

Groton Daily Independent

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Service Notice: James F. Olson

Memorial services for James F. Olson, 70, of Andover will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, November 13th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Janine Rew-Werling will officiate. Inurnment will take place in Homer Cemetery, Pierpont under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

James passed away November 3, 2021 at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

Upcoming Events

Monday, Nov. 8

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 9

Junior High GBB at Webster Area. 7th Grade at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game

SoDak16: Hamlin vs. Mobridge-Pollock at Groton at 6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 11

2 p.m.: Veteran's Day Program in the Arena

Junior High GBB: Langford at Groton. 7th grade game at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 12-13

Debate & Oral Interp at SF Washington

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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, November 7, 2021

Communion in Worship
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

Monday, November 8, 2021

PEO - outside group 7:30 PM

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

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

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Groton Worship 9:00 AM
Sunday School - Lesson and practice Christmas Program 10:00 AM
Conde Worship 11:00 AM
Fall Dinner 12:00 PM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, Nov. 7

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

Monday, Nov. 8

6:30am Bible Study

Tuesday, Nov 9

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 10

6:00pm 7th & 8th gr confirmation

Sunday, Nov. 14

9am Worship
10:15am 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, 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

Wednesday, Nov. 10

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, Nov. 14

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

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

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Northern State Comeback Falls Short in North Division Clash

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State football team fell 36-34 to Bemidji State in a match-up of NSIC North Division contenders. The back and forth action lasted right until the final play as the Wolves saw their final pass get intercepted at the goal line.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 34, BSU 36

Records: NSU 7-3, BSU 8-2

Attendance: 4,127

HOW IT HAPPENED

Bemidji State opened the scoring in the first quarter with a four yard touchdown pass from Brandon Alt to Dhel Duncan-Busby to go up 7-0

Following a punt on their first possession, Northern State used a quick three play drive and 48 yard pass from Hunter Trautman to Vance Barnes to even the score at seven with 5:58 remaining in the first quarter

The Beavers capped off the scoring in the first quarter with a nine play, 75 yard drive resulting in a 15 yard touchdown pass from Alt to Brendan Beaulieu, Sam McGath then rushed for the 2-point conversion

With 8:20 remaining in the second quarter, Dewaylon Ingram broke the single season record for touchdown receptions with 12 off a 15 yard pass from Trautman to get back within one point

The first big play of the game for the Northern defense came with 2:11 remaining in the first half as Chance Olson intercepted a pass from Alt at the goal line and proceeded to make a 100 yard interception return for a touchdown to take the lead 21-15

BSU took a 22-21 lead into halftime following a five yard pass from Alt to Malik Williams

The Wolves recorded the only score in the third quarter when Brett Brenton scored on a three yard run to put Northern State back in front 28-22

Bemidji State scored 14 unanswered in the fourth quarter on a three yard touchdown pass from Alt to Duncan-Busby and a three yard rush by Makaio Harn

Northern State would pull within two on a 47 yard touchdown pass from Trautman to Ben Noland, however the 2-point conversion attempt was no good

Following a failed on-side kick attempt and a Bemidji punt, the Wolves had one last opportunity as Trautman heaved a pass from midfield to the goal line, however Jake West ripped the ball away from Ingram at the last moment to seal a 36-34 win for the Beavers

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hunter Trautman: 22-44 passing, 416 passing yards, 3 passing touchdowns

Brett Brenton: 14 rushing attempts, 51 rushing yards, 1 rushing touchdown

Dewaylon Ingram: 9 receptions, 122 receiving yards, 1 receiving touchdown

Chance Olson: 10 total tackles, 2 interceptions, 1 interception return for touchdown

Hunter Hansen: 15 total tackles, 7 solo tackles

UP NEXT

Northern State will close regular season action next week with another high profile North Division match-up at Minnesota Duluth. Kickoff between the Wolves and Bulldogs is set for 1 p.m. from James S. Malosky Stadium in Duluth.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



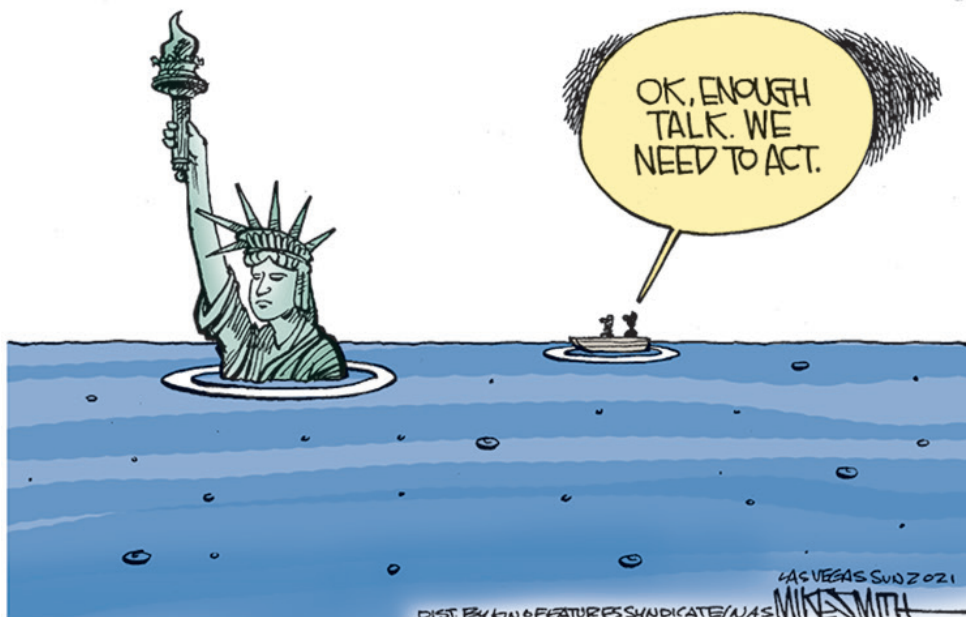
*If you extend your soul to the hungry
and satisfy the afflicted soul, then
your light shall dawn
in the darkness,
and your darkness shall be
as the noonday.
The Lord will guide you
continually...*

ISAIAH 58: 10-11

*Detail of "L'Homme Guidé par l'Éternel"
by Marc Chagall (1956)*

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AS SEA LEVELS RISE DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING...



BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Amaziah in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 5, who convinced the Jerusalem council not to stone the apostles? *Haggai, Shebna, Gamaliel, Levi*
3. The scriptures often use the word "Gehenna," which translates into English as? *Hell, Paradise, Poem, Soul*
4. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, who does Paul describe as a "new creature"? *The unborn, Innocent children, Commandment keepers, Anyone in Christ*
5. Besides Abiathar, who was a high priest during the reign of David? *Passhur, Zadok, Caiaphas, Zebedee*
6. How old was Moses when he died? *33, 100, 120, 164*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Gamaliel; 3) Hell; 4) Anyone in Christ; 5) Zadok; 6) 120

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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Cranberry Graham Squares

While cranberry sauce is always appropriate, why not share this cranberry-studded recipe this season? After all, it won't be long before these ruby delights won't be anywhere to be found.

- 12 (2 1/2-inch) graham crackers
- 1 (4-serving) package sugar-free vanilla instant pudding mix
- 2/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 3/4 cups water
- 1 (4-serving) package sugar-free vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix
- 1 cup reduced-calorie cranberry juice cocktail
- 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping

1. Evenly arrange 9 graham crackers in a 9-by-9-inch cake pan. In a large bowl, combine dry instant pudding mix, dry milk powder and 1 1/4 cups water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Pour mixture evenly over graham crackers. Refrigerate while preparing cranberry sauce.

2. In a medium saucepan, combine dry cook-and-serve pudding mix, cranberry juice cocktail, remaining 1/2 cup water and cranberries. Cook over medium heat for about 5 minutes or until cranberries soften, stirring often.

3. Remove from heat, place saucepan on a wire rack and allow to cool for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Evenly spoon cooled mixture over set filling.

4. Spread whipped topping evenly over cranberry mixture. Crush remaining 3 graham crackers into fine crumbs. Evenly sprinkle crumbs over top. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Serves 8.

* Each serving equals: 93 calories, 1g fat, 2g protein, 19g carbs., 297mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 starch.

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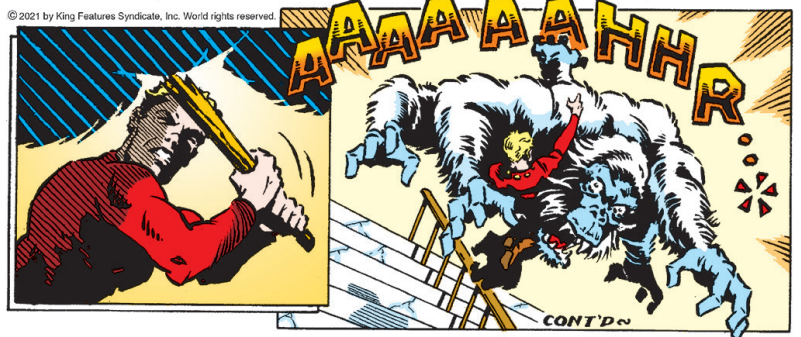
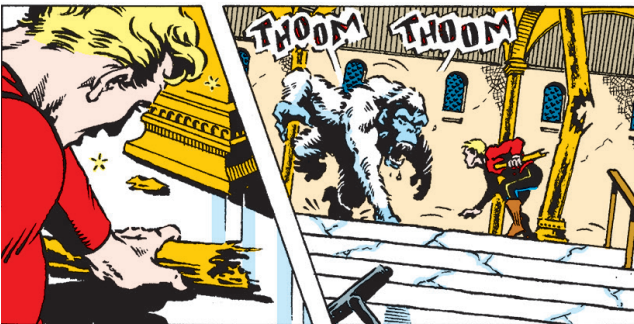
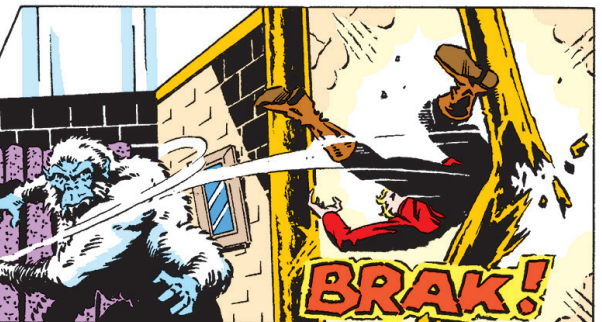
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FLASH GORDON

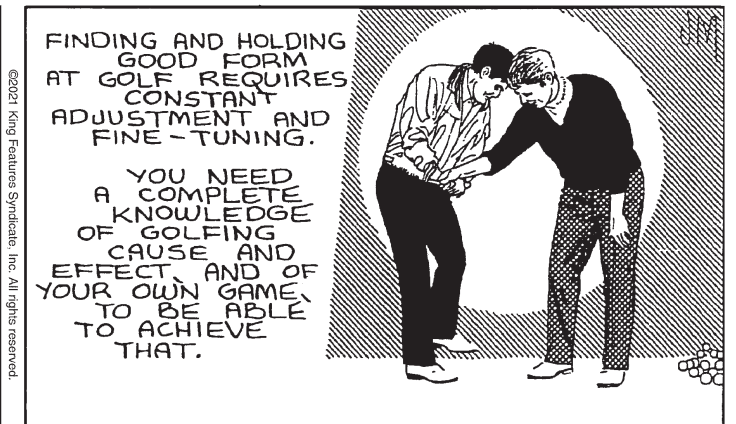
10-31
By JIM KEEFE

WITH ALARMING SPEED, THE HUGE ANTHROPOID TURNS ON THE SMALL CREATURE WHO HAS DARED TO ATTACK IT!



