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<u>1- Upcoming Events</u> 2- Weekly Church Calendar 3- Wolves Football Downs Southwest in Inaugural Game from Dacotah Bank Stadium 4- Mosquito Control held last night 5- Sunday Extras 24- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column 25- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column 26- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column 27- Rev. Snyder's Column 29- EarthTalk -Drought 30- COVID-19 Reports 34- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs 35- Weather Pages 38- Daily Devotional 39-2021 Community Events 40- News from the Associated Press

Upcoming Events

Sunday Sept. 12 Sunflower Classic Golf Tourney

Monday, Sept. 13

Cross Country at Webster, 4 p.m. School Board Meeting, 6 p.m. JH Boys Golf (H - Olive Grove Golf Course) 3:30 PM Homecoming Coronation, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 14

Boys Golf at Redfield, 10 a.m.



Thursday, Sept. 16

Boys Golf at Dakota Magic Golf Course, 11 a.m. Cross Country at Lee Park Golf Course, 4 p.m. Volleyball hosting Mobridge-Pollock: 7th/C at 4 p.m., 8th/JV at 5 p.m., Varsity to follow

Friday, Sept. 17

Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m. FFA Pork Loin Supper @ Football Field 5:30 PM TigerPalooza at GHS Gym, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Football hosting Mobridge-Pollock, 7 p.m.

Homecoming Week Dress up days MS/HS

Day

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Awkward Phase Day Twin Day Halloween Costume Dav Class color Day Spirt Day

Elementary

Jersey Day Animal OR Superhero Day Twin/Matching Dav Pajama Day Spirit Day

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, September 12, 2021 Communion in Worship Conde Worship 9:00 AM Rally Sunday Carnival 10:00 AM Groton Worship 11:00 AM Rally Sunday Meal bring salad or dessert to pass -All Welcome 12:00 PM Tuesday, September 14, 2021 Bible Study 10:00 AM Missions Meeting 7:00 PM Wednesday, September 15, 2021 Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Groton Ad Council 7:00 PM Thursday, September 16, 2021 UMW 1:30 PM Saturday, September 18, 2021 Graff/Richards Wedding Sunday, September 19, 2021 Conde Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM 11:00 AM Groton Worship 3rd Graders Receive Bibles 12:00 PM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Groton

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021 9 a.m.: Worship "God's Work Our Hands" 7 p.m.: Choir practice Monday, Sept. 13, 2021 6:30 a.m.: Bible Study Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021 9 a.m.: Groton Ministerial (at Emmanuel) 7 p.m.: Council meeting Saturday, Sept. 18 10 a.m.: Worship at Rosewood Sunday, Sept. 19 9 a.m.: Worship/Communion 10:15 Sunday School 3pm Avantara (confirmands) 7pm Choir practice (Fall Roster Leaders Conf)

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

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, Sept. 12, 2021
8 a.m.: Bible Study
9 a.m.: St. John's Worship
11 a.m.: Zion's Worship
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021
3:45 p.m.: Confirmation
Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021
8 a.m.: Bible Study
9 a.m.: St. John's Worship with communion
10 a.m.: Sunday School
11 a.m.: Zion's Worship with communion

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

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Wolves Football Downs Southwest in Inaugural Game from Dacotah Bank Stadium

Aberdeen, S.D. – Dacotah Bank Stadium opened with a bang on Saturday evening as the Northern State University football team defeated Southwest Minnesota State by 17 points. The Wolves three touchdowns and three field goals in their win over the Mustangs, marking a new era for the program.

Nearly 6,000 fans were in attendance to witness the historic evening, which included on campus tailgating, a pre-game flyover, and the inaugural Wolves Walk pre-game through the facility. Northern State head coach, Mike Schmidt earned the first win of his Wolves career and led NSU to their 24th victory over the Mustangs in program history.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 30, SMSU 13 Records: NSU 1-1, SMSU 0-2 Attendance: 5867

HOW IT HAPPENED

Southwest kicked off the game with a rushing touchdown on their first drive of the contest, taking an early 6-0 lead

Chase Teiken blocked the SMSU PAT on the score, kicking off a strong defensive day for the Wolves

Hunter Trautman connected with Dewaylon Ingram for the pairs first touchdown of the contest, a 70-yard reception with 3:41 left in the first

The two team's entered the locker room with the Wolves leading 7-6 at the half after a scoreless second quarter

Northern State owned the third quarter, out-scoring the Mustangs 13-7

Payton Eue notched back-to-back field goals at the 12:15 and 8:53 minute marks from distances of 31 and 40 yards

Ingram and Trautman closed out the quarter for the Wolves with a 22-yard touchdown play which gave the Wolves a 20-6 lead

Southwest Minnesota State did not go scoreless in the third, grabbing a touchdown with just 34 seconds remaining in the quarter

It was all NSU from there as the Wolves notched ten points in the fourth to seal the win

Trautman hit Dakota Larson for a 2-yard touchdown reception at 10:08 and Eue tallied his third field goal of the game, a 29-yarder, at 5:08

The Wolves tallied 20 first downs and 308 yards passing to lead the game, while adding 116 yards rushing

• Northern recorded 424 yards of total offense, averaging 6.7 yards per play

The NSU defense notched two interceptions and forced one fumble, while holding the Mustangs to 5-of-11 on third down and 0-of-2 on fourth down

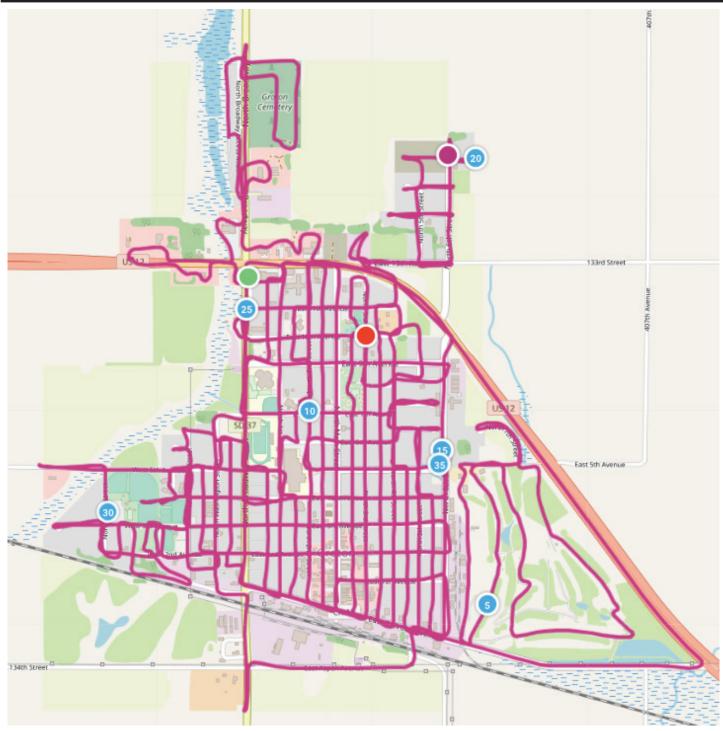
NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Hunter Trautman: 308 yards passing, 3 touchdowns, 70-yard long, 53 yards rushing
- Dewaylon Ingram: 165 yards receiving, 2 touchdowns
- Nate Robinson: 7 tackles, 3.0 tackles for a loss
- Brennan Kutterer: 6 tackles, 1.0 tackles for a loss, 1 interception
- Payton Eue: 3 field goals, 40-yard long, 53.3 yards/kickoff, 40.8 yards/punt

UP NEXT

The Wolves travel to Upper Iowa University next Saturday. Kick-off is set for 6 p.m. versus the Peacocks in Fayette.

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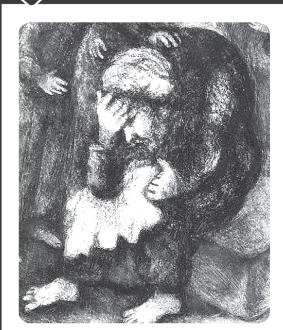


Mosquito Control held last night

The recent rain has allowed the hatch of an abundant number of mosquitoes. It is only the fourth time that a town-wide mosquito control program was done, the last being July 10. The temperature was around 60 degrees with a northeast wind at 10 mph. 9.6 gallons of Evolver 4x4 was used.

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🗭 THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Detail of "Jacob Weeping for Joseph" by Marc Chagall , 1956

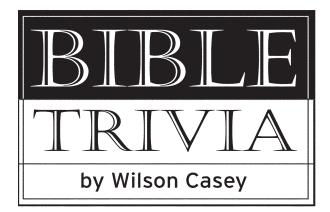
They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.

🔊 GENESIS 37: 32-34 🖉



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

2. In Matthew 5, how many Beatitudes did Jesus mention in His Sermon on the Mount? 4, 6, 8, 10

3. From Luke 2, what village was known as the "City of David"? *Damascus, Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem*

4. In 1 Kings 17, who ate a poor widow's last meal? *Amos, Elijah, Matthew, Daniel*

5. To what tribe of Israel did Paul belong? Asher, Benjamin, Issachar, Reuben

6. From Genesis 4, who built a city called Enoch? *Adam, Moses, Noah, Cain*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) 8; 3) Bethlehem; 4) Elijah; 5) Benjamin; 6) Cain

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

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by Healthy Exchanges

Ultra-Easy Italian Vegetable Relish

Zucchini is one of those vegetables that gets far too little respect. I think it might be because its vines are so prolific. No matter how good something is, when it's overabundant, it somehow is taken for granted. Try this ultra-easy relish, and others just might ask you, "Where in the world did you come up with this great recipe?"

1 1/2 cups finely chopped unpeeled zucchini 1 cup shredded carrots

1/4 cup finely chopped green and/or red bell pepper

1/4 cup finely chopped onion

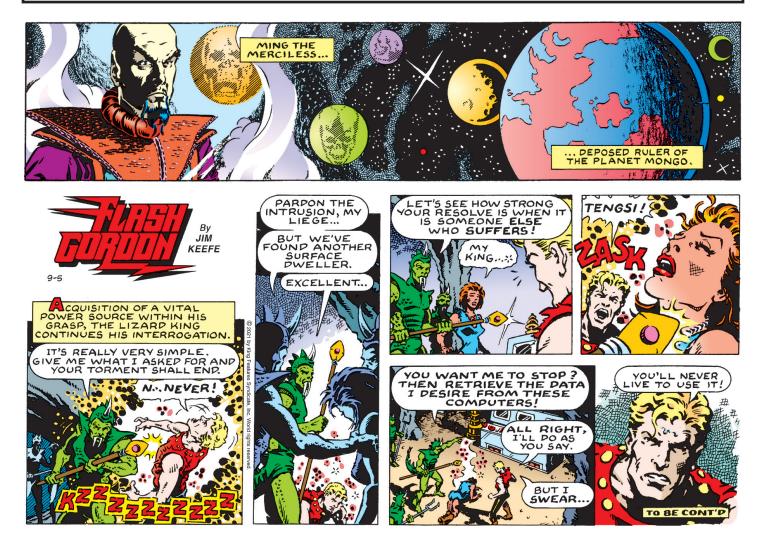
1/2 cup fat-free Italian dressing

In a medium bowl, combine zucchini, carrots, pepper and onion. Add Italian dressing. Mix gently to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Gently stir again just before serving. Makes 6 (1/2 cup) servings.

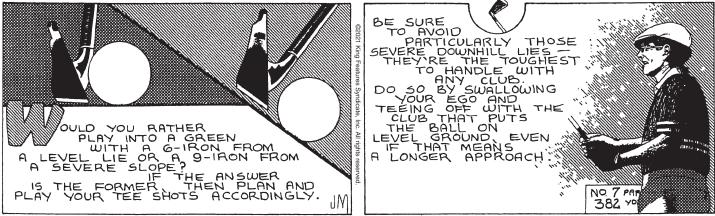
* Each serving equals: About 28 calories, 0g fat, 1g protein, 6g carb., 231mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Vegetable.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Estrogen Insert May Help With Bladder Problems

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 83-year-old female with bladder problems. I get up two or three times a night and usually make it to the bathroom. I thought it would be good to see a doctor in case the problem got worse. An operation was mentioned, which I am not interested in, so they gave me a pessary, which has been good and bad.

It is comfortable and I don't have to use the bathroom as often, but now don't get bathroom warnings and don't always make it to the bathroom. I also leak urine with coughs and sneezes, which didn't happen before. Now the doctor wants me to use Imvexxy inserts. After reading the side effects, I'm not sure that's a good thing to do. What are your thoughts: Is

the Imvexxy necessary? The side effects really scare me. -- Anon.

ANSWER: You have symptoms of both urge incontinence (the sensation of needing to get to the bathroom right away to avoid an accident) and stress incontinence (losing urine with abdominal pressure, such as cough or sneeze). It is possible that you have two separate problems. However, loss of estrogen can cause the lining of the vagina and vulva to thin. This includes the urethra, which provides conscious control over urinary flow. It needs estrogen to close optimally, and older women often have stress or urge incontinence (or both, which is called mixed) due to lack of estrogen.

Invexxy (estradiol) is a low-dose estrogen preparation inserted in the vagina, usually daily for two weeks then twice weekly thereafter. It is a very reasonable choice for women with symptoms of urge or stress incontinence and who have findings of estrogen loss on physical exam. The low dose makes side effects uncommon (in the initial trial of 764 women, there were no adverse effects that happened in women using estradiol at greater frequency than in the placebo group).

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife's mother and her mother's father had subarachnoid hemorrhages (SAHs) -he died immediately, and her mother recovered after a time, during which she suffered delusions. Should my wife receive special monitoring? She has always had migraines, which have for the most part been controlled by medicine, but as we get into our older years (70s), I wonder if we should pay more attention to the possibility of an SAH, and what might that entail. -- J.C.

ANSWER: Most subarachnoid hemorrhages, a life-threatening bleed into the head from a ruptured aneurysm, are spontaneous events unrelated to genetics. However, they sometimes come related to a genetic condition, such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and polycystic kidney disease. Even when they are not associated with a known condition, people with a strong family history for SAH are at increased risk for one themselves. Someone with one first-degree relative (like your wife's mother, in her case) has about a 1% chance of having a SAH in the next 10 years. Someone with two first degree relatives has a 7% chance. Your wife would be in between, with one first-degree and one second-degree relative (her grandfather).

There is no consensus on whether she should be screened (with a CT- or MRI-based angiogram scan), but she should discuss it with her doctor, or see an expert, such as a neurosurgeon.

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

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Cry Macho (PG-13) — Even at 91 years old, Clint Eastwood is still acting and directing, and his latest project's plot feels slightly familiar. If you enjoyed "Gran Torino," you'll probably like "Cry Macho." Eastwood plays a grizzled former rodeo star who finds himself in the extended company of a teenage boy who's struggling to deal with life and growing up. During their time together, Eastwood teaches the boy how to be a decent man. It's a role Eastwood plays well. The film will be dual released in theaters and on streaming, but only available for 31 days from its release on Sept. 17, so get crackin'. (HBOMax)

The Harper House (NR) -- A new animated series geared toward adults, "The Harper House" attempts to find the funny in housing desperation. It follows a family forced to move from the rich side of a small Arkansas town into a dilapidated Victorian house on the poor side when mom Debbie loses her job. Sounds fun so far, right? Trust me, it is. Debbie is not your typical mother hen; she's a can-do, makeit-happen feminist type, while her husband, Todd, is the mellow stay-athome dad to their twin kids, who are also opposites of each other. The mismatched personalities are exaggerated, but that's what makes it enjoyable. (Paramount+)

My Heroes Were Cowboys (PG) — Few people get the chance to turn their childhood dreams into their life's work. Horse trainer Robin Wiltshire spent his troubled youth escaping through the fantasy of Western movies. After competing in rodeos, the Wyoming resident got to train the iconic Budweiser Clydesdales for their TV commercials. His ability to connect and communicate with these giants led to a longstanding career in film production animal training. But as this short documentary shows, for Wiltshire it's more than a job, it's the saving grace of his life. (Netflix)

Everybody's Talking About Jamie (PG-13) — Really, they are! This Amazon original musical movie is a little bit "Glee," a little bit "La Cage aux Folles," and a whole lot of flash. An adaptation of the stage show of the same name, it tells the story of 16-year-old Jamie New, a British teenager who dreams of becoming a drag queen. Supported by his mum and his best friend (but not by his father), Jamie enlists the help of a local drag queen to mentor his dream. It's a fun, energetic flick inspired by true events. (Prime Video)



Prime Video+ Scene from "Everybody's Talking About Jamie"

Backyard Blowout (NR) — Every good reality competition show deserves a kid version (see the success of "Top Chef Junior"). What kids might lack in experience or training, they make up for with their enthusiasm and creativity. This original series starts with parents ready and willing to renovate their own backyards; the twist is that they must use plans drawn up by their own children. As expected, the kids think big because they have yet to learn the meaning of the word budget ... or city codes ... or even safety. But it's all in fun, and the end results are a great bonding experience for the families. (Peacock)

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1. Name the group that started out as Chocolate Hair.

2. Which Neil Diamond song is often heard at sporting events?

- 3. Who originally released "I'll Be There"?
- 4. Which duo had a hit with "I Can't Go for That"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Like a sweet magnolia tree, my love blossomed tenderly, my life grew sweeter through the years."

Answers

1. Sugarloaf. They'd formed with members from The Moonrakers, which had originally been called The Classics. The switch to the name Sugarloaf came about after the record company legal department feared that the name Chocolate Hair could have rac-

ist overtones.

2. "Sweet Caroline." The U.S. (especially at Fenway Park), Canada (Ontario Hockey League), Australian football (Sydney Swans) and the Northern Ireland national football team have all used the song as their anthem or for singalongs.

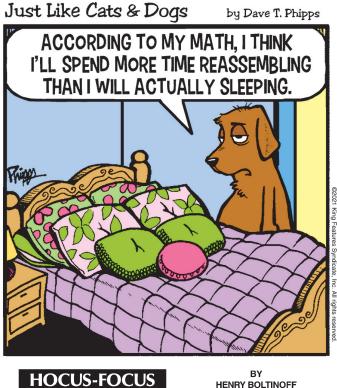
3. The Jackson 5, in 1970. The song was their fourth No. 1 hit in a row.

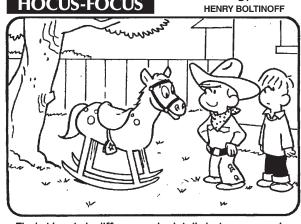
4. Daryl Hall and John Oates, in 1981.

5. "I Was Made to Love Her," by Stevie Wonder, in 1967. The song, like several other Wonder hits (including "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours"), was co-written by his mother, Lula Mae Hardaway.

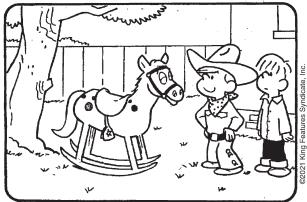
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Spots are different. 2. Eyes are closed. 3. Sweater is missing. 4. Tail is longer. 5. House is missing. 6. Bricks are added.





"I feel better about myself, and it scares me!"

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• If you need to pick up small shards of glass, use a cotton ball that's been moistened, or a slice of white bread (insides only) wadded up.

• Glass and chrome will shine if you clean them with newspaper. You can mist the paper with water first, but not too much. Rub ... and the shine comes right out, plus no streaks or lint!

• "Use purified water in your coffeemaker to lengthen its life. Water deposits build up and affect both the flavor and function of your machine. They can be cleaned, but it's much better if you use purified drinking water from a jug. It makes it very easy to fill the machine, too." — M.E. in Wyoming

• "Purchase colorful laundry baskets for each child in your home. In the

evening, you can have the child find all his or her stray items, put them in the basket and then put them away. In our house, the kids also use their basket to hold anything they need for school the next day — backpack, coats and outerwear, even boots. We stack the baskets by the door, and nothing gets left behind." — *P.W. in Missouri*

• When you are frying up ground beef, add a tablespoon or two of water. It will help the excess grease to pull away from the meat, making it easier to drain off.

• "To speed the healing of bruises, try eating pineapple. Drink lots of water, too. I play contact sports, and this has always helped me." — R.E. in Missouri

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

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COIN



HOOF ON DOWN! How many animals and birds can you find in this picture of the local petting zoo? We counted over 25.

AN ODD PROBLEM! Professor Flunkum challenges you to arrange five odd numbers so that they add up to 20. The same number can be used more than once. (There's a catch, natch.)

Answer: 13 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 20, (13 counts as two odd numbers.)

FIND THE HATS! Hidden in the grid are the names of eight types of hats. Starting at any letter, spell a name by going from letter to letter horizontally, vertically or diagonally. You can use each letter only once when spelling any one name. As an example we've given you a CAP by circling the letters.

P S Coulsor E Т Α Z David Y Ε ð B R D ustrated F

DOWN THE LADDER!

by Charles Barry Townsend

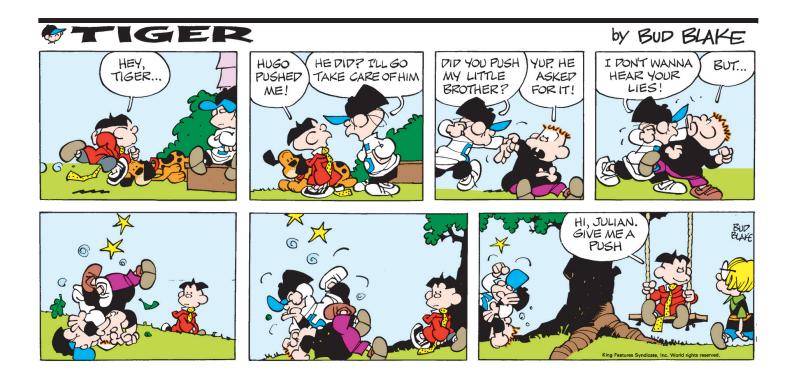
In this puzzle, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example we changed COIN to BILL in four moves. See if you can change the following five

words in four moves.

1. FIND to LOSE 2. MUTE to TALK 3. BIKE to WALK 4. BECK to CALL 5. MEAT to BALL

1. FIND, FINE, LINE, LONE, LOSE. 2. Mute, Mate, Male, Tale, Tale, Call. 3. Bike, Bile, Bilk, Balk, Walk. 4. Beck, Back, Balk, Ball, Call.

Beret, Bowler, Cap (given), Derby, Fedora, Fez, Straw, Top.



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King Crossword

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- King Crossword · Answers

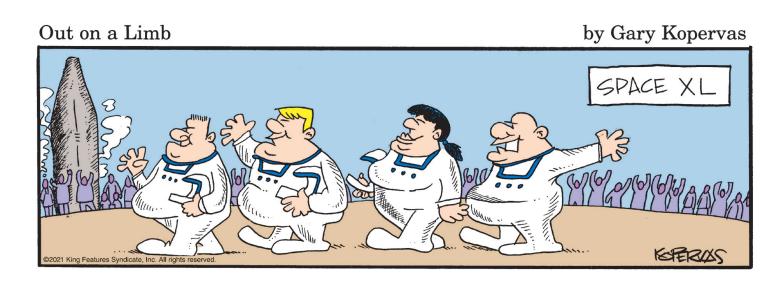
Solution time: 23 mins.



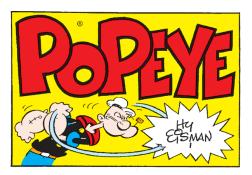
LAFF - A - DAY



"And if this doesn't work, let me know and I'll prescribe something more expensive."



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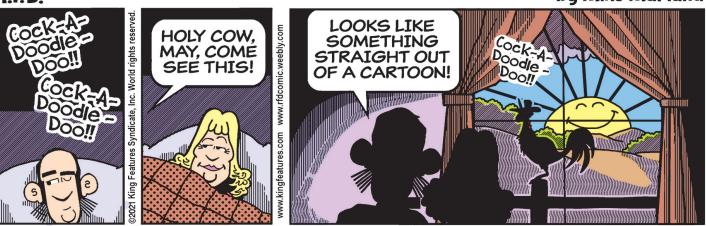






R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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SILBUG HAS SUMMONED A SURGEON TO SEE TO THE SHATTERED GAWAIN. "THIS DRAUGHT WILL MEND





THE MEDICINE MAN OPENS A SECOND VIAL ... THIS ONE WILL GIVE YOU STRENGTH ...

"... AND ONE LAST ELIXIR, TO ENSURE THE DOUBTFUL BLESSING OF EXTENDED LIFE." ALL ARE AMAZED AS GAWAIN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY RALLIES!



