

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Upcoming Events

### Monday, Oct. 25

Oral Interp at Brookings Invitational  
Volleyball hosts Deuel (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)

### Tuesday, Oct. 26

ASVAB Testing at GHS, 8:30 a.m. to Noon  
Volleyball at Redfield (JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity)

### Thursday, Oct. 28

All State Chorus & Orchestra at Rapid City Civic Center

### Friday, Oct. 29

All State Chorus & Orchestra at Rapid City Civic Center  
Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Methodist Church Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Saturday, Oct. 30

All State Chorus & Orchestra at Rapid City Civic Center  
Pumpkinstakes Oral Interp at Watertown

**Starting TODAY, you must dial the area code for all calls. This change supports 988 as the new 3-digit code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.**

## **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 24, 2021

United Nations Day

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Sunday School - after children's sermon 11:00 AM

### Monday, October 25, 2021

PEO - outside group 7:30 PM

### Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM

### Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM

Confirmation Snack Time 3:30 PM

Confirmation 4:00 PM

Charge Conference w/meal being served 5:30 PM

UMYF 7:00 PM

### Friday, October 29, 2021

Trunk or Treat in church parking lot 5:30 PM

### Sunday, October 31, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School - Practice Songs 10:40 AM

Groton Worship - SS Sings and then leave after

children's sermon for Sunday School Lesson 11AM

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

### Sunday, Oct. 24

9am Worship

10:15 Sunday School

Milestones Jr. K & Kind.

### Monday, Oct. 25

6:30am Bible Study

### Wednesday, Oct. 27

6pm Confirmation

7th & 8th grade

7:30pm Conf. 9th grade

### Sunday, Oct. 31

10:30am Worship w/Communion

Confirmation Day

NO Sunday School

Milestones Freshmen

## 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. 24

8 a.m.: Bible Study

9 a.m.: St. John's

11 a.m.: Zion

9:45 a.m.: Sunday School

### Wednesday, Oct. 27

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

### Sunday, Oct. 31

8 a.m.: Bible Study

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](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)

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## Northern State Responds for Road Win at Concordia-St. Paul

St. Paul, Minn. – The Northern State University football team rallied with 28 points in the second half of Saturday afternoon's contest to beat Concordia-St. Paul. The Wolves recorded their first defensive touchdown of the 2021 season and Hunter Trautman broke the career passing touchdowns record in the contest.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 38, CSP 17

Records: NSU 6-2 (2-1 North), CSP 1-7 (0-3 North)

Attendance: 1393

### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Payton Eue and the Wolves notched the first points of the contest on a 34-yard field goal with 9:26 left in the first
- Concordia-St. Paul responded with back-to-back touchdowns in the first and second, taking a 14-3 lead over the Northern
- Hunter Trautman hit Dewaylon Ingram with 4:22 left in the second on a 3-yard pass, which brought the Wolves within five and gave Trautman the career record mentioned above
- The Golden Bears closed out the first half scoring, extending their lead to 17-10 with a 23-yard field goal
- It was all Northern State in the second half, as the Wolves rallied back with 28 straight points
- Trautman connected with Jacob Streit for a 21-yard touchdown pass, tying the game at 17-all in the third
- Donovan Lucas notched the team's first defense points of the season on a 22-yard pick-6 at the 9:40 mark and Ingram grabbed the final touchdown of the third for the Wolves on a 43-yard reception
- Wyatt Block closed out the game with his first career touchdown, a 2-yard reception with 8:50 left in the fourth
- Northern tallied 21 first downs and 120 yards rushing, while leading the game offensively with 282 passing yards and 402 yards of total offense
- They averaged a game high 4.4 yards per rush and 14.8 yards per completion
- The Wolves converted on 5-of-10 third downs and their lone fourth down attempt; a 57-yard passing completion by Eue to Brett Brenton
- Defensively, NSU recorded three sacks and one interception, and held CSP to 7-of-18 on third down
- On special teams, the Wolves tallied a game high 111 kick return yards and 26 punt return yards

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Hunter Trautman: 18-of-31, 225 yards passing, 3 touchdowns, 31 yards rushing
- Brett Brenton: 36 yards rushing, 57 yards receiving
- Dewaylon Ingram: 87 yards receiving, 2 touchdowns
- Chance Olson: 12 tackles, 2 break-ups
- Nate Robinson: 8 tackles, 1.0 sack for a loss of 11 yards
- Donovan Lucas: 6 tackles, 1.5 tackles for a loss, 1 interception, 22-yard pick-6
- Payton Eue: 5-for-5 PAT, 1 field goal (34-yards), 33.5 yards per punt, 57.3 yards per kickoff, 57 yards passing
- Vance Barnes: 111 kick return yards, 74-yard long

### BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

- Senior quarterback Hunter Trautman became the Northern State career leader for passing touchdowns in the win, finishing the contest with 74 total
- Trautman surpassed Jared Jacobson (2011-14) who held the record of 71 passing touchdowns previously

### UP NEXT

Northern State remains on the road next Saturday versus MSU Moorhead. The Wolves and Dragons will kick-off at 12 p.m. in the 58th meeting all-time between the two teams.





## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



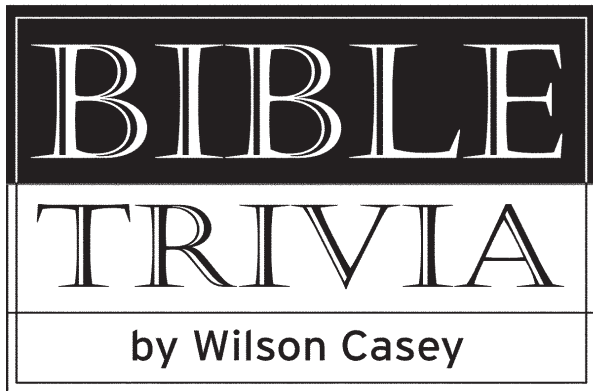
*Now in the fourth watch of the night  
Jesus went to them, walking on the  
sea. And when the disciples saw  
Him walking on the sea, they were  
troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!"  
And they cried out for fear.  
But immediately Jesus spoke to  
them, saying, "Be of good cheer!  
It is I; do not be afraid."*

🌀 MATTHEW 14: 25-27 🌀

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

2. Which woman was chosen to be queen through a beauty pageant, destined to reign for the rest of her life? *Bathsheba, Tahpenes, Jezebel, Esther*

3. From Romans 16, Paul described what devout woman as "our sister"? *Rachel, Deborah, Martha, Phoebe*

4. Where was the longest epistle of Paul sent? *Rome, Joppa, Gibeon, Nazareth*

5. In Genesis 3:4, who/what told the first lie? *Adam, Eve, Serpent, Cain*

6. From Acts 8, Candace was Queen of the ...? *Israelites, Ethiopians, Gadites, Ephesians*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Esther (2:2-18); 3) Phoebe; 4) Rome; 5) Serpent; 6) Ethiopians

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

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## Frontier Beef Stew

Nothing says "home is where the heart is" better than a satisfying bowl of savory stew -- especially when it's made in minutes instead of hours! Why don't you stir up a pot of this, and see if your family doesn't agree?

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup uncooked instant rice
- 1 (12-ounce) jar fat-free beef gravy
- 1 cup water
- 1 (15-ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 cups diced cooked lean roast beef
- 1 1/2 cups frozen peas
- 1 (8-ounce) can diced carrots, rinsed and drained

1. In a large saucepan, combine onion, uncooked rice, beef gravy and water. Bring mixture to a boil. Stir in undrained tomatoes and Worcestershire sauce. Add beef, peas and carrots. Mix well to combine.

2. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 6 (1 cup) servings.

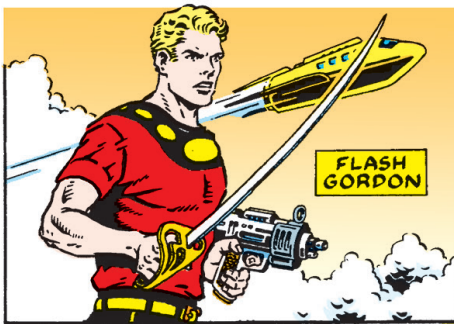
TIP: If you don't have leftover roast beef, purchase a chunk of cooked lean roast beef from your local deli, and dice when ready to prepare stew.

\* Each serving equals: 221 calories, 5g fat, 21g protein, 766mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 Starch, 1 Vegetable.

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## FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

10-17

AS FLASH'S ROCKET SHIP APPROACHES FRIGIA, REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE CITY ARE MET WITH SILENCE.

STILL NO RESPONSE. LET'S SET DOWN AND INVESTIGATE.

UPON LANDING, THE THREE EARTHBOEN ADVENTURERS CAUTIOUSLY APPROACH THE PALACE.

WHERE IS EVERYONE?

BY THE LOOKS OF THAT OPENING, IT APPEARS THEY HAD SOME UNWELCOME COMPANY.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS HIT BY A BATTERING RAM. WHATEVER DID THIS HAD TO HAVE INCREDIBLE STRENGTH.

ZARKOV, STAY CLOSE.

CHANCES ARE WHATEVER WE'RE DEALING WITH IS STILL IN THE AREA.

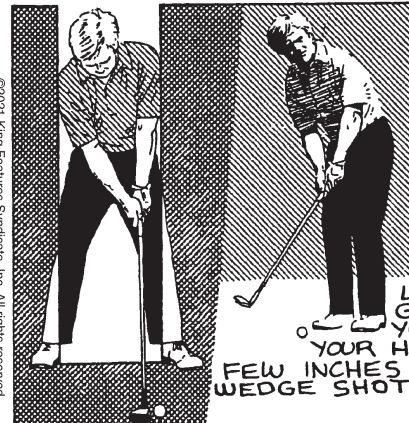
RAAAAAHR!

CONT'D

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

**G**OOD FOOTWORK BEGINS AT ADDRESS.

SET YOUR FEET WIDE ENOUGH APART TO GIVE YOU STABILITY AND GOOD TRACTION, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH TOGETHER TO ALLOW YOU TO TURN EASILY AWAY FROM AND BACK THROUGH THE BALL.



YOU'LL ACHIEVE THAT MEDIUM BY SETTING THE INSIDES OF YOUR HEELS ABOUT SHOULDER-WIDTH APART FOR YOUR LONGEST CLUBS. THEN, AS THE CLUBS SHORTEN, REQUIRING LESS BODY MOTION, GRADUALLY NARROW YOUR STANCE UNTIL YOUR HEELS ARE ONLY A FEW INCHES APART FOR SHORT WEDGE SHOTS.





## Choosing Not to Treat Prostate Cancer

---  
DEAR DR. ROACH: Every year, I used to get a physical, which included a prostate exam as well as blood tests with PSA. When my doctor retired, I had a hard time finding a new one I liked. It has been three or four years since my prostate was checked, but my new doctor doesn't do the prostate exams (I am 63). He says that recent studies do not recommend them, and I have seen news reports about the unreliability of the PSA test. How do you find out if you have prostate cancer if you don't look for it? My brother-in-law found out he had it at 52, and it was successfully treated. I don't really want to wait until I am showing symptoms, and there is no history in my direct family. What do you think about this? -- T.D.

ANSWER: Prostate cancer isn't really one disease. It can be very aggressive -- both with local invasion and spreading to bones quickly -- but it also can be very indolent, hardly growing at all over years. Yearly prostate cancer screening with PSA is more likely to find the slower-growing cancers, since they are around for a long time. The goal of screening is to find aggressive cancers, the fast-growing ones that can go from undetectable to too-late-to-do-anything-about in a very short time.

But a downside is that screening may lead to unnecessary treatment of the more-indolent cancers, most of which can be carefully monitored and will not need surgery or radiation, at least not for years.

If a man elects to undergo prostate cancer screening, he should understand the benefits (finding prostate cancer early enough it can be cured) and the risks (treatment for prostate cancer causes complications frequently; these can include incontinence and loss of sexual function). Not treating low-risk prostate cancer reduces the risks.

Low-risk prostate cancer is defined by a PSA below 10, a very small or non-detectable tumor by palpation or imaging and a low Gleason score, which is based on how the tissue looks to the pathologist. Six or less is low risk. Most men in this situation do not need immediate treatment. Some men have difficulty NOT treating cancer, but treatment does not appear to improve the already good prognosis. Choosing not to treat is hard for some men.

\*\*\*

DR. ROACH WRITES: I received a lot of mail from readers about a column in which a reader described realistic hallucinations upon awakening. I was concerned about Lewy body disease, a form of dementia with prominent visual hallucinations. The most common condition readers were concerned about was Charles Bonnet syndrome, a type of visual hallucination found in people with vision loss. It's not well known, so I was surprised that so many people wrote to me about it, particularly when the original letter didn't say anything about vision loss.

The answer, as diagnosed by my reader's neurologist, turned out to be hypnopompic hallucinations (hypnagogic hallucinations are a similar issue, but these occur upon falling asleep). M.O., a sleep technician, and P.W. from California wrote to me with the same diagnosis. These can occur in sleep apnea, which several people wrote about, and several said treatment stopped these hallucinations. They can also be associated with neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome and narcolepsy.

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



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**Hypnotic** — Finding a good therapist is hard enough without worrying whether he's going to use hypnosis not to delve into regressed childhood memories to finally put them to rest and help you gain emotional stability, but instead to gain total control over your mind and actions and even cause some wickedly evil hallucinations, all by the mere utterance of a key word said over the phone while you're just trying to drive to work and have a normal day. But that's exactly what the psycho hot therapist does in this Netflix original thriller, which stars horror film veteran Kate Siegel and Jason O'Mara. (Netflix)

**Maradona: Blessed Dream** — Argentina's Diego Maradona was one of the greatest soccer players of all time, named one of two winners of the FIFA Player of the 20th Century. This 10-part series covers his family life in the Argentine barrio and his early rise to athletic stardom, as well as the various controversies that arose during his athletic career (some of which are still coming to light even after his death in 2020). Three actors play Maradona at different ages: Nicolas Goldschmidt, Nazareno Casero and Juan Palomino. Incredibly, the series will be released worldwide, streaming in 240 countries and territories, in several languages. Premieres Oct. 29. (Prime Video)

**The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It** (R)— If you're keeping up with the Conjuring Universe, this is the eighth installment in the supernatural horror series. The story is based on an actual 1981 murder trial and the subsequent book about it, "The Devil in Connecticut," a case that was the first American trial to claim demonic possession as a defense. There's

witchcraft, body-jumping demons, murder and more! This movie is not for the faint of heart. Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson once again star as paranormal investigators Lorraine and Ed Warren playing characters from "The Conjuring" and "The Conjuring 2." (HBOMax)

**Swagger** — Examining the increasingly competitive world of youth basketball, "Swagger" is the brainchild of NBA legend Kevin Durant and is based on his own experiences growing up. The scripted original series tells stories at the intersection of ambition, skill and opportunity from multiple viewpoints, including the young players, their families and coaches. If you liked "Friday Night Lights," give this series a shot. The first three episodes drop Oct. 29, followed by seven weekly episodes. (AppleTV+)



Netflix

## Scene from "Hypnotic"

**Celebrity Exorcism** — It's always fun to watch other people get scared out of their wits from the comfort of our safe, cozy couches. From FOX Alternative Entertainment comes this one-off, scary holiday special playing with the paranormal. Famed exorcist Rachel Stavis guides celebrities Shar Jackson, Jodie Sweetin and Metta World Peace through an attempt to exorcise an as-yet unnamed haunted location in Los Angeles after first putting them through exorcism bootcamp. The unscripted two-hour show is part of FOX's "Terror on Tubi," a collection horror and Halloween programs running through the end October on the free-to-stream channel. (Tubi)

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1968 in a seven-minute version by Irish actor Richard Harris as his debut venture into pop music.

3. "Yesterday and Today," 1966. Known as "the butcher cover," it was covered with a boring shot of the Beatles and a steamer trunk.

4. Frank Sinatra.

5. "Two Hearts," by Phil Collins in 1988. The song charted in 19 countries and was used in the soundtrack of the film "Buster" and even snagged a Grammy in 1989.

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1. "I Feel the Earth Move" was the front of a double a-side single. What was on the other side?

2. Where is MacArthur Park, from the Jimmy Webb song of that name?

3. Which Beatles album cover had a new picture pasted over it to cover up the image of mutilated dolls and raw beef?

4. Which singer was known as Ol' Blue Eyes?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: Well, there was no reason to believe she'd always be there."

## Answers

1. "It's Too Late," by Carole King, in 1971. This side took the Grammy for Record of the Year in 1972.

2. Los Angeles. It's a city park named after Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The song was first recorded in

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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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

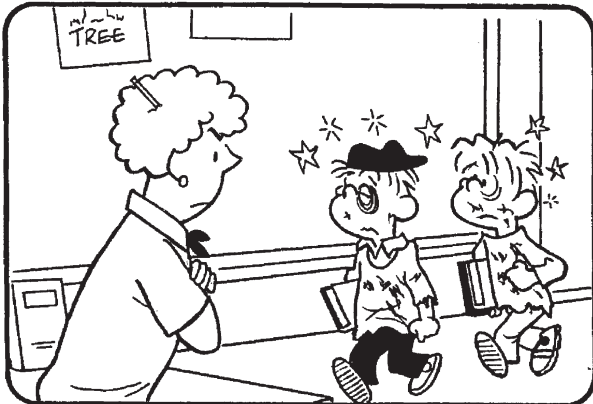


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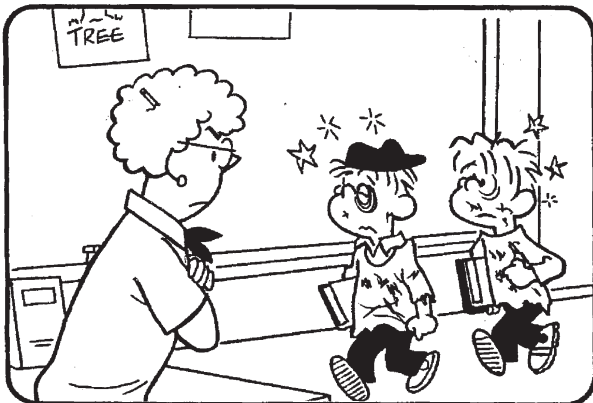
"We're on the intelligence committee, right?"

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Star is missing. 2. Pencil is shorter. 3. Eraser is added. 4. Glasses are added. 5. Bow is larger. 6. Pants are different.





• “Need a new look for a favorite sweater? Change out your buttons. It’s such a small thing, but makes a big change in look!” — *E.L. in Massachusetts*

• Instead of using costly brass polish, try a little lemon juice and salt. Another brass polish you probably have right now is ketchup. Apply a thin layer and buff off with a soft rag.

• Experts say to always crack your egg on a flat surface, rather than using the edge of a counter or bowl. More egg-tastic advice is to crack eggs into a small bowl instead of directly into ingredients. If you have a sneaky “bad egg” in your dozen, it’s better to find out before you ruin your baking.

• “I love to search for recipes online, and I have learned to pay attention to the comments section. You’ll find a lot of explanation and frequently a tweak

that many people have found successful. Comments have saved me from oversalting a dish, as well as making necessary adjustments in temperature and cooking time. I have found complicated techniques broken down in ways that were helpful. It pays to check out the comments!” — *W.G. in Missouri*

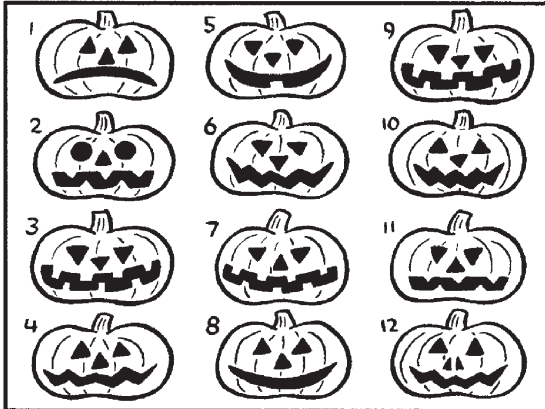
• Attention salad eaters: Got a thick dressing that’s high in fat? Rinse lettuce before dressing your salad. Wet or moist lettuce traps less dressing. If your dressing is light, give salad greens an extra spin. Drier lettuce holds on to dressing, making lightly dressed salad more flavorful.

• Another great use for baking soda: Add a cup or two to your toilet bowl. Swish and let sit for 1-2 hours. Flush for odor control and shine.

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

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**A PAIR OF PUMPKIN HEADS!** Two of the above pumpkins are exactly alike. You have one minute to pick them out.   
 Numbers 3 and 9

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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

**FRIGHT TIME!**

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Illustrated by David Coulson

Hidden in the diagram above are 19 words associated with Halloween. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words you're looking for:

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Apples  | Ghost   | Screams |
| Bats    | Goblin  | Spiders |
| Broom   | Haunted | Treat   |
| Candle  | Mummy   | Trick   |
| Candy   | Pumpkin | Warlock |
| Costume | Scary   | Witch   |
|         | Fright  |         |



**A PUMPKIN PURCHASE!** Using 100 coins from his piggy bank, Jimmy bought a great Halloween pumpkin for \$5. None of the coins were nickels. How many of each type of coin did he give the farmer?   
 Sixty pennies, 39 dimes and 1 half-dollar.

**BOO TIME!** Fill in the two grids, using the clues below. You'll see that the same letters are used in each pair.

		T							
		R							
		I							
		C							
		K							

OR

		T							
		R							
		E							
		A							
		T							

- To change.
- Groups of cattle.
- Corrects spelling.
- A neck scarf.
- Small children.

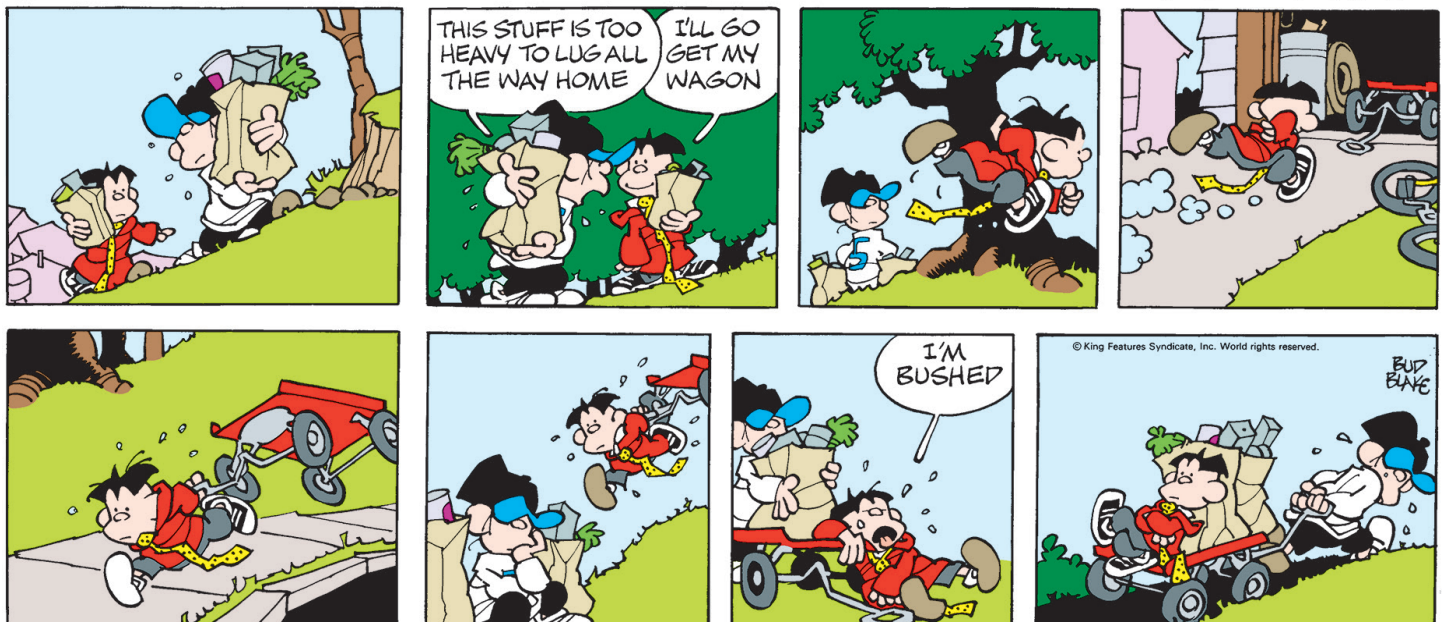
- In the future.
- To cut or tear.
- Eating systems.
- The seashore.
- Flying toys.