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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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COPD Lung Function Can't be Restored

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column on pulmonary fibrosis. I especially appreciate knowing that there are medications known to slow the progression of lung disease, reduce exacerbations and reduce mortality. With a 20-year-old diagnosis of COPD and having been prescribed medications to reduce exacerbations, you might imagine my interest in your article.

I'm wondering how pulmonary fibrosis differs from COPD and if the two medications that you mention (pirfenidone and nintedanib) might be helpful in slowing the progression of lung disease in patients such as myself. Have any studies been completed using these medications on patients

with COPD? -- S.A.

ANSWER: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease -- its two main forms are emphysema and chronic bronchitis -- usually, but not invariably, is a result of long-term exposure to lung toxins, especially smoke. In the most common case of COPD, due to cigarette smoking (at least, that's the most common in North America and Europe: cooking fires are still a common cause in less developed countries), stopping the exposure will dramatically slow down further damage. Unfortunately, there are no established treatments that can restore lung function in people with moderate to advanced COPD.

Pulmonary fibrosis is, by contrast, a rare disease; about 30,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed each year (compare that with the 9 million people in the U.S. diagnosed with chronic bronchitis last year).

The exact mechanism of action of pirfenidone and nintedanib is not known, but they are not thought to be effective in COPD. Surprisingly, I did not find a published trial looking at whether these drugs might be effective. The need for new therapies to treat COPD is so great that I would have thought some researcher might have tried it, despite the long odds.

DEAR DR. ROACH: At 75, I had my first-ever kidney stone in December. The urologist told me to stop drinking so much milk. But he never asked if my diet had changed. I had been eating almonds by the handful every day. I felt certain this was the cause of the stone.

I drink skim milk, which is practically tasteless. I started adding a slight bit of almond milk to the skim to give it a more pleasant taste. Should I not be doing this? -- P.T.

ANSWER: I am not certain why the urologist told you to stop drinking cow's milk. We used to believe that the calcium in milk increased risk for kidney stones, especially calcium oxalate stones, which are the most common type; however, dietary calcium paradoxically decreases risk of kidney stones, whereas calcium supplements increase risk of stones. What makes the biggest difference in diet is the oxalate content.

Almonds, as well as almond milk, are very high in oxalate; cow's milk is not. I don't know what you mean by a "slight bit" of almond milk, but I would try to avoid taking too much (more than a few teaspoons a day), and find another way to flavor the milk if you really don't like it. I know a few people who add a drop of vanilla. Coconut milk -- which I don't recommend consuming in large quantities due to the saturated fat content -- does not have oxalate.

Essentially, everybody with kidney stones should drink plenty of water, and nearly everyone should be very careful not to have too much sodium.

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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Adele One Night Only — Anticipation for this LA-filmed prime-time concert special is high, as it promises to be a major reveal of Adele's newest music, of which we have been deprived for six long years. (Her new album, "30," drops Nov. 19, and the first single from it, "Easy On Me," already hit No. 1 on Billboard.) Interspersed throughout the show will be an interview with Adele by none other than Ms. Oprah Winfrey. The women will talk all things music, lyric inspiration and life. But don't be confused by the name of this televised concert. While it airs only one night on CBS (Sunday, Nov. 14), the special will be available to stream starting the same night on Paramount+. (CBS/Paramount+)

City of Joel — What happens when an impassioned religious sect slowly and systematically attempts to become the dominating demographic in a quiet small town, in direct opposition to citizens outside of the religion? It gets really ugly, that's what. The town of Monroe, New York, includes the Village of Kiryas Joel, which is populated entirely by Hasidic Jews. Political battles over land brought tempers on both sides to the boiling point in 2018 when the village petitioned to annex a significant portion of town as its own, while simultaneously influencing local elections by voting as a unified block. This documentary skillfully presents both sides of the issue, creating a dramatic buildup that culminates with a game-changing city council election. (Prime Video)

Dear Rider: The Jake Burton Story — Remember that scene in "Hot Tub Time Machine" where, in 1986, nobody knew what the heck those guys were riding down the mountain? (Hint: It was snowboards.) Well, we have Jake Burton to thank for making that crazy new sport a permanent fix-

ture on snowy mountains worldwide. After constructing the first snowboard in 1977, Burton spent the next 42 years devoted to promoting the sport, fine-tuning its equipment, and basically convincing the world how cool snowboarding really is. Even if you don't partake in the activity, this documentary is an interesting project that marries a great story of passion and entrepreneurship with fantastic winter sports footage. (HBOMax)



CBS/Paramount+

Adele

Theo Von: Regular People — Comedian Theo Von's second Netflix stand-up special is trending in the Top 10 its recent first week of release, so I had high hopes for an entertaining hour. I remembered him from his time on MTV's "Road Rules" and "The Challenge," but was unfamiliar with his comedy. Unfortunately, it was an agonizing 60 minutes. While there are moments I chuckled, for the most part I felt slightly uncomfortable, wondering if Von was trying too hard to be edgy or was simply naive to how insensitive some of his jokes were. He doesn't yet have the polish of a seasoned comedian, and many of his stories about growing up poor and the odd friends he knew then needed more details to provide enough setup for his jokes. He's not an unlikable guy, but the opening segment about his own haircut is probably the best part. (Netflix)

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1. Who released "Peg"?
2. Where did Thin Lizzy get their name?
3. Why did Simon and Garfunkel end up in a lawsuit over their release of "El Condor Pasa"?
4. Which artist wrote and released "Lovers Who Wander"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I'm a rambler and a rover, and I wander it seems, I've traveled all over, chasing after my dreams."

Answers

1. Steely Dan, in 1977 on their "Aja" album. During recording, they went through seven guitarists before finding one (Jay Graydon) who nailed the solo.

2. From a character in The Dandy, a British comic. For a while after they got started, they were mistak-

only called Tin Lizzy due to a Dublin accent that would leave out the "th" sound.

3. Paul Simon heard the song played by Los Incas and was told it was a traditional Peruvian song from the 18th century. Assuming it was therefore not subject to royalties, S&G recorded it and included English lyrics. A lawsuit was filed by the son of the man who'd written (and copyrighted) the song in 1933.

4. Dion, in 1962. It reached No. 3 on the Hot 100 chart.

5. "The Piney Wood Hills," by Buffy Sainte-Marie, released on her "Many a Mile" album in 1965.

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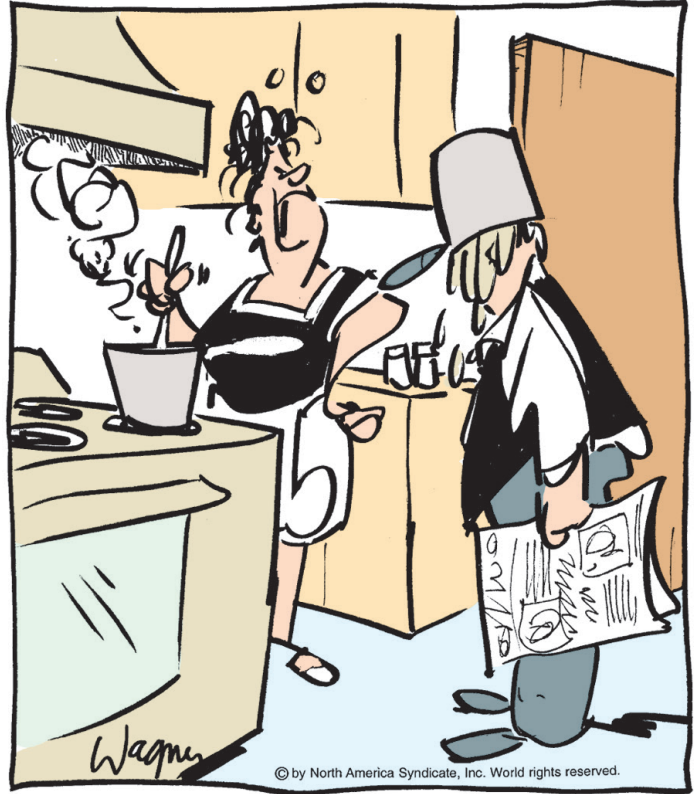
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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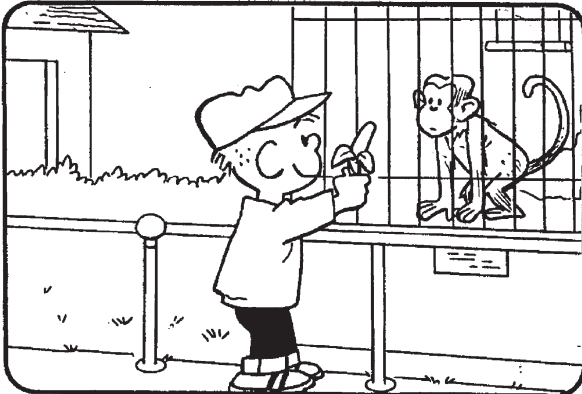
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



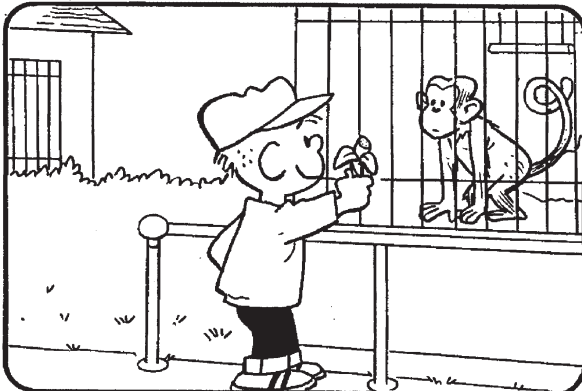
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Tail is longer. 3. Fence is shorter. 4. Sign is missing. 5. Arm is showing. 6. Bars are added.



