the country to install 5G networks.

U.S. companies are already building out 5G networks, but there's more work to be done. We need to remove regulatory and permitting hurdles and ensure that companies have access to the spectrum they need to build strong networks. We've already seen progress after my MOBILE NOW Act became law in 2018. Despite these important steps, we must continue to pass smart and effective legislation to keep America leading the race to 5G and help rural America stay connected.

My Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act, for example, would help address workforce issues by helping increase the number of workers enrolled in 5G training programs and identify ways to grow the telecommunications workforce to meet the demands of 5G. My STREAMLINE Act focuses on updating current law to speed up the permitting of 5G-required antennas called "small cells," while still respecting the role of state and local governments in making deployment decisions.

There is another significant part of the 5G technology equation, and that's broadband networks. We cannot have a successful deployment of 5G without reliable broadband. Simply put, if we don't build out broadband in rural America, these areas will be excluded from access to 5G. I believe in making smart investments in this area and not making the mistakes that happened under former-President Obama's stimulus package, where Congress attempted to spur broadband deployment by providing large sums of funding with little to show for it. Lack of coordination, bad mapping, and a host of other factors led to wasted funds.

I recently helped lead a Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband hearing on building resilient broadband networks, and a South Dakotan joined the panel of experts. Denny Law, the CEO of Golden West Telecommunications in South Dakota, spoke on the specific challenges of deploying broadband in rural areas. By listening to the advice of these experts, including Denny, Congress has an opportunity to get it right and properly support the deployment of reliable and resilient networks without wasting taxpayer dollars.

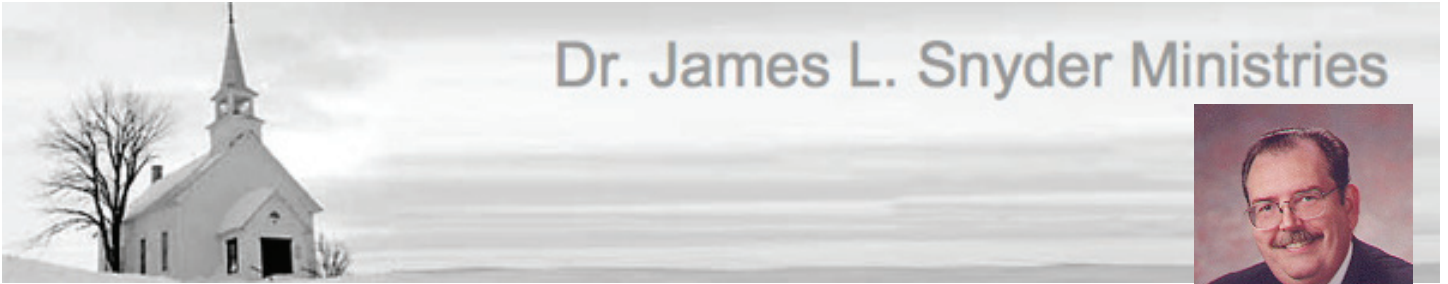
There's no doubt that reliable, fast internet is an essential element of our nation's infrastructure. Like roads and bridges and railways and airports, strong internet networks keep our economy going. However, the race to 5G is also an issue of global competitiveness. We must stay ahead of countries like China that are also working to implement this technology.

The recent surge in cyberattacks in industries like energy and meatpacking has spotlighted how integral technology will be to modern homeland security. 5G has a big part to play in our technology future, and we should be laser-focused on building out 5G networks and keeping America at the front of the pack with this technology. This will be vital to our national security for years to come.

I'll continue to work to advance nationwide 5G deployment and fight for our rural communities that deserve to have the full benefits of the 5G revolution. This is a race that we cannot afford to lose.

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## Any Pie à la Mode Is My Kind of Pie

Choices are a very important part of our everyday life. I am what I am today because of choices I made yesterday. I would like to blame someone else, but the truth of the matter is, I am what I am because of my choices.

I must confess that there are a lot of bad choices I have made throughout my life. I will not name them right here, in fact, I'm trying to forget most of them. It's a good thing I can't relive yesterday.

However, I have made a few choices that I have made in my life that has been very good. I don't focus on my bad choices because I can get discouraged. But, I do focus on my good choices because that's a real source of encouragement.

I must say that the best choice that I've ever made in my life was marrying the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I'm really not sure it was my choice, but I will take credit for it.

While we were dating, we were once traveling with a group of people, and as we were sitting together, she said something like, "Wouldn't it be nice to get married?"

I thought it was a rhetorical question; how was I to know it was an unofficial proposal.

In my naivety, I said, "It sure would be nice."

Well, in that regard, that was a choice I made.

It also was a prophecy. I did not know I was a prophet. But when I said it would be "nice," I was precisely on target. It has been nice.

In August of this year, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her husband will celebrate 50 years of marital bliss. I can't believe it's that long; I must've been very young when it took place.

But 50 years can go by very fast. So after celebrating your wedding for 49 years, what can you do that's different for the 50th anniversary?

I hear a lot about couples having difficulties and problems and arguments in their marriage. Even some of my friends have got to the place where they just divorce as if that solves problems.

I must say that during these 50 years of marital bliss, we have had very few arguments.

That is except for one major conflict.

Our one argument is the Broccoli/Apple Fritter controversy. Up to this point, neither of us has budged either way.

It is a good thing I didn't know she was a broccoli-holic, or I might have had second thoughts. How anybody can like broccoli is beyond my comprehension.

On her side, if she knew I was an Apple Fritter-holic, she might have had second thoughts as well.



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As much as I can remember, this has been the only controversy that we've had.

In retrospect, it is a good thing I didn't know about this, and probably it's good that she didn't know about me. That controversy could've kept us from getting married and then look at what we would have missed in life.

She once suggested that we switch, and for one week, I eat broccoli every day, and she will eat an Apple fritter every day.

I tried to consider that but only for one half of a second. So if we did that, I would be the great loser, and she would get to enjoy an Apple Fritter everyday for a week. That didn't sound fair to me.

As we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, we still will hang on to these personal preferences.

Just because there are some things that we don't agree on doesn't mean there are not some things that we actually do agree on.

For example, this past week, we decided to go out for supper at a local restaurant. It's been a long week and many things were happening that you just can't prepare for, so we deserved a little bit of a break.

As we got to the end of our meal, the waitress came by to see if we wanted dessert, and of course, we did.

Almost simultaneously, we said, "I'll have an apple pie à la mode," which was the featured dessert on the menu.

We looked at each other and broke out laughing. The waitress laughed with us, and then she went to get the dessert.

It was then I realized there are things that do bring us together. I never thought of it before, but apple pie à la mode was the one thing that brought us together and the one thing that we could agree on.

We've known each other for about 50 years, and I just realized the one thing that we do have in common. So we talked about it for a few moments, and the topic was, "What was your favorite pie à la mode?"

For me, it's tough to pick out my favorite pie. But, if there's a bad pie, I've never encountered it.

Finally, I brought it all together by saying, "Any pie à la mode is my kind of pie."

Later on, I was reminded of one of my favorite verses in the Bible. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Walking together for 50 years has been a great blessing. We don't focus on our disagreements but rather on those things that we agree on. As the years have gone by, what we agree on has become more important.

## EARTHTALK

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Has there been any backlash against the installation of rooftop solar panels or the development of big solar farms across the U.S.?  
-- B. Jackson, Longmeadow, MA



**Solar farms may be the next battleground for the NIMBY movement.** Credit: Pexels.

Incentives like the Solar Investment Tax Credit and increased affordability in the cost of solar panel installation over the past decade have given renewable solar energy the option of becoming a more mainstream power source. Solar energy's growing edge has amplified its share of total U.S. electrical generation from just 0.1 percent in 2010 to 2.3 percent in 2020.

The expansion of solar beyond just panels on rooftops, however, is sparking debate. Farmers and other landowners who agree to large-scale solar leasing on their property are frequently met with resistance from surrounding homeowners who question whether the development of a solar plant or "farm" will decrease the value of their homes, ruin scenic views or be detrimental to wildlife or the environment. Organized groups like Virginia-based Citizens for Responsible Solar (CRS) also rally against the development of solar panels on rural or agricultural land. They argue that thousands of acres of land need to be cleared for solar panels to produce the equivalent amount of energy of a coal, nuclear or natural gas plant, and the resulting deforestation will contribute to global warming. The group instead encourages installation of solar panels solely on rooftops, contaminated land, parking lots and industrial zoned land.

Conservationists have also raised concerns over the large number of birds being killed at large-scale photovoltaic solar facilities. In an attempt to combat these deaths, researchers at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois were granted a \$1.3 million contract by the Department of Energy last year to collect data on what happens when birds fly by, perch on or collide with solar panels. "There is speculation about how solar energy infrastructure affects bird populations, but we need more data to scientifically understand what is happening," says Yuki Hamada, Argonne's lead scientist in the project.

One theory is the "lake effect," which proposes that birds mistake the reflective blue expanse of solar panels for bodies of water and crash land on them. According to the Audubon Society, water birds in particular are in danger of this fatal effect as some species can't take off from the ground; they require a running start on the water's surface. Concentrated solar "tower" plants, including Tonopah, Nevada's Crescent Dunes and California's Ivanpah in the Mojave Desert, have also come under scrutiny due to bird deaths. These plants use heliostats, or mirrors, to focus sunlight onto a molten salt-filled receiver located at the top of a collector tower that converts heat into steam. The steam then powers a turbine to generate clean electricity. Unfortunately, the tremendously hot beams of light traveling via the mirrors to the tower incinerate passing birds, as well as bats and insects.

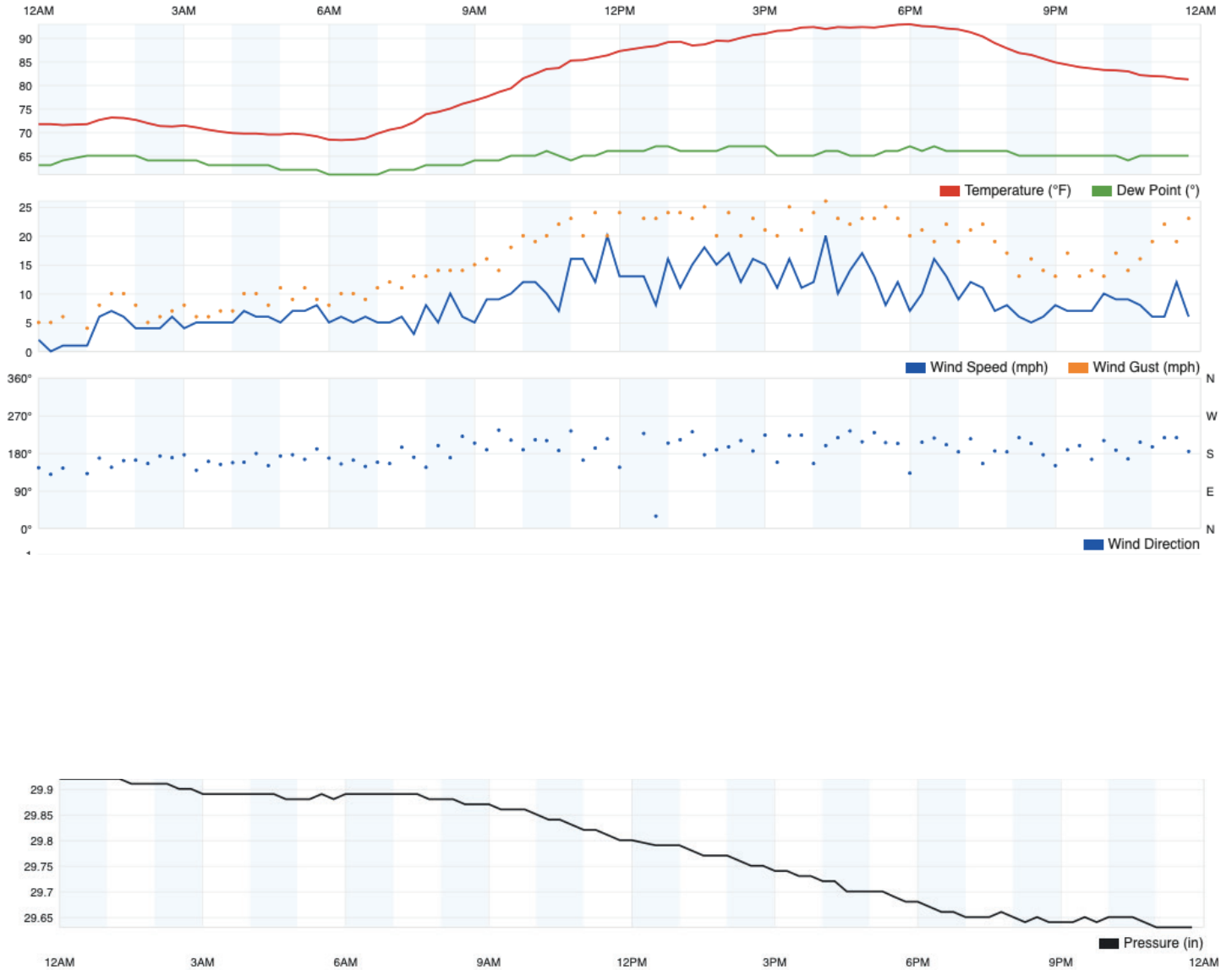
There's also the issue of disposal after a solar panel's operative life of approximately 20 to 30 years. The International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that solar panel waste could total nearly 80 million metric tons by 2050, and the establishment of effective recycling or repurposing regulation is imperative. Encouraging approaches include Washington State's Photovoltaic Module Stewardship and Takeback Program, which requires manufacturers of solar panels to provide the public with a convenient and environmentally sound way to recycle all panels purchased after July 2017.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Independence  
Day



Hot

High: 99 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 66 °F

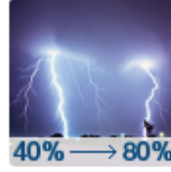
Monday



Hot

High: 96 °F

Monday  
Night

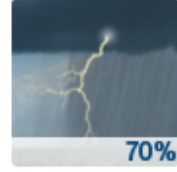


40% → 80%

Chance  
T-storms then  
T-storms

Low: 62 °F

Tuesday

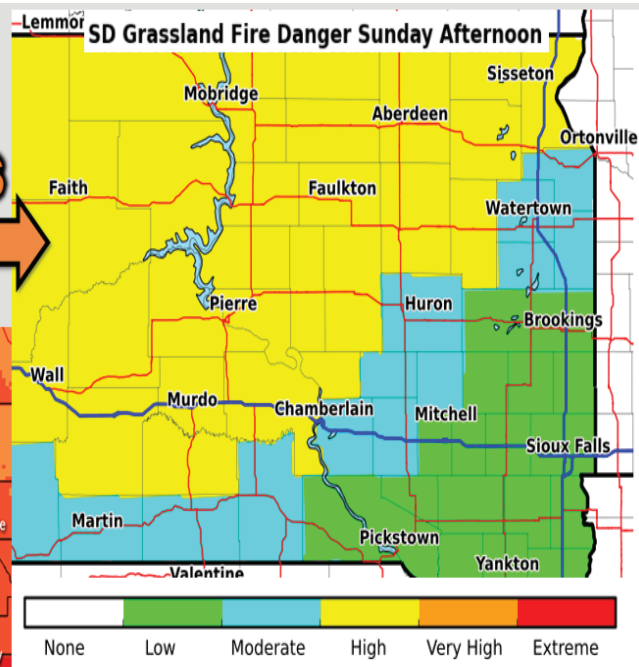
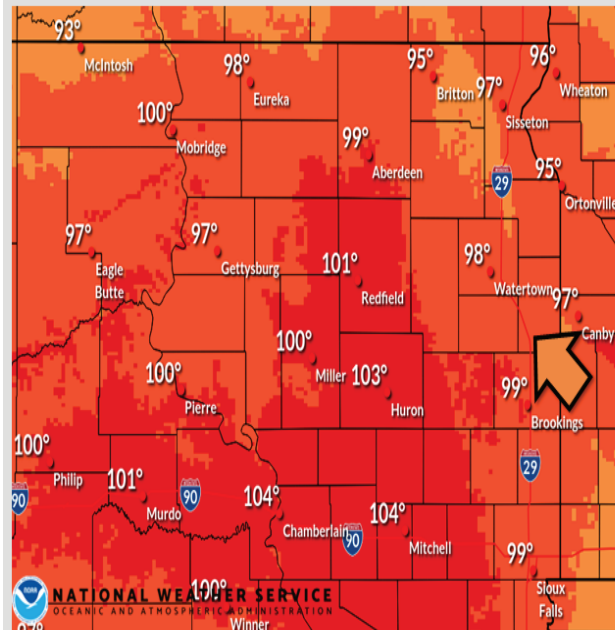


70%

T-storms  
Likely

High: 73 °F

## Elevated Fire Danger Continues



## Hot! & Low Humidity

Despite a front shifting winds from southwest to northwest crossing the area, the area will remain hot and dry keeping fire danger elevated across the region. Moisture will return to the region Monday into early Tuesday.

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## Today in Weather History

July 4, 1936: Several record highs were seen on this day, including; 113 degrees 4NW of Gann Valley; 111 in Murdo; 107 in Castlewood; 106 in Clark and Highmore; 105 near Onida; 104 in Faulkton and Miller; 103 degrees 6SE of McIntosh; 101 in Pollock.

July 4, 1988: Several record highs were set on this day, including; 103 degrees in Ipswich and Britton; 102 in Webster; 101 in Summit and Artichoke Lake, MN; 99 in Leola; 98 degrees in Clear Lake and Waubay.