BUT ONE WITNESS IS TRANSFIXED BY THE WORDS "EXTENDED LIFE." IG NOTICES PRUDENCE'S EYES LIGHT UP AND THEN DRIFT TO THE SURGEON'S UNATTENDED VIALS ...







The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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by Matilda Charles

Recreation Center Shuttered Again

Well, that certainly didn't last long. My town's recreation center opened last week for indoor walking only — no classes, no basketball, no anything else — then shut down again just as quickly.

It seemed like it would be safe: only a certain number allowed into the building at one time, no walking with a buddy, walking by yourself in one lane on the track, enter the building at your designated time and leave when your time is up. What could go wrong?

What went wrong was the Mask Police.

We're supposed to be able to exercise without a mask. Except, cried the Mask Police, we would be exercising indoors. Indoors equals need for masks.

I hear it was a very heated board meeting, with those on opposing sides quite vocal in presenting their cases. The anti-mask contingent was adamant that it was dangerous to ask us to mask up while exercising. The Mask Police insisted that COVID-positive people would be exhaling germs all over the rec center. They even brought charts and graphs. In the end, the rec center supervisor threw his hands in the air and declared the center closed for the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, there's a bright spot on the horizon for this winter. The local senior center is once again hosting the Senior Health Fair. The purpose of the annual event is to link seniors with resources in the area. Companies and providers sign up to showcase their wares and offerings, including housing, products aimed at seniors, fitness, legal help, the fire department, senior-living retirement communities, the YMCA, medical services, at-home nurse visits and much more.

This year, however, like last year, it will all be online. Each exhibitor will

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1. A 1985 music video for a Dire Straits song featured footage of sports highlights and bloopers. What was the song?

2. The Rungrado 1st of May Stadium, site of the annual Grand Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance Arirang, is located in what Asian country?

3. Name the Springfield, New Jersey, golf course that hosted seven U.S. Open Championships from 1903-93 and PGA Championships in 2005 and 2016.

4. What "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier" and "Lodge 49" actor was a goaltender for such junior pro hockey teams as the Langley Hornets, Coquitlam Express, Brampton Capitals and Chicago Steel?

5. What Dallas Cowboys receiver celebrated a 45-yard touchdown catch in Super Bowl XXVII by dunking the



ball over the goal post crossbar?

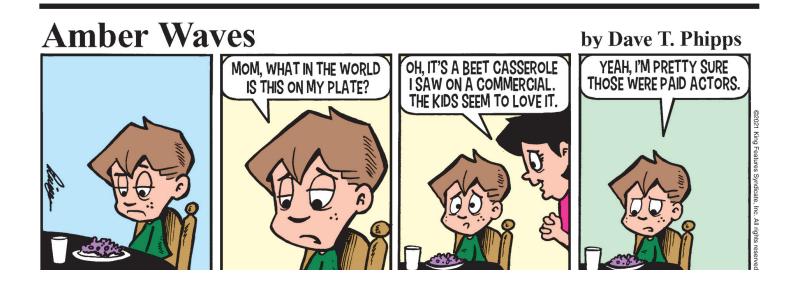
6. What did legendary college basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian have a habit of chewing on during games?

7. The University of Akron's athletic teams are known by what nickname?

Answers

- 1. "Walk of Life."
- 2. North Korea.
- 3. Baltusrol Golf Club.
- 4. Wyatt Russell.
- 5. Alvin Harper.
- 6. A towel.
- 7. The Zips.

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Brewer's Yeast and Pet Allergies

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read an article that says brewer's yeast is safe for cats and dogs. I disagree. I found several more articles online that say pets can be allergic to brewer's yeast. What do you say about that? — Carla L, via email

DEAR CARLA: Pet owners should always research and evaluate the risks of any supplement for their pets. Brewer's yeast is a mainstay for owners trying to find a natural flea control treatment, and others swear that its blend of B vitamins makes their pets healthier.

It has been found that brewer's yeast created for humans often contains ingredients like garlic and onions that are downright toxic to pets. Owners should purchase only brewer's yeast formulated for dogs or cats, as PetMD notes (www.petmd.com/dog/nutrition/brewers-yeast-dogs-understanding-benefits-and-risks).

Here are some other tips for picking the right brewer's yeast:

— Give only the amount recommended for your pet's size.

— Brewer's yeast that has been "de-bittered" lacks chromium, a mineral that helps regulate blood sugar in humans but hasn't been studied in dogs.

— Read the label carefully: Some brewer's yeast for pets contains garlic, which can be toxic, especially for smaller pets.

— Consider a brewer's yeast that includes omega-3 oils for added benefits.

— This supplement can add up to 80 calories to your pet's meal. It can also cause excess gas.

Some pets really are allergic to the yeast itself, though. Avoid giving brewer's yeast to dogs with known yeast allergy, who have digestive illnesses like colitis, or who are immunocompromised. Always monitor your pet for new behaviors or symptoms after giving them any new supplement.

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

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By Lucie Winborne

* Baritone Leonard Warren died on stage at The Met in 1960 just as he finished singing Verdi's "Morir, Tremenda Cosi" ("To Die, a Momentous Thing").

* While shedding, geckos will eat their skin in order to prevent predators from finding and eating them more easily.

* A man named Ronald MacDonald robbed a Wendy's in 2005.

* In the early 2000s, when hackers were not

that rampant, a survey showed that 70% of London commuters would reveal their computer password in exchange for a chocolate bar, while 30% of the respondents admitted they would give their password even without said candy.

* The sequel to the 1953 film titled "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" was called "Gentlemen Marry Brunettes."

* Per capita, the happiest countries in the world also rank highest in terms of consumers of antidepressants.

* The term "plastic surgery" was coined in 1839, 70 years before plastic was even invented. It comes from the Greek word "plastike," which means "the art of modeling" of malleable flesh.

* Journalist John Richards founded The Apostrophe Protection Society in 2001 to enforce the proper use of the apostrophe in written English. He closed the society in 2019, however, at the age of 96, with the announcement that "the ignorance and laziness present in modern times have won!"

* The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends avoiding drinking camel urine to prevent contracting Middle East respiratory syndrome. Thanks, guys, but we'll wait for the shot.

* Abibliophobia is the fear of running out of material to read.

Thought for the Day: "When the path ignites a soul, there's no remaining in place. The foot touches the ground, but not for long." -- Hakim Sanai

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One of the first flowers represented in the arts may be the lotus flower. It is sacred in many len ancient cultures, including in ancient Egypt as a symbol of death and rebirth to the afterlife. Ancient Egyptians adorned amulets, ceramics, papyrus paintings, jewelry and household items with it. In King Tutankhamun's tomb, collar necklaces made of cut blossoms that included blue lotuses were found among his many trinkets and treasures. - Brenda Weaver Lotus Source: www.segmation.com

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by Freddy Groves

Are You Getting All Your VA Benefits?

Are you taking advantage of all your veterans' benefits? The Department of Veterans Affairs recently launched a program to bring awareness of the benefits that elderly veterans might be missing. Per the VA's notice, only 189,800 wartime veterans and 139,800 surviving spouses are using all the pension benefits they could receive.

Here are a few benefits, available through the Pension and Fiduciary Service:

• The Survivors Pension is a monthly payment to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime veterans, but only those who meet certain income and net-worth limits. There's an additional benefit for surviving spouses who are housebound or need aid and attendance from someone else.

• The VA Pension is for wartime veterans who are permanently and totally disabled because of nonservice disability, or those who are over age 65 and meet income and net-worth limits.

• The Special Monthly Pension is an additional payment for qualified veterans who are housebound, need aid and attendance for daily activities, have limited sight or are in a nursing home.

• Surviving Spouses of Blue Water Veterans (who served between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975) might be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, even if they were previously denied.

• Funeral and Burial Benefits are available whether the death was service or nonservice related. Additionally, there are benefits such as the burial flag, a headstone or marker and Presidential Memorial Certificate. See the National Cemetery website for much more information [www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits] and to check eligibility in advance.

For details about benefits, go to benefits.va.gov/benefits. Click on Apply to find instructions and forms.

Those seeking help in filing claims need to beware. Be sure who you're trusting with your information. Look for a VA-accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative — they are character-checked and have to pass an exam. Search for accredited representatives at www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation by filling in the information, or call

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Guest Column: Remembering 9/11 as a Congressional Staffer By Danica Allmer, Rapid City Constituent Service Representative for Congressman Dusty Johnson

Tuesday, September 11, 2001. It was like every other day working for then-Con-

gressman John Thune on Capitol Hill. I was a staff assistant at the time and our office, the Longworth House Office Building, was located adjacent to the Capitol.

A few minutes past nine the phone rang – it was our Chief of Staff – he was in South Dakota and the first thing he said was "turn on the TV and get me John." I could tell right away something was not right. I rushed to the Congressman's office and turned on the TV – the first tower had been hit. As the staff gathered around the TV, like the rest of the world, we thought it was a pilot that lost his way or had a heart attack mid-air – an accident. Then the second plane hit – this was no coincidence.

There was no game plan for a situation like this. Most of us didn't have cell phones, and there was no social media. We all assembled in the Congressman's office and determined we should hunker down at the office. But soon enough, one of the legislative aides came rushing in. Her husband had called her frantically. While waiting at the mechanic he saw a plane hit the Pentagon. "You guys need to evacuate," he said. At this point it had not made the news that a third plane had hit the Pentagon. Immediately, reality hit home that Washington was under attack and there could be more planes.

We decided as an office we were going to go take shelter at our Deputy Chief of Staff's home as he lived only a couple blocks from the Capitol. All 9 of us, including Congressman Thune and his wife went outside. We'd only walked a block when we heard a sonic boom – looking to the sky someone yelled "Don't worry, it is one of ours!" I remember feeling immediate relief knowing our airmen had the skies covered.

The rest of the day was surreal. We hunkered down in one apartment watching the coverage and providing updates to John. He held an impromptu press call with reporters back in the state to let them know what was going on. In the middle of this crisis, he'd found a Bible and was reading it in between getting updates and fielding calls. I was proud to work for a man who in a time of tragedy turned to Jesus for strength.

Phone lines were jammed most of the day – it wasn't easy to get ahold of family to let them know we were ok. I lived near the Pentagon and took the metro to work – with all public transportation shut down, my coworker graciously drove me home.

Work changed after this, all of Washington drastically changed. The first day back at the office there were concrete barricades everywhere, you could not get within a block of the House office buildings. Police were standing on the corners with weapons. It was a ghost town.

White House tours stopped, Capitol tours stopped, and the way we did business significantly changed. The more information we learned in the days following made us realize how lucky we were – I can never fully express my gratitude for those who sacrificed themselves taking down flight 93 into the Pennsylvania countryside. Experts say it was likely heading towards the Capitol. My day would have been quite different if those brave souls didn't take on the terrorists.

For a city that is normally divided, Washington was united. Members of Congress spontaneously sung God Bless America on the Capitol steps just hours after the attacks, prayer services were offered and encouraged for any congressional staffers to attend, American flags popped up on homes all over the country. We were Americans. We were united. We thanked God.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: Under God, the People Rule

9/11 anniversary and the lesson every generation must learn

I heard about it on the radio.

The fall morning of Sept. 11, 2001, was a regular day driving in my truck to the family farm. Until it wasn't. The first reports were coming through my pickup truck's speakers: an airplane has flown into the World Trade Center in New York City.

When I got to the farm, I rushed into the office to turn on the TV. I watched in horror as the reports I heard on the radio were given a face and a name — terrorism.

What followed that morning was the most devastating terror attack on American soil this country has ever seen. New York. Washington. Were it not for the brave efforts of the passengers on Flight 93, who knows what else could have been a target.

America lost 2,977 innocent lives that day, including 343 firefighters and 23 police officers. These heroes redefined courage. They faced the most harrowing rescue effort in American history and rushed in while others were running out.

The message was clear as I watched the TV screen in disbelief. The world would never be the same. In the 20 years since the 9/11 attacks, we have sent our best and brightest to combat terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen.

When the attacks happened, I remember thinking I am so glad I live in South Dakota. Sadly, our state has not gone untouched by the War on Terror. South Dakota lost 36 patriots serving overseas. Nearly 7,000 of our bravest Americans died serving their country. So many of South Dakota's sons and daughters have also served, returned, and built lives here – some will carry the scars from their defense of our freedom for the rest of their lives.

This September 11th, communities across the US will honor the fallen heroes from that infamous day. Veterans and family members will gather to honor the heroes lost in the War on Terror that followed.

In the wake of so many sacrifices, we have sadly come to this 20th anniversary with scenes of chaos and crisis flashing out from our screens again. Afghanistan, the nation that shielded those behind the attacks in 2001, is on the brink of civil war — again. The freedom and opportunities that once gave hope to many Afghans are being torn down by the Taliban and insurgent terrorist factions like ISIS-K. Although US troops are gone, War and terror have not withdrawn from Afghanistan. How we ensure that country does not again become a haven for those who would strike America will be the challenge of our next generation.

In classrooms across our state, this next generation of young Americans is just beginning to experience a world without American troops fighting wars in Iraq or Afghanistan. But we are far from peace. The pain of losing 13 servicemembers in the attack at the airport in Kabul has not even begun to heal.

This 20th anniversary is marked with the same costly lesson that every generation must learn: freedom isn't free. There are brave men and women who pay the cost. We must never forget their sacrifice, and this year and every year on 9/11, we will always give respect to those who answer the call to serve. America is safer because of their sacrifice.

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A South Dakota Summer

As a South Dakotan, there's a lot for which I'm thankful. This state is the best place in the country to live, work, and raise a family. It's my home. It's my kids' and grandkids' home. And it's a beacon of freedom, opportunity, and personal responsibility that continues to draw people from across the United States to come explore. Are there any downsides? Just one. Snow. I hate shoveling snow.



With the summer season drawing to a close, which unfortunately means we're getting closer to having to deal with the white stuff, it's a good time to reflect on what else makes me thankful to be a South Dakotan: its people. It doesn't matter what town you're traveling through, it becomes clear that the people of this state are what give it its backbone. They are hardworking, passionate, God-fearing Americans who are always willing to go the extra mile for a friend, neighbor, or family member.

I'm back in South Dakota nearly every day the Senate is not in session to spend time with friends, family, and fellow South Dakotans. It's where I recharge my batteries after dealing with all of the craziness in Washington, D.C. I've spent the last several weeks crisscrossing the state to check in with folks and hear what's on their minds. As always, it's been really informative, especially as I prepare to head back to Washington where a little commonsense and South Dakota straight-talk go a long way.

Whether I was in a bigger city or a smaller town, I heard about everything from the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan to border security to keeping our communities safe. I heard about economic issues, particularly the workforce shortages that are plaguing businesses throughout the state. Farmers and ranchers told me about the agriculture industry's seemingly annual struggle with tough weather and market conditions. South Dakotans' concerns are my concerns, so you can be sure I'll take these messages with me to Washington.

I'm sure you've heard "I've Been Everywhere," the old Johnny Cash classic. Well, it's been echoing through my head throughout these last few weeks. I've been to Parker, Aberdeen, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Wessington Springs, Miller, Onida, Gettysburg, Faulkton, Redfield, Clark, Harrisburg, Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force Base, Armour, Wagner, Avon, Parkston, Tyndall, Brookings, Huron, Lemmon, Highmore, Ipswich, Box Elder, and Spearfish. And county fairs – what would summer be without a Tubby Burger? While I haven't been everywhere, I have tried to travel to as many corners of the state as possible. If we didn't catch up this summer, I hope to see you soon.

Aside from my usual summer travel, it was also a lot of fun to follow the Sioux Falls Little League team's run at the Little League World Series. These young athletes were true professionals on and off the field, and they really showed that they can play ball with the best of them. While they came up short in the end, they left it all on the field. A proud state was there to cheer them every step of the way and welcome them home to celebrate their success. You'll get 'em next year, guys.

My final reflection this summer is for our men and women in uniform. It's hard to believe, but it's been 20 years since the September 11 attacks. From the rubble, America picked itself up and dusted itself off and took the fight to the bad guys to keep it and them from coming back to our shores. The American heroes who carried out these missions served with bravery and honor, and they succeeded. While what we have seen unfold in Afghanistan over the last month is unnecessary, and it is painful for many to see, it bears no reflection on the service and sacrifice of our troops, including those South Dakotans who have stepped up to serve. You are the true heroes.

Ah, South Dakota. There's no place like home. Summer is ending, but fall is right around the corner. That means South Dakota high school and college sports, pheasant hunting, and so much more. And as for winter, maybe this is the year I buy a snow blower.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

Are You Ready for Fall?

With such a tumultuous summer, I'm glad we are now beginning the fall season. There for a while, I didn't think it was going to come. But, contrary to my negativity, it has arrived, and I'm delighted.

Summer wasn't quite the way summers have been in the past. My family didn't have many get-togethers and picnics like we normally do. However, we did have one, and that had to do for the summer. I'm hoping next summer we can catch up.

I remember when I was young, summer was a wonderful time. But, of course, maybe my memories are more wonderful than it actually was. At my age, you can't always depend upon your memory. But then, it goes the other way as well.

I am so old that nobody can contradict any memories I might have. So I won't say that I lie, but I do have a way of stretching the truth, just a little. And by just a little, I mean just enough to make it look better than what it actually was.

Of course, the best thing about my summers was no school. I was free all summer long to do what I really wanted to do. At the time, both of my parents worked full-time jobs, and I had the rule of my time.

As I look forward to the fall season, I'm trusting there will be some great times to celebrate. This generation seems to be the celebrating generation, but often it celebrates the wrong things. Some of the things that are celebrated make no sense whatsoever to me.

For example, I've grown tired of celebrating my birthday every year. After a while, it's kind of mundane. How often can you listen to someone sing happy birthday to you?

Seasons have ways of coming and going, and by the time you get adjusted to one season, it's over, and the next one is just beginning.

During the past summer, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said several times, "When will this heat ever go away?"

I would always laugh and say to her, "When it is ready to go."

She did not send a smile back at that time, but I still was smiling.

Every season has its individual characteristics, and sometimes we confuse them. For example, we have the imaginary expectation of perfect weather every day regardless of the season. But, to be truthful, I'm not sure what perfect weather is.

As we were getting closer to the fall season, the rain just came without a hint of letting up.

"When," my wife said, "will this rain ever stop?"

As soon as she said that, she looked at me and said, "That was not a question for you to answer." I laughed because I had an answer right on the tip of my tongue.

Contrary to what people think, I do like change. The idea is that when you get older, you don't like change, but I would like to contradict that.

I look forward to change.

Of course, the biggest change I like is the change in my pocket. But the other change is that I don't like to get into a rut. I don't like my wheels spinning and spinning and going nowhere.

I like to enjoy one season, because it always prepares me for the next season.

Of course, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is entirely against that. She would prefer that the





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season be the same all year long. But I like change.

I like to enjoy one season, and then I want to prepare myself for the next season.

The bad times during one season prepares me for the good times in the next season. If I didn't have a bad time, I wouldn't recognize a good time.

As we were sitting watching TV the other night, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says, "I really don't like change. I wish things would stay the way they are."

"Well," I said, "you certainly have changed through the years."

She looked at me with a scowl and said, "What do you mean?"

Then I tried explaining to her that we've been married 50 years, and when we started our marriage, we were quite different than we are today.

"I'm not the person you married 50 years ago."

She looked at me rather quizzically and said, "Who are you?"

She stared at me, and then both of us broke out in hilarious laughter.

There are two aspects of change; either for good or for bad. Each season brings in the kind of change needed to prepare for the next season.

I don't know what this fall season will bring with it. I'm glad I don't know because I probably would start the season with great discouragement instead of expectation.

As we discussed, my wife said, "and you are twice the man I married 50 years ago." I thought about that and looked at her rather strangely, and then she broke out laughing. I was hoping she wouldn't explain.

Thinking about that I was reminded of a verse of Scripture, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Right now, I'm in the season where God can bless me. I don't know what the next season holds for me but I do have faith in God to fully prepare me for the upcoming change.

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EARTHTAL

Dear EarthTalk: What are the environmental implications of the current drought across the American West and how does it compare with past dry spells? -- S. Diamond, Methuen, MA

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) database, found on Drought. gov, reports that as of August 31, 2021, 39 percent of the U.S. is in drought, with 30 states experiencing Moderate can West may just be the worst in re-Drought or worse. The USDM uses a five-category system corded history. Thanks, global warming! to classify drought severity, from Abnormally Dry to Ex- Credit: Joe Leineweber, Pexels. ceptional Drought. The percent area of the western U.S.



The current drought across the Ameri-

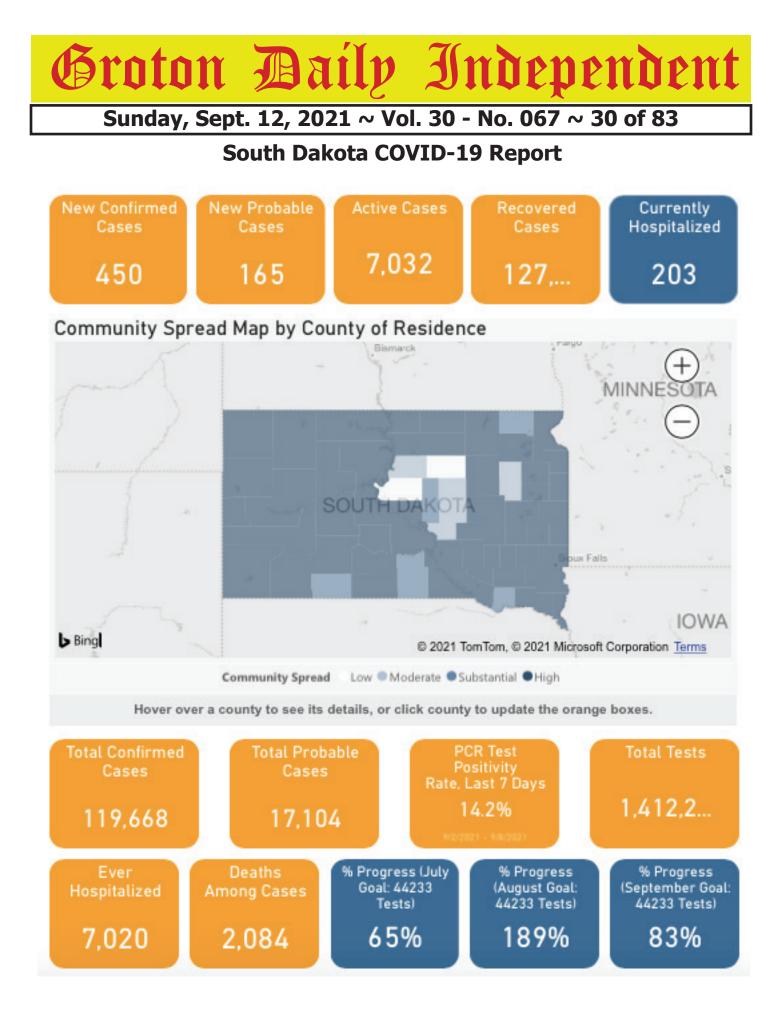
in extreme to exceptional drought peaked at 59.5 percent on July 20, 2021, while the percent in moderate to exceptional drought peaked at 90.3 percent on July 27, 2021. This value exceeded the previous peak in the 21-year USDM record that occurred in August and September of 2003.