- You can cut the bitterness in some varieties of greens by soaking them in ice water for roughly an hour before serving. Use a salad spinner to get all of the water off.

- “Place an ice cube (or ice chips) in carpet divots left behind by furniture legs. This will help the fibers “plump up,” and the spot will disappear!” — *A.I. in Utah*

- Remove the annoying sticky residue from price tags with WD-40 or baby oil. This is for use on hard surfaces only. If you are unsure, test in an inconspicuous spot first to make sure the oil doesn't leave a stain where the tag was.

- “To help repel the dust on baseboards between cleanings, wipe with a used dryer sheet. To make this even easier, you can put the dryer sheet over a Swiffer-type floor cleaner. This way, you don't even have to bend down.” — *M.E. in Alabama*

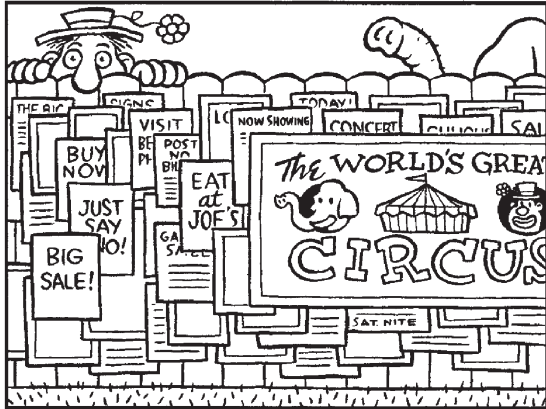
- Felt circles are great for putting under small appliances on the kitchen counter. They are easier to move around, and they won't scratch the countertops. You can find them at the hardware store, or make your own by cutting out what you need from a piece of felt and attaching it to the bottom of your appliance with double-stick tape ... or even a drop of glue!

- Running a washing machine that isn't full not only wastes energy and water, it also wastes money because you're paying to run more washes. Always fill the machine — but remember not to overload it! This applies to your dishwasher, too.

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

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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1. A _ A
2. A _ _ A
3. A _ _ _ A
4. A _ _ _ _ A
5. A _ _ _ _ _ A
6. A _ _ _ _ _ _ A

THE A-TO-A STEPWORD!

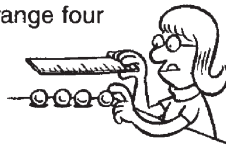
HERE'S your chance to become an "A" student. To the left you'll find six words that begin and end with the letter A. The following hints should help you fill in the missing letters:

1. Expression of surprise.
2. Operatic solo.
3. Hawaiian farewell.
4. A fleet of warships.
5. A radio needs one.
6. Greek food of the gods.

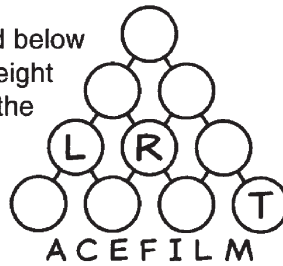
THE ABOVE CIRCUS POSTER is the latest advertisement posted here. How many other posters do you see on the fence? We found 35.

DON'T LOSE YOUR MARBLES! The challenge here is to arrange four marbles so that they are of equal distance from one another.

The secret: Place three marbles in a tight triangle. Next, place the fourth marble on top in the center. All of the marbles are now equidistant from each other.



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



Illustrated by David Coulson

The words are, top to bottom, left to right: Fill, film, firm, fire, farm, fare, face, fact.

Five or more correct will earn you an "A." You have two minutes to finish the test.

1. Aha. 2. Aria. 3. Aloha.
4. Armada. 5. Antenna.
6. Ambrosia.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BUD BLAKE

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Greets the villain
- 5 Bummer
- 9 Wd. from Roget
- 12 Incite
- 13 Writer Rice
- 14 Scot's refusal
- 15 Time of youthful innocence
- 17 World Cup cheer
- 18 Jacket part
- 19 Cut wood
- 21 Hectic hosp. area
- 22 Sun block?
- 24 Satirist Mort
- 27 "Exodus" hero
- 28 Infatuated
- 31 Acapulco gold
- 32 Impose
- 33 "Delicious!"
- 34 Lugosi of film
- 36 Observe
- 37 Nick and Nora's pet
- 38 Cove
- 40 Room cooler, for short
- 41 Pal
- 43 Geronimo, for one
- 47 Mound stat
- 48 1987 Woody Allen movie
- 51 Hobbyist's abbr.

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			

- 52 Apple product
- 53 Pet-food brand
- 54 Snake's warning
- 55 Mediocre grades
- 56 Part of A.D.
- DOWN**
- 1 Smooch
- 2 Spoken
- 3 Leer at
- 4 Sargasso wriggler
- 5 Florida county
- 6 Genetic letters
- 7 Whatever
- 8 Bas-relief medium
- 9 Winter "no school" times
- 10 Harvard rival
- 11 Grant basis, at times
- 16 TiVo, for example
- 20 Calendar abbr.
- 22 Vinegar bottle
- 23 Low-calorie
- 24 Weep
- 25 "Right you —!"
- 26 Work breaks
- 27 Church section
- 29 Belly
- 30 "I — Rock"
- 35 Moreover
- 37 National park in Maine
- 39 Ira Gershwin's contribution
- 40 GI's address
- 41 Hotel furniture
- 42 "Topaz" author
- 43 Helps
- 44 "Misery" star James
- 45 Church song
- 46 Old U.S. gas brand
- 49 Gorilla
- 50 Fawn's mom

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY



"Address, phone number and age still the same?"

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

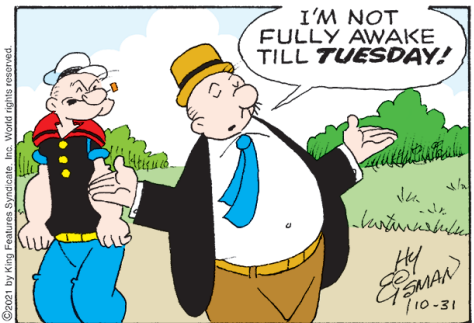
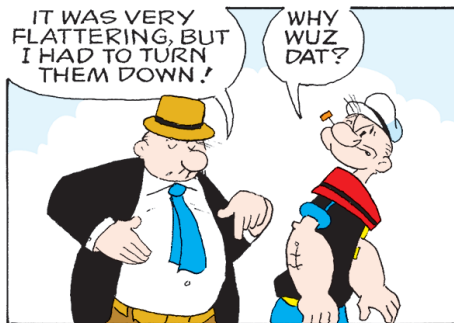
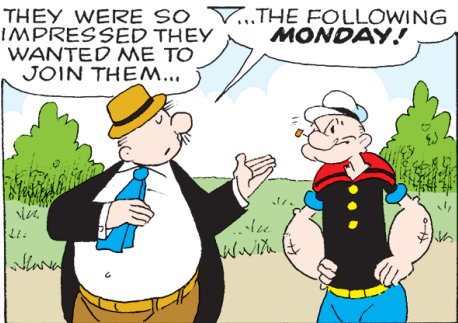
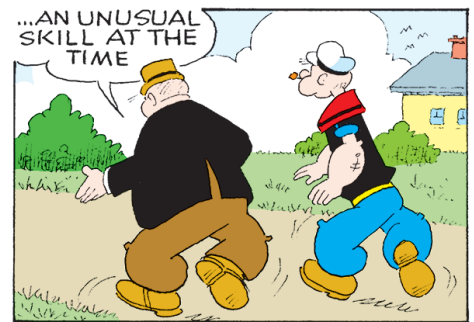
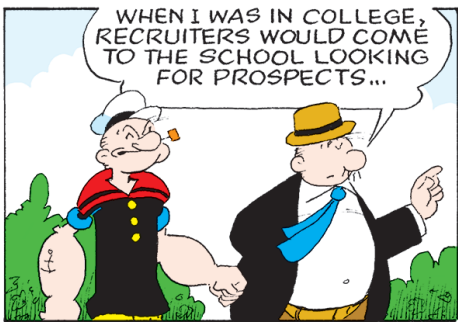
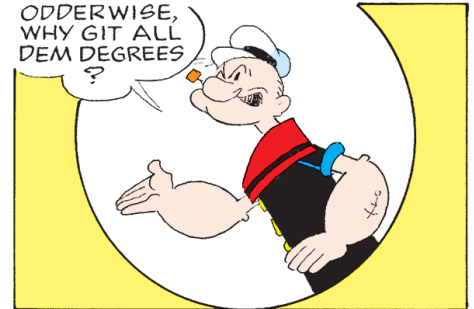
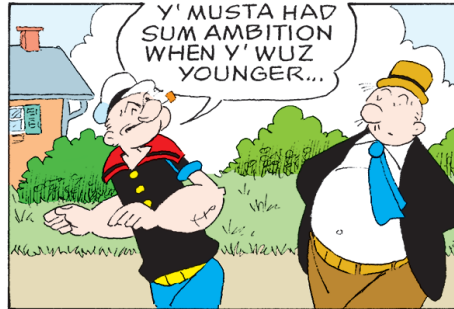
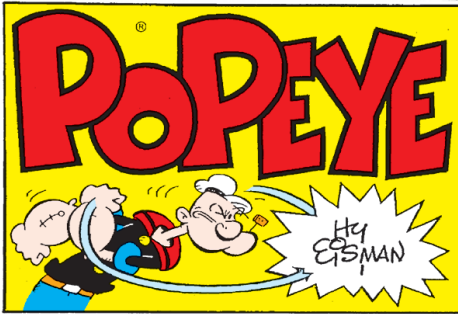
TOUGH DAY
AROUND THE ARK
FOR NOAH...