1776: Thomas Jefferson purchased a thermometer from a local merchant before signing the Declaration of Independence. According to his weather memorandum book, at 1 PM it was cloudy and 76 degrees.

1911 - The northeastern U.S. experienced sweltering 100 degree heat. The temperature soared to 105 degrees at Vernon, VT, and North Bridgton ME, and to 106 degrees at Nashua NH, to establish all-time records for those three states. Afternoon highs of 104 at Boston, MA, 104 at Albany, NY, and 103 at Portland, ME, were all-time records for those three cities. (The Weather Channel)

1956 - A world record for the most rain in one minute was set at Unionville, MD, with a downpour of 1.23 inches. (The Weather Channel) (The National Severe Storms Forecast Center)

1987 - Thunderstorms around the country provided extra fireworks for Independence Day. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 82 mph at Clearwater, KS, eight inches of rain in four hours at Menno SD, and three inches of rain in just fifteen minutes at Austin, KY. Morning thunderstorms drenched Oneonta AL with 8.6 inches of rain, their greatest 24 hour total in thirty years of records. The heavy rain caused mudslides and serious flooding, claiming two lives. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain over the Central Gulf Coast Region for the second day in a row. Monroe, LA, was deluged with 3.75 inches in two hours. Aberdeen and Rapid City, SD, reported record high temperatures for the date, with readings of 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Independence Day was hot as a firecracker across parts of the country. Nineteen cities, mostly in the north central U.S., reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston ND with a reading of 107 degrees. In the southwestern U.S., highs of 93 at Alamosa, CO, 114 at Tucson, AZ, and 118 at Phoenix, AZ, equalled all-time records for those locations. (The National Weather Summary)

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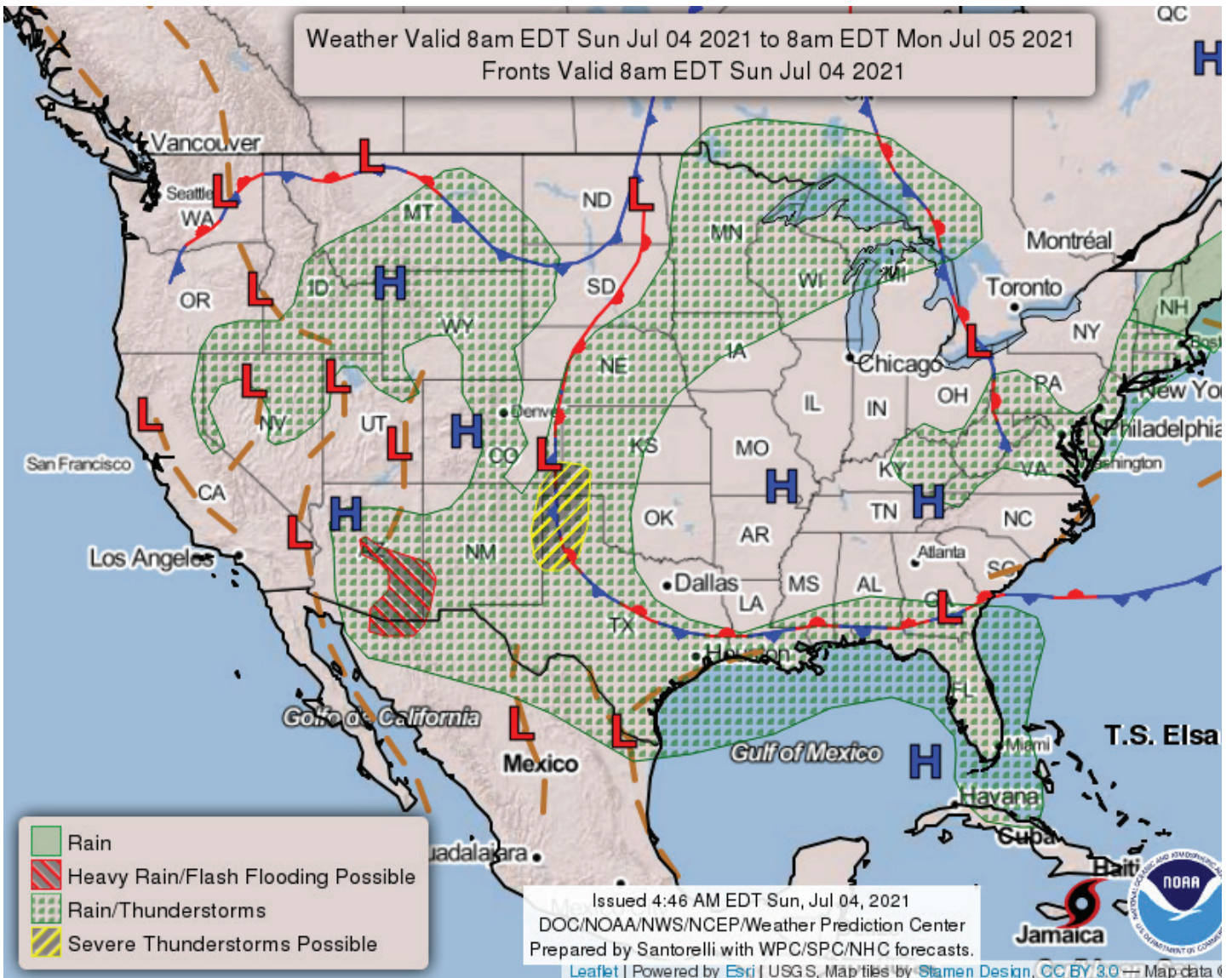
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 93 °F at 5:51 PM**  
**Low Temp: 68 °F at 6:09 AM**  
**Wind: 26 mph at 2:01 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 105° in 1988**  
**Record Low: 40° in 1967**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in July.: 0.35**  
**Precip to date in July.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 11.36**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.75**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:52 a.m.**





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## QUALIFICATION FOR LEADERS

Books on leadership line the shelves of bookstores. Each month, it seems, there are new titles that describe some new technique that will make any leader a better leader. From the "who to," to the "how to," to the "where to," to the "what to," to the "why to" and the "when to," these books cover every imaginable leadership situation. But none of them ever give a money back guarantee with the promise that "if you do this you will become successful and rise to the top."

Solomon is recognized as a great leader. And, as the author of Psalm 72 he describes the leadership qualities of a king that would be honored and blessed of God.

It is no wonder, then, that he begins with justice and righteousness. It is almost impossible to imagine what society would be like if every leader at every level in every organization or position in government was committed to being just and righteous. This is what God wants and expects of leaders, and one day they will be judged by this!

"Endow the king with Your justice, O God...May he judge Your people with righteousness!" Although our text reads justice, Solomon was asking God for leaders to set in motion a process that every leader would "do acts of justice, based on righteousness" that flowed from the top down. Solomon wanted everyone to be treated fairly.

Of course, we say, "That's not possible, Lord." But He – the Sovereign God who will judge us - says to each of us "as one of My disciples you must do this. Even if no one else demonstrates my justice and if no one else shows my righteousness to those around them, then you, as my disciple, must set the example. You are accountable to me!"

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that we either bring others to You or drive them from You by the lives we live and way we lead. May we be just! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. Psalm 72:1

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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  
06/17/2021 Groton Transit Fundraiser, 4-7 p.m.  
06/18/2021 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament at Olive Grove  
06/19/2021 U8 Baseball Tournament  
06/19/2021 **Postponed to Aug. 28th:** Lions Crazy Golf Fest at Olive Grove Golf Course, Noon  
06/26/2021 U10 Baseball Tournament  
06/27/2021 U12 Baseball Tournament  
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  
08/13/2021 Groton Basketball Golf Tournament  
08/28/2021 Lions Club Crazy Golf Fest 9am 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

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

02-05-15-16-20

(two, five, fifteen, sixteen, twenty)

Estimated jackpot: \$78,000

Lotto America

07-10-34-48-52, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 2

(seven, ten, thirty-four, forty-eight, fifty-two; Star Ball: one; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$7.74 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$82 million

Powerball

26-40-41-55-65, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2

(twenty-six, forty, forty-one, fifty-five, sixty-five; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$101 million

### Ravnsborg elected vice chairman of attorneys general group

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg has been elected to serve as the vice chairman of a bipartisan group of attorneys general.

As vice chairman of the Conference of Western Attorneys General, Ravnsborg will also serve on the group's executive board.

The conference addresses emerging legal topics and common areas of interest to the west including water, fish and wildlife, public lands, minerals, energy, environment and Native American law, KOTA-TV reported. The group includes 18 member states and territories.

Ravnsborg gained the approval of his peers despite three misdemeanor charges currently pending against him related to his driving the night he struck and killed Joe Boever along a highway last September.

The attorney general is charged with careless driving, operating a vehicle while on an electronic device and driving outside of his lane.

Investigators say Ravnsborg was distracted the night of Sept. 12, swerved out of his lane near Highmore and struck the 55-year-old Boever, who was walking on the shoulder with a flashlight.

Gov. Kristi Noem, three law enforcement organizations and some legislators have called on Ravnsborg to resign.

Ravnsborg hasn't confirmed whether he will run for reelection in 2022. But, the Republican Attorneys General Association's website lists him as a candidate to whom you can donate for 2022.

### Driver strikes man on moped in Sioux Falls and flees

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say they are looking for a driver who struck a man on a moped Saturday and fled the crash scene.

According to authorities, the 41-year-old Sioux Falls man operating the moped was not wearing a helmet and was seriously injured.

The individual who struck the man about 9:30 a.m. was driving a red Ford Escape SUV, officials said. The investigation continues.



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## Oglala Lakota leader seeks dismissal of protest charges

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The leader of an Indigenous-led advocacy organization has gone to court to seek dismissal of charges against him related to a protest during President Donald Trump's visit to Mount Rushmore last July.

NDN Collective President Nick Tilsen claims prosecutorial misconduct and violations of his rights to a speedy trial and free speech. Tilsen was among protesters arrested during Trump's visit and agreed to participate in a diversion program rather than face time in prison if convicted of charges against him.

Tilsen claims the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office state backed out of the agreement after he spoke to the media about it in March.

In his motions for dismissal, Tilsen claims his remarks to the media were protected by the First Amendment. The documents claim the state's decision to reinstate Tilsen's charges were directly connected to his protected speech and were reinstated as punishment for it, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Tilsen's attorneys also claim the delay in executing the agreement and then reinstating the charges violated Tilsen's right to a speedy trial and that the new demands effectively force Tilsen into silence on issues he believes in.

"The prosecutor has abused their position of power and privilege to try to silence myself. These are all grounds for dismissal," Tilsen said Friday outside the Pennington County Courthouse. "Here we are, another lie made to our people by another white man in power. And we're tired of that."

Messages left Friday by the Journal for State's Attorney Mark Vargo were not returned. His office was closed Saturday.

## Philippine military plane crashes, 29 dead, 50 rescued

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine air force C-130 aircraft carrying troops crashed in a southern province while trying to land Sunday, killing at least 29 military personnel while at least 50 were rescued from the burning wreckage, officials said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said rescue and recovery efforts were ongoing. The aircraft had 92 people on board, including three pilots and five crew and the rest were army personnel, military officials said. The pilots survived but were seriously injured and at least four villagers on the ground were injured, officials said.

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was one of two ex-U.S. Air Force aircraft handed over to the Philippines as part of military assistance this year. It crashed while landing shortly before noon Sunday in Bangkal village in the mountainous town of Patikul in Sulu province, military chief of staff Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said.

Military officials said at least 50 people on board were brought to a hospital and troops were trying to search for the rest.

"Per eyewitnesses, a number of soldiers were seen jumping out of the aircraft before it hit the ground, sparing them from the explosion caused by the crash," a military statement said.

Initial pictures released by the military showed the tail section of the cargo plane. The other parts of the plane were burned or scattered in pieces in a clearing surrounded by coconut trees. Soldiers and other rescuers with stretchers were seen dashing to and from the smoke-shrouded crash site.

The plane was transporting troops, many of them new soldiers who had just undergone basic training, from the southern Cagayan de Oro city for deployment in Sulu, officials said. Government forces have been battling Abu Sayyaf militants in the predominantly Muslim province of Sulu for decades.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash. Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan said it was unlikely that the aircraft took hostile fire and cited witnesses as saying that it appeared to have overshot the runway then crashed in the periphery of the airport, injuring at least four villagers on the ground.

"It's very unfortunate," Sobejana told reporters. "The plane missed the runway and it was trying to regain power but failed and crashed."

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An air force official told The Associated Press that the Jolo runway is shorter than most others in the country, making it more difficult for pilots to adjust if an aircraft misses the landing spot. The official, who has flown military aircraft to and from Jolo several times, spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to speak publicly.

Initial pictures showed that the weather was apparently fine in Sulu although other parts of the Philippines were experiencing rains due to an approaching tropical depression. The airport in Sulu's main town of Jolo is located a few kilometers (miles) from a mountainous area where troops have battled Abu Sayyaf militants. Some militants have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group.

The U.S. and the Philippines have separately blacklisted Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization for bombings, ransom kidnappings and beheadings. It has been considerably weakened by years of government offensives but remains a threat.

President Rodrigo Duterte expanded the military presence in Sulu into a full division in late 2018, deploying hundreds of additional troops, air force aircraft and other combat equipment after vowing to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf and allied foreign and local gunmen.

Government forces at the time were running after Muslim armed groups a year after quelling the five-month siege of southern Marawi city by hundreds of militants linked to the Islamic State group. More than 1,000 people, mostly militants and long-elusive Abu Sayyaf commanders, were killed in months of intense air and ground assaults.

Sunday's crash comes as the limited number of military aircraft has been further strained, as the air force helped transport medical supplies, vaccines and protective equipment to far-flung island provinces amid spikes in COVID-19 infections.

The Philippine government has struggled for years to modernize its military, one of Asia's least equipped, as it dealt with decades-long Muslim and communist insurgencies and territorial rifts with China and other claimant countries in the South China Sea.

## Chinese astronauts make first spacewalk outside new station

BEIJING (AP) — Two astronauts on Sunday made the first spacewalk outside China's new orbital station to set up cameras and other equipment using a 15-meter-long (50-foot-long) robotic arm.

Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo were shown by state TV climbing out of the airlock as Earth rolled past below them. The third crew member, commander Nie Haisheng, stayed inside.

Liu and Tang spent nearly seven hours outside the station, the Chinese space agency said.

The astronauts arrived June 17 for a three-month mission aboard China's third orbital station, part of an ambitious space program that landed a robot rover on Mars in May. Their mission comes as the ruling Communist Party celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The station's first module, Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, was launched April 29. That was followed by an automated spacecraft with food and fuel. Liu, Nie and Tang arrived June 17 aboard a Shenzhou capsule.

On Sunday, Liu attached his feet to a platform at the end of a remote-controlled arm that held him in place while he used an electric drill and other tools to install equipment.

China's space agency plans a total of 11 launches through the end of next year to add two more modules to the 70-ton station.

Liu is a veteran of the Shenzhou 7 mission in 2008, during which Zhai Zhigang made China's first space walk. Nie is on his third trip into space while Liu is making his first. All are military pilots.

## Japan's leader pushes rescue after deadly mudslide hits town

By KANTARO KOMIYA Associated Press

ATAMI, Japan (AP) — More than 1,000 soldiers, firefighters and police on Sunday waded through a giant mudslide that ripped through a resort town southwest of Tokyo, killing at least two people and leaving about 20 missing as it swept away houses and cars.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters 19 people had been rescued, and 130 homes and other

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buildings were damaged in Atami.

Two people were dead, but more were feared missing, he said speaking after an emergency Cabinet meeting. Earlier, disaster officials said 20 were unaccounted for, but warned the number may rise. Shizuoka prefecture officials said three people had been injured.

"The area is still having heavy rainfall, but arduous rescue efforts will continue," Suga said, warning residents to watch out for more landslides. "Please act as quickly as you can to stay safe."

Troops, firefighters and other rescue workers, backed by three coast guard ships, were working to clear the mud from the streets of Atami and reach those believed to be trapped or carried away. They were barely visible in the rainfall and thick fog except for their hard hats. Six military drones were being flown to help in the search.

The mudslide early Saturday crashed down a mountainside into rows of houses following heavy rains that began several days ago. Bystanders, their gasps of horror audible, caught the scene on cell phone video.

Witnesses said they heard a giant roar and then watched helplessly as homes got gobbled up by the muddy waves.

Like many others, Mariko Hattori, an interpreter who lives a short walk away from where the tsunami-like torrent of mud struck, at first didn't know what happened.

"The first things I noticed were lots of emergency vehicles. I didn't know what happened at first," she said. "Then I was frightened when I saw the footage."

The area of Atami where the mudslide struck, Izusan, is a seaside resort about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Tokyo. It's known for hot springs, a shrine and shopping streets.

## Jimmy, Rosalynn Carter mark 75 years of 'full partnership'

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The young midshipman needed a date one evening while he was home from the U.S. Naval Academy, so his younger sister paired him with a family friend who already had a crush.

Nearly eight decades later, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter are still together in the same tiny town where they were born, grew up and had that first outing. In between, they've traveled the world as Naval officer and military spouse, American president and first lady, and finally as human rights and public health ambassadors.

"It's a full partnership," the 39th president told The Associated Press during a joint interview ahead of the couple's 75th wedding anniversary on July 7.

It will be another milestone for the longest-married presidential couple in American history. At 96, Carter also is the longest-lived of the 45 men who've served as chief executive. Yet even having reached that pinnacle, Carter has said often since leaving the Oval Office in 1981 that the most important decision he ever made wasn't as head of state, commander in chief or even executive officer of a nuclear submarine in the early years of the Cold War.