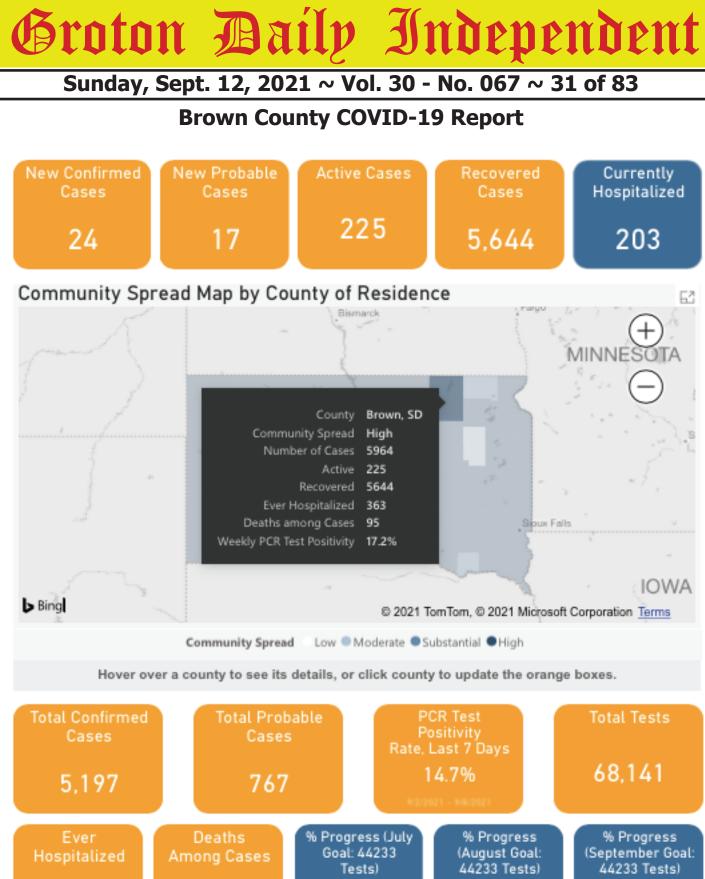
These significant drought conditions have dropped several bodies of water in the Western United States to record-breaking lows. On July 23, 2021, the Great Salt Lake in Utah, one of the largest bodies of water in the U.S., reached its lowest water level since the U.S. Geological Survey began taking measurements in 1875. The previous low was set in 1963. Additionally, as of August 22, 2021, Nevada and Arizona's Lake Mead reservoir had dropped to just 35 percent of its capacity, and the Lake Powell reservoir that spans across Utah and Arizona is now at just 31 percent of its capacity. This current lake elevation data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the Lake Mead and Lake Powell reservoirs, and other portions of the Colorado River watershed. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently decided that, given the historic drought, the Lake Mead reservoir will operate in what is called a Level One Shortage Condition for the first time ever in 2022. This will mean reduced water throughout 2022 to Arizona, Nevada and Mexico.

As water levels drop and become hotter during drought, cyanobacteria in algae blooms thrive. These toxic algae blooms, which can appear blue-green in color, or sometimes a reddish-brown color, can harm the nervous system and liver, and can be fatal if ingested. The 2015 study Drought-Induced Water-Level Reduction Favors Cyanobacteria Blooms in Tropical Shallow Lakes projected a warmer and drier climate in the future will reduce water quantity and quality, increasing the risks of cyanobacteria blooms. The Idaho Conservation League reported in August 2021 that heat waves, drought, and excessive pollution are contributing to what could be the worst year ever for toxic algae in Idaho.

This summer's drought conditions are also contributing to poorer air quality and a spike in aggravating adverse allergy and respiratory symptoms. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the dusty, dry conditions that accompany drought increase the number of particulates suspended in the air, irritating bronchial passages and lungs. Increased air pollution may potentially play a part in surging mortality rates from COVID-19, according to recent studies out of Harvard. A separate study out of Stanford University in 2014 warned of the rise of amplified air pollutant accumulations due to drought and increased difficulty in meeting air quality goals.

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.

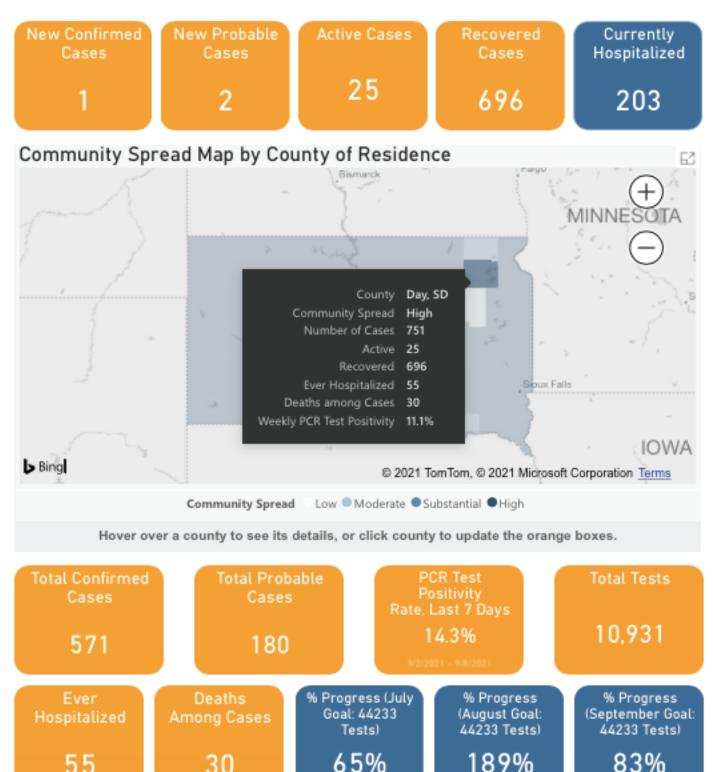






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Day County COVID-19 Report



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COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Currently Hospitalized	203
Deaths Among Cases	2084
Ever Hospitalized	7020
Active Cases	7032
Recovered Cases	127656
Total Cases	136772

SEX OF SOU	TH DAKOTA COVID	0-19 CASES
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	71202	973
Male	65570	1111

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 DAKOTA	9 IN SOUTH
COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases
Delta (B.1.617.2, AY.1-AY.12)	199
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	172
Gamma (P.1)	3
Beta (B.1.351)	2

Groton Area School District Active COVID-19 Cases Updated September 10, 2021; 11:26 AM

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	6514	0
10-19 years	16268	0
20-29 years	24268	9
30-39 years	22691	28
40-49 years	19314	48
50-59 years	18791	126
60-69 years	15308	293
70-79 years	8008	485
80+ years	5610	1095

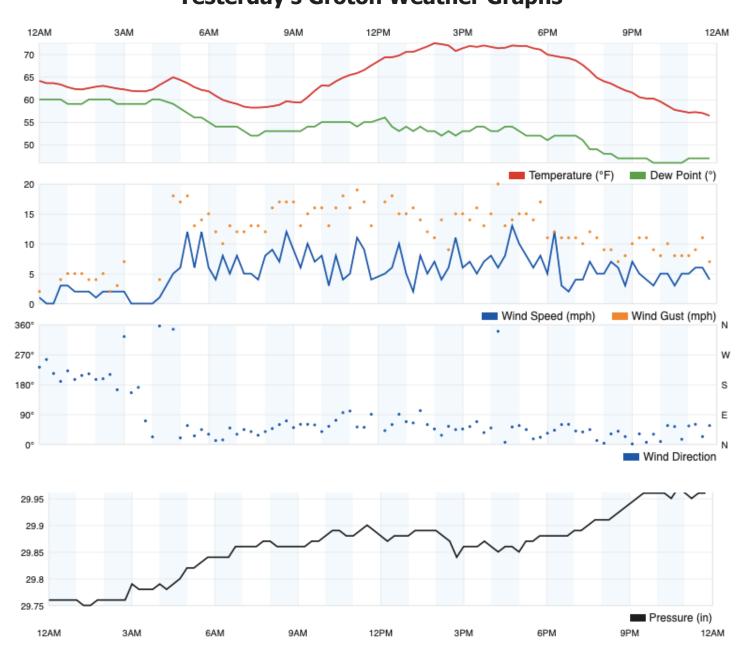
RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

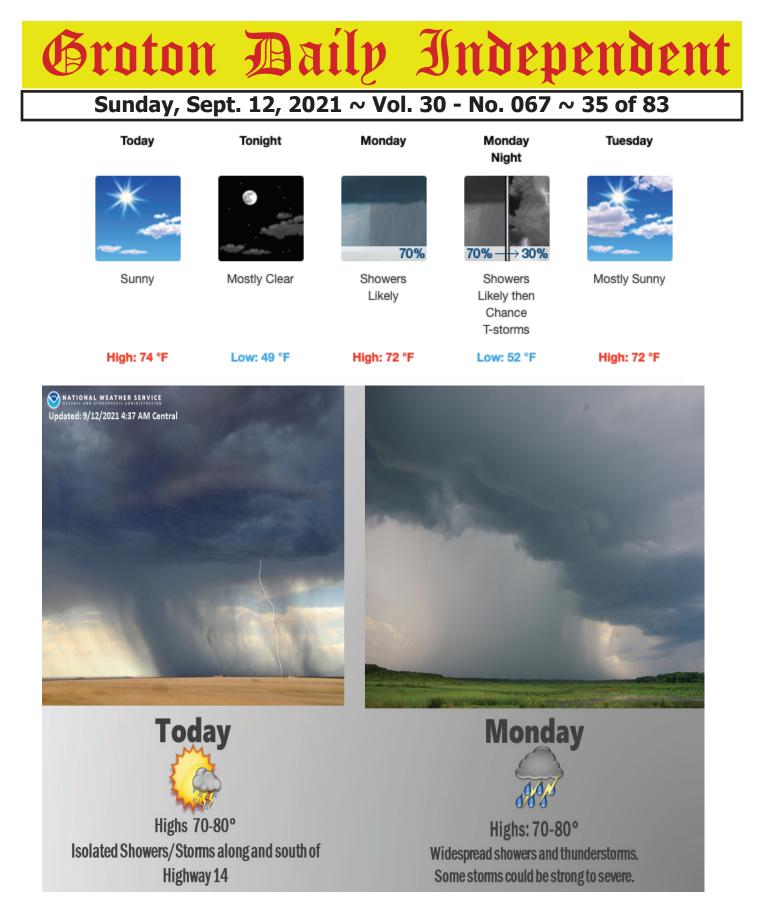
Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
White	103002	75%
Native American	15830	12%
Unknown	5543	4%
Hispanic	5397	4%
Black	3341	2%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1874	1%
Other	1785	1%

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





A few showers and storms this morning, mainly along and south of Highway 14. More widespread chances for showers and thunderstorms Monday through Monday night.

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Today in Weather History

September 12, 1931: On this day in 1931, near-record or record heat came to an end across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota. From September 9th through the 12th, many record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Mobridge, Timber Lake, Watertown, and Wheaton. High temperatures during these four days ranged from 95 degrees to 109 degrees. Aberdeen rose to 107 degrees on the 10th, Kennebec rose to 109 on the 9th, Mobridge rose to 105 on the 9th, Timber Lake's high was 106 on the 9th, Watertown rose to 104 on the 10th, and Wheaton rose to 108 degrees on the 10th.

1857: The SS Central America sinks during a hurricane, killing 425 lives. Fourteen tons of gold was aboard the ship as well.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel) 1950: A hailstorm struck southern parts of Oklahoma City on this day. The storm damaged about 4,000

homes, 300 businesses, and 750 cars, resulting in a loss estimated at \$987,000.

1961: Super Typhoon Nancy was an incredibly powerful tropical cyclone of the 1961 Pacific typhoon season. The system had possibly the strongest winds ever measured in a tropical cyclone and caused extensive damage and at least 173 deaths and thousands of injuries in Japan and elsewhere. A reconnaissance aircraft flying into the typhoon near its peak intensity on September 12 determined Nancy's one-minute sustained winds to be 215 mph. If these values are reliable, they would be the highest wind speeds ever measured in a tropical cyclone. However, it was later discovered that measurements and estimations of wind speeds from the 1940s to 1960s were excessive. Thus, Nancy's winds may be lower than its official best-track value.

1963: President Kennedy gave his, "We choose to go to the moon" speech at Rice University.

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1988: An afternoon F1 tornado skipped across sections of Indianapolis, Indiana, damaging roofs and automobiles.

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1999: Hurricane Floyd, a Category 4 storm with top winds of 145 mph, was making residents along the U.S. East Coast very nervous as it steamed steadily westward. Floyd was once forecast to strike Florida but turned away. Instead, Floyd hit the Bahamas at peak strength, causing substantial damage. It then paralleled the East Coast of the United States, causing massive evacuations and costly preparations from Florida through the Mid-Atlantic States.

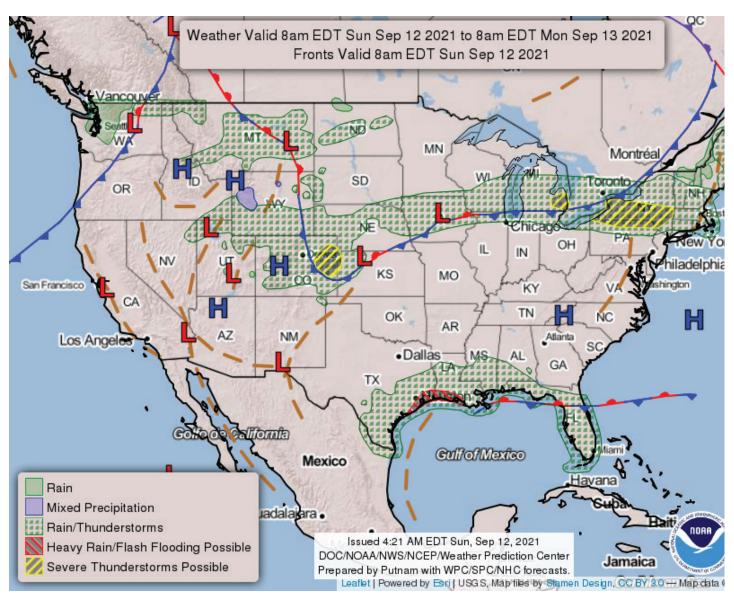
2006: Major flash flooding occurred in a matter of minutes after torrential rain starting pounding the city of Evansville, Indiana. A total of about 250 occupied structures sustained some degree of damage. Over 30 water rescues were conducted from cars stalled in floodwaters.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 72.4 °F at 2:00 PM Low Temp: 56.4 °F at 11:45 PM Wind: 20 mph at 4:15 PM Precip: 0.00

Record High: 97° in 1931 **Record Low:** 24° in 1902 Average High: 77°F Average Low: 48°F Average Precip in Sept.: 0.82 Precip to date in Sept.: 1.77 Average Precip to date: 17.16 Precip Year to Date: 14.91 Sunset Tonight: 7:50:33 PM Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07:38 AM



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ANXIETY AND FAITH

Everyone feels anxious at one time or another. It is a normal part of life. It is our body's way of telling us that something might be wrong - that we might be facing some potential danger or are feeling symptoms of an illness. If we had no feelings of anxiety, we might put ourselves in all kinds of danger that could end up in disaster.

Anxiety for the Christian, however, can be more. It may be an "early warning system" that God has put in our hearts, through the Holy Spirit, to get our attention to let us know that something may be going wrong in our walk with Him. It's His way of letting us know that He wants us to make things right with Him. Immediately!

God has many ways to use anxiety to get our attention. He may trouble our hearts when we read His word, listen to a hymn, hear a sermon, speak with Him in prayer, see a picture of His children suffering, or when we are having a conversation with a friend. His Spirit is always at work in our hearts, and it is good to be troubled with anxiety that comes from God. It's His way of getting our attention. He gives us a "nudge!"

The writer of Psalm 94 was having a huge problem with anxiety. He must have been deeply troubled by many things that were overwhelming him and seemingly beyond his control. Note his words: "When anxiety was great within me" - not simply a minor incident, but something very, very troubling. Something GREAT!

Then note what happened: Your "consolation" or perhaps better understood is the word, "comfort" – YOUR comfort brought joy to my soul." It is like Jesus saying, "Let not Your heart be troubled. Believe in me. This is my plan for You. Trust Me."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that You love us so much You often trouble our hearts to get our attention. When this happens, may we seek Your peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. Psalm 94:19

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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 Cancelled Lions Club Crazy Golf Fest 9am Olive Grove Golf Course 08/29/2021 Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day at GHS Parking Lot (4-5 p.m.) 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 10/29/2021 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)

12/04/2021 Olive Grove Tour of Homes

12/11/2021 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-Noon

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News from the Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined PREP FOOTBALL= Aberdeen Central 33, Mitchell 14 Brandon Valley 12, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 7 Canton 49, Custer 6 Sioux Falls Washington 24, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 0 Tea Area 36, Huron 0 Winner 54, St. Thomas More 7

PREP VOLLEYBALL= Aberdeen Central def. Sturgis Brown, 25-12, 20-25, 25-16, 25-14 Brookings def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-23, 20-25, 25-16, 25-14 Florence/Henry def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-21, 25-14 Mitchell def. Huron, 25-22, 25-21, 21-25, 29-27 Northwestern def. Madison, 25-22, 25-14, 25-14 Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-4, 25-11, 25-9 Pierre def. Spearfish, 25-11, 25-16, 25-13 Potter County def. Miller, 25-17, 17-25, 25-23, 25-18 Rapid City Christian def. Custer, 25-9, 25-10, 25-11 Red Cloud def. Todd County, 26-24, 27-25, 14-25, 25-16 Watertown def. Rapid City Central, 25-17, 25-15, 25-17 Arlington Tournament= Arlington def. Deubrook, 16-25, 25-15, 25-11 Arlington def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-15, 25-17 Arlington def. Faulkton, 25-17, 25-19 Elkton-Lake Benton def. Faulkton, 13-25, 25-21, 25-23 Elkton-Lake Benton def. Warner, 25-17, 25-23 Faulkton def. Deubrook, 25-23, 17-23, 25-18 Warner def. Arlington, 25-19, 22-25, 25-23 Warner def. Burke, 25-14, 25-7 Warner def. Deubrook, 25-19, 25-22 Warner def. Faulkton, 25-18, 26-24 Big East Conference Tournament= Fifth Place= Parker def. Beresford, 17-25, 24-26, 28-26, 25-21, 15-13 Seventh Place= Sioux Valley def. Flandreau, 25-20, 24-26, 20-25, 25-20, 15-12 Clark/Willow Lake Tournament= Pool 3=Redfield def. Lake Preston, 22-25, 25-15, 25-11 Webster def. Lake Preston, 25-15, 25-20 Pool 4=DeSmet def. Florence/Henry, 25-14, 25-19 Florence/Henry def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-6, 25-9 Waverly-South Shore def. DeSmet, 25-17, 25-16

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Lennox Tournament= Aberdeen Roncalli def. Lennox, 25-20, 25-14 Belle Fourche def. Lennox, 25-17, 25-19 Mobridge Tournament= First Round= Ipswich def. North Central Co-Op, 25-15, 25-18 Mobridge-Pollock def. McIntosh, 25-13, 25-5 Stanley County def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-20, 25-12 Philip Tournament= Pool A= Philip def. Bennett County, 25-13, 25-13 Philip def. Harding County, 25-19, 25-17 Philip def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-20, 25-18 Philip def. Lyman, 25-11, 25-9 Wolsey Wessington Tournament= Pool A= Mitchell Christian def. Marty Indian, 22-25, 27-25, 25-22 Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Mitchell Christian, 25-19, 25-14 Wolsey-Wessington def. Marty Indian, 25-11, 25-8 Wolsey-Wessington def. Mitchell Christian, 25-8, 25-7 Wolsey-Wessington def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-27, 25-7, 25-12 Pool B= Langford def. Leola/Frederick, 25-19, 23-25, 25-17 Langford def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-21, 25-14 Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Langford, 25-23, 25-23 Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Leola/Frederick, 25-14, 25-9 Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-9, 25-11

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, https://scorestream.com/

Information from: ScoreStream Inc., http://ScoreStream.com

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday: Dakota Cash 04-15-16-26-28 (four, fifteen, sixteen, twenty-six, twenty-eight) Estimated jackpot: \$82,000 Lotto America 03-14-36-38-52, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2 (three, fourteen, thirty-six, thirty-eight, fifty-two; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two) Estimated jackpot: \$2.8 million Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$383 million Powerball 20-31-38-40-49, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 2 (twenty, thirty-one, thirty-eight, forty, forty-nine; Powerball: twenty-one; Power Play: two) Estimated jackpot: \$409 million

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Oladokun has 4 TDs, South Dakota State routs Lidenwood 52-7

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Chris Oladokun threw four touchdown passes in the first half, leading FCS third-ranked South Dakota State to a 52-7 victory over Division II-member Lindenwood on Saturday night. Oladokun was 12-of-14 passing for 171 yards. He connected with two TD passes from inside the 5 to Zach Heins. In the second, he hit tight end Tucker Kraft with scoring throws from the 5 and 13. Cole Frahm's career-best 54-yard field goal made it 38-0 at halftime.

Pierre Strong Jr. had seven carries for 110 yards rushing that included a 68-yard run and 7-yard TD for South Dakota State (2-0). Amar Johnson added 105 yards rushing and 1-yard TD run.

The Jackrabbits put up 426 yards of offense in the first half and finished with 560.

Cade Brister tossed a 37-yard touchdown pass to Payton Rose early in the fourth quarter for Lindenwood.

More AP college football: https://apnews.com/hub/College-football and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

South Dakota swamps Northern Arizona 34-7

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Travis Theis ran for two touchdowns, Jonathan Joanis returned an interception 51 yards and South Dakota rolled to a 34-7 win over Northern Arizona on Saturday.

The Coyotes (1-1) raced to a 17-0 lead in the first quarter while holding the Lumberjacks (0-2) to nine yards.

Carson Camp hooked up with Brett Samso n for a 28-yard touchdown pass on the first possession and Theis capped the second drive with a 13-yard run.

Theis also scored on a 1-yard plunge and Mason Lorber kicked his second field goal in the second quarter to make it 27-0.

Although the Lumberjacks made the game close statistically they were no match for the quick strikes of South Dakota. The second Theis TD capped an 11-play, 84-yard drive, the only scoring possession that took more than 2 1/2 minutes.

After Joanis' pick-6 made it 34-0, Widener found Hendri Johnson for a 16-yard score.

More AP college football: https://apnews.com/hub/college-football and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25. Sign up for the AP's college football newsletter: https://apnews.com/cfbtop25

UK ditches plans for vaccine passports at crowded venues

LONDON (AP) — Britain's health secretary said Sunday that authorities have decided not to require vaccine passports for entry into nightclubs and other crowded events in England, reversing course amid opposition from some of the Conservative government's supporters in Parliament.

Sajid Javid said the government has shelved the idea of vaccine passports for now but could reconsider the decision if COVID-19 cases rise exponentially once again.

"We've looked at it properly and whilst we should keep it in reserve as a potential option, I'm pleased to say that we will not be going ahead with plans for vaccine passports," Javid told the BBC.

The U-turn came just days after the government's vaccines minister and the culture secretary suggested that vaccine passports would still be necessary, despite growing opposition from lawmakers. Such passports are required in other European countries, like France.

In particular, members of the governing Conservative Party have objected to such passports as an unacceptable burden on businesses and an infringement on residents' human rights.

The idea of requiring people to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative test for COVID-19 has been uncomfortable for many in Britain, where people generally aren't required to carry identification documents. The hospitality sector said the decision would make it possible to move forward.

"We hope that businesses will now be able to plan for the future with some degree of certainty, regain confidence from customers and the workforce, and start to rebuild a sector that has consistently been at

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the sharp end of this pandemic," said Michael Kill, chief executive of the Night Time Industries Association.

Follow AP's pandemic coverage at: https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic

Vulnerable Democrats push for local priorities in budget

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne of Iowa was slow to get behind a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill after the Senate passed it last month. It wasn't the price tag that tripped up the Democrat from a swing House district. It was that none of the money was targeted for a home state industry — ethanol and biodiesel.

Axne set out to fix that. In the weeks since, she won assurances from congressional leaders that a separate multitrillion-dollar budget blueprint would include money for the renewable fuels. She's now on board.

Her biofuels bargain underscores the political strategy embedded in the negotiations over massive new federal spending.

While Democrats have set out to pass ambitious bills with historic expansions of the social safety net and long-sought new programs, that's not how many politically vulnerable Democrats such as Axne are selling them at home. For them, Washington's spending boom has become a chance to deliver the goods — and win headlines and perhaps bipartisan support in their districts.

"If she wants to get elected next time, this is her political bread and butter," Ray Gaesser, a Republican farmer in Axne's district and past candidate for Iowa secretary of agriculture, said about her work to secure money for biofuels. "For my part, I appreciate her approach."

Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota has taken a similar tack.

Craig, whose district includes vast tracts of farmland southeast of the Twin Cities, is promoting her role securing \$2.5 billion for farmers and rural small businesses to convert to renewable energy sources and high efficiency equipment as a financial incentive to meet higher environmental standards.

She tweeted on Friday that she was "thrilled that this long-time priority of mine" would be "supporting family farmers and driving investment across rural America."

In Virginia, Rep. Abigail Spanberger said she is chiefly focused on a measure to exempt her district's small-scale farmers and foresters from an increase in the estate tax which President Joe Biden has proposed to help pay for the \$3.5 trillion bill.

Though Spanberger's constituents are concentrated in suburban Richmond, the district stretches north and south across the rolling, agricultural Piedmont and its many dairy, vegetable and cattle farms and private forestland.

"I've been very focused on making sure we're protecting small family farmers and foresters, certainly across central Virginia," Spanberger told The Associated Press.

The lawmakers' efforts are aimed at assisting rural America, where Democrats have steadily lost votes over the past decade. The party is clear-eyed about needing to at least trim its losses in those areas, if they are to hold the congressional seats — and control of the House in 2022.