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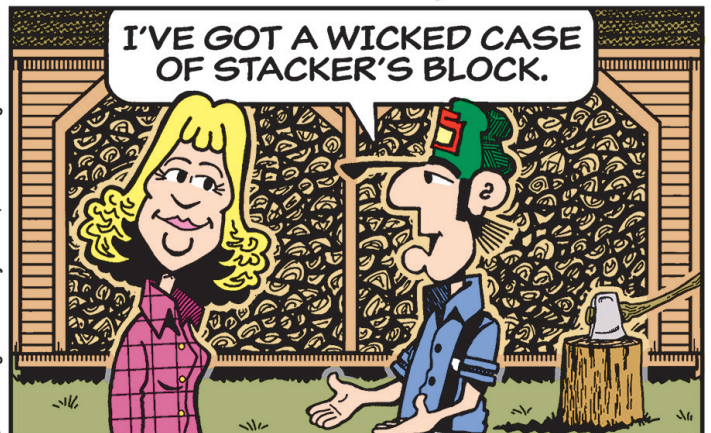
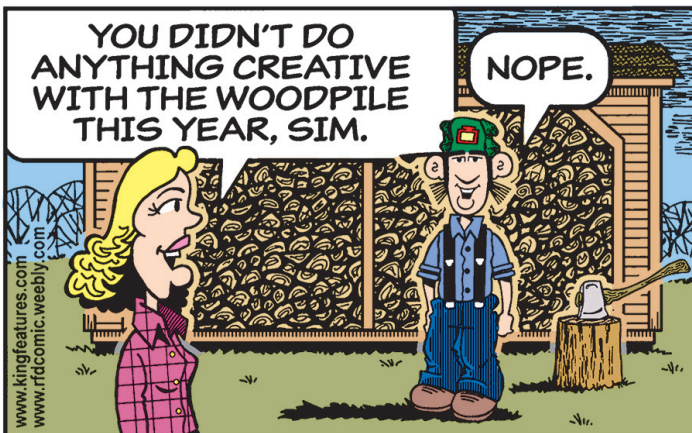
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

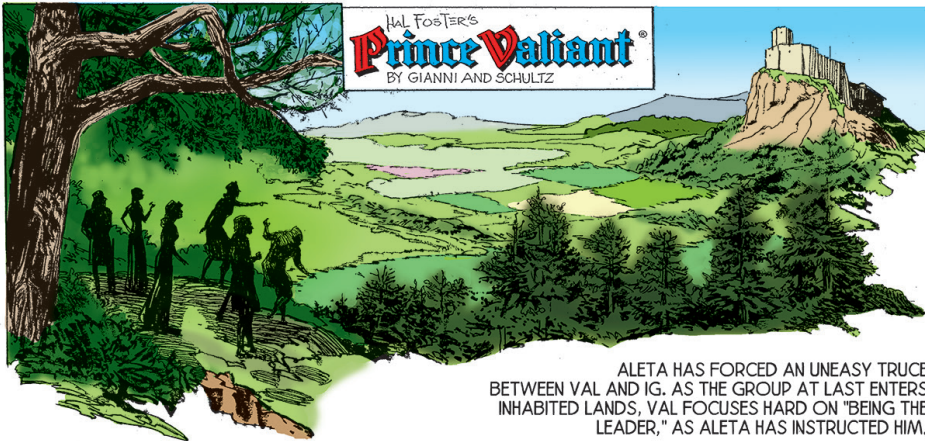


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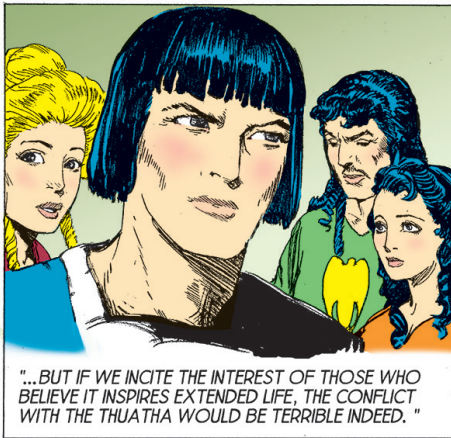
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ALETA HAS FORCED AN UNEASY TRUCE BETWEEN VAL AND IG. AS THE GROUP AT LAST ENTERS INHABITED LANDS, VAL FOCUSES HARD ON "BEING THE LEADER," AS ALETA HAS INSTRUCTED HIM.



HE CAUTIONS: "WE WILL SOON MEET MEN. LET US AGREE TO KEEP SECRET BOTH THE THUATHA, AND THEIR STRANGE ELIXIR. WE KNOW NOT ITS TRUE EFFECT..."



"... BUT IF WE INCITE THE INTEREST OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT INSPIRES EXTENDED LIFE, THE CONFLICT WITH THE THUATHA WOULD BE TERRIBLE INDEED."

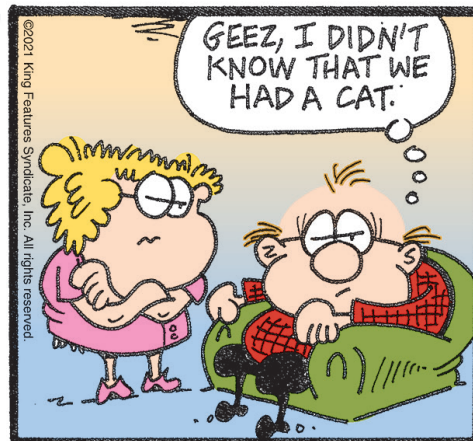
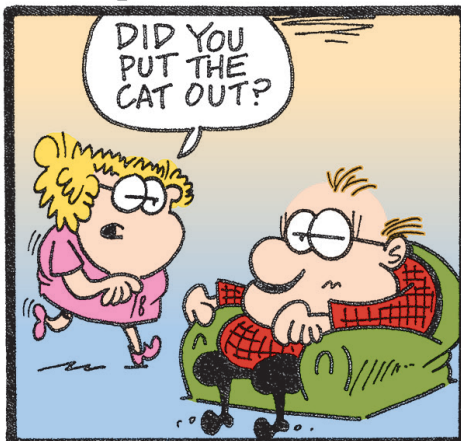


IG SUDDENLY BELLOWS: "LOOK! MEN COME SOONER THAN WE MIGHT HAVE GUESSED!"

NEXT: Friend or foe?

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Social Security Gets Big Benefits Bump

The news is in. Our Social Security benefit for 2022 will increase by 5.9%, slightly less than the 6.1% estimate the government put out this summer. Still, that's much greater than the 1.3% increase we saw for 2021 and the 1.6% the year before.

The average monthly dollar increase will be \$92, making the average benefit \$1,657 per month for a single person. For a couple, a \$154 increase would come to \$2,753 per month.

The official mail on the cost-of-living adjustment will come out in December.

I've done my calculations for next year, and once again I shake my head. We've been notified already that I'll have a rent increase. Heating fuel is likely to go up 47%. We all know what has happened at the grocery store. Medicare Part B is sure to go up, may-

be a \$10 per month increase.

There is one worrying note, and we need to think about how it will play out for us individually. The question is: Will that increase move us into a higher tax bracket?

It depends on our provisional income. That number is any income (pension, wages, dividends and more) not from Social Security, plus half the amount of Social Security. Those of us who come in under \$25,000 won't have a federal tax put on our Social Security. If that number is between \$25,000 and \$34,000, there will be a tax on half of our Social Security income. Over that and it goes up to a tax on 85% of our Social Security income.

If your situation for 2022 is likely to put you in the category of having to pay taxes on your Social Security benefit, you can elect to have them take money out of your check each month. If you want to learn about that, call the IRS at 1-800-772-1213 and ask for IRS Form W-4V.

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1. Former NFL kick return specialist Mel Gray was named to four Pro Bowls in the early 1990s playing for what team?

2. U.S. Olympian Ryan Crouser won gold medals at the 2016 Rio Games and the 2020 Tokyo Games competing in what track and field event?

3. In the 1983 NBA playoffs, what member of the Atlanta Hawks bit Danny Ainge of the Boston Celtics in the finger during an on-court fight?

4. By what nickname is former Dallas Cowboys fullback and longtime TV analyst Daryl Johnston known?

5. What U.S. women's soccer star scored three goals vs. Japan in the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup final match?

6. The Platypus Trophy is an award presented in the college football rival-



ry between which two teams?

7. What South Carolina racetrack is known as "The Lady in Black"?

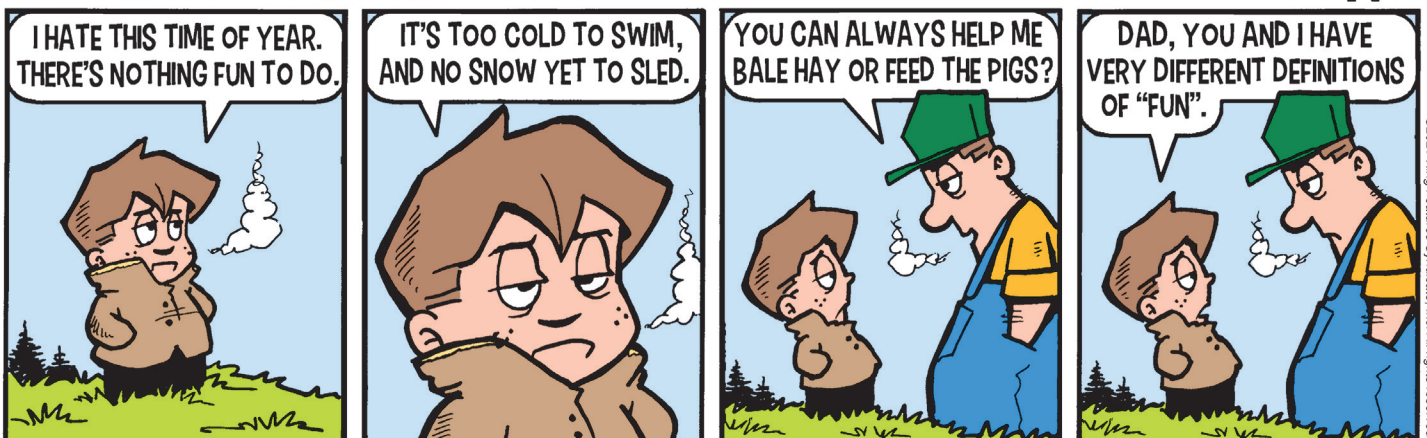
Answers

1. The Detroit Lions.
2. The shot put.
3. Tree Rollins.
4. Moose.
5. Carli Lloyd.
6. The Oregon Ducks and the Oregon State Beavers.
7. Darlington Raceway.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Readers Sound Off on Letting Cats Outside