1. Alter-later, 2. Herds-Shred, 3. Edits-diers, 4. Ascot-coast, 5. Takes-kites.



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Tibetan monk
- 5 Triumphed
- 8 Used car sites
- 12 Trojan War hero
- 13 Lincoln nickname
- 14 Taj Mahal city
- 15 TV fare for a night owl
- 17 Gusto
- 18 Gallery display
- 19 "The Raven" writer
- 20 "No way!"
- 21 Sign before Virgo
- 22 "Now, where — I?"

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			

- 23 Vivaldi's output
- 26 Reveal
- 30 Dating from
- 31 Embrace
- 32 Salty septet
- 33 "Citizen Kane" sled
- 35 Train tracks
- 36 Observe
- 37 "Ray Donovan" actor Voight
- 38 Dish
- 41 Pirate's drink
- 42 Expert
- 45 San —, Italy
- 46 Single payments

- 48 Borodin's "Prince —"
- 49 "Uh-huh"
- 50 Perched on
- 51 Like slasher films
- 52 Mag. staff
- 53 Shetland, for one

### DOWN

- 1 In — land
- 2 Slightly open
- 3 Damon of Hollywood
- 4 Chopper
- 5 "Yippee!"
- 6 Bassoon's kin
- 7 Just out

- 8 Revolving server
- 9 Curved molding
- 10 Serving aid
- 11 Auction
- 16 Detail, briefly
- 20 Dallas hoopster, briefly
- 21 Biography
- 22 Peruke
- 23 Scratch
- 24 Mil. morale booster
- 25 "Mayday!"
- 26 Lemon
- 27 Wahine's gift
- 28 Guy's date
- 29 Curvy letter

- 31 Coloration
- 34 Spell-off
- 35 Cavort
- 37 Checker moves
- 38 Bluenose
- 39 Toy block name
- 40 Cupid's specialty
- 41 Regretted
- 42 Car
- 43 "Let's go!"
- 44 Glimpse
- 46 Caustic solution
- 47 Potential syrup



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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

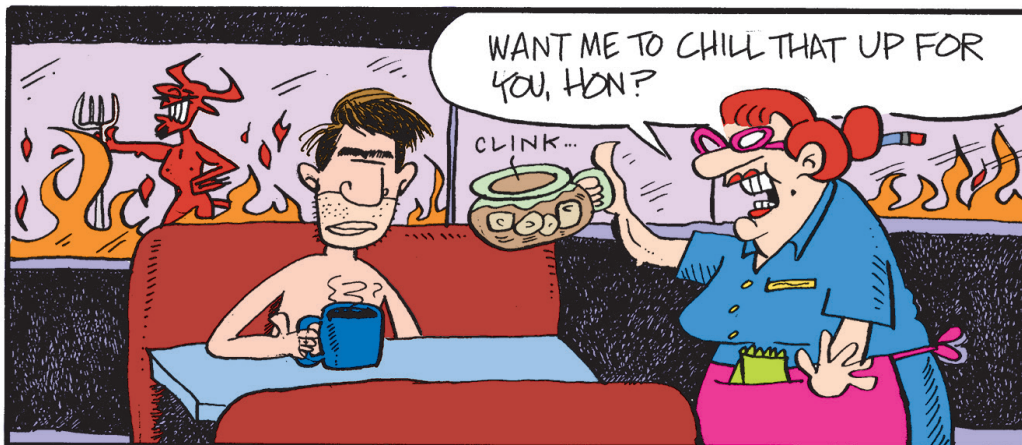
L	A	M	A		W	O	N		L	O	T	S
A	J	A	X		A	B	E		A	G	R	A
L	A	T	E	S	H	O	W		Z	E	A	L
A	R	T		P	O	E			M	Y	E	E
			L	E	O		W	A	S			
M	U	S	I	C		D	I	V	U	L	G	E
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## LAFF - A - DAY



"Toys don't last as long as they used to...  
thank goodness!"

## Out on a Limb



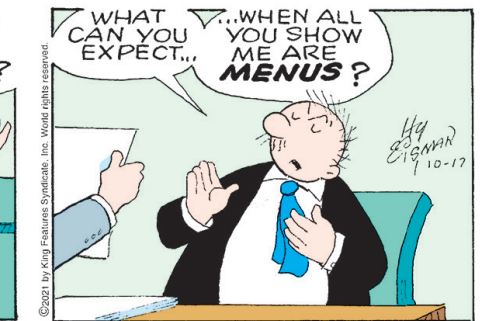
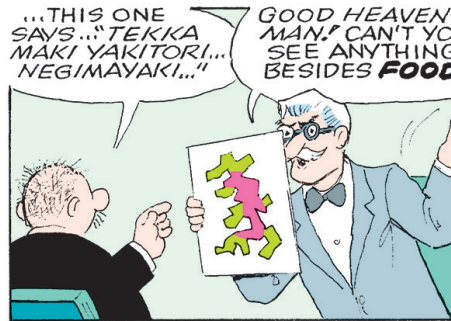
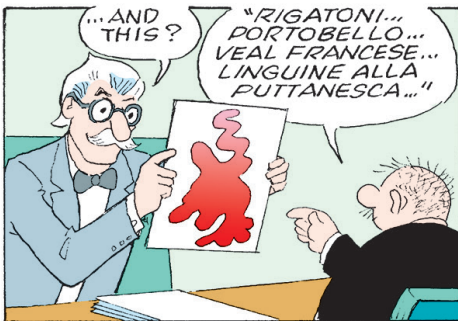
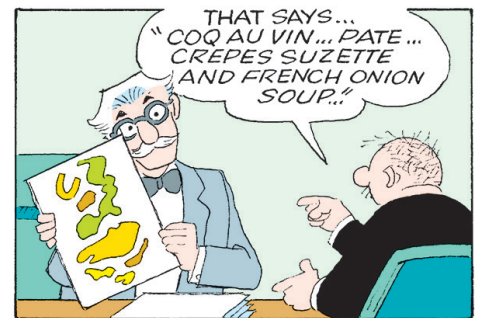
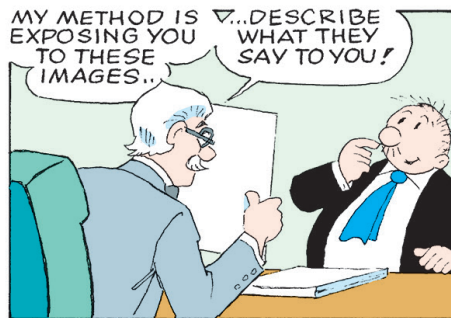
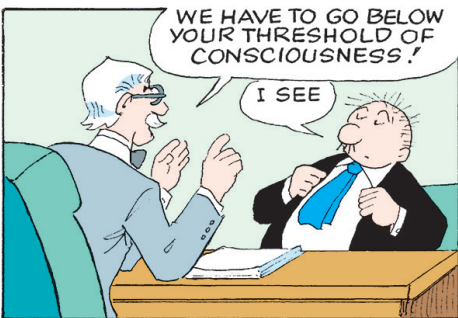
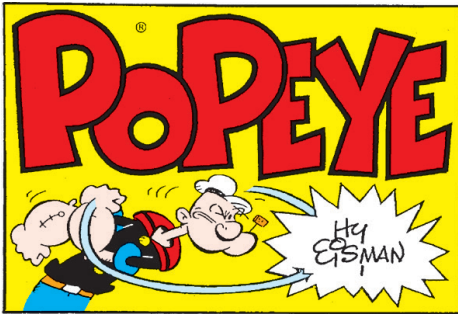
by Gary Kopervas

HELL'S  
COFFEE  
SHOP

KOPERVAS

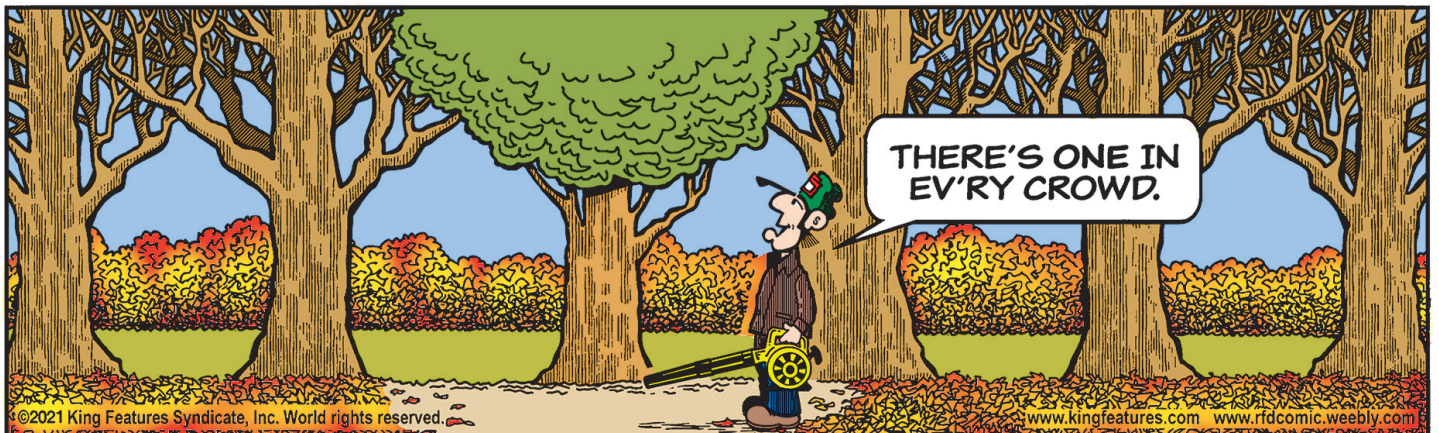
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland





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W. FOSTERS  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ



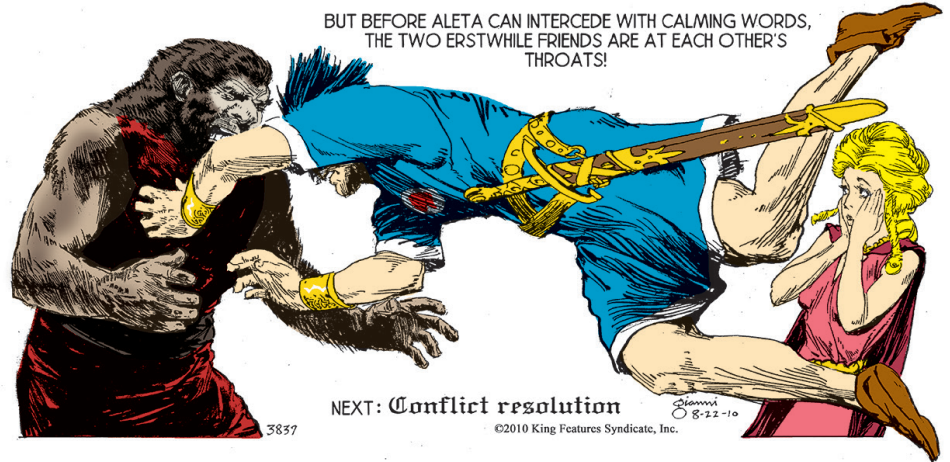
AS THEY JOURNEY HOME, VAL'S COMPANY TRIES TO ADJUST TO THE EFFECTS OF THE REJUVENATION ELIXIR. GAWAIN, NOT SURPRISINGLY, IS MOST PRONE TO CHILDISH HI-JINKS. IG, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS GROWN SURLY.



"BAH! I AM SICK OF THIS PRATTLE ABOUT EXTENDING YOUR LIVES! YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT LIVING OUT YOUR DAYS WITH HONOR!"



VAL FAILS TO KEEP HIS RESURGENCE OF YOUTHFUL MALE AGGRESSION UNDER CONTROL. "AND I AM SICK OF YOUR GRUMBLING, IG! SHUT UP OR I'LL BASH YOU BUT GOOD!"



BUT BEFORE ALETA CAN INTERCEDE WITH CALMING WORDS, THE TWO ERSTWHILE FRIENDS ARE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS!

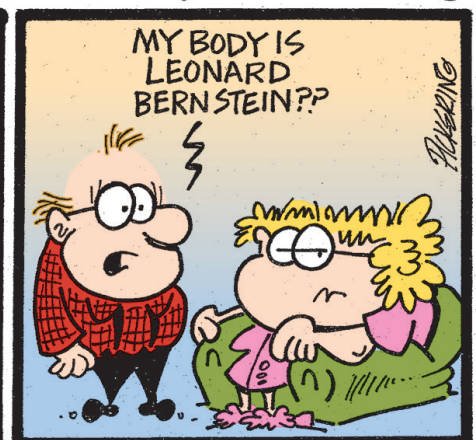
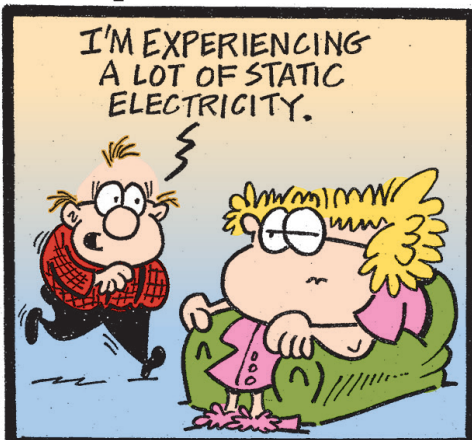
NEXT: Conflict resolution

Gianni  
8-22-10

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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Turkey or Ham?

What is Thanksgiving going to look like this year? That's a big question, and many of us don't have the answers yet.

Part of it depends on whether we're still the ones cooking the turkey or whether that particular baton was passed years ago.

Part of it depends on whether we're close enough to relatives that they can drive over or whether somebody would be required to board a plane.

Part of it depends on whether anyone present has a pre-existing condition that would make getting COVID especially risky.

I've done an informal poll of those around me and scattered across the country. One person has flatly stated that his family will all be present with the triple garage turned into a big dining room. Another said it will be a repeat of last year with everyone in their own home with online meet-

ing software running during dinner. Another is delivering a turkey dinner to her mother. Yet another is taking his parents out to a fancy buffet.

Some say it all depends on whether everyone in the group has been vaccinated. Some don't want to take the shot. Many refuse to be around those who didn't take the shot. A few are leery of small children who aren't eligible for the shot, but who are in school with others whose parents might or might not have gotten vaccinated. Or maybe there's a teen who's been released from home prison, as they're calling it, and might or might not have been socially distancing from pals or wearing a mask, which might or might not work anyway. Then there's the wee matter of breathing used air on planes and whether we're sitting next to someone who sneaks off his mask when the stewardesses aren't looking.

It gets complicated, this business of calculating how to handle Thanksgiving. The biggest debate used to be: turkey or ham?

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1. Who holds the NHL career record for major fighting penalties with 333?

2. At the 2021 European Beach Handball Championships, what violation caused members of Norway's women's beach handball team to be fined by the European Handball Federation?

3. What is the name of the San Francisco 49ers' gold-miner mascot?

4. In 2006, the sports TV channel known as Outdoor Life Network (OLN) became rebranded as what?

5. Actor Mark Harmon ("NCIS") was the starting quarterback for what college football team from 1973-74?

6. In 1981, what Chicago Cubs infielder dubiously achieved the "anti-Triple Crown" by having the lowest number among qualified batters in average, RBI and home runs?

7. What is the name of the Old Line



by Ryan A. Berenz

State college football rivalry series between the University of Maryland Terrapins and the Navy Midshipmen?

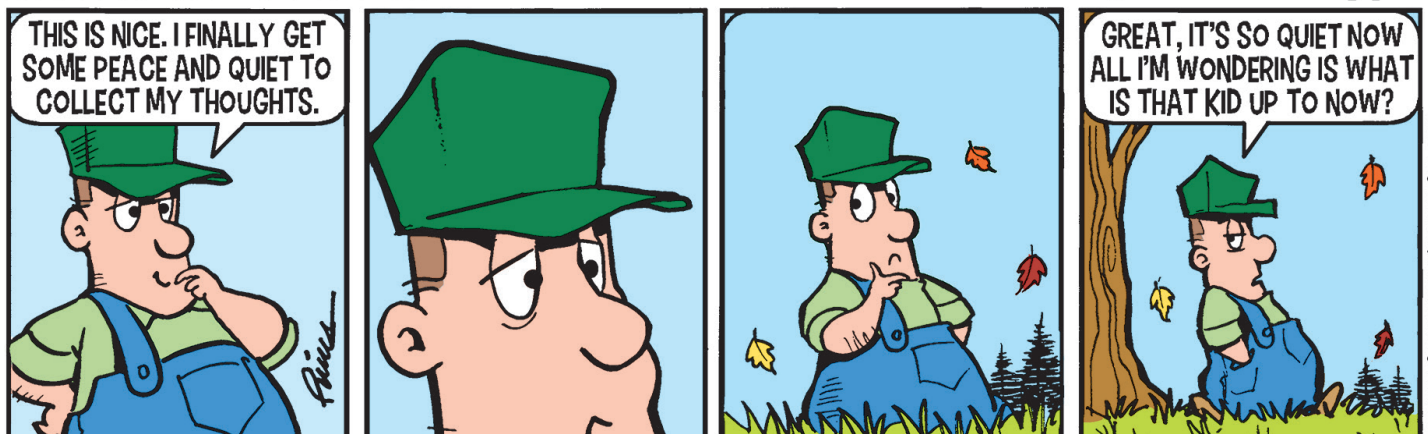
## Answers

1. Tie Domi.
2. Wearing shorts instead of bikini bottoms.
3. Sourdough Sam.
4. Versus.
5. The UCLA Bruins.
6. Ivan DeJesus (.194 BA, 13 RBI, 0 HR).
7. The Crab Bowl Classic.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Keep Halloween Candy Away From Pets

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** Halloween is upon us again, and while the tricks and treats are fun for kids, they can be dangerous for our pets. Please remind your readers that the candies and chocolates in a trick-or-treat bag or sitting by the door are hazardous because many of the ingredients are toxic to dogs and cats. — *Cheryl T., Lansing, Michigan*

**DEAR CHERYL:** You're absolutely right! Dogs especially are at risk from ingesting Halloween candy, but any pet in the house can be at risk from not just these foods but some popular decorations as well.

Chocolate is toxic to dogs. Sugar-free candies can be toxic as well, especially if they contain xylitol. Keep all candy, chocolate and gum out of pets' reach during the festivities.

Afterward, store leftover candy up out of their reach. Make sure children don't hide bags of candy where a pet can get at them, such as under the bed. Help them find a location that they can access but the dog can't.

Decorations may be a hazard as well, not just to your pets but to wildlife. That stretchy material used to create fake spiderwebs outdoors can trap birds and insects. Cats may ingest the strands if they are fascinated with the texture. Avoid burning real candles as they may get knocked over by a pet.

If your pet does get into the candy bowl or eats a decoration, contact the veterinarian right away. They'll advise you whether to bring your pet in right away for treatment, or to watch for signs of illness (such as constant drooling, vomiting, lethargy or changes in personality).

*Send your tips, questions and comments to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).*

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* In Italy, pizza inspectors are hired by the government to ensure that restaurants are making their pizza at "Italian quality."

\* The cables of the Golden Gate Bridge contain a whopping 80,000 miles of steel wire.

\* Ray Bradbury wrote the first draft of "Fahrenheit 451" on coin-operated typewriters in the basement of a library at a cost of 10 cents for every 30 minutes. The first draft cost him a total of \$9.80.

\* The straw was invented by Egyptian brewers to

taste beer without removing the fermenting ingredients that floated on top of the container.

\* James Christopher Harrison is an Australian blood donor whose rare plasma composition has helped in the treatment of Rhesus disease. In May 2018, he made his final donation (1,173rd) at the age of 81 after having saved 2.4 million babies during his lifetime as a donor.

\* No, alcohol doesn't kill brain cells -- it just makes them grow more slowly.

\* In 2009, the Wisconsin Tourism Federation changed its name to the Tourism Federation of Wisconsin because, in the 30 years since its founding, the abbreviation "WTF" took on new meaning.

\* Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a Friday the 13th.

\* Not that you'd ever want to swim in it, but the average person's body produces enough saliva in their lifetime to fill two swimming pools.

\* Plants grow larger and more quickly when watered with warm water.

\* In late 2020, a North Korean gymnast defected to South Korea by vaulting himself over the 3-meter-high border barricades without triggering sensors.

\* Newborn babies cry, but they have no tears. Their tear ducts aren't formed until they are a month old.  
\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it." -- Edith Wharton

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## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### Cybercriminals Have Vets in Their Sights

Veterans are victims of cybercrimes at a much higher rate than civilians. And it's not just veterans, included are military spouses, survivors, active-duty personnel and our families. This is no doubt because of our benefits and the goodies to be had after stealing from us.

To tackle the problem, the Department of Veterans Affairs is stepping in and partnering with outside groups like the Cybercrime Support Network ([cybercrimesupport.org](http://cybercrimesupport.org)), whose motto is Recognize, Report and Recover. It's about time ... over the past five years, veterans have reported cybercrime losses of more than \$420 million.

The CSN's mix of initiatives includes ScamSpotter ([ScamSpotter.org](http://ScamSpotter.org)), with practical consumer advice about how to spot and avoid fraud and scams.

Especially for us is Fight Cybercrime ([fightcybercrime.org/military](http://fightcybercrime.org/military)). Its crime-fighting partners are pretty

impressive, and include the Disabled American Veterans and Army Emergency Relief. Look over the site for a resource library for us, law enforcement and businesses. Interesting topics include how to reduce your risk of ransomware, determining if a text message is fake or real, being safe in online gaming and even a pre-vacation checklist.

A recent Fight Cybercrime webinar touched home for many of us: How to keep your business information safe when you're working from home and sharing your online connection with children. Past webinars are worth watching as well: staying safe on social media, avoiding a scam from a government tax imposter, and COVID scams, which seem to be everywhere.

So, we have the tools. The information and resources are out there. But we need to take advantage of all that's offered to avoid becoming another cybercrime statistic.

One of the biggest problems with cybercrime is that we don't always report it. We're embarrassed because we thought we couldn't be fooled ... until we are. Do your part. If you get scammed, report it.

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



## Unanimous Consent

More than 10,000 bills get introduced in Congress each year. Most of them, even good ones, don't see legislative action. It's even more challenging to pass a bill when you aren't the political party in power. Despite the long odds, I was able to pass an important cattle industry bill out of committee this week.

Since I came to Washington, I've been fighting to implement reforms to the cattle market. For years, our cattle producers have dealt with the ups and down of a volatile market – but beyond price they have struggled to even get a bid.

In 2019, a fire at a packing plant wreaked havoc on the cattle industry. Demand plummeted and along with that went prices. We saw a similar fall out in 2020 during COVID-19 when large processors throughout the country struggled to keep their lines active with ongoing outbreaks. The ongoing crack in the supply chain caused farm-state Members of Congress to demand answers – why could the market be so drastically impacted when one plant goes down?

There are a few reasons for this... For one, there's too much concentration among a few large packing operations, and two, producers are often in the dark about what price they should be getting for their product due to a lack of data.

In July 2020 after years of requests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released the long-awaited Boxed Beef & Fed Cattle Price Spread Investigation Report. The report had several concerning findings. One recommendation to alleviate market vulnerabilities was the creation of a cattle contract library.

I took the advice of producers and USDA and introduced the Cattle Contract Library Act to improve transparency and provide more leverage to cattle producers. This is not a silver bullet and work remains, but it's a step forward we should not waste time pursuing.

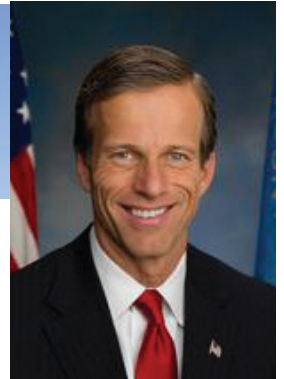
This week – I got one step closer to delivering a long-sought victory for producers. My bill was marked up in the House Agriculture Committee and passed with unanimous support on both sides.