Democrats currently have a mere eight-seat majority. Republicans are targeting roughly 30 House seats where Democrats won by fewer than 10 percentage points. Axne, Spanberger and Craig each won by no more than 2 percentage points.

"There's been a very deliberate effort to think about those provisions in ways that would be beneficial to rural communities," said Democratic pollster Geoff Garin who is advising the party on the budget package.

Republicans argue that the size of the spending bill will turn off rural voters in key districts, not attract support.

"Rural voters are incredibly concerned about the reckless spending and massive tax hikes that will be included in Democrats' reconciliation bill," said Mike Berg, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "If Democrats think these voters' concerns will be mollified by a few kickbacks from

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the federal government, they are sorely mistaken."

The trillion-dollar infrastructure bill — a plan for roads, bridges, public transit and broadband internet — passed the Democratic-controlled Senate with bipartisan support last month. The House is expected the pass the bill, but its success is tied to progress on the \$3.5 trillion budget bill that includes extended child tax credits, expanded Medicare coverage, tuition-free community college, and other social and environmental programs.

Pelosi has set the ambitious goal of passing it by Oct. 1.

Axne announced on Wednesday that the draft of the House budget bill would include \$1 billion to expand retail availability of ethanol and biodiesel around the country. Iowa leads the nation producing ethanol, a corn-based fuel additive, and biodiesel, commonly made from soybeans. The amount is double what Axne sought in a bill she had introduced in the House Agriculture Committee this year.

The grants are expected to increase demand for the fuels nationally, spur output in Iowa's 42 ethanol plants and biodiesel refineries, as well as boost the price of corn and soybeans for the farmers who supply them, according to Iowa renewable fuels advocates.

"It impacts the price of soybeans by more than a dollar a bushel. That's a lot of money," said Monte Shaw, executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association and a past Republican candidate for Congress. "For ethanol you're looking at an extra \$400 to \$500 million for farmers in Iowa, because the price of corn is higher."

On top of that, for the fraction of the cost of the overall bill, the measure would immediately accelerate cutting carbon emissions, a priority of Biden's plan, Axne said.

"There's no way that we're going to have everybody driving electric vehicles overnight," Axne said in a recent AP interview. "So why the heck are we not, if our goal is to impact climate in a positive way, blend-ing more biofuels now so we can automatically lower greenhouse gases?"

It's also a relatively small price for a House seat critical to Democrats' chances at holding the majority. Axne holds the distinction of winning by the smallest margin — 1.4 percentage points — of any Democrat

in a district carried by Republican Donald Trump last year.

Last year, the former state government administrator and small business owner from suburban Des Moines won Polk County, home to Des Moines and most of its suburbs, but lost the district's other 15 counties.

Like Spanberger's advocacy for rural Virginians, Axne's emphasis on an economic priority in the GOPleaning geographic majority of her district could trim her losses in rural Iowa next year.

There will be other factors, of course. Biden's overall approval rating, now down after criticism for the chaotic recent U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and surging COVID-19 cases, is likely to play a major role. And any number of factors will emerge before an election still almost 17 months away.

Still, Axne's first-step success is a good sign for her, said Shaw, the Republican renewable fuels advocate. "I hate to ever say one thing makes or breaks somebody. But there are times when you have a chance to make a difference and that's where the rubber meets the road," he said. "Ultimately, we need folks who can deliver."

Oil-rich Norway goes to polls with climate on the agenda

By MARK LEWIS Associated Press

STAVANGER, Norway (AP) — North Sea oil and gas has helped make Norway one of the wealthiest countries in the world. But as Norwegians head to the polls on Monday, fears about climate change have put the future of the industry at the top of the campaign agenda.

The ruling Conservatives, led by Prime Minister Erna Solberg, and the opposition Labor Party, which is leading in opinion polls, both advocate for a gradual move away from the fossil fuels that continue to underpin the economy.

But the larger parties rarely rule alone in Norway; smaller players are usually required to build a majority coalition, and they can have an outsize influence on the government agenda. Some are demanding a more radical severing with the country's dominant industry and income stream.

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"Our demand is to stop looking for oil and gas, and stop handing out new permits to companies," says Lars Haltbrekken, climate and energy spokesman for the Socialist Left party — a likely coalition partner for Labor. He claims that after eight years in charge the government is protecting a status quo at a time when the country is thirsty for a post-oil future.

A report in August from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicting global floods and fires created a wave in Norway that has created throughout this election campaign.

It is also forcing Norwegians to wrestle with a paradox at the heart of their society.

With their hydro-powered energy grid and electric cars, they are among the world's most enthusiastic consumers of green power, but decades of exporting oil and gas means this nation of 5.3 million enjoys a generous welfare buffer, and sits on the world's largest sovereign wealth fund.

Tina Bru, the Oil and Energy Minister, says it's unthinkable that the country should force an end to the country's biggest industry, which is responsible for over 40% of exports and directly employs more than 5% of the workforce.

"My question is always: What happens after you stop? What else are you going to do to make sure the world reaches its climate goals? It might affect our own climate budget, but it's not going to make a difference globally," she says.

She agrees with a report highlighted by the Norwegian Oil and Gas Association, an industry group, that says an end to Norwegian production would have a net negative effect on global emissions. Demand would stay the same, and cleaner Norwegian production would be replaced by other countries with higher emissions, she says. She prefers a longer-term approach that focuses on demand.

"It is kind of disappointing in this campaign where we see the only way to discuss policy and have credibility on your will to cut emissions is to stop producing oil and gas. It is such a more nuanced issue involving other things like agriculture and transport."

Some 70% of all new cars sold in Norway are electric, with consumers continuing to benefit from government subsidies, and the government has signaled that environment taxes will rise. Earlier this month, it also proposed a tweak to the existing tax regime, where some explorers will have to shoulder more of the risk of searching for oil.

Labor supports the approach and admits that it charts a similar future for the industry. But it has promised a more interventionist industrial policy that will funnel support to new green industries, like wind power, "blue hydrogen" that uses natural gas to produce an alternative fuel, and carbon capture and storage, which seeks to bury carbon dioxide under the ocean.

However, any post-election horse trading is likely to be fraught for Labor. The Socialist Left says it won't offer support lightly, and the other probable partner, the Center Party, is also demanding a more aggressive approach to the energy shift.

"Right now our plan is to run together with our two old friends from these parties," says Espen Barth Eide, Labor's Energy spokesman. "We still think this works. But if their opening position is to end exploration, that is not going to happen. ... We will try to have a mature dialogue about the next phase of the oil industry."

Most of the country's oil and gas still comes from mature areas in the North Sea, but most of the untapped reserves are in the Barents Sea, above the Arctic Circle — a red line for environmentalists. Eide says a possible compromise might be found by focusing on where oil exploration can be carried out in the future.

However, Haltbrekken, a former chairman of Norway's Friends of the Earth, a climate charity, says the new government needs to be more urgent. "The IPCC report made a huge impression on the population. But there is one thing I fear more than what was in the report, and that is that apathy and hopelessness will take over. People could think this is such a huge problem that we cannot do anything. But we can. We can do a lot to solve it. It just has to start now."

Election forecasts will be released when voting closes at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) on Monday. The final official tally for the 169-member parliament, usually comes at some point overnight, but experts believe the results could come quicker this year with a record number of people having already made their choice in advance voting. More than 78% of eligible people in this nation of 5.3 million voted in the last national election.

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Read more stories on climate issues by The Associated Press at https://www.apnews.com/Climate

Iran to allow new memory cards in UN's nuclear site cameras

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TÉHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran agreed Sunday to allow international inspectors to install new memory cards into surveillance cameras at its sensitive nuclear sites and to continue filming there, potentially averting a diplomatic showdown this week.

The announcement by Mohammad Eslami of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran after a meeting he held with the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, in Tehran still leaves the watchdog in the same position it has faced since February, however.

Tehran holds all recordings at its sites as negotiations over the U.S. and Iran returning to the 2015 nuclear deal remain stalled in Vienna. Meanwhile, Iran is now enriching small amounts of uranium to its closest-ever levels to weapons-grade purity as its stockpile continues to grow.

"I am glad to say that today were able to have a very constructive result, which has to do with the continuity of the operation of the agency's equipment here," Grossi said. It "is indispensable for us to provide the necessary guarantee and information to the IAEA and to the world that everything is in order."

Eslami described the negotiations between Iran and the Vienna-based IAEA as "sheerly technical" without any room for politics. He said Grossi would return to Iran soon to talk with officials, without elaborating. Also left unsaid was whether Iran would hand over copies of the older recordings, which Tehran had threatened previously to destroy.

"The memory cards are sealed and kept in Iran according to the routine," Eslami said. "New memory cards will be installed in cameras. That is a routine and natural trend in the agency's monitoring system."

A joint statement released by the IAEA and Iran confirmed the understanding, saying only that "the way and the timing are agreed by the two sides."

The announcement could buy time for Iran ahead of an IAEA board meeting this week in which Western powers had been arguing for Tehran to be censured over its lack of cooperation with international inspectors. Eslami said Iran would take part in that meeting and its negotiations with the IAEA would continue there.

The IAEA told member states in its confidential quarterly report last week that its verification and monitoring activities have been "seriously undermined" since February by Iran's refusal to let inspectors access their monitoring equipment.

The IAEA said certain monitoring and surveillance equipment cannot be left for more than three months without being serviced. It was provided with access this month to four surveillance cameras installed at one site, but one of the cameras had been destroyed and a second had been severely damaged, the agency said.

Mikhail Ulyanov, the Russian ambassador to the IAEA, praised the agreement on Twitter, calling it "technical but very important."

"It is no less important for Iran to rebuff groundless speculations against it," Ulyanov wrote.

Iran and world powers agreed in 2015 to the nuclear deal, which saw Tehran drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. In 2018, then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord, raising tensions across the wider Middle East and sparking a series of attacks and incidents.

President Joe Biden has said he's willing to re-enter the accord, but so far, indirect talks have yet to see success. In the meantime, Iran elected Ebrahim Raisi, a hard-line protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as president. Raisi also has said he wants Iran to regain the benefits of the accord, though Tehran in general has struck a tougher pose since his victory.

In Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Nafatli Bennett urged world powers to not "fall into the trap of Iranian deception that will lead to additional concessions" over the impasse. Israel, widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, has long accused Iran of seeking an atomic bomb. Tehran maintains its program is

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peaceful, though U.S. intelligence agencies and international inspectors believe the Islamic Republic pursued the bomb in an organized program up until 2003.

"You must not give up on inspecting sites and the most important thing, the most important message is that there must be a time limit," Bennett said. Iran is "dragging on, we must set a clear-cut deadline that says: until here."

The premier added: "The Iranian nuclear program is at the most advanced point ever. ... We must deal with this project."

Israel is suspected of launching multiple attacks targeting Iran's Natanz nuclear facility, as well as killing a scientist associated with Iran's one-time military nuclear program last year.

From Riyadh, the top diplomats of Saudi Arabia and Austria jointly expressed concern over Iran's nuclear advances, with Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg citing "Iran's failure to allow access for nuclear inspections."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writers Ilan Ben Zion in Jerusalem and Isabel DeBre in Dubai contributed to this report.

Pope to Orban's Hungary: Open your arms to everyone

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Pope Francis urged Hungary on Sunday to "extend its arms towards everyone," in a veiled critique of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's anti-migrant policies as the pontiff opened a four-day visit to Central Europe, his first big international outing since undergoing intestinal surgery in July.

Francis, 84, appeared in good form during his short visit to Budapest, presiding over a lengthy Mass and standing and waving to crowds during a jaunt in his open-sided popemobile. He used a golf cart to avoid walking long distances indoors and confessed at one point that he had to sit because "I'm not 15 anymore." But otherwise he kept up the typical grueling pace of a papal trip despite his ongoing recovery.

Francis only spent seven hours in Budapest before moving on Sunday afternoon to a four-day tour of neighboring Slovakia. The lopsided itinerary suggested that Francis wanted to avoid giving Orban — the type of populist nationalist Francis frequently criticizes — the political boost that comes with hosting a pope for a proper state visit ahead of elections next spring.

Francis did meet upon arrival with Orban, whose refugee policies clash with the pope's call for welcome and integration of those seeking better lives in Europe. While migration wasn't on the stated agenda, Orban wrote on Facebook: "I asked Pope Francis not to let Christian Hungary perish."

Orban has frequently depicted his government as a defender of Christian civilization in Europe and a bulwark against migration from Muslim-majority countries. Francis has expressed solidarity with migrants and refugees and criticized what he called "national populism" advanced by governments like Hungary's. He has urged governments to welcome and integrate as many migrants as they can.

The Vatican said the meeting was held in a "cordial atmosphere" and lasted longer than expected — 40 minutes.

"Among the various topics discussed were the role of the church in the country, the commitment to the protection of the environment, the protection and promotion of the family," said a Vatican statement.

Vatican and Hungarian officials have insisted Francis wasn't snubbing Hungary by staying for such a short time, noting that the Hungarian church and state only invited him to close out an international conference on the Eucharist on Sunday.

It was at the end of that Mass that Francis urged Hungarians to remain steadfast in their religious roots, but not in a defensive way that closes them off from the rest of the world and the needs of others.

"Religious sentiment has been the lifeblood of this nation, so attached to its roots," he said. "Yet the cross, planted in the ground, not only invites us to be well-rooted, it also raises and extends its arms toward everyone."

He said Hungarians should stay firm in their roots while "opening ourselves to the thirst of the men and

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women of our time."

"My wish is that you be like that: rounded and open, rooted and considerate," he said.

Orban had a front-row seat during the Mass. During their private meeting, he gave Francis a copy of a letter from King Bela IV of Hungary to Pope Innocent IV, according to the prime minister's press chief. The letter, addressed in 1243, informed Innocent IV that Bela would strengthen fortifications along the Danube River in Hungary in preparation for a Mongol invasion.

Organizers expected as many as 75,000 people at the congress' concluding Mass in Heroes' Square, which went ahead with few coronavirus restrictions even as Hungary, like the rest of Europe, is battling infections fueled by the highly contagious delta variant.

Few in the crowd wore masks and no tests or vaccination certificates were required to gain entrance. Some 65.4% of Hungarians over age 18 are vaccinated.

Matyas Mezosi, a Hungarian Catholic who got to the Mass site early, was jubilant that the pope had come at all so soon after his surgery; The 84-year-old pope had 33 centimeters (13 inches) of his colon removed in early July.

"It's great to see him recovered from that surgery," Mezosi said. "Him being here in Hungary today means that he sacrifices himself to be with us, and that he feels good now."

During the flight from Rome, Francis indeed seemed in good form: He stayed so long greeting journalists at the back of the plane that an aide had to tell him to get back to his seat because it was time to land.

Francis said he was happy to be resuming foreign trips again after the coronavirus lull and then his own post-operative recovery. "If I'm alive it's because bad weeds never die," he quipped about his health, quoting an Argentine dictum.

But later in the morning he apologized to a gathering of Christian and Jewish leaders that he had to deliver his speech sitting down.

In his remarks to them, Francis warned against a resurgence of antisemitism in Europe, saying it is a "fuse which must not be allowed to burn."

The Argentine pope called for Christians, Jews and people of other faiths to commit themselves to promoting greater fraternity "so that outbursts of hatred that would destroy that fraternity will never prevail."

Hungary's large Jewish population was devastated during the closing months of World War II, with more than 550,000 Jewish deaths. The vast majority were deported within a two-month period in 1944 with the assistance of Hungary's fascist Arrow Cross Party, and most were sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp in occupied Poland.

More Hungarians died in Auschwitz than any other nationality, and more Hungarian Jews perished in the Holocaust than from any country other than Poland and the Soviet Union.

Hungary's government under Orban has been accused of trafficking in veiled antisemitic stereotypes, largely aimed at Hungarian-born American financier and philanthropist George Soros, whom the government frequently accuses of meddling in the country's internal affairs.

About 39% of Hungarians declared themselves to be Catholic in a 2011 census, while 13% declared themselves to be Protestant, either Lutheran or Calvinist, a Protestant branch with which Orban is affiliated. A tiny fraction of the population is Jewish.

Registered churches have been major beneficiaries of state support under Orban since he returned to power in 2010. Additionally, around 3,000 places of worship have been built or restored using public funds since 2010, part of an effort by Orban's government to advance what he calls "Christian democracy," an alternative to liberal governance of which he is a frequent critic.

AP visual journalists Bela Szandelszky and Helena Alves contributed.

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Chinese city with coronavirus outbreak stops buses, trains

BEIJING (AP) — A city in southern China that is trying to contain a coronavirus outbreak told the public Sunday not to leave town, suspended bus and train service and closed cinemas, bars and other facilities.

Anyone who needs to leave Putian, a city of 2.9 million people in Fujian province south of Shanghai, for an essential trip must have proof of a negative coronavirus test within the past 48 hours, the city government announced.

China declared the coronavirus under control in early 2020 but has suffered outbreaks of the more contagious delta variant. Authorities say most cases are traced to travelers arriving from Russia, Myanmar and other countries.

In Putian, 19 new infections that were believed to have been acquired locally were reported in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday, according to the National Health Commission. One was reported in Quanzhou, also in Fujian.

The first cases in Putian were students from Xianyou county, but experts suspect the outbreak might have originated with the father of one student who returned from Singapore on Aug. 4, according to the official Global Times newspaper.

The traveler, identified by the surname Lin, underwent a 14-day quarantine and nine nucleic acid and serologic tests, all of which were negative, the Global Times said, citing local authorities. It said he tested positive on Friday.

Residents of villages in Xianyou where infections were found were barred from leaving, the newspaper said.

Bus and train service to Putian was suspended Saturday, Global Times said.

Elsewhere in Putian, cinemas, card rooms, gyms, tourist sites and other facilities were ordered closed, the city government announced. Restaurants and supermarkets were told to "strictly control" customer numbers and to check for fevers. Schools were ordered to require students to wear masks in class.

Experts were sent to Putian to oversee disease-control work, the Health Commission announced Saturday. China has reported 4,636 coronavirus deaths out of 95,199 confirmed cases.

Taliban: Women can study in gender-segregated universities

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Women in Afghanistan can continue to study in universities, including at post-graduate levels, but classrooms will be gender-segregated and Islamic dress is compulsory, the higher education minister in the new Taliban government said Sunday.

The minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, laid out the new policies at a news conference, several days after Afghanistan's new rulers formed an all-male government. On Saturday, the Taliban had raised their flag over the presidential palace, signaling the start of the work of the new government.

The world has been watching closely to see to what extent the Taliban might act differently from their first time in power, in the late 1990s. During that era, girls and women were denied an education, and were excluded from public life.

The Taliban have suggested they have changed, including in their attitudes toward women. However, women have been banned from sports and the Taliban have used violence in recent days against women protesters demanding equal rights.

Haqqani said the Taliban did not want to turn the clock back 20 years. "We will start building on what exists today," he said.

However, female university students will face restrictions, including a compulsory dress code. Haqqani said hijabs will be mandatory but did not specify if this meant compulsory headscarves or also compulsory face coverings.

Gender segregation will also be enforced, he said. "We will not allow boys and girls to study together," he said. "We will not allow co-education."

Haqqani said the subjects being taught would also be reviewed. While he did not elaborate, he said he

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wanted graduates of Afghanistan's universities to be competitive with university graduates in the region and the rest of the world.

The Taliban, who subscribe to a strict interpretation of Islam, banned music and art during their previous time in power. This time around television has remained and news channels still show women presenters, but the Taliban messaging has been erratic.

In an interview on Afghanistan's popular TOLO News, Taliban spokesman Syed Zekrullah Hashmi said women should give birth and raise children and while the Taliban have not ruled out eventual participation of women in government the spokesman said "it's not necessary that women be in the Cabinet."

The Taliban seized power on Aug. 15, the day they overran the capital of Kabul after capturing outlying provinces in a rapid military campaign. They initially promised inclusiveness and a general amnesty for their former opponents, but many Afghans remain deeply fearful of the new rulers. Taliban police officials have beaten Afghan journalists, violently dispersed women's protests and formed an all-male government despite saying initially they would invite broader representation.

The new higher education policy signals a change from the accepted practice before the Taliban takeover. Universities were co-ed, with men and women studying side by side, and female students did not have to abide by a dress code. However, the vast majority of female university students opted to wear headscarves in line with traditions.

In elementary and high schools, boys and girls were taught separately, even before the Taliban came to power. In high schools, girls had to wear tunics reaching to their knees and white headscarves, and jeans, makeup and jewelry were not permitted.

In conservative Somalia, a rare woman presidential candidate

By HASSAN BARISE Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The woman who broke barriers as the first female foreign minister and deputy prime minister in culturally conservative Somalia now aims for the country's top office as the Horn of Africa nation moves toward a long-delayed presidential election.

Parliament member Fawzia Yusuf H. Adam is well aware of the challenges in winning votes in a nation where women often remain marginalized. In an interview with The Associated Press, she described the struggle of leading a foreign ministry staff that was overwhelmingly male.

"They were very reluctant to collaborate with me just because I am a female," she said.

Even as more educated women return to Somalia from the large diaspora to help rebuild the country after three decades of conflict, attitudes toward Adam's run for office are mostly skeptical, if sympathetic. Even friends and colleagues see her chances as next to impossible because of her gender.

"She's good, but unfortunately she's a woman," said Abdiwahid Mohamed Adam, a doctor at Mogadishu Memorial Hospital. Complicating her bid, he said, is the fact that Adam comes from the breakaway region of Somaliland, a comparatively stable area in the north that has sought international recognition as an independent country for years.

But the soft-spoken Adam, a widow and mother of three, said she believes her run for the presidency is worthwhile, not futile, on several levels, while the timing of the election has been pushed back once again amid political tensions from mid-October toward the end of the year.

"I want to break this barrier against women, so that in the near future many others will have the courage to run and even win," she said, adding that it's time to fight for the rights of women.

Somalia's years of insecurity marked by devastating attacks by the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group also have driven Adam to run. "There was mayhem in this country for the past 30 years," she said. "Young people are dying like flies, killing each other, exploding themselves, killing other people."

Like other's across Somalia, she has watched as the insecurity weakened the country's foundation. High unemployment, poor education and one of the world's least-equipped health systems are all a result. Corruption and political squabbling haven't helped.

"I thought a woman may be what this country needs, the leadership of a woman, to bring peace and

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stability," Adam said.

Her presidential campaign has been relatively low-profile because of the insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of holding large public rallies, Adam prefers smaller indoor gatherings. "This could be less expensive but less effective as well," said Liban Abdullahi Farah, a political analyst in the capital, Mogadishu.

Unlike many other candidates and everyday people in Somalia, where face masks are hardly seen despite having one of the highest COVID-19 case fatality rates in Africa, Adam says she takes the pandemic seriously and speaks bluntly about its dangers after seeing several friends die.

"I keep giving advice on this pandemic, particularly how badly it impacts women and the poorest of them," she said. "We don't have a good health system to deal with this phenomenon."

Women in Somalia have been especially hard hit by the virus, Adam said, both physically and economically. "I personally took my two vaccinations, many people did, but many poor people in the camps, the internally displaced people, the very poor, vulnerable people do not have that chance," she said. "What I am hoping is to win this election. (The pandemic) will be one of my priorities, because we don't want to lose more people."

Apart from some awareness messaging, Somalia's federal government does little to enforce basic virus prevention measures of social distancing, hand-washing and mask-wearing.

At the country's coronavirus treatment center in the capital, deputy director Abdirahim Omar Amin told the AP that "very many women have been infected" by COVID-19. Health ministry data, however, show that men represent more than 70% of confirmed cases in Somalia.

"The people themselves do not have the awareness, or they are in a state of denial, calling it 'just heartburn' and stay at home, and the person is brought here when it is too late," he said.

Among the women Adam hopes to help if elected president is Fatuma Mohamed, one of the hundreds of thousands of people living in camps in Mogadishu after being displaced by insecurity or climate shocks like drought.

Mohamed said her husband died of COVID-19, while she survived. Now she struggles to raise two young children, earning money by doing laundry when she can.

"This disease has devastated us, it killed my mother and my husband," she said. "I have not seen anyone offering me a helping hand. I struggle all alone."

Adam's path in life has been far different. Married to a general, she first entered politics in her hometown of Hargeisa in Somaliland years ago but fled to Mogadishu, saying local politicians saw her as a threat. She later started a political party, the National Democratic Party, and rose to some of the country's highest offices.

Now, in pursuit of the presidency, Adam has Somaliland in mind as part of her ambitions.