DEAR READERS: My recent letter from a pet mom who strongly believes cats should be allowed outside really touched a nerve among readers. They sent in some great responses, both for and against. Only a few are published here due to space constraints, but you can read all of them, unedited, at www.pawscorner.com. Here are just a few:

DEAR PAWS: I do not have a cat, but I would keep them indoors because of the dangers from and to them. And I do not let my dog run free either. — *Mary Ann C.*

DEAR PAWS: My current cat thrives on being outdoors, and she loves coming in and being a lap cat, too. I never let my cat stay outside all night, however; definitely more dangers then. — *Carol T., Leicester, New York*

DEAR PAWS: I think a person who lets any of their pets roam freely outside is uncaring, selfish and inconsiderate. A dictionary says this of a pet: “any domesticated or tame animal that is kept as a companion and *cared for affectionately.*” — *Signed, I love my pet*

DEAR PAWS: Our pet cats still have an instinct to kill and be wild and free, just like big cats have. About the ticks: Just pull them off, put a little medicine on the bite, and that is that. — *Adrian M.*

DEAR PAWS: I agree with you. I lost two inside/outside cats when living in Florida. One got killed in the road; one got killed by a neighbor’s dog. After that I kept cats inside. — *Linda K.*

DEAR PAWS: I just can’t understand someone saying they “love having a cat,” but they certainly don’t seem to love the mess they leave in everyone else’s yards! — *Becky H.*

What are your thoughts on the issue? Send them, or any pet care questions, to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* McDonald's is the world's largest toy distributor.

* The ice cream bean is a fruit with a taste very similar to its namesake vanilla ice cream. The tree that the bean grows on is native to the Americas and can reach nearly 100 feet tall, with bean pods up to 6 feet long.

* Anyone who moves to the Villas Las Estrellas, a settlement in Antarctica, must first have their appendix preemptively removed, because the nearest hospital is over 625 miles away.

* The limbo world record is under 6 inches.

* In 1994, West Virginia prison inmate Robert Shepard braided dental floss into a rope as thick as a telephone cord, used it to scale an 18-foot wall, and escaped.

* King Richard II once had to pawn his crown because he was such a spendthrift.

* The first Olympic race took place in 776 B.C. and was won by a chef named Corubus. Moments after receiving his first paycheck, he hired a cook and an agent.

* Swedish athlete Ari Petrof is a National Sauna Champion. He once stayed in a 212 F sauna for five hours and 10 minutes.

* The band called Postal Service took its moniker from the fact that members originally used USPS to send each other music tracks, due to their conflicting schedules.

* Golf balls were made of wood until the 16th century.

* Spam mail got its nickname from the canned meat after a Monty Python skit that made fun of Spam as tasting "horrible and being ubiquitous and inescapable."

Thought for the Day: "Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." -- John Lubbock

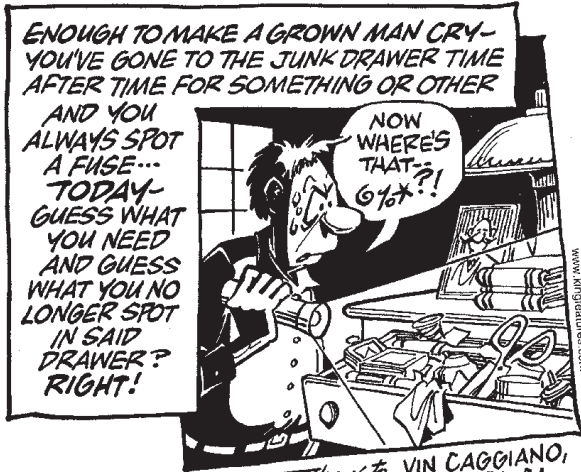
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



—Thank to VIN CAGGIANO,
SANTA MONICA, CA.



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OCCUPATIONAL
HAZARDS
NO. 1,753—
ASK ANY
NURSE...WHO'S
TRYING TO
DIET, THAT
IS...

—Thank to
'RED' TEANEY,
BUFFALO, N.Y.



Herbs used for Thanksgiving cooking

Bay leaves go into stocks and brines, sometimes added to water when cooking pasta.

Parsley is good for blending flavors. It is sold in bunches rather than packaged in plastic.

Rosemary has stiff, needle-like leaves that are quite pungent. Dried leaves can be crushed, and fresh can be finely chopped.

Sage has a stronger flavor fresh than dried, which is sold both "rubbed" and "ground."

Thyme complements everything from poultry and meat to vegetables and pasta. — Brenda Weaver

Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2013





by Freddy Groves

VA Ends Debt Relief

The Department of Veterans Affairs called a cease-fire on collection of overpayments between April 2020 and September 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. Now that debt collection has started up again. The VA will not, however, actually make deductions from our benefits until January 2022. In addition, if you had unpaid medical co-payments before April 2020, they'll start collecting those again.

That must mean the COVID pandemic is over, right? We're all doing well, grocery prices haven't soared, gas prices are still low, rents haven't increased, we all have jobs or at least enough income if a spouse didn't lose a job ... right?

If the VA says you owe money, you'll receive a debt collection letter. In it will be options for debt relief. You might be offered extended repayment plans, compromises, waivers or temporary suspensions in payment. If you get a

letter, address the situation immediately. Don't delay. There is a time limit to be considered for debt relief.

For benefit debts, call 1-800-827-0648 or go online to ask.va.gov. After signing in, you can track your message all the way from submission to resolution and see all your past messages and responses. You can choose to get a reply back by email, phone or through the U.S. mail. If you have pharmacy co-payment or medical-care debt, call 1-866-400-1238.

Another page to view is www.va.gov/manage-va-debt/, where you can check the status of your debt. Look at www.va.gov/resources/va-covid-19-debt-relief-options-for-veterans-and-dependents/ for more debt-related information and questions.

Before you make any agreements about repayment, read and understand the fine print. A compromise means you'll pay less than the full amount, but it's due all at once within 30 days. A waiver means they'll forgive a portion of the debt.

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



Build Back Broke

It is Groundhog Day again on Capitol Hill. Every week, for the past seven weeks, House Democrats have claimed we will vote on their massive spending bill. Not surprisingly, it's 5pm on Friday and a vote in the U.S. House has been open for over eight hours. This bill is so large, and so partisan, even Democrats cannot come to an agreement within their own party.

The Democrats' spending spree is not what Americans want. More than 60% of Americans do not believe the plan will help the economy or their families, and they are right. It's a "cradle to grave" welfare revamp. A 50-50 Senate and a narrowly divided House portrays a population that wants and needs bipartisan, common ground solutions.

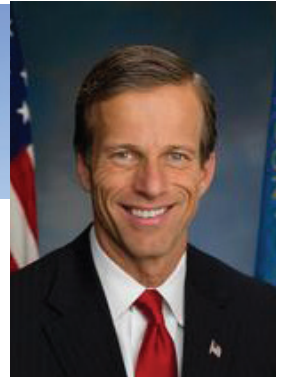
If made permanent, "Build Back Better," or as some are calling it "Build Back Broke," will skyrocket the deficit by \$2.5 trillion more every decade. It would place more strain on Medicare, further risking insolvency in five years.

Growing up on welfare assistance, I know the good that a safety net provides for those struggling to make ends meet, but this bill would not help those who need it most. It would lower wages, slow job creation, and increase the deficit, compared to the Tax Foundation baseline. This bill undermines work, rather than encouraging it, during a time when there is already a workforce crisis.

The University of Chicago found that 1.5 million Americans will leave the workforce because of the subsidies and tax credits included in this bill, leaving our country further behind in the race to economic recovery following COVID-19.

America needs opportunity-expanding programs that encourage work, rather than disincentivize it. Today's jobs report was finally better than the past two months – now it's not that time to pass a bill that will stand directly in the way of that progress.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Thank You, Veterans

On Veterans Day we remember all those who have served in the United States military. Thanks to my job as a senator, I have been privileged to meet a lot of our South Dakota veterans, as well as our airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base and members of the South Dakota Air and Army National Guard. And it is the honor of my life to represent them in Congress.

Earlier this year, I had the chance to talk to a lot of our veterans at the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars annual convention, and I was reminded once again how much we owe to these men and women. We live in peace and freedom because of their sacrifices. This year I've also had the chance to interact with many men and women who are still serving at several National Guard activation and deactivation ceremonies, and I've appreciated the opportunity to hear from our Guard members and from their families, who sacrifice so much to support their loved ones.

I may be biased, but I'm pretty sure that South Dakota has the most outstanding Guard troops in the nation. The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing was recently recognized for the fifth time for combat readiness and unit performance with the Spaatz Trophy. For the second year in a row, the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion received an award for the nation's most outstanding Army National Guard battalion.

And, of course, congratulations once again to Ellsworth Air Force Base on the most exciting news of the year – being officially selected as the first base to host the B-21 bomber. I couldn't be prouder to welcome this mission in the years ahead.

On Veterans Day and every day, I remember my favorite veteran of all, my dad Harold Thune. My father was a fighter pilot who flew Hellcats off the U.S.S. Intrepid in the Pacific theater during World War II, and I came to know the Greatest Generation through him – their humility, their quiet service, their deep patriotism, and their dedication to the cause of freedom. My dad died last year, and I have always been grateful that I was able to sit down with him for the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project to hear about his service.

Of course, he kept turning the conversation to those he served with. Like other members of the Greatest Generation – and so many of the veterans I've met – my dad wasn't interested in bragging about his achievements. He won the Distinguished Flying Cross, but he didn't talk about that. What he did like to talk about was the men he served with, and what they did.

Between my dad and the opportunities I have had to interact with our airmen and Guard members and with generations of South Dakota veterans, I know very well that members of the military are a special breed. They are men and women of purpose, driven by a love of country, a commitment to their comrades, and a desire to protect the innocent from danger. I am grateful every day to the men and women of our nation's military, who stand guard around the world so that we can live in peace and freedom. I am also profoundly grateful to their families, who sacrifice time with their loved ones and shoulder many tasks alone to ensure their loved ones can complete their mission.