Like I said, getting support for a standalone bill in the Minority isn't easy and it's even harder to get one passed on the House floor. This is the first cattle market transparency bill to pass out of the Democrat-led Agriculture Committee since the July 2020 report was released.

I'm grateful to ranchers for their critical input and for coming to a consensus and I'm glad the committee answered this request. I'm going to fight like hell to get this bill passed out of the House.



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



## Defending Rural America

Democrats in Washington have forgotten about the folks who are putting food on their dinner tables every night. Our farmers and ranchers feed the world, and instead of strengthening the agricultural economy, Democrats are proposing a multi-trillion dollar spending bill that prioritizes coastal elites ahead of rural Americans. And I am deeply concerned by what this tax-and-spending spree will mean for South Dakota producers.

Agriculture is the lifeblood for many South Dakotans. As a longtime member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, standing up for rural America is a top priority for me, which is why I have been sounding the alarm on how detrimental the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree would be for South Dakota farms and ranches. Their policies are so draconian that I'm worried the Democrats' bill could mean the end of some family farms thanks in part to the bill's expansion of the death tax. I've long opposed the death tax, primarily because I don't think death should be a taxable event. I also believe there should be limits on how many times the government can tax the same money.

Farming and ranching operations are often cash-poor. For many farmers and ranchers, their money is often tied up in their land – not the bank. A farmer could have land that is worth a lot of money on paper, but he could still struggle to break even or make ends meet, especially in years with low commodity prices or poor yields. What's worse is that if the same farmer were to die, the ability to pass his operation to the next generation could be hindered by an expanded death tax. If the IRS demands a substantial portion of his estate and most of his money is tied up in the land, there's a good chance that the family will not have enough money in the bank to pay the IRS. As a result, they'll have to start selling off land – the literal foundation of their farming operation. Without the farmland, there's no farm.

It shouldn't need to be said, but the government should not be in the business of shuttering family farms and family businesses. With the Democrats' tax-and-spending spree, a lot of farmers are going to have to start worrying about whether or not they'll be able to hand their farm on to their children or grandchildren – or whether a government tax bill will mean the end of a multi-generational family enterprise. The icing on the cake is that at the same time Democrats are planning to expand a tax that threatens family farms, they're also planning to cut taxes for millionaires in blue states. If that's not an example of misplaced priorities, I'm not sure what is.

I have heard from many farmers and ranchers who are worried that the Democrats' proposed tax policies may threaten their livelihood. It's clear that Democrats' tax-and-spending spree is a bad deal for rural Americans – and for working families around the country. I will continue to do everything I can to protect Americans from the dangers of Democrats' socialist fantasies, including their plan to target our nation's agriculture producers.



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## Jim Soyer: The Heart of a Servant

I lost a good friend last week. Lonnie lost her husband of 37 years and her soulmate. The state of South Dakota lost a legendary public servant.

Jim Soyer always listed truck driver, teacher and newspaperman first on his biography. But, he was also an extremely accomplished, humble public servant – having served as chief of staff and press secretary to the likes of former Governor Bill Janklow and former governor of Wisconsin and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. I worked with Jim while I served in the state legislature, he was my legislative director in the governor's office and, up until the time of his death, he was a member of my U.S. Senate staff.

Jim believed that those private sector jobs held more weight than his public service – because those were jobs “normal people” held - it's what paid the bills. He would always talk about the “producers” and the “consumers”. Speaking from a taxpayer perspective, he often preached that producers paid the government's bills (taxes) and consumers spent the money. The infamous “bleeders and spenders” list was a consolidated list that Jim kept and managed every legislative session. To the chagrin of many legislators, lobbyists and special interests – the “bleeders and spenders” list was Jim's way of tracking all of the taxpayer money that people were trying to spend. Over the years, many of those proposals met their demise – because Jim was looking out for the taxpayer. Jim would say: “normal people” don't have lobbyists so “they need us.”

While Jim would never volunteer it, the last time I counted, he had either written or had significant input in writing 19 State of the State addresses for governors in two different states. It's possible Jim wrote more press releases and messages for governors than any other person in the history of our country.

A man, who by all accounts, rose to the highest ranks of state government – believed in the goodness of people and the greatness of our state. He could have been anything and yet he chose to serve others. Jim never wanted the spotlight, yet his impact on our state was as great as any of the political figures he served under. He loved the work and never had an agenda except making our state better.

In 2005, Northern State University recognized Jim as one of their distinguished alumni. Of course, Jim first mentioned his work as an educator before mention came of his public service. You see, Jim Soyer was at the table when Citibank moved to South Dakota, property taxes were cut, wiring the schools in South Dakota took place and when the state started the Internet Crimes Against Children program. But one of the items I appreciated the most was his ability to tell a story. It was that skill that helped to convince the people of South Dakota to invest in an old goldmine and convert it into the world-class Sanford Underground Research Facility at Homestake. He shared the powerful message of opportunity for young people to participate in this technology or they would leave our state. Jim was at the heart of my legislative team while I was working as governor. Any success we had could be largely attributed to Jim.

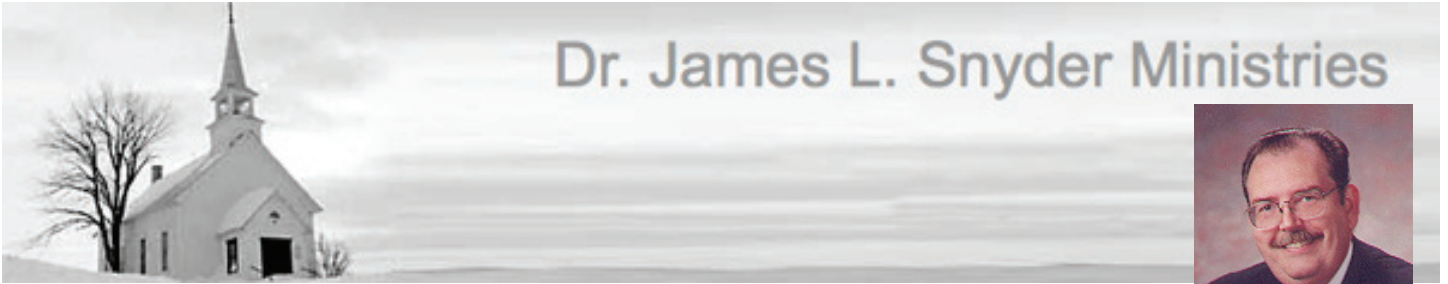
Jim's humility was on full display in 2005. Despite his many professional accomplishments – he told the story of how he believed his role was to “gather, organize, analyze and boil down accurate information so his superiors can make the most well informed decision.”

Frankly, Jim has been with me in public service for the last 30 years. With a lump in my throat, I sadly reflect that this is the first column I've ever written without his input.

I'll miss my friend, Jim Soyer.

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## I Didn't Do It My Way

I don't think I've learned very much during my life. I just bounce from day to day and take what comes.

The one thing I did learn as I look back is, for the most part, I didn't do it my way.

Remember Frank Sinatra and his song, "I Did It My Way?" I would have liked to ask him, how's that been working for you?

Whenever we do everything our way, there is a consequence.

You know what they say that for every action, there is a consequence. By the time the consequence hits you in the face, it's too late to make any changes.

When I ever did something "my way," it never really worked out.

The other day as I was meditating on this, I thought of how smart I was when I was a teenager. I knew everything; all you had to do was ask me. Sometimes you didn't even have to ask. I was ready to give my opinion at any time.

If only I were as smart as I thought I was when I was a teenager, everything would be gloriously wonderful. The problem is, I'm not.

I have learned that I don't have to have everything my way. That was the first thing I learned as a husband. If I get everything my way, somebody in the house is not happy.

As long as I have been with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, she is the only one I know that gets things done her way. Not in a bullying manner, she just seems to know the right thing to do at the right time.

I, on the other hand, cannot even tell time.

Thinking along this line, a memory flashed back. I remember rushing my wife to the hospital to deliver our first baby. I'm not sure who was more nervous, the mother or the expected father.

We got there, and she was escorted back to the delivery room where they would deliver the baby. I paced the lobby, not knowing exactly what I should be doing.

Several hours went by, and I heard nothing concerning the birth of our baby. If I only had my way, I would go back there and see for myself.

Just then, the nurse that took my wife back into the delivery room came out, and I approached her and said, "Can I go and see my wife and baby now?"

After all, I was the father, and I was paying the bill for this baby.

The nurse, who looked like she had just gone through World War II, glared at me and, with a very rough voice, said, "No, you're not going back there. After all, you're the one that's responsible for all of this."

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I did not know what she meant or what she was talking about?

There was not anything I could do but continue waiting. As I sat in the waiting room, I thought, she ought to be very, very, very glad that I was not doing it my way. My way would have been very nasty and ugly for her.

I let that nurse do it her way because she was not significant in my life. For me to let her have it her way did not in any way harm me. I just had to wait a little longer.

Finally, I had the opportunity to go back and see my wife and our first baby. That took away all my memories, at the time, of that nasty nurse who wanted to do everything her way.

I was glad I didn't do it my way.

On many occasions, I have wanted to give people a piece of my mind to do it my way. Unfortunately, I have run out of pieces of mind. For all things considered, it has turned out to be a good thing.

Many times through life, I allowed the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to have it her way. Most of the time, her way was the right way. If I would've stepped in to do it my way, we would be in a lot of trouble today.

There have been some very wonderful times when her way did not work, and if I would have had my way, things might not have turned out better. But I chose the high road and let her have her way.

Only a few times in my life have I been right, and she has been wrong. I choose not to identify those times for various reasons.

Every once in a while, I sit back and think about a few times when I have been right but did not step up to interfere in the situation. That always causes me to chuckle.

The other night I was chuckling as I was thinking of one in particular, which I cannot disclose, when my wife said, "What are you chuckling about?"

"Oh," I said, "I was just thinking about a joke."

"And, what joke was that," she asked?

"Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7, 8, 9."

As I sat back in my chair, a verse of Scripture came to mind. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21).

Some of my happiest times in life are when I'm not doing anything my way. Giving someone else the privilege of doing it their way is a very satisfying thing.



## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What's up with efforts by Native Americans to take back the national parks? -- C. Woodend, Brea, CA

Prior to white settlement, as many as 15 million Indigenous people inhabited what would come to be called the contiguous United States; by the 1890s only about 250,000 remained. Today, roughly five million Native Americans live in the Lower 48, but they control only about two percent of the lands. Recently tribal activists have renewed efforts to remedy this historical misappropriation by demanding that control of the national parks be given back to the tribes.

"The national parks are sometimes called 'America's best idea', and there is much to recommend them," reports Leech Lake Ojibwe tribal member and author David Treuer in a recent op-ed in *The Atlantic*. "But all of them were founded on land that was once ours, and many were created only after we were removed, forcibly, sometimes by an invading army and other times following a treaty we'd signed under duress."

Indeed, Indians were extricated from Yellowstone, Glacier and Yosemite national parks despite their ancestors having lived there for 10,000 years. But what happened in these landmark parks was just the tip of the iceberg, as Indigenous peoples were "robbed" of hundreds of other naturally significant sites from coast to coast as well.

"Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, in Wisconsin, was created out of Ojibwe homelands; the Havasupai lost much of their land when Grand Canyon National Park was established; the creation of Olympic National Park, in Washington prevented Quinault tribal members from exercising their treaty rights within its boundaries; and Everglades National Park was created on Seminole land that the tribe depended on for food," reports Treuer.

Since we live in a time of "historical reconsideration," he says, the national parks should be returned to Native control. "Indians should tend—and protect and preserve—these favored gardens again," he writes, adding that not only would making such a transition be good for tribes, it would also be good for the American people and the parks themselves, which he says have been mismanaged in recent decades and currently face insurmountable federal maintenance and other backlogs.

"All 85 million acres of national-park sites should be turned over to a consortium of federally recognized tribes in the United States," urges Treuer, excepting "a few areas run by the National Park Service, such as the National Mall." The total acreage would be a far cry from the 90 million acres taken from tribes by 1887's General Allotment Act, he maintains, which regulated land rights on tribal lands (and served to further splinter already displaced tribal communities). It would ensure unfettered access to tribal homelands and would go a long way toward restoring the dignity of America's original peoples.

"To be entrusted with the stewardship of America's most precious landscapes would be a deeply meaningful form of restitution," he concludes. "Alongside the feelings of awe that Americans experience while contemplating the god-rock of Yosemite and other places like it, we could take inspiration in having done right by one another."



**Indigenous rights activists are calling on the U.S. to return control of Yellowstone and most of the rest of the nation's national parks over to the tribes.** Credit: Roddy Scheer.

Scheer.



**Allyssa Locke**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

## Photo Scrapbook Pages

Langford Area Volleyball Match



**Sydney Leicht**  
Behind her are Aspen Johnson  
and Allyssa Locke  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Alyssa Thaler**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



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**Elizabeth Fliehs**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Aspen Johnson**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Madeline Fliehs**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Trista Keith**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



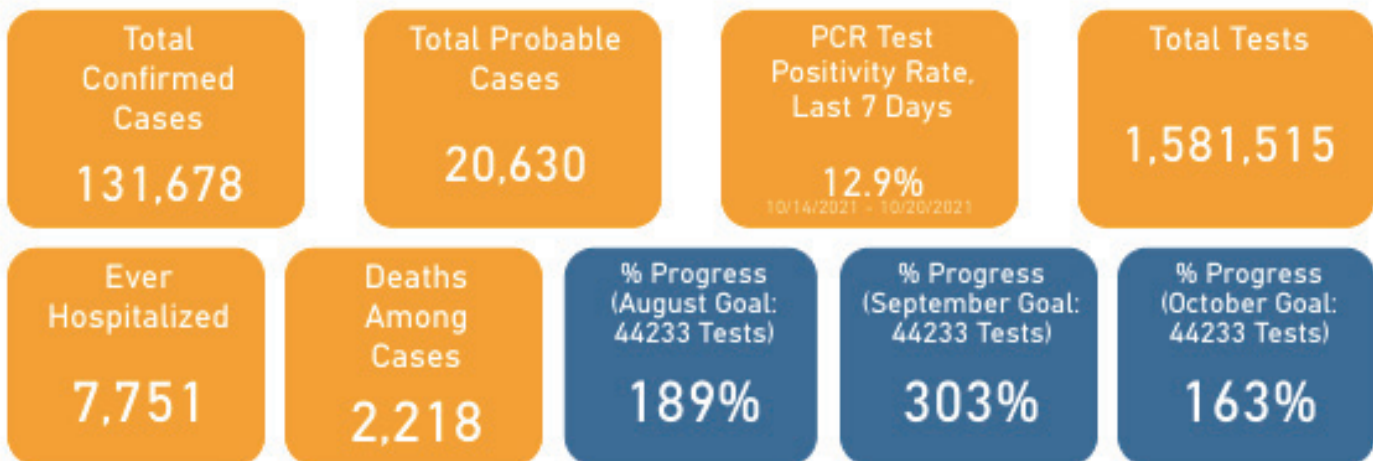
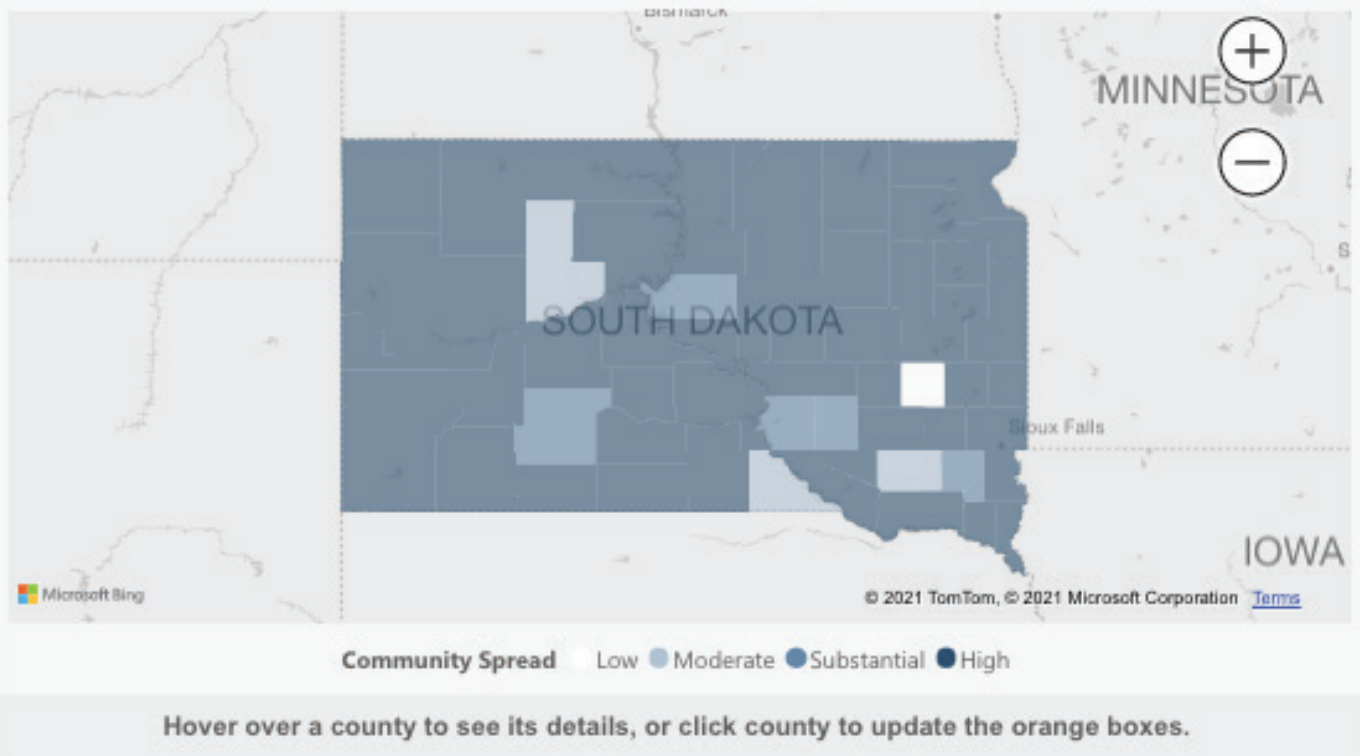
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## South Dakota COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



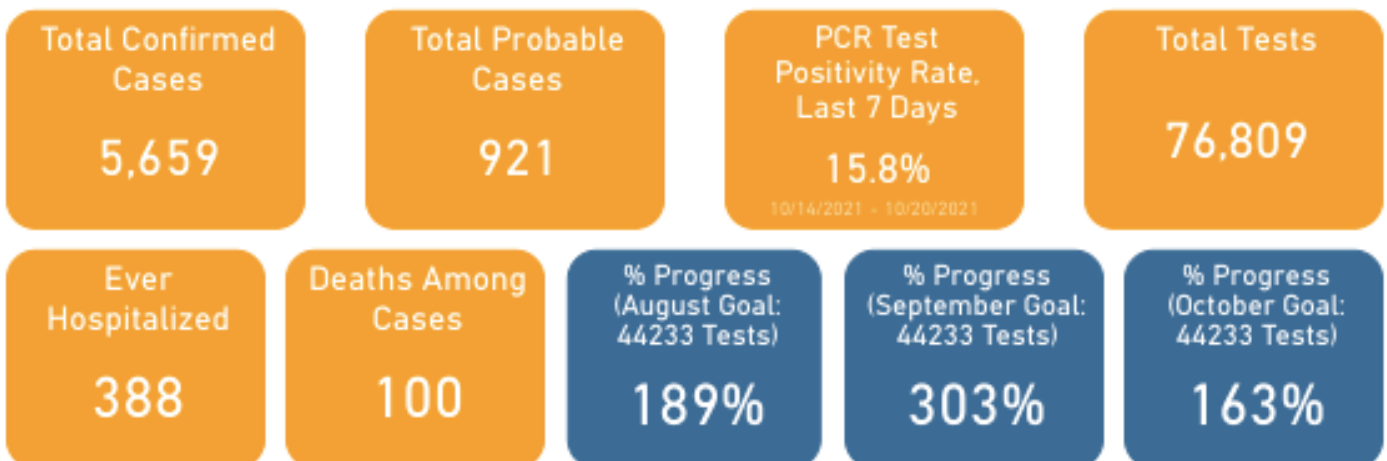
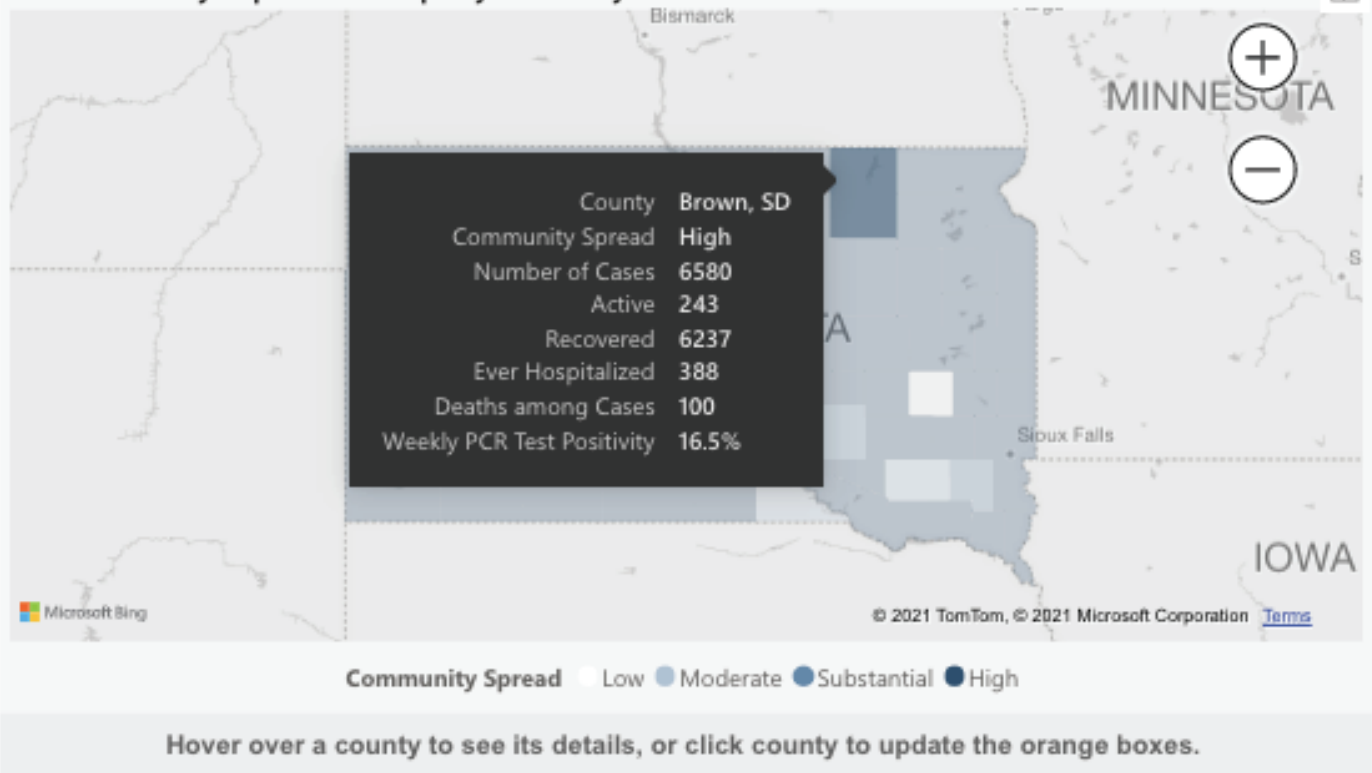
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## Brown County COVID-19 Report



