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Upcoming Events

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

“In every conceivable manner,
the family is link to our past,
bridge to our future.”

-ALEX HALEY



4:30 p.m.: Junior High Football at Redfield
Volleyball hosting Hamlin (C match at 5 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity)

Friday, Oct. 1

7 p.m.: Football vs. Dakota Hills Coop at Waubay

Saturday, Oct. 2

2 p.m.: Boys soccer hosts Freeman Academy

3 p.m.: Girls soccer at Dakota Valley with JV game at 1 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 4

State Boys Golf Meet at Madison

Oral Interp at Milbank Invitational

5 p.m.: Junior Varsity Football hosts Sisseton (re-scheduled from 9-20-21)

Tuesday, Oct. 5

State Boys Golf Meet at Madison

Soccer Playoffs for boys and girls

Junior High Volleyball at Redfield (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Thursday, Oct. 7

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Flu Shot Clinic at Groton Area

1 p.m.: NEC Cross Country Meet at Webster

4 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Parent/Teacher Conferences

5 p.m.: Junior High Football hosting Webster Area

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 26, 2021

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

Monday, September 27, 2021

PEO - outside group 7:30 PM

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM
Confirmation Snack Time 3:30 PM
Confirmation begins 4:00 PM
UMYF 7:00 PM

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Groton Worship 11:00 AM
Finance Committee Mtg for Budget 12:00 PM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, Sept. 26

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

Monday, Sept. 27

6:30 a.m.: Bible Study

Wednesday, Sept. 29

6 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, Oct. 3

9 a.m.: Worship with Communion
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. 26

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

Wednesday, Sept. 29

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, Oct. 3

8 a.m.: Bible Study
Worship with Holy Communion
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

Help Wanted: Ken's in Groton

Cashiers, stockers and deli

Apply at store



Groton ~ 397-8456 ~ kenssuperfair.com

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#469 in a series Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

At midday today, we were at 42,550,035 cases reported in the US. Our seven-day new-case average is down to 130,592, a nice decrease from the last time we talked; this number has been dropping for about a week now, probably primarily because the states hit first with surges of B.1.617.2 or Delta, the variant first identified in India—places like Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida—are coming off their peaks. We'll talk more in a bit about what the overall trends have been looking like lately. We can say that the surge is moving about the country; as the South settles, it has moved north and west.

Case reports in children are continuing with the high numbers we've been seeing for a couple of months now—215 percent more than in late July. Children currently account for more than a quarter of new cases. In the past week, 225,978 new cases in children have been reported; that's 32,282 daily. Even though only a small percentage of children are developing severe disease, these huge case numbers mean more and more children are turning up in hospitals; as we've said before, a small percentage of a really big number is still a whole lot of kids.

Alaska is in serious trouble; they lead the nation—by a lot—in per capita new-case reports, a number that is 20 times what it was in early July and 42 percent higher than it was just two weeks ago. Although the state was an early leader in vaccination, it's falling behind other states, which is pretty bad, considering how poorly we're doing as a nation; you never really want to be the worst player on the losing team. The head of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, Jared Kosin, told the New York Times Tuesday the surge has been "crippling," hospitals are full, and health care workers burning out. Patients have been waiting outside hospitals in their cars until an emergency room can see them. Additionally, because such a large swath of the state relies on being able to transfer patients to the few larger hospitals for more advanced care, there is real concern as transfers are getting difficult to arrange because no one has room for additional patients. Kosin said, "We are all wondering where this goes, and whether that transfer will be available, even tomorrow." As is quite usual, Alaska Natives are disproportionately suffering the consequences of this crisis.

Seven-day average hospitalizations are down to 91,189. This is also well below where we were when we last talked. Montana joins the cavalcade of states going to crisis standards of care in the current surge, this time in the state's capital city, Helena. Dr. Shelly Harkins, chief medical officer of St. Peter's Health, said, "We are at the point where not every patient in need will get the care we might wish we could give." West Virginia, another low-vaccination state, is setting records for hospitalizations.

Deaths are the thing that is not declining; our seven-day average is still north of 2000 at 2075 and increasing. With just four percent of the world's population, the US accounts for over 14 percent of the world's deaths from Covid-19. By comparison, we accounted for six percent of the world's population and only one percent of the deaths in the 1918-1919 flu pandemic whose deaths total the US passed last week.

If you look at our 10 least-vaccinated states (Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, West Virginia, and Georgia), you will note that their seven-day average deaths per capita ran over four times more than in the 10 most-vaccinated states. Hospitalizations ran three times higher. And in case anyone tries to make that stupid case to you that these aren't "real" vaccines because they're not intended to and, indeed, do not prevent infections or transmission at all, let us just note that those least-vaccinated states had more than twice the new-case rates of the most-vaccinated ones.

We're not making much progress on vaccination lately. We're up to only 54.7 percent fully vaccinated

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while 72 million eligible people (12 and over) haven't received a dose yet. We've dropped back down to 333,000 seeking initial vaccination and 772,000 doses being administered each day. We're up to 30 states plus the District of Columbia that have fully vaccinated more than half of their residents. Half isn't close to enough; neither is just 30 states. Long, long way to go.

I've read an analysis of data from the New York Times, an attempt to make sense of this month's numbers that accounts for the reporting disruption of the Labor Day weekend, which has had long tentacles, still confounding our analysis of trajectories. The first thing to recognize is that throughout this pandemic, we've seen, roughly, a two-month cycle. In any particular country, region, or state, most of the time new cases come in two-month surges followed by tapering off and a pause before the next surge. No one really seems to know why this happens—whether it's fueled by some characteristic of the virus or by human behavior in response to the surge, but there's a fairly strong pattern. We should note that there have been exceptions, sometimes sparked by external events and sometimes sort of idiosyncratic; but the two-month cycle isn't a bad foundation for establishing expectations. The current surge began just over two months ago; if the pattern holds, we're due for declining case numbers. Some things that could mess with that are the opening of schools, people packing into stadiums for football games, and general relaxations of precautions. So in terms of expectations, this could still go either way.

Long holiday weekends always mess with new-case reporting, and that can create some weird fluctuations in our data stream. As noted above, we're still under the influence of the Labor Day fluctuation. The long weekend caused an artificial plunge in new-case numbers, and then we had an equally-artificial surge the rest of that week. That means our 14-day and seven-day averages have been sort of weird pretty much ever since. Nonetheless, if we look back to September 1, before the holiday, it's clear we've seen a decline in new case reports. This is consistent with what we discussed last time we talked—something like a seven-to-eight percent decline over two weeks and what this analysis shows as 10 percent since the beginning of the month. We're seeing something like that as we look at individual states too. Those with early surges started to decline somewhere around two or two-and-a-half months in. Those hit later are now beginning to show the same sort of leveling off. So now the South is looking better, but we're not out of this yet. The Upper Midwest and Mountain West are looking worse. Wisconsin, for example, shows nearly an 80 percent increase in new cases over just the last two weeks. Montana's almost as bad.

Hospitalization data can be thought of as more resistant to holiday fluctuations; after all, patients need care over long weekends too. What we're seeing here is the same sort of pattern, only one that lags the new cases. We've talked on several occasions about the reason for that lag: Once a person is diagnosed, it frequently takes some time before the disease become severe enough to require hospitalization. And so the curve for hospitalizations is looking much like the curve for new cases, just a week to two weeks behind it. We seem to have peaked and set out on a decline; but the numbers are spotty across the country with declines in the South, even while the real numbers are exceedingly high, and critical situations in the West and Upper Midwest continuing. We still have a whole lot of people in hospitals in the US.

Deaths lag hospitalizations, and I think we all understand why. Those numbers continue to rise; we're running over 2000 per day right now, and I haven't seen much evidence this trend is abating yet. Worse, we're running death rates far above those of other countries—twice the UK's, seven times Canada's, and more than 10 times Germany's. If Mississippi were a country, its per capita death rate from Covid-19 would be up there with the worse in the world, second only to Peru. Something is clearly going very wrong here.

We know what that is, don't we? The UK, Canada, Germany—all of those other countries have higher vaccination rates than the US. As this analysis says, "The vaccines radically reduce the chances of serious Covid illness, and deaths are occurring overwhelmingly among the unvaccinated. Yet many people have chosen to leave themselves unprotected." Seems to me the only way out of this is right down the middle;

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I don't think we can skirt what's coming. But if our two-month trends hold, we might be making our way out of the current surge, and that would be a nice respite. I still harbor concern that we're going to see one more surge after the winter holidays that will take us into early spring. I would love to be wrong about that. I did not sign up for two years of this when I made that first post way, way back on February 26, 2020.

As expected, on the heels of their Advisory Committee's recommendation from last week, the FDA acted last night to extend Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine emergency use authorization (EUA) to include a third dose for people over 65 and adults at high risk of severe illness or of severe complications due to occupational or institutional exposure. It looks like this category will include "health care workers, teachers and day care staff, grocery workers, and those in homeless shelters or prisons," according to a statement from Janet Woodcock, FDA commissioner. This likely affects at least 11 million of us; at the moment about 22 million have passed the six-month mark from a Pfizer/BioNTech second dose, about half of whom are 65 or older. Another good chunk of those early-vaccinated people are health care workers who would qualify occupationally.

We'll wait now for the CDC to weigh in officially. Its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is halfway through a two-day meeting on the matter and should have its recommendations later today. That work is important and influential, but their decisions are not binding. That means third doses can commence at any time now, even before the CDC finishes its work; FDA authorization is the legal mark that must be met. It is generally expected that third doses will commence this week. The supply of vaccine is clearly sufficient; it will be a matter of getting everyone who wants a third dose scheduled and vaccinated. We're not going to have the waiting-your-turn thing we had back last winter because we don't have enough vaccine to go around; but I could foresee, especially in the absence of the mass vaccination clinics we saw at that time, that some folks will have to wait to get an appointment. I would expect a prioritization system put in place much like what we saw back in the early days of vaccination: starting with health care workers and nursing home residents, then expanding access from there. I guess we'll see how that works out.

There is a number of open questions yet, questions we do not have the data to address. We don't know, for example, how a mix-and-match strategy, where you get a third dose of a different vaccine from your first two doses, would work or whether it will be recommended or authorized at some point—won't be this week for sure. We don't know whether further additional doses will be required in the future or if so, how soon. The current decision-making focuses only on the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. I would expect the others will follow relatively soon; there's a word about one of those below. And in case you've been wondering, we should note that, at least for the mRNA vaccines, the third dose seems to be returning fewer side effects than the second dose; so if you've been queasy about the prospect of feeling poorly for a day or two after your third dose, that seems to be less likely (but not unheard of) than it was after dose #2.

One other item of discussion at yesterday's ACIP meeting was pregnant people, only 30 percent of whom have been vaccinated. The Committee's chair, Dr. Grace Lee, professor of pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine, said in the meeting that the safety data on vaccination during pregnancy "has been incredibly reassuring to date," that is, these vaccines are very safe in that population. There is zero evidence being vaccinated during pregnancy raises risks for pregnancy loss or birth defects. This is an important point because we have a ton of evidence that having Covid-19 is highly unsafe for the pregnant and for their fetuses as well. The risk for severe disease is elevated during pregnancy, and there has been a substantial increase in pregnant people in ICUs since the Delta variant has spread across the country.

Monday morning, Pfizer/BioNTech announced their vaccine was shown in clinical trials involving 2268 children, two-thirds of whom were given vaccine and the remaining third of whom were given placebo, to be safe and effective in 5- to 11-year-old children. Their data have not yet been published or peer-reviewed,

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but given the FDA's going to go over those with a fine-tooth comb in another week or two, it would be exceedingly foolhardy of them to misrepresent them at this stage of the game. I think it's safe to proceed on the assumption that this is solid information.

The vaccine was given as two doses, scheduled 21 days apart, just as it is given in older people. Efficacy was established not by counting numbers who became ill, but rather by measuring immune responses in vaccinated children, a fairly common practice when extending trials to a new age group. The goal of the trial is to compare the trial participants' antibody response to what's called a correlate of immunity, the level of antibodies seen in older children whom we know the vaccine protects. The idea is that levels seen to be protective in older children will also be protective in younger ones; the trials simply establish the dose at which this happens and look for safety signals. The dose used in this younger age group will be one-third that used in older children and adults; this is stimulating a robust response while also reducing the incidence of side effects and also stretching the supply considerably. The submission for an extension of the vaccine's emergency use authorization (EUA) should be complete within the next week or two. The age group in question here consists of 28 million children, and the authorization would bring the percentage of Americans eligible for vaccination to 94.

As case numbers in children continue to climb, the EUA extension will probably come as a relief to many parents. I do not expect, however, it will be a game-changer in the trajectory of the pandemic in the US; a good half of pediatric cases today are seen in children old enough to be vaccinated now, and most of the ill are not vaccinated. Children 12 to 17 are the least-vaccinated group in the country, and cases in children have increased 240 percent since July. I don't see parents who are unwilling to vaccinate their 12- to 16-year-olds dashing off to the clinic to have their younger children vaccinated. Even so, parents who are eager to have their children vaccinated can probably start looking forward to a near-future date when that can happen.

For the record, the data for the even-younger under-5 age group are another few weeks off yet. It looks as though an even smaller dose, about one-tenth of the adult dose, is going to be sufficient in these kids. We'll wait for further news, but we're getting closer.

Also on the subject of vaccine, we have new data on the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine's booster trial in 32,000 people. The data were also published in pre-print (not peer-reviewed), and in an announcement Tuesday morning, the company said the second dose of this one-dose vaccine given two months after the first dose is improving the efficacy from 74 percent to 94 percent, bringing antibody titers up to four times higher than after a first dose. When the interval between doses is increased to six months, the antibody titers started out nine times higher and then continued to rise to 12 times higher than after the first dose. The protection against hospitalization for one dose was 86 percent for those under 60 and 78 percent for those over. With a second dose, that protection was higher, approaching 100 percent. This is a vaccine whose effectiveness has actually improved with time after administration, unlike the mRNA vaccines. It was lower to start, but then increases; and this second dose seems to bring it up to the levels of protection that rival the other vaccines and may just be more durable as well. Importantly, these data cover the period during which Delta has become the predominant variant in circulation.

Because this was the last of the currently authorized vaccines to receive its EUA, the data on these further studies has also lagged, but now we have some information to work with. The company also indicated they have been submitted to the FDA for evaluation; I think it is at least possible they will ask not only for an extension of its EUA to cover a second dose, but also to make the vaccine a two-dose vaccine. This differs from the other vaccines in that it results in quite robust protection after a single dose and then heightened protection after a second, and the longer you wait for that second dose, the better. The mRNA vaccines are not very protective at all after a single dose, so the flexibility this vaccine offers might just be a real advantage. It typically takes the agency some time to sort through a submission like this; there are usually piles and piles of information included. The FDA has maintained they'll move on these applications with all due speed. Could be we'll hear something about this soon.

It's always something: The latest is inhaling hydrogen peroxide (billed as h2o2) from your nebulizer as a

preventive and a treatment for Covid-19. A nebulizer is a device that puts medicines in a breathable mist, and many people with asthma or other chronic respiratory conditions have these devices in their homes. I want to be clear that no one reputable is recommending the internal use of hydrogen peroxide at all; on the other hand, there are plenty of posts on various social media platforms encouraging you to give it a try and showing in videos how to do it. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America warned in a blog post on Tuesday that you should "NOT put hydrogen peroxide into your nebulizer and breathe it in. This is dangerous. It is not a way to prevent nor treat COVID-19." I wonder what's next—Drano?

And with that, I'll sign off for the day. Please be well and back away from the hydrogen peroxide. We'll talk again soon.

Bates Township Weed Notice

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE:

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2021 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk
(0922.0929)

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*Product Price - Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. **As rated by Kohler, all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3600 RPM per SAE J1940 as rated by engine manufacturer. **See your local Cub Cadet Independent Dealer for warranty details. © 2021 Cub Cadet 3PV_Q_ECOMMERCE



Preschool Developmental Screening Groton Area Schools #06-6

Preschool Developmental Screening is for children ages 3-4 who reside in the Groton Area School District. The child needs to be 3 years of age before the screening date/day. This screening is not required to enter Kindergarten.

The screening consists of adaptive, personal/social, communicating/speaking, motor, and concepts skills. If you believe your child has difficulties in any of these areas please contact the school.

If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

Screenings will be held on Friday, September 24 8:00-2:00 and Monday, September 27 12:30-3:00. Please contact Heidi Krueger at 605-397-2317 to schedule a screening time.

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Offensive Onslaught and Defensive Stops Lead Wolves to First Win over USF in Six Decades

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team recorded a commanding win over the University of Sioux Falls, 41-10, in the 6th Annual Ag Bowl. The Wolves scored early and often, notching 21 points in the first, nine in the second, seven in the third, and three in the fourth.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 41, USF 10

Records: NSU 3-1, USF 2-2

Attendance: 4723

HOW IT HAPPENED

- Northern jumped on Sioux Falls early with a 24-yard rushing touchdown by Vance Barnes on their first drive of the contest
- Dakota Larson grabbed the first receiving touchdown of the evening for NSU, a 30-yard reception from Hunter Trautman at 8:28 in the first, giving the Wolves a 14-0 lead
- Isaiah Cherrier extended the lead in the first on a 37-yard rushing scoring as the quarter clock ticked down
- Payton Eue and Dewaylon Ingram tallied back-to-back scores for the Wolves in the second; a 32-yard field goal and 10-yard reception, which gave Northern a 31-0 lead
- Sioux Falls closed out the scoring first half with a 31-yard field goal from Nick Hernandez and the two teams entered the locker room with Northern up 31-3
- Trautman and Jimmy Kepouros tallied the game's longest reception in the third; an 89-yard touchdown pass and the Wolves went up by 35 points
- The Cougars scored their lone touchdown of the loss with just ten seconds remaining in the third, a 1-yard run by Ja'Tai Jenkins
- Eue added his second field goal at 12:06 in the fourth, a 35-yarder that capped off an 11-point evening for junior
- The Northern offense tallied 21 first downs, 110 yards rushing, and a game high 379 yards passing
- NSU averaged 4.2 yards per rush and 14.0 yards per completion with 489 yards of total offense in the win
- They were efficient with the ball converting on 7-of-12 third down situations and 4-of-5 red-zone chances
- The Wolves defense held USF to their lowest rushing total of the season, recorded two interceptions and one sack, and gave up their lowest point total of the season
- Two Northern State receivers notched over 100 yards in the game, with four notching at least five receptions
- The win is the first for the Wolves over the Cougars in the NCAA Division II era, snapping a 4-game losing streak

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Hunter Trautman: 375 yards passing, 26-of-35, 3 touchdowns,
- Isaiah Cherrier: 55 yards rushing, 9.2 yards per rush, 1 touchdown
- Vance Barnes: 34 yards rushing, 1 touchdown, 103 kick return yards
- Jimmy Kepouros: 144 yards receiving, 28.8 yards per reception, 89-yard long, 1 touchdown
- Dakota Larson: 103 yards receiving, 1 touchdown
- Chase Teiken: 11 tackles (8 solo, 3 assisted), 1 break-up
- Donovan Lucas: 2 interceptions, 12 interception return yards, 1 break-up
- Jack Braun: 4 tackles, 1.0 sack
- Payton Eue: 2 field goals, 5-of-5 PAT, 31.5 yards per punt, 62.6 yards per kickoff

UP NEXT

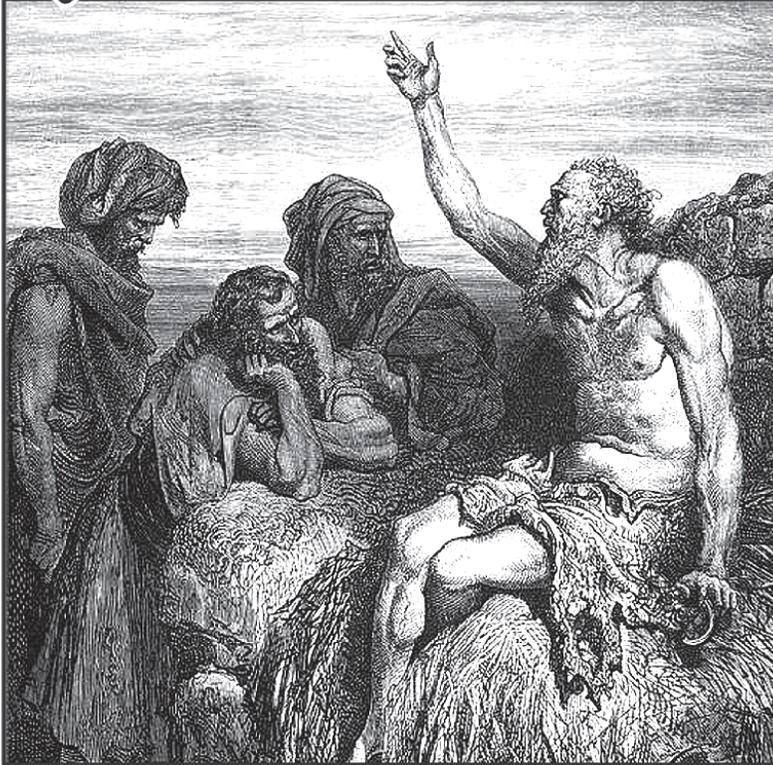
The Wolves are back at Dacotah Bank Stadium next Saturday, hosting the University of Mary. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. in the Annual Gypsy Days game. For a full list of game day promotions [CLICK HERE](#). Fans are also reminded that all game day information and protocols are posted on the Dacotah Bank Stadium homepage.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



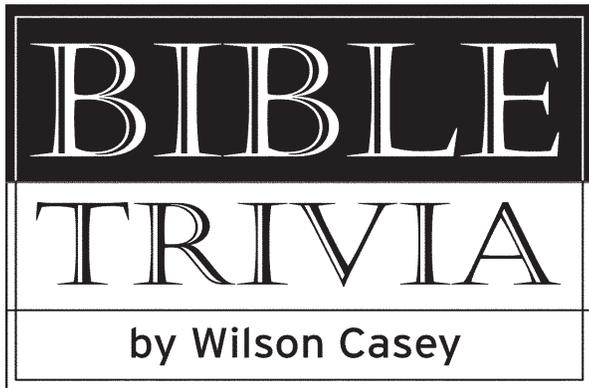
*Behold, God is exalted
by His power;
who teaches like Him?
Who has assigned Him
His way, or who has said,
'You have done wrong'?*

🌀 JOB 36: 22,23 🌀

*Detail from "Job and his Friends"
engraved by Regnier
(1866) after Gustave Dore*

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

2. From Exodus 28:39, what kind of head covering did the priest wear?
Turban, Snood, Scarf, Kalupto

3. The Pentateuch refers to how many of the first books of the Old Testament? 2, 3, 4, 5

4. From 1 Samuel 25:1 and 28:3, where was the burial place of Samuel?
Gilgal, Joppa, Corinth, Ramah

5. Whose harp playing caused Saul's "evil spirit" to leave him?
Solomon, Alexander, David, Haman

6. Esau sold his birthright for a mess of ____?
Gold, Pottage, Oil, Manna

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Turban; 3) 5; 4) Ramah; 5) David; 6) Pottage

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

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Butterscotch "Cookie" Dessert

I don't know many folks who are too full to dig into a luscious serving of dessert. This scrumptious example is no exception!

- 18 (2 1/2-inch) chocolate graham crackers
- 2 (4-serving) packages sugar-free instant butterscotch pudding mix
- 1 1/3 cups nonfat dry milk powder
- 2 cups water
- 3/4 cup fat-free whipping topping
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans

1. Evenly arrange 9 graham crackers in a 9-by-9-inch cake pan. In a large bowl, combine dry pudding mixes, dry milk powder and water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in whipped topping. Coarsely crush remaining 9 graham crackers. Reserve 2 tablespoons of cracker crumbs.

2. Gently stir remaining crumbs into pudding mixture. Spread pudding mixture evenly over "crust" in pan. Sprinkle pecans and reserved cracker crumbs evenly over top. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serves 8.

* Each serving equals: 122 calories, 2g fat, 5g protein, 21g carb., 457mg sodium, 1g fiber.

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Character Profile:
Dale Arden



AN AIRPLANE IS TORN ASUNDER BY A FREAK METEOR SHOWER!

THAT FATEFUL FLIGHT BRINGS RAVEN-HAIRED BEAUTY DALE ARDEN INTO THE ARMS OF WORLD-RENOUNDED ATHLETE FLASH GORDON.

SINCE THEN THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN BOUND TOGETHER... FACING ADVENTURES UNDREAMED OF IN THE HOPES OF SAVING A WORLD ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!



By JIM KEEFE
9-19

WITH CAPTAIN RANOK AT THE CONTROLS, DALE PROVIDES COVER FIRE FOR FLASH AND TENGI.



GET TO THE SHIP!



WHA... KOFF

WHAT ABOUT THE STOLEN DATA?

IT WON'T EVEN EXIST IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES.

WITH THE STOCKPILE OF STOLEN EQUIPMENT DOWN HERE, THIS PLACE IS A POWDER KEG!

MY LIEGE, WE HAVE TO GET YOU TO SAFETY!

NOT YET!

THE LOCATION OF THE RADIUM SUPPLY IS ALMOST DOWNLOADED!

ALMOST... ALMOST...



BRA-KOW!

TO BE CONT'D

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



ATTEMPTING TO HIT EVERY SHOT STRAIGHT IS GOOD DISCIPLINE FOR BEGINNERS IN THAT IT PROMOTES DEVELOPING SOUND SWING MECHANICS. HOWEVER, MORE ADVANCED PLAYERS WILL USUALLY DO BEST WITH EITHER A FADE OR A DRAW AS THEIR BREAD-AND-BUTTER SHOT.



REASON IS THAT GOING WITH A PARTICULAR SHAPE OF SHOT MAKES SCORING EASIER BY "BLOCKING OUT" ONE OR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COURSE, AS YOU SEE HERE. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL SEE A LITTLE CURVE ON ALMOST ALL THE TOUR PLAYERS' LONG SHOTS.

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1. What was Byron MacGregor's single claim to fame?
2. Which group released "Never Been to Spain"?
3. Steve Lawrence and Donny Osmond both had hits with the same song. What was it?
4. Name the first No. 1 hit in America by Yes.
5. What song contains this lyric: "What are we gonna tell your mama, What are we gonna tell your pa, What are we gonna tell our friends when they say ooh-la-la"?

Answers

1. MacGregor released a spoken word recording of "The Americans (A Canadian's Opinion)," with "America the Beautiful" played in the background, in 1973. It tells of one Canadian's appreciation for all America has done to help around the world in response to crises.
2. Three Dog Night, in 1972. Hoyt Axton wrote and released the original in 1971, and it's since been covered by numerous others.
3. "Go Away Little Girl," released in 1963 and 1971, respectively.
4. "Owner of a Lonely Heart," in 1983.
5. "Wake Up Little Susie," by the Everly Brothers in 1957. The song shot to No. 1, even though it had been banned for having suggestive lyrics. Simon and Garfunkel released a cover years later, but it wasn't even close. That sibling DNA in the brothers' voices just can't be duplicated.

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Queenpins (R) — We can stop complaining that there are no unique ideas for movies and everything is a remake. This based-on-a-true-story comedy starring Kristen Bell and Kirby Howell-Baptiste is all about the intriguing and exciting world of extreme couponing! But not just everyday couponing, the plot soon delves into a multi-million-dollar counterfeit coupon scam started by two best friends who cheated corporations and attempted to pad the pockets of fellow budget-conscious housewives. First released in theaters in early September, streaming is available beginning 9/30. (Paramount+)

The Problem With Jon Stewart — Six years after vacating his host position on “The Daily Show,” Jon Stewart is making a return to television. Some may question if we really need another nighttime political and social commentary show. The answer is a resounding YES, because it’s Jon Stewart. In this new series, each hour-long episode will focus on a single topic, with new episodes airing every two weeks. In addition to well-known current affairs, topics will also include advocacy work on which Stewart has focused his attention over the past years while he was out of the spotlight. (AppleTV)

The Not Too Late Show With Elmo (Season 2) — If Jon Stewart’s talk show is too cerebral for you, head over to HBO Max’s Cartoonito shorts section and spend 15 minutes with America’s favorite 3 1/2 year old as he gets ready for bed. Elmo from Sesame Street is back for his second season with Cookie Monster as his genial, Ed MacMahon-esque sidekick, while other Muppets work as the show crew. Celebrity guests for the new season include Taron Hall and Aidy Bryant. (HBO Max)

LuLaRich — In the early-2010s, a multi-level marketing company emerged that achieved phenomenal growth in number of independent retailers and profits. But after that impressive rise came the inevitable fall of both product quality and customer satisfaction. But who was to blame? Was it simply a matter of too much too fast, or was something more



Paramount+

Kirby Howell-Baptiste, Kristen Bell in “Queenpins”

sinister at hand? Through interviews with its founders and numerous retailers, the story of clothier LuLaRoe unravels (much like their leggings did). The women who hawked the goods at home parties and through Facebook Live streams either made fortunes or lost everything, but they were all sold promises that were too big to sustain. Not surprisingly, founders DeAnne and Mark Stidham give off a strange televangelist power couple vibe from which you can’t look away. (Prime Video)

Felix and the Hidden Treasure (PG) (Animated) — Two years after his father disappeared at sea, 12-year-old Felix decides to venture out alone to find him. His mother is off enjoying a mom’s vacay on a cruise, so she won’t notice his absence. After his raft capsizes, an old bearded sailor with a wooden-legged parrot agrees to take him on board his craft and help him search for his pops. They end up on Dark Shadow Island with its legend of hidden treasure. But it’s not your typical treasure of gold and jewels, it’s something more existential. Or is it?? (Hulu)

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by} Wagner

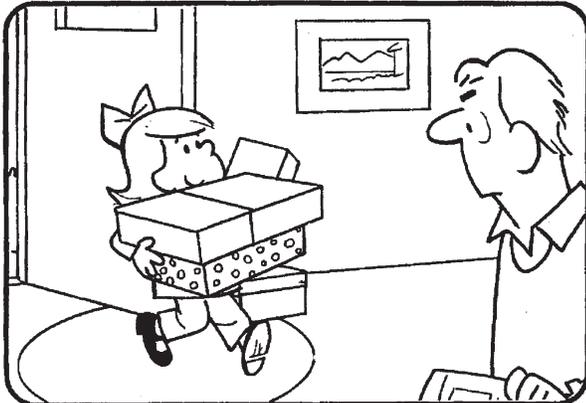


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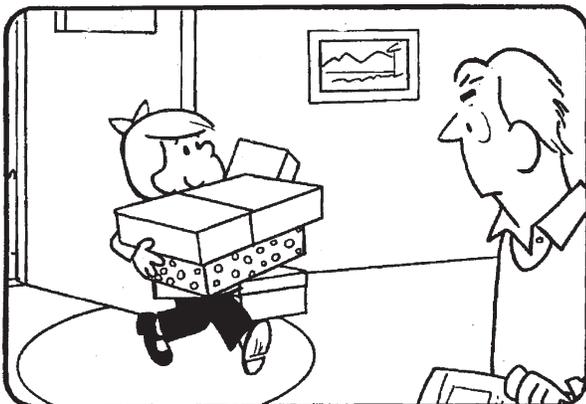
"We always discussed things sensibly, until he started talking!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc.
 Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Nose is different. 3. Button is added. 4. Hair is changed. 5. Frame is smaller. 6. Pants are different.

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- Keep the yolks in hard-boiled eggs from crumbling by wetting your knife between slices.

- “Save plastic bags that cannot be recycled, and use them to collect food scraps that cannot be composted or flushed.” — *B.M. in New York*

- “I use double-stick tape to hang lighter items on my walls, since it does not leave a hole, and I am a renter. You also can use it to reduce noise from vibrations. For instance, I used it in my car to keep the carpet lying flat in the trunk.” — *J.T. via e-mail*

- “To soften butter without melting it, warm a bowl that is bigger than the butter stick and invert it over the butter on a plate. It’s nice before a meal because it makes a hard stick of butter easier to spread on bread rolls, but not so soft that you use too much.” — *T.G. in Indiana*

- “That time of the year is almost here. You know, the time when running the heater gives the whole house the zaps. To keep our carpets from giving us static shock, we fill a water spray bottle with 1 part laundry softener and 4 parts water. Give the air and carpet a spritz, and it kills the zaps.” — *A.O. in Canada*

- “Hard-water stains in the toilet are no match for denture tablets. Simply drop one in the toilet and let sit overnight. A quick scrub and a flush in the morning should do it.” — *P.S. in Washington*

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

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PARDON MY PASTEBOARDS! The Great Carducci needs more practice. Can you spot three cards above that are exactly alike?
Three of diamonds.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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



MAGIC QUESTIONS!

Hidden in the diagram at left are 11 words associated with magicians. They can be read up or down, side to side, or diagonally. The following questions will help you find the words:

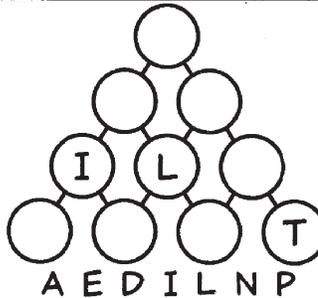
1. What appears from silk scarves?
2. What do magicians wear?
3. What do they shuffle?
4. What is used to bind them?
5. What do they do when tied up?
6. What do they grow from nothing?
7. What do they do to their audience?
8. What can't hold them?
9. What do they cut and restore?
10. What do their assistants often do?
11. What magician was the greatest?

IT MUST BE INFLATION! Can you make this equation correct by adding two punctuation marks? It's tricky!



Two colons do the trick. 5:60 = 6:00 (when telling time).

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read top to bottom along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

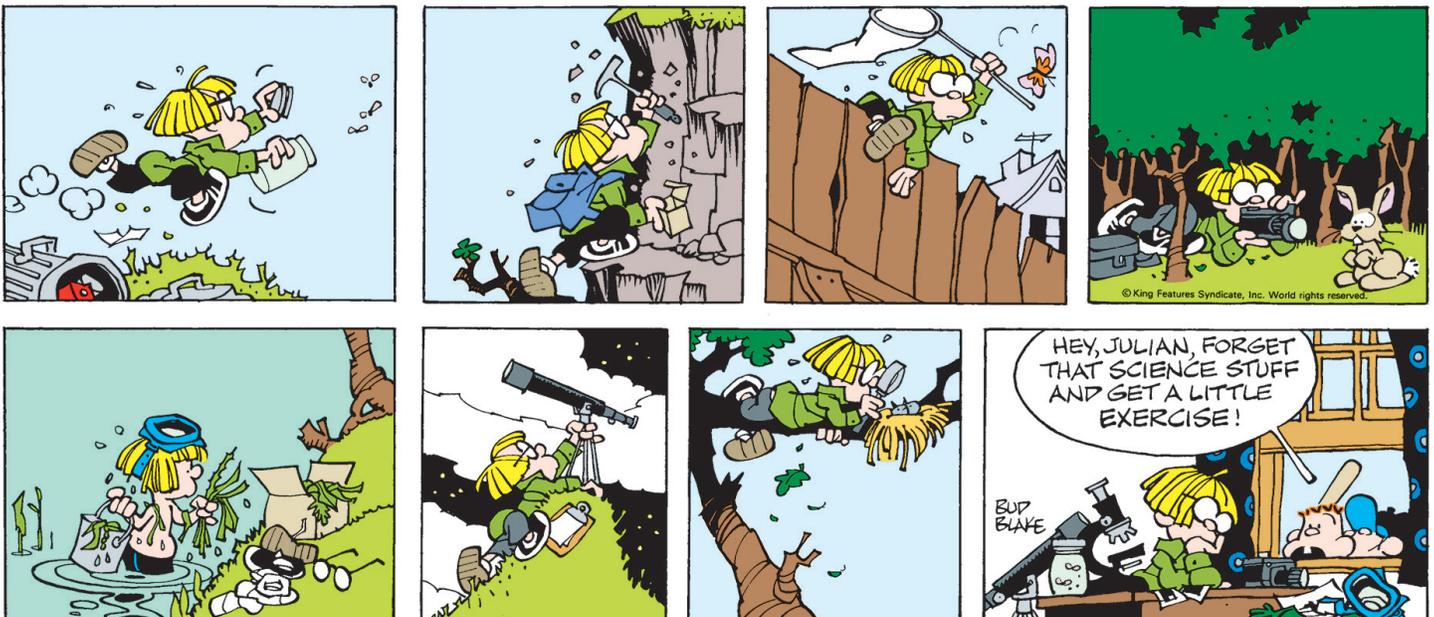


Illustrated by David Coulson

Top to bottom, left to right, the words are paid, pall, pill, pale, pile, pine, pint.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Arrivederci —"
- 5 Jazzy style
- 8 Wild guess
- 12 Slender
- 13 Piercing tool
- 14 Brownish purple
- 15 In — veritas
- 16 Corp. boss
- 17 Desertlike
- 18 Nowheresville
- 20 Saint Patrick's Day event
- 22 Hide-hair insert
- 23 Nine-digit ID
- 24 Engrossed
- 27 Promptly
- 32 Wedding words
- 33 Expert
- 34 Granada gold
- 35 "Wonder Woman" actress
- 38 Remain
- 39 Beer barrel
- 40 Stolen
- 42 Alpine home
- 45 Casts out
- 49 Opera set in Egypt
- 50 Guffaw syllable
- 52 Lavish party
- 53 Espy
- 54 Reuben bread

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

- 55 Kismet
- 56 Sparkling Italian wine
- 57 German conjunction
- 58 Lean-to
- 8 Meager
- 9 Puccini opera
- 10 Battery fluid
- 11 Eliot's "Adam —"
- 19 Rejection
- 21 Bat wood
- 24 Predetermine
- 25 Oklahoma city
- 26 Bikini pattern
- 28 Sgt., for one
- 29 Tied down
- 30 Mouths (Lat.)
- 31 Playpen item
- 36 Trattoria deserts
- 37 Candle count
- 38 Refuses to pay
- 41 Symbol of strength
- 42 Juanita's home
- 43 Swinging joints?
- 44 Drive- — window
- 46 Wife of Jacob
- 47 Diminutive suffix
- 48 Burpee buy
- 51 Novelist Rand

DOWN

- 1 Answer an invite
- 2 Hodgepodge
- 3 Behave
- 4 Quantity
- 5 Scenic route, often
- 6 Have bills
- 7 Fall into a

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

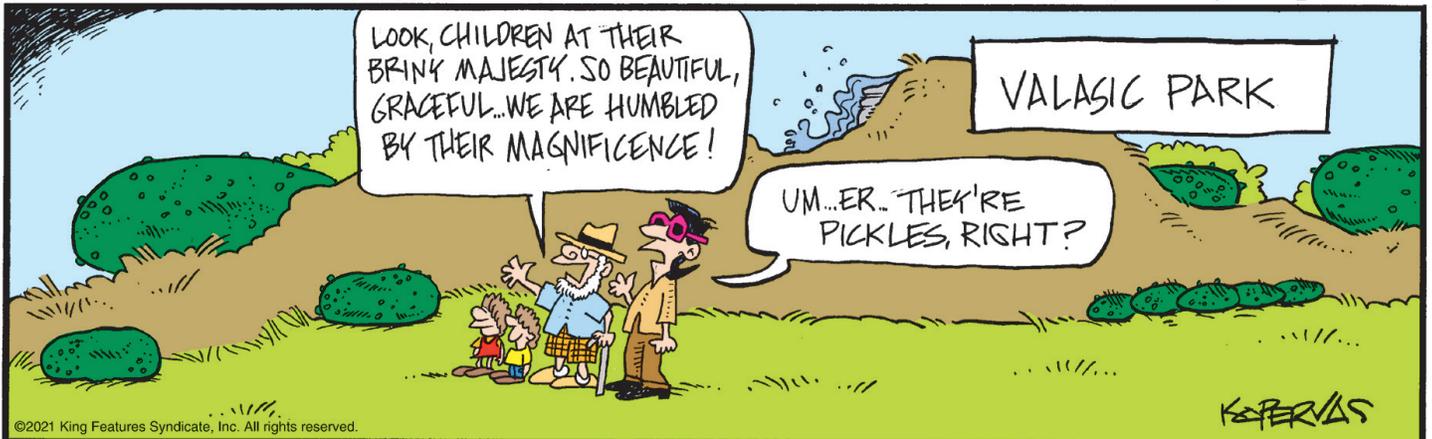
LAFF - A - DAY



"Anyone turned in a snapping turtle lately?"

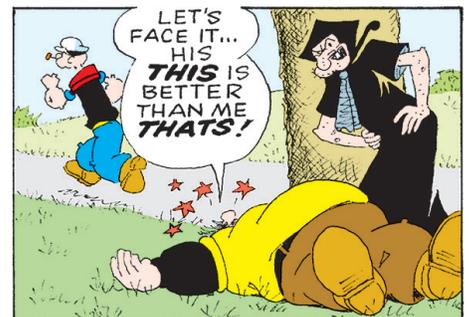
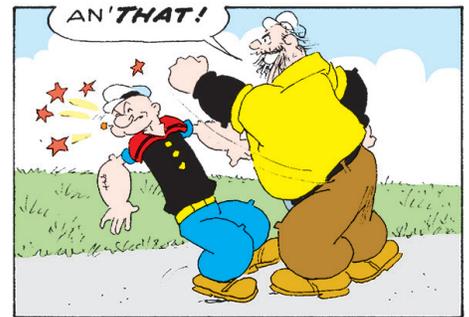
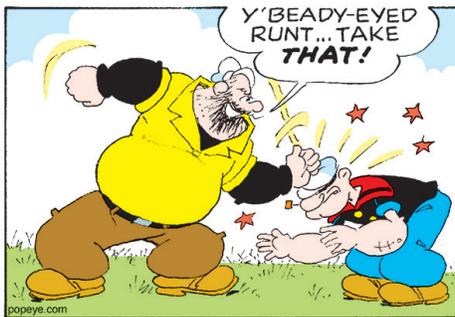
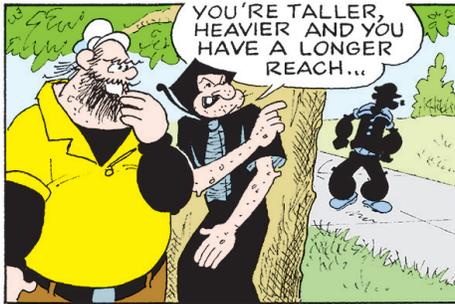
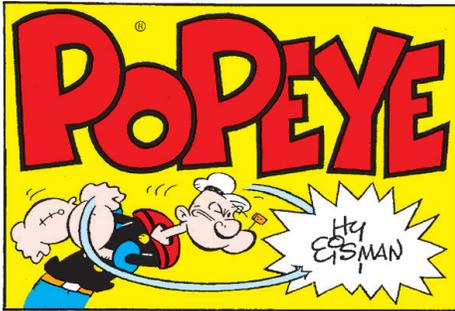
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



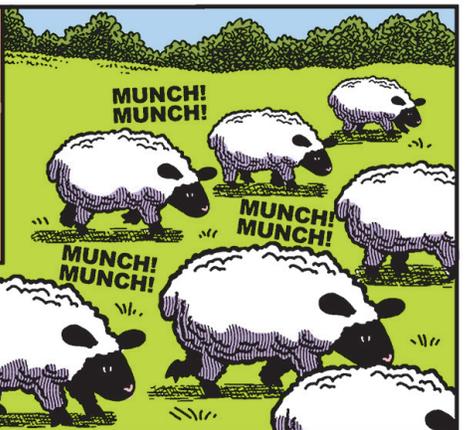
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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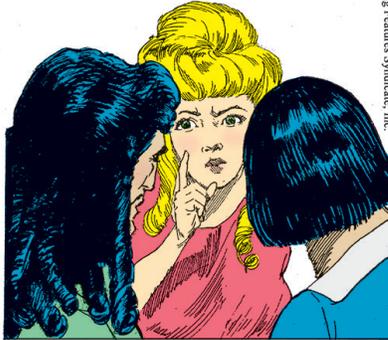
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Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
GIANNI AND SCHULTZ



VAL AND HIS COMPANY HAVE EMERGED FROM THE UNDERWORLD TO FIND THEMSELVES IN - "WALES! I RECOGNIZE THESE HILLS! ONLY FOUR DAYS' MARCH FROM..."

ALETA INTERRUPTS HER IMPATIENT HUSBAND: "MY GIRLS ARE STARVING. FIRST WE EAT- AND REST."



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NO ONE ARGUES WITH A RESOLUTE ALETA. THE MEN RANGE OUT AND VAL'S HUNTING SKILLS ONCE AGAIN PROVE IMPRESSIVE.



THE WOMEN SET THE CAMP TRAPPINGS PROVIDED BY THE THUATHA, AND GATHER WILD HERBS TO START A HEARTY STEW. PRUDENCE, HOWEVER, IS PREOCCUPIED...



...BY A CERTAIN SMALL FLASK SHE HAS PULLED FROM HER BODICE, SHE CONSIDERS IT UNCERTAINLY...



UNTIL ALETA SNAPS: "PUT DOWN YOUR TOY, GIRL-WE HAVE A FINE DEER TO DRESS!"



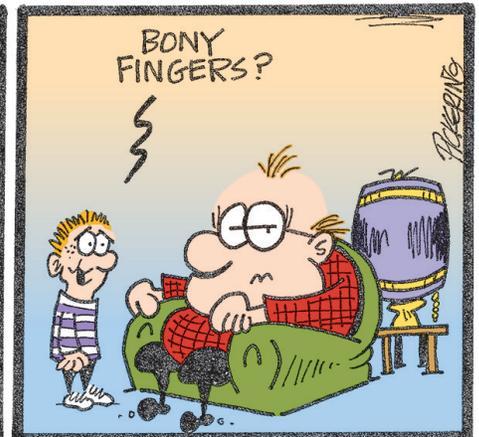
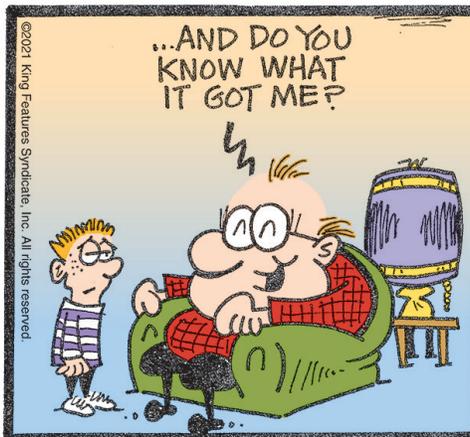
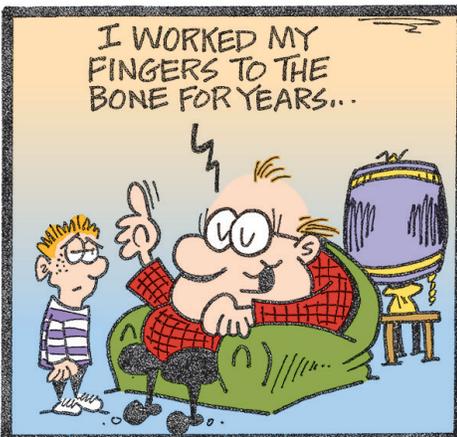
THE HANDMAIDEN HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY, AND SO THE UNCORKED VIAL IS LEFT UNATTENDED...

NEXT:
Strange stew



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Holiday Gift Shortages

If you will have holiday shopping to do this year, you need to get started on it now. Manufacturers and store owners are saying there will be shortages. There are labor problems, problems with container ships that can't be off-loaded in ports, trucks that can't deliver the goods, material supply-chain problems ... you get the picture.

Here are two suggestions to keep gift-buying simpler this year: toys and books.

TOYS — If you have small children to buy for, shop now. Manufacturers of many of the most popular toys are saying that they've seen shortages of required materials on a global scale. Try local toy stores for items they have in stock now.

BOOKS — Call your library and ask for age-appropriate suggestions for young children. Then, list in hand, call your local bookstore. Ask if they have in stock what you need. If you can

actually go to the store and pick up the books curbside, you're ahead of the game. Otherwise try ordering online, but look for things already in stock.

For teens and adults, consider buying them a Kindle, an e-book reader available on Amazon. (I've had three different versions of Kindle since 2016 and truly appreciate the way I can order a book and have it appear on my e-reader within minutes.) A new Kindle, a \$15 case and a \$50 gift certificate for e-books would be welcome gifts for readers. Check the delivery dates of the various Kindle colors. Some are available immediately; others aren't.

When it comes to online shopping, experts advise ordering items that are as close to home as possible, not across oceans. Beware of local shipping delays as well. Gone are the days of always receiving boxes in just a few days. If you order something online

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1. Camp Nou is the popular name for the home stadium of what European football club?

2. In 2006, what two running backs became the first brothers in NFL history to rush for at least 1,000 yards in the same season?

3. Who batted for the cycle against the Texas Rangers in 2008, then batted for the cycle for the Rangers in 2012 and '15?

4. What power forward from Germany was named NBA Sixth Man of the Year in 1991 and '92 while with the Indiana Pacers?

5. What Hockey Hall of Fame center retired in 2005 with 1,249 career assists, second all-time to Wayne Gretzky's 1,963?

6. What two college football teams play for the Silver Spade Trophy in



the Battle of I-10 rivalry game?

7. What World Golf Hall of Famer and broadcaster was named LPGA Player of the Year in 1976 and '77, and was captain of the U.S. Solheim Cup team in 1996 and '98?

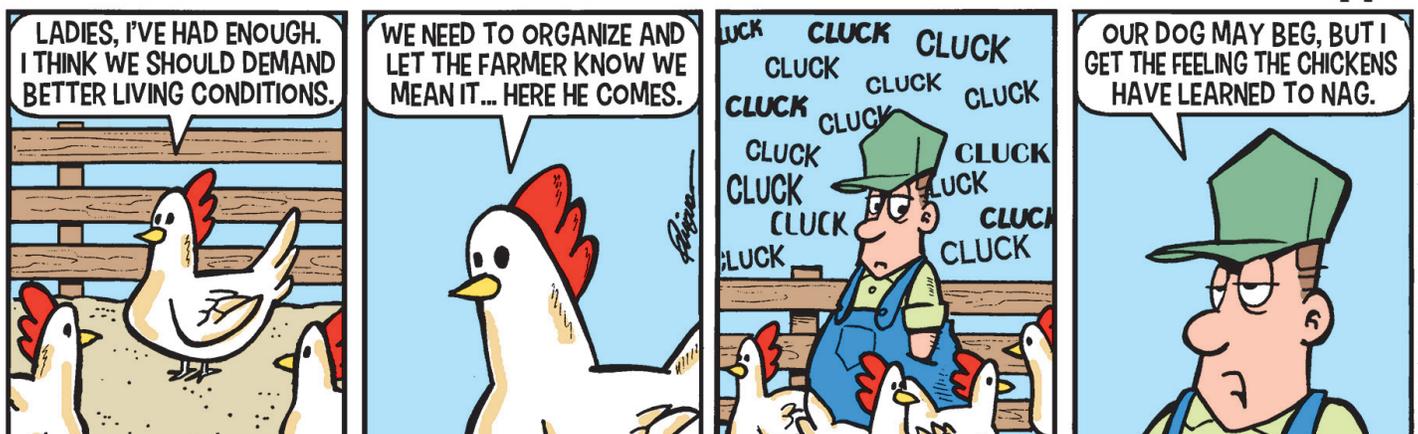
Answers

1. FC Barcelona.
2. Julius Jones (1,084 yards with Dallas Cowboys) and Thomas Jones (1,210 yards with Chicago Bears).
3. Adrián Beltré.
4. Detlef Schrempf.
5. Ron Francis.
6. The New Mexico State Aggies and the UTEP Miners.
7. Judy Rankin.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Forward Thinking Helps Pets in Natural Disasters

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Why do people leave their pets behind when a hurricane or forest fire approaches? And what happens to the pets that survive a disaster? — *Kerry in Cincinnati*

DEAR KERRY: Pet owners don't intend to abandon pets to approaching danger, but it happens all too frequently: Pets get left behind when a disaster strikes.

Sometimes an owner has to leave the pet behind — rescue services prioritize human life over pets when a situation is dire. Sometimes, in the panic and confusion of gathering up things to evacuate, a pet will dart out the door. And sometimes, pets get abandoned because evacuation centers won't allow pets inside.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when more than 100,000 pets were left to fend for themselves during and

after the storm (www.louisianaspca.org/about-us/hurricane-katrina/animal-rescue-facts/), pet shelters radically changed the way they manage intake and care of animals. They became more proactive. They built bigger, stronger networks with other shelters locally and nationwide, and coordinated their efforts with emergency responders. (www.sierraclub.org/sierra/what-happens-animals-during-natural-disasters). They got better at reuniting rescued pets with owners.

Pet owners can play a direct role in helping pet rescue efforts by being proactive well before a disaster strikes. Microchip your pets and keep contact info up to date. Keep up with your pet's vaccinations and health checks. Most importantly, have your own evacuation plan that includes a "go" bag for you and for your pet. A pet's "go" bag should include an extra leash and collar, a copy of their medical and registration records, pet food, waste pickup bags or pee pads, and extra medication if they take any. Know where to evacuate and which shelters allow pets.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* The Chocolate River in the "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" was real! The production used 150,000 gallons of water, cream and chocolate. But the ingredients spoiled and smelled really bad when the movie ended.

* Studies have shown that playing Tetris can curb sex, drug and food cravings.

* C.S. Lewis coined the term "verbicide" to denote the killing of a word or distortion of its original meaning.

* A Vietnamese man was hospitalized after drinking too much methanol. Doctors transfused 15 cans of beer into his body to revive him. The liver breaks down ethanol before methanol, which gave doctors more time to do dialysis to remove the methanol from his system.

* The University of Oxford is older than the Aztec Empire.

* Santa Claus was issued a pilot's license from the U.S. government in 1927, along with airway maps and a promise to keep the runway lights on.

* The fighting on D-Day was so fierce that as much as 4% of the sand on Normandy beaches is magnetic due to shrapnel that has been broken down over the decades into sand-sized bits.

* Only official members of federally accepted Native American tribes may legally possess or collect eagle feathers.

* During a game, Babe Ruth would place a cabbage leaf under his cap to keep cool under the sun, replacing it every inning or two.

* Instead of kissing his bride, Edward II of England sealed his wedding vows with a smooch to his lover, Piers Gaveston, 1st Earl of Cornwall.

* A house cat could beat superstar runner Usain Bolt in the 200-meter dash.

Thought for the Day: "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you." -- Mother Teresa

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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

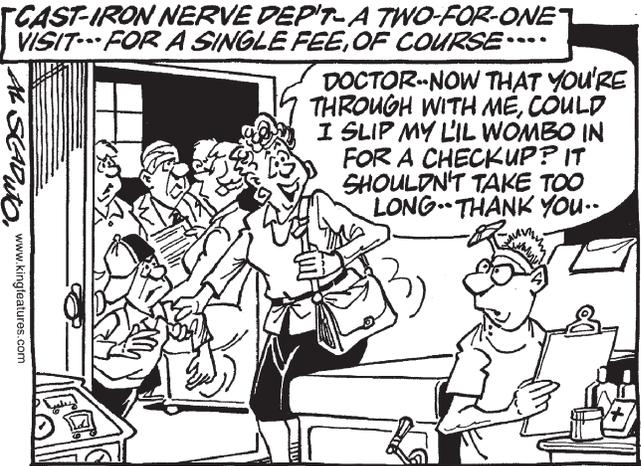
SERVICE-STATION DIAGNOSIS-



Thank to FRED GERMER, BRADENTON, FL.

BY AL SCADUTO

CAST-IRON NERVE DEP'T.-A TWO-FOR-ONE VISIT... FOR A SINGLE FEE, OF COURSE....



Thank to E. ERIKSON, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

11-7

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? THEY DON'T SIT TOGETHER, BUT THEY TALK ACROSS YOU LIKE YOU WEREN'T THERE...

..AN' HOW'S YOUR GOLF GAME? HEY! YOU GOIN' TO THE LODGE DANCE? HOW'S YOUR ULCER? DIDJA HEAR ABOUT ARFO'S WIFE? WELL... ETC.-ETC.....

YEAH! JUST GREAT! HOW ABOUT A LITTLE POKER GAME TONIGHT? IS YOUR OUTFIT MOVING? Y'KNOW WHO TOLD ME? ETC.,ETC....

Thank to W. ROSSFIELD, SUDBURY, ONT.

The Garden Bug

Compost materials



"Browns"

Fallen leaves, hay, straw, cornstalks, shredded cardboard & newspaper (soy-based OK), paper plates, bags, towels, chipped brush, sticks, twigs, branches, bark, sawdust, pine needles (not more than 10%)

"Greens" Vegetable & fruit wastes, eggshells, coffee grounds, filters, teabags, farm animal manure, chemical-free weeds & grass clippings, seaweed (give it a good soak to remove any excess salt) - Brenda Weaver

Source: earthfriendlygardening.wordpress.com

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

VA Emergency Rooms Prep for Elderly Vets

Half of our 19.5 million veterans are over the age of 65, and they make up 45% of emergency room visits at Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, according to the VA.

Seniors come with their own set of medical conditions, such as delirium, cognitive impairment and others. The VA will now address the medical concerns of our senior veterans with the creation of Geriatric Emergency Departments. The plan, in collaboration with several civilian groups, is to create accredited geriatric departments in 70 VA facilities with specifically trained teams that will cover everything from medical, social work and community resources to working with senior veterans to reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

There will be three levels of age-appropriate care, with specific education for doctors and nurses. The VA has

gone to a lot of trouble to identify just what is needed in each area.

They'll do screenings to look for the risk of falling, caregiver burden, functional decline, delirium and cognitive impairment while recognizing underlying geriatric syndromes. (That's where the specialized education comes in.)

But that's just the beginning. They'll look for signs of elder abuse and overall frailty, help with pharmacy and medication (and identify inappropriate and duplicate or contraindicated medications), look into pain control, arrange for transportation home and more.

The model of care for emergency department accreditation is three pages long with no detail too small to consider. They've even thought of the need for a large font in all printed instructions, nonslip floors, handrails and big signs.

So far, 20 emergency rooms in 15 states have applied for accreditation, with 16 facilities already accredited. Ten are partially accredited. The remaining sites will likely apply for accreditation by the end of 2022.

It looks like the VA is getting started just in time. The average age of veterans is 58, with the biggest bump in the curve ages 45 to 64 years old.

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



The Case of the MMIW

If you turned on the news this week or scrolled through social media, it is likely that you came across the tragic story of 22-year-old Gabby Petito whose body was found in Wyoming this week. A little less than two weeks ago, Petito's family filed a missing person's report when her fiancé returned home to Florida from a cross-country road trip without her.

Unfortunately, Gabby's tragic story is not unique. Thousands of people go missing each year, and many cases go unsolved, leaving grieving loved ones with unanswered questions, a lack of closure, and no justice.

Across our nation, a disproportionate number of indigenous women and girls go missing or are murdered. In South Dakota alone, 65% of missing persons are Native Americans despite making up only 9% of the population. Of the 103 persons currently missing in the state, one-third are indigenous women.

A growing movement marked by a red handprint is the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement, a group dedicated to spreading awareness, providing support to families, and demanding justice for these women and girls.

The statistics are startling. On some reservations, Native American women are murdered at a rate more than 10 times the national average. Many cases go unsolved due to a lack of resources, underreporting, poor data collection, and jurisdictional difficulties between tribal, local and state police.

Last year, I was proud to see the Savanna's Act signed into law. It took years to get this legislation across the finish line and because of it, the Department of Justice is now required to assess and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address cases involving missing or murdered indigenous people. The Savanna's Act was named after Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a member of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe who was violently murdered in 2017.

Our nation is making strides but there's more to be done. In 2019, President Trump signed an executive order to form The Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. Earlier this year, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary, established a Missing and Murdered Unit, an interagency team aimed at collaboratively combating this tragic crisis.

As a Member of Congress, I am committed to supporting indigenous women and girls and working to end this horrible problem plaguing our indigenous communities.

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Buffalo Roundup is a one-of-a-kind experience

The Buffalo Roundup is one of my favorite events to host as the governor. Once a year, tens of thousands of spectators gather on a hillside at Custer State Park to watch 60 cowboys and cowgirls (along with a dozen 4WD vehicles) round up almost 1,500 American Bison. It's an amazing scene that brings our history and culture to life, and all for a good cause.

The annual event — this year is the 56th annual Buffalo Roundup — also includes a three-day Arts Festival. The roundup offers an opportunity to showcase three keystones of life in South Dakota: our beautiful landscapes, the iconic buffalo, and a long history of cowboy culture.

I've ridden in the Buffalo Roundup many times, and I still get excited when I feel the rumble of the herd running through the hills. Custer State Park is my favorite place to be in South Dakota. Adding the Roundup to it brings nostalgia for the great cowboys who have made their mark on our state.

James "Scotty" Philip, who is credited as "the man who saved the buffalo," is a key figure in why the Buffalo Roundup is possible today. Philip served in the South Dakota State Senate. He was also a prolific rancher who was passionate about preserving the iconic symbol of the West, the American Buffalo. He purchased a herd and built the first-ever enclosed "Buffalo Park."

Scotty was committed to returning herd numbers to what they once were. While we haven't gotten there yet, the herd at Custer State Park is an example of how responsible management can ensure the buffalo remains an enduring symbol of the American West. The genetics of the buffalo in this herd can be traced back more than 100 years. That is worthy of our conservation efforts.

There also are cowboys like Bob Lantis who at 86 years old has ridden in the Roundup for almost 50 years. Bob has seen this event grow from a few cowboys to now dozens who participate annually and come from around the country. That includes his son and grandsons who rode with us in this year's roundup. And Bob has no intention of quitting anytime soon.

Buffalo Roundup is a dramatic start to fall tourism following an already busy peak season for the western region of our state.

Mount Rushmore and the Badlands National Park both saw an uptick in visitors with a 17% and 25% increase, respectively. Badlands Park Superintendent Mike Pflaum recently reported that July was the busiest month ever at the park.

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State parks, like Custer, are also seeing record increases, with an overall boost of 34% in visitors. Custer State Park, with its many camping grounds, trailheads, and wildlife loop road, saw a 23% increase in visitors.

About 20,000 people attend the Roundup each year. This event allows us to educate visitors about this historic herd – one of the oldest buffalo herds in the country.

Great care is taken to ensure the herd is both sustainable and healthy. To maintain our efforts, the Roundup is followed by an annual auction where bidders can purchase buffalo from this historic herd. I bought five buffalo last year that now live at my ranch near Watertown.

This year's auction will feature about 370 buffalo for sale. The number of buffalo auctioned is chosen specifically to meet the goals of health and sustainability.

In the last five years, 1,689 buffalo have been sold at the auction, raising \$3.02 million for the park fund. That money supports trail management, road maintenance, and other key features to keep the park in top working condition.

There are so many reasons to love the Buffalo Roundup. The most important part, though, is promoting Custer State Park as the best example of balancing habitat and access for visitors. South Dakota will always protect our parks and preserve our heritage. We must provide opportunities for future generations to experience and enjoy all that our great state has to offer.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakotans Know Best

In Washington, Democrats are doing everything they can to expand the power of the federal government – incremental steps toward achieving their broader goal of giving Washington, D.C., more power over South Dakota and our way of life. I know that the last thing South Dakotans want are more rules and regulations coming from out-of-touch Washington bureaucrats, and I don't blame them.

This summer, Democrats held votes on legislation that would put the federal government – instead of states – in charge of our elections. Their so-called "For the People Act" would create a pathway for a massive federal takeover of our electoral systems by undermining state voter ID laws, spending taxpayer dollars on political campaigns, and imposing troubling new burdens on free speech. Fortunately, these votes failed, and I proudly opposed this federal power grab. Let me be clear: there is absolutely zero legitimate reason to have the federal government dictating states' election policies.

The excuse Democrats are using to bully states and push their partisan federal election legislation is that they think it will strengthen their precarious hold on power and improve their chances of winning future elections. My message to them is that attempting to stack the deck will not work. And South Dakota election officials are doing just fine without having their every move dictated by Washington bureaucrats. South Dakota had the highest number of ballots cast in its history in the 2020 election. If anything, other states could learn a thing or two from the way we run our elections.

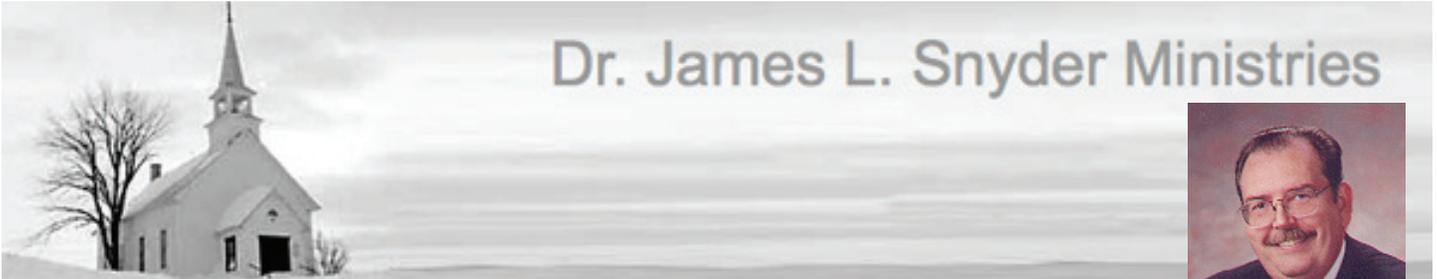
Unfortunately, the Democrats' federal power grab doesn't stop there. They are attempting to pass legislation that would preempt virtually all state restrictions on abortion. Their so-called Women's Health Protection Act would eliminate just about any abortion restriction adopted by states across the country, including those in South Dakota. Throughout my time in public service, not once have I seen such a radical, anti-life piece of legislation that would make on-demand abortions part of the federal law.

These are just two examples of a very concerning pattern by Washington Democrats. They continue to assume the federal government can fashion a one-size-fits-all solution to any problem, real or perceived. Instead of focusing on issues like national security and border security – real problems that demand real solutions – they are simply trying to find more ways to give the federal government more power over individuals and states.

The federal government has too much power as it is, and the policies that Democrats are attempting to advance double down on a divisive, government-knows-best approach. It's disappointing that rather than fulfilling their promise to unify the nation, Democrats continue to pursue a partisan agenda at the expense of states. As a conservative, I've always believed in a limited but effective federal government. Government that is closer to those who are governed is more responsive and more accountable. While Democrats clearly disagree, I'll never stop fighting for the principles of freedom, personal responsibility, and hard work that define what it means to be a South Dakotan.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



The Epitome Of Boredom

I have never considered myself to be boring. I may be boring to other people but not to myself.

As you get older, you find out that there are many boring things in this world.

When younger, I can't ever remember being bored except when my father was lecturing me on how I should behave. I'm not sure he was very successful at that.

I wasn't bored with anything, and I always found something to gain my attention.

This was back in the day when there was no Internet, cell phones, or anything along those lines. How some people today live without cell phones is something I'll never understand.

The other day I was downtown, stopped at a red light, and many people were walking on the left side. I watched them and didn't know if they were going to some Memorial service or what. They were all bent over, heads down, working on their cell phone while walking.

You take away their cell phone, and they will not know what in the world to do.

When I was younger, we knew what to do. We did not need some claptrap to amuse us and keep us from being bored.

Being a husband for over 50 years, I don't know what being bored is all about.

If, for example, I don't have anything to do and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage finds out, believe me, I have plenty to do.

The other night, I watched the little kitties out on the back porch jumping and running around and chasing each other. One was chasing its shadow, and I don't think it ever got it.

But these kittens were having the time of their life and when they ran out of energy, they all snuggled together for a nap.

Maybe that's why older people take naps more often!

I'm not against technology at all. For example, if I go to a restaurant by myself, I take my cell phone with a Kindle app with around 300 books, so I have something to read.

Not many things bore me, but there are times that I do get bored.

What bores me more than anything else are committee meetings. I know some people live by these committee meetings. Whether it's politics, education, or religion, meetings are their top priority.

I can't think of anything more boring than committee meetings. I try my best to keep an upper chin, but it's tough to do with so many chins on my face.

I certainly could not be a politician because all they do is go to committee meetings after committee meetings. That may explain why so many politicians are crazy. They went to so many committee meetings that it has driven them crazy. But, of course, with some of them, it's not a very long drive.

For many years, I have gone to church committee meetings. But, unfortunately, the older I get, the more bored I am with this kind of activity.

When I'm in person at some of these committee meetings, I have to go to the bathroom if I'm not falling asleep. I remember one committee meeting I went to the bathroom probably close to 10 times. After the meeting, someone asked me how I was feeling. I didn't tell him because I didn't want to offend him.

Then something changed. During all of this health dilemma that we are facing in the lockdowns, one positive thing emerged.

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That positive thing is that we don't gather together in committee, instead, we do it virtually. That was something I never thought about until recently.

A meeting virtually means that you're not in person, instead, you're on the computer with the group. So, some of the committee meetings have been virtual.

At first, I was a little excited about this. After all, I don't have to travel a hundred miles to attend the committee meeting. Instead, I can go to my computer and join the committee online.

I was pretty anxious to get this experience, so I set up my computer on my easy chair at home and got a nice hot cup of coffee. Then, when the time came for the meeting to begin, I did several clicks on my computer, and voilà, I was at the committee meeting.

At first something was interesting about it, but then, that boring element began to develop right there in front of me.

Watching it for 30 minutes, my head began to nod but not in agreement with anything they were proposing. Then, finally, my head began to nod, my eyes began to fade, and soon, I was sleeping.

Just then, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came in and saw that I was sleeping, but she also heard I was asleep because of the snoring I do when I sleep.

She tapped my shoulder and said, "You're not bored, are you?"

I opened my eyes, looked around a little bit, cleared my throat and looking at her said, "Of course not. I was having a time of prayer for the committee meeting."

I'm not sure when I heard her laugh so much as I did at that moment.

Later that day I remembered a verse of Scripture. "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger" (Proverbs 19:15).

If I'm bored it's my fault. I need to live a proactive life in serving God in a way that pleases Him.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Can the American lobster fishermen survive new restrictions on their activities thanks to the endangered species listing of the Atlantic Right Whale?
-- A.N. Smith, Bourne, MA

For centuries, North Atlantic right whales were aggressively hunted for their meat and their oil, which was used to keep lamps lit and to make soap. These iconic 50-foot long dark blue and white whales were even named the "right" whale to hunt, as they were often found near the shore, can only swim slowly (six miles per hour), and float when killed. But by the early 1900s they had become a rare sight and in 1935 the League of Nations, a precursor to the United Nations, banned hunting them. But the population failed to rebound, and in 1970 the U.S. added the Northern right whale to its new Endangered Species List.



Lobster and crab fishermen says new NOAA rules to protect Atlantic Right Whales go too far; environmentalists say they don't go far enough. Credit: Lauren

Packard, NOAA

Despite these protections, only 400 remain, and human interactions still present the greatest threat, with entanglement in fishing gear and vessel strikes the leading causes of mortality. Since 2017, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) has documented 34 dead whales (21 in Canada; 13 in the U.S.), and 16 whales with serious injuries from entanglements or vessel strikes. In an attempt to conserve and rebuild the population, NOAA announced new regulations in August 2021 on the Maine lobster and Jonah crab industries, including the closure of large parts of the Gulf of Maine to lobstering between October and January and requiring more traps per trawl to reduce the overall number of lines in the water.

Not surprisingly, the fishing industry isn't happy. "This is incredulous," says Crystal Canney, executive director of Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation (PMFHF). "The whale deaths are not in Maine at the hands of Maine lobstermen...instead of saving right whales, what this decision has done is endanger not only the livelihoods of many of our lobstermen and women but also their lives," she adds.

The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) is also apprehensive about the new regulations. In a statement, the group maintains that a historic number of right whales have died in Canadian waters over the past five years and yet Canada has not implemented protections comparable to the U.S. Furthermore, the latest scientific evidence points to a change in right whale migration patterns, away from Maine waters and into Canada and other areas. "According to NOAA Fisheries, the Maine lobster industry has not had a documented entanglement with a North Atlantic right whale in over 17 years and has never been known to kill or seriously injure a right whale," notes the MLA's Patrice McCarron. She adds that NOAA's new regulations are "just the first round of economic impacts" and that "future restrictions will likely destroy Maine's iconic lobster fishery."

Meanwhile, environmental advocacy group Oceana says the new rules don't go far enough, stressing that potentially fatal entanglements are still likely, particularly for juveniles, the fastest growing segment of the right whale population.

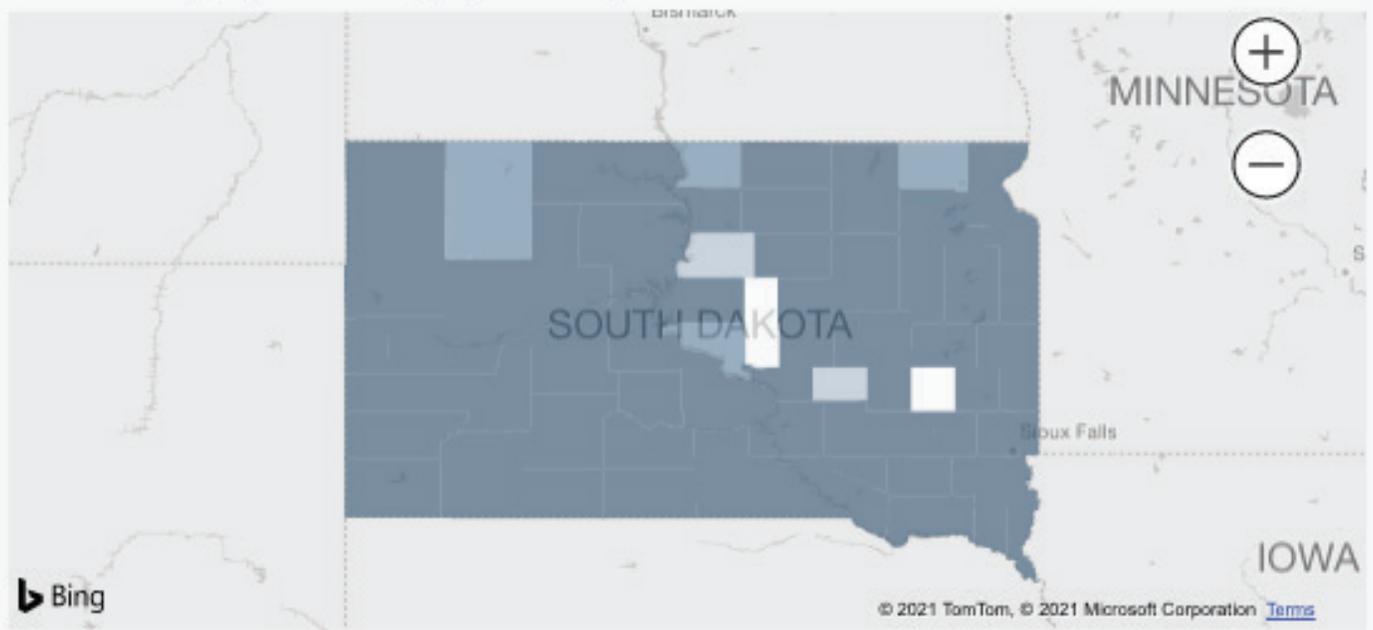
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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

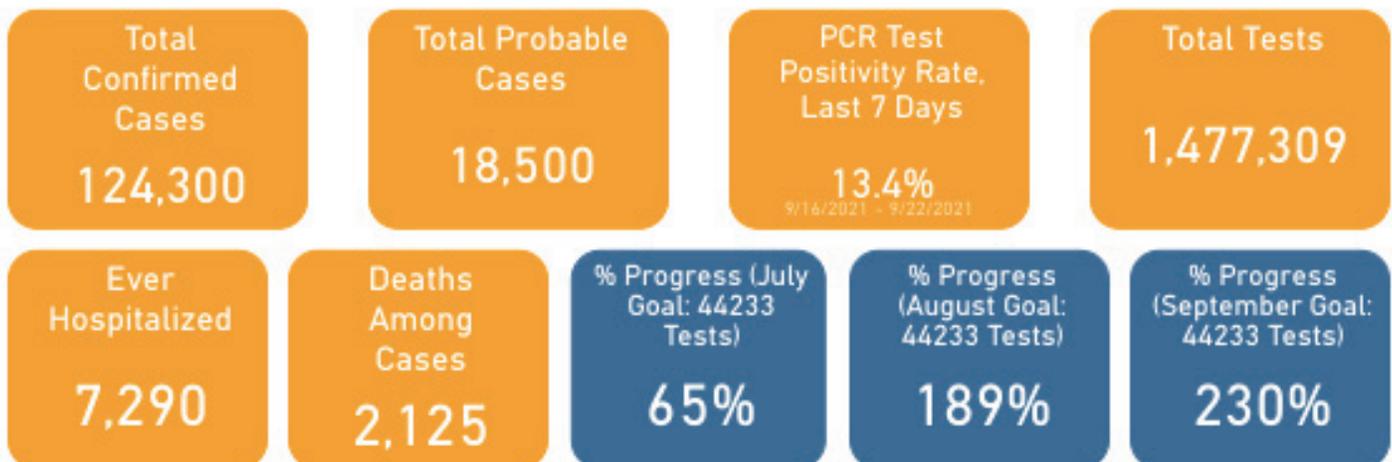


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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



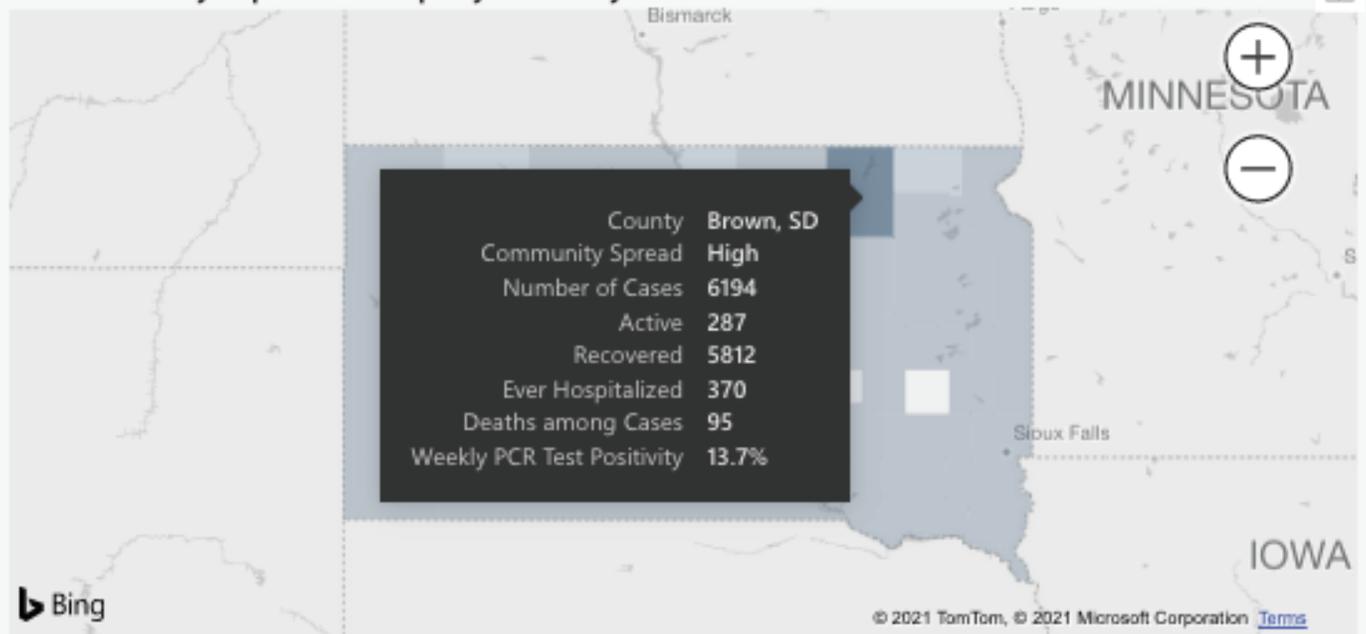
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Brown County COVID-19 Report

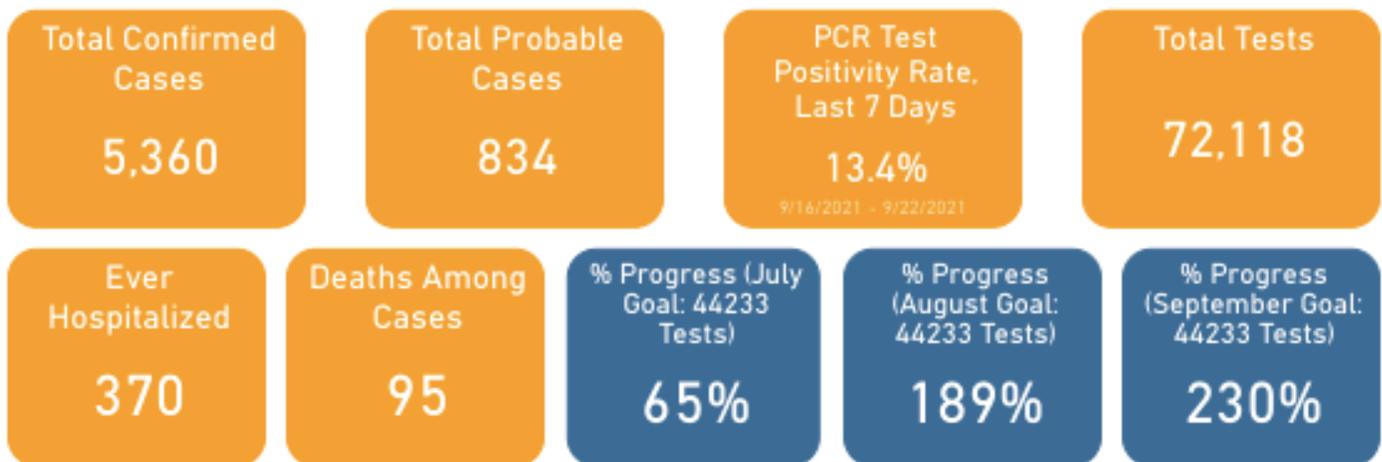


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Low ● Moderate ● Substantial ● High

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



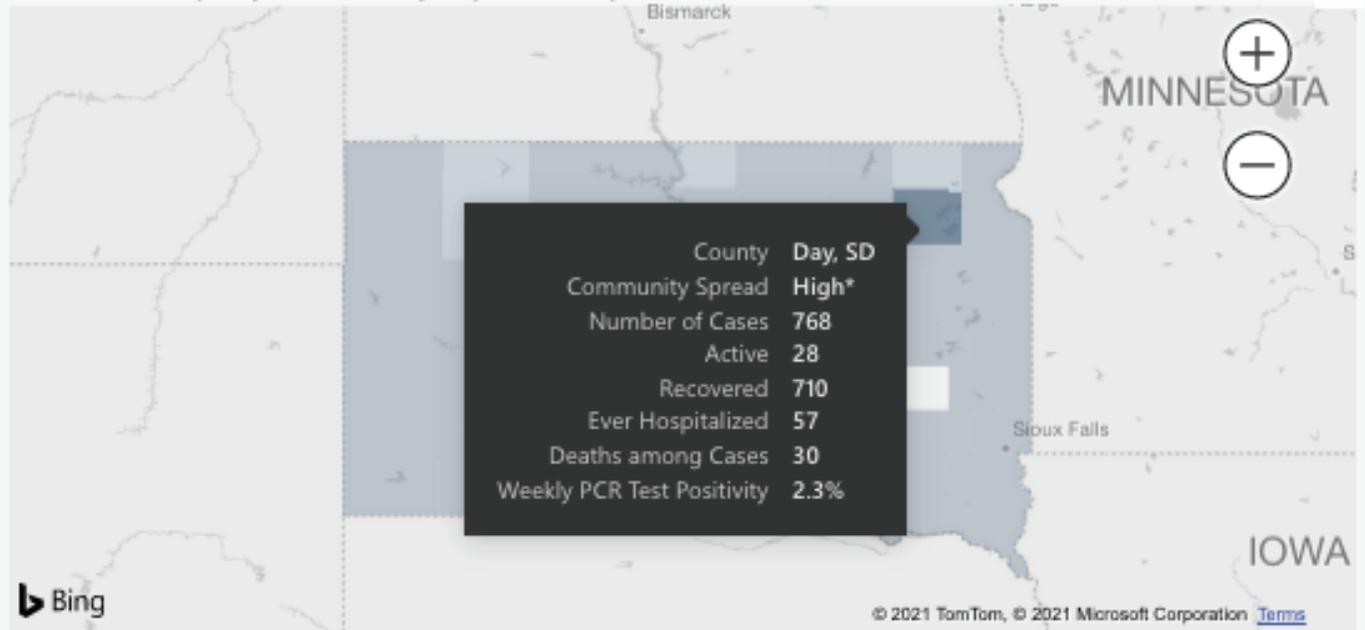
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Day County COVID-19 Report

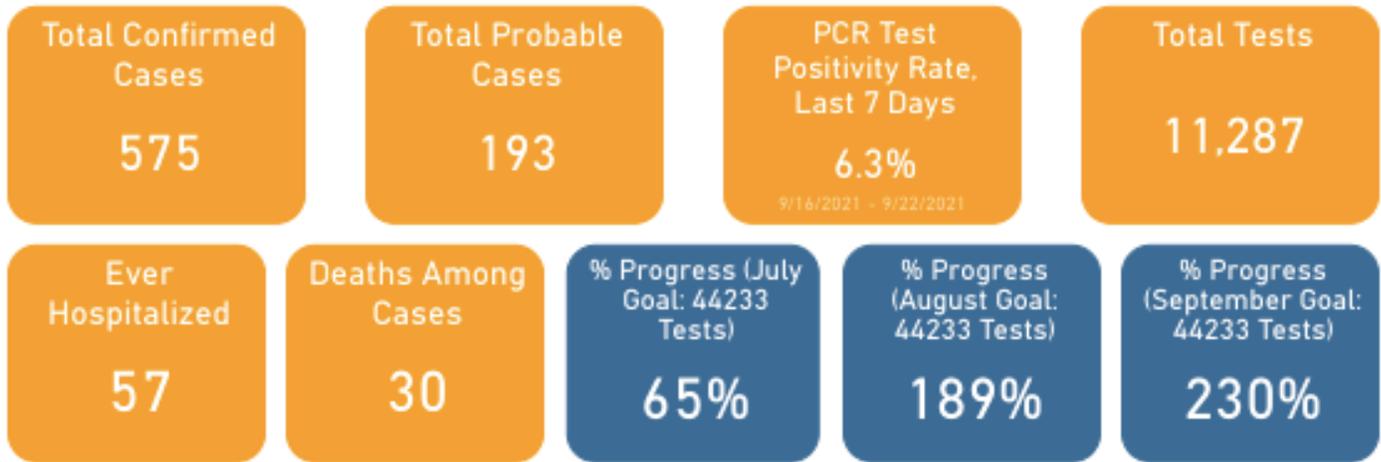


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

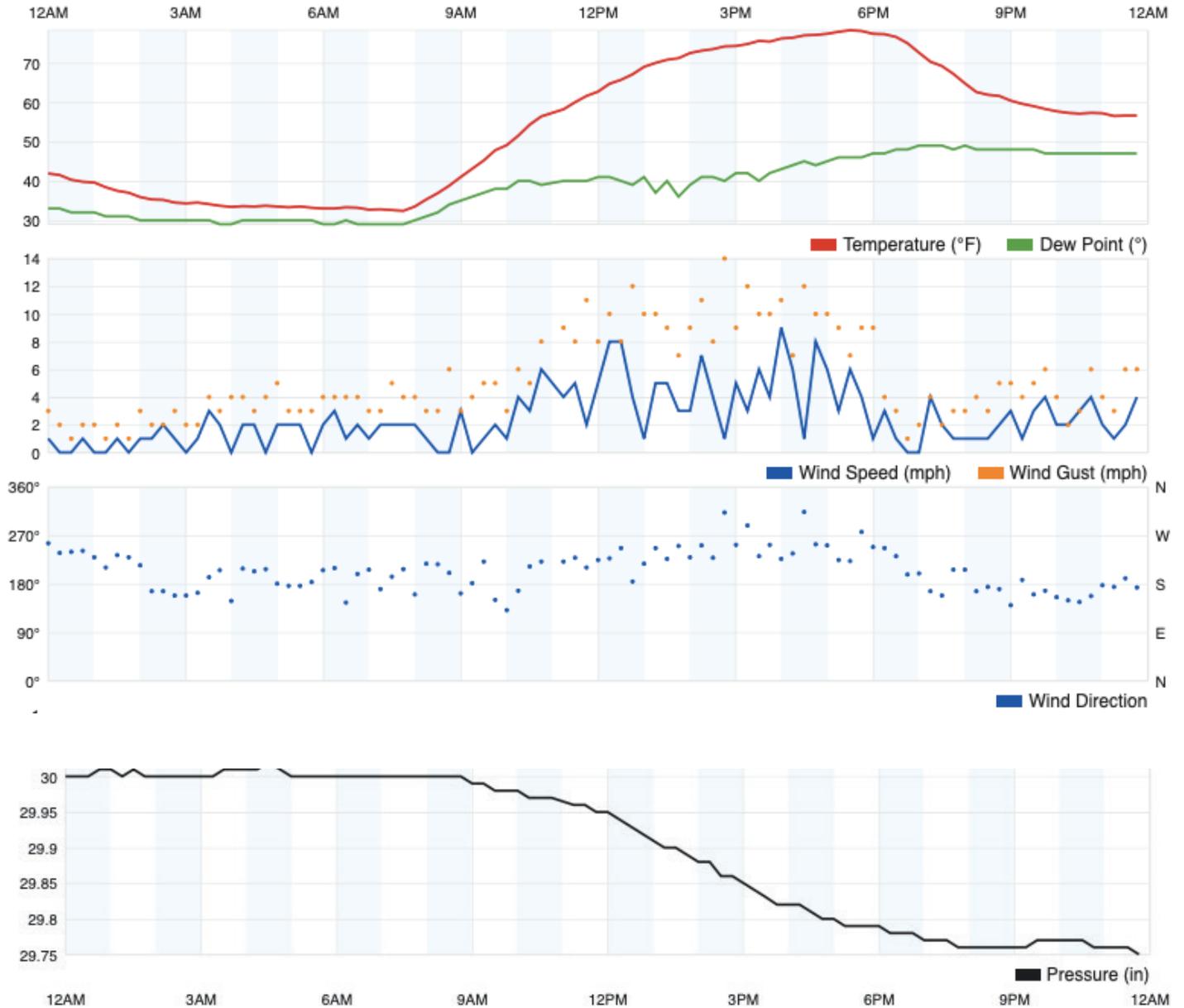
Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.



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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Becoming
Sunny

High: 86 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 50 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 84 °F

Monday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 57 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 89 °F

NWS Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 9/26/2021 4:44 AM Central



Today, Sept 26th

84 to 90°

Monday, Sept 27th

80 to 90°

Tuesday, Sept 28th

85 to 94°

High temperatures in the 80s and 90s are expected over the next few days, which is 15 to 25 degrees above normal for late September. Furthermore, daily records may be approached or even broken on Tuesday. More seasonable temperatures return Wednesday and Thursday, when showers and a few storms are becoming increasingly possible across the area.

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Today in Weather History

September 26, 1965: A hard freeze hit most of Minnesota in the early morning causing the loss of millions of bushels of corn and soybeans. Temperatures fell below 20 degrees in the northern part of the state.

September 26, 1981: A tornado touched down in the early morning hours several times east of Vermillion. Two barns received extensive damage.

1898: A school teacher saved 32 children from death in Merritton, Ontario, when she spotted an approaching tornado and led her students to a safe corner. Unfortunately, falling debris killed one of the children and injured several others.

1936: A forest fire burned several miles east of the town of Brandon, Oregon. The fire was far enough away that residents were not particularly worried. A sudden shift in the winds drove the flames westward and through town. The fire, caused by summer drought and fueled by the abundant Gorse Weed found in many of the empty spaces between buildings in Brandon, caused so much destruction that only a handful of structures were left standing when the fire finally died down.

1936: The heaviest snowfall ever recorded in September and the heaviest snowfall ever recorded so early in the season dumped a total of 16.5 inches of snow on downtown Denver and 21.3 inches at Denver Municipal Airport. The 15.0 inches of snow measured from 6:00 PM on the 27th to 6:00 PM on the 28th is the greatest 24-hour snowfall ever recorded in September. This was the first snow of the season. The snow was intermittent on the 26th, but continuous from early afternoon on the 27th to around midnight on the 28th, except for a period of rain during the afternoon of the 28th.

1950 - Residents of the northeastern U.S. observed a blue sun and a blue moon, caused by forest fires in British Columbia. (David Ludlum)

1955: On this date, the Atlantic reconnaissance aircraft, "Snowcloud Five" went down while investigating Hurricane Janet and was never heard from again. Lt. Comdr. Windham with a crew of 8 and two newspapermen reported that they were about to begin penetrating the central core of the hurricane. Hurricane Janet made landfall at peak intensity near Chetumal, Mexico on September 29th. Janet's landfall as a Category 5 hurricane on the Yucatán Peninsula was the first recorded instance that a storm of such intensity in the Atlantic made landfall on a continental mainland; prior to Janet, landfalls of Category 5 intensity were only known to have taken place on islands.

1963 - San Diego, CA, reached an all-time record high of 111 degrees. Los Angeles hit 109 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1970 - Santa Ana winds brought fires to Los Angeles County, and to points south and east. Half a million acres were consumed by the fires, as were 1000 structures. Twenty firemen were injured. (25th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1971: Project Stormfury was an attempt to weaken tropical cyclones by flying aircraft into them and seeding with silver iodide. The project was run by the United States Government from 1962 to 1983. Hurricane Ginger in 1971 was the last hurricane Project Stormfury seeded.

1979 - In the midst of a hot September for Death Valley, California, the afternoon high was 104 degrees for the second of three days, the coolest afternoon highs for the month. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Freezing temperatures were reported in the Northern and Central Appalachians, and the Upper Ohio Valley. The morning low of 27 degrees at Concord NH tied their record for the date. Temperatures soared into the 90s in South Dakota. Pierre SD reported an afternoon high of 98 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across Florida. Afternoon highs of 92 degrees at Apalachicola and 95 degrees at Fort Myers were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1998: There were four hurricanes were spinning simultaneously in the Atlantic basin: Georges, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl. That was the first time this had happened since 1893.

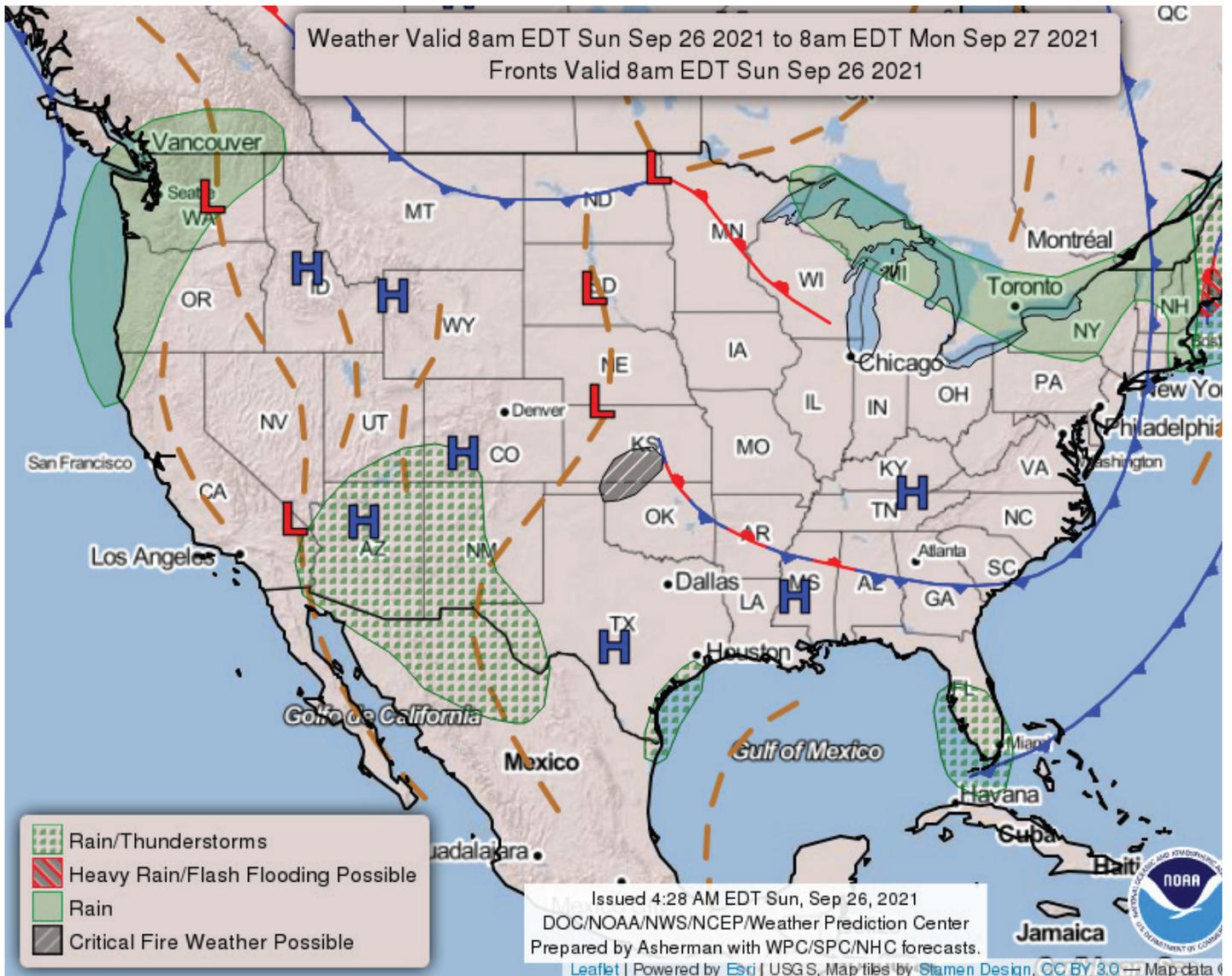
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 78.3 °F at 5:30 PM
Low Temp: 32.4 °F at 7:45 AM
Wind: 14 mph at 2:45 PM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 97° in 1974
Record Low: 17° in 1939
Average High: 71°F
Average Low: 43°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.72
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.58
Average Precip to date: 18.06
Precip Year to Date: 15.42
Sunset Tonight: 7:23:31 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24:48 AM



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MY GOD! MY JOY!

A professor of philosophy stood before his class and said, "The whole world is desperately searching for joy and happiness. But no one has been able to find its source. Psychologists cannot find it, physicians cannot find it, comedians cannot find it. It has eluded everyone. Some feel that they have been close to its source only to discover that they were on the wrong path. It is so very illusive and all of us are left disillusioned and disappointed."

Even the word "happiness" is deceptive. It gives itself away. The root of the word is "hap" which means "chance." Human happiness is dependent on the chances and changes in life. It is something which life may give and then suddenly take away.

A diagnosis of cancer, a crash in the stock market, a new management team at work - even a change in the weather - can take away the passing sensation of joy and happiness.

But there is a sure, certain source of joy and happiness - or gladness as the Bible calls it - that is available to everyone who seeks it. It cannot be destroyed or disturbed; it provides a serenity that is immovable. It "covers" loss and grief, pain and sickness, darkness and death. No one or nothing can destroy it. Where can we find it?

The writer of Psalm 97 said, "Lord, may Your people rejoice in You; and praise Your holy name." God will give His everlasting joy and gladness to those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ, His Son. His peace and presence are promised to those who find the source of their life in Him. And, You will find Me if You seek me with Your heart.

Prayer: We thank You, Heavenly Father, for the joy that is ours today and every day through Your Son our Savior. May we rely on Him for His joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: May all who are godly rejoice in the Lord and praise his holy name! Psalm 97:12

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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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

04-12-22-29-33

(four, twelve, twenty-two, twenty-nine, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$106,000

Lotto America

01-10-29-32-36, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(one, ten, twenty-nine, thirty-two, thirty-six; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$3 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Powerball

22-23-37-62-63, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 3

(twenty-two, twenty-three, thirty-seven, sixty-two, sixty-three; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$523 million

Shelley's 4 TDs leads Missouri State over South Dakota 31-23

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Jason Shelley accounted for four touchdowns to lead Missouri State to a 31-23 victory over South Dakota in a Missouri Valley Football Conference opener for both teams on Saturday night.

Shelley tossed a 3-yard touchdown pass to Kevon Latulas early in the fourth quarter to give Missouri State (2-1, 1-0) a 24-23 lead. Shelley's 12-yard touchdown run capped the scoring with 4:42 remaining.

Shelley also ran for a 26-yard touchdown in the first quarter and threw a 46-yard TD pass to Tyrone Scott in the second. Shelley was 19-of-29 passing for 281 yards, and he added 62 yards on the ground on 17 carries. Scott finished with seven catches for 111 yards.

Carson Camp completed 12 of 29 passes for 231 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions for South Dakota (2-2, 0-1). Carter Bell had three receptions for 102 yards. Wesley Eliodor returned a kickoff 99 yards into the end zone late in the second quarter as the Coyotes built a 23-14 halftime lead.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25.

Sign up for the AP's college football newsletter: <https://apnews.com/cfbtop25>

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Bridgewater-Emery def. Chester, 25-22, 25-23, 27-25

Belle Fourche Invitational Tournament=

Pool A=

Lead-Deadwood def. Bennett County, 25-9, 27-25

Lead-Deadwood def. Edgemont, 25-20, 25-23

Lead-Deadwood def. Hot Springs, 25-17, 25-13

CSDC Tournament=

First Round=

Miller def. Faulkton, 25-21, 25-14

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Kimball/White Lake Invitational Tournament=
Championship=
Burke def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-19, 25-22
Pool A=
Jones County def. Colome, 25-22, 25-17
Jones County def. Wall, 16-25, 25-22, 25-16
Kimball/White Lake def. Colome, 25-11, 25-21
Kimball/White Lake def. Jones County, 25-14, 25-18
Kimball/White Lake def. Wall, 16-25, 25-22, 25-16
Wall def. Colome, 25-22, 25-15
Pool B=
Burke def. Canistota, 25-16, 25-13
Burke def. Kadoka Area, 25-18, 25-15
Burke def. Wessington Springs, 25-10, 25-17
Kadoka Area def. Canistota, 25-15, 26-24
Kadoka Area def. Wessington Springs, 25-20, 17-25, 25-13
Wessington Springs def. Canistota, 25-27, 25-23, 25-15
Third Place=
Kadoka Area def. Jones County, 25-22, 25-20
Pentagon Tournament=
Blue Division, Pool A=
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Hill City, 0-0
Blue Division, Pool B=
Western Christian, Iowa def. Northwestern
Blue Division, Pool C=
Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Christian
Blue Division, Pool D=
Dakota Valley def. Warner
Blue Division=
Consolation=
Hill City def. Warner
Northwestern def. Rapid City Christian
Fifth Place=
Northwestern def. Hill City
Semifinal=
Dakota Valley def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman
Western Christian, Iowa def. Brandon Valley
Seventh Place=
Warner def. Rapid City Christian
Third Place=
Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman
Western Christian, Iowa def. Dakota Valley
Orange Division, Pool A=
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Platte-Geddes
Orange Division, Pool B=
Tea Area def. Winner
Orange Division, Pool C=
Arlington def. Hamlin
Orange Division, Pool D=
Colman-Egan def. Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa

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Orange Division=
Championship=
Arlington def. Platte-Geddes
Consolation=
Colman-Egan def. Hamlin
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Winner
Fifth Place=
Colman-Egan def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton
Semifinal=
Arlington def. Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa
Platte-Geddes def. Tea Area
Seventh Place=
Hamlin def. Winner
Third Place=
Tea Area def. Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa
Purple Division, Pool A=
Alcester-Hudson def. Hitchcock-Tulare
Purple Division, Pool B=
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Milbank
Purple Division, Pool C=
Irene-Wakonda def. Bon Homme, 22-25, 25-21, 25-15
Purple Division, Pool D=
Hanson def. Howard, 25-20, 25-20
Purple Division=
Bracket=
Bon Homme def. Alcester-Hudson
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Irene-Wakonda
Howard def. Milbank
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Hanson
Championship=
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Howard
Consolation=
Alcester-Hudson def. Milbank
Irene-Wakonda def. Hanson
Fifth Place=
Irene-Wakonda def. Alcester-Hudson
Semifinal=
Howard def. Bon Homme
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Hitchcock-Tulare
Seventh Place=
Milbank def. Hanson
Third Place=
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Bon Homme
Red Division, Pool A=
Dell Rapids def. Freeman, 25-27, 25-21, 25-17
Red Division, Pool B=
Sioux Valley def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-13, 25-15
Red Division, Pool C=
Ethan def. Parkston

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Red Division, Pool D=
Parker def. Great Plains Lutheran
Red Division=
Bracket=
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Great Plains Lutheran
Freeman def. Ethan
Parker def. Sioux Valley
Parkston def. Dell Rapids
Championship=
Parkston def. Freeman
Consolation=
Ethan def. Great Plains Lutheran
Sioux Valley def. Dell Rapids
Fifth Place=
Ethan def. Sioux Valley
Semifinal=
Freeman def. Elkton-Lake Benton
Parkston def. Parker
Seventh Place=
Dell Rapids def. Great Plains Lutheran
Third Place=
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Parker

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

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

Oladokun throws for 3 TDs, catches another in 'Rabbits' win

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — Chris Oladokun passed for three touchdowns and caught one of his own from Pierre Strong Jr., who rushed for 150 yards, as South Dakota State blanked Indiana State 44-0 on Saturday in both teams' Missouri Valley Football Conference opener.

All three of Oladokun's touchdown throws came in the first half but not until he handed the ball off to Strong, who threw back to the wide-open quarterback for a 22-yard score and the game's first points.

Oladokun completed TD tosses 42 yards to Jaxon Janke, 33 yards to Jadon Janke and 26 yards to Tucker Kraft as the Jackrabbits (3-0, 1-0), ranked No. 3 in the FCS coaches' poll, rolled to a 34-0 halftime lead.

Amar Johnson added the other touchdown, bursting up the middle through Sycamore defenders for a 22-yard score in the fourth quarter.

Oladokun finished with 216 yards passing. Strong had 20 carries in going over 100 yards in all four games this season and the 14th time in his career. South Dakota State outgained the Sycamores (2-2, 0-1) 517-226.

Adam Bock had 10 tackles and an interception for the Jackrabbits, who turned in their first shutout since a 39-0 victory over Missouri State in 2015.

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Brandon man sentenced to 10 years in prison in

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Brandon man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for driving drunk and causing a crash that killed a woman.

The Argus Leader reports Jeffrey Eitrem was sentenced on Friday, after pleading guilty to vehicular

homicide and vehicle battery on Aug. 30.

Authorities say Eitreim was driving a pickup outside of Flandreau on Aug. 28, 2020, when he ran a stop sign striking another pickup, killing Candice Petersen, 39, of Volga. Four other people were in the truck and three had injuries.

Eitreim had life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Authorities said he had a blood alcohol level of more than .08 at the time of the crash, which is over the legal limit to drive.

Israeli troops kill 4 Palestinian gunmen in arrest clashes

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — At least four Palestinian gunmen were killed in shootouts with Israeli security forces during a sweeping West Bank arrest operation cracking down on the Islamic militant group Hamas on Sunday, the Israeli military said.

It was the deadliest violence between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank in recent weeks and came amid heightened tensions following this year's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said a Palestinian was shot dead near the northern West Bank city of Jenin and three others were killed in Biddu, north of Jerusalem. The Israeli military said an officer and soldier suffered serious injuries during the arrest in Burqin, near Jenin, and were airlifted to a hospital for medical treatment.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement that Israeli security forces in the West Bank moved against Hamas operatives "that were about to execute terror attacks in the very immediate future."

He said the soldiers in the field "acted as expected of them" and said his government gave them full support.

Lt. Col. Amnon Shefler, an Israeli army spokesperson, said Israeli forces involved in a joint operation with the Shin Bet internal security agency and the Border Police came under fire while carrying out arrests in the West Bank.

He said the aim was "to stop a Hamas terrorist organization cell that is operating in Judea and Samaria with an intent to carry out terror attacks," referring to the West Bank by its biblical names.

He said four Hamas operatives were killed and several others were arrested in the overnight operation.

The official Palestinian news agency WAFA said 22-year-old Osama Soboh was killed during clashes surrounding an arrest in the northern West Bank village of Burqin, near Jenin. There were no immediate details on the deaths in Biddu.

Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, praised those killed as "heroic martyrs" and claimed the three killed in Biddu as members of its armed wing. It blamed their deaths on the "continuing coordination" between the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government and called on its supporters to "devise tactics and means that harm the enemy and drain it with all possible forms of resistance."

Hamas spokesman Abdulatif al-Qanou blamed the rival Palestinian Authority, which has limited autonomy over areas of the West Bank, saying recent meetings between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli officials "encouraged the occupation again to pursue the resistance."

The Palestinian Authority, whose security forces coordinate with Israel to suppress Hamas and other militant groups, condemned the killings and said the Israeli government was "fully and directly responsible for this bloody morning and the crimes committed by the occupation forces."

Last month, Israeli troops clashed with Palestinian gunmen during a late night raid in Jenin, killing four Palestinians. Recent months have seen a rise in violence in the West Bank, with more than two dozen Palestinians killed in sporadic clashes with Israeli troops and during protests.

Sunday's clashes came a week after Israel recaptured the last of six Palestinian fugitives who tunneled out of a maximum-security Israeli prison and were on the lam for over a week. Several of the escapees were from Jenin, and two were caught there after an extensive search.

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Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and in the decades since has established dozens of settlements where nearly 500,000 settlers reside. The Palestinians seek the West Bank as part of their future state and view the settlements as a major obstacle to resolving the conflict.

South Korea urges North to restore hotlines for any talks

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea on Sunday urged North Korea to restore dormant communication hotlines, a day after the North repeated an offer to open conditional talks.

The North might be seeking to extract concessions about two weeks after it raised tensions by carrying out its first missile tests in six months. North Korea has twice reached out to South Korea saying it's open to talks if conditions are met.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said Saturday the two Koreas can take steps toward reconciliation if South Korea abandons "hostile policies" and "double-dealing standards."

She didn't elaborate on what specific steps she wants South Korea to take. But some experts say North Korea wants South Korea to play a role in winning relief from U.S.-led sanctions, getting aid, or receiving other concessions such as international recognition as a nuclear weapons state.

On Sunday, South Korea's Unification Ministry called Kim Yo Jong's statement "meaningful," saying the South has been consistently pushing to achieve denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue.

To hold talks on beginning steps toward reconciliation, a ministry statement said that suspended cross-border communication lines must be reactivated quickly to promote stable communications between the divided countries. It said Seoul hopes the two Koreas can resume talks on many pending issues.

The South Korean statement refers to a set of phone- and fax-like communication channels between the rivals, which have been largely dormant for more than a year. The two Koreas briefly resumed communications over the channels for about two weeks this summer, but North Korea later refused to exchange messages again after Seoul staged annual military drills with Washington.

Earlier this month, North Korea carried out tests of ballistic and cruise missiles in its first such launches since March, displaying an ability to attack South Korea and Japan, both key U.S. allies. North Korea still maintains a moratorium on testing longer-range missiles capable of reaching the American homeland, a suggestion that it wants to keep alive the chances for future diplomacy with the U.S.

Relations between the Koreas flourished in 2018, when Seoul helped arrange high-profile nuclear diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang, including a summit between Kim Jong Un and then-U.S. President Donald Trump. But Pyongyang cut off ties with Seoul after the Kim-Trump diplomacy broke down in 2019 due to disputes over the U.S.-led sanctions.

The recent North Korean outreach came as a response to South Korean President Moon Jae-in's renewed calls for a political declaration to officially end the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to promote peace. The Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula still technically at war.

As possible reconciliation steps, Kim Yo Jong floated the idea of announcing the war's end as Moon wished, rebuilding a joint liaison office that North Korea destroyed last year and holding an inter-Korean summit.

North Korea's already devastated economy has suffered further recent setbacks from the coronavirus pandemic, which has decimated its external trade, mostly with its last major ally, China. Kim Jong Un has said his country faces the "worst-ever" crisis due to a combination of the pandemic, the sanctions and natural disasters last year.

It's unclear if the North's outreach would provide it with badly needed sanctions relief and other rewards. U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed hopes to sit down for talks with North Korea, but have also made it clear they will continue sanctions until the North takes concrete steps toward denuclearization.

Closely fought German election ushers in post-Merkel era

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

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BERLIN (AP) — German voters are choosing a new parliament in an election that will determine who succeeds Chancellor Angela Merkel after her 16 years at the helm of Europe's biggest economy.

Polls point to a very close race Sunday between Merkel's center-right Union bloc, with state governor Armin Laschet running for chancellor, and the center-left Social Democrats, for whom outgoing finance minister and Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz is seeking the top job.

Recent surveys show the Social Democrats marginally ahead. The environmentalist Greens, with candidate Annalena Baerbock, are making their first run for the chancellery, and polls put them several points behind in third place.

The Social Democrats have been boosted by Scholz's relative popularity after a long poll slump, and by his rivals' troubled campaigns. Baerbock suffered from early gaffes and Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, has struggled to motivate his party's traditional base.

About 60.4 million people in the nation of 83 million are eligible to elect the new Bundestag, or lower house of parliament, which will elect the next head of government.

No party is expected to come anywhere near an outright majority. Polls show support for all of them below 30%.

Such a result could mean that many governing coalitions are mathematically possible, and trigger weeks or months of haggling to form a new government. Until it is in place, Merkel will remain in office on a caretaker basis.

Scholz said as he voted in Potsdam, just outside Berlin, that he hopes voters "will make possible ... a very strong result for the Social Democrats, and that citizens will give me the mandate to become the next chancellor of Germany."

Laschet said in Aachen, on Germany's western border, that the election "will decide on Germany's direction in the coming years, and so it will come down to every vote."

Merkel has won plaudits for steering Germany through several major crises. Her successor will have to tend the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, which Germany so far has weathered relatively well thanks to large rescue programs that have incurred new debt.

Laschet insists there should be no tax increases as Germany pulls out of the pandemic. Scholz and Baerbock favor tax hikes for the richest Germans, and also back an increase in the minimum wage.

Germany's leading parties have significant differences in their proposals for tackling climate change. Laschet's Union bloc is pinning its hopes on technological solutions and a market-driven approach, while the Greens want to ramp up carbon prices and end the use of coal earlier than planned. Scholz has emphasized the need to protect jobs as Germany transitions to greener energy.

Foreign policy hasn't featured much in the campaign, though the Greens favor a tougher stance toward China and Russia.

In Berlin, Wiebke Bergmann, a 48-year-old social worker, said Merkel's departure makes this a "really special" election.

"I really thought hard about which candidate I want as next chancellor — until this morning I hadn't made up my mind. None of the three really convinced me," Bergmann added. "All seem fine as human beings, but I'm not sure they can do a good job as next chancellor."

In the capital's Kreuzberg district, a traditional leftwing stronghold, Jan Kemper, a 41-year-old manager at an online bank, said climate change and Germany's slow pace of digitalization were among his main concerns. He praised Merkel's crisis management style, but said key issues were left unattended.

"Previously, elections set the course for the next two to four years," he said. "Now decisions have to be made that will affect the next generations."

As they have struggled in polls, Laschet and other Union leaders have warned that Scholz and the Greens would form a coalition with the opposition Left Party, which opposes NATO and German military deployments abroad. Whether such a partnership is realistic is questionable, given foreign policy and other differences between the parties, but that line of attack may help turn out the conservative base.

Scholz has said he'd like a two-party coalition with the Greens, but that looks very optimistic. Absent

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a majority for that, his first choice would likely be an alliance with the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats.

A coalition with those two parties is also Laschet's likeliest route to power. The Greens favor an alliance with the Social Democrats, while the Free Democrats prefer one with the Union.

The result may also allow a repeat of the outgoing "grand coalition" of the traditional big parties, the Union and Social Democrats, under either Scholz or Laschet.

The far-right Alternative for Germany party is polling a little below the 12.6% it won to enter parliament in 2017, but won't feature in any new government this time either. All other parties say they won't work with it.

The Bundestag has at least 598 seats, but Germany's complex voting system means it can be much larger. The outgoing parliament had a record 709 lawmakers; the new one is widely expected to be even bigger.

The number of people voting by postal ballot is expected to be higher than the 28.6% who did so four years ago. Also Sunday, voters in Berlin and in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in northeastern Germany — both states currently led by the Social Democrats — are electing new state legislatures.

Kirsten Grieshaber and Karin Laub contributed to this report.

Follow AP's coverage of Germany's election at <https://apnews.com/hub/germany-election>

Concerned United Nations can only sidestep Myanmar crisis

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — In his speech last week to open the U.N. General Assembly, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres bracketed Myanmar with Afghanistan and Ethiopia as nations where "peace and stability remain a distant dream."

He declared unwavering support for the people of the turbulent, military-ruled Southeast Asia state "in their pursuit of democracy, peace, human rights and the rule of law."

But the situation in Myanmar after the army's seizure of power eight months ago has become an extended bloody conflict with ever-escalating violence. Yet the U.N. is unlikely to take any meaningful action against Myanmar's new rulers because they have the support of China and Russia.

China and Russia are among the top arms suppliers to Myanmar, as well as ideologically sympathetic to its ruling military. Both are members of the Security Council, and would almost certainly veto any effort by the U.N. to impose a coordinated arms embargo, or anything beyond an anodyne call for peace.

When Myanmar's army ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, it claimed with scant evidence that the general election her party won last November in a landslide was marred by massive voting fraud. The takeover almost immediately sparked widespread street protests that security forces tried to crush. The pushback has left more than 1,100 people dead, according to U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet and right groups.

"The military's iron grip on power faces resistance from large segments of the society. Weapons of war continue to be deployed in towns and cities to suppress opposition," Bachelet said in a statement. "These disturbing trends suggest the alarming possibility of an escalating civil war."

Human rights groups have cataloged many abuses by government forces, including the use of deadly force against peaceful civilian protesters and forced disappearances. But the army's foes have also turned to terror, as even its sympathizers admit. Local administrators who refuse to abandon their posts are targeted for assassination, as are civilians tagged as informers.

"Sabotage and assassinations, these are not the norms in civilized society," Mon Yee Kyaw, executive director of the Myanmar-based Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica think tank, said in an email interview. But due to the violence perpetrated by the military, tactics of bombings and assassination were adopted as defensive measures, she said from Thailand, where she is currently located.

"People believe unquestionably that they need to take actions to vanquish the military before the mon-

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ster kills the people," she said.

The stakes are big, Bachelet warned. "The national consequences are terrible and tragic. The regional consequences could also be profound," she said. "The international community must redouble its efforts to restore democracy and prevent wider conflict before it is too late."

Myanmar opposition forces have one small consolation. It has been reported that the General Assembly's Credentials Committee, which each session goes through the formality of approving each country's permanent representative, will temporarily put off its decision on Myanmar's permanent representative.

The current envoy, Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, switched his allegiance soon after February's takeover to the opposition's underground National Unity Government, which styles itself as the legitimate alternative to the ruling generals. For at least a couple of months, he appears likely to keep his seat — or at least deny it to an appointee of the military government.

It is a rare feather in the diplomatic cap of the shadow government, which has not been recognized by any nation, but it reportedly comes at the cost of the envoy remaining silent during discussions in the world body, including Monday's scheduled opportunity to speak for his nation.

Countries sympathetic to the opposition, such as the United States and Britain, have enacted diplomatic and economic sanctions that pose a major inconvenience to the ruling generals. But pleas for more decisive intervention, such as under the humanitarian doctrine of right to protect, long ago fell on deaf ears.

The National Unity Government aspires to forge anti-military forces into an army, and on Sept. 7 called for a nationwide uprising, declaring a "people's defensive war." It has reached out to ethnic minority militias in the border regions where they are dominant, and have been fighting the central government for greater autonomy for decades.

With up to 70 years of combat experience, groups such as the Kachin in the north and the Karen in the east have the potential to put extra pressure on the government. Some also provide military training for militants and safe havens for opposition leaders.

"It's hard to say if it will be productive and what the long-term consequences might be," Christina Fink, a professor of International Affairs at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., said by email.

"The regime certainly has the advantage in terms of military expertise, weapons, equipment, and manpower," Fink said. "The military is suffering from the resistance, but whether these tactics will result in the military conceding is not clear."

Copenhagen's hippie, psychedelic oasis Christiania turns 50

By JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — After a half-century, the "flower-power" aura of Copenhagen's semi-autonomous Christiania neighborhood hasn't yet wilted. Love-ins with the authorities have hardly been a trademark of the neighborhood.

But Christiania's residents are determined to preserve its reputation as a "free-wheeling society" with hash dealers, political idealists and aging hippies.

"It has become more and more an established part of Copenhagen," said Ole Lykke, a resident of 42 years at the enclave near downtown Copenhagen. "The philosophy of community and common property still exists. Out here we do things in common."

After more than four decades of locking horns with authorities, Christiania's future was secured in 2012 when the state sold the 84-acre (24-hectare) enclave for 85.4 million kroner (\$13.5 million) to a foundation owned by its inhabitants.

The residents — nearly 700 adults and about 150 children — now rent their homes from the foundation and are financially responsible for all repair and maintenance work to the roughly 240 buildings. The new arrangement scrapped a more complex system for use of the land and to pay for rent and utilities.

It all started as a stunt 50 years ago, when a small counterculture newspaper that needed an outrageous story for its front page staged an "invasion" of an abandoned 18-century naval base. Six friends

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with air rifles and a picnic basket entered the former military facility base, proclaimed it a "free state" on Sept. 26, 1971, took some photos and went home. The paper ran the story, urging young people to take the city bus and squat the barracks.

Hippies flocked to what they dubbed Christiania — no one remembers why they picked that name — that evolved into a counterculture, freewheeling oasis with psychedelic-colored buildings, free marijuana, limited government influence, no cars and no police. In 1973, it was recognized as a "social experiment." Later, residents were given the right to use the land, but not to own it.

The enclave's inhabitants banned hard drugs in 1980. Hashish sales — part of the enclave's philosophy and a very lucrative trade worth millions — was tolerated there by authorities until 2004. That's when police started to crack down on the hashish trade — bought and sold openly from colorful booths that stand on the aptly named Pusher Street. The booths were taken down several times to preempt police action, fearing they could lead to evictions.

The hashish trade in Christiania is still thriving despite the crackdown, even though Denmark has banned the drug. Drug-related tensions in the enclave escalated in 2016 when a drug dealer shot two police officers and a bystander. The 25-year-old dealer was arrested, but died of wounds he suffered in the shootout.

The violence hasn't detracted Christiania from staking its claim as "a Copenhagen neighborhood like any other" but with its own administration, a building that acts like a town hall, a post office and its own flag — three yellow dots on a red background.

The 50th anniversary celebrations are being held over four days and include parades, speeches — the Copenhagen mayor has been invited to address the crowds — exhibitions, workshops, shows and concerts.

Over the years, Christiania has become one of Copenhagen's biggest tourist attractions with residents offering guided tours in several languages. Several travel books and even official tourism material highlight the enclave.

Christiania's cafes, eateries, shops and concert halls and even its Christmas market have been a magnet over the years for many including celebrities like Bob Dylan, Metallica, Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Smashing Pumpkins. Needless to say, the hashish there is pretty popular too.

Tony Awards and TV special hope to be the jab Broadway needs

By MARK KENNEDY Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Oscars, Grammys, Emmys and Golden Globes have all held their ceremonies during the pandemic. Now it's time for the Tony Awards, celebrating an art form that really needs the boost — live theater.

Sunday's show has been expanded from its typical three hours to four, with Audra McDonald handing out Tonys for the first two hours and Leslie Odom Jr. hosting a "Broadway's Back!" celebration for the second half, including the awarding of the top three trophies — best play revival, best play and best musical.

"What this does is it gives a chance for a lot of these shows — with just the joy of what Broadway brings — to be showcased in a way that helps remind the general public that we're here and to come back and there's a way to do it safely," said McDonald.

While other entertainment industries like TV and film found ways to restart during the pandemic, Broadway was unable until now due to financial and physical impediments. The lifting of all capacity restrictions was crucial to any reopening since Broadway economics demand full venue capacity.

The sobering musical "Jagged Little Pill," which plumbs Alanis Morissette's 1995 breakthrough album to tell a story of an American family spiraling out of control, goes into the night with a leading 15 Tony nominations.

Nipping on its heels is "Moulin Rouge!," a jukebox adaptation of Baz Luhrmann's hyperactive 2001 movie about the goings-on in a turn-of-the-century Parisian nightclub that has 14 nods.

"Slave Play," Jeremy O. Harris' ground-breaking, bracing work that mixes race, sex, taboo desires and class, earned a dozen nominations, making it the most nominated play in Tony history.

Other shows to keep an eye on are "The Inheritance" by Matthew Lopez, which nabbed 11 nominations.

It's a two-part, seven-hour epic that uses "Howards End" as a starting point for a play that looks at gay life in the early 21st century. And "Tina — The Tina Turner Musical," which tells the rock icon's life with songs that include "Let's Stay Together" and "Proud Mary," earned 12 nods.

This season's nominations were pulled from just 18 eligible plays and musicals from the 2019-2020 season, a fraction of the 34 shows the previous season. During most years, there are 26 competitive categories. This year there are 25 with several depleted ones. But theater insiders think an awards show is even more vital now.

"I would argue it's more important than ever, in a way," said James Corden, who hosted the Tonys in 2016. "If there's a year that we should ever celebrate them, it's this year, where people's entire lives have just been ripped away and turned upside down."

Some intriguing races include whether Celia Rose Gooding, a daughter of Tony Award-winner LaChanze, will win a Tony of her own for her work on "Jagged Little Pill" and if fan favorite Danny Burstein will finally win a Tony for "Moulin Rouge! The Musical." Many will be seeing if Karen Olivo wins best leading actress in a musical, despite quitting her show, "Moulin Rouge! The Musical," in frustration with Broadway.

Six-time Tony-winner McDonald is not just a host. She's up for best actress award in a play, which, if she won, would give her seven awards, breaking her own record for the most Tonys won by a performer. And something bizarre has to happen to deny Aaron Tveit winning for best leading actor in a musical; he's the only person nominated in the category. Voting for the nominees was done in March.

The last Tony Awards ceremony was held in 2019. The virus forced Broadway theaters to abruptly close on March 12, 2020, knocking out all shows and scrambling the spring season. Several have restarted, including the so-called big three of "Wicked," "Hamilton" and "The Lion King."

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>.

At least 3 dead in Amtrak train derailment in Montana

By AMY BETH HANSON and TAREK HAMADA Associated Press

JOPLIN, Mont. (AP) — At least three people were killed Saturday afternoon when an Amtrak train that runs between Seattle and Chicago derailed in north-central Montana, toppling several cars onto their sides, authorities said.

The westbound Empire Builder train derailed about 4 p.m. near Joplin, a town of about 200, Amtrak spokesman Jason Abrams said in a statement. The accident scene is about 150 miles (241 kilometers) northeast of Helena and about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from the border with Canada.

Liberty County sheriff's dispatcher Starr Tyler told The Associated Press that three people died in the derailment. She did not have more details. Amtrak said in a statement that there were multiple injuries.

The train had about 141 passengers and 16 crew members onboard, Abrams said. The train had two locomotives and 10 cars, eight of which derailed, he said.

"We are deeply saddened to learn local authorities are now confirming that three people have lost their lives as a result of this accident," Abrams said.

Megan Vandervest, a passenger who was going to visit a friend in Seattle, told The New York Times that she was awakened by the derailment.

"My first thought was that we were derailing because, to be honest, I have anxiety and I had heard stories about trains derailing," said Vandervest, who is from Minneapolis. "My second thought was that's crazy. We wouldn't be derailing. Like, that doesn't happen."

She told the Times that the car behind hers was tilted, the one behind that was tipped over, and the three cars behind that "had completely fallen off the tracks and were detached from the train."

Speaking from the Liberty County Senior Center, where some passengers were being taken, Vandervest said it felt like "extreme turbulence on a plane."

Residents of communities near the crash site quickly mobilized to help the passengers.

Chester Councilwoman Rachel Ghekiere said she and others helped about 50 to 60 passengers who

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were brought to a local school.

"I went to the school and assisted with water, food, wiping dirt off faces," she said. "They appeared to be tired, shaken but happy that they were where they were. Some looked more disheveled than others, depending where they were on the train."

A grocery store in Chester, about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the derailment, and a nearby religious community provided food, she said.

The passengers were taken by buses to hotels in nearby Shelby, said Ghekiere, whose husband works for the local emergency services agency and was alerted to the crash.

The National Transportation Safety Board will send a 14-member team, including investigators and specialists in railroad signals and other disciplines, to investigate the crash, spokesman Eric Weiss said.

Weiss said the derailment occurred around 3:55 p.m. and no other trains or equipment were involved. The train was traveling on a BNSF Railway main track at the time, he said.

Photos posted to social media showed rail cars on their sides and passengers standing alongside the tracks, some carrying luggage. The images showed sunny skies, and it appeared the accident occurred along a straight section of tracks.

Amtrak said that because of the derailment, the Sunday westbound Empire Builder will terminate in Minneapolis, and the Sunday eastbound Empire Builder train will originate in Minneapolis.

Other recent Amtrak derailments include:

— April 3, 2016: Two maintenance workers were struck and killed by an Amtrak train going more than 100 mph in Chester, Pennsylvania. The lead engine of the train derailed.

— March 14, 2016: An Amtrak train traveling from Los Angeles to Chicago derailed in southwest Kansas, sending five cars off the tracks and injuring at least 32 people. Investigators concluded that a cattle feed delivery truck hit the track and shifted it at least a foot before the derailment.

— Oct. 5, 2015: A passenger train headed from Vermont to Washington, D.C., derailed when it hit rocks that had fallen onto the track from a ledge. The locomotive and a passenger car spilled down an embankment, derailing three other cars and injuring seven people.

— May 12, 2015: Amtrak Train 188 was traveling at twice the 50 mph speed limit as it entered a sharp curve in Philadelphia and derailed. Eight people were killed and more than 200 were injured when the locomotive and four of the train's seven passenger cars jumped the tracks. Several cars overturned and ripped apart.

Hamada reported from Phoenix. Associated Press Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report.

UK counts on vaccines, 'common sense' to keep virus at bay

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britons are encouraged these days — though in most cases not required — to wear face coverings in crowded indoor spaces. But Prime Minister Boris Johnson regularly appears in the packed, poorly ventilated House of Commons cheek-by-jowl with other maskless Conservative lawmakers.

For critics, that image encapsulates the flaw in the government's strategy, which has abandoned most pandemic restrictions and is banking on voluntary restraint and a high vaccination rate to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

As winter approaches, bringing the threat of a new COVID-19 surge, Britain's light touch is setting it apart from more cautious nations.

"The story of this government in the pandemic is too little, too late," said Layla Moran, an opposition Liberal Democrat lawmaker who heads the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Coronavirus.

She said some U.K. hospitals are already seeing the number of virus patients in intensive care units that they would normally expect in the depths of winter, though overall daily hospital admissions are running at about a fifth of January's peak.

And while cases soared when restrictions were lifted this summer, deaths didn't follow at anywhere

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near the same pace. But the winter months, when respiratory diseases are usually at their highest, could bring an added challenge.

"Unless the government starts to do something differently, I don't think we're going to be able to avert the worst this winter," Moran said.

The government argues that its plan is working so far — and it can change course if needed.

Britain has recorded more than 135,000 coronavirus deaths, the highest toll in Europe after Russia and about the same number per capita as the United States. Yet it also has organized a successful inoculation campaign that has seen 65% of the whole population fully vaccinated.

That relatively high rate led Johnson's government to decide in July that it was safe to scrap restrictions on business activity and daily life: no more social distancing, limits on gatherings or masks required anywhere in England. Businesses can impose their own measures, but otherwise Johnson has encouraged people to "be sensible."

In contrast to many other European nations — even some with higher inoculation rates than the U.K. — proof of vaccination is not required in England to eat in restaurants, attend mass events or enter crowded venues such as nightclubs. Scotland, which is part of the U.K. but sets its own health rules, is being more cautious, introducing vaccine passports for nightclubs and keeping mandatory masks indoors.

Pupils and teachers in England's schools don't have to wear face coverings, despite the objections of unions and public health officials — a contrast to European countries including France, Italy and Spain that have kept mask requirements for schools.

While the U.S. has made vaccinations compulsory for millions of workers, Johnson's government requires proof of inoculation only for nursing home staff, and is considering it for health care workers.

Once the U.K. had some of Europe's strictest international travel rules, but it's easing quarantine and testing restrictions for many visitors starting next month.

The U.K. has often gone its own way during the pandemic. Health authorities gambled on a gap of two to three months between doses, rather than the three to four weeks recommended by vaccine makers, in order to speed the rollout. That paid off, with studies since suggesting the longer gap is at least as effective, and possibly more so.

Britain diverged from its peers again on the question of vaccinating kids. When the U.S., Canada and much of the European Union extended inoculations to children between 12 and 15, the U.K. held off, saying the health benefit to kids was marginal. Then Britain decided to vaccinate that age group after all — but initially with a single dose, rather than the usual two.

Britain has also gone further than most nations in giving vaccine booster shots, offering a third dose to everyone over 50. That puts it at odds with the World Health Organization, which has strongly objected to rich nations giving a third round of shots when poor countries don't have enough vaccines for their first. In the U.S., authorities endorsed booster shots for millions of older or otherwise vulnerable Americans.

Johnson's government is counting on vaccines to do the heavy lifting against the virus, supplemented by voluntary "common sense" behavior.

But after an exceptionally long and strict lockdown earlier this year, it's not clear Britons will freely choose any virus-prevention measures they're not forced to take. When restrictions were initially lifted, just under two-thirds of people said they planned to keep wearing masks in shops and on public transport. Now the number of people wearing coverings has declined sharply on the London Underground, which requires but barely enforces mask use.

Critics say the government has failed to learn from experience and seems to be fueled by optimism rather than evidence.

Stephen Reicher, a University of St. Andrews psychology professor who helps advise the government, recalled that a year ago, Johnson's team was slow to act when scientific advisers recommended a short "circuit-breaker" lockdown to curb fast-rising coronavirus cases.

"As always happens if you wait and things get out of control, you have to impose greater restrictions, which is why we had a non-Christmas and such an awful winter and spring" spent in lockdown, he told

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Sky News.

Moran, the opposition lawmaker, and other critics argue that moderate measures, such as better ventilation in schools and masks indoors, could avert the need for stringent restrictions this winter.

But the government notes that scientists' most pessimistic predictions, which said cases could rise to 100,000 a day by the time schools reopened in September, haven't come true.

The U.K. is now averaging about 140 deaths daily — just over one-tenth of what it saw at the peak — and 30,000 new infections a day.

Johnson said restrictions such as mandatory masks and work-from-home orders could be reimposed if hospitalizations surge. But he hoped it wouldn't be needed.

"The result of this vaccination campaign is that we have one of the most free societies and one of the most open economies in Europe," he said. "And that's why we are now sticking with our strategy."

Standing beside him at a news conference, Chief Scientific Adviser Patrick Vallance applied the brakes. He said the lesson of the pandemic was that "when you make a move, you have to go earlier than you think you want to, you need to go harder than you think you want to."

"So if this goes in the wrong direction ... it's important that the measures are put in place early enough and they're significant enough," he said.

Follow all AP stories on the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

Panel OKs Dems' \$3.5T bill, crunch time for Biden agenda

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats pushed a \$3.5 trillion, 10-year bill strengthening social safety net and climate programs through the House Budget Committee, but one Democrat voted "no," illustrating the challenges party leaders face in winning the near unanimity they'll need to push the sprawling package through Congress.

The Democratic-dominated panel, meeting virtually Saturday, approved the measure on a near party-line vote, 20-17. Passage marked a necessary but minor checking of a procedural box for Democrats by edging it a step closer to debate by the full House. Under budget rules, the committee wasn't allowed to significantly amend the 2,465-page measure, the product of 13 other House committees.

More important work has been happening in an opaque procession of mostly unannounced phone calls, meetings and other bargaining sessions among party leaders and rank-and-file lawmakers. President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., have led a behind-the-scenes hunt for compromises to resolve internal divisions and, they hope, allow approval of the mammoth bill soon.

Pelosi told fellow Democrats Saturday that they "must" pass the social and environment package this week, along with a separate infrastructure bill and a third measure preventing a government shutdown on Friday. Her letter to colleagues underscored the pile of crucial work Congress' Democratic majority faces in coming days and seemed an effort to build urgency to resolve long-standing disputes quickly.

"The next few days will be a time of intensity," she wrote.

Moderate Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif., joined all 16 Republicans on the Budget committee in opposing the legislation. His objections included one that troubles many Democrats: a reluctance to back a bill with provisions that would later be dropped by the Senate.

Many Democrats don't want to become politically vulnerable by backing language that might be controversial back home, only to see it not become law. That preference for voting only on a social and environment bill that's already a House-Senate compromise could complicate Pelosi's effort for a House vote this week.

Peters was among three Democrats who earlier this month voted against a plan favored by most in his party to lower pharmaceutical costs by letting Medicare negotiate for the prescription drugs it buys.

Party leaders have tried for weeks to resolve differences among Democrats over the package's final price tag, which seems sure to shrink. There are also disputes over which initiatives should be reshaped,

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among them expanded Medicare, tax breaks for children and health care, a push toward cleaner energy and higher levies on the rich and corporations.

Democrats' wafer-thin majorities in the House and Senate mean compromise is mandatory. Before the measure the Budget panel approved Saturday even reaches the House floor, it is expected to be changed to reflect whatever House-Senate accords have been reached, and additional revisions are likely.

The overall bill embodies the crux of Biden's top domestic goals. Budget panel chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., cited "decades of disinvestment" on needs like health care, education, child care and the environment as the rationale for the legislation.

"The futures of millions of Americans and their families are at stake. We can no longer afford the costs of neglect and inaction. The time to act is now," Yarmuth said.

Republicans say the proposal is unneeded, unaffordable amid accumulated federal debt exceeding \$28 trillion and reflects Democrats' drive to insert government into people's lives. Its tax boosts will cost jobs and include credits for buying electric vehicles, purchases often made by people with comfortable incomes, they said.

"This bill is a disaster for working-class families," said Rep. Jason Smith of Missouri, the committee's top Republican. "It's a big giveaway to the wealthy, it's a laundry list of agenda items pulled right out of the Bernie Sanders socialist playbook."

The unusual weekend session occurred as top Democrats amp up efforts to end increasingly bitter disputes between the party's centrist and progressive wings that threaten to undermine Biden's agenda.

Biden conceded Friday that talks among Democrats were at a "stalemate," though Pelosi and Schumer have been more positive in an apparent effort to build momentum and soothe differences. A collapse of the measure at his own party's hands would be a wounding preview to the coming election year, in which House and Senate control are at stake.

To nail down moderates' support for an earlier budget blueprint, Pelosi promised to begin House consideration by Monday of another pillar of Biden's domestic plans: a \$1 trillion collection of roadway and other infrastructure projects. Pelosi reaffirmed this week that the infrastructure debate would begin Monday.

But many moderates who consider the infrastructure bill their top goal also want to cut the \$3.5 trillion social and environment package and trim or reshape some programs. They include Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz.

In response, progressives — their top priority is the \$3.5 trillion measure — are threatening to vote against the infrastructure bill if it comes up for a vote first. Their opposition seems likely to be enough to scuttle it, and Pelosi hasn't definitively said when a vote on final passage of the infrastructure measure will occur.

With each portion of the party threatening to upend the other's most cherished goal — a political disaster in the making for Democrats — top Democrats are using the moment to accelerate talks on the massive social and climate legislation. The party can lose no votes in the Senate and a maximum of three in the House to succeed in the narrowly split Congress.

Brewers announcer Bob Uecker honored for 50 years behind mic

By JIM HOEHN Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — As expected, the ceremony honoring popular Brewers announcer Bob Uecker's half-century at the microphone involved remembrances, appreciation — and a heavy dose of humorous stories.

At least the ones Uecker said he could share with an audience of family, friends, former players and team employees that spanned generations.

Uecker, a Milwaukee native affectionately known as "Mr. Baseball," was honored Saturday with Bob Uecker Day in the city of Milwaukee and state of Wisconsin.

Uecker also "threw" out the first pitch, at the last minute pulling the cover off a pitching machine in front of the mound.

Joining Uecker on the dais at the ceremony before Saturday's game against the New York Mets were former Brewers owner and MLB commissioner Bud Selig, who gave Uecker his first broadcasting job with

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the team; current owner Mark Attanasio; and former Brewers players Robin Yount and Paul Molitor, each in the Hall of Fame.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers also spoke at the event and presented Uecker with a proclamation.

Uecker, now 87, joined the Brewers broadcast team in 1971 after a six-year career as a catcher with the hometown Milwaukee Braves, St. Louis Cardinals, Philadelphia Phillies and Atlanta Braves that included a World Series championship with the Cardinals in 1964 and a .200 career batting average.

His post-playing career also included numerous appearances on "The Tonight Show" with the late Johnny Carson, who dubbed Uecker "Mr. Baseball"; acting in the TV sitcom "Mr. Belvedere"; the iconic humorous Miller Lite beer commercials of the '80s, including Uecker's now-famous line, "I must be in the front row"; and as hilarious announcer Harry Doyle in the movie "Major League."

Uecker said he never had a formal contract with the team under Selig, which continued with Attanasio.

Selig was talking about how he had first hired Uecker and said, "here we are 50 years later," when Uecker interrupted with, "And I'm still waiting to get paid."

The pregame presentation also included a video of congratulatory messages from former Brewers players including Don Money, Cecil Cooper, Ben Sheets, and Greg Vaughn; iconic broadcasters Bob Costas and Vin Scully; and announcers Pat Hughes, Chicago Cubs; Jim Powell, Atlanta Braves; and Joe Block, Pittsburgh Pirates — each former partners in Milwaukee with Uecker.

In addition to family and friends, former Brewers manager Ron Roenicke and ex-general manager Doug Melvin were on hand.

Yount, who spent his entire 20-year career with the Brewers, and Molitor, who played the first 15 of his 21 years in the majors with Milwaukee, each talked fondly of the many years when Uecker still threw batting practice.

"He threw batting practice for the longest time and, not jokingly, was probably the best batting practice pitcher we had for many, many years," said Yount, the opening day starter at shortstop in 1974 as an 18-year-old rookie.

Molitor also talked about Uecker's relationship with the players, from their days in the clubhouse to the current team.

"It's a little bit embarrassing, honestly, to say that I've known him since I was a teenager, because when I met him, I was 18. He was a little more than that, but he hadn't reached teenaged mentality yet," Yount joked, although the affection was obvious.

Brewers manager Craig Counsell, who grew up in the Milwaukee area listening to Uecker's broadcasts, said he cherishes his relationship with the announcer, who he calls a close friend.

"When you spend a lot of time with Uke, you really wish that you wrote everything down," Counsell said.

When it was his turn to speak, Uecker had the audience laughing with stories as only he can tell them. He said he loves what he does and has no plans to retire, although he'll know when it's time and he would not embarrass himself or the organization.

"My last bobblehead, this is what I want," Uecker said. "It's going to be a box, the top will open, I will get up, and do my get up, get up, get out of here, and back down, close the cover and that's it. That's the way I want to go."

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Georgia rally marks debut of GOP primary 'Trump ticket'

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

PERRY, Ga. (AP) — The rewards of an early Donald Trump endorsement were on display Saturday in Georgia when a three-man ticket of candidates he's backing in 2022 Republican primaries were featured at one of his signature rallies. But GOP opponents of Trump-backed candidates aren't folding in Georgia and some say the former president's nod could hurt Republicans in a general election in the closely divided state.

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Trump's endorsement blitz is a frank attempt to keep remaking the party in his image, with Republicans eagerly courting his favor. But like everything else about the former president, it's a rule-rewriting approach, said Casey Dominguez, a political science professor at the University of San Diego.

"We haven't seen presidents in recent years try to drive a wedge within their own party, which is what happens in a primary election," Dominguez said. "He's playing factional politics in the party."

It's easy to see why they might want Trump's backing. He maintains overwhelming support among Republican voters. Ballotpedia, which tracks Trump endorsements, says candidates he endorsed have won 37 of 43 competitive primaries since 2017.

Trump was joined at the rally in Perry, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of Atlanta by three candidates he has endorsed, including Herschel Walker, who recently launched a Senate campaign. Trump had urged the former football great to challenge Democratic U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock.

In one of his first public appearances since entering the race, Walker on Saturday talked about his relationship with Trump, but also urged his listeners to "come together as a people" and not be upset with others "because they disagree with you."

Also speaking was U.S. Rep Jody Hice, Trump's choice against Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. While Raffensperger refused the former president's entreaties to "find" enough votes to overturn Trump's narrow loss to Democratic President Joe Biden in Georgia, Hice objected to Georgia's electors in Congress.

Completing the trio is state Sen. Burt Jones, an early Trump supporter who pushed measures to overturn Biden's Georgia win and is running for lieutenant governor.

The rally, though, was all about Trump, who remains the star of his own show as numerous supporters arrived wearing Trump gear.

Despite a lack of credible evidence to support Trump's allegations of mass voter fraud, the former president has continued to push the "Big Lie" that he won, turning it into a litmus test for GOP candidates. A majority of Republican voters continue to believe the election was stolen, despite dozens of state and local elections officials, numerous judges and Trump's own attorney general saying Biden won fairly.

Although some primary fields have been winnowed by Trump's endorsement, that hasn't happened in Georgia.

Walker faces three other Republicans including Gary Black, the state agriculture commissioner. Black has attacked Walker, saying he's untested. On Monday, Black rolled out endorsements from 55 state lawmakers, laying them atop endorsements from 76 county sheriffs, former Gov. Nathan Deal and former U.S. Rep Doug Collins, a onetime Trump favorite.

"It's OK to be a fan of Herschel Walker the football player," Black said. "But it's also OK to want to win the Senate back and save our country from the chaos it's in now. Georgians need an electable choice who can stand up to the national Democrats and \$100 million or more in attack ads."

Jones describes himself as an underdog in his primary against a powerful business-backed state senator, but recently said the former president's backing "is going to be a pretty loud intercom saying this is a guy who will actually stand up for his constituents and stand up for conservative values."

Trump's nod could be a liability in a general election, though. Trump lost narrowly in Georgia, and Republicans Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue lost runoffs for Senate seats to Warnock and Jon Ossoff by wider margins in January. Many, including some Republicans, have said Trump's insistent claims that the November 2020 election was rigged depressed GOP runoff turnout, delivering U.S. Senate control to Democrats.

Democratic State Rep. Bee Nguyen, who is also running for secretary of state in 2022, said Trump's endorsements are part of his "vendetta" against some Republicans. Nguyen said Trump's activity will stir up Democratic voters, as will a restrictive election law that Republicans passed this year.

"It will continue to mobilize our base because our base understands voting rights are on the chopping block," said Nguyen, who also predicted that the "constant efforts to discredit the results of the November election" would fire up Democrats.

Some Republicans see it that way as well. GOP consultant Paul Shumaker noted in a June memo that polling showed voters in North Carolina were less likely to back a Trump-endorsed candidate and more

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likely to vote for a Biden-endorsed candidate.

"When comparing a Trump-endorsed candidate to a Biden-endorsed candidate, our advantage with the unaffiliated voters evaporates," Shumaker wrote. "In addition, the Democratic advantage widens with college graduates and suburban voters while the rural vote softens somewhat for Republicans."

Shumaker is working for former North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, who is running against Trump-endorsed U.S. Rep. Ted Budd in a Republican Senate primary to replace the retiring Richard Burr. Shumaker said the poll wasn't paid for by McCrory.

Then there is the top Georgia Republican not on the Trump ticket — Gov. Brian Kemp. Former Democrat Vernon Jones is openly courting Trump's nod, but the former president has withheld his favor while Trump supporters have floated other possible candidates.

Trump's scorn for Kemp was clear on Saturday as he sarcastically suggested that he would prefer Democrat Stacey Abrams to the incumbent governor. Abrams narrowly lost to Kemp in 2018 and is considering whether to run again.

"Stacey, would you like to take his place? It's OK with me," Trump said.

Despite Trump's antipathy for Kemp, the incumbent governor may achieve a detente with some Trump-backed candidates.

Walker hired a spokesperson from Kemp's office, one possible indicator Walker may steer clear of attacking Kemp. His early message has been more positive and less confrontational than Trump.

Kemp appeared with Hice at a Sept. 13 event to criticize the Biden administration's legislative agenda. Kemp voiced hope then that Republicans could unify in opposition.

"The party needs to come together, we don't need to be divided," Kemp said. "That didn't work for us in 2020."

Follow Jeff Amy on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jeffamy>.

Russia says it's in sync with US, China, Pakistan on Taliban

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia, China, Pakistan and the United States are working together to ensure that Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers keep their promises, especially to form a genuinely representative government and prevent extremism from spreading, Russia's foreign minister said Saturday.

Sergey Lavrov said the four countries are in ongoing contact. He said representatives from Russia, China and Pakistan recently traveled to Qatar and then to Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, to engage with both the Taliban and representatives of "secular authorities" — former president Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, who headed the ousted government's negotiating council with the Taliban.

Lavrov said the interim government announced by the Taliban does not reflect "the whole gamut of Afghan society — ethno-religious and political forces — so we are engaging in contacts. They are ongoing."

The Taliban have promised an inclusive government, a more moderate form of Islamic rule than when they last ruled the country from 1996 to 2001 including respecting women's rights, providing stability after 20 years of war, fighting terrorism and extremism and stopping militants from using their territory to launch attacks. But recent moves suggest they may be returning to more repressive policies, particularly toward women and girls.

"What's most important ... is to ensure that the promises that they have proclaimed publicly to be kept," Lavrov said. "And for us, that is the top priority."

At a wide-ranging news conference and in his speech afterward at the U.N. General Assembly, Lavrov criticized the Biden administration including for its hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan.

He said the U.S. and NATO pullout "was carried out without any consideration of the consequences ... that there are many weapons left in Afghanistan." It remains critical, he said, that such weapons aren't used for "destructive purposes."

Later, in his assembly speech, Lavrov accused the United States and its Western allies of "persistent

attempts to diminish the U.N.'s role in resolving the key problems of today or to sideline it or to make it a malleable tool for promoting someone's selfish interests."

As examples, Lavrov said Germany and France recently announced the creation of an Alliance For Multilateralism "even though what kind of structure could be more multilateral than the United Nations?"

The United States is also sidestepping the U.N., he said, pointing to the recent U.S. announcement of a "Summit for Democracy" despite, Lavrov said, U.S. President Joe Biden's pledge this week "that the U.S. is not seeking a world divided into opposing blocs."

"It goes without saying that Washington is going to choose the participants by itself, thus hijacking the right to decide to what degree a country meets the standards of democracy," Lavrov said. "Essentially, this initiative is quite in the spirit of a Cold War, as it declares a new ideological crusade against all dissenters."

Lavrov was asked for Russia's reaction to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' warning last week that the world could be plunged into a new Cold War potentially more dangerous than the lengthy one between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union unless the United States and China repair their "totally dysfunctional" relationship.

He replied: "Of course, we see the tension tightening in relations between China and the United States." He expressed "great concern" at the rising tensions, pointing to the Biden administration's recently proclaimed Indo-Pacific strategy — whose objectives, he said, include "deterring China's development," disputes over the South China Sea, and the recent U.S.-Britain deal to provide nuclear-powered submarines to Australia.

More broadly, Lavrov said, relations among the big powers must be "respectful." He emphasized that Russia was "keen to ensure that never will these relations morph into nuclear war."

The major powers have a "great responsibility," he said, to negotiate and make compromises on the critical issues facing the world and that Russia is now "revitalizing" its proposal for a summit of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Russia, China, U.S., UK and France. He said discussions are under way on specific questions for an agenda, and "we may perhaps begin with an online meeting."

On other global issues, the United States has been pressing for Iran to resume nuclear negotiations, but Lavrov said it was then-President Donald Trump who pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear agreement, so to declare that "time is running out, anybody could say this — but not Washington."

In his first speech to the General Assembly earlier this week, new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi criticized the United States but appeared not to rule out a return to the negotiating table for the nuclear accord, saying Iran considers talks useful if their ultimate outcome is the lifting of all sanctions. Still, he stated: "We don't trust the promises made by the U.S. government."

Lavrov said Russia would like to see the resumption of negotiations to restore the original agreement as soon as possible. "We have a very serious hope -- and I think this is well-founded optimism -- that we will achieve results," he said, because "this is something everybody wants."

Edith M. Lederer, chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press, has been reporting internationally for nearly 50 years. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EdithLedererAP>

At UN, turmoil in Haiti, Ethiopia draws global concern

By SALLY HO Associated Press

The speeches may be scripted, but the U.N. General Assembly can sometimes be the only direct window into the regional challenges that command global concern.

On Saturday, world leaders were speaking on behalf of some of the most unstable and unsettling current conflicts. That includes India's fight over the Kashmir region with bitter rival Pakistan, Haiti's domestic crises spilling into a migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border and questions about the Ethiopian government's role in reported starvation deaths in the Tigray region.

Haiti Prime Minister Ariel Henry didn't shy away from addressing his country's turmoil following a major earthquake and the assassination of its president, Jovenel Moise, in recent months — alluding to but not directly addressing reports that may implicate Henry himself in the murder.

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"I want to reaffirm here, at this platform, my determination to do everything to find the collaborators, accomplices and sponsors of this odious crime. Nothing, absolutely nothing, no political maneuver, no media campaign, no distraction, could deter me from this objective: rendering justice for President Moise," Henry said in a prerecorded speech.

"It is a debt to his memory, his family and the Haitian people," Henry said. "The judicial inquest is going difficultly. It's a transnational crime. And for that, we formally solicit mutual legal assistance. It is a priority of my government for the entire nation. Because this crime cannot rest unpunished et those culpable, all those culpable must be punished."

The statement comes days after Henry fired his chief prosecutor, who had asked a judge to charge Henry in the slaying of Moise that has shocked the world and to bar the prime minister from leaving the country.

Haiti's troubles have moved beyond its borders, with thousands of migrants fleeing to the United States. This week, the Biden administration's special envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote, resigned in protest of "inhumane" large-scale U.S. expulsions of Haitian migrants. Foote was appointed to the position only in July, following the assassination.

Henry pointedly said that inequalities and conflict drive migration. But he stopped short of directly criticizing Washington, whose treatment of Haitian asylum-seekers has prompted an outcry.

Human beings, fathers and mothers who have children, are always going to flee poverty and conflict," Henry said. "Migration will continue as long as the planet has both wealthy areas, whilst most of the world's population lives in poverty, even extreme poverty, without any prospects of a better life."

It was a flat-out denial for Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, who rejected humanitarian concerns over Tigray as part of a "twisted propaganda campaign" in the embattled corner of northern Ethiopia.

"The criminal enterprise and its enablers created and advertised horrific imagery of faked incidents. As if the real misery of our people is not enough, storylines are created to match not the facts but preconceived stereotypical attitudes," Mekonnen said.

Ethiopia has faced the pressure of global concern since the U.N. warned of famine in the conflict, calling it the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade. Starvation deaths have been reported since the government in June imposed what the U.N. calls "a de facto humanitarian aid blockade."

In his speech Saturday, Mekonnen urged the international community to steer clear of sanctions, avoid meddling and take a "constructive approach" to its war forces from the region.

"Prescriptions and punitive measures never helped improve situations or relations," he said, less than 10 days after the U.S. threatened to impose sanctions against Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and other leaders.

Meanwhile, India Prime Minister Narendra Modi largely sidestepped his nation's regional conflict, making only what appeared to be a passing reference to Kashmir, channeling his comments through the lens of the Afghanistan crisis.

Modi, who spent part of the week meeting with U.S. officials to strengthen ties in the Indo-Pacific, was measured in his pushback as compared to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's scathing — albeit predictable — rhetoric that had landed hours earlier.

Modi called upon the international community to help the women, children and minorities of Afghanistan and said that it was imperative the country not be used as a base from which to spread terror.

"We also need to be alert and ensure that no country tries to take advantage of the delicate situation there, and use it as a tool for its own selfish interests," he said in an apparent reference to Pakistan, wedged in between Afghanistan and India.

On Friday, Khan had, once again, labeled Modi's Hindu nationalist government "fascist" and railed against India's crackdown on Kashmir, the disputed region divided between each country but claimed by both.

The Indian government has raised concerns that the chaos left in the wake of the U.S.'s military withdrawal from Afghanistan will benefit Pakistan and feed the long-simmering insurgency in Kashmir, where militants already have a foothold.

Follow Sally Ho on Twitter at http://twitter.com/_sallyho

Panel OKs Dems' \$3.5T bill, crunch time for Biden agenda

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats pushed a \$3.5 trillion, 10-year bill strengthening social safety net and climate programs through the House Budget Committee on Saturday, but one Democrat voted “no,” illustrating the challenges party leaders face in winning the near unanimity they’ll need to push the sprawling package through Congress.

The Democratic-dominated panel, meeting virtually, approved the measure on a near party-line vote, 20-17. Passage marked a necessary but minor checking of a procedural box for Democrats by edging it a step closer to debate by the full House. Under budget rules, the committee wasn’t allowed to significantly amend the 2,465-page measure, the product of 13 other House committees.

More important work has been happening in an opaque procession of mostly unannounced phone calls, meetings and other bargaining sessions among party leaders and rank-and-file lawmakers. President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., have led a behind-the-scenes hunt for compromises to resolve internal divisions and, they hope, allow approval of the mammoth bill soon.

Pelosi told fellow Democrats Saturday that they “must” pass the social and environment package this week, along with a separate infrastructure bill and a third measure preventing a government shutdown on Friday. Her letter to colleagues underscored the pile of crucial work Congress’ Democratic majority faces in coming days and seemed an effort to build urgency to resolve long-standing disputes quickly.

“The next few days will be a time of intensity,” she wrote.

Moderate Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif., joined all 16 Republicans on the Budget committee in opposing the legislation. His objections included one that troubles many Democrats: a reluctance to back a bill with provisions that would later be dropped by the Senate.

Many Democrats don’t want to become politically vulnerable by backing language that might be controversial back home, only to see it not become law. That preference for voting only on a social and environment bill that’s already a House-Senate compromise could complicate Pelosi’s effort for a House vote this week.

Peters was among three Democrats who earlier this month voted against a plan favored by most in his party to lower pharmaceutical costs by letting Medicare negotiate for the prescription drugs it buys.

Party leaders have tried for weeks to resolve differences among Democrats over the package’s final price tag, which seems sure to shrink. There are also disputes over which initiatives should be reshaped, among them expanded Medicare, tax breaks for children and health care, a push toward cleaner energy and higher levies on the rich and corporations.

Democrats’ wafer-thin majorities in the House and Senate mean compromise is mandatory. Before the measure the Budget panel approved Saturday even reaches the House floor, it is expected to be changed to reflect whatever House-Senate accords have been reached, and additional revisions are likely.

The overall bill embodies the crux of Biden’s top domestic goals. Budget panel chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., cited “decades of disinvestment” on needs like health care, education, child care and the environment as the rationale for the legislation.

“The futures of millions of Americans and their families are at stake. We can no longer afford the costs of neglect and inaction. The time to act is now,” Yarmuth said.

Republicans say the proposal is unneeded, unaffordable amid accumulated federal debt exceeding \$28 trillion and reflects Democrats’ drive to insert government into people’s lives. Its tax boosts will cost jobs and include credits for buying electric vehicles, purchases often made by people with comfortable incomes, they said.

“This bill is a disaster for working-class families,” said Rep. Jason Smith of Missouri, the committee’s top Republican. “It’s a big giveaway to the wealthy, it’s a laundry list of agenda items pulled right out of the Bernie Sanders socialist playbook.”

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The unusual weekend session occurred as top Democrats amp up efforts to end increasingly bitter disputes between the party's centrist and progressive wings that threaten to undermine Biden's agenda.

Biden conceded Friday that talks among Democrats were at a "stalemate," though Pelosi and Schumer have been more positive in an apparent effort to build momentum and soothe differences. A collapse of the measure at his own party's hands would be a wounding preview to the coming election year, in which House and Senate control are at stake.

To nail down moderates' support for an earlier budget blueprint, Pelosi promised to begin House consideration by Monday of another pillar of Biden's domestic plans: a \$1 trillion collection of roadway and other infrastructure projects. Pelosi reaffirmed this week that the infrastructure debate would begin Monday.

But many moderates who consider the infrastructure bill their top goal also want to cut the \$3.5 trillion social and environment package and trim or reshape some programs. They include Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz.

In response, progressives — their top priority is the \$3.5 trillion measure — are threatening to vote against the infrastructure bill if it comes up for a vote first. Their opposition seems likely to be enough to scuttle it, and Pelosi hasn't definitively said when a vote on final passage of the infrastructure measure will occur.

With each portion of the party threatening to upend the other's most cherished goal — a political disaster in the making for Democrats — top Democrats are using the moment to accelerate talks on the massive social and climate legislation. The party can lose no votes in the Senate and a maximum of three in the House to succeed in the narrowly split Congress.

'Amistad' binds Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña amid migrant crisis

By JUAN A. LOZANO and MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — Amistad — Spanish for friendship — binds the sister cities of Del Rio, Texas, and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

Each year, the border communities that sit across the Rio Grande from one another come together to celebrate that bond during the Fiesta de la Amistad. Leaders from both sides of the border meet at the festival and share abrazos, or hugs, to commemorate their common history and an agreement between the U.S. and Mexico to build the Amistad Dam and Reservoir in the 1960s.

The relationship shows in many ways, with workers and families typically going back-and-forth between Acuña and Del Rio daily. But that traffic was disrupted for more than a week by the shutdown of the bridge that connects them and serves as a conduit for commerce, culture and community. Officials closed the crossing on Sept. 17 after an encampment made up of mostly Haitian migrants formed around the span. The camp was completely cleared of migrants on Friday, and U.S. authorities announced the bridge would partially reopen to passenger traffic late Saturday afternoon and to cargo traffic on Monday morning.

Some locals have felt the shutdown keenly.

Acuña resident Gerardo Hernández, 51, was told that starting Wednesday, his salary would be cut by 50% until further notice because of the closure. The materials used at the border assembly plant where he works installing car seats come from the U.S. side.

"We had just begun to work again (because of the pandemic), and now this," Hernández said. "But the migrants are not at fault. It's the closure."

Del Rio Mayor Bruno Lozano said Friday that the bridge closure had cost the city \$17,000 a day in tolls and affected the daily flow of \$35 million in trade and goods.

In Acuña, dentist offices, beauty salons and bars sat empty, said Luis Angel Urraza, the president of the local chamber of commerce. His popular restaurant, Lucia, wasn't spared.

But the sense of peace that has permeated Del Rio, with its roughly 35,000 mostly Latino residents, and Acuña, with about 163,000 people, has been frayed in recent months by frustration over travel limits between the cities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and by the growing number of migrants coming through the area. The Del Rio sector has become the U.S. Border Patrol's second busiest for apprehensions along the nation's southern border.

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Acuña is known for its generosity and hospitality. This relatively safe city along Mexico's northern border, where violence is plentiful, grew with the construction of U.S.-owned border assembly plants known as maquiladoras in the 1980s and 1990s.

Manuel Casillas, the owner of Abbey Road, a popular Beatles-themed restaurant and bar in Acuña, knows what it's like to live on both sides. He was born in Del Rio and raised in Acuña. He worked in Del Rio for 35 years in a department store. When he retired, he returned to Mexico and opened the bar of his dreams.

Casillas, 65, said he is saddened that some of the migrants were being detained.

"Not being able to help them, not being able to give them a job," said Casillas, who hired a Cuban dishwasher during a previous migration spike.

County Judge Lewis Owens, the top elected official for Val Verde County, which includes Del Rio, said that despite the recent challenges, the two cities have continued helping each other. Del Rio officials recently administered more than 2,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Acuña residents, including workers from maquiladoras, on the border bridge.

But the presence of the camp, which swelled to almost 15,000 migrants at one point, and the additional law enforcement on both sides of the border have rattled the region.

Owens said residents have called him about finding migrants in their yards. In response, some residents have started watering their trees or feeding their dogs with a pistol on their hip, he said.

"People are scared," Owens said. "I think it's going to always be on our minds that it can happen again."

Some Del Rio residents have criticized the presence of the camp and the release of some of the migrants into the U.S. while they make claims before an immigration judge to stay in the country under the asylum laws or for some other legal reason.

"We can't get on an airplane and fly anywhere or go to school without having a shot. They're coming across not inoculated and going wherever they want to go. It's just very, very frustrating for everybody," said Roger Bollinger, who owns a drilling company in Del Rio.

At a community center in Del Rio, the non-governmental organization Val Verde Border Humanitarian Coalition assisted the migrants throughout the week as they were released, providing them with basic essentials and helping them reach family in the U.S.

"Our focus is on helping our neighbor," said Tiffany Burrow, the group's operations director.

Del Rio resident Larisa Sanchez is no stranger to the struggles of immigration, and she acknowledged the difficulties the Haitians face while she watched her 10-year-old son Leo's football practice. Her mother was deported when she was a child, and they spent seven years apart while she lived in Del Rio and her mother lived in Acuña. Her mother is now a legal U.S. resident.

"I do feel really bad for them. I do. But I think they do have to go through a process because my mom went through it," Sanchez said. "I guess I have mixed feelings about it."

Verza reported from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

Canadians, Chinese executive return home in prisoner swap

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — China, the U.S. and Canada completed a high-stakes prisoner swap with joyous homecomings for two Canadians held by China and for an executive of Chinese global communications giant Huawei Technologies charged with fraud, potentially bringing closure to a 3-year feud that embroiled the three countries.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hugged diplomat Michael Kovrig and entrepreneur Michael Spavor on the tarmac after they landed in Calgary, Alberta early Saturday. The men were detained in China in Dec. 2018, shortly after Canada arrested Meng Wanzhou, Huawei Technologies' chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder, on a U.S. extradition request.

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Many countries labeled China's action "hostage politics," while China has described the charges against Huawei and Meng as a politically motivated attempt to holdback China's economic and technological development.

"It's fantastic to be back home in Canada and I am immensely grateful to everybody who worked hard to bring both of us back home," a noticeably thinner Kovrig said after a Canadian government plane landed in Toronto and he was greeted by his wife and sister.

Meng's return to China later Saturday was carried live on state TV, underscoring the degree to which Beijing has linked her case with Chinese nationalism and its rise as a global economic and political power.

Wearing a red dress matching the color of China's flag, Meng thanked the ruling Communist Party and its leader Xi Jinping for supporting her through more than 1,000 days in house arrest in Vancouver, where she owns two multimillion dollar mansions.

"I have finally returned to the warm embrace of the motherland," Meng said. "As an ordinary Chinese citizen going through this difficult time, I always felt the warmth and concern of the party, the nation and the people."

The chain of events involving the global powers brought an abrupt end to legal and geopolitical wrangling that has roiled relations between Washington, Beijing and Ottawa. The three-way deal enabled China and Canada to each bring home their own detained citizens while the U.S. wrapped up a criminal case against Meng that for months had been mired in an extradition fight.

"These two men have been through an unbelievably difficult ordeal. For the past 1,000 days, they have shown strength, perseverance and grace and we are all inspired by that," Trudeau said of the two Canadians.

Meng's been out on bail living in a multimillion-dollar mansion in Vancouver since her arrest while the two Canadians were held in Chinese prison cells for over 1,000 days where the lights were kept on 24 hours a day.

The first activity came Friday afternoon when Meng, 49, reached an agreement with federal prosecutors that called for fraud charges against her to be dismissed next year and allowed for her to return to China immediately. As part of the deal, known as a deferred prosecution agreement, she accepted responsibility for misrepresenting the company's business dealings in Iran.

The deal was reached as President Joe Biden and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have sought to tamp down signs of public tension — even as the world's two dominant economies are at odds on issues as diverse as cybersecurity, climate change, human rights and trade and tariffs. Biden said in an address before the U.N. General Assembly earlier this week that he had no intention of starting a "new Cold War," while Xi told world leaders that disputes among countries "need to be handled through dialogue and cooperation."

"The U.S. Government stands with the international community in welcoming the decision by People's Republic of China authorities to release Canadian citizens Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig after more than two-and-a-half years of arbitrary detention. We are pleased that they are returning home to Canada," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

As part of the deal with Meng, the Justice Department agreed to dismiss the fraud charges against her in December 2022 — exactly four years after her arrest — provided that she complies with certain conditions, including not contesting any of the government's factual allegations. The Justice Department also agreed to drop its request that Meng be extradited to the U.S., which she had vigorously challenged.

After appearing via videoconference for her New York hearing, Meng made a brief court appearance in Vancouver.

Outside the courtroom, Meng thanked the Canadian government for upholding the rule of law, expressed gratitude to the Canadian people and apologized "for the inconvenience I caused."

"Over the last three years my life has been turned upside down," she said. "It was a disruptive time for me as a mother, a wife and as a company executive. But I believe every cloud has a silver lining. It really was an invaluable experience in my life. I will never forget all the good wishes I received."

Shortly afterward, Meng left on an Air China flight for Shenzhen, China, the location of Huawei's headquarters.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies. It has been a

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symbol of China's progress in becoming a technological world power — and a subject of U.S. security and law enforcement concerns. Some analysts say Chinese companies have flouted international rules and norms and stolen technology.

The case against Meng stems from a January 2019 indictment from the Trump administration Justice Department that accused Huawei of stealing trade secrets and using a Hong Kong shell company called Skycom to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. The indictment also charged Meng herself with committing fraud by misleading the HSBC bank about the company's business dealings in Iran.

The indictment came amid a broader Trump administration crackdown against Huawei over U.S. government concerns that the company's products could facilitate Chinese spying. The administration cut off Huawei's access to U.S. components and technology, including Google's music and other smartphone services, and later barred vendors worldwide from using U.S. technology to produce components for Huawei.

The Biden White House, meanwhile, has kept up a hard line on Huawei and other Chinese corporations whose technology is thought to pose national security risks. Huawei has repeatedly denied the U.S. government's allegations and security concerns about its products.

Former Canadian ambassador to China, Guy Saint-Jacques, Kovrig's former boss, said he was elated the two Canadians are home.

"Clearly, the Chinese were so eager to get Meng back that they jettisoned all pretensions that the two Michaels had been arrested for good reasons. They must acknowledge that their reputation has been severely tarnished," Saint-Jacques said. "There is grumbling in the Communist party of China, people saying, 'In which direction are we going, Xi Jinping? We are creating too many enemies. Why are we enemies with countries like Canada and Australia?'"

Saint-Jacques said he thinks China will think twice before using "hostage diplomacy" again.

Eric Tucker in Washington, Jim Mustian in New York and Jim Morris in Vancouver, Canada, contributed to this report.

They said it: Leaders at the hybrid UN, in their own words

By The Associated Press undefined

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Many leaders saying many things about many topics that matter to them, to their regions, to the world: That's what the U.N. General Assembly invariably produces each year.

And each year, certain voices dominate. Here, The Associated Press takes the opposite approach and spotlights some thoughts — delivered in prerecorded speeches or from the rostrum at the United Nations after a yearlong pandemic break — from leaders who might have not captured the headlines and airtime on Saturday, the fifth day of the 2021 debate.

"Will Tuvalu remain a member state of the UN if it is finally submerged? Who will help us?"

— KAUSEA NATANO, prime minister of Tuvalu

"Caribbean countries like ours, which were exploited and underdeveloped to finance the development of Europe, have put forward a case for reparations for slavery and native genocide, and we expect that case to be treated with the seriousness and urgency it deserves. There should be no double standards in the international system in recognizing acknowledging and compensating victims of crimes against humanity."

— PHILIP J. PIERRE, prime minister of Saint Lucia

"Many ancient and longstanding political quarrels ought to come to an end in these new, perilous times which humanity faces."

— RALPH E. GONSALVES, prime minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

"I would like to emphasize that the changing realities of the 21st century demand a newly revamped and responsive United Nations. The organization requires a more democratic, inclusive, and representative

approach to the problems of the day.”

— SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN, prime minister of Cambodia

“In my region, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and West Papua are still struggling for self-determination. Drawing attention to the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples as stipulated in the U.N. Charter, it is important that the U.N. and the international community continue to support the relevant territories, giving them an equal opportunity to determine their own statehood.”

— BOB LOUGHMAN WEIBER, prime minister of Vanuatu

Man drives from Ohio hoping to help Haitian friend at border

By SARAH BLAKE MORGAN Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — As Haitian migrants stepped off a white U.S. Border Patrol van in the Texas border city of Del Rio after learning they'd be allowed to stay in the country for now, a man in a neon yellow vest stood nearby and quietly surveyed them.

Some carried sleeping babies, and one toddler walked behind her mother wrapped in a silver heat blanket. As they passed by to be processed by a local nonprofit that provides migrants with basic essentials and helps them reach family in the U.S., many smiled — happy to be starting a new leg of their journey after a chaotic spell in a crowded camp near a border bridge that links Del Rio with Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

Dave, who didn't want to share his last name because he feared a backlash for trying to help people who entered the U.S. illegally, didn't see his friend Ruth in this group. But he wore the bright safety vest so she would be able to spot him in the crowd when she arrived with her husband and 3-year-old daughter.

“I feel like my friend is worth my time to come down and help,” he told The Associated Press on Friday.

On Tuesday, Dave set out from his hometown of Toledo, Ohio, and made the nearly 1,300-mile (2,092-kilometer) drive to Del Rio, where up to 15,000 migrants suddenly crossed in from Mexico this month, most of them Haitian and many seeking asylum.

The 64-year-old met Ruth over a decade ago during a Christian mission to Haiti. Over the years, Dave would send Ruth money for a little girl he met in an orphanage whom he'd promised himself he'd support. Ruth always made sure the girl had what she needed.

Last month, Ruth and her family left South America, where they briefly lived after leaving their impoverished Caribbean homeland, to try to make it to the United States. Dave told her he'd be there when they arrived to drive them to her sister's house in Ohio.

“I just see it as an opportunity to serve somebody,” he said. “We have so much.”

The nonprofit, the Val Verde Border Humanitarian Coalition, has received dozens of drop-offs from U.S. Border Patrol agents since the sudden influx of migrants to Del Rio became the country's most pressing immigration challenge. Its operations director, Tiffany Burrow, said the group processed more than 1,600 Haitian migrants from Monday through when the camp was completely cleared Friday, assisting them with travel and resettlement necessities.

This is nothing new for Burrow, who has watched Haitian migrants cross into Del Rio in smaller numbers since January. But this recent wave overwhelmed her small group.

“It's a different volume. And the eyes of the world are on us this time,” Burrow told the AP.

As Dave waited Friday for the next bus to arrive, he shimmied a child seat into place in the back seat of his vehicle. It was for Ruth's toddler and was the first thing he spotted when he stopped at a thrift store on his way out of Toledo. He viewed it as a little sign he was doing the right thing.

Ruth and her family had spent the past week at the bridge camp and Dave had been communicating with her through WhatsApp. But all communication stopped Thursday around noon, and he said Ruth's sister in Ohio also hadn't heard from her.

Still, Dave waited, scrolling through a list of “what ifs.” He wondered aloud if her phone died or if she was in a Border Patrol facility with strict rules about electronic devices. “I'm putting a lot of faith in my phone,” he said, laughing.

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Like Dave, Dr. Pierre Moreau made the trip to Del Rio from Miami to help. A Haitian immigrant himself and U.S. Navy veteran, he saw the images unfolding from the camp and booked a flight.

"That was devastating. My heart was crying," Moreau said. "And I told my wife I'm coming. And she said go."

Moreau didn't have a plan — just a rental car full of toiletries and supplies he hoped to pass out to any migrants he came across.

"I'm concerned about my brothers and sisters. And I was concerned with the way they were treated," he said.

Dave said he hates how politicized the border issue has become. He considers himself a supporter of former President Donald Trump but said he's more complicated than a single label.

As he waited in his car, Dave gushed over how hard Ruth had worked as a nurse to get to the United States — a dream she's held for over a decade. He said he knows she'll do the same in the U.S. and that all he's doing is giving her and her small family a leg up.

"I help them with their first step," Dave said. "And like a little child, next time you see them, they'll be running."

Every time a Border Patrol bus or van pulled up to the coalition, Dave and his yellow vest would cross the street. He waited as each migrant climbed out, hoping to see Ruth, and he even darted over to one woman thinking it was her. "That sounded just like Ruth's voice," he said.

As news broke Friday that the camp had been cleared, Dave still held out hope that she'd arrive. But 10 hours after he pulled up, the coalition announced it had received its last busload and that no more migrants would be arriving from the camp.

This wave, at least for now, was over for Del Rio. But Burrow said there will likely be others.

"Right now, we're in a cycle," she said. "We're learning to work with it."

Dave stood up from his folding chair and started walking back to his car. He still hadn't heard anything from Ruth and he again speculated as to where she and her family might be, including that they could have been sent on a deportation flight back to Haiti.

He looked defeated but said he didn't plan to drive back to Ohio until he heard from Ruth — not until he knew his friend was OK.

"I cringe when I hear the beep that it's going to be the wrong message," Dave said. "But I try to keep hoping. I don't know what else I can do."

Follow Morgan on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/StorytellerSBM>

COVID-19 vaccine boosters could mean billions for drugmakers

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

Billions more in profits are at stake for some vaccine makers as the U.S. moves toward dispensing COVID-19 booster shots to shore up Americans' protection against the virus.

How much the manufacturers stand to gain depends on how big the rollout proves to be.

U.S. health officials late on Thursday endorsed booster shots of the Pfizer vaccine for all Americans 65 and older — along with tens of millions of younger people who are at higher risk from the coronavirus because of health conditions or their jobs.

Officials described the move as a first step. Boosters will likely be offered even more broadly in the coming weeks or months, including boosters of vaccines made by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. That, plus continued growth in initial vaccinations, could mean a huge gain in sales and profits for Pfizer and Moderna in particular.

"The opportunity quite frankly is reflective of the billions of people around the world who would need a vaccination and a boost," Jefferies analyst Michael Yee said.

Wall Street is taking notice. The average forecast among analysts for Moderna's 2022 revenue has jumped 35% since President Joe Biden laid out his booster plan in mid-August.

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Most of the vaccinations so far in the U.S. have come from Pfizer, which developed its shot with Germany's BioNTech, and Moderna. They have inoculated about 99 million and 68 million people, respectively. Johnson & Johnson is third with about 14 million people.

No one knows yet how many people will get the extra shots. But Morningstar analyst Karen Andersen expects boosters alone to bring in about \$26 billion in global sales next year for Pfizer and BioNTech and around \$14 billion for Moderna if they are endorsed for nearly all Americans.

Those companies also may gain business from people who got other vaccines initially. In Britain, which plans to offer boosters to everyone over 50 and other vulnerable people, an expert panel has recommended that Pfizer's shot be the primary choice, with Moderna as the alternative.

Andersen expects Moderna, which has no other products on the market, to generate a roughly \$13 billion profit next year from all COVID-19 vaccine sales if boosters are broadly authorized.

Potential vaccine profits are harder to estimate for Pfizer, but company executives have said they expect their pre-tax adjusted profit margin from the vaccine to be in the "high 20s" as a percentage of revenue. That would translate to a profit of around \$7 billion next year just from boosters, based on Andersen's sales prediction.

J&J and Europe's AstraZeneca have said they don't intend to profit from their COVID-19 vaccines during the pandemic.

For Pfizer and Moderna, the boosters could be more profitable than the original doses because they won't come with the research and development costs the companies incurred to get the vaccines on the market in the first place.

WBB Securities CEO Steve Brozak said the booster shots will represent "almost pure profit" compared with the initial doses.

Drugmakers aren't the only businesses that could see a windfall from delivering boosters. Drugstore chains CVS Health and Walgreens could bring in more than \$800 million each in revenue, according to Jeff Jonas, a portfolio manager with Gabelli Funds.

Jonas noted that the drugstores may not face competition from mass vaccination clinics this time around, and the chains are diligent about collecting customer contact information. That makes it easy to invite people back for boosters.

Drugmakers are also developing COVID-19 shots that target certain variants of the virus, and say people might need annual shots like the ones they receive for the flu. All of that could make the vaccines a major recurring source of revenue.

The COVID-19 vaccines have already done much better than their predecessors.

Pfizer said in July it expects revenue from its COVID-19 vaccine to reach \$33.5 billion this year, an estimate that could change depending on the impact of boosters or the possible expansion of shots to elementary school children.

That would be more than five times the \$5.8 billion racked up last year by the world's most lucrative vaccine — Pfizer's Prevnar13, which protects against pneumococcal disease.

It also would dwarf the \$19.8 billion brought in last year by AbbVie's rheumatoid arthritis treatment Humira, widely regarded as the world's top-selling drug.

This bodes well for future vaccine development, noted Erik Gordon, a business professor at the University of Michigan.

Vaccines normally are nowhere near as profitable as treatments, Gordon said. But the success of the COVID-19 shots could draw more drugmakers and venture capitalists into the field.

"The vaccine business is more attractive, which, for those of us who are going to need vaccines, is good," Gordon said.

Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thpmurphy>

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Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Taliban hang body in public; signal return to past tactics

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban hanged a dead body from a crane parked in a city square in Afghanistan on Saturday in a gruesome display that signaled the hard-line movement's return to some of its brutal tactics of the past.

Taliban officials initially brought four bodies to the central square in the western city of Herat, then moved three of them to other parts of the city for public display, said Wazir Ahmad Seddiqi, who runs a pharmacy on the edge of the square.

Taliban officials announced that the four were caught taking part in a kidnapping earlier Saturday and were killed by police, Seddiqi said. Ziaulhaq Jalali, a Taliban-appointed district police chief in Herat, said later that Taliban members rescued a father and son who had been abducted by four kidnappers after an exchange of gunfire. He said a Taliban fighter and a civilian were wounded by the kidnappers, and that the kidnappers were killed in crossfire.

An Associated Press video showed crowds gathering around the crane and peering up at the body as some men chanted.

"The aim of this action is to alert all criminals that they are not safe," a Taliban commander who did not identify himself told the AP in an on-camera interview conducted in the square.

Since the Taliban overran Kabul on Aug. 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will re-create their harsh rule of the late 1990s, which included public stonings and limb amputations of alleged criminals, some of which took place in front of large crowds at a stadium.

After one of the Taliban's founders said in an interview with The Associated Press this past week that the hard-line movement would once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, the U.S. State Department said such acts "would constitute clear gross abuses of human rights."

Spokesman Ned Price told reporters Friday at his briefing that the United States would "stand firm with the international community to hold perpetrators of these — of any such abuses — accountable."

The Taliban's leaders remain entrenched in a deeply conservative, hard-line worldview, even if they are embracing technological changes, such as video and mobile phones.

"Everyone criticized us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said anything about their laws and their punishments," Mullah Nooruddin Turabi said in the AP interview. "No one will tell us what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran."

Also Saturday, a roadside bomb hit a Taliban car in the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, wounding at least one person, a Taliban official said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing. The Islamic State group affiliate, which is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan, has said it was behind similar attacks in Jalalabad last week that killed 12 people.

The person wounded in the attack is a municipal worker, Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Hanif said.

Basta! Romans say enough to invasion of wild boars in city

By TRISHA THOMAS Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Rome has been invaded by Gauls, Visigoths and vandals over the centuries, but the Eternal City is now grappling with a rampaging force of an entirely different sort: rubbish-seeking wild boars.

Entire families of wild boars have become a daily sight in Rome, as groups of 10-30 beasts young and old emerge from the vast parks surrounding the city to trot down traffic-clogged streets in search of food in Rome's notoriously overflowing rubbish bins.

Posting wild boar videos on social media has become something of a sport as exasperated Romans capture the scavengers marching past their stores, strollers or playgrounds.

As Rome gears up for a local election next weekend, the wild boar invasion has been used as a political weapon to attack Mayor Virginia Raggi over the city's formidable garbage collection problems. But experts

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say the issue is more complicated and tied at least in part to a booming boar population.

Italy's main agriculture lobby, Coldiretti, estimates there are over 2 million wild boars in Italy. The region of Lazio surrounding Rome estimates there are 5,000-6,000 of them in city parks, a few hundred of which regularly abandon the trees and green for urban asphalt and trash bins.

To combat their growing numbers, Lazio launched a program in 2019 to capture the beasts in park cages for slaughter, and last month approved a new decree to allow selective hunting of boars in some parks, which until now had been strictly forbidden.

Maurizio Giubbotti, in charge of Lazio's parks, says the region needs to increase the boar cull from 700 over two years to at least 1,000 annually to get the situation under control.

In Italy's rural areas, hunting wild boar is a popular sport and most Italians can offer a long list of their favorite wild boar dishes, including pappardelle pasta with boar sauce and wild boar stew. But animal rights groups have been adamantly opposed to mass culling.

Those beliefs are not shared by some urban residents.

"I am afraid of walking on the sidewalk, because on one side there are the dumpsters for the rubbish and they (the boars) jump on me," said Grazia, a 79-year-old grandmother waiting outside an elementary school to pick up her grandchildren. She did not give her last name.

Just down the street, a family of wild boars was snorting through the trash.

Her concerns are not misplaced: Wild boars can weigh up to 100 kilos (220 pounds), reach 80 centimeters (2.6 feet) in height and measure 150 centimeters (5 feet) long, a not-insignificant threat especially to the elderly and young children.

"We have been invaded here," lamented Pino Consolati, who runs a restaurant on a busy street corner in Rome's Monte Mario neighborhood. He said families of wild boars routinely wander through his outdoor eating area looking for food. One day this week, he said, his sister found 30 boars outside her shoe store when she left at 8 p.m.

"It is not a pleasant situation," he said, shrugging his shoulders.

Volcanic ash cloud closes La Palma airport; new vent emerges

MADRID (AP) — The airport on the Spanish island of La Palma shut down Saturday because of an ash cloud spewing out of a volcano that has been erupting for a week, and scientists said another volcanic vent opened up, exposing islanders to possible new dangers.

The intensity of the eruption that began Sept. 19 has increased in recent days, prompting the evacuation of three additional villages on the island, part of Spain's Canary Islands archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean off northwest Africa. Almost 7,000 people have been forced to abandon their homes.

The recent volcanic eruption is the first since 1971 on La Palma, which has a population of 85,000.

La Palma Airport operator Aena said the airport was "inoperative" due to the accumulation of ash. Other airports in the Canary Islands were still operating Saturday but some airlines were suspending flights, Aena said.

Emergency crews pulled back from the volcano Friday as explosions sent molten rock and ash over a wide area. The Canary Islands Volcanology Institute said another vent opened early Saturday.

Rivers of lava have been sliding down the mountainside toward the southwestern coast of the island, destroying everything in their path, including hundreds of homes. The speed of the flow has slowed down considerably, however, and the lava is now barely moving forward, with about 2 kilometers left to reach the sea, said Miguel Ángel Morcuende, head of the Canary Island Volcanic Emergency Plan.

"I don't dare to tell you when it's going to get there, nor do I dare to make a forecast," Morcuende told reporters in a news conference.

A more immediate concern for the residents of La Palma is the huge ash cloud that is rising from the volcano and being carried by the wind to other parts of the island. In addition to being a significant danger to aviation, he said volcanic ash can cause damage to people's airways, lungs and eyes. The local government has urged residents in affected areas to avoid going outside and only do so wearing masks

and goggles.

Huawei executive returns as China releases 2 Canadians

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — An executive of Chinese global communications giant Huawei Technologies returned from Canada Saturday night following a legal settlement that also saw the release of two Canadians held by China, potentially bringing closure to a nearly 3-year-long feud embroiling Ottawa, Beijing and Washington.

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder, arrived Saturday evening aboard a chartered jet provided by flag carrier Air China in the southern technology hub of Shenzhen, where Huawei is based.

Her return, met with a flag-waving group of airline employees, was carried live on state TV, underscoring the degree to which Beijing has linked her case with Chinese nationalism and its rise as a global economic and political power.

Wearing a red dress matching the color of China's flag, Meng thanked the ruling Communist Party and its leader Xi Jinping for supporting her through more than 1,000 days in house arrest in Vancouver, where she owns two multimillion dollar mansions.

"I have finally returned to the warm embrace of the motherland," Meng said. "As an ordinary Chinese citizen going through this difficult time, I always felt the warmth and concern of the party, the nation and the people."

On the same day, former diplomat Michael Kovrig and entrepreneur Michael Spavor were freed and flown back to Canada. They were detained shortly after Canada arrested Meng on a U.S. extradition request in December 2018. Many countries labeled China's action "hostage politics," while China accused Ottawa of arbitrary detention.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hugged the pair on the tarmac after they landed in Calgary, Alberta early Saturday, following what amounted to a high-stakes prisoner swap involving China, the U.S. and Canada.

"These two men have been through an unbelievably difficult ordeal. For the past 1,000 days, they have shown strength, perseverance and grace and we are all inspired by that," Trudeau said earlier Friday.

Meng, 49, reached an agreement with U.S. federal prosecutors that called for fraud charges against her to be dismissed next year. As part of the deal, known as a deferred prosecution agreement, she accepted responsibility for misrepresenting the company's business dealings in Iran.

Shortly before her return, the Communist Party's flagship People's Daily newspaper declared the resolution of the case as a "glorious victory for the Chinese people" achieved through the "unremitting efforts of the Chinese government."

"The evidence shows this was purely a case of the political persecution of a Chinese citizen with the purpose of suppressing China's technological advancement," the paper said. "No force can block China's forward progress," it added.

In an emailed statement, Huawei said it would continue to defend itself against the allegations. The company also sent a statement from Meng's lawyer, William W. Taylor III, saying she had "not pleaded guilty and we fully expect the indictment will be dismissed with prejudice after 14 months."

The case had caused a huge rift in China-Canada relations, with Beijing launching regular broadsides against the Canadian justice system and banning some imports from the country. In addition, two Canadians convicted in separate drug cases in China were sentenced to death in 2019. A third, Robert Schellenberg, received a 15-year sentence that was abruptly increased to the death penalty after Meng's arrest. It wasn't immediately clear if those prisoners might receive any reprieve.

In Shenzhen, a 20-year old job seeker at the headquarters of Huawei repeated a government view that Meng's arrest was driven by politics and rivalry with the U.S. over technology and global influence.

"I think (this) was to stop Huawei's development in the world," said the man, who gave only his surname, Wang, as is common among citizens speaking to foreign media in China, where the government closely monitors all speech. "It's a very important reason — nobody wants other countries to have better

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technology than itself.”

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies and a symbol of China’s progress in becoming a technological world power that has received massive government backing. It has also been a subject of U.S. security and law enforcement concerns, with officials and analysts saying it and other Chinese companies have flouted international rules and norms and stolen technology and vital personal information.

The case against Meng stemmed from a January 2019 indictment from the Justice Department under the administration of former President Donald Trump. It accused Huawei of stealing trade secrets and using a Hong Kong shell company called Skycom to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. The indictment also charged Meng herself with committing fraud by misleading the HSBC bank about the company’s business dealings in Iran.

The indictment came amid a broader Trump administration crackdown against Huawei over U.S. government concerns that the company’s products could facilitate Chinese spying. The administration cut off Huawei’s access to U.S. components and technology, including Google’s music and other smartphone services, and later barred vendors worldwide from using U.S. technology to produce components for Huawei.

President Joe Biden, meanwhile, has kept up a hard line on Huawei and other Chinese corporations whose technology is thought to pose national security risks.

Huawei has repeatedly denied the U.S. government’s allegations and security concerns about its products.

As part of the deal with Meng, which was disclosed in federal court in Brooklyn, the Justice Department agreed to dismiss the fraud charges against her in December 2022 — exactly four years after her arrest — provided that she complies with certain conditions, including not contesting any of the government’s factual allegations. The Justice Department also agreed to drop its request that Meng be extradited to the U.S., which she had vigorously challenged, ending a process that prosecutors said could have persisted for months.

After appearing via videoconference for her hearing with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Meng made a brief court appearance in Vancouver, where she’d been out on bail while the two Canadians were held in Chinese prison cells where the lights were kept on 24 hours a day.

Outside the courtroom, Meng thanked the Canadian government for upholding the rule of law, expressed gratitude to the Canadian people and apologized “for the inconvenience I caused.”

“Over the last three years my life has been turned upside down,” she said. “It was a disruptive time for me as a mother, a wife and as a company executive. But I believe every cloud has a silver lining. It really was an invaluable experience in my life. I will never forget all the good wishes I received.”

Video was also circulated online in China of Meng speaking at Vancouver International Airport, saying; “Thank you motherland, thank you to the people of the motherland. You have been my greatest pillar of support.”

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Washington, Rob Gillies in Toronto, Jim Mustian in New York and Jim Morris in Vancouver, Canada, contributed to this report.

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Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2021. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 26, 1789, Thomas Jefferson was confirmed by the Senate to be the first United States secretary of state; John Jay, the first chief justice; Edmund Randolph, the first attorney general.

On this date:

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1914, the Federal Trade Commission was established.

In 1933, the James Hilton novel "Lost Horizon" was first published in London by Macmillan & Co. Ltd. and in New York by William Morrow & Co.

In 1957, the musical "West Side Story" opened on Broadway.

In 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience from Chicago.

In 1964, the situation comedy "Gilligan's Island" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, to replace the X rating.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Arizona, called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

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In 1996, President Clinton signed a bill ensuring two-day hospital stays for new mothers and their babies. In 2003, President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin (POO'-tihh) opened a two-day summit at Camp David.

In 2005, Army Pfc. Lynndie England was convicted by a military jury in Fort Hood, Texas, on six of seven counts stemming from the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal. (England was sentenced to three years in prison; she ended up serving half that time.)

Ten years ago: Ending weeks of political brinkmanship, Congress advanced legislation to avoid a partial government shutdown. President Barack Obama appeared at a town hall meeting in Mountain View, California, hosted by the social networking company LinkedIn; the president plugged his jobs agenda in fielding questions on the employment picture, education, Medicare and Social Security.

Five years ago: Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton participated in their first debate of the presidential campaign at Hofstra University in New York; Clinton emphatically denounced Trump for keeping his personal tax returns and business dealings secret from voters while Trump repeatedly cast Clinton as a "typical politician." Colombia's government and its largest rebel movement signed a historic peace accord in an emotional ceremony aimed at ending a half-century of combat.

One year ago: President Donald Trump nominated judge Amy Coney Barrett, a former clerk to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, to the Supreme Court, to fill the seat left vacant by the death of liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg. (Barrett would be confirmed the following month, days before the November election.) More than 150 people gathered in the Rose Garden for Trump's introduction of Barrett; few in the crowd wore masks to protect against the coronavirus, and in the days that followed, a succession of attendees reported that they had contracted COVID-19.

Today's Birthdays: Former baseball All-Star Bobby Shantz is 96. Country singer David Frizzell is 80. Actor Kent McCord is 79. Television host Anne Robinson is 77. Singer Bryan Ferry is 76. Actor Mary Beth Hurt is 75. Singer Olivia Newton-John is 73. Actor James Keane is 69. Rock singer-musician Cesar Rosas (Los Lobos) is 67. Country singer Carlene Carter is 66. Actor Linda Hamilton is 65. R&B singer Cindy Herron (En Vogue) is 60. Actor Melissa Sue Anderson is 59. Actor Patrick Bristow is 59. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 59. Singer Tracey Thorn (Everything But The Girl) is 59. TV personality Jillian Barberie is 55. Contemporary Christian guitarist Jody Davis (Newsboys) is 54. Actor Jim Caviezel (kuh-VEE'-zuhl) is 53. Actor Tricia O'Kelley is 53. Actor Ben Shenkman is 53. Actor Melanie Paxson is 49. Singer Shawn Stockman (Boyz II Men) is 49. Music producer Dr. Luke is 48. Jazz musician Nicholas Payton is 48. Actor Mark Famiglietti (fah-mihl-YEH'-tee) is 42. Singer-actor Christina Milian (MIHL'-ee-ahn) is 40. Tennis player Serena Williams is 40. Actor Zoe Perry is 38. Singer/songwriter Ant Clemons is 30.