This Veterans Day, those who served in Afghanistan over the past 20 years are on my mind and heart in a special way. I know it was painful for many of them to watch the Afghanistan withdrawal and see the Taliban take over, and to know that the safety of many security partners, interpreters, and their families, as well as the lives of millions of Afghans, remain at the mercy of the Taliban. But I want our veterans to know that their work was not in vain. They helped keep terrorism away from our nation for two decades and introduced a generation of Afghans to freedom. And I am convinced that the seeds of liberty they sowed will yet bear fruit.

To South Dakota veterans, and to all those who have served our nation, thank you. We owe you a debt we can never repay.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Highlighting our best and brightest this Veterans Day

On Veterans Day each year, we honor those brave Americans who volunteered their lives in service to our country. This year, in addition to celebrating the six military branches and their reserve forces, I want to highlight the exceptional service by the veterans of our South Dakota Army and Air National Guard. As Governor I serve as their Commander-in-Chief — a sacred role I am honored to serve.

The National Guard is so foundational to our country that it is included in our U.S. Constitution under Article 1, Section 8: "To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions." The National Guard is unique in that they have two commanders-in-chief. They can be called to state service by the governor; or, be called up for federal service by the president.

National Guard troops are civilians who can be called to service at a moment's notice. They can be deployed to a health care mission in the Black Hills or to drug-trafficking hotspots along the U.S.-Mexico border. They can also be deployed to Europe, Africa, or the Middle East to prepare for forward combat operations or serve regional peace-keeping missions.

The South Dakota National Guard has deployed troops in every war since the Spanish-American War in 1898 — less than 10 years after South Dakota joined the U.S.

In the last 30 years, the South Dakota National Guard has deployed more than 10,000 of its Air Force and Army service members. We have had guardsmen deployed nearly every day in the last 20 years since the 9/11 attacks.

Our state certainly has our share of heroes who have served in the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard — we're still waiting on our first standout servicemember with the Space Force. And we cannot forget the contributions of our Reserve forces serving these branches.

Our National Guard in the past few years have defined excellence. For the last four years straight, South Dakota National Guard units have been ranked the very best in America for combat readiness. Our battalions are raising the bar for combat and service readiness standards.

Their service during the COVID pandemic has reminded us that when disasters strike — including tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and blizzards — we have the best-trained arsenal of military operatives ready to deploy at a moment's notice. The National Guard motto says it all: Always Ready, Always There.

Despite more than 150 years of dutiful service, it wasn't until 2016 that all National Guard and Reserve forces were recognized as veterans. I was proud to vote for H.R. 6416 as a Representative in the 114th U.S. Congress. The law ensures that Guardsmen and Reservists who served 20 years regardless of combat deployment status, receive the honorary veteran recognition.

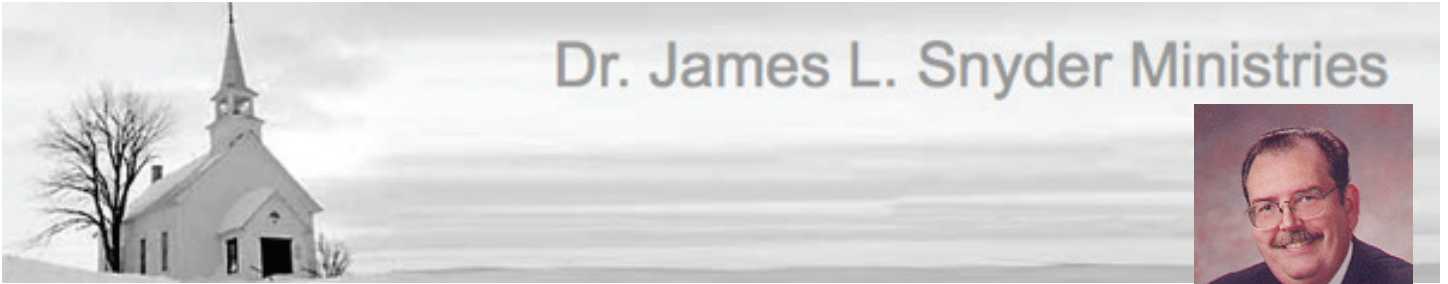
As Governor, I am working with our Department of Veterans Affairs to better serve our 72,000 veterans from all our military branches. I am also committed to upholding our status as the best state for a veteran to live and work.

To all our veterans who have served in our National Guard — including Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden, whose family has served in the military dating back to World War I — thank you for raising your hand and answering the call to serve. Thank you for making South Dakota your home, both during your time of service and as a veteran.

To all veterans across South Dakota, thank you for being part of the 1% of Americans who wear the uniform to protect and defend our freedoms. God bless you and all those who have bravely served.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



MY BODY, MY SWAT

Usually, I am not easily offended, nor do I easily lose my temper. I did lose my temper when I was six years old but have not been able to find it since. Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is trying to find it but so far, she has not found it.

Many people are ticked off by some minor little thing it really does not amount to much.

For example, driving through a fast-food drive-in, you will realize what getting ticked off is all about. The customer in front of me is so impatient, and the customer behind me is just as impatient. They want everything on their schedule.

Setting in the middle, I just relax because there is no way I can speed up the line so why try.

Very few things offend me, and I have found it to be a very good practice.

Don't let this out, but the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can get ticked off very quickly, particularly with bugs, lizards, and stuff like that, not to mention snakes.

For some reason, she doesn't like snakes, and when she sees one, even if it's on TV, she responds in a very negative fashion.

Once when we were on vacation and stayed in a motel, a frog was under her pillow. I have lived that nightmare quite a few times. I didn't know my wife could dance and sing at the same time. I didn't recognize the song, but I enjoyed her rendition of it.

Not being easily ticked off, I enjoy when other people are ticked off, particularly by little things they have no control over.

Then the story backfired on me!

It was the season of the "Love Bugs" that happens every year. I always forget that it's coming, but it comes every year. This past year seems to have been my worst experience.

It was love bugs, mosquitoes, and flies. I suppose they have a purpose in this world, but I have yet to discover what that purpose is. Their purpose is not well suited to me personally.

When morning came, I went outside to get into my vehicle to go to the church office; as soon as I stepped outside, a bunch of love bugs hit me. I don't know what they see in me that they love so much, I wish they would drop it. I'm thinking of seeking a divorce.

Walking towards my vehicle, I was swatting left and right, up and down and every swat hit some kind of bug. I must confess that they were starting to bug me.

No matter where I went that day, there was some kind of bug following me and trying to snuggle up with me. Why do they have to be so loving?

All day long, I was swatting these bugs. The more I swatted, the more they seemed to come in my direction.

I was in Publix, and as I was walking down an aisle, a mosquito landed on my nose, and without thinking, I swatted it as hard as I could. Yeah, the mosquito was dead. Yeah, my nose was bleeding.

I heard several snickers behind me, and I was afraid to turn around. I got my hanky out and wiped my nose as good as I could. When I got to the counter to pay for my product, the cashier looked at me and smiled very heartily. I just stared back at him with a grimace that I hadn't used for a long time.

I said to him very snarly, "It's my body, my swat."

I suppose I never learned a lesson, but I swatted my nose and my cheek and my chin several times

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that week. I guess it's just a habit.

Once a fly flew into my mouth, and believe me, it was no Apple Fritter. I still have that nasty taste in my mouth.

Several days later, I was in Publix again, and the bugs were still in operational mode. Everywhere I went, there was some bug.

I swatted myself several times, and fortunately, there was no blood. But I did get a few bugs that will not be bugging me ever again.

Walking around the store, I tried avoiding the bugs as much as possible. When finished, I went to the cashier to pay for my products.

As I was standing there, all of a sudden, somebody slapped me on the back.

I turned around, looked, and a guy said, "I did you a favor. There was a bug crawling up your back, and I killed it for you."

Looking at him, I said, "My body, my swat."

Very soberly, I apologized, and I just laughed and said, "That's okay. That's one down and a zillion more to go."

We both laughed a little, and I checked out and went to my car.

As I was driving home I happen to think of a verse in the Old Testament. "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes" (Song of Solomon 2:15).

That got me thinking of those little bugs that were creating such havoc in my life. It's the little things that you don't think of at the time that do all the damage. My focus usually is on the "big" things in my life, which allows those "little" things to do most of the damage.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Are environmental advocates happy with the Biden administration so far? -- B.C., Philadelphia, PA

Overall, environmental advocates are much happier with Joe Biden in the White House than Donald Trump, given his administration's interest in pursuing sustainability and climate goals. Indeed, on Day One Biden wasted no time making good on several environmentally related campaign promises. He signed executive orders rejoining the Paris climate accord (Trump had pulled us out in 2017), revoking the permit for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline (green-lighted by Trump in 2017), and halting construction of Trump's infamous border wall that among other things restricted the habitat range of wildlife already struggling to hang on in the drought-stricken, warming-addled Southwest.

While Biden couldn't get everything done in a day, his administration has kept its eye on the conservation ball ever since. In early September, Biden's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it was restoring protections for Alaska's Bristol Bay. The Trump administration had blocked those protections in a shortsighted effort to pave the way for construction of a massive gold mine threatening the world's largest sockeye salmon run as well as ecosystems for hundreds of miles around. The Biden administration has also proposed cancelling controversial Trump-era petroleum drilling leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but it's unclear whether this provision will remain in the larger Congressional budget reconciliation bill it's currently tied to given potential Republican backlash.

Another big move lauded by greens just weeks ago was Biden's executive order restoring Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments in Utah to their original boundaries; Trump had reduced them by 80 and 50 percent respectively. Eco-advocates also cheered Biden's move to restore federal rules designed to guide environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects that the Trump administration had scaled back in order to "fast-track" construction permit approvals. Additionally, Biden has pledged to overturn Trump-era rollbacks of endangered species protections so as to preserve the ability of the federal government to designate lands as critical wildlife habitat regardless of their development potential.

While many are pleased with Biden's actions so far, others worry they are too little too late. Activists from the grassroots Build Back Fossil Free campaign, which includes Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Center for Biological Diversity, among others, decry the Biden White House for not already using executive orders to stop fossil fuel project approvals and declare a climate emergency. According to a recent analysis by the research and advocacy organization Oil Change International, Biden could stop at least 24 major fossil fuel development projects with the stroke of a pen (including the controversial Line 3 and Dakota Access pipelines) and save upwards of 1.6 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of taking all the cars and trucks off U.S. roads for a year.

"We are out of time for the president to take his executive powers off the shelf," says Jean Su, energy justice director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "Anything less is leaving a scorched future for people and our planet."