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



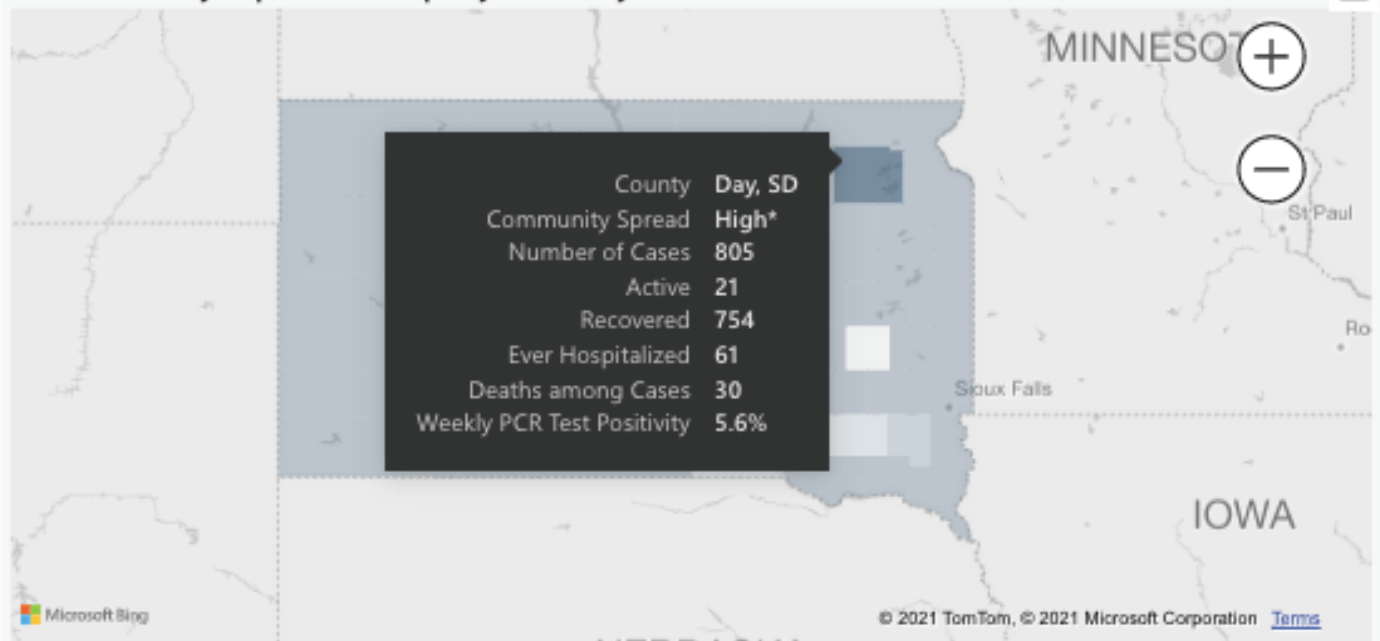
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## Day County COVID-19 Report

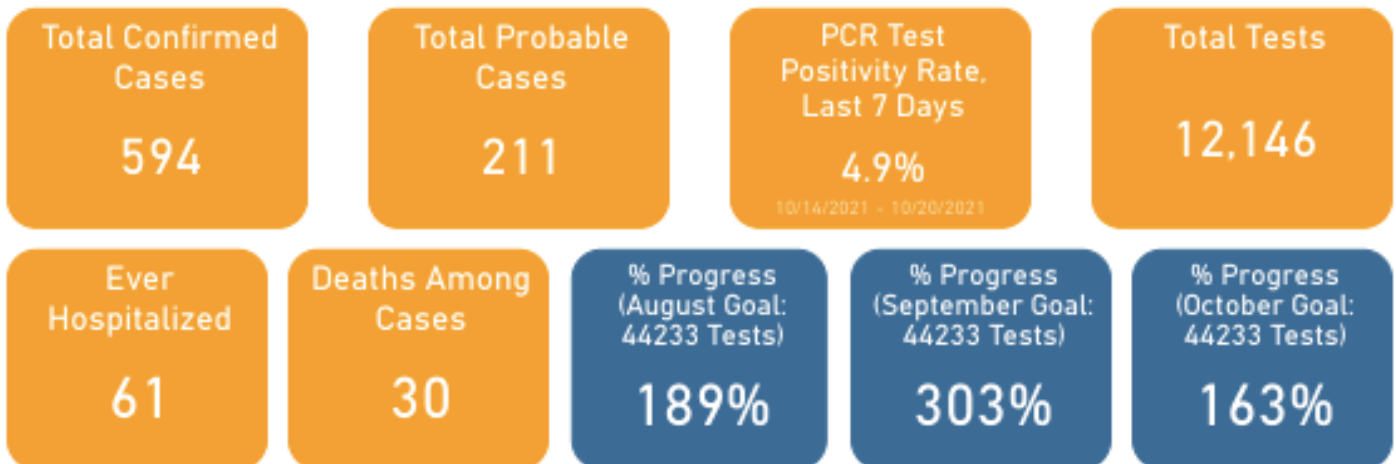


### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Low ● Moderate ● Substantial ● High

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



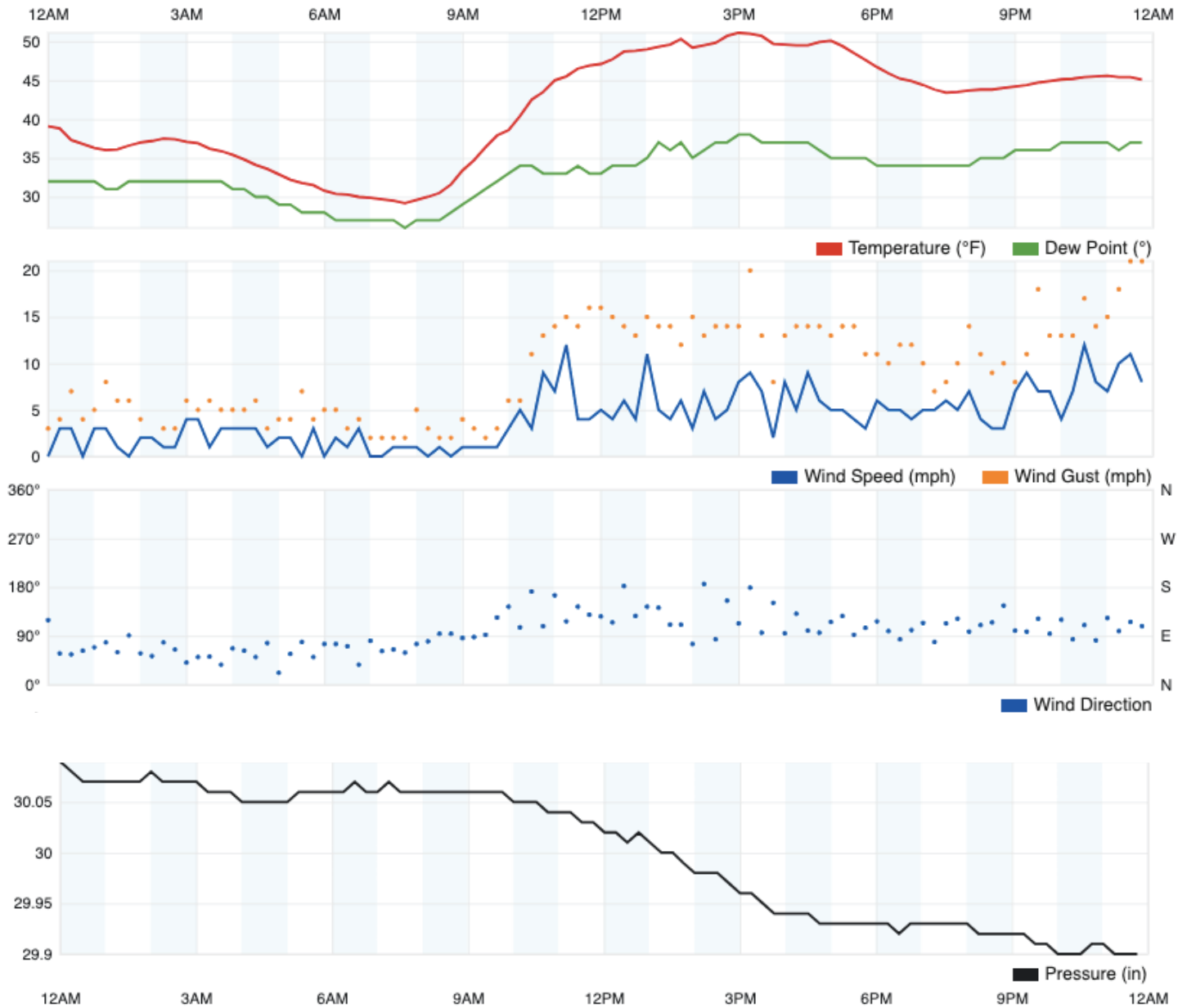




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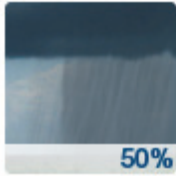
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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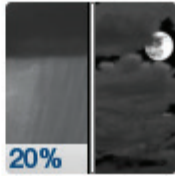
Today



Chance  
Showers

High: 45 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance  
Showers then  
Mostly Cloudy

Low: 34 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 52 °F

Monday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 39 °F

Tuesday



Partly Sunny  
and Breezy

High: 56 °F

Sunday

*Light, Cold Rain,  
Drizzle at Times  
Highs in the 40s*

Monday

*Warmer  
Highs in the 50s.*



ISSUED: 5:14 AM - Sunday, October 24, 2021

A low pressure system will impact the area today, bringing cloudy skies, light showers, and cool temperatures. There will be periods of dry conditions, with perhaps patchy drizzle at times today into this evening. Highs will reach the low to mid-40s.



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## Today in Weather History

October 24, 1989: A storm in the western U.S. produced up to three feet of snow in the mountains around Lake Tahoe, with 21 inches reported at Donner Summit. Thunderstorms in northern California produced 3.36 inches of rain at Redding to establish a 24 hour record for October, and bring their rainfall total for the month to a record 5.11 inches. Chiefly "Indian Summer" type weather prevailed across the rest of the nation. Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 70s and 80s. Record highs included 74 degrees at International Falls, Minnesota and 86 degrees at Yankton, South Dakota. Record highs also occurred across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. The record highs were 80 degrees at Mobridge and Sisseton, 83 degrees at Aberdeen, and 84 degrees at Pierre.

1785 - A four day rain swelled the Merrimack River in New Hampshire and Massachusetts to the greatest height of record causing extensive damage to bridges and mills. (David Ludlum)

1878: The Gale of 1878 was an intense Category 2 hurricane that was active between October 18 and October 25. It caused extensive damage from Cuba to New England. Believed to be the strongest storm to hit the Washington - Baltimore region since hurricane records began in 1851.

1937 - A snow squall in Buffalo NY tied up traffic in six inches of slush. (David Ludlum)

1947 - The Bar Harbor holocaust occurred in Maine when forest fires consumed homes and a medical research institute. The fires claimed 17 lives, and caused thirty million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1951 - Sacramento, CA, reported a barometric pressure of 29.42 inches, to establish a record for October. (The Weather Channel)

1969 - Unseasonably cold air gripped the northeastern U.S. Lows of 10 degrees at Concord, NH, and 6 degrees at Albany NY established October records. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Snow fell across northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin overnight, with five inches reported at Poplar Lake MN and Gunflint Trail MN. Thunderstorm rains caused flash flooding in south central Arizona, with street flooding reported around Las Vegas NV. Strong northwesterly winds gusting to 50 mph downed some trees and power lines in western Pennsylvania and the northern panhandle of West Virginia. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong winds circulating around a deep low pressure centered produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region, with six inches reported at Ironwood MI. Wind gusts to 80 mph were reported at State College PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A storm in the western U.S. produced up to three feet of snow in the mountains around Lake Tahoe, with 21 inches reported at Donner Summit. Thunderstorms in northern California produced 3.36 inches of rain at Redding to establish a 24 hour record for October, and bring their rainfall total for the month to a record 5.11 inches. Chiefly "Indian Summer" type weather prevailed across the rest of the nation. Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 70s and 80s. Record highs included 74 degrees at International Falls MN, and 86 degrees at Yankton SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Hurricane Wilma reached the U.S. coastline near Everglades City in Florida with maximum sustained winds near 120 mph. The hurricane accelerated across south Florida and the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area, exiting the coast later the same day. There were 10 fatalities in Florida, and nearly 6 million people lost power, the most widespread power outage in Florida history. Preliminary estimates of insured losses in Florida were over \$6 billion, while uninsured losses were over \$12 billion.

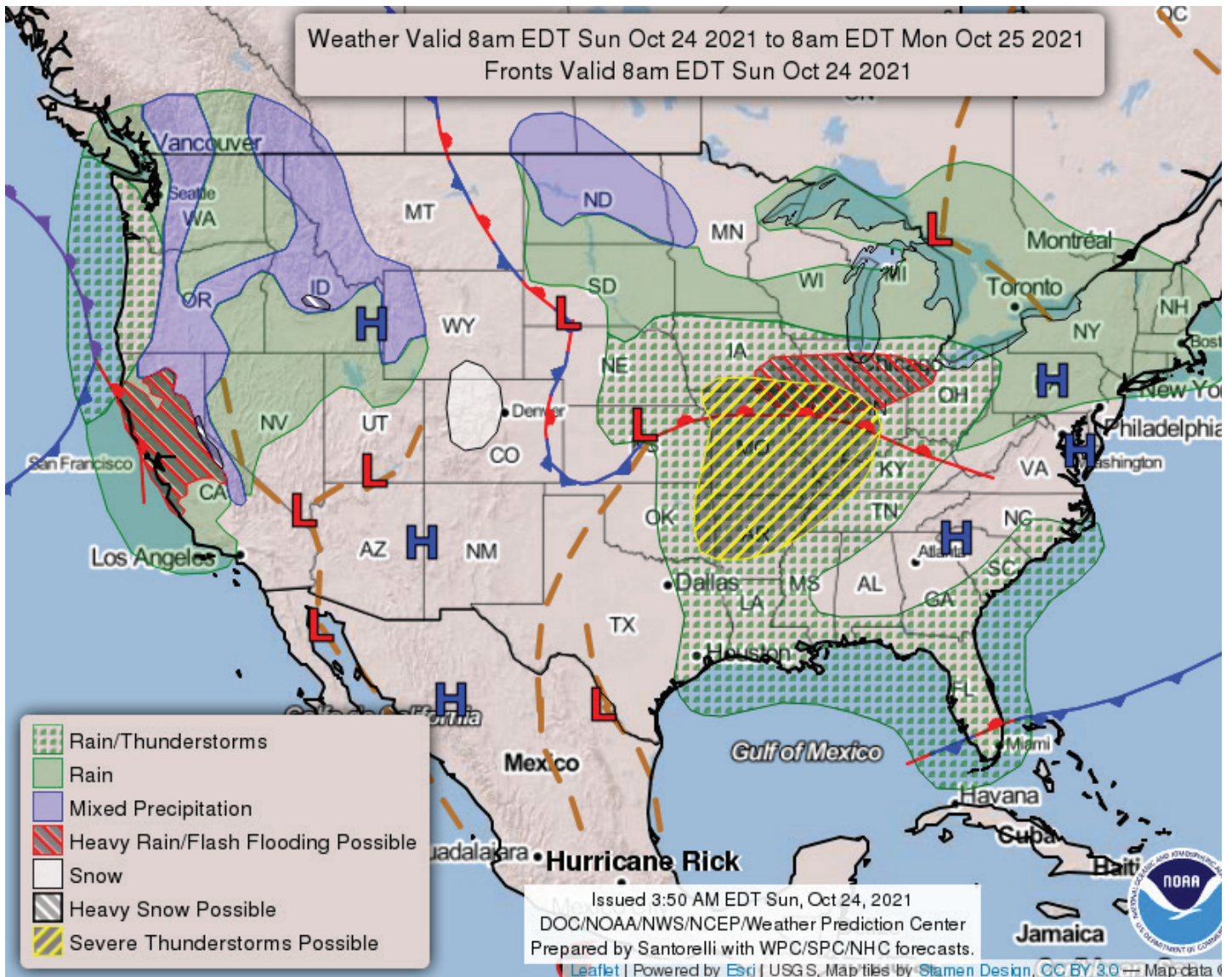
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 51.1 °F at 3:00 PM**  
**Low Temp: 29.2 °F at 7:45 AM**  
**Wind: 21 mph at 11:45 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

**Record High: 83° in 1989**  
**Record Low: 6° in 1917**  
**Average High: 55°F**  
**Average Low: 30°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 1.77**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 2.81**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.10**  
**Precip Year to Date: 18.23**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:33:07 PM**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01:18 AM**



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## OUR "NO ASSURANCE" POLICY

Quite frequently a dear, young friend who is very concerned about my health comes to my office to visit me. Each time we meet he "reviews" my work schedule and responsibilities in great detail. He wants to know what time I get to work and what time I leave; what I did on each Saturday and Sunday since we last talked. He wants to know the last time I preached at a church, where it was and how long it took me to drive to and from it. His questions are not meant to be invasive or abusive. He is concerned about my health and wants to know whether or not I am taking proper care of myself.

After we conclude his lengthy interrogation, he looks at me and makes the same statements every time we visit: "You're working too hard. You're working too much. You need to go on a vacation, or you will kill yourself. Why do you work so hard? Do you want to die?"

Each time we have this discussion, I give him the same answer: "Dear friend, I am going to die. But I do not know when. So, I want to get as much done for the Lord as I possibly can. But I promise I will care for myself."

And then I remind him of Psalm 103:15-16: "As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."

Our days may be few, or they may be many. But one thing is for certain: We have fewer days to serve the Lord after today than we did yesterday. We must seize each opportunity for the Lord!

Prayer: Help us Lord, to realize the importance of each day knowing that we have no assurance of tomorrow. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. Psalm 103:15-16



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## 2021 Community Events

- Cancelled** Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)  
03/27/2021 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)  
04/10/2021 Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm  
04/24/2021 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)  
04/25/2021 Princess Prom (Sunday after GHS Prom)  
05/01/2021 Lions Club Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)  
05/31/2021 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)  
6/7-9/2021 St. John's Lutheran Church VBS  
06/17/2021 Groton Transit Fundraiser, 4-7 p.m.  
06/18/2021 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament at Olive Grove  
06/19/2021 U8 Baseball Tournament  
06/19/2021 **Postponed to Aug. 28th:** Lions Crazy Golf Fest at Olive Grove Golf Course, Noon  
06/26/2021 U10 Baseball Tournament  
06/27/2021 U12 Baseball Tournament  
07/04/2021 Firecracker Golf Tournament at Olive Grove  
07/11/2021 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 10am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)  
07/22/2021 Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/30/2021-08/03/2021 State "B" American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton  
08/06/2021 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course  
08/13/2021 Groton Basketball Golf Tournament  
**Cancelled** Lions Club Crazy Golf Fest 9am Olive Grove Golf Course  
08/29/2021 Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day at GHS Parking Lot (4-5 p.m.)  
09/11/2021 Lions Club Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)  
09/12/2021 Sunflower Classic Golf Tournament at Olive Grove  
09/18-19 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
10/08/2021 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)  
10/09/2021 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm (Saturday before Columbus Day)  
10/29/2021 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
10/29/2021 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)  
11/13/2021 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)  
11/25/2021 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)  
12/04/2021 Olive Grove Tour of Homes  
12/11/2021 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-Noon

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

11-16-24-28-33

(eleven, sixteen, twenty-four, twenty-eight, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$162,000

Lotto America

13-25-40-46-48, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 5

(thirteen, twenty-five, forty, forty-six, forty-eight; Star Ball: eight; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.48 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball

10-30-51-57-63, Powerball: 20, Power Play: 2

(ten, thirty, fifty-one, fifty-seven, sixty-three; Powerball: twenty; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$86 million

### Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Huron def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-10, 25-14, 25-13

Mitchell def. Rapid City Central, 25-15, 28-26, 26-24

Alliance Tournament=

Pool A=

North Platte, Neb. def. Oelrichs, 25-0, 25-0

Pool B=

Chadron, Neb. def. Hill City, 25-23, 25-19

Chadron, Neb. def. Lakota Tech, 25-20, 25-10

Hill City def. Lakota Tech, 26-24, 25-9

Sidney, Neb. def. Hill City, 25-27, 25-18, 25-23

Sidney, Neb. def. Lakota Tech, 25-9, 25-16

Dupree Triangular=

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Newell, 25-17, 25-19, 25-13

Dupree def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 19-25, 25-18, 25-20, 25-23

SESD Conference=

Championship Pool=

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Burke, 25-17, 25-20

Platte-Geddes def. Burke, 25-23, 25-18

Platte-Geddes def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-18, 25-15

Fourth Place Pool=

Parkston def. Gregory, 25-16, 25-15

Winner def. Gregory, 25-23, 25-16

Winner def. Parkston, 21-25, 25-21, 25-21

Pool A=

Parkston def. Chamberlain, 25-7, 25-20

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Platte-Geddes def. Chamberlain, 25-10, 25-15

Platte-Geddes def. Parkston, 27-25, 25-17

Pool B=

Burke def. Bon Homme, 25-13, 25-13

Burke def. Winner, 25-12, 25-21

Winner def. Bon Homme, 25-18, 25-14

Pool C=

Gregory def. Wagner, 24-26, 25-21, 25-22

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Gregory, 25-4, 25-15

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Wagner, 25-19, 25-21

Seventh Place Pool=

Bon Homme def. Chamberlain, 25-17, 25-19

Wagner def. Bon Homme, 25-8, 25-18

Wagner def. Chamberlain, 25-7, 25-10

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

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

## Northern Iowa hands South Dakota St 2nd straight home loss

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Theo Day threw for 232 yards and a touchdown, Matthew Cook made four field goals, including a career-long 55-yarder, and Northern Iowa beat South Dakota State 26-17 on Saturday.

Day was intercepted by Graham Spalding with 4:09 remaining in the fourth quarter but SDSU couldn't capitalize as Cole Frahm missed a 47-yard field goal. UNI went three-and-out, but Bryce Flater sealed it with a quarterback sack.

Day was 11 of 21 with an interception for Northern Iowa (4-3, 2-2 Missouri Valley Football Conference). Isaiah Weston caught four passes for 125 yards and a score, and Bradrick Shaw rushed for a touchdown.

Cook also made a 46-yarder for a 23-10 lead and added a 51-yard make for a two-possession lead early in the fourth. Cook twice topped his previous best (50), coming on his first collegiate kick as a freshman against Iowa State in 2019.

Chris Oladokun passed for 294 yards and a touchdown, and Tucker Kraft caught nine passes for 123 yards for South Dakota State (5-2, 2-2), which entered ranked No. 7 in the coaches' poll. SDSU had scored at least 40 points in every game this season.

SDSU dropped its second straight home game in front of the fourth-largest crowd (16,889) in program history.

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

Pine Ridge 43, Standing Rock, N.D. 0

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

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



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## Two interceptions lead Indiana State to upset of Coyotes

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Kenton Wilhoit had a 26-yard interception return for a touchdown and Jarrell Jackson added a diving pick in the final two minutes to lead Indiana State to a 20-14 victory over South Dakota on Saturday.

The Redbirds (3-4, 1-3 Missouri Valley Football Conference) had lost three straight games, all to FCS-ranked opponents, but beat the Coyotes, ranked 15th in the coaches poll, with the help of their 10th and 11th interceptions of the season.

Illinois State's Aidan Bresnahan kicked a career-long 47-yard field goal for the game's first points and added a 42-yarder as the half ended for a 13-7 edge. Earlier in the second quarter, Cole Mueller scored on a 69-yard run up middle for the Redbirds.

Wilhoit's pick-6 made it 20-7 early in the third quarter.

Travis Theis' 5-yard run cut the lead to 20-14 with 11 1/2 minutes to play and the Coyotes began their final possession with 1:42 left only to see it cut short on Jackson's pick on the first play.

The loss snapped a four-game win streak for South Dakota (5-3, 3-2).

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25). Sign up for the AP's college football newsletter: <https://apnews.com/cfbtop25>

## Authorities seize nearly 63 pounds of cocaine in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities seized almost 63 pounds of cocaine during a traffic stop in Sioux Falls.

Police and the South Dakota Highway Patrol say it's likely the largest amount of cocaine seized in the city in recent history.

