

Groton Daily Independent

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Brookings Novice Debate
Volleyball Region 1A Tourney
NCRC Test at GHS, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Thursday, Nov. 4

Aberdeen Novice Online Debate
Volleyball Region 1A Tourney
Bowdle LDE

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 5-6

Golden Eagle Cup Debate & Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central

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 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 11:00

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM
Missions Meeting - discuss Fall Dinner 7:00 PM

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

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

Sunday, November 7, 2021

All Saints Sunday
Conde Worship 9:00 AM
Sunday School - Lesson and practice Christmas Program 10:00 AM
Groton Worship 11:00 AM
Service of Remembrance 11:00 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, Oct. 31

10:30am Worship w/Communion
Confirmation Day
NO Sunday School
Milestones Freshmen

Monday, Nov. 1

6:30am Bible Study

Wednesday, Nov. 3

5pm Sarah Circle
6:00pm 7th & 8th gr confirmation

Thursday, Nov. 4

2pm Nigeria Circle

Sunday, Nov. 7

9am Worship/Communion/
Milestones for 3yr old's, 2nd & 3rd gr.
10:15 Sunday School

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. 31

8 a.m.: Bible Study
9 a.m.: St. John's
11 a.m.: Zion
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School

Monday, Nov. 1

1 p.m.: LWML Ladies Aid

Wednesday, Nov. 3

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, Nov. 7

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

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

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Northern State Takes Down Moorhead with Balanced Offense and Key Defensive Stops

Moorhead, Minn. – On a windy day from Moorhead, the Northern State University football team took down the hosts 33-27. The Wolves defeated MSU Moorhead, improving to 3-1 in the NSIC North Division with two games remaining in the regular season.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 33, MSUM 27

Records: NSU 7-2 (3-1 North), MSUM 4-5 (2-3 North)

Attendance: 1122

HOW IT HAPPENED

- The two teams nearly made it out of the first quarter scoreless, however the Wolves tallied the first touchdown of the game with 3:16 remaining in the frame
 - Hunter Trautman connected with Dewaylon Ingram for a 10-yard touchdown; Ingram tied the single season school record with his 11th of the season
 - Payton Eue extended the lead for the Wolves in the second on a 23-yard made field goal
 - Moorhead rallied back to close out the half, notching a touchdown and 23-yard field goal of their own to tie the game at 10-all
 - The Wolves opened the third with a 22-yard Trautman to Ben Noland receiving touchdown to take the 17-10 lead; Noland's first touchdown of the 2021 season
 - The Dragons did not back down, responding with a rushing score; a missed PAT however left them trailing by one
 - Northern rattled off three scoring drives from there with two rushing touchdowns from Vance Barnes (29-yards) and Brett Brenton (1-yard), as well as Eue's second field goal of the win
 - Eue hit the 32-yards attempt as time expired in the third, tying the second single season school record of the afternoon for Northern State with his 14th made field goal of the season
 - Moorhead attempted a comeback, scoring two touchdowns in the fourth, but was unable to tie the contest or take the lead
 - Offensively, Northern recorded a game high 24 first downs, 200 yards rushing, 251 yards passing, and 451 yards of total offense
 - NSU averaged 4.3 yards per rush and 13.9 yards per completion, converting on 9-of-19 third downs and 2-of-3 fourth downs
 - The Northern State defense held MSU Moorhead to a 3-of-14 conversion rate on third down and recorded six tackles for a loss, including a save by Shawn Brodie
 - Brenton tallied his first 100-yard rushing game of the season to lead the Wolves offensively, and Brennan Kutterer tallied a career day with 16 total tackles

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

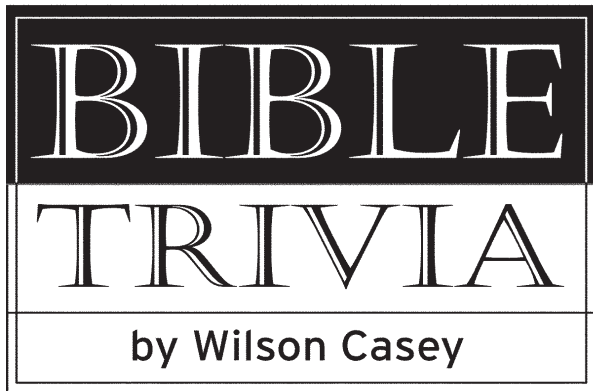
- Hunter Trautman: 18-of-36, 251 yards passing, 3 touchdowns, 50 yards rushing
- Brett Brenton: 105 yards rushing, 5.5 yards per carry, 1 touchdown, 21-yard long, 24 yards receiving
- Brennan Kutterer: 16 tackles, 2.5 tackles for a loss of 5 yards, 1 break-up
- Nate Robinson: 10 tackles, 1 break-up
- Payton Eue: 2 field goals (23 and 32 yards), 3-of-4 PAT, 33.0 yards per punt, 60.4 yards per kickoff

UP NEXT

Northern State closes out their 2021 home slate next Saturday, November 6 versus Bemidji State. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. from Dacotah Bank Stadium. For a full list of game day promotions [CLICK HERE](#). Fans are also reminded that all game day information and protocols are posted on the Dacotah Bank Stadium homepage.

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

2. From Leviticus 24's rules for restitution, what other body part is mentioned besides "eye for an eye"? *Nose, Tooth, Finger, Toe*

3. The Lord sent Jeremiah to the house of what type of tradesman? *Carpenter, Shopkeeper, Tailor, Potter*

4. In Acts 5, how were the apostles released from prison? *Broke out, Walls caved, Freed by an angel, Triumphantly*

5. What did James say is "set on fire of hell"? *Adulterer, Tongue, Ribald, Unfathered*

6. From Matthew 8, whose mother-in-law did Jesus heal? *Elijah, Solomon, Daniel, Peter*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Tooth (for a tooth); 3) Potter; 4) Freed by an angel; 5) Tongue; 6) Peter

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

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November is National Peanut Butter Lovers Month, so for all you peanut butter lovers, here's a recipe just for you.

- 1/2 cup fat-free milk
- 1/4 cup reduced-fat creamy peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon no-fat sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg or equivalent in egg substitute
- 1 1/2 cups reduced fat baking Mix
- 1/4 cup Splenda granulated sweetener

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray 8 wells of a 12-hole muffin pan with butter-flavored cooking spray or line with paper liners.

2. In a large bowl, combine milk, peanut butter, sour cream, vanilla extract and egg. Add baking mix and Splenda. Mix gently to combine. Evenly spoon batter into prepared muffin wells.

3. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Place muffin pan on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Remove muffins from pan and continue cooling on wire rack.

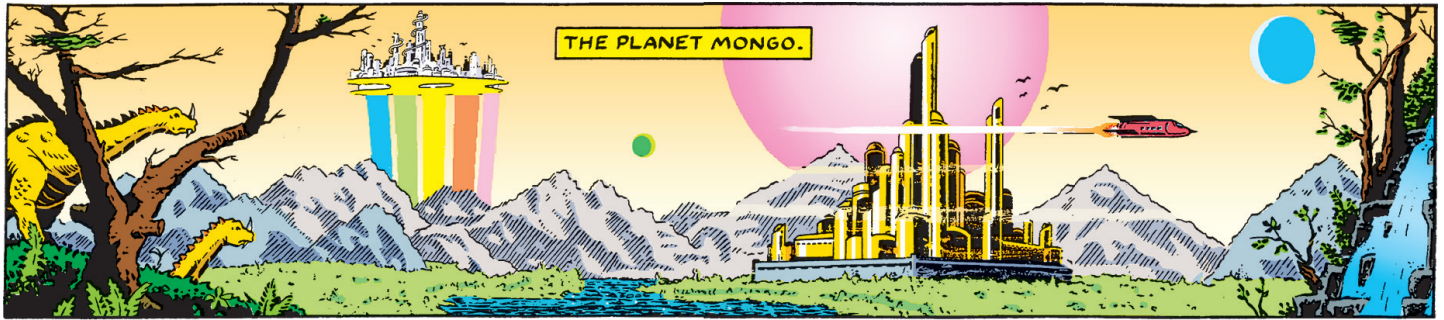
TIP: Fill unused muffin wells with water. This protects the muffin tin and ensures even baking.

* Each serving equals: 145 calories, 5g fat, 5g protein, 20g carbohydrate, 317g sodium, 42g calcium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 starch/carbohydrate, 1/2 fat.

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FLASH GORDON By JIM KEEFE
10-24

SCOUTING OUT FRIA'S PALACE, A GARGANTUAN BEAST IS UNCOVERED!

KRAC!

RRRRRRR

UH-OH...

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

FREE SWINGING OF THE ARMS BACK FROM AND THEN TO AND THROUGH THE BALL IS FUNDAMENTAL TO GOOD SHOT-MAKING.

LETTING THE ARMS HANG FREELY AND NATURALLY AT ADDRESS IS BASIC TO ACHIEVING IT.

AVOID ANY POSTURE AT THE BALL THAT CREATES MUSCULAR TENSION IN YOUR ARMS - ESPECIALLY YOUR FOREARMS.

EXCESSIVE TENSION THERE WILL SEVERELY RESTRICT YOUR BODY ACTION, BOTH ON THE BACKSWING AND FORWARD SWING.

JM



You're Never Too Old for HPV Infection

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column stating that the HPV vaccine is recommended up to age 45. Are people older than 45 years no longer susceptible to HPV? Asking for a 52-year-old friend (who thinks he's Wolverine). -- C.F.

ANSWER: The comic character Wolverine has a mutant healing ability (that's how he was able to survive having his bones replaced with adamantium), so he has nothing to worry about. However, non-mutants do have to worry about HPV, which can come from any kind of skin-to-skin contact with a person who has HPV.

Having the virus often means having warts, but sometimes people can have contagious HPV without having any visible lesion. It's been estimated that 90% of people with HPV don't know they have it.

People of any age are susceptible to HPV. Most people have been exposed by age 45, which is why the recommendations are the way they are now, but vaccination might make sense in some situations. The clearest example is someone who has had very few sexual partners and is about to become more sexually active (for example, a person recently divorced or widowed).

Although the vaccine is not indicated by the Food and Drug Administration in this situation and the person is likely going to have to pay out of pocket, it might still be worth it to get the vaccine to reduce the risk of acquiring a new sexually transmitted HPV infection. I received several letters from people who acquired new genital warts in just this situation who were upset that their doctor did not offer the vaccine.

If people have already been exposed to HPV, the vaccine will not harm them. In fact, there is some anecdotal evidence that the vaccine might help people with difficult-to-treat warts by boosting the immune system specifically for HPV.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 79-year-old male in relatively good health. During the past year, I have lost underarm hair. What could be the cause? And is there a connection with the inability to get aroused? -- A.F.

ANSWER: I would be concerned about low testosterone.

Androgens, particularly testosterone, are responsible for growth and maintenance of body hair. Loss of body hair, especially pubic and axillary hair, is not common with low testosterone levels unless the testosterone was very low for a long period of time, usually over a year. Other symptoms of low testosterone include loss of muscle mass, lower energy levels, decreased libido and depression. Not all men will get all symptoms, but having more than one symptom is suggestive of low testosterone, especially in men who have difficulty getting an erection.

Your doctor should check your testosterone. Ideally, the sample should be drawn while fasting between 8 and 10 a.m. when levels are normally highest, and should take into account the age of the person being tested.

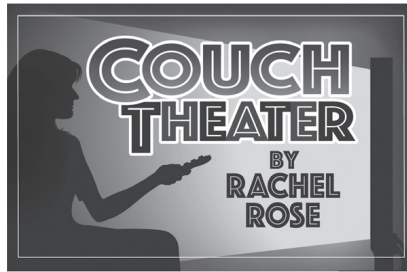
Testosterone replacement is appropriate for men with symptoms of low testosterone and clear evidence by laboratory of a repeatedly low level. Testosterone replacement is safe for most men, but is generally not given to men with a history of prostate or breast cancer. Testosterone should be given with caution to men with obstructive sleep apnea and men with symptomatic prostate enlargement.

The data so far suggest that testosterone replacement in deficient men does not increase risk of prostate cancer.

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

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Puppy Place — “Come for the puppies, stay for the adventure” is the tagline for this absolutely adorable Apple original scripted TV series based on a Scholastic Book series by Ellen Miles. In it, brother and sister duo Charles and Lizzie (Riley Looc and Brooklynn MacKinzie) help find happy, proper homes for puppies they’ve fostered together. Each episode includes a plethora of quizzical head tilts, playful pounces and destruction of squeaky toys. Also included are lessons about personal responsibility and social issues, but let’s all admit we’re just going to watch this because puppies are so darn relaxing. (Apple TV+)

Big Mouth (Season 5) — The ridiculously funny animated series created by Nick Kroll and Mark Levin returns for a fifth season in all its teenage crassness and messy pubescent drama. As the characters begin eighth grade, many of the previous season’s storylines continue with the addition of lovebugs and hate worms, the newest non-human characters that serve to represent the young characters’ emotions. If you’re a “Big Mouth” novice, know that the humor is raw and crude, but it’s likely nothing you didn’t hear yourself in middle school. Voice regulars returning include John Mulaney, Maya Rudolph, Jordan Peele and Jesi Klein. (Netflix)

Taste the Nation with Padma Lakshmi: Holiday Edition — Amid the smorgasbord of cooking/eating/food shows out there, this four-part holiday-focused edition of “Taste the Nation” is a delightful amuse-bouche. Host Padma Lakshmi travels across the U.S. learning about special holiday traditions that unite our histories with the foods we eat. The most alluring delight of this show is the up-close views and sounds of the foods. This isn’t simply a host chomping on a giant turkey sandwich and telling us how good it is. Instead, unique cam-

era angles put viewers sizzling right alongside the bacon and simmering in a steaming stew pot. If ever there was a need for smell-o-vision, it is right now to watch this show. (Hulu)

Storm Rising — This National Geographic series rides along with professional storm chasers as they travel toward dangers that the rest of us flee or hunker down against. Meteorologist Reed Timmer (previously on “Storm Chasers”) and his band of fearless cohorts spent an entire year heading into tornadoes, hurricanes and mudslides to document natural



Apple TV+

Riley Looc and Brooklynn MacKinzie in “Puppy Place”

disasters for this five-episode limited Nat Geo series. The footage is at times dizzying and anxiety-inducing, but that’s exactly the thrill we hope for while watching from our safe, comfy couches. (Disney+)

Much Ado About Christmas — Sappy Christmas movies aren’t just for the Hallmark Channel, and it’s never too soon to start watching them. Like, the day after Halloween is totally acceptable. In this modern holiday twist on a Shakespeare play, the absolutely believable plot centers around a rich socialite and philanthropist named Haley. She meets a handsome, romantic suitor named Claud who is completely unaware who Haley is or of her wealthy background, to the delight of Haley. But when the truth is uncovered, enter the much ado. (Peacock)

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1. Who released a song (and an album by the same name) with the title "Beaucoups of Blues"?
2. Name the singer who released the first English-language version of "All Alone Am I."
3. Who was Fernando?
4. Were the Righteous Brothers really related?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Before we're through I want to tell you that I adore you, And always do."

Answers

1. Ringo Starr, in 1970. It was his first solo single after leaving the Beatles.
2. Brenda Lee, in 1962. It was originally written in Greek. Lee was 18 at the time and had been the sole financial support for her family since she was

10 years old.

3. "Fernando," written originally in Swedish by ABBA for one of its group members, was a bartender in Stockholm. ABBA released an English version years later and it became one of their biggest hits.
4. No. Bill Medley and Bobby Hatfield met when a previous group (the Paramours) disbanded.
5. "Ma Belle Amie" by Tee-Set, a Dutch group, in 1970. The song did well around the world and was released in different languages. The title, translated from French, means "my beautiful friend."

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner

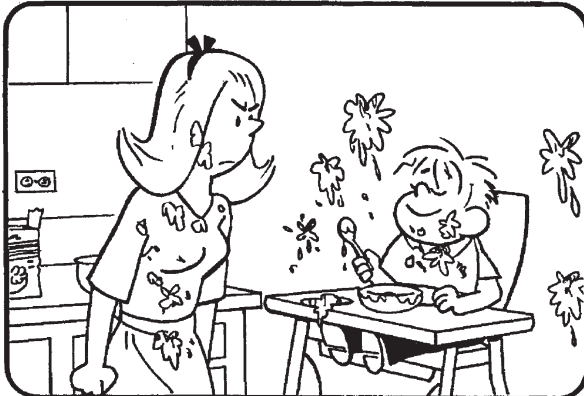


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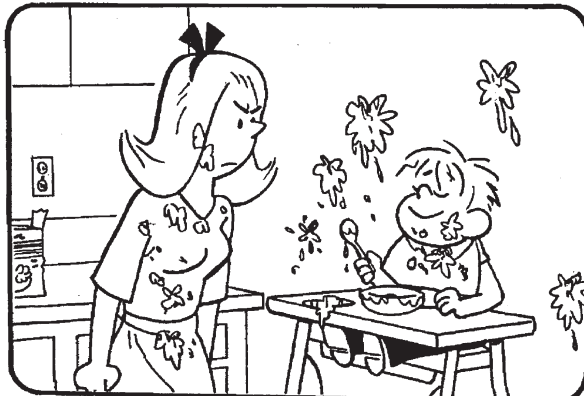
"It's good to see Roscoe active again. ... He's been dormant since last football season."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Food "spat" on wall is moved. 2. Bowl is bigger. 3. Outlet is turned. 4. Bowl is missing. 5. Back of highchair is removed. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

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- Three ways to use an empty tissue box: 1) Store plastic grocery bags inside; 2) line with a small plastic trash bag and use in your car as a travel trash can; 3) cut out the bottom and use it to disguise an extra toilet tissue roll in your guest bath!

- Love oranges? Save the peels to add to your potpourri mix. Remove as much of the pith as possible and cut into strips. Air dry in bright light for about a week. Or you can set the strips on parchment and dry in a partially closed oven set to 175 F for about 45 minutes. Check often.

- “To separate yolks from egg whites, simply crack eggs into a shallow bowl and ‘suck’ the yolk out using an empty plastic water bottle. Squeeze the bottle slightly, then position the mouth of the bottle at the yolk and let go. It will magically slide up into the bottle, leaving the whites behind!” — *T.T. in New York*

- “When the last serving of jam has been used, I will happily add some oil and vinegar to the jar, along with a few choice spices, then shake. It’s an instant vinaigrette, with a fruity tang.”

— *C.L. in Tennessee*

- Keep your jeans or other denim items from fading by soaking them in a solution of cold water and salt (2 tablespoons to a gallon) for about an hour before washing.

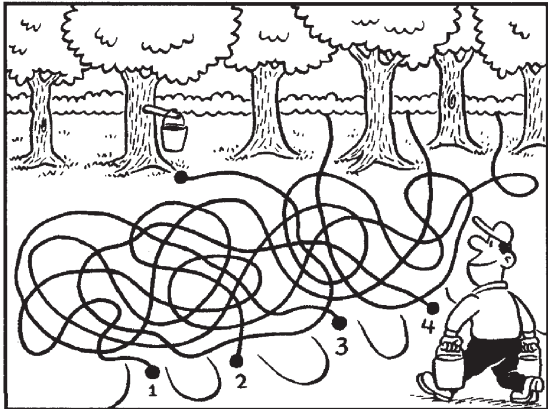
- “To clean a can opener, get it wet and run a folded paper towel through it while turning the handle. Works best if done after each use.” — *H.P. in Washington*

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

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DON'T BE A SAP! See if you can guess the right path that will take you to the maple tree.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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BIKE
BILE
BILK
BALK
WALK



ON THE MOVE!

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

A RHYMING REBUS! All right, students, you have two minutes to solve this rebus puzzle.

YY UR, YY UB. I CUR YY 4 me.



"Too wise you are, too wise you be. I see you are too wise for me."

A WINNING HAND! You'll be aces if you solve this one. In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all end in ACE. Use the following definitions:

- 1. ACE (in place).
- 2. Sneaker part.
- 3. The universe.
- 4. To wipe out.
- 5. Very hot place.
- 6. Type of ornament.

- 1. ACE
- 2. _ ACE
- 3. _ _ ACE
- 4. _ _ _ ACE
- 5. _ _ _ _ ACE
- 6. _ _ _ _ _ ACE

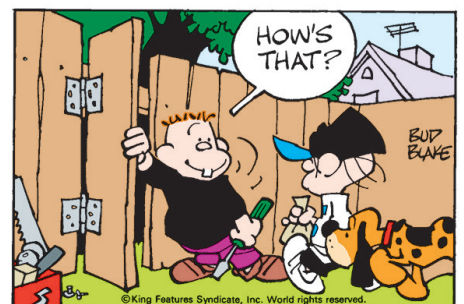
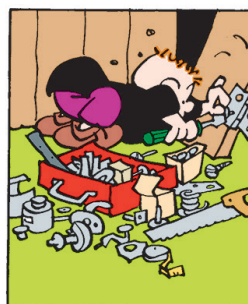
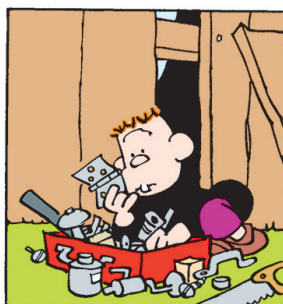
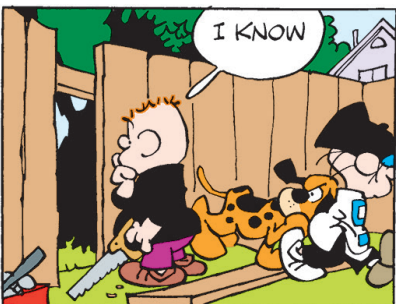
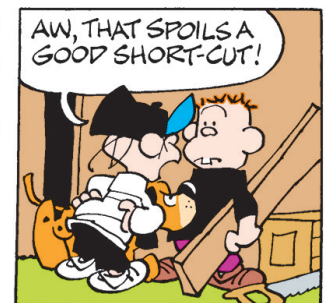


Illustrated by David Coulson

- 1. PORK, CORK, COOK, COOP
- 2. MILK, MILE, MALE, MAKE, CAKE
- 3. LOVE, LIVE, LAVE, HAVE, HATE
- 4. DECK, HECK, HACK, HANK
- 5. FEET, FEAT, FLAT, FLAY, CLAY

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Landed
- 5 Gearwheel tooth
- 8 Slightly
- 12 Sultry Horne
- 13 "— you serious?"
- 14 Barn roof spinner
- 15 Strict disciplinarian
- 17 Noble Italian family
- 18 Swift
- 19 Sculpted trunks
- 21 Old Olds
- 22 Doctor Zhivago
- 23 Wye follower
- 26 Moreover
- 28 On edge
- 31 Sciences' partner
- 33 Observe
- 35 Campus VIP
- 36 "Hogwash!"
- 38 Finale
- 40 Water tester
- 41 Love god
- 43 Inherited
- 45 Painter's motion
- 47 Reduces
- 51 Nashville's st.
- 52 Instrument in a Dixieland band

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
			21				22					
23	24	25		26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 54 Couturier Paul — WSW
- 8 Declared 32 Island wraps
- 9 Baby's bed 34 Queen's domain
- 10 Division word 37 Stir-fry pan
- 11 Casual tops 39 Entryway
- 16 Notion 42 Factions
- 20 Ump's call 44 Packing string
- 23 Hit with a ray gun 45 Halt
- 24 Triage ctrs. 46 Far (Pref.)
- 25 System for linking computers 48 Author Bagnold
- 27 Ruby of films 49 Tear
- 29 — Paulo, Brazil 50 Remain
- 30 Away from 53 Torched

DOWN

- 1 Charitable gift
- 2 Bound
- 3 Concerning
- 4 Spud
- 5 Big gorges
- 6 Mine yield
- 7 Oil tycoon J.