Environmentalists sure are glad Joe Biden is in the White House now, although some wish he would go further on sustainability initiatives. Credit: Prachatai, FlickrCC

South Dakota Democratic Party Celebrates House Passage of The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal

The United States House of Representatives passed President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, bringing the country another step closer to a once-in-a-generation investment in our infrastructure.

In response, South Dakota Democratic Party Chair Randy Seiler released the following statement:

"As he promised, President Biden worked across the aisle to forge consensus and deliver results. His Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is now one step closer to creating good-paying jobs, growing our economy, and making much-needed improvements to critical infrastructure like our nation's roads and highways, bridges and transit; drinking water systems; and broadband. Thanks to President Biden and Democrats, our country is primed to position American workers, farmers, and businesses to compete and win in the 21st century."

Based on funding formula alone, South Dakota would expect to receive:

\$1.9 billion to improve highways and \$225 million for bridge replacement and repairs over five years.

\$124 million over five years to improve public transportation options across the state.

\$29 million over five years to support the expansion of an electric vehicle (EV) charging network in the state. South Dakota will also have the opportunity to apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.

A minimum of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including providing access to the at least 20,700 South Dakotans who currently lack it. 205,000 or 24% of people in South Dakota will also be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access.

\$19.6 million over five years to protect against wildfires.

\$11.7 million to protect against cyberattacks.

\$355 million over five years to improve water infrastructure across South Dakota and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.

\$82 million over five years to improve South Dakota's airports.

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2021 GHS Girls Soccer Awards Photos Courtesy Tricia Keith



**Defensive MVP
Kennedy Hansen**



**"Miss Hustle"
Trista Keith
Allyssa Locke**

Groton Daily Independent

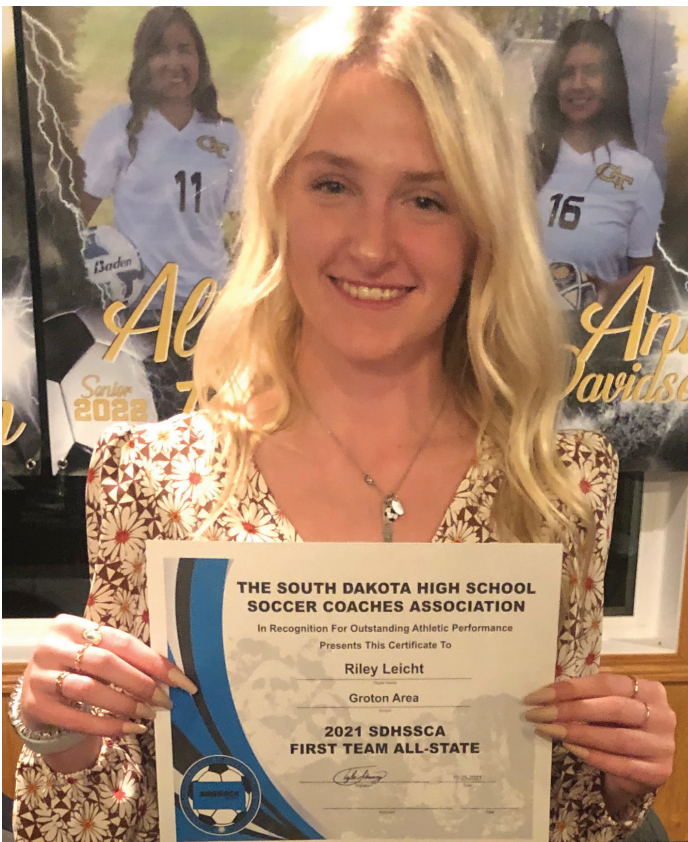
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"Heart and Soul" Award
Ani Davidson
Madeline Flihs



Offensive MVP
Riley Leicht



First Team All-State
Riley Leicht

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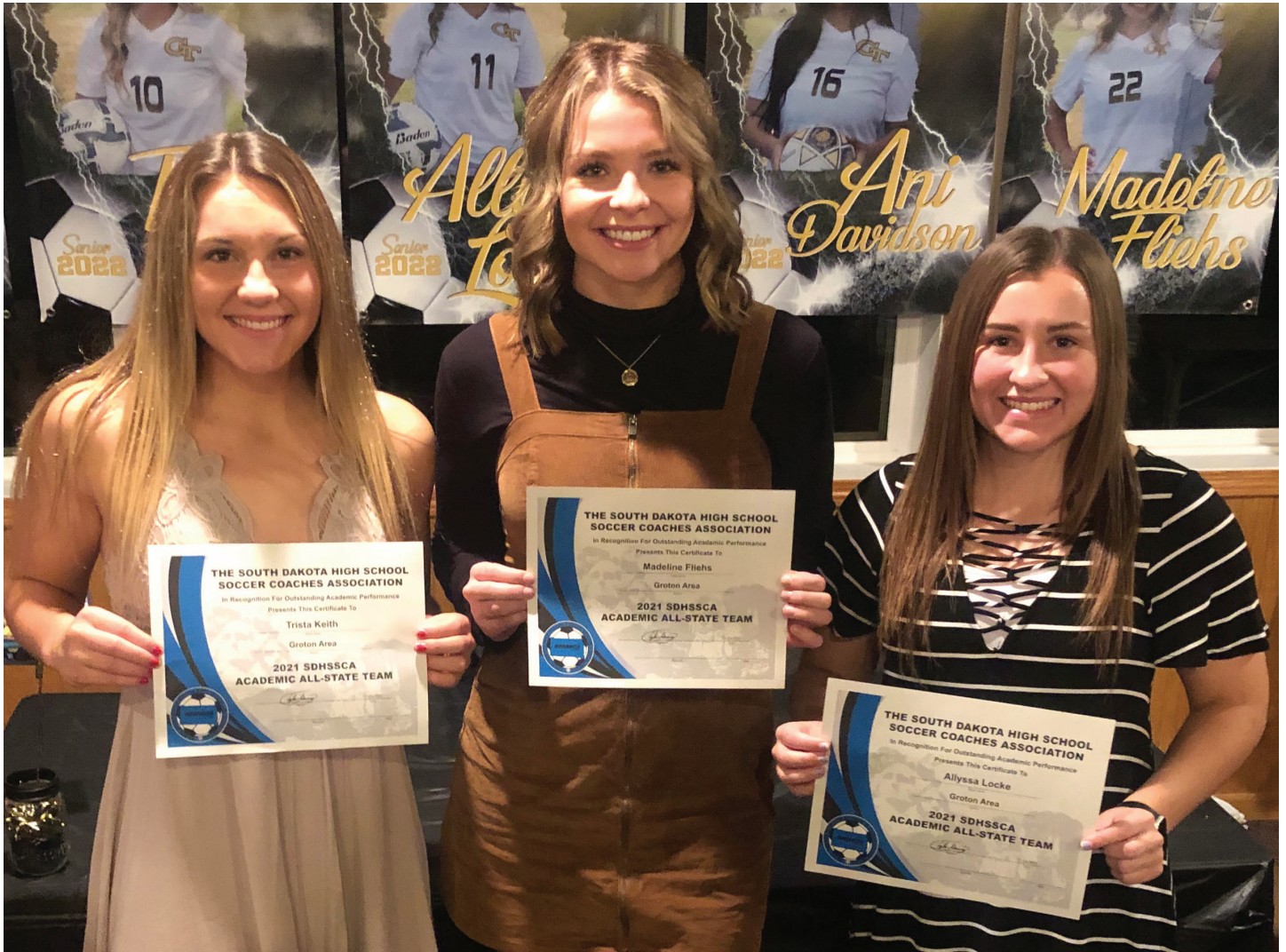
**Rookie of the Year
McKenna Tietz**



**"Miss Universal"
Mia Crank**

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**Academic All-State
Trista Keith
Madeline Flihs
Allyssa Locke**



Senior Award Winners

Trista Keith, Riley Leicht, Ani Davidson, Madeline Flihs and Allyssa Locke

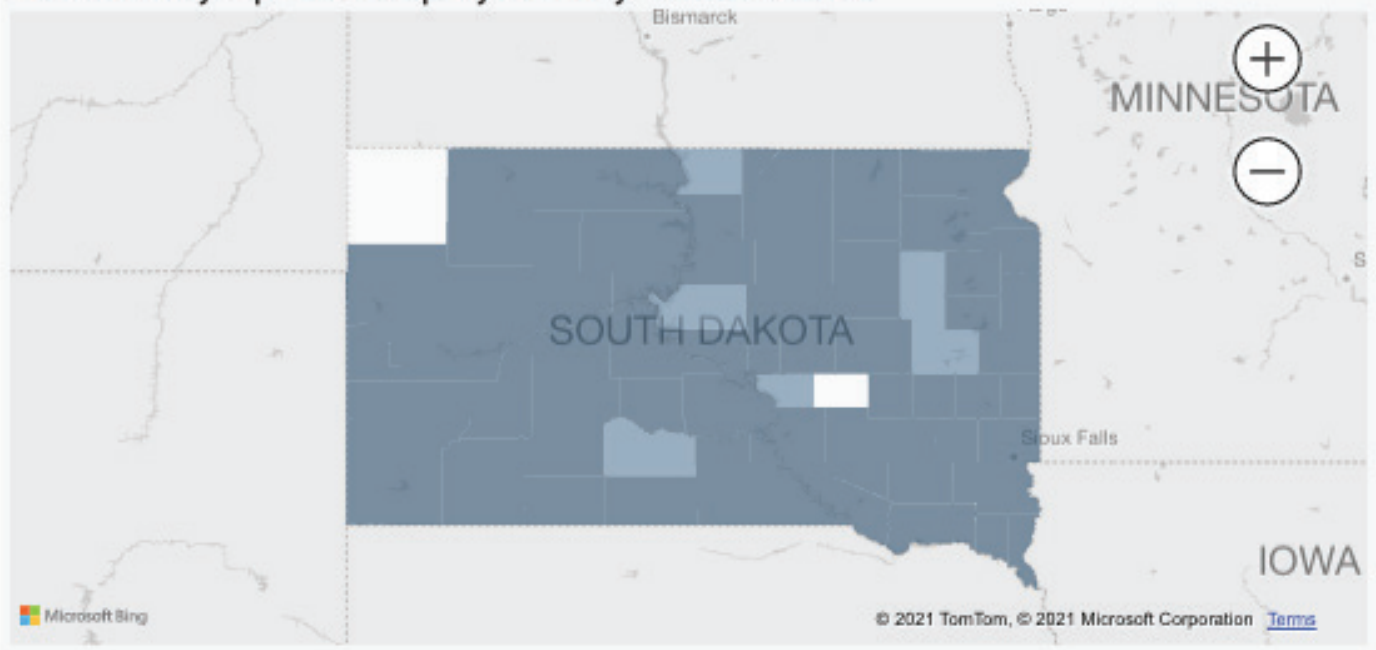
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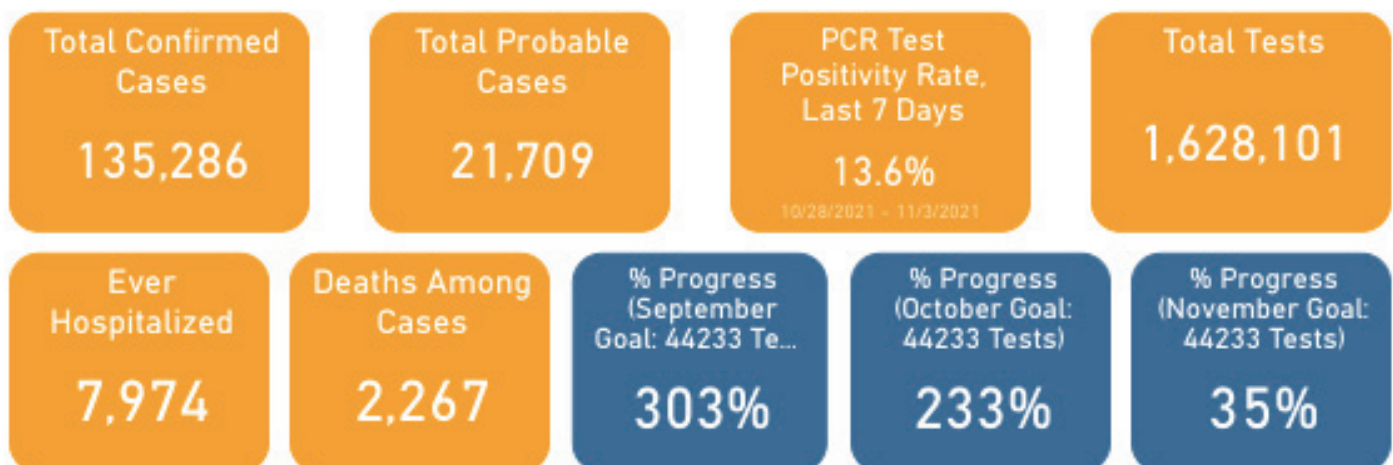
South Dakota COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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