Rather, it was falling for Eleanor Rosalynn Smith in 1945 and marrying her the following summer. "My biggest secret is to marry the right person if you want to have a long-lasting marriage," Carter said.

The nonagenarians — she's now 93 — offered a few other tips for an enduring bond.

"Every day there needs to be reconciliation and communication between the two spouses," the former president said, explaining that he and Rosalynn, both devout Christians, read the Bible together aloud each night — something they've done for years, even when separated by their travels. "We don't go to sleep with some remaining differences between us," he said.

Rosalynn Carter noted the importance of finding common interests. Even now, she said, "Jimmy and I are always looking for things to do together." Still, she emphasized a caveat: "Each (person) should have some space. That's really important."

As first lady, Rosalynn Carter carved her own identity even as she supported her husband. Building on her predecessors' efforts to highlight special causes, she went to work in her own East Wing office, setting a standard for first ladies by working alongside her husband's West Wing aides on key legislation,



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especially dealing with health care and mental health. She continued that focus as the couple built the Carter Center in Atlanta after their White House years.

Certainly, a 75-year marriage hasn't been seamless, the couple acknowledges.

Jimmy was initially on course to be an admiral, not commander in chief, and Rosalynn appreciated their life beyond Plains, home to fewer than a thousand people, then and now. But when James Earl Carter Sr. became sick and died in 1953, his son cut short his Navy career and decided the family would return to rural Georgia.

The former president has written that in retrospect he finds it inconceivable not to discuss such a life-changing decision with his wife, who was unhappy with the move. Now, they see the blossoming of their partnership in that challenging juncture.

"We developed a partnership when we were working in the farm supply business, and it continued when Jimmy got involved in politics," Rosalynn Carter told AP. "I knew more on paper about the business than he did. He would take my advice about things," she added, drawing a laugh and affirmation from her husband.

Jimmy Carter also didn't seek Rosalynn's permission to make his first bid for office a few years later. In that instance, she was on board anyway.

"My wife is much more political," he said.

She interjected: "I love it. I love campaigning. I had the best time. I was in all the states in the United States. I campaigned solid every day the last time we ran."

That didn't help avoid a rout by Republican Ronald Reagan in 1980. But it further cemented Rosalynn — who'd originally given up her own opportunity to go to college when she married at age 18 — as equal partner to the leader of the free world. And it marked Jimmy Carter's evolution as a spouse.

He's since been an outspoken voice for women's rights, including within Christianity. Carter left the Southern Baptist Convention in 2006, denouncing what he called "rigid" views that "subjugated" women in the church and in their own marriages.

The former president ratified those views again, as well as his support for the church recognizing same-sex marriage. "It will continue to be divisive," he said. "But the church is evolving."

The Carters plan to celebrate their own marriage milestone a few days after their anniversary with a party in Plains. Decades removed from inaugural balls and state dinners, the most famous residents of Sumter County said they have mixed feelings about the spotlight.

"We have too many people invited," Rosalynn Carter said with a laugh. "I'm actually praying for some turndowns and regrets."

## **LGBTQ youth of faith pray, bond at 'Beloved Arise' group**

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

Jessika Sessoms grew up in a conservative Black evangelical family, attended Christian schools and often heard that being gay was an abomination, until she understood that she was queer while studying to become a missionary.

The 23-year-old from Florida came out publicly last year and has found healing and a sense of community after joining Beloved Arise, a Christian nonprofit dedicated to celebrating and empowering LGBTQ youth of faith.

Maria Magdalena Gschwind, 20, from Germany, credits the U.S.-based group for inspiring her to study Protestant theology in college at a time when she had doubts about whether her sexuality would conflict with her faith. Samuel Cavalheiro, 21, a Brazilian living in Mozambique, feels so connected to the group's members that he calls them his "chosen family."

They are among hundreds of young people worldwide who have joined Beloved Arise during the coronavirus pandemic to worship, sing and bond virtually. The group celebrated its second annual Queer Youth of Faith Day on Wednesday — the last day of Pride Month — with podcasts, concerts, online panels of teens and seminars on LGBTQ history and churches.

"We wanted to do something that would be there to uplift and honor ... queer youth of all faiths," the

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Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt, program coordinator for Beloved Arise, said during one of the panels.

"Something that would let them know that there's no contradiction between being a queer and trans person and being a person of faith ... that those things can go together."

Across the U.S., circumstances vary widely for LGBTQ youth seeking religious engagement.

Some major denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention, condemn same-sex unions and say all sexual activity outside of a marriage between a man and a woman is sinful. But thousands of houses of worship, including many mainline Protestant churches and synagogues, have LGBTQ-inclusive policies.

"I can tell you how important it is to accept because I'm proof of that. I grew up in a church where LGBT people were accepting and accepted and loved," said DeTar Birt, who was ordained as a Presbyterian minister and has worked as a Sunday school teacher and youth pastor. "I came out in college and ... I had a lot of trepidation and anxiety around it, but the church wasn't part of that."

Beloved Arise was founded in Seattle in February 2020 by Jun Love Young, a former board member of Christian development agency World Concern. He grew up in a Catholic family in the Philippines and kept quiet about his queer identity until his mid 40s.

"And it was due to religious pressure, which is why I created Beloved Arise, so that other kids wouldn't have to wait until their forties," he said.

"I was so surprised in my forties to learn that what I thought I knew about the Bible was gravely misinformed, and I just want young people to be aware that in every faith tradition there is a progressive faith that has searched the sacred texts and has created an open space for queer identities," he said, adding that he felt safe to come out thanks in part to affirming theology.

Young said his nonprofit aims to empower and provide resources for young LGBTQ people, "who often face rejection and shaming at home, at schools and in their faith communities." He said the group has grown to more than 400 members and expanded its social media presence during the pandemic to tens of thousands of followers on Instagram and TikTok.

"TikTok is a platform that has enabled us to reach digital natives, Gen Z," he said about the generation born after 1996.

"Unlike other youth ministries that exist, we started digital, we were born in the cloud," Young added. "And we were born during the pandemic, where the only way people had to connect was through digital means, so that really gave us the foresight and sensitivity to pay attention to where kids are hanging out."

Americans are becoming less religious in the formal, traditional sense, and the trend is more marked among young adults, according to Pew Research Center surveys from recent years. Young people are less likely to pray daily, attend religious services or believe in God.

Still, surveys show younger Americans are just as spiritual as their older counterparts, and many have found other expressions of faith outside formal religion.

Beloved Arise holds popular weekly youth gatherings online where its members pray, sing and discuss scriptures.

"This group is basically my chosen family," said Cavalheiro, who chats with other members on WhatsApp throughout the week after their virtual worship. The son of Brazilian Baptists living in Mozambique, he still struggles to talk about his sexuality with his family. But he feels understood by other members of Beloved Arise.

"It feels like we've known each other for a lifetime," said Cavalheiro, a college freshman studying computer science in Maputo. "We've been through the same pain ... (it) binds us together."

Gschwind grew up Catholic, and her faith was always important to her. But she said she felt unwelcome when she got involved with a Pentecostal church in New Zealand during her gap year.

"I was pretty open about it from the start, but then I realized that queerness is something a lot of Christians see as a sin," she said. "So I started to question myself a lot."

Joining Beloved Arise influenced her choice of college major.

"If I hadn't found this youth group, I would probably not have studied theology ... because I would probably be at a point where I don't want to have anything to do with Christianity and theology," she said.

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"Because I met a lot of people who engage in theological discussions and have different perspectives on things ... I just realized that theology was something that excites me a lot."

Sessoms had hoped to become a missionary. But she began to question her path when she felt attracted to a woman while they attended Liberty University, a Christian institution in Virginia with a strict code of conduct forbidding "sexual relations outside of a biblically-ordained marriage between a natural-born man and a natural-born woman."

"Reconciling all of that with my sexuality was hard because we were taught that gay people were an abomination, that it's not God's will," said Sessoms, who is now a senior studying marketing at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

"And it's been really healing. It's been really nice to be around people who identify as me, have been through the same struggles as me, people who take their faith seriously but also celebrate who they are as an LGBTQ person."

## Tropical Storm Elsa nears Cuba amid fears of flooding

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba prepared to evacuate people along the island's southern region on Sunday amid fears that Tropical Storm Elsa could unleash heavy flooding after battering several Caribbean islands, killing at least three people.

The government opened shelters and moved to protect sugarcane and cocoa crops ahead of the storm, whose next target was Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in 15 counties, including in Miami-Dade County where the high-rise condominium building collapsed last week.

Elsa was located about 175 miles (280 kilometers) east-southeast of Montego Bay, Jamaica, and was speeding west-northwest at 17 mph (28 kph). It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The storm killed one person in St. Lucia, according to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency. Meanwhile, a 15-year-old boy and a 75-year-old woman died Saturday in separate events in the Dominican Republic after walls collapsed on them, according to a statement from the Emergency Operations Center.

Elsa was a Category 1 hurricane up until Saturday morning, causing widespread damage in several eastern Caribbean islands on Friday as the first hurricane of the Atlantic season. Among the hardest hit was Barbados, where more than 1,100 people reported damaged houses, including 62 homes that completely collapsed as the government promised to find and fund temporary housing to avoid clustering people in shelters amid the pandemic.

Downed trees also were reported in Haiti, which is especially vulnerable to floods and landslides because of widespread erosion and deforestation.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Jamaica and from the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince to the southern border with the Dominican Republic. A hurricane watch was issued for the Cuban provinces of Camaguey, Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Las Tunas, and Santiago de Cuba. Some of those provinces have reported a high number of COVID-19 infections, raising concerns that the storm could force large groups of people to seek shelter together.

Elsa is the earliest fifth-named storm on record and also broke the record as the tropic's fastest-moving hurricane, clocking in at 31 mph on Saturday morning, according to Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami.

It is forecast to drop 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain with maximum totals of 15 inches (38 centimeters) across portions of southern Hispaniola and Jamaica.

## Counselors work to ease grief over Florida building collapse

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

After Lauren Miller lost her father in January to COVID-19, her longtime friend Jay Kleiman advised her



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not to wallow in grief and to seek counseling to ease her pain.

Now she finds herself grieving again — only this time for Kleiman, one of scores of people believed to be underneath the rubble of a 12-story condominium tower in Florida that collapsed over a week ago, killing at least 24.

"I'm sure he'd tell me: 'It's OK to be sad — this is very, very sad — but you have to move forward, and you have to be strong,'" Miller said, her voice cracking.

While hundreds of rescuers continue their desperate search for survivors within the remains of the Champlain Towers South in Surfside, a smaller cadre of mental health counselors have also been deployed to help families and other loved ones confront overwhelming feelings of grief, fear and anger.

For every person still unaccounted for — 121 as of Saturday — many more lives have been turned upside down as people await word on loved ones or answers that will explain what brought about the calamity. It has been a week since any survivors have been pulled out, and the emotional and psychological fatigue are taking their toll.

More than two dozen grief counselors are on duty at the family assistance center in a hotel ballroom where daily briefings are held. When relatives arrive, a so-called navigator helps assess their immediate needs and decides if a mental health specialist should be called in.

"Sometimes you're just putting a hand on a shoulder and don't say a word," said Miami-Dade Police Capt. Rita Rodriguez, a crisis intervention officer who is consoling the families. "Because a lot of them just want to tell you about their family member and they want to tell you about how they feel."

Mindful of the fact that little things have the power to touch off intense sorrow, officials have been removing potentially triggering details — a poorly chosen black sheet draped in a hallway, floral bouquets that arrived with the best of intentions but lent a funereal ambience to the scene.

During the briefings, the counselors scan the room for signs of distress. Handlers lead comfort dogs around the space to be petted, and sometimes to sit for a spell on people's laps. Rooms are available for anyone who needs counseling in private.

"When we see that there's a person crying, whatever it is, we will have the psychotrauma therapists walk over. They start by offering a box of tissue. And if they want us to sit, we sit; if not, we just stand there and ask if they want to talk," said Annika Holder, Miami-Dade County's incident commander at the center.

Alfredo Lopez, who narrowly escaped his home of 24 years along with his wife and 24-year-old son, rattled off the names of missing friends — too many to keep count. The survivor's guilt was so overwhelming in the first few days after the collapse that he sought help from the counselors.

"They spoke in a very soothing, very loving, motherly way," said Lopez, 61. "It meant a lot to me."

A website, [surfsidestrength.com](http://surfsidestrength.com), has been set up as a portal for accessing help later or for those who are grieving from afar — like Miller, who is in New York.

Florida bills itself as the first state in the nation to establish a "disaster recovery mental health coordinator" position whose sole focus is to marshal critical mental health services following a disaster.

That official, Darcy Abbott, acknowledged that the long wait has caused tremendous stress for relatives of the missing.

"This is very tough, because it was unexpected and it was extremely tragic," Abbott said.

Florida first lady Casey DeSantis, who has made mental health a key initiative, and Gov. Ron DeSantis have also met with the families.

"We have witnessed firsthand the profound emotional toll this disaster has taken on the lives of so many," she said, describing their stories as "heart-wrenching but also inspiring."

Florida has had its share of traumatic events, from the mass shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 and the Pulse nightclub two years earlier to the periodic hurricanes that level entire communities.

While different, the horror of the building collapse can have similar psychological fallout, said Dr. Katherine Shear, director of Columbia University's Center for Prolonged Grief. The danger, she said, is when people find their lives grinding to a standstill and can no longer function in a meaningful way.

"Over time most people will come to terms with it," Shear said, "but some people just can't."

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Emergency responders are at risk for mental trauma, too, as they labor around the clock and encounter heartbreaking scenes. On Friday they pulled from the rubble the body of a 7-year-old girl, the daughter of a Miami firefighter who was part of the search effort. So counselors are embedded with the crews to offer support.

"Obviously, the firefighters are emotional," Miami-Dade County Fire Chief Alan Cominsky said. "You know it takes a toll."

Rescuers have not found anyone alive since the first hours after the Champlain Towers South collapsed in the early hours of June 24.

Among those confirmed to have died are family members of Kleiman, who was in town from Puerto Rico to attend a funeral.

When Miller last spoke to him, they talked about her son's recent prom and the pride Kleiman felt after his daughter landed an internship.

Miller is leaning on friends for comfort and may soon return to her grief counselor. Against long odds, she clings to hope he will somehow turn up alive and imagines him trapped with others in a pocket of space inside the wreckage.

"And he is telling them not to give up," Miller said, "as they wonder how many more days before they are found."

## 3 dead as Elsa speeds through Caribbean, aims for Cuba

By DÁNICA COTO and EVENS SANON Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Tropical Storm Elsa battered the southern coasts of Haiti and the Dominican Republic on Saturday, downing trees and blowing off roofs as it sped through the Caribbean, killing at least three people.

The storm was centered about 175 miles (280 kilometers) east-southeast of Montego Bay, Jamaica, and was swirling west-northwest at 17 mph (28 kph). It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) as the tropical storm, which had been a Category 1 hurricane earlier on Saturday, weakened in its approach to Hispaniola and Cuba, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The storm was forecast to hit Cuba next on a path that would take it to Florida, with some models showing it would spin into the Gulf or up the Atlantic Coast. A tropical storm watch was in effect for the Florida Keys from Craig Key westward to Dry Tortugas.

Elsa prompted Gov. Ron DeSantis to declare a state of emergency in 15 Florida counties, including in Miami-Dade County where the high-rise condominium building collapsed last week.

One death was reported in St. Lucia, according to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency. Meanwhile, a 15-year-old boy and a 75-year-old woman died Saturday in separate events in the Dominican Republic after walls collapsed on them, according to a statement from the Emergency Operations Center.

The deaths come a day after Elsa caused widespread damage in several eastern Caribbean islands as a Category 1 hurricane, the first of the Atlantic season. Among the hardest hit was Barbados, where more than 1,100 people reported damaged houses, including 62 homes that completely collapsed as the government promised to find and fund temporary housing to avoid clustering people in shelters amid the pandemic.

Dozens of trees and power lines lay strewn across Barbados, where several schools and government buildings were damaged and hundreds of customers were still without power on Saturday, according to officials.

"This is a hurricane that has hit us for the first time in 66 years," Prime Minister Mia Mottley said Saturday. "There is no doubt this is urgent."

Barbados suspended classes until Wednesday and expected to reopen its international airport on Sunday.

Downed trees also were reported in Haiti, where authorities used social media to alert people about the storm and urged them to evacuate if they lived near water or mountain flanks.

"The whole country is threatened," the Civil Protection Agency said in a statement. "Make every effort

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to escape before it's too late."

Haiti is especially vulnerable to floods and landslides because of widespread erosion and deforestation. In addition, a recent spike in gang violence has forced thousands of people to flee from their homes, so the civil protection agency is running low on basic items including food and water, director Jerry Chandler told The Associated Press.

"It's been three weeks that we've been supporting families who are running away from gang violence," he said. "We are working at renewing our stocks, but the biggest problem is logistics."

He said officials are still trying to figure out how to deliver supplies to Haiti's southern region, which braced for Elsa's impact.

As the storm approached, people kept buying food and water.

"I'm protecting myself the best that I can. Civil protection is not going to do that for me," said Darlene Jean-Pierre, 35, as she bought six jugs of water along with vegetables and fruit. "I have other worries about the street ... I have to worry about gangs fighting. In addition to this, we have a hurricane."