The Argus Leader reports the investigation into the cocaine trafficking started last year and police received a tip that drugs were being transported to Sioux Falls on Tuesday.

Troopers arrested two men from Houston, Texas during the traffic stop. They are being held on \$500,000 cash-only bonds.

## Israel set to OK 3,000 West Bank settler homes this week

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel is expected to move forward with thousands of new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank this week, a settlement watchdog group said Sunday.

The plan for some 3,000 new settler units in the West Bank has already drawn calls for restraint from the U.S., which on Friday voiced "concern" over the expected approvals.

Hagit Ofran from the anti-settlement group Peace Now said a committee is set to meet Wednesday to approve 2,800 units deep in the West Bank, complicating any efforts to create a Palestinian state. More than half of those are receiving final approval, meaning construction could begin in the coming year.

On Friday, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. was "concerned" about the housing plans. He called on Israel and the Palestinians to "refrain from unilateral steps that exacerbate tension and undercut efforts to advance a negotiated two-state solution" to the conflict.

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — areas Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war — for their future state. The Palestinians view the settlements, which house some 700,000 settlers, as the main obstacle to peace. Most of the international community considers settlements illegal.

Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and historical heartland of the Jewish people.

Ofran said Israel is also set to approve 1,600 units for Palestinians in the areas of the West Bank that it controls. But critics say the move comes at the initiative of villagers and not the Israeli government and that the figure is a fraction of the building permits requested by Palestinians over the years.

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## Africa tries to end vaccine inequity by replicating its own

By LORI HINNANT, MARIA CHENG and ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — In a pair of Cape Town warehouses converted into a maze of airlocked sterile rooms, young scientists are assembling and calibrating the equipment needed to reverse engineer a coronavirus vaccine that has yet to reach South Africa and most of the world's poorest people.

The energy in the gleaming labs matches the urgency of their mission to narrow vaccine disparities. By working to replicate Moderna's COVID-19 shot, the scientists are effectively making an end run around an industry that has vastly prioritized rich countries over poor in both sales and manufacturing.

And they are doing it with unusual backing from the World Health Organization, which is coordinating a vaccine research, training and production hub in South Africa along with a related supply chain for critical raw materials. It's a last-resort effort to make doses for people going without, and the intellectual property implications are still murky.

"We are doing this for Africa at this moment, and that drives us," said Emile Hendricks, a 22-year-old biotechnologist for Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines, the company trying to reproduce the Moderna shot. "We can no longer rely on these big superpowers to come in and save us."

Some experts see reverse engineering — recreating vaccines from fragments of publicly available information — as one of the few remaining ways to redress the power imbalances of the pandemic. Only 0.7% of vaccines have gone to low-income countries so far, while nearly half have gone to wealthy countries, according to an analysis by the People's Vaccine Alliance.

That WHO, which relies upon the goodwill of wealthy countries and the pharmaceutical industry for its continued existence, is leading the attempt to reproduce a proprietary vaccine demonstrates the depths of the supply disparities.

The U.N.-backed effort to even out global vaccine distribution, known as COVAX, has failed to alleviate dire shortages in poor countries. Donated doses are coming in at a fraction of what is needed to fill the gap. Meanwhile, pressure for drug companies to share, including Biden administration demands on Moderna, has led nowhere.

Until now, WHO has never directly taken part in replicating a novel vaccine for current global use over the objections of the original developers. The Cape Town hub is intended to expand access to the novel messenger RNA technology that Moderna, as well as Pfizer and German partner BioNTech, used in their vaccines.

"This is the first time we're doing it to this level, because of the urgency and also because of the novelty of this technology," said Martin Friede, a WHO vaccine research coordinator who is helping direct the hub.

Dr. Tom Frieden, the former head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has described the world as "being held hostage" by Moderna and Pfizer, whose vaccines are considered the most effective against COVID-19. The novel mRNA process uses the genetic code for the spike protein of the coronavirus and is thought to trigger a better immune response than traditional vaccines.

Arguing that American taxpayers largely funded Moderna's vaccine development, the Biden administration has insisted the company must expand production to help supply developing nations. The global shortfall through 2022 is estimated at 500 million and 4 billion doses, depending on how many other vaccines come on the market.

"The United States government has played a very substantial role in making Moderna the company it is," said David Kessler, the head of Operation Warp Speed, the U.S. program to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine development.

Kessler would not say how far the administration would go in pressing the company. "They understand what we expect to happen," he said.

Moderna has pledged to build a vaccine factory in Africa at some point in the future. But after pleading with drugmakers to share their recipes, raw materials and technological know-how, some poorer countries are done waiting.

Afrigen Managing Director Petro Terblanche said the Cape Town company is aiming to have a version of

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the Moderna vaccine ready for testing in people within a year and scaled up for commercial production not long after.

"We have a lot of competition coming from Big Pharma. They don't want to see us succeed," Terblanche said. "They are already starting to say that we don't have the capability to do this. We are going to show them."

If the team in South Africa succeeds in making a version of Moderna's vaccine, the information will be publicly released for use by others, Terblanche said. Such sharing is closer to an approach U.S. President Joe Biden championed in the spring and the pharmaceutical industry strongly opposes.

Commercial production is the point at which intellectual property could become an issue. Moderna has said it would not pursue legal action against a company for infringing on its vaccine rights, but neither has it offered to help companies that have volunteered to make its mRNA shot.

Chairman Noubar Afeyan said Moderna determined it would be better to expand production itself than to share technology and plans to deliver billions of additional doses next year.

"Within the next six to nine months, the most reliable way to make high-quality vaccines and in an efficient way is going to be if we make them," Afeyan said.

Zoltan Kis, an expert in messenger RNA vaccines at Britain's University of Sheffield, said reproducing Moderna's vaccine is "doable" but the task would be far easier if the company shared its expertise. Kis estimated the process involves fewer than a dozen major steps. But certain procedures are tricky, such as sealing the fragile messenger RNA in lipid nanoparticles, he said.

"It's like a very complicated cooking recipe," he said. "Having the recipe would be very, very helpful, and it would also help if someone could show you how to do it."

A U.N.-backed public health organization still hopes to persuade Moderna that its approach to providing vaccines for poorer countries misses the mark. Formed in 2010, the Medicines Patent Pool initially focused on convincing pharmaceutical companies to share patents for AIDS drugs.

"It's not about outsiders helping Africa," Executive Director Charles Gore said of the South Africa vaccine hub. "Africa wants to be empowered, and that's what this is about."

It will eventually fall to Gore to try to resolve the intellectual property question. Work to recreate Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine is protected as research, so a potential dispute would surround steps to sell a replicated version commercially, he said.

"It's about persuading Moderna to work with us rather than using other methods," Gore said.

He said the Medicines Patent Pool repeatedly tried but failed to convince Pfizer and BioNTech to even discuss sharing their formulas.

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, who is among the members of Congress backing a bill that calls on the United States to invest more in making and distributing COVID-19 vaccines in low- and middle-income countries, said reverse engineering isn't going to happen fast enough to keep the virus from mutating and spreading further.

"We need to show some hustle. We have to show a sense of urgency, and I'm not seeing that urgency," he said. "Either we end this pandemic or we muddle our way through."

Campaigners argue the meager amount of vaccines available to poorer countries through donations, COVAX and purchases suggests the Western-dominated pharmaceutical industry is broken.

"The enemy to these corporations is losing their potential profit down the line," Joia Mukherjee, chief medical officer of the global health nonprofit Partners in Health, said. "The enemy isn't the virus, the enemy isn't suffering."

Back in Cape Town, the promise of using mRNA technology against other diseases motivates the young scientists.

"The excitement is around learning how we harness mRNA technology to develop a COVID-19 vaccine," Caryn Fenner, Afrigen's technical director, said. But more important, Fenner said, "is not only using the mRNA platform for COVID, but for beyond COVID."



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Cheng reported from London; Hinnant reported from Paris.

## Race-blind redistricting? Democrats incredulous at GOP maps

By BRYAN ANDERSON and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press/Report for America

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A decade ago, North Carolina Republicans redrew their legislative districts to help their party in a way that a federal court ruled illegally deprived Black voters of their right to political representation. A state court later struck down Republican-drawn maps as based on pure partisanship.

So, as the GOP-controlled legislature embarks this year on its latest round of redistricting, it has pledged not to use race or partisan data to draw the political lines. Still, the maps Republicans are proposing would tilt heavily toward their party. Several publicly released congressional maps dilute Democratic votes by splitting the state's biggest city, Charlotte — also its largest African American population center — into three or four U.S. House districts and giving the GOP at least a 10-4 advantage in a state that Donald Trump narrowly won last year.

As the once-a-decade redistricting process kicks into high gear, North Carolina is one of at least three states where Republicans say they are drawing maps without looking at racial and party data. But those maps still happen to strongly favor the GOP.

Democrats and civil rights groups are incredulous, noting that veteran lawmakers don't need a spreadsheet to know where voters of various races and different parties live in their state. Plus, under certain scenarios, the Voting Rights Act requires the drawing of districts where the majority of voters are racial or ethnic minorities.

"This is the first redistricting round I've ever heard of this," said Thomas Saenz, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which is suing Texas Republicans over maps that the GOP said it drew without looking at racial data. "I suspect they're trying to set up a defense for litigation. Because they know the race data — they know where the Black community lives. They know where the Latino community lives."

Jason Torchinsky, general counsel to the National Republican Redistricting Trust, said ignoring racial data is proper in certain circumstances, as in the cases of North Carolina and Texas.

"It depends on where you are," Torchinsky said.

The drawing of legislative lines is often a raw partisan fight because whichever party controls the process can craft districts to maximize its voters' clout — and scatter opposing voters so widely they cannot win majorities.

In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that federal courts cannot overturn unfair maps on the basis of partisanship. But state courts still can void maps for being too partisan and race remains a legal tripwire in redistricting.

If mapmakers explicitly try to weaken voters' power based on race, they may violate the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law. But the Voting Rights Act requires them to consider race if the state has "racially polarized" voting, in which white people consistently vote against candidates backed by a minority racial or ethnic group. The mapmakers must then create a district in which that minority comprises a plurality or majority of voters so they can elect their preferred candidates.

Republicans complain they cannot win.

"It's truly a conundrum and has been for the last decade for the GOP, because when we look at race, we were told we shouldn't have, and those maps were struck down," said North Carolina state Sen. Paul Newton, who co-chairs that state's redistricting committee. "Now that we're not looking at race, the Democrat Party is telling us, 'Oh, you should be looking at race.'"

North Carolina's redistricting legal fight is part of why the new race-blind approach caught on.

The Republican-controlled legislature has complete control of redistricting; its maps cannot be vetoed by its Democratic governor. A federal court in 2016 found North Carolina Republicans improperly crammed Black voters into two congressional districts to dilute African American votes elsewhere. It ordered the map redrawn. That updated map was the basis of the 2019 Supreme Court case.

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But, barely two months later, a North Carolina state court found the GOP advantage in some of the redrawn state legislative maps still violated the state constitution. Based on this and other rulings, Republicans redrew the maps once again in late 2019, this time saying they weren't looking at racial or partisan data, and they passed legal muster.

Then, in August, the legislature formally adopted a rule that it wouldn't consider race or partisanship in its latest line-drawing that would begin after the U.S. Census Bureau released data on population changes over the past decade. Lawmakers noted that, during the epic litigation of the prior decade, a federal court had found the state didn't have racially polarized voting and didn't require special attention to racial data.

Democrats and civil rights groups strenuously objected. The Southern Coalition for Social Justice wrote Republicans a letter warning they would be disenfranchising Black and Latino voters. "They're not listening," said Allison Riggs, head of the group's voting rights program.

Other GOP-controlled states have followed North Carolina's example. For the past five decades, Texas has been found to have violated federal law or the U.S. Constitution in redistricting, including by shortchanging Black and Latino voters. This time, Republicans who control the state Legislature said they wouldn't consider racial data and their lawyers said that was OK.

"I've stated it, and I'll state it again — we drew these maps race blind," Texas state Sen. Joan Huffman, a Republican who drew that state's maps, said in one Senate hearing.

Although almost all of Texas' population growth has come from Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans, the maps do not create any new majority Black or Latino districts. That latter omission is at the heart of suits by Latino civil rights groups last week as Texas approved its maps.

"The only time that communities of color can get justice is going to the courthouse," said Democratic state Rep. Rafael Anchia, chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

Ohio Republicans are also enmeshed in litigation over their state legislative plan, which they said was drawn with no racial or partisan data. "It's illegal to use race in drawing districts. That's a violation of federal law," Republican state Senate President Matt Huffman told reporters last month.

Ohio Republicans said that even though they didn't use partisan data, they were targeted in a suit by several community and anti-gerrymandering groups for drawing a partisan map anyway.

"The way the map performs is to really skew partisan outcomes in Ohio," said Freda Levenson, legal director of the ACLU of Ohio, one of the plaintiffs. "It's very likely they did use partisan data."

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Riccardi reported from Denver. Associated Press writers Acacia Coronado in Austin, Texas, and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

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Anderson is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## To navigate legal quandaries, Biden leans on low-key counsel

By AAMER MADHANI, ERIC TUCKER, and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Election lawsuits multiplying by the day. An obscure federal agency blocking the presidential transition. The very legitimacy of Joe Biden's victory under assault as supporters of Donald Trump riot at the Capitol.

Amid all the turmoil, lawyer Dana Remus was the voice of calm for Team Biden.

Fighting on multiple fronts as Biden's top lawyer during the presidential transition, Remus made a lasting impression on her colleagues with her ability to block out the noise as she battled legal challenges and pushed ahead with the screening of Cabinet and judicial nominees. Now, she's the White House counsel.

"You could be in the middle of the hurly-burly and have a conversation with her, and the sort of atmospheric anxiety doesn't get in the way of the legal issues that you're dealing with," recalled Andrew Wright, who worked with Remus during the transition. "She's not panicky, which is always a good thing in a lawyer."

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Remus's toughest task may lie ahead: guiding Biden as the White House supports efforts to investigate and hold accountable those involved in the Jan. 6 insurrection, while avoiding setting a precedent that could weaken the office of the presidency for generations to come.

Colleagues say the president would be hard-pressed to find a lawyer better suited for the moment.

Her office has helped Biden navigate legal decisions on pandemic policy, led the administration's effort to make more judicial nominations to this point than any president since Richard Nixon and offered advice on how the president's adult son, Hunter Biden, can go about selling his paintings without creating conflicts of interest.

Before working for Biden, Remus, 46, spent years as a judicial and ethics expert in academia, and served as President Barack Obama's chief ethics lawyer in the final 14 months of his presidency. Her stint as Biden's general counsel during the 2020 election was her first campaign job.

"I think what her credentials and her experience reflect is a clear determination by President Biden after the four-year, scandal-laden confuse-a-rama of the Trump administration that he was going to have a first-rate lawyer empowered with a strong background in ethics serve as his White House counsel," White House chief of staff Ron Klain said.

The work of Remus and her deputies hasn't gone without critique, including knocks on how the administration went about extending a pandemic-era eviction moratorium even after the majority of Supreme Court justices signaled they would reject any additional extension without authorization from Congress.

Republicans and ethics lawyers also have pilloried the White House over the Hunter Biden artwork sale setup. Obama-era Office of Government Ethics chief Walter Schaub has called the art arrangement "the perfect mechanism for funneling bribes" to the president.

The road ahead for Remus only gets more challenging as lawmakers investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection press forward.

Biden has been asked to approve the early release of a vast swath of records from the Trump administration, including some that detail the last administration's internal decision-making process, which is generally protected by executive privilege. Biden already has approved release of the first set of documents, a decision that Trump is in court trying to block.

Trump argues the records should be protected by Biden and the courts, and claims that allowing new presidents to open their predecessors' vaults so quickly would undermine the presidency. It's a risk Biden is taking that could come back to haunt him in increasingly acrimonious Washington, should his successor choose to release his papers early.

Biden, guided by Remus, has tried to preserve his ability to protect his own privilege, with an argument that the extraordinary circumstances of Trump's attempt to overturn the election results justified waiving the privilege.

Remus, in a letter this month calling for the National Archives to release internal Trump documents, underscored the request was made under "unique and extraordinary circumstances" as "Congress is examining an assault on our Constitution and democratic institutions." She consulted with the Office of Legal Counsel at the Justice Department in preparing her advice for the president.

Neil Eggleston, White House counsel in the Obama administration, believes Remus' legal reasoning is sound. Still, he said the moment is a delicate one for the institution of the presidency.

"Every time there's a precedent you kind of worry: Is it going to get misused in the future?" said Eggleston, who hired Remus in 2015 to serve as the Obama White House ethics lawyer.

Remus' work at the White House made an impression on Obama, who hired her to serve as general counsel for his post-presidency foundation. Obama officiated at her wedding to Brett Holmgren, a national security official in his administration. The two, who have a young son, met while working at the Obama White House.

Holmgren is now an assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research.

In the West Wing, Remus has been able to deliver messages that Biden and top officials don't always want to hear.

"She's not one of these lawyers who uses the law as a cudgel to prevent creative policymaking, and so



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when she delivers a hard message -- the 'actually we can't do this' -- I think people know that it comes from a place of honest legal analysis," said White House domestic policy adviser Susan Rice.

Colleagues say Remus, who was Academic All-American in crew her senior year at Harvard, hates the spotlight. She declined to comment for this story.

Her friends say she is unflinchingly loyal. After conservative Justice Samuel Alito, for whom she clerked, was savaged in a 2013 Washington Post column, Remus and another former clerk wrote a letter to the editor sticking up for him.

Michael Bosworth, a lawyer who worked with Remus in the White House counsel's office in the Obama administration, said she had a talent for soliciting diverse opinions because "she wants to make a truly informed decision that is right on the facts and right on the law."

In assembling her 33-person team for Biden's counsel's office, Remus put a premium on three qualities: kindness, diversity and the ability to work as a team, officials said. The office is 65% female, 20% LGBTQ+, 40% people of color, and the majority of them have public interest backgrounds.

White House officials say Remus's efforts to diversify the judicial bench are one of the least appreciated early successes for the president, who pledged as a candidate to make his government more reflective of America.

More than 70% of the nominees are women and the majority of picks have been people of color. Remus has also put a particular focus on looking beyond big law firms and prosecutors to find candidates with backgrounds as public defenders, voting rights litigators and other public interest experience.

At the White House, Biden has surrounded himself with senior advisers he's known and counted on for years. Still, White House officials say Remus has managed to break through even though she's not in his inner circle.

"He knows when she walks in, she's there to give him legal advice -- not friendship advice, not political advice but legal advice," Klain said. "I think a certain amount of professional detachment in that relationship is a better way to have it."

## Facebook dithered in curbing divisive user content in India

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Facebook in India has been selective in curbing hate speech, misinformation and inflammatory posts, particularly anti-Muslim content, according to leaked documents obtained by The Associated Press, even as its own employees cast doubt over the company's motivations and interests.

From research as recent as March of this year to company memos that date back to 2019, the internal company documents on India highlight Facebook's constant struggles in quashing abusive content on its platforms in the world's biggest democracy and the company's largest growth market. Communal and religious tensions in India have a history of boiling over on social media and stoking violence.

The files show that Facebook has been aware of the problems for years, raising questions over whether it has done enough to address these issues. Many critics and digital experts say it has failed to do so, especially in cases where members of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, the BJP, are involved.

Across the world, Facebook has become increasingly important in politics, and India is no different.

Modi has been credited for leveraging the platform to his party's advantage during elections, and reporting from The Wall Street Journal last year cast doubt over whether Facebook was selectively enforcing its policies on hate speech to avoid blowback from the BJP. Both Modi and Facebook chairman and CEO Mark Zuckerberg have exuded bonhomie, memorialized by a 2015 image of the two hugging at the Facebook headquarters.

The leaked documents include a trove of internal company reports on hate speech and misinformation in India. In some cases, much of it was intensified by its own "recommended" feature and algorithms. But they also include the company staffers' concerns over the mishandling of these issues and their discontent

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expressed about the viral "malcontent" on the platform.

According to the documents, Facebook saw India as one of the most "at risk countries" in the world and identified both Hindi and Bengali languages as priorities for "automation on violating hostile speech." Yet, Facebook didn't have enough local language moderators or content-flagging in place to stop misinformation that at times led to real-world violence.

In a statement to the AP, Facebook said it has "invested significantly in technology to find hate speech in various languages, including Hindi and Bengali" which has resulted in "reduced amount of hate speech that people see by half" in 2021.

"Hate speech against marginalized groups, including Muslims, is on the rise globally. So we are improving enforcement and are committed to updating our policies as hate speech evolves online," a company spokesperson said.

This AP story, along with others being published, is based on disclosures made to the Securities and Exchange Commission and provided to Congress in redacted form by former Facebook employee-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen's legal counsel. The redacted versions were obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including the AP.

Back in February 2019 and ahead of a general election when concerns of misinformation were running high, a Facebook employee wanted to understand what a new user in the country saw on their news feed if all they did was follow pages and groups solely recommended by the platform itself.

The employee created a test user account and kept it live for three weeks, a period during which an extraordinary event shook India — a militant attack in disputed Kashmir had killed over 40 Indian soldiers, bringing the country to near war with rival Pakistan.

In the note, titled "An Indian Test User's Descent into a Sea of Polarizing, Nationalistic Messages," the employee whose name is redacted said they were "shocked" by the content flooding the news feed which "has become a near constant barrage of polarizing nationalist content, misinformation, and violence and gore."

Seemingly benign and innocuous groups recommended by Facebook quickly morphed into something else altogether, where hate speech, unverified rumors and viral content ran rampant.

The recommended groups were inundated with fake news, anti-Pakistan rhetoric and Islamophobic content. Much of the content was extremely graphic.

One included a man holding the bloodied head of another man covered in a Pakistani flag, with an Indian flag in the place of his head. Its "Popular Across Facebook" feature showed a slew of unverified content related to the retaliatory Indian strikes into Pakistan after the bombings, including an image of a napalm bomb from a video game clip debunked by one of Facebook's fact-check partners.

"Following this test user's News Feed, I've seen more images of dead people in the past three weeks than I've seen in my entire life total," the researcher wrote.

It sparked deep concerns over what such divisive content could lead to in the real world, where local news at the time were reporting on Kashmiris being attacked in the fallout.

"Should we as a company have an extra responsibility for preventing integrity harms that result from recommended content?" the researcher asked in their conclusion.

The memo, circulated with other employees, did not answer that question. But it did expose how the platform's own algorithms or default settings played a part in spurring such malcontent. The employee noted that there were clear "blind spots," particularly in "local language content." They said they hoped these findings would start conversations on how to avoid such "integrity harms," especially for those who "differ significantly" from the typical U.S. user.

Even though the research was conducted during three weeks that weren't an average representation, they acknowledged that it did show how such "unmoderated" and problematic content "could totally take over" during "a major crisis event."

The Facebook spokesperson said the test study "inspired deeper, more rigorous analysis" of its recommendation systems and "contributed to product changes to improve them."

"Separately, our work on curbing hate speech continues and we have further strengthened our hate

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classifiers, to include four Indian languages," the spokesperson said.

Other research files on misinformation in India highlight just how massive a problem it is for the platform.

In January 2019, a month before the test user experiment, another assessment raised similar alarms about misleading content. In a presentation circulated to employees, the findings concluded that Facebook's misinformation tags weren't clear enough for users, underscoring that it needed to do more to stem hate speech and fake news. Users told researchers that "clearly labeling information would make their lives easier."

Again, it was noted that the platform didn't have enough local language fact-checkers, which meant a lot of content went unverified.

Alongside misinformation, the leaked documents reveal another problem plaguing Facebook in India: anti-Muslim propaganda, especially by Hindu-hardline groups.

India is Facebook's largest market with over 340 million users — nearly 400 million Indians also use the company's messaging service WhatsApp. But both have been accused of being vehicles to spread hate speech and fake news against minorities.

In February 2020, these tensions came to life on Facebook when a politician from Modi's party uploaded a video on the platform in which he called on his supporters to remove mostly Muslim protesters from a road in New Delhi if the police didn't. Violent riots erupted within hours, killing 53 people. Most of them were Muslims. Only after thousands of views and shares did Facebook remove the video.