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

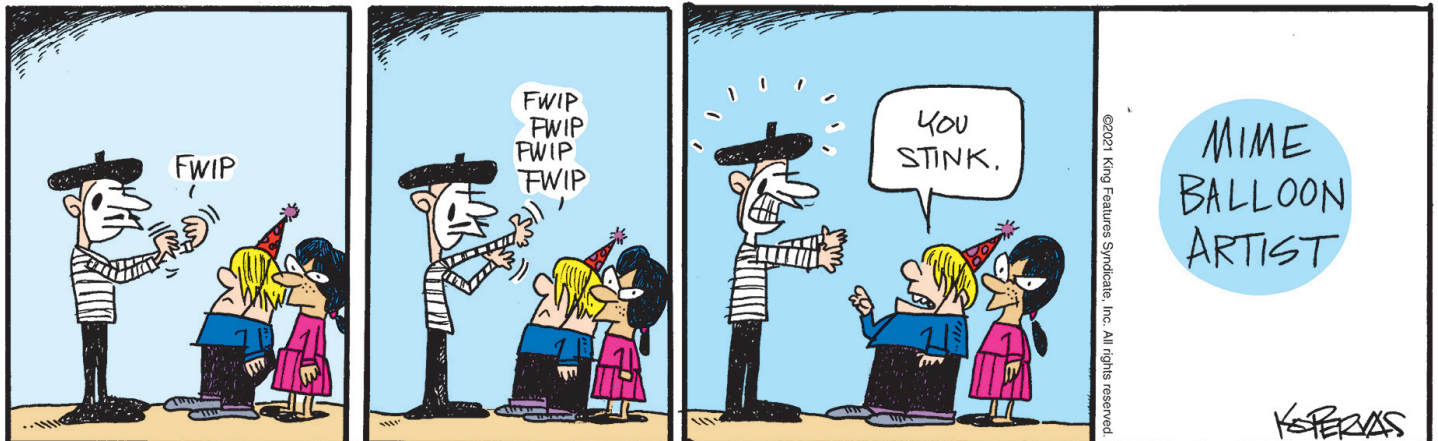
LAFF - A - DAY



"You tricked me! You threw in this soap, didn't you?"

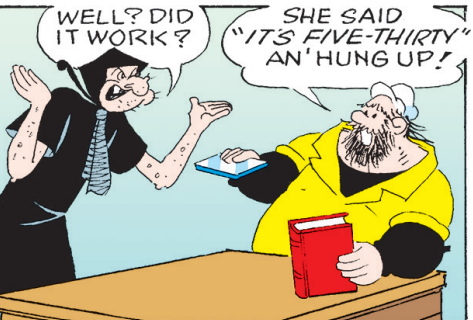
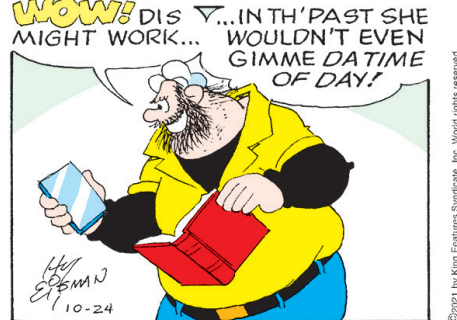
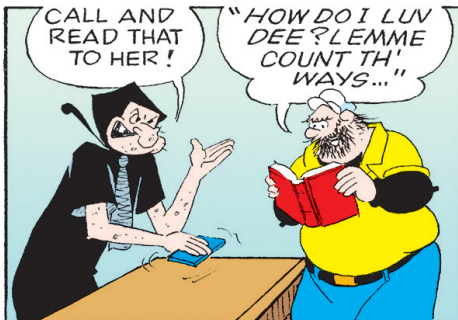
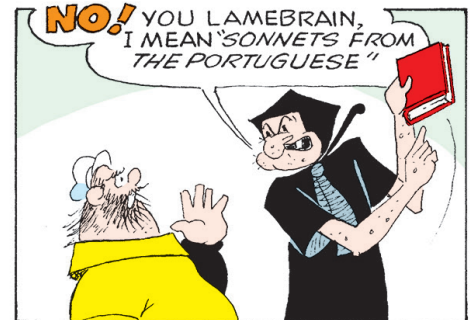
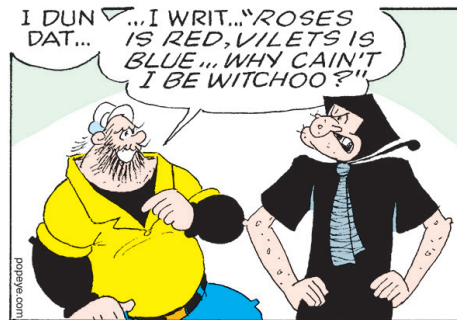
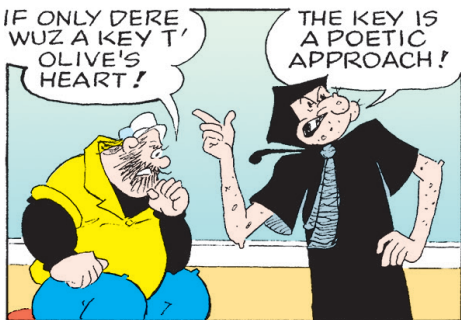
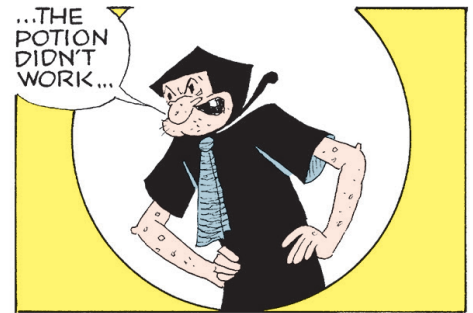
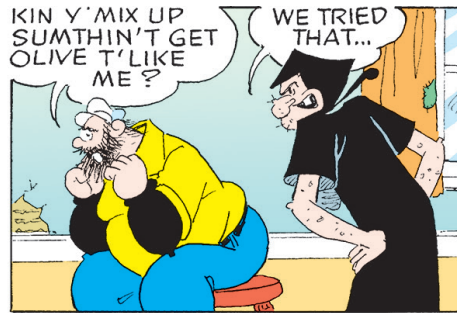
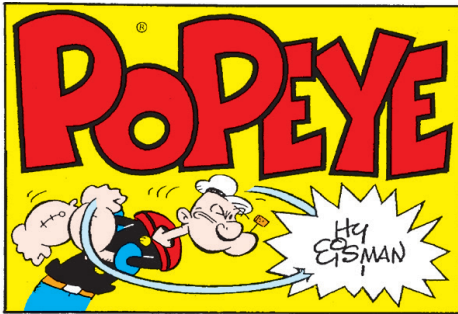
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



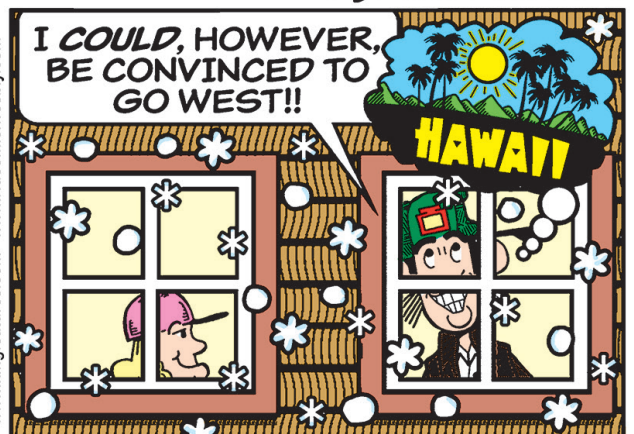
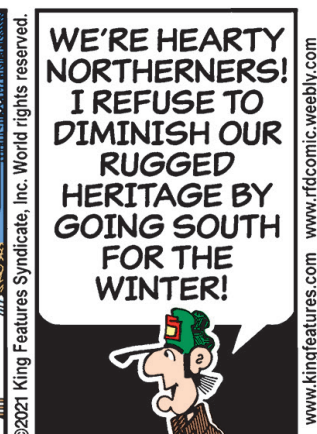
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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HAL FOSTER'S GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE ELIXIR OF EXTENDED LIFE, IG AND VAL GIVE VENT TO THEIR FRUSTRATIONS.

"ALETA MAY HAVE CHEATED ME OUT OF A GO AT HORRIDUS," SNARLS VAL, "BUT I'LL HAPPILY TAKE YOU DOWN A PEG INSTEAD!" IG, HOWEVER, IS LITTLE AFFECTED BY VAL'S FIERCEST BLOWS.

AND ALETA CHOOSES TO END THE FIGHT BEFORE HER HUSBAND IS DISMEMBERED.



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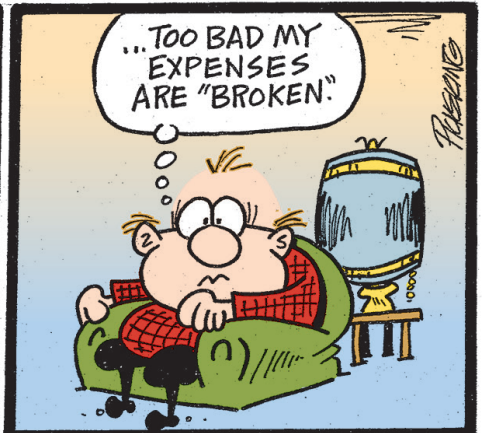
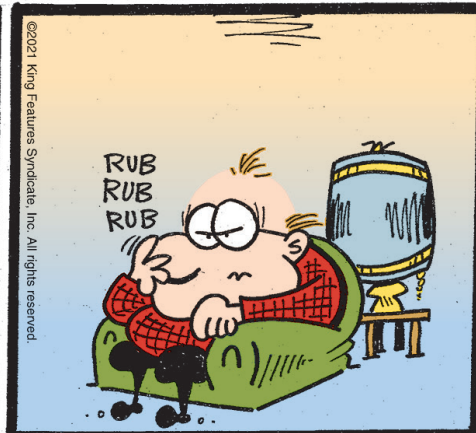
WHILE THE OTHERS RESTRAIN IG, ALETA ADDRESSES THE PRINCE: "GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! START ACTING LIKE A LEADER INSTEAD OF A RAMMY SCHOOLBOY!"



NEXT: An agreement

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

It's Time to Review, Renew Medicare

This is that time of year, again, when we need to make decisions about Medicare plans.

From Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, we are eligible to compare our coverage between the original Medicare, Advantage plans and the Part D drug plans in open enrollment. They change every year, and we need to know how those changes will impact us.

To compare plans, go online to Medicare.gov and click on Preview 2022 Health & Drug Plans. Click on the plans you'd like to see and enter your ZIP code. If you want to compare drug costs, enter that data as well.

Have pen and paper on hand and do the math. While it's said that the average Advantage plan will come down \$2, the average drug plan will go up that much. Beware the deductibles.

If you have an Advantage plan and

think you want to continue it, read the fine print. If you're used to having benefits for glasses, gym membership or other things, check to be sure you'll still have those. Compare all of the plans to get what you need.

If you have a Part D drug plan and need insulin, be especially careful in selecting your plan. An additional 500 plans will include insulin this year, but again, read the fine print to be sure it's what you need. A warning: Be sure your drugs are covered.

If you have questions you can call 1-800-MEDICARE, 24/7, to get help. You can also seek assistance at the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for your state (www.shiphelp.org).

If you are low income or have a disability, you might be eligible for the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). They help pay for premiums and deductibles, as well as co-payments. Go online to cms.gov and search for Medicare Savings Programs. Click on one of the four categories for more information and income limits.

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1. Which former NBA star was named head coach of the Chinese Basketball Association's Beijing Royal Fighters in June 2019?

2. Friar Dom is the mascot for what college team's athletic programs?

3. What institution, located in Ormond Beach, Fla., instructs professional and amateur baseball umpires?

4. Westfalenstadion (officially Signal Iduna Park) is the home stadium of what Bundesliga football club?

5. Before becoming the Toronto Maple Leafs, what name did the NHL team have from 1919-27?

6. Name the Iowa Hawkeyes running back who was selected by the New York Jets in the third round of the 2009 NFL draft.

7. Name the journalist and sportscaster who co-hosted ESPN's "Highly



Questionable" from 2013-17 and had an ESPN Radio show called "The Right Time" from 2015-17?

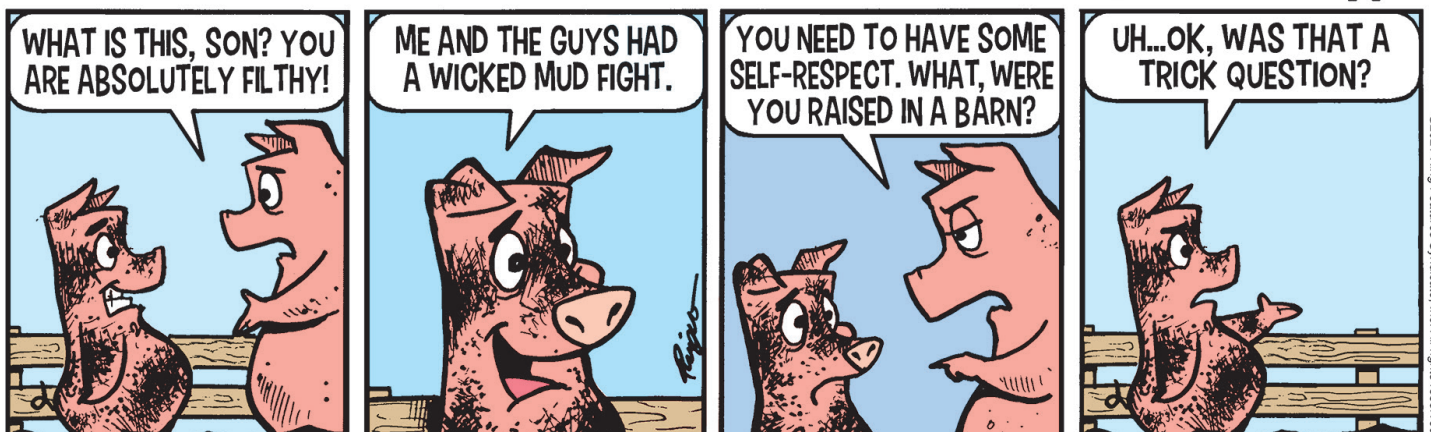
Answers

1. Stephon Marbury.
2. Providence College.
3. The Harry Wendelstedt Umpire School.
4. Borussia Dortmund.
5. The Toronto St. Patricks.
6. Shonn Greene.
7. Bomani Jones.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Pet Sitting Goes Awry

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Last month, I agreed to pet sit for a friend while she and her boyfriend went on vacation. I did this for free because I love pets and want to see if pet sitting as a business is right for me.

Bitsy, her 3-year-old cat, was a joy to care for ... the first week. On Monday of the second week, I came to take care of her and Bitsy was laying in the middle of the floor, lethargic. I scooped her up and took her straight to the veterinarian, who thinks she either ingested a toxic houseplant or spoiled food. After fluids and rest at the vet, Bitsy is doing much better.

But my friend is angry with me because the vet's bill is very high. She says it's my fault that Bitsy got into her houseplant. I followed my friend's instructions to the letter. Why is it my fault? What should I do? Sign me — Confused in Denver

DEAR CONFUSED: I'm glad Bitsy is doing better. You did the right thing by taking her in for medical care.

My advice is to give your friend a little time to process everything that happened. You've explained your side already. Hopefully with a little breathing space she will be able to think more clearly and then the two of you can talk and decide what to do.

When you open your pet sitting business, take this as a lesson learned. Spell out terms very clearly, stating that the pet owner is responsible for any vet bills incurred due to illness or injury. You can learn much more through groups like Pet Sitter International (<https://www.petsit.com/>) and the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (<https://petsitters.org/>).

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Most NASCAR teams use nitrogen in their tires instead of air. This allows the tire to have a much more consistent rate of expansion and contraction to heat and cold.

* North Koreans must have one of 28 state-approved haircuts.

* There's alcohol in space! In 2006, astronomers discovered a cloud of alcohol in part of the Milky Way where stars are forming from gas and dust.

* In Albania, some women make an oath to be-

come "sworn virgins" in order to live life as a man, with the rights and privileges of a man. For the rest of their lives, they are never again addressed as female.

* Over 2,500 left-handed people a year are killed by using equipment made for right-handed people. The deadliest item? The right-handed power saw.

* A traffic jam in Beijing lasted more than nine days.

* If you yelled for eight years, seven months and six days, you would produce enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.

* A man with severe OCD and a phobia of germs attempted to commit suicide with a gun to his head. Instead of killing him, the bullet eliminated his mental illness without any other damage.

* In 2003, there were 86 days of below-freezing weather in Hell, Michigan.

* Until 2018, there were only two English words ending in "gry" -- hungry and angry. Then the Oxford English Dictionary added a third -- "hangry" (an irritable state induced by lack of food).

* A decibel is not its own unit, but actually 1/10th of the seldom used "Bel," a unit named in honor of Alexander Graham Bell for his contribution to acoustics.

* "Backpfeifengesicht" is a German term for a face that badly needs a punch.

Thought for the Day: "The world is round so that friendship may encircle it." -- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

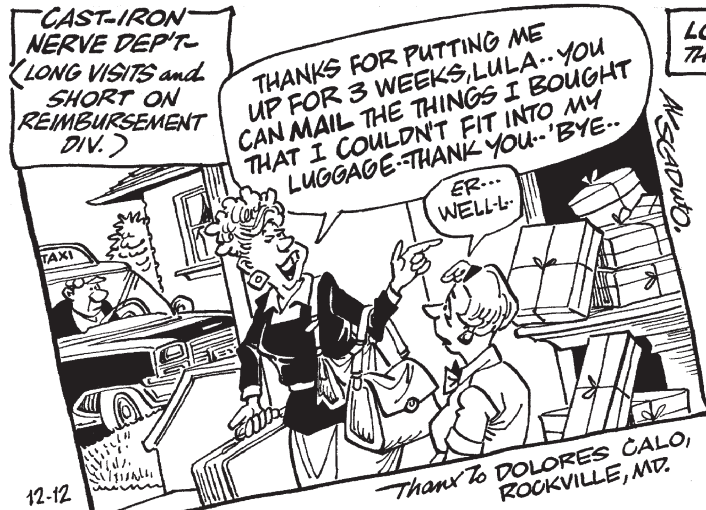
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



Receding glaciers carved out cavities in the landscape. Some evolved into wet, muddy "bogs." Those with more sand and clay formed the perfect

environment for cranberry plants to grow in abundance. North American tribes harvested the *sasumuneash*, as they called the berries, for thousands of years. The cultivation of the cranberry by European settlers began around the early 1800s. Harvesting the berries finishes in October (by November the bogs become dormant) and the fruit is often used for holiday meals.

Source: www.cranberries.org

- Brenda Weaver

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Here's How to Find Where Vet Is Buried

The Veterans Legacy Memorial website has been expanded by 500,000 names at 93 veterans cemeteries across the country. This is in addition to the 4 million names already there at 155 cemeteries.

The VLM is a digital platform and repository for information on veterans buried in those cemeteries. Friends and family can add biographies, photos, documents and other information to the listing for each veteran as a way of paying tribute. So far, 22,000 friends and families have added information to their veteran's profile page.

For those of us who live far from the cemeteries where our veterans are buried, being able to add to a legacy page helps. For me, my family is only partially covered at this point. My grandfather at Fort Sam is in the database. Another relative at Riverside is in the database. Three others aren't, including my par-

ents at Arlington National. They are, however, in ANC's website, although there is no way to add photos (except for the photo of the marker that is already there) or stories or biographies.

Perhaps Arlington will be among those added in the half-million new names. Eventually the project intends to cover veterans buried in state and local cemeteries, as well as private cemeteries.

To look for your veteran, go to [www.vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm cem.va.gov) and put in the name — first name last name, no comma. Click on the FAQ for more information.

To find a veteran at Arlington National, go to www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

If your veteran is listed in the Veterans Legacy Memorial, contribute to the profile. Pictures are a great addition, as is bio information and personal stories.

As a side note, Wreaths Across America will be on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. See their website (www.wreathscrossamerica.org) for ways you can help with wreath-laying at the 2,500 locations.

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



Supply Chain Spook

The supply chain's breakin' down
and its making consumers' frown.
It's a problem I'm hoping to snuff
'cause the season's spooky enough.
The time has come for the cheaters to pay
which is exactly what my bill has to say.
Congress cannot get sidetracked
but must pass the Ocean Shipping Reform Act.
Before there's a Christmas delay
due to cargo ships stuck in the Southern California bay.

Halloween is here and while there is plenty of scary movies to watch and haunted houses to go to, what has me most spooked is the state of the global supply chain.

The supply chain disruption is haunting both producers and consumers:

- Dozens of South Dakota agricultural exporters have contacted my office expressing frustration with long delays.
- Local stores are unable to fill shelves and online shoppers are having to wait months for their purchases.
- California ports are now running around the clock as cargo ships form queues off the west coast waiting to offload.
- Reports have come out that ocean carriers are declining cargo bookings of American exports and returning to the Asia-Pacific with empty containers.
- It is no secret the COVID-19 pandemic shook up the supply chain in unprecedented ways, but continual congestion, and outright declining to ship American exports is unfair, anti-competitive, and should be an illegal business practice.

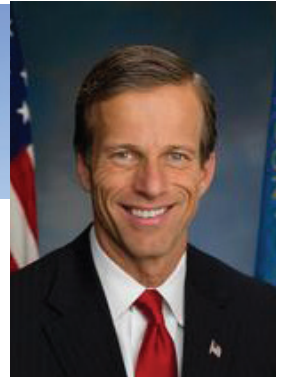
While there's no silver bullet to fixing the supply chain, Representative John Garamendi (D-CA) and I introduced the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 to ensure that American exporters are given mutual benefit and reciprocal opportunities.

Because the majority of ocean carriers are foreign based, this piece of legislation would require ocean carriers to adhere to minimum service standards that meet the public interest, reflecting best practices in the global shipping industry.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 would also provide the Federal Maritime Commission, the U.S. governing body of the shipping industry with the ability to self-initiate investigations and apply enforcement measures when ocean carriers exhibit unreasonable behavior.

With spooky season ending, Christmas is fast approaching and shopping for gifts will soon begin. It's time that we hold these carriers accountable and get the supply chain back up and running before there's a Christmas delay.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Spooky Spending Spree

What's scarier than Halloween? Democrats' socialist spending spree, that's what. Why? Because right now, inflation is a serious problem for families in South Dakota, and the Democrats' proposal would make it even worse. Folks are paying more at the gas pump and at the grocery store than they have in years. According to some reports, the cost of this year's Thanksgiving meal could be the most expensive on record.

But instead of addressing these rising costs that are hitting hardworking South Dakotans' pocketbooks and affecting families in all corners of the country, President Biden and congressional Democrats are not only ignoring this crisis, they are preparing to double down on it. They want to dump trillions of dollars in unnecessary government money into the economy, which will likely make the cost of goods even more expensive than they are today.

Not only would Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree pretty much guarantee persistent and widespread inflation, but their bill is filled with spooky priorities from the far-left: funding for government climate activists, tax credits for "environmental justice" programs at colleges and universities, something called "tree equity," and to top it off, \$200 million for a park in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco district. The bill also contains big tax hikes on businesses, which are already being hit by higher costs caused by the supply chain crisis and the challenges of hiring an adequate workforce. Although Democrats still intend to ramp-up enforcement efforts, it seems that they have scrapped their original plan to have the IRS snoop on Americans' bank accounts. Maybe they were spooked by how taxpayers around the country have reacted to their outrageous proposal.

The new energy policies Democrats are considering as part of this tax-and-spending spree would further increase the cost of electricity, natural gas, and gasoline, and it would subsidize Democrats' preferred technologies with South Dakotans' tax dollars. It would also offer tax credits of up to \$12,500 for the purchase of an electric car or truck.

It gets more terrifying than that, if you can believe it. Democrats' bill contains a tax credit – up to \$8,000 – for electric bicycles. When you live 20 miles away from the nearest grocery store, an electric bicycle is not going to be your vehicle of choice for getting around. And I'm pretty sure that South Dakota agriculture producers will back me up when I say that electric bicycles are not going to be much use for getting out to check the fences in the far corners of the ranch.

Perhaps the most terrifying aspect of this plan, though, is that their long-term goal is to make many of these new programs permanent – a fundamental change to the federal government's involvement in your daily life. To say Washington Democrats are out of touch with the needs of everyday Americans is a complete understatement at this point. Inserting the federal government into nearly every aspect of Americans' lives is radical, and South Dakotans' simply won't have it. If anything, the federal government should be the last line of defense, not a cradle-to-grave socialist system like the Democrats are proposing.

As President Biden and congressional Democrats continue down this fiscally irresponsible path that will likely worsen our inflation crisis, weaken our economy, and increase government dependence, I'm doing everything in my power to protect South Dakota families and businesses from the scary new reality Democrats are trying to create.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

South Dakota's Treats this Halloween Season

It's Halloween weekend and there is a seasonal chill in the air. There's also a chill affecting American confidence in our economy. With an unfocused White House in charge, gas prices climbing, and supply chain issues clogging our ports, many Americans feel like the country has become a House of Horrors with a new crisis lurking around every corner.