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Jamaica and from the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince to the southern border with the Dominican Republic. A hurricane watch was issued for the Cuban provinces of Camaguey, Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Las Tunas, and Santiago de Cuba. Some of those provinces have reported a high number of COVID-19 infections, raising concerns that the storm could force large groups of people to seek shelter together.

"Anticipating is the key word," said Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, adding that vaccination efforts would continue. "Let's take care of lives and property."

In the neighboring Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, authorities opened more than 2,400 shelters as forecasters warned of heavy rains.

Some worried about the state of their homes, with many living under corrugated roofing.

"I have a lot of leaks in my zinc," said María Ramos. "What are we going to do? Only God knows."

Meanwhile, officials on Saturday reported at least 43 homes and three police stations damaged in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which also suffered massive volcanic eruptions that began in April.

"We expect that this number will increase as reports keep coming in," said Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves. "We have some damage, but it could have been far worse."

In St. Lucia, the wind damaged a secondary school, pummeling desks, overturning chairs and sending papers flying after blowing off the roof and siding.

Elsa was the first hurricane of the Atlantic season and the earliest fifth-named storm on record. Elsa also broke the record as the tropic's fastest-moving hurricane, clocking in at 31 mph on Saturday morning, according to Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami.

It is forecast to drop 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain with maximum totals of 15 inches (38 centimeters) across portions of southern Hispaniola and Jamaica.

## Some Chinese shun grueling careers for 'low-desire life'

By JOE McDONALD and FU TING Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Fed up with work stress, Guo Jianlong quit a newspaper job in Beijing and moved to China's mountain southwest to "lie flat."

Guo joined a small but visible handful of Chinese urban professionals who are rattling the ruling Communist Party by rejecting grueling careers for a "low-desire life." That is clashing with the party's message of success and consumerism as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Guo, 44, became a freelance writer in Dali, a town in Yunnan province known for its traditional architecture and picturesque scenery. He married a woman he met there.

"Work was OK, but I didn't like it much," Guo said. "What is wrong with doing your own thing, not just looking at the money?"

"Lying flat" is a "resistance movement" to a "cycle of horror" from high-pressure Chinese schools to jobs with seemingly endless work hours, novelist Liao Zenghu wrote in Caixin, the country's most prominent



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business magazine.

"In today's society, our every move is monitored and every action criticized," Liao wrote. "Is there any more rebellious act than to simply 'lie flat?'"

It isn't clear how many people have gone so far as to quit their jobs or move out of major cities. Judging by packed rush hour subways in Beijing and Shanghai, most young Chinese slog away at the best jobs they can get.

Still, the ruling party is trying to discourage the trend. Beijing needs skilled professionals to develop technology and other industries. China's population is getting older and the pool of working-age people has shrunk by about 5% from its 2011 peak.

"Struggle itself is a kind of happiness," the newspaper Southern Daily, published by the party, said in a commentary. "Choosing to 'lie flat' in the face of pressure is not only unjust but also shameful."

The trend echoes similar ones in Japan and other countries where young people have embraced anti-materialist lifestyles in response to bleak job prospects and bruising competition for shrinking economic rewards.

Official data show China's economic output per person doubled over the past decade, but many complain the gains went mostly to a handful of tycoons and state-owned companies. Professionals say their incomes are failing to keep up with soaring housing, child care and other costs.

In a sign of the issue's political sensitivity, four professors who were quoted by the Chinese press talking about "lying flat" declined to discuss it with a foreign reporter.

Another possible sign of official displeasure: T-shirts, mobile phone cases and other "Lie Flat"-themed products are disappearing from online sales platforms.

Urban employees complain that work hours have swelled to "9 9 6," or 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week.

"We generally believe slavery has died away. In fact, it has only adapted to the new economic era," a woman who writes under the name Xia Bingbao, or Summer Hailstones, said on the Douban social media service.

Some elite graduates in their 20s who should have the best job prospects say they are worn out from the "exam hell" of high school and university. They see no point in making more sacrifices.

"Chasing fame and fortune does not attract me. I am so tired," said Zhai Xiangyu, a 25-year-old graduate student.

Some professionals are cutting short their careers, which removes their experience from the job pool.

Xu Zhunjiong, a human resources manager in Shanghai, said she is quitting at 45, a decade before the legal minimum retirement age for women, to move with her Croatian-born husband to his homeland.

"I want to retire early. I don't want to fight any more," Xu said. "I'm going to other places."

Thousands vented frustration online after the Communist Party's announcement in May that official birth limits would be eased to allow all couples to have three children instead of two. The party has enforced birth restrictions since 1980 to restrain population growth but worries China, with economic output per person still below the global average, needs more young workers.

Minutes after the announcement, websites were flooded with complaints that the move did nothing to help parents cope with child care costs, long work hours, cramped housing, job discrimination against mothers and a need to look after elderly parents.

Xia writes that she moved to a valley in Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai, for a "low-desire life" after working in Hong Kong. She said despite a high-status job as an English-language reporter, her rent devoured 60% of her income and she had no money at the end of each month.

She rejects the argument that young people who "lie flat" are giving up economic success when that's already out of reach for many in an economy with a growing gulf between a wealthy elite and the majority.

"When resources are focused more and more on the few people at the head and their relatives, the workforce is cheap and replaceable," she wrote on Douban. "Is it sensible to entrust your destiny to small handouts from others?"

Xia declined an interview request.

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Guo, the writer in Dali, said he puts in more hours as a freelancer than he did at a newspaper. But he is happier, and life is more comfortable: He and his wife eat breakfast on their breezy sixth-floor apartment balcony with a view of trees.

"As long as I can keep writing, I'm very satisfied," Guo said. "I don't feel stifled."

A handful who can afford it withdraw from work almost entirely.

A 27-year-old architect in Beijing said she started saving as a teenager to achieve financial freedom.

"From last September, when I saw all my savings had reached 2 million (yuan) (\$300,000), I lay down," said the woman, who would give only the name Nana, in an interview over her social media account.

Nana said she turned down a job that paid 20,000 yuan (\$3,000) per month due to the long hours and what she saw as limited opportunities for creativity.

"I want to be free from inflexible rules," said Nana. "I want to travel and make myself happy."

## Capitol, symbol of democracy, off-limits on Independence Day

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — As it has been for nearly 16 months, longer than any time in the nation's history, the U.S. Capitol is closed to most public visitors.

The one-two punch of the coronavirus pandemic that shuttered the Capitol's doors in the spring of 2020 and the deadly insurrection by then-President Donald Trump's supporters on Jan. 6 has left the icon of American democracy unopen to all but a select few.

As the rest of the nation emerges this July Fourth holiday from the pandemic for cookouts and fireworks that President Joe Biden is encouraging from the White House, the people's house faces new threats of violence, virus variants and a more difficult moment.

"What is heartbreaking about it is that the Capitol has been forever our symbol of democracy — enduring through the Civil War, through world wars, through strife of all kinds," said Jane L. Campbell, president and CEO of the United States Capitol Historical Society.

Congressional leaders are working intensely to try to resume public tours at the Capitol in some form, but any reopening probably will come with new protocols for health and safety for the millions of annual visitors, 535 lawmakers and thousands of staff and crew that work under the dome and its surrounding campus.

In the House, lawmakers have been operating under a proxy voting system that has allowed them to avoid travel to Washington, though most now vote in person. The smaller Senate is mostly back to in-person business. Both chambers conduct some committee operations remotely.

The security fencing surrounding the Capitol is about to come down, a gesture toward normalcy. A \$1.9 billion emergency spending package to bolster security for the complex was approved by the House, but the Senate is objecting to the increased money.

The conversations in public and private over how to safely reopen are shifting as dangerous coronavirus strains emerge and federal law enforcement officials issue new warnings about the potential for violence from right-wing extremist groups and those who believe in conspiracies.

White nationalists and other far-right groups loyal to Trump stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, and were among those trying to overturn Biden's victory. Authorities have been tracking chatter online about groups of people potentially returning to Washington as part of an unfounded and baseless conspiracy theory that Trump would be reinstated in August, according to two officials familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive law enforcement information.

"I want people to feel proud that they can come to the Capitol, and they can talk about its rich history," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., chairman of the Homeland Security Committee and now chairman of a new select panel that will investigate the riot.

"We shouldn't ever think about visiting the Capitol and wondering if it's safe," he said.

Lawmakers have struggled over the past year with their own mixed emotions over the shuttered doors, wary of returning to the Capitol when a segment of their colleagues, mainly Republicans, refuse to be

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vaccinated against the coronavirus. Two elected officials have died of COVID-19 complications.

While many lawmakers say they are saddened by the black-metal security fencing, and all it represents, some also view it as a necessary deterrent after having fled to safety from the pro-Trump rioters.

But the quieted hallways now create their own unease, representing all that is being lost. A lawmaker's children played in the empty Rotunda one recent evening, a reminder of the absence of school groups, tourists and other visitors who typically crowd the summer season to see democracy in action or petition their government.

Congress provides the most direct link between Americans, and their federal government, the representative democracy the founders envisioned. Some 2.5 million people used to visit the Capitol each year and 12 million to the surrounding grounds, according to a House aide. Public tours of the White House tours also remain closed.

"I miss the visitors," said Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., who said she had escorted some people to the House gallery last week only to find that it closed to onlookers who used to be able to watch some of the day's legislative session.

"I always find it inspiring that so many people want to come here," she said.

The Capitol has endured crises before. The public galleries were shut down for about a month during the 1918 pandemic. The grounds were closed for a few months after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The public was also unable to visit in 1968 during unrest after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Security was reconsidered at different points, including after shootings on lawmakers and bombings at the building.

But not since the end of the War of 1812, when the British invaded in 1814, has the seat of American democracy seen an attack like the one this year.

Trump's supporters fought the police, broke through barricades and stormed the halls, threatening to harm former Vice President Mike Pence and other leaders and lawmakers as the mob tried to stop Congress from certifying the states' election results for Biden.

All told, five people died stemming from the events, including a Trump supporter shot by police, three people who suffered medical emergencies and a police officer who died later. Two police officers later took their own lives. Hundreds of people have been arrested.

Illinois Rep. Rodney Davis, the top Republican on the House Administration Committee, sent House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., a letter signed by some 135 other Republican lawmakers calling for a plan to fully reopen.

"There is no reason for the Capitol to be closed," Davis said in an interview.

He said those involved in the siege should be prosecuted, but it's time for the House to end proxy voting and resume regular operations. "We've got to get back to doing what the people sent us here to do," he said.

A senior Democratic aide, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said tours have not resumed for both pandemic and security reasons. The House and Senate Sergeants-at-Arms are continually reviewing the situation in consultation with Office of Attending Physician, the aide said.

The Capitol complex is open to official business visitors with limits on the numbers allowed. Most are asked to sign in and provide background information.

"The Capitol has now being closed for the longest stretch in its 228 years history," said Campbell of the historical society.

"What I would say to all of us is that it's important for Congress to come together around safety," she said. "People ought to be able to work together around that."

## Demolition preparations begin at condo with storm looming

By TERRY SPENCER and BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP) — Rescuers suspended their search for the living and the dead in the rubble of a



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collapsed South Florida condo building Saturday to allow crews to start preparing the unstable remainder of the structure for demolition ahead of a tropical storm.

The search and rescue mission was halted in the afternoon as workers began the precarious business of boring holes to hold explosives in the concrete of the still-standing portion of the Champlain Towers South tower in Surfside, Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah told relatives awaiting word on missing loved ones.

In the closed-door briefing, Jadallah said the suspension was a necessary safety measure because the drilling could cause the structure to fail. If that were to happen, he said, "It's just going to collapse without warning."

But in video that one of the relatives livestreamed on social media, one of them was heard calling it "devastating" that the search was on pause. She asked whether rescuers could at least work the perimeter of the site so as not "to stop the operation for so many painful hours."

Also Saturday, the confirmed death toll from the partial collapse of the 12-story building rose to 24 with the discovery of two more bodies. There were 121 people still unaccounted for.

Concerns had been mounting over the past week that the damaged structure was at risk of failure, endangering the crews below. The search in adjacent areas of the collapse site was curtailed, and shifts detected by monitors early Thursday prompted a 15-hour suspension of the entire effort until engineers determined it was safe to resume.

The building won't come down until Monday at the earliest, according to Jadallah. That estimate was based on how many holes the demolition team needs to drill, he said, adding that the process has to move slowly to prevent a premature collapse.

With Tropical Storm Elsa looming in the Caribbean and forecast to move toward the state in the coming days, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said demolishing the "tottering" and "structurally unsound" structure is the prudent thing to do.

"If the building is taken down, this will protect our search and rescue teams, because we don't know when it could fall over," DeSantis said at a news conference earlier in the day. "And, of course, with these gusts, potentially that would create a really severe hazard."

"The fear was that (Elsa) may take the building down for us and take it down in the wrong direction," Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett said.

Elsa was downgraded Saturday from a Category 1 hurricane to a tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph) as it brushed past the island of Hispaniola, home to the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

The long-term forecast track showed it heading toward Florida as a tropical storm by Tuesday morning, though some models would carry it into the Gulf or up the Atlantic Coast. Meteorologists warned that it could bring heavy rain and gusty winds to the Miami area.

"So we can't let our guard down," said Robert Molleda of the National Weather Service. "You still need to be watching this very closely."

Once the structure is demolished, the remnants will be removed immediately with the intent of giving rescuers access for the first time to parts of the garage area that are a focus of interest, Jadallah said. That could give a clearer picture of voids that may exist in the rubble and could possibly harbor survivors.

No one has been rescued alive since the first hours after the June 24 collapse.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said officials would resume the search and rescue on any sections of the pile that are "safe to access as soon as we are cleared."

Some families had asked to be able to return to the building to retrieve personal belongings, but they will not be allowed to do so.

"At the end of the day, that building is too unsafe to let people go back in," DeSantis said. "I know there's a lot of people who were able to get out, fortunately, who have things there. We're very sensitive to that, but I don't think there's any way you can let somebody go up in that building given the shape that it's in now."

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## 50 years after his death, fans honor Jim Morrison in Paris

By DEBORAH GOUFFRAN and SYLVIE CORBET undefined

PARIS (AP) — Paris on Saturday was the only place to be for die-hard Jim Morrison fans.

Fifty years after his death at age 27, rock music lovers from France and across the world came to the Pere-Lachaise cemetery in eastern Paris where The Doors' frontman is buried. Many brought candles and pictures, and some burned incense sticks near his grave as police watched nearby.

"Jim and The Doors have been heroes of ours since we were kids. It's an honor to be here and celebrate the 50th anniversary of his death today," said Dutuar Platzek.

The 50-year-old fan made the trip from Halle, Germany with his childhood friend Mathias Barthel. The two had not been back to the Pere-Lachaise cemetery in over 25 years.

Year after year, the place has become a pilgrimage for fans of Morrison, known for his dark lyrics, wavy locks, leather pants, steely gaze and theatrical stage presence. He propelled The Doors to several major hits between 1965 and 1971, including "Light My Fire," "Hello I Love You," "Touch Me" and "Riders on the Storm."

Michelle Campbell was 21 when Morrison died in 1971, living in Texas and studying photography. Her first "July 3rd" — the anniversary of Morrison's death — was in 1989. Back then, the grave was unmarked and a fan had crafted a wooden cross.

She's since moved to Paris and has been coming to Pere-Lachaise almost every year, taking photographs of Morrison's grave and his fans, many of whom have become friends.

"(It's like) people sitting around on couches in someone's apartment, rather than a grave's, just talking and meeting each other," she recalled. "It was really lovely ... I still come as much as I can because it's just always so wonderful."

Colleen Amblard drove seven hours from her hometown of Domancy, in the French Alps, to visit the grave. The 21 year-old student told The Associated Press "it's very emotional to be here, to remember Jim Morrison ... to show that he's not forgotten."

"We acknowledge his talent and the fact that he was a brilliant person, he was really a genius," she said.

Like many other fans, Amblard was planning to visit other sites Morrison spent time in while living in Paris, from his apartment to the former nightclub where some say he died of an heroin overdose.

Born in 1943 in Melbourne, Florida, Morrison was the son of a U.S. Navy officer and moved constantly as a child, growing up in Florida, Virginia, Texas, New Mexico and California.

He said he witnessed the aftermath of a terrible car accident on a Native American reservation as a child, an event that loomed large in his later lyrics and poetry. An avid reader, he was heavily influenced by the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, the poet Arthur Rimbaud and the surrealist dramatist Antonin Artaud.

In 1965, while living in Los Angeles' bohemian neighborhood of Venice Beach and frequently taking LSD, he and keyboardist Ray Manzarek, a fellow UCLA film student, founded The Doors. Guitarist Robby Krieger and drummer John Densmore joined soon after.

Morrison and The Doors would burn brightly, releasing albums "The Doors" and "Strange Days" in 1967, "The Soft Parade" in 1968 and "Morrison Hotel" in 1970. Morrison's dynamic stage presence was on full display during appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and at the Hollywood Bowl.

But the band would burn out quickly as Morrison sank into alcoholism. He was twice arrested for his on-stage antics, including a Miami concert that saw him convicted of indecent exposure and profanity. He received a posthumous pardon in 2010.

Morrison made his final album with The Doors, "L.A. Woman," in 1971, and moved to Paris soon afterwards.

There, on July 3, 1971, he was found dead in a bathtub. No autopsy was performed and accounts of what caused his death are disputed.

He was one of several rock stars — including Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Kurt Cobain and the Rolling Stones' Brian Jones — to die at 27.

His status as a mythic figure for rock fans has never waned. On the 20th anniversary of his death in

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1991, the Oliver Stone-directed biopic "The Doors" was released, starring Val Kilmer as Morrison.