In April, misinformation targeting Muslims again went viral on its platform as the hashtag "Coronajihad" flooded news feeds, blaming the community for a surge in COVID-19 cases. The hashtag was popular on Facebook for days but was later removed by the company.

For Mohammad Abbas, a 54-year-old Muslim preacher in New Delhi, those messages were alarming.

Some video clips and posts purportedly showed Muslims spitting on authorities and hospital staff. They were quickly proven to be fake, but by then India's communal fault lines, still stressed by deadly riots a month earlier, were again split wide open.

The misinformation triggered a wave of violence, business boycotts and hate speech toward Muslims. Thousands from the community, including Abbas, were confined to institutional quarantine for weeks across the country. Some were even sent to jails, only to be later exonerated by courts.

"People shared fake videos on Facebook claiming Muslims spread the virus. What started as lies on Facebook became truth for millions of people," Abbas said.

Criticisms of Facebook's handling of such content were amplified in August of last year when The Wall Street Journal published a series of stories detailing how the company had internally debated whether to classify a Hindu hard-line lawmaker close to Modi's party as a "dangerous individual" — a classification that would ban him from the platform — after a series of anti-Muslim posts from his account.

The documents reveal the leadership dithered on the decision, prompting concerns by some employees, of whom one wrote that Facebook was only designating non-Hindu extremist organizations as "dangerous."

The documents also show how the company's South Asia policy head herself had shared what many felt were Islamophobic posts on her personal Facebook profile. At the time, she had also argued that classifying the politician as dangerous would hurt Facebook's prospects in India.

The author of a December 2020 internal document on the influence of powerful political actors on Facebook policy decisions notes that "Facebook routinely makes exceptions for powerful actors when enforcing content policy." The document also cites a former Facebook chief security officer saying that outside of the U.S., "local policy heads are generally pulled from the ruling political party and are rarely drawn from disadvantaged ethnic groups, religious creeds or casts" which "naturally bends decision-making towards the powerful."

Months later the India official quit Facebook. The company also removed the politician from the platform, but documents show many company employees felt the platform had mishandled the situation, accusing it of selective bias to avoid being in the crosshairs of the Indian government.

"Several Muslim colleagues have been deeply disturbed/hurt by some of the language used in posts from



the Indian policy leadership on their personal FB profile," an employee wrote.

Another wrote that "barbarism" was being allowed to "flourish on our network."

It's a problem that has continued for Facebook, according to the leaked files.

As recently as March this year, the company was internally debating whether it could control the "fear mongering, anti-Muslim narratives" pushed by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a far-right Hindu nationalist group which Modi is also a part of, on its platform.

In one document titled "Lotus Mahal," the company noted that members with links to the BJP had created multiple Facebook accounts to amplify anti-Muslim content, ranging from "calls to oust Muslim populations from India" and "Love Jihad," an unproven conspiracy theory by Hindu hard-liners who accuse Muslim men of using interfaith marriages to coerce Hindu women to change their religion.

The research found that much of this content was "never flagged or actioned" since Facebook lacked "classifiers" and "moderators" in Hindi and Bengali languages. Facebook said it added hate speech classifiers in Hindi starting in 2018 and introduced Bengali in 2020.

The employees also wrote that Facebook hadn't yet "put forth a nomination for designation of this group given political sensitivities."

The company said its designations process includes a review of each case by relevant teams across the company and are agnostic to region, ideology or religion and focus instead on indicators of violence and hate. It did not, however, reveal whether the Hindu nationalist group had since been designated as "dangerous."

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Associated Press writer Sam McNeil in Beijing contributed to this report.

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See full coverage of the "Facebook Papers" here: <https://apnews.com/hub/the-facebook-papers>

## French sexual abuse victims denounce police mistreatment

By SYLVIE CORBET and ARNO PEDRAM Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — One rape victim was asked by Paris police what she wore that day, and why she didn't struggle more. Another woman was forced to fondle herself to demonstrate a sexual assault to a skeptical police officer.

They are among thousands of French women who have denounced in a new online campaign the shocking response of police officers victim-blaming them or mishandling their complaints as they reported sexual abuse.

The hashtag #DoublePeine (#DoubleSentencing) was launched last month by Anna Toumazoff after she learned that a 19-year-old woman who filed a rape complaint in the southern city of Montpellier was asked by police in graphic terms whether she experienced pleasure during the assault.

The hashtag quickly went viral, with women describing similar experiences in Montpellier and other police stations across France. French women's rights group NousToutes counted at least 30,000 accounts of mistreatment in tweets and other messages sent on social media and on a specific website.

Despite recent training programs for French police and growing awareness around violence against women, activists say authorities must do more to face up to the gravity of sex crimes, and to eradicate discrimination against victims.

Addressing the national issue last week, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said "there are questions that cannot be asked to women when they come to file a complaint."

"It's not up to the police officer to say whether there was domestic violence or not, that's up to the judge to do it," he added.

He also announced an internal investigation at the Montpellier police station.

The prefect of the region of Montpellier had previously condemned in a statement what he called "defamatory comments" against officers. He denounced "false information" and "lies" aiming at discrediting police action.

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Toumazoff denied launching an anti-police campaign, saying the hashtag aims at urging the government to take action.

"By letting incompetent and dangerous officers working in police stations, (authorities) expose the whole profession to shame," she told The Associated Press. She said the victim mentioned in her initial tweet does not wish to speak publicly while her rape complaint is under investigation.

The Montpellier regional branch of powerful police union Alliance argued that officers are just doing their jobs. "While police officers understand the victims' distress, the establishment of the truth requires us to ask 'embarrassing' questions," it said.

A 37-year-old Parisian woman told the AP about her experience at a police station after she was assaulted this year by a man living near her home, who had previously harassed her in the street.

Once, he blocked her path and pressed her against a wall, touching her belly and her breast and threatening to kill her, she recalled.

The woman described arriving scared and crying at the police station, where officers welcomed her "very kindly."

But then, she said, the officer in charge of filing the complaint did not write down her description of the assault, so she refused to sign the document.

"I had to tell it all again," she said. The officer asked if she was certain that the abuser wanted to touch her breast.

"I had to make the gesture so that he sees that it was not another part of the body," she said. "Making me repeat and ... mime the gesture in front of a wall, that's humiliating. I found it very degrading. I felt I was like a puppet."

The case is still ongoing. Police suggested a change of apartment to move away from her abuser, she said.

Another Parisian woman, aged 25, said she was left "traumatized" by the police treatment after she had been raped by her ex-boyfriend in 2016.

When she filed her initial complaint, the police officer, who had received special training, "explained to me why he was asking all these questions, he was in a spirit of kindness," she remembers. "I felt rather safe and that he believed me."

Months later she was summoned to another police station, located in the same street where her attacker was living. Feeling very anxious at the idea of potentially seeing him, she said she was talked to as if she was "stupid" and "a liar."

Police asked what she was wearing that day, why it was different from when she was having consensual sex with him, how she could argue she was surprised if he was wearing a condom, she recalled. An officer told her, "I don't understand why you did not struggle more."

The complaint was closed without follow-up due to lack of evidence. The young woman described the police response as very difficult to live through, with a "huge impact" on her private life and almost leading her to giving up her studies.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they are victims of sexual assault.

Speaking to lawmakers at the National Assembly, the interior minister acknowledged things "can still be improved" on the matter across France.

The government has set the goal to have at least one specially trained officer in each police station for dealing with domestic violence and sexual abuse. An annual survey led by national statistics institute INSEE shows that currently only 10% of victims in these cases file a formal complaint.

The #doublepeine movement comes after the shocking killing earlier this year of a woman who was shot and set on fire in the street by her estranged husband. One of the officers who had taken her domestic abuse complaint a few months earlier had recently been convicted for domestic violence himself.

Darmanin promised that officers definitively convicted for such acts won't be allowed to be in contact with the public anymore.

Women have been raising the alarm for years, Toumazoff said, denouncing announcements by politicians not followed by action.

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"When there are urgent situations, like terror attacks, they can do things because it's urgent," she said. "It's the same here. Women's lives are at stake. It's urgent every day."

## Facebook dithered in curbing divisive user content in India

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The recommended groups were inundated with fake news, anti-Pakistan rhetoric and Islamophobic content. Much of the content was extremely graphic.

One included a man holding the bloodied head of another man covered in a Pakistani flag, with an Indian flag in the place of his head. Its “Popular Across Facebook” feature showed a slew of unverified content related to the retaliatory Indian strikes into Pakistan after the bombings, including an image of a napalm bomb from a video game clip debunked by one of Facebook’s fact-check partners.

“Following this test user’s News Feed, I’ve seen more images of dead people in the past three weeks than I’ve seen in my entire life total,” the researcher wrote.

It sparked deep concerns over what such divisive content could lead to in the real world, where local news at the time were reporting on Kashmiris being attacked in the fallout.

“Should we as a company have an extra responsibility for preventing integrity harms that result from recommended content?” the researcher asked in their conclusion.

The memo, circulated with other employees, did not answer that question. But it did expose how the platform’s own algorithms or default settings played a part in spurring such malcontent. The employee noted that there were clear “blind spots,” particularly in “local language content.” They said they hoped these findings would start conversations on how to avoid such “integrity harms,” especially for those who “differ significantly” from the typical U.S. user.

Even though the research was conducted during three weeks that weren’t an average representation, they acknowledged that it did show how such “unmoderated” and problematic content “could totally take over” during “a major crisis event.”

The Facebook spokesperson said the test study “inspired deeper, more rigorous analysis” of its recommendation systems and “contributed to product changes to improve them.”

“Separately, our work on curbing hate speech continues and we have further strengthened our hate classifiers, to include four Indian languages,” the spokesperson said.

Other research files on misinformation in India highlight just how massive a problem it is for the platform.

In January 2019, a month before the test user experiment, another assessment raised similar alarms about misleading content. In a presentation circulated to employees, the findings concluded that Facebook’s misinformation tags weren’t clear enough for users, underscoring that it needed to do more to stem hate speech and fake news. Users told researchers that “clearly labeling information would make their lives easier.”

Again, it was noted that the platform didn’t have enough local language fact-checkers, which meant a lot of content went unverified.

Alongside misinformation, the leaked documents reveal another problem plaguing Facebook in India: anti-Muslim propaganda, especially by Hindu-hardline groups.

India is Facebook’s largest market with over 340 million users — nearly 400 million Indians also use the company’s messaging service WhatsApp. But both have been accused of being vehicles to spread hate speech and fake news against minorities.

In February 2020, these tensions came to life on Facebook when a politician from Modi’s party uploaded a video on the platform in which he called on his supporters to remove mostly Muslim protesters from a road in New Delhi if the police didn’t. Violent riots erupted within hours, killing 53 people. Most of them were Muslims. Only after thousands of views and shares did Facebook remove the video.

In April, misinformation targeting Muslims again went viral on its platform as the hashtag “Coronajihad” flooded news feeds, blaming the community for a surge in COVID-19 cases. The hashtag was popular on Facebook for days but was later removed by the company.

For Mohammad Abbas, a 54-year-old Muslim preacher in New Delhi, those messages were alarming. Some video clips and posts purportedly showed Muslims spitting on authorities and hospital staff. They

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were quickly proven to be fake, but by then India's communal fault lines, still stressed by deadly riots a month earlier, were again split wide open.

The misinformation triggered a wave of violence, business boycotts and hate speech toward Muslims. Thousands from the community, including Abbas, were confined to institutional quarantine for weeks across the country. Some were even sent to jails, only to be later exonerated by courts.

"People shared fake videos on Facebook claiming Muslims spread the virus. What started as lies on Facebook became truth for millions of people," Abbas said.

Criticisms of Facebook's handling of such content were amplified in August of last year when The Wall Street Journal published a series of stories detailing how the company had internally debated whether to classify a Hindu hard-line lawmaker close to Modi's party as a "dangerous individual" — a classification that would ban him from the platform — after a series of anti-Muslim posts from his account.

The documents reveal the leadership dithered on the decision, prompting concerns by some employees, of whom one wrote that Facebook was only designating non-Hindu extremist organizations as "dangerous."

The documents also show how the company's South Asia policy head herself had shared what many felt were Islamophobic posts on her personal Facebook profile. At the time, she had also argued that classifying the politician as dangerous would hurt Facebook's prospects in India.

The author of a December 2020 internal document on the influence of powerful political actors on Facebook policy decisions notes that "Facebook routinely makes exceptions for powerful actors when enforcing content policy." The document also cites a former Facebook chief security officer saying that outside of the U.S., "local policy heads are generally pulled from the ruling political party and are rarely drawn from disadvantaged ethnic groups, religious creeds or casts" which "naturally bends decision-making towards the powerful."

Months later the India official quit Facebook. The company also removed the politician from the platform, but documents show many company employees felt the platform had mishandled the situation, accusing it of selective bias to avoid being in the crosshairs of the Indian government.

"Several Muslim colleagues have been deeply disturbed/hurt by some of the language used in posts from the Indian policy leadership on their personal FB profile," an employee wrote.

Another wrote that "barbarism" was being allowed to "flourish on our network."

It's a problem that has continued for Facebook, according to the leaked files.

As recently as March this year, the company was internally debating whether it could control the "fear mongering, anti-Muslim narratives" pushed by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a far-right Hindu nationalist group which Modi is also a part of, on its platform.

In one document titled "Lotus Mahal," the company noted that members with links to the BJP had created multiple Facebook accounts to amplify anti-Muslim content, ranging from "calls to oust Muslim populations from India" and "Love Jihad," an unproven conspiracy theory by Hindu hard-liners who accuse Muslim men of using interfaith marriages to coerce Hindu women to change their religion.

The research found that much of this content was "never flagged or actioned" since Facebook lacked "classifiers" and "moderators" in Hindi and Bengali languages. Facebook said it added hate speech classifiers in Hindi starting in 2018 and introduced Bengali in 2020.

The employees also wrote that Facebook hadn't yet "put forth a nomination for designation of this group given political sensitivities."

The company said its designations process includes a review of each case by relevant teams across the company and are agnostic to region, ideology or religion and focus instead on indicators of violence and hate. It did not, however, reveal whether the Hindu nationalist group had since been designated as "dangerous."

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Associated Press writer Sam McNeil in Beijing contributed to this report.

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See full coverage of the "Facebook Papers" here: <https://apnews.com/hub/the-facebook-papers>

## **EXPLAINER: What the metaverse is and how it will work**

By KELVIN CHAN and MATT O'BRIEN Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The term "metaverse" seems to be everywhere. Facebook is hiring thousands of engineers in Europe to work on it, while video game companies are outlining their long-term visions for what some consider the next big thing online.

The metaverse, which could spring up again when Facebook releases earnings Monday, is the latest buzzword to capture the tech industry's imagination.

It could be the future, or it could be the latest grandiose vision by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg that doesn't turn out as expected or isn't widely adopted for years — if at all.

Plus, many have concerns about a new online world tied to a social media giant that could get access to even more personal data and is accused of failing to stop harmful content.

Here's what this online world is all about:

### **WHAT IS THE METAVERSE?**

Think of it as the internet brought to life, or at least rendered in 3D. Zuckerberg has described it as a "virtual environment" you can go inside of — instead of just looking at on a screen. Essentially, it's a world of endless, interconnected virtual communities where people can meet, work and play, using virtual reality headsets, augmented reality glasses, smartphone apps or other devices.

It also will incorporate other aspects of online life such as shopping and social media, according to Victoria Petrock, an analyst who follows emerging technologies.

"It's the next evolution of connectivity where all of those things start to come together in a seamless, doppelganger universe, so you're living your virtual life the same way you're living your physical life," she said.

But keep in mind that "it's hard to define a label to something that hasn't been created," said Tuong Nguyen, an analyst who tracks immersive technologies for research firm Gartner.

Facebook warned it would take 10 to 15 years to develop responsible products for the metaverse, a term coined by writer Neal Stephenson for his 1992 science fiction novel "Snow Crash."

### **WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO IN THE METAVERSE?**

Things like go to a virtual concert, take a trip online, and buy and try on digital clothing.

The metaverse also could be a game-changer for the work-from-home shift amid the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of seeing co-workers on a video call grid, employees could see them virtually.

Facebook has launched meeting software for companies, called Horizon Workrooms, to use with its Oculus VR headsets, though early reviews have not been great. The headsets cost \$300 or more, putting the metaverse's most cutting-edge experiences out of reach for many.

For those who can afford it, users would be able, through their avatars, to flit between virtual worlds created by different companies.

"A lot of the metaverse experience is going to be around being able to teleport from one experience to another," Zuckerberg says.

Tech companies still have to figure out how to connect their online platforms to each other. Making it work will require competing technology platforms to agree on a set of standards, so there aren't "people in the Facebook metaverse and other people in the Microsoft metaverse," Petrock said.

### **IS FACEBOOK GOING ALL IN ON THE METAVERSE?**

Indeed, Zuckerberg is going big on what he sees as the next generation of the internet because he thinks it's going to be a big part of the digital economy. He expects people to start seeing Facebook as a metaverse company in coming years rather than a social media company.

A report by tech news site The Verge said Zuckerberg is looking at using Facebook's annual virtual reality conference this coming week to announce a corporate name change, putting legacy apps like Facebook and Instagram under a metaverse-focused parent company. Facebook hasn't commented on the report.

Critics wonder if the potential pivot could be an effort to distract from the company's crises, including



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antitrust crackdowns, testimony by whistleblowing former employees and concerns about its handling of misinformation.

Former employee Frances Haugen, who accused Facebook's platforms of harming children and inciting political violence, plans to testify Monday before a United Kingdom parliamentary committee looking to pass online safety legislation.

IS THE METAVERSE JUST A FACEBOOK PROJECT?

No. Zuckerberg has acknowledged that "no one company" will build the metaverse by itself.

Just because Facebook is making a big deal about the metaverse doesn't mean that it or another tech giant will dominate the space, Nguyen said.

"There are also a lot of startups that could be potential competitors," he said. "There are new technologies and trends and applications that we've yet to discover."

Video game companies also are taking a leading role. Epic Games, the company behind the popular Fortnite video game, has raised \$1 billion from investors to help with its long-term plans for building the metaverse. Game platform Roblox is another big player, outlining its vision of the metaverse as a place where "people can come together within millions of 3D experiences to learn, work, play, create and socialize."

Consumer brands are getting in on it, too. Italian fashion house Gucci collaborated in June with Roblox to sell a collection of digital-only accessories. Coca-Cola and Clinique have sold digital tokens pitched as a stepping stone to the metaverse.

Zuckerberg's embrace of the metaverse in some ways contradicts a central tenet of its biggest enthusiasts. They envision the metaverse as online culture's liberation from tech platforms like Facebook that assumed ownership of people's accounts, photos, posts and playlists and traded off what they gleaned from that data.

"We want to be able to move around the internet with ease, but we also want to be able to move around the internet in a way we're not tracked and monitored," said venture capitalist Steve Jang, a managing partner at Kindred Ventures who focuses on cryptocurrency technology.

WILL THIS BE ANOTHER WAY TO GET MORE OF MY DATA?

It seems clear that Facebook wants to carry its business model, which is based on using personal data to sell targeted advertising, into the metaverse.

"Ads are going to continue being an important part of the strategy across the social media parts of what we do, and it will probably be a meaningful part of the metaverse, too," Zuckerberg said in the company's most recent earnings call.

That raises fresh privacy concerns, Nguyen said, involving "all the issues that we have today, and then some we've yet to discover because we're still figuring out what the metaverse will do."

Petrock she said she's concerned about Facebook trying to lead the way into a virtual world that could require even more personal data and offer greater potential for abuse and misinformation when it hasn't fixed those problems in its current platforms.

"I don't think they fully thought through all the pitfalls," she said. "I worry they're not necessarily thinking through all the privacy implications of the metaverse."

O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

See AP's complete technology coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/technology>

## Brave new world: Atlanta beats LA 4-2, heads to World Series

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Led by an unlikely hero, the Atlanta Braves are heading back to a place that used to be so familiar to them.

The World Series.

Eddie Rosario capped a remarkable NL Championship Series with a three-run homer, sending the Braves

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to the biggest stage of all with a 4-2 victory over the defending champion Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday night.

The Braves won the best-of-seven playoff four games to two, exorcising the demons of last year's NLCS — when Atlanta squandered 2-0 and 3-1 leads against the Dodgers — and advancing to face the AL champion Astros.

Game 1 is Tuesday night at Minute Maid Park in Houston.

"It's a great moment in my life," Rosario said through an interpreter. "But I want more. I want to win the World Series."

The Braves were Series regulars in the 1990s, winning it all in '95 with a team that included Hall of Famers Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Chipper Jones.

That remains their only title in Atlanta. The Braves lost the Series four other times during that decade, a run of postseason disappointment that marred a momentous streak that grew to 14 straight division titles.

After getting swept in the 1999 World Series by the Yankees, the Braves couldn't even get that far in the postseason.

Twenty-two years of frustration, 12 playoff appearances that fell short of a pennant.

Finally, it's over.

"We actually did it," said longtime first baseman Freddie Freeman, sounding a bit bewildered.

Rosario was acquired in a flurry of deals just before the July 30 trade deadline that rebuilt the Braves' depleted outfield, which lost Ronald Acuña Jr. to a season-ending knee injury and slugger Marcell Ozuna to a hand injury and legal troubles.

They weren't missed at all in the NLCS.

"Anything that was thrown at us," Freeman said, "we were able to overcome it."

Rosario set an Atlanta record and became only the fifth player in baseball history to get 14 hits in a postseason series. He was an easy choice as MVP of the series.

Spurred on by chants of "Eddie! Eddie! Eddie" from the raucous sellout crowd of more than 43,000, Rosario finished 14 of 25 (.560) against the Dodgers, with three homers and nine RBIs.

"We just couldn't figure him out," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said.

Will Smith worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save of the postseason after a brilliant relief stint by winner Tyler Matzek, who escaped a huge jam in the seventh by striking out the side.

Rosario's final hit was certainly the biggest of the 30-year-old Puerto Rican's career.

With the score tied at 1 in the bottom of the fourth, Rosario came up after pinch-hitter Ehire Adrianza extended the inning with a two-out double into the right-field corner. Slow-running catcher Travis d'Arnaud was held at third by coach Ron Washington, surely aware of who was up next.

Rosario got into an extended duel with Walker Buehler, who stepped up to start on three days' rest after ace Max Scherzer wasn't able to go because of a tired arm.

Rosario swung and missed the first two pitches. Then he fouled one off. Then he took a ball. Then he fouled off two more pitches.

Finally, he got one he liked from the Dodgers' 16-game winner — a cutter that Rosario turned into a 105 mph rocket down the right-field line, higher and higher, straight as an arrow until it landed well back into the seats below the Chop House restaurant.

"We got him 0-2 and just couldn't put him away," Roberts said.

Rosario knew it was gone, dancing down the line after delivering a 361-foot finishing shot to a highly paid team that won 106 games during the regular season — 18 more than the NL East-winning Braves — but came up short in its bid to become baseball's first repeat champion since the 2000 New York Yankees won their third straight title.

"We had a tremendous season," Roberts said. "We were two wins away from going to the World Series. I want the guys to be proud of that."

**KILL THE NARRATIVE**

The Braves will be looking to bury their city's reputation for postseason misery across a wide range of

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sports.

From four World Series losses in the 1990s to the NFL Falcons blowing a 28-3 lead in the 2017 Super Bowl, Atlanta again finds itself on the cusp of an extremely rare feat.

The '95 Braves remain the city's lone team in the four major sports — baseball, football, basketball and hockey — to capture a title. Freeman said after a Game 5 loss that the city's history would remain an issue "until we kill that narrative."

They're four wins from doing just that.

SNIT VS. SNIT

Braves manager Brian Snitker will see a familiar face in the opposite dugout during the World Series.

His son.

Troy Snitker is the hitting coach for the Astros.

"The Snitker family is going to have a World Series trophy in our house," Brian Snitker said. "I don't know who's going to have it, but we're going to have one."

K PATROL

The Braves got a stellar performance from their bullpen — including 10 strikeouts — after starter Ian Anderson was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the fourth.