A recent Gallup poll found Americans' confidence in the economy is dropping back to levels not seen since the pandemic started. . The downturn in confidence began building as early as June this year when COVID cases began to creep back up in parts of the country. Yet, the recent decline in COVID cases has not produced a corresponding uptick in consumer confidence.

It started with questions regarding the pandemic management and vaccine mandates has morphed into a cascade of crises that the Biden Administration appears powerless to understand let alone successfully address. The Administration's terribly executed withdrawal from Afghanistan. Tens of thousands of migrants flooding the southern border and then being shipped throughout the country by the federal government—sometimes in the dead of night. These disasters were followed by an attack on parents by the National School Board Association. Rising inflation has left the American family with less money in their wallets.

Fortunately, every scary story has a hero. More and more, Americans are turning to Conservatives for economic solutions. A Gallup poll released earlier this month found that Americans "by significant margins" view Republicans as better at protecting the nation and ensuring the country remains prosperous. Those margins are the largest they've been since 2014 — when there was a different Democrat occupying the White House.

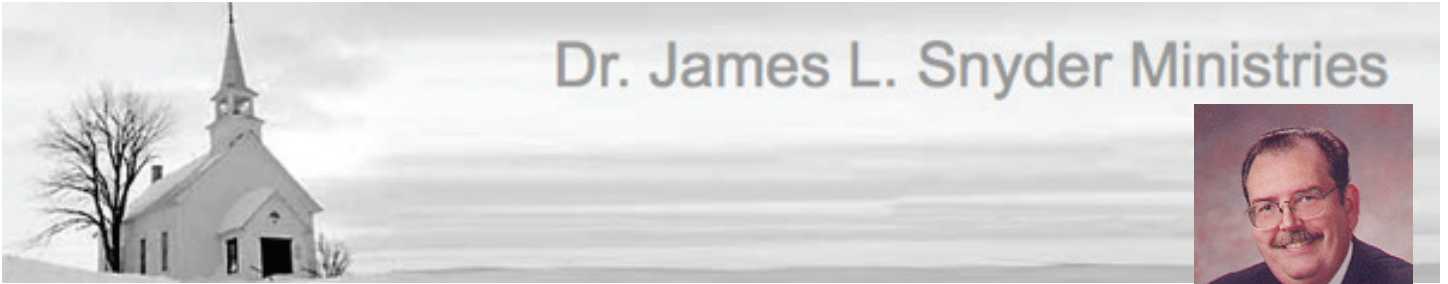
South Dakota has been the best example of what happens when you get the government out of the way. While many Americans were tricked into believing the current administration would "build back better," South Dakotans have been treated fairly by exercising their Constitutional rights. We have certainly faced challenges over the last 18-months, however, South Dakota is far from the economic terrors playing out in other states.

We have about 700 people on unemployment — marking one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. And we currently have 40 jobs available for every person on unemployment.

We're also rated by WalletHub as the best state to find a job, top 3 for economic health, and one of the best states that provide opportunities for working moms. We're also in the top 10 for health care, costs for health care, and work environment for nurses. Those are key stats with Americans still viewing the pandemic as the greatest problem facing our nation.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



I Can Never Have Too Much Ice Cream

It was one of those hectic weeks that flew by, and I didn't know it until the end of the week.

Friday night at supper time, it was one of those sneaky crashes. But, unfortunately, all the energy during the week had been pushing both of us forward, and we had no options but to keep plowing ahead.

I don't know about other people, but I don't know I'm being pushed until the push is over. And Friday is the time for that push accounting.

It was a quiet dinner because both of us had pushed the limits of exhaustion. Then, during the week, something happened and put us behind just when we thought we had caught up.

Getting behind sometimes is not a choice and has a way of sneaking up on you and catching you off guard.

I had come to the point where I had enough. Enough is enough; let's get on with life.

You can't get enough of some things in life, and then there are other things that you can have too much. If only we could choose one at our discretion.

That evening supper was quite good, and I had, like always, stuffed myself. I don't blame my over-eating on myself, rather on the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. If she were not such an excellent cook, I wouldn't eat so much. All the blame rests upon her.

She insinuates that I should be a little more disciplined in my eating habits. Ha, disciplined in my eating habits? Whoever heard of such a crazy thing. I don't tell her that it's crazy because she might assume I think she is crazy. I do, but I don't want her to know about it.

The marvelous supper was behind us, and we had just settled down to watch something on television. I like watching those mysteries, but I have a difficult time watching them with my wife. She knows the outcome before the first scene has completed itself.

Where in the world is the mystery to that?

About halfway into the mystery movie, there was a commercial time, and my wife got up and said, "Would you have any room for ice cream?"

Would I have any room for ice cream? I can never have too much ice cream, and I am never too full for one more bowl of ice cream.

A lot of things I have too much of, but it certainly is not ice cream.

Someone once asked what my favorite ice cream was, and I replied, "My favorite ice cream is the one I'm eating at the time." I have never yet had a bowl of ice cream that I didn't like.

So, when my wife asked me if I would like some ice cream, I didn't even say, "What kind of ice cream do you have?" I don't have to say something like that. What I do say is, "I'll have as much ice cream as you can stuff into that bowl."

We always have a good supply of ice cream in the freezer. My wife is always looking for the Buy One Get One deal, so we usually are well stocked with ice cream.

Not long ago, it was such a long weary day, and I was thinking about the ice cream I would reward myself with at the end of the day. Nothing calms me down better than a nice bowl of ice cream.

Supper was over; I settled down into my easy chair and then asked, "Honey, I really could use some ice

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cream tonight. It's been such a long weary day."

I didn't hear anything from her, so I said, "Can I have some ice cream?"

Then I heard from the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"I'm sorry, my dear," she said as disparagingly as possible, "we've run out of ice cream."

Those words are the worst words ever uttered in our parsonage. To be out of ice cream is the most stressful time of the week. How is it possible to run out of ice cream?

She explained by telling me that Publix did not have their usual Buy One Get One sale this week. So she was waiting for the sale to go on.

I sat there thinking how in the world can I survive any day without ending it with a bowl of ice cream?

There's a lot of things in this world that I can do without. Number one on that list is broccoli. I don't even like the sight of that so-called vegetable. I don't even think it's a real vegetable, contrary to the thoughts of my wife.

I have a long list of what I can do without, and nowhere on that list is ice cream.

How I would get through the night without my ice cream is a mystery that only the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can solve.

They only know what you like and what's important to you when it's not available. Then you begin to appreciate the value of that item.

I thought of the Bible verse in the Old Testament that sort of focus is on this idea. "Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter" (Isaiah 56:11).

Whenever greed takes over, we never can have enough. Then we become a slave to our greed.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Should we all be ditching our gas stoves in favor of electric models? -- Mary R., San Francisco, CA

Walking into your kitchen to make dinner appears relatively simple with a gas-powered stove readily available to cook your every desire. But while rotating the switch to turn on a gas stove, most people do not consider its health and environmental implications. According to a University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) report, over 90 percent of gas-powered appliances in California residences emit toxic pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter and formaldehyde.

While gas furnaces and water heaters are big polluters no doubt, most of them are vented outdoors and are thus sending their CO and NOx emissions outside. But pollution from stoves and ovens are released indoors. The UCLA researchers found that in nine out of ten residences surveyed where gas ovens or stoves were in use, peak levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) inside the kitchen after cooking for one hour surpassed both state and national outdoor acute air quality standards. Such high concentrations of indoor air pollution are even more dangerous for smaller households—peak levels of NO₂ in 98 percent of apartments surveyed exceeded state and national air quality standards.

Such pollution from gas-fired appliances like furnaces, water heaters and stoves present a serious health threat, increasing the likelihood of respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease and premature death. For the elderly and children who are more susceptible to infections and diseases, elevated NO₂ levels can be especially toxic. Additional risks of cooking with gas include increased risk of lung disease and vulnerability to novel viruses, not to mention the prompting of new allergies. Children risk a decreased IQ, learning deficits and asthma. In fact, a 2013 report analyzing the impacts of indoor NO₂ from gas stoves found that children who grew up in a home with a gas stove are 42 percent more likely to develop asthma than those who didn't.

Gas stoves are also a source of carbon monoxide, a pollution that is fatal at extremely high concentrations and can cause headaches, dizziness, vomiting and nausea. Though morbidity linked to accidental CO is quite low, frequent exposure can increase the risk of lethal heart disease.

To avoid such health and environmental setbacks, gas appliances can be replaced by any number of zero-emission electric alternatives. The most common and effective stoves to replace gas stoves are induction cooktops and modern electric stoves. Electric stoves are powered by thermal conduction whereby electricity runs through a set of coils; induction cooktops are powered by electromagnetic currents that directly heat the cookware. Though initial installation costs of electric or induction stoves can be quite high, they consume much less energy than gas stoves and thus are more cost-effective in the long run.



If you are concerned about the health implications of indoor air pollution, maybe it's time to go electric in the kitchen.

Credit: Roddy Scheer

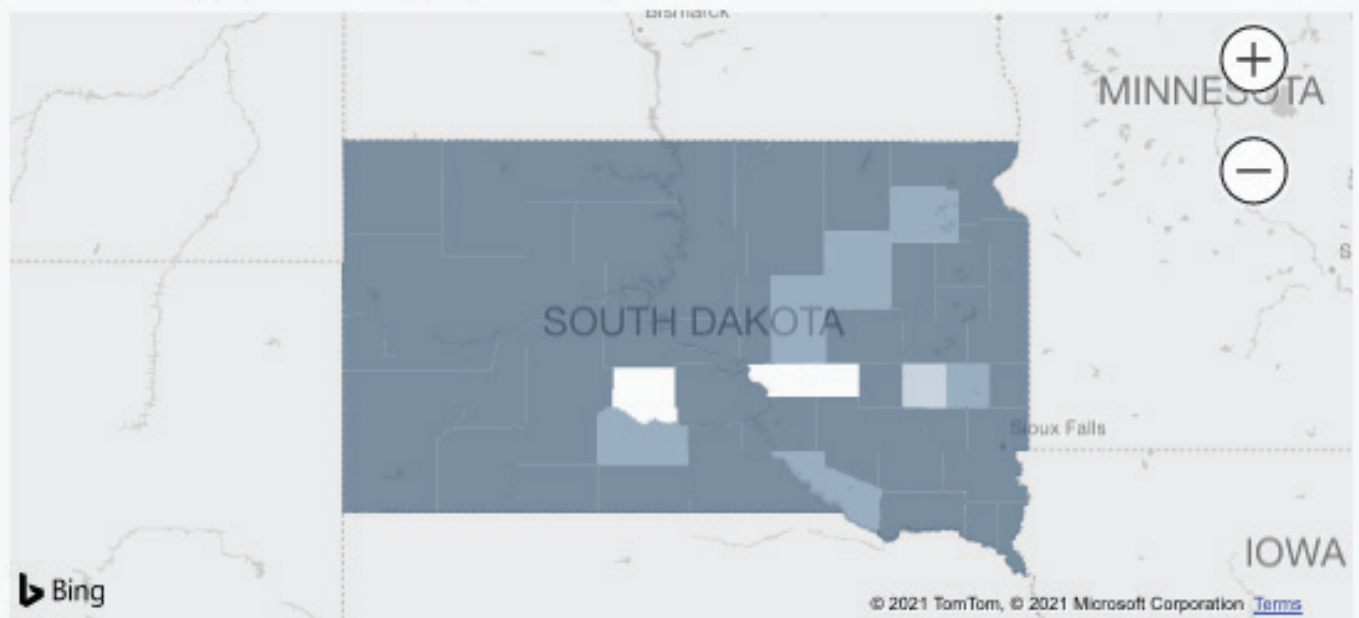
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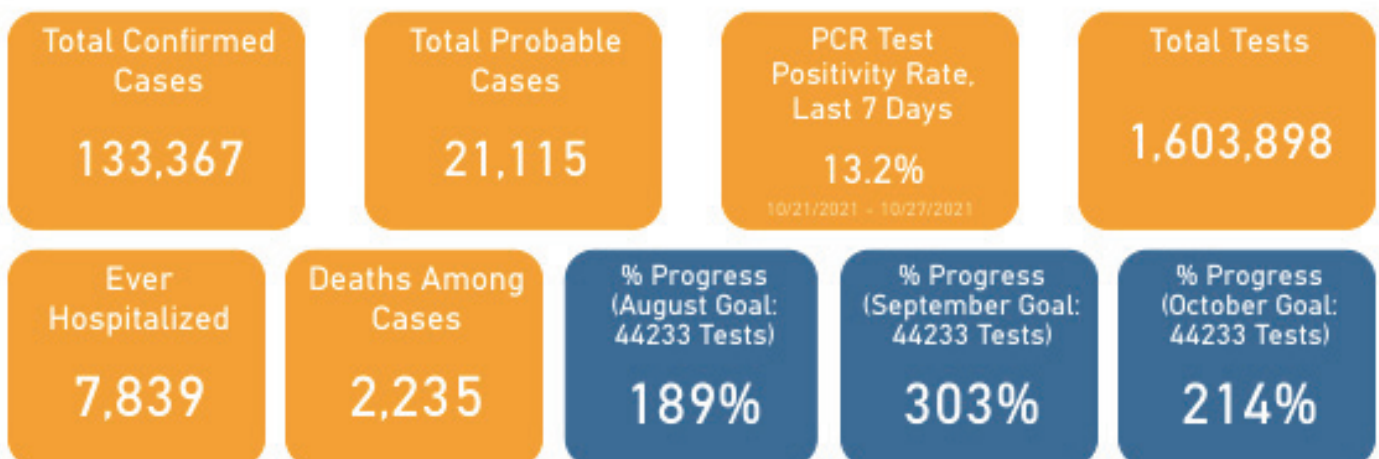
South Dakota COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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



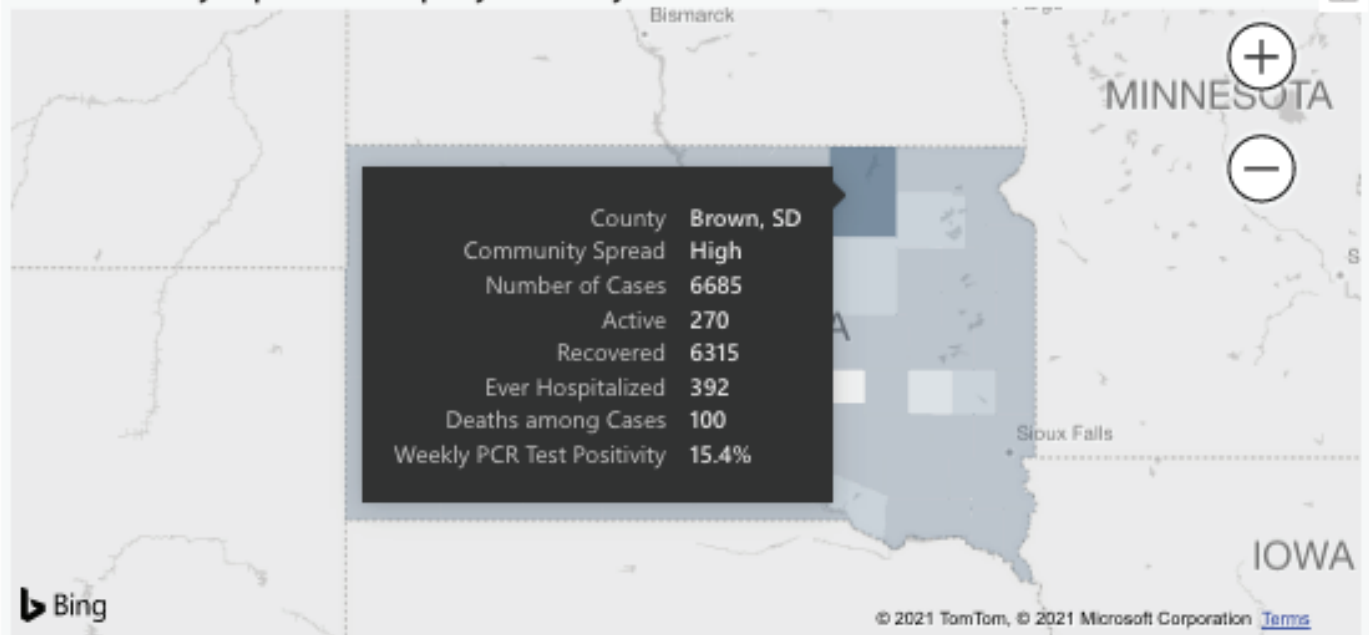
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Brown County COVID-19 Report

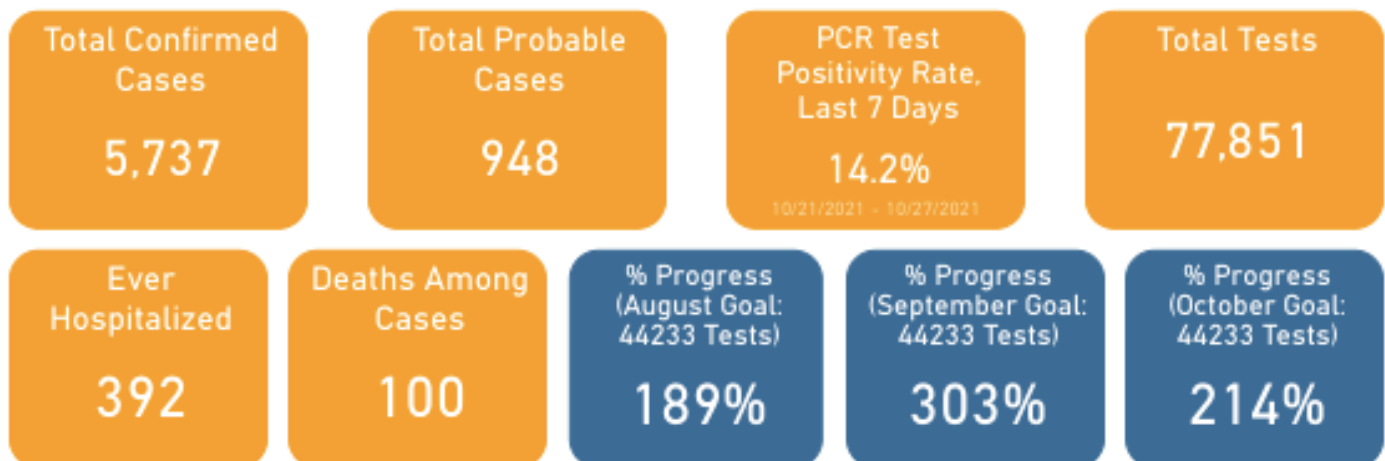


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Low ● Moderate ● Substantial ● High

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



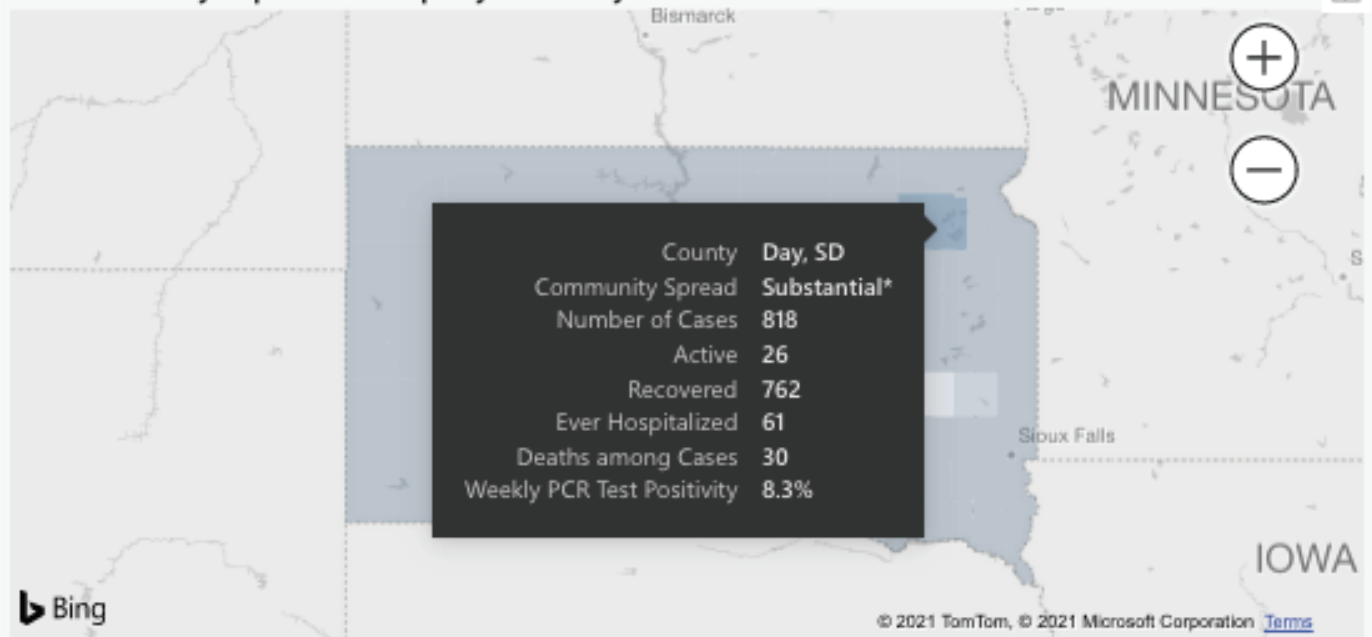
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Day County COVID-19 Report

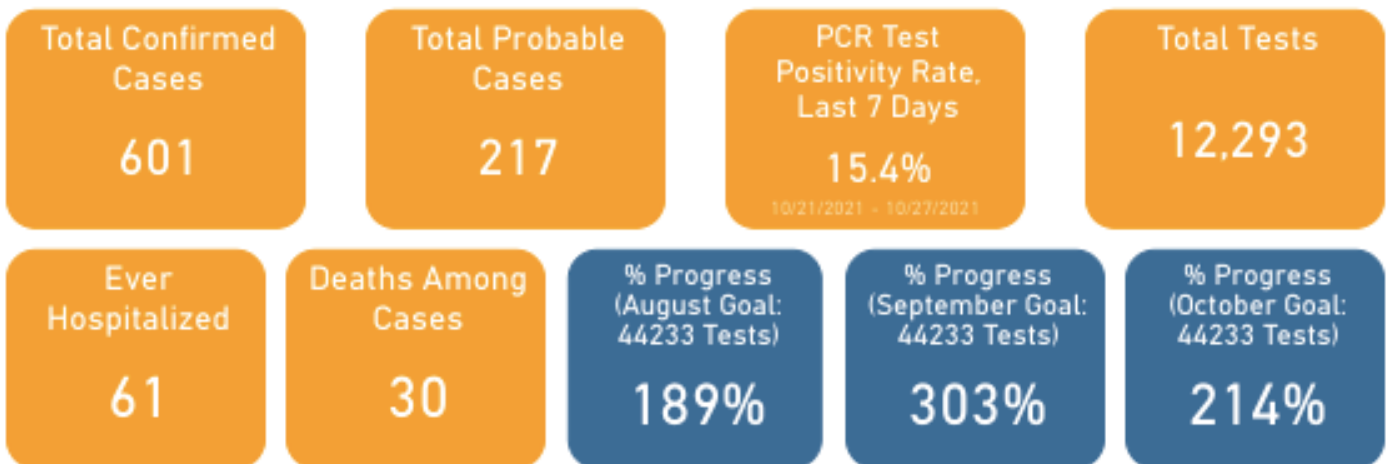


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Low ● Moderate ● Substantial ● High

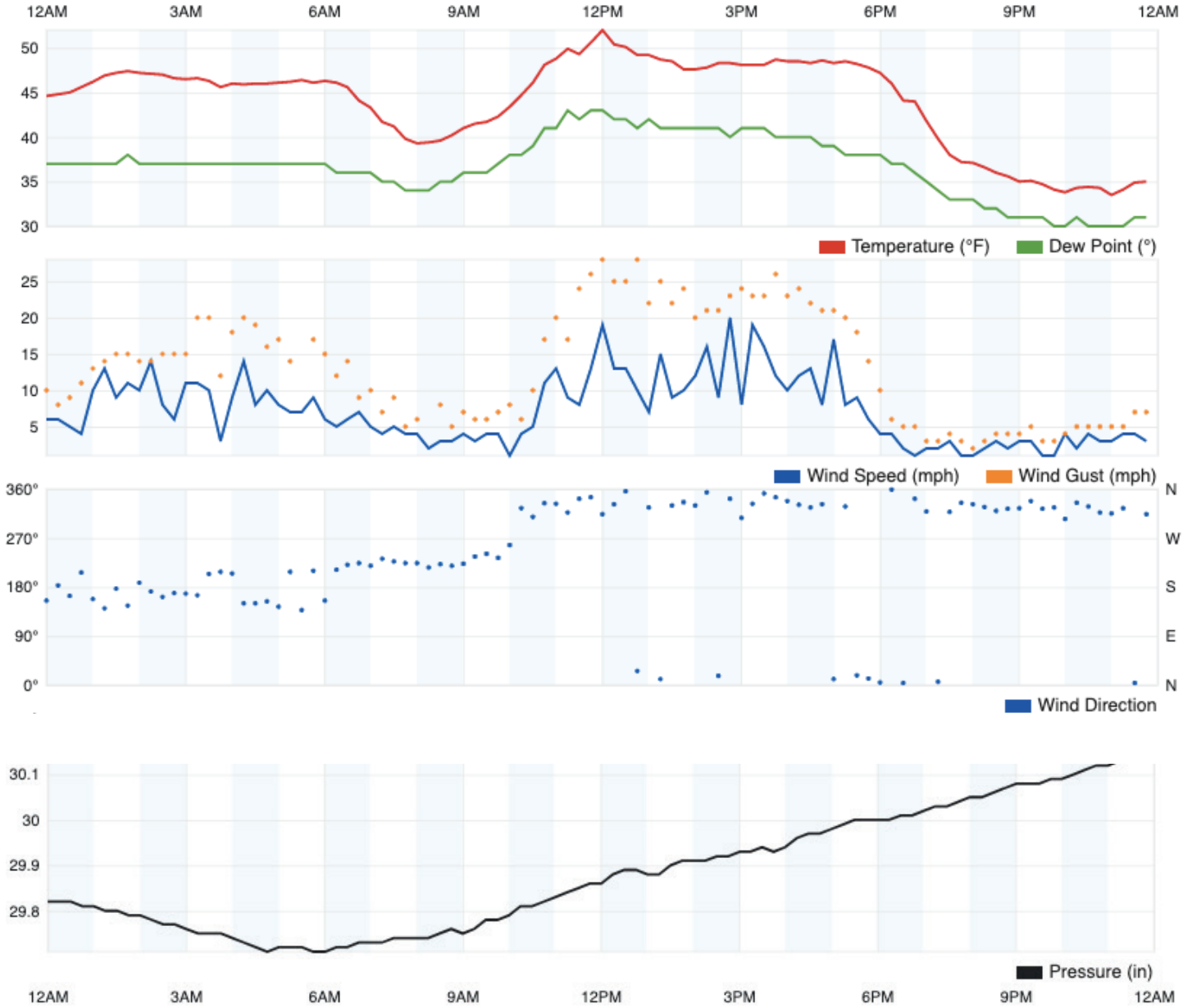
Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.