## Forensic team heads to Canadian town destroyed by wildfire

LYTTON, British Columbia (AP) — A forensic team arrived Saturday in a Canadian town destroyed by wildfire to confirm reports that two people were killed during the blazes which forced residents to abandon their homes with just a few minutes notice several days ago.

The Coroners Service in British Columbia said they will enter the devastated village of Lytton, located 95 miles (150 kilometers) northeast of Vancouver, "only if it has been deemed safe."

The roughly 1,000 residents of Lytton fled their homes Wednesday evening after suffering the previous day under a record high of 121.2 Fahrenheit (49.6 Celsius).

One resident said he watched his parents die when a power line fell on them while trying to hide from the flames.

Jeff Chapman told CBC News he and his parents, who were in their 60s, were preparing for a late afternoon barbecue when they saw smoke and flames approaching.

"There was nothing we could do," said Chapman. "It came in so fast, we had nowhere to go."

Chapman said he helped his parents take shelter in a trench that had been dug to repair a septic system. He covered the trench with some tin. Then he spent the next 45 minutes laying on the gravel of a railway track as the fire burned around him.

When he returned for his parents, a power line had fallen on them.

"We just tried to save what we worked our whole life for," he said. "It might not have been the best, but it was home."

Those who escaped the fire scattered to evacuation centers across the province.

John Haugen, acting chief of the Lytton First Nation, said many people are still in shock over losing their homes.

"For many it's traumatic," he told Global News. "They still haven't been able to really wrap their heads around they have no home to go back too."

The B.C. Wildfire Service says the fire burning near Lytton has grown to 32,000 square miles (83,000 square kilometers) in size.

Another fire near Kamloops, B.C, forced officials to evacuate more than 100 homes Friday evening.

The cause of the wildfire that devastated Lytton is under investigation. Earlier this week Premier John Horgan said he had heard anecdotal evidence linking the start of the fire to a train running through the community.

The office of federal Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said in an emailed statement that it would take necessary action should any potential non-compliance with Canada's rail safety laws and regulations be identified.

## Ransomware attack before holiday leaves companies scrambling

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

Businesses around the world rushed Saturday to contain a ransomware attack that has paralyzed their computer networks, a situation complicated in the U.S. by offices lightly staffed at the start of the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

It's not yet known how many organizations have been hit by demands that they pay a ransom in order to get their systems working again. But some cybersecurity researchers predict the attack targeting customers of software supplier Kaseya could be one of the broadest ransomware attacks on record.

It follows a scourge of headline-grabbing attacks over recent months that have been a source of diplomatic tension between U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin over whether Russia has become a safe haven for cybercriminal gangs.

Biden said Saturday he didn't yet know for certain who was responsible but suggested that the U.S.

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would respond if Russia was found to have anything to do with it.

"If it is either with the knowledge of and or a consequence of Russia then I told Putin we will respond," Biden said. "We're not certain. The initial thinking was it was not the Russian government."

Cybersecurity experts say the REvil gang, a major Russian-speaking ransomware syndicate, appears to be behind the attack that targeted the software company Kaseya, using its network-management package as a conduit to spread the ransomware through cloud-service providers.

"The number of victims here is already over a thousand and will likely reach into the tens of thousands," said cybersecurity expert Dmitri Alperovitch of the Silverado Policy Accelerator think tank. "No other ransomware campaign comes even close in terms of impact."

The cybersecurity firm ESET says there are victims in at least 17 countries, including the United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, Argentina, Mexico, Kenya and Germany.

In Sweden, most of the grocery chain Coop's 800 stores were unable to open because their cash registers weren't working, according to SVT, the country's public broadcaster. The Swedish State Railways and a major local pharmacy chain were also affected.

Kaseya CEO Fred Vocola said in a statement that the company believes it has identified the source of the vulnerability and will "release that patch as quickly as possible to get our customers back up and running."

Vocola said fewer than 40 of Kaseya's customers were known to be affected, but experts said the ransomware could still be affecting hundreds more companies that rely on Kaseya's clients that provide broader IT services.

John Hammond of the security firm Huntress Labs said he was aware of a number of managed-services providers — companies that host IT infrastructure for multiple customers — being hit by the ransomware, which encrypts networks until the victims pay off attackers.

"It's reasonable to think this could potentially be impacting thousands of small businesses," said Hammond, basing his estimate on the service providers reaching out to his company for assistance and comments on Reddit showing how others are responding.

At least some victims appeared to be getting ransoms set at \$45,000, considered a small demand but one that could quickly add up when sought from thousands of victims, said Brett Callow, a ransomware expert at the cybersecurity firm Emsisoft.

Callow said it's not uncommon for sophisticated ransomware gangs to perform an audit after stealing a victim's financial records to see what they can really pay, but that won't be possible when there are so many victims to negotiate with.

"They just pitched the demand amount at a level most companies will be willing to pay," he said.

Vocola said the problem is only affecting its "on-premise" customers, which means organizations running their own data centers. It's not affecting its cloud-based services running software for customers, though Kaseya also shut down those servers as a precaution, he said.

The company added in a statement Saturday that "customers who experienced ransomware and receive a communication from the attackers should not click on any links -- they may be weaponized."

Gartner analyst Katell Thielemann said it's clear that Kaseya quickly sprang to action, but it's less clear whether their affected clients had the same level of preparedness.

"They reacted with an abundance of caution," she said. "But the reality of this event is it was architected for maximum impact, combining a supply chain attack with a ransomware attack."

Supply chain attacks are those that typically infiltrate widely used software and spread malware as it updates automatically.

Complicating the response is that it happened at the start of a major holiday weekend in the U.S., when most corporate IT teams aren't fully staffed.

That could also leave those organizations unable to address other security vulnerabilities, such a dangerous Microsoft bug affecting software for print jobs, said James Shank, of threat intelligence firm Team Cymru.

"Customers of Kaseya are in the worst possible situation," he said. "They're racing against time to get the updates out on other critical bugs."

Shank said "it's reasonable to think that the timing was planned" by hackers for the holiday.



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The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it was affecting hundreds of businesses and was "another reminder that the U.S. government must take the fight to these foreign cybercriminal syndicates" by investigating, disrupting and prosecuting them.

The federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said in a statement that it is closely monitoring the situation and working with the FBI to collect more information about its impact.

CISA urged anyone who might be affected to "follow Kaseya's guidance to shut down VSA servers immediately." Kaseya runs what's called a virtual system administrator, or VSA, that's used to remotely manage and monitor a customer's network.

The privately held Kaseya is based in Dublin, Ireland, with a U.S. headquarters in Miami.

REvil, the group most experts have tied to the attack, was the same ransomware provider that the FBI linked to an attack on JBS SA, a major global meat processor forced to pay a \$11 million ransom, amid the Memorial Day holiday weekend in May.

Active since April 2019, the group provides ransomware-as-a-service, meaning it develops the network-paralyzing software and leases it to so-called affiliates who infect targets and earn the lion's share of ransoms.

U.S. officials have said the most potent ransomware gangs are based in Russia and allied states and operate with Kremlin tolerance and sometimes collude with Russian security services.

Alperovitch said he believes the latest attack is financially motivated and not Kremlin-directed.

However, he said it shows that Putin "has not yet moved" on shutting down cybercriminals within Russia after Biden pressed him to do so at their June summit in Switzerland.

Asked about the attack during a trip to Michigan on Saturday, Biden said he had asked the intelligence community for a "deep dive" on what happened. He said he expected to know more by Sunday.

## Kane carries England past Ukraine, into Euro 2020 semifinals

By ANDREW DAMPF AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — England is going back home — with something to play for.

Harry Kane scored twice and England overwhelmed Ukraine 4-0 Saturday to reach the European Championship semifinals.

It was the only match of Euro 2020 that England had to play away from Wembley Stadium and it was the team's most dominant performance of the tournament.

"I've said it all along it's all about peaking for the right time," Kane said. "We are on the right track."

Harry Maguire and Jordan Henderson also scored as England kept a clean sheet for the fifth straight match of the competition.

It marked the first time that England scored four goals in the knockout stage of a major tournament since beating West Germany 4-2 in the 1966 World Cup final.

England now goes back to London to face Denmark on Wednesday. The Danes beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in Baku.

"We haven't done nothing yet," Kane said. "We've got a semifinal at Wembley. ... What a moment for us as a team, as a nation. It's there for us, it's an opportunity for us. We have to grab it with both hands."

Italy will face Spain in the other semifinal match on Tuesday, with the final next weekend also to be played at Wembley.

The last time England made it to the last four of the European Championship was in 1996. But the bigger goal at this point is to duplicate the success of the 1966 England team that won the World Cup on home soil.

Kane scored on England's first opportunity in the fourth minute, using one touch to redirect a through ball from Raheem Sterling for his second goal in as many matches. The ball went in off the shoulder of goalkeeper Georgiy Bushchan inside the near post.

England also scored early in the second half after Kane was fouled about 10 seconds. A free kick from Luke Shaw set up a header from Maguire. Four minutes later, Kane got his second by heading in another cross from Shaw on a play that included a backheel pass from Sterling as England dazzled.

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After failing to score in the group stage, Kane now has three goals in two matches after also scoring in the 2-0 win over Germany in the last 16.

"Sometimes as a striker it falls your way, sometimes it doesn't," Kane said. "That's just part and parcel of being a striker."

Kane won the Golden Boot with six goals the 2018 World Cup, when England also reached the semifinals. He exited to a standing ovation at the Stadio Olimpico when he came off midway through the second half.

Ukraine coach Andriy Shevchenko, a former standout forward, appreciated how Kane took advantage of all of his opportunities.

"That's all a striker has to do," Shevchenko said.

Henderson's goal — his first for England after a decade with the national team — also came with a header as Ukraine's defenders had no answers to England's aerial prowess.

"We wanted to be better at attacking set plays," Maguire said. "We hadn't scored from one at this tournament and we've got two tonight."

Ukraine, which was coming off a 2-1 extra-time win over Sweden, had relied on occasional counterattacks in the first half and produced a series of chances just before the break. Otherwise, England was in control.

The Italian government had explicitly warned Britain-based England fans to stay away from the match unless they could prove they had observed five days of quarantine since arriving.

Still, there were clearly more England supporters than Ukraine fans inside the partially filled stadium. But a pocket of yellow-clad Ukraine fans made plenty of noise by banging on drums and chanting.

Because of the pandemic, the Olimpico could only be 25% full with about 16,000 fans.

Ukraine residents also faced restrictions for travel to Italy.

## **Biden goes in for cherries on campaign-style Michigan trip**

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — President Joe Biden stayed mum on policy during a Saturday trip to Michigan, focusing instead on cherries — and cherry pie and cherry ice cream — and voters who were mask-free as coronavirus restrictions have eased. It had all the hallmarks of a campaign stop that he couldn't make last year.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer greeted Biden when he arrived midday in Traverse City, which is hosting the National Cherry Festival, an event that attracted Presidents Herbert Hoover and Gerald Ford in the past.

They skipped the festival, however, in favor of a cherry farm in nearby Antrim County, where Biden pitched his immigration plans when chatting with two couples from Guatemala who were picking fruit. He then greeted a long line of enthusiastic supporters stretched out behind a rope.

His trip was billed as part of a broader campaign by the administration to drum up public support for his bipartisan infrastructure package and other policies geared toward families and education. But the president was out for direct contact with voters and refrained from delivering remarks about his policy proposals.

Whitmer told reporters she spoke to Biden about infrastructure, although not about any projects for Michigan specifically.

"I'm the fix-the-damn-roads governor, so I talk infrastructure with everybody, including the president," she said. In recent flooding, she said the state saw "under-invested infrastructure collide with climate change" and the freeways were under water.

"So this is an important moment. And that's why this infrastructure package is so important. That's also why I got the president rocky road fudge from Mackinac Island for his trip here," she said.

Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow also said she spoke with the president about the infrastructure package as they toured the cherry farm, noting that her phone signal dropped to one bar and that the proposed broadband buildout was needed.

Biden's host at King Orchards, Juliette King McAvoy, introduced him to the two Guatemalan couples, who she said had been working on the farm for 35 years. He told them he was proposing a pathway to

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citizenship for farmworkers. Biden then picked a cherry out of one of their baskets and ate it. He later bought pies at the farm's market, including three varieties of cherry.

Before leaving Michigan, he stopped in at Moomers Homemade Ice Cream in Traverse City, where he bought Cherries Moobilie cones for Stabenow and Gary Peters, Michigan's other Democratic senator. But for himself it was vanilla with chocolate chips in a waffle cone.

Told it was cherry country, Biden said, "Yeah, but I'm more of a chocolate chip guy."

First lady Jill Biden also was on the road Saturday, traveling to Maine and New Hampshire, while Vice President Kamala Harris was visiting a union training center in Las Vegas.

The president has said the key to getting his \$973 billion deal passed in Congress involves taking the case straight to voters. While Republicans and Democrats might squabble in Washington, Biden's theory is that lawmakers of both parties want to deliver for their constituents.

White House officials negotiated a compromise with a bipartisan group of senators led by Republican Rob Portman of Ohio and Democrat Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona.

The agreement, announced in June, features \$109 billion on roads and highways, \$15 billion on electric vehicle infrastructure and transit systems and \$65 billion toward broadband, among other expenditures on airports, drinking water systems and resiliency efforts to tackle climate change.

It would be funded by COVID-19 relief that was approved in 2020 but unspent, repurposed money for enhanced unemployment benefits and increased enforcement by the IRS on wealthier Americans who avoid taxes. The financing also depends on leasing 5G telecommunications spectrum, the strategic petroleum reserve and the potential economic growth produced by the investments.

Biden intends to pass additional initiatives on education and families as well as tax increases on the wealthy and corporations through the budget reconciliation process. This would allow the passage of Biden's priorities by a simple majority vote, avoiding the 60-vote hurdle in a Senate split evenly between Democrats and Republicans.

## Britain's Raducanu, 18, joins Gauff, 17, in Wimbledon Week 2

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Here's how hushed the crowd at No. 1 Court was before points Saturday: You could hear Emma Raducanu's palm slap her thigh while she waited to receive serves.

Here's how loud the place got after points: You could close your eyes and monitor the collective reactions that followed each — the "Awwwwww!" of disappointment or the on-their-feet roar of joy — as the 18-year-old became the youngest British player, female or male, to reach Wimbledon's fourth round in more than a half-century.

Yes, Coco Gauff now has some company when it comes to being a teen in Week 2 at the All England Club. Shortly before Gauff, a 17-year-old American, made her way to the fourth round at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament for the second time in a row by beating 102nd-ranked Kaja Juvan of Slovenia 6-3, 6-3 at Centre Court, Raducanu dropped her racket and knelt on the grass as she finished off her 6-3, 7-5 win over 45th-ranked Sorana Cirstea of Romania.

"Right now, I'm on such a buzz and such a high," said Raducanu, the 338th-ranked wild-card entry who is still waiting to find out the grades of her high school exams.

"When I heard the crowd just roar for the first time, I was like, 'Wow, they're so behind me.' I was just feeding off of their energy," she said after displaying both slick groundstrokes, often on the run, that helped produce 30 winners, and a resiliency when things got tight. "I'm just so excited I get to play in front of them again."

That she will, in what is not only her Grand Slam debut but just her second tour-level event of any sort.

After Sunday's traditional middle-of-the-fortnight day of rest — which is being done away with in 2022 — Raducanu faces Ajla Tomljanovic in the round of 16 Monday.

Tomljanovic got into a bit of a kerfuffle with Jelena Ostapenko after eliminating the 2017 French Open champion 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 and accusing her of lying about needing to leave the court for a medical timeout

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to address an abdominal issue.

"She can say she was injured," Tomljanovic said. "I don't think she was."

No. 20 seed Gauff meets 2018 champion Angelique Kerber, the only past Wimbledon winner still in the draw, while other women's matchups include No. 1 Ash Barty, the 2019 French Open champion, against No. 14 Barbora Krejcikova, last month's French Open champion, and No. 19 Karolina Muchova vs. No. 30 Paula Badosa.

Men's fourth-rounders established Saturday include eight-time champion Roger Federer against No. 23 seed Lorenzo Sonego, No. 2 Daniil Medvedev against No. 14 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 4 Alexander Zverev against No. 16 Felix Auger-Aliassime, and No. 7 Matteo Berrettini against Ilya Ivashka.

Medvedev dropped the opening two sets against 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic before coming through 6-7 (3), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

Auger-Aliassime advanced when Nick Kyrgios stopped playing after the second set because of a strained abdominal muscle — which also figures to end his mixed doubles partnership with Venus Williams.

"I would have been fine to lose today and not be injured," Kyrgios said. "But it's more heartbreaking like this."

Federer's match came after Gauff's in the main stadium. They were scheduled that way for second-round matches Thursday, too.

Gauff likened herself to an opening act.

"You know how concerts, they have a big artist, then a smaller artist come before them?" she said. "That's what I kind of like to think of it as."

She is represented by Federer's management company, so perhaps he was responsible for some advice Gauff received — she said the words came from a player, but wouldn't say who it was — after her surprising run to the fourth round at the All England Club as a 15-year-old qualifier in 2019.

"You got to give yourself a pat on the back sometimes when you do something good," Gauff said. "Even though it's such a simple thing, it's something that really stuck with me."

The other tip she counted on after that breakthrough two years ago -- when she, like Raducanu now, was ranked outside the top 300, came from former First Lady Michelle Obama: "It's OK to say 'No' to some things."

That could serve Raducanu well, too, given how much of a frenzy she is stirring up for the home fans.