A.J. Minter struck out four in two perfect innings. Matzek did the same in a much more tenuous situation, coming on in the seventh with runners at second and third and a run already in after Luke Jackson failed to get an out.

Matzek struck out the side that inning, including Mookie Betts on three straight pitches to strand both runners. The pitcher pumped his fist twice and let out a scream on his way off the mound.

The left-hander returned in the eighth for another perfect inning, including his fourth K, before Smith fanned two more hitters in a 1-2-3 ninth.

Matzek has 11 strikeouts with runners in scoring position in the seventh inning or later this postseason.

Not bad for a guy who didn't play at all in 2017 and worked his way to the Braves with two stints in an independent league.

"I was out of baseball in 2017," Matzek said. "Now I'm in the World Series."

UP NEXT

Dodgers: After a streak of seven straight victories in elimination games was snapped, they won't play another game that counts until the 2022 season opener against the Colorado Rockies. That comes on March 31 at Dodger Stadium.

Braves: Charlie Morton is set to go against his former team in the World Series opener. He memorably came out of the bullpen in Game 7 of the 2017 Series to pitch four innings of two-hit ball, closing out the lone title in Astros history with a 5-1 win over the Dodgers.

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## Film crew voiced complaints before fatal on-set shooting

By CEDAR ATTANASIO, MORGAN LEE and MICHELLE L. PRICE The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Hours before actor Alec Baldwin fired a fatal gunshot from a prop gun that he had been told was safe, a camera crew for the movie he was filming walked off the job to protest conditions and production issues that included safety concerns.

Disputes in the production of the Western film "Rust" began almost from the start in early October and culminated with seven crew members walking off several hours before 42-year-old cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed.

The crew members had expressed their discontent with matters that ranged from safety procedures



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to their housing accommodations, according to one of those who left. He requested anonymity for fear that speaking up would hurt his prospects for future jobs. Rust Movie Productions did not answer emails Friday and Saturday seeking comment.

At a rehearsal on the film set Thursday at Bonanza Creek Ranch outside Santa Fe, the gun Baldwin used was one of three that a firearms specialist, or "armorer," had set on a cart outside the building where a scene was being rehearsed, according to the court records.

Court records indicate that an assistant director, Dave Halls, grabbed a prop gun off a cart and handed it to Baldwin, indicating incorrectly that the weapon didn't carry live rounds by yelling "cold gun."

When Baldwin pulled the trigger, he unwittingly killed Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza, who was standing behind her inside a wooden, chapel-like building.

Baldwin, 63, who is known for his roles in "30 Rock" and "The Hunt for Red October" and his impression of former President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live," has described the killing as a "tragic accident." He was a producer of "Rust."

Halls did not immediately return phone and email messages seeking comment.

A 911 call that alerted authorities to the shooting at the Bonanza Creek Ranch outside Santa Fe hints at the panic on the movie set, as detailed in a recording released by the Santa Fe County Regional Emergency Communications Center.

"We had two people accidentally shot on a movie set by a prop gun, we need help immediately," script supervisor Mamie Mitchell told an emergency dispatcher. "We were rehearsing and it went off, and I ran out, we all ran out."

The dispatcher asked if the gun was loaded with a real bullet.

"I cannot tell you. We have two injuries," Mitchell replied. "And this (expletive) AD (assistant director) that yelled at me at lunch, asking about revisions....He's supposed to check the guns. He's responsible for what happens on the set."

The Associated Press was unable to contact Hannah Gutierrez, the film's armorer, and several messages sent to production companies affiliated with "Rust" did not receive responses Friday.

Court records say that Halls grabbed the firearm from the cart and brought it inside to the actor, also unaware that it was loaded with live rounds, a detective wrote in a search warrant application.

It was unclear how many rounds were fired. Gutierrez removed a shell casing from the gun after the shooting, and she turned the weapon over to police when they arrived, the court records say.

Guns used in making movies are sometimes real weapons that can fire either bullets or blanks, which are gunpowder charges intended to produce little more than a flash and a bang.

New Mexico workplace safety investigators are examining if film industry standards for gun safety were followed during production of "Rust." The Los Angeles Times, citing two crew members it did not name, reported that five days before the shooting, Baldwin's stunt double accidentally fired two live rounds after being told the gun didn't have any ammunition.

A crew member who was alarmed by the misfires told a unit production manager in a text message, "We've now had 3 accidental discharges. This is super unsafe," according to a copy of the message reviewed by the newspaper. The New York Times also reported that there were at least two earlier accidental gun discharges; it cited three former crew members.

Mitchell, the script supervisor, told The Associated Press she was standing next to Hutchins when the cinematographer was hit.

"I ran out and called 911 and said 'Bring everybody, send everybody,'" Mitchell said. "This woman is gone at the beginning of her career. She was an extraordinary, rare, very rare woman."

Filmmaker Souza, who was shot in the shoulder, said in a statement to NBC News that he was grateful for the support he was receiving and gutted by the loss of Hutchins. "She was kind, vibrant, incredibly talented, fought for every inch and always pushed me to be better," he said.

Santa Fe-area District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies said prosecutors will be reviewing evidence in the shooting and do not know if charges will be filed.

Hutchins' husband Matthew Hutchins posted on social media to mourn his wife's loss, ask for privacy

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for his family, and thank her friends and mentors at the American Film Institute, who he said “nurtured the success we had only just begun to see flourish.”

The institute’s conservatory canceled cinematography classes Friday in response to Hutchins’ death.

At a vigil Saturday around 200 film crew workers gathered for a candlelight vigil as the sun set. They shared grief at the loss of one of their own, and fear of accidents on their own film sets.

Several in attendance lit candles, held a moment of silence, read poetry and made brief comments including one testimonial to her artistic spark and generosity.

“Her death shouldn’t have happened, Union sets should be safe sets,” said Liz Pecos, president of IATSE Local 480.

Production on “Rust” was halted after the shooting. The movie is about a 13-year-old boy who is left to fend for himself and his younger brother following the death of their parents in 1880s Kansas, according to the Internet Movie Database website.

The crew member that spoke to the AP said he never witnessed any formal orientation about weapons used on set, which normally would take place before filming begins.

He also said only minimal COVID-19 precautions were taken even though crew and cast members often worked in small enclosed spaces on the ranch.

The crew was initially housed at the Courtyard by Marriot in Santa Fe, according to the crew member. Four days in, however, they were told that going forward they would be housed at the budget Coyote South hotel. Some crew members balked at staying there.

“We packed our gear and left that morning,” the crew member said of the Thursday walkout.

The Los Angeles Times and Variety also reported on the walkout.

Gutierrez, the film’s armorer, is the daughter of a longtime Hollywood firearms expert. She gave an interview in September to the Voices of the West podcast in which she said she had learned how to handle guns from her father since she was a teenager.

During the podcast interview, Gutierrez shared that she just finished her first movie in the role of head armorer, a project in Montana starring Nicolas Cage titled “The Old Way.”

“I was really nervous about it at first and I almost didn’t take the job because I wasn’t sure if I was ready but doing it, like, it went really smoothly,” she said.

In another on-set gun death from 1993, Brandon Lee, the son of martial arts legend Bruce Lee, was killed by a bullet left in a prop gun after a previous scene. Similar shootings have occurred involving stage weapons that were loaded with live rounds during historical re-enactments.

Gun-safety protocol on sets in the United States has improved since then, said Steven Hall, a veteran director of photography in Britain. But he said one of the riskiest positions to be in is behind the camera because that person is in the line of fire in scenes where an actor appears to point a gun at the audience.

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Price reported from New York. Associated Press writers Jake Coyle and Jocelyn Noveck in New York; Lizzie Knight in London; Yuras Karmanau in Kyiv, Ukraine; Ryan Pearson in Los Angeles; Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Walter Berry in Phoenix; and Gene Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

## Colombia’s most wanted drug lord captured in jungle raid

By ASTRID SUAREZ and JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian security forces have captured the country’s most wanted drug trafficker, a rural warlord who stayed on the run for more than a decade by corrupting state officials and aligning himself with combatants on the left and right.

President Iván Duque likened the arrest Saturday of Dairo Antonio Úsuga to the capture three decades ago of Pablo Escobar.

Colombia’s military presented Úsuga to the media in handcuffs and wearing rubber boots preferred by rural farmers.

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Úsuga, better known by his alias Otoniel, is the alleged head of the much-feared Gulf Clan, whose army of assassins has terrorized much of northern Colombia to gain control of major cocaine smuggling routes through thick jungles north to Central America and onto the U.S.

He's long been a fixture on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's most-wanted fugitives list, for whose capture it had been offering a \$5 million reward. He was first indicted in 2009, in Manhattan federal court, on narcotics charges and for allegedly providing assistance to a far-right paramilitary group designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. government. Later indictments in Brooklyn and Miami federal courts accused him of importing into the U.S. at least 73 metric tons of cocaine between 2003 and 2014 through countries including Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Honduras.

But like many of his gunmen, he's also cycled through the ranks of several guerrilla groups, most recently claiming to lead the Gaitanist Self Defense Forces of Colombia, after a mid-20th century Colombian leftist firebrand.

Authorities said intelligence provided by the U.S. and U.K. led more than 500 soldiers and members of Colombia's special forces to Usuga's jungle hideout, which was protected by an eight rings of security.

Usuga for years flew under the radar of authorities by eschewing the high profile of Colombia's better known narcos.

He and his brother, who was killed in a raid in 2012, got their start as gunmen for the now-defunct leftist guerrilla group known as the Popular Liberation Army and then later switched sides and joined the rebels' battlefield enemies, a right-wing paramilitary group.

He refused to disarm when that militia signed a peace treaty with the government in 2006, instead delving deeper into Colombia's criminal underworld and setting up operations in the strategic Gulf of Uraba region in northern Colombia, a major drug corridor surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean sea on either side.

Leaks and a network of rural safe houses he supposedly moved among every night allowed him for years to resist a scorched-earth campaign by the military against the Gulf Clan. As he defied authorities, his legend as a bandit grew alongside the horror stories told by Colombian authorities of the many underage women he and his cohorts allegedly abused sexually.

But the war was taking its toll on the 50-year-old fugitive, who even while on the run insisted on sleeping on orthopedic mattresses to ease a back injury. In 2017, he showed his face for the first time on occasion of Pope Francis' visit to the country, publishing a video in which he asked for his group be allowed to lay down its weapons and demobilize as part of the country's peace process with the much-larger Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

His arrest is something of a boost for the conservative Duque, who law and order rhetoric has been no match for soaring production of cocaine.

Land dedicated to the production of coca — the raw ingredient of cocaine — jumped 16% last year to a record 245,000 hectares, a level unseen in two decades of U.S. eradication efforts, according to a White House report.

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Goodman reported from Miami

## After slamming COVID-19 rules, Tritt sings anthem at NLCS

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Country musician Travis Tritt, who canceled shows at venues that required a COVID-19 vaccine or mask-wearing, sang the national anthem before Game 6 of the NL Championship Series on Saturday night.

Wearing a Braves jersey, Tritt received a smattering of applause when he was announced as a "country music legend."

There was a problem with Tritt's microphone, but a worker quickly handed him a backup mic that allowed him to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" without any further issues.



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After belting out the final words, Tritt patted his heart to a loud round of applause from the crowd of some 41,000. He lingered a bit in the prime seats behind home plate, bumping fists, shaking hands and chatting up the largely mask-less fans.

The 58-year-old Tritt is a native of suburban Marietta, not far from the Braves' stadium. He has been a vocal supporter of Atlanta's sports teams, even penning a forgettable 2004 ode to the city's NFL team, "Falcons Fever."

Tritt announced this week he was canceling shows in Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois and Kentucky over COVID-19 mandates, joining other prominent entertainers such as Eric Clapton and Van Morrison in protesting rules designed to curb the spread of a virus that has killed more than 700,000 Americans and nearly 5 million people around the world.

Tritt told Billboard that he's "not against the vaccine" but is "against forcing people to take medicine that they may not need and may not want."

In August, he released a statement claiming COVID-19 safety protocols were "discriminating" against concertgoers and said that he stood with those standing up against "the squelching of any specific freedoms and basic human rights around the world."

The Braves' stadium, Truist Park, has allowed full capacity most of the season with no requirements for vaccinations, negative tests or mask-wearing from fans.

Major League Baseball does require vaccines for non-playing personnel to be allowed access to the field. "Our policy in the playoff is non-vaccinated people are not allowed in restricted areas, and the field is a restricted area," said John Blundell, MLB's vice president of communications.

It wasn't clear if Tritt has been vaccinated against COVID-19, but that was a moot point. He sang the anthem from the Truist Club seating area behind the backstop.

The selection of Tritt to perform the anthem came as Braves outfielder Jorge Soler said he has reconsidered his initial reluctance to get the vaccine.

Soler tested positive for COVID-19 before Game 4 of the NLDS and was removed from the Braves' roster. He had no symptoms and was able to return for Game 5 against the Dodgers.

"I feel way different now," Soler said through a translator. "I feel bad about it, and I'm going to get a shot as soon as I can."

Tritt is a two-time Grammy winner who has had five songs go to No. 1 on the country music charts, the most recent being "Best of Intentions" in 2000.

Tritt was followed to the mic by another country music star, Atlanta native Zac Brown, who delivered a boisterous "Play Ball" before the first pitch.

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AP Sports Writer Charles Odum contributed to this report.

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## **Erdogan orders removal of 10 ambassadors, including US envoy**

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday that he had ordered 10 foreign ambassadors who called for the release of a jailed philanthropist to be declared persona non grata.

The envoys, including the U.S., French and German representatives in Ankara, issued a statement earlier this week calling for a resolution to the case of Osman Kavala, a businessman and philanthropist held in prison since 2017 despite not having been convicted of a crime.

Describing the statement as an "impudence," Erdogan said he had ordered the ambassadors be declared undesirable.

"I gave the instruction to our foreign minister and said 'You will immediately handle the persona non grata declaration of these 10 ambassadors,'" Erdogan said during a rally in the western city of Eskisehir.

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He added: "They will recognize, understand and know Turkey. The day they don't know or understand Turkey, they will leave."

The diplomats, who also include the ambassadors of the Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and New Zealand, were summoned to the foreign ministry on Tuesday.

A declaration of persona non grata against a diplomat usually means that individual is banned from remaining in their host country.

Kavala, 64, was acquitted last year of charges linked to nationwide anti-government protests in 2013, but the ruling was overturned and joined to charges relating to a 2016 coup attempt.

International observers and human rights groups have repeatedly called for the release of Kavala and Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtas, who has been jailed since 2016. They say their imprisonment is based on political considerations. Ankara denies the claims and insists on the independence of Turkish courts.

The European Court of Human Rights called for Kavala's release in 2019, saying his incarceration acted to silence him and wasn't supported by evidence of an offense. The Council of Europe says it will start infringement proceedings again Turkey at the end of November if Kavala is not released.

The current U.S. ambassador, David Satterfield, was appointed in 2019. The nomination of his replacement, Jeff Flake, was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday.

After Erdogan's order was reported, the State Department said in a statement, "We are aware of these reports and are seeking clarity from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

## After California wildfire, thousands of trees to be removed

THREE RIVERS, Calif. (AP) — In the wake of California wildfires, upwards of 10,000 trees weakened by fires, drought, disease or age must be removed, work that will keep a nearby highway closed to visitors who seek the world's two largest sequoia trees.

The hazard trees could potentially fall onto people and cars on the section of State Route 180 known as Generals Highway, or they could create barriers for emergency and fire response, the Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks said Friday.

The highway is closed due to the KNP Complex blaze, which was 60% contained after burning 138 square miles (357 square kilometers) of forest, and will remain blocked off to visitors after the fire is out while saw crews cut down trees and trim branches. Cooler weather has helped slow the flames and the area was expected to see rain starting Sunday.

The highway connects Giant Forest, home to the General Sherman Tree, which is considered the world's largest by volume, and Grant Grove, home to the General Grant Tree, the second-largest tree in the world. The trees along the highway include sequoias, pine and conifer trees, said fire spokeswoman Kimberly Caschalk.

The KNP Complex has been burning since Sept. 9, when lightning ignited two fires that later merged.

Forest officials said earlier this month the fires may have killed hundreds of giant sequoias, but the full extent of the damage has not been determined.

The fire's impact on giant sequoia groves was mixed. Most saw low- to medium-intensity fire behavior that the sequoias have evolved to survive, and the most notable trees survived.

Firefighters took extraordinary measures to protect the sequoias by wrapping fire-resistant material around the bases of some giants, raking and clearing vegetation around them, installing sprinklers and dousing some with water or fire retardant gel.

On Friday, forest staff unwrapped the base of the General Sherman tree after danger from the fire had passed.

"We're confident that tree is relatively safe," Caschalk said.

Drought in the West tied to climate change is making wildfires harder to fight. Scientists say climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years — meaning the rain and snow that does fall is likely to evaporate or absorb into the soil — and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

Recent storms have helped contain some of the nation's largest wildfires this year, including one that

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threatened the popular Lake Tahoe resort region this summer and is now 100% contained after snow blanketed the western side of the blaze and rain dropped on the eastern side. But this week's storms won't end drought that's plaguing California and the western United States.

## Deal on Biden's \$2T plan edges closer; Harris is 'confident'

By LISA MASCARO, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A deal within reach, President Joe Biden and Congress' top Democrats edged close to sealing their giant domestic legislation, though the informal deadline appeared to slip as they worked to scale back the measure and determine how to pay for it.

Negotiations were expected to continue into the weekend, all sides indicating just a few issues remained unsettled in the sweeping package of social services and climate change strategies.

Biden met at the White House on Friday with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer joined by video call from New York, trying to shore up details. The leaders have been working with party moderates and progressives to shrink the once-\$3.5 trillion, 10-year package to around \$2 trillion in child care, health care and clean energy programs.

Pelosi said a deal was "very possible."

She told reporters back at the Capitol that more than 90% of the package was agreed to: The climate change components of the bill "are resolved," but outstanding questions remained on health care provisions.

Vice President Kamala Harris sounded even more certain. On a visit to New York City, she said tensions often rise over final details but "I am confident, frankly -- not only optimistic, but I am confident that we will reach a deal."

No agreement was announced by Friday's self-imposed deadline to at least agree on a basic outline. Biden wants a deal before he leaves next week for global summits in Europe.

Pelosi hoped the House could start voting as soon as next week, but no schedule was set.

Sticking points appear to include proposed corporate tax hikes to help finance the plan and an effort to lower prescription drug costs that has raised concerns from the pharmaceutical industry. Democrats are in search of a broad compromise between the party's progressives and moderates on the measure's price tag, revenue sources and basic components.

At the White House, the president has "rolled up his sleeves and is deep in the details of spreadsheets and numbers," press secretary Jen Psaki said.

Biden was to spend the weekend at his home in Wilmington, Delaware.

Psaki compared the work to starting Social Security and other major federal programs decades ago, then building on them in following years.

"Progress here is a historic package that will put in place systems and programs that have never existed in our society before," she said, noting the effort to expand child care and provide free prekindergarten for all youngsters.

Negotiations are proceeding as Biden more forcefully appeals to the American public, including in a televised town hall, for what he says are the middle-class values at the heart of his proposal.

In a Senate that is evenly divided between the Democrats and firmly opposed Republicans, Biden can't afford to lose a single vote. He is navigating his own party's factions — progressives, who want major investments in social services, and centrists, who prefer to see the overall price tag go down.

"When you're president of the United States, you have 50 Democrats — every one is a president. Every single one. So you gotta work things out," he said during a CNN town hall Thursday.

Still, he expressed optimism about the process. "It's all about compromise. Compromise has become a dirty word, but bipartisanship and compromise still has to be possible," he said.

On one issue — the taxes to pay for the package — the White House idea seemed to be making headway with a new strategy of abandoning plans for reversing Trump-era tax cuts in favor of an approach that would involve imposing a 15% corporate minimum tax and also taxing the investment incomes of billionaires to help finance the deal.



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Biden has faced resistance from key holdouts, in particular Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., who has not been on board with her party's plan to undo President Donald Trump's tax breaks for big corporations and individuals earning more than \$400,000 a year.

The president was unusually forthcoming Thursday night about the sticking points in the negotiations with Sinema and another Democrat, conservative Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

While the president said Sinema opposed raising "a single penny in taxes" on the wealthy or corporations, a White House official later clarified that the president was referring to raising the top tax rates, not the range of tax proposals "which Sen. Sinema supports."

If so, that could unlock a key piece of a deal. With a better understanding of the revenues available, Democrats can then develop a topline amount of spending for the package, and adjust the duration and sums for various programs accordingly.

Biden said Manchin doesn't want to "rush" the transition to clean energy so quickly it will result in major job losses in his coal-producing state.

Even still, Biden acknowledged major reductions to his original vision.

He signaled the final plan would no longer provide free community college, but said he hoped to increase Pell Grants to compensate for the loss of the policy.

He also said that what had been envisioned as a federally paid, months-long family leave program would be just four weeks.

Another work in progress — the idea of expanding Medicare to include dental, vision and hearing aid benefits for seniors, is a priority for Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent of Vermont.

Biden said he likes the idea, but with Manchin and Sinema objecting, the proposal is "a reach."

Instead, Democrats, he said are considering offering seniors an \$800 voucher to access dental care as well as another program for hearing aids that Sinema may support. However, the vision care component, Biden said, has been harder to resolve and there is no consensus yet.

Overall, Biden and his party are trying to shore up middle-class households, tackle climate change and have the most wealthy Americans and corporations pay what he calls their "fair share" for the nation.

In the mix are at least \$500 billion in clean energy tax credits and other efforts to battle climate change, \$350 billion for child care subsidies and free prekindergarten, an extension of the \$300 monthly child tax credit put in place during the COVID-19 crisis, and money for health care provided through the Affordable Care Act.

The newly proposed tax provisions, though, have rankled Democrats who have long campaigned on scrapping the Republican-backed tax cuts that many believe unduly reward the wealthy and cost the government untold sums in lost revenue at a time of gaping income inequality. Many are furious that perhaps a lone senator could stymie that goal.

Under the changes being floated the 21% corporate rate would not change, nor would the top individual rate of 39.6% on those earning \$400,000, or \$450,000 for couples.

However, the White House is reviving the idea of a corporate minimum tax rate that would hit even companies that say they had no taxable income — a frequent target of Biden, who complains they pay "zero" in taxes.

The new tax on the wealthiest individuals would be modeled on legislation from Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He has proposed taxing stock gains of people with more than \$1 billion in assets — fewer than 1,000 Americans.

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Associated Press writers Alex Jaffe, Kevin Freking and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## States mostly defer to union guidance for on-set gun safety

By GEOFF MULVIHILL, SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN and JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. Associated Press  
Safety standards developed by film studios and labor unions are the primary protection for actors and film crews when a scene calls for using prop guns. The industry-wide guidance is clear: "Blanks can kill.

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Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.”

Shootings nevertheless have killed and injured people while cameras rolled, including the cinematographer who died and the director who was wounded this week when no one realized a prop gun fired by actor Alec Baldwin during the filming of “Rust” carried live rounds that are far more dangerous than blanks.

Despite some industry reforms following previous tragedies, the federal workplace safety agency in the U.S. is silent on the issue of on-set gun safety. And most of the preferred states for film and TV productions take a largely hands-off approach.

New York prohibits guns from being fired overnight on movie sets but does not otherwise regulate their use. Georgia and Louisiana, where the film industry has expanded rapidly, regulate pyrotechnics on movie sets but have no specific rules around gun use.

“We don’t have anything to do with firearms. We only regulate the special effects explosion-type stuff,” said Capt. Nick Manale, a state police spokesperson in Louisiana, where the film industry was credited with creating more than 9,600 jobs last year and generating nearly \$800 million for local businesses. “I’m not sure who does that, or if anybody does.”

New Mexico, where court records show an assistant director handed Baldwin a loaded weapon and told him it was “cold,” or safe to use, during the Thursday filming of “Rust,” has no specific safety laws for the film industry. Much of the legislative debate over the industry, as in other states, has focused on tax credits and incentives to lure the lucrative entertainment business, not what happens on sets.

That approach has worked well for New Mexico. In addition to attracting some large film productions, the state is home to major production hubs for Netflix and NBCUniversal. It had a record \$623 million in direct spending on productions between July 2020 through June of this year.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat and an ardent film industry supporter, touted the industry’s pandemic precautions over the summer, saying it had put safety first and cleared the way for work to resume.

Workplace safety is paramount in every industry in New Mexico, including film and television, the governor’s spokeswoman, Nora Meyers Sackett, said Friday.

“State and federal workplace safety regulations apply to the industry just as they do to all other workplaces, and the state Occupational Health and Safety Bureau is investigating,” Sackett said of the tragedy that unfolded on a movie ranch near Santa Fe. “This is an ongoing investigation, and we’re awaiting additional facts in order to understand how something so terrible and heartbreaking could have happened.”

A search warrant made public Friday said an assistant director on the set handed Baldwin a loaded weapon and indicated it was safe to use, unaware it was loaded with live rounds. The shot killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, who was struck in the chest, and wounded director Joel Souza, who was standing behind Hutchins.

New Mexico workplace safety officials confirmed they would be looking at whether the crew followed industry standards. The agency does not routinely conduct safety inspections of sets and studios unless they receive complaints.

Instead of regulating firearm use on film and TV sets, many states leave it to the industry to follow its own guidelines. Those recommendations, issued by the Industry-Wide Labor-Management Safety Committee, call for limited use of live ammunition and detailed requirements for the handling and use of firearms of all types. Safety meetings are to be held, actors are to keep their fingers off the triggers until they’re ready to shoot, and guns should never be unattended, the guidelines state.

Without specific state or federal regulations, it’s primarily up to the people working in productions to ensure guns are used safely. Brook Yeaton, vice president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees union that represents workers in Louisiana and parts of Mississippi and Alabama, said his approach is to act like all weapons are real and to never allow live rounds on a set.

“They shouldn’t be in the truck. They shouldn’t be in the same car,” said Yeaton, a prop master for more than 30 years. “You really have to make sure your inventory is totally separate from the real world and everything you bring on set is safe.”

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In one of the world's premier film centers, New York City, productions are required to adhere to a code of conduct that spells out rules for parking, notifying neighbors and other details. The safety rules feature a sections on covering cables and getting permits for exotic animals. But the only mention of gunshots is under the "community relations" heading: The sound of shots should not ring outdoors between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m.

The website of the Texas Film Commission states that productions using prop weapons — which can be replicas or real guns that fire blanks rather than live ammunition — must have safety policies, expert weapon handlers and proof of insurance. The Texas governor's office, which oversees the commission, did not return calls from The Associated Press asking about how those rules are enforced.

California, still the capital of the film industry, requires an entertainment firearms permit, though it's not clear how permit requirements are enforced.

Hutchins' fatal shooting near Santa Fe followed previous gun-related deaths and injuries on movie sets.

Actor Brandon Lee died in March 1993 after he was shot in the abdomen while filming a scene of "The Crow." Lee was killed by a makeshift bullet that remained in a gun from a previous scene. The U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration fined the production \$84,000 for violations after the actor's death, but the fine was later reduced to \$55,000.

In 2005, OSHA fined Greystone Television and Films \$650 after a crewmember was shot in the thigh, elbow and hand. It turned out that balloon-breaking birdshot rounds were in the same box as the blanks that were supposed to be used in rifles.

New Mexico state lawmaker Antonio "Moe" Maestas, an Albuquerque lawyer and champion of his state's film incentives, questioned whether any safety legislation could have prevented the fatal shooting on the set of "Rust."

"How can you disincentivize an involuntary act?" he asked.

Maestas said production companies might think about using post-production effects to mimic the sights and sounds they now rely on prop guns to create.

"That's the only way to really ensure this never happens again," he said.

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Montoya Bryan from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Landrum from Los Angeles. Also contributing to this article were Associated Press writers Jeff Amy in Atlanta; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Anthony McCartney in Los Angeles; and Amy Taxin in Orange County, California.

## A magical trove of Ricky Jay ephemera hits auction block

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Conjurers, cheats, hustlers, hoaxsters, pranksters, jokesters, posturers, pretenders, sideshow showmen, armless calligraphers, mechanical marvels and popular entertainments.

Those were the things that interested the grizzled Ricky Jay, the sleight-of-hand artist, card shark, author, actor and scholar extraordinaire on all of the above who died in 2018 at age 72. When he passed, he left behind a vast trove of rare books, posters, broadsides and other artifacts that honored many who came before him.

Now, nearly 2,000 of more than 10,000 pieces that stuffed his Beverly Hill's house will make their way into the hands of those who care to bid during an unusual upcoming Sotheby's auction after Jay's widow, the Emmy-winning producer Chrisann Verges, turned them over.

Selby Kiffer, Sotheby's international senior specialist for books and manuscripts, was one of two experts from the auction house to visit Verges at home in California and select what they wanted for the Ricky Jay Collection.

"It's really a collection of collections," Kiffer said ahead of the two-day live auction starting Wednesday. "The challenge was to find an institution that was interested not only in magic but also in circus, not only in books but also in posters and apparatus, and all of the elements of popular entertainment."



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Divided into 634 lots, Sotheby's estimates the collection at \$2.2 million to \$3.2 million, hoping for bidders from those inside Jay's world, magic admirers from afar and art enthusiasts on the hunt to decorate their walls. There's more than enough to choose from.

Harry Houdini is ever present, an obligation of sorts to any collector like Jay. Closer to Jay's heart was the magician Max Malini of the early 20th century. A poster advertises Malini's appearance at King's Theatre in New York with a rounded portrait, medals on one lapel and touting performances before six heads of state. Dating to around 1916, it's one of only two known copies and estimated to fetch \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Jay was so enamored of Malini that he devoted an entire chapter of his book, "Learned Pigs & Fireproof Women," to the man he described as the "last of the mountebanks."

Malini, Jay wrote, was rarely featured on music hall or theater stages. Rather, he was the "embodiment of what a magician should be. Not a performer who requires a fully equipped stage, elaborate apparatus, elephants or handcuffs to accomplish his mysteries, but one who can stand a few inches from you and with a borrowed coin, a lemon, a knife, a tumbler or a pack of cards convince you he performed miracles."

A rare Houdini poster from around 1913 depicts the escape artist upside down in his water torture cell, a look of dire concern on his face that told the story in the color lithograph valued at \$40,000 to \$60,000.

An entire room on display at Sotheby's spacious Manhattan headquarters is dedicated to another who drew Jay's attention: Matthias Buchinger. He was a German artist, magician and calligrapher born without hands or lower legs and measuring just 29 inches tall. Buchinger, who died in 1740 and lived most of his life in the UK, was married four times and had at least 14 children.

Much of Buchinger's living was made in calligraphy, including his inking of family trees for money. One of Kiffer's favorite pieces up for auction is the tree Buchinger created for his own family, demonstrating his unlikely skill with a pen but also knife or scissors for intricate paper overlays. Done in 1734, the tree is marked for sale at \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Jay, Kiffer said, was not just a collector who wanted all the things.

"He was doing serious research. And I think in part because he was curious about his predecessors, he wondered what illusions and tricks they did and how they accomplished them. But he lectured and published widely. He was not a trophy hunter who just said, 'Well, I want to get the most expensive book on conjuring and the rarest, most expensive Houdini poster.' He was looking for things that other people might not recognize the significance of," Kiffer explained.

Jay was Brooklyn born as Richard Jay Potash and grew up in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He rarely spoke publicly about his parents but was introduced to magic by a grandfather, an amateur enthusiast who encouraged Jay to take to the stage and screen as a boy wonder. His first TV appearance was at age 7. By his 20s, a long-haired Jay was on his way to stardom, opening for rock bands and appearing on talk shows.

Friend and admirer Steve Martin once described Jay thusly: "The swindler who never swindled, the con man who never conned, the cheat who never cheated, and mostly, the eccentric collector of all that is eccentric."

Jay was a frequent presence in the films of David Mamet, including "House of Games." He also had a recurring role in HBO's "Deadwood," playing card shark Eddie Sawyer, and was a go-to consultant in Hollywood on all things magic, gambling and cards. Paul Thomas Anderson put him in the films "Boogie Nights" and "Magnolia."

Among Jay's talents was card throwing. He once held the Guinness World Record for a distance of 190 feet at 90 mph. He often turned a lowly playing deck into weaponry. He could throw a single card so it would penetrate a watermelon and shear a wooden pencil in two.

The mechanical objects up for auction include "Neppy," Jay's smartly dressed automaton and veteran of hundreds of performances around the world in his stage show, "Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants." Named for the Viennese card artist Dr. Johan Nepomuk Hofzinger, Neppy performed a silent routine with his human partner. A card would be torn, handed to audience members, collected and restored by the bespoke Neppy, who stands on a small, red velvet stage.

Sotheby's priced Neppy at \$10,000 to \$15,000.

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In all, Jay published 11 books that reflect his web of passions, from cards and curious characters to mysteries unraveled and the admired Buchinger. Jay lent the bulk of his Buchinger treasures to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for an exhibition in 2016 and wrote the catalog himself.

Perhaps just as telling of the collector as the collected, Kiffer pinpointed Jay's Buchinger fascination this way: "What he liked about figures like Buchinger wasn't how different they were but really how similar they were to other people."

Follow Leanne Italie on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/litalie>

## Vaccine mandates create conflict with defiant workers

By DAVID SHARP, MIKE CATALINI and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

BATH, Maine (AP) — Josh "Chevy" Chevalier is a third-generation shipbuilder who hasn't missed a day of work during the pandemic in his job as a welder constructing Navy warships on the Maine coast.

But he's ready to walk away from his job because of an impending mandate from President Joe Biden that federal contractors and all U.S. businesses with 100 or more workers be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"People are fighting for their constitutional rights — the way they think their life should be," said Chevalier, one of hundreds of employees at Bath Iron Works threatening to leave.

Chevalier is among a small but significant number of American workers deciding whether to quit their jobs and careers in defiance of what they consider intrusive edicts that affect their freedoms.

The Biden administration, public health officials and many business leaders agree that vaccine requirements are legal, prudent actions necessary to help the world emerge from a pandemic that has killed more than 700,000 Americans and nearly 5 million people worldwide.

The defiant workers make up a small fraction of the overall workforce, with many cities, states and businesses reporting that more than 9 out of 10 of their workers are complying with mandates.

But they have the potential to create disruptions in a tight labor market and have become the latest roadblock in overcoming the vaccine hesitancy that allowed the COVID-19 crisis to take a devastating turn over the summer. In many cases, the reasons for the objections are rooted in misinformation.

The refusers come from all types of occupations — defense industry workers, police officers, firefighters, educators and health care workers. In Seattle, a group of city firefighters turned in their boots at City Hall on Tuesday to protest a vaccination requirement.

Thousands of people have sought religious or medical exemptions that were rejected; others won't stand to be told what to do and have quit or been fired.

Nick Rolovich, the football coach at Washington State University, was let go from his \$3.2 million-a-year job on Monday, along with four assistants. Rolovich, the first major college coach to lose his job over vaccination status, claimed a religious exemption but has declined to elaborate. He is suing.

The conflict over mandates is likely to grow in the coming weeks. The Biden administration is expected to move forward any day with the mandate that employers with 100 or more workers require all employees be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing, though enforcement likely won't start for several weeks. The rule for federal contractors goes into effect in December, with no testing option, but many businesses, governments and schools are already implementing mandates.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other groups that represent large employers have warned workers might simply migrate to jobs at smaller businesses where they don't face vaccination requirements. That could create challenges for large retailers going into the holiday season, among other disruptions, the chamber warned.

Individuals who've left their jobs and are seeking work that doesn't require vaccinations are sharing information on social media. Small employers looking for workers are turning to online job boards such as RedBalloon, where employers sign a pledge that they won't make vaccines a condition for hiring.

Andrew Crapuchettes, RedBalloon's founder and chief executive, said he started the online job board

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more than two months ago for people “who just want to work and don’t want to get into politics in the office.” More than 800 companies have posted, and more than 250,000 people have visited the site, he said.

Some states, including Texas, Montana and Florida, are gearing up to fight or undercut the Biden mandates. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order Monday barring any entity from requiring vaccines.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Thursday he will call a special session to pass legislation to combat vaccine mandates, saying that, “in Florida, your right to earn a living is not contingent upon whatever choices you’re making in terms of these injections.”

Melissa Alfieri-Collins, a 44-year-old mother of two, said she resigned from her job as a nurse at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune, New Jersey, rather than undergo regular COVID-19 testing.

She said the hospital recognized her request for a medical exemption, but she objected to the requirement that only unvaccinated people get tested, arguing that even vaccinated people can spread disease.

“My family and I, we had a long talk, and I basically don’t want to compromise my values any more,” said Alfieri-Collins, who hopes to become a nurse practitioner and pursue her own holistic practice.

“I am very sad because I am the type of nurse that loves my patients and my patients love me,” she said.

Anthony Polenski, director of strategic partnerships for tech recruiting company Jobfuture.ai, said he’s seeing candidates who want to know, “Will this company force me to take a job?” Polenski said they are often leaving previous employers because of a vaccine mandate.

“They don’t want their vaccination status attached to their employment,” he said.

At the shipyard in Maine, frustration is rising among union members.

On Friday, some 100 shipbuilders gathered outside the shipyard during their lunch break to protest being forced to get vaccinated. They marched down the street, holding signs decrying the mandate and using choice four-letter words that made clear what they think of the president and his vaccine mandates.

The union fears it could lose more than 1,000 workers, or 30% of its membership, over the federal contractor mandate.

Dean Grazioso, a 33-year Bath Iron Works employee, said he’s not anti-vaccine but that he knows vaccinated coworkers, friends and family members who’ve contracted breakthrough COVID-19 infections. Such infections are rare and vaccinated people who get COVID-19 usually have mild symptoms and are far less likely to be hospitalized or die.

The 53-year-old is still deciding whether to get the shot.

“I’m still up in the air,” he said. “But I’ve got a huge decision to make.”

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Catalini reported from Trenton, New Jersey, and Dazio reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writer Anthony Izaguirre in Tallahassee, Florida, contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: How wildfires impact wildlife, their habitat**

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The porcupines were walking slow and funny, more so than they usually do.

Their stride concerned some residents in a South Lake Tahoe neighborhood who called a rehabilitation center. Turns out, the porcupines had extensive burns to their paws, fur, quills and faces after a wildfire burned through the area.

Wildlife centers in the U.S. West are caring for animals that weren’t able to flee the flames or are looking for food in burned-over places.

An emaciated turkey vulture recently found on the Lake Tahoe shore couldn’t fly, likely because food isn’t as plentiful in burned areas, said Denise Upton, the animal care director at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

“That’s what we’re seeing in the aftermath of the fires — just animals that are having a hard time and being pushed into areas they are not traditionally in,” she said.

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### **IS FIRE GOOD OR BAD FOR WILDLIFE?**

Not necessarily either, says Brian Wolfer, the game program manager for the Oregon Department of



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Fish and Wildlife.

"It's a disturbance on the landscape that changes habitat," he said.

Some species benefit from wildfire, such as raptors that hunt rodents running from the flames, beetles that move into dead wood and lay eggs, and woodpeckers that feed on them and nest in hollow trees.

Fire exposes new grass, shrubs and vegetation in the flowering stage that feed elk and deer. When food sources are plentiful, female deer produce more milk and fawns grow faster, Wolfer said.

On the flip side, animals that depend on old growth forests can struggle for decades trying to find suitable habitat if trees fall victim to fire, Wolfer said. If sagebrush burns, sage grouse won't have food in winter or a place to hide from predators and raise their young, he said.

"In the years that follow, you see reduced survival and, over time, that population starts to decline," he said.

Some wildfires burn in a mosaic, preserving some habitat. But the hotter and faster they burn, the harder it is for less mobile animals to find suitable habitat, he said.

## HOW ANIMALS RESPOND TO WILDFIRE

Mice, squirrels and other burrowing animals dig into cooler ground, bears climb trees, deer and bobcats run, small animals take cover in logs and birds fly to escape the flames, heat and smoke.

"They almost seem to have a sixth sense to it," said Julia Camp, a resources manager for the Coconino National Forest in northern Arizona. "A lot of times their response is quicker than ours."

Firefighters have spotted tortoises with singed feet at the edge of wildfires, snakes slithering out from the woods and frail red-tailed hawks on the ground.

Biologists can take precautionary measures, like moving introductory pens for Mexican gray wolves or scooping up threatened or endangered fish if they know a fire is approaching, Camp said.

In 2012, a team of biologists went in after a massive lightning-sparked wildfire in the Gila Wilderness in southwestern New Mexico to save Gila trout from potential floods of ash, soil and charred debris that would come with heavy rainfall. The fish were sent to hatcheries that replicated their habitat until they could be returned.

Some animals don't survive wildfires, but their deaths don't greatly affect the overall population, wildlife officials say.

## HOW WILDLIFE FACTORS INTO FIRE MANAGEMENT

When wildfires break out in northern Arizona, Camp pulls out her maps. She can see where Mexican spotted owls live, which fish live in which waterways, and where bald and golden eagles nest.

"If we're going to put a dozer line in, it won't be in the middle of their nesting area," she said. "But if something is barreling toward Flagstaff, we're going to have to put out the fire regardless."

Some of those decisions are driven by the federal Endangered Species Act.

In 2015, a wildfire was threatening the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge on the North Carolina coast. Firefighters cut low-lying branches from old pine trees where the red-cockaded woodpecker nests and burned other potential fuel.

"What ended up happening is the fire did approach that area, but because of these measures, it did not affect the nesting areas of the woodpecker," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Kari Cobb.

Firefighters also can starve wildfires of fuel using backburns so flames burn at the base of trees rather than more intensely in the crowns and threatening wildlife habitat.

Other considerations are in play when dropping fire retardant so chemicals don't affect water sources or suffocate sensitive plants.

Wildfire managers also try to avoid transferring mussels, fungi or non-native plants that might hitchhike in helicopter buckets by carefully choosing water sources or disinfecting buckets, Camp said.

## HOW TO SPOT AN INJURED ANIMAL

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Injured animals will move slowly or not at all. Experts say the best action for humans is to keep their distance, don't feed the animals and call wildlife officials or a rescue group.

"Sometimes you're not necessarily doing them the favor you think they are if that care is going to result in them becoming habituated, losing their fear for people," Wolfer said. "We have to think by helping it, 'Am I going to reduce its long-term survival potential?' Animals are tough, much tougher than we give them credit for."

The Wildlife Disaster Network based at the University of California, Davis, took in animals from several fires in California last year and from others that burned this year in the Sierra Nevada. Those include a baby flying squirrel, a baby fox and bear cubs.

The staff scans animals for visible wounds and does blood work, X-rays and ultrasounds to develop a rehabilitation plan, said veterinarian Jamie Peyton, who helps lead the network.

"I really think you can't just look at a single being and think 'It's not worth it, it's not worth trying,'" Peyton said.

## ARE ALL ANIMALS RETURNED TO THE WILD?

Whether an animal can survive in the wild depends on the severity of the burns and the animal's age.

Treating burned adult bears is difficult because they tear off traditional bandages, and if they eat them, it can plug their intestines forcing euthanasia, Peyton said.

A bear she treated in 2017 named Lucy forced her to think differently.

"I really was stuck trying to control the pain, and she wouldn't take the medication, despite my pleas and some doughnuts," Peyton said.

Peyton developed a tilapia skin bandage that's now used on 15 different species, including a porcupine at the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care whose paws were burned. Another porcupines at the center won't be released until its quills grow back so it can defend itself, Upton said.

Adult bears and mountain lions typically are released within eight weeks so they don't get used to humans as caretakers, Peyton said.

Sometimes, animals leave rehabilitation centers on their own terms. A bear cub that was found walking on its elbows was rescued from the Tamarack Fire that's still burning south of Carson City, Nevada, and treated at the Lake Tahoe center. The cub pushed through a malfunctioning door in an outdoor enclosure this summer and left.

"He had really healed quite a bit before he decided he didn't want to be here anymore," Upton said. "I'm pretty confident he's doing OK. He was a wild little bear."

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 24, the 297th day of 2021. There are 68 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 24, 1940, the 40-hour work week went into effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

On this date:

In 1648, the Peace of Westphalia (west-FAY'-lee-uh) ended the Thirty Years War and effectively destroyed the Holy Roman Empire.

In 1861, the first transcontinental telegraph message was sent by Chief Justice Stephen J. Field of California from San Francisco to President Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C., over a line built by the Western Union Telegraph Co.

In 1931, the George Washington Bridge, connecting New York and New Jersey, was officially dedicated (it opened to traffic the next day).

In 1945, the United Nations officially came into existence as its charter took effect.

In 1962, a naval quarantine of Cuba ordered by President John F. Kennedy went into effect during the

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missile crisis.

In 1972, Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, who'd broken Major League Baseball's modern-era color barrier in 1947, died in Stamford, Connecticut, at age 53.

In 1989, former television evangelist Jim Bakker (BAY'-kur) was sentenced by a judge in Charlotte, N.C., to 45 years in prison for fraud and conspiracy. (The sentence was later reduced to eight years; it was further reduced to four for good behavior.)

In 1992, the Toronto Blue Jays became the first non-U.S. team to win the World Series as they defeated the Atlanta Braves, 4-3, in Game 6.

In 1996, TyRon Lewis, 18, a Black motorist, was shot to death by police during a traffic stop in St. Petersburg, Florida; the incident sparked rioting. (Officer James Knight, who said that Lewis had lurched his car at him several times, knocking him onto the hood, was cleared by a grand jury and the Justice Department.)

In 2002, authorities apprehended John Allen Muhammad and teenager Lee Boyd Malvo near Myersville, Maryland, in the Washington-area sniper attacks. (Malvo was later sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, but Maryland's highest court has agreed to reconsider that sentence in 2022; Muhammad was sentenced to death and executed in 2009.)

In 2005, civil rights icon Rosa Parks died in Detroit at age 92.

In 2007, rapidly rising Internet star Facebook Inc. sold a 1.6 percent stake to Microsoft Corp. for \$240 million, spurning a competing offer from online search leader Google Inc.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama offered mortgage relief to hundreds of thousands of Americans during a visit to Las Vegas. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, visiting Yokota Air Base in Japan, lashed out at North Korea for "reckless and provocative" acts and criticized China for a secretive expansion of its military power.

Five years ago: Campaigning in battleground Florida, a defiant Donald Trump blamed his campaign struggles on "phony polls" from the "disgusting" media. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Elizabeth Warren pounded Trump, accusing him of disrespecting women and denigrating U.S. troops assisting Iraqis in their push to retake the city of Mosul. Pop idol Bobby Vee, 73, died in Rogers, Minnesota.

One year ago: A North Carolina health official ordered a large church to close its doors temporarily because of concerns it was helping spread the coronavirus by disregarding social distancing measures. Despite surging cases around the country and more infections at the White House, President Donald Trump assured supporters packed shoulder to shoulder at a trio of rallies that "we're rounding the turn" on the coronavirus; he mocked challenger Joe Biden for raising alarms about the pandemic. Heavily protected crews in Washington state worked to destroy the first nest of so-called murder hornets discovered in the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Rock musician Bill Wyman is 85. Actor F. Murray Abraham is 82. Movie director-screenwriter David S. Ward is 76. Actor Kevin Kline is 74. Congressman and former NAACP President Kweisi Mfume (kwah-EE'-see oom-FOO'-may) is 73. Actor Doug Davidson is 67. Actor B.D. Wong is 61. Actor Zahn McClarnon is 55. Singer Michael Trent (Americana duo Shovels & Rope) is 44. Rock musician Ben Gillies (Silverchair) is 42. Singer-actor Monica Arnold is 41. Actor-comedian Casey Wilson is 41. R&B singer, actor and "The Real" co-host Adrienne Bailon Houghton is 38. Actor Tim Pocock is 36. R&B singer-rapper-actor Drake is 35. Actor Shenae Grimes is 32. Actor Eliza Taylor is 32. Actor Ashton Sanders (Film: "Moonlight") is 26. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kyla Ross is 25. Actor Hudson Yang is 18.