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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 45 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 23 °F

Monday



Patchy Fog
then Mostly
Sunny

High: 41 °F

Monday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 22 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 40 °F

Chilly Start to the Week

Mostly sunny and breezy. Highs in the low to mid 40s falling into the low 30s this evening.



 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 10/31/2021 3:41 AM Central

High pressure will settle over the region today and tonight bringing cool and dry weather. Breezy north-west winds this afternoon will diminish late tonight. Temperatures will fall quickly after sunset, dropping to around 30 degrees during prime Trick-or-Treating time.

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Today in Weather History

October 31, 1979: A narrow band of heavy wet snow developed around midnight from Winner to Leola and produced from three to six inches of snow before ending in the afternoon of 31st. The wet snow stuck to power poles and combined with 30 to 50 mph winds broke up to 600 poles. Estimated damage was around \$400,000 dollars. The counties affected were Tripp, Lyman, Buffalo, Hyde, Hand, Faulk, and Edmunds Counties.

October 31, 1991: A blizzard swept through southeastern South Dakota, dropping over 16 inches of snow in places. The snow combined with winds gusting to 60 mph at times, thus producing blizzard conditions. Interstates 29 and 90, as well as most other roads east and south of Sioux Falls were closed due to blowing and drifting snow. There were hundreds of traffic accidents in the Sioux Falls area alone. The hospital emergency rooms were swamped with victims of automobile accidents and injuries sustained while shoveling heavy snow. Two men died from heart problems while shoveling the snow.

1876: The Great Backerganj, also known as the Bengal cyclone of 1876 struck Bangladesh, then part of the province of Bengal in British India on this day. A maximum wind speed of 137 mph along with a storm surge of 10 to 45 feet inundated the coastal region. This storm likely caused 200,000 casualties along with displacing thousands of other individuals.

1991: A severe winter storm, dubbed the Great Halloween Mega Storm, struck the upper Midwest. Minnesota bore the brunt of this storm. Blizzard conditions occurred with winds gusting frequently to 40 and 50 mph. By the time it was all over on November 2nd, Duluth recorded 37 inches, Minneapolis 28 inches, International Falls 18 inches and 11.2 inches in 24-hours at Sioux Falls, SD, their earliest heavy snowfall of 6 inches or more and snowiest October on record. For Duluth and Minneapolis, the snow amounts set new all-time records for the greatest amount of snow in a single storm. The storm gave these two cities nearly half of their average seasonal snowfall.

1846 - Eighty-seven pioneers were trapped by early snows in the Sierra Nevada Mountains that piled five feet deep, with 30 to 40 foot drifts. Just 47 persons survived the "Donner Pass Tragedy". (The Weather Channel)

1950 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the central U.S. for Halloween. The temperature soared to 83 degrees at Minneapolis MN, their warmest reading of record for so late in the season. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - Fort Lauderdale, FL, was deluged with 13.81 inches of rain, which brought their rainfall total for the month of October to an all-time record of 42.43 inches. (30th-31st) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Halloween was a wet one in the southwestern U.S. Heavy rain in southern California resulted in numerous mudslides. Weather-related auto accidents resulted in three deaths and twenty-five injuries. Mount Wilson CA received 3.14 inches of rain in 24 hours. Yakima WA reported measurable rainfall for the first time since the 18th of July. The 103 day long dry spell was their longest of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty-two cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 19 degrees at Cleveland OH was a record for October, and morning lows of 21 degrees at Allentown PA and Bridgeport CT tied October records. Nine cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Phoenix AZ with a reading of 96 degrees. Showers made Halloween a soggy one in the southeastern U.S. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Halloween night was a soggy one in New England. Showers in the northeastern U.S. produced more than an inch and a half of rain in six hours at some locations. An invasion of cold arctic air brought an abrupt end to a week of "Indian Summer" type weather in the Great Lakes Region, and brought snow and subzero wind chill readings to the Northern Plains. In Colorado, Alamosa was the cold spot in the nation with a record low of two degrees above zero, and a Halloween night storm brought 3 to 6 inches of snow to the Front Range, and 5 to 10 inches to the nearby foothills. Icy streets around Denver the next morning made for a rather spooky commute. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

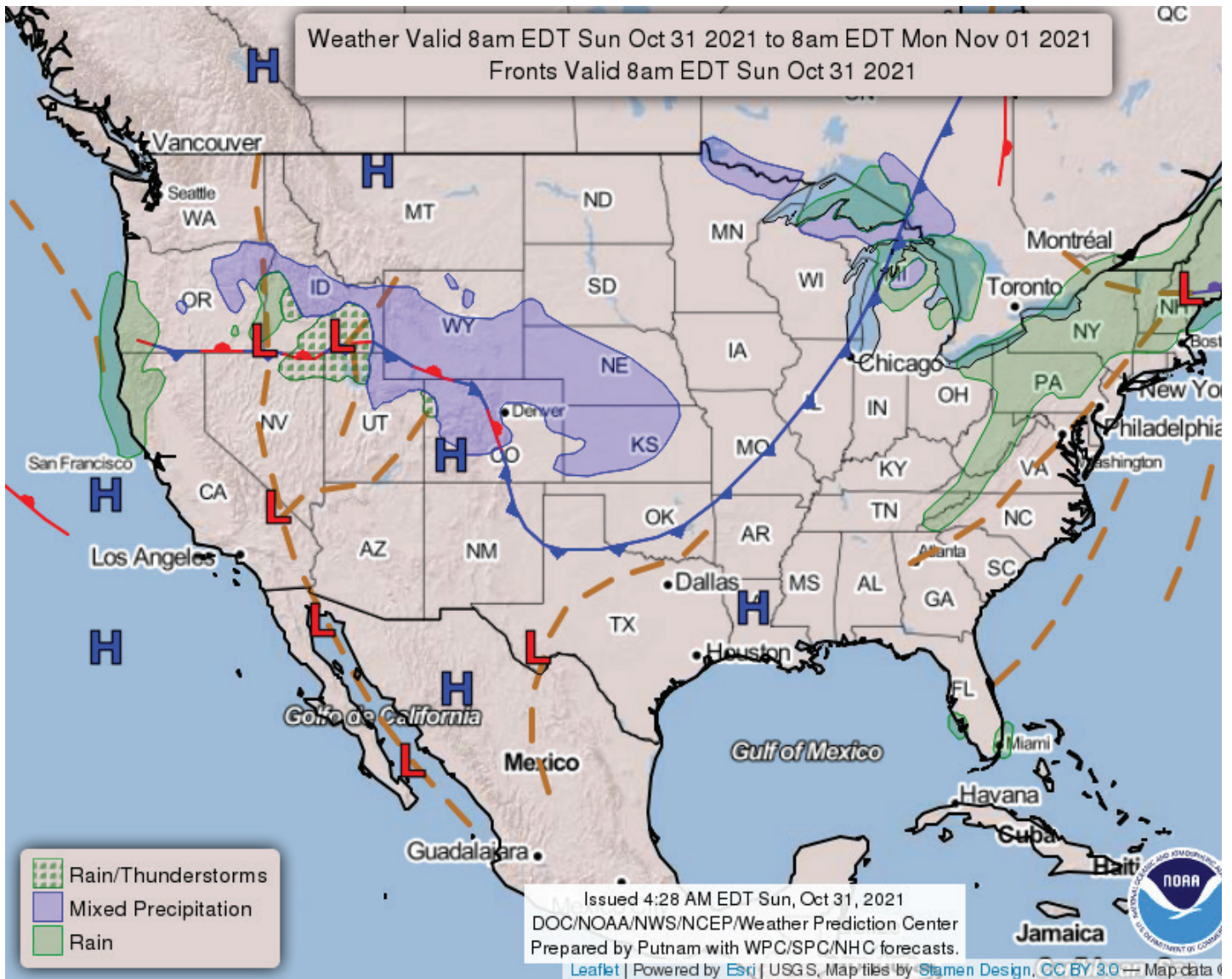
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 52.0 °F at Noon
Low Temp: 33.5 °F at 11:00 PM
Wind: 28 mph at 12:45 PM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 78° in 1933
Record Low: 8° in 2006
Average High: 51°F
Average Low: 26°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 2.14
Precip to date in Oct.: 4.30
Average Precip to date: 20.47
Precip Year to Date: 19.72
Sunset Tonight: 6:22:24 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10:57 AM



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TREES OF THE LORD

William Jackson was a prominent figure in the American Revolution. But even more important was his role as the Secretary of the United States Constitutional Convention. Although we know much about him and his many accomplishments, there is one fact that is rarely mentioned when people speak of him: a fondness that he had for a large oak tree. Its great size and the strength that it represented gave him so much inspiration that he wrote a deed conveying it to the full possession of itself and the land that surrounded it so even its roots would be protected from harm.

Trees have a special significance in the Bible. The Psalmist wrote that "The trees of the Lord are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that He planted." Why was the cedar tree, of all trees singled out?

Cedars are trees whose branches reach high into the heavens. Their stateliness stands in stark contrast to other trees as they soar well over one hundred feet into the sky - as though they were reaching up for the God who created them. Certainly, this represents a worthy characteristic for Christians to follow.

Cedars also are deep-rooted. They send their "anchors" deep into the earth as they reach up to their Creator. Many trees fall when they are "attracted" by storms. But not the cedar tree, it stands undisturbed no matter the fierceness of the winds and rains.

Cedars are broad-branched - it spreads its arms widely as it grows old as though it wants to "embrace" others and protect them from harm. So do we.

Prayer: Lord, make us like cedars: to reach up to be near to You, down to abide in You and out to help others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The trees of the Lord are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that He planted. Psalm 104:16

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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

News from the Associated Press

American B-1B bomber flies over Mideast amid Iran tensions

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. Air Force said Sunday it flew a B-1B strategic bomber over key maritime chokepoints in the Mideast with allies including Israel amid ongoing tensions with Iran as its nuclear deal with world powers remains in tatters.

The B-1B Lancer bomber flew Saturday over the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil traded passes. It also flew over the Red Sea, its narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait and Egypt's Suez Canal.

The Strait of Hormuz has been the scene of attacks on shipping blamed on Iran in recent years, while the Red Sea has seen similar assaults amid an ongoing shadow war between Tehran and Israel. The Islamic Republic has denied being involved in the attacks, though it has promised to take revenge on Israel for a series of attacks targeting its nuclear program.

Fighter jets from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia flew alongside the bomber.

Iranian state media did not immediately acknowledge the flyover. Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The flyover comes after a pattern of such flights by nuclear-capable B-52 bombers since the Trump administration as a show of force to Iran. Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Tehran agree to drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

In the time since, Iran has abandoned all the limits of the deal and drastically reduced the ability of international inspectors to keep watch over their program. While Iran insists its program is peaceful, the U.S. intelligence agencies, Western inspectors and others say Tehran had a structured military nuclear weapons program through the end of 2003.

President Joe Biden has said he's willing to re-enter the nuclear deal, but talks in Vienna have stalled as a hard-line protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei took over as president.

Biden sending a B1-B bomber into the region allows him to send "a clear message of reassurance" to regional allies, as the U.S. Air Force's Central Command put it on Twitter. But it doesn't involved a nuclear-capable bomber.

The B-1B came from the 37th Bomb Squadron based at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

05-09-18-23-28

(five, nine, eighteen, twenty-three, twenty-eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$178,000

Lotto America

10-18-21-47-48, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 5

(ten, eighteen, twenty-one, forty-seven, forty-eight; Star Ball: one; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.71 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$26 million

Powerball

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05-23-28-43-56, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2

(five, twenty-three, twenty-eight, forty-three, fifty-six; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$116 million

Strong rushes for 2 TDs, S. Dakota St. tops Youngstown St.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Pierre Strong rushed for 163 yards and two touchdowns and South Dakota State cruised past Youngstown State 47-16 on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits (6-2, 3-2 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked No. 13 in the FCS coaches poll, rebounded from a loss to No. 17 Northern Iowa to remain in the thick of the MVFC race for the postseason.

Chris Oladokun threw for 260 yards and started the game with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Zach Heins on South Dakota State's first possession. Pierre made the lead 14-0 when he scored from the 5-yard line nine plays after a Youngstown State three-and-out.

Amar Johnson and Rudy Voss added rushing touchdowns for the Jackrabbits, who had 293 yards rushing to the Penguins 76. Jaxon Janke made seven catches for 111 yards.

Mitch Davidson completed six of seven passes for 111 yards for the Penguins (2-4, 1-3) with a pair of touchdowns to Bryce Oliver. Oliver made three catches for 78 yards.

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

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

Bond set at \$500K for 2 charged in death of Sioux Falls man

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two men have been charged in the death of a Sioux Falls man who was assaulted and left in a Sioux Falls street.

Christopher Mousseaux died Oct. 14 after he was stabbed in the head three days earlier, according to court documents.

The Argus Leader reports Jeff Pour and Steven Tuopeh have been charged in the death.

While previous reporting said Mousseaux had sustained cuts to his head, the indictment filed in Minnehaha County accuses Pour and Toupeh with using brass knuckles.

Both men are being held on a \$500,000 bond.

G-20 leaders tackle climate change as summit ends

By KARL RITTER Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles urged leaders of the world's biggest economies on Sunday to put words into action as they tackled the global climate change crisis on the final day of a weekend summit that is setting the tone for an even bigger U.N. climate conference opening in Glasgow, Scotland.

Warning that "it is quite literally the last-chance saloon," Charles told the Group of 20 leaders that public-private partnerships were the only way to achieve the trillions of dollars in annual investment needed to transition to clean, sustainable energy sources that will mitigate the warming of global temperatures.

"It is impossible not to hear the despairing voices of young people who see you as the stewards of the planet, holding the viability of their future in your hands," Charles told the presidents and prime ministers gathered in Rome.

The Group of 20 countries, which represent more than three-quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, are looking for common ground on how to reduce emissions while helping poor countries deal with the impact of rising temperatures. Diplomats said negotiators, known as "sherpas," worked through the night to try to come up with solid commitments on emissions in a final statement to be released later Sunday.

If the G-20 summit ends with only weak commitments, momentum could be lost for the larger annual talks in Glasgow, where countries from around the globe will be represented including poor ones most

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vulnerable to rising seas, desertification and other effects.

The future of coal, a key source of greenhouse gas emissions, has been one of the hardest things for the G-20 to agree on. However, the U.S. and other countries are hoping to get a commitment to end overseas financing of coal-fired power generation, said a senior U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to preview President Joe Biden's plans.

Western countries have moved away from financing coal projects in developing countries, and major Asian economies are now doing the same: Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the U.N. General Assembly last month that Beijing would stop funding such projects, and Japan and South Korea made similar commitments earlier in the year.

China has not set an end date for building domestic coal plants at home, however. Coal is still China's main source of power generation, and both China and India have resisted proposals for a G-20 declaration on phasing out domestic coal consumption.

COP26 President Alok Sharma said China's carbon-cutting commitments — known as the nationally determined contribution, or NDC — so far fall short of expectations.

"In terms of their NDC, it moved forward somewhat from 2015 ... but of course we expected more," Sharma told the BBC. He added that while Beijing has pledged to stop international coal financing and reducing domestic coal "we need to see the details of that."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said before the Rome summit that he tried but could not get a commitment on a coal phase-out from Xi, who did not travel to the gathering.

In Glasgow, Johnson said, "we want these leaders ... to focus on the commitments they can make, moving away from the use of fossil fuels, moving away from coal-fired power stations domestically."

Climate campaigners were hoping that rich G-20 countries would take steps to meet a long-standing but yet-to-be-fulfilled commitment to raise \$100 billion annually to help developing countries move toward greener economies and adapt to the changing climate.

Youth climate activists Greta Thunberg and Vanessa Nakate issued an open letter to the media as the G-20 was wrapping up, stressing three fundamental aspects of the climate crisis that often are downplayed: that time is running out, that any solution must provide justice to the people most affected by climate change, and that the biggest polluters often hide behind incomplete statistics about their true emissions.

"The climate crisis is only going to become more urgent. We can still avoid the worst consequences, we can still turn this around. But not if we continue like today," they wrote, just weeks after Thunberg shamed global leaders for their "blah blah blah" rhetoric during a youth climate summit in Milan.

G-20 leaders also discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and the uneven distribution of vaccines in the world. On Saturday they endorsed a global minimum tax on corporations, a linchpin of new international tax rules aimed at blunting fiscal paradises amid skyrocketing profits of some multinationals.

And after a meeting on the sidelines about Iran's nuclear program, Biden, Johnson, Germany's Angela Merkel and France's Emmanuel Macron made a joint statement expressing their "determination to ensure that Iran can never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon."

They also voiced concern that Tehran "has accelerated the pace of provocative nuclear steps" after halting negotiations on a return to the nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

___ Associated Press writers Jill Lawless, Nicole Winfield, Josh Boak, Zeke Miller and David McHugh in Rome contributed to this report.

UN climate summit to formally kick off in Glasgow

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — The U.N. climate summit in Glasgow formally opens Sunday, a day before leaders from around the world gather in Scotland's biggest city to lay out their vision for addressing the common challenge of global warming.

The meeting will see negotiators from almost 200 countries try to tackle issues left hanging since the 2015

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Paris climate accord was forged, and find ways to ratchet up their efforts to keep global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century compared with pre-industrial times.

Scientists say the chances of meeting that goal, agreed in the French capital six years ago, are slowly slipping away. The world has already warmed by more than 1.1C and current projections based on planned emissions cuts over the next decade are for it to hit 2.7C by the year 2100.

The amount of energy unleashed by such planetary warming would melt much of the planet's ice, raise global sea levels and greatly increase the likelihood and intensity of extreme weather, experts warn.

"There has been progress over the last few years but I would say that actually the task we have here is in many ways tougher than Paris," said Alok Sharma, the British government minister chairing the Glasgow talks.

"What we've had to do since (Paris) is agree some of the detailed rules and some of the most difficult rules are still outstanding after six years, and that makes it really challenging," he told Sky News.

"Of course, we know that the geopolitics is more difficult than it was at the time of Paris," he said, adding that it was time for governments to "leave the ghosts of the past behind."

"What we need to come from Glasgow is to be able to say with credibility, 'We have kept 1.5 alive,'" said Sharma.

He noted that China, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, had just raised its climate targets somewhat.

"But of course we expected more," Sharma told the BBC.

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry warned last week of the dramatic impacts that exceeding the 2015 Paris accord's goal will have on nature and people, but expressed optimism that the world is heading in the right direction. The United States is currently the world's second biggest polluter, though historically it is responsible for the biggest amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

India, the world's third biggest emitter, has yet to follow China, the U.S. and the European Union in setting a target for reaching 'net zero' emissions. Negotiators are hoping India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will announce such a goal in Glasgow.

"We need all of the G20 to come forward," said Sharma. "The G20 represents 80% of global emissions and that's why every country matters, but the G20 matters particularly."

Some of the issues being discussed during the Oct. 31-Nov. 12 talks have been on the agenda for decades, including how rich countries can help poor nations tackle emissions and adapt to a hotter world. The slow pace of action has angered many environmental campaigners, who are expected to stage loud and creative protests during the summit.

Speaking in Rome Sunday, Prince Charles urged world leaders to heed the "despairing voices" of young people who will bear the brunt of climate change.

The heir to the British throne described the talks in Glasgow as "literally the last-chance saloon" for the Earth.

Charles told Group of 20 leaders meeting in Rome that they have an "overwhelming responsibility to generations yet unborn."

"It is impossible not to hear the despairing voices of young people who see you as the stewards of the planet, holding the viability of their future in your hands," he said.

On Monday, Charles is due to welcome leaders to COP26 in Glasgow. His 95-year-old mother Queen Elizabeth II was due to attend but has been advised to rest by her doctors.

The opening day of the talks is expected to focus on procedural issues. One big worry is that not all the delegates will be able to meet in person, as the venue and room capacities have been limited due to COVID concerns.

Jill Lawless in Rome and Silvia Hui in London contributed to this report.

Follow AP's coverage of the U.N. climate talks at: <http://apnews.com/hub/climate>

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Unlikely hero, 2 HRs carry Braves to brink of Series title

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — This Atlanta Braves team couldn't have picked a more fitting way to move to the brink of a World Series championship.

A pitcher who spent most of the year in the minors kept 'em in it.

A slugger who came in a flurry of trades won it for 'em.

If this gritty bunch can do it one more time, the Braves will have their first Series title in 26 years.

Dansby Swanson and pinch-hitter Jorge Soler connected for back-to-back homers in the seventh inning Saturday night, propelling the Braves to a 3-2 victory over the Houston Astros and a commanding 3-1 Series lead.

Game 5 is Sunday night. The Braves can wrap up the championship on their home field, just as they did two stadiums ago when they beat the Cleveland Indians in 1995.

They've sure been tough at home, improving to 7-0 this postseason.

"It's just such a cool moment for this city," Swanson said. "But we've got one more. They've got a great ballclub over there and we can't take anything for granted."

That triumph more than a quarter-century ago at the old Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium remains the franchise's only World Series crown since moving to the Deep South in 1966.

This is the closest the Braves have been to a second title since then.

What an improbable crown it would be.

The Braves stumbled along at .500 or worse until Aug. 6. They had to rebuild their entire outfield before the July 30 trade deadline after Ronald Acuña Jr. went down with a knee injury and Marcell Ozuna was sidelined by a hand injury and legal troubles. They won the NL East with just 88 wins, the fewest of any playoff team — and less even than two teams that didn't make the postseason.

With former president Donald Trump watching from a private box down the right-field line, the Braves got a huge boost from a most unlikely player.

