

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, Sept. 19

Fly-in/Drive-in at Groton Airport

### Monday, Sept. 20

4 p.m.: Cross country meet at Clear Lake

5:15 p.m.: Junior high football game at Sisseton (location changed due to transportation issues at Sisseton - will be at the Sisseton Golf Course)

### Tuesday, Sept. 21

Volleyball at Warner (7th grade/C match at 5:15 p.m., 8th grade/JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow)

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting

### Thursday, Sept. 23

10 a.m.: Boys golf at Sisseton Golf Course

4 p.m.: Boys soccer at James Valley Christian

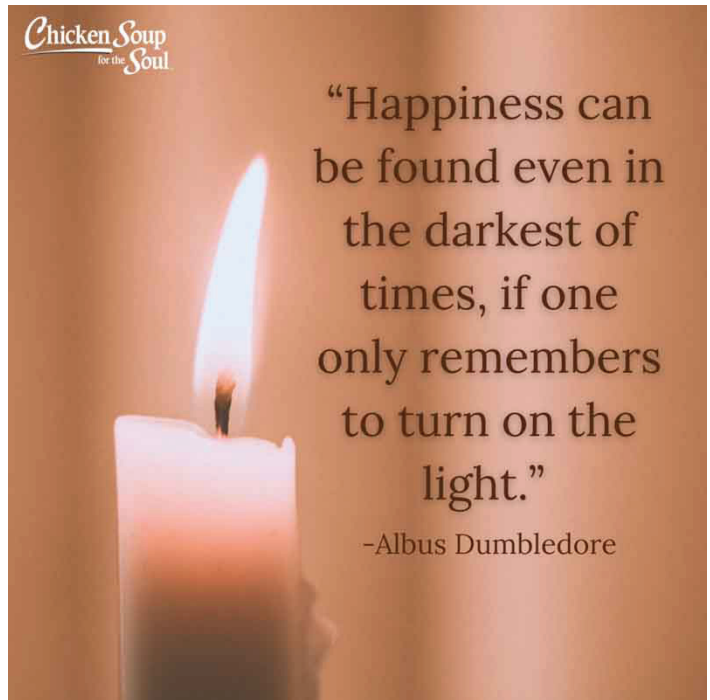
Volleyball at Clark (7th grade at field house, 4 p.m.; 8th grade at field house, 5 p.m.; in the main gym: C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity).

### Friday, Sept. 24

7 p.m.: Football hosting Aberdeen Roncalli

### Saturday, Sept. 25

Soccer at Tea Area: Boys at 1 p.m. Girls at 3 p.m.



### Monday, Sept. 27

Boys golf at Madison Golf Course

4 p.m.: Cross Country meet at Olive Grove Golf Course, Groton.

4 p.m.: Junior high football at Aberdeen Roncalli

5 p.m.: Junior Varsity football at Aberdeen Roncalli Volleyball hosting Faulkton Area (C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow)

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

### Tuesday, Sept. 28

Volleyball vs. Florence/Henry at Henry High School. (7th at 3 p.m., 8th at 4 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. with varsity to follow).

### Wednesday, Sept. 29

NE Region Land & Range Contest in Webster

### Thursday, Sept. 30

Fall Planning Day and Career Expo at Northern State University for juniors

4 p.m.: Cross Country at Sisseton Golf Course

4:30 p.m.: Junior High Football at Redfield

Volleyball hosting Hamlin (C match at 5 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity)

## 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 19, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
3rd Graders Receive Bibles 11:00 AM  
Groton Worship 11:00 AM

### Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM  
Conde Ad Council 5:00 PM

### Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM  
Confirmation Parents Mtg 7:00 PM

### Thursday, September 23, 2021

Newsletter Items Due

### Sunday, September 26, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Groton Worship 11:00 AM

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

### Sunday, Sept. 19

9 a.m.: Worship with communion  
10:15 a.m.: Sunday School  
3 p.m.: Worship at Avantara (confirmands serving)  
7 p.m.: Choir practice

### Monday, Sept. 20

6:30 a.m.: Bible Study

### Wednesday, Sept. 22

6 p.m.: Confirmation begins

### Sunday, Sept. 26

9 a.m.: Worship  
10:15 a.m.: Sunday School  
7 p.m.: Choir practice

## 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. 19

8 a.m.: Bible Study  
Worship with Holy Communion  
9 a.m.: St. John's  
11 a.m.: Zion  
10 a.m.: Sunday School

### Monday, Sept. 20

7:30 p.m.: Christian Literature Circle

### Tuesday, Sept. 21

12:30 p.m.: Quilting

### Wednesday, Sept. 22

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

### Sunday, Sept. 26

8 a.m.: Bible Study  
9 a.m.: St. John's  
11 a.m.: Zion  
10 a.m.: Sunday School

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

**Help Wanted: Ken's in Groton**

**Cashiers, stockers and deli**

**Apply at store**



Groton ~ 397-8456 ~ [kenssuperfair.com](http://kenssuperfair.com)

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## Second Half Ignition Pushes Northern State to Victory

Fayette, Iowa – Despite an early first half deficit, the Northern State University football team battled back on Saturday evening to defeat Upper Iowa University. The Wolves out-scored the Peacocks 26-6 in the second half, sealing their second victory over a South Division opponent this season.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 40, UIU 22

Records: NSU 2-1, UIU 0-3

Attendance: 1082

### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Upper Iowa took an early 16-0 lead through the opening minutes of the second quarter, notching two touchdowns and a field goal
- Northern scored their first touchdown of the contest at 6:41 in the second quarter on a 19-yard reception by Dakota Larson (Hunter Trautman)
- The Wolves continued to chip away as the half dwindled down with a 1-yard rushing scoring by Vance Barnes
- The Peacocks led by two at the half, however the Wolves got to work early in the third quarter with Barnes' second touchdown of the evening; this time on a 15-yard reception with 12:22 on the clock
- NSU was not finished in the third as Trautman connected with Larson for the second time in the game, a 28-yard touchdown reception with 43 seconds left on the quarter clock
- UIU answered back as the fourth quarter opened, on a 34-yard rushing score which left the score 26-22 in favor of the Wolves
- Trautman connected with Jimmy Kepouros for the pairs first touchdown of 2021, a 4-yard reception; the score gave Northern a 33-22 lead with 8:22 to play
- The Wolves quarterback put a final pin in the contest with a 22-yard touchdown run with 1:31 left in the contest
- Northern tallied 23 first downs in the game with 443 yards of total offense (152 yards rushing and 291 yards passing)
- They averaged a game high 12.7 yards per completion and 4.9 yards per rush, while holding the Peacocks to 353 total yards
- In addition, NSU recorded 178 total return yards, averaging 16.1 yards per punt return and 13.0 yards per kick return
- The Wolves offense scored on each of their four chances in the red-zone and did not give up a sack
- The Northern defense held the Peacocks to 6-of-18 on third down and 0-of-2 on fourth down, forcing four sacks for a total loss of 30 yards
- Five members of the NSU defense tallied seven tackles or more with the team combining for 12.0 tackles for a loss of 47 Peacock yards

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Hunter Trautman: 291 yards passing, 65 yards rushing, 4 passing touchdowns, 1 rushing touchdown
- Vance Barnes: 93 yards receiving, 24 yards rushing, 2 touchdowns
- Brett Brenton: 60 yards rushing, 7.5 yards per carry, 32-yard long
- Dewaylon Ingram: 88 yards receiving, 12.6 yards per catch, 21-yard long
- Chance Olson: 8 tackles (5 solo, 3 assisted), 1 break-up
- Trey King: 8 tackles (7 solo, 1 assisted), 1.0 sack
- Nate Robinson: 7 tackles, 3.0 tackles for a loss
- Zach Bohnenkamp: 3 tackles, 2.0 tackles for a loss, 1.0 sack, 1 interception

### UP NEXT

Northern returns to Dacotah Bank Stadium next Saturday versus Sioux Falls. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. versus the Cougars in the 6th Annual Ag Bowl. The game will be broadcast by Midco Sports. Fans are also reminded that all game day information and protocols are posted on the Dacotah Bank Stadium homepage.

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

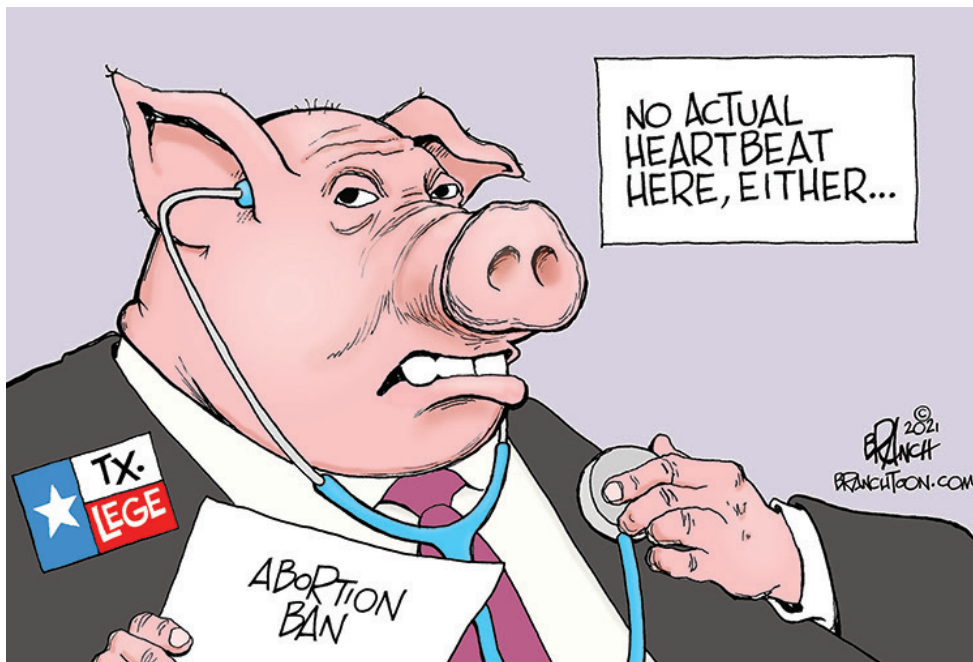


Detail of "Ruth Goes with Naomi to Bethlehem"  
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1860.

But Ruth said:  
"Entreat me not to leave you,  
or to turn back from following  
after you;  
for wherever you go, I will go;  
and wherever you lodge,  
I will lodge;  
Your people shall be my people,  
And your God, my God.

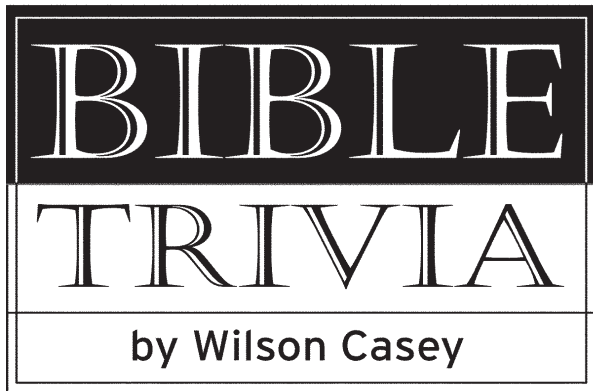
🌀 RUTH 1:16 🌀

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

2. Which disciple did Jesus call Cephas, which is Aramaic for "rock"?  
*Peter, Paul, Thomas, Judas*

3. From 2 Kings 14, who built Elath (town) and restored it to Judah? *Solomon, Nimrod, Azariah, Hiel*

4. Which tribe of Israel was set apart to serve in the Holy Temple? *Dan, Gad, Levi, Simeon*

5. In Genesis 41-42, what crisis did Joseph's family face? *Flood, Famine, Disease, Exile*

6. Whose ear did Peter cut off? *His own, Malchus, Baasha, Azariah*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Peter; 3) Azariah; 4) Levi; 5) Famine; 6) Malchus

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

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## Spinach Apple Toss

---  
You might not think that spinach and apples go together -- but one bite of this ultra-easy salad and you'll quickly change your mind!

8 cups fresh spinach leaves, stems removed and discarded

1 cup cored, unpeeled and sliced Red Delicious apples

1/4 cup bacon bits

1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise

1/2 cup unsweetened apple juice

In a large bowl, combine spinach, apples and bacon bits. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise and apple juice. Add dressing mixture to spinach mixture. Mix gently to coat. Serve at once. Makes 4 (1 1/2 cup) servings.

\* Each serving equals: 114 calories, 2g fat, 4g protein, 20g carb., 555mg sodium, 2gm fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Vegetable, 1 Fruit, 1/2 Starch, 1/2 Meat.

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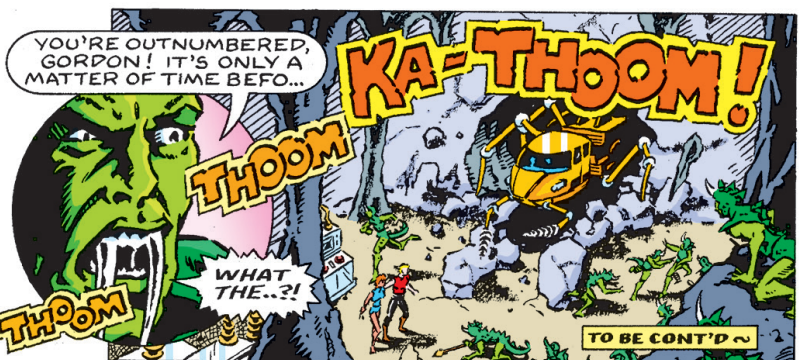


## FLASH GORDON

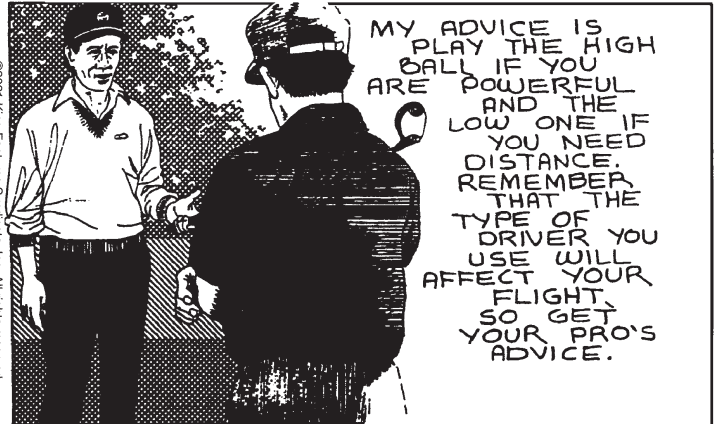
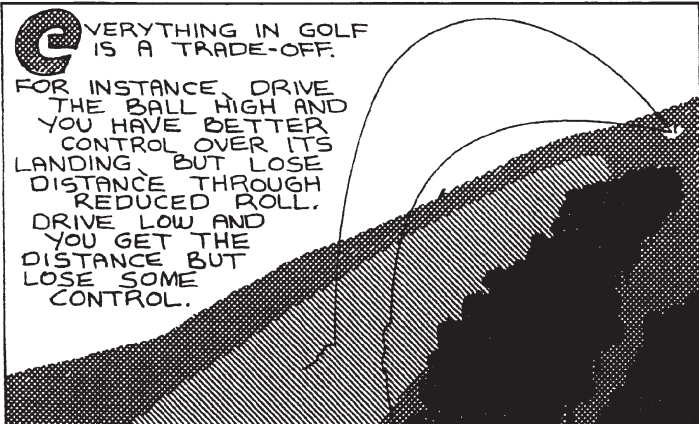
By JIM KEEFE

9-12

WITH TENGSI UNDER THREAT OF TORTURE, FLASH BEGINS RETRIEVING TOP-SECRET DATA FOR HIS CAPTORS.



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## High Blood Pressure Can Thicken Heart Wall

---

DEAR DR. ROACH: What is the difference between eccentric LVH and concentric LVH? Which one is more dangerous and needs more attention? My mother was diagnosed with severe eccentric LVH for body surface area with adequate systolic and diastolic functions. What does that mean? -- C.F.

ANSWER: The left ventricle is the chamber of the heart that pumps blood to the entire body, except for through the lungs; that is the job of the right ventricle. When the job is too hard, usually because of high blood pressure, the left ventricle hypertrophies, meaning its walls get thicker as a response to the increased workload. That hypertrophy can be symmetrical (concentric) or asymmetrical (eccentric). Early on, the left ventricle can still do its two jobs despite the hypertrophy: It can push out all the blood the body needs (that's the systolic function), and relax under low pressure (that's the diastolic function). Your mother has adequate systolic and diastolic function, so she is not in heart failure at this time.

If LVH is not treated, it tends to get worse. Usually the diastolic function fails first, and the left ventricle, being thick and stiff, requires higher pressure to relax properly and allow the blood to flow in from the left atrium. The major symptom of diastolic heart failure (now called "heart failure with preserved ejection fraction," or HF-pEF) is shortness of breath, especially with exertion. Some people may progress to having both systolic and diastolic failure ("heart failure with reduced ejection fraction," HF-rEF), where fatigue becomes a major symptom. Swelling of the legs and increasing nighttime urination are additional symptoms.

It's not good to have either eccentric or concentric LVH, but cardiac physiologists note that concentric LVH gives the heart less ability to adapt to increased stress and has a worse prognosis. Both situations need to be treated as rapidly as possible to allow the heart to return to a more normal state. Blood pressure reduction -- whether through diet, weight loss, salt restriction, stress management, pharmacologic therapy or a combination -- is the primary treatment. Some blood pressure medications are more effective than others in helping the heart return to a more normal state, and high blood pressure experts often choose agents that are more effective in those people with LVH, especially concentric LCH, on echocardiogram. ACE inhibitors and beta blockers are typically a part of first-line treatment.

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DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been prescribed Janumet XR and am concerned if this drug is addictive. I do not want to be on this medication long-term. Can I get my diabetes under control by weight management and diet? -- S.S.

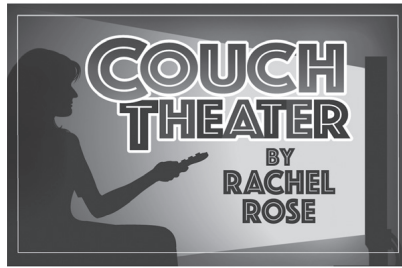
ANSWER: Janumet is a combination of Januvia (sitagliptin) and metformin (Glucophage). Together these drugs work to reduce sugar made by the liver and to increase release of insulin by the pancreas. Janumet is not addictive.

Many people are able to control diabetes through careful management of diet and weight control (exercise is the other important lifestyle management tool); however, depending on where your sugar levels have been, your doctor may have decided to put you on medication now to protect your body. It's possible for many patients to get off medications, but it requires a real commitment: a big change in diet and exercise, usually with significant weight loss.

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

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**The Wonder Years** — It's the 1980s sitcom reboot we didn't know we needed until it was announced earlier this year. But this reboot is not a continuation of the lives of Kevin Arnold and his family of the late 1960s. Instead, the beloved series will follow the day-to-day lives of the Williams family of Montgomery, Alabama, in the late 1960s. The Williamses are a Black family, so while the show will cover many of the same plot lines centered around the 12-year-old son, Dean, it will be from a wholly different cultural perspective. Don Cheadle plays the adult version of Dean narrating the stories of his tween years. Premieres Friday, Sept. 24. (ABC)

**Vendetta: Truth, Lies and the Mafia** — While we wait patiently for the upcoming "Sopranos" prequel, take a gander at this Netflix original true-crime docuseries about a Sicilian anti-Mafia movement. One arm of it is led by Silvana Saguto, a prominent anti-Mafia judge; the other by journalist and TV host Pino Maniaci. He claims that Saguto is actually her own self-made Mafia branch, profiting off corruption by keeping money seized from Mafia businesses for herself. Saguto, of course, then claims Maniaci is a Mafia lackey out to destroy her professional career. Both were ultimately charged with various crimes, and both claim they are the real victim. It's a fascinating look into the grey area between corruption and opportunity. Much of the series is in Italian, so subtitles are involved. (Netflix)

**Ahir Shah: Dots** — A Max original special, "Dots" is the latest stand-up special by Ahir Shah, taped over two shows in a London West End theater. The Cambridge-educated comedian addresses topics ranging from phi-

losophy and faith, English colonialism and his yet-to-be-born children to internet hostility, cigarettes and his own depression, interspersed with laugh-out-loud gags. Believe me, it's much funnier than it sounds. Premieres Thursday, Sept. 23. (HBOMax)



ABC

Scene from "The Wonder Years"

**Foundation** — If you've been looking for a new highly complex future-world drama to provide workplace water cooler fodder for the next few years, try "Foundation." Based on the Isaac Asimov sci-fi trilogy of the same name, it describes the demise and revival of an immense galactic empire, presents the rise of science as the new faith for humankind, and introduces the fictional concept of psychohistory. Yeah, it's complex. (Apple TV)

## In Case You Missed It

**Mourning Son** — Jane's Addiction guitarist Dave Navarro suffered a horrific tragedy at age 15 when his mother was murdered in their home by her ex-boyfriend. In this 2015 documentary, Navarro tells how his life was abruptly altered forever by this event. It's an exceptionally honest and introspective disclosure, and includes interviews with family members as well as footage of Navarro's own therapy sessions as he tries to work through his ongoing grief. The movie is not rated, but be forewarned this is certainly not for kids or tweens. Strong language, graphic crime-scene photos and intense emotional topics abound. (Prime Video)

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1. Which artist wrote and released "I Can Help"?
2. What band started out as Steel Mill?
3. Name the group that had a Jewish drummer, an English guitar player, a Black man on bass and a gay Irish man for a lead singer.
4. Debbie Gibson was the youngest artist to ever write, produce and perform a chart topper by herself. What was the song?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Faded photograph, covered now with lines and creases, Tickets torn in half, memories in bits and pieces."

## Answers

1. Billy Swan, in 1974. A fan fave around the world, it stayed on the charts in Norway for 37 weeks.
2. Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, in 1972. The

new name came from the street where his mother lived in New Jersey.

3. Culture Club. The group's diversity gave rise to their name. They took a Grammy for Best New Artist in 1984.

4. "Foolish Beat," in 1988. She was 17.

5. "Traces," by the Classic IV, in 1968. The song is noted for its use of an oboe, heard in the introduction, as well as a string section. It shot to No. 2 on both the Hot 100 and easy listening charts.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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



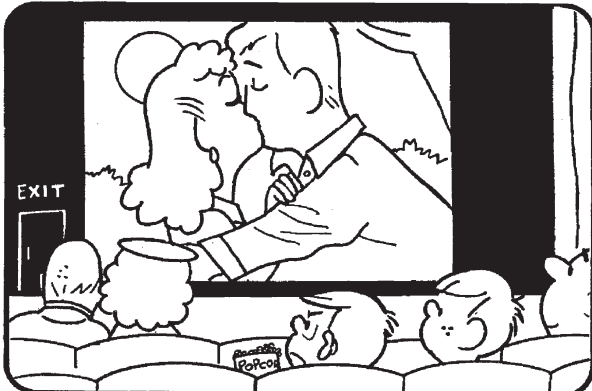
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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Popcorn is added. 2. Leaves are missing. 3. Exit is added. 4. Button is added. 5. Expression is changed. 6. Man is added.

“Being a true bipartisan committee, we have reached two different conclusions!”



- Have your carpets cleaned. High-traffic areas may require cleaning as often as every three or four months, but bedrooms can go as long as 18 months. Use runners and area rugs to safeguard spots that may be vulnerable, like under a vanity or by your sofas.

- “I had some residue on my bathroom ceiling from hard water condensation. I happened to have a set of crutches lying around. I used a hair elastic to secure a hand towel to the arm rest of one crutch. Then I sprayed it with water and used it to scrub the ceiling. It worked really well. I was done in no time.” — *A.A. in Florida*

- Two ways to remove a bandage: Rub a little baby oil or vegetable oil

over it. The oil will soak in and make it easier to remove. Or — and this works especially well with kids — have them soak in the bath and use baby shampoo to soften the sticky edges.

- A baking soda and water mix is great for tile floors if you want a quick mop up. If a lot of your floors are tile, do yourself a favor and invest in a steam mop. They clean and sanitize, leaving your floors brilliant.

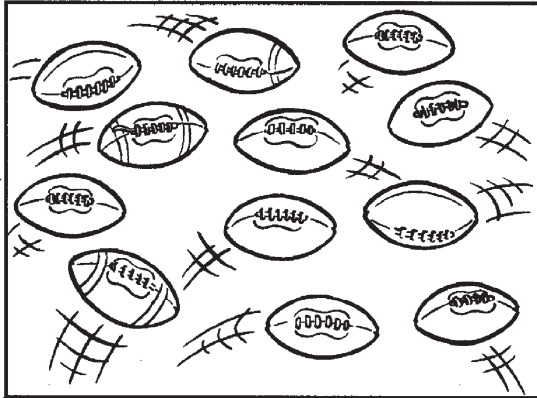
- Be sure you use a trivet or other protectant when placing flowerpots on wood floors. Also, purchase felt pads for the bottoms of furniture. This will eliminate divots or other kinds of depressions or scratches in the floor.

- “Tiny tears in your window screen can be secured with clear nail polish. I dab the spot, then use tweezers to line up the tiny wires, then dab again. Just make sure the window is open, or the screen might stick to the window-pane.” — *T.T. in Indiana*

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

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## Junior Whirl

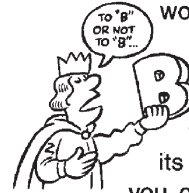
by Charles Barry Townsend

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E |

### BUZZ WORDS!

Can you figure out what the nine words in our puzzle grid are? We give you the first and last letter of each word plus a hint to its meaning. Also, if you get them all correct, the middle letters, read across, spell out a hidden word.



1. Type of scale.
2. Prickly shrub.
3. To leave desolate.
4. Heavy artillery fire.
5. A type of printing for the blind.
6. Heavy fabric.
7. A clam is one.
8. Dagwood's wife.
9. Short prickly hair.

**FLYING PIGS!** There's a lot of kicking and passing going on here! Can you pick out two balls that look exactly alike? It's up to you to decide.

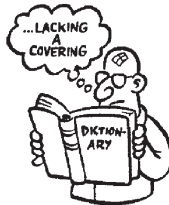
**WHERE DO THEY GO?** Try placing the digits 1 through 8 in the grid so that no two consecutive numbers are next to each other either horizontally, vertically or diagonally. There is more than one solution.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E |
|   | F | G | H |   |

A-2, B-4, C-1, D-5, E-7, F-6, G-8, H-3.

**A WORD SQUARE!** When filling in the grid at right, the same four-letter words are used both across and down. These hints should help you solve this one in under 60 seconds:

1. Lacking a covering.
2. From a distance.
3. Melted rock.
4. Dull or dreary.



|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
| 2. |    |    |    |
| 3. |    |    |    |
| 4. |    |    |    |

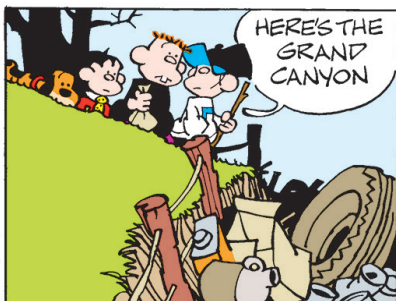
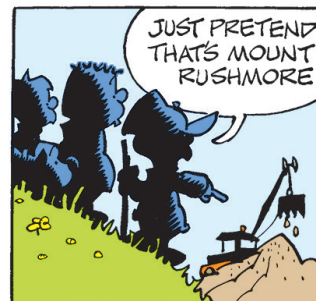
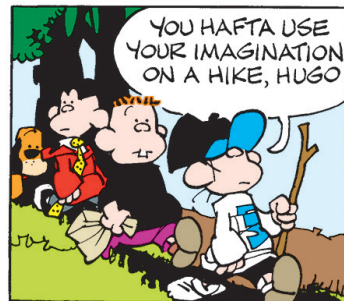
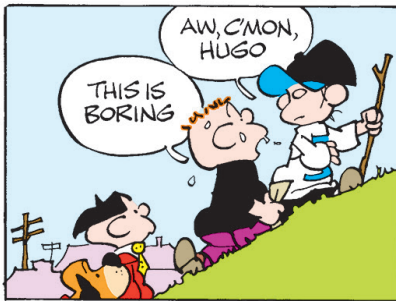
1. Bald, 2. Afar, 3. Lava, 4. Drab.

Illustrated by David Coulson

1. Balance, 2. Bramble, 3. Bereave, 4. Americans, 5. Braille, 6. Brocade, 7. Bivalve, 8. Blondie, 9. Brittle. Middle word is Barrage.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 — Valley, Calif.
- 5 Indent key
- 8 Booty
- 12 Portent
- 13 Hot temper
- 14 Corduroy ridge
- 15 Arm of the Arctic Ocean
- 17 Desire
- 18 Sub detector
- 19 Sunflower State
- 21 Study all night
- 24 Pvt.'s superior
- 25 Salamander
- 28 Canal feature
- 30 Acapulco gold
- 33 "The Greatest"

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
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| 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |

- 34 Continental cash
- 35 "Awesome!"
- 36 Sweetie
- 37 Apple computer
- 38 Memory unit
- 39 A billion years
- 41 Crazy
- 43 Treat badly
- 46 Available
- 50 Contented sounds
- 51 Left the band
- 54 "— Rhythm"
- 55 Actress Mendes
- 56 Now, on a
- memo
- 57 Cuts off
- 58 Gym unit
- 59 Egyptian deity
- homer
- 9 Veteran's tale
- 10 Pond growth
- 11 Pop music's Bee —
- 16 Goof up
- 20 Requests
- 22 Grad
- 23 Aesopian ending
- 25 "Unh-unh"
- 26 "Evil Woman" gp.
- 27 Port authority?
- 29 Designer Chanel
- 31 Squealer
- 32 Poetic tribute
- 34 Drei minus zwei
- 38 Dwarf tree
- 40 Expels
- 42 Camp bed
- 43 Postal delivery
- 44 "Othello" villain
- 45 Ornamental jug
- 47 Pitch
- 48 Jai —
- 49 Band in Boston?
- 52 Prior night
- 53 Snooze

### DOWN

- 1 Scatters seeds
- 2 Texter's "As I see it"
- 3 Chow —
- 4 Unbroken
- 5 "— the season ..."
- 6 Exist
- 7 Toucan's feature
- 8 Tried to hit a

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

## LAFF - A - DAY



"He's been that way ever since he found out it doesn't read 'Beware of the Dog!'"

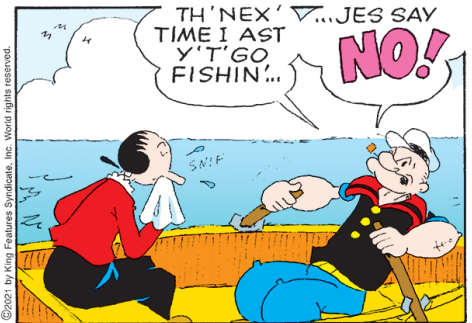
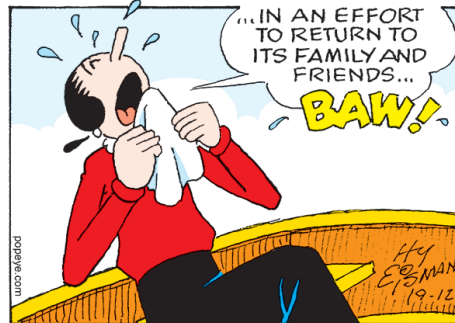
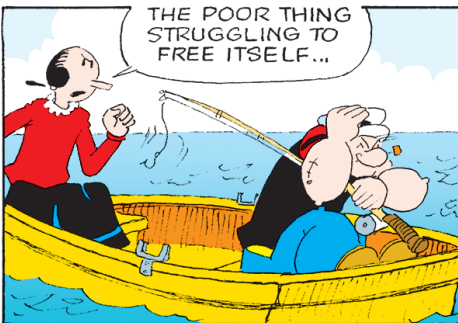
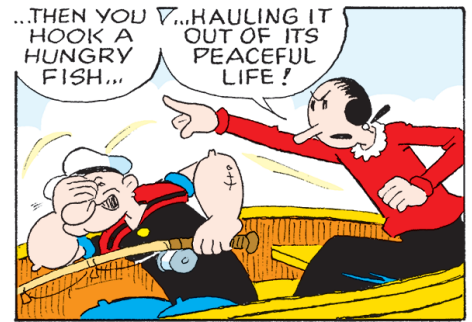
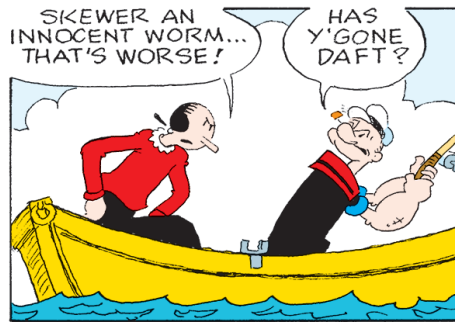
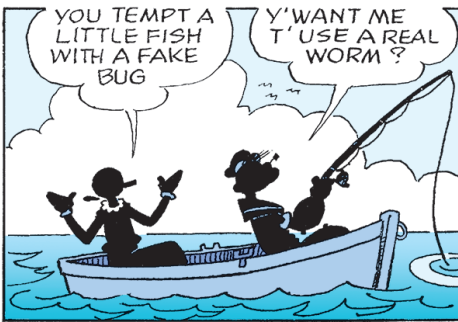
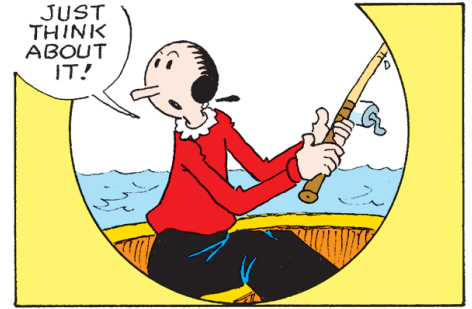
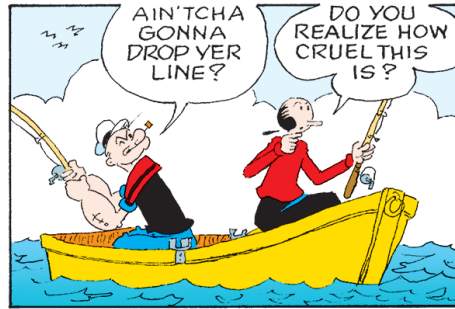
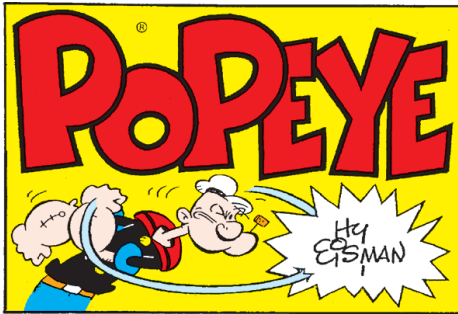
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



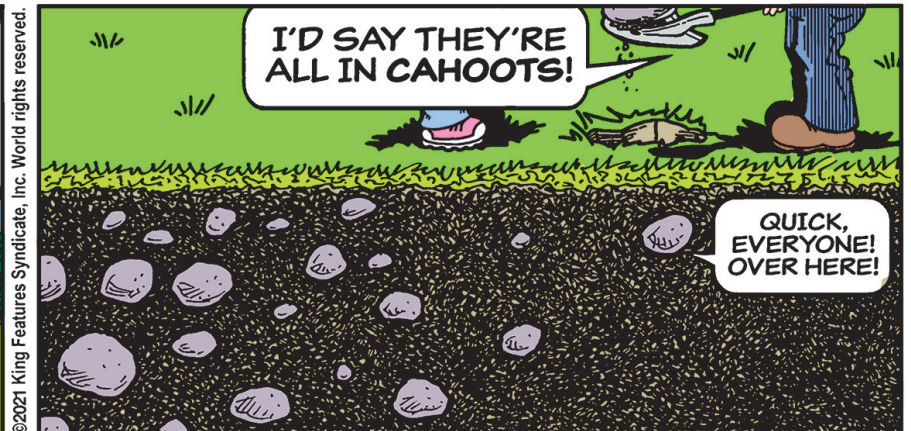
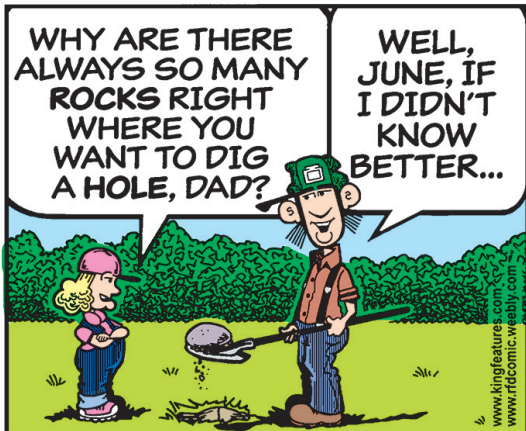
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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"TELL YOUR FELLOW HUMANS THAT WE ARE NOT THE OGRES OF THEIR NIGHTMARES. ALSO TELL THEM TO STAY AWAY. WE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE SO WELCOMING. GOODBYE AND GOOD RIDDANCE."

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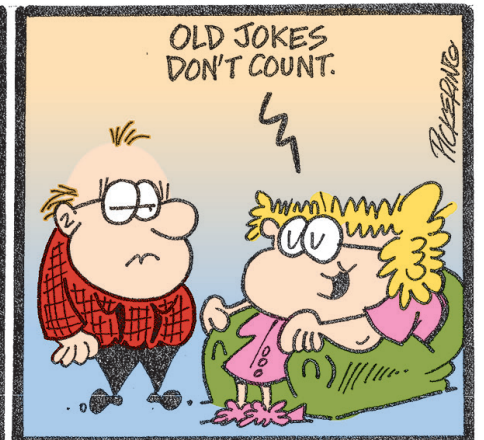
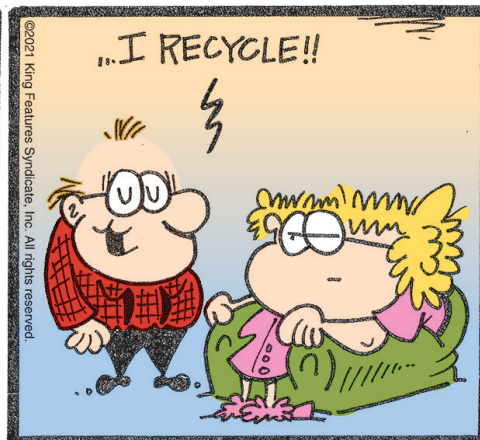
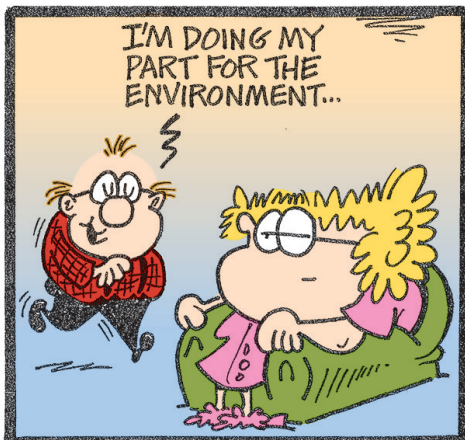
GUIDED BY EXPERTS, THE LONG ASCENT IS FREE OF DANGERS AND FILLED WITH MARVELS, BUT NONE SO GREAT AS THE SIGHT OF THE RISING SUN!

NEXT:  
Prudence's folly



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Budget to Stay Busy, Not Bored This Winter

This winter is not going to be a repeat of last year, at least not at my house. COVID will no doubt keep raging around the world, limiting our options for activities, canceling plans that were made with fingers crossed. But here at home I'm going to be busy, not bored.

I've decided to spend a little mental health money that in a normal world I would have used for meals out, a few new outfits and maybe a couple of weekends away at a very nice hotel in the next state.

To make up for the disappointments, I've renewed my Amazon Prime, not only for the free shipping but for the movies and videos I can watch for free. There are hundreds of documentaries, including ones on travel, giving me great views of places I can't currently go. There are thousands of movies and television series I can watch with my Roku device. And then there are the

books, sent instantly to my Kindle, with font sizes I can change in a moment.

If I'm in the mood for British television and movies, Adobe.tv has a big selection (even Australian!), only costing a few dollars per month. BritBox is nearly as good as Adobe, at almost the same price.

I'm looking at an inexpensive exercise bike, possibly a recumbent one. These allow all the movements of riding a bicycle, but there is a seat back to lean against and two handles to hold. (If there is no space for a bike, there are pedal machines that can be used while seated in a chair.)

And then there are the arts and crafts to fill the long days. I searched online for crafts for adults and found thousands of kits, including several types I'd never tried before. Some of them, if they turn out well, might end up being

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1. What Atlanta Braves outfielder won consecutive National League MVP honors in 1982-83?

2. What pro golfer turned TV analyst mistakenly left a check for \$40,000 — his prize for winning the 1975 Pleasant Valley Classic — behind in a bar?

3. Former Philadelphia Flyers head coach Dave Hakstol was named as the first head coach in the history of what NHL franchise?

4. The Pittsburgh Steelers' Franco Harris caught the famous "Immaculate Reception" in the 1972 AFC divisional playoff game, but who was quarterback Terry Bradshaw's intended receiver?

5. What WNBA franchise, one of the league's original eight teams, folded after the 2006 season?

6. What conservative pundit was



hired by ESPN as an NFL commentator in 2003 and resigned four weeks later after making controversial remarks about Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb?

7. What athletic footwear and apparel company's name is derived from a Latin phrase meaning "sound mind in a sound body"?

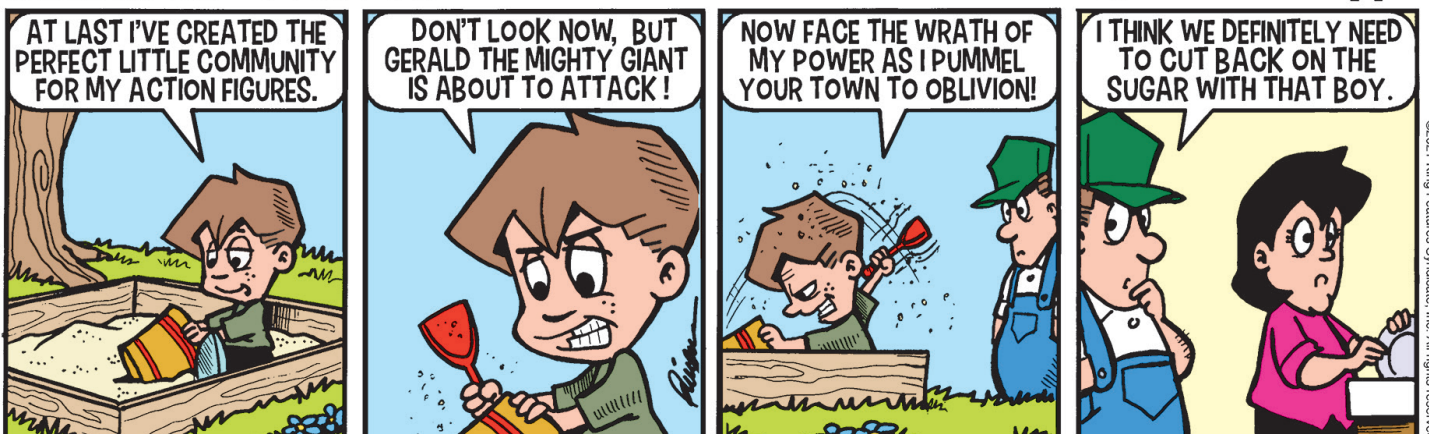
## Answers

1. Dale Murphy.
2. Roger Maltbie.
3. The Seattle Kraken.
4. John "Frenchy" Fuqua.
5. The Charlotte Sting.
6. Rush Limbaugh.
7. ASICS (*anima sana in corpore sano*).

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Why Risk Buying a Pet Overseas?

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I'm writing in response to your recent article about pet imports from overseas being banned. Potential pet owners may be frustrated by this rule, but what is their reason for going outside the country? Most likely, they want to purchase a pure-bred dog at a lower price.

Buying a dog overseas is very risky. The countries mentioned in the temporary ban are listed for a reason. Often the breeding is poor, and standards are low. A country's culture can play a role. They learn what is wanted, they produce, and you buy.

The old saying, "You get what you pay for," applies here. Many owners end up spending more in vet bills than they saved on an overseas dog. The risk is yours.

There are many good breeders

in the U.S., but they're not always easy to find. The U.S. is not perfect and has poor breeders too. But certain standards must be met, and it will show in a so-so breeder. Three things to look for are:

1. Sanitary conditions. If the place you visit smells at all, go no further.

2. Do puppies live in the house and not in a kennel? The best of breeders will not replace human contact from birth.

3. Selling too soon. Baby animals need their mothers. A good pup has stayed with its mother ideally for 11 or 12 weeks. Anyone willing to sell under 8 weeks should raise your eyebrow.

The American Kennel Club has good representatives taking calls. They are often breeders themselves and can guide you to your choice of breed. Why not get the best and safest dog? It's important to trust your breeder. Be safe — buy American! — *Colleen R., via email*

**DEAR COLLEEN:** You told them, and I thank you.

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

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* During the entire run of Gilligan's Island, it was never revealed if "Gilligan" was his first or last name.

\* Although lesser known today, the temperance novel "Franklin Evans; or, The Inebriate: A Tale of the Times" was one of Walt Whitman's most commercially successful works. The great American poet wrote this novel at the start of his career, strictly for cash. Interestingly, considering the book's subject matter, he later admitted that he wrote it in a three-day drunken stupor.

\* Tic Tacs got their name from the sound they make when they are tossed around in their container.

\* The gelatin in Haribo gummy bears contains nine out of the 10 amino acids that are essential to our bodies.

\* On Feb. 1, 2005, the Emergency Alert System was accidentally activated in portions of Connecticut, calling for the immediate evacuation of the entire state. Later studies showed that citizens' common sense prevailed, with the typical response being to "change the channel" or seek other confirmation.

\* Between 12,000 and 15,000 bicycles are retrieved from the bottom of Amsterdam's canals each year.

\* In Ethiopia, a spot known as "The Gateway to Hell" is one of the hottest on earth, with air that's toxic to humans. Scientists have found organisms in its acid pools that are capable of surviving without oxygen.

\* After the release of the 1996 film "Scream," which involved an anonymous killer calling and murdering his victims, Caller ID usage tripled in the United States.

\* Your ears secrete more ear wax when you are afraid than when you aren't.

\* 1912 saw the last Olympic gold medals made entirely out of gold.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Stop the habit of wishful thinking and start the habit of thoughtful wishes." -- Mary Martin

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## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



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### Wildflower viewing

The U.S. Forest Service provides a free, searchable online guide to wildflower viewing areas of the United States. It includes descriptions, maps, facilities, photos, directions, hiking trails, safety tips, nearby towns, website links and more.

[www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/viewing](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/viewing)

— Brenda Weaver  
Source: [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

| All Wildflower Viewing Areas Sorted By Region    |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Viewing Area                                     | National Forest or Gr. |
| <a href="#">Alaganik Slough</a>                  | Chugach                |
| <a href="#">Balls Lake Trail</a>                 | Tongass                |
| <a href="#">Harbor Mountain</a>                  | Tongass                |
| <a href="#">Mendenhall Glacier Visitor C</a>     | Tongass                |
| <a href="#">Ohmer Creek</a>                      | Tongass                |
| <a href="#">Starrigavan Recreation Area</a>      | Tongass                |
| <a href="#">Trail of Blue Ice</a>                | Chugach                |
| <a href="#">Turnagain Pass</a>                   | Chugach                |
| <a href="#">Androskoggin Ranger Station</a>      | White Mountain         |
| <a href="#">Argonne Experimental Forest</a>      | hequamegon-Nicolet     |
| <a href="#">AuTrain Songbird Trail</a>           | awatha                 |
| <a href="#">Barksdale Ponds</a>                  | equamegon-Nicolet      |
| <a href="#">Bearsdale Creek and Hyatt Sprin</a>  | equamegon-Nicolet      |
| <a href="#">Bell Smith Springs Recreation Ar</a> | wnee                   |

**LOCATION and PHOTOS**



Blood root, a Spring ephemeral. Photo by Ottawa National Forest.



Black River Waterfall. Photo by Ottawa National Forest.

## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### VA Thieves Never Learn

Criminals just can't seem to help themselves when it comes to stealing from the Department of Veterans Affairs. What they haven't figured out is that they will eventually get caught.

In a despicable scheme, a New Jersey man has admitted to helping steal and then sell \$8.2 million in HIV drugs. One of his theft partners worked in a VA hospital pharmacy and was discovered via surveillance footage. The thefts happened over the course of 27 months. How, we would like to know, could someone be allowed to walk out with \$8.2 million in drugs in her bag without being stopped by security?

In Georgia, a VA employee pleaded guilty to stealing \$1.9 million in medical equipment and then reselling it. Using his VA credit card, he bought hundreds of items and sold them to a company in another state for eight years.

The U.S. Attorney had a big day in arresting 16 people in a massive kick-

back-and-bribery scheme that included vendors and employees at two Florida VA hospitals. The \$20 million in thefts started in 2009 and wasn't discovered in audits. Their methods of theft and the charges were numerous and varied: inflating the cost of goods sold or shorting the orders, paying kickbacks, making purchases with VA credit cards, receiving bribes, healthcare fraud and ordering from companies that didn't exist. The last of the band of thieves was recently sentenced.

In a smaller but equally important scheme, a Washington landlord admitted to scamming \$16,000 for HUD-VA housing for a homeless veteran. Not only was he billing the government for the monthly rent, but he was collecting from the veteran as well, a clear violation of the HUD-VASH program. For this he will get nailed for three times the amount he stole. The formerly homeless veteran will share in this and get a settlement of \$4,000.

The one big beef I have is that none of these criminals ever go to jail for very long.

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



## Recess Recap

With August recess wrapping up and Members of Congress soon returning to Washington, I wanted to provide you with some of the highlights from my time spent in South Dakota over the summer work period.

I hosted nine "Inside Scoop" town halls in South Dakota – they ranged from three people to one hundred people – but each one was as engaging and fruitful as the next. Topics ranged from infrastructure and our national debt, to border security and Afghanistan. I am grateful for the feedback and am eager to get back to Washington to work on the most pressing issues South Dakotans are facing.

Throughout the month of August, I had the honor to host eleven Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremonies across the state. In total, 124 veterans from the Vietnam era were recognized for their service. From Seabees to airplane mechanics, radio operators and nurses, South Dakotans dutifully answered the call to serve, despite the lack of recognition they received upon returning home.

During these ceremonies, veterans recalled sobering stories of protestors throwing tomatoes and being called names upon their arrival. Others shared more heartwarming stories such as a rifle platoon leader who met an Army nurse in Vietnam and the two eventually married – they have now been married 51 years. It was truly remarkable to listen to South Dakota veterans share stories from a time that is often still difficult to discuss aloud. After many decades, I was honored to look these veterans in the eye and thank them for their service on behalf of a grateful nation.

Finally, nothing says summer in South Dakota quite like a fair. Over the last few weeks, I visited with folks at Dakotafest, Central States Fair, Turner County Fair, Brown County Fair, Sioux Empire Fair, and the South Dakota State Fair. I also had the opportunity to volunteer at the ticket booth, greeting folks as they walked in. It was great to share a few laughs, meet new South Dakotans, and enjoy the beautiful summer weather while eating delicious fair food.

August shaped up to be a rather busy month, but I am feeling rejuvenated from time spent away from the hustle and bustle of Washington D.C. I look forward to heading back to Congress and working on the important issues facing our nation.

South Dakota Governor

## Kristi Noem



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

### **A responsibility to be smart with taxpayer dollars**

Do you find yourself wondering where your tax dollars go? In South Dakota, the simple answer is to education, health care, public safety, and other state government operations. But if you really want to talk dollars and cents, I can break it down for you using the change you find in your couch cushions.

Of course, we've got to start with the rules. In this case, Article 12 of the state Constitution says I must sign a balanced budget and cannot plan to spend more than we earn each year. That's good because it means lawmakers, who negotiate the budget during each legislative session, are Constitutionally bound to pass a responsible budget.

When times are tight, we cut spending. When our economy goes from 83% performance rating on January 1st up to a peak of 116% just last month, you end up with a surplus of more than \$80 million at the end of the fiscal year.

Before we look ahead, let's first break down how the state chose to spend its funds before our economy hit turbo drive.

Remember what I said about that change in your couch? Here's the breakdown of how much of your state tax dollar goes into specific areas of the budget:

- 49-cents of every dollar goes to education in South Dakota. This includes public schools, higher education, and tech colleges.
- 36-cents of every dollar goes to health care. Medicaid. Social Services. The Department of Health. The Department of Human Services. State institutions. All going to serve South Dakotans so they get access to the care they need.
- A dime out of every dollar goes to public safety, including our courts and justice system, prisons, and the Attorney General's office.
- And a nickel of every dollar, the least of all expenditures, goes to running other state government operations.

That funding breakdown includes continuing operations and making smart investments in the future of our state. Last session, we saw major victories in growing the state's commitment to broadband connectivity from border to border — the total state investment was \$75 million.

We also appropriated a combined \$72 million toward scholarships and bond payoffs for technical colleges. This is a significant boost to serving South Dakotans with higher education. The Health Care Trust



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Fund received \$50 million, with additional funding to expand the availability of doctors and nurses across the state.

Other investments in our future include:

\$20 million toward a Bioprocessing Facility

\$20 million for railroad rehabilitation in West River

State-supported investments of \$19 million to help with the SDSMT Mineral Industries Building project; and \$12 million to help fund the Dakota Events Complex at the State Fair

We also put \$10 million in the IT modernization fund to ensure South Dakota is keeping up with technology trends for efficiency.

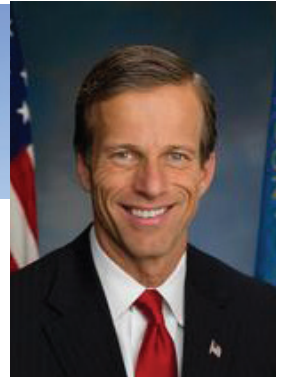
All of these investments are strengthening our state's ability to compete, without over-burdening taxpayers. All of these investments were made well before our economic engine started picking up speed.

Now our economy is booming compared to where we were at the start of the pandemic. We continue to lead the nation in Moody's "Back to Normal Index," with our economy performing at 106% compared to March 2020.

We are also among the top in the nation, according to U.S. News, when it comes to fiscal responsibility – both in the short-term and long-term management. Not to mention, South Dakota is consistently listed among states with the lowest tax burden in the nation.

Taxpayers should be encouraged by that as we look ahead at responsibly managing nearly \$1 billion in anticipated federal assistance over a five-year period. We also will be carefully considering smart one-time investments with surplus funds; investments that will keep our economy running strong while being good stewards of the taxpayer dollar.

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



## Real American Beef

You can find out exactly where your T-shirt was made if you check the tag or label. Is it too much to ask for the same level of certainty when it comes to the beef you feed your family? The answer is plain and simple: no.

Unfortunately, the current beef labeling system in this country allows imported beef that is neither born nor raised in the United States, but simply finished here, to be labeled as "Product of the U.S.A." Strange, right? In theory, the ground beef you picked up from the grocery store to fire up on the grill this weekend during the game could have originally come from Brazil. Just because it was packaged here in the United States, there could still be a misleading label on it. At that point, the only thing that's potentially made in the U.S.A. is the packaging it's wrapped in — if that.

In South Dakota, we take our beef seriously. Like you, if I'm at the local grocery store, I want to make sure the beef I'm buying is coming from producers in our state or one of the other beef-producing states around the country. After all, South Dakota cattle producers work tirelessly to produce some of the highest quality beef in the world.

As a longtime member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, standing up for South Dakota's cattle producers is, and always will be, a top priority for me. I recently introduced the American Beef Labeling Act, which would require the U.S. trade representative (USTR), in consultation with the U.S. secretary of agriculture, to develop a World Trade Organization (WTO)-compliant means of reinstating mandatory country of origin labeling (MCOOL) for beef. The WTO is essentially the global referee when it comes to trade between nations. Specifically, my bill would give USTR six months to develop a reinstatement plan followed by a six-month window to implement it. If USTR fails to reinstate MCOOL for beef within one year of enactment, it would automatically be reinstated for beef only. That would ensure when you see a label on your beef, you can trust it.

Since coming to Congress, I have been a staunch and consistent supporter of country of origin labeling. I believe that in order to ensure the viability of cattle production in this country, the system in which producers operate must be fair and transparent. I voted in favor of both the 2002 and 2008 farm bills, which included MCOOL that the WTO unfortunately struck down. Throughout the years, I have supported nearly every piece of legislation that has crossed my desk that prioritizes country of origin labeling. And I won't stop until we get the results our producers need and want.

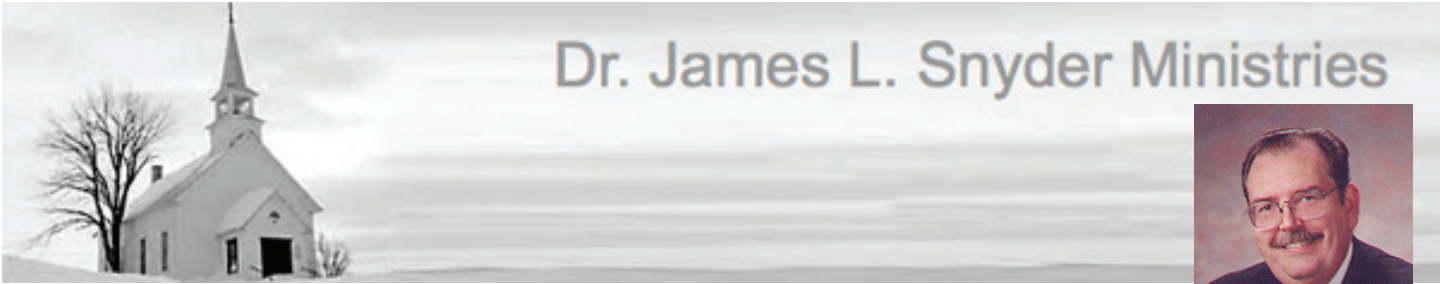
I recently had the pleasure of speaking at the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association convention in Spearfish about the importance of implementing MCOOL. Folks were crystal clear: South Dakotans want to know where their food is coming from. And I agree.

This past year has showcased the vital role our farmers and ranchers have in the domestic food supply chain and the urgent need to strengthen it. Rest assured, I am working tirelessly to build support for my American Beef Labeling Act because having transparency in labeling that benefits both our producers and consumers is just common sense.

Now don't get me wrong, there is a long road ahead in order to get this bill into law, but I've traveled long roads before. I'm thankful to have bipartisan support from my colleagues in the Senate, and I look forward to working with anyone who is willing to stand up and fight for our consumers and producers.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



## Ready or Not, Here I Quit

I do not quit easily. When I start a project, I like to work until it's finished. I hate to quit before something is completed.

One thing I have learned through the years is not to start something unless I have the time and resources to finish it. How many projects I started in the past and somehow ran out of steam or resources and never got to finish it.

When I start a project, I am obsessed with finishing it on time.

My problem is I have difficulty planning, scheduling and balancing certain projects. I often take on more than I could possibly do.

Such is not the case with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Whatever she takes on and how much she takes on can always be finished on time. How she does it is beyond my understanding.

The only project I can finish on time is eating. I have no problem finishing this project every day.

The thing that bothers me is that many times I take on several projects and get them confused. I see a project I want to do and I jump at it. It doesn't matter if I have half a dozen other projects on the table, if I like it, I want to do it.

One time I thought I would partner with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for several projects. As I looked at her project list, they all had something to do with crafts. I may be a lot of things, but I certainly am not crafty.

I can go into her craft room, look at all of her tools, and not know what in the world they are or what they are for. I'm not a tool kind of a person like my wife is.

Last summer, for example, we had the air conditioner guy come to fix our air conditioner. He looked at it and said he knew exactly what was wrong, but he didn't have the right tool to fix it and so he had to go back to his office and get it.

"What tool," my wife said to him, "do you need to fix it?"

He looked at her, laughed, and said, "Ma'am, I'm sure you don't have anything near the kind of tool that I will need."

"Tell me what it is?"

He looked at her, smiled, and then describe the tool that he needed to fix the AC problem.

"Oh," my wife said as she made her way back to the garage. "I think I have that tool in my garage."

He laughed until she came back from the garage with the exact tool he needed to fix the problem. He just stared at her and didn't know what to say.

If she doesn't have the tool, there is no problem and nothing to fix.

It's one thing to have a project, but it's another thing to have the tools to finish the project on time.

There is one project that I have been working on for years. Maybe it's about time I quit that project.

The project is, to understand how my wife manages to do all of those things?

I good go and ask her but you know what that would mean. I wouldn't understand anything she was saying.

Where she got all that skill to work with all the tools that she has is far beyond me.

I must say she has saved me a lot of money through the years. If I had something sound wrong with my

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vehicle, she would immediately go out, lift the hood, and in a few moments determine what the problem was and then commence to fix it.

One time the back bumper of my truck broke and I didn't quite know how to fix it. I was planning to take it to the garage and get them to fix it when my wife came out and asked what was wrong.

I told her about my rear bumper and she went to look at it.

I had one of those "aha" moments where I thought here was a project she couldn't fix. It needed a professional.

In a few minutes, she went into the house and I thought she had given up. I didn't blame her because I didn't quite know how to fix it myself.

Then she came back outside with one of those large universal paper clips. When I saw her with it I started to laugh. She just looked at me, grinned and went over to the rear bumper and in a few moments, she had it fixed.

That was four years ago and it's still fixed.

So, I have come to that point in my life where I am ready to quit. Ready to quit trying to figure out how she knows so much of everything associated with tools.

I am ready to quit trying to understand the other side of our marriage.

Every man that thinks he understands a woman has never yet been married.

There are so many mysteries in life and I have come to the point where I have quit trying to figure out most of those mysteries.

A verse of Scripture came to my mind, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Sometimes that agreement is simply a mutual understanding of the differences between each other. The secret to this is not to quit but to keep moving forward.

## EARTHTALK ™



**Conservationists are working to create a 2000-mile long wildlife corridor between the Canadian Yukon and Yellowstone National Park so wolves and other charismatic megafauna can have enough space and resources to thrive.**

Credit: Brenda Timmermans, Pexels.

Dear EarthTalk: Whatever happened to the Yukon to Yellowstone (Y2Y) wildlife corridor dream that was in the news years ago?

-- Jos. Meredith, Bozeman, MT

Conservationists' dreams of a wildlife corridor stretching from the Yukon to Yellowstone (Y2Y) where "charismatic megafauna" like bears, wolves and caribou can roam freely and have enough continuous undisturbed habitat to thrive is slowly becoming a reality thanks to the dogged determination of thousands of concerned individuals and over 450 partner groups behind them. Since the project's inception in 1993, green groups, indigenous groups and government agencies have worked together to preserve upwards of 500,000 square miles of the intermountain west for this project, with hopes of adding much more.

The core of Y2Y is all within the Rocky Mountains, the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountain Trench in British Columbia, and the Liard Plateau in northern B.C. Scientists have collaborated as well to expand Y2Y into the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Columbia Mountains of eastern B.C., the Mackenzie Mountains of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, given their similar ecological characteristics.

Unlike other animal crossings, Y2Y is a large area across mountain ranges without a hard boundary. Since natural ecosystems are entirely interconnected, conservationists have drawn soft, flexible boundaries in conjunction with evolving patterns of seasonal movements by wildlife. These untouched areas serve as safe highways for the diverse range of species to feed, breed and migrate without outside interference.

In other sections of the Y2Y region where development has been more commonplace, partner groups have worked to create wildlife-friendly infrastructure to facilitate crossings of roads and other man-made obstructions. They have also set up tracking mechanisms for some species to monitor their success. Meanwhile, other partners have been focused on acquiring real estate parcels that can be left in a natural state or converted back from development to be included in the animal-friendly network of corridors.

In the Y2Y region, conservationists and scientists have focused on the preservation of grizzly bears—an "umbrella" species. Since grizzly bears roam such an expansive area of land in search of food and mates, they play a central role in maintaining the healthy functioning of an ecosystem. Given the population declines and genetic diversity loss of the region, conservationists have especially pushed for wildlife corridors to alleviate the habitat loss and fragmentation among grizzly bears.

Achieving the Y2Y vision has not come easy. Much of the region stretches across private lands. To accommodate both humans and wildlife, conservationists have worked with private landowners to ensure safe passage for wildlife without interrupting human lifestyles. Many oil, gas and mining projects also require access roads, which often cut through natural landscapes and degrade wildlife habitat.

While the Y2Y mission has come far in preserving the natural environments from Yellowstone to Yukon, the initiative calls for further collaboration from diverse communities. Whether it's volunteering from local groups or partnerships with larger organizations, Y2Y aims to continue its vision of harmonizing a wild and wooly 2,000-mile swath of the North American West.

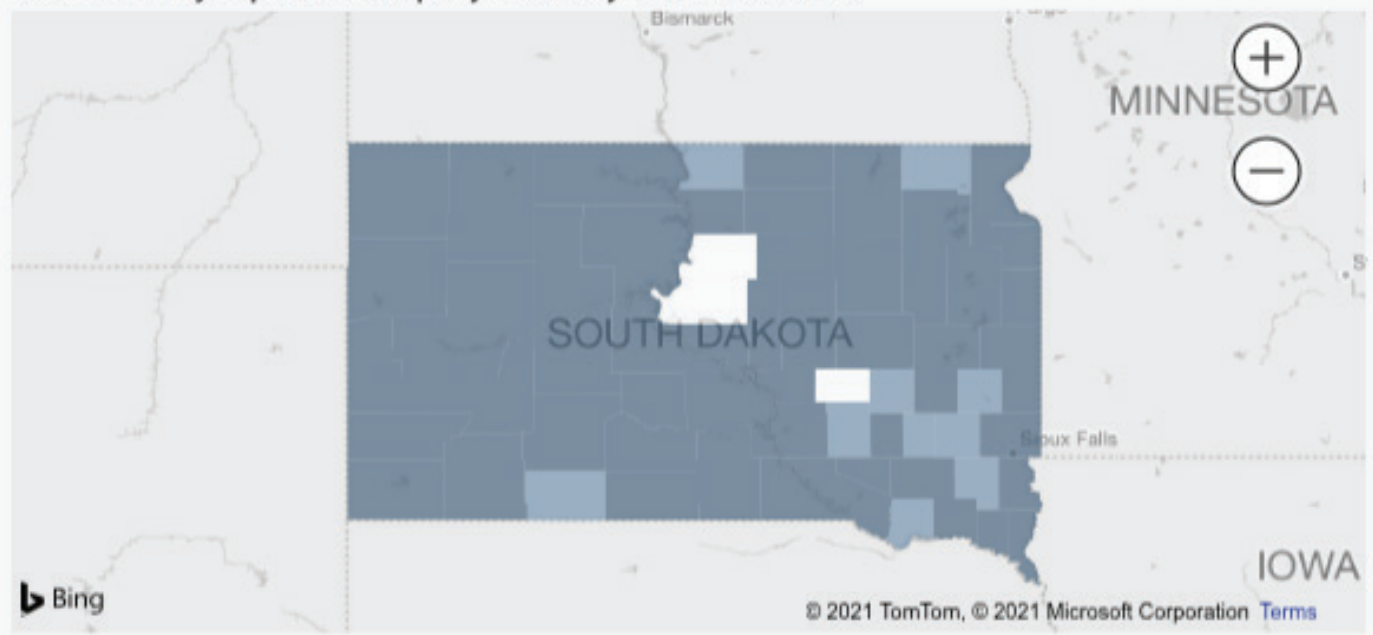
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## South Dakota COVID-19 Report

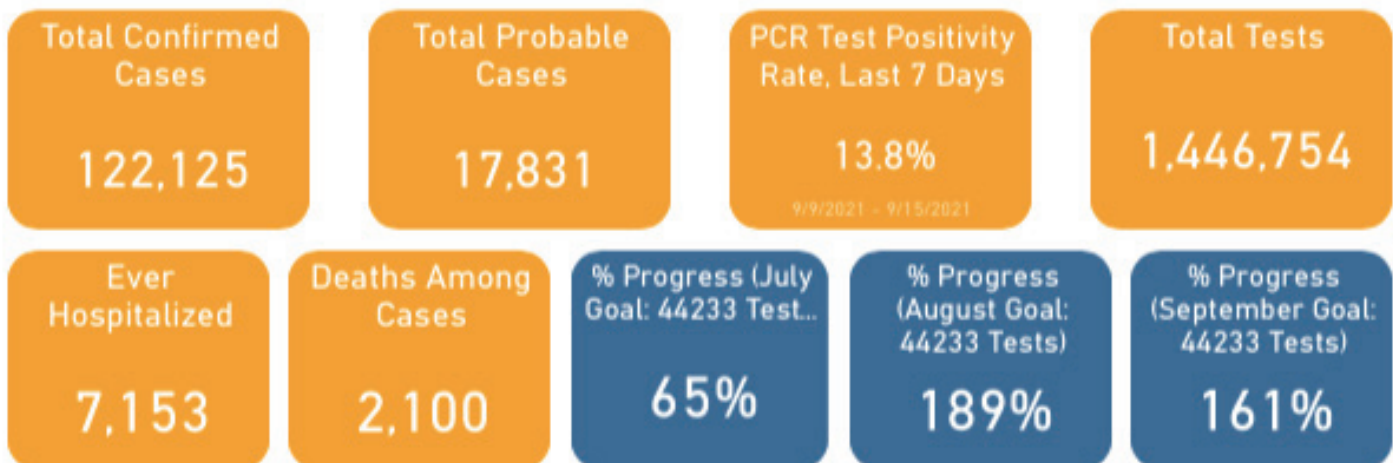


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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



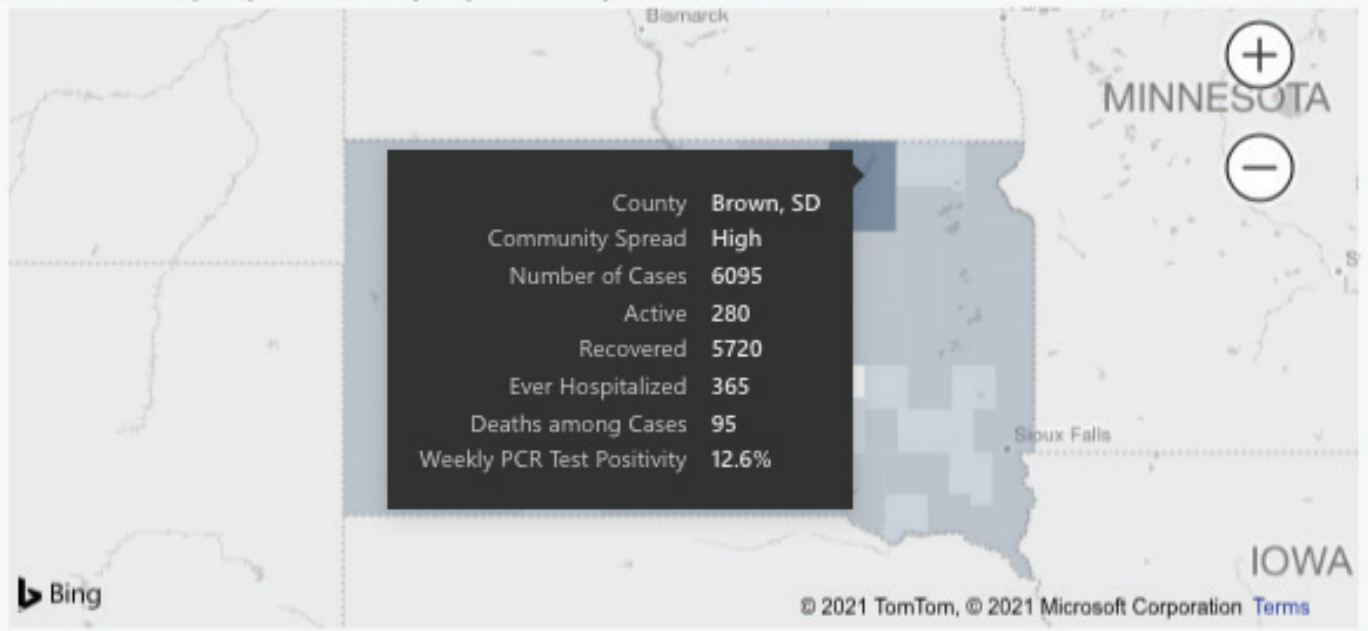
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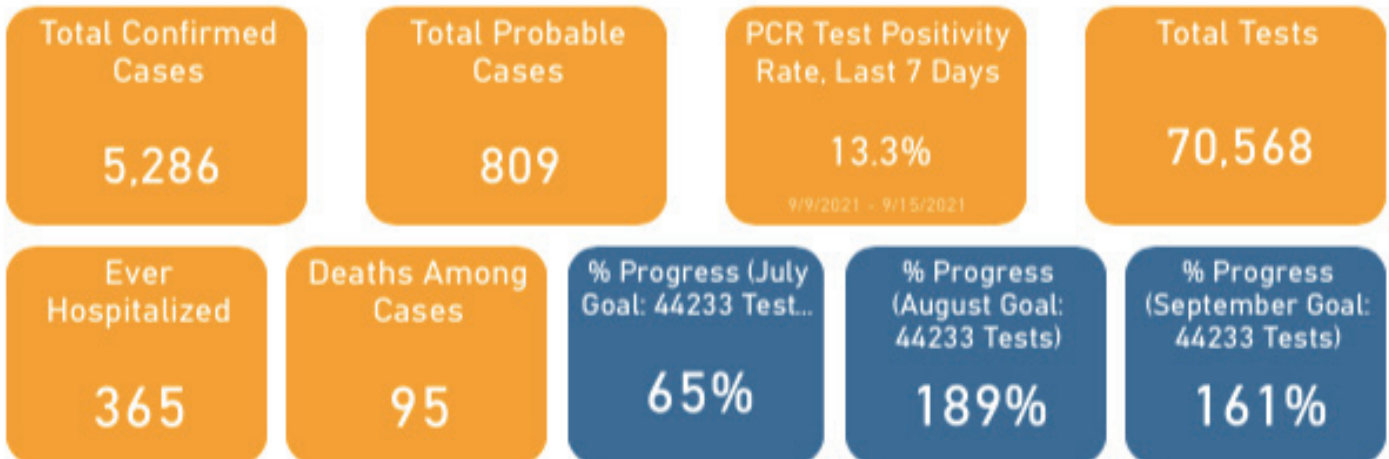
## Brown County COVID-19 Report



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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



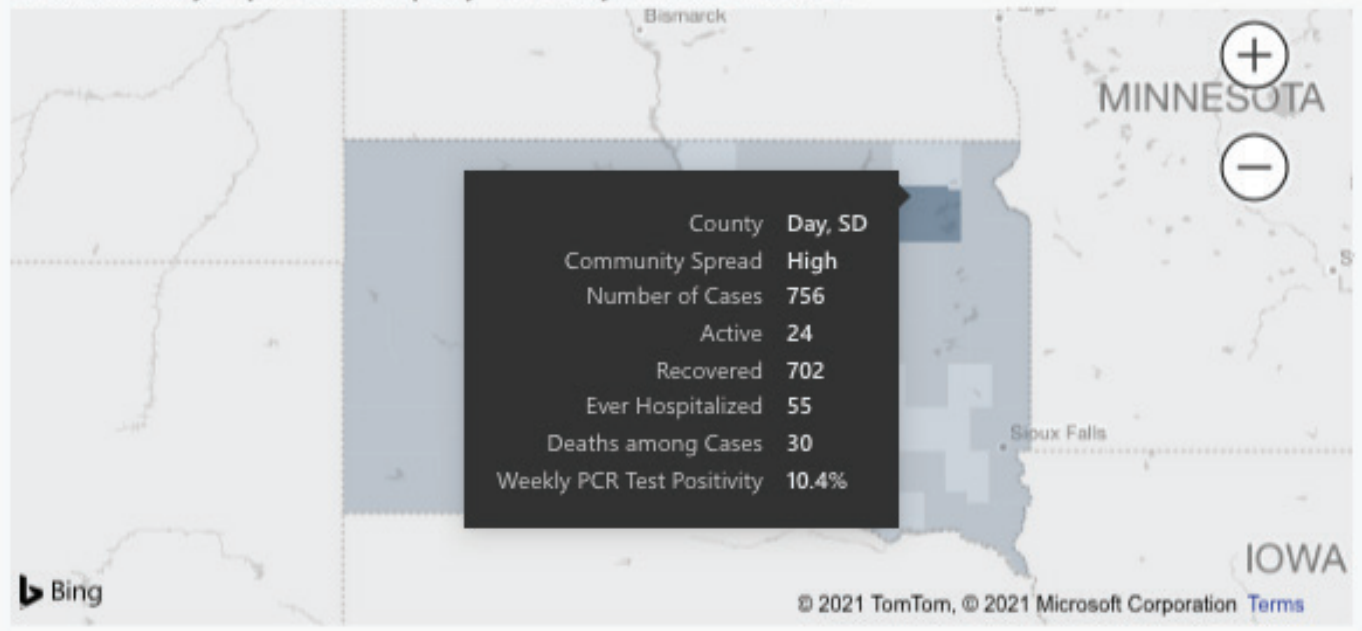
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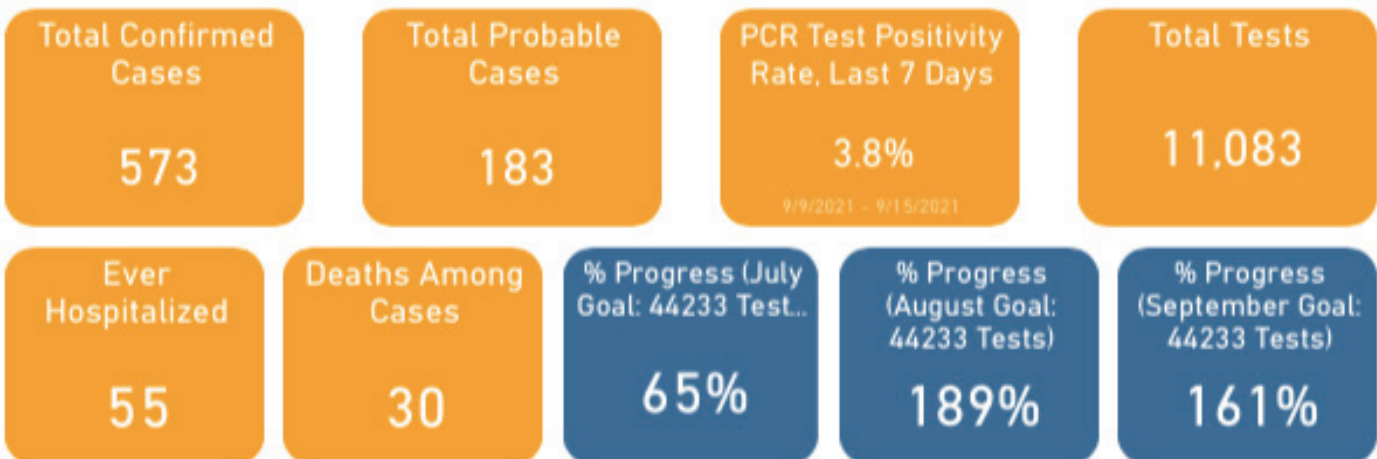
## Day County COVID-19 Report



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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





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## COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

|                        |            |        |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| Currently Hospitalized | <b>+11</b> | 214    |
| Deaths Among Cases     |            | 2100   |
| Ever Hospitalized      |            | 7153   |
| Active Cases           |            | 7794   |
| Recovered Cases        |            | 130062 |
| Total Cases            |            | 139956 |

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Sex    | # of Cases | # of Deaths Among Cases |
|--------|------------|-------------------------|
| Female | 72905      | 978                     |
| Male   | 67051      | 1122                    |

## VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

| COVID-19 Variant              | # of Cases |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Delta (B.1.617.2, AY.1-AY.25) | 293        |
| Alpha (B.1.1.7)               | 172        |
| Gamma (P.1)                   | 3          |
| Beta (B.1.351)                | 2          |

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Age Range with Years | # of Cases | # of Deaths Among Cases |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 0-9 years            | 6872       | 0                       |
| 10-19 years          | 16871      | 0                       |
| 20-29 years          | 24704      | 9                       |
| 30-39 years          | 23200      | 30                      |
| 40-49 years          | 19741      | 49                      |
| 50-59 years          | 19116      | 130                     |
| 60-69 years          | 15599      | 295                     |
| 70-79 years          | 8170       | 488                     |

## RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Race/Ethnicity           | # of Cases | % of Cases |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| White                    | 105374     | 75%        |
| Native American          | 16244      | 12%        |
| Unknown                  | 5687       | 4%         |
| Hispanic                 | 5533       | 4%         |
| Black                    | 3391       | 2%         |
| Asian / Pacific Islander | 1895       | 1%         |

Groton Area School District  
 Active COVID-19 Cases  
 Updated September 17, 2021; 11:07 AM

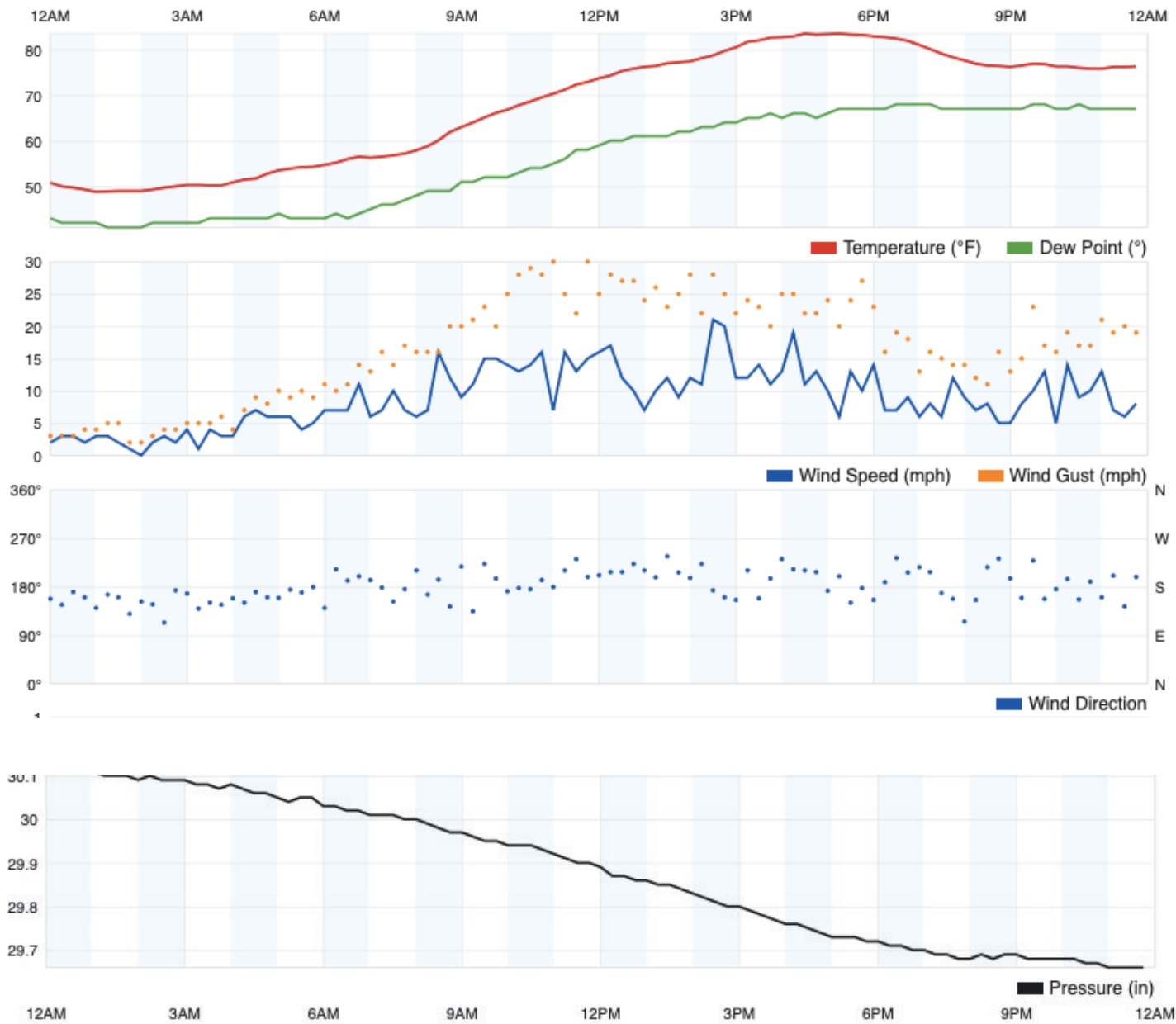
**Decrease of 3  
 from last week**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | S | T |
| K | G |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0 | 1 | 2 | t | o |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | a | t |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | f | a |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | f | i |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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| Today                                     | Tonight  | Monday   | Monday Night                                    | Tuesday     |
|---|--|--|---|-------------|
|   |  |  |   |             |
| Mostly Sunny and Breezy then Partly Sunny | 30% → 60%<br>Chance T-storms then Showers Likely | 50% 40%<br>Chance T-storms then Chance Showers | 10%<br>Slight Chance Showers then Partly Cloudy | Sunny       |
| High: 89 °F                               | Low: 54 °F                                       | High: 67 °F                                    | Low: 44 °F                                      | High: 68 °F |

## A Marginal Risk Of Severe Storms Mainly Overnight

**Severe Weather Outlook Sunday, September 19, 2021**

Legend:  
■ High  
■ Moderate  
■ Enhanced  
■ Slight  
■ Marginal  
■ Thunder

## The 7-Day For Aberdeen And Pierre

| Today              | Mon                | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat              |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                    |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <i>Gusty</i>       | <i>Breezy</i>      | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    |
| 90° 68°<br>15% 65% | 68° 54°<br>55% 20% | 69° 44°<br>6% 0% | 75° 43°<br>0% 0% | 76° 49°<br>1% 6% | 69° 46°<br>6% 5% | 73° 44°<br>3% 3% |
| S 15 - 20 G35      | N 15 - 20 G30      | NW 8 - 12 G20    | S 15 - 20        | S 10 - 15 G20    | NW 9 - 13 G20    | W 10 - 15 G25    |

7 Day Forecast - Aberdeen, SD

| Today             | Mon                | Tue              | Wed              | Thu              | Fri              | Sat              |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                   |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <i>Breezy</i>     | <i>Breezy</i>      | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    | <i>Breezy</i>    |
| 93° 70°<br>8% 70% | 69° 54°<br>45% 13% | 71° 48°<br>4% 0% | 79° 48°<br>0% 0% | 80° 51°<br>1% 5% | 72° 50°<br>5% 2% | 78° 48°<br>3% 3% |
| S 10 - 15 G25     | NW 15 - 20 G30     | NW 8 - 12        | SE 10 - 15 G25   | N 9 - 13         | NW 9 - 13        | NW 8 - 12        |

7 Day Forecast - Pierre, SD

**National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD**

Updated: 9/19/2021 5:58 AM Central

After today, temperatures will cool down into the 60s and 70s across much of the area for much of the 7 day forecast. Rain chances are centered on the overnight tonight and during the day Monday. There could even be a couple of strong thunderstorms over eastern South Dakota or western Minnesota late tonight into early Monday morning. Otherwise, the forecast is a dry forecast.

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## Today in Weather History

September 19, 1991: Record to near record cold hit central and northeast South Dakota on this day. Temperatures fell into the 20s during the morning bringing a hard freeze to much of the area. Pierre and Mobridge had record lows of 24 degrees while Timber Lake set a record low of 21 degrees. Near record lows of 28 degrees and 22 degrees occurred at Aberdeen and Kennebec, respectively.

1947: A hurricane made landfall near the Chandeleur Islands, LA on this day. Wind gusts of 112 mph and a central pressure of 967 mb were measured at Moisant International Airport. A storm surge of 9.8 feet reached Shell Beach, Lake Borgne. Moisant Airport field was flooded by two ft. of water while Jefferson Parish was flooded to depths of 3.28 ft. New Orleans suffered \$100 million in damages. Total loss of life was 51 people. As a result of this storm, hurricane protection levees were built along the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain to protect Orleans and Jefferson Parishes from future storm surges.

1967 - Hurricane Beulah deluged Brownsville, TX, with 12.19 inches of rain in 24 hours, to establish a record for that location. Hurricane Beulah made landfall on the 20th near the mouth of the Rio Grande River, where a wind gust to 135 mph was reported by a ship in the port. (19th-20th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cool autumn-like weather invaded the Central Rockies. Temperatures dipped into the 30s and 40s, with readings in the teens and 20s reported in the higher elevations. Gunnison CO was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 15 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a fast moving cold front produced severe weather in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Eight tornadoes were reported, including five in Indiana. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 74 mph at Wabash IND. Winds associated with the cold front itself gusted to 69 mph at Kenosha WI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast Region. Cape Hatteras NC was deluged with nearly 3.50 inches of rain in three hours. Syracuse NY reported 1.77 inches of rain, a record for the date, and Chatham NJ reported an all-time record of 3.45 inches in one day. Hurricane Hugo headed for the Bahamas, and Tropical Storm Iris, following close on its heels, strengthened to near hurricane force. (The National Weather Summary)

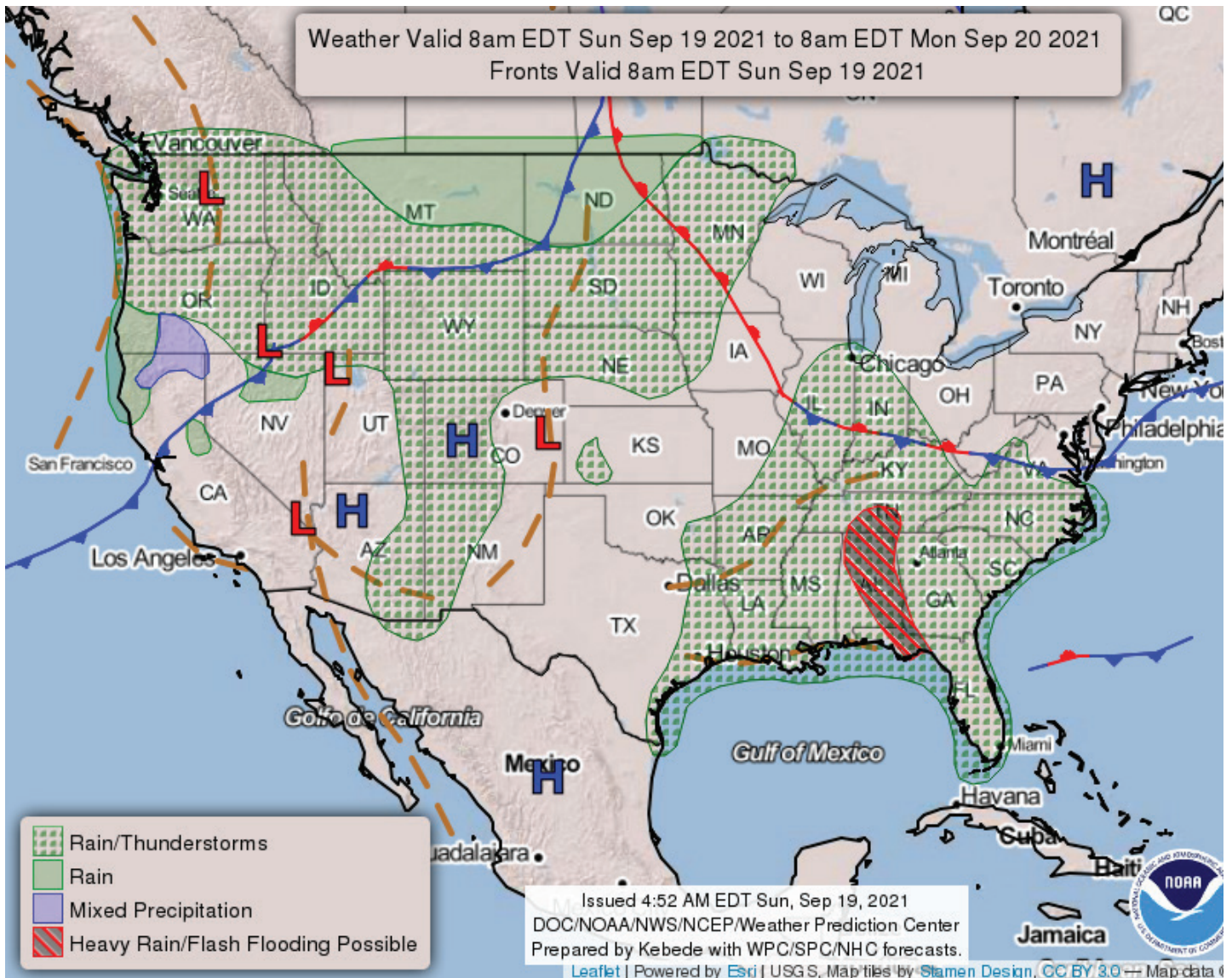
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 84 °F at 4:30 PM**  
**Low Temp: 49 °F at 1:01 AM**  
**Wind: 30 mph at 10:54 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

**Record High: 101° in 1895**  
**Record Low: 26° in 1938**  
**Average High: 74°F**  
**Average Low: 46°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept.: 1.26**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 2.32**  
**Average Precip to date: 17.60**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.16**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:37:02 PM**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:16:10 AM**



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## WORTHY OF PRAISE

Bud Wilkerson, a nationally respected football coach, was once asked by a reporter, "Coach, how much has football contributed to the nation's desire to be physically fit?"

Looking at the reporter, he said, "Nothing - not one thing."

Surprised, the reporter asked, "Would you care to elaborate on that?"

"Certainly," said Wilkerson. "I define football as twenty-two men on a field desperately needing rest and forty-thousand people in the stands desperately needing exercise."

The writer of Psalm 96 must have thought the same way the coach did. "For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise." Here the Psalmist is talking about those who are in the stands cheering and shouting about God's greatness. But before the cheering were those who took God's message of hope to the lost and searching - those who were on the "field" were involved in a battle for the souls around them - the "players"- who were "declaring God's glory and marvelous deeds" and "sharing and proclaiming His salvation!"

John R. Stott once said, "If a man has religion, he must do one of two things with it. If it is false, he must give it up. And if it is true, he must give it away."

Imagine how loud the shouts would be in church if we had more people on the field battling for the lives of the lost and wandering? We must "play" harder if we want cheers.

Prayer: We pray, Father, that we may work more seriously with You to reach the lost. Renew our strength for the battles we face and give us victory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise. Psalm 96:4a

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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

### Camp, Mansaray lead South Dakota past Cal Poly 48-14

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP) — Carson Camp threw two touchdown passes and Michael Mansaray ran for 141 yards and two scores as South Dakota overpowered Cal Poly 48-14 in nonconference play on Saturday.

Mansaray's TD runs came in the first quarter — from 13 yards out and on a 1-yard plunge — and sandwiched Camp's 54-yard scoring strike to Carter Bell as the Coyotes (2-1) took a 21-7 lead after one quarter. Two Mason Lorber field goals bookended Camp's 36-yard TD pass to Austin Goehring and a 3-yard TD run by Nate Thomas to push South Dakota's lead to 41-7 at halftime. Cole Stenstrom's 2-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter capped the Coyotes' scoring.

Camp completed 17 of 20 passes for 226 yards for USD. Thomas added 92 yards on 15 carries. Bell finished with six catches for 92 yards. The Coyotes amassed 615 yards of offense, including 353 on the ground.

Kahliq Paulette was 9-of-23 passing for 112 yards and a TD for the Mustangs (1-2). Backup QB Conor Bruce completed all three of his passes for 69 yards, including a 61-yard scoring strike to Michael Briscoe with 2:40 left in the game. Cal Poly was held to 243 yards of offense.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Lotto America

15-25-27-37-49, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 2

(fifteen, twenty-five, twenty-seven, thirty-seven, forty-nine; Star Ball: six; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.9 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$432 million

Powerball

05-36-39-45-57, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 2

(five, thirty-six, thirty-nine, forty-five, fifty-seven; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$457 million

### Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Bennett County def. Lyman, 25-17, 25-19, 25-16

Pierre def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-17, 25-23, 25-22

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 15-25, 25-21, 25-23, 25-18

Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Rapid City Stevens, 26-24, 25-21, 25-12

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Brookings, 26-24, 25-18, 25-18

Sioux Falls Washington def. Aberdeen Central, 25-9, 25-15, 25-27, 25-11

Big Dakota Conference Tournament=

Pool 1=

McLaughlin def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-8, 25-13

Pool 2=



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Chamberlain def. Todd County, 25-23, 26-24  
Chamberlain def. Winner, 25-10, 25-13  
Pool 3=  
Miller def. Crow Creek, 25-5, 25-11  
Miller def. Stanley County, 25-18, 25-15  
Stanley County def. Crow Creek, 25-15, 25-8  
Bon Homme Cavalier Clash=  
Championship Bracket=  
Championship=  
Platte-Geddes def. Wagner, 25-12, 25-19  
Quarterfinal=  
Avon def. Parkston, 25-21, 25-19  
Parker def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 24-26, 25-23, 25-20  
Platte-Geddes def. Northwestern, 25-19, 25-23  
Wagner def. Bon Homme, 25-17, 25-14  
Semifinal=  
Platte-Geddes def. Parker, 25-18, 25-19  
Wagner def. Avon, 25-18, 31-29  
Pool 1=  
Platte-Geddes def. Gayville-Volin, 29-27, 25-21  
Platte-Geddes def. Parkston, 25-22, 25-18  
Platte-Geddes def. Vermillion, 25-17, 15-25, 25-8  
Pool 2=  
Bon Homme def. Gregory, 25-21, 22-25, 28-26  
Centerville def. Bon Homme, 21-25, 25-18, 25-16  
Parker def. Bon Homme, 25-18, 25-22  
Pool 3=  
Avon def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-10, 25-17  
Avon def. Beresford, 17-25, 25-20, 25-20  
Northwestern def. Avon, 25-19, 25-22  
Pool 4=  
Wagner def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-6, 25-11  
Wagner def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-23, 25-15  
Bridgewater-Emery Tournament=  
Bronze Bracket=  
Canistota def. Viborg-Hurley  
Hanson def. Canistota, 25-23, 25-19  
Gold Bracket=  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Freeman, 25-16, 25-18  
Chester def. Warner, 25-12, 25-19  
Championship=  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Chester, 25-22, 25-23  
Pool 1, Round 1=  
Ethan def. Canistota  
Warner def. Howard, 25-10, 25-8  
Pool 1, Round 2=  
Howard def. Canistota  
Warner def. Ethan, 25-19, 25-23  
Pool 2, Round 1=  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Hanson, 25-12, 25-11

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Pool 2, Round 2=  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Freeman, 25-15, 25-13  
Pool 2, Round 3=  
Freeman def. Hanson, 25-13, 25-13  
Pool 3, Round 1=  
Irene-Wakonda def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-19, 25-17  
Pool 3, Round 2=  
Chester def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-15, 25-18  
Pool 3, Round 3=  
Chester def. Viborg-Hurley  
Silver Bracket=  
Ethan def. Howard  
Championship=  
Irene-Wakonda def. Ethan, 25-20, 25-23  
Hamlin Tournament=  
Pool 1=  
Florence/Henry def. Hamlin, 26-22, 20-25, 25-22  
Florence/Henry def. Sisseton, 25-15, 25-12  
Hamlin def. Sisseton, 25-9, 25-19  
West Central def. Florence/Henry, 25-23, 25-22  
West Central def. Hamlin, 25-16, 25-20  
West Central def. Sisseton, 25-21, 25-16  
Ipswich Invite=  
Championship=  
Aberdeen Christian def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-11, 25-22  
Fifth Place=  
Ipswich def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-13, 19-25, 26-24  
Pool A=  
Ipswich def. Leola/Frederick, 25-19, 25-20  
Kimball/White Lake def. Ipswich, 25-16, 11-25, 25-21  
Kimball/White Lake def. Leola/Frederick, 26-24  
Kimball/White Lake def. Milbank, 13-25, 25-22, 25-14  
Milbank def. Ipswich, 20-25, 25-22, 25-19  
Pool B=  
Aberdeen Christian def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-22, 25-13  
Aberdeen Christian def. Langford, 25-12, 25-9  
Aberdeen Christian def. Lemmon, 25-4, 25-11  
Herreid/Selby Area def. Lemmon, 25-16, 25-8  
Langford def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-22, 22-25, 25-21  
Langford def. Lemmon, 25-11, 25-15  
Third Place=  
Langford def. Milbank, 20-25, 25-21, 25-19  
Lake Preston Invitational=  
Championship=  
Arlington def. DeSmet, 25-15, 25-18  
Consolation=  
Flandreau def. Waubay/Summit, 25-14, 25-11  
Lake Preston def. Iroquois, 25-22, 25-16  
Fifth Place=

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Flandreau def. Lake Preston, 21-25, 25-19, 25-16

First Round=

Arlington def. Iroquois, 25-7, 25-15

DeSmet def. Flandreau, 26-24, 25-19

Estelline/Hendricks def. Waubay/Summit, 25-17, 25-17

Sioux Valley def. Lake Preston, 25-17, 21-25, 25-18

Semifinal=

Arlington def. Sioux Valley, 25-15, 25-20

DeSmet def. Estelline/Hendricks, 26-24, 25-19

Sioux Valley def. Estelline/Hendricks, 25-10, 21-25, 25-21

Seventh Place=

Waubay/Summit def. Iroquois, 25-18, 32-30

Philip Triangular=

Philip def. Wall, 23-25, 25-18, 25-19, 25-15

Spearfish Triangular=

Douglas def. Spearfish, 25-22, 25-22, 25-23

Mitchell def. Douglas, 25-14, 25-21, 25-14

Mitchell def. Spearfish, 25-10, 25-14, 25-20

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

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

## Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP FOOTBALL=

Hot Springs 13, Rapid City Christian 0

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 42, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 0

Parkston 50, Gregory 0

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 56, Rapid City Central 0

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Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

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

## Choi opens 2-shot lead in Champions' Stanford International

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — K.J. Choi shot a 4-under 66 in windy conditions Saturday to take a two-stroke lead into the final round of the PGA Tour Champions' Stanford International.

"So far it's a good feeling," Choi said. "So, tomorrow look for fight from everybody."

Tied for the first-round lead with Darren Clarke after a 63, Choi had five birdies and bogey to reach 11 under at Minnehaha Country Club. The 51-year-old South Korean player won eight times on the PGA Tour.

"Hole by hole is more positive and more enjoy in the wind today," Choi said. "Sometimes the tees are underneath the trees, so we can feel, but after hit it, very difficult control, distance control."

Paul Stankowski (63), Alex Cejka (64) and Rod Pampling (67) were second, and Steve Flesch (65) and Mario Tiziani (67) were another stroke back.

Darren Clarke opened with a double bogey in a 70 that dropped him into a tie for seventh at 7 under with Retief Goosen (68), David McKenzie (65) and South Dakota native Tom Byrum (67).

U.S. Ryder Cup captain Steve Stricker (67) was 7 under in a group that included Jim Furyk (68), Ernie Els (68) and 2020 winner Miguel Angel Jimenez (68).

Stricker will lead the United States against Europe next week at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin. Tiziani is his brother-in-law.

## Voters choose new Hong Kong electors under pro-Beijing laws

By ALICE FUNG and ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Select Hong Kong residents voted for members of the Election Committee that will choose the city's leader in the first polls Sunday following reforms meant to ensure candidates with Beijing loyalty.

The Election Committee will select 40 of 90 lawmakers in the city's legislature during elections in December, as well as elect the Hong Kong leader during polls in March next year.

In May, the legislature amended Hong Kong's electoral laws to ensure that only "patriots" — people who are loyal to China and the semi-autonomous territory — will rule the city. The committee also was expanded to 1,500 members, from 1,200, and the number of direct voters for committee seats was reduced from about 246,000 to less than 8,000.

The restructured electoral process guarantees a vast majority of the Elections Committee will be largely pro-Beijing candidates, who are likely to choose a chief executive and nearly half of lawmakers who are aligned with the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

"Today's Election Committee elections are very meaningful as it is the first elections held after we have improved the electoral system to ensure that only patriots can take office," Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said. It's not yet known if Lam will seek reelection in March.

The changes are part of a broad crackdown on Hong Kong civil society following mass pro-democracy protests in 2019. Authorities have tightened control over the city with a sweeping national security law imposed by China's Communist Party that effectively criminalized opposition to the government. The law and other changes have forced several civil organizations to disband or seen their leaders arrested.

Also Sunday, Hong Kong's largest opposition trade union — the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions — said it would disband out of concerns for the safety of its members. The trade union is the latest organization to disband, following the dissolution of a teachers' union and rally organizer the Civil Human Rights Front last month.

Critics say the changes restrict freedoms Hong Kong was promised it could maintain for 50 years following the territory's 1997 handover to China from colonial Britain.

The nearly 4,900 voters representing different professions and industries who went to polls Sunday under a heavy police presence will choose among just 412 candidates for 364 seats in the Election Committee. Other seats were uncontested or held by people chosen based on their titles.

"This election lets us select solid patriots who love our country and Hong Kong to rule Hong Kong, and who demonstrate their strengths in Hong Kong's administration and politics," said Armstrong Lee, a candidate representing the social welfare sector.

Wang Ting-ting, a voter from the financial sector, said she would vote for candidates who are "patriots who love our country and love Hong Kong."

"This is the most important," she said. "Secondly, I would vote for those who are capable, because capability matters the most in this position."

Lam said the new Election Committee will be broadly representative as it included more grassroots organizations and associations that represent Hong Kongers who live and work in mainland China.

Sunday's vote was taking place at five polling stations heavily surrounded by police. Local newspaper South China Morning Post previously reported 6,000 police officers would be deployed to guard the polls, outnumbering the number of voters.

Results are expected Sunday night.

Four activists from pro-democracy political party League of Social Democrats staged a small protest near the polling station in the Wan Chai neighborhood. They laid out banners criticizing the "small circle election" as having a pretense of representing public opinion.

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The four were stopped and searched by the police.

Zen Soo reported from Singapore. Associated Press video journalists Matthew Cheng and Janice Lo contributed to this report.

## Same goal, different paths: US, EU seek max vaccine rates

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Belgian town of Aarschot has a vaccination rate of 94% of all adults, but Mayor Gwendolyn Rutten worries her town is too close for comfort to the capital of Brussels, where the rate stands at 63%. But there's not much she can do about it.

Her hope is that the government mandates vaccination. "Otherwise, you drag all others back into danger," Rutten said in a recent interview.

But few European Union countries have issued outright mandates, instead requiring people to show proof of immunization, a negative test or recent recovery from COVID-19 to participate in ever more activities — even sometimes to go to work.

More sweeping requirements are the order of the day in the U.S., which has faced significant vaccine resistance. President Biden announced mandates last week that cover large portions of the population, sometimes without any option to test instead.

Despite apparently divergent strategies, officials in both the U.S. and the EU are struggling with the same question: how to boost vaccination rates to the max and end a pandemic that has repeatedly thwarted efforts to control it.

And the apparent split may in fact be narrowing. While not calling their restrictions mandates, some European countries are making life so difficult for those without the vaccine that it may amount to the same thing.

In a perhaps surprising move in a country known for touting individual freedoms, Biden has imposed sweeping vaccine requirements for as many as 100 million Americans, including many private-sector employees and health care workers. Employees at firms with more than 100 workers will need to get immunized or test weekly, while vaccination will be required for employees of the executive branch and contractors who do business with the federal government — with no option to test out. There are some exemptions.

The seemingly more aggressive U.S. policy may reflect greater pressures there. The EU, which initially lagged way behind the United States in terms of vaccinations, surpassed it at the end of July. As of Thursday, the 27-nation bloc had 60% of its population vaccinated compared to 53% for the United States, according to Our World In Data. In the both places, immunization rates vary widely from country to country or state to state.

American authorities from Biden on down have labeled the current phase a "pandemic of the unvaccinated," with data showing that nearly all COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. are now in people who weren't vaccinated. EU officials have used the same description for continuing outbreaks in their countries.

But it's harder for the EU writ large to impose vaccine mandates since health policies are the responsibility of the 27 national governments, and top EU officials walk on egg shells addressing the issue. Asked specifically by The Associated Press whether mandatory vaccination could be part of the solution, three EU commissioners swerved around the question, though none argued against it.

"This is not within our remit. This is not part of our legal framework," EU Vice President Margaritis Schinas said, before adding: "But if there is a message that we would like to repeat to member states and through member states to the European citizens, it is 'vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate.'"

Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton emphasized that supply wouldn't be an issue, and the bloc would "be ready for everything which is needed." That underscores that such debates can only play out in wealthy nations, while many lower-income countries remain unable to even offer all their citizens a first shot.

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But while officials in Brussels can't impose a mandate on the EU's 450 million citizens, many national governments are ramping up restrictions for those who are not vaccinated. Some countries are, in fact, requiring vaccines for some groups: Slovenia is imposing them for government employees, with no option to test out.

More common in the EU, however, is essentially requiring regular testing for those who aren't vaccinated.

Want to see "The Last Judgment" by Flemish Primitive Rogier van der Weyden at a Burgundy museum? You must show a so-called COVID pass — which provides proof of a negative test, a vaccination or recent recovery from COVID-19 — to be allowed to admire that Northern Renaissance gem. The restrictions apply across France for everything from entering restaurants to visiting the Eiffel Tower.

Struggling to boost its paltry vaccination rates in the early summer, France was the first major EU nation to start using such passes. Macron then announced obligatory vaccinations for all health workers in July.

It proved effective. In the eight weeks since the announcement, the French public health service said that the overall vaccination rate went from 40% fully vaccinated to 69%.

As a result, it has found other takers in the bloc. And on Thursday, Italy, which already required the pass for many activities, upped the ante. Premier Mario Draghi's government said workers in both the public and private sectors will soon be forced to show one to go to work. Slovenia and Greece have adopted similar measures, but Italy is the first major European economy to require the COVID pass to access places of work across all sectors.

The health pass "is not a nudge to get vaccinated, it is a not-so-gentle push," Italian legal expert Vitalba Azzollini said.

On both sides of the Atlantic, people have sometimes felt the push more like a shove.

In the United States, there has been lots of angry rhetoric and scattered demonstrations.

"Everyone should have a right to say 'no' to something, and not lose everything," said Candace Ganjavi, a nurse at Memorial Herman Healthcare in Houston, Texas, who is helping others with advice on how to obtain an exemption from the vaccine mandate her employer has imposed.

Meanwhile, Republican governors across the U.S. have loudly condemned Biden's mandate and vowed to take legal action. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster vowed to fight the president "to the gates of hell."

Biden has defended the mandates by saying "my job as president is to protect all Americans."

Italy and France have seen thousands take to the streets in protests of the COVID passes, some of which resulted in clashes with police in Paris. In Slovenia, hundreds of anti-vaccination protesters hurled flares at the parliament building on Wednesday to protest new measures that require a COVID pass for entering almost any shop as well as restaurants and private workplaces.

The government doubled down, announcing Friday it would expand the requirement to government employees.

Vaccination rates have soared since the first measures were announced.

"I would be more pleased if people understood why they have to get vaccinated," said Bojana Beović, the chief of the Health Ministry's advisory group on COVID-19. "But the main thing is that the share of the vaccinated population is increasing."

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Associated Press writers Christina Larson in Washington, Josh Hoffner in Phoenix, Angela Charlton in Paris, Colleen Barry in Milan, Dusan Stojanovic in Belgrade, Serbia, and AP reporters from across the EU contributed to this report.

## Indonesia retrieves most-wanted militant's body from jungle

By MOHAMMAD TAUFAN Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — The bodies of Indonesia's most wanted militant with ties to the Islamic State group and a follower, who were killed in a jungle shootout with security forces, were evacuated early Sunday to a police hospital for further investigation, police said.

The military earlier said the militants killed late Saturday were Ali Kalora, leader of the East Indonesia

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Mujahideen network that has claimed several killings of police officers and minority Christians, and another suspected extremist, Jaka Ramadan, also known as Ikrima.

The two men were fatally shot by a joint team of military and police officers in Central Sulawesi province's mountainous Parigi Moutong district. It borders Poso district, considered an extremist hotbed in the province.

Several pictures obtained by The Associated Press from authorities showed an M16 rifle and backpacks laid near their bloodied bodies. The Central Sulawesi Police Chief Rudy Sufahriadi told a news conference on Sunday that security forces also seized two ready-to-use bombs from their backpacks, which also contained food and camping tools.

He said the bodies of Kalora and his follower have been evacuated to a police hospital in Palu, the provincial capital, after the rugged terrain and darkness hampered earlier evacuation efforts from the scene of the shootout in the forested village of Astina.

"We urged the other four wanted terrorists to immediately surrender and dare to take responsibility for their actions before the law," said Sufahriadi, referring to remaining members of the East Indonesia Mujahideen who are still at large in the jungle on Sulawesi island.

The militant group pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in 2014, and Indonesia has intensified its security operations in the area in recent months to try to capture its members, particularly the leader, Kalora.

Two months ago, security forces killed two suspected members in a raid in the same mountainous district, several days after authorities claimed that Kalora and three group members planned to surrender. The surrender was reportedly cancelled after other members rejected the plan.

Kalora had eluded capture for more than a decade. He took over leadership of the group from Abu Wardah Santoso, who was killed by security forces in July 2016. Dozens of other leaders and members have been killed or captured since then, including a number of people from China's ethnic Uyghur minority who had joined the Santoso-led group.

In May, the militants killed four Christians in a village in Poso district, including one who was beheaded. Authorities said the attack was in revenge for the killings in March of two militants, including Santoso's son.

Santoso was wanted for running a radical training camp in Poso, where a Muslim-Christian conflict killed at least 1,000 people from 1998 to 2002. He was linked to a number of deadly attacks against police officers and Christians.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, has kept up a crackdown on militants since bombings on the resort island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly Western and Asian tourists.

Militant attacks on foreigners in Indonesia have been largely replaced in recent years by smaller, less deadly strikes targeting the government, mainly police and anti-terrorism forces, and people militants consider to be infidels, inspired by Islamic State group tactics abroad.

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Associated Press writer Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

## Israeli army arrests last 2 of 6 Palestinian prison escapees

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and FARES AKRAM Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces on Sunday arrested the last two of six Palestinian prisoners who escaped a maximum-security Israeli prison two weeks ago, closing an intense, embarrassing episode that exposed deep security flaws in Israel and turned the fugitives into Palestinian heroes.

The Israeli military said the two men surrendered in Jenin, their hometown in the occupied West Bank, after they were surrounded at a hideout that had been located with the help of "accurate intelligence." It said the men, along with two others who allegedly assisted them, were taken for questioning.

Palestinian media reported that clashes erupted in Jenin when Israeli troops entered the city. But a spokesman for Israeli police, said the two escapees, Munadil Nafayat and Iham Kamamji, were arrested without resistance. The military said clashes broke out as the forces withdrew, with residents hurling rocks and explosives at troops who responded with live fire.

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Fouad Kamamji, Iham's father, told The Associated Press that his son had called him when the Israeli troops surrounded the house and said he will surrender "in order not to endanger the house owners."

The prisoners all managed to tunnel out of a maximum-security prison in northern Israel on Sept. 6. The bold escape dominated newscasts for days and sparked heavy criticism of Israel's prison service. According to various reports, the men dug a hole in the floor of their shared cell undetected over several months and managed to slip past a sleeping prison guard after emerging through a hole outside the facility.

A massive pursuit operation followed, and the first four inmates, who also are from Jenin, were captured in two separate operations.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett praised the various Israeli security forces that worked to recapture the men for "an impressive, sophisticated and quick operation."

"What has broken down — it is possible to rectify," Bennett added.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have celebrated the escape and held demonstrations in support of the prisoners. Taking part in attacks against the Israeli military or even civilians is a source of pride for many Palestinians, who view it as legitimate resistance to military occupation. The earlier arrests of four of the men prompted Gaza militants to launch rockets into Israel.

Israel considers all six of the men to be terrorists. Five are from the Islamic Jihad militant group, with four of them serving life sentences, and the sixth, Zakaria Zubeidi, is a member of the secular Fatah group of President Mahmoud Abbas. Zubeidi was a militant leader during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s and well known in Israel both for his militant activity and his love for giving media interviews.

Lawyers for Zubeidi and Mohammed Aradeh, who was captured with him last week, have said their clients were badly beaten after their arrests.

Israeli security forces have been accused of torturing high-profile prisoners in the past, most recently in 2019 after a deadly bombing in the West Bank. The Shin Bet internal security service said at the time that interrogations are carried out in accordance with the law. A 1999 Supreme Court ruling forbids torture, but rights groups say it still occurs and that perpetrators are rarely held accountable.

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Associated Press reporter Jelal Hassan in Ramallah, West Bank, contributed to this report.

## Emmys vow a 'good time' after bleak year; 'Crown' may rule

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Emmy Awards host Cedric the Entertainer and the show's producers promise it will be a celebration for all. But it could be much more rewarding, even historic, for some.

That includes Netflix's drama "The Crown" and Apple TV+ comedy "Ted Lasso." Each is considered a frontrunner Sunday for top series honors in their respective categories, and their casts received armloads of nominations.

More than the shows would benefit. Victories in both the best drama and comedy series categories would mark a first for streaming services and reinforce their growing dominance, to the dismay of competitors.

But the TV industry overall, including the broadcast networks that still field popular shows but are largely eclipsed at the Emmys, will be honored, say those in charge of the event airing 8 p.m. EDT on CBS.

"Sometimes, programs that can be called 'niche' walk off with the awards and a lot of people .... are going, 'What the hell is that?'" said Ian Stewart, executive producer of the ceremony with Reginald Hudlin. "So we've been really mindful of that, and bring in big stars that everyone knows and loves."

Ellen Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy," Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson ("black-ish"), and LL Cool J ("NCIS: Los Angeles") are among the presenters.

The producers' ultimate goal is a ceremony that is upbeat and acknowledges how much TV's importance grew during the pandemic and its lockdowns.

"When we first sat down with Cedric, we all quickly agreed on the idea of celebration," said Hudlin. "The fact is, television right now is perhaps the best it's ever been...and boy, have we ever needed it."



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It's gotten us "through some very tough times," Hudlin said.

"We're going to have a good time," Cedric said. He's binged on recent and older seasons of nominated shows — retro-watching, as he dubbed the latter — to ensure he was ready with equal-opportunity wisecracks.

The top nominees include the British royal drama "The Crown" and the Star Wars-universe derived "The Mandalorian," which received a leading 24 nominations each.

On the comedy side, the feel-good comedy "Ted Lasso" is competing with "black-ish"; "Cobra Kai"; "Emily in Paris"; "Hacks"; "The Flight Attendant"; "The Kominsky Method" and "PEN15."

Other drama series contenders include past winner "The Handmaid's Tale" and "Lovecraft Country," which was canceled after a single season but yielded nods for cast members Jonathan Majors, Jurnee Smollett, Aunjanue Ellis and the late Michael K. Williams, who died Sept. 6.

They're part of a diverse field of nominees. Of the 96 acting nods for drama, comedy and miniseries, nearly 44% — a total of 42 nominations — went to people of color. Their rise echoes the change in the U.S. population, with the number of people who identify as white shrinking for the first time in census history.

For more on this year's Emmy Awards, visit: [www.apnews.com/EmmyAwards](http://www.apnews.com/EmmyAwards)

## Haitians on Texas border undeterred by US plan to expel them

By JUAN A. LOZANO, ERIC GAY and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — Haitian migrants seeking to escape poverty, hunger and a feeling of hopelessness in their home country said they will not be deterred by U.S. plans to speedily send them back, as thousands of people remained encamped on the Texas border Saturday after crossing from Mexico.

Scores of people waded back and forth across the Rio Grande on Saturday afternoon, re-entering Mexico to purchase water, food and diapers in Ciudad Acuña before returning to the Texas encampment under and near a bridge in the border city of Del Rio.

Junior Jean, a 32-year-old man from Haiti, watched as people cautiously carried cases of water or bags of food through the knee-high river water. Jean said he lived on the streets in Chile the past four years, resigned to searching for food in garbage cans.

"We are all looking for a better life," he said.

The Department of Homeland Security said Saturday that it moved about 2,000 of the migrants from the camp to other locations Friday for processing and possible removal from the U.S. Its statement also said it would have 400 agents and officers in the area by Monday morning and would send more if necessary.

The announcement marked a swift response to the sudden arrival of Haitians in Del Rio, a Texas city of about 35,000 people roughly 145 miles (230 kilometers) west of San Antonio. It sits on a relatively remote stretch of border that lacks capacity to hold and process such large numbers of people.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press on Friday that the U.S. would likely fly the migrants out of the country on five to eight flights a day, starting Sunday, while another official expected no more than two a day and said everyone would be tested for COVID-19. The first official said operational capacity and Haiti's willingness to accept flights would determine how many flights there would be. Both officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Told of the U.S. plans Saturday, several migrants said they still intended to remain in the encampment and seek asylum. Some spoke of the most recent devastating earthquake in Haiti and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, saying they were afraid to return to a country that seems more unstable than when they left.

"In Haiti, there is no security," said Fabricio Jean, a 38-year-old Haitian who arrived with his wife and two daughters. "The country is in a political crisis."

Haitians have been migrating to the U.S. in large numbers from South America for several years, many having left their Caribbean nation after a devastating 2010 earthquake. After jobs dried up from the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, many made the dangerous trek by foot, bus and car to the U.S.

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border, including through the infamous Darien Gap, a Panamanian jungle.

Jorge Luis Mora Castillo, a 48-year-old from Cuba, said he arrived Saturday in Acuna and also planned to cross into the U.S. Castillo said his family paid smugglers \$12,000 to take him, his wife and their son out of Paraguay, a South American nation where they had lived for four years.

Told of the U.S. message discouraging migrants, Castillo said he wouldn't change his mind.

"Because to go back to Cuba is to die," he said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection closed off vehicle and pedestrian traffic in both directions Friday at the only border crossing between Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña "to respond to urgent safety and security needs" and it remained closed Saturday. Travelers were being directed indefinitely to a crossing in Eagle Pass, roughly 55 miles (90 kilometers) away.

Crowd estimates varied, but Del Rio Mayor Bruno Lozano said Saturday evening there were 14,534 immigrants at the camp under the bridge. Migrants pitched tents and built makeshift shelters from giant reeds known as carrizo cane. Many bathed and washed clothing in the river.

It is unclear how such a large number amassed so quickly, though many Haitians have been assembling in camps on the Mexican side of the border to wait while deciding whether to attempt entry into the U.S.

The number of Haitian arrivals began to reach unsustainable levels for the Border Patrol in Del Rio about 2 ½ weeks ago, prompting the agency's acting sector chief, Robert Garcia, to ask headquarters for help, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Since then, the agency has transferred Haitians in buses and vans to other Border Patrol facilities in Texas, specifically El Paso, Laredo and Rio Grande Valley. They are mostly processed outside of the pandemic-related authority, meaning they can claim asylum and remain in the U.S. while their claims are considered. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement makes custody decision but families can generally not be held more than 20 days under court order.

Homeland Security's plan announced Saturday signals a shift to use of pandemic-related authority for immediate expulsion to Haiti without an opportunity to claim asylum, the official said.

The flight plan, while potentially massive in scale, hinges on how Haitians respond. They might have to decide whether to stay put at the risk of being sent back to an impoverished homeland wracked by poverty and political instability or return to Mexico. Unaccompanied children are exempt from fast-track expulsions.

DHS said, "our borders are not open, and people should not make the dangerous journey."

"Individuals and families are subject to border restrictions, including expulsion," the agency wrote. "Irregular migration poses a significant threat to the health and welfare of border communities and to the lives of migrants themselves, and should not be attempted."

U.S. authorities are being severely tested after Democratic President Joe Biden quickly dismantled Trump administration policies that Biden considered cruel or inhumane, most notably one requiring asylum-seekers to remain in Mexico while waiting for U.S. immigration court hearings.

A pandemic-related order to immediately expel migrants without giving them the opportunity to seek asylum that was introduced in March 2020 remains in effect, but unaccompanied children and many families have been exempt. During his first month in office, Biden chose to exempt children traveling alone on humanitarian grounds.

Nicole Phillips, legal director for advocacy group Haitian Bridge Alliance, said Saturday that the U.S. government should process migrants and allow them to apply for asylum, not rush to expel them.

"It really is a humanitarian crisis," Phillips said. "There needs to be a lot of help there now."

Mexico's immigration agency said in a statement Saturday that Mexico has opened a "permanent dialogue" with Haitian government representatives "to address the situation of irregular migratory flows during their entry and transit through Mexico, as well as their assisted return."

The agency didn't specify if it was referring to the Haitians in Ciudad Acuña or to the thousands of others in Tapachula, at the Guatemalan border, and the agency didn't immediately reply to a request for further details.

In August, U.S. authorities stopped migrants nearly 209,000 times at the border, which was close to a 20-year high even though many of the stops involved repeat crossers because there are no legal consequences for being expelled under the pandemic authority.

Lozano reported from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico and Spagat reported from San Diego. Associated Press writers Ben Fox, Alexandra Jaffe and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

## Trailblazing tourist trip to orbit ends with splashdown

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Four space tourists safely ended their trailblazing trip to orbit Saturday with a splashdown in the Atlantic off the Florida coast.

Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the ocean just before sunset, not far from where their chartered flight began three days earlier.

The all-amateur crew was the first to circle the world without a professional astronaut.

The billionaire who paid undisclosed millions for the trip and his three guests wanted to show that ordinary people could blast into orbit by themselves, and SpaceX founder Elon Musk took them on as the company's first rocket-riding tourists.

"Your mission has shown the world that space is for all of us," SpaceX Mission Control radioed.

"It was a heck of a ride for us ... just getting started," replied trip sponsor Jared Isaacman, referring to the growing number of private flights on the horizon.

SpaceX's fully automated Dragon capsule reached an unusually high altitude of 363 miles (585 kilometers) after Wednesday night's liftoff. Surpassing the International Space Station by 100 miles (160 kilometers), the passengers savored views of Earth through a big bubble-shaped window added to the top of the capsule.

The four streaked back through the atmosphere early Saturday evening, the first space travelers to end their flight in the Atlantic since Apollo 9 in 1969. SpaceX's two previous crew splashdowns — carrying astronauts for NASA — were in the Gulf of Mexico.

Within a few minutes, a pair of SpaceX boats pulled up alongside the bobbing capsule. When the capsule's hatch was opened on the recovery ship, health care worker Hayley Arceneaux was the first one out, flashing a big smile and thumbs up.

All appeared well and happy.

Their families were waiting near the scene of Wednesday night's launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

This time, NASA was little more than an encouraging bystander, its only tie being the Kennedy launch pad once used for the Apollo moonshots and shuttle crews, but now leased by SpaceX.

Isaacman, 38, an entrepreneur and accomplished pilot, aimed to raise \$200 million for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Donating \$100 million himself, he held a lottery for one of the four seats. Late Saturday, Musk tweeted he was donating \$50 million, putting them over the top.

For the last seat, Isaacman held a competition for clients of his Allentown, Pennsylvania payment-processing business, Shift4 Payments.

Joining him on the flight were Arceneaux, 29, a St. Jude physician assistant who was treated at the Memphis, Tennessee hospital nearly two decades ago for bone cancer, and contest winners Chris Sembroski, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington, and Sian Proctor, 51, a community college educator, scientist and artist from Tempe, Arizona.

"Best ride of my life!" Proctor tweeted a few hours after splashdown.

Strangers until March, the four spent six months training and preparing for potential emergencies during the flight — but there was no need to step in, officials said after their return. During the trip dubbed Inspiration4, they had time to chat with St. Jude patients, conduct medical tests on themselves, ring the closing bell for the New York Stock Exchange and do some drawing and ukulele playing.

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Arceneaux, the youngest American in space and the first with a prosthesis, assured her patients, "I was a little girl going through cancer treatment just like a lot of you, and if I can do this, you can do this."

They also took calls from Tom Cruise, interested in his own SpaceX flight to the space station for filming, and the rock band U2's Bono.

Even their space menu wasn't typical: Cold pizza and sandwiches, but also pasta Bolognese and Mediterranean lamb.

Before beginning descent, Sembroski was so calm that he was seen in the capsule watching the 1987 Mel Brooks' film "Spaceballs" on his tablet.

"What an amazing adventure!" he tweeted later.

Congratulations streamed in, including from the Association of Space Explorers to its four newest members.

Aside from trouble with a toilet fan and a bad temperature sensor in an engine, the flight went exceedingly well, officials said. Some of the four passengers experienced motion sickness when they reached orbit — just as some astronauts do.

"It was a very clean mission from start to finish," said Benji Reed, a SpaceX senior director.

Reed anticipates as many as six private flights a year for SpaceX, sandwiched between astronaut launches for NASA. Four SpaceX flights are already booked to carry paying customers to the space station, accompanied by former NASA astronauts. The first is targeted for early next year with three businessmen paying \$55 million apiece. Russia also plans to take up an actor and film director for filming next month and a Japanese tycoon in December.

Customers interested in quick space trips are turning to Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin. The two rode their own rockets to the fringes of space in July to spur ticket sales; their flights lasted 10 to 15 minutes.

The 60-year scorecard now stands at 591 people who have reached space or its edges — and is expected to skyrocket as space tourism heats up.

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## French minister decries 'duplicity' in US-Australia sub deal

By ROD McGUIRK and ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's foreign minister on Saturday denounced what he called the "duplicity, disdain and lies" surrounding the sudden rupture of France's lucrative contract to make submarines for Australia in favor of a U.S. deal and declared that a crisis is at hand among the Western allies.

A day after France recalled its ambassadors to the United States and Australia, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian pummeled what he suggested was a backroom deal that betrayed France.

The recalling of its ambassadors "signifies the force of the crisis today" between the French government and Washington and Canberra, he said in an interview on France 2 television. He said it was the first time ever that France, the United States' oldest ally, has recalled its ambassador to the U.S.

The announcement by President Joe Biden of the deal, alongside the leaders of Australia and Britain, for at least eight nuclear-powered submarines has set France in a fury. The French had signed a contract in 2016 for a dozen conventional diesel-electric submarines and the work to make them was already underway. The deal with French majority state-owned Naval Group was worth at least \$66 billion.

Diplomatic niceties have gone out the window as French authorities seek to make their anger known.

Le Drian denied reports that there had been advance consultations with France ahead of the announcement, saying "this isn't true."

Allies "don't treat each other with such brutality, such unpredictability, a major partner like France ... So there really is a crisis," Le Drian said.

"There are reasons for us to question the strength of our alliance," Le Drian said.

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Earlier, France's ambassador to Australia also strayed from diplomatic language when describing what has been widely billed in France as the "contract of the century."

"This has been a huge mistake, a very, very bad handling of the partnership," French ambassador Jean-Pierre Thebault said before flying home to France.

The arms agreement between France and Australia, signed in 2016, was supposed to be based "on trust, mutual understanding and sincerity," a fuming Thebault said. "I would like to be able to run into a time machine and be in a situation where we don't end up in such an incredible, clumsy, inadequate, un-Australian situation."

He said he found out about the canceled contract in the Australian press.

Le Drian said in a written statement Friday that the French decision to recall its ambassadors — at the request of President Emmanuel Macron — "is justified by the exceptional seriousness of the announcements" made by Australia and the United States.

What French officials have called a complex, multi-layered contract was about more than submarines. It was the underpinning for France's vision of the critical Indo-Pacific region, where France has a presence and China is looking to bolster its influence.

The Naval Group said in a statement that consequences of the contract cancellation would be analyzed with Australia "in the coming days." It noted that teams in France and Australia have been at work on the project for the past five years.

Australian employees working with Naval Group and their families have set up home in the Normandy port of Cherbourg. A union official, David Robin, told BFMTV that employees were informed there may be an option to keep them on.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne's office earlier had issued a statement responding to the diplomat's recall and noting Canberra's "regret" over its ally's withdrawal of its representative.

"Australia understands France's deep disappointment with our decision, which was taken in accordance with our clear and communicated national security interests," the statement said. It added that Australia values its relationship with France and looked forward to future engagements together.

Payne and Defense Minister Peter Dutton are currently in the United States for annual talks with their U.S. counterparts and their first with Biden's administration.

After the U.S. deal was made public this week, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he told Macron in June that there were "very real issues about whether a conventional submarine capability" would address Australia's strategic security needs in the Indo-Pacific.

Morrison has not specifically referred to China's massive military buildup, which has gained pace in recent years.

Morrison was in Paris on his way home from a Group of Seven nations summit in Britain where he had talks with soon-to-be-alliance partners Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Thebault said he had also been at the meeting with Macron and Morrison.

Morrison mentioned "there were changes in the regional situation," but gave no indication that Australia was considering changing to nuclear propulsion, Thebault said.

"Everything was supposed to be done in full transparency between the two partners," he added.

Senior Australian opposition lawmaker Mark Dreyfus called on the Australian government to fix its relationship with France.

"The impact on our relationship with France is a concern, particularly as a country with important interests in our region," Dreyfus said. "The French were blindsided by this decision and Mr. Morrison should have done much more to protect the relationship."

## Agents search in Wyoming for woman, in Florida for boyfriend

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Police searched a vast Florida wildlife reserve on Saturday for 23-year-old Brian Landrie, a person of interest in the disappearance of his girlfriend, Gabrielle "Gabby" Petito, while across

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the country the FBI hunted for clues about the missing woman in a mountainous national park in Wyoming.

More than 50 North Port police officers, FBI agents and members of other law enforcement agencies searched the 24,000-acre (9,712-hectare) Carlton Reserve in the Sarasota, Florida area of the Gulf Coast.

Authorities used drones, scent-sniffing dogs and all-terrain vehicles in the reserve, which has more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) of trails, as well as campgrounds. Investigators took some of his clothing from his parents' home Friday night to provide a scent for the search dogs.

"His family says they believe he entered the area earlier this week," North Port Police tweeted Saturday.

Meanwhile, the FBI in Denver said Saturday that agents were conducting ground surveys at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, with help from the National Park Service and local law enforcement agencies, seeking clues to Petito's disappearance. Her last known contact with family members was from the national park known for its mountainous terrain.

Laundrie and Petito, 22, left in July on a cross-country trek in a converted van to visit national parks in the U.S. West. Police said Laundrie was alone when he drove the van back to his parents' home in North Port, Florida, on Sept. 1. Petito's family filed a missing persons report Sept. 11 with police in Suffolk County, New York.

Investigators in Florida were hopeful Laundrie was somewhere in the wildlife reserve near Sarasota. Depending on his skills, he could survive out in the reserve for some time, said police spokesperson Josh Taylor at a news conference.

"Certainly, we prepare for all different possibilities, but you know, our goal is to locate him and bring him back to North Port," Taylor said.

Laundrie's family earlier told officers that they haven't seen him since Tuesday. Police said the conversation Friday evening was the first time they'd spoken with the Laundries in detail about the case, and that the meeting came at the family's request. An attorney for the family called FBI investigators and said they wanted to talk about Laundrie's disappearance, police said.

Investigators were trying to verify the story told by Laundrie's family members that they believe the reserve is where he went with only a backpack, Taylor said. One mystery is how Laundrie got to the reserve. Family members told investigators he took his car, but the vehicle was found back at his family's home, not at the reserve.

Earlier, the North Port Police said in a statement that they understood the community's frustration over the lack of progress in finding the missing woman.

"We are frustrated too," the statement said. "For six days, the North Port Police Department and the FBI have been pleading with the family to contact investigators regarding Brian's fiance, Gabby Petito. Friday is the first time they have spoken to investigators in detail."

Laundrie has been identified as a person of interest in the case.

"It is important to note that while Brian is a person of interest in Gabby's disappearance, he is not wanted for a crime," North Port police said in Friday's statement. It added that the investigation is now a "multiple missing person" case.

An attorney for Brian Laundrie, Steven Bertolino, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press on Friday night.

Attorneys for the Petito family released a statement saying Laundrie was not "missing."

"All of Gabby's family want the world to know that Brian is not missing, he is hiding. Gabby is missing," the statement from the law office of Richard B. Stafford said.

Earlier in the week, Petito's family pleaded for the Laundrie family to tell them where their son last saw her. Petito and Laundrie were childhood sweethearts who met while growing up on Long Island, New York. His parents later moved to North Port, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Sarasota.

The couple's trek in the Fort Transit van began in July from Long Island. They intended to reach Oregon by the end of October according to their social media accounts, but Petito vanished after her last known contact with family in late August from Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, authorities said.

Police video released by the Moab Police Department in Utah showed that an officer pulled the van over

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on Aug. 12 after it was seen speeding and hitting a curb near the entrance to Arches National Park. The body cam video showed an emotional Petito, who sat inside a police cruiser while officers also questioned Laundrie.

Ultimately Moab police decided not file any charges and instead separated the couple for the night, with Laundrie checking into a motel and Petito remaining with the converted sleeper van.

## Mourners in California honor 3 Marines killed in Afghanistan

Associated Press undefined

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — Mourners in California said prayers and their final goodbyes Saturday to three Marines killed in last month's bombing in Afghanistan.

Family and friends of Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui packed a church in Riverside to celebrate the life of the 20-year-old Marine from Norco.

He was one of 13 U.S. troops killed in a horrific suicide bombing at Afghanistan's Kabul airport, which also claimed the lives of more than 160 Afghans, on Aug. 26.

Nikoui sent videos to his family hours before he died, showing himself interacting with children in Afghanistan.

Phil Wozniak, pastor of Grace Fellowship Church Norco, said Nikoui pulled three families to safety and went back to the airport to rescue a child when the bomb went off.

"It didn't surprise me that those were his last moments," his sister Shyler Chappell said.

She said her brother had wanted to become a Marine "for as long as I can remember" and went on to join the Junior ROTC at his high school.

At a memorial service in Palm Springs for Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, mourners noted his final heroic act — rescuing children from a rioting mob before the blast took his life.

"He died a hero saving the lives of those he did not know," Riverside County Sheriff's Lt. Tim Brause said.

Lopez was part of a special crisis response team sent to provide security and help U.S. State Department officials evacuate thousands of Americans and Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban as the 20-year war drew to a close, the Riverside Press Enterprise reported.

He had planned to follow in the footsteps of his parents and embark on a career in law enforcement after his military deployment. As a teen, he had been in the Explorer program at the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, where his mother is a deputy and his father is a captain.

"Our family is overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and condolences we've received in the wake of Hunter's sudden passing," the parents said in a statement. "Please know that Hunter wore the United States Marine uniform with love and pride, and it is very apparent that the community will never forget his sacrifice and our family."

In Northern California, the aunt of Sgt. Nicole Gee remarked on the iconic photo of her niece cradling an Afghan baby in her arms. Cheryl Juels told mourners gathered in a Roseville church that the image was taken near the end of a long, sleep-deprived shift, when someone handed Gee a baby to comfort.

To calm the baby down amid the chaos at the airport, Gee blew softly on the little girl's face and smiled at her.

"She loved that she was making a difference, and she honestly would've given her life for that one single baby," Juels said.

## California wildfires make run toward giant sequoia groves

THREE RIVERS, Calif. (AP) — Two lightning-sparked wildfires in California merged and made a run to the edge of a grove of ancient sequoias, momentarily driving away firefighters as they try to protect the world's tallest tree by wrapping its base in protective foil.

A shift in the weather led to explosive growth on the fires in the Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada on Friday, the National Park Service said, and the flames reached the westernmost tip of the

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Giant Forest, where it scorched a grouping of sequoias known as the "Four Guardsmen" that mark the entrance to the grove of 2,000 sequoias.

Firefighters wrapped the base of the General Sherman Tree, along with other trees in the Giant Forest, in a type of aluminum that can withstand high heat. It wasn't immediately known how the Four Guardsmen, which received the same treatment, fared, fire spokeswoman Katy Hooper said.

The General Sherman Tree is the largest in the world by volume, at 52,508 cubic feet (1,487 cubic meters), according to the National Park Service. It towers 275 feet (84 meters) high and has a circumference of 103 feet (31 meters) at ground level.

The fires, known together as the KNP Complex, blackened 28 square miles (72 square kilometers) of forest land. Fire activity increased Friday afternoon when winds picked up and low-hanging smoke that had choked off air and limited the fire's growth in recent days lifted, Hooper said.

Firefighters who were wrapping the base of the sequoias in foil and sweeping leaves and needles from the forest floor around the trees had to flee from the danger, Hooper said. They went back Saturday when conditions improved to continue the work and start a strategic fire along Generals Highway to protect the Giant Forest grove, Hooper said.

The fires forced the evacuation of the park this week, and parts of Three Rivers, a foothill community of about 2,500 people outside the park's main entrance. Crews have been bulldozing a line between the fire and the community.

The National Weather Service issued a red flag warning through Sunday, saying gusts and lower humidity could create conditions for rapid wildfire spread.

However, fire officials weren't expecting the kinds of explosive wind-driven growth that in recent months turned Sierra Nevada blazes into monsters that devoured hundreds of homes.

Giant sequoias are adapted to fire, which can help them thrive by releasing seeds from their cones and creating clearings that allow young sequoias to grow. But the extraordinary intensity of fires — fueled by climate change — can overwhelm the trees.

"Once you get fire burning inside the tree, that will result in mortality," said Jon Wallace, the operations section chief for the KNP Complex.

The fires already have burned into several groves containing trees as tall as 200 feet (61 meters) feet tall and 2,000 years old.

To the south, the Windy Fire grew to 19 square miles (50 square kilometers) on the Tule River Indian Reservation and in Giant Sequoia National Monument, where it has burned into the Peyrone grove of sequoias and threatens others.

The fire also had reached Long Meadow Grove, where two decades ago then-President Clinton signed a proclamation establishing its Trail of 100 Giant Sequoias as a national monument.

Fire officials haven't yet been able to determine how much damage was done to the groves, which are in remote and hard-to-reach areas. They said crews were "doing everything they can" to protect the trail by removing needles, leaves and other fuels from around the base of the trees.

Last year, the Castle Fire killed an estimated 7,500 to 10,600 large sequoias, according to the National Park Service. That was an estimated 10% to 14% of all the sequoias in the world.

The current fires are eating through tinder-dry timber, grass and brush.

In far Northern California, an early season rain was a welcome sign for firefighters battling a cluster of wildfires ignited by lightning in the Klamath National Forest in late July. Fire officials say it won't extinguish the nearly 300-square-mile (772 square-kilometer) blaze, but will help crews reach their goal.

Light rain is expected in the coastal area north of San Francisco over the weekend. But forecasters say conditions are likely to dry out by early next week, prompting a fire weather watch that may lead to power shutoffs in Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties.

Historic drought tied to climate change is making wildfires harder to fight. It has killed millions of trees in California alone. Scientists say climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

More than 7,000 wildfires in California this year have damaged or destroyed more than 3,000 homes



and other buildings and torched well over 3,000 square miles (7,770 square kilometers) of land, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

## Fearful US residents in Afghanistan hiding out from Taliban

By BERNARD CONDON and JULIE WATSON Associated Press

Every night in yet another house in Afghanistan's capital, a U.S. green card-holding couple from California take turns sleeping, with one always awake to watch over their three young children so they can flee if they hear the footsteps of the Taliban.

They've moved seven times in two weeks, relying on relatives to take them in and feed them. Their days are an uncomfortable mix of fear and boredom, restricted to a couple of rooms where they read, watch TV and play "The Telephone Game" in which they whisper secrets and pass them on, a diversion for the children that has the added benefit of keeping them quiet.

All of it goes on during the agonizing wait for a call from anybody who can help them get out. A U.S. State Department official contacted them several days ago to tell them they were being assigned a case worker, but they haven't heard a word since. They tried and failed to get on a flight and now are talking to an international rescue organization.

"We are scared and keep hiding ourselves more and more," the mother said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Whenever we feel breathless, I pray."

Through messages, emails and phone conversations with loved ones and rescue groups, AP has pieced together what day-to-day life has been like for some of those left behind after the U.S. military's chaotic withdrawal -- that includes U.S. citizens, permanent U.S. resident green-card holders and visa applicants who aided U.S. troops during the 20-year war.

Those contacted by AP -- who are not being identified for their own safety -- described a fearful, furtive existence of hiding in houses for weeks, keeping the lights off at night, moving from place to place, and donning baggy clothing and burqas to avoid detection if they absolutely must venture out.

All say they are scared the ruling Taliban will find them, throw them in jail, perhaps even kill them because they are Americans or had worked for the U.S. government. And they are concerned that the Biden administration's promised efforts to get them out have stalled.

When the phone rang in an apartment in Kabul a few weeks ago, the U.S. green card holder who answered -- a truck driver from Texas visiting family -- was hopeful it was the U.S. State Department finally responding to his pleas to get him and his parents on a flight out.

Instead, it was the Taliban.

"We won't hurt you. Let's meet. Nothing will happen," the caller said, according to the truck driver's brother, who lives with him in Texas and spoke to him afterwards. The call included a few ominous words: "We know where you are."

That was enough to send the man fleeing from the Kabul apartment where he had been staying with his mother, his two teenage brothers and his father, who was in particular danger because he had worked for years for a U.S. contractor overseeing security guards.

"They are hopeless," said the brother in Texas. "They think, 'We're stuck in the apartment and no one is here to help us.' They've been left behind."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken testified to Congress this past week that the U.S. government had urged U.S. citizens and green cards holders to leave Afghanistan since March, even offering to pay for their flights.

Blinken said the U.S. government does not track U.S. green card holders in Afghanistan but he estimated several thousand remain in the country, along with about 100 U.S. citizens. He said the U.S. government was still working to get them out.

As of Friday, at least 64 American citizens and 31 green card holders have been evacuated since the U.S. military left last month, according to the State Department. More were possibly aboard a flight from Mazar-e-Sharif on Friday, but the administration did not release figures.

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Neither the U.S. nor the Taliban have offered a clear explanation why so few have been evacuated.

That is hardly encouraging to another green card holder from Texas, a grandmother who recently watched from a rooftop as militants pulled up in a half-dozen police cars and Humvees to take over the house across the street.

"The Taliban. The Taliban," she whispered into the phone to her American son in a Dallas suburb, a conversation the woman recounted to the AP. "The women and kids are screaming. They're dragging the men to the cars."

She and her husband, who came to Kabul several months ago to visit relatives, are now terrified that the Taliban will not only uncover their American ties but those of their son back in Texas, who had worked for a U.S. military contractor for years.

Her son, who is also not being named, says he called U.S. embassy officials in Kabul several times before it shut down, filled out all the necessary paperwork, and even enlisted the help of a veteran's group and members of Congress.

He doesn't know what more he can do.

"What will we do if they knock on the door?" the 57-year-old mother asked on one of her daily calls. "What will we do?"

"Nothing is going to happen," replied the son.

Asked in a recent interview if he believed that, the son shot back, exasperated, "What else am I supposed to tell her?"

The Taliban government has promised to let Americans and Afghans with proper travel documents leave the country and to not retaliate against those who helped the United States. But U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said there is evidence they are not keeping their word. She warned Monday that the country had entered a "new and perilous phase," and cited credible reports of reprisal killings of Afghan military members and allegations of the Taliban hunting house-to-house for former government officials and people who cooperated with U.S. military and U.S. companies.

AP reporters in Afghanistan are not aware of any U.S. citizens or green card holders being picked up or arrested by the Taliban. But they have confirmed that several Afghans who worked for the previous government and military were taken in for questioning recently and released.

The California family, which includes a 9-year-old girl and two boys, ages 8 and 6, say they have been on the run for the past two weeks after the Taliban knocked on the door of their relative's apartment asking about the Americans staying there.

The family moved to Sacramento four years ago after the mother got a special immigrant visa because she worked for U.S.-funded projects in Kabul promoting women's rights. Now, the mother says both she and her daughter have been wearing burqas each time they move to their next "prison-home."

The father, who worked as an Uber driver, has been having panic attacks as they wait for help.

"I don't see the U.S. government stepping in and getting them out anytime soon," said the children's elementary school principal, Nate McGill, who has been exchanging daily texts with the family.

Distraction has become the mother's go-to tool to shield her children from the stress. She quizzes them on what they want to do when they get back to California and what they want to be when they grow up.

Their daughter hopes to become a doctor someday, while their sons say they want to become teachers.

But distraction is not always enough. After a relative told the daughter that the Taliban were taking away small girls, she hid in a room and refused to come out until her dad puffed himself up and said he could beat the Taliban, making her laugh.

The mother smiled, hiding her fear from her daughter, but later texted her principal.

"This life is almost half-death."

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Condon reported from New York, Watson from San Diego. Kathy Gannon in Kabul and Ellen Knickmeyer in Washington contributed to this report.

## The barbecue king: British royals praise Philip's deft touch

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — When Prince Philip died nearly six months ago at 99, the tributes poured in from far and wide, praising him for his supportive role at the side of Queen Elizabeth II over her near 70-year reign.

Now, it has emerged that Philip had another crucial role within the royal family. He was the family's barbecue king — perhaps testament to his Greek heritage.

"He adored barbecuing and he turned that into an interesting art form," his oldest son Prince Charles said in a BBC tribute program that will be broadcast on Wednesday. "And if I ever tried to do it he ... I could never get the fire to light or something ghastly, so (he'd say): 'Go away!'"

In excerpts of 'Prince Philip: The Royal Family Remembers' released late Saturday, members of the royal family spoke admiringly of the late Duke of Edinburgh's barbecuing skills and his love of cookery shows, with the "Hairy Bikers" Si King and Dave Myers among his favourites.

"Every barbecue that I've ever been on, the Duke of Edinburgh has been there cooking," said Prince William, Philip's oldest grandson. "He's definitely a dab hand at the barbecue ... I can safely say there's never been a case of food poisoning in the family that's attributed to the Duke of Edinburgh."

More than a dozen royals including all four of the queen and Philip's children — Charles, Prince Andrew, Princess Anne and Prince Edward — and their adult grandchildren, including Charles' two sons, William and Prince Harry, took part in the one-hour program. The program, which was filmed before and after Philip's death on April 9, was originally conceived to mark his 100th birthday in June,

The 95-year-old queen was not interviewed but granted special access to her private film collection. Nor were the spouses of Philip's grandchildren, including Harry's wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex.

Harry, who stepped down from royal duties last year and moved to California, spoke for the first time about how the Duke of Edinburgh gave him the space to talk about serving in Afghanistan. Harry says his grandfather would "never probe" but listen about his two tours of duties to Helmand province during the war in Afghanistan.

"Going off to Afghanistan, he was very matter of fact and just said, 'Make sure you come back alive,'" Harry said. "Then when I came back, there wasn't a deep level of discussion, more a case of, 'Well, you made it. How was it?' That's how he was."

"He was very much a listener, he sort of set the scene for you to be able to share as much as you wanted to share, but he would never probe," he added.

Harry first served in Afghanistan as a forward air controller, during 2007-08, coordinating air strikes on Taliban positions before his presence was revealed by foreign media and he was flown home. He returned in 2012, this time as an Apache helicopter co-pilot gunner.

Charles also spoke about Philip's dedication to the military.

"He took very seriously the fact that he was involved in the three armed forces. And obviously the Navy was his main service, but he took an inordinate interest in everything to do with the other two," Charles said.

"He read up an awful lot and thought about it and so he certainly put a lot of the generals and others through their paces, if you know what I mean. He'd always thought of a better way of doing it," he added.

Follow all AP stories on Prince Philip at <https://apnews.com/hub/PrincePhilip>

## US Border Patrol hires civilians to free up agents for field

By CEDAR ATTANASIO and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Dozens, even hundreds, of asylum-seeking migrants often wait hours to surrender to U.S. Border Patrol agents, but the thousands of Haitians gathered at a bridge in the small Texas border town of Del Rio may be unprecedented and point to a glaring problem with the federal police agency's staffing.

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Instead of conducting patrols and uncovering smuggling activity, its agents spend about 40% of their time caring for people already in custody and administrative tasks that are unrelated to border security.

The agency hopes to free up agents to go back into the field by hiring civilians for jobs like making sure microwaved burritos are served properly, checking holding cells and the time-consuming work of collecting information for immigration court papers.

The Border Patrol graduated its first class of "processing coordinators" in January, with the goal of eventually hiring 1,200. The position requires less training than for law enforcement officers and pays less. It is also seen as a recruiting tool for an agency that has struggled to find qualified applicants, particularly women.

While it's early to know if the new employees will pan out as hoped, the hiring plan's initial reviews are generally favorable. Their skills will be in high demand as U.S. authorities respond to the Haitians who suddenly arrived in Del Rio and other large groups of new arrivals.

"This is a very, very good program. It is a very necessary program," said Brandon Judd, president of the National Border Patrol Council, a labor union representing many of the nearly 20,000 agents. "It's a program that will allow us to get more agents in the field."

U.S. Rep. Nanette Barragan, a Los Angeles Democrat, told the members of the second graduating class in June that they were "pioneers." She saw the need for their skills in April while visiting a holding facility in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for illegal crossings from Mexico to the U.S.

Unaccompanied children were held at the facility for days, unable to call their parents, Barragan said. "Agents were working around the clock to process the children quickly, but they needed help," she told the graduating class.

The need is especially acute during periodic spikes at the U.S.-Mexico border, including ones seen in 2014, 2019 and again this year. The coordinator positions are for 13 months, renewable up to four years.

Most single adults are expelled without an opportunity to seek asylum under a pandemic-related authority designed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Unaccompanied children and most families can seek humanitarian protection, giving them little incentive to elude capture because they will be released in the U.S. with notices to appear in court.

As a result, there are migrants who cross the border and wait - and wait - for agents to arrive, and who may require more care once they do. In August, families accounted for 41% of Border Patrol encounters, and unaccompanied children made up 9%.

Agents also complain they have less time to pursue migrants trying to avoid getting picked up.

A civilian coordinator assigned to a San Diego-area border station, Aide Franco Avalos, got a taste for the work in 2019, when she worked for the Transportation Security Administration at Palm Springs International Airport in California.

Franco Avalos volunteered for a temporary Border Patrol assignment in El Paso, Texas, and felt fulfilled caring for migrants. When she saw an opening in California that wouldn't require a family move, the Los Angeles native decided on a career change.

"I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into at first because it's a brand new position, but I knew that my assistance to the agents was greatly needed," she said.

Avalos would like to become a Border Patrol agent, but at 42, she missed the maximum starting age of 39.

Annual pay for processing coordinators is between \$35,265 and \$51,103, well below what agents earn. The Biden administration's 2022 budget proposal says the position costs 18.5% less than an average agent.

The Border Patrol began to seriously consider creating the job in 2014. Discussions intensified when agents were again stretched by large numbers of asylum-seeking families and children in 2019, many from Central America.

"It becomes a bit repetitious and a bit frustrating that there's no other option, right?" said Gloria Chavez, chief of the Border Patrol's El Paso sector, who was deeply involved in the effort. "Who else can we lean on to help us with this task? So that's when the conversation started."

The agency also hopes the new positions will recruit future agents, including more women, who make

up only about 5% of agents, Chavez said.

"The processing coordinators are going to be working hand in hand with our agents at the central processing center, and they're going to be learning a lot of different skills, building up their confidence for everyone, and then maybe they want to apply for those jobs," she said.

Melanie Garcia, 24, left her job as a prison guard in a psychiatric unit in Lubbock, Texas, to work as a processing coordinator at a Border Patrol holding center in El Paso. She wanted to learn more about the agency and to be closer to family. She said the job was "a really good stepping stone" to becoming an agent.

Attanasio reported from El Paso, Texas.

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## In edgy Washington, police outnumber Jan. 6 protesters

By COLLEEN LONG, MICHAEL BALSAMO, NATHAN ELLGREN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a city still on edge after the Jan. 6 insurrection, law enforcement bore down in large numbers on the Capitol on Saturday over concerns that a rally in support of the jailed rioters would turn violent. It didn't.

The crowd was sparse and incidents were few. The only clear parallels to the riots more than eight months ago by supporters of Donald Trump were the false claims put forth by the rally organizers about the violence that January day when Congress met to certify the election of Joe Biden.

The low turnout also called into question whether such rallies will have any staying power as the organizers attempt to tap into the rage of Jan. 6 without the presence of the former president.

Law enforcement had prepared for a confrontation by erecting temporary fencing around the Capitol and deploying heavy dump trucks to ring the rally site. Local police departments and the U.S. National Guard were on standby.

The security might have been unnecessary in the end, but the volatility around the lie that the 2020 election was stolen and the presence of extremists and white nationalist groups on Jan. 6 have made it impossible to predict how such events will go.

U.S. Capitol Police said they received intelligence information leading up to the weekend that was similar to what was missed in January, when law enforcement was only expecting a free speech protest and Trump supporters violently stormed the Capitol.

Republican lawmakers, including those who had voted that day to challenge Biden's election, avoided Saturday's rally. Rally organizer Matt Braynard took elected officials to task for not backing up those now in jail and introduced candidates who are running for elected office.

Counterprotesters stood by and jeered. Some held anti-Trump signs and one man who had confronted some of the pro-Trump protesters was quickly removed by police, who used bicycles to shield him from the crowd as they escorted him down the street.

One person was arrested in the crowd for carrying a knife and a second man was arrested after someone reported to officers that they saw him carrying what appeared to be a handgun, police said. Two other people who police say were wanted in Texas — for a firearms charge and probation violation — were also arrested after being pulled over near the Capitol Saturday morning.

Braynard, a former Trump campaign staffer, opened in calm and deliberate tones. He said the event was for the defendants held behind bars.

On Jan. 6, dozens of law enforcement officers were left bloodied and beaten as the crowd of pro-Trump rioters, some armed with pipes, bats and bear spray, charged into the Capitol, quickly overrunning the overwhelmed police force. One officer was beaten and shocked with a stun gun repeatedly until he had a heart attack; another was foaming at the mouth and screaming for help as rioters crushed him

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between two doors and bashed him in the head with his own weapon.

The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of court and jail records for the Capitol riot defendants to uncover how many were being detained and found roughly 63 held in federal custody awaiting trial or sentencing hearings.

At least 30 are jailed in Washington. The rest are locked up in facilities across the country. They have said they are being treated unfairly, and one defendant said he was beaten.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has set standards for judges to apply in deciding whether to jail a Capitol riot defendant. A three-judge panel of the appeals court ruled in March that rioters accused of assaulting officers, breaking through windows, doors and barricades, or playing leadership roles in the attack were in "a different category of dangerousness" than those who merely cheered on the violence or entered the building after it was breached.

Among the rally speakers was the girlfriend of Jonathan Mellis, who was seen on camera on Jan. 6 using a stick to attack officers who were outside the Capitol trying to hold back the mob, authorities said.

Mellis was heard saying "knock their masks off," and video shows him repeatedly striking and stabbing at officers with the stick, according to court documents. Authorities said in court documents that he appeared to be trying to hit the officers' necks between their helmets and body-armor, where they had no protection.

Other defendants ordered locked up while they await trial include a man accused of dragging a police officer down steps to be beaten by an American flag and another man accused of leading a group of rioters up the Capitol steps to confront officers.

But judges have released the vast majority of the defendants, including more than a dozen members and associates of the Oath Keepers, a far-right group, who are charged in perhaps the most serious case brought so far in the attack. Only three people charged in the Oath Keepers conspiracy case remain locked up after judges said they appeared to play a leadership role in the alleged conspiracy.

Authorities have said the Oath Keepers prepared in the weeks leading up to Jan. 6 as if they were heading to war, came to Washington ready for violence and dressed that day in battle gear, wearing helmets and tactical vests.

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Richer reported from Boston. Associated Press writers Michael Kunzelman, Mary Clare Jalonick, Jacques Billeaud, Lisa Mascaro, Amanda Seitz, Ashraf Khalil and Robert Burns contributed to this report.

## Yemen Houthi rebels execute 9 over senior official's killing

By AHMED AL-HAJ and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's Houthi rebels executed on Saturday nine people they said were involved in the killing of a senior rebel official in an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition more than three years ago.

The execution took place by firing squad and was held in public, early in the morning in the rebel-held capital of Sanaa. The Iranian-backed Houthis later distributed photos apparently showing the killings. Hundreds of people attended the execution, mostly Houthis and their supporters.

The executions took place despite repeated calls by rights groups and lawyers to stop the killings and retry the suspects. They said the trial, held in a rebel-controlled court where the nine were convicted and sentenced to death, was flawed.

The nine were among more than 60 people the Houthis accused of involvement in the targeted killing of Saleh al-Samad in April 2018. Former President Donald Trump was also accused, according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press. Also accused were top Western, Israeli and Gulf Arab officials.

The Houthis charged the nine with spying for the Saudi-led coalition, which has been waging war against the rebels for years in an effort to bring back Yemen's internationally recognized government to power.

Al-Samad, who held the post of president in the Houthi-backed political body, was killed along with six of his companions in an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition in the coastal city of Hodeida.

The nine, including a 17-year-old boy, were arrested months after al-Samad's killing. They were force-

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fully disappeared for months and held in undisclosed places where they suffered inhumane treatment, according to Abdel-Majeed Sabra, a Yemeni lawyer representing one of the people executed.

The executions were also broadcast on big screens in Sanaa's Tahrir Square. The executions and the public display caused outrage across the country, including among the relatives of the nine and also in Sanaa, where people usually refrain from criticizing the rebels for fear of reprisals.

"I can't believe what has happened. This is madness and a crime," Abdel-Rahman Noah, a brother of one of the executed, told The Associated Press.

Another relative said she did not expect the Houthis to go through with the executions. "We were shocked. ... We thought that they were just threatening," she said tearfully, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals from the rebels.

The rebels did not respond to requests for comment.

The nine wore sky blue prison garb with their hands bound behind their backs. Masked guards led them to an open area and forced them to lie down on their stomachs. Another officer with a rifle shot them to death in their backs.

One of the executed appeared scared while awaiting his turn to be shot; an armed Houthi was seen holding him tight, perhaps so that he would not fall.

Sabra, the lawyer, said the Houthis later allowed relatives to take the bodies away for burials. Eight were taken to their hometown of Hodeida while the ninth was buried in Sanaa.

Several rights groups, including the U.S.-based American Center for Justice, which follows human rights abuses in Yemen, had called Friday for the U.N. to intervene to stop the executions. The groups said the trial had "included flagrant violations of fair trial guarantees and depriving individuals of providing sufficient defenses."

Also on Saturday, at least six people from the same family were killed when a suspected airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition hit their vehicle in an area between the provinces of Shabwa and Bayda, according to government officials and tribal leaders.

There was no immediate comment from the Saudi-led coalition. The officials spoke on conditions of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters and the tribal leaders spoke anonymously, fearing reprisals.

Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war since 2014, when the Houthis swept across much of the north and seized Sanaa, forcing the internationally recognized government into exile. The Saudi-led coalition entered the war the following year on the side of the government.

The stalemated conflict has killed more than 130,000 people and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Magdy reported from on board the Geo Barents in the Mediterranean Sea.

## Taliban replace ministry for women with 'virtue' authorities

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers set up a ministry for the "propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice" in the building that once housed the Women's Affairs Ministry, escorting out World Bank staffers on Saturday as part of the forced move.

It was the latest troubling sign that the Taliban are restricting women's rights as they settle into government, just a month since they overran the capital of Kabul. During their previous rule of Afghanistan in the 1990s, the Taliban had denied girls and women the right to education and barred them from public life.

Separately, three explosions targeted Taliban vehicles in the eastern provincial capital of Jalalabad on Saturday, killing three people and wounding 20, witnesses said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Islamic State group's militants, headquartered in the area, are enemies of the Taliban.

The Taliban are facing major economic and security problems as they attempt to govern, and a growing challenge by IS militants would further stretch their resources.

In Kabul, a new sign was up outside the women's affairs ministry, announcing it was now the "Ministry

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for Preaching and Guidance and the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.”

Staff of the World Bank’s \$100 million Women’s Economic Empowerment and Rural Development Program, which was run out of the Women’s Affairs Ministry, were escorted off the grounds, said program member Sharif Akhtar, who was among those being removed.

Mabouba Suraj, who heads the Afghan Women’s Network, said she was astounded by the flurry of orders released by the Taliban-run government restricting women and girls.

On Friday, the Taliban-run education ministry asked boys from grades six to 12 back to school, starting on Saturday, along with their male teachers. There was no mention of girls in those grades returning to school. Previously, the Taliban’s minister of higher education minister, had said girls would be given equal access to education, albeit in gender-segregated settings.

“It is becoming really, really troublesome. ... Is this the stage where the girls are going to be forgotten?” Suraj said. “I know they don’t believe in giving explanations, but explanations are very important.”

Suraj speculated that the contradictory statements perhaps reflect divisions within the Taliban as they seek to consolidate their power, with the more pragmatic within the movement losing out to hard-liners among them, at least for now.

Statements from the Taliban leadership often reflect a willingness to engage with the world, talk of open public spaces for women and girls and protecting Afghanistan’s minorities. But orders to its rank and file on the ground are contradictory. Instead of what was promised, restrictions, particularly on women, have been implemented.

Suraj, an Afghan American who returned to Afghanistan in 2003 to promote women’s rights and education, said many of her fellow activists have left the country.

She said she stayed in an effort to engage with the Taliban and find a middle ground, but until now has not been able to get the hard-line Islamic group’s leadership to meet with activists who have remained in the country, to talk with women about the way forward.

“We have to talk. We have to find a middle ground,” she said.

UNESCO’s Director General Audrey Azoulay on Saturday added her voice to the growing concern over the Taliban’s limitations on girls after only boys were told to go back to school.

“Should this ban be maintained, it would constitute an important violation of the fundamental right to education for girls and women,” Azoulay said in a statement upon her arrival in New York for the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.

A former advisor to the women’s ministry under the previous Afghan government sent a video message to The Associated Press from her home in Kabul, slamming the Taliban’s move to close the ministry.

It is “the right of women to work, learn and participate in politics on the national and international stage,” said Sara Seerat. “Unfortunately, in the current Taliban Islamic Emirate government there is no space in the Cabinet. By closing the women’s ministry it shows they have no plans in the future to give women their rights or a chance to serve in the government and participate in other affairs.”

Earlier this month the Taliban announced an all-male exclusively Taliban Cabinet but said it was an interim setup, offering some hope that a future government would be more inclusive as several of their leaders had promised.

Also on Saturday, an international flight by Pakistan’s national carrier left Kabul’s airport with 322 passengers on board and a flight by Iran’s Mahan Air departed with 187 passengers on board, an airport official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to speak to the media, said the two international flights departed in the morning. The identities and nationalities of those on board were not immediately known.

The flights were the latest to depart Kabul in the past week as technical teams from Qatar and Turkey have worked to get the airport up to standard for international commercial aircraft.

A Qatar Airways flight on Friday took more Americans out of Afghanistan, the third such airlift by the Mideast carrier since the Taliban takeover and the frantic U.S. troop pullout from the country last month. The State Department said Saturday that there were 28 U.S. citizens and seven permanent residents on



board the flight from Kabul, and thanked Qatari authorities for their help.

Also Friday night, a flight by Kam Air, Afghanistan's largest private carrier, took off from Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, with 350 passengers on board, according to two employees there.

The flight was headed to Dubai, said the two, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. They said the plane carried foreigners but it was not clear if and how many Americans were on board.

Associated Press writers Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations, Tameem Akhgar in Istanbul and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Drought tests centuries-old water traditions in New Mexico**

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

ABIQUIU, N.M. (AP) — At the edge of a sandstone outcropping, Teresa Leger Fernández looks out on the Rio Chama. The river tracks a diverse landscape from the southern edge of the Rocky Mountains through rugged basalt hillsides, layers of volcanic tuff, and the red and yellow cliffs made famous by painter Georgia O'Keeffe.

Here marks the genesis of New Mexico's centuries-old tradition of sharing water through irrigation systems known as acequias.

It's also one of the many spots in the arid West facing more pressure as drought stretches into another decade and climate change piles on with warmer temperatures.

Once an acequia commissioner and now a U.S. congresswoman, Leger Fernández knows how hard it is to tell farmers they won't get all the water they need — or maybe none at all.

She talks about the annual *limpia*, or cleaning of acequias in preparation for planting season.

"There was always a sense of accomplishment but now what we're witnessing is we can't do it all the time anymore because we don't have the water," she said during a tour with acequia officials. "And what you all are facing is not of your making, right? But you are having to work through the struggle of making whatever water is available work for everybody in the community."

Some earthen canals didn't get a drop of water this year, another example of parched Western conditions. Like many parts of the world, the region has become warmer and drier over the last 30 years, mainly due to rising levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases resulting from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas development and transportation.

Boat docks are high and dry at reservoirs around New Mexico, and Lake Powell along the Utah-Arizona line has hit a record low this year. A key Northern California reservoir that helps water a quarter of U.S. crops is shrinking.

For mayordomos — those who oversee acequias and ensure equitable water distribution — it has become a scramble.

Less snow falls, and warmer temperatures melt it sooner. Dry soil soaks up runoff before it reaches streams and rivers that feed acequias.

Paula Garcia, New Mexico Acequia Association executive director, shuns the phrase "new normal" because she said that implies stability in weather patterns the community's ditches rely on.

"We're trying to be quick on our feet and adapt as much as we can, but it tests what we can really call resiliency," she said, standing in shade at Santa Cruz Farm and Greenhouses in Espanola, where rows of chile, corn and blackberries bake in the sun. "We think we're resilient, but resilient to what point? We're bumping up against what those tipping points are."

Federal water management policies have complicated matters as needs of cities and other users overshadow these Hispanic and Indigenous communities.

Their traditions are rooted in Moorish ingenuity first brought to Europe and then to North America via Spanish settlers. Those water-sharing ideas were blended with already sophisticated irrigation culture developed by Indigenous communities in what is now the southwestern U.S.

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What developed were little slices of paradise, with gardens and orchards that have sustained communities for generations.

Roughly 640 New Mexico acequias still provide water to thousands of acres of farmland.

Darel Madrid, Rio Chama Acequia Association president, didn't grow a garden this year. He wanted to lead by example.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," said Madrid, who would love nothing more than to grow watermelons again. "As long as we have reduced snowpacks and warmer springs, there's going to be a certain point where we're going to only be able to rely solely on rainwater and the monsoon season. That's going to be bad."

After back-to-back record dry summer rainy seasons, some Southwest areas enjoyed above average rain this year. But maps are still bleak, with nearly 99% of the West dealing with some form of drought.

Madrid said some *parciantes* — or acequia members — grow crops to supply regional farm-to-table programs and farmers markets. Others do it to subsidize income in a region where many live close to poverty.

When water-sharing compacts involving some of New Mexico's largest cities were first negotiated decades ago, Madrid said communities along Rio Chama were left out. Now, as supplies are scarce, acequias around Abiquiu have been forced to seek state funding to buy water from downstream users. If none is available, they go without.

As long as Rio Chama flows above 140 cubic feet per second, water can be diverted by acequias. The flow usually nosedives in May, and rationing starts when it drops below 50 cfs. Aside from isolated spikes from storm runoff, the flow is now less than half that.

Madrid said acequias would benefit from permanent water storage in an upstream reservoir, which would need federal approval.

"The bottom line is we want to be self-sufficient," he said. "We want to be able to take care of ourselves."

Since 2017, more than \$5.3 million has been funneled to dozens of community irrigation projects through New Mexico's Interstate Stream Commission. Another \$15 million in state capital funds have been earmarked for acequia projects since 2018.

Madrid said state and federal officials are starting to take notice as more acequias organize and speak out.

Leger Fernández noted that acequias represent some of the earliest forms of government that predate the U.S.

"What we're trying to do now is preserve something that the *parciantes* and the *mayordomos* and commissioners have been able to do for 400 years," she told the group gathered along Rio Chama.

Part of that means reimagining acequias without giving up the sense of community they command.

At Santa Cruz Farm, owner Don Bustos is growing crops in greenhouses in fall and winter when less water is needed and evaporation is reduced, he said.

In Taos, acequia leaders have bumped up annual cleaning to the fall so they don't miss out on early runoff.

Madrid recalls a futuristic comic book storyline where an elaborate system of pipes and ration cards are used to control water. He's hopeful that will never come to pass, but he and others acknowledged that acequias need upgrades to last another 400 years.

Garcia said she believes farmers, masters of soil health and seed savers always will be in New Mexico's rural valley, they'll just have to innovate.

"There's still a lot of adaptations that we haven't touched yet. We're just barely seeing the beginning of it now," she said. "We're dealing with centuries-old ditches and in another century they might look very different, but I do think we're still going to be here."

Acequias have overcome periodic environmental crises, rivalries among water users and profound historical changes, Spanish historian and anthropologist Luis Pablo Martínez Sanmartín noted in a 2020 research report. He said survival has hinged on a common-good design based on cooperation, respect, equity, transparency and negotiation.

Leger Fernández kept coming back to ideas of community and mutual respect as she walked through

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rows of blackberries at Bustos' farm, never missing a chance to pick another berry. She also talked about gathering capulin — or chokecherries — and roasting blue corn to make atole — a traditional beverage — to share during the holidays.

"To me, acequias are the most perfect symbol of what we should be about: a community," she said.

## Afghan survivors of errant US drone strike seek probe

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A survivor of an errant U.S. drone strike that killed 10 members of his family demanded Saturday that those responsible be punished and said Washington's apology was not enough.

The family also seeks financial compensation and relocation to the United States or another country deemed safe, said Emal Ahmadi, whose 3-year-old daughter Malika was among those killed in the Aug. 29 strike.

On that day, a U.S. hellfire missile struck the car that Ahmadi's brother Zemerai had just pulled into the driveway of the Ahmadi family compound as children ran to greet him. In all, 10 members of the family, including seven children, were killed in the strike.

On Friday, U.S. Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, called the strike a "tragic mistake" and said that innocent civilians were indeed killed in the attack.

The U.S. military initially defended the strike, saying it had targeted an Islamic State group's "facilitator" and disrupted the militants' ability to carry out attacks during the chaotic final stage of the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan late last month.

Discrepancies between the military's portrayal of the strike and findings on the ground quickly emerged. The Associated Press and other news organizations reported that the driver of the targeted vehicle was a longtime employee at a U.S. humanitarian organization. There were no signs of a large secondary blast, despite the Pentagon's assertion that the vehicle contained explosives.

The drone strike followed a devastating suicide bombing by IS — a rival of the Taliban — that killed 169 Afghans and 13 U.S. military personnel at one of the gates to the Kabul airport in late August. At that time, large numbers of Afghans, desperate to flee the Taliban, had crowded the airport gates in hopes of getting on to evacuation flights.

McKenzie apologized for the error and said the United States is considering making reparation payments to the family of the victims.

Emal Ahmadi told the AP on Saturday that he wants the U.S. to investigate who fired the drone and punish those responsible.

"That is not enough for us to say sorry," said Ahmadi who heard of the U.S. apology from friends in America. "The U.S.A. should find the person who did this."

Ahmadi said he was relieved that an apology was offered and the family members he lost were recognized as innocent victims, but that this won't bring them back. He said that he was frustrated that the family never received a call from U.S. officials, despite repeated requests.

He looked exhausted as he sat in front of the charred ruins of his brother's car.

In the days before the Pentagon's apology, accounts from the family, documents from colleagues seen by the AP and the scene at the family home — where Zemerai's car was struck by the missile — all sharply contradicted the accounts by the U.S. military.

Instead, they painted the picture of a family that had worked for Americans and were trying to gain visas to the U.S., fearing for their lives under the Taliban.

Zemerai Ahmadi was the family's breadwinner and had looked after his three brothers, including Emal, and their children.

"Now I am then one who is responsible for all my family and I am jobless," said Emal Ahmadi. The situation "is not good," said Ahmadi of life under the Taliban.

International aid groups and the United Nations have warned of a looming humanitarian crisis that could drive most Afghans below the poverty level.

McKenzie said the decision to strike a white Toyota Corolla sedan, after having tracked it for about eight hours, was made in an "earnest belief" — based on a standard of "reasonable certainty" — that it posed an imminent threat to American forces at the Kabul airport. The car was believed to have been carrying explosives in its trunk, he said.

But Ahmadi wondered how the family's home could have been mistaken for an Islamic State hideout. "The U.S.A. can see from everywhere," he said of U.S. drone capabilities. "They can see that there were innocent children near the car and in the car. Whoever did this should be punished."

"It isn't right," he added.

## Top doctors say not so fast to Biden's boosters-for-all plan

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just one month ago, President Joe Biden and his health advisers announced big plans to soon deliver a booster shot of the coronavirus vaccine to all Americans. But after campaigning for the White House on a pledge to "follow the science," Biden found himself uncharacteristically ahead of it with that lofty pronouncement.

Some of the nation's top medical advisers on Friday delivered a stinging rebuke of the idea, in essence telling the White House: not so fast.

A key government advisory panel overwhelmingly rejected Biden's plan to give COVID-19 booster shots across the board and instead recommended the extra vaccine dose only for those who are age 65 or older or who run a high risk of severe disease.

Biden's Aug. 18 announcement that the federal government was preparing to shore up nearly all Americans' protection had been made with great fanfare. It was meant to calm the nerves of millions of Americans fearful of a new, more transmissible strain of the coronavirus.

"The plan is for every adult to get a booster shot eight months after you got your second shot," Biden said, noting that his administration would be ready to begin the program on Sept. 20.

Biden added the qualification that third doses would require the signoff of health officials at the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but his public message glossed over the nuance.

"Just remember," he said, "as a simple rule: Eight months after your second shot, get a booster shot."

Biden's plan drew immediate outrage from global health groups that encouraged the United States and other well-off nations to refrain from administering boosters until poorer countries could provide first doses to their most vulnerable citizens.

"Viewed from a global perspective, this is a squandering of a scarce global resource, as a consequence of which people will die," said Dr. Peter Lurie, president of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. "I feel completely comfortable saying this," he added, acknowledging that domestic political considerations weigh differently on presidents.

The Biden plan was criticized, too, by medical professionals, who cited a lack of safety data on extra doses and raised doubts about the value of mass boosters, rather than ones targeted to specific groups.

"It created enormous pressure on the agency to go along with what the White House wanted," said Lurie, who characterized the FDA panel's decision as a "rebuttal" of Biden's efforts to circumvent standard procedures. "That's what we're trying to get beyond after the Trump era."

"Following them has served FDA very well when they've done that," he added. He contrasted the expeditious authorization of the vaccines to the agency's brief flirtation with unproven COVID-19 treatments such as the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine during the Trump administration. "When they've strayed from it, they've got in trouble."

The nonbinding recommendation from the outside experts who advise the FDA is not the last word. The FDA will consider the group's advice and make its own decision, probably within days. The CDC is set to weigh in next week.

One of the FDA's advisers, Dr. Paul Offit of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, told reporters after the

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meeting that while the Biden administration had planned for boosters for the general population, "that's not this. This is, 'We're going to test the water one foot at a time.'"

The committee "parked all of that stuff and did their job," said Norman Baylor, former director of the FDA's office of vaccine review. "I'll be very frank here: I think this meeting was rushed. I would say it should have happened later," so that the FDA had more data to make the decision.

White House allies defended the administration's aggressive preparation for the boosters, which has included regular messaging from doctors about their necessity and bolstering the federal stockpile of doses.

They argue that the American people elect a president, not a scientist, to act in their best interests. They reason that the alternative — holding off on preparing for boosters until federal health officials give the green light — could have cost lives.

The U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, told reporters before the panel's vote that the administration was aiming to be transparent with the public about the promise of boosters providing enduring protection and was not trying to pressure regulators to act. He said the administration also wanted to be prepared in the event the boosters were approved.

"We have always said that this initial plan would be contingent on the FDA and the CDC's independent evaluation," Murthy said. "We will follow that evaluation and their recommendations, we will make sure our final plan reflects it."

"What we were doing in August and we continue to do there is really prioritizing transparency and preparation," he added.

Administration officials noted that the experts' recommendation Friday probably would result in boosters for people most likely to get them anyway had the entire population been given the go-ahead. Seniors were in the first group of Americans to be eligible for vaccination after their authorization last December, followed by those with preexisting conditions that put them at higher risk for serious disease. Those populations account for tens of millions of Americans, officials said.

After Friday's voting, the White House tried to put the advisory panel's action in a positive light.

"Today was an important step forward in providing better protection to Americans from COVID-19," said White House spokesman Kevin Munoz. "We stand ready to provide booster shots to eligible Americans once the process concludes at the end of next week."

Dr. Leana Wen, a former Baltimore health commissioner who comments regularly on the pandemic, said the decision about boosters "is not just one of science. It's one of values."

"Because when we're considering issues like should additional doses go to Americans or people around the world, that is not the right decision for a scientific regulatory committee," she said. "That is up to the president of the United States."

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Associated Press writers Matthew Perrone and Lauran Neergaard contributed to this report.

## One stunning afternoon: Setbacks imperil Biden's reset

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was an hour President Joe Biden would no doubt like to forget.

On Friday, the Pentagon acknowledged that a drone strike in Afghanistan killed 10 civilians, including seven children, not terrorists. A panel advising the Food and Drug Administration voted to not recommend COVID-19 booster shots for all Americans over age 16, dashing an administration hope. And France announced it was recalling its ambassador to the United States out of anger for being cut out of a secret nuclear submarine deal Biden had struck with the United Kingdom and Australia.

The headlines, all within an hour, underscored the perils for any president from situations that can define a term in office.

Already, Biden has seen public approval numbers trend downward as the pandemic has deepened and Americans cast blame for the flawed U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The administration had hoped to roll out tougher vaccine guidelines, a new international alliance to

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thwart China and a recommitment to what Biden has done best: drawing on his years on Capitol Hill and knowledge of the legislative process to cajole fellow Democrats to pass the two far-reaching spending bills that make up the heart of his agenda.

Those ambitions are now more difficult to achieve.

Biden has proclaimed defeating the pandemic to be the central mission of his presidency. But the United States is now averaging more than 145,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases per day, compared with a low of about 8,500 per day three months ago.

The president has tried to shift the blame for the resurgence of cases to the more than 70 million Americans who have not gotten a vaccine and the GOP lawmakers who have opposed his increasingly forceful efforts to push people to get a shot. Aides had hoped for full FDA approval for the boosters, yet the advisory panel only recommended them for those over age 65 or with underlying health conditions or special circumstances.

Biden aides in recent days had quietly expressed relief that the Afghanistan withdrawal — like the war itself for much of its nearly two decades — has receded from headlines. That feeling was shattered Friday afternoon when the Pentagon revealed the errant target for what was believed to be the final American drone strike of the war.

Biden had long advocated leaving Afghanistan. Even after a suicide bombing killed 13 American service members, he told advisers the withdrawal decision was correct. He is known for his certitude, a stubbornness that flashed when he dismissed suggestions that he express regret for how the withdrawal occurred.

Aides have since been quick to note that more than 120,000 people have been successfully evacuated and they say U.S. efforts are securing the steady departure of others from under Taliban rule.

The end in Afghanistan was part of an effort to refocus foreign policy on China, an aim that accelerated with the surprise announcement of the agreement between the United States, United Kingdom and Australia.

But not only did Beijing balk, so did Paris, as France angrily accused the U.S. of cutting France out of the alliance and scuttling its own submarine deal with Australia.

And then France recalled its ambassador after its officials expressed dismay that, in their estimation, Biden had proven to be as unreliable a partner as his predecessor Donald Trump.

The strain with France came just as Biden had hoped to pivot to his ambitious domestic agenda.

But there are ideological divides among the Democrats on Capitol Hill about the \$3.5 trillion spending package meant to be passed in tandem with the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill. And all of Congress will be forced to juggle the White House's legislation while being swamped with imminent deadlines on the debt ceiling and government funding.

The West Wing is re-creating a legislative strategy that worked to secure passage of the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief in March and pushed the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill through the Senate in August, according to a half dozen White House aides and outside advisers who were not authorized to publicly discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

With Biden cajoling lawmakers, the infrastructure bill is to be passed through the House along with the \$3.5 trillion spending bill that contains many of the president's priorities, such as like climate change and child care, and would pass the Senate along party lines.

Because the Senate is in a 50-50 tie and Democrats' margin in the House is only a handful of seats, few votes can be lost. It could be a formidable task to unite Democratic moderates such as Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, who want a far smaller spending bill, with liberals including Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who has steadfastly said it could not shrink.

The White House also has begun filling the president's schedule again with events meant to highlight the need to pass the bills, including linking visits to the sites of natural disasters — fires in California and Idaho, hurricane damage in Louisiana and the Northeast — to the climate change funding in the legislation.

This past Thursday, on what had previously been tentatively planned as a down day for Biden, the White House scheduled him to give a speech from the East Room during which he zeroed in on how

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tax enforcement to get big corporations and wealthy Americans to pay more would help fund his plan, without offering any new details.

But there are roadblocks. Manchin told Biden that he could not support \$3.5 trillion and White House aides have begun signaling that they would settle for a smaller package, even if it raises the ire of progressives.

Biden's advisers believe that, even if there is some unhappiness with the package, no Democratic lawmaker would want to be perceived as undermining the centerpiece of the agenda of a president from their own party.

The White House is also scaling back the president's travel so he can support the agenda on Capitol Hill, but it's led to concerns among some Democratic lawmakers that Biden isn't doing enough to personally sell the legislation to their constituents across the country.

Some aides worry about the exposure level Biden may have faced when he mingled in groups during a recent trip to the West and his three stops to mark the Sept. 11 anniversary, two officials said. Biden, 78, also did not get a summer vacation. His plan to spend time at his Delaware home in August was scuttled by the Afghanistan crisis.

Aides had finally scheduled him a break, a long weekend at his house in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.. He reached his home Friday just after 1:30 p.m.

Ninety minutes later, any hope for a quiet weekend vanished.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2021. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 19, 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published. In it, America's first chief executive advised, "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."

On this date:

In 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2 1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

In 1945, Nazi radio propagandist William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was convicted of treason and sentenced to death by a British court.

In 1957, the United States conducted its first contained underground nuclear test, code-named "Rainier," in the Nevada desert.

In 1984, Britain and China completed a draft agreement on transferring Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule by 1997.

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.

In 1986, federal health officials announced that the experimental drug AZT would be made available to thousands of AIDS patients.

In 1995, The New York Times and The Washington Post published the manifesto of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee), which proved instrumental in identifying and capturing him.

In 1996, IBM announced it would extend health benefits to the partners of its gay employees.

In 2001, The Pentagon ordered dozens of advanced aircraft to the Persian Gulf region as the hour of military retaliation for deadly terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 drew closer.

In 2004, Hu Jintao (hoo jin-tow) became the undisputed leader of China with the departure of former President Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') from his top military post.

In 2008, struggling to stave off financial catastrophe, the Bush administration laid out a radical bailout

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plan calling for a takeover of a half-trillion dollars or more in worthless mortgages and other bad debt held by tottering institutions. Relieved investors sent stocks soaring on Wall Street and around the globe.

Ten years ago: In a White House address, a combative President Barack Obama demanded that the richest Americans pay higher taxes to help cut soaring U.S. deficits by more than \$3 trillion. Mariano Rivera set a major league record with his 602nd save, closing out the New York Yankees' 6-4 win over the Minnesota Twins. Dolores Hope, who was married to Bob Hope for 69 years and sometimes sang on his shows for U.S. troops and on his television specials, died in Los Angeles at age 102.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi (HY'-dahr ahl ah-BAH'-dee), meeting on the sidelines of a United Nations summit, put the Islamic State group on notice that they planned to recapture the city of Mosul within months. World leaders meeting at the United Nations approved a declaration aimed at providing a more coordinated and humane response to the refugee crisis that was straining resources and stoking divisions around the world. Angelina Jolie Pitt filed for divorce from Brad Pitt, citing irreconcilable differences.

One year ago: President Donald Trump urged the Republican-run Senate to consider "without delay" his upcoming nomination to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg just six weeks before the election. A law enforcement official said authorities had intercepted an envelope addressed to the White House that contained the poison ricin. (A Canadian woman was later arrested while trying to enter the United States near Buffalo, New York, and charged with making threats against President Donald Trump by mailing the package; she pleaded not guilty.) Demonstrators took the streets of London, Tel Aviv and other cities to protest coronavirus restrictions, even with infection rates rising in many places and the global death toll approaching 1 million.

Today's Birthdays: Author Roger Angell is 101. Actor Rosemary Harris is 94. Actor David McCallum is 88. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 81. Singer Bill Medley is 81. Singer Sylvia Tyson (Ian and Sylvia) is 81. R&B singer Freda Payne is 79. Retired professional golfer Jane Blalock is 76. Singer David Bromberg is 76. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 76. Rock singer-musician Lol Creme (10cc) is 74. Former NFL running back Larry Brown is 74. Actor Jeremy Irons is 73. Actor Twiggy Lawson is 72. TV personality Joan Lunden is 71. Singer-producer Daniel Lanois (lan-WAH') is 70. Actor Scott Colomby is 69. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 69. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 66. Rock singer Lita Ford is 63. Actor Kevin Hooks is 63. Actor Carolyn McCormick is 62. Celebrity chef Mario Batali is 61. Actor-comedian Cheri Oteri is 59. Country singer Jeff Bates is 58. Country singer Trisha Yearwood is 57. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 55. Celebrity chef Michael Symon is 52. Actor Victor Williams is 51. Actor Sanaa Lathan (suh-NAH' LAY'-thun) is 50. Actor Stephanie J. Block is 49. Rock singer A. Jay Popoff (Lit) is 48. "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon is 47. TV personality Carter Oosterhouse is 45. Actor-TV host Alison Sweeney is 45. Folk-rock singers-musicians Sara and Tegan (TEE'-gan) Quin are 41. Actor Columbus Short is 39. Rapper Eamon is 38. Actor Kevin Zegers is 37. Actor Danielle Panabaker is 34. Actor Katrina Bowden is 33.