"If I am elected, I am sure I could reunite my country as I belong to both sides, the north and south," she said, "and I believe that I am the only person who's capable of doing that as I already made a plan for the unification."

If her candidacy fails, she said, she aims to become prime minister, adding "I would always advise whoever wins the presidency."

The Latest: Bangladesh schools open, most staff vaccinated

By The Associated Press undefined

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh has reopened schools and other educational institutions after 543 days of closure as its virus situation eases and more people are vaccinated.

Schools were closed on March 17, 2020, after the virus arrived in the nation of over 160 million people. Authorities decided to reopen after almost 97% of the country's teachers and staff have been vaccinated, the government says.

Wearing masks, students arrived Sunday morning at schools that were decorated with balloons and ribbons. Many schools in the capital, Dhaka, and elsewhere gifted candies and chocolates to children.

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Education Minister Dipu Moni on Sunday warned against any lax enforcement of safety measures. Initially, every class will attend once a week, authorities say.

Daily counts of deaths and positive cases have eased in recent weeks. Over last week, on average 55 people have died while daily deaths were around 250 in late July. Bangladesh has recorded 26,880 deaths and more than 1.5 million cases. The government says most Bangladeshi adults will be vaccinated by the end of this year.

MORE ON THE PANDEMIC:

- Tale of two clinics: Lines in Kenya, few takers in Atlanta
- From virus to storm, Louisiana's marginalized see 'no way out'
- Crowded U.S. football stadiums create combustible mix this fall
- Coronavirus infects several gorillas at Atlanta zoo
- See AP coverage at https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic.

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

TOKYO — Japan's government says more than 50% of the population has been fully vaccinated. Japan's vaccine rollouts began in mid-February, months behind many wealthy countries due to its lengthy clinical testing requirement and approval process. Inoculations for elderly patients, which started in April, were also slowed by supply shortages of imported vaccines, but the pace picked up in late May and has since achieved 1 million doses per day.

Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, who is in charge of COVID-19 measures, told NHK public television's weekly talk show Sunday that about 60% of the population is expected to be fully vaccinated by the end of September, on par with current levels in Europe.

The government is studying a roadmap for easing restrictions around November. That would allow fully vaccinated people and those who test negative to travel, gather for parties or attend mass events.

BEIJING — China on Sunday reported 46 new coronavirus infections, including 20 locally acquired cases in a southern province where authorities are trying to contain an outbreak. No deaths were reported.

Nineteen of the locally acquired infections were in Putian in Fujian province and one in nearby Quanzhou, the National Health Commission reported. It said all other infections were believed to have been acquired abroad.

China's death toll stands at 4,636 out of 95,199 cases.

The Health Commission announced Saturday it was sending experts to Putian to oversee disease-control work.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand is buying an extra 500,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from Denmark as it tries to keep its coronavirus vaccination program running at full speed, the government said.

The doses are on top of New Zealand's regular shipments from Pfizer and come a few days after officials announced a similar deal with Spain for more than 250,000 extra doses. New Zealand was slow to get its vaccination program running but has seen demand spike since an outbreak of the delta variant in Auckland last month.

That had left the country in danger of running out of doses ahead of a large scheduled shipment in October. New Zealand's government has been attempting to eliminate the virus entirely in Auckland by imposing a lockdown but is finding the delta variant hard to stamp out, with another 20 daily community cases reported on Sunday. About 54% of people in New Zealand have had at least one dose and 28% are fully vaccinated.

YUCAIPA, Calif. — The husband of a California nurse who died of COVID-19 more than two weeks ago has died after battling the disease himself.

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A family member told news station KTLA-TV that Daniel Macias of Yucaipa died on Thursday, leaving behind five young children, including a newborn girl. He and his wife, Davy Macias contracted COVID-19 after going on a family trip to the beach and an indoor water park.

They were admitted to the hospital days apart, and it was there that a doctor delivered the couple's daughter several days before Davy Macias died. Her brother said she was hesitant to get vaccinated because she was pregnant.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Hospitals in Iowa's second-largest city are limiting elective procedures because of increased numbers of patients driven partly by a surge in COVID-19 admissions.

The Cedar Falls Gazette reports that both UnityPoint Health-St. Luke's Hospital and Mercy Medical Center confirmed Friday their facilities are preserving capacity because of high patient counts in recent weeks. Cedar Rapids hospitals had not delayed or postponed elective surgeries and procedures since last fall.

St. Luke's is limiting surgeries that require a hospital stay to 10 per day.

Mercy officials confirmed that it also is temporarily reducing the number of elective procedures that require hospital stays after surgery.

Justin Bieber to make triumphant return to MTV VMAs

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

The 2021 MTV Video Music Awards will get a dose of "Bieber fever" for the first time in six years.

Justin Bieber is set to return to the VMAs stage for an all-star caliber event that will air Sunday night at 8 p.m. EDT. The awards show will be held in-person at the Barclays Center in New York after holding a mostly virtual show last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bieber leads this year's show with seven nominations, including video of the year for "POPSTAR" and artist of the year. He last took the VMAs stage in 2015 when he performed "What Do You Mean?"

Other scheduled performances include Lil Nas X, Camila Cabello, Chloe, Kacey Musgraves, Shawn Mendes, Olivia Rodrigo, Machine Gun Kelly and Doja Cat — who will also serve as the show's host.

Presenters include Billy Porter, Conor McGregor, 50 Cent, Fat Joe, Megan Fox, Ashanti, Rita Ora, Simone Biles and Travis Barker.

Megan Thee Stallion enters the show as the second-leading nominee with six nominations. BTS, Doja Cat, Drake, Giveon, Lil Nas X and Olivia Rodrigo, a first time nominee, each have five nods.

Bieber and Megan Thee Stallion will compete with Ariana Grande, Doja Cat, Rodrigo and Taylor Swift for artist of the year.

The Foo Fighters will perform and receive the Global Icon Award, an honor handed out for the first time at the VMAs. The award recognizes an artist or band "whose unparalleled career and continued impact and influence has maintained a unique level of global success in music and beyond."

The prestigious award was previously presented at the annual MTV Europe Music Awards. Past recipients include Queen, Eminem and Whitney Houston.

The rock band — comprised of Dave Grohl, Taylor Hawkins, Nate Mendel, Chris Shiflett, Pat Smear and Rami Jaffee — will perform at the VMAs for the first time since 2007.

The show will simulcast across CMT, Comedy Central, Logo, MTV2, Nickelodeon, Paramount Network, Pop, TV Land, VH1 and The CW Network.

Japan passes 50% vaccination rate, may ease limits in Nov.

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's government says more than 50% of the population has been fully vaccinated. Japan's vaccine rollouts began in mid-February, months behind many wealthy countries due to its lengthy clinical testing requirement and approval process. Inoculations for elderly patients, which started in April, were also slowed by supply shortages of imported vaccines, but the pace picked up in late May and has since achieved 1 million doses per day.

Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, who is in charge of COVID-19 measures, told NHK public televi-

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sion's weekly talk show Sunday that about 60% of the population is expected to be fully vaccinated by the end of September, on par with current levels in Europe.

The government is studying a roadmap for easing restrictions around November when a large majority of the population is expected to be fully vaccinated. That would allow fully vaccinated people and those who test negative to travel, gather for parties or attend mass events.

The progress of vaccinations has helped reduce serious cases and deaths among older people, but infections from virus variants spread explosively in August among younger generations still largely unvaccinated, severely straining health care systems.

Japan last Friday extended the ongoing state of emergency in Tokyo and 18 other areas until Sept. 30. It had been scheduled to end Sunday. The measures focus on requests for eateries to close early and not serve alcohol.

Japan has done much better than other developed countries in curbing illnesses and deaths without a lockdown. It has counted more than 1.65 million cases and 16,700 deaths.

Mets, Yankees and more pay tribute on 9/11 20th anniversary

By NOAH TRISTER and JAKE SEINER AP Sports Writer

Jacob deGrom stood next to Gerrit Cole along the first-base line, and Brandon Nimmo wedged between Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton on the other side.

Shoulder to shoulder and interspersed, players from the New York Mets and Yankees shared the diamond during the national anthem Saturday night at Citi Field with first responders, former players and a giant ribbon imprinted with the American flag.

"As one unified New York," said public address announcer Marysol Castro.

The city's baseball teams held a Subway Series game on Sept. 11 for the first time on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as stadium's around the country paid tribute to the nearly 3,000 killed in the terrorist attacks. A raucous, emotional crowd packed the stadium in Flushing 45 minutes before first pitch, waving American flags and holding signs promising to "Never Forget" during a ceremony that included over a dozen Mets players from the 2001 team and representatives from several organizations and charities related to first responders and victims.

"Very emotional night," Yankees star Aaron Judge said. "But it was good to have everybody together for the city. It was a great game."

The sellout crowd of 43,144 buzzed in a way it hasn't since before the coronavirus pandemic as Mike Piazza, John Franco and other Mets alumni accompanied members of New York's fire, police, EMT, sanitation, correction and court officers along the outfield warning track.

The loudest cheers came for Piazza, a Hall of Famer who memorably hit the go-ahead homer in the eighth inning when the Mets beat the Atlanta Braves on Sept. 21, 2001, in the team's first game back at Shea Stadium. Highlights of that game were played on the video board before Bobby Valentine and Joe Torre — the 2001 managers of the Mets and Yankees, respectively — threw the ceremonial first pitches.

"For me, especially when this date comes by every year, it is difficult to kind of look back, and the images, for me and I'm sure a lot of people, are still very vivid in their minds," Piazza said. "I think it's a wonderful thing that we do, continue to honor them."

In a sign, perhaps, of how much healing has happened since, fans in Queens booed loudly when Yankees star DJ LeMahieu was introduced for the game's first at-bat. The energy persisted through a back-and-forth, 8-7 victory by the Yankees.

"It was great, it really was," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "Weather-wise, perfect, packed to the gills the different chanting and cheering, a litle bit of that for one night I think probably both sides have a little compassion for each other. I think it felt that way, anyway. The 'USA!' chants, it felt like a unified crowd, and that was nice to be a part of."

Both teams wore hats representing New York's first responders, two years after Mets slugger Pete Alonso said the league rejected his proposal for specially designed caps doing the same. Alonso instead

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had custom cleats made for each of his teammates — without asking MLB for permission — and later donated his shoes to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

Alonso, who was 6 years old and living in Tampa, Florida, at the time of the attacks, has made multiple visits to the museum and was at Ground Zero on Saturday morning, part of ongoing work he's done to benefit 9/11 survivors still plagued by health woes caused by exposure to the rubble.

"Today is a day of remembrance," Alonso said. "Not just that day, but there's still people being impacted every single day."

Navy and Air Force played football on the earliest date in the calendar for a rivalry that dates to 1960. When the two service academies announced late last year that the game was being moved from its usual spot in early October, no explanation was needed.

Navy-Air Force took center stage to some degree as the American sports world observed the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Players from both teams carried flags onto the field before kickoff. There was a moment of silence before the national anthem, and then a flyover featuring two Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightnings and two Boeing F/A-18 Hornets.

During a halftime signing of America the Beautiful, midshipmen unfurled a large American flag, and the names of Navy and Air Force grads lost on 9/11 were put on the videoboard.

"It hits us very closely," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "Have some players on our team — I think all of us in this room knows somebody that was there, or a relative or a friend. And so, I thought the great thing for just this day, we were just all Americans. And just remembering people from 9/11."

Elsewhere, Army's players also carried flags onto the field for their home game against Western Kentucky. At Nebraska, former Navy SEAL Damian Jackson, a 29-year-old backup linebacker, led the Cornhuskers onto the field carrying a flag and flanked by first responders, including a health care worker.

Nebraska coach Scott Frost presented the family of fallen Marine Cpl. Daegan Page with a Cornhuskers jersey before the game. Page was one of 13 U.S. service members killed Aug. 26 in a terrorist bombing at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan. The 23-year-old Page was from Omaha.

At Minnesota's game against Miami of Ohio, the family of the late Tom Burnett Jr. was honored on the field after the first quarter. Burnett, a native of Minnesota, was one of the passengers on Flight 93, which crash-landed in rural Pennsylvania on 9/11.

In a ceremony before its game against Kennesaw State, Georgia Tech recognized Atlanta police officer and former New York City paramedic Jay Pagan, who worked at the Twin Towers on search and rescue following the attacks and was trapped in debris. Pagan was presented the game ball in a pregame Heroes Day ceremony.

Boston College wore its red bandana uniforms against Massachusetts, and names were replaced by "For Welles." Since 2014, the Eagles have occasionally worn uniforms with red bandana trim in memory of Welles Crowther, a former BC lacrosse player who died helping to rescue people from the World Trade Center during the 2001 attack. Survivors identified Crowther by the red bandana that he was known for wearing at all times.

At the U.S. Open in Queens before the start of a women's final between two players who weren't even born yet on 9/11, female cadets from the U.S. Military Academy unfurled a giant American flag that covered almost the entire court at Arthur Ashe Stadium. While Britain's Emma Raducanu, 18, beat Canada's Leylah Fernandez, 19, "9/11/01" was stenciled on the side of the court.

Afterward, Fernandez asked for the microphone back during the post-match trophy to address the crowd of 23,703.

"I know on this day it was especially hard for New York and everyone around the United States. I just want to say that I hope I can be as strong and as resilient as New York has been the last 20 years," said Fernandez, who was born in September 2002. "Thank you for always having my back, thank you for cheering for me. I love you New York and hope to see you next year."

At Richmond Raceway in Virginia, an 1,100-pound piece of steel from the Twin Towers was on display on the midway, along with a Wall of Remembrance. Cub Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance before the

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afternoon NASCAR Xfinity race kicked off a racing doubleheader.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was racing in the Xfinity race for his only race of the year before moving to the NBC booth for the Cup race later Saturday. Earnhardt won NASCAR's first Cup race back when the series resumed after the week off for 9/11.

Earnhardt, who had also lost his father in February of that year, held the American flag out his car window during the celebratory burnouts in an image associated with the sport and its 9/11 tributes.

"I feel kind of connected to that date because of what happened in our sport when we went back to Dover and with what was going on in my own life that year," Earnhardt Jr. said Friday. "It was a very challenging year. I think it's important that we continue to remember and honor everyone affected by (9/11) all these years later."

On Sept. 11, 2001, IndyCar was already in Germany (as the CART Series) preparing for its weekend race — and was the only U.S.-based series to compete that weekend. On Saturday at Portland International Raceway, the teams were summoned to the grid for a 15-second moment of silence.

Trister reported from Annapolis, Maryland.

FBI releases newly declassified record on Sept. 11 attacks

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI late Saturday released a newly declassified document related to logistical support given to two of the Saudi hijackers in the run-up to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The document details contacts the hijackers had with Saudi associates in the U.S. but does not provide proof that senior Saudi government officials were complicit in the plot.

Released on the 20th anniversary of the attacks, the document is the first investigative record to be disclosed since President Joe Biden ordered a declassification review of materials that for years have remained out of public view. The 16-page document is a summary of an FBI interview done in 2015 with a man who had frequent contact with Saudi nationals in the U.S. who supported the first hijackers to arrive in the country before the attacks.

Biden last week ordered the Justice Department and other agencies to conduct a declassification review and release what documents they can over the next six months. He had encountered pressure from victims' families, who have long sought the records as they pursue a lawsuit in New York alleging that Saudi government officials supported the hijackers.

The heavily redacted document was disclosed on Saturday night, hours after Biden attended Sept. 11 memorial events in New York, Pennsylvania and northern Virginia. Victims' relatives had earlier objected to Biden's presence at ceremonial events as long as the documents remained classified.

The Saudi government has long denied any involvement in the attacks. The Saudi Embassy in Washington has it supported the full declassification of all records as a way to "end the baseless allegations against the Kingdom once and for all." The embassy said that any allegation that Saudi Arabia was complicit was "categorically false."

The trove of documents are being released at a politically delicate time for the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, two nations that have forged a strategic — if difficult — alliance, particularly on counterterrorism matters. The Biden administration in February released an intelligence assessment implicating Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but drew criticism from Democrats for avoiding a direct punishment of the crown prince himself.

Victims' relatives cheered the document's release as a significant step in their effort to connect the attacks to Saudi Arabia. Brett Eagleson, whose father, Bruce, was killed in the World Trade Center attack, said the release of the FBI material "accelerates our pursuit of truth and justice."

Jim Kreindler, a lawyer for the victims' relatives, said in a statement that "the findings and conclusions in this FBI investigation validate the arguments we have made in the litigation regarding the Saudi government's responsibility for the 9/11 attacks.

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"This document, together with the public evidence gathered to date, provides a blueprint for how (al-Qaida) operated inside the US with the active, knowing support of the Saudi government," he said.

That includes, he added, Saudi officials exchanging phone calls among themselves and al-Qaida operatives and then having "accidental meetings" with the hijackers while providing them with assistance to get settled and find flight schools.

Regarding Sept. 11, there has been speculation of official involvement since shortly after the attacks, when it was revealed that 15 of the 19 attackers were Saudis. Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaida at the time, was from a prominent family in the kingdom.

The U.S. investigated some Saudi diplomats and others with Saudi government ties who knew hijackers after they arrived in the U.S., according to documents that have already been declassified.

Still, the 9/11 Commission report in 2004 found "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded" the attacks that al-Qaida masterminded, though it noted Saudi-linked charities could have diverted money to the group.

Particular scrutiny has centered on the first two hijackers to arrive in the U.S., Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar and support they received.

In February 2000, shortly after their arrival in southern California, they encountered at a halal restaurant a Saudi national named Omar al-Bayoumi who helped them find and lease an apartment in San Diego, had ties to the Saudi government and had earlier attracted FBI scrutiny.

Bayoumi has described his restaurant meeting with Hazmi and Mihdhar as a "chance encounter," and the FBI during its interview made multiple attempts to ascertain if that characterization was accurate or if it had actually been arranged in advance, according to the document.

The 2015 interview that forms the basis of the document was of a man who was applying for U.S. citizenship and who years earlier had repeated contacts with Saudi nationals who investigators said provided "significant logistical support" to several of the hijackers. Among his contacts was Bayoumi, according to the document.

The man's identity is redacted throughout the document, but he is described as having worked at the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles.

Also referenced in the document is Fahad al-Thumairy, at the time an accredited diplomat at the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles who investigators say led an extremist faction at his mosque. The document says communications analysis identified a seven-minute phone call in 1999 from Thumairy's phone to the Saudi Arabian family home phone of two brothers who became future detainees at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison.

Both Bayoumi and Thumairy left the U.S. weeks before the attacks.

Follow Eric Tucker at http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP

Taliban flag rises over seat of power on fateful anniversary

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban raised their flag over the Afghan presidential palace Saturday, a spokesman said, as the U.S. and the world marked the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The white banner, emblazoned with a Quranic verse, was hoisted by Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, the prime minister of the Taliban interim government, in a low-key ceremony, said Ahmadullah Muttaqi, multimedia branch chief of the Taliban's cultural commission.

The flag-raising marked the official start of the work of the new government, he said. The composition of the all-male, all-Taliban government was announced earlier this week and was met with disappointment by the international community which had hoped the Taliban would make good on an earlier promise of an inclusive lineup.

In a tweet, Afghanistan's first president to follow the 2001 collapse of the Taliban, Hamid Karzai, called for "peace and stability" and expressed the hope that the new caretaker Cabinet that included no women and

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no non-Taliban would become an "inclusive government that can be the real face of the whole Afghanistan." He marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America with a meeting of tribal elders on his high-walled compound in the Afghan capital where he has remained with his family since the August return of the Taliban to Kabul.

Two decades ago, the Taliban ruled Afghanistan with a heavy hand. Television was banned, and on Sept. 11, 2001, the day of the horrific attacks on America, the news spread from crackling radios across the darkened streets of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The city rarely had electricity and barely a million people lived in Kabul at the time. It took the U.S.-led coalition just two months to drive the Taliban from the capital and by Dec. 7, 2001, they were defeated, driven from their last holdout in southern Kandahar, their spiritual heartland.

Twenty years later, the Taliban are back in Kabul. America has departed, ending its 'forever war' two weeks before the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and two weeks after the Taliban returned to the Afghan capital on Aug. 15.

Some things have changed since the first period of Taliban rule in the 1990s.

This time, the gun-toting fighters don't race through the city streets in their pickups. Instead, they inch through chaotic, clogged traffic in the city of more than 5 million. In Taliban-controlled Kabul in the 1990s, barber shops were banned. Now Taliban fighters get the latest haircuts, even if their beards remain untouched in line with their religious beliefs.

But the Taliban have begun issuing harsh edits that have hit women hardest, such as banning women's sports. They have also used violence to stop women demanding equal rights from protesting.

Inside a high-end women's store in the city's Karte Se neighborhood Saturday, Marzia Hamidi, a Taekwondo competitor with ambitions of being a national champion, said the return of the Taliban has crushed her dreams.

She was among the women attacked by the Taliban and called "agents of the West" during one of the recent protests. She said she's not surprised about America's withdrawal.

"This year or next year, they had to leave eventually," she said. "They came for their own interest and they left for their interest."

Hamidi is hoping the Taliban will relent and ease their restrictions, but with a glance toward the store owner, Faisal Naziri, she said "most men in Afghanistan agree with what the Taliban say about women and their rules against them."

Naziri nodded, saying preserving the rights of women is not a cause that will bring Afghan men on the streets.

On Saturday, the Taliban even orchestrated a women's march of their own. This one involved dozens of women obscured from head to toe, hidden behind layers of black veils. They filled an auditorium at Kabul University's education center in a well-choreographed snub to the past 20 years of Western efforts to empower women.

Speakers read from scripted speeches celebrating the Taliban victory over a West they charged was anti-Islam. The women marched briefly outside the center grounds, waving placards saying "the women who left don't represent us," referring to the many thousands who fled in fear of a Taliban crackdown on women's rights. "We don't want co-education," read another banner.

Outside the hall, the Taliban director of higher education, Maulvi Mohammad Daoud Haqqani, said 9/11 was the day "the world started their propaganda against us calling us terrorists and blaming us" for the attacks in the United States.

At a dusty book store in Kabul's Karte Sangi neighborhood, Atta Zakiri, a self-declared civil society activist said America was wrong to attack Afghanistan after 9/11.

He blamed the invasion that followed the 9/11 attacks for creating another generation of hardline Taliban fighters.

"The Taliban should have been allowed to stay. Why didn't we work with them? Instead they went to fight," he said." And now we are back to where we were 20 years ago."

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Qualifier to champion: Britain's Raducanu, 18, wins US Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NÉW YORK (AP) — British teenager Emma Raducanu arrived in New York last month with a ranking of 150th, just one Grand Slam appearance to her name and a flight booked to head out of town after the U.S. Open's preliminary rounds in case she failed to win her way into the main tournament.

And there she was in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday, cradling the silver trophy to complete an unlikely — indeed, unprecedented — and surprisingly dominant journey from qualifier to major champion by beating Canadian teenager Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 in the final.

"You say, 'I want to win a Grand Slam.' But to have the belief I did, and actually executing, winning a Grand Slam," Raducanu said, "I can't believe it."

Who could?

It's all so improbable.

Until three months ago, she had never played in a professional tour-level event, in part because she took 18 months for a combination of reasons: the pandemic and her parents' insistence that she complete her high school degree.

"My dad is definitely very tough to please," the 18-year-old Raducanu said with a smile Saturday evening. "But I managed to today."

She is the female qualifier to reach a Grand Slam final, let alone win one. She captured 10 matches in a row at Flushing Meadows — three in qualifying, seven in the main draw — and is the first woman to win the U.S. Open title without dropping a set since Serena Williams in 2014.

Raducanu, who was born in Toronto and moved to England with her family at age 2, also is the first British woman to win a Grand Slam singles trophy since Virginia Wade at Wimbledon in 1977. Queen Elizabeth II sent a congratulatory note, hailing the victory as a "remarkable achievement at such a young age."

There were more firsts, too, emblematic of what a rapid rise this was. For example: Raducanu is the youngest female Grand Slam champion since Maria Sharapova was 17 at Wimbledon in 2004.

This was the first major final between two teens since Williams, 17, beat Martina Hingis, 18, at the 1999 U.S. Open; the first between two unseeded women in the professional era, which began in 1968.

Fernandez, whose 19th birthday was Monday and who is ranked 73rd, was asked during a pre-match interview in the hallway that leads from the locker room to the court entrance what she expected Saturday's greatest challenge to be.

"Honestly," she responded, "I don't know."

Fair. Neither she nor Raducanu could have.

This was only Fernandez's seventh major tournament; she hadn't made it past the third round before. As tears welled in her eyes after the final, she told the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd: "I hope to be back

here in the finals and this time with a trophy — the right one."

Moments later, she asked for the microphone so she could address the 23,703 spectators again on the anniversary of 9-11.

"I just want to say that I hope I can be as strong and as resilient as New York has been the last 20 years," said Fernandez, born a year before the terrorist attacks. "Thank you for always having my back. Thank you for cheering for me."

Both she and Raducanu displayed the poise and shot-making of veterans at the U.S. Open — not two relative newcomers whose previous head-to-head match came in the second round of the Wimbledon juniors event just three years ago.

The talent and affinity for the big stage both possess is unmistakable.

One of the significant differences on this day: Fernandez put only 58% of her first serves in play and finished with five double-faults, helping Raducanu accumulate 18 break points.

"I, unfortunately, made one too many mistakes in key moments," Fernandez said, "and she took advantage of it."

Raducanu broke to go up 4-2 in the second set, held for 5-2 and twice was a point from winning the

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title in the next game. But under pressure from Fernandez, she let both of those opportunities slip away by putting groundstrokes into the net.

Then, while serving for the match at 5-3, Raducanu slid on the court chasing a ball to her backhand side, bloodying her left knee while losing a point to give Fernandez break chance. Raducanu was ordered by chair umpire Marijana Veljovic to stop playing so a trainer could put a white bandage on the cut.

So what went through Raducanu's mind during that delay of more than four minutes at a critical juncture? "Was really trying to think what my patterns of play were going to be, what I was going to try to execute," she said. "Going out there facing a break point after a ... disruption isn't easy. I think I managed, for sure, to really pull off the clutch plays when I needed to."

As if she'd been there before, Raducanu saved a pair of break points after the resumption, then converted on her third chance to close it out with a 108 mph ace. She dropped her racket, landed on her back and covered her face with both hands.

Eventually, she made her way into the stands to celebrate with her coach and others.

"That's something that you always think of, you always work for," she said.

Fernandez's group — including two sisters and Mom but not Dad, who stayed home in Florida, where they moved after her early success in the juniors several years ago — was in the guest box on the opposite end of the court, the one assigned to the higher-ranked player.

That's a status Fernandez was unaccustomed to as she beat four seeded women in a row, each in three sets: defending champion Naomi Osaka and 2016 champ Angelique Kerber, No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 5 Elina Svitolina.

That meant Fernandez came in having spent more than 12 1/2 hours on court through her six matches; Raducanu's main-draw total was about 7 1/2 hours.

That seemed to be a factor, particularly over the second half of the 1-hour, 51-minute final.

From 4-all in the opening set, Raducanu took eight of the last 11 games. When she broke to take that set with a well-paced, well-placed forehand winner down the line, she stared at her entourage, then whipped her arms — and the fans reacted.

Raducanu's only previous Grand Slam tournament came at Wimbledon, where she stopped playing during the fourth round because of trouble breathing. That was in July, when Raducanu was ranked outside the top 300 and an unknown.

And now? She will rise into the WTA's top 25. She earned \$2.5 million. She is famous in Britain and the world over. She is now, and forever, a Grand Slam champion.

How quickly everything has changed.

More AP Tennis: https://apnews.com/hub/tennis and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Bush warns of domestic extremism, appeals to 'nation I know'

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. (AP) — Warning that the nation was falling into division and extremism, former President George W. Bush appealed Saturday for a return to the spirit of cooperation that emerged — almost instantaneously — after the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago.

Delivering the keynote address at the national memorial to the victims of Flight 93, who forced down their airplane hijacked by al-Qaida terrorists before it could be used as a weapon against the nation's capital, Bush warned of "violence that gathers within."

"There is little cultural overlap between violent extremists abroad and violent extremists at home," he said. "But in their disdain for pluralism, in their disregard for human life, in their determination to defile national symbols, they are children of the same foul spirit. And it is our continuing duty to confront them."

Bush's warning came barely eight months after the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election. It marked some of Bush's sharpest criticism of that attack and appeared to be an implicit criticism of Trump's brand of politics.

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Bush lamented that "so much of our politics has become a naked appeal to anger, fear and resentment." He admitted he had no easy solutions. Instead, he channeled the heroism of the Flight 93 victims, and the determined spirit of a wounded nation to emerge from the tragedy stronger.

"On America's day of trial and grief, I saw millions of people instinctively grab for a neighbor's hand and rally to the cause of one another," Bush said. "That is the America I know."

He added that in the aftermath of the attacks Islamophobia, nativism or selfishness could have risen to the fore, but the country rejected them, and said, "That is the nation I know."

"This is not mere nostalgia, it is the truest version of ourselves," Bush said. "It is what we have been, and what we can be again."

Bush's appeal for unity drew plaudits from President Joe Biden, who visited Shanksville not long after Bush spoke, having watched his speech aboard Air Force One on the flight from 9/11 commemoration events in New York.

"I thought that President Bush made a really good speech today," Biden said. "Genuinely."

Biden too has prioritized national unity, telling reporters Saturday, "That's the thing that's going to affect our well-being more than anything else."

Brewers' Burnes, Hader combine for MLB record 9th no-hitter

By BRIAN DULIK Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — In a sometimes sticky season, Corbin Burnes got a grip on history.

Milwaukee's ace combined with reliever Josh Hader to pitch baseball's record ninth no-hitter this season, breaking a mark set when pitchers began throwing overhand in 1884 as the Brewers beat the Cleveland Indians 3-0 on Saturday night.

Months after Major League Baseball clamped down on pitchers' use of illicit foreign substances following a rash of early no-hitters, Burnes cemented 2021 as the Season of the No-No with just the second no-hitter in Brewers history.

"It was a masterpiece," Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said.

Burnes (10-4) struck out 14 with a career-high 115 pitches over eight innings, taking a perfect game into the seventh while overpowering the Indians, who were no-hit for a record third time in 2021. All of those came with starter Zach Plesac on the mound.

This time, Cleveland was stymied by Burnes — who has become a Cy Young contender as the Brewers run away with the NL Central — and Hader, one of the game's top closers.

"Anyone would want to keep pitching in that situation, but if there was anyone I would want out there for the ninth, it would be Josh Hader," Burnes said. "There were no nerves with him. It was more like a done deal when he came in."

The right-handed Burnes was in control from the start, striking out 11 of his first 14 hitters and retiring the first 18 in order. After walking Myles Straw to start the seventh, the 26-year-old got through the eighth thanks to a diving catch by center fielder Lorenzo Cain on Owen Miller's liner.

"I was definitely on my horse, ready to go get that one," Cain said. "You need a little bit of everything to go right in a no-hitter."

The Progressive Field crowd booed as Hader came on in the ninth. He overpowered Oscar Mercado, striking him out to start the inning. Then, first baseman Jace Peterson went into foul territory to making a lunging catch for the second out.

Hader ended the no-hitter by getting Straw to flail at a pitch in the dirt for his 31st save. The Brewers stormed the field to share hugs and high-fives with a signature victory in their runaway season.

"I had to fight pretty hard (with Counsell) for the eighth to come back out, so I knew I had no shot for the ninth," Burnes said.

Juan Nieves pitched the Brewers' previous no-hitter on April 15, 1987, at Baltimore.

Burnes dropped his ERA to 2.25 and has more than doubled his career high for strikeouts with 210 in 152 innings. He's been vying with Philadelphia's Zack Wheeler and the Dodgers' Max Scherzer for the NL

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Cy Young Award. This gem, no doubt, will have some sway with voters.

"Corbin felt good after the eighth, but knowing you're putting in Josh Hader to finish it played a part in the decision," Counsell said.

The Brewers improved to a franchise-record 33 games over .500 while slimming their magic number to clinch the division to eight.

Arizona rookie Tyler Gilbert had thrown the majors' most recent no-hitter on Aug. 14, and the Chicago Cubs threw the only previous combined effort on June 24. The other no-hitters this season were thrown by San Diego's Joe Musgrove (April 9), Carlos Rodón of the Chicago White Sox (April 14), Cincinnati's Wade Miley (May 7), Detroit's Spencer Turnbull (May 18) and the Yankees' Corey Kluber (May 19).

Most of those gems were thrown before MLB cracked down on the use of sticky foreign substances by pitchers in late June.

"I don't think anyone's going to be upset about putting a no-hitter in the books," Burnes said.

The no-hitters by Miley and Rodón both came against the Indians, as did a seven-inning no-hitter by Tampa Bay on July 7 that didn't officially count in the MLB record book. Arizona's Madison Bumgarner also had a seven-inning no-hitter in the second game of a doubleheader at Atlanta on April 25.

The Brewers completed this bit of history three days after Minnesota rookie Joe Ryan retired the first 19 Indians batters in a 3-0 win at Progressive Field.

Plesac couldn't get his head around being on the wrong side of three no-hitters. Prior to Saturday, Jim Perry was the only starter in baseball history to have his opponent throw a no-hitter three times in a career prior to Saturday, per Elias.

"I don't even know if that makes sense to me," Plesac said. "That's insane. I don't know if it's me or what." Indians acting manager DeMarlo Hale didn't offer any excuses.

"You deal with it, you get up and play tomorrow," he said. "The good thing about no-hitters, it's only one loss. I know it's been three times, but you deal with it, you move on, you understand the level of competition you're playing against and you move on. I don't have an answer for that."

Plesac allowed three runs, two earned, over six innings.

Straw had faced Burnes in the minor leagues but admitted he had little chance against him on this late summer evening.

"He dominated," Straw said. "He's going to get some Cy Young votes this year, I'm sure of it. You just have to tip your cap, come back tomorrow and compete again."

The Brewers scored twice in the first inning on an RBI double by Christian Yelich and a sacrifice fly from Omar Narváez. Milwaukee made it 3-0 in the second when Rowdy Tellez doubled home Daniel Vogelbach.

Tellez experienced right knee pain while running the bases and left the game.

DUGOUT DANGER

Peterson returned to action after being struck by a foul ball on his left arm Wednesday in the home dugout against Philadelphia. Manager Craig Counsell said Peterson was hit squarely by a line drive off the bat of a Phillies player, but the ball narrowly missed hitting his elbow.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Brewers: RHP Brandon Woodruff (flu-like symptoms) will not make his scheduled start Sunday after becoming ill in the team hotel. Counsell said Woodruff "has lost some weight from the bug," pushing his next outing to Wednesday at Detroit.

Indians: RHP Shane Bieber (right shoulder strain) threw a bullpen session before the game and will be evaluated Sunday. Acting manager DeMarlo Hale said the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner could begin a rehab assignment as early as Tuesday.

UP NEXT

Brewers: LHP Eric Lauer (5-5, 3.18 ERA) will start on regular rest in the three-game series finale, moving up one spot in the rotation to replace Woodruff. The Northeast Ohio native and Kent State product has never pitched against the Indians.

Indians: RHP Aaron Civale (10-3, 3.25 ERA) makes his second start since spending 77 days on the injured

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list with a sprained third finger on his right hand. Civale allowed one run in 4 2/3 innings in his return, losing to the Twins on Sept. 7.

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Newsom, GOP rivals seek votes in recall's final weekend

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Democratic allies of California Gov. Gavin Newsom continued to express confidence Saturday in his chances of beating back a recall but warned his supporters not to let up on urging people to vote as they seek a decisive win, while Republicans said the contest is far from settled.

"We don't need to just win by a little, we need to win by a lot. We need to send a message: Hands off our democracy, hands off our California," said April Verrett, president of the SEIU Local 2015, as she rallied union members who have been among Newsom's biggest supporters.

Newsom joined the Oakland rally as his Republican rivals made their cases up and down the state and both major parties sent volunteers out to knock on doors and urge their supporters to vote. The race concludes Tuesday, and more than a third of voters have already mailed in their ballot or voted early in person.

A recent poll from the Public Policy Institute of California shows Newsom likely to survive, and Democrats are making a stronger showing in early voting. But the GOP is expecting a larger turnout on Election Day, given many Republicans are skeptical of voting by mail.

"Anyone who is counting the recall out at this point is not really in touch with what's actually going on with this movement," said Republican Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, who is running to unseat Newsom and is favored by some of the recall's original supporters.

The ballot includes two questions: Should Newsom be recalled from office and, if so, who should replace him? If a majority of voters want him gone, he would be replaced by whoever gets the most votes among the 46 candidates on the replacement ballot.

Newsom has encouraged his supporters to vote "no" on the first question and skip the second one all together, something Republican rival Kevin Faulconer criticized as he cast his own ballot in San Diego, where he previously served as mayor.

"It's very important that folks get out and vote. The fact that the Governor doesn't want people to vote on question two, that is voter disenfranchisement," he said, according to CBS News 8 in San Diego.

Beyond campaigning, several candidates marked the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Larry Elder, who is considered the Republican frontrunner, helped read the names of people who died in the attacks during a memorial service in Southern California before having lunch with veterans. He shared anecdotes about his father, a veteran, and made his campaign pitch to the group, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Kiley and businessman John Cox, another GOP candidate, also attended anniversary events, while Newsom visited the Wall of Heroes memorial at the California National Guard's headquarters before his campaign event.

More than 7.7 million people have already voted, according to ballot tracking data compiled by Political Data Inc., a data firm that works with Democrats.

Newsom called the numbers encouraging and attributed it to more Democrats becoming aware of the recall as it winds to a close. Still, he said he's taking nothing for granted. H will spend the next few days campaigning in Southern California, and on Monday he will be joined by Democratic President Joe Biden.

He stuck to his closing message that the race could have profound consequences beyond California, calling it a contest of "outsize consequences." He and other Democrats have likened it to former President Donald Trump's refusal to accept the results of the 2020 presidential election and have charged Republicans with pursuing a recall because they can't win a normal election. Californians haven't elected a Republican statewide since 2006.

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"The recall is about catching you while you're sleeping," he said. "This recall is about getting us in an off year, in an off month, while no one else is paying attention."

The recall made the ballot through a process in the California Constitution for more than a century. Originally the recall was likely to be held sometime in October or November, but Democrats in the state Legislature sped up the process to allow for an earlier election.

Republicans angry with Newsom's policies on immigration, crime and a host of other issues sparked the recall drive, but it took off during the coronavirus pandemic. Organizers got more than 1.7 million signatures to place it on the ballot. That's less than a tenth of registered voters.

"Gavin Newsom has failed Californians. From surging crime to a broken unemployment department and raging wildfires, our state deserves better than this governor's serial incompetence," California Republican Party Chairwoman Jessica Millan Patterson said in a statement. She was out Saturday knocking on doors in Los Angeles County.

Meanwhile, the union leaders who rallied alongside Newsom pointed to his pandemic policies as lifesaving measures for home health care and other essential workers. They also applauded him for increasing providers' pay, which was cut under former Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the winner of the 2003 recall.

The Service Employees International Union and its affiliates have donated at least \$3.5 million to Newsom's campaign, and unions collectively are his biggest financial backers.

Catch up with all of AP's recall coverage here: https://apnews.com/hub/california-recall

Biden embraces message of unity on 9/11 anniversary

By ZEKE MILLER and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — From an urban memorial to a remote field to the heart of of the nation's military might, President Joe Biden on Saturday paid tribute at three hallowed places of grief and remembrance to honor the lives lost two decades ago in the 9/11 terror attacks.

The solemn day of commemoration offered frequent reminders for Americans of a time when they united in the face of unimaginable tragedy. That fading spirit of 9/11 was invoked most forcefully by the president at the time of the attacks, George W. Bush, who said, "That is the America I know," in stark contrast to the bitterly divided nation Biden now leads.

Biden left the speech-making to others, paying his respects at the trio of sites in New York, Pennsylvania and outside Washington where four hijacked planes crashed on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people, shattering the nation's sense of security and launching the country into two decades of warfare.

Biden wiped away a tear as he stood in silence at the site where the World Trade Center towers fell, and looked up at the haunting sound of a jet plane under clear blue skies reminiscent of that fateful day.

In a grassy field in Pennsylvania, Biden comforted family members gathered at a stone boulder near Shanksville that marked where passengers brought down a hijacked plane that had been headed for the nation's capital. At the Pentagon, Biden and his wife, Jill, took a moment of silence before a wreath studded with white, purple and red flowers on display in front of the memorial benches that mark the victims of the attack at the military headquarters.

Delivering Bud Light and appreciation to the Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department, which responded to the crash of United Flight 93, Biden praised Bush's comments in his only public remarks of the day, saying the Republican "made a really good speech today – genuinely," and wondered aloud what those who died that day would think of today's rancor.

Gesturing to a cross-shaped memorial made of steel from the twin towers adjacent to the firehouse, Biden reflected: "I'm thinking what, what what would the people who died, what would they be thinking. Would they think this makes sense for us to be doing this kind of thing where you ride down the street and someone has a sign saying 'f- so-and-so?"

It was a reference to an explicit sign attacking Biden last week in New Jersey as he toured storm damage that was displayed by supporters of former President Donald Trump. Biden expressed incredulity at

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recent comments by Trump, whom he accused of abandoning the nation's ideals during his time in office. "Everyone says, 'Biden, why do you keep insisting on trying to bring the country together?" the president told reporters. "That's the thing that's going to affect our well-being more than anything else."

In a frequent refrain of his presidency warning of the rise of autocracies, he added, "Are we going to, in the next four, five, six, ten years, demonstrate that democracies can work, or not?"

At ground zero in New York City, Biden stood side by side with former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton at the National September 11 Memorial as the names of the dead were read aloud by their loved ones. Each man wore a blue ribbon and held his hand over his heart as a procession marched a flag through the memorial before hundreds of people, some carrying photos of loved ones lost in the attacks. Bush delivering the keypote address in Shanksville, lamented that "so much of our politics have become

Bush, delivering the keynote address in Shanksville, lamented that "so much of our politics have become a naked appeal to anger, fear and resentment."

"On America's day of trial and grief, I saw millions of people instinctively grab for a neighbor's hand, and rally for the cause of one another," Bush said. "That is the America I know."

Alluding to domestic turmoil, including the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, Bush said that "the dangers to our country can come not only across borders but from violence that gathers within." He added that while they have little cultural similarity to the 9/11 attackers, "they are children of the same foul spirit, and it is our continuing duty to confront them."

Vice President Kamala Harris also spoke at the Flight 93 National Memorial, echoing the theme of unity as she praised the courage of those passengers and the resilience of Americans who came together in the days after the attacks.

"In a time of outright terror, we turned toward each other," Harris said. "If we do the hard work of working together as Americans, if we remain united in purpose, we will be prepared for whatever comes next."

Biden was a U.S. senator when hijackers commandeered four planes and carried out the attacks. He was Obama's vice president in 2011 when the country observed the 10th anniversary of the strikes. Saturday's commemoration was his first as commander in chief.

It is now Biden who shoulders the responsibility borne by his predecessors to prevent another strike. He must do that against fears of a rise in terrorism after the hasty U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, where those who planned the Sept. 11 attacks were sheltered.

In remarks at the firehouse Biden defended the withdrawal, which culminated with a massive airlift to evacuate more than 110,000 Americans and allies — but still resulted in many being left behind for an uncertain future under Taliban rule.

"Could al-Qaida come back? Yeah. But guess what, it's already back other places," Biden said. "What's the strategy? Every place where al-Qaida is, we're going to invade and have troops stay in? Cmon."

Rather than deliver formal remarks, Biden released a taped address late Friday about the anniversary in which he spoke about the "true sense of national unity" that emerged after the attacks, seen in "heroism everywhere — in places expected and unexpected."

"To me that's the central lesson of Sept. 11," he said. "Unity is our greatest strength."

Biden became the fourth president to console the nation on the anniversary of that dark day, one that has shaped many of the most consequential domestic and foreign policy decisions made by the chief executives over the past two decades.

Trump skipped the official 9/11 memorial ceremonies and instead visited a fire station and police precinct in New York, where he laced into Biden over his withdrawal from Afghanistan and repeated lies about the 2020 election as he paid tribute to New York's first responders.

Bush was reading a book to Florida schoolchildren when the planes slammed into the World Trade Center. He spent that day being kept out of Washington for security reasons — a decision then-Sen. Biden urged him to reconsider, the current president has written — and then delivered a brief, halting speech that night from the White House to a terrified nation.

The terrorist attack would define Bush's presidency. The following year, he chose Ellis Island as the location to deliver his first anniversary address, the Statue of Liberty over his shoulder as he pledged, "What

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our enemies have begun, we will finish."

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were still deadly when Obama visited the Pentagon to mark his first Sept. 11 in office in 2009.

By the time Obama spoke at the 10th anniversary, attack mastermind Osama bin Laden was dead, killed in a May 2011 Navy SEAL raid. Though the nation remained entangled overseas, and vigilant against threats, the anniversary became more about healing.

Trump pledged to get the U.S. out of Afghanistan, but his words during his first Sept. 11 anniversary ceremony in 2017 were a vivid warning to terrorists, telling "these savage killers that there is no dark corner beyond our reach, no sanctuary beyond our grasp, and nowhere to hide anywhere on this very large earth."

Jaffe reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin in New York and Aamer Madhani in Wilmington, Delaware, contributed to this report.

Peru: Abimael Guzmán, head of Shining Path insurgency, dies

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO Associated Press

LÍMA, Peru (AP) — Abimael Guzmán, the leader of the brutal Shining Path insurgency in Peru who was captured in 1992, died on Saturday in a military hospital after an illness. He was 86.

Guzmán died at 6:40 a.m. after suffering from an infection, Justice Minister Aníbal Torres said.

Guzmán, a former philosophy professor, launched an insurgency against the state in 1980 and presided over numerous car bombings and assassinations in the years that followed. Guzmán was captured in 1992 and sentenced to life in prison for terrorism and other crimes.

President Pedro Castillo tweeted that Guzmán was responsible for taking 'countless' lives.

"Our position condemning terrorism is firm and unwavering. Only in democracy will we build a Peru of justice and development for our people," Castillo said.

Even so, Castillo has faced criticism over alleged links of some of his Cabinet ministers to the Shining Path. Primer Minister Guido Bellido has been investigated by authorities over his alleged sympathy for the group. Last week, a media outlet made public police records from the 1980s that describe Labor Minister Iber Maraví as a Shining Path member and a fugitive.

"We do not forget the horror of that time, and his death will not erase his crimes," Economy Minister Pedro Francke said.

Guzmán preached a messianic vision of a classless Maoist utopia based on pure communism, considering himself the "Fourth Sword of Marxism" after Karl Marx, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin and Mao Zedong. He advocated a peasant revolution in which rebels would first gain control of the countryside and then advance to the cities.

Guzmán's movement declared armed struggle on the eve of Peru's presidential elections in May 1980, the first democratic vote after 12 years of military rule.

Throughout the 1980s, the man known to his followers as Presidente Gonzalo built up an organization that grew to 10,000 armed fighters before his capture inside a Lima safehouse in September 1992 by a special intelligence group of the Peruvian police backed by the United States. Since then, he was housed in a military prison on the shores of the Pacific that was built to hold him.

By the time Guzmán called for peace talks a year after his arrest, guerrilla violence had claimed tens of thousands of lives in Peru, displaced at least 600,000 people and caused an estimated \$22 billion in damage.

"Unlike other leftwing insurgent groups in the region, (the Shining Path) targeted civilians and actively sought to terrorize them, both in the cities and in the countryside," Noam Lupu, associate director of the Latin American Public Opinion Project at Vanderbilt University, said in an email about Shining Path. "The fear that this generated in Peru was extraordinary, and it has marked Peruvian politics and society since. Shining Path's violence is a big part of why Castillo's is the first explicitly leftist presidential administration in Peru since the 1980s."

A truth commission in 2003 blamed the Shining Path for more than half of nearly 70,000 estimated

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deaths and disappearances caused by various rebel groups and brutal government counterinsurgency efforts between 1980 and 2000.

Yet it lived on in a political movement formed by Guzmán's followers that sought amnesty for all "political prisoners," including the Shining Path founder. The Movement for Amnesty and Fundamental Right failed, however, to register as a political party in 2012 in the face of fierce opposition from Peruvians with bitter memories of the destruction brought by the Shining Path.

In its songs and slogans, the Shining Path celebrated bloodletting, describing death as necessary to "irrigate" the revolution.

Its militants bombed electrical towers, bridges and factories in the countryside, assassinated mayors and massacred villagers. In the insurgency's later years, they targeted civilians in Lima with indiscriminate bombings.

For 12 years, Peruvian authorities could not crack the Shining Path's ranks, organized in a near-impenetrable vertical cell structure. Guzmán was nearly captured at a safehouse in Lima in June 1990, but slipped away.

À January 1991 police raid in Lima found a videotape showing Guzmán and other rebel leaders mourning at the funeral of his wife, Augusta La Torre, known as "Comrade Norah." About 15 years Guzmán's junior, La Torre was No. 2 in the Shining Path's command structure before dying under mysterious circumstances in 1988.

Analysts believe she may have been murdered or forced to commit suicide over an internal political dispute. The video showed a portly Guzmán, wearing thick glasses and snapping his fingers as he drunkenly danced to music from the 1960s movie "Zorba the Greek." It was the first image Peruvians had seen of him since a mug shot taken during a 1978 arrest.

After La Torre died, she was replaced as No. 2 by Elena Iparraguirre, alias "Comrade Miriam," who later also became Guzmán's wife.

Guzmán married Iparraguirre in 2010 at the maximum-security prison inside the naval base in Lima where he was serving a life term. Iparraguirre, also captured in 1992, was brought from the women's prison for the ceremony.

Guzmán was initially sentenced to life imprisonment by a secret military tribunal, but Peru's top court ruled in 2003 that the original sentencing was unconstitutional and ordered a new trial. He also received a life sentence at the 2006 retrial.

The Shining Path was severely weakened after Guzmán's capture and his later calls for peace talks. Small bands of rebels have nevertheless remained active in remote valleys, producing cocaine and protecting drug runners.

Guzmán was born the illegitimate son of a prosperous trader in Tambo, Arequipa, in Peru's southern Andes on Dec. 3, 1934.

He studied law and philosophy at the University of San Agustin in Arequipa, where he wrote two graduate theses: "The Theory of Space in Kant" and another on law titled "The Democratic-Bourgeois State."

"Mr. Guzmán was an extraordinarily brilliant man, very studious, very disciplined," recalled Miguel Rodriguez Rivas, one of his professors.

Guzmán took a teaching job in 1963 at the state University of San Cristobal de Huamanga in Ayacucho, an impoverished central Andean capital neglected for centuries by Peru's traditional power elite in coastal Lima.

In Ayacucho, he joined the pro-Chinese Bandera Roja political party, or "Red Flag," becoming head of its "military commission" and visiting China in 1965.

Later returning to Ayacucho, Guzmán discovered that political rivals had expelled him from the party and he formed his own splinter group.

A descendant of the white elite that had governed Peru since the Spanish destroyed the Inca empire nearly 500 years earlier, Guzmán recruited the sons and daughters of Quechua-speaking Indigenous peasants as he gradually took control of the university.

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During the 1970s, his student followers spanned out into the countryside to conduct detailed studies of communities that would be used years later to consolidate guerrilla control in the zone.

Over 10 years, Guzmán patiently planned before launching his war on what he characterized as Peru's "rotten and antiquated" state, taking the government by surprise.

Peruvian officials were debating what to do with Guzmán's body.

Torres told state television they would study the possibility of cremation and warned that "paying homage to or mobilizing in the memory of Abimael Guzmán" would be considered an apology for terrorism.

Sebastián Chávez, Guzmán's lawyer, said that by law the decision belongs to his wife, Iparraguirre, who is in a prison in Lima.

"She will decide what steps will be taken," he said.

Evangelical Lutheran church installs 1st transgender bishop

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America installed its first openly transgender bishop in a service held in San Francisco's Grace Cathedral on Saturday.

The Rev. Megan Rohrer will lead one of the church's 65 synods, overseeing nearly 200 congregations in Northern California and northern Nevada.

"My call is ... to be up to the same messy, loving things I was up to before," Rohrer told worshippers. "But mostly, if you'll let me, and I think you will, my hope is to love you and beyond that, to love what you love."

Rohrer was elected in May to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod after its current bishop announced his retirement.

"I step into this role because a diverse community of Lutherans in Northern California and Nevada prayerfully and thoughtfully voted to do a historic thing," Rohrer said in a statement. "My installation will celebrate all that is possible when we trust God to shepherd us forward."

Rohrer, who uses the pronoun "they," previously served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco and a chaplain coordinator for the city's police department, and also helped minister to the city's homeless and LGTBQ community. They studied religion at Augustana University in their hometown of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, before moving to California to pursue master and doctoral degrees at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

Rohrer became one of seven LGBTQ pastors accepted by the progressive Evangelical Lutheran church in 2010 after it allowed ordination of pastors in same-sex relationships. Rohrer is married and has two children.

The church is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States with about 3.3 million members.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through The Conversation U.S. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Salesforce to help workers leave states over abortion laws

DALLAS (AP) — The CEO of Salesforce said the company will help employees leave Texas, and he did so while retweeting a story linking the offer to concern about Texas' new anti-abortion law.

Salesforce, which sells customer-management software, joins a small number of companies that have reacted against the Texas law.

CNBC reported that the San Francisco-based company told employees in a Slack message it will help them move "if you have concerns about access to reproductive healthcare in your state."

On Friday night, CEO Marc Benioff retweeted a post about the story, adding, "Ohana if you want to move we'll help you exit TX. Your choice." Ohana is a Hawaiian term for family.

The company did not return messages for comment.

The Texas law passed the Republican-controlled state Legislature and was signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott in May but didn't go into effect until this month. It bans most abortions after six weeks,

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before many women know whether they are pregnant, and lets private residents sue anyone who helps a woman get an abortion.

By a 5-4 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to block the law. This week the U.S. Justice Department sued Texas to block the law.

Ride-hailing companies Uber and Lyft, both based in San Francisco, have said they will pay legal fees for any drivers who are sued for taking a woman to an abortion clinic. Dating-app provider Bumble, which is based in Texas, said it will create a relief fund for people affected by the law.

Abortion-rights activists have pressured Texas-based companies to criticize the law, but most have remained silent.

Israel arrests 4 Palestinian fugitives who escaped prison

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and FARES AKRAM Associated Press

JÉRUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police on Saturday said they have arrested four of the six Palestinians who broke out of a maximum-security prison this week — including a famed militant leader whose exploits over the years have made him a well-known figure in Israel.

Late on Saturday, the four re-captured prisoners appeared separately in court where prosecutors are pushing terrorist attack charges against them following their escape.

The arrests moved Israel closer to closing an embarrassing episode that exposed deep flaws in its prison system and turned the fugitive prisoners into Palestinian heroes. Late on Friday, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket into Israel in an apparent sign of solidarity, drawing Israeli airstrikes in reprisal. The four wanted men were caught in a pair of arrests in northern Israel.

Early on Saturday, police said they had caught two men, including Zakaria Zubeidi, hiding in a truck parking lot in the Arab town of Umm al-Ghanam.

The Israeli Haaretz news site, quoting an unidentified defense official, said Zubeidi and fellow fugitive Mohammed Aradeh had been hiding outdoors for some time. The source said the two escapees appeared to have received no help following their escape and had no planned route on where to go.

Zubeidi was a militant leader during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s.

While he has been linked to attacks on Israelis, he also was well known for giving frequent media interviews and for a friendship he once had with an Israeli woman. Zubeidi over the years had received amnesty and taken college courses and was active in a West Bank theater movement before he was rearrested in 2019 on suspicions of involvement in attacks.

Photos released by police showed Zubeidi, handcuffed and wearing a white head band, being led away by two police officers.

In a statement, police said that Israeli security forces, including the military, have been working "around the clock" to catch the fugitives.

"All of the forces were deployed at full strength, searched in open areas, collected every piece of information until they succeeded in solving the puzzle to locate these two fugitives," including Zubeidi, police said. The search for the final two prisoners was continuing.

Earlier, two other prisoners were arrested in Nazareth, an Arab city in northern Israel just west of Umm al-Ghanam.

A video circulating on social media showed Israeli police shackling one of the prisoners, Yakub Kadari, into the backseat of a police vehicle and asking him for his name. The man, wearing jeans and a green T-shirt, calmly identifies himself as Kadari and answers "yes" when asked whether he is one of the escapees. Kadari was serving two life sentences for attempted murder and bomb planting.

According to Israeli media reports, local residents in both towns had turned in the prisoners.

In a statement issued late Saturday, Israel's Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, praised the Israeli security forces for the arrest of the four fugitives, describing the search operation as "determined and persistent."

"We have to maintain heightened readiness and continue until the mission is complete," Bennett said. In Gaza, Hamas' armed wing pledged to include the six prisoners on the top of any future prisoner swap

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deal between the militant group and Israel.

"The heroes of the 'freedom tunnel' will come out with heads held high and the Qassam command has decided that there will be no exchange deal without freeing those heroes," said the spokesman, Abu Obaida, using the name of Hamas' military wing.

Hamas is believed to be holding two Israeli civilians and the remains of two Israeli soldiers who were killed during the 50-day Gaza war between the two sides in 2014. There have been no serious negotiations on brokering a swap. In 2011, Israel retrieved a soldier who had been kidnapped and held for five years by Hamas in exchange for over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners.

The six Palestinians tunneled out of the Gilboa prison on Monday, setting off a furious manhunt across Israel and in the West Bank.

For the Palestinians, the fugitives won praise for succeeding in freeing themselves from multiple life sentences. Fighting against Israel and taking part in attacks against the Israeli military or even civilians is a source of pride for many, and Palestinians consider prisoners held by Israel to be heroes of their national cause.

In the Gaza Strip as well as in the West Bank, Palestinians had organized sit-ins and joyful gatherings to celebrate the prison break.

While Zubeidi was a member of the secular Fatah group, the others belonged to the Islamic Jihad militant group, including four serving life sentences. All of the prisoners are from the nearby city of Jenin in the Israel-occupied West Bank.

As soon as the news about the capture of the two fugitives was confirmed Friday, a flurry of bitter posts expressing disappointment and shock filled Palestinian social media.

Israel said late Saturday that Palestinian militants in Gaza fired a rocket toward Israel that was intercepted by Israeli air defenses. The Israeli military said it responded with airstrikes on a series of Hamas targets in Gaza. Israel says it holds Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, responsible for all rocket fire emanating from the territory.

There was no immediate reaction from the Palestinian Authority, but Abdeltaif al-Qanou, a spokesman for the Gaza-ruling Hamas movement, said despite the re-arrest, the prisoners have "scored a victory and harmed the prestige of the Israeli security system."

The escape has exposed major flaws in Israel's prison service and set off days of angry criticism and finger-pointing. The men escaped through a hole in the floor of their shared cell, tunneled through a hole outside the prison and according to media reports, escaped past a sleeping prison guard.

It has also increased tension between Israel and the Palestinians.

Earlier on Friday, Hamas had called for "a day of rage" to protest Israeli crackdown against imprisoned Palestinians, but the day passed without major confrontation. In Jerusalem, a Palestinian suspected attacker died shortly after being shot by Israeli police in the volatile Old City, where he had reportedly tried to stab officers. Police said one officer was lightly wounded in the leg.

'Don't focus on hate': World marks 20th anniversary of 9/11

By JENNIFER PELTZ and BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The world solemnly marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11 on Saturday, grieving lost lives and shattered American unity in commemorations that unfolded just weeks after the bloody end of the Afghanistan war that was launched in response to the terror attacks.

Victims' relatives and four U.S. presidents paid respects at the sites where hijacked planes killed nearly 3,000 people in the deadliest act of terrorism on American soil.

Others gathered for observances from Portland, Maine, to Guam, or for volunteer projects on what has become a day of service in the U.S. Foreign leaders expressed sympathy over an attack that happened in the U.S. but claimed victims from more than 90 countries.

"It felt like an evil specter had descended on our world, but it was also a time when many people acted above and beyond the ordinary," said Mike Low, whose daughter, Sara Low, was a flight attendant on the

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first plane that crashed.

"As we carry these 20 years forward, I find sustenance in a continuing appreciation for all of those who rose to be more than ordinary people," the father told a ground zero crowd that included President Joe Biden and former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton.

In a video released Friday night, Biden said Sept. 11 illustrated that "unity is our greatest strength."

Unity is "the thing that's going to affect our well-being more than anything else," he added while visiting a volunteer firehouse Saturday after laying a wreath at the 9/11 crash site near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. He later took a moment of silence at the third site, the Pentagon.

The anniversary was observed under the pall of a pandemic and in the shadow of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, which is now ruled by the same Taliban militant group that gave safe haven to the 9/11 plotters.

"It's hard because you hoped that this would just be a different time and a different world. But sometimes history starts to repeat itself and not in the best of ways," Thea Trinidad, who lost her father in the attacks, said before reading victims' names at the ceremony.

Bruce Springsteen and Broadway actors Kelli O'Hara and Chris Jackson sang at the commemoration, but by tradition, no politicians spoke there.

At the Pennsylvania site — where passengers and crew fought to regain control of a plane believed to have been targeted at the U.S. Capitol or the White House — former President George W. Bush said Sept. 11 showed that Americans can come together despite their differences.

"So much of our politics has become a naked appeal to anger, fear and resentment," said the president who was in office on 9/11. "On America's day of trial and grief, I saw millions of people instinctively grab their neighbor's hand and rally to the cause of one another. That is the America I know."

"It is the truest version of ourselves. It is what we have been and what we can be again."

Calvin Wilson said a polarized country has "missed the message" of the heroism of the flight's passengers and crew, which included his brother-in-law, LeRoy Homer.

"We don't focus on the damage. We don't focus on the hate. We don't focus on retaliation. We don't focus on revenge," Wilson said before the ceremony. "We focus on the good that all of our loved ones have done."

Former President Donald Trump visited a New York police station and a firehouse, praising responders' bravery while criticizing Biden over the pullout from Afghanistan.

"It was gross incompetence," said Trump, who was scheduled to provide commentary at a boxing match in Florida in the evening.

The attacks ushered in a new era of fear, war, patriotism and, eventually, polarization. They also redefined security, changing airport checkpoints, police practices and the government's surveillance powers.

A "war on terror" led to invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, where the longest U.S. war ended last month with a hasty, massive airlift punctuated by a suicide bombing that killed 169 Afghans and 13 American service members and was attributed to a branch of the Islamic State extremist group. The body of slain Marine Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo was brought Saturday to her hometown of Lawrence, Massachusetts, where people lined the streets as the flag-draped draped casket passed by.

The U.S. is now concerned that al-Qaida, the terror network behind 9/11, may regroup in Afghanistan, where the Taliban flag once again flew over the presidential palace on Saturday.

Two decades after helping to triage and treat injured colleagues at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, retired Army Col. Malcolm Bruce Westcott is saddened and frustrated by the continued threat of terrorism.

"I always felt that my generation, my military cohort, would take care of it — we wouldn't pass it on to anybody else," said Westcott, of Greensboro, Georgia. "And we passed it on."

At ground zero, multiple victims' relatives thanked the troops who fought in Afghanistan, while Melissa Pullis said she was just happy they were finally home.

"We can't lose any more military. We don't even know why we're fighting, and 20 years went down the drain," said Pullis, who lost her husband, Edward, and whose son Edward Jr. is serving on the USS Ronald

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Reagan.

The families spoke of lives cut short, milestones missed and a loss that still feels immediate. Several pleaded for a return of the solidarity that surged for a time after Sept. 11 but soon gave way.

"In our grief and our strength, we were not divided based on our voting preference, the color of our skin or our moral or religious beliefs," said Sally Maler, the sister-in-law of victim Alfred Russell Maler.

Yet in the years that followed, Muslim Americans endured suspicion, surveillance and hate crimes. Schisms and bitterness grew over the balance between tolerance and vigilance, the meaning of patriotism, the proper way to honor the dead and the scope of a promise to "never forget."

Trinidad was 10 when she overheard her dad, Michael, saying goodbye to her mother by phone from the burning trade center. She remembers the pain but also the fellowship of the days that followed, when all of New York "felt like it was family."

"Now, when I feel like the world is so divided, I just wish that we can go back to that," said Trinidad, of Orlando, Florida. "I feel like it would have been such a different world if we had just been able to hang on to that feeling."

Associated Press writers Michael Rubinkam in Shanksville, Pennsylvania; David Klepper in Providence, Rhode Island; Jill Colvin in New York; and Alexandra Jaffe in Shanksville and Washington contributed to this report.

Media outlets recall country's unity after Sept. 11 attacks

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NÉW YORK (AP) — Many of the media outlets that explore the country's differences, pausing Saturday to mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, recalled almost wistfully the sense of common purpose that united Americans in the aftermath of that day.

Television news networks offered wall-to-wall coverage of remembrances in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, that were attended by four presidents.

"One should savor these moments of unity this morning — feel how good that feels," said Fox News Channel anchor Dana Perino, shortly after Bruce Springsteen sang "I'll See You in My Dreams" at New York's World Trade Center memorial.

Normally Fox, CNN and MSNBC spend hours on political warfare, most notably this week Fox's heated response to President Joe Biden's latest COVID-fighting plan.

Perino was one of two ex-press aides to former President George W. Bush to anchor news coverage Saturday; MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace was the other. The networks carried live their former boss' speech in Shanksville. Bush and Vice President Kamala Harris both called for that long-dissipated sprit of unity to return.

"On Sept. 11 we all gave up our labels. We all became Americans," former Bush Chief of Staff Andrew Card said in an MSNBC interview.

Shortly after, onetime first responder John Feal told MSNBC's Ali Velshi that "we label each other too much. It was great to be a human being" after the attacks.

Selfless acts of sacrifice are what CBS News anchor Norah O'Donnell said she was thinking about on Saturday. "We call them heroes, but they are everyday Americans ... that's what's great about this country, (that) terrorists tried to take and did not take away that day."

Differences didn't melt completely away. Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik tweeted he was "disgusted" that President Joe Biden was at the city's ceremony.

Wallace and her co-anchor, Brian Williams, twice talked about former President Donald Trump's absence from Sept. 11 remembrances Saturday — both times without saying his name.

Trump made appearances at a New York police station and firehouse, and the police visit was covered live by Fox. However, the network broke away, and anchor Arthel Neville said that "he did not miss any opportunities to air grievances, including claiming that the election was rigged, which it was not."

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Bush's speech, where he discussed the dangers of home-grown extremism, was seized upon by journalists. "I think a lot of people are going to be talking about that for days to come," said CNN's Paula Reid.

The news networks carried the initial reading of World Trade Center victims' names by family members, beginning at 8:49 a.m. Eastern.

"They're still reading the names," CNN's Laura Jarrett said shortly after noon, "almost a temporal reminder, if you will, of the loss of nearly 3,000 people."

But after Springsteen sang, most of the networks drifted away. ABC, CBS and NBC affiliates in New York City, as is their tradition, didn't budge. They listened as each name was read, accompanying them with the names and pictures of victims onscreen, along with the often heartbreaking personal messages of lives that continued with voids in countless hearts.

It took four hours, until the ceremony ended with taps being played on trumpets.

"Twenty years is a nice round number," said Jim Giaccone, who memorialized his lost brother, Joseph. "But for me and other family members, it's another day, it's another month, it's another year."

Could Texas abortion ban strategy be double-edged sword?

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The unusual legal strategy used to ban most abortions in Texas is already increasingly being employed in Republican-led states to target pornography, LGBT rights and other hot-button cultural issues.

While private residents filing lawsuits is a fixture of some arenas like environmental law, some warn that expanding it and applying it to new areas could have a boomerang effect if Democrats were to use it on issues like gun control.

When Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the Department of Justice would sue over the Texas law, he said it could become a model "for action in other areas, by other states, and with respect to other constitutional rights and protections." He worried about the "damage that would be done to our society if states were allowed to implement laws and empower any private individual to infringe on another's constitutional rights."

The concept has already popped up in other states, including on issues like abortion where courts have sided against laws backed by conservatives.

In Missouri, a new law lets people sue local police departments who enforce federal gun laws. In Kansas, residents can go to court to challenge mask mandates and limits on public gatherings, and in Ohio people can sue over any action taken in response to an emergency.

It's also an enforcement mechanism on laws restricting transgender students' bathroom use in Tennessee and their sports team participation in Florida.

"These laws are deliberately engineered to avoid challenge in federal court," Jessica Clarke, a Vanderbilt University law professor who specializes in anti-discrimination law, said about the Tennessee and Florida measures.

In Utah, an anti-porn bill passed last year requiring sites to post a warning about dangers to minors. It was called a free-speech violation by adult-entertainment sites, but the possible onslaught of lawsuits convinced major sites to comply before a single person sued.

Republican Utah Rep. Brady Brammer said he modeled his bill on Proposition 65, which allows people who might have been exposed to potentially carcinogenic materials to sue and collect a kind of "bounty" if they win. Civil enforcement has long been a fixture of environmental law, with private attorneys acting as a kind of extension of stretched regulators. Court settlements with businesses often bring funding to green nonprofits.

"Republicans are weaponizing the tool that Democrats thought they owned, which was civil enforcement," Brammer said. "They're following the tactics that Democrats have used for years, for decades, and they're doing it for conservative causes."

The Texas abortion law, which lawmakers in several other states want to copy, has another unusual

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feature that vastly expanded the number of people who can sue. Unlike the vast majority of civil law, it doesn't require people to show they've been directly affected.

After the Supreme Court decided not to block the law, just the threat of being sued meant some abortion providers in Texas have stopped offering abortions altogether, even those before the six weeks specified.

But others point out the tactic could come back to haunt Republicans who have long sought to limit the size of court settlements in things like medical malpractice cases.

If a wide-ranging civil-enforcement tactic were applied to gun control, for example, it could allow people to sue gun sellers if the weapon was used to hurt someone, said Texas attorney Michelle Simpson Tuegel, who sued to block the abortion law.

"This law in Texas is a double-edged sword for Republicans," she said. "It's potentially really dangerous for them to be pushing something like this forward with other issues that could be turned on them in a similar way."

UN chief: World is at `pivotal moment' and must avert crises

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a dire warning that the world is moving in the wrong direction and faces "a pivotal moment" where continuing business as usual could lead to a breakdown of global order and a future of perpetual crisis. Changing course could signal a breakthrough to a greener and safer future, he said.

The U.N. chief said the world's nations and people must reverse today's dangerous trends and choose "the breakthrough scenario."

The world is under "enormous stress" on almost every front, he said, and the COVID-19 pandemic was a wake-up call demonstrating the failure of nations to come together and take joint decisions to help all people in the face of a global life-threatening emergency.

Guterres said this "paralysis" extends far beyond COVID-19 to the failures to tackle the climate crisis and "our suicidal war on nature and the collapse of biodiversity," the "unchecked inequality" undermining the cohesion of societies, and technology's advances "without guard rails to protect us from its unforeseen consequences."

In other signs of a more chaotic and insecure world, he pointed to rising poverty, hunger and gender inequality after decades of decline, the extreme risk to human life and the planet from nuclear war and a climate breakdown, and the inequality, discrimination and injustice bringing people into the streets to protest "while conspiracy theories and lies fuel deep divisions within societies."

In a horizon-scanning report presented to the General Assembly and at a press conference Friday, Guterres said his vision for the "breakthrough scenario" to a greener and safer world is driven by "the principle of working together, recognizing that we are bound to each other and that no community or country, however powerful, can solve its challenges alone."

The report -- "Our Common Agenda" -- is a response to last year's declaration by world leaders on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the request from the assembly's 193 member nations for the U.N. chief to make recommendations to address the challenges for global governance.

In today's world, Guterres said, "Global decision-making is fixed on immediate gain, ignoring the long-term consequences of decisions -- or indecision."

He said multilateral institutions have proven to be "too weak and fragmented for today's global challenges and risks."

What's needed, Guterres said, is not new multilateral bureaucracies but more effective multilateral institutions including a United Nations "2.0" more relevant to the 21st century.

"And we need multilateralism with teeth," he said.

In the report outlining his vision "to fix" the world, Guterres said immediate action is needed to protect the planet's "most precious" assets from oceans to outer space, to ensure it is livable, and to deliver on the aspirations of people everywhere for peace and good health.

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He called for an immediate global vaccination plan implemented by an emergency task force, saying "investing \$50 billion in vaccinations now could add an estimated \$9 trillion to the global economy in the next four years."

The report proposes that a global Summit of the Future take place in 2023 that would not only look at all these issues but go beyond traditional security threats "to strengthen global governance of digital technology and outer space, and to manage future risks and crises," he said.

It would also consider a New Agenda for Peace including measures to reduce strategic risks from nuclear weapons, cyber warfare and lethal autonomous weapons, which Guterres called one of humanity's most destabilizing inventions.

The secretary-general said a new United Nations Futures Lab will publish regular reports "on megatrends and risks."

He said the COVID-19 pandemic also exposed deficiencies in the global financial system.

To tackle these weaknesses and integrate the global financial system with other global priorities, Guterres proposed holding summits every two years of the 20 leading economies in the G20, the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council, the heads of international financial institutions including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and the U.N. secretary-general.

He also called for the correction of "a major blind spot in how we measure progress and prosperity," saying Gross Domestic Product or GDP fails to account for "the incalculable social and environmental damage that may be caused by the pursuit of profit."

"My report calls for new metrics that value the life and well-being of the many over short-term profit for the few," Guterres said.

It also calls for a new Emergency Platform that would be triggered automatically in large-scale crises comprising governments, the U.N. system, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and others, he said.

Guterres also proposed "repurposing" the U.N. Trusteeship Council, whose work is largely completed, "to create an intergovernmental body for intergenerational issues" that would be a platform to consider the interests of the entire human family, present and future.

As part of a new focus on the world's young people and future generations, Guterres said he intends to appoint a special envoy for future generations to ensure the interests of those born in the 21st century and establish a new United Nations Youth Office.

Saying much of the world's unease is rooted in poverty and growing inequality, Guterres noted that the 10 richest men saw their combined wealth increase by half a trillion dollars since the COVID-19 pandemic began while 55% of the world's population, or 4 billion people, "are one step away from destitution, with no social protection whatsoever."

To address the threats to social stability, the U.N. chief recommended a series of measures "to provide universal health coverage, education, housing, decent work and income protection for everyone, everywhere."

Guterres proposed holding a World Social Summit in 2025 on global efforts to address these issues and repair the social fabric.

The secretary-general also proposed global action to tackle disinformation and conspiracy theories and promote facts, science and "integrity" in public discourse.

"We must make lying wrong again," Guterres said.

French abortion drama 'Happening' tops Venice Film Festival

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Audrey Diwan's 1960s abortion drama "L'Evenement" ("Happening") won the Golden Lion at the 78th Venice International Film Festival, while the runner up honor went to Paolo Sorrentino's semi-autobiographical "The Hand of God."

Diwan's film about a French college student who finds herself with an unwanted pregnancy was the unani-

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mous choice from the prestigious jury that included recent Oscar winners Bong Joon Ho and Chloé Zhao. The competition this year was robust, including well-received films like Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog," Pedro Almodóvar's "Parallel Mothers," Maggie Gyllenhaal's "The Lost Daughter" and "The Hand of God." Twenty-one films were vying for the prize, which has become a promising early indicator of a film's Oscars prospects.

"I did this movie with anger. I did the movie with desire also. I did it with my belly, my guts, my heart, my head," Diwan said Saturday. "I wanted 'Happening' to be an experience."

Diwan is the sixth woman to have directed a Golden Lion winning film. Others include Chloé Zhao ("Nomadland"), Margarethe Von Trotta ("Marianne & Juliane"), Agnès Varda ("Vagabond"), Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding) and Sofia Coppola ("Somewhere").

Sorrentino's "The Hand of God," based on a formative personal tragedy, took the Silver while Campion won the Silver Lion for best director for her period epic "The Power of her Dog." It's her second time winning a runner-up prize at Venice. Her first was in 1990 for "An Angel at My Table," a Janet Frame biopic.

"It's amazing to get an award from you people," Campion said, talking to the jury standing beside her. "You've made the bar very, very high for me in cinema, Bong, Chloé."

Penélope Cruz won the Volpi Cup for best actress for her performance as a new mother in Almodovar's "Parallel Mothers." She thanked her director and frequent collaborator for "Inspiring me every day with your search for truth."

"You have created magic again and I could not be more grateful or proud to be part of it," Cruz continued. "I adore you."

Gyllenhaal won best screenplay for her adaptation of Elena Ferrante's 2008 novel "The Lost Daughter," which is both her first screenplay and film as a director.

"I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be here," Gyllenhaal said. "I was married in Italy, in Puglia. I found out I was pregnant with my second daughter in Italy. And really my life as a director and writer and my film was born here in this theater."

Gyllenhaal said her film is "Italian in its bones" even though it was shot in Greece and in the English language.

"In a way as women we have been born into an agreement to be silent and Ferrante broke that agreement," Gyllenhaal said. "I had the same feeling seeing 'The Piano' when I was in high school."

John Arcilla was awarded the Volpi Cup for best actor for "On The Job: The Missing 8."

The festival has in the past decade reestablished itself as the preeminent launch pad for awards hopefuls. Zhao's "Nomadland" won the prize last year and went on to win best picture, best director and best actor at the Oscars. In addition to Zhao and Bong, who served as president, the jury also included actors Sarah Gadon and Cynthia Erivo and directors Saverio Costanzo ("My Brilliant Friend") and Alexander Nanau ("Collective").

Zhao's trajectory was the second time in four years that the Golden Lion winner has won best picture. Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water" shared a similar path. Venice's 2019 winner, "Joker," simply went on to get 10 Oscar nods, including one for best picture.

Not winning the top prize at Venice doesn't end an Oscar campaign before it starts, though. Many eventual winners simply premiered at the festival, and not always even in the competition before winning best picture ("Birdman" and "Spotlight") or best director (Damien Chazelle for "La La Land," Alfonso Cuarón for "Gravity" and "Roma," del Toro for "The Shape of Water" and Alejandro G. Iñarritu for "Birdman").

Some of this year's biggest premieres were not part of the competition, including Ridley Scott's "The Last Duel," Denis Villeneuve's "Dune" and Edgar Wright's "Last Night in Soho."

In the Horizons section, which spotlights emerging filmmakers, "Pilgrims" by Laurynas Bareisa won best picture. The actor award went to Piseth Chhun of "White Building" and actress to Laure Calamy for "A plein temps," which also won best director for Éric Gravel.

The awards ceremony brings to a close the first major film festival of the fall season which thus far has appeared to be a resounding success, despite the delta variant. The COVID safety protocols were strict and the films strong.

But Venice also successfully brought the glamour back to a red carpet that may have been less crowded

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than usual but made up for in viral moments, from a teasingly tender embrace between co-stars Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain to the red carpet debut of Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck — although perhaps it should be called a debut redo since the two rekindled a romance that ended 18 years ago.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ldbahr

New capsule installed within pedestal where Lee statue stood

RICHMOND,, Va. (AP) — Workers at the site in Virginia's capital where a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was taken down this week installed a new time capsule Saturday within the statue's massive pedestal, after efforts to locate an 1887 capsule were suspended.

The capsule's installation, which a state government official confirmed was completed Saturday morning, contains remembrances of current events, including those related to COVID-19 and protests over racial injustice.

It was demonstrations last year over racism and police brutality nationwide — including in Richmond — following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis that led Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam to order the removal of the enormous Lee statue. The statue was taken down Wednesday, almost a week after the Virginia Supreme Court cleared the way with a decision involving litigation that had blocked the removal.

Crews had spent much of Thursday locating without success the late-19th century capsule that state officials believe was buried within the pedestal, removing massive stones. The search didn't continue. The reassembly of the pedestal was completed by Saturday afternoon, according to Dena Potter, a spokeswoman for the state agency managing the job.

The Lee statue was one of five Confederate tributes along Richmond's Monument Avenue and the only one that belonged to the state. The four city-owned statues were taken down last summer. State officials plan to leave the Lee pedestal in place, at least for now, with the expectation that a community-involved rethinking of Monument Avenue will kick off soon.

The new capsule contained items such as an expired vial of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, a Black Lives Matter sticker and a photograph of a Black ballerina with her fist raised near the Lee statue during last summer's protests in Richmond.

A tale of two clinics: lines in Kenya, few takers in Atlanta

By CARA ANNA and SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

NÁIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Several hundred people line up every morning, starting before dawn, on a grassy area outside Nairobi's largest hospital hoping to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Sometimes the line moves smoothly, while on other days, the staff tells them there's nothing available, and they should come back tomorrow.

Halfway around the world, at a church in Atlanta, two workers with plenty of vaccine doses waited hours Wednesday for anyone to show up, whiling away the time by listening to music from a laptop. Over a sixhour period, only one person came through the door.

The dramatic contrast highlights the vast disparity around the world. In richer countries, people can often pick and choose from multiple available vaccines, walk into a site near their homes and get a shot in minutes. Pop-up clinics, such as the one in Atlanta, bring vaccines into rural areas and urban neighborhoods, but it is common for them to get very few takers.

In the developing world, supply is limited and uncertain. Just over 3% of people across Africa have been fully vaccinated, and health officials and citizens often have little idea what will be available from one day to the next. More vaccines have been flowing in recent weeks, but the World Health Organization's director in Africa said Thursday that the continent will get 25% fewer doses than anticipated by the end of the year, in part because of the rollout of booster shots in wealthier counties such as the United States.

Bidian Okoth recalled spending more than three hours in line at a Nairobi hospital, only to be told to go

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home because there weren't enough doses. But a friend who traveled to the U.S. got a shot almost immediately after his arrival there with a vaccine of his choice, "like candy," he said.

"We're struggling with what time in the morning we need to wake up to get the first shot. Then you hear people choosing their vaccines. That's super, super excessive," he said.

Okoth said his uncle died from COVID-19 in June and had given up twice on getting vaccinated due to the length of the lines, even though he was eligible due to his age. The death jolted Okoth, a health advocate, into seeking a dose for himself.

He stopped at one hospital so often on his way to work that a doctor "got tired of seeing me" and told Okoth he would call him when doses were available. Late last month, after a new donation of vaccines arrived from Britain, he got his shot.

The disparity comes as the U.S. is moving closer to offering booster shots to large segments of the population even as it struggles to persuade Americans to get vaccinated in the first place. President Joe Biden on Thursday ordered sweeping new federal vaccine requirements for as many as 100 million Americans, including private-sector employees, as the country faces the surging COVID-19 delta variant.

About 53% of the U.S. population is vaccinated, and the country is averaging more than 150,000 new cases of COVID-19 a day, along with 1,500 deaths. Africa has had more than 7.9 million confirmed cases, including more than 200,000 deaths, and the highly infectious delta variant recently drove a surge in new cases as well.

The head of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, insisted Wednesday that rich countries with large supplies of coronavirus vaccines should hold off on offering booster shots through the end of the year and make the doses available to poorer countries.

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told reporters Thursday that "we have not seen enough science" to drive decisions on when to administer booster shots.

"Without that, we are gambling," he said, and urged countries to send doses to countries facing "vaccine famine" instead.

In the U.S., vaccines are easy to find, but many people are hesitant to get them.

At the church in northwest Atlanta, a nonprofit group offered the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines for free without an appointment from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. But site manager Riley Erickson spent much of the day waiting in an air-conditioned room full of empty chairs, though the group had reached out to neighbors and the church had advertised the location to its large congregation.

Erickson, with the disaster relief organization CORE, said the vaccination rate in the area was low, so he wasn't surprised by small turnout. The one person who showed up was a college student.

"When you put the effort into going into areas where there's less interest, that's kind of the result," he said. His takeaway, however, was that CORE needed to spend more time in the community.

A second vaccination site run by county officials — this one in downtown Atlanta — had a little more foot traffic around lunchtime, but not enough to cause even the slightest delay.

Margaret Herro, CORE's Georgia director, said the group has seen an uptick in vaccinations at its popup sites in recent weeks amid a COVID-19 surge fueled by the delta variant and the FDA's full approval of the Pfizer vaccine. It has administered more than 55,000 shots from late March through the end of August at hundreds of sites around the state, including schools and farmers' markets. It also has gone to meatpacking plants and other work locations, where turnout is better, and it plans to focus more on those places, Herro said.

"We definitely don't feel like it's time to let up yet," she said.

In Nairobi, Okoth believes there should be a global commitment to equity in the administration of vaccines so everyone has a basic level of immunity as quickly as possible.

"If everyone at least gets a first shot, I don't think anyone will care if others get even six booster shots," he said.

Thanawala reported from Atlanta.

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EXCERPT: An Afghan reporter recalls 9/11's aftermath there

By AMIR SHAH Associated Press

The following account from Amir Shah, the now-retired Afghanistan correspondent for The Associated Press, is excerpted from the book "September 11: The 9/11 Story, Aftermath and Legacy," an in-depth look at AP's coverage of 9/11 and the events that followed.

He was AP's eyes and ears in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks, when all foreigners were ordered to leave. His assignment was dangerous, delicate and often terrifying. Here, he remembers some of what happened behind the scenes in those days after the attacks and the early hours of the U.S. bombardment a month later.

ON NAVIGATING KABUL IN THE HOURS AFTER THE 9/11 ATTACKS IN THE U.S.:

The first night after the attacks, I didn't sleep for 48 hours. I was working, working, working. The information and culture minister of the Taliban, he says, "Come, I want to talk with you about a couple of things." I go to meet him, and he says, "Be careful, all the Taliban officers left, they went back to Kandahar. The city is controlled by the Arabs, Osama's people. When you take film and pictures before, if they arrested you, I would help you. But this time, nobody can help you. Please don't take pictures and film." I went to my house to visit my mother and I explained the story to her. She said, "Amir Shah, you have no

brother, no father, there's no other branch of the family. Don't go out." I said, "I will do my job, my work." ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE AIR WAR BY U.S.-LED FORCES AGAINST THE TALIBAN

My satellite telephone was on the second floor of our old AP compound, and the window was near to the street. I put a blanket on top of me to hide the sound of my talking and giving updates. I was passing all the information to Kathy Gannon in Pakistan.

When the bombarding started the first night, I was talking very quietly. It was so quiet outside. I was telling the story through the phone slowly, very slowly. I was afraid because three days before, the Arabs across the street had been looking at all the houses and seeing who was suspicious to them. I was working alone. I was so afraid. I gave Kathy all of the information from under the blanket, and all through the night I reported.

Several times the city was bombarded. The Kabul AP office was shaking. And we had a full window, one window toward the north and one toward the southeast. So sometimes I'd jump up and look through the north window, sometimes through the southeast window, and I just looked at the scene — what was going on on the ground outside. And I just reported that. Because we were under curfew, it was not possible to leave the office at night and go to find what was going on. So I covered the bombarding from a distance.

The first night, after I passed all the information to Kathy, New York headquarters called me. They said, "What do you see?" And I told them that it was quiet except for the barking of the dogs. Wazir Akbar Khan, the diplomatic area of the city, was completely empty.

Anti-aircraft fire was flying into the sky, and F-16s were flying over Kabul. All the night they dropped bombs, but the bombs were very professionally placed. I thought it would be like the civil war when the Afghan pilots dropped bombs on people's houses, on pharmacies. I remembered that, and I was so worried about my house. So as soon as daylight came at 5 a.m., I took my car and I went to my house. And I saw my house was OK. And when I checked the hospitals, there were no civilian casualties.

I left the AP office to go around the city take some picture and see what was going on. I worked all day and through the second night. I was so sleepy.

ON HOW HE GOT AROUND REPORTING RESTRICTIONS:

We needed photos. I had bought a new Corolla, and I had written a letter to the Traffic Department and I got its registration changed from a private car to a taxi. Why? Because in Kabul, there were no new private cars unless you were Taliban. No one else had new cars. But a taxi is low profile. Nobody knew this taxi belonged to a journalist taking pictures. So I was inside the car, looking like a taxi driver, taking pictures when nobody was looking.

One day I was standing in the city and filming, and suddenly a Taliban — a very big man with a long

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beard — came up. And thought, "Oh, my God, he saw my camera." My camera was a little HandiCam, and when he got close, I put it up to my hair, to my head, and I talked like I was on the phone. I said into the phone, "These infidels destroyed Afghanistan." He looked at me and then he walked away. He never realized it was a camera.

The Latest: Taliban flag flies at Afghan presidential palace

By The Associated Press undefined

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A Taliban official said that the group raised their flag over the Afghan presidential palace in a brief ceremony on Saturday — the same day the U.S. and the world marked the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The milestone anniversary takes place just weeks after the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the return to power of the Taliban, the faction that sheltered the al-Qaida terror network founded by Osama bin Laden that carried out the attacks.

The Taliban's new Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Akhund raised the flag in a ceremony at 11 a.m. local time to mark the official start of work by the Taliban's 33-member caretaker government, said Ahmadullahh Muttaqi, multimedia chief of the group's cultural commission.

Earlier, another Taliban official said the religious militia's black and white flag was first raised at the palace on Friday. The militant group has also painted their banner on the entry gate to the U.S. Embassy building. The U.S. is marking the 9/11 anniversary with commemorations at New York's World Trade Center, the

Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban shot dead the brother of Amrullah Saleh, the former vice president of Afghanistan, and his driver in northern Panjshir province, Saleh's nephew said Saturday.

Shuresh Saleh said his uncle Rohullah Azizi was going somewhere in a car Thursday when Taliban fighters stopped him at a checkpoint. "As we hear at the moment Taliban shot him and his driver at the checkpoint." he said.

A message left with a Taliban spokesman Saturday was not immediately returned.

Shuresh Saleh said it was unclear where his uncle, an anti-Taliban fighter, was headed when the Taliban caught him. He said phones were not working in the area.

Amrullah Saleh led forces resisting the Taliban in Panjshir, which was the last holdout province to be overrun by Afghanistan's new rulers.

Videos circulating on social media purportedly show Taliban opening fire on anti-Taliban fighters in Panjshir whom they have arrested.

MORE ON AFGHANISTAN:

- US gives 1st public look inside base housing Afghans
- UN raises alarm on Taliban crackdown on dissent, journalists
- Pentagon chief: al-Qaida may seek comeback in Afghanistan
- Analysis: Taliban hard-line path worsens Afghanistan dilemma

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KABUL, Afghanistan — More than 250 foreign nationals have left Afghanistan in the past three days, says Zalmay Khalilzad, Washington's special envoy and the architect of an often criticized deal with the Taliban.

The deal signed last year provided for the safe withdrawal of U.S and NATO troops but say his critics was heavily weighted in favor of the hardline-Islamic movement.

In a series of tweets Khalilzad praised both the Middle Eastern State of Qatar, whose national airline carried out the flights and the "Taliban's cooperation in this important effort," for the recent departure of foreign nationals from Afghanistan.

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"We will continue to engage the government of Qatar, the Taliban, and others to ensure the safe passage of our citizens, other foreign nationals, and Afghans that want to leave," Khalilzad tweeted.

However, hundreds of Afghans, including U.S. citizens and green card holders, remain stranded in northern Afghanistan's Mazar-e-Sharif waiting to be evacuated but stopped by Taliban rulers demanding travel documents.

Prince Andrew's lawyers question service of legal documents

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A U.S. court will hold a pretrial conference Monday in the civil suit filed by a woman who claims Prince Andrew sexually assaulted her as the two sides argue over whether the prince was properly served with documents in the case.

Attorneys for the woman, Virginia Giuffre, say the documents were handed over to a Metropolitan Police officer on duty at the main gates of Andrew's home in Windsor Great Park on Aug. 27.

But Blackfords, a law firm that said they represent Andrew "in certain U.K. matters," have questioned whether the papers were properly served and raised the possibility of challenging the court's jurisdiction in the case, according to a Sept. 6 letter referenced in court documents filed by Giuffre's attorneys.

"We reiterate that our client reserves all his rights, including to contest the jurisdiction of the US courts (including on the basis of potentially defective service)," they wrote.

A U.S. judge will ultimately determine whether the papers were properly delivered. Judge Lewis Kaplan of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York will hold the first pretrial conference in the case via teleconference on Monday.

The prince has repeatedly denied the allegations in the lawsuit brought by Giuffre, a longtime accuser of the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

When the suit was filed last month, legal experts suggested it left Andrew with no good options as the second son of Queen Elizabeth II seeks to repair his image and return to public life.

If the prince tries to ignore the lawsuit, he runs the risk that the court could find him in default and order him to pay damages. And if he decides to fight, Andrew faces years of sordid headlines as the case winds its way through court.

Guiffre's attorney, David Boies, said in court documents that it was implausible that Andrew is unaware of the suit.

"Attorneys at Blackfords, who he has apparently instructed to evade and contest service, have confirmed that Prince Andrew himself already has notice of this lawsuit and is evaluating his chances of success," Boies wrote. "And even if Blackfords had not confirmed as much, any other conclusion would be implausible reputable media outlets around the world reported on the filing of plaintiff's complaint, and hundreds, if not thousands, of articles about this lawsuit have been published."

The lawsuit is another unwanted story for the royals, reminding the public of Andrew's links to Epstein two years after his death. Britain's royal family is also still recovering from allegations of racism and insensitivity leveled at them by Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, earlier this year.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2021. There are 110 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 12, 2001, stunned rescue workers continued to search for bodies in the World Trade Center's smoking rubble a day after a terrorist attack that shut down the financial capital, badly damaged the Pentagon and left thousands dead. President George W. Bush, branding the attacks in New York and Washington "acts of war," spoke of "a monumental struggle of good versus evil" and said that "good will prevail."

On this date:

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In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany. In 1958, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Cooper v. Aaron, unanimously ruled that Arkansas officials who were resisting public school desegregation orders could not disregard the high court's rulings.

In 1962, in a speech at Rice University in Houston, President John F. Kennedy reaffirmed his support for the manned space program, declaring: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

In 1966, "The Monkees" debuted on NBC-TV; "Family Affair" premiered on CBS.

In 1977, South African Black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko (BEE'-koh), 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1987, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden had borrowed, without attribution, passages of a speech by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock (KIHN'-ik) for one of his own campaign speeches. (The Kinnock report, along with other damaging revelations, prompted Biden to drop his White House bid.)

In 1994, a stolen, single-engine Cessna crashed into the South Lawn of the White House, coming to rest against the executive mansion; the pilot, Frank Corder, was killed.

In 1995, the Belarusian military shot down a hydrogen balloon during an international race, killing its two American pilots, John Stuart-Jervis and Alan Fraenckel.

In 2003, in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, U.S. forces mistakenly opened fire on vehicles carrying police, killing eight of them.

In 2008, a Metrolink commuter train struck a freight train head-on in Los Angeles, killing 25 people. (Federal investigators said the Metrolink engineer, Robert Sanchez, who was among those who died, had been text-messaging on his cell phone and ran a red light shortly before the crash.)

In 2009, Serena Williams' U.S. Open title defense ended with a bizarre loss to Kim Clijsters (KLY'-sturz) after Williams went into a tirade against a line judge who'd called her for a foot fault; following her outburst, Williams was penalized a point for unsportsmanlike conduct, ending the match, 6-4, 7-5.

In 2012, the U.S. dispatched an elite group of Marines to Tripoli, Libya, after the mob attack in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. President Barack Obama strongly condemned the violence, and vowed to bring the killers to justice; Republican challenger Mitt Romney accused the administration of showing weakness in the face of tumultuous events in the Middle East.

Ten years ago: A leaking gasoline pipeline in Kenya's capital exploded, killing 119 people, according to the Kenya Red Cross. Novak Djokovic beat defending champion Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-1 to win his first U.S. Open championship.

Five years ago: Two men disrupted a live broadcast of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" by rushing onto the stage to protest Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte's presence on the show. (Lochte and his swimming teammates faced criticism since they were involved in an early-morning drunken encounter at a gas station in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.)

One year ago: Two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were shot and seriously wounded while sitting in a squad car outside a rail station in an apparently unprovoked ambush. (The suspect, Deonte Lee Murray, has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and other charges.) President Donald Trump defied local authorities by holding a rally in tiny Minden, Nevada, after his initial plan to hold one in Reno was stopped out of concern it would have violated coronavirus health guidelines. A car driven by South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg struck and killed a man along a highway; Ravnsborg later told officials he never saw the man and thought he struck a deer. (Ravnsborg would plead no contest to a pair of misdemeanor traffic charges; he was fined \$500 for each.) Naomi Osaka won her second U.S. Open championship and third Grand Slam title overall by coming back to beat Victoria Azarenka in three sets in the final.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Linda Gray is 81. Singer Maria Muldaur is 79. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 70. Singermusician Gerry Beckley (America) is 69. Original MTV VJ Nina Blackwood is 69. Actor Peter Scolari is 66. Former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is 65. Actor Rachel Ward is 64. Actor Amy Yasbeck is 59. Rock musician Norwood Fisher (Fishbone) is 56. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 55. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 55. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 54. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 53.

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Golfer Angel Cabrera is 52. Actor-singer Will Chase is 51. Actor Josh Hopkins is 51. Country singer Jennifer Nettles is 47. Actor Lauren Stamile (stuh-MEE'-lay) is 45. Rapper 2 Chainz is 44. Actor Kelly Jenrette is 43. Actor Ben McKenzie is 43. Singer Ruben Studdard is 43. Basketball Hall of Fame player Yao Ming is 41. Singer-actor Jennifer Hudson is 40. Actor Alfie Allen is 35. Actor Emmy Rossum is 35. Atlanta Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman is 32. Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is 28. Actor Colin Ford is 25.