Former first-round draft pick Kyle Wright, who made only two appearances in the majors during a season spent mostly at Triple-A Gwinnett, got through 4 2/3 critical innings out of the bullpen after surprise starter Dylan Lee retired only one hitter.

Wright was hardly overpowering, giving up five hits — including a solo homer by Jose Altuve in the fourth that staked the Astros to a 2-0 lead — and three walks. But he continually pitched out of trouble, giving the Braves a semblance of hope until the offense woke up.

"He probably doesn't realize what he did, how big it was," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "I'm so proud how he handled the situation."

Wright has a career record of 2-8 with a 6.56 ERA. In two 2021 starts for the Braves, he was 0-1 with a 9.95 ERA.

"Honestly, I was a little lost," he conceded.

He found himself just in the nick of time for the Braves.

In the sixth, Eddie Rosario became the first Atlanta hitter to get past first base with a one-out double off Brooks Raley.

Rosario wound up scoring on another clutch postseason hit by Austin Riley, who lined a two-out single to left against Phil Maton.

The Braves left the bases loaded, but they weren't done. Just like that, they stunningly engineered the first lead change of the entire Series, with Swanson and Soler becoming the third duo in World Series history to hit back-to-back homers that tied and put a team ahead.

The first two guys to do it were named Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Facing Cristian Javier, Swanson went the opposite way for a homer that tied the game at 2, the ball hit so hard that it ricocheted off the tabled section in the right-field stands and rolled all the way back to the infield.

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"It was like, "You know what? Let's get rid of everything else and just compete," Swanson said. "And you know what? Something amazing happened."

The celebration had barely simmered down when Soler, one of four outfielders acquired in trades by general manager Alex Anthopoulos, stepped to the plate as a pinch-hitter.

On a 2-1 pitch from Javier, Soler put a charge into a hanging slider and drove it into the Astros' bullpen in left. Jordan Alvarez was left hanging helplessly atop the short fence as the ball sailed over his head.

Luke Jackson worked a scoreless eighth, getting a great catch from Rosario slamming into the same left-field wall that Soler homered over, and Will Smith worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his sixth save in six chances this postseason.

The Astros could only kick themselves for squandering countless chances, going hitless in eight at-bats with runners in scoring position and leaving 11 on base overall.

"They've been playing us tough. They've been playing us real tough," manager Dusty Baker said. "We've had our backs to the wall before. Our guys know what to do."

Seven teams have come back from a 3-1 deficit to win the World Series, with the Cubs being the most recent in 2016.

The Braves certainly know it's not over. Last year, they squandered a 3-1 lead in the NL Championship Series and lost to the Dodgers.

Houston got just what it wanted from 38-year-old starter Zack Greinke, who threw four scoreless innings.

The bullpen just couldn't hold it.

Now, there's no more room for error.

"Just basically focus on one game at a time. That's it," Altuve said. "If we win tomorrow, then try to win Game 6 and see what happens. But we've got to focus on one game, and that game is tomorrow."

MOVING UP THE CHARTS

Altuve's homer was his 23rd homer in 77 postseason games, which pushed him to second place all alone on the career list behind Manny Ramirez with 29.

Altuve had been tied with longtime New York Yankees star Bernie Williams.

TRUMP'S CHOP

Only months after calling for a boycott of Major League Baseball, Trump chopped away with fans before the game while standing beside his wife, Melania.

Trump said he was invited to the game by Commissioner Rob Manfred and New York Yankees President Randy Levine. Major League Baseball denied making the invitation, saying the former president asked to attend the game.

Trump encouraged a boycott of MLB games after Manfred removed the All-Star Game from Atlanta over Georgia's new voting law.

Unlike the 2019 World Series in Washington, when Trump was booed while still in office, there was no obvious reception for the former president at Truist Park.

His appearance was not announced to the crowd.

LEE STARTS

Lee was one of the most unlikely starters in World Series history.

The 27-year-old left-hander had never pitched in the big leagues until the final weekend of the regular season, when he was called up from Triple-A to make a couple of appearances after the Braves had already locked up the NL East title.

He had been released by the Marlins at the end of spring training and signed a minor league deal with the Braves.

Lee didn't last long in Game 4, but he will forever be known as a World Series starter.

UP NEXT

Game 1 loser Framber Valdez gets his second start of the Series for the Astros. The left-hander lasted only two innings last Tuesday, giving up eight hits, five runs and two homers in a 6-2 setback.

The Braves will counter with their second consecutive bullpen game. No word on who will be the opener in a start that would've gone to Charlie Morton if not for a broken leg that ended his season in Game 1.

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Jay-Z, Foo Fighters welcomed into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

By TOM WITHERS Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jay-Z's added another title to a resume that includes rapper, songwriter, Grammy winner, billionaire business mogul, and global icon — Hall of Famer.

The self-proclaimed "greatest rapper alive" was inducted Saturday night as part of an eclectic 2021 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame class that included Foo Fighters, Carole King, Tina Turner, The Go-Gos and Todd Rundgren.

Once a drug dealer on the tough streets of Brooklyn, New York, Jay-Z rose through the rap world with hard, straight-forward songs that often portrayed the struggles of Black people in America.

His catalogue includes songs like "Hard Knock Life," "99 Problems" and "Empire State of Mind" as well as 14 No. 1 albums.

Following a video introduction that included President Barack Obama, LeBron James and David Letterman, Jay-Z was inducted by comedian Dave Chappelle, who praised him for being an inspiration.

"He rhymed a recipe for survival," Chappelle said. "He embodies what the potential of our lives can be and what success can be."

Paul McCartney welcomed Foo Fighters, who have carried the mantle as one of rock's top arena acts. Initially, the band was little more than a side project for front man Dave Grohl, who was previously inducted as Nirvana's drummer.

McCartney described the parallels between he and Grohl as both were part of massively popular bands who broke up.

"Do you think this guy is stalking me?" McCartney joked.

Foo Fighters and McCartney closed the show with the Beatles' "Get Back."

Rapper LL Cool J was enshrined for musical excellence along with keyboardist Billy Preston and guitarist Randy Rhoads.

Electronic pioneers Kraftwerk, singer-poet Gil Scott-Heron and Delta blues legend Charley Patton were inducted as early influencers and Sussex Records founder Clarence Avant received the Ahmet Ertegun Award.

Cool J recruited some of his heavyweight musical friends to usher him into rock immortality. One of rap's hip-hops first superstars was joined on stage by Eminem and Jennifer Lopez for a powerful career-spanning performance.

With New York street style and swagger, Cool J remains a relevant artist more than 40 years after he first spit lyrics.

"What does LL really stand for?" asked rapper/producer Dr. Dre in his induction speech. "Ladies love? Living large? Licking lips? I'm here because I think it stands for living legend."

Cool J then did a medley of his hits, including "Rock The Bells" accompanied by a bearded Eminem before he was joined by J-Lo for "All I Have." Cool J wrapped up his blistering set with with one of his biggest hits, "Mama Said Knock You Out."

Superstar Taylor Swift opened the show with one of King's best-known songs, "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," which appeared on "Tapestry" her seminal 1971 album — a soundtrack for a generation.

Swift gave a moving, heartfelt induction speech for one of her musical idols.

"I can't remember a time when I didn't know Carole King's music," Swift said, saying her parents taught her several important lessons as a child with one of the most important being "that Carole King is the greatest songwriter of all time."

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King thanked Swift "for carrying the torch forward." She noted other female singers and songwriters have said they stand on her shoulders.

"Let it not be forgotten," King said. "They also stand on the shoulders of the first woman inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. May she rest in power, Miss Aretha Franklin."

King then introduced Jennifer Hudson, who performed a stunning, rafter-shaking performance of "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" before King sang "You Got A Friend."

The 81-year-old Turner, who found her greatest success when she left abusive husband Ike Turner, lives in Switzerland and did not attend the ceremony.

"If they're still giving me awards at 81," Turner said in a video message. "I must have done something right."

Keith Urban and H.E.R. performed "It's Only Love" a duet Turner did with Bryan Adams before Mickey Guyton took on her most iconic song, "What's Love Got To Do With It." Then Christina Aguilera belted out "River Deep, Mountain High."

Considered the greatest female group in rock history, The Go-Go's emerged from Los Angeles' punk scene in the 1980s. The quintet broke rules and smashed gender ceilings in a male-dominated industry with hits like "We Got The Beat," "My Lips Are Sealed" and "Head Over Heels."

"They've been in my personal Hall of Fame since I was 6 years old," said actress Drew Barrymore, who mimicked the cover of the band's debut album, "Beauty and the Beat," during her induction speech by wrapping her body and hair in bath towels and applying face cream.

"Now," she said. "My childhood fantasy is fulfilled."

Best known for soft ballads like "Hello It's Me" and "Love Is The Answer," Rundgren also had a long path to induction. He's been outspoken about the hall's selection process and skipped the ceremony in protest.

"Ever defiant," Patti Smith said in a video presenting Rundgren.

This year's ceremony was held for the first time at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, the 20,000-seat home of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and a venue familiar to Jay-Z and Foo Fighters, who have played shows in the arena before.

It was a return to normalcy for the event, which was forced to go virtual in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Artists are not eligible for induction until 25 years after release of their first recording. There are lively debates every year over omissions, and as Public Enemy's Chuck D noted during a plaque induction ceremony on Friday at the hall, patience is sometimes another requirement for entrance.

"It ain't no overnight thing," he said. "You can't stumble into this place."

That was certainly the case for King, who had been eligible for enshrinement as a solo artist since 1986. She went in previously as a songwriter with Gerry Goffin, her late husband, in 1990.

The ceremony will be shown on HBO on Nov. 20.

A post-Trump test for Democrats looms in Virginia election

By STEVE PEOPLES and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — For four years, nothing rallied Democrats like the push to get Donald Trump out of office. Now, they're not sure what to do without him.

Democrats in Virginia are scrambling to stave off disaster in the state's governor's race — the most competitive major election since Trump left the White House. The surprisingly tight contest has exposed the depth of the party's dependence on Trump as a message and motivator. Without him top of mind for many, and with headwinds from Washington, Democratic officials privately fear they may lose their first statewide election in Virginia in more than a decade on Tuesday.

Public polling has been shifting in Republican newcomer Glenn Youngkin's direction in recent weeks, while Democrat Terry McAuliffe, a former governor and close ally of President Joe Biden, has struggled to energize his base as Biden's approval ratings sink. Republicans, consumed by infighting and crisis while Trump was in office, are suddenly optimistic they can win in a state Trump lost by 10 percentage points

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last year.

"Virginia is a very blue state — I do not consider Virginia a purple state — so the fact that we're this competitive speaks volumes about the state of our country and the popularity of Biden," said Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel.

A loss in the Virginia governor's race, long considered a bellwether for midterm elections, would trigger all-out panic among Democrats far beyond Virginia. The party is already wary about their chances in elections that will decide control of the House and Senate and statehouses next year.

Jaime Harrison, chair of the Democratic National Committee, acknowledged a McAuliffe loss would be a "doomsday" scenario. But he argued that Virginia Democrats would show up and pull off a win for McAuliffe.

"I'm not running around with my hair on fire, not at this point," he said.

Regardless of the outcome, the race will be picked over for clues about what resonated with voters — and what didn't.

The politics surrounding Trump, who left office more than nine months ago, remain complicated. McAuliffe's team believes he remains very unpopular among the Democratic base, independents and even some moderate Republicans in Virginia. As such, he should be a good motivator for McAuliffe's coalition. But Trump's absence from the spotlight, combined with voter fatigue and the lingering pandemic, seems to have diluted anti-Trump passions — at least for now.

Still, McAuliffe spent the vast majority of his record fundraising haul warning voters that his opponent, who was endorsed by Trump but kept his distance from him, is a "Trump wannabe." McAuliffe's closing TV ads featured footage from the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection led by Trump supporters who believed the former president's lies about a "stolen election."

Youngkin created the opening for those attacks when he made "election integrity" the centerpiece of his run during the nomination contest and declined to say Biden was legitimately elected until after he locked up the nomination. Youngkin has shown a "disqualifying lack of leadership," said Democratic U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger, defending McAuliffe's decision to elevate the issue.

"We can't forget — and I certainly will never forget — that we had an insurrection on Jan. 6 at the nation's Capitol," she said. "Literally, people beat police officers with American flags under this notion of a lie that the former president spewed and people with loud voices, elected officials, propagated."

In an interview that aired Saturday night on Fox News, Trump addressed dismissed McAuliffe's anti-Trump strategy.

"I think it backfires, because I think that gets the base to come out and vote," Trump said, noting that he has endorsed Youngkin "strongly." "I think if my base doesn't come out he can't win. I think my base has to come out very strong."

Meanwhile, Youngkin has not played the part of an angry Trump loyalist.

A former private equity executive who often dodges questions on thorny policy issues, Youngkin devoted more than \$20 million of his personal fortune to a monthslong advertising campaign defining himself as an affable, suburban dad in a fleece vest. He has not campaigned with Trump or any high-profile Republicans, and he told reporters he would not be involved with a Trump telerally on Monday.

To connect with the party's base, Youngkin seized on conservatives' frustrations with schools over pandemic policies and race and diversity education. He's benefited from a network of parent groups, some led by political professionals with ties to the GOP and Trump administration, activated in key suburbs. He ran an ad featuring a mother and GOP activist who eight years ago led an effort to ban "Beloved," the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Black Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, from classrooms.

McAuliffe calls it a "racist dog whistle," an allegation Youngkin denied.

History is working against Democrats, who control the legislative and executive branches in Virginia and in Washington. Traditionally, the party that holds the White House almost always loses the Virginia governor's race. McAuliffe himself was the first in 40 years to break that trend in 2013.

McAuliffe's team points to Biden's slipping popularity, which has fallen close to Trump's levels at this point in his presidency. Meanwhile, the Democratic-led Congress has failed to deliver sweeping campaign

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promises as negotiations over a massive climate change and social safety net package drag on. This week, Democrats dropped a popular paid family leave proposal, disappointing many Democratic women in Virginia, a critical constituency.

Aside from disappointment, Democrats in Virginia say they're exhausted.

"We've had four years of being on high alert, coming out of COVID, coming out of a lockdown. I think people were just living their lives and didn't want to think about an election," said state Sen. Jennifer McClellan, who ran against McAuliffe for the Democratic nomination.

A Republican presidential candidate hasn't carried the state since 2004. Census data shows the state's Democratic-leaning northern part of the state growing, while GOP strongholds lose population.

Fairfax County, which voted nearly 70% for Biden and is by far Virginia's most populous county, grew at a 6% rate to a population of 1.15 million in the last decade. It also became a majority-minority county. Meanwhile, in deep red southwest Virginia and along the state's southern border, nearly every locality lost population.

The trends, combined with a Democratic shift among suburban Republicans during the Trump era, suggest that Democrats would win easily on Tuesday if only they turn out their supporters. The early voting period, which ends Saturday, did not attract the surge in voters in key areas that Democrats hoped for, however.

A McAuliffe get-out-the-vote event in the conservative southern edge of the state drew only a few dozen people to a church reception hall earlier in the week. One attendee, Martinsville Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles, said she hopes McAuliffe wins but sees evidence of Trump's strength where she lives.

"It's not diminished. If anything, it feels like it's getting stronger," Bowles said. "It scares me."

McAuliffe campaigned alongside Vice President Kamala Harris and musical artist Pharrell Williams on Friday night in Norfolk, drawing roughly 1,000 people, according to a state party spokesperson.

McAuliffe went after Youngkin and his supporters, telling the crowd: "I cannot tell you how critical this election is. The stakes could not be any more clear. On one side ... conspiracy theorists, we've got anti-vaxxers and we got Donald Trump. They're all on one side."

Three hours to the north in rural Warrenton, more than 1,000 people attended a rally that featured Youngkin and a handful of state legislators.

"We have Terry on the run," Youngkin told the electric crowd. "We are gonna sweep Republicans in across this Commonwealth and make a statement that will be heard around the world."

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

G-20 endorses global corporate minimum tax at Rome summit

By DAVID McHUGH, FRANCES D'EMILIO and SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Leaders of the world's biggest economies on Saturday endorsed a global minimum tax on corporations, a linchpin of new international tax rules aimed at blunting the edge of fiscal paradises amid skyrocketing profits of some multinational businesses.

The move by the Group of 20 summit in Rome was hailed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen as benefiting American businesses and workers.

G-20 finance ministers in July had already agreed on a 15% minimum tax. It awaited formal endorsement at the summit Saturday in Rome of the world's economic powerhouses.

Yellen predicted in a statement that the deal on new international tax rules, with a minimum global tax, "will end the damaging race to the bottom on corporate taxation."

The deal did fall short of U.S. President Joe Biden's original call for a 21% minimum tax. Still, Biden tweeted his satisfaction.

"Here at the G20, leaders representing 80% of the world's GDP — allies and competitors alike — made clear their support for a strong global minimum tax," the president said in the tweet. "This is more than just a tax deal — it's diplomacy reshaping our global economy and delivering for our people."

The agreement aims to discourage multinationals from stashing profits in countries where they pay little

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or no taxes. These days, multinationals can earn big profits from things like trademarks and intellectual property. These companies can then assign earnings to a subsidiary in a tax haven country.

Briefing reporters midway through the summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said: "There are good things to report here. The world community has agreed on a minimum taxation of companies. That is a clear signal of justice in times of digitalization."

Mathias Cormann, secretary-general of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, said that the deal clinched in Rome "will make our international tax arrangements fairer and work better in a digitalized and globalized economy."

The minimum rate "completely eliminates the incentive for businesses around the world to restructure their affairs to avoid tax," Cormann contended.

On other issues crucial to fairness across the globe — including access to COVID-19 vaccines — the summit on the first of its two days heard pleas to boost the percentage of those in poor countries being vaccinated.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi made a sharp call to pick up the pace in getting vaccines to poor countries.

Draghi, the summit host, said Saturday that only 3% of people in the world's poorest countries are vaccinated, while 70% in rich countries have had at least one shot.

"These differences are morally unacceptable and undermine the global recovery," said Draghi, an economist and former chief of the European Central Bank.

French President Emmanuel Macron has pledged to use the summit to press fellow European Union leaders to be more generous in donating vaccines to low-income countries.

But advocates of civil society which have held discussions with G-20 officials said suspension of vaccine patents was crucial to increasing access in poor countries.

Canada noted it was both sharing vaccines as well as donating money to develop production in South Africa, which is a G-20 country. Chrystia Freeland, deputy prime minister, said Canada was increasing its commitment to international vaccine sharing through the COVAX program by donating 200 million doses.

The summit is also confronting two-track global recovery in which rich countries are bouncing back faster.

Rich countries have used vaccines and stimulus spending to restart economic activity, leaving the risk that developing countries that account for much of global growth will remain behind due to low vaccinations and financing difficulties.

Macron has told reporters he expects the G-20 to confirm an additional \$100 billion to support Africa's economies.

On the urgent problem of climate change, Italy is hoping the G-20 will secure crucial commitments from countries responsible for about 80% of global carbon emissions — ahead of the U.N. climate conference that begins Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland, just as the Rome summit winds down.

Most of the G-20 leaders will head to Glasgow.

Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China, whose efforts to reduce emissions are paramount to combating climate change, were participating remotely in the Rome summit.

But midway through the summit it was the corporate tax rate rule that dominated.

White House officials say the new tax rate would create at least \$60 billion in new revenue a year in the U.S. — a stream of cash that could help partially pay for a nearly \$3 trillion social services and infrastructure package that Biden is seeking. U.S. adoption is key because so many multinational companies are headquartered there.

But Civil 20, which represents some 560 organizations from more than 100 countries in a network making recommendations to the G-20, was less enthusiastic. The 15% rate is "a little more than those (rates) we'd consider fiscal paradises," Civil 20 official Riccardo Moro told reporters following the summit.

Nicole Winfield contributed to this report.

US, EU reach agreement to settle rift over Trump-era tariffs

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By ZEKE MILLER and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The U.S. and European Union have reached an agreement to settle their diplomatic rift over Trump-era steel and aluminum tariffs, the White House announced Saturday, as President Joe Biden is in Rome attending the Group of 20 summit.

The Trump administration had placed taxes on EU steel and aluminum in 2018 on the claim that the foreign products produced by American allies were a threat to U.S. national security. Europeans and other allies were outraged by Trump's use of Article 232 to justify the tariffs, leading many to impose counter-tariffs on U.S.-made motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans, among other items.

National security adviser Jake Sullivan, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo announced the agreement Saturday. They said that the Article 232 tariffs won't be removed entirely but that some quantity of European steel and aluminum will be allowed to enter the U.S. without tariffs under the deal.

"We were able to reach an agreement whereby the EU will drop their retaliatory tariffs (on American goods)," Raimondo said. The agreement would ensure "that all steel entering the U.S. via Europe is produced entirely in Europe," Raimondo added.

The easing of the tariffs is a key step in unwinding one of Trump's legacies as Biden has tried to reset the U.S. relationship with Europe.

This back-and-forth hurt European producers and raised steel costs for American companies. The tariffs also did not achieve Trump's stated goals of creating jobs at steel mills. The Bureau of Labor Statistics show that jobs in the manufacturing of primary metals did rise slightly, to as much as 389,100 in 2019. But mills shed workers during the pandemic, and employment in the sector is roughly half of what it was in 1990.

The European Union took steps in May to improve relations. On some retaliatory tariffs, the EU temporarily suspended planned increases. This meant that American whiskey faced a 25% tax in Europe, instead of a planned 50% tax. The two sides faced a December deadline to avoid the higher tax rate.

The summit's host, Italian Premier Mario Draghi, in a statement Saturday night expressed "great satisfaction" for the tariff accord. The decision "confirms the further reinforcement underway of the already close Transatlantic relations and the progressive overcoming of the protectionism of the last years," he said.

The announcement also was welcomed by Chris Swonger, president and CEO of Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, after what he called "three very difficult years of sagging American whiskey exports."

"Lifting this tariff burden on American whiskeys not only boosts U.S. distillers and farmers, it also supports the recovery of EU restaurants, bars and distilleries hit hard by the pandemic," Swonger said.

More NYC workers get jobs amid mandate; 1 in 6 still refuse

NEW YORK (AP) — One in six New York City municipal workers remained unvaccinated after Friday's deadline to show proof they've gotten at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the city said Saturday.

A last-minute rush of jabs boosted the vaccination rate to 83% among police officers, firefighters, garbage collectors and other city workers covered by the mandate as of 8 p.m. Friday, up from 76% a day earlier.

The more than 26,000 workers who haven't complied with the requirement will be put on unpaid leave starting Monday, leaving the Big Apple bracing for the possibility of closed firehouses, fewer police and ambulances and mounting trash.

Vaccination rates for the city's fire and sanitation departments jumped significantly Friday as workers rushed to meet the deadline for the mandate and an extra incentive: Workers who get a shot by Friday will get \$500.

The fire department's rate rose 8% and the sanitation department saw an additional 10% of its staff get vaccinated Friday, according to city data. The fire and sanitation departments each have 23% of their staffs that still haven't been vaccinated.

The NYPD had a 5% jump in vaccinations Friday, leaving 16% of police personnel who had yet to get a dose.

City officials have been weighing various contingencies to deal with an expected staffing shortfall come

Monday.

The fire department said it was prepared to close up to 20% of its fire companies and have 20% fewer ambulances in service while also changing schedules, canceling vacations and turning to outside EMS providers to make up for expected staffing shortages.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said the sanitation department will move to 12-hour shifts, as opposed to the usual 8-hour shifts, and begin working Sundays to ensure trash doesn't pile up.

'She was my friend' — Alec Baldwin mourns cinematographer

By The Associated Press undefined

Alec Baldwin has spoken publicly for the first time on camera about the cinematographer he fatally shot on the movie set of "Rust," calling her a friend and saying he is in "constant contact" with her grieving family.

"She was my friend," Baldwin told photographers Saturday on a roadside in Vermont. "We were a very, very well-oiled crew shooting a film together and then this horrible event happened." The video was distributed by TMZ.

Investigators believe Baldwin's gun fired a single live round that killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza.

Baldwin was joined by his wife, Hilaria, when he spoke to photographers and she filmed the exchange with her smartphone, often trying to get her husband to stop talking. Baldwin said he was speaking out so that the photographers would stop following his family.

Baldwin called the shooting incident a "one-in-a-trillion event" and said he had met with Hutchins' husband. "He is in shock, he has a 9-year-old son. We are in constant contact with him because we are very worried about his family and his kid. As I said, we are eagerly awaiting for the sheriff's department to tell us what their investigation has yielded."