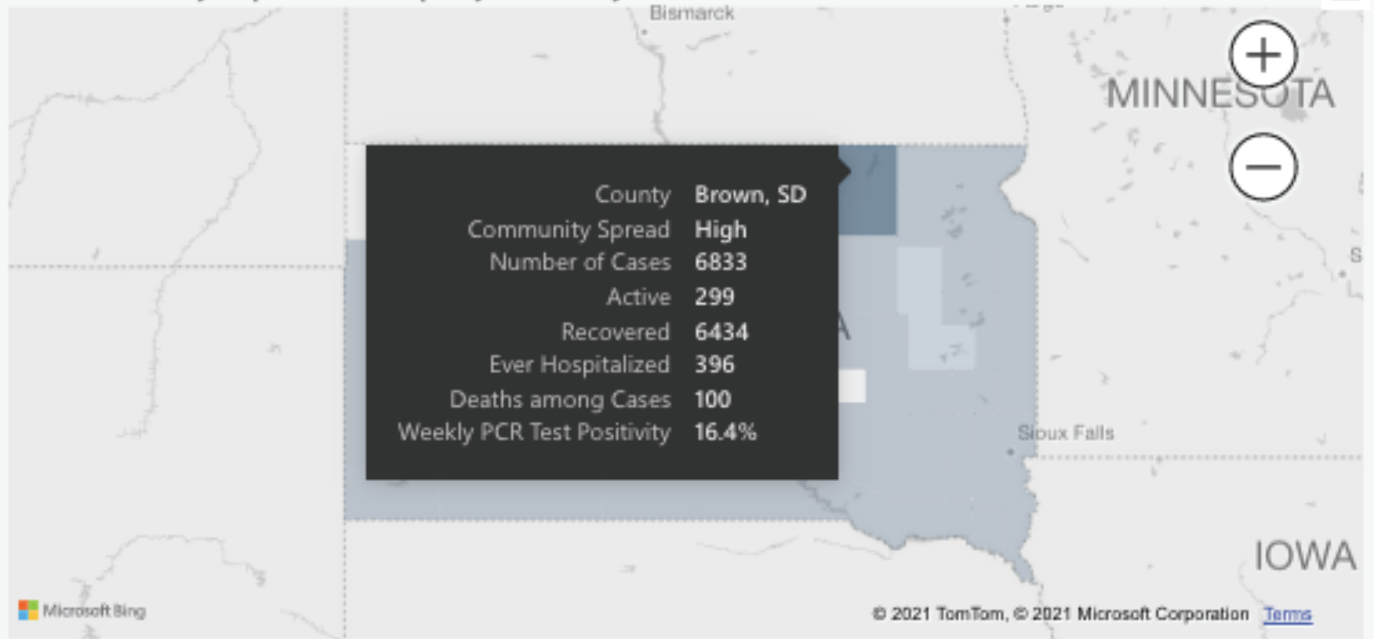
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Brown County COVID-19 Report

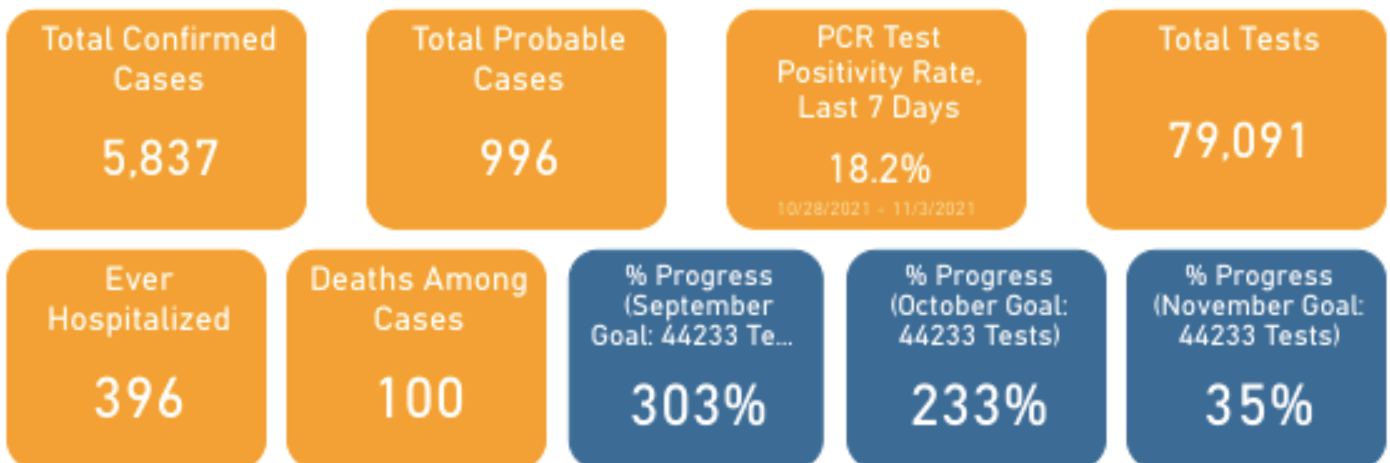


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Low ● Moderate ● Substantial ● High

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



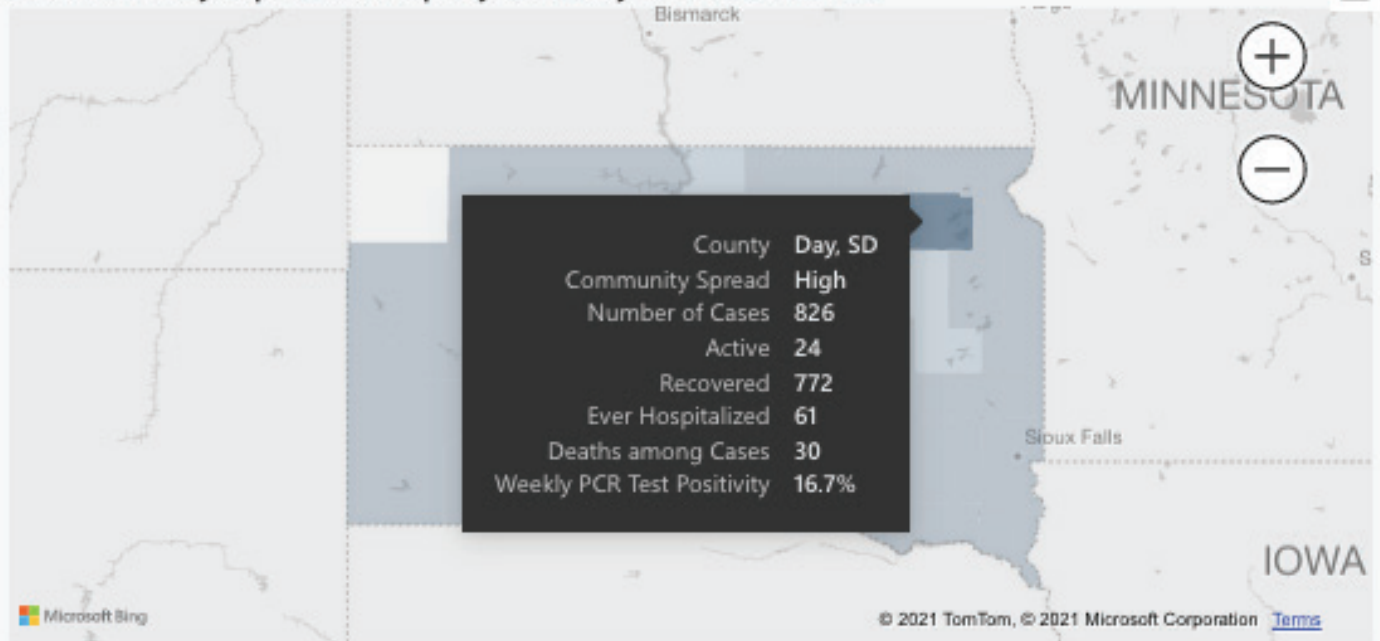
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Day County COVID-19 Report