No British woman has won Wimbledon since Virginia Wade in 1977, and Raducanu is the country's last player in either singles bracket (Federer beat the lone remaining man, No. 29 Cameron Norrie).

"It's wonderful to see her grow in confidence and really rise to the occasion," said British Billie Jean King Cup captain Anne Keothavong, who first saw an 11-year-old Emma swing a racket as one of her "pupils" during a coaching certification course run by their national tennis federation. "I don't think anyone could have expected these kind of performances from her on her debut."

Not even Mom and Dad.

"When I was packing to come into the bubble, my parents were like: 'Aren't you packing too many sets of match kits?'" Raducanu said with a laugh. "I think I'm going to have to do some laundry tonight."

## The Latest: Medvedev rallies from 2 sets down at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — The Latest on Wimbledon (all times local):

8:55 p.m.

Second-seeded Daniil Medvedev came from two sets down to beat former Wimbledon finalist Marin Cilic and reach the fourth round of the grass-court Grand Slam for the first time.

Medvedev recovered to win 6-7 (3), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 on No. 1 Court. He missed three match points at 5-0 in the final set but served out the match on his second attempt.

The Australian Open runner-up joined Andrey Rublev and Karen Khachanov in the fourth round, making it the first time in the Open era that three Russian men have advanced that far.



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8 p.m.

Top-ranked Ash Barty matched her best Wimbledon result by reaching the fourth round for the second time.

Barty beat Katerina Siniakova 6-3, 7-5 on Centre Court.

She will face French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková on Monday, a matchup she called "an incredible challenge."

Barty won the French Open in 2019, the same year she reached the fourth round at Wimbledon.

6 p.m.

Roger Federer is into the fourth round of Wimbledon for a record-extending 18th time.

The 39-year-old Federer beat Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 on Centre Court.

The eight-time Wimbledon champion had a slight wobble in the third set when he missed two break points at 5-5 and was then broken at love by Norrie.

After trading breaks in the fourth set, Federer broke again for a 5-4 lead.

He will play No. 23-seeded Lorenzo Sonego of Italy on Monday.

It's the 69th time that Federer has reached the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament, also a record. Norrie was the last British man remaining in the tournament.

4:40 p.m.

Nick Kyrgios retired with an injury after the second set of his third-round match against Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Kyrgios appeared to struggle with an abdominal injury and told a trainer that he couldn't serve properly and was worried about tearing a muscle.

"It's getting worse and worse," Kyrgios said. "I'm trying but I can't even, I can't serve anymore. I can't do it."

Kyrgios won the first set 6-2 but lost the second 6-1 on No. 1 Court.

The Australian is also playing mixed doubles with Venus Williams at this year's tournament.

4:20 p.m.

British player Cameron Norrie hit a ball that bounced into the Centre Court stands and hit a little boy in the face.

So at the next break in action, Norrie carried one of the official Wimbledon towels that players are given and tossed it to the child, who was seated in the third row in a corner of the arena.

Spectators appreciated the gesture, giving Norrie one of the loudest rounds of applause he'd heard to that point in his third-round match against Roger Federer.

Federer won the opening set 6-4.

3:50 p.m.

Nick Kyrgios thought he was perfectly prepared for his third-round match at Wimbledon. Then he realized he left his shoes in the locker room.

The Australian caused a slight delay to his match against Felix Auger-Aliassime because he didn't have his proper grass-court shoes with him when he stepped onto No. 1 Court.

"I left my tennis shoes in the locker room. Good start," Kyrgios said with a sheepish grin.

His mishap forced the two players to stand around for a couple of minutes before they could start their warm-up.

"The one day I thought I was being a professional," Kyrgios joked, pointing out that he had all his rackets and clothes with him. "Walking out here so confidently and then, bang. Left the shoes in the locker room."

The warm-up could finally start after a Wimbledon employee came running out with Kyrgios' shoes.

3:05 p.m.

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Coco Gauff is back into the second week of Wimbledon.

The 17-year-old American matched her breakout result from 2019 by reaching the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Kaja Juvan on Centre Court. Gauff finished with 21 winners and broke her opponent five times.

Gauff will face former Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber on Monday.

In men's play, No. 7-seeded Matteo Berrettini advanced with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 win over Aljaz Bedene.

2:55 p.m.

Emma Raducanu became the youngest British woman to reach the fourth round of Wimbledon in the Open era.

The 18-year-old Raducanu converted her third match point to beat veteran Sorana Cirstea 6-3, 7-5 on No. 1 Court. She is playing in her first Grand Slam tournament.

Raducanu won eight straight games to take a 3-0 lead in the second set, then struggled to put away Cirstea. She failed to convert three straight break points in the next game, then was broken and missed another five break points at 4-3.

She needed another three attempts in the final game before Cirstea netted a forehand to end the match.

Deborah Jevans was the previous youngest British woman to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon at age 19 in 1979.

2:10 p.m.

Former Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber turned her third-round match around completely after a rain delay to beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich 2-6, 6-0, 6-1.

Kerber trailed 5-1 in the first set when play was halted for about 90 minutes but dominated her Belarusian opponent when the match resumed.

Kerber is the only former women's champion left in the draw. Sasnovich advanced from the first round when Serena Williams had to retire with an injury in the first set.

11:30 a.m.

Play at Wimbledon has been suspended because of rain.

Seventh-seeded Matteo Berrettini and former Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber were among the players in third-round action on the outer courts when play was halted.

Matches on Centre Court and No. 1 Court had yet to start.

There were several rain delays during the first two days of the tournament but the weather had been dry since then.

11 a.m.

For once, Roger Federer may not be the unanimous fan favorite when he plays on Centre Court.

The eight-time Wimbledon champion faces Queen's Club runner-up Cameron Norrie, the only British man left in the draw after Andy Murray and Daniel Evans both lost on Friday.

The 39-year-old Federer is the oldest man to play in the third round at Wimbledon since 1975.

On the women's side, 17-year-old Coco Gauff tries to make the fourth round for the second time in a row. Gauff will be first on Centre Court to play Kaja Juvan. Top-ranked Ash Barty takes on Kateřina Siniaková.

After a couple of dry days, rain is forecast in the morning.

## 11 people in custody after hourslong armed standoff on I-95

WAKEFIELD, Mass. (AP) — An hourslong standoff with a group of heavily armed men that partially shut down Interstate 95 ended Saturday with 11 suspects in custody, Massachusetts state police said.

The standoff shut down a portion of I-95 for much of the morning, causing major traffic problems during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Authorities said the interstate is now reopened and the shelter-in-place

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orders for Wakefield and Reading were lifted.

The standoff began around 2 a.m. when police noticed two cars pulled over on I-95 with hazard lights on after they had apparently run out of fuel, authorities said at a Saturday press briefing.

At least some of the suspects were clad in military-style gear with long guns and pistols, Mass State Police Col. Christopher Mason said. He added that they were headed to Maine from Rhode Island for "training."

"You can imagine 11 armed individuals standing with long guns slung on an interstate highway at 2 in the morning certainly raises concerns and is not consistent with the firearms laws that we have in Massachusetts," Mason said.

In a video posted to social media Saturday morning, a man who did not give his name, but said he was from a group called Rise of the Moors, broadcast from Interstate 95 in Wakefield near exit 57.

"We are not antigovernment. We are not anti-police, we are not sovereign citizens, we're not Black identity extremists," said the man who appeared to be wearing military-style equipment. "As specified multiple times to the police that we are abiding by the peaceful journey laws of the United States."

The website for the group says they are "Moorish Americans dedicated to educating new Moors and influencing our Elders."

Mason said he understood the suspects, who did not have firearms licenses, have a different perspective on the law.

"I appreciate that perspective," he said "I disagree with that perspective at the end of the day, but I recognize that it's there."

Mason said he had no knowledge of the group, but it was not unusual for the state police to encounter people who have "sovereign citizen ideology," although he did not know if the people involved in the Wakefield standoff was a part of that.

The men refused to put down their weapons or comply with authorities' orders, claiming to be from a group "that does not recognize our laws" before taking off into a wooded area, police said.

Mason said the suspects surrendered after police tactical teams used armored vehicles to tighten the perimeter around them.

Police initially reported nine suspects were taken into custody, but two more were taken into custody in their vehicle later Saturday morning. Two suspects were hospitalized, but police said it was for preexisting conditions that had nothing to do with the standoff.

Police and prosecutors are working to determine what charges the members of the group will face.

The suspects were expected to appear in court in Woburn on Tuesday, Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan said.

## Europe in vaccination race against COVID-19's delta variant

By BARRY HATTON Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Countries across Europe are scrambling to accelerate coronavirus vaccinations and outpace the spread of the more infectious delta variant, in a high-stakes race to prevent hospital wards from filling up again with patients fighting for their lives.

The urgency coincides with Europe's summer holidays, with fair weather bringing more social gatherings and governments reluctant to clamp down on them. Social distancing is being neglected, especially among the young, and some countries are scrapping the requirement to wear masks outdoors.

Incentives for people to get shots include free groceries, travel and entertainment vouchers, and prize drawings. The president of Cyprus even appealed to a sense of patriotism.

The risk of infection from the delta variant is "high to very high" for partially or unvaccinated communities, according to the European Centre for Disease Control, which monitors 30 countries on the continent. It estimates that by the end of August, the variant will account for 90% of cases in the European Union's 27 nations.

"It is very important to progress with the vaccine rollout at a very high pace," the ECDC warned.

The World Health Organization is also concerned. The variant makes transmission growth "exponential," according to Maria Van Kerkhove, its technical lead on COVID-19.

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Daily new case numbers are already climbing sharply in countries like the United Kingdom, Portugal and Russia.

In the U.K., cases of the delta variant have increased fourfold in less than a month, with confirmed cases Friday up 46% on the previous week.

Portuguese health authorities this week reported a “vertiginous” rise in the delta variant, which accounted for only 4% of cases in May but almost 56% in June. The country is reporting its highest number of daily cases since February, and the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals has surpassed 500 for the first time since early April.

Reports of new infections in Russia more than doubled in June, topping 20,000 per day this week, and new deaths hit 697 on Saturday, the fifth day in a row that the daily death toll set a record.

Still, “no one wants any lockdowns,” said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov at a briefing, although he admitted that the virus situation in a number of Russian regions is “tense.”

In some countries, the virus is spreading much faster among younger people. In Spain, the national 14-day case notification rate per 100,000 people rose to 152 on Friday. But for the 20-29 age group, it shot up to 449.

Those numbers have triggered alarm across the continent.

The Dutch government is extending its vaccination program to those aged 12-17 to help head off a feared new surge. Greece is offering young adults 150 euros (\$177) in credit after their first job. Rome authorities are mulling the use of vans to vaccinate people at the beach. And Poland last week launched a lottery open only to adults who are fully vaccinated, with new cars among the prizes.

Portuguese authorities have extended the hours of vaccination centers, created new walk-in clinics, called up the armed forces to help run vaccination operations, and reduced the period between taking the two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine from 12 weeks to eight weeks.

“We’re in a race against the clock,” Cabinet Minister Mariana Vieira da Silva said.

In the fight against vaccine hesitancy across Europe, the appearance of variants has fed public uncertainty about how effective the shots are. In Madrid this week, Claudia Aguilar, a 58-year-old archaeologist, got her second Pfizer-BioNTech jab at an auditorium that is expanding its working hours overnight.

Nevertheless, she said she is “not sure I’ll really be immune” against future variants.

“I mean, I’m a bit skeptical that this is going to do any good,” Aguilar said.

Bartender Yevgeniya Chernyshkova lined up for a shot at Moscow’s GUM department store just off Red Square after the Russian government required vaccinations for workers in some sectors.

“Now, it’s becoming mandatory and we all understand why — because the third wave of the pandemic has started here,” she said.

Fifteen months after WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, some governments appear more open to rewarding public patience than thinking about bringing back restrictions.

Some 40,000 fans went to England’s European Championship soccer match against Germany at London’s Wembley Stadium last week. In Portugal, new restrictions have been half-hearted, such as limiting restaurant opening hours on weekend nights.

In Moscow, however, restaurants, bars and cafes on Monday began admitting only customers who have been vaccinated, recovered from COVID-19 in the past six months or can provide a negative test in the previous 72 hours.

France lifted the last of its major restrictions Wednesday, allowing unlimited crowds in restaurants, at weddings and most cultural events despite fast-rising cases of the delta variant.

Tiago Correia, an associate professor at Lisbon’s Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, detects a mood of public impatience, especially among young people keen to enjoy warm summer nights.

“People want to return to normal more quickly than the vaccination rollout is happening,” he said.

The emerging variants have shone a light on the unprecedented scale of the immunization programs. The ECDC says in the countries it surveys, 61% of people over 18 have had one shot and 40% are completely vaccinated.

But Dr. Hans Kluge, the head of the WHO’s Europe office, cautioned this week that the delta variant is



poised to become dominant by August in the 53-country region his office covers. And he notes that 63% of people in that region haven't had a first jab.

"The three conditions for a new wave of excess hospitalizations and deaths before the (fall) are therefore in place: New variants, deficit in vaccine uptake, increased social mixing," Kluge said.

## Vatican indicts 10, including a cardinal, in London deal

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A Vatican judge on Saturday indicted 10 people, including a once-powerful cardinal, on charges including embezzlement, abuse of office, extortion and fraud in connection with the Secretariat of State's 350 million-euro investment in a London real estate venture.

The president of the Vatican's criminal tribunal, Giuseppe Pignatone, set July 27 as the trial date, though lawyers for some defendants questioned how they could prepare for trial so soon given they hadn't yet formally received the indictment.

The 487-page indictment request was issued following a sprawling, two-year investigation into how the Secretariat of State managed its vast asset portfolio, much of which is funded by donations from the faithful. The scandal over its multimillion-dollar losses has resulted in a sharp reduction in donations and prompted Pope Francis to strip the office of its ability to manage the money.

Five former Vatican officials, including Cardinal Angelo Becciu and two officials from the Secretariat of State, were indicted, as well as the Italian businessmen who handled the investment.

Vatican prosecutors accuse the main suspects of bilking millions of euros from the Holy See in fees, bad investments and other losses related to financial dealings that were funded in large part by Peter's Pence donations to the pope for works of charity. The suspects have denied wrongdoing.

One of the main suspects, Italian broker Gianluigi Torzi, is accused of having extorted the Vatican of 15 million euros to turn over ownership of the London building in late 2018. Torzi had been retained by the Vatican to help it acquire full ownership of the building from another indicted money manager who had handled the initial investment in 2013, but lost millions in what the Vatican says were speculative, imprudent deals.

Vatican prosecutors allege Torzi inserted a last-minute clause into the contract giving him full voting rights in the deal.

The Vatican hierarchy, however, signed off on the contract, with both the pope's No. 2, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and his deputy approving it. Neither was indicted. In addition, Francis himself was aware of the deal and Torzi's involvement in it.

Vatican prosecutors say the Vatican hierarchy was hoodwinked by Torzi and aided in part by an Italian lawyer — who was also indicted Saturday — into agreeing to the terms. The Secretariat of State intends to declare itself an injured party in the case.

Torzi has denied the charges and said the accusations were due to a misunderstanding. He is currently in London pending an extradition request by Italian authorities, who are seeking to prosecute him on other financial charges. His representatives said they had no immediate comment Saturday since they hadn't yet seen the indictment.

Also indicted was a onetime papal contender and Holy See official, Cardinal Angelo Becciu, who helped engineer the initial London investment when he was chief of staff in the Secretariat of State.

Francis fired him as the Vatican's saint-making chief last year, apparently in connection with a separate issue: Becciu's 100,000-euro donation of Holy See funds to a diocesan charity run by his brother.

Becciu had originally not been part of the London investigation but was included after it appeared that he was behind the proposal to buy the building, prosecutors say, alleging that he also interfered in the investigation.

In a statement Saturday issued by his lawyers, Becciu insisted on the "absolute falsity" of the accusations and denounced what he said was "unparalleled media pillory" against him in the Italian press.

"I am the victim of a plot hatched against me. And I have been waiting for a long time to know any

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accusations against me, to allow myself to promptly deny them and prove to the world my absolute innocence," he said.

One of Becciu's proteges, self-styled intelligence analyst Cecilia Marogna, was indicted on separate embezzlement charges. Becciu had hired Marogna as an external consultant after she reached out to him in 2015 with concerns about security at Vatican embassies in global hotspots. Becciu authorized hundreds of thousands of euros of Holy See funds to her to free Catholic priests and nuns held hostage in Africa, according to WhatsApp messages reprinted by Italian media.

Her Slovenian-based holding company, which received the funds, was among the four companies also ordered to stand trial.

Marogna says the money was compensation for legitimate intelligence work and reimbursements. Prosecutors say she spent the money on luxury purchases that were incompatible with the humanitarian scope of her company.

In a statement Saturday, her legal team said Marogna had been prepared for months to "provide a full accounting of her work and fears nothing about the accusations made against her."

Also indicted were the former top two officials in the Vatican's financial watchdog agency, for alleged abuse of office. Prosecutors say by failing to stop the Torzi deal, they performed a "decisive function" in letting it play out.

The lawyer for the former office director, Tommaso di Ruzza, said he had only seen the Vatican press statement about the allegations but insisted that his client "has always acted in the most scrupulous respect of the law and his office duties, in the exclusive interest of the Holy See."

The former head of the office, Rene Bruelhart, defended his work and said his indictment was a "procedural blunder that will be immediately clarified by the organs of Vatican justice as soon as the defense will be able to exercise its rights."

A former Secretary of State official, Monsignor Mauro Carlino, expressed shock at his indictment on alleged extortion and abuse of office charges, saying his only involvement in the deal was after he was ordered by his superiors to negotiate Torzi down from a 20 million euro fee to 15 million euros.

"It seems incomprehensible that a worthy act ... that brought him no personal advantage and had on the contrary provided a significant savings for the Secretariat of State, could lead to an indictment," said a statement from his lawyer, Salvino Mondello.

## At least 43 migrants drown off Tunisia; 84 rescued

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — At least 43 migrants drowned off the coast of Tunisia on Saturday and 84 others were rescued after their boat capsized overnight, the Tunisian Red Crescent said.

Mongi Slim, head of the organization, told The Associated Press that the boat, which was carrying 127 migrants, left Libya's coastal city of Zuwara on Friday to cross the Mediterranean Sea toward Italy. He said 46 Sudanese, 16 Eritreans and 12 Bengalis were among the migrants.

The defense ministry's spokesperson, Mohamed Zekri, said the 84 migrants were rescued by fishermen. He declined to confirm the drowning of the other migrants.

Libya is a frequent departure point for migrants making the dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing. Several shipwrecks from smugglers' boats carrying migrants have occurred in recent weeks, as attempts to reach Europe become more frequent amid warmer summer weather.

Last week, Tunisian coast guards found seven bodies on the beaches of Djerba, an island off the southern coast. They were buried at the cemetery for migrants in Zarzis, Tunisia, who perished in the Mediterranean Sea.

The head of the Red Crescent, meanwhile, launched an urgent call about the fate of hundreds of migrants who escaped death as his organization has no means to provide housing.

"The three centers in Zarzis are full and cannot shelter more people. We also have 380 other migrants in confinement in Djerba with nowhere to go," Slim said.

## **EXPLAINER: Behind the Vatican's London real estate scandal**

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Vatican has set a July 27 trial date for 10 people, including a once-powerful cardinal and papal contender, on charges related to the Holy See's 350 million-euro investment in a luxury London real estate venture.

The 487-page indictment request capped a two-year investigation that exposed how the Vatican had lost millions of euros — much of it donations from the faithful — in fees to brokers, bad investments and other questionable expenses. Beyond that, prosecutors allege a variety of charges against the defendants, including extortion, embezzlement, abuse of office and corruption.

Here is breakdown of the case, the accusations and some of the key players.

### **WHAT'S THE DEAL ABOUT?**

The Vatican's Secretariat of State in 2013 decided to invest an initial 200 million euros in a fund operated by Italian businessman Raffaele Mincione, with half the money put into the London building, half in other investments.

By 2018, Mincione's fund, Athena Capital, had lost 18 million euros from the Vatican's original investment, prosecutors say, prompting the Vatican to seek an exit strategy while still retaining its stake in the building in London's swank Chelsea neighborhood.

Enter Gianluigi Torzi, another broker, who helped arrange a 40 million euro payout by the Vatican to Mincione for the shares in the building that the Holy See didn't already have.

But prosecutors say Torzi then hoodwinked the Holy See: Rather than creating a company to manage the building that was controlled by the Vatican, Torzi inserted a clause into the contract giving him full voting rights in the deal, they allege. Prosecutors say Torzi then extorted the Vatican for 15 million euros to take control of the building.

Torzi has said the charges are a misunderstanding.

### **WHO IN THE VATICAN KNEW?**

Prosecutors have acknowledged that Pope Francis was aware of the deal, and even attended a December 2018 meeting with Torzi. One witness has said Francis agreed to pay Torzi a "just" compensation to turn the building over.

Other high-ranking officials, including the secretary of state Cardinal Pietro Parolin and his deputy, Archbishop Edgar Pena Parra, were also aware and approved the deal with Torzi. Documents show Pena Parra had authorized one of his deputies to sign the contract with Torzi giving him full voting rights.

None of them was indicted. Prosecutors say they didn't understand Torzi's contract change, were kept in the dark about Torzi and Mincione's dealings, their previous business relationship, as well as alleged commissions others involved in the deal had been earning on the side.

### **WHO IS CARDINAL BECCIU AND HOW IS HE TIED TO THIS TRIAL?**

Cardinal Angelo Becciu is the lone cardinal indicted and will be the first cardinal prosecuted by the tribunal after Pope Francis changed Vatican law to allow laymen to judge cardinals. Becciu has denied any wrongdoing.

Becciu was once one of the most powerful prelates in the Vatican and would have been a contender to be a future pope before Francis fired him last year from his job leading the Holy See's saint-making office.

Francis asked him to resign in September, and stripped him of his rights and privileges as a cardinal, citing a 100,000 euro donation that Becciu made using Vatican money to a diocesan charity run by his brother. At the time of the donation, Becciu was the No. 3 in the Secretariat of State and had decision-making authority over the office's vast asset portfolio.

Becciu is tied to another defendant in the case, Cecilia Marogna. She is accused of allegedly embezzling Holy See funds that Becciu authorized for her intelligence work, purportedly to free Catholic priests and

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nuns held hostage in hostile parts of the world. Prosecutors say she spent the money on luxury goods instead.

Marogna has denied wrongdoing and says she can give a full accounting of how the money was spent.

## WHAT DOES A VATICAN CRIMINAL TRIAL LOOK LIKE?

The criminal code of the Vatican City State is based on the 1889 Italian legal code as well as elements of the canon law of the universal Catholic Church. In recent years, the pope has updated the code with a host of financial crimes specifically to address the types of misconduct alleged in Saturday's indictment.

The Vatican tribunal has been under pressure to prosecute financial crimes as part of the Holy See's participation in the Council of Europe's Moneyval process, which is aimed at helping countries fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The Vatican entered into the Moneyval evaluation program over a decade ago in a bid to shed its image as a shady, offshore tax haven.

The Vatican has outfitted a new courtroom for the upcoming trial in part of the Vatican Museums, given its usual criminal tribunal will be too small for the defendants and their lawyers. If convicted, the defendants could face jail time, fines or both.

## New Mexico forest draws crowd for annual 'Rainbow Gathering'

By CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press / Report for America

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST, N.M. (AP) — Across a mile-long stretch of forest in a remote part of northern New Mexico, the party is in full swing.

Tents dotted mountain meadows flanked by dense stands of trees. Makeshift kitchens were erected to feed the hundreds of people gathering for what would be a weekend-long celebration attended by grandmothers, families with children and others in search of peace, camaraderie and perhaps to smoke a little weed.

This is the Rainbow Family.

The Carson National Forest, just beyond the tourist enclave of Taos, was chosen as the spot for this year's national gathering. But people also were congregating for the July 4 celebration in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

The so-called Rainbow Gathering — which draws an array of characters who range from office workers looking to get away from the daily grind to nature lovers and those who have mastered van life — was set to culminate Sunday in a silent hand-holding circle punctuated by a loud "ohm."

Normally, the gathering, which was first held in 1972 in Colorado, draws around 10,000 people to a single forest. This year, the participants are less numerous and heading to regional meet-ups because of COVID-19 concerns. Last July 4, regulars joined each other online to "ohm from home."

For Gina "Mama G" Prince, the gathering is about peace. For others, they are united by anti-authoritarianism rooted in the religious and congregational freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.

With pandemic restrictions easing, Prince said she was happy to be at her first Rainbow Gathering since 2019, when the event was held in Wisconsin.

"I've been counting the moments to come out here," said the 67-year-old Florida resident, who picked up a fellow Rainbow participant in Tennessee on the way. Wary of the virus and bogged down with underlying health concerns, her partner stayed in Florida.

In one camp, cooks prepared sweet strawberry pastries and served them to whoever was around the campfire. Money is frowned upon at the gathering, and participants bring food donations to share. Volunteers run every aspect of the camp, from piping water out of streams to digging latrines, to cleaning up the camp and packing up trash.

Drum circles are a nightly event. So are fireside discussions about everything from dinner plans to the nature of existence and metaphysics.

The annual gatherings also draw close scrutiny from the U.S. Forest Service.



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Officials with the Carson National Forest held an online forum last month for residents to ask questions about enforcing drug laws, respecting sacred tribal lands in the forest, and the plan for taking out the trash.

Forest Service officials say gatherings in recent years left surprisingly little impact on water, erosion and other areas of concern to forest officials. With a fraction of the normal participants this year, the concerns are even fewer.

Still, rangers had seized an undisclosed number of guns and cited people for things as minor as a cracked windshield. Other charges involved marijuana and methamphetamine possession.

For decades, the Rainbows have complained that law enforcement assigned to patrol them have used any excuse to pull them over and search them.

Prince said she and another woman were searched on their way into the gathering, and her friend's marijuana stash was seized. New Mexico this week legalized the recreational use of marijuana, but it's still illegal on federal land.

"They pulled people over and took all their weed," Prince said. "Pulled over a couple of grandmas."

The gathering normally boasts a giant bakery, hauled up mountainsides by hand and constructed out of metal barrels. Volunteers crank out as many as 8,000 dinner rolls per night from their perch in the woods.

"It takes about 35 of us to make the magic happen," said long-time Rainbow member Darrell Schauer-mann of Taos.

There are perils that can come with camping in a remote spot at high altitude.

On Friday, an elderly man with cancer fell gravely ill. It took an SUV, a Forest Service pickup truck and an ambulance to get him to a spot miles down the mountain where he could be loaded into a helicopter and taken to a hospital. Along the way, he was tended to by John Hartberg, a 33-year-old physician from New Orleans who was attending the event.

Shirtless and wearing a hat and a turquoise stethoscope, he declined to comment on the patient's condition, citing medical privacy rules.

Usla Gregory, 45, of Taos said the patient was his best friend. "We share the same astrological signs," he said, before breaking into tears.

After the July 4th celebration, Rainbows who choose to participate in a selection committee will pick a spot for next year's gathering. Insiders suggest that Colorado is the leading contender.

## Las Vegas is bouncing back, but the virus is on the rise too

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Fifteen months after the pandemic transformed Las Vegas from flamboyant spectacle to ghost town, Sin City is back.

Tourists are streaming in again, gambling revenue has hit an all-time high, the Las Vegas Strip has its first new casino in a decade, and big concerts are starting at a gleaming new stadium. Plexiglass panels installed to separate gamblers at the poker and blackjack tables have largely been removed, the world-famous buffets are reopening, and nightclub dance floors are packed.

Vice President Kamala Harris was set to visit Saturday for what the White House is calling the "America's Back Together" tour celebrating progress against the virus.

But that progress is threatened: Nevada this week saw the highest rate of new COVID-19 cases in the country, hospitalizations are on the rise again, and the highly contagious delta variant has become the most prevalent form of the virus in the state, adding urgency to the campaign to get more people vaccinated.

Still, in a place where the economy runs on crowds and uninhibited behavior, a return to pandemic-related restrictions and mask requirements seems to be off the table.

Inside the casinos, guests are not required to wear masks if they are fully vaccinated, but employees do not appear to be asking anyone for proof.

"It seems like everything is opening back up, getting back to normal," Teresa Lee, a 47-year-old tourist from Nashville, Tennessee, said Thursday as she stood on the Strip, looking out over the fountains in front of the Bellagio casino.

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Lee said she is vaccinated and felt safe in Las Vegas because she read about the casinos' efforts to get their workers and their families vaccinated.

Tyler Williams, a 22-year-old from Eugene, Oregon, said it didn't feel as if there was a pandemic anymore because "people are everywhere." He said he had seen hardly anyone with a mask apart from a few foreign tourists and felt no need to wear one himself, because he is vaccinated.

Las Vegas fully reopened and lifted restrictions on most businesses June 1, though many casino-resorts had already returned to 100% capacity before that with approval from state regulators. Visitor numbers, while not at their pre-pandemic highs, have grown by double digits four months in a row.

Shows and fireworks are scheduled for the July 4 weekend, and the new 65,000-seat Allegiant Stadium where the NFL's relocated Raiders will kick off their season this fall was set to host its first major concert Saturday, by electronic dance music star Illenium. It will be followed by a full-capacity show from Garth Brooks next weekend.

Over the past two weeks, Nevada's diagnosis rate of 190 new cases per 100,000 people was higher than that of Missouri, Arkansas and Wyoming -- all states with lower vaccination levels — and the state public health lab found the delta variant in almost half the COVID-19 cases it analyzed.

Also, the number of patients hospitalized with the virus has grown 33% over the past week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, though the levels are far below what they were in December, when hospitals were near capacity.

State biostatistician Kyra Morgan said Friday that the spike in cases might be attributable to the full reopening of the state and city in June and that the return of crowds and big events on the Strip could cause the increase to continue.

"If we know anything about COVID, we know that when people are gathering in close proximity to one another in large volumes, that is the recipe for COVID transmission to increase," Morgan said.

State and local officials said that almost all the new cases and hospitalizations involve unvaccinated people and that the best way to attack the problem is by getting more shots in arms. Nevada has fully vaccinated 45% of those 12 and older, well below the nationwide level of 55%, according to the CDC.

"We are a state of skeptics when it comes to vaccines," Morgan said. "We have a lot of anti-vaxxers, frankly, in the state of Nevada.

State and local officials, who in May went so far as to hold a vaccine clinic at a strip club, said they are trying to find more ways to persuade people, including the launch of a cash raffle.

Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak, who took the unprecedented step of shuttering casinos for 11 weeks last year when the pandemic started, said Thursday he will ask for help from the COVID-19 response teams that the Biden administration is dispatching to boost testing and vaccinations in communities with outbreaks.

Sisolak's office did not respond to questions about whether he is considering reimposing mask mandates or other restrictions, but Las Vegas-area officials say they are following the CDC's guidelines, which say it is safe for fully vaccinated people to go mask-free.

"At this this point, there is no discussion about increasing restrictions to the business and social life here in Clark County," said Dr. Fermin Leguen, chief health officer in the Las Vegas area. "Getting better numbers in immunization is the solution for this problem at this point."

## Rioters accused of erasing content from social media, phones

By JACQUES BILLEAUD Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — They flaunted their participation in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol on social media and then, apparently realizing they were in legal trouble, rushed to delete evidence of it, authorities say. Now their attempts to cover up their role in the deadly siege are likely to come back to haunt them in court.

An Associated Press review of court records has found that at least 49 defendants are accused of trying to erase incriminating photos, videos and texts from phones or social media accounts documenting their conduct as a pro-Donald Trump mob stormed Congress and briefly interrupted the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's election victory.

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Experts say the efforts to scrub the social media accounts reveal a desperate willingness to manipulate evidence once these people realized they were in hot water. And, they say, it can serve as powerful proof of people's consciousness of guilt and can make it harder to negotiate plea deals and seek leniency at sentencing.

"It makes them look tricky, makes them look sneaky," said Gabriel J. Chin, who teaches criminal law at the University of California, Davis.

One such defendant is James Breheny, a member of the Oath Keepers extremist group, who bragged in texts to others about being inside the Capitol during the insurrection, authorities say. An associate instructed Breheny, in an encrypted message two days after the riot, to "delete all pictures, messages and get a new phone," according to court documents.

That same day, the FBI said, Breheny shut down his Facebook account, where he had photos that he taken during the riot and complained the government had grown tyrannical. "The People's Duty is to replace that Government with one they agree with," Breheny wrote on Facebook on Jan. 6 in an exchange about the riot. "I'm all ears. What's our options???"

Breheny's lawyer, Harley Breite, said his client never obstructed the riot investigation or destroyed evidence, and that Breheny didn't know when he shut down account that his content would be considered evidence.

Breite rejected the notion that Breheny might have been able to recognize, in the days immediately after Jan. 6 when the riot dominated news coverage, that the attack was a serious situation that could put Breheny's liberty at risk.

"You can't delete evidence if you don't know you are being charged with anything," Breite said.

Other defendants who have not been accused of destroying evidence still engaged in exchanges with others about deleting content, according to court documents.

The FBI said one woman who posted video and comments showing she was inside the Capitol during the attack later decided not to restore her new phone with her iCloud content — a move that authorities suspect was aimed at preventing them from uncovering the material.

In another case, authorities say screenshots from a North Carolina man's deleted Facebook posts contradicted his claim during an interview with an FBI agent that he didn't intend on disrupting the Electoral College certification.

Erasing digital content isn't as easy as deleting content from phones, removing social media posts or shutting down accounts. Investigators have been able to retrieve the digital content by requesting it from social media companies, even after accounts are shut down.

Posts made on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms are recoverable for a certain period of time, and authorities routinely ask those companies to preserve the records until they get court orders to view the posts, said Adam Scott Wandt, a public policy professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice who trains law enforcement on cyber-based investigations.

Authorities also have other avenues for investigating whether someone has tried to delete evidence.

Even when a person removes content from an account, authorities may still get access to it if it had been backed up on a cloud server. People who aren't involved in a crime yet were sent incriminating videos or photos may end up forwarding them to investigators. Also, metadata embedded in digital content can show whether it has been modified or deleted.

"You can't do it," said Joel Hirschhorn, a criminal defense lawyer in Miami who is not involved in Capitol riot cases. "The metadata will do them in every time."

Only a handful of the more than 500 people across the U.S. who have been arrested in the riot have actually been charged with tampering for deleting incriminating material from their phones or Facebook accounts.

They include several defendants in the sweeping case against members and associates of the Oath Keepers extremist group, who are accused of conspiring to block the certification of the vote. In one instance, a defendant instructed another to "make sure that all signal comms about the op has been deleted and

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burned," authorities say.

But even if it does not result in more charges, deleting evidence will make it difficult for those defendants to get much benefit at sentencing for accepting responsibility for their actions, said Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Some lawyers might argue their clients removed the content to lessen the social impact that the attack had on their families and show they do not support what had occurred during the riot. But she said that argument has limits.

"The words 'self-serving' will come to mind," Levenson said. "That's what the prosecutors will argue — you removed it because all of a sudden, you have to face the consequences of your actions."

Matthew Mark Wood, who acknowledged deleting content from his phone and Facebook account that showed presence in the Capitol during the riot, told an FBI agent that he did not intend on disrupting the Electoral College certification.

But investigators say screenshots of two of his deleted Facebook posts tell a different story.

In the posts, Wood reveled in rioters sending "those politicians running" and declared that he had stood up against a tyrannical government in the face of a stolen election, the FBI said in court records. "When diplomacy doesn't work and your message has gone undelivered, it shouldn't surprise you when we revolt," Wood wrote. His lawyer did not return a call seeking comment.

Even though she is not accused of deleting content that showed she was inside the Capitol during the riot, one defendant told her father that she was not going to restore her new phone with her iCloud backup about three weeks after the riot, the FBI said.

"Stay off the clouds!" the father warned his daughter, according to authorities. "They are how they are screwing with us."

## **Fewer working-age people may slow economy. Will it lift pay?**

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As America's job market rebounds this summer and the need for workers intensifies, employers won't likely have a chance to relax anytime soon. Worker shortages will likely persist for years after the fast-reopening economy shakes off its growing pains.

Consider that the number of working age people did something last year it had never done in the nation's history: It shrank.

Estimates from the Census Bureau showed that the U.S. population ages 16 through 64 fell 0.1% in 2020 — a scant drop but the first decline of any kind after decades of steady increases. It reflected a sharp fall in immigration, the retirements of the vast baby boom generation and a slowing birth rate. The size of the 16-64 age group was also diminished last year by thousands of deaths from the coronavirus.

A year earlier, in 2019, the working age population had essentially plateaued.

It's not entirely clear how population patterns will unfold once the pandemic fully fades. But even if the working age population resumes growing, it will almost certainly do so at an anemic pace. A continuing drop in that population, or even a tepid increase, would pose a problem for the economy. A healthy economic expansion has always depended on robust population growth to fuel consumer spending, justify business expansion and drive corporate earnings. Without a sizable influx of new workers, growth could stagnate.

Still, some economists foresee a silver lining for individuals: Fewer people of working age could compel companies to compete harder to hire and retain employees. And that could mean higher pay, better opportunities and other inducements to keep and attract workers, a trend already evident in the June jobs report the government released Friday. Average hourly pay rose a hefty 3.6% compared with a year ago, faster than the pre-pandemic pace.

"The workers would be doing better than the economy as a whole," said Manoj Pradhan, the founder of Talking Heads Marco, an economics research firm, and formerly an economist for Morgan Stanley.

If wages were to rise sharply, it could also help narrow the vast inequality that has increasingly divided the most affluent Americans from everyone else and left the lowest-income households struggling to af-



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ford rent, food, child care and other essential expenses.

With population growth sluggish, economic expansion would hinge on whether companies could make their workers more productive. An increase in productivity, often made through investments in labor-saving technology, could further raise pay. Living standards would rise even if the economy struggled to grow at what's normally considered a healthy pace.

Last year, the number of legal and unauthorized immigrants entering the United States fell for a fourth straight year to below 500,000 — less than half the level in 2016 — according to calculations by William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution. The number of deaths jumped 8%, to above 3 million, reflecting largely the impact of the pandemic.

A fundamental long-term drag on the working-age population is the exit of the enormous baby boom generation from the labor force. The number of people ages 65 and over will likely jump 30% over the next decade, Frey said.

"We've never really been in this type of situation before," he said. "There's just not enough (young adults) to replace people who are leaving."

The situation has been exacerbated this year by a spate of early retirements. Roughly 2.6 million people who were working before the pandemic now say they're retired and not searching for a job, according to Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Sharp gains in stock prices and home values despite the deep pandemic recession made it easier for many older Americans to leave the workforce early.

One of them is Jeff Ferguson, a physician with Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis, who retired in April at age 59 after 22 years with the company.

Having worked from home during the pandemic, Ferguson said, made the transition smoother. But he was also encouraged by his solid investment gains and by the strengthening of the local housing market despite economic uncertainty.

"I probably retired with a tailwind as opposed to retiring with a headwind," he said. "If I had perceived a headwind, I might have delayed it."

The pandemic also lent him a new perspective on life and retirement. Ferguson plans to travel around the country with his wife, a pediatrician, and catch up with relatives.

Gad Levanon, an economist at the Conference Board, said the drop in the working age population will be particularly evident among Americans without college degrees. As aging baby boomers retire, they're being replaced by younger workers who are likelier to be college graduates. Blue-collar workers — anyone without a four-year degree — will become scarcer. That trend will likely create labor shortages in such industries as manufacturing, construction, retail and restaurants and hotels.

Levanon estimates that the number of college graduates will keep growing about 2% a year, despite the population slowdown, while non-college degree holders will dwindle. This could make it harder for future college grads to find jobs commensurate with their education levels. Companies may also inflate their job requirements, perhaps demanding bachelor's degrees for jobs that didn't require them before.

"The number of people who are willing to work in blue collar and manual service jobs is shrinking," Levanon said.

Pay is already rising faster for lower-wage workers. For the lowest-paid one-quarter of employees, hourly wages rose 4.2% in May compared with a year earlier, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. That's more than twice the percentage raises that these workers received in the four years after the Great Recession, from 2010 through 2014, and higher than the richest one-quarter of workers.

Scott Seaholm, CEO of Universal Metal Products, a 285-person metal stamping company near Cleveland, is surrounded by an aging population and is trying desperately to interest young people in a manufacturing career. A study found that roughly 59% of the population in Lake County, Ohio, where he's based, was made up of working age adults in 2015, Seaholm said. That proportion fell to 57% last year and is projected to hit 54% in 2025.

"That's pretty shocking," he said. "There's nobody out there to work. It's kind of ugly."

More than half the workers in his three factories are over 55, he said, with fewer than one in five ages 20 to 34. He has one 81-year old employee still working a punch press.

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Seaholm's company belongs to a group that encourages high school students to consider factory jobs. He opens his plants to high school students once a year on "industry day" and tries to get their parents to come, too.

"They want Johnny and Judy to go off to college," he said. "That's all locked in their heads."

Globally, workforces in most other countries are also aging, including in China, which once seemed to offer an inexhaustible supply of workers. Japan's population has shrunk for a decade.

Pradhan said that trend could potentially benefit American workers. Since the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, hundreds of millions of people in China, Eastern Europe and India have joined the global workforce, thereby holding down wages for lower-skilled workers and keeping prices in check.

Now, the aging of much of the world could reverse those trends, Pradhan and Charles Goodhart, formerly an economist at the Bank of England, wrote in a book last year titled, "The Great Demographic Reversal: Ageing Societies, Waning Inequality, and an Inflation Revival."

Pradhan notes that in Japan, whose population has declined about 1% year for a decade, economic growth has averaged just 1% annually. But that means growth per person has been 2%.

If the United States could achieve that level of efficiency while its population grows just 0.5% a year, its economy could still expand at a healthy 2.5% annually, Pradhan said.

Still, over time, he and other economists worry that sluggish population growth could mean less consumer spending and a less dynamic economy.

"Workers generate innovation and ideas — they invent things," said Kasey Buckles, an economics professor at the University of Notre Dame. "When you have a dwindling working-age population, you have fewer people doing that."

## Records show pressure by Trump, allies on Arizona officials

PHOENIX (AP) — Newly released records show the top Republicans in Arizona's largest county dodged calls from Donald Trump and his allies in the aftermath of the 2020 election, as the then-president sought to prevent the certification of Joe Biden's victory in key battleground states.

The records — including voicemails and text messages — shed light on another state where Trump, his attorneys and others mounted a behind-the-scenes pressure campaign on Republican officials overseeing elections. Days before Congress certified Biden's win on Jan. 6, Trump pressed Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to find enough votes to overturn Biden's win there.

Trump tried to reach Clint Hickman, then the chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, on Jan. 3, shortly before midnight in Washington and hours after news broke of Trump's call with Raffensperger.

"Hello, sir. This is the White House operator I was calling to let you know that the president's available to take your call if you're free," the White House operator said in a voicemail. "If you could please give us a call back, sir, that'd be great. You have a good evening."

Hickman told The Arizona Republic, which first received the records from Maricopa County, that he did not return the phone call. He said he presumed Trump would try to pressure him to change election results or discuss election conspiracies as he had done with Raffensperger.

"I'm not going to tape a president, so I'm not going to talk to a president. ... I didn't want to have a very rough call to my home on a Sunday night," Hickman told the Republic.

Hickman and the rest of the Board of Supervisors, which is controlled 4-1 by Republicans, have aggressively defended the vote count in Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix and 60% of Arizona's voters. They have maintained the outcome was not affected by fraud or irregularities.

State Senate Republicans used their subpoena power to take control of all 2.1 million ballots and the machines that counted them. A firm led by a Trump supporter who has shared far-fetched conspiracy theories is overseeing an audit for the Senate GOP.

The most aggressive pressure came from Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Kelli Ward, who tried to convince Republicans on the board to question the election results, even as the officials tried to instill confidence in the them. At one point, she texted Hickman, "We need you to stop the counting."

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She tried to convince Hickman and Supervisors Steve Chucri and Bill Gates to call Trump attorney Sidney Powell, who filed lawsuits around the country alleging the election conspiracies. The lawsuits were all thrown out.

Early Nov. 20, when the board was scheduled to certify Maricopa County's election results, Ward texted Gates, "Can we talk today now that the lawsuit is over? There are so many abnormalities that must be adjudicated. I know the Republican board doesn't want to be remembered as the entity who led the charge to certify a fraudulent election."

After sending information alleging fraud — and shortly before the board voted to accept the election results — she texted him, "Sounds like your fellow Repubs are throwing in the towel. Very sad. And un-American."

She texted Chucri, "Seems you're playing for the wrong team and people will remember. WRONG team."

The records also include voicemails from Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani trying to reach several of the GOP supervisors. Chucri met with Giuliani when he was in Phoenix to air Trump's baseless fraud theories.

"If you get a chance, would you please give me a call," Giuliani said in a message to Gates. "I have a few things I'd like to talk over with you. Maybe we can get this thing fixed up. You know, I really think it's a shame that Republicans sort of are both in this kind of situation. And I think there may be a nice way to resolve this for everybody."

## French far-right chief criticized for her mainstream turn

By ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French far-right leader Marine Le Pen is facing stinging criticism for making her party too mainstream, dulling its extremist edge and ignoring grassroots members, with some warning that this could cost her votes in next year's presidential race.

The rumblings grew louder after the National Rally's failure a week ago in France's regional elections, and come just ahead of this weekend's party congress.

Le Pen is the anti-immigration party's unquestioned boss, and her fortunes aren't expected to change at the two-day event in the southwestern town of Perpignan, hosted by Mayor Louis Aliot — Le Pen's former companion and, above all, the party's top performer in last year's municipal elections. But there could be an uncomfortable reckoning just as Le Pen is trying to inject new dynamism into the National Rally.

Critics say Le Pen has erased her party's anti-establishment signature by trying to make it more palatable to the mainstream right. To do that, she strove to remove the stigma of racism and antisemitism that clung to the party under her now-ostracized father, Jean-Marie Le Pen. She even changed the party's name from National Front, as it was called under her father, who co-founded it in 1972 and led it for four decades.

"The policy of adapting, of rapprochement with power, even with the ordinary right, was severely sanctioned," said Jean-Marie Le Pen. "(That) was a political error and translates into an electoral failure, and perhaps electoral failures," he added, referring to the 2022 presidential vote.

The defiant patriarch, now 93, was expelled to boost the party's respectability, but his criticism reflects that of more moderate members who say his daughter has muddled the message.

In a well-timed move, Le Pen showed her nationalist muscle Friday, signing an accord with Italy's far-right boss, Matteo Salvini, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban and 13 other far-right chiefs to create a "grand alliance" in the European Parliament.

In France, her initial goal is to reach the runoff in the presidential race in 10 months with greater success than in 2017, when she made it to the final round but lost to centrist Emmanuel Macron.

National Rally candidates — including several who originally hailed from the mainstream right — failed in all 12 French regions during last Sunday's election, which was marked by low turnout, with only one in three voters casting ballots. Polls had suggested the party, which has never headed a region, would be victorious in at least one. Instead, it lost nearly a third of its regional councilors.

"It's local elections that are the launch pad for the rocket" that could take Marine Le Pen to the presidential palace, Romain Lopez, mayor of the small southwest town of Moissac, said in an interview. "Today, we look

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like eternal seconds. That can ... demobilize the National Rally electorate for the presidential elections." Some local representatives have resigned in disgust since the regional election defeat, among them the delegate for the southern Hérault area, Bruno Lerognon.

In a bitter letter to Le Pen posted on Facebook, Lerognon blasted his boss' strategy to lure voters from other parties as "absurd." He said members of the party's local federation were "odiously treated" — removed from running in the regional elections in favor of outsiders. Cronyism has "rotted" the local far-right scene, he wrote, alluding to long-standing criticism of power clans within the National Rally whose voices are decisive. Le Pen replaced him a day later.

In western France, all four members of a small local federation resigned between rounds of the regional elections. None of the four was represented on local electoral lists — "pushed aside," as they claimed, by higher-ups elsewhere. They bemoaned a "losing strategy" born at the Lille party congress in 2018, when Le Pen first proposed changing the party's name and severed remaining ties with her father.

A party figure with a national reputation, European Parliament lawmaker Gilbert Collard, has criticized the strategy of opening up as "a trap." He said he won't attend the congress.

Lopez will be there, hoping that he and others with complaints will be heard. Lopez, 31, is a proponent of Le Pen's outreach to other parties, and credits his own broad appeal to voters for his election win last year, in an upset for the previously leftist town.

But the party hierarchy is disconnected from its scarce, albeit vital, local bases, Lopez said. National officials treat local representatives like children "and impose everything, how to communicate, build a local campaign," Lopez said. "And by imposing everything from the top, you have a national strategy ... disconnected from the reality of each town or region."

He is unsure whether the party will give local officials like himself speaking time, beyond his five minutes at a round table.

"When you're in self-satisfaction, when you refuse to look at imperfections, you go straight into the wall," he said.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 4, the 185th day of 2021. There are 180 days left in the year. This is Independence Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 4, 1776, America celebrated its bicentennial with daylong festivities; President Gerald R. Ford made stops in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Independence Hall in Philadelphia and New York, where more than 200 ships paraded up the Hudson River in Operation Sail.

On this date:

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by delegates to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

In 1802, the United States Military Academy officially opened at West Point, New York.

In 1826, 50 years to the day after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, former presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died.

In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, died in New York City at age 73.

In 1910, in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century," Black world heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson defeated white former champ James J. Jeffries in Reno, Nevada.

In 1939, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees delivered his famous farewell speech in which he called himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

In 1946, the Philippines became independent of U.S. sovereignty.

In 1959, America's 49-star flag, recognizing Alaskan statehood, was officially unfurled.

In 1960, America's 50-star flag, recognizing Hawaiian statehood, was officially unfurled.

In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian space station Mir parted after spending five days in



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orbit docked together.

In 2009, Serena Williams beat her big sister, Venus, 7-6 (3), 6-2 for her third Wimbledon title and 11th Grand Slam championship.

In 2013, Egypt's interim president, Adly Mansour, was sworn in following the ouster of Mohammed Morsi, the Islamist leader overthrown by the military after just one year in office.

Ten years ago: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez made a surprise return to his country after undergoing cancer treatment in Cuba. Otto von Hapsburg, 98, the oldest son of Austria's last emperor and longtime head of one of Europe's most influential families, died in Poecking, Germany.

Five years ago: NASA received a radio signal from the solar-powered Juno spacecraft confirming that it was in orbit around the planet Jupiter after a trip of nearly five years and 1.8 billion miles.

One year ago: In a Fourth of July speech filled with the combativeness of his political rallies, President Donald Trump vowed to "safeguard our values" from enemies within – enemies that he said included "the radical left, the anarchists, the agitators, the looters." Protesters in Baltimore pulled down a statue of Christopher Columbus and threw it into the city's Inner Harbor. Florida and Texas reported record daily increases in coronavirus cases, as new signs that the virus was surging in parts of the country cast a pall over Fourth of July celebrations. The world's longest-surviving conjoined twins, Ronnie and Donnie Galyon of Beavercreek, Ohio, died at the age of 68.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Eva Marie Saint is 97. Actor Gina Lollobrigida is 94. Country singer Ray Pillow is 84. Actor Ed Bernard is 82. Actor Karolyn Grimes is 81. R&B singer Annette Beard (Martha and the Vandellas) is 78. Broadcast journalist Geraldo Rivera is 78. Vietnam War veteran and peace activist Ron Kovic is 75. R&B musician Ralph Johnson (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 70. Rock musician Domingo Ortiz (Widespread Panic) is 69. Singer John Waite is 69. Rock musician Kirk Pengilly (INXS) is 63. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver is 59. Christian rock singer Michael Sweet is 58. Actor-playwright-screenwriter Tracy Letts is 56. Actor Al Madrigal is 50. Actor Jenica Bergere is 47. Actor-singer John Lloyd Young is 46. Singer Stephen "Ste" McNally (BBMak) is 43. Actor Becki Newton is 43. Actor Mo McRae is 39. TV personality Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is 39. R&B singer Melanie Fiona is 38. Malia Obama is 23.