Investigators in New Mexico where the shooting occurred have said that there was "some complacency" in how weapons were handled on the movie set but it's too soon to determine whether charges will be filed.

Santa Fe County Sheriff Adan Mendoza has said 500 rounds of ammunition — a mix of blanks, dummy rounds and suspected live rounds — were found while searching the set of the Western "Rust."

Detectives have recovered a lead projectile they believe the actor fired. Testing is being done to confirm whether the projectile taken from Souza's shoulder was fired from the same long Colt revolver used by Baldwin. The FBI will help with ballistics analysis.

Souza, who was standing behind Hutchins, told investigators there should never be live rounds present near the scene.

District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies said investigators cannot say yet whether it was negligence or by whom. She called it a complex case that will require more research and analysis.

How 'Let's Go Brandon' became code for insulting Joe Biden

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Republican Rep. Bill Posey of Florida ended an Oct. 21 House floor speech with a fist pump and the phrase "Let's go, Brandon!" it may have seemed cryptic and weird to many who were listening. But the phrase was already growing in right-wing circles, and now the seemingly upbeat sentiment -- actually a stand-in for swearing at Joe Biden -- is everywhere.

South Carolina Republican Jeff Duncan wore a "Let's Go Brandon" face mask at the Capitol last week. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz posed with a "Let's Go Brandon" sign at the World Series. Sen. Mitch McConnell's press secretary retweeted a photo of the phrase on a construction sign in Virginia.

The line has become conservative code for something far more vulgar: "F--- Joe Biden." It's all the rage among Republicans wanting to prove their conservative credentials, a not-so-secret handshake that signals they're in sync with the party's base.

Americans are accustomed to their leaders being publicly jeered, and former President Donald Trump's

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often-coarse language seemed to expand the boundaries of what counts as normal political speech.

But how did Republicans settle on the Brandon phrase as a G-rated substitute for its more vulgar three-word cousin?

It started at an Oct. 2 NASCAR race at the Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama. Brandon Brown, a 28-year-old driver, had won his first Xfinity Series and was being interviewed by an NBC Sports reporter. The crowd behind him was chanting something at first difficult to make out. The reporter suggested they were chanting "Let's go, Brandon" to cheer the driver. But it became increasingly clear they were saying: "F--- Joe Biden."

NASCAR and NBC have since taken steps to limit "ambient crowd noise" during interviews, but it was too late — the phrase already had taken off.

When the president visited a construction site in suburban Chicago a few weeks ago to promote his vaccinate-or-test mandate, protesters deployed both three-word phrases. This past week, Biden's motorcade was driving past a "Let's Go Brandon" banner as the president passed through Plainfield, New Jersey.

And a group chanted "Let's go, Brandon" outside a Virginia park on Monday when Biden made an appearance on behalf of the Democratic candidate for governor, Terry McAuliffe. Two protesters dropped the euphemism entirely, holding up hand-drawn signs with the profanity.

On Friday morning on a Southwest flight from Houston to Albuquerque, the pilot signed off his greeting over the public address system with the phrase, to audible gasps from some passengers. Southwest said in a statement that the airline "takes pride in providing a welcoming, comfortable, and respectful environment" and that "behavior from any individual that is divisive or offensive is not condoned."

Veteran GOP ad maker Jim Innocenzi had no qualms about the coded crudity, calling it "hilarious."

"Unless you are living in a cave, you know what it means," he said. "But it's done with a little bit of a class. And if you object and are taking it too seriously, go away."

America's presidents have endured meanness for centuries; Grover Cleveland faced chants of "Ma, Ma Where's my Pa?" in the 1880s over rumors he'd fathered an illegitimate child. Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson were the subject of poems that leaned into racist tropes and allegations of bigamy.

"We have a sense of the dignity of the office of president that has consistently been violated to our horror over the course of American history," said Cal Jillson, a politics expert and professor in the political science department at Southern Methodist University. "We never fail to be horrified by some new outrage."

There were plenty of old outrages.

"F--- Trump" graffiti still marks many an overpass in Washington, D.C. George W. Bush had a shoe thrown in his face. Bill Clinton was criticized with such fervor that his most vocal critics were labeled the "Clinton crazies."

The biggest difference, though, between the sentiments hurled at the Grover Cleverlands of yore and modern politicians is the amplification they get on social media.

"Before the expansion of social media a few years ago, there wasn't an easily accessible public forum to shout your nastiest and darkest public opinions," said Matthew Delmont, a history professor at Dartmouth College.

Even the racism and vitriol to which former President Barack Obama was subjected was tempered in part because Twitter was relatively new. There was no TikTok. As for Facebook, leaked company documents have recently revealed how the platform increasingly ignored hate speech and misinformation and allowed it to proliferate.

A portion of the U.S. was already angry well before the Brandon moment, believing the 2020 presidential election was rigged despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary, which has stood the test of recounts and court cases.

But anger has now moved beyond die-hard Trump supporters, said Stanley Renshon, a political scientist and psychoanalyst at the City University of New York.

He cited the Afghanistan withdrawal, the southern border situation and rancorous school board debates as situations in which increasing numbers who were not vocally anti-Biden now feel that "how American institutions are telling the American public what they clearly see and understand to be true, is in fact not

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true.”

Trump hasn't missed the moment. His Save America PAC now sells a \$45 T-shirt featuring "Let's go Brandon" above an American flag. One message to supporters reads, "#FJB or LET'S GO BRANDON? Either way, President Trump wants YOU to have our ICONIC new shirt."

Separately, T-shirts are popping up in storefronts with the slogan and the NASCAR logo.

And as for the real Brandon, things haven't been so great. He drives for a short-staffed, underfunded team owned by his father. And while that win — his first career victory — was huge for him, the team has long struggled for sponsorship and existing partners have not been marketing the driver since the slogan.

Associated Press writers Amer Madhani, Mary Clare Jalonick, Brian Slodysko and Will Weissert in Washington and Jenna Fryer in Charlotte, N.C., contributed to this report.

Unhappy Halloween: Gaming platform Roblox crashes

The Associated Press undefined

To the dismay of millions of children -- and the parents trying to keep them busy and cope with their anguish -- the popular gaming platform Roblox crashed Friday, and the company was still trying to restore service Saturday.

"The scariest part of Halloween this year is Roblox being down," lamented Twitter user @NikilisRBX.

In a statement Saturday, Roblox said: "We believe we have identified an underlying internal cause of the outage with no evidence of an external intrusion. We are in the process of performing the necessary engineering and maintenance work to get Roblox back up and running as soon as possible."

Roblox said on Friday that the outage was "not related to any specific experiences or partnerships on the platform." This was apparently meant to quash rumors that the trouble was caused by a free burrito giveaway at a digital Chipotle on the Roblox platform.

For its part, Chipotle tweeted: "Miss u Roblox."

On the Roblox platform, players can create their own games and play with other users. It became wildly popular after the coronavirus pandemic closed schools and kept children indoors looking for something to do.

According to numbers compiled by the social media consulting firm Backlinko, Roblox has more than 43 million active users a day (up from 14 million in 2016), 40 million games and 9.5 million developers. The most popular game on Roblox, according to Backlinko, is "Adopt Me!" -- which allows users to raise digital pets.

Democrats hope for House budget votes as soon as Tuesday

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic leaders were hoping for House votes as soon as Tuesday on the two pillars of President Joe Biden's domestic agenda, two Democrats said Saturday, as the party mounted its latest push to maneuver the long-delayed legislation through Congress.

It remained unclear, though, whether the ambitious timetable could be met.

Top Democrats would like a final House-Senate compromise on Biden's now \$1.75 trillion, 10-year social and environment plan to be written by Sunday, the Democrats said.

Talks among White House, House and Senate officials were being held over the weekend, said the Democrats, who described the plans on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak on the record. The White House unveiled an outline of the \$1.75 trillion measure on Thursday that won positive reviews from many rank-and-file lawmakers, pending talks over final details.

An accord could clear the way for congressional approval of that bill and a separate \$1 trillion measure funding roads, rail and other infrastructure projects, the Democrats said.

For an agreement between the two chambers to be viable in the Senate, it would need the backing of

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Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona. House progressives long at odds over the party's spending and tax priorities with the two centrists would need to be convinced they could trust them to back an accord.

Manchin and Sinema forced Biden to retreat from his earlier plan for a \$3.5 trillion social and environment plan and to remove and scale back some initiatives. Democrats will need unanimous support in the 50-50 Senate to pass the legislation, which is opposed by all Republicans, and will be able to lose no more than three more Democratic votes in the House.

In addition, some Democrats are still seeking to include provisions requiring paid family leave, letting Medicare negotiate pharmaceutical prices to push down prescription drug costs and helping millions of immigrants remain in the U.S.

The Senate's nonpartisan parliamentarian, who enforces that chamber's strict rules, also might decide that some provisions in the social and environment bill violate procedures and should be removed. Elizabeth MacDonough has already ruled against including two earlier Democratic proposals assisting immigrants.

After months of disputes between progressives and moderates over the social and environment bill, party leaders had pressured lawmakers to resolve their disagreements to enhance Biden's clout before he left Thursday for economic and climate talks in Europe.

Biden asked House Democrats in a Capitol meeting Thursday morning to support both bills, but their divisions remained and Congress left town until next week. Biden will be in Europe into next week, so any quick agreements in Congress could still give him a boost.

Also lying ahead is Tuesday's gubernatorial election in Democratic-leaning Virginia. Polls show Republican candidate Glenn Youngkin might defeat Democrat Terry McAuliffe, a former governor, and it is unclear how that might affect support in Congress for the social and environment package.

The \$1.75 trillion measure would need to clear the Senate after passing the House.

Its initiatives include money for free preschool, tax credits to spur movement toward cleaner fuels and electrified vehicles, subsidies for child care and health coverage and more funding for housing and at-home care for the elderly. Most of its costs would be covered by higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations and bolstering the IRS's budget for pursuing higher-income tax scofflaws.

The Senate approved the infrastructure measure in August on a bipartisan vote. House progressives have sidetracked that bill in an effort to ensure that moderates will back the larger social and environment bill.

Back in Europe, Biden tries to show allies US is with them

By JOSH BOAK, ZEKE MILLER and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Nearly five months after President Joe Biden declared "America is back" on his first presidential visit abroad, the president's challenge now that he's back in Europe is convincing the world that America is here to stay.

Attending twin summits in Rome and then Scotland, Biden is asking world leaders to cast their lot with a country that seems unable to agree on its own future.

His visit is set against the backdrop of the ongoing struggle to get his signature domestic agenda through Congress. The president's fellow Democrats have steadily pared back Biden's proposed spending on families, health care and renewable energy to build support for the plan and battled over the tax hikes needed to pay for it.

Because support for the \$1.75 trillion package of expanded social programs is unclear, the president's separate \$1 trillion infrastructure package is also on hold. This leaves the president to ask the world to judge him based more on his intentions rather than his results.

Biden administration officials contend that American allies understand the messiness of the legislative process and are unfazed, but world leaders also are keenly aware of Biden's sagging poll numbers, the prospects of a Republican resurgence in Congress in the 2022 midterm election and the specter the presidency could shift to former President Donald Trump or someone with similar politics two years later.

The White House view, laid out by senior administration officials during briefings in Rome, is that Ameri-

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can alliances suffered enormous trauma during the last administration and the healing work under Biden is ongoing.

A senior administration official said Saturday the White House believes allies want Biden to lock in as much progress as possible while there is a president who is deeply committed to transatlantic alliances.

"The administration created really high expectations of a sort of reset in transatlantic ties with the 'America is back rhetoric,'" said Benjamin Haddad, director of the Europe Center at the Washington think tank Atlantic Council. "I think there was probably too high of expectations that we could just turn the page on the last four years."

Biden promised that the U.S. would be a more engaged and predictable partner to allies following four years of Donald Trump's "America First."

But in the early going of his presidency, he has frustrated allies on the international stage and provided fodder for his Republican critics. Setbacks included the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and a diplomatic row with France over a plan for the U.S. to equip Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

Biden also disappointed Eastern European allies, including Poland and Ukraine, over his decision to waive sanctions against German entities involved in the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

The United States has long called the Russia-to-Germany pipeline a threat to European energy security because it increases the continent's reliance on Russian gas and allows Russia to exert political pressure on its neighbors. Levying sanctions against Germany, however, would have caused a further dispute with one of the United States' closest allies.

European allies also bristled over the Biden administration restrictions on travel from European Union countries because of the coronavirus pandemic. The administration has announced it will lift the restrictions next month that impact travelers from 33 countries, including members of the EU, China, Iran, South Africa, Brazil, and India.

Some progress was made at the G-20 as the White House announced Saturday the U.S. and European Union had reached an agreement to settle their diplomatic rift over Trump-era steel and aluminum tariffs.

The tariffs were issued on national security grounds and led to retaliatory taxes by the EU. They will not be completely removed. Some European steel and aluminum will enter the U.S. without tariffs and the retaliatory tariffs by the EU will end.

While prospects for what would be the largest-ever U.S. investment in fighting climate change are looking up, the delay in getting there has only reinforced the fickleness of American policy on the eve of the Glasgow summit, underscoring that the priorities of one president can be reversed by the next.

House Democrats hope for a vote on Biden's domestic package, including the climate investment, on Tuesday, when Biden will be winding up his stay at the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow. But it remained unclear whether the ambitious timetable could be met.

If Congress fails to pass legislation for significant action on climate by the United States itself, "it would be like President Trump pulling out of the Paris agreement, again," U.S. climate envoy and former secretary of state John Kerry told the AP earlier this month.

In a closed-door session with House Democrats that Biden attended just hours before his departure for Rome, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi invoked the president's trip as she tried to rally Democratic votes around the \$1 trillion infrastructure package, unsuccessfully attempting to build support for a vote Thursday.

"When the president gets off that plane we want him to have a vote of confidence from this Congress," she said. She referenced conversations she's had with world leaders questioning whether American democracy can deliver.

"The rest of the world wonders whether we can function," Biden told the lawmakers, according to a source familiar with his remarks.

Biden is trying to prove it can with his actions at the Group of 20 summit in Rome and next at the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow.

On Saturday, he huddled in Rome with Germany's Angela Merkel, France's Emmanuel Macron, and Britain's Boris Johnson to coordinate strategy on the Iran deal. The four-way meeting was meant as a study in contrast from the Trump administration, when the Iran nuclear issue marked one of the major flashpoints

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between the U.S. and Europe.

Biden also met individually with Macron on Friday, part of an attempt to move past a separate row over a secret U.S.-U.K. deal to sell nuclear-powered submarines to Australia that cost France tens of billions of dollars by ending its own planned submarine sale to the ally.

"For me, this is very much the beginning of a process of trust, of confidence, which we're building together," Macron told Biden.

William Howell, a University of Chicago political scientist, said Biden's challenge says less about his skills or domestic political support for his agenda and more about the contemporary state of American politics.

"The pervasive gridlock, polarization, and distrust that characterize our national politics will ... give foreign leaders some pause before entering into long-term, costly agreements with us," Howell said.

The president did secure a global agreement to establish a global minimum tax for corporations, a long-sought move designed to prevent companies from moving profits to offshore tax havens. But the legislation implementing it in the U.S. is part of the broader package of legislation that hasn't yet passed Congress.

Madhani reported from Washington.

Biden receives Communion in Rome amid debate in US

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — President Joe Biden received Communion at St. Patrick's Church during Saturday Vigil Mass, a day after saying Pope Francis told him he should continue to partake in the sacrament, despite the opposition of some conservatives in the U.S. upset with his position on abortion.

Biden and his wife, Jill, visited the English-speaking church that is the main place of worship for the American Catholic community in Rome and is located near the U.S. Embassy. The president stopped in between events at the Group of 20 world leaders' summit taking place in the city this weekend.

While Biden regularly receives Communion in his home dioceses in Washington and Delaware, it was significant that he also received Communion in Rome. The pope technically is the bishop of Rome, and while he delegates day-to-day administration to his vicar, St. Patrick's parish is technically in the pope's archdiocese. As such, Biden received Communion in the pope's archdiocese.

About 30 people attended the Mass, and security guards ringed the aisles. The Bidens sat in the last row that had been roped off as "Reserved" and entered quietly, just after Mass had begun.

The Rev. Joe Ciccone, the vice rector of St. Patrick's and a member of the Paulist order, was the main celebrant and was joined by the parish rector, the Rev. Steven Petroff, and a third priest. The Associated Press attended the service.

Ciccone's homily was a meditation on love that he said he had composed days ago, before he knew the Bidens would be attending. He said it was an honor to have them in the parish, and that Biden's position on abortion and whether to administer Communion was not an issue for him or the parish.

"Communion is what brings us together in the Lord. None of us are pure and perfect. We struggle through life. We're all saints and sinners," Ciccone told The Associated Press after the service.

"And when you're a public figure you have to make certain decisions, especially in a democracy, on behalf of more than just your own personal feelings," he added.

No special announcement was made at the start of Mass about the Bidens' presence though, at the end, Petroff noted that they were in the church. He welcomed them, thanked them for coming and offered prayers "for the important work" they do. A round of applause broke out in the pews.

Both Bidens wore facemasks throughout the service and embraced during the sign of peace. The president tucked American money into the collection basket when an usher came to his pew.

The final hymn, to which the priests and then the Bidens exited, was "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me."

The president's support for abortion rights has put him at odds with many U.S. bishops, some of whom have suggested he should be denied Communion. American bishops are due to hold their annual fall con-

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ference in mid-November, and will find themselves debating a possible rebuke of a U.S. president.

Several conservative U.S. bishops expressed dismay about the pope's reported words to Biden. Bishop Joseph Strickland, of Tyler, Texas, retweeted a blistering blog post by conservative Cardinal Raymond Burke that strongly reaffirmed that Catholic politicians who support abortion rights cannot receive the sacrament.

"Let us pray for the repentance of all who support the murder of the unborn," Strickland wrote.

Petroff, the parish rector who actually gave Biden the Eucharist, said he had never denied the sacrament to anyone.

"First of all, I don't know what is going on inside anyone's mind when they come to receive the Eucharist," he told AP. "And secondly, I am not the Eucharist police. The Eucharist, as Pope Francis and many popes have said, is medicine for those who need it."

Biden told reporters on Friday that abortion did not come up in his 75-minute meeting with Francis at the Vatican. "We just talked about the fact he was happy that I was a good Catholic and I should keep receiving Communion," Biden said.

The Vatican spokesman declined to comment on Biden's remarks about Communion, noting that the Vatican doesn't comment on the pope's private conversations beyond what is written in the official communiqué, which made no mention of the issue.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement after the Vatican meeting that didn't address Biden's remark about Communion. Instead, the statement suggested that the president would not be singled out in any document emerging from the bishops' meeting next month.

The document "is intended to speak to the beauty of meeting Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and is addressed to all Catholics," the statement said.

Francis has stressed that he will not reject political leaders who support abortion rights, though Catholic policy allows individual bishops to choose whether to prevent people from taking Communion. When asked recently whether he would refuse the sacrament to Biden, Francis did not give a "yes" or "no" answer but said bishops should be pastors, not politicians.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Trisha Thomas contributed to this report.

US, European allies warn of Iran's 'provocative' nuke steps

By JOSH BOAK and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

ROME (AP) — President Joe Biden said Saturday that nuclear talks with Iran would resume as he and European leaders warned Tehran that "accelerated" and "provocative nuclear steps" it has taken will jeopardize its return to compliance under a 2015 nuclear agreement.

Biden and the leaders of Germany, France and Britain met as Iran continues to enrich uranium to near-weapons-grade levels. The leaders are trying to revive the 2015 deal and restore Iran's program to where it was under the pact, which kept the Islamic republic at least one year away from the potential to field a nuclear weapon.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, Biden, Germany's Angela Merkel, France's Emmanuel Macron and Britain's Boris Johnson "expressed our determination to ensure that Iran can never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon."

The leaders shared "our grave and growing concern" that Iran "has accelerated the pace of provocative nuclear steps" after it halted negotiations on a return to the nuclear agreement, formally known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

They also warned that Iran's nuclear developments and restrictions on international monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency "will jeopardize the possibility of a return to" the deal.

As the leaders posed for photos before the closed-door talks, Biden was asked when he would like the stalled negotiations with Iran to resume.

"They're scheduled to resume," he said, in what appeared to be the first public confirmation by the U.S. of a resumption in negotiations.

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Iran has yet to commit to a date to return to nuclear talks being held in Vienna but has signaled it will do so next week with a target of late November for resuming the negotiations. The U.S. and others have expressed skepticism about Iranian intentions.

The U.N.'s atomic watchdog has said Iran is increasingly in violation of the nuclear deal, which President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from. The U.S. has participated indirectly in talks aimed at bringing both Washington and Tehran back into compliance. Those talks in Vienna have been on hiatus since June, when Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took power.

Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and the European Union remain part of the deal.

"We call upon President Raisi to seize this opportunity and return to a good faith effort to conclude our negotiations as a matter of urgency," the leaders said in their communique. "That is the only sure way to avoid a dangerous escalation, which is not in any country's interest."

The four leaders met Saturday while in Rome for the Group of 20 summit, the first stop on Biden's five-day foreign trip. He's also attending a U.N. climate conference in Scotland.

Biden was welcomed to the summit site by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and joined his counterparts for the customary "family photo" before he went to the opening plenary session on the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery.

Saturday's meeting came several days after Ali Bagheri, Iran's deputy foreign minister and chief negotiator for the talks, tweeted that Iran has agreed to restart negotiations by the end of November. Bagheri said a date to resume talks would be announced soon.

U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Thursday that the U.S. was still trying to determine whether Iran was serious about returning to the negotiations.

"We have heard positive signals that they are, but I think we have to wait and see when and whether they actually show up at the negotiating table," he told reporters Thursday aboard Air Force One as Biden flew to Rome.

Sullivan said the leaders would send "clear messages" to Iran that the window for negotiation "is not unlimited."

"We, of course, retain all other options to be able to deal with this program as necessary," he said.

Saturday's meeting came after American officials blamed Iran for a drone attack on a remote U.S. outpost in Syria. Officials said Monday the U.S. believes Iran resourced and encouraged the attack, but that the drones were not launched from Iran.

No deaths or injuries were reported as a result of the attack.

In retaliation, the U.S. Treasury Department on Friday announced new penalties against two senior members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and two affiliated companies for supplying lethal drones and related material to insurgent groups in Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Ethiopia.

At the summit, Biden pushed for progress toward his goal of establishing a global 15% corporate minimum tax, the White House said, even as his domestic effort to raise the business rate to that figure was stuck in limbo in Washington.

He also was expected to discuss measures to ease a global energy supply crunch that has fueled rising prices, imperiling the global economic recovery. On Sunday, Biden planned to host an event on strengthening supply chains around the world as factories and ports have struggled to deliver goods because of the pandemic.

EXPLAINER: How G20-backed corporate minimum tax would work

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

ROME (AP) — Leaders at the Group of 20 summit in Rome are expressing broad support for sweeping changes in how big global companies are taxed.

The goal: deterring multinationals from stashing profits in countries where they pay little or no taxes — commonly known as tax havens.

The proposal was finalized in October among 136 countries and sent to the G-20 for a final look after

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complex talks overseen by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. It would update a century's worth of international taxation rules to cope with changes brought by digitalization and globalization.

The most important feature: a global minimum tax of at least 15%, a key initiative pushed by U.S. President Joe Biden. "This is more than just a tax deal — it's diplomacy reshaping our global economy and delivering for our people," Biden tweeted from the summit on Saturday.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen says it will end a decadeslong "race to the bottom" that has seen corporate tax rates fall as tax havens sought to attract businesses that used clever accounting to take advantage of low rates in countries where they had little real activity.

Here's a look at key aspects of the tax deal:

WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

In today's economy, multinationals can earn big profits from things like trademarks and intellectual property that are easier than factories to move. Companies can assign the earnings they generate to a subsidiary in a country where tax rates are very low.

Some countries compete for revenue by using rock-bottom rates to lure companies, attracting huge tax bases that generate large revenue even with tax rates only marginally above zero. Between 1985 and 2018, the global average corporate headline rate fell from 49% to 24%. By 2016, over half of all U.S. corporate profits were booked in seven tax havens: Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Singapore and Switzerland. White House officials are saying the global minimum would result in almost \$60 billion of added U.S. tax revenue.

HOW WOULD A GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX WORK?

The basic idea is simple: Countries would legislate a minimum rate of at least 15% for very big companies with annual revenues over 750 million euros (\$864 million)

If company earnings go untaxed or lightly taxed in one of the world's tax havens, their home country would impose a top-up tax that would bring the rate to 15%.

That would make it pointless for a company to use tax havens, since taxes avoided in the haven would be collected at home.

HOW WOULD THE TAX PLAN ADDRESS THE DIGITALIZED ECONOMY?

The plan would also let countries tax part of the earnings of the 100 or so biggest multinationals when they do business in places where they have no physical presence, such as through internet retailing or advertising. The tax would only apply to a portion of profits above a profit margin of 10%.

In return, other countries would abolish their unilateral digital services taxes on U.S. tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Amazon. That would head off trade conflicts with Washington, which argues such taxes unfairly target U.S. companies.

WHAT IS THE U.S. ROLE IN THE AGREEMENT?

Biden has staked a claim that the U.S. must join the global minimum tax in order to persuade other nations to do so. That would involve raising the current rate for foreign earnings from 10.5% to reflect the global minimum. His tax proposals are still being negotiated in Congress.

U.S. participation in the minimum tax deal is crucial, simply because so many multinationals are headquartered there — 28% of the 2,000 biggest global companies. Complete rejection of Biden's global minimum proposal would seriously undermine the international deal.

DOES EVERYONE LIKE THE DEAL?

Some developing countries and advocacy groups such as Oxfam and the UK-based Tax Justice Network say the 15% rate is too low. And although the global minimum would capture some \$150 billion in new revenue for governments, most of it would go to rich countries because they are where many of the big-

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gest multinationals are headquartered. Developing countries took part in the talks and all signed except for Nigeria, Kenya, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

U.S. critics including Republican leaders and some business groups say the proposed minimum tax would make America less competitive and potentially cost jobs, a sign that the key is to get passage from other nations so the U.S. is not disadvantaged.

ANY OTHER CAVEATS?

The EU Tax Observatory research consortium cautions that exemptions for companies with actual assets and employees in a given country could "exacerbate tax competition by giving firms incentives to move real activity to tax havens."

That means some tax competition among countries would still be possible when actual business operations — as opposed to shifty accounting — are involved.

HOW WOULD THE AGREEMENT TAKE EFFECT?

Backing from the G-20 leaders completes a yearslong process of negotiation. Once approval is reflected in the summit's final statement, expected Sunday, implementation then moves to the individual nations.

The tax on earnings where companies have no physical presence would require countries to sign on to an intergovernmental agreement in 2022, with implementation in 2023. The global minimum could be applied by individual countries using model rules developed by the OECD. If the U.S. and European countries where most multinationals are headquartered legislate such minimums, that would have much of the intended effect, even if some tax havens don't.

Associated Press writer Joshua Boak in Washington contributed to this report.

University of Florida prohibits professors from testifying

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The University of Florida is prohibiting three professors from providing expert testimony in a lawsuit challenging a new law that critics claim restricts voting rights, saying it goes against the school's interest by conflicting with the administration of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Though the decision is being criticized as threat to academic freedom and free speech, the university said in a statement Saturday that allowing professors Dan Smith, Michael McDonald and Sharon Austin to serve as paid experts for plaintiffs challenging the law would be "adverse to the university's interests as a state of Florida institution."

"The University of Florida has a long track record of supporting free speech and our faculty's academic freedom, and we will continue to do so," the statement said.

Lawyers for a coalition of civic groups challenging the law said in court papers Friday that the professors were told by the university that their expert testimony would dissent from the administration of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, creating a conflict for the school.

"UF will deny its employees' requests to engage in outside activities when it determines the activities are adverse to its interests. As UF is a state actor, litigation against the state is adverse to UF's interests," according to an email from an assistant vice president at the university to McDonald that was filed with the court documents.

Another university official said in an email to Smith that "outside activities that may pose a conflict of interest to the executive branch of the State of Florida create a conflict for the University of Florida."

Attorneys for the professors said Saturday that they would take legal action claiming violations of the First Amendment and academic freedom if the school doesn't reverse the decision.

"The university cannot silence the professors on matters of great public importance. These professors are citizens entitled to participate in the marketplace of ideas," attorneys Paul Donnelly and Conor Flynn said in a letter to a university lawyer. "These unlawful restrictions are shameful, and could very well deter

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top scholars from joining UF's ranks."

The legal director of the ACLU of Florida, writing on behalf of Smith, said the professor was acting as a private citizen and his testimony would be crucial to the public in understanding "one of their most valuable rights."

"But perhaps most importantly, UF simply should not be looking to Governor DeSantis to decide which speech activities it will permit its employees and students to engage in," the ACLU's Daniel Tilley wrote to university officials.

Like universities elsewhere, the University of Florida routinely allows its professors to testify in cases in which they can provide expertise, and Smith has previously testified in voting rights cases in Florida.

In its statement, the University of Florida said the decision not to let the professors perform outside paid work wasn't denying them their First Amendment rights or academic freedom.

Lawyers for the coalition of civic groups are trying to get testimony from the governor about his role in the formation of the new law, but administration attorneys are fighting the attempt. The new law limits how vote-by-mail drop boxes can be used, requires voters to ask for a vote-by-mail ballot and prohibits non-poll workers from giving food or drink to voters waiting in line.

Two weeks ago, on the day he found out he wouldn't be able to provide testimony, Smith tweeted an image of Hannah Arendt's classic book "The Origins of Totalitarianism."

"Dusting this classic off the bookshelf for some light weekend reading," Smith wrote.

For his part, McDonald on Friday night tweeted a video of Tom Petty singing, "I won't back down." He and his colleagues "are the faculty being denied our constitutional right to free speech by the university," he wrote.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

Heartless! Artists says NYC tribute removed in permit snafu

By MARIA SANMINIATELLI Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Have a heart, New York!

A giant red heart sculpture installed this week in Central Park as a tribute to health care workers and COVID-19 victims has been taken down — an apparent casualty of confusion and red tape.

Italian sculptor Sergio Furnari says he was walking by the park Thursday afternoon with friends when he noticed that his "Heroes Heart Monument" was gone.

When he went to file a police report, he said, he was bounced from police station to police station until a police officer on Friday showed him video of people removing the 10-foot-tall, 3,000-pound (3-meter, 1,360 kilogram) monument and placing it on a truck.

"They literally broke my heart," Furnari said when reached Friday night.

Furnari conceded he did not have a permit to place the heart in the park but considered a \$4,000 grant he received from New York City's government to be his permit for the temporary installation. He said he considered the removal of his memorial "an abuse of power."

A message seeking comment was left with the Central Park Conservancy, the nonprofit that manages the park on behalf of the city. Furnari said he planned to go to the organization on Monday to find out what happened to his heart.

Furnari said he wanted the sculpture to be a place for emotional and spiritual solace in the bustling city and not just a popular spot for selfies, though he said he was cool with that, too.

The work was an extension of another piece he created earlier in the pandemic: a life-size sculpture of a health care worker kneeling with arms stretched to the sky.

In an interview prior to the sculpture's removal, the artist explained his vision for the piece.

"Everybody suffers in different ways and needs all different types of comfort," Furnari said. "I hope this heart helps them remember their loved ones and cope with the grief. For a moment, they can forget about their problems."

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Associated Press reporter Philip Marcelo in Boston contributed to this report.

To star gazers: Fireworks show called Northern Lights coming

CHICAGO (AP) — A fireworks show that has nothing to do with the Fourth of July and everything to do with the cosmos is poised to be visible across the northern United States and Europe just in time for Halloween.

On Thursday, the sun launched what is called an “X-class solar flare” that was strong enough to spark a high-frequency radio blackout across parts of South America. The energy from that flare is trailed by a cluster of solar plasma and other material called a coronal mass ejection, or CME for short. That’s heading toward Earth, prompting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to issue a warning about a potentially strong geomagnetic storm.

It might sound like something from a science fiction movie. But really it just means that a good chunk of the northern part of the country may get treated to a light show called the aurora borealis, or Northern Lights.

Geomagnetic storms as big as what might be coming can produce displays of the lights that can be seen at latitudes as low as Pennsylvania, Oregon and Iowa. It could also cause voltage irregularities on high-latitude power grids as the loss of radio contact on the sunlit side of the planet.

The Latest: France, India agree to boost Indo-Pacific ties

ROME (AP) — The Latest on the Group of 20 summit taking place in Rome:

ROME — French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have agreed to boost ties in the Indo-Pacific region during a meeting on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit.

Macron’s office said France and India will open a “strategic dialogue” next week in Paris to set a common agenda. The talks will address bilateral, regional and international issues.

France has said India is its “main partner” in the Indo-Pacific area after the announcement in September of a secretly negotiated submarine deal between Australia, the U.S. and Britain.

Macron’s office listed “trust” and “independence” amid principles which must guide France and India’s actions in the region shaken by concerns over the growing influence of China.

Macron also met Saturday with Presidents Joko Widodo of Indonesia and Moon Jae-in of South Korea about similar issues.

ROME— Leaders have expressed “broad support” for a landmark deal to establish a 15% global minimum corporate tax that aims at deterring multinational countries from using clever accounting to elude taxes by using low-rate havens.

Leaders spoke on the proposal during the opening session Saturday of the summit, said officials from host country Italy. Following formal approval to be reflected in Sunday’s closing statement, countries would enact the minimum tax on their own. The idea is that headquarters countries would top up a company’s tax to 15% if the firm’s profits went undertaxed in another country.

In today’s digital and global economy profits can come from intangibles such as copyrights and trademarks, and can thus be easily shifted to countries offering near-zero taxes in hopes of attracting revenue they otherwise wouldn’t have.

A key question is whether the U.S. Congress will pass legislation to comply, since the U.S. is home to 28% of the world’s 2,000 largest multinationals.

ROME — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he unsuccessfully pressed President Xi Jinping to increase China’s carbon-cutting goals ahead of a key United Nations climate change summit.

China released an updated version of its climate targets this week, promising to hit net-zero carbon emissions by 2060 and to have carbon dioxide emissions peak by 2030.

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Johnson told reporters that he "pushed" Xi to move the peak to 2025 when the two men spoke by phone on Friday.

"I wouldn't say he committed on that," Johnson said as he flew to Rome for a G-20 summit. On Sunday Johnson will host world leaders, though not Xi, at the two-week climate conference in Scotland.

Johnson said Xi explained about China's heavy dependence on coal power, and Johnson said that he replied that the U.K. had cut its own coal reliance from 40% of energy in 2008 to 1% today. Johnson said China should embrace technology to speed the transition to green energy.

ROME — U.S. first lady Jill Biden says she and Brigitte Macron, her French counterpart, sipped wine together as if they were sisters.

The women spent about an hour Friday getting better acquainted at an Italian restaurant in Rome.

Their husbands, President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron, were meeting elsewhere in the city to ease tensions that flared after France felt blindsided by a U.S.-U.K.-Australia military deal.

The leaders are in Rome to attend the Group of 20 nations summit.

Upon leaving the restaurant, Jill Biden said the meeting with Brigitte Macron was "wonderful."

She added: "It's nice, two friends together, just like sisters."

ROME — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has arrived in Italy for a Group of 20 summit with a stark message: modern civilization may crumble like Ancient Rome if world leaders don't act to curb climate change.

Johnson told reporters on his plane that Rome's ruins "are a fantastic reminder, a memento mori for us today ... that humanity, civilization, society can go backwards as well as forwards, and when things start to go wrong they can go wrong with extraordinary speed."

After the two-day G-20 meeting, Johnson is set to host a two-week U.N. climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

Johnson will urge G-20 leaders to act more quickly, saying the world's rich countries, which grew wealthy from using the fossil fuels that promote global warming, must bear the brunt of fighting climate change.

ROME — France has donated 67 million vaccine doses to the world's poorest countries, making it the second country after the United States to have given the most to the UN-backed COVAX vaccine initiative.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said that France has met its commitments regarding vaccine donations, which have benefited over 45 countries, including around 30 in Africa. France has pledged to donate another 60 million doses by mid-2022.

The announcement comes as health and finance officials who gathered ahead of the Group of 20 summit in Rome warned of a two-track pandemic recovery, with COVID-19 vaccine shortages and spending gaps slowing poorer countries from bouncing back after the pandemic.

ROME — Health and finance officials who gathered ahead of the Group of 20 summit in Rome warned of a two-track pandemic recovery, with COVID-19 vaccine and spending gaps slowing poorer countries from bouncing back.

Kristalina Georgieva, head of the International Monetary Fund, said Friday that efforts to speed vaccinations were short \$20 billion needed to pursue a goal of 40% of the world vaccinated by year's end and 70% by the middle of next year.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the increasing divergence between developing and developed countries would be "a major strategic risk for the rest of the world."

The ministers decided to create a G-20 joint task force to ensure efforts to combat the pandemic and prevent future ones are adequately funded.

The G-20 has supported the UN-backed COVAX initiative, which has failed to alleviate dire shortages in poor countries. Summit negotiators have been focusing on efforts to strengthen local health resources, vaccine supply chains and vaccine production in less prosperous countries.

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ROME — Prime Minister Boris Johnson tried to calm stormy waters over fishing with France as he flew to Rome for a G-20 summit, where he is due to meet French President Emmanuel Macron.

"France is one of our best, oldest, closest, allies, friends and partners," he told reporters. "The ties that unite us, that bind us together are far stronger than the turbulence that currently exist in the relationship."

Calling Macron "a friend," he said that people on either side of the Channel may be trying to stir up disharmony between the U.K. and France, but "I don't think Emmanuel shares that perspective."

"I'm puzzled about what's going on," Johnson said. He said there appeared to be an "implicit" breach of the legally binding Brexit divorce treaty in France's threats — and reiterated Britain's willingness to respond to any French sanctions.

"We will stand by to take the appropriate action," he said. "Any infraction of that agreement, by France or any other partner, is something we would obviously need to respond to."

ROME — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned that the upcoming climate summit in Glasgow may not provide the boost for global efforts to fight climate change that many are hoping for.

Speaking to reporters ahead of a G-20 summit in Rome, Guterres said "there is a serious risk that Glasgow will not deliver."

He said that despite updated climate targets by many countries, "we are still careening towards climate catastrophe."

Guterres said there are "serious questions" about some of those pledges and noted that collectively they won't be enough to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius, the target set in U.N. talks on fighting climate change.

He said G-20 leaders in Rome, whose countries are responsible for most of the world's global greenhouse gas emissions, have an opportunity to "put things on track" for the Glasgow talks, which will begin as the Rome summit ends.

VATICAN CITY — U.S. President Joe Biden has arrived at the Vatican for a private meeting with Pope Francis.

The world's two most notable Roman Catholics plan to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and poverty.

Biden and his wife Jill arrived at the Vatican in an unusually long motorcade of more than 80 vehicles, owing in part to Italian COVID-19 restrictions on the number of people sharing a car. A dozen Swiss Guards stood at attention in the San Damaso courtyard of the Apostolic Palace to greet them.

Biden is in Rome for the Group of 20 summit.

VATICAN CITY — South Korean President Moon Jae-in has given Pope Francis a statue of a cross made with barbed wire from the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea.

Moon, a Catholic, called on Francis on Friday before the start of the Group of 20 summit in Rome.

The Vatican, which didn't allow independent media in the audience, said Francis gave Moon a medallion replicating Bernini's original plan for St. Peter's Square. The design envisages the two main colonnades of the piazza embracing humanity in the church.

South Korean presidential officials had said they expected Moon and the pope to discuss a possible papal visit to North Korea since Francis had previously expressed a desire to do so if it becomes possible. Moon first floated the idea of a papal visit to the North in 2018 when he revealed that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had said the pope would be "enthusiastically" welcomed in the officially atheist North.

ROME — Italy is deploying 5,300 extra troops and police officers, curbing public transport and sealing off a whole neighborhood of Rome to keep the peace during this weekend's Group of 20 summit.

Police were out in force already Friday as leaders began arriving, and schools in the Italian capital can-

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celebrated afternoon activities so students could get home before most roadblocks were set up. Protests and demonstrations were planned throughout the weekend.

The main security zone was around the "Nuvola" cloud-like convention center in Rome's Fascist-era EUR neighborhood. But other areas were being cordoned off at different times depending on where the leaders were, including around the presidential palace and even the Trevi Fountain.

COVID-19 economic recovery and climate change are the two main issues being discussed by the leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies, who are gathering in Rome before heading to Glasgow, Scotland, for the U.N. climate conference.

Army shelling in Myanmar blamed for setting 160 homes ablaze

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — More than 160 buildings in a town in northwestern Myanmar, including at least two churches, have been destroyed by fires caused by shelling by government troops, local media and activists reported Saturday.

The destruction of parts of the town of Thantlang in Chin state appeared to be another escalation in the ongoing struggle between Myanmar's military-installed government and forces opposed to it. The army seized power in February from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, but has failed to quell the widespread resistance.

A government spokesman denied "nonsense allegations being reported in the country-destroying media," and blamed insurgents for instigating the fighting and setting the fires.

Human rights groups and U.N. experts recently warned that the government is planning a major offensive in the country's northwest, including Chin state, along with the regions of Magway and Sagaing. Residents of the rugged area have a reputation for their fierce fighting spirit, and have put up stiff resistance to military rule despite being only lightly armed with single-shot hunting rifles and homemade weapons.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the fire, which started early Friday and burned through the night, according to reports.

The humanitarian aid agency Save the Children said its offices were in one of the buildings that was "deliberately set ablaze."

"The destruction caused by this violence is utterly senseless. Not only has it damaged one of our offices, it risks destroying the whole town and the homes of thousands of families and children," said a statement from the London-headquartered agency.

Thantlang had already been largely abandoned due to previous attacks by government soldiers.

Eighteen other houses and a hotel were destroyed by fire set off by another shelling on Sept. 18, and a Christian pastor was shot when he tried to help put out the blaze.

More than 10,000 residents then fled the town, some staying temporarily in nearby villages and others seeking shelter across the border in Mizoram, India. About 20 staff and children in care of an orphanage on the outskirts of the town are believed to be its only remaining residents.

The Chin Human Rights Organization issued a statement saying the fires in Thantlang had died down by Saturday morning, after as many as 200 houses may have been destroyed.

"Most of the structures on the main street, which has shop stalls and all kinds of businesses, have been destroyed. There is nothing left to salvage," said the statement, signed by the group's deputy executive director, Salai Za Uk Ling. "The manner in which the fire was burning indicates that it was not just the incendiary rocket fires but also deliberately torching of houses and structures manually."

According to the Chinland Defense Force-Thantlang, a local militia fighting the military, a Presbyterian Church and a building housing the Pentecostal Church on the Rock were among the 164 structures it had counted destroyed by fire.

The defense force said the shelling began after fighting broke out when it tried to prevent government soldiers from looting a house in the town.

In a phone interview Saturday night on state television MRTV, government spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min

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Tun said the events began when members of the PDF — or People's Defense Forces, as the local militia are generally known — attacked security forces, who returned fire. He said the insurgents took cover in houses in the town and set fires as they fled, keeping government reinforcements from putting out the flames by shooting at them.

He added that it was not possible to bring firefighting resources from the state capital, Hakha, because a bridge on the road connecting the towns had been blown up on Oct. 21.

"It's needless to say who blew up the bridge. These videos can be found on country-destroying media," said Zaw Min Thin, in a reference to video that circulated widely on social video showing several explosive charges being detonated on the span. He described the sequence of events as "a deliberate plot."

The statement from the Chin Human Rights Organization expressed concern that what happened may represent just the beginning of a major government offensive known as "Operation Anawrahta." The government has not acknowledged such a plan.

"The high number of troops being sent to Chin state in recent days and weeks has been truly unprecedented. They have brought with them destruction and death," said the human rights group. It called for urgent action on the part of the U.N. Security Council "to help prevent mass atrocities before they happen."

In Rittenhouse case, Americans see what they want to see

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — From the moment Kyle Rittenhouse shot three people on the streets of Kenosha during protests over the police shooting of a Black man, he's personified America's polarization.

The 17-year-old from Illinois who carried an AR-style rifle and idolized police was cheered by those who despised the Black Lives Matter movement and the sometimes destructive protests that followed George Floyd's death. He was championed by pro-gun conservatives who said he was exercising his Second Amendment rights and defending cities from "antifa," an umbrella term for leftist militants.

Others saw him as the most worrisome example yet of vigilante citizens taking to the streets with guns, often with the tacit support of police — a "chaos tourist," in the words of the lead prosecutor, who came to Kenosha looking for trouble.

Though Rittenhouse and all three men he shot are white, many people saw racism at the heart of Kenosha — an armed white teen, welcomed by police to a city where activists were rallying against a white officer's shooting of a Black man, and allowed to walk past a police line immediately after shooting three people.

That division is likely to be on display at Rittenhouse's trial, which opens Monday with jury selection. Rittenhouse, now 18, faces several charges, including homicide — and could see a life sentence if convicted.

"It's another battle in what has become the central story of our time — the culture wars," John Baick, who teaches modern American history at Western New England University in Springfield, Massachusetts, said.

In many ways, the key question at trial is simple: Was Rittenhouse acting in self-defense? Plentiful video exists of the events in question, and legal experts see a strong case for that. The judge overseeing the trial, Bruce Schroeder, has said forcefully that it "is not going to be a political trial."

But the case has been exactly that, almost from the moment the shootings happened — driven by powerful interest groups, extremists, politicians and others using it to push their own agendas.

Rittenhouse's defenders, including his family, have leaned into some of the symbolism. A website devoted to his defense — and raising money for it — greets visitors with a quote attributed to James Monroe: "The right of self-defense never ceases." The site blasts "Big Tech, a corrupt media, and dishonest politicians" out to "ruin the life of Kyle Rittenhouse." The site briefly sold branded "Free Kyle" merchandise before vendors backed away.

Ryan Busse, a former firearms industry executive who is now a senior adviser at the gun-safety organization Giffords, which was founded by former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in an assassination attempt in 2011, said he's worried that Rittenhouse will become "some heroic martyr."

"I'm worried about empowering more actors like him who think it's glamorous to go kill somebody with

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a rifle," Busse said.

Rittenhouse made the 20-mile (32-kilometer) trip from his home in Antioch, Illinois, north to Kenosha as the city was in the throes of several nights of chaotic demonstrations after an officer shot Jacob Blake in the back following a domestic disturbance. At least one call had gone out on social media for armed citizens to respond, though Rittenhouse's attorneys say that wasn't what brought Rittenhouse to the city.

Videos taken that night show him with a first-aid kit at his side, along with his rifle, bragging about his medical abilities. Video also shows police appearing to welcome Rittenhouse and other armed citizens, including handing them bottles of water.

Later in the evening, video shows a man named Joseph Rosenbaum chasing Rittenhouse in the parking lot of a used car dealership; seconds later, Rittenhouse shoots and kills him. In the ensuing minutes, Rittenhouse — pursued by other protesters — shot and killed Anthony Huber, who swung a skateboard at him, and shot and wounded Gaije Grosskreutz, who had stepped toward Rittenhouse with a pistol in hand.

Video then shows Rittenhouse walking toward police with his hands up, his rifle slung over his shoulder, as protesters yell that he has just shot people. Rittenhouse went back home, turning himself into police the next day.

The day Rittenhouse was arrested, Democratic U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts, tweeted that the shootings had been committed by a "white supremacist domestic terrorist."

Rittenhouse's defense team pushed back against that, saying Rittenhouse isn't a white supremacist and wasn't aware of "hateful rhetoric" on social media about the Kenosha protests leading up to the shootings. The Anti-Defamation League found no evidence of extremism in his social media accounts.

But Rittenhouse was embraced by the Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group that generally traffics in white nationalism, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The group's chairman, Enrique Tarrío, and other members have been shown wearing T-shirts that say, "Kyle Rittenhouse Did Nothing Wrong!" And soon after being freed on bond, Rittenhouse was photographed at a Wisconsin bar with people who flashed a hand signal associated with the Proud Boys and sang a song that has become an anthem of the group. Rittenhouse flashed the hand signal, too.

The fact that Rittenhouse wasn't a member of any extremist group before the shootings doesn't matter now given how he's been embraced by them, said Alex Friedfeld, an investigative researcher for the Center on Extremism with the Anti-Defamation League.

He said extremists will be looking to turn the trial to advantage. Some view the mere fact that Rittenhouse was charged as evidence that courts and the system are stacked against conservatives, or that the system is biased against white people, Friedfeld said.

"It starts to kind of lay the groundwork for the idea that people need to tear down these institutions and the system is broken and needs to be changed, which requires action," he said.

Baick, the historian, called the Rittenhouse trial "a moment for reality TV" and said the entire case takes its place amid one of the nation's most turbulent periods in generations.

"We have to link in Jan. 6," he said. "We have to link in military groups across the country, anti-mask protests, school board protests. Whether it's Kenosha, or Minneapolis, or the entire state of Florida, these debates over the role of government, the role of law and order — these are deeply unsettled in America right now in a way they haven't been since the 1960s."

Associated Press writer Doug Glass contributed from Minneapolis.

Find AP's full coverage on the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse at: <https://apnews.com/hub/kyle-rittenhouse>

Bid considered to wipe Alabama arrest records of King, Parks

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The quest by a civil rights pioneer to have her arrest record wiped clean after nearly 70 years after she protested racial segregation has raised the possibility of similar bids to clear

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the names of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., whose convictions remain on the books in Alabama's capital.

Parks, a Black seamstress and activist who was convicted of violating racial segregation laws after refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man in 1955, was convicted of violating racial segregation laws. King, who helped lead the resulting Montgomery Bus Boycott, paid a \$500 fine after being convicted in 1956 of violating a law banning boycotts.

Parks refused to pay her \$10 fine, and she and King went on to become icons of racial justice and the modern civil rights movement. Yet their cases remain on the books in Montgomery, said civil rights attorney Fred Gray, who represented both.

In the case of King, an up-and-coming pastor at the time, efforts to reverse the conviction in court failed, Gray said.

"We might just decide to file a lawsuit on his behalf to have that record expunged," Gray said. The same goes for Parks and others, potentially, he said.

The chief prosecutor in Alabama's capital, Montgomery County District Attorney Daryl Bailey, said he would generally support a move to expunge the arrest records of King and Parks, but he'd need to see details of any such request before responding in court.

Bailey and Gray spoke on behalf of Claudette Colvin as she asked a court on Tuesday to remove records stemming from her arrest and conviction after she refused to move to the back of a bus in compliance with racial segregation laws in March 1955 in Montgomery. Now 82, Colvin was a 15-year-old high school student at the time.

"My mindset was on freedom," she said after filing the expungement request, which has yet to be decided.

An attorney representing Colvin, Phillip Ensler, said he would support a bid to expunge the court records of other activists from the civil rights movement. But Colvin, who was convicted of assaulting an officer during her arrest and declared delinquent, isn't sure that such an effort would be possible since there was so much injustice for so long.

"That would take a hundred years, maybe 200 years to go through the court system," she said. "You could never finish it."

Representatives from The King Center in Atlanta and The Rosa and Raymond Parks Foundation in Detroit, where Parks lived most of her life, did not return emails seeking comment.

Hundreds of people were arrested across the South during civil rights demonstrations in the 1950s and '60s, and it's unclear how many would want to remove their arrest records, which many see as a badge of honor. When the city of Birmingham offered mass pardons to people arrested during protests in 1963, many refused.

Montgomery County Circuit Clerk Gina Ishman said expunging court documents removes convictions from defendants' record but generally does not result in the destruction of documents, such as the historical police and court records involving people like Colvin, King and Parks.

Colvin, who left Alabama for New York at age 20, said the conviction never bothered her much, although her family was worried because she never received notice saying her probation had ended. The worst thing about the ordeal was losing high school friends over her act of defiance, she said.

"They didn't want to be around me," said Colvin.

Reeves is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team.

Ski resorts counting on a return to normal on the slopes

By LISA RATHKE and THOMAS PEIPERT

JAY, Vt. (AP) — After a winter with mask mandates and restrictions on the number of people on lifts, ski resorts are expecting the upcoming season to be more like the pre-pandemic days on the slopes.

Any virus-related protocols at resorts will vary depending on where they are and the local health rules in place. Some resorts are requiring masks indoors and at restaurants, others may continue to limit the

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number of skiers on the slopes for a better experience and some will require people to show proof of vaccination at certain venues.

"What's new is a lot more optimism," said J.J. Toland, a spokesperson for Jay Peak Resort in Vermont.

While many resorts did better than expected last season as people got outside during the pandemic, ski areas where public health restrictions were the strongest, like in Vermont, suffered a hit, said Adrienne Saia Isaac, marketing and communications director for the National Ski Areas Association. On top of that, the U.S.-Canadian border was closed so resorts like Jay Peak, which rely on those visitors from up north, lost business. Now they hope to make up for last season, but it doesn't come without challenges.

The perennial difficulty of finding seasonal ski workers has been more pronounced during the pandemic. A survey found that about six of 10 ski areas indicated they couldn't fill all of their positions for the last season, which was an increase from the 2019-2020 season, according to Isaac. Some resorts are offering sign-on bonuses and raising their starting wage to attract staff.

The National Ski Areas Association does not expect to see limited capacity on chairlifts, restrictions on who people can ride with, and far fewer, if any, mask requirements outdoors, said Adrienne Saia Isaac, marketing and communications director.

"I do think as far as the outdoor experience of ski areas, it's going to look more like it has in seasons past," she said.

Some resorts will look different with new offerings such as at Loon Mountain Resort in New Hampshire, which will debut its new high-speed eight-person chairlift with heated seats and a tinted bubble — the first one in the East — and Beaver Creek Resort in Colorado, which will have 250 new acres of terrain for beginner and intermediate skiers.

Colorado-based Vail Resorts, which owns 34 ski areas in the United States and Canada, including Stowe Mountain Resort in Vermont, Park City Mountain Resort in Utah, and Heavenly Ski Resort in California, has scrapped its online reservation system this season but is keeping some COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Face coverings will still be required indoors and on buses, but unlike last season, skiers and snowboarders will be able to breathe freely in lift lines, on chairlifts and in gondolas unless masks are required by local public health authorities. Reservations will be required to eat at many on-mountain restaurants, and guests will have to show proof of vaccination to dine indoors at the more crowded cafeteria-style, quick service restaurants.

Vail Resorts also has required all of its staff to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and to undergo daily health screenings.

"We're really fortunate that the core of the ski and ride experience takes place outdoors," company spokeswoman Jamie Alvarez said, noting that most of the lingering COVID-19 restrictions apply to indoor settings. "We're hoping that this season will feel similar to what our guests have come to expect from a normal season."

The Aspen Skiing Company, which includes Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk and Snowmass in Colorado, is requiring people to show proof of vaccination in certain venues such as in company-owned and operated hotels and full-service seated restaurants as well as for certain activities "where prolonged close contact while unmasked might occur." Vaccinations are not required to access ski lifts.

At Arapahoe Basin ski area, near the Continental Divide west of Denver, all employees will be required to be vaccinated, but guests won't experience any of the health restrictions that were put in place last season.

"We follow what the state requires of us and what Summit County Public Health requires of us, so we just stay in tune with them," A-Basin spokesperson Katherine Fuller said. "If they change their guidelines, then we'll change our guidelines."

It will again cap the number of unrestricted season passes available and sell 10% fewer than it did last season, as well as cap the number of lift tickets it sells daily, Fuller said.

"Because of our COVID restricted numbers (last season), we realized that we could do well as a business and also make our guests happier by having fewer people on the mountain," Fuller said. "Restricting crowds works really well. ... We're moving away from the standard operating procedure of getting as many

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people on the hill as you possibly can.”

Peipert reported from Denver.

UK's Johnson says Queen Elizabeth 'on very good form'

ROME (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Saturday that Queen Elizabeth II was “on very good form” during their weekly conversation earlier this week.

His comment comes a day after Buckingham Palace said the 95-year-old monarch has been told to rest by doctors for another two weeks.

“I spoke to Her Majesty as I do every week as part of my job and she was on very good form,” Johnson told ITV News on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Rome.

As prime minister, Johnson has a weekly audience with the queen. The most recent one took place virtually on Wednesday.

“She has been told by her doctors that she has got to rest and I think we have got to respect that and understand that and everybody wishes her all the very best,” Johnson said.

Last week, the queen underwent medical tests and spent a night at London’s King Edward VII’s Hospital, her first such stay in in eight years.

The queen has continued to work since then and will press on with desk-based duties.

During her rest period, she will miss attending the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, which commences on Sunday. However, she has recorded a message that will be relayed to attendees.

She will also skip the Nov. 13 Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London, an event meant to honor the British and Commonwealth men and women who have fought wars, disasters and pandemics to protect and defend the nation.

However, the palace said it is the queen’s “firm intention” to be present for a Remembrance Sunday ceremony in central London on Nov. 14.

Britain’s longest-lived and longest-reigning monarch, Elizabeth is due to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee — 70 years on the throne — next year.

2 women running for governor, history in post-Cuomo New York

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It’s not just a boys’ club anymore.

Months after getting its first female governor, New York now has two prominent women running to lead the state in the wake of Andrew Cuomo’s resignation in August amid allegations he sexually harassed women.

Both candidates in next year’s race — Gov. Kathy Hochul and her newly declared challenger, state Attorney General Letitia James — each had a key role surrounding Cuomo’s resignation, as well as their own histories of breaking barriers and finding political opportunities in the wake of misbehaving male politicians.

James, whose office investigated the allegations against Cuomo, officially jumped into the gubernatorial race Friday, setting her up as the strongest challenger for Hochul, a fellow Democrat who is seeking to win the office herself after taking over for Cuomo.

Either would be the first women elected to a post that, prior to Cuomo’s resignation, men had held exclusively for 240 years.

James, 63, is the first woman elected as New York’s attorney general and the first Black person to serve in the role, where she repeatedly challenged former President Donald Trump’s administration and oversaw an investigation that led to criminal charges against his company and its chief financial officer.

“I’ve sued the Trump administration 76 times. But who’s counting?” James said in her campaign kickoff video Friday, making a playful shrug of her shoulders as she looked into the camera.

The Brooklyn progressive has also mounted legal challenges against the National Rifle Association, but her office’s investigation into the allegations involving Cuomo had perhaps the biggest impact on her political future.

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A sweeping report issued by her office concluded the 11 women who accused Cuomo of sexual harassment were credible. Though Cuomo denies mistreating women, he resigned, saying he wanted to avoid putting the state through turmoil.

With Cuomo out of the running in New York — at least for now — a number of rising Democrats are eyeing next year's race, with James and Hochul leading the pack.

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio have both said they are considering a run. Two other potential Democratic candidates come from Long Island: Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone and U.S. Rep. Thomas Suozzi, who lives in Nassau County.

Hochul, who had been Cuomo's lieutenant governor, has stressed how her duties kept her separate from him. Since she was sworn into the governor's mansion, the 63-year-old quickly worked to set a different tone from her former running mate, promising transparency and ethics reforms.

Both women gave a nod to their history-breaking roles on Friday.

Hochul, speaking to Democratic power players at a breakfast in Brooklyn, said she felt "the weight of history" on her shoulders to show a woman could govern New York "with strength, with heart and passion."

"When I'm done with my terms, no one will ever question the ability of a woman to hold the highest office in this state or in this land," Hochul said.

James, in a fundraising appeal to supporters shortly after announcing her campaign, said too many people tried to count her out and write her off as a statistic when she was a Black girl growing up in Brooklyn.

"Then I made history by becoming the first Black woman to be elected to a statewide office in New York — but the truth is, that distinction is nothing more than a historical footnote if you don't do any good with the office," she said.

Either would make history merely by getting nominated. No major party in New York has ever endorsed a woman for governor, said Kelly Dittmar, director of research at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Just 45 women have served as governors in the U.S., including nine currently in office, but none of them have been Black.

James is one of six Black women running in 2022, tying a record set in 2018. That year, Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams became the only Black woman ever to receive a major-party nomination for governor.

"One of my fun games to play is like, 'Here's how many women have ever served, here's how many men serve today,'" Dittmar said. "Governor is just that continued spot where women just are persistently underrepresented. It's just made even more so when you look at women who are not white."

Hochul and James haven't just broken barriers, they've picked up the pieces and thrived after stepping in to replace male politicians who behaved badly.

In 2011, Hochul won a seat in Congress in a special election in 2011 after Republican Rep. Chris Lee resigned in disgrace once shirtless photos he sent to a woman while married surfaced online. Hochul lost her reelection bid in 2012 and, in 2014, Cuomo selected her as his running mate as he ran and won a second term.

In 2018, James, then New York City's ombudsman-like public advocate, jumped into a four-way Democratic primary to replace Attorney General Eric Schneiderman after he abruptly resigned amid allegations that he abused women.

James said she was weighing a possible run for mayor when the attorney general's seat opened up and that she was initially hesitant to enter the race, even as fellow Democrats were floating her name as a candidate.

When she ran, Cuomo was one of James' strongest political allies, giving her an endorsement and headlining a fundraiser.

Like Hochul, James' relationship with Cuomo's has soured.

The former governor has attacked James' report as inaccurate and biased. James has dismissed the charge that her investigation was politically motivated, saying Cuomo should take responsibility for his own conduct.

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James made her announcement the day after a criminal complaint was filed against Cuomo in Albany, accusing the former governor of committing a misdemeanor sex crime of groping a woman in December 2020.

Cuomo's lawyer, Rita Glavin, said in a statement that the Democrat never assaulted anyone. He's due in court Nov. 17 to respond to the charge.

On Twitter, follow Michelle L. Price at twitter.com/michellelprice and Michael Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

For 112-year-old veteran's daughter, care is a labor of love

By LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press/Report for America

Vanessa Brooks was gentle as she held the face of her 112-year-old father in her hands.

She patted the shaving cream carefully on his cheeks and along his jaw before sliding the razor across his face to make a clean strip.

Lawrence Brooks sat quietly in his big armchair in their double shotgun house, a New Orleans Saints blanket draped over the back. The oldest living U.S. veteran's arms were clasped together in his lap and his eyes were closed. Around him were banners from the National World War II Museum and the Veterans Affairs hospital celebrating past birthdays. A portrait of him in his Army uniform, three-quarters of a century old, sat on the dresser.

"I want him to be comfortable, happy and himself," Vanessa, 61, had said the day before, lying on the couch for a break in between feeding him and giving him therapy for his swelling legs. "If I can keep him in his right state of mind until God calls him home, that's my intent."

For the past 13 years, she has been her father's primary caregiver, providing round-the-clock attention. It's a full-time job, one she's tried to balance with her work as a neighborhood security patrol officer — the job that pays the bills. But as her father has aged, that balancing act has become trickier.

The centenarian Brooks is still mentally sharp — he can tell decades-old stories of his childhood in Louisiana and rural Mississippi, of being drafted to join WWII. But his body is weak. Brooks' hearing is becoming more limited, he has lost his sight in one eye, and his vision is fading in the other. Several hospitalizations in the past year have been taxing physically and emotionally.

Each day, Vanessa starts early, bringing him medications, cleaning him and his space, loading his wheelchair onto the electric lift when he has doctor's appointments.

"Taking care of him, it's sun up to sundown," she said.

Brooks recently qualified for a program that will allow a VA home-health care aide come to their house during the day to help Vanessa. But she said there are a lot of personal care needs that he only feels comfortable with her attending to, keeping most of the responsibility on her.

In late September, Vanessa took indefinite leave from her job of nine years. Too young to begin collecting Social Security, she knows the loss of income will take a toll. But she considers caring for her father the most important job in the world.

"I don't work; I don't get paid — bottom line," she said. "Basically, I just made that sacrifice. I just stepped out on faith and decided to do what I felt in my heart that I need to do, and that's stay here and take care of my dad."

A concerned friend set up a GoFundMe page to help support Vanessa and her dad while she cares for him at home.

The Brooks family isn't alone in trying to juggle priorities. One in five full-time workers in the U.S. is a caregiver, according to a Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers survey released last month. About 45% of family caregivers who are employed full time said they had to go part time at some point and roughly two in 10 said they had to quit their jobs altogether.

"It's a very common story, and the people who are affected the most are those people who are in low wage, hourly wage jobs," said Howard Gleckman, a retirement policy expert with the Urban Institute think tank.

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A year ago, Vanessa shifted to part time. She had been working patrol shifts from 3 to 11 p.m. and contracted with an agency for an aide to care for the elder Brooks while she worked. But with a shortage of health care workers during the pandemic, the help was inconsistent.

She found herself increasingly exhausted and having to take more and more time off work to meet her dad's needs.

"When I'm driving, I can't really go out tired and exhausted, either, because I can injure myself or someone else," she said. "I felt like I was in a tug of war."

Even with an aide from the VA coming to help care for her father, she doesn't think she can go back to work anytime soon.

A VA stipend program covers caregivers only for veterans who are suffering from service-related injuries.

Lawrence Brooks, who was in the mostly-Black 91st Engineer General Service Regiment, never had a combat job, a legacy of racist policies that relegated many Black soldiers to service-oriented jobs in the then-segregated U.S. Army. Brooks was a caretaker for three white officers in Australia and was discharged in August 1945 as a private first class. When he left the service, he worked as a forklift driver before retiring in his 60s.

In May of this year, he had surgery, which required Vanessa to take time off to stay with him in the hospital. Then, two and a half months ago, her father had a fall. A doctor said he was suffering from a kidney infection.

She spent the past week caring for him after he was transferred to the VA hospital intensive care unit. The doctors said fluid had built up in his lungs, and his kidneys were again at risk.

When she's tried to go back to work recently, her father became depressed and started regressing. He did not want to eat or drink water, she said. He is in his best health when she is able to stay home with him.

"That's what makes him happy, and that's what keeps him living," she said. "It's like, I am his lifeline. When I'm not around, he's sad, he's depressed, he falls into delirium."

She said she and her father enjoy going out for chocolate frozen yogurt, watching television — especially sports, like wrestling and football — and playing solitaire.

He loves sitting on their porch directly in the sun. People from the neighborhood, who all know him by name, will wave and leave little treats for him.

"I just want him to have a good life," Vanessa said. "He worked hard. He took care of our family. Now, I take care of him."

Leah Willingham 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.

Gay people who come out later in life face unique obstacles

By ASHLEY DUONG Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A lot can be hidden behind a marriage. For Brad and Cyndi Marler, it was that they are both gay.

A few years after their wedding, they told each other their secret. Then, for more than three decades, they told no one else.

"We always said it was us against the world," Brad said.

After living what they call "the all-American life" in the small Illinois towns of Smithton and Freeburg, the Marlers, now both in their late 50s, decided they need to "live authentically." They've come out to their two adult children — a son and a daughter — and are navigating new lives in Chicago.

While research from the UCLA School of Law Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy shows that people in the U.S. are coming out at a younger age than previous generations, Brad and Cyndi are part of a segment of the LGBTQ community that waits until later in life.

"Society is still inhospitable. That's not to deny so many amazing shifts in public attitudes, in laws, in

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policies, but it did not wash away a hundred years of homophobia in society," said Ian Meyer, a distinguished senior scholar of public policy with the Williams Institute.

Bob Mueller, 75, who grew up in suburban Chicago and now lives in Iowa, didn't breathe a word of his sexual orientation to his family until he was 40, when he wanted them to meet his partner. And he still didn't tell everyone.

"It was common practice to stay in the closet if you wanted to have a job. It wasn't until 2005 that I officially came out at work," he said.

Having grown up in religious households in small Illinois communities, coming out wasn't an option for the Marlers, who marked 32 years of marriage in September.

"Being homosexual, you're just going to go straight to hell. There's no two ways to it," Cyndi said of what she and Brad were taught.

Even as strides were made nationally for gay rights, the Marlers feared being found out. They built homes, raised their kids and never strayed from their marriage. In public, they were sure to maintain traditional gender roles: Cyndi kept her hair long, and they never mentioned that Brad was the one who decorated their house.

"We wanted the house, the dog, the two kids — and we did all of that," Cyndi said.

"We made a decision to make it work. This was what we were going to do," she added.

But there came a limit. It was a house of cards that needed to come down, Brad said.

He had become deeply depressed and began working on his internalized homophobia with the help of weekly therapy.

"For such a long time, I hated that part of me. ... I didn't understand why what I had with Cyndi wasn't enough," he said.

The couple also says they never would have been able to come out if their parents were still alive. Brad noted that the shame he associated with his sexuality was triggered after his mother confronted him when he was 16 about the possibility of being gay. "She just said, 'If you are, that's not OK. You're not going to do this to the family.' ... We never spoke about it again," he recalled.

Another big factor was that their daughter came out as a lesbian.

"It was the overwhelming need to protect her," Brad said.

The Marlers lived together until March when, having retired and sold their home, they moved into separate apartments in Chicago to explore life as part of the LGBTQ community for the first time.

Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE, said the nonprofit helps thousands of older Americans in their coming out journey. He says the unique obstacles they face can include higher levels of fear and anxiety, as well as managing others' expectations.

Paulette Thomas-Martin, 70, came out after a 20-year marriage and when most of her children were adults.

"It was very painful. ... I would call them and they would not call back," she said.

It took several years before her children started speaking to her again, Thomas-Martin says, but in the end it brought her family closer.

"My son texted me recently telling me how proud he is of me. It came out better for my kids. I'm happier. I have more joy and peace," said Thomas-Martin, who lives in New York with her wife.

Adams says coming out later in life may also make socializing and dating more complicated.

Brad describes it as going through a second adolescence.

"Everything is new," he said.

Cyndi is focusing on figuring out herself before pursuing a relationship with a woman.

"It's like taking this filter off and asking myself, 'What am I?'" she said.

Even though the Marlers now live separately, they have no immediate plans to divorce and still see each other almost daily.

"We're still best friends," Cyndi said.

And despite some struggles, they believe things have improved for them.

"Our whole dynamic is better now," Brad said.

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Their daughter recently wrote her parents each a letter about the experience. "She wrote that she was happy to see that I'm happy," Brad said.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2021. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 31, 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

On this date:

In 1795, English poet John Keats was born in London.

In 1864, Nevada became the 36th state as President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation.

In 1926, magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

In 1941, work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

In 1975, the Queen single "Bohemian Rhapsody" was released in the United Kingdom by EMI Records.

In 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh (sihk) security guards.

In 1992, Pope John Paul II formally proclaimed that the Roman Catholic Church had erred in condemning the astronomer Galileo for holding that the Earth was not the center of the universe.

In 1998, a genetic study was released suggesting President Thomas Jefferson did in fact father at least one child by his slave Sally Hemings.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito (ah-LEE'-toh) to the Supreme Court. Civil rights icon Rosa Parks was honored during a memorial service in Washington, D.C.

In 2019, President Donald Trump announced that he would be making Palm Beach, Florida, his permanent residence after leaving the White House rather than returning to Trump Tower in New York.

Ten years ago: Palestinians won their greatest international endorsement yet with full membership in UNESCO, but the move prompted the U.S. to cut off payments to the Paris-based cultural agency. The United Nations estimated that the world's population had surpassed 7 billion.

Five years ago: Pope Francis marked the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation by traveling to secular Sweden, where he encouraged Catholics and Lutherans to forgive the "errors" of the past and forge greater unity, including sharing in the Eucharist.

One year ago: Actor Sean Connery, who rose to international stardom as the suave secret agent James Bond and then carved out an Oscar-winning career in other rugged roles, died at his home in the Bahamas at the age of 90. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new month-long lockdown for England amid a resurgent coronavirus outbreak. Tropical Storm Eta formed in the Caribbean, tying the record (28) for most named storms in a single Atlantic hurricane season. (The season would conclude with 30 named storms.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lee Grant is 96. Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 90. Folk singer Tom Paxton is 84. Actor Ron Rifkin is 83. Actor Sally Kirkland is 80. Actor Brian Doyle-Murray is 76. Actor Stephen Rea is 75. Olympic gold medal long-distance runner Frank Shorter is 74. Actor Deidre Hall is 74. TV show host Jane Pauley is 71. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell is 64. Movie director Peter Jackson is 60. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 60. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 58. Rock musician Mikkey Dee is 58. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 58. Actor Rob Schneider is 58. Country singer Darryl Worley is 57. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 56. Rap musician Adrock is 55. Rap performer Vanilla Ice (aka Rob Van Winkle) is 54. Rock musician Rogers Stevens (Blind Melon) is 52. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 51. Reality TV host Troy Hartman is 50. Gospel singer Smokie Norful is 48. Actor Piper Perabo (PEER'-uh-boh) is 45.

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Actor Brian Hallisay is 43. Actor Samaire (SAH'-mee-rah) Armstrong is 41. Actor Eddie Kaye Thomas is 41. Rock musician Frank Iero (My Chemical Romance) is 40. Actor Justin Chatwin is 39. Actor Scott Clifton is 37. Actor Vanessa Marano is 29. Actor Holly Taylor is 24. Actor Danielle Rose Russell is 22. Actor-singer Willow Smith is 21.