

Groton Daily Independent

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Upcoming Events

Monday, Oct. 4

State Boys Golf Meet at Madison
Oral Interp at Milbank Invitational

Cancelled: Junior Varsity Football hosts Sisseton
(rescheduled 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

Friday, Oct. 8 - NO SCHOOL

8 a.m. to Noon: Parent/Teacher Conferences
10 a.m.: Lake Region Marching Festival in Groton
Noon to 3:30 p.m.: Faculty Inservice

Saturday, Oct. 9

Soccer Second Round Playoffs
Volleyball at Redfield Tourney
Pumpkin Fest in Groton

Monday, Oct. 11

No School - Native American Day

Tuesday, Oct. 12

12:43 p.m. to 2:43 p.m.: PSAT Pre-Administration
Volleyball at Tiospa Zina (7th/C match at 5 p.m.,
8th/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)
7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 13

Elementary School LifeTouch Pictures, 8 a.m. to
11 a.m.
PSAT Testing for sophomores and juniors during
first hour

Thursday, Oct. 14

High School LifeTouch Pictures, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
3:30 p.m.: Region 1A cross Country Meet in Web-
ster

4:00 p.m.: Junior High Football Jamboree in Groton
Volleyball hosts Milbank (7th/C match at 65 p.m.,
8th/JV at 6 p.m. with varsity to follow)

Friday, Oct. 15

7 p.m.: Football at Sisseton

Saturday, Oct. 16

Oral Interp at Florence
State Soccer in Sioux Falls
JV Volleyball Tourney in Milbank

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, October 3, 2021

Communion in Worship (white)

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Finance Committee Mtg for Budget 12:00 PM

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM

Confirmation Snack Time 3:30 PM

Confirmation 4:00 PM

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

NO Sunday School 10:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

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, 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

Tuesday, Oct. 5

1 p.m.: Ladies Aid LWML

Wednesday, Oct. 6

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, Oct. 10

8 a.m.: Bible Study

Worship with Holy Communion

9 a.m.: St. John's

11 a.m.: Zion

9:45 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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Wolves Unable to Overcome First Quarter Deficit in Loss to UMary

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team mounted a Gypsy Days comeback on Saturday afternoon versus the University of Mary, however was unable to secure the victory. The game proved to be one of the highest scoring in recent years with the two teams combining for 91 points and 1,035 yards of total offense.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 42, MARY 49

Records: NSU 3-2, MARY 2-3

Attendance: 5971

HOW IT HAPPENED

- The Marauders jumped out to an early lead with four touchdowns in the opening quarter
- Vance Barnes scored the first points of the game for NSU, on a 16-yard reception from Hunter Trautman
- Mary quickly responded the following drive with a receiving score of their own
- Isaiah Cherrier and the Wolves added their second touchdown of the afternoon with 4:11 to play in the half; a 14-yard rush
- The Marauders did not back off easily, extending the lead once again with a 33-yard receiving touchdown at 1:48 in the second
- Northern quickly got to work and closed out the first half with a 9-yard touchdown pass from Trautman to Jacob Streit
- The two teams entered the locker room with the University of Mary holding a 42-21 lead
- Dakota Larson and Dewaylon Ingram tallied back-to-back scores for the Wolves to open the third; which brought NSU within seven
- Mary however was not finished, adding their seventh and final touchdown of the contest at the 6:12 mark in the quarter
- Ingram kept the Northern State hopes alive as the quarter ticked down with a 15-yard touchdown reception from Trautman
- Neither offense was able to get things going in the fourth, as the two teams played a scoreless 15 minutes of action
- Northern ultimately out-scored UMary 21-14 in the second and 21-7 in the seventh, but could not tie the game or take the lead
- Each team notched 26 first downs in the game, however the Marauders edged out the Wolves in both rushing and passing yards
- NSU recorded 110 yards rushing, 333 yards passing, and 443 yards of total offense in the game
- Defensively the Wolves forced two interceptions and one sack, holding the Marauders to 4-of-11 on third down
- The Northern offense scored each of the six times they entered the red-zone and averaged a game high 4.4 yards per carry

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Hunter Trautman: 29-of-49, 333 yards passing, 34 yards rushing, 5 touchdowns
- Dewaylon Ingram: 153 yards receiving, 17.0 yards per reception, 2 touchdowns, 41-yard long
- Dakota Larson: 103 yards receiving, 1 touchdown
- Chance Olson: 9 tackles, 1.0 tackle for a loss
- Koffi Gbekte: 5 tackles, 2.0 tackles for a loss, 0.5 sack
- Chase Teiken: 5 tackles, 1 interception, 34-yard interception return
- Jack Meyers: 2 tackles, 1 interception, 8-yard interception return
- Payton Eue: 39.2 yards per punt, 58.6 yards per kickoff, 6-of-6 PAT
- Vance Barnes: 106 kick return yards, 34 yards receiving, 1 touchdown, 19 yards rushing

UP NEXT

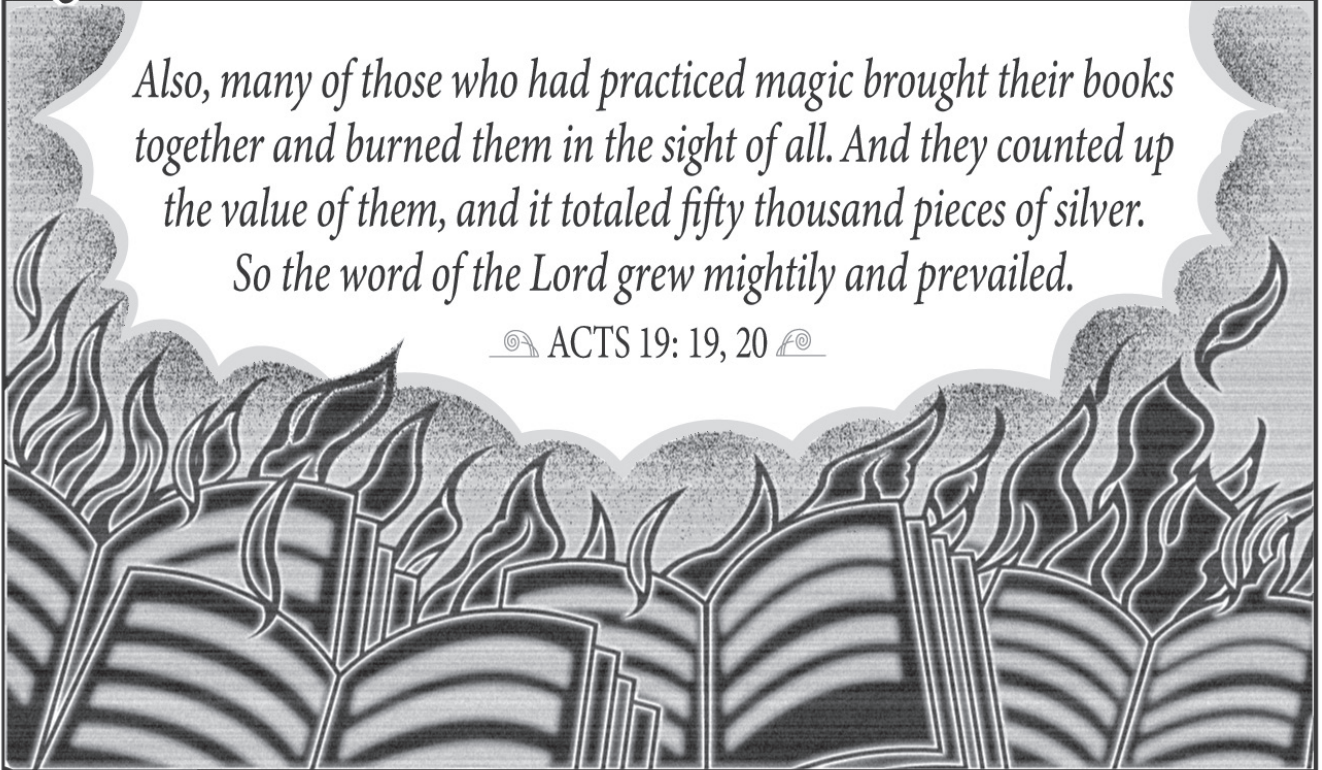
Northern State travels to Winona State for a 2 p.m. kickoff next Saturday, October 9. The Wolves are then back in action from Aberdeen on October 16. For a full list of game day promotions [CLICK HERE](#). Fans are also reminded that all game day information and protocols are posted on the Dacotah Bank Stadium homepage.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

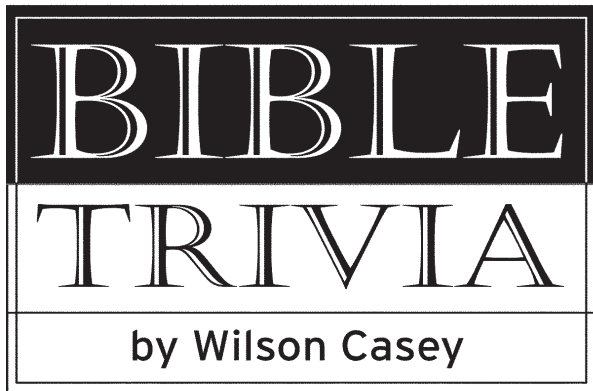
*Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.
So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.*

🌀 ACTS 19: 19, 20 🌀



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

2. What city was second of the seven churches mentioned by John in Revelation? *Derbe, Gomorrah, Beersheba, Smyrna*

3. From Acts 8, what magician came to be baptized by Philip? *Balaam, Endor, Simon, Laban*

4. What prophet came from among the shepherds of Tekoa? *Joel, Hosea, Daniel, Amos*

5. Which Biblical name means "God with us"? *Nicodemus, Emmanuel, Elijah, Jacob*

6. What Psalm is the shortest of all? *1st, 3rd, 117th, 123rd*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Smyrna; 3) Simon; 4) Amos; 5) Emmanuel; 6) 117th

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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Apple-Butterscotch Salad Is Fat-Free

October and Apples -- a perfect match of the season. Yes, apples are available all year long, but there is something special about those crisp apples just picked from the trees during October harvest time. One bite of this scrumptious salad and you'll be a believer for sure!

- 1 (4-serving) package sugar-free instant butterscotch pudding mix
- 2/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, packed in fruit juice, undrained
- 1/4 cup water
- 3/4 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 2 cups cored, unpeeled and diced Red Delicious apples
- 2 tablespoons flaked coconut

1. In a large bowl, combine dry pudding mix, dry milk powder, undrained pineapple and water. Mix well using a wire whisk.

2. Blend in whipped topping and coconut extract. Add apples. Mix well to combine. Fold in coconut.

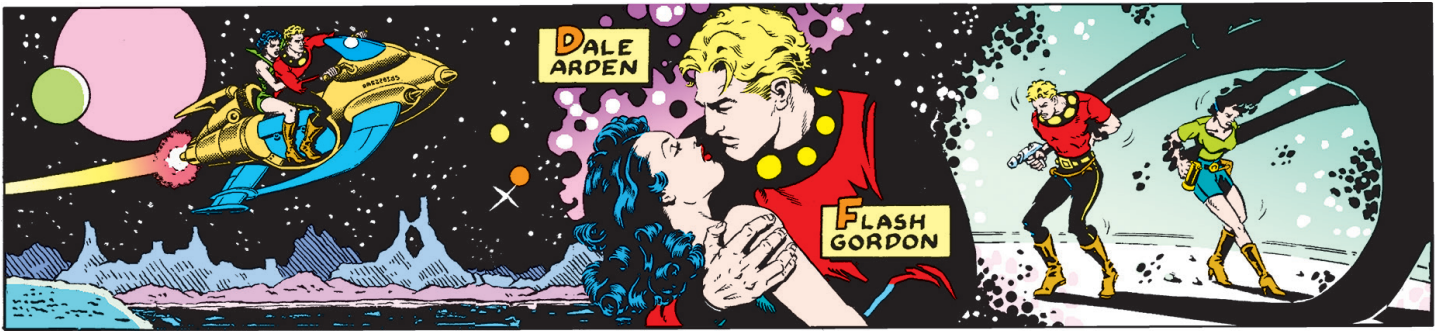
3. Refrigerate for at least 15 minutes. Makes 6 (1/2 cup) servings.

* Each serving equals: 108 calories, 0g fat, 3g protein, 24g carb., 277mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Fruit, 1/2 Starch.

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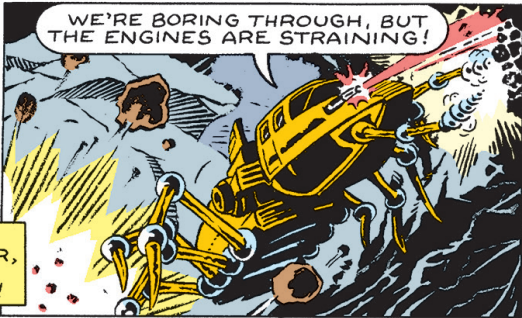
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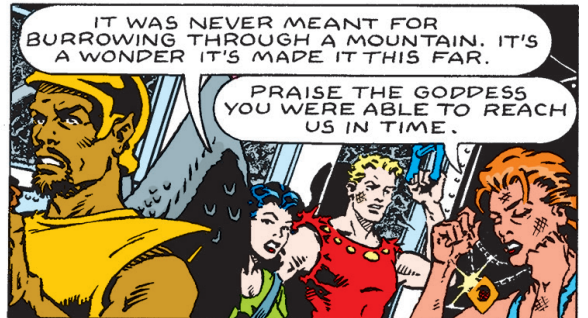


FLASH GORDON
9-26
By JIM KEEFE

AS EXPLOSIONS ROCK THE LIZARD-MEN'S LAIR, THE SPIDER RACES TOWARD THE SURFACE!

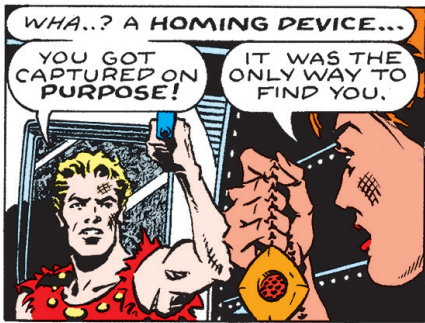


WE'RE BORING THROUGH, BUT THE ENGINES ARE STRAINING!



IT WAS NEVER MEANT FOR BURROWING THROUGH A MOUNTAIN. IT'S A WONDER IT'S MADE IT THIS FAR.

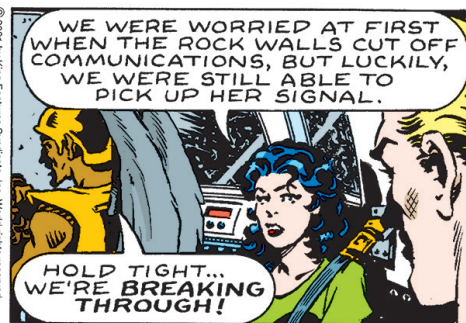
PRaise THE GODDESS YOU WERE ABLE TO REACH US IN TIME.



WHA...? A HOMING DEVICE...

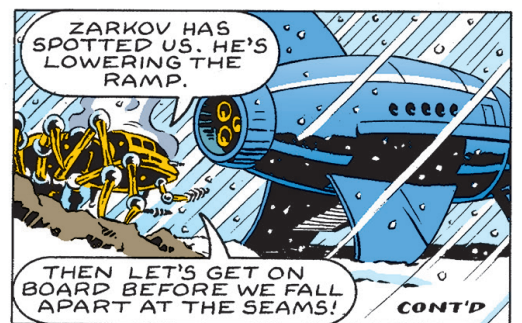
YOU GOT CAPTURED ON PURPOSE!

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO FIND YOU.



WE WERE WORRIED AT FIRST WHEN THE ROCK WALLS CUT OFF COMMUNICATIONS, BUT LUCKILY, WE WERE STILL ABLE TO PICK UP HER SIGNAL.

HOLD TIGHT... WE'RE BREAKING THROUGH!

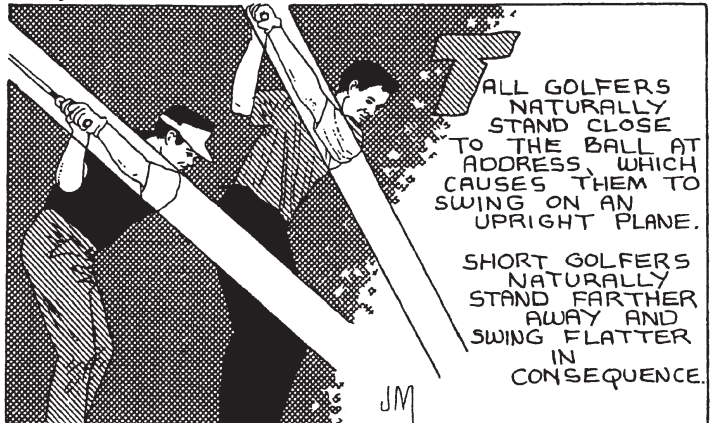


ZARKOV HAS SPOTTED US. HE'S LOWERING THE RAMP.

THEN LET'S GET ON BOARD BEFORE WE FALL APART AT THE SEAMS!

CONT'D

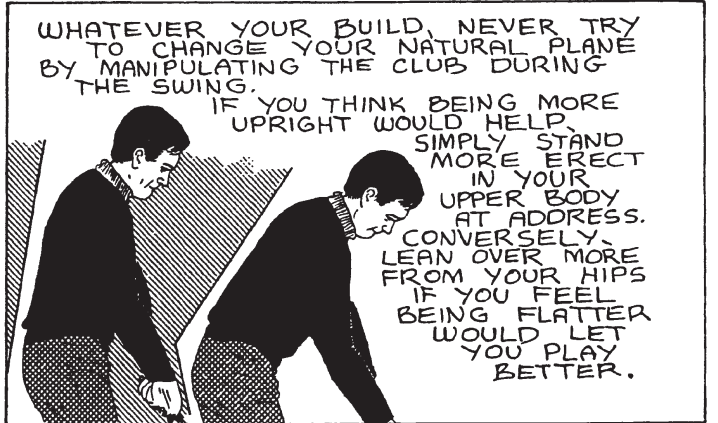
Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



ALL GOLFERS NATURALLY STAND CLOSE TO THE BALL AT ADDRESS, WHICH CAUSES THEM TO SWING ON AN UPRIGHT PLANE.

SHORT GOLFERS NATURALLY STAND FARTHER AWAY AND SWING FLATTER IN CONSEQUENCE.

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WHATEVER YOUR BUILD, NEVER TRY TO CHANGE YOUR NATURAL PLANE BY MANIPULATING THE CLUB DURING THE SWING.

IF YOU THINK BEING MORE UPRIGHT WOULD HELP, SIMPLY STAND MORE ERECT IN YOUR UPPER BODY AT ADDRESS. CONVERSELY, LEAN OVER MORE FROM YOUR HIPS IF YOU FEEL BEING FLATTER WOULD LET YOU PLAY BETTER.



Bacteria Are to Blame for Stinky Shoes, Feet

DEAR DR. ROACH: My nephew has foot odor. Even after showering, his feet have a bad odor. His shoes smell bad and have to be replaced often. What is the remedy for this problem? -- B.C.

ANSWER: Foot odor is caused mostly by bacteria living on your feet. Bacteria thrive in warm and moist environments, so people who sweat a lot from their feet are at high risk. Some people are also colonized with particularly bad bacteria, such as *Kytococcus* (formerly *Micrococcus*), *Corynebacterium* or *Dermatophilus*. These bacteria do not cause disease, but they break down dead skin cells into unpleasantly smelly chemicals.

A careful look at the skin on his feet may reveal small pits in the skin, especially around the heel, after a long day in socks and shoes.

Treatment may include disinfecting skin solutions (such as chlorhexidine), antibiotics (topical erythromycin or clindamycin) and keeping the feet as dry as possible. This may require application of antiperspirants to the feet, either regular over-the-counter or prescription varieties. He also should wear lighter, more breathable footwear. Washing (and then drying) the feet several times daily and putting on new socks each time may also help during the treatment phase.

Although ultraviolet-light shoe sanitizers exist, I'd recommend getting new footwear while trying to get rid of as much of the bacteria as possible.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband is 75. I am 68. Our family doctor says that our blood pressure average is fine at 140/80 with no medicine. We thought it should be 120/70, but he says the limit is higher for seniors in order to decrease falls. This is pretty confusing. Do you think it's OK? -- S.M.

ANSWER: The best goal for blood pressure has been the subject of controversy. For the overall population, a level of 120/80, slightly less than the average blood pressure in the U.S. and Canada, is associated with a lower risk of heart disease, stroke and death than a blood pressure of 140/80. But the difference is pretty small. A blood pressure of 160/90 has a significantly higher risk, and at blood pressures above 160 systolic (that's the first or "top" number), the risk for stroke and heart disease rises steeply.

A recent trial (the SPRINT trial) showed that among older people with high blood pressure who had increased risk for heart attack, a systolic blood pressure goal of 120 was better at reducing risk than a blood pressure goal of 140. Both groups had a diastolic (the second or "bottom" number) goal of less than 90. However, the goal among people at lower risk is not as clear.

Most experts would not treat people with medication unless their average blood pressure is over 140 systolic or over 90 diastolic. In people treated with medication, some experts prefer a goal of less than 130/less than 90, while others would treat to less than 120/less than 90. It is true that more blood pressure medication and more intensive goals can lead to greater side effects, including falls. However, in the SPRINT trial, there was NO increase in fall risk and a slight 0.6 percent increase in the risk of fainting.

Nondrug therapy, which includes modest salt restriction, regular exercise and stress reduction, can lower the blood pressure enough that people do not need medication.

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



Muppets Haunted Mansion (TV-PG) — If you grew up watching “The Great Muppet Caper” and “The Muppets Take Manhattan,” your childhood was awesome. The Muppets have always had a sweetness and humor that is timeless and appeals to all ages. So absolutely everyone should be excited for this hilarious and harrowing new holiday-themed movie. The plot is simple: World famous daredevil artist Gonzo takes on the challenge to spend one night at Disney’s Haunted Mansion. Rumor has it that the film is packed with “easter eggs” for Disney fans, and items from haunted mansions at all four Disney parks are featured. And, as with previous Muppet movies, original songs abound! A slew of big names make appearances, including Danny Trejo, Craig Robinson, Ed Asner, John Stamos and Taraji P. Henson. (Disney+)

Baking Impossible Season 1 — When I’ve watched countless competitive baking shows, whether a great sugar challenge or a super-stuffed cupcake-tower tournament, one thing has always been missing from the equation: structural engineers. Clearly someone at the Netflix new programs table heard my lament. Their new sweets-competition show pairs professional bakers and professional engineers to create delicious treats that go higher, spin faster and dazzle judges more than ever. The stakes are high, too, as participants have a \$100,000 grand prize motivating their efforts. Nine teams push the limits of creativity and ingenuity over six episodes. (Netflix)

The Many Saints of Newark (R) — In what is arguably the most anticipated prequel of the decade, we finally learn how Tony Soprano became

a player in the Cosa Nostra. The much-ballyhooed casting of Michael Gandolfini in the role made infamous by his late father, James Gandolfini, has already been highly praised. His physical resemblance and mannerisms are eerily similar to his dad, and any inconsistencies in personality can be chalked up to the character being 30 years younger.



Disney+

Kermit and Miss Piggy in “Muppets Haunted Mansion”

But fair warning, you can’t come to this film green. Knowledge of “The Sopranos” series is necessary to make sense of characters and relationships. It might even be good idea to binge a few episodes as a crash refresher. “Saints” focuses on telling the story of the Moltisanti arm of the family. Whether or not we finally learn the significance of Tony’s fondness for the band Journey remains to be seen. (HBO Max)

Megan Leavey (PG-13) — Everyone loves dogs. Most people appreciate the skill, patience and dedication it takes to train a dog in military service. So a movie based on a true story about Megan Leavey, the woman who did just that, should be fairly engaging. The problem with this movie is the casting. Kate Mara just isn’t believable as a Marine, even one with a giant heart for canines. When she’s injured and discharged home, Megan’s mission becomes finding a way to permanently adopt Rex, the German Shepherd she successfully trained to find land mines and who subsequently became a war hero. You can guess the ending. (Prime Video)

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1. What was B.B. King's first No. 1 hit?
2. Who wrote and released "Too Late to Turn Back Now"?
3. Which Huey Lewis and the News song was used in the 1985 film "Back to the Future"?
4. What was the original title of "Karma Chameleon" meant to be?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I know I'm losin' you, I feel it all the time, And I know if I lose you, then I'll lose my mind."

Answers:

1. "Three O'Clock Blues," in 1951. It stayed in that spot for five weeks. The song was originally released by singer-songwriter Lowell Fulson in 1946.

2. Cornelius Brothers & Sister Rose, in 1972. The

song did better than their debut single, "Treat Her Like a Lady," the previous year and was used in the 1997 film "The Ice Storm."

3. "The Power of Love." Lewis was approached to write a song for the movie and declined, saying he didn't know how. He was told to write anything.

4. "Cameo Chameleon," per Culture Club in a 1983 interview.

5. "Lie to Me," by Brook Benton, in 1962. The song, from Benton's "Singing the Blues" album, went to No. 3 as a single.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



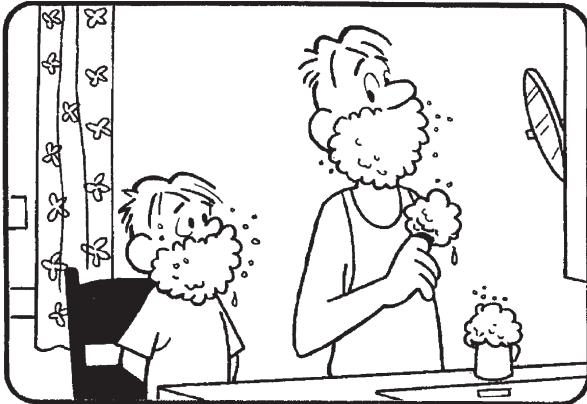
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Wagner

“You guys can never be replaced. ...
Nobody knows what you do.”

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Mirror is raised. 2. Cup handle is missing. 3. Sleeves are added. 4. Chair is different. 5. Arm is different. 6. Hair is different.

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• Here's a tip for you waist-watchers out there: Wait until Halloween Day to buy the candy. That way the in-house sweets won't be haunting you throughout October. — *JoAnn*

• Now's the time to install weatherstripping or caulk for fall and winter. To find drafts, try this trick: Light a taper candle and run it very slowly along the cracks of your windows. When you see the flame flicker, that's where you have a draft leak.

• A great use for those old knee-high stockings (no runs!): Stuff with a mix of crystalized kitty litter and scent-boosting beads you can find in the laundry aisle. Stuff these in stinky shoes to freshen and deodorize. The litter wicks away moisture from sweaty feet and deodorizes, and the scent boosters last for a good long while.

• “Here is a sewing tip for your column: I prewash fabrics that tend to shrink before I use them to make clothing items. That way, the fit is more accurate.” — *G.V. in Indiana*

• “Exfoliation can be easy if you already have a bag or jar of Epsom salts. Soak in a warm bath and rub the salts over your skin to gently scrub dead skin away. A little essential oil might help, too!” — *D.D. in Florida*

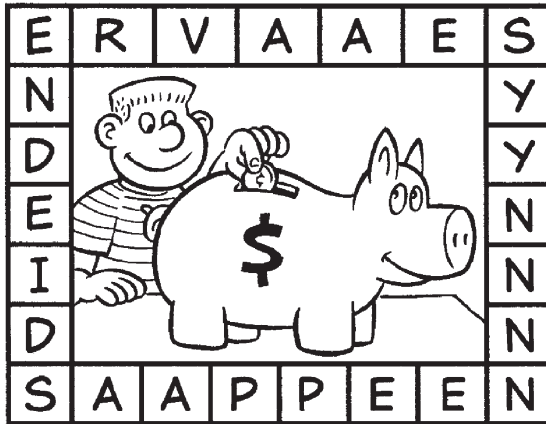
• “To keep sauces from splattering and dirtying the inside of your microwave, cover the food with a damp paper towel or a coffee filter.” — *E.C. in Utah*

• Now you can have your tea and clean something, too. Teabags can be used to clean woodwork. Rub the wood softly with a damp bag.

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

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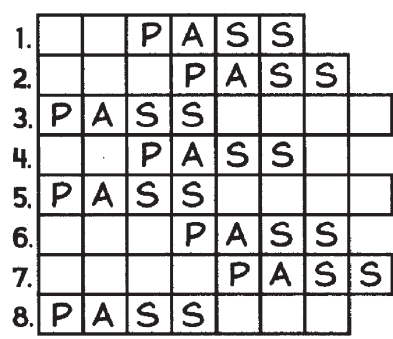
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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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FORWARD PASSES!

Now that the football season is well under way, it's time to work on word "passes." At left are eight words, each of which contains a "pass." Figure out what the words are using the following hints:

1. Alternate route.
2. Direction finder.
3. Adequate.
4. Stalemate.
5. Travel document.
6. To go beyond.
7. To go where forbidden.
8. It opens many locks.

A PIGGY BANKER! Find the hidden quotation above by reading every other letter as you go around the frame counterclockwise.

Starting at the first "A" along the bottom rail, read "A penny saved is a penny earned."

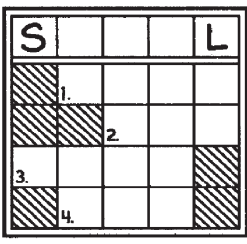


DOUBLE-DEALER! A used-car dealer sold two cars for \$1,980 each. On the first car he made a 10 percent profit, while on the second car he took a loss of 10 percent. Taken together, did he profit or lose on the deals?

He lost \$40. On the first car he made \$180, while on the second car he lost \$220.

FIND-A-WORD! On the top line goes the mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. Hooded robe.
2. Nocturnal bird.
3. Flat-bottomed boat.
4. Domestic cattle.



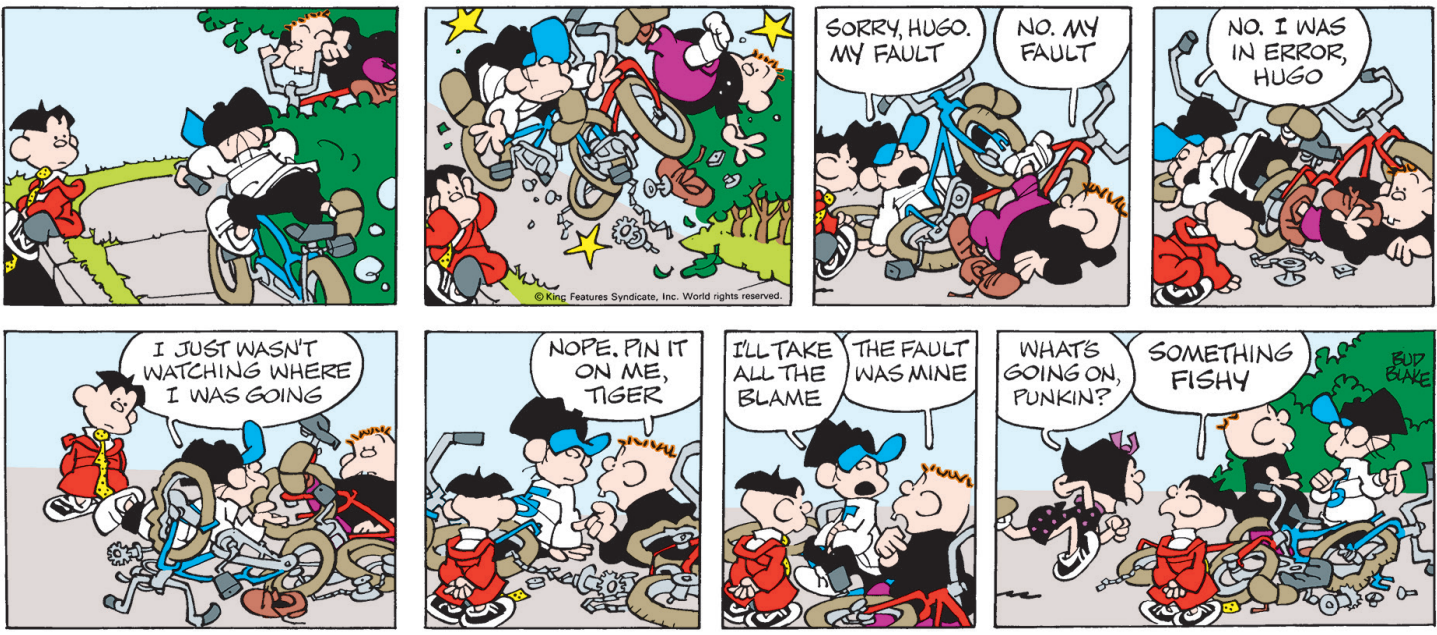
Illustrated by David Coulson



1. Bypass.
2. Compass.
3. Passable.
4. Impasse.
5. Passport.
6. Suppass.
7. Trespas.
8. Passkey.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Sparkle
- 6 Word of denial
- 9 Early hrs.
- 12 — Carta
- 13 Japanese sash
- 14 Like sashimi
- 15 Surrounded by
- 16 Italian city where Marconi was born
- 18 Mexican entree
- 20 Optimistic
- 21 Honey holder
- 23 Jurist Fortas
- 24 De Mille of dance

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				

- 25 Nepal's continent
- 27 Bakery lure
- 29 Italian port city
- 31 Italian city of canals
- 35 Soft leather
- 37 Pack cargo
- 38 Grinding tooth
- 41 Genetic letters
- 43 Storm center
- 44 Oil cartel
- 45 Pippa, to Kate Middleton
- 47 Italian city on the Adriatic
- 49 October birthstones
- 52 Crone
- 53 — de deux
- 54 "— Be" (The Beatles)
- 55 "Quiet!"
- 56 Illustrations
- 57 Yorkshire city
- 6 More altruistic
- 7 Bassoon's kin
- 8 Up to
- 9 Inert gas
- 10 Parson's home
- 11 Convinces
- 17 Church keyboards
- 19 Humiliate
- 21 Painter
- 22 Simile part
- 24 Soul, to Sartre
- 26 — -Lorraine
- 28 Pizza cookers
- 30 Where Lux. is
- 32 State repeatedly
- 33 Coquettish
- 34 Ram's mate
- 36 Most desert-like
- 38 Fluttery insects
- 39 Media mogul Winfrey
- 40 Janet of "Psycho"
- 42 Coral reef
- 45 Flag feature
- 46 Duel tool
- 48 Hot tub
- 50 Cover
- 51 Rds.

DOWN

- 1 "Today" rival, briefly
- 2 Felon's flight
- 3 Self-indulgent "journey"
- 4 "— Karenina"
- 5 Igneous rock

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY



“Then one day I got smart and burned the steaks.”

Out on a Limb

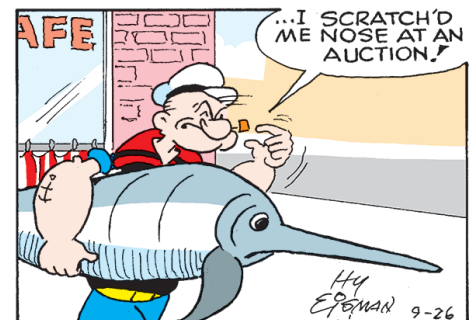
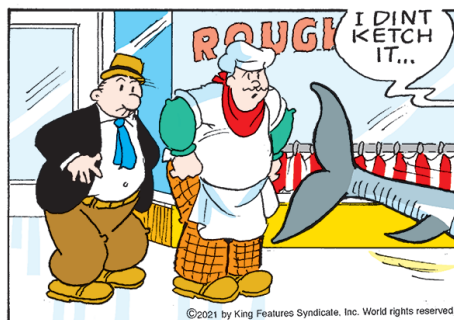
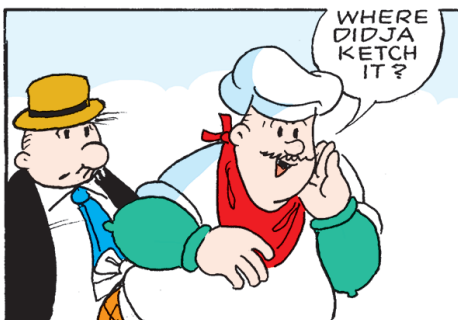
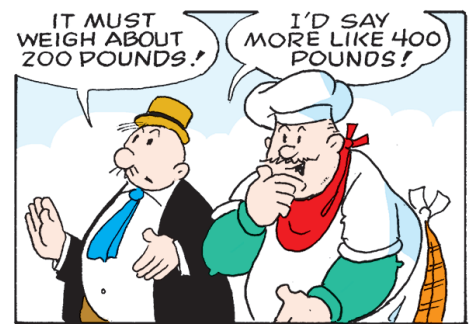
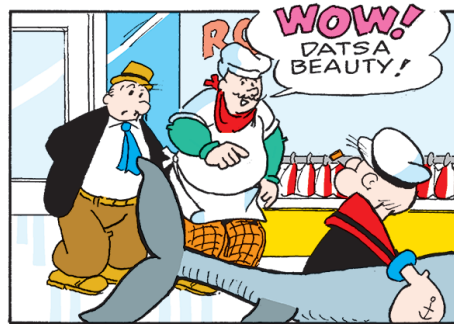
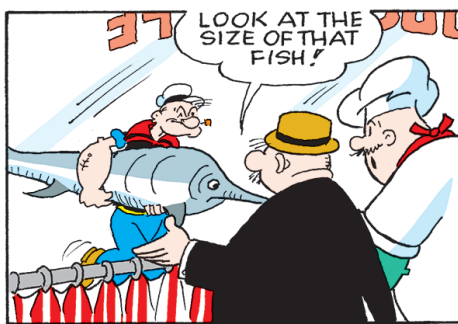
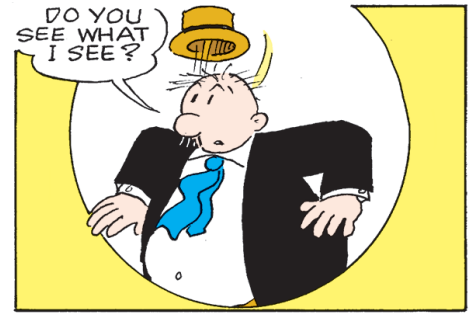
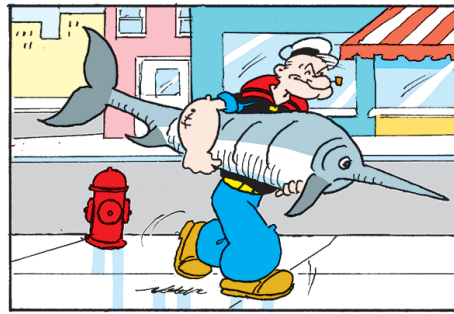
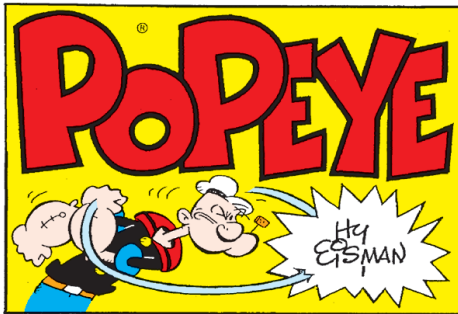
by Gary Kopervas



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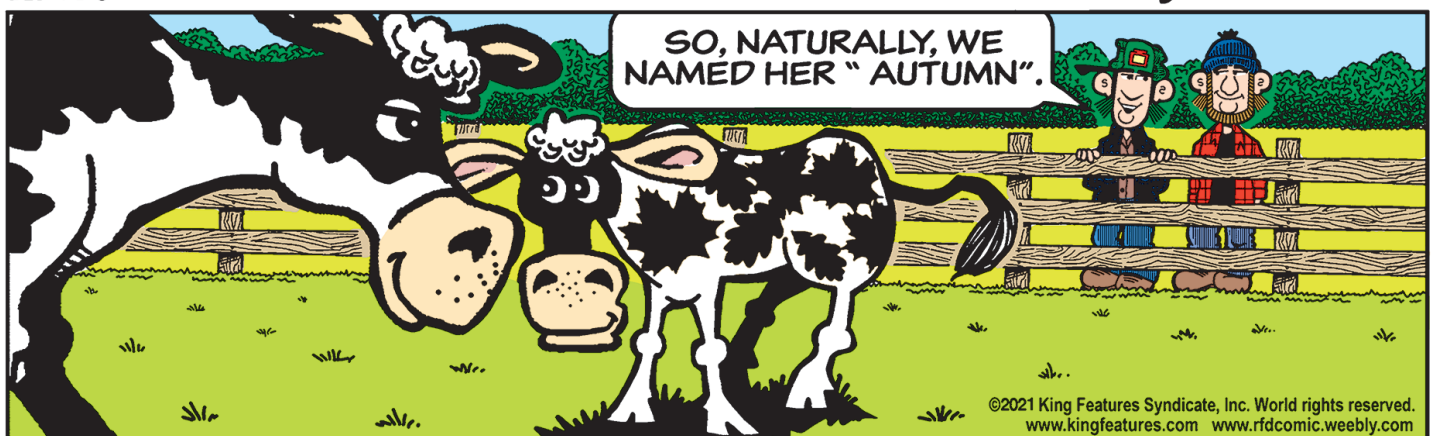
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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PRUDENCE RETURNS FROM HELPING ALETA, AND FINDS HER VIAL HAS DISAPPEARED!

Hal FOBIER'S
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

THE HANDMAIDEN BOANN REVEALS AN UNFORTUNATE EXPLANATION: "YOUR HERBS WERE JUST WHAT THIS STEW NEEDED! DELICIOUS!" PRUDENCE GULPS ...

... FOR THOSE "HERBS" WERE PILFERED FROM THE THUATHA MEDICINE MAN. A WARNING DIES IN THE GIRL'S THROAT. IN THE END, ALL EAT WITH EXTRAORDINARY RELISH ...

... AND THE MOOD IS REMARKABLY IMPROVED. VAL SPRINGS UP: "THAT WAS THE BEST VENISON EVER STEWED! I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN - A YOUNG BUCK!"

ALL SEEM TO SHARE HIS HIGH SPIRITS. WHILE IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT VAL AND ALETA SHOULD WANDER OFF WITH MUSHY LOOKS EXCHANGED, IT IS ODD THAT GAWAIN WOULD PERFORM SOMERSAULTS FOR A SUDDENLY SMITTEN BOANN ...

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... WHILE PRUDENCE INSISTS THAT A CONFUSED IG SERVE AS HER PALFREY!

NEXT: **Suspicious**

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

SHE NEVER LOSES HER TEMPER...

... SHE ALWAYS HAS IT!!

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Just Hang Up!

It's time for us to be rude on the phone. There, I've said it. "Seniors are often targeted because they tend to be trusting and polite." So says the FBI's website page describing scams aimed at seniors. I've thought this for a long time, having done informal polls among friends, but now it's official.

Additionally, says the FBI, we're targeted because we have savings, own a home and have good credit, which makes us attractive to scammers. We have the money — they want it.

But scammers are tricky. On that FBI page is a video of a former FBI director who, along with his wife, was targeted in a scam. Of all people who should have instantly realized what was going on, he was one. It was his wife, listening in the background, who made the connections. In the end, even after multiple ugly physical threats, the director didn't cave in. The scammer went to jail, of course.

But it points out how vulnerable we often are, especially when faced with sweet-talking scammers who are offering us a lot of money ... and who then switch over to threats if we don't immediately do as they say and either send them money or give them access to our accounts.

Whether it's a tech support scam ("Your computer has a virus and we can fix it") or a grandparent scam ("Your grandson is in jail and needs money for bail") or a lottery scam ("You've just won \$5 million"), it's all the same — a scam.

To protect ourselves, we need to hang up the phone instantly when there is a likely scammer on the other end. Yes, when we were growing up, this kind of behavior would have been considered rude. But this is a whole new world, and it's full of bad people who think we are trusting. We're not, right?

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1. "The Malice at the Palace" was a 2004 brawl involving players (and a few fans) of what two NBA teams?

2. What syndicated TV highlight show did New York Yankees broadcaster Mel Allen host from its start in 1977 until his death in 1996?

3. What Pro Football Hall of Fame running back had his No. 20 jersey retired by the University of Texas Longhorns in 1979?

4. What event, traditionally held on the first Saturday in August, is the first race of the Triple Crown of Harness Racing for Trotters?

5. What pontiff, an avid sportsman, was nicknamed "Lolek the Goalie" during his days playing youth soccer?

6. Name the U.S. duo who won the gold medal in ice dancing at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.



7. What Texas Rangers pitcher threw a perfect game against the California Angels on July 28, 1994? (Hint: He shares a name with a country music legend.)

Answers

1. The Detroit Pistons and the Indiana Pacers.

2. "This Week in Baseball."

3. Earl Campbell.

4. The Hambletonian.

5. Pope John Paul II.

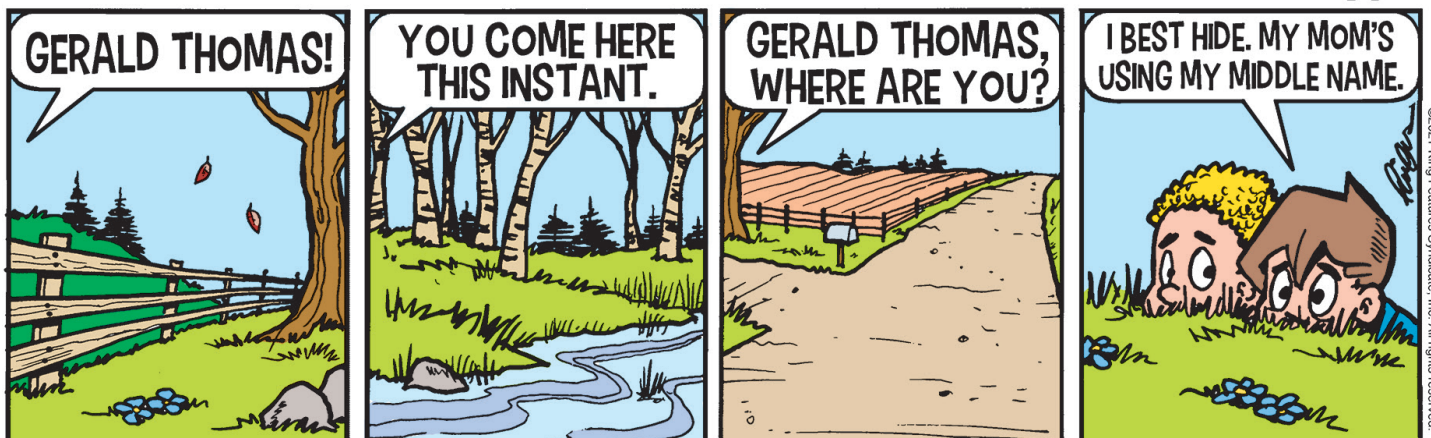
6. Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

7. Kenny Rogers.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Owner: Let Cats Roam Freely Outdoors

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Your point about cats being at grave risk outdoors is just silly. Are there some dangers? Sure, there are. Small dogs are subject to the same dangers, as well as all the other animals that live outdoors. Are you suggesting that we should keep all snakes, hedgehogs, frogs, mice and turtles inside at all times because it's a dangerous world outside? I dare say not!

There is always going to be a bigger animal outside. All animals are free. It is us, as humans, who put the boundaries on animals and cage them in. Do you think that cats didn't exist centuries ago? Of course, they did! How do you think they survived? They learned how to survive. Is it important to help those animals in need of a comforting shelter, good food and lots of love? Yes! But please

read and lots of love? Yes! But please don't cage in the freedom they need in order to survive for centuries to come. — *Ellen I., via email*

DEAR ELLEN: Those are ... interesting points. You're right, I do harp on the importance of keeping cats inside. And for that matter, small and large dogs. And, if they are being kept as pets, snakes, hedgehogs, frogs, mice and turtles.

Why? Because it keeps them exponentially safer and healthier. Staying inside reduces the chance of getting ticks and fleas. It keeps them safe from attacks by other domestic animals, coyotes, as well as (in my neck of the woods, New England) packs of wild turkeys. Keeping cats inside protects other wildlife — cats are hunters, and they love catching songbirds, hedgehogs, snakes, frogs, mice and turtles.

Readers, what are your thoughts on this issue? Write me at ask@pawscorner.com and sound off!

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Koi fish have been known to live up to 226 years.

* Singapore has a mandatory organ donation scheme for people over 21. Anyone choosing to opt-out of it is given lower priority to receive a transplant if they ever find themselves in need of one.

* In Chinese, the KFC slogan "finger lickin' good" translates to "eat your fingers off" in its literal interpretation.

* Dueling is still legal in Paraguay, as long as both

parties are blood donors.

* The Boston University Bridge is the only spot in America where a boat can sail under a train moving under a car driving under an airplane.

* In 2018, a 30-year-old woman in Canada was shot in her left breast. Her silicone breast implant deflected the bullet away from her vital organs and left her with only some broken ribs ... and a damaged implant.

* Eighty-five percent of American shoppers go to their right when entering a store.

* In 2020, George Hood, a 62-year-old ex-Marine, set the world record for the longest abdominal plank, holding the position for 8 hours, 15 minutes and 15 seconds.

* Early astronomer John Herschel reported seeing winged people inhabiting the moon through his telescope.

* Prior to 1900, prizefights lasted 100 rounds.

* Three British friends set the world record for completing the longest-ever journey by taxi -- a grand total of 43,319.5 miles in their 20-year-old black cab named "Hannah." The trip took them across four continents and 50 countries and generated a fare equivalent to \$108,269.73.

* According to Western University, 88% of divorced people use Facebook to keep tabs on exes, and a third post pictures to make the ex jealous.

Thought for the Day: "If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere." -- Frank A. Clark

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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

FAMILIAR REFRAINS
NO. 1,753...



BY AL SCADUTO

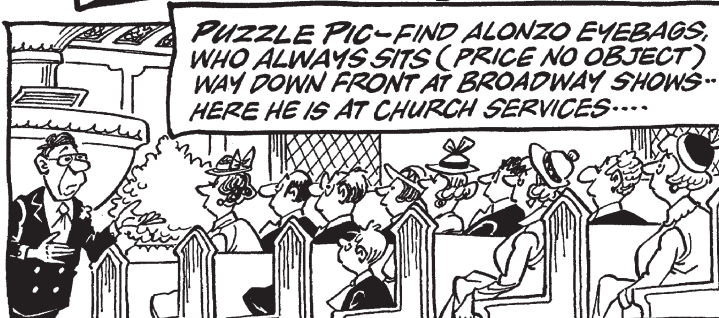
FLORA FLARTAW IS NEVER AT A LOSS FOR WORDS...



EXCEPT, THAT IS...



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The **witch hazel** plant's bark and leaves were used by native Americans to treat many ailments, and the plant is still used today in modern healthcare products. It is a strong anti-oxidant and astringent used for itching, pain, swelling, skin injury, varicose veins, hemorrhoids, bruises, insect bites, poison ivy, minor burns, and other skin irritations. It is often recommended to women to reduce swelling and soothe wounds resulting from childbirth. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.webmd.com, www.naturallivingideas.com, urbanecologycenter.org

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Veterans Need Your Help This Winter

It looks like COVID isn't likely to vanish soon. Because of restrictions everywhere, long-term patients at Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals might have a lonely winter when their regular visitors are either limited or banned altogether. You can help.

While you probably won't be able to visit patients, you can help to break up their long days with gifts, cards and notes to let them know that people on the outside are thinking about them.

First stop is the website for your local VA hospital. Look for Voluntary Services and give them a call to see if they have a wish list. They might be looking for anything from thick socks to XXL T-shirts. If you're lucky, there might be a special list for the coming holidays that includes handheld electronic games, books of a certain genre or small radios with ear buds. You won't know until you ask.

Your call to Voluntary Services might reveal that instead of needing things for the patients, they need your help with those who have been discharged. Maybe there's a homeless veteran being moved into his own apartment. He'll need a move-in basket of everything from new towels to TP to a manual can opener.

And there might be even more ways you can help at the VA hospital. Drivers are a big deal, and taking a van around to pick up patients who need to come in for outpatient treatment is a way to guarantee that those veterans don't miss crucial appointments. In cold weather, parking lot shuttle drivers bring people from their cars to the door and back. Again, a very worthwhile endeavor.

If you're in a veterans' service group such as American Legion, enlist members to help with the financial end of buying gifts and necessities. One way or another, don't let this coming winter go by without doing something for your fellow veterans. They'd be there for you if the tables were turned.

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



Why an 'Under 35' Town Hall?

This past Wednesday, I hosted a telephone town hall with constituents 35 and under.

Now some of you may be thinking, Dusty, why would you host a town hall exclusive to younger folks?

I'm most effective at my job when I'm talking to my bosses, and my bosses are the voters. Knowing what's important to younger people in South Dakota is just as crucial as knowing what our seniors care about.

According to a report by Tufts University, South Dakota's youth voter turnout was the lowest in the Midwest and the lowest of the 40 states they had collected data from. I believe it is important to get younger folks engaged in politics, no matter their political affiliation. Politically active young people make for more informed citizens – the more individuals that actively participate in their civic duty will enrich our nation.

Over 3,400 constituents joined the call on Wednesday. Hundreds of South Dakotans got in the queue to ask a question, and within the hour I was able to take nearly 30 questions on topics ranging from border security and national debt to legalizing marijuana and student loans. We also discussed rising inflation, climate change, and mental health. I was excited to witness a high level of enthusiasm and engagement on a variety of issues.

When asked "what should the federal government tackle?" the top three responses were the border crisis, the job market, and health care.

These data points allow me to direct my attention to the issues South Dakotans care about most. I've supported various bills to combat the border crisis, including the Remain in Mexico policy. To bring down health care costs, I helped introduce the Lower Costs More Cures Act and to incentivize work, I introduced the Get Americans Back to Work Act. I will continue to prioritize these issues while working in Congress.

Over the last few years, I have hosted more than 50 town halls—in person, drive-thru, and via telephone. Tele-town halls have allowed me to continue engaging with South Dakotans while I'm in D.C. and especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

I truly enjoyed hearing from South Dakotas up and coming leaders on Wednesday and I look forward to more town halls in the future.

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Pheasant hunting is a tradition worth preserving

From the Black Hills to the eastern plains, the familiar sound of shotgun blasts can usually be heard popping in the distance. It's hunting season and we are starting to get into my favorite time of year: pheasant season.

When I was a young girl, my grandmother Dorris would take me pheasant hunting. I also hunted plenty with my dad, an avid outdoorsman. They're both gone now and what remains are the treasured memories of those hunting trips.

In honor of my dad and grandmother, I have made it one of my priorities to create opportunities for more young people to enjoy the outdoors. This Sunday ends the youth pheasant hunting season. Other youth-focused outdoor programs include our hunter mentoring program and the youth trapping and photo contest for our nest predator bounty program.

Each of these programs teaches young people valuable skills. They also pass down from generation to generation South Dakota's rich heritage of hunting and living off the land.

We know South Dakotans love to hunt and fish. Around 20% of state residents purchase hunting licenses every year. We have many preserves, hunting lodges, and more than 1 million acres of public hunting and access areas. The variety of opportunities make South Dakota a top destination for traveling hunters, as well. Each year, hunting brings about \$500 million into the state's economy. Hunting is serious business in South Dakota.

That's why I have made conservation and habitat rehabilitation cornerstones of my Second Century Initiative. For more than 100 years, South Dakota has been the premier state for pheasant hunting. The Second Century Initiative will ensure we maintain our status as a hunter-friendly and highly-coveted location for out-of-state hunters. It also will protect hunting in-state for generations to come.

The work of the Second Century Initiative is already paying dividends. A recent survey by the Game, Fish, and Parks Department (GFP) found that pheasant hunter satisfaction in 2020 was the highest it's been in a decade. More than 1 million pheasants were harvested during the 2020 season, averaging about 9 birds per hunter.

That success comes from GFP's robust investment in habitat and access programs. About \$22 million has been allocated in 2021 alone for this program. Our habitat specialists are working with landowners to

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restore tens of thousands of acres for all bird populations to thrive. Habitat restoration remains the best long-term solution for ensuring pheasant populations remain sustainable.

That's especially important to the residents of this state, who will have their own pheasant hunting season from October 9th-11th. After that, the traditional pheasant hunting season opens to all hunters from October 16th-January 31st, 2022.

If you haven't been pheasant hunting before, I strongly encourage you to give it a try.

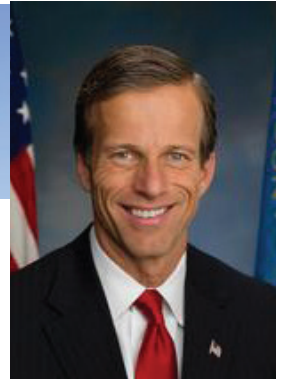
There's something about the brisk air and the sound of grass crunching under your feet. The energy of your hunting dog flushing out those beautiful ringnecks. That excitement builds until the first bird pops up, you raise your shotgun, and calmly squeeze the trigger. Then comes the inevitable banter between you and your hunting buddies over who really had the best shot.

Whether building bonds between friends or strengthening the relationships within your own family, there is a lot to be gained from pheasant hunting. Don't miss your chance to make those memories this season.

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John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



News You Can Use

Local newspapers – radio and T.V. stations too – are often the go-to source for everything from Friday’s football scores to keeping up with the city council. These entities are fundamental to our communities, and they have the best pulse on the news that South Dakotans care about the most. National Newspaper Week is a great opportunity to recognize all of the dedicated people who work hard to deliver trusted news and information to communities throughout South Dakota.

Growing up, the Murdo Coyote and the Mitchell Daily Republic were circulated in my hometown. Reading the daily and weekly newspapers was one of the primary ways my family and others in the neighborhood learned about what was happening in our small town. We didn’t – and obviously couldn’t – rely on smartphones or social media. We trusted what we read from fellow South Dakotans – something I still rely on today, both to get the news and to help me do my job in Washington as effectively as possible.

When I’m on the road visiting towns across the state, I know I can pick up the local paper at the gas station, see what’s going on in the community, and trust what I read. Those front pages live on as time capsules of each community’s history. It’s also neat to see how much of a family enterprise some of these local newspapers are these days.

For many readers, picking up the local paper is more than what the city council voted on the night before. It’s about the daily tick-tock of the community. To this day, I love reading the names of high school athletes setting state records and winning state championships.

When I was a kid, having your name printed in the local paper felt like celebrity status. Speaking from experience, young athletes don’t forget the feeling of knowing their accomplishments are being shared with the entire community or stuck to the kitchen refrigerator with a magnet by a proud parent.

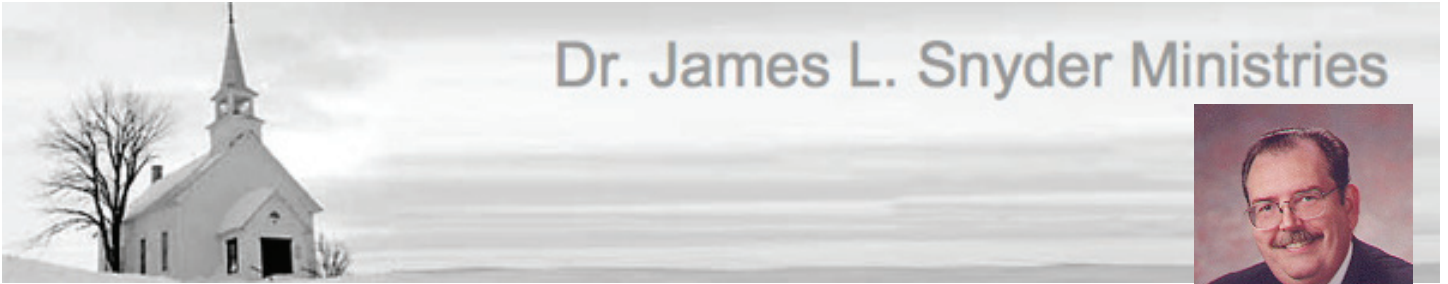
This past year, we also learned about the power of our local newspapers when they provided critical information to folks about various health and safety measures throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They, too, were dealing with the realities of the pandemic, including the economic struggle other small businesses across the state faced. In a time when families needed information, South Dakota newspapers were there to provide it.

No newspaper – big or small – is worth its salt without great reporters. Having worked with many of them throughout my time in public service, I can say South Dakota reporters are true professionals. They are out in their communities daily, telling the stories of what it means to be a South Dakotan. No one in a Washington or New York newsroom knows more about what’s important to or happening in South Dakota than those who call South Dakota home.

I am so thankful to our local papers and reporters for their continual commitment to seeing the news as a public service – not a commodity. News isn’t always an easy business, but South Dakotans thank and respect those who help deliver it.

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I DON'T BELIEVE IN KARMA

Some people believe in karma, but I don't. Some people believe what you do will come back on you some way or the other.



I do believe that everything you do does have consequences. Sometimes those consequences are small and insignificant and sometimes rather large and unbearing.

Recently, my truck was in the garage for about six weeks getting a new engine because the old engine had died. That was the longest time I've been separated from my truck in, I don't know how many years. It was either get a new engine or a new truck. The engine was a lot cheaper.

While my truck was in the shop, I used the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's van. Believe me when I say it was a challenge to drive that little van. It was difficult for me to get in and out, and once I was in, it was hard for me to move about.

I had no choice. Either borrow my wife's van or walk.

I don't mind walking as long as it's to the refrigerator and back to my easy chair. But to walk a couple of miles to the church office was not on my schedule of to-does.

Our schedules are pretty much the opposite, so when she needed to use her van, I was comfortable with that, and when I needed to use her van, she was comfortable with that. Then, of course, there were those times we had to travel together. When that happened, I always allowed her to take the wheel.

How in the world anybody ever was able to make a van so small is beyond my imagination. It isn't what a "real man" delights in driving. I put up with it and managed to drive to my appointments, to my office, and so forth. But I wasn't a happy driver in that regard. I couldn't wait for my truck to get finished.

Then the day came when my truck was finished and ready to pick up. Oh boy, was I excited?

My wife drove me to the shop, and I was able to pick up my good old truck. Driving home was a very wonderful experience that I long shall cherish. I pray that this will never happen again.

I did make one little blunder. I talked to someone about my experience driving my wife's van, and not knowing she was within earshot, I described her van as a "Sissy Van." I explained that that van was only for sissies.

I should realize by now that my wife, like every other wife, has ears that can hear everything. My wife can hear what I'm saying three days before I'm thinking it. How that happens, I have no idea, and believe me, I'm not going to try to find out.

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"Did you just refer to my van," my wife said to me rather sternly with both hands on her hips, "as a sissy van?"

I never challenge what my wife hears, only explain by saying, "That's not exactly what I meant."

"All right," she said very seriously, "just remember that what you do always comes back on you."

I smiled and shrugged the comment off. I simply don't believe in karma.

Almost four weeks to the day, things began to happen.

I was driving my truck and on a Friday I drove to church to do some work at the office. Everything seemed to be going fine.

When done, I went to my truck to go home. I turned the key, and the engine did not start. Oh boy, I said to myself, what is wrong here. I did everything I could think of to get the truck started. It was at 4:15 in the afternoon, and the repair shop where I take my truck closes at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoons. So I was stuck until Monday.

The hardest thing I had to do was call the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and tell her I was stuck, the truck wouldn't start, and could you come and pick me up?

She came to pick me up and drove me home. She was relatively silent on the way home, but I knew exactly what she was thinking.

That Sunday, as I was setting up the sound system to record the Sunday service, I could not get it working. None of the microphones worked, and there wasn't anything I could do to change it.

I had to get it fixed by Wednesday because that's when I record our weekly radio program. So if I don't get it fixed by then, I'm in trouble.

That was Sunday. Then Monday came tiptoeing along, and somebody had hacked into my email, and I could not open up my email. I worked very hard to get it open and set a new password, but nothing worked. So finally, the email service locked me out for 24 hours because I had done it too many times.

It took several days to unlock my account, so I could use my email.

I still don't believe in karma, but sometimes things come back on you because of some of your actions.

I read in the Scriptures that evening, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

I need to learn how to be careful in what I sow because that is exactly what I will reap.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that some wildlife species are evolving much more rapidly in response to the warming climate?
-- D. Gould, Hendersonville, NC



Dark-eyed juncos have evolved bigger bills in response to the larger temperature extremes they are experiencing throughout their range across North America thanks to human-induced climate change. Credit: DaPuglet, FlickrCC.

It's amazing to think that climate change is causing animals to evolve faster than they would otherwise, but the science speaks for itself. Researchers from Australia's Deakin University found evidence of so-called "shapeshifting" in recent years in direct response to warming temperatures across habitat ranges.

Indeed, several species of Australian parrots have four-to-10 percent bigger bills than their ancestors before the industrial revolution, correlating directly with rising temperatures due to human-induced global warming. Dark-eyed juncos in North America also evolved bigger bills as temperature extremes ramped up across their range. Mammalian shapeshifting also includes longer tails in wood mice and increased leg and tail sizes in masked shrews over the 150 years—all likely adaptations to warming habitats.

Another study found that climate change has sped up the rate of natural selection for mosquitos that lay their eggs inside carnivorous pitcher plants. Mosquito larvae that hatch in the spring have adapted to an earlier spring by opening sooner than they did a quarter-century ago to feed on more dead insects.

While these types of adaptations may benefit the species under study, climate change is likely negatively affecting many more which cannot adapt fast enough to keep up. For example, Scotland's feral sheep have become smaller due to warmer weather in the winter that no longer necessitates larger, thicker coats. And polar bears, which have evolved thick fur coats and layers and layers of fat to keep them warm out on the Arctic tundra and swimming between ice floes, are likely another evolutionary loser in the age of climate change. As ice caps melt and ice floes become fewer and farther between, these majestic white guardians of the Arctic are unlikely to adapt quickly enough to keep up with the fast-moving changes to their environment and are thus likely headed for extinction unless we can turn things around ASAP.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a quarter of all species may face extinction as a result of global warming, an estimate based on studies on the range of species and whether a species has adapted to new conditions of temperature, rainfall and more. Researchers then projected future ranges of to determine whether the range will shift faster than a species can move and adapt. Species that fail to adapt quickly enough will be trapped in degrading habitat and as such are much more likely to go extinct.

While warming temperatures increased gene flow and evolution among some species during the Pleistocene era, the current reality of climate change paints a different picture. "The present human-caused climate change will not lead to similar extensive mixing and adaptation of populations," says Eeva Furman of the Finnish Environment Institute. "Partly because movements of most species are greatly hindered in human dominated landscapes, and partly because the present climate warming is extremely rapid in comparison with Pleistocene climate fluctuations."

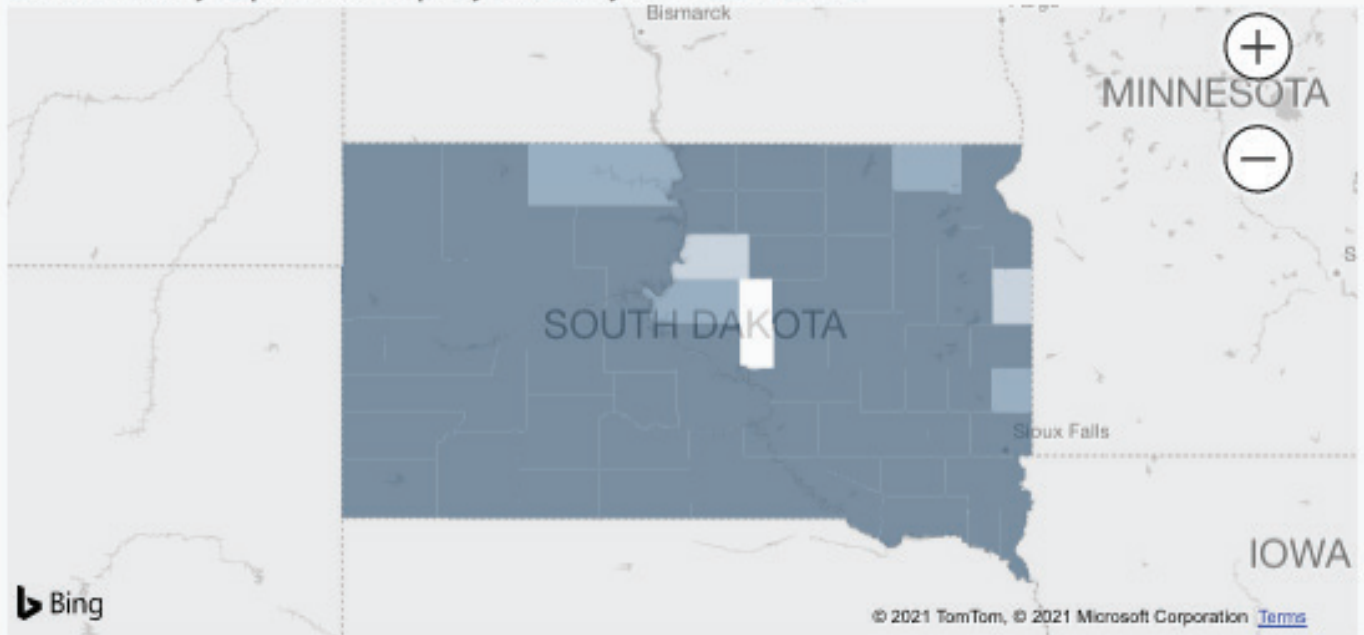
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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

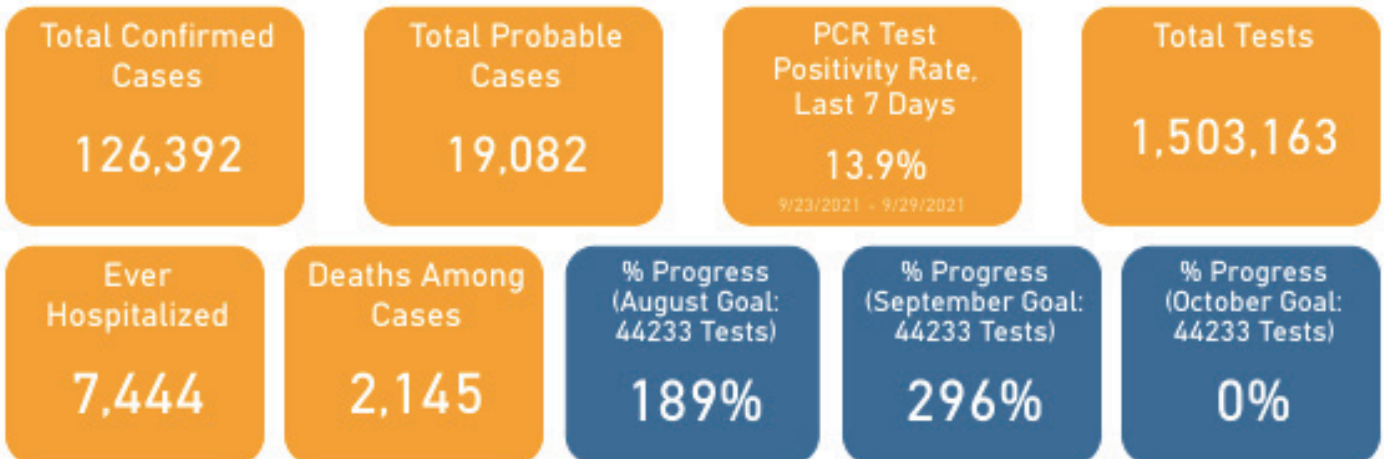


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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



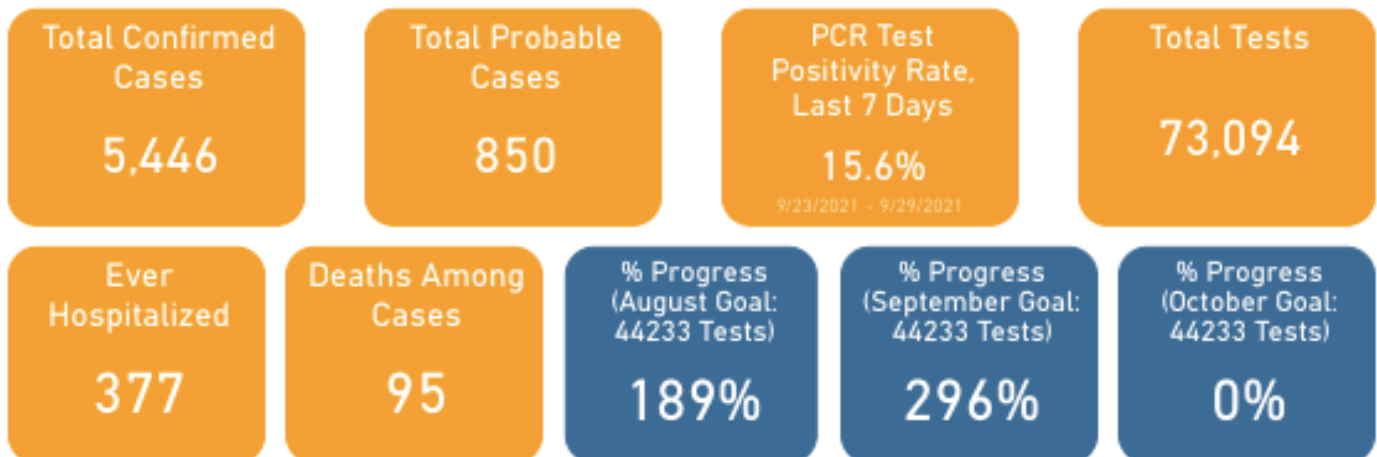
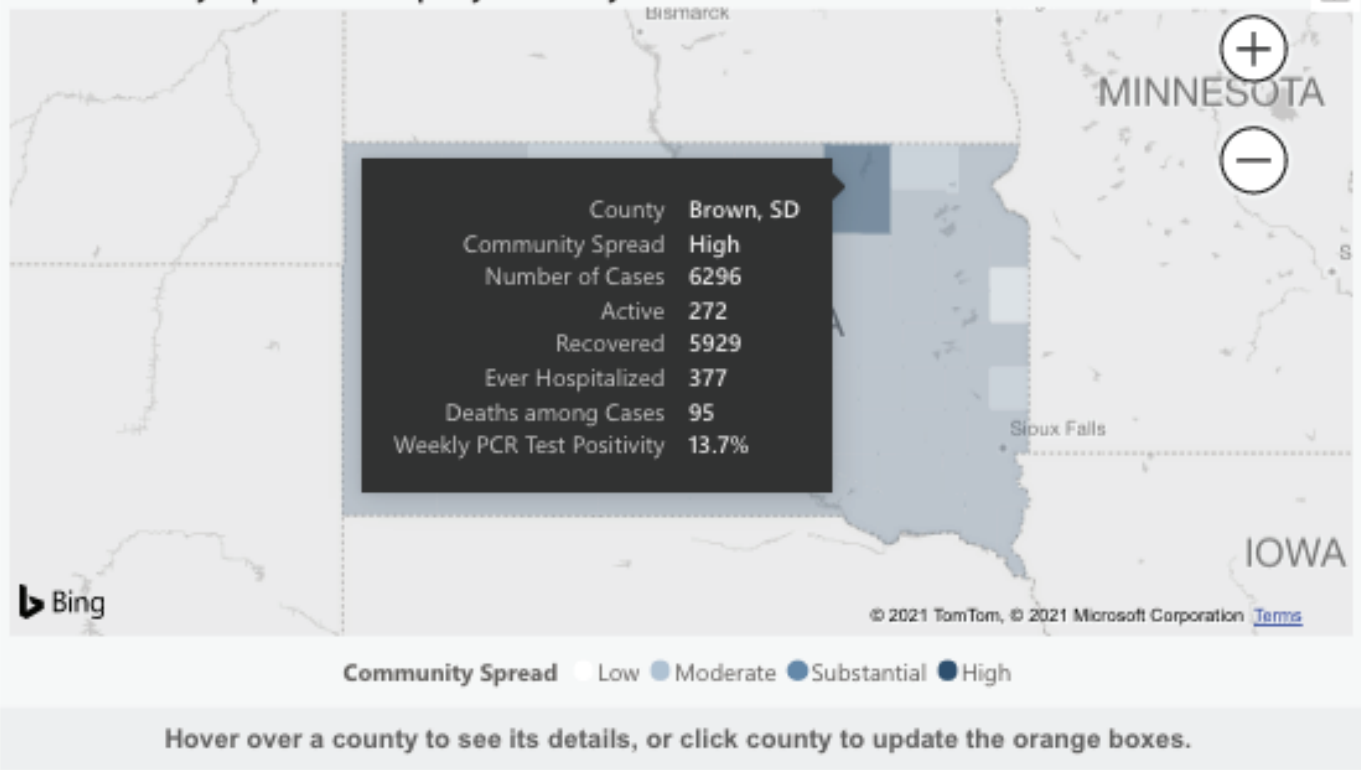
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Brown County COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



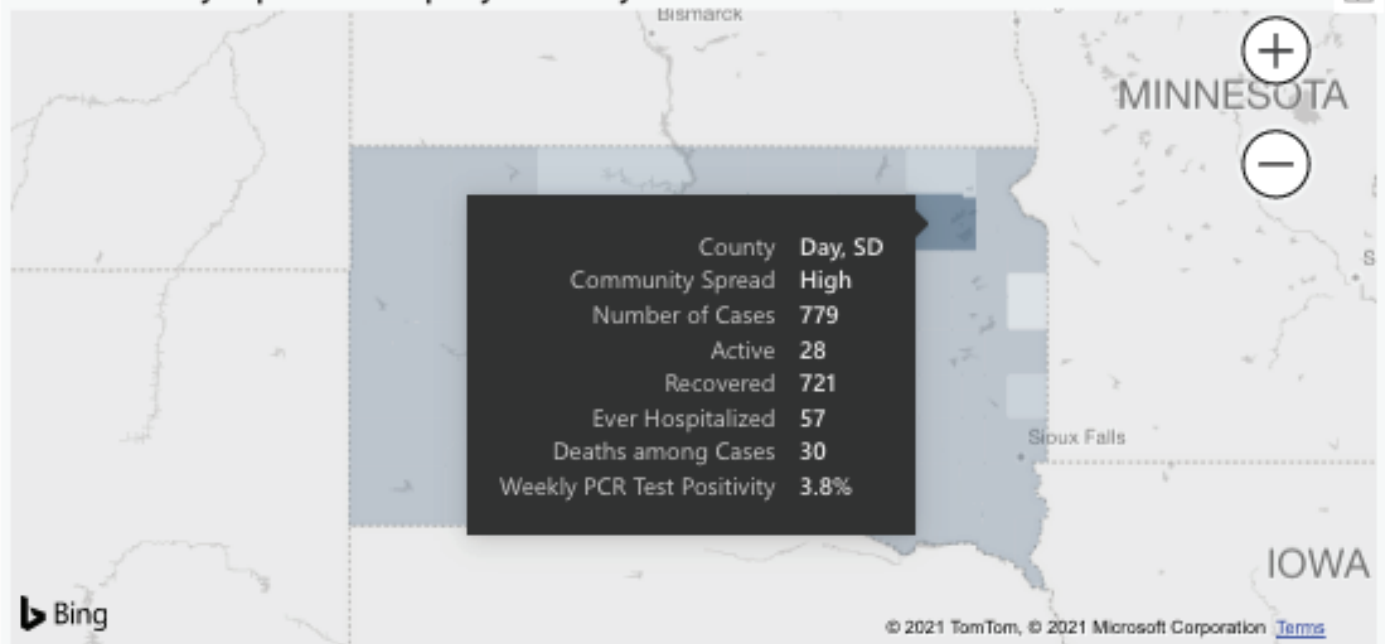
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Day County COVID-19 Report

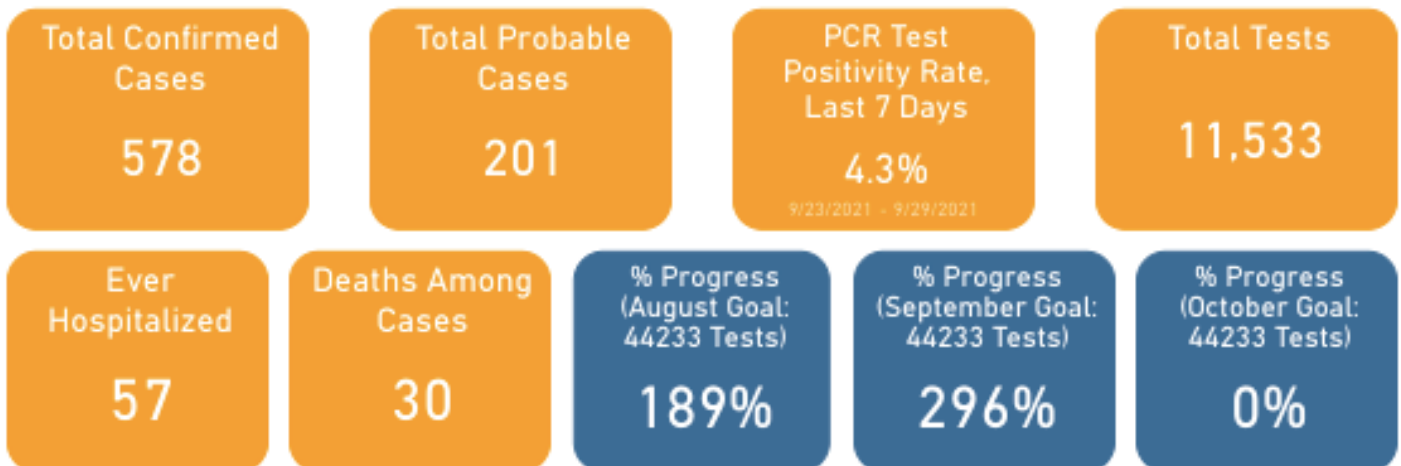


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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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COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Currently Hospitalized	+23	213
Deaths Among Cases	+20	2145
Active Cases		7325
Ever Hospitalized		7444
Recovered Cases		136004
Total Cases		145474

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	75859	989
Male	69615	1156

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases
Delta (B.1.617.2, AY.1-AY.25)	491
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	172
Gamma (P.1)	3
Beta (B.1.351)	2

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	7526	0
10-19 years	17720	0
20-29 years	25477	9
30-39 years	24034	32
40-49 years	20455	52
50-59 years	19720	138
60-69 years	16192	306
70-79 years	8513	498
80+ years	5837	1110

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
White	109383	75%
Native American	16963	12%
Unknown	6031	4%
Hispanic	5733	4%
Black	3504	2%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1947	1%
Other	1013	1%

Groton Area School District
 Active COVID-19 Cases
 Updated September 30, 2021; 3:43 PM

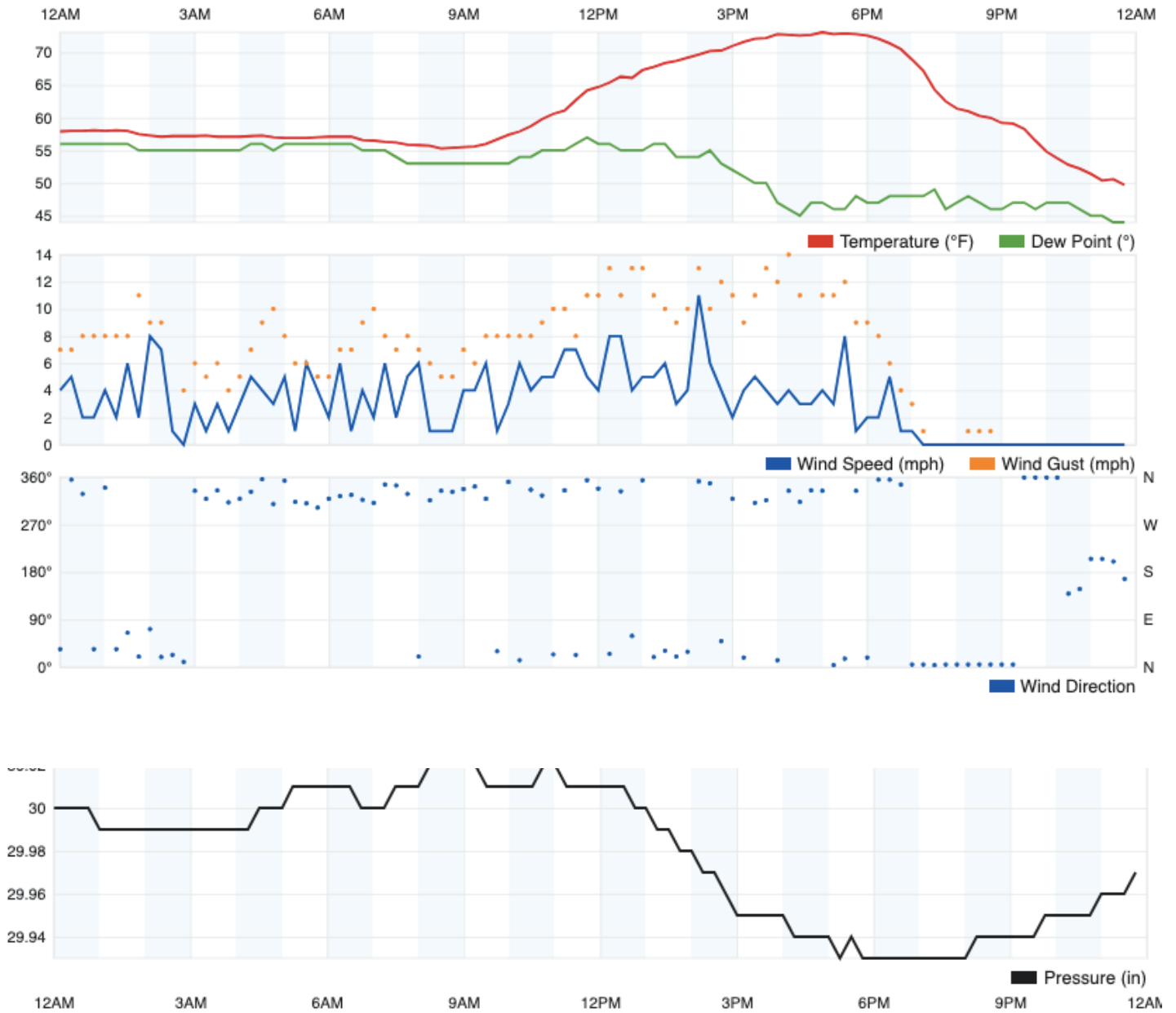
**Increase of 7
 from last week**

J	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	1	1	S	T
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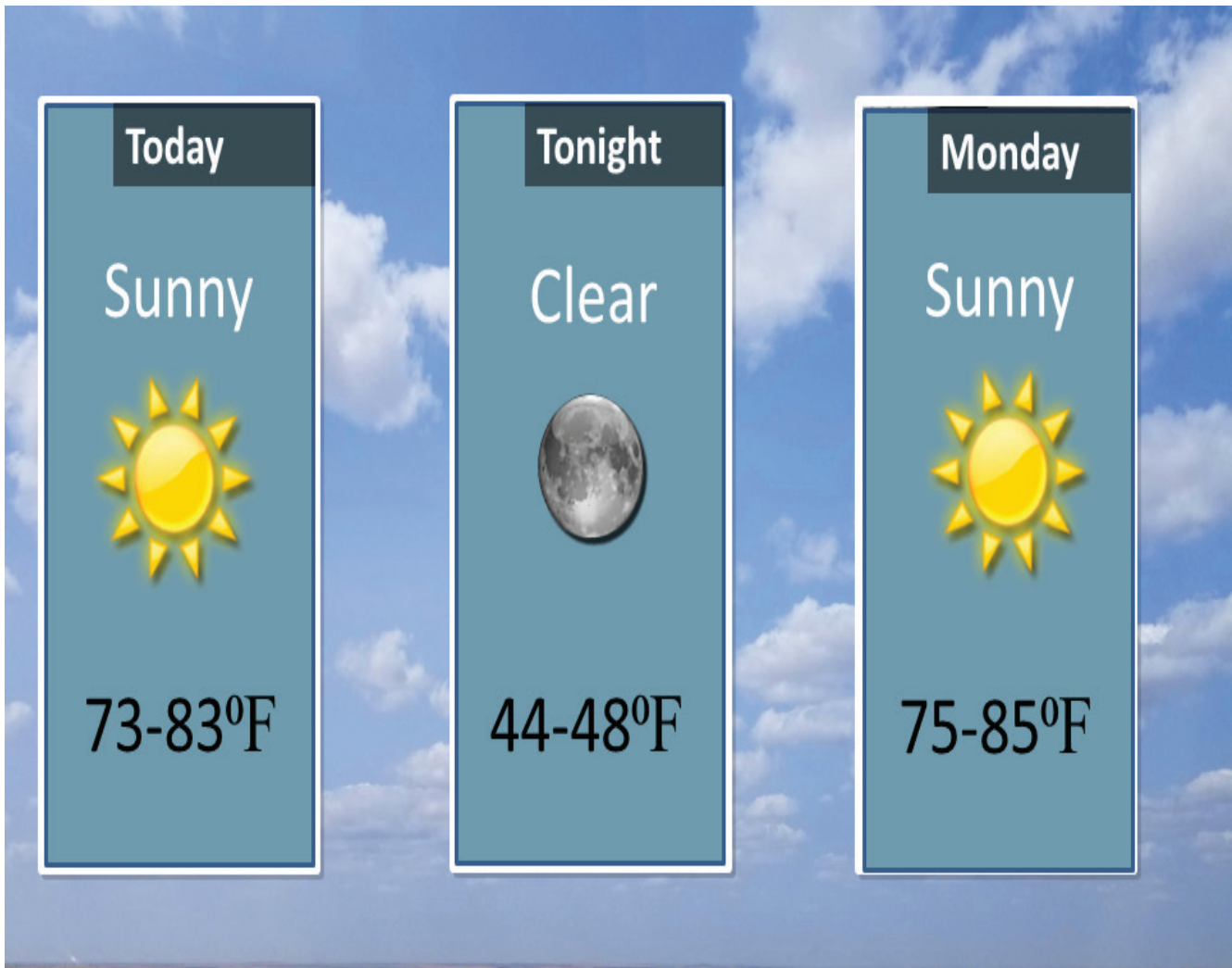
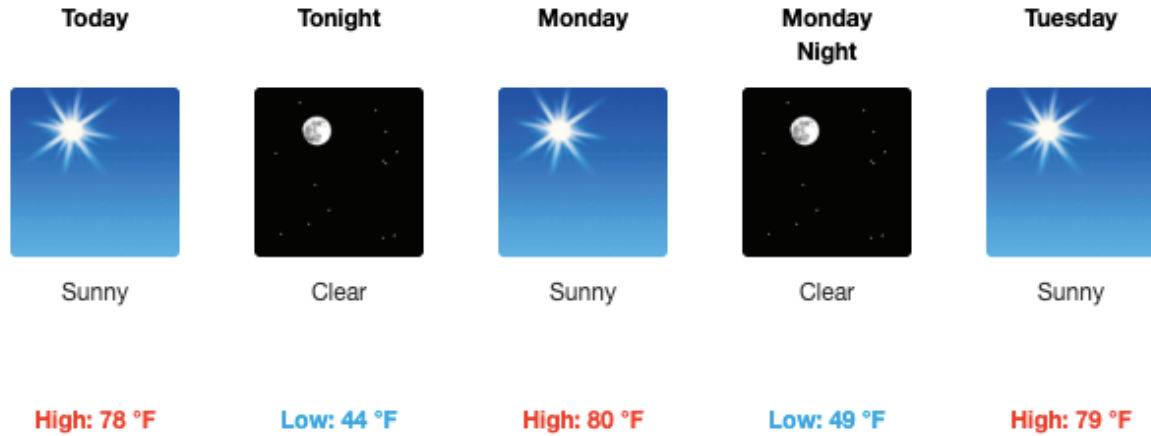
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Plenty of sunshine expected today and Monday across the region with highs mainly from the mid 70s to the mid 80s.

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Today in Weather History

October 3, 1985: High winds of 60 to 75 mph occurred across much of western South Dakota from the late afternoon of the 3rd into the early morning hours of the 4th. The winds blew down power lines and caused power outages for many locations in the Black Hills. The strong winds uprooted trees in Rapid City and blew the roof off of a barn near Newell in Butte County.

1780: A hurricane, which formed on October 1st, destroyed the port city of Savanna-la-Mar on the island of Jamaica on this day. By some estimates, this storm caused 3,000 deaths. This storm is documented in the Jamaica Archives and Record Department.

1903: An unusual late-season tornado moved northeast from west of Chatfield, Minnesota, passing through and devastating St. Charles, Minnesota. Seven people were killed, and 30 injured as 50 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.

1979: An F4 tornado struck the towns of Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Suffield in Connecticut, causing an estimated \$400 million in property damage, on this day. The New England Air Museum, which housed more than 20 vintage aircraft, was destroyed. This tornado also caused a United Airlines flight to abort a landing at the Bradley International Airport because the pilot saw the tornado.

2002: Hurricane Lili made landfall between White Lake and Vermilion Bay, Louisiana as a Category 1 storm.

2015: Unprecedented rainfall fell throughout South Carolina from October 1st — 5th, 2015. Storm total amounts greater than 20" were observed in Columbia and Sumter.

2017: The City of Houston had the wettest year on record with 73.51 inches. The previous wettest year was in 1900 when 72.86 inches were measured.

1841 - An October gale, the worst of record for Nantucket, MA, caught the Cap Cod fishing fleet at sea. Forty ships were driven ashore on Cape Cod, and 57 men perished from the town of Truro alone. Heavy snow fell inland, with 18 inches near Middletown, CT. (David Ludlum)

1912 - The longest dry spell of record in the U.S. commenced as Bagdad, CA, went 767 days without rain. (David Ludlum)

1964 - Hurricane Hilda struck Louisiana spawning many tornadoes, and claimed twenty-two lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1979 - The first killer tornado of record in October in Connecticut destroyed sixteen vintage aircraft at the Bradley Air Museum in Windsor Locks. The tornado damaged more than one hundred homes causing 200 million dollars damage. Three persons were killed, and 500 others were injured. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Remnants of Hurricane Paine deluged Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas with 6 to 10 inch overnight rains. Hardy, OK, was drenched with 21.79 inches. Heavy rain between September 26th and October 4th caused 350 million dollars damage in Oklahoma. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Twenty-five cities in the Upper Midwest, including ten in Iowa, reported record low temperatures for the date. Duluth MN, Eau Claire, WI, and Spencer, IA, dipped to 24 degrees. Temperatures warmed into the 80s in the Northern and Central High Plains Region. At Chadron, NE, the mercury soared from a morning low of 29 degrees to an afternoon high of 88 degrees. Temperatures soared above 100 degrees in southern California. The high of 108 degrees at Downtown Los Angeles was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold Canadian air invaded the north central U.S. bringing an end to the growing season across those states. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Phoenix, AZ, reported a record high of 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed from the Pacific Northwest to the Upper Mississippi Valley. A dozen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck, ND, and Williston, ND, with readings of 16 degrees above zero. An upper level weather disturbance brought snow to parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, with five inches reported at West Yellowstone, MT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

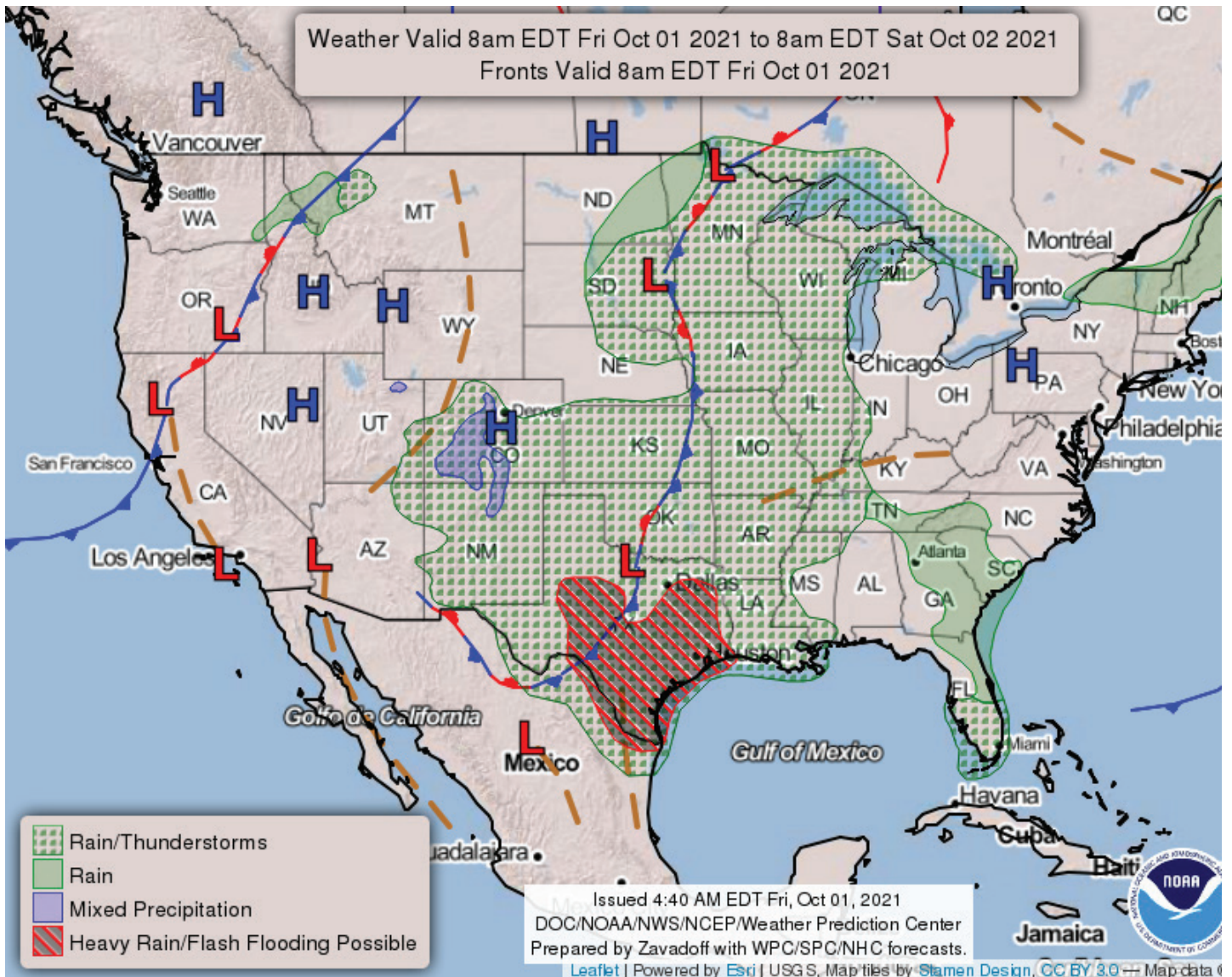
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 73 °F at 5:06 PM
Low Temp: 50 °F at 11:44 PM
Wind: 14 mph at 4:11 PM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 95° in 1922
Record Low: 20° in 1894
Average High: 67°F
Average Low: 39°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 0.24
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.28
Average Precip to date: 18.57
Precip Year to Date: 15.70
Sunset Tonight: 7:10:11 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:33:36 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

Camp's 3 TD passes lead South Dakota past Indiana State

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Carson Camp threw three touchdown passes, all in the second quarter, South Dakota's defense allowed just 205 yards and the Coyotes defeated Indiana State 38-10 on Saturday.

Camp completed 19 of 26 passes for 200 yards. His scoring throws went to Brett Samson for 1 yard, Carter Bell for 47 yards, and Samson again for 10 yards.

The Coyotes (3-2, 1-1 Missouri Valley) added fourth-quarter touchdown runs of 15 yards by Travis Theis and 27 yards by Nate Thomas, who finished with 111 yards on 11 carries.

Anthony Thompson completed 16 of 24 passes for 135 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions for the Sycamores (2-3, 0-2). Peterson Kerlegrand was their leading rusher with 11 carries for 24 yards.

Indiana State's touchdown came on a Zach Larkin 15-yard reception from Thompson and was the only score of the third quarter, drawing the Sycamores within 24-10 before South Dakota put it away with the two touchdown runs in the final period.

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=

Brandon Valley def. Pierre, 19-25, 25-17, 25-15, 25-22

Jones County def. Bennett County, 25-18, 25-16, 25-17

Wagner def. Tri-Valley, 25-12, 25-18, 21-25, 25-19

281 Conference Tournament=

First Round=

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Wessington Springs, 25-18, 23-25, 25-22

James Valley Christian def. Highmore-Harrold, 21-25, 25-17, 27-25

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-11, 25-9

Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois, 25-14, 25-21

Second Round=

Highmore-Harrold def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-17, 25-18

Iroquois def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-15, 25-17

Sunshine Bible Academy def. James Valley Christian, 25-10, 25-22

Wolsey-Wessington def. Wessington Springs, 25-12, 25-13

Third Round=

Iroquois def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 18-25, 25-21, 25-20

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Wessington Springs, 25-22, 25-23

Wolsey-Wessington def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-16, 25-17

Great Plains Conference Tournament=

Pool C=

Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-27, 25-19, 25-18

Lakota Nations Invitational=

Championship=

White River def. Custer, 25-16, 25-17

Pool A=

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Little Wound, 25-18, 22-25, 25-23

Little Wound def. Marty Indian, 25-17, 25-18

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Pine Ridge def. Crow Creek, 25-23, 20-25, 25-18
Pine Ridge def. Santee, Neb., 25-21, 25-19
Santee, Neb. def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-20, 25-21
White River def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-16, 25-14
White River def. Marty Indian, 25-9, 25-3
White River def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 25-17, 25-22
Wyoming Indian, Wyo. def. Crow Creek, 25-17, 26-27
Pool B=
Crazy Horse def. Oelrichs, 25-0, 25-0
Custer def. St. Francis Indian, 25-22, 25-8
Custer def. Todd County, 23-25, 25-23, 25-21
Lower Brule def. Oelrichs, 25-23, 21-25, 25-15
Lower Brule def. Red Cloud, 25-22, 25-11
Red Cloud def. St. Francis Indian, 25-10, 25-16
St. Francis Indian def. Oelrichs, 25-17, 25-23
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Crazy Horse, 25-8, 25-8
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Lower Brule, 25-15, 25-21
Todd County def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-23, 13-25, 28-26
Semifinal=
Custer def. Santee, Neb., 25-9, 24-26, 25-16
White River def. Red Cloud, 25-18, 25-9
Third Place=
Santee, Neb. def. Red Cloud, 25-14, 25-18
Mile High Lead-Deadwood Tournament=
Bronze Pool=
Lakota Tech def. Newell, 25-14, 25-17
New Underwood def. Lakota Tech, 25-23, 25-17
New Underwood def. Newell, 25-18, 22-25, 25-13
Gold Pool=
Hot Springs def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 26-24, 25-16
Hot Springs def. Kadoka Area, 25-18, 25-14
Kadoka Area def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 26-24, 16-25, 25-18
Pool A=
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Lakota Tech, 20-25, 25-23, 25-23
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-17, 25-21
Lead-Deadwood def. Lakota Tech, 25-22, 24-26, 25-20
Pool B=
Hot Springs def. New Underwood, 25-21, 25-18
New Underwood def. Wall, 15-25, 25-23, 25-23
Wall def. Hot Springs, 25-21, 14-25, 25-17
Pool C=
Harding County def. Newell, 25-17, 25-17
Kadoka Area def. Harding County, 25-17, 19-25, 25-19
Kadoka Area def. Newell, 25-14, 25-20
Silver Pool=
Harding County def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-12, 25-14
Harding County def. Wall, 26-24, 25-19
Wall def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-11, 14-25, 25-10
Twin Cities Tournament=
Championship Bracket=

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Ogallala, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-20, 25-11
Consolation=
Chadron, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 27-25
Seventh Place=
Gering, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-22, 20-25, 25-11
Pool Play=
North Platte, Neb. def. St. Thomas More, 25-13, 26-24
Rapid City Stevens def. Burns, Wyo., 25-16, 25-13
Rapid City Stevens def. North Platte, Neb., 19-25, 26-24, 25-20
Scottsbluff, Neb. def. St. Thomas More, 25-15, 25-16
St. Thomas More def. Torrington, Wyo., 25-21, 25-15
Torrington, Wyo. def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-7, 18-25, 25-23

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

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

Oladokun, turnovers help S. Dakota St. beat Dixie St. 55-7

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Chris Oladokun threw two touchdown passes, Pierre Strong Jr. ran for two more scores and South Dakota State beat Dixie State 55-7 on Saturday night.

South Dakota State (4-0) went three-and-out three times and had minus-8 total yards in its first four offensive possessions before exploding in the second quarter for 35 points. Oladokun converted a fourth-and-1 with a 2-yard run on a keeper on the first play of the period and, on the next play, Strong exploded up the middle for a 21-yard touchdown to open the scoring.

After a Dixie State punt, Oladokun hit Michael Morgan for an 11-yard touchdown with 7:06 left in the quarter and Dalys Beamun returned an interception 36 yards for a score 59 seconds later. Strong added a 3-yard touchdown run with 4:31 to go and Oladokun connected on a 4-yard TD pass to Zach Heinz to make it 35-0 with 10 seconds left in the half.

Dixie State (0-4) finished with zero yards rushing on 23 carries and committed five turnovers.

The Jackrabbits, ranked No. 3 in the FCS coaches poll, have scored at least 42 points in each game this season, beginning with a 42-23 win at Colorado State to open the season on Sept. 3.

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>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

04-06-12-19-30

(four, six, twelve, nineteen, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$120,000

Lotto America

02-21-45-49-50, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 3

(two, twenty-one, forty-five, forty-nine, fifty; Star Ball: seven; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.1 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

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28-38-42-47-52, Powerball: 1, Power Play: 2

(twenty-eight, thirty-eight, forty-two, forty-seven, fifty-two; Powerball: one; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$635 million

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP FOOTBALL=

Chamberlain 48, Sisseton 0

Clark/Willow Lake 26, Webster 13

Dell Rapids St. Mary 52, Estelline/Hendricks 0

Hamlin 16, Elkton-Lake Benton 14

Lead-Deadwood 6, Rapid City Christian 0

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

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

Distribution problems, hesitancy slow Uganda vaccination bid

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

GULU, Uganda (AP) — The light bulb hanging from the ceiling flickered on and off, infuriating the technician in this remote Ugandan town as he checked the refrigerators filled with vaccine doses to confirm they were still working.

If the power supply didn't stabilize, he said, he would have to requisition fuel and start the generator.

"It keeps going on and off, like a disco light," said the technician, Tony Elong. "This is our biggest problem. ... If I am not here and power is off for many hours, we are likely to lose the vaccines. It needs a timely response."

Power failures are rampant in northern Uganda's Gulu district. For Elong the problem is urgent; two fridges were destroyed by power outages this year. It's among the many logistical issues facing health officials as they expand COVID-19 vaccination into rural areas with the arrival of substantial doses in the previously vaccine-starved nation.

Gulu, home to 325,000 people, has given out about 9,000 doses, with only 2,795 people fully vaccinated. The district had 30 AstraZeneca doses and 300 Chinese-made Sinovac ones as of Sept. 23, an artificial shortage in a country with a growing vaccine stock of millions of doses.

In recent days, Uganda has received more than 2.2 million doses — including Pfizer and Moderna — from the United States, as well as 985,000 AstraZeneca shots from France, Belgium and Ireland.

A total of 11,978,840 doses — donations and purchases via the African Union — are expected in Uganda by December, President Yoweri Museveni said last week. But Uganda's central storage facility near the capital, Kampala, can only hold 5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccines requiring ultra-low temperatures, and some rural areas like Gulu aren't equipped to handle either the Pfizer or Moderna shots.

As supply grows, officials are trying to whip up enthusiasm for vaccines in rural districts where many, citing safety fears, would rather wait.

John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told reporters last week that while some African countries such as Rwanda and Zimbabwe are "doing well" in rolling out vaccines, others like Uganda are struggling, and the agency will be looking to community and religious leaders for help.

Health systems in Africa are among the poorest in the world, plagued by chronic shortages of essential supplies, corruption and an unmotivated workforce. In Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, those challenges are exacerbated by insecurity, with vaccine distribution in rural areas, especially in the country's volatile north, crippled by the threat of violence. Only 3% of Nigeria's 200 million people have received

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their first dose.

In Uganda, an East African nation of 44 million, authorities have ramped up vaccination in the Kampala area, but efforts have largely stalled in rural districts such as Gulu, hampered by hesitancy as well as refrigeration and other distribution problems.

Museveni said last week that officials face dismissal in rural areas, which now account for most of the country's 268 COVID-19 hospitalizations, if vaccines expire under their watch.

"We are literally dancing around," said Dr. Misaki Wayengera, head of a committee advising Uganda's pandemic response, speaking of the slow vaccine rollout.

The government rations doses to districts based on demand expectations, and supplies aren't replenished until officials account for doses they previously received.

As a result, shortages stemming from delays in reporting back vaccination data can occur.

"The demand is there," said Dr. Kenneth Canna. "But right now what is bogging us down ... is availability of the vaccine, both in the urban setting and in the rural setting."

Associated Press journalists reached a remote area of Gulu where a health center without running water had the district's last supply of 30 AstraZeneca doses. Because a vial contains seven doses that must be accounted for, vaccines aren't distributed until seven people are in line. So people come and go without a getting a jab.

"You can't open the vial when the people are few. If people are few, you will be wasting the vaccine," said Okello Labedo, a clinical officer in charge of the Awach health center, speaking through a frayed mask. "The turnout among the elderly is very poor. I think it is because of the distance."

Amos Okello, a farmer who had waited several hours under a mango tree, expressed disappointment he would be going home without a shot after traveling many kilometers on a rented bike.

"They said, 'If you come alone you cannot get the vaccine,'" Okello said. "I can't go and force someone from his home to come here and get the vaccine."

While it's "important for me to get the vaccine, tomorrow I might not be able to come back," he added.

Patrick Okot, a commodities trader in Gulu who received his first AstraZeneca shot in May, said he considered traveling to another district for the second one, but is discouraged by the cost.

"You might go there and you find that they also don't have vaccines," he said.

Uganda's goal is to vaccinate 4.8 million of its most vulnerable people — including those age 50 and above — but so far 348,000 are fully vaccinated, according to official figures. And only 37% of the country's 150,000 health care workers are fully vaccinated, highlighting the slow rollout that led authorities to begin vaccinating students and others in a bid to prevent the expiration of doses.

Authorities have warned schools won't reopen until all teachers and staff are fully vaccinated, a mandate that briefly caused lines at rural vaccination sites. Yet many came hoping there would be no doses, underscoring hesitancy in the aftermath of reports of rare blood clots in a small number of people getting the AstraZeneca vaccine.

"The pressure is now bringing them," said Lily Apio, a nurse in charge of immunization at the Aywee health center just outside Gulu town.

Alfred Akena, a schoolteacher waiting to get the Sinovac vaccine, said he was compelled by the government mandate to get the shot but he urged his wife not to, citing safety concerns.

"They put pressure on us, so today I came to get vaccinated," he said. "I told my wife, 'Let me first go.' When the worst comes to the worst, she will take care of my children."

That view was echoed by college student Onen Richard, who spoke of vaccination as "just like school rules and regulations" that he didn't think were in his "interest."

That morning, after six men had signed consent forms, Apio informed them only five Sinovac doses were available.

One of the men quickly stood up and left.

Chinedu Asadu in Lagos, Nigeria, contributed to this report.

China tightens political control of internet giants

By JOE McDONALD and ZEN SOO AP Business Writers

BEIJING (AP) — The ruling Communist Party is tightening political control over China's internet giants and tapping their wealth to pay for its ambitions to reduce reliance on U.S. and European technology.

Anti-monopoly and data security crackdowns starting in late 2020 have shaken the industry, which flourished for two decades with little regulation. Investor jitters have knocked more than \$1.3 trillion off the total market value of e-commerce platform Alibaba, games and social media operator Tencent and other tech giants.

The party says anti-monopoly enforcement will be a priority through 2025. It says competition will help create jobs and raise living standards.

President Xi Jinping's government seems likely to stay the course even if economic growth suffers, say businesspeople, lawyers and economists. "These companies are world leaders in their sectors in innovation, and yet the leadership is willing to squash them all," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist for Capital Economics.

The crackdown reflects Xi's public emphasis on reviving the party's "original mission" of leading economic and social development, said Steve Tsang, a Chinese politics specialist at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He said it could also help Xi politically if, as expected, he pursues a third five-year term as party leader.

Chinese leaders don't want to reimpose direct control of the economy but want private sector companies to align with ruling party plans, said Lester Ross, head of the Beijing office of law firm WilmerHale.

"What they are worried about is companies getting too big and too independent of the party," said Ross.

Chinese internet companies and their billionaire founders, including Alibaba Group's Jack Ma and Tencent Holdings' Pony Ma, are among the biggest global success stories of the past two decades. Alibaba is the biggest e-commerce company, while Tencent operates the popular WeChat messaging service.

But party plans emphasize robots, chips and other hardware, so these companies are rushing to show their loyalty by shifting billions of dollars into those.

The ruling party's campaign is prompting warnings the world might decouple, or split into separate markets with incompatible technology. Products from China wouldn't function in the United States or Europe, and vice versa. Innovation and efficiency would suffer.

U.S. curbs on Chinese access to telecom and other technology haven't helped.

Alibaba said it will invest \$28 billion to develop operating system software, processor chips and network technology. The company has pledged \$1 billion to nurture 100,000 developers and tech startups over the next three years.

Last year, Tencent promised to invest \$70 billion in digital infrastructure. Meituan, an e-commerce, delivery and service platform, raised \$10 billion to develop self-driving vehicles and robots.

Chinese officials recognize the campaign imposes an economic cost but are unwilling to speak up, said Tsang. "Who is going to stand up and say to Xi Jinping, your policy is going to be harmful to China?"

Investors, many burned by the drop in technology shares, are keeping their money on the sidelines. Tencent's market capitalization of \$575 billion is down \$350 billion from its February peak, a decline equal to more than the total value of Nike Inc. or Pfizer Inc.

CEO Masayoshi Son of Japan's Softbank Group — an early investor in Alibaba — said on Aug. 11 he will put off new China deals. Softbank invested \$11 billion in ride-hailing service Didi Global, whose share price has fallen by one-third since its U.S. stock market debut on July 30.

The crackdown began in November when Beijing ordered Ant Group, which grew out of Alibaba's Alipay online payments service, to postpone its stock market debut in Hong Kong and Shanghai. The company, which offers online savings and investment services, was told to scale back its plans and to install bank-style systems to vet borrowers and manage lending risks. Industry analysts cut forecasts of Ant's expected stock market value.

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Meanwhile, Xi's government is tightening control over data gathered by private companies about the public — especially at Alibaba and Tencent, which have hundreds of millions of users. China's leaders see information about its 1.4 billion people as a tool for gaining insight into the public and economy — and a potential security risk in private hands.

A law that takes effect Nov. 1 establishes security standards, prohibits companies from disclosing information without customer permission and tells them to limit how much they collect. Unlike data protection laws in Western countries, the Chinese rules say nothing about limiting government or ruling party access to personal information.

Beijing also is accused of using its stockpile of data about the public in a campaign of repression against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang.

"Very lax" until a few months ago, China has become "one of the most active and forceful jurisdictions in regulating the digital economy," wrote Angela Zhang, an anti-monopoly expert at the University of Hong Kong law school, in a paper this month.

In April, Alibaba was fined 18.3 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) for offenses that included prohibiting vendors that wanted to use its platforms from dealing with Alibaba's competitors.

Units of Alibaba, Tencent, live-streaming site Kuaishou, microblogging platform Sina Weibo and social media site Xiaohongshu also have been fined for distributing sexually suggestive stickers or short videos of children. Tencent's music service was ordered to end exclusive contracts with providers.

Beijing is also using the crackdown to narrow China's politically sensitive wealth gap by pushing tech giants to share their wealth with employees and consumers.

Didi, Meituan and other delivery and ride-hailing businesses were ordered in May to cut fees charged to drivers and improve their benefits and security. Meituan CEO Wang Xing promised to donate \$2.3 billion to environmental and social initiatives. Tencent's Ma pledged \$2 billion to charity.

Alibaba has promised to spend 100 billion yuan (\$15.5 billion) on job creation, rural development and other initiatives to support Xi's "common prosperity" campaign.

Such income redistribution plans are "reminiscent of the mass mobilization and populist strategies" of the 1950s and '60s under then-leader Mao Zedong, Zhang wrote.

— Soo reported from Singapore.

Blaze damages historic bridge spanning Tiber River in Rome

ROME (AP) — A blaze, possibly sparked by a gas canister explosion, destroyed part of an historic bridge spanning the Tiber River in Rome before firefighters extinguished the flames early Sunday.

Firefighters said the fire erupted before midnight Saturday near the Ostiense neighborhood and by 4 a.m. Sunday they had completed their work.

No one was injured in the fire that involved the Industry Bridge, but three nightclubs near the riverside neighborhood popular with young people were evacuated as a precaution, Italian state TV said.

The blaze appeared to have started in an area of shacks occupied by homeless people on the river banks near Industry Bridge before spreading to the span itself. State radio said authorities believe the fire might have been started by an explosion of a cooking gas canister by one of the homeless people.

A section of the bridge's outer pedestrian walkway and stretch under the roadbed carrying utility lines broke off and fell into the Tiber. State radio noted that another fire several years ago had also involved the shacks.

Firefighters said in a tweet that the bridge is currently too dangerous to be used. They also banned any navigation under it until the span can be repaired.

Pope Pius IX attended the 1863 inauguration of the bridge, one of the last major construction works in Rome in the waning years of the papal state controlling the city, which would soon become the capital of unified Italy.

Dubbed by Romans the "Iron Bridge," the span originally served as a railway bridge. Later it was outfit-

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ted to instead serve cars and foot traffic.

A plaque near one of the span's ends pays tribute to 10 women who were executed on it in 1944 by German SS troops occupying Rome during the latter years of World War II. The women were punished for having occupied a bakery to feed their families in the city where war made food scarce.

Israel tightens COVID 'green pass' rules, sparking protest

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel restricted its COVID Green Pass on Sunday to allow only those who have received a vaccine booster dose or recently recuperated from coronavirus to enter indoor venues. The new criteria mean that nearly 2 million people will lose their vaccination passport in the coming days.

Israel is the first country to make a booster shot a requirement for its digital vaccination passport. The move is widely seen as a step to encourage booster vaccination among those who have yet to receive a third dose.

Under the new guidelines, people must have received a booster shot to be eligible for a green pass. Those who have received two vaccine doses, and those who have recovered from coronavirus, will be issued passes valid for six months after the date of their vaccination or recovery.

The government's advisory cabinet on coronavirus was set to convene Sunday to discuss existing restrictions and guidelines.

Technical problems hamstrung the Health Ministry's rollout of the updated green pass as millions of Israelis tried to reissue digital documentation that would allow entry to shops, restaurants, cultural events, gyms and other indoor venues.

Scores of Israelis staged demonstrations around the country in protest of the green pass system, with convoys of cars clogging morning commutes as many Israelis returned to work Sunday after September's Jewish High Holidays. Opponents of the system said it is a form of forced vaccination.

"We are totally against any forced vaccinations, or any forced medications, and we are totally against doing anything to our children and grandchildren that we don't agree with," said Sarah Felt, who protested along the main highway connecting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Israel raced out of the gate early this year to vaccinate most of its adult population after striking a deal with Pfizer to trade medical data in exchange for a steady supply of doses.

This summer Israel launched an aggressive booster campaign to shore up waning vaccine efficacy in its population. Over 60% of Israel's population has received two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and nearly 3.5 million of Israel's 9.3 million citizens have received a booster dose of the vaccine. But at least 2 million more have received just two doses, and many will lose the privileges bestowed by the green pass.

Recent months have seen a surge in new cases of coronavirus in Israel. As of Sunday, over 70% of the 588 serious coronavirus cases in Israeli hospitals were unvaccinated individuals, according to Health Ministry data.

The ministry issued a statement Sunday morning that because of heavy traffic on its green pass website and app, previously existing certificates would be valid in the coming few days.

Dubai's Expo 2020 reveals 3 worker deaths from COVID-19

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dubai's Expo 2020 acknowledged for the first time on Sunday that three workers had died from the coronavirus over the course of building the world's fair during the pandemic, as the prestigious event draws scrutiny of labor conditions in the United Arab Emirates.

When asked at a press conference about deaths among Expo's vast foreign labor force, spokesperson Sconaid McGeachin said three workers had died from the virus in addition to three from construction incidents, without specifying when. She declined to describe the extent of the coronavirus outbreak among workers on site.

McGeachin again claimed the information about worker casualties was previously available, without elaborating. However, authorities in the run-up to the \$7 billion fair had not offered any overall statistics

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on worker fatalities, injuries or coronavirus infections despite repeated requests from The Associated Press and other journalists.

The statement comes a day after Expo offered conflicting reports about how many workers had died in industrial incidents on site, before settling on three.

The UAE long has faced criticism from human rights activists over poor treatment of the legions of low-paid migrant laborers from Africa, Asia and the Middle East who power the country's economy. Dubai has gambled billions on its elaborate World Expo, hoping to make it a huge tourist attraction and a symbol of the country's allure.

But problems have emerged. The European Parliament last month urged nations not to take part in Expo, citing the UAE's "inhumane practices against foreign workers" that it said worsened during the pandemic.

To pay tribute to the thousands of workers who toiled to build the fairgrounds from scratch, the site features a somber worker's monument — stone columns wrapped with an engraved roll call of laborers' names at Expo's Jubilee Park, nestled between a performance stage and a popular Dubai bar chain.

The massive global event has also renewed criticism from human rights groups of the UAE's suppression of dissent and restrictions on free expression.

At a press conference Saturday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian answered a question about the European Parliament's concerns over labor abuses in the UAE, saying that France would not join in its call for an Expo boycott and instead raise any potential issues with Emirati authorities "behind closed doors." However, the sensitive exchange was inexplicably missing from the official Expo transcript of the news conference, raising concerns about transparency at the site.

"I will look into that," said McGeachin when asked about the omission. "I would like to say that this is an oversight."

Meanwhile, Uganda's long-serving President Yoweri Museveni arrived to visit his nation's pavilion at Expo. He called the site and the Emirati effort to build the small city "a challenge to the Africans" as they had "turned a desert into a center of affluence."

"Yesterday when I arrived, they took me for COVID test," he said. "In Africa, sometimes we say, 'Big people should not be checked.'"

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell contributed to this report.

No winner: Biggest Powerball jackpot in months grows larger

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The biggest lottery prize in months grew larger after no ticket matched all five numbers and the Powerball drawn on Saturday night.

The estimated jackpot for the next drawing on Monday is \$670 million.

Saturday night's numbers were 28, 38, 42, 47 and 52. The Powerball was 1.

The Powerball jackpot has slowly climbed thanks to 40 consecutive drawings without a grand prize winner, a record streak for the game dating back to June 5. There hasn't been a bigger Powerball jackpot since a \$731.1 million prize was won on Jan. 20. Saturday's grand prize of \$635 million would have been the 10th largest U.S. lottery jackpot ever won.

Since Aug. 23, Powerball drawings have been held three times a week to increase interest and grow prizes more quickly. Drawings are held each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 10:59 p.m. EDT.

One thing that hasn't changed, though, are the long odds of winning the jackpot — one in 292.2 million.

The estimated jackpot amount refers to winners who opt to be paid through an annuity over 29 years. Most winners prefer the cash option, which for Monday's drawing would be an estimated \$474.8 million before taxes.

Powerball is played in 45 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Why Democrats' climate goals may test their Latino appeal

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By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — At a recent house party near the U.S.-Mexico border, the conversation with Democratic congressional candidate Rochelle Garza flowed from schools and taxes to immigration and efforts to convert an old railway line into a hiking trail.

One thing that didn't come up that Friday night over Corona beers and Domino's deep dish pizza: the effort by Democrats in Washington to use a massive federal spending package to beat back climate change.

"It's not that the district is more moderate or moderately more conservative," said Garza, 36, an immigration lawyer running for the House seat held by retiring centrist Democrat Filemon Vela. "Talking about how you're going to meaningfully impact families, and make healthier families and healthier communities, I think that matters to people a lot more than some of these hot button issues."

Democrats nationally are poised to go bigger than ever on the environment as part of the sweeping spending package they are trying to muscle through Congress. President Joe Biden has traveled the country sounding the alarm, blaming a warming planet for devastation from wildfire-ravaged California to hurricane-battered New York and warning of a "code red for humanity."

But that focus could create political problems in energy rich areas. That includes South Texas, where many Latino voters turned against Democrats during last year's presidential election and winning them back could prove critical to the party's hopes of retaining control of Congress during the 2022 midterms.

"They're really making it easy on us," said Mayra Flores, a 35-year-old respiratory care practitioner and organizer for Donald Trump's 2020 presidential campaign. Flores is also running for Vela's seat and argues that Democrats are forcing Texans to choose between their energy sector jobs and curbing climate change.

Trump won 38% of the national Latino vote last year, 10 percentage points more from in 2016, according to the Pew Research Center. Some of his most dramatic gains came in heavily Hispanic areas that produce large amounts of oil and gas, including the district Garza and Flores want to represent.

It stretches from Brownsville, where there are proposals to build liquified natural gas terminals for export, more than 150 miles (240 kilometers) north to sparsely populated portions of the hydraulic fracturing-dependent Eagle Ford Shale.

Last year, Biden won Cameron County, which encompasses Brownsville and is about 90% Hispanic. But Trump's margin of the vote increased there by 20 percentage points over 2016. Farther north, Trump flipped oil- and gas-producing, but still heavily Hispanic, Jim Wells and Kleberg counties.

"We are very dependent on oil and gas. That's the reason you saw those numbers," said Flores, who was born in Mexico, came to the United State at age 6 and picked cotton every summer growing up after age 12. "That's what people do. That's where they work."

Biden has signed an executive order halting new oil and gas leases in federal territory, though it was blocked by a court order this summer.

The spending package being debate in Congress seeks to push efforts to fight climate change into overdrive, however. It includes language on instituting high fees for polluters and tax incentives for clean energy and electric cars, while introducing new requirements that the nation's power grid rely more heavily on renewable energy sources.

Rolando Lozano, a 62-year-old manager at an electric utility, was one of 200-plus people who recently filled a community center in the border town of Harlingen, west of Brownsville, to see Flores and other Latino Republican candidates. He said Democrats have moved so far to the left that "it looks anti-American."

"It's almost blatantly in the citizens' face," Lozano said. "You can call it by any other name, but, fundamentally, it looks wrong."

That feeling is far from universal among Hispanics, however. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll in September found that 58% of Hispanics say they approve of Biden's handling of climate change, while 38% disapprove.

Amanda Davé, a public health community campaign project manager in Brownsville, grew up in Houston, where her father worked in the oil and gas industry. But she believes protecting the environment is more important than appeasing energy interests.

"They try to put forward this message of 'We're bringing jobs. We're bringing jobs. We're bringing jobs.'

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But a lot of people now see it as, they're trying to exploit our natural resources," said Davé, 35, who attended Garza's house party. "I think there's a consciousness that's developing around how to protect what is here. What makes it special."

Still, Gabriel Sanchez, executive director of the University of New Mexico's Center for Social Policy, said threats of climate change traditionally poll as more pressing concerns among Latinos than the population at large — unless they are presented in terms of job losses. He said that in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and other energy producing states, "you've had tension for awhile."

"Latinos are extremely conscious on climate change and support dang near every progressive policy there is to curb it," Sanchez said. "But you juxtapose that with potential loss of jobs, that's when you start to see a much more even attitude split."

Potential clashes between energy jobs and environmental changes could also affect the adjacent House district, where Democratic Rep. Vicente Gonzalez — who founded the House Oil and Gas Caucus and has urged the Biden administration not to move too far to the left on environmental issues — was reelected by less than 3 percentage points in 2020. Fast-growing Texas is gaining two new congressional seats after the 2020 census, and the Republican-controlled Legislature has proposed redistricting maps making Gonzalez's territory more red.

The same tension already helped decide a House seat that flipped Republican last year. In New Mexico, Republican Yvette Herrell defeated Democratic incumbent Xochitl Torres Small in a traditionally conservative district that is about 55% Hispanic and includes part of the oil-rich Permian Basin.

During last year's final presidential debate, Biden promised to "transition" the country away from fossil fuels. Torres Small responded that it was wrong to "demonize" the energy industry and decried the idea of banning fracking, but still lost.

Flores says Biden's debate comment is still reverberating across South Texas, too.

"I see this rise in the Republican Party," said Flores, who campaigns under the slogan "Make America Godly Again." "People are going to go vote to get their jobs back."

Garza believes climate change-fighting efforts can create high-paying jobs, noting that the district has already added wind farms and could enjoy more opportunities in solar power.

"These are natural resources that we can easily take advantage of to create jobs," said Garza. Amid the Trump administration's previous crackdown on immigration, she would approach groups of immigrants waiting on bridges between Mexico and the U.S. and provide presentations on asylum-seekers' rights.

"I think it's about focusing on the opportunities that we have," Garza said of national Democrats' environmental push. "Republicans like to preach doom."

Daniel Canales, 33, who is between jobs but attended the Harlingen conservatives' event, said he and others aren't opposed to new, more environmentally friendly jobs, but often struggle with Democrats' ideological message.

"The problem is the Democrats seem to be too urban-oriented. They're too fixated on problems where they live," Canales said. "Out here, that doesn't mean much."

Italians vote for mayors of Rome, Milan, other key cities

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Millions of people in Italy started voting Sunday for new mayors, including in Rome and Milan, in an election widely seen as a test of political alliances before nationwide balloting just over a year away.

The two days of voting end on Monday and the first results are expected afterwards. But many voters will have to wait two weeks to learn who their mayor will be.

Runoffs will be held Oct. 17-18 in municipalities with more than 15,000 people between the top two vote-getters if no single candidate garners more than 50% of the ballots.

Nearly all the mayoral races in the biggest cities, including Rome, Turin, Naples and Bologna, are expected to see runoffs. Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala has told supporters he thinks they might be able to win enough

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votes to give him another five-year term without a runoff.

Around 12 million people, or roughly 20% of Italy's population, are eligible to vote in the mayoral races. Rome Mayor Virginia Raggi, a prominent populist 5-Star Movement figure, has been fighting an uphill battle to keep her office. Opinion polls indicated that the likely two top vote-getters in the 22-candidate field will be a center-left Democratic and a right-wing candidate who is backed by anti-migrant League leader Matteo Salvini and far-right leader Giorgia Meloni and her Brothers of Italy party with neo-fascist roots.

When Raggi took the helm of the city in 2016, she inherited a mess, and many of the the Italian capital's problems persist. Piles of uncollected trash still blighted the city, several subway stations were shut down for months for maintenance and aging buses often broke down on their routes, sometimes going on fire, during her tenure.

Besides casting her ballot, Raggi on Sunday morning inspected the site of a fire that damaged a bridge spanning the Tiber and a settlement of riverbank shacks occupied by homeless persons, another illustration of Rome's chronic problems.

Salvini and Meloni, while officially right-wing allies, have been warily sizing each other up, since both have ambitions to be Italian premier. A parliamentary election is due in early 2023, but both leaders have been pressing to vote sooner.

The 5-Star Movement, currently Parliament's largest party, has suffered internal bickering. Its newly elected leader, former Premier Giuseppe Conte, who has been trying to heal the divisions, heavily backed Raggi and rebuffed overtures by the Democrat Party to throw its backing behind the Democrat running to be Rome's race.

The Democrats will likely need an alliance with the Movement to counter the rising popularity of right-wing forces when national elections are held. After national elections, alliances will be crucial in forming a government, since in Italy's fractured political spectrum, no one party can count on any significant likelihood of governing alone.

Thus, how the mayoral campaign alliances fare in this month's municipal races will be dissected as a possible indication of Italians' sentiment when they next vote for national leadership.

"The competition (and the barometer) of the leaders" of the political party chiefs jockeying for advantage, *Corriere della Sera's* headline about the voting said.

Salvini's League is a coalition member of Premier Mario Draghi's unity government, formed earlier this year to lead the country through the COVID-19 pandemic. Meloni was the only major leader to refuse to join the unusual coalition, which includes technocrats as well as ministers from leftist, centrists, right-wing and populist parties.

Since the 5-Stars triumph in the last election for Parliament, in 2018, the Movement's popularity has since plummeted in gubernatorial balloting and in public opinion polls.

Voters in southern Calabria in the "toe" of the Italian peninsula are also electing a governor, replacing one who died of cancer while in office last year.

Florida school shooting suspect faces trial for jail brawl

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The suspect in the 2018 killing of 17 people at a Florida high school is finally going on trial — but not for the slayings.

Jury selection begins Monday on charges Nikolas Cruz attacked a Broward County jail guard nine months after the Feb. 14, 2018, shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Cruz, a former Stoneman Douglas student, brawled with Sgt. Raymond Beltran after being jailed on charges of killing 14 students and three staff members and wounding 17 others. No date has been set for the murder trial, which has been delayed by the pandemic and arguments over witnesses and evidence. It may start in the next few months.

"The accused murderer who took our children's lives is clearly violent and took that out on a guard. He needs to face the justice system for that," said Tony Montalto, president of Stand With Parkland, a group

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comprised of victims' families. His 14-year-old daughter, Gina, died in the shooting.

Cruz, 23, faces a possible 15-year sentence if convicted of attempted criminal battery on a law enforcement officer and three lesser charges. Cruz will get either death or life in prison without parole if he is later found guilty of first-degree murder, but this trial still has relevance. If Cruz is convicted of attacking Beltran, prosecutors can argue that is an aggravating factor when they seek his execution during the penalty phase of his murder trial if convicted.

"If that is entered as an aggravating factor, it will be hard for that not to be in the back of the jury's mind," said Mark Dobson, a professor at Nova Southeastern University's law school and a former Florida prosecutor.

Prosecutors declined significant comment, only saying in a statement that "the jail video and evidence in the case speak for themselves."

Cruz's public defenders declined comment, saying they don't want to further traumatize the shooting victims' families by discussing their client.

Cruz's attorneys are expected to argue that Beltran mistreated Cruz previously and provoked the Nov. 13, 2018, brawl, which occurred inside a Broward County jail recreation area and was captured on a soundless security video.

According to court records, Cruz's lead attorney, Melisa McNeill, had complained six weeks before the fight to the Broward Sheriff's Office about Beltran's treatment of Cruz. No details of the alleged mistreatment have been released, but his attorneys said at a recent court hearing that Beltran is the only guard they have ever complained about.

Cruz's attorneys say the sheriff's office erased video of the three hours Cruz and Beltran spent together before the fight — even though they asked within a day that it be preserved and were told it would be.

The preserved video begins a couple minutes before the brawl. It shows Cruz walking alone in circles with his head down around tables with attached benches. He is dressed in an orange jail jumpsuit, a white long-sleeve undershirt and sandals. Beltran is sitting at a table in the corner.

Suddenly, Cruz stops about 10 feet (3 meters) from Beltran and the two appear to exchange words — Beltran told investigators he asked Cruz not to drag his feet and damage his sandals.

Cruz flips both middle fingers at Beltran and then charges the guard, who stands up to defend himself. Cruz, who weighs about 130 pounds (60 kilograms), throws the larger Beltran to the ground, before the guard is able to flip him and briefly pin him. Cruz grabs Beltran's stun gun and they fight over it as it goes off, apparently jolting neither, before the guard wrests it away.

Cruz escapes Beltran's grasp and the two take boxing stances. Cruz punches Beltran in the shoulder before the guard hits Cruz in the head, staggering him.

Beltran then rearms his stun gun and points it at Cruz, who had sat on a bench. Cruz lies face down on the ground and is handcuffed. The fight lasted almost exactly a minute. Neither was seriously hurt.

Because of Cruz's infamy in South Florida, jury selection is scheduled to last three days — in a typical jail battery trial with a defendant the public doesn't know, it would likely take a few hours. The court plans to screen 400 people to seat six jurors plus alternates. The typical pool for jail battery trials and similar felonies is 22, according to The Florida Bar.

Cruz's attorneys will want to eliminate any candidates who can't separate their knowledge of the Stoneman Douglas massacre from the only considerations jurors are supposed to make during this trial: Did Cruz attack Beltran and, if so, was he provoked? Testimony about the killings will not be permitted as that is irrelevant to the assault charge and would be prejudicial.

Once the jury is selected, the rest of the trial is only expected to last one to three days.

The murder trial is expected to last months. Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer has been holding frequent hearings in recent weeks to consider issues that must be resolved before it begins.

"The wheels of justice grind slowly and that is especially true with our group of families," Montalto said.

Cruz's attorneys have said he would plead guilty to 17 murders in exchange for a life sentence. Prosecutors have declined the offer, saying this is a case that deserves a death sentence.

Party crowds spark effort to turn down volume in South Beach

By KELLI KENNEDY Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Miami Beach wants to turn down the volume in the city's South Beach party neighborhood, citing increasingly raucous crowds, public drinking and growing violence, but efforts to curb the carousing have raised complaints about racism, classism and business practices along one of the nation's most glamorous waterfronts.

The 10-block stretch of Ocean Drive known for art deco hotels, restaurants and bars is sandwiched between two areas that cater to more affluent tourists. The tension has been bubbling for years as party crowds grew from a few weekends a year into a year-round presence. The situation worsened during the pandemic when city officials closed the main drag to vehicles and allowed restaurants to offer more outdoor seating, which invited a carnival atmosphere on the street.

More than 1,000 people were arrested during this year's spring break, when the city imposed a rare 8 p.m. curfew. Authorities sent military style vehicles to disperse predominantly Black crowds with rubber bullets, prompting criticism from Black activists and spawning a parody on "Saturday Night Live."

"We cannot accept this as our normal," Mayor Dan Gelber said. "What we have called an entertainment district has become an incredible magnet for crime and disorder, and whatever it provides in revenue is just not worth the heartache."

Last month, the city increased the number of police and code-enforcement officials covering the neighborhood to their largest number in history. The mayor called it a stop-gap measure, saying the city cannot afford to increase the number of police permanently.

His long-term proposal would rebrand the blocks known as the entertainment district by hosting higher-end concerts and fairs, focusing on family-friendly events and marketing the city's often-overlooked but impressive museums and symphony. He also wants to limit loud music and halt alcohol sales at 2 a.m.

The area has waxed and waned over many decades. It fell into decline after a midcentury heyday, but TV shows like "Miami Vice" made it cool again in the 1980s, and supermodels gathered at fashion designer Gianni Versace's oceanfront estate in the 1990s. More recently, rap lyrics have immortalized South Beach.

The Ocean Drive closure, which remains in effect as the city maps out its future, has wrought financial havoc on hotels and restaurants.

Tom Glassie, longtime owner of the Avalon Hotel, has been meeting with city officials and residents for the past two years, wrestling with "what do we want to be when we grow up."

"The nightlife took over. We were the best nightlife," he said. "There was nothing wrong with that, but it just got overbranded" and eclipsed arts and culture.

The mayor's proposal also seeks to increase office and residential space and cut the number of bars and clubs.

Zoning regulations allow both residential and commercial spaces, but no buildings can be taller than five levels, which deters investors who would rather build luxury high-rises. In addition, the art deco facades that provide glamorous backdrops have historic building protections, making the cost of renovations prohibitive for some developers.

Instead, low-end bars and hookah lounges flourish while blocks away, several high-end New York restaurateurs have opened new businesses.

Other businesses like the legendary Clevelander hotel and bar and the Mango's nightclub complain that they have been caught in the crosshairs and unfairly lumped in with bars and nightclubs that cause trouble.

"We're tired of being made into the bad guy, to continue to blame a 30-year-old business that is one of the largest taxpayers in the city and one of the largest employers," said Joshua Wallack, chief operating officer of Mango's Tropical Cafe.

"People come off these cruise ships dreaming of dancing salsa at Mango's."

Alexander Tachmes, attorney for the Clevelander, accused the mayor of "really turning up the heat on the Ocean Drive anti-business rhetoric" last summer and essentially trying to siphon off established busi-

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nesses while the city attempts to rebrand and court more cultural businesses.

The Clevelander sued the city over the 2 a.m. alcohol ban in May and won a temporary injunction until a trial starts this fall. The owners also sought in court to have Ocean Drive reopened, arguing that pandemic restrictions were no longer necessary, but they were unsuccessful.

The bar said the chaos in the street has made it difficult to maintain a nightlife business. The Clevelander checks IDs and pays for security, yet it has been a victim of vandalism and fights that spill over from nearby crowds. The bar voluntarily shut down early in March as the city struggled to gain control during spring break.

The majority of "problem tourists" are not college students, but come from out of state looking for trouble, city officials have said.

Some Black activists have accused the city of using overly harsh police tactics to disperse crowds and, on a larger scale, trying to attract only certain types of visitors, while discouraging others.

Ruban Roberts, former head of the NAACP's Miami chapter, called police tactics "callous" and "overzealous" in an op-ed published in the Miami Herald after a disastrous 2020 spring break. Roberts alleged Black tourists were treated "as second-class citizens."

Part of South Beach also caters to middle-income customers, on the opposite side of the higher-end playground that includes the Fontainebleau, Delano and Faena hotels.

"If you can't afford \$200 for two people for dinner, you have the right to eat and have a nice drink and watch a football game," said Tachmes, who also represents two upscale restaurants. "You don't have to have a Michelin restaurant in order to eliminate crime."

During notoriously crowded weekends, some websites dish on the best party spots and exclusive poolside parties, while other sites offer tips to residents and vacationers looking to avoid the melee.

In an attempt to discourage large crowds, the city canceled all programs amid the pandemic, leaving a void where tens of thousands of people gathered with nothing to do. An initial lack of police created an anything-goes atmosphere, and businesses complained that crowds were using marijuana, drinking and treating the area like a house party.

Ken Koppel, chairman of SoBe Safe, a group of 400 concerned residents, said some tourists are merely "gun-toting drug sellers who disrespect cops and misdemeanor statutes" and gather in crowds that are too large for police to control.

And even with the increased police presence, which Koppel said many residents support, "who wants to live in or pay for an armed camp forever?"

An earlier version of this report had an incorrect spelling of Gianni Versace's name.

Trump asks US judge to force Twitter to restore his account

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump has asked a federal judge in Florida to force Twitter to restore his account, which the company suspended in January following the deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol.

Trump's attorneys on Friday filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Miami seeking a preliminary injunction against Twitter and its CEO, Jack Dorsey. They argue that Twitter is censoring Trump in violation of his First Amendment rights, according to the motion.

Twitter declined to comment Saturday on Trump's filing.

The company permanently banned Trump from its platform days after his followers violently stormed the Capitol building to try to block Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential win. Twitter cited concerns that Trump would incite further violence. Prior to the ban, Trump had roughly 89 million followers on Twitter.

Trump was also suspended from Facebook and Google's YouTube over similar concerns that he would provoke violence. Facebook's ban will last two years, until Jan. 7, 2023, after which the company will review his suspension. YouTube's ban is indefinite.

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In July, Trump filed lawsuits in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida against all three tech companies and their CEOs, claiming that he and other conservatives have been wrongfully censored. The motion for a preliminary injunction was filed as part of Trump's case against Twitter.

Italian vessel rescues 65 from migrant boat fleeing Libya

ABOARD THE SEABIRD (AP) — An Italian offshore supply vessel on Saturday rescued 65 migrants, including women and children, fleeing Libya to Europe on a crowded, wooden boat.

The migrant boat was drifting after its engine stopped working and was spotted by the Seabird, an NGO monitoring aircraft flying over the central Mediterranean. Those on board were not wearing life vests and were eventually rescued in international waters by the Asso Ventinove supply vessel near the Bouri oilfield following a request to do so from the Seabird. An Associated Press journalist flying with Seabird witnessed the rescue.

A Libyan coast guard vessel arrived on the scene shortly afterward to inspect the empty boat. It is common for Libyan authorities to retrieve engines following rescues.

The Asso Ventinove reported that all the people rescued, including five children, appeared in good health. In radio communication with the Seabird, the captain said he was waiting for orders from the rescue and coordination center in Rome to assign them a safe place to disembark the migrants.

So far this year some 44,000 people have reached European shores by crossing the central Mediterranean from Tunisia and Libya, often at the hands of smugglers who put them on unseaworthy boats. Roughly half of those who arrived disembarked on Lampedusa, an Italian island closer to North Africa than Italy.

Despite the increasing arrivals, many fail.

As of Sept. 25, more than 25,000 people had been intercepted by the EU-trained and equipped Libyan coast guard this year and returned to the war-torn country, according to the U.N. migration agency.

Once disembarked, the migrants are often placed in squalid detention centers where they are subject to extortion, torture and abuse.

There were also more than 1,100 deaths recorded by the IOM in the Central Mediterranean this year.

Desmond Ridder, No. 7 Cincinnati beat No. 9 Notre Dame 24-13

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — The last pass of the day by Desmond Ridder was a celebratory heave way up into stands toward the Cincinnati fans who came to Notre Dame to see their Bearcats make a statement.

Cincinnati wanted to use the first top-10, regular-season matchup in program history as a chance to show it belongs among the nation's best before heading into its American Athletic Conference schedule.

Mission accomplished.

Ridder threw two touchdown passes and ran for score late in the fourth quarter as No. 7 Cincinnati capitalized on its big opportunity and beat No. 9 Notre Dame 24-13 on Saturday in a game the Bearcats hope can be the centerpiece of a College Football Playoff resume.

"We didn't just beat a top-10 team, we beat a top-five program," Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell said.

No team from outside the Power Five conferences has reached the playoff in its seven seasons. Never even came close.

To break that barrier, the Bearcats almost certainly need to go undefeated and this trip to Notre Dame (4-1) looked like the toughest test on their schedule. Not to mention the grandest stage they'll appear on this season.

"It's still midseason so we got a lot of games left to play, but it obviously is a big win against a top-10 team," Ridder said. "Hopefully, we keep this going."

The Bearcats were not quite dominant, but they were plenty good enough in their first trip to South Bend since 1900 to snap Notre Dame's 26-game home winning streak.

"I don't think we let the stage get too big for us," Ridder said.

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When told by coaches how loud the crowd can be at Notre Stadium this week, Ridder quipped that it wouldn't be for long.

The senior delivered, going 19 for 32 for 297 yards. He hooked up with Alec Pierce six times for 144 yards, and was at his best after Notre Dame cut the lead to 17-13 with 8:20 left in the fourth quarter.

Ridder went 3 for 3, with a bullet down the middle for 36 yards to Leonard Taylor, on the ensuing drive. He capped it off with a 6-yard TD run around left end that made it 24-13 with 5:08 left.

"That's the Desmond Ridder factor," Fickell said.

Cincinnati took advantage of three turnovers by Notre Dame in the first half to jump out to 17-0 lead. The miscues by the Irish were killers.

Ahmad Gardner picked off an ill-advised throw under pressure by Jack Coan that ended Notre Dame's first and best drive of the half.

DeShawn Pace's interception of Notre Dame freshman Tyler Buchner set up Cincinnati in the red zone and Ridder flipped a 1-yard pass to Taylor to make it 7-0 early in the second quarter.

Chris Tyree fumbled the ensuing kickoff back to Cincinnati and the Bearcats turned that into a 23-yard field goal by Cole Smith.

Ridder and the Bearcats put together their best first-half drive late in the second quarter, going 80 yards for a touchdown. Ridder found Tre Tucker for a 27-yard score that beat Irish All-America safety Kyle Hamilton.

The Bearcats were up 17-0 with 40 seconds left in the first half and for the third time Cincinnati fans, decked in red in the upper reaches of the south end zone, were chanting "Let's Go Bearcats!"

After the postgame celebration died down, Ridder belted out a "How 'bout them Bearcats!" when he entered the interview room and talked about how it "sounded like a home game."

It looked like one at the end, too.

The Bearcats waved their giant black and red flags and Lambeau-leaped over the wall behind the corner of the end zone to take selfies with their fans.

THE TAKEAWAY

Cincinnati: The defense locked up Notre Dame most of the way, getting a shut-down game from All-America cornerback Gardner and good pressure from Myjai Sanders and Darrian Beavers.

Cincinnati's former defensive coordinator Marcus Freeman was on the other sideline, directing Notre Dame's defense, but the Bearcats showed that they're still plenty feisty without him.

"Show them that we're still the same defense whether he's calling the shots or not," defensive lineman Malik Vann said.

Notre Dame: Drew Pyne, who took over last week in the second half against Wisconsin when Jack Coan went out with an ankle injury, came off the bench in the third quarter again for the Irish — this time just to provide a spark.

"He handled the moment great," tight end Mike Mayer said.

Pyne was OK, showing some Ian Book-ish mobility and getting rid of the ball a little more quickly than Coan. The sophomore was 9 for 22 for 143 yards and his 32-yard touchdown pass to Braden Lenzy with 8:20 left in the fourth quarter cut the lead to 17-13. Jonathan Doerer missed the point after.

"Clearly, we can't continue down this road of who's the flavor of the week here," Irish coach Brian Kelly said of his quarterbacks. "We're going to have to sit down and figure this out."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Cincinnati should be knocking on Top-five territory when the new AP poll comes out Sunday. Notre Dame, which finally couldn't overcome its offensive issues, will slip into the teens.

UP NEXT

Cincinnati: Hosts Temple on Friday.

Notre Dame: At Virginia Tech on Saturday.

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

Alaska allows hospitals to ration care amid COVID spike

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) —

Alaska on Saturday activated emergency crisis protocols that allow 20 medical facilities to ration care if needed as the state recorded the nation's worst COVID-19 diagnosis rates in recent days, straining the state's limited health care system.

The declaration covers three facilities that had already announced emergency protocols, including the state's largest hospital, Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. The state's declaration also includes the other two hospitals in Anchorage and facilities across the nation's largest but sparsely populated state.

"Today's action recognizes that Alaska has an interconnected and interdependent health care system, requiring the need for activation of the state's decision-making framework. That framework includes a progression of conventional, contingency and crisis standards," the state health department said in a statement announcing the activation.

"I want to stress that our health care facilities in Alaska remain open and able to care for patients. Alaskans who need medical care should not delay seeking it, even during these difficult times," said Adam Crum, the state's health commissioner.

Factors that led the state to activate the crisis of care standards include scarce medical resources at some facilities, limited staff and difficulty transferring patients because of limited bed availability. Other factors include limited renal replacement therapy and oxygen supplies.

According to data collected by Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, one in every 84 people in Alaska was diagnosed with COVID-19 from Sept. 22 to Sept. 29. The next highest rate was one in every 164 people in West Virginia.

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, which was covered by the state's announcement, on Friday activated its own policy because of a shortage of beds, staff and monoclonal antibody treatments, along with the inability to transfer patients.

"The move to Crisis Standards of Care is not something we take lightly," Fairbanks Chief Medical Officer Dr. Angelique Ramirez said in a statement. "This is in response to a very serious surge of COVID in our community."

The move came the same day the state reported 1,044 new cases, 108 of them in the Fairbanks area. The hospital says 35% of its patients on Saturday were being treated for COVID-19.

Since March 2020, there have been 110,850 total COVID-19 cases in Alaska, which has a population of about 731,000. More than 24,000 new cases were reported in September as the delta variant drove a spike in cases in Alaska, which has never had a statewide mask mandate.

The state health department said in all, 2,432 people have been hospitalized, and 557 Alaska residents have died.

Statewide, 60% of eligible residents are fully vaccinated. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is the third worst region for vaccination rates in Alaska, with just under 52% of eligible residents vaccinated.

Ramirez said the decision to move to crisis standards was because of many factors, including community spread caused by the low vaccination rates and a high number of patients waiting to be admitted.

"This impacts all patient care, those with broken bones, traumas, heart attacks, strokes, COVID, anyone needing medical care," Ramirez said. "The care we are able to provide is highly fluid and can change day by day and even hour by hour depending on the availability of resources within our system and stateside."

Heidi Hedberg, director of the state Division of Public Health, encouraged all residents to wear masks and get vaccinated.

"Every action you take helps prevent COVID-19 from spreading and protects you, your family, other Alaskans and our health care system. No one wants to use crisis standards of care guidelines," she said.

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'Everybody is frustrated,' Biden says as his agenda stalls

By LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Saturday acknowledged frustrations as Democrats strain to rescue a scaled-back version of his \$3.5 trillion government-overhaul plan and salvage a related public works bill after frantic negotiations failed to produce a deal.

"Everybody's frustrated, it's part of being in government, being frustrated," Biden told reporters before leaving the White House for a weekend stay at his home in Wilmington, Delaware. He pledged to "work like hell" to get the two pillars of his domestic agenda passed into law, but refrained from laying out a new deadline.

The president had gone to Capitol Hill on Friday for a private meeting with House Democrats that was partly a morale booster for the disjointed caucus of lawmakers. According to lawmakers in the room, he discussed a \$1.9 trillion to \$2 trillion-plus price tag for the larger package that would expand the country's social safety net.

The White House and its allies in Congress are prepared for protracted negotiations. Biden said he would soon travel around the country to promote the legislation and he acknowledged concerns that the talk in Washington had become too focused on the trillions in new spending and taxes in the bill.

He pledged to do more to educate the public about the plan's new and expanded programs, which he contended have the support of the vast majority of the electorate.

"I'm going to try to sell what I think the American people will buy," Biden said Saturday, adding, "I believe that when the American people are aware of what's in it we'll get it done."

The president said he believed the legislation will be signed into law with "plenty of time to change the tax code for people next year."

It's a pivotal time for Biden and the party. His approval ratings have dropped and Democrats are restless, eager to deliver on his signature campaign promise of rebuilding the country. His ideas go beyond roads-and-bridges infrastructure to delivering dental, vision and hearing care for seniors, free prekindergarten, major efforts to tackle climate change and other investments that would touch countless American lives.

Holdout Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia had dashed hopes for a swift compromise on a framework when he refused to budge late Thursday on his demands for a smaller overall package, about \$1.5 trillion.

Without a broader deal, prospects for a vote on the companion public works bill stalled out as progressives refused to commit until senators reached agreement. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told colleagues that "more time is needed" as they shape the broader package.

The House on Friday night passed a 30-day measure to keep transportation programs running during the stalemate, essentially setting a new deadline for talks, Oct. 31. The Senate approved it without debate during a brief Saturday session, to halt the furloughs of more than 3,500 federal transportation workers, a byproduct of the political impasse. Biden signed it by evening.

Pelosi, keeping her promise to centrists, had insisted earlier Friday that there would be a "vote today" on the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill that is popular but is snared in the debate over Biden's broader measure. But with Democratic progressives refusing to give their support for that slimmer roads-and-bridges bill unless advances were made on the president's big bill, Pelosi was unwilling to call for a vote.

"Out of respect for our colleagues who support the bills and out of recognition for the need for both," Pelosi said in a letter Saturday to House Democrats that she would not bring the smaller measure "to the floor to fail."

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, a key centrist Democrat who helped steer the public works bill to Senate passage but has concerns that Biden's overall bill is too big, was dismayed by the delay on the bipartisan package negotiated with the president.

In a statement Saturday, she said the canceled vote was "inexcusable, and deeply disappointing" and "erodes" the trust needed for "good-faith negotiations."

With Republicans solidly opposed to Biden's sweeping vision, the president and Democrats are reach-

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ing for a giant legislative accomplishment on their own — all to be paid for by rewriting federal balance sheets with tax increases on corporations and the wealthy, those earning more than \$400,000 a year.

The larger of Biden's proposals is a years-in-the-making collection of Democratic priorities with an ultimate price tag he says is zero, because the tax revenue would cover the spending costs.

"We will and must pass both bills soon," Pelosi said in her letter. "We have the responsibility and the opportunity to do so. People are waiting and want results."

The White House and Democrats also are focusing on raising the nation's borrowing limit before the United States risks defaulting on its obligations — a deadline the Treasury Department estimates will be reached no later than Oct. 18. The House has already acted, but Republican senators have indicated they will not provide votes for bipartisan passage and want Democrats to go it alone.

"I hope that the Republicans won't be so irresponsible as to refuse to raise the debt limit and to filibuster the debt limit," Biden said Saturday. "That would be totally unconscionable. Never been done before. And so I hope that won't happen."

Mormon president: Church leaders speak 'pure truth'

By BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints urged members Saturday to listen to the faith's leaders when they seek "pure truth" and expressed gratitude for those who have followed church guidance during the pandemic, which has been to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

President Russell M. Nelson acknowledged at a church conference that the world is "still dealing with the ravages of COVID-19 and its variants." And while he didn't mention vaccines specifically, he thanked members for following the advice of church leaders, medical experts and government officials.

The Utah-based faith has repeatedly encouraged its 16 million members worldwide to limit the spread by getting vaccines and wearing masks.

"Contrary to the doubts of some, there really is such a thing as right and wrong. There really is absolute truth — eternal truth," said Nelson, speaking from inside a mostly empty conference center in Salt Lake City. "One of the plagues of our day is that too few people know where to turn for truth. I can assure you that what you will hear today and tomorrow constitutes pure truth."

The conference is taking place again without full attendance due to the pandemic, but for the first time in two years leaders were back at the faith's 20,000-seat conference center with several hundred people watching in person.

The church's well-known Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square was also back in person. However, it had fewer members than normal to allow for social distancing, and all members had been vaccinated, the church said.

Leaders spoke at the previous three conferences inside a smaller building with no choir and no attendees. Those conferences were the first to take place without full attendance in more than 70 years.

Most members of the faith known widely as the Mormon church are watching speeches during the two-day conference on TVs, computers and tablets from their homes around the world. Before the pandemic, the event would bring about 100,000 people to the church's headquarters to listen to five sessions over two days.

The church push for people to get vaccinated has divided the faith, similar to larger society. Members who support the stance say they fear that some Latter-day Saints who refuse to get vaccinated are allowing their political views to supersede their loyalty to a faith that largely prioritizes unity and obedience. Other church members are upset that their leaders aren't letting them exercise their personal decision-making about vaccines and masks.

About 65% of Latter-day Saints who responded to a survey earlier this year said they were vaccine acceptors, meaning they've gotten at least one dose or plan to soon. Another 15% identified as hesitant, and 19% said they would not get the vaccine, according to the survey this summer from the Public Religion

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Research Institute, a polling organization based in Washington, and Interfaith Youth Core.

The survey found 79% of white Catholics and 56% of white evangelical Protestants identified as vaccine acceptors.

In Utah, where The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is based and members account for nearly two-thirds of the 3.2 million residents, a summer surge of the virus among unvaccinated residents pushed hospitals to near capacity. Cases reached a peak in mid-September before declining over the past few weeks, mirroring national trends. About 65% of Utah residents 12 and older have been fully vaccinated, according to state data.

The pandemic wasn't a central topic in conference speeches Saturday, with most speakers focusing on issues of spiritual guidance. Several speeches were prerecorded by international members of middle-tier leadership panels who couldn't travel to the U.S. due to the pandemic.

In one of those, Erich W. Kopischke of Germany, pleaded with members to better understand mental health issues and avoid being judgmental toward those struggling with such illnesses. He spoke about his son's struggle with panic attacks, anxiety and depression that prevented him from finishing his church mission and caused him to consider suicide.

Kopischke acknowledged that he and his wife worried about what others would think and were disappointed and sad their son couldn't complete a mission. Missions are considered a rite of passage for young adult members of the faith, and coming home early has long caused anguish for young adults and their parents.

"It can be difficult for parents to identify their children's struggles, but we must educate ourselves. How can we know the difference between the difficulties associated with normal development and signs of illness? As parents, we have the sacred charge to help our children navigate life's challenges; however, few of us are mental health specialists," Kopischke said. "We, nevertheless, need to care for our children by helping them learn to be content with their sincere efforts as they strive to meet appropriate expectations."

Ulisses Soares of Brazil, who in 2018 became the first Latin American member of a top governing panel called the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, also encouraged members to be compassionate with others.

"We should never make harsh and cruel judgment of our fellow men and women, because we are all in need of understanding and mercy for our imperfections from our loving Heavenly Father," Soares said.

Bonnie H. Cordon, president of the church's program for young women, told young members to always remember God's love for them. She was one of only three women who spoke during the sessions Saturday.

"Remembering this love can help you push back the confusion of the world that tries to weaken your confidence in your divine identity and blind you of your potential," Cordon said.

Dallin H. Oaks issued a stern reminder for members to attend church regularly. He is the church's second-highest ranking member as a first counselor to Nelson and member of the Quorum of the Twelve.

"If we cease valuing our churches, for any reason, we threaten our personal spiritual life, and significant numbers separating themselves from God reduces his blessings to our nations," Oaks said.

Kentucky rallies past No. 10 Florida 20-13 in SEC showdown

By GARY B. GRAVES AP Sports Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — On the verge of falling further behind No. 10 Florida, Kentucky quickly swung momentum with several gut-check plays and held on for a memorable victory.

Not to mention, an important one for a Wildcats team with expectations of contending.

Trevin Wallace returned a blocked field goal 76 yards for the go-ahead touchdown late in the third quarter, Chris Rodriguez Jr. had a 9-yard scoring run early in the fourth and Kentucky made a final defensive stand to hold off Florida 20-13 on Saturday night.

The Southeastern Conference East Division showdown was more of a slog than a slugfest for much of the night, and the Gators (3-2, 1-2) were poised to add Jace Christmann's 48-yard field goal attempt to their 10-7 lead.

Kentucky defensive end Josh Paschal got a hand on the low kick that sent the ball fluttering behind the

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line to Wallace, who jetted past a tackler on the left sideline and cut back through a small seam to race for the game-changing TD with 6:36 remaining in the third.

"My job is to play like the safety back there in case anything goes wrong," the freshman said. "The ball got tipped and it came right to me. ... I knew what to do when I got the ball. I felt one lineman's hand brush off me and I knew I was gone."

Added Paschal: "They gave me some room for me to get inside and jump and make a big play, and Trevin made a bigger play."

The Wildcats (5-0, 3-0) soon made another to build on their lead.

They turned it over on downs at the Florida 34 to start the fourth quarter but quickly created another opportunity when linebacker J.J. Weaver intercepted Emory Jones' pass for a first down at the Gators 29. That set up Rodriguez's 9-yard TD for a 20-10 cushion with 11:32 remaining.

Florida kept fighting and got within seven on Christmann's 33-yard field goal with 6:23 left before getting the ball again a couple of minutes later and driving to the Kentucky 5. A 4-yard loss on a pass play and false start penalty moved the Gators back to the 14, but they still had a final chance from the 8 before Jacquez Jones swatted away Jones' fourth-down pass with 18 seconds left to seal the win.

Fans stormed the field to celebrate as Kentucky beat Florida at home for the first time since 1986 and took another step toward potentially challenging No. 2 Georgia in the East. The Wildcats are 5-0 for the first time since going 10-3 in 2018 and just the fourth time in the past 70 years.

"Never been a part of a team that had fans storm the field," said Kentucky quarterback Will Levis, a Penn State transfer. "The fans were awesome."

The Wildcats won despite being outgained 382-211, but got a 41-yard TD pass from Levis to Wan'Dale Robinson in the first quarter and 99 yards rushing on 19 carries from Rodriguez.

Eight false starts comprised more than half of Florida's 15 penalties for 115 yards. Jones completed 23 of 31 passes for 203 yards, but the Gators were held way below their average of nearly 541 yards that ranked ninth coming in.

"I mean, you're not going to make all the mistakes we made in the course of a game and expect to win," Florida coach Dan Mullen said. "You're not going to win in the SEC doing that."

BRING THE NOISE

Kentucky's loud, boisterous home crowd of 61,632 appeared to disrupt the Gators' cadence and may have contributed to all those false starts. While Florida players chalked it up to lack of focus, Kentucky coach Mark Stoops was happy with the edge the noise gave his team. Especially at the end.

"There was another false start, and thank you, fans, for affecting the game," he said.

THREE AND OUT

Both teams struggled on third down. Kentucky entered the game converting 54% of its chances but made just 1 of 8 against Florida. The Gators were just 4 of 13 after entering with a 50% conversion rate.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Florida figures to drop a few slots with its second SEC loss. Kentucky made a strong case for joining the rankings for the first time since the 2018 season.

THE TAKEAWAY

Florida: The Gators moved the ball with Jones and Anthony Richardson but couldn't finish other than their first TD. Christmann's 51 yard field goal provided an edge, but the block and interception dug a hole they couldn't climb from. The false starts in a loud environment stalled drives and momentum.

"The main thing that we had to come do is handle the environment," Jones said. "I think we did part of the game, but we just had too many penalties."

Kentucky: The Wildcats really had only one sustained drive over 50 yards and committed yet another turnover that nearly cost them until Paschal and Wallace prevented that from happening with a timely special teams play and TD. Weaver's pickoff proved pivotal in a defensive battle.

UP NEXT

Florida: Hosts Vanderbilt on Saturday.

Kentucky: Hosts LSU on Saturday.

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Chinese warplanes fly toward Taiwan for 2nd straight day

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China flew more than 30 military planes toward Taiwan on Saturday, the second large display of force in as many days.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said 39 aircraft entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone in two sorties, one during the day and one at night. That followed a similar pattern on Friday, when 38 planes flew into the area south of the self-governing island.

China claims Taiwan, which lies off its east coast, as its territory. The two split in 1949 during a civil war in which the Communists took control of mainland China and the rival Nationalists set up a government on Taiwan. The Communist Party marked the 72nd anniversary of its rule on Friday.

Taiwan's premier, Su Tseng-chang, spoke out on Saturday against the first day's flights.

"China has always conducted brutal and barbarian actions to jeopardize regional peace," he said while attending the opening ceremony of a science park in southern Taiwan.

China has been sending military planes into the area south of Taiwan on a frequent basis for more than a year. The 38 and 39 planes on Friday and Saturday were the most in a single day since Taiwan began releasing reports on the flights, Taiwan's Central News Agency said.

The Defense Ministry said 20 planes took part in the daytime flights on Saturday and another 19 at night. It identified most of them as J-17 and SU-30 fighter jets.

Authorities: Body of missing Florida college student found

By KELLI KENNEDY Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Authorities say they have found the body of a missing Florida college student who disappeared a week ago. A maintenance worker who entered her apartment unauthorized the day she disappeared and later killed himself is the prime suspect.

Orange County Sheriff John Mina said Saturday that authorities found Miya Marcano's body in a wooded area near an apartment building. Authorities said the 19-year-old vanished on the same day a maintenance man improperly used a master key to enter her apartment. Her family reported her missing after she missed a flight home to South Florida on Sept. 24.

The sheriff previously said Armando Caballero, a maintenance worker at the apartment complex where Marcano lived and worked, is considered the "prime suspect." Caballero, 27, apparently killed himself; his body was found three days after Marcano was last seen.

Marcano had repeatedly "rebuffed" romantic advances by Caballero. Detectives spoke to Caballero after the Valencia College student was reported missing, but had no evidence to detain him at that time. They obtained a warrant for his arrest after learning he had entered her apartment before she disappeared. His body was then found inside a garage.

Cellphone records from Caballero led them to the apartment complex near where Marcano was found and showed he was there for about 20 minutes the night she was reported missing, Sheriff Mina said. At one point, Caballero also previously lived at that apartment complex.

"Nothing in the records indicate that he ever returned there before he killed himself," he said, adding deputies are not looking for any other suspects.

The FBI and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement were among the hundreds of authorities searching for Marcano. Meanwhile, friends and family held a prayer vigil and passed out flyers desperate to find the missing teen.

"At this time, we cannot identify a cause of death, so I don't want to speculate on that," Mina said of Marcano's death during a news conference Saturday.

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Mina says they notified her parents just hours ago, adding "our hearts are broken."

"Everyone wanted this outcome to be different," he said. "As a sheriff, as a father, obviously we are grieving at the loss of Miya."

Caballero's criminal history revealed one prior arrest in 2013 for using a destructive device resulting in property damage and discharging a weapon on school property, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

An arrest report said Polk County sheriff's deputies were called to the campus of Warner University after a report of a bomb going off inside a dorm. The explosive turned out to be a toilet bowl cleaner concoction inside a plastic drink bottle. The report said Caballero admitted to using the improvised explosive as a "prank" on other residents of the dorm. No one was injured.

The apartment complex where Marcano and Caballero worked, Arden Villa, released a statement saying "all potential employees are vetted through a national background check services provider," and no records of burglary or sexual assault were found involving Caballero.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of 2021. There are 89 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 3, 1974, Frank Robinson was named major league baseball's first Black manager as he was placed in charge of the Cleveland Indians.

On this date:

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again."

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. Army troops cracked the Siegfried Line north of Aachen, Germany.

In 1955, "Captain Kangaroo" and "The Mickey Mouse Club" premiered on C-B-S and A-B-C, respectively.

In 1967, folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie, the Dust Bowl Troubadour best known for "This Land Is Your Land," died in New York of complications from Huntington's disease; he was 55.

In 1970, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was established under the Department of Commerce.

In 1981, Irish nationalists at the Maze Prison near Belfast, Northern Ireland, ended seven months of hunger strikes that had claimed 10 lives.

In 1991, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton entered the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman (however, Simpson was later found liable for damages in a civil trial).

In 2001, the Senate approved an agreement normalizing trade between the United States and Vietnam.

In 2003, a tiger attacked magician Roy Horn of duo "Siegfried & Roy" during a performance in Las Vegas, leaving the superstar illusionist in critical condition on his 59th birthday.

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was granted parole in July 2017 and released from prison in October of that year.)

Ten years ago: An Italian appeals court freed Amanda Knox of Seattle after four years in prison, tossing murder convictions against Knox and an ex-boyfriend in the stabbing of their British roommate, Meredith Kercher.

Five years ago: The United States suspended diplomatic contacts with Russia over failed efforts to end the war in Syria while President Vladimir Putin put on hold a deal with the U.S. on disposing weapons-grade plutonium.

One year ago: White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said some of President Donald Trump's vital

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signs the previous day had been "very concerning," and that he faced a "critical" next two days in his fight against COVID-19 at a military hospital; doctors said Trump was fever-free and not having difficulty breathing. The coronavirus reached further into Republican ranks, forcing the Senate to call off lawmaking as a third GOP senator – Ron Johnson of Wisconsin -- tested positive for COVID-19. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie tweeted that he had checked into a hospital, hours after announcing that he had tested positive for the coronavirus. Swiss Skydiver became the sixth filly to win the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, beating Kentucky Derby winner Authentic by a neck; the race, run without fans because of the coronavirus, was rescheduled from May to October as the traditional second jewel in the Triple Crown was run last.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Steve Reich is 85. Rock and roll star Chubby Checker is 80. Actor Alan Rachins is 79. Former Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., is 78. Singer Lindsey Buckingham is 72. Jazz musician Ronnie Laws is 71. Blues singer Keb' Mo' is 70. Former astronaut Kathryn Sullivan is 70. Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield is 70. Baseball Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley is 67. Civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton is 67. Actor Hart Bochner is 65. Actor Peter Frechette is 65. World Golf Hall of Famer Fred Couples is 62. Actor-comedian Greg Proops is 62. Actor Jack Wagner is 62. Actor/musician Marcus Giamatti is 60. Rock musician Tommy Lee is 59. Actor Clive Owen is 57. Actor Janel Moloney is 52. Singer Gwen Stefani (No Doubt) is 52. Pop singer Kevin Richardson is 50. Rock singer G. Love is 49. Actor Keiko Agena is 48. Actor Neve Campbell is 48. Actor Lena Headey is 48. Singer India.Arie is 46. Rapper Talib Kweli is 46. Actor Alanna Ubach is 46. Actor Seann (cq) William Scott is 45. Actor Shannyn Sossamon is 43. Rock musician Josh Klinghoffer (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 42. Actor Seth Gabel is 40. Rock musician Mark King (Hinder) is 39. Actor Erik Von Detten is 39. Actor Tessa Thompson is 38. Country singer Drake White is 38. Actor Meagan Holder is 37. Actor Christopher Marquette is 37. Actor-singer Ashlee Simpson is 37. Rapper A\$AP Rocky is 33. Actor Alicia Vikander is 33. Actor Noah Schnapp (TV: "Stranger Things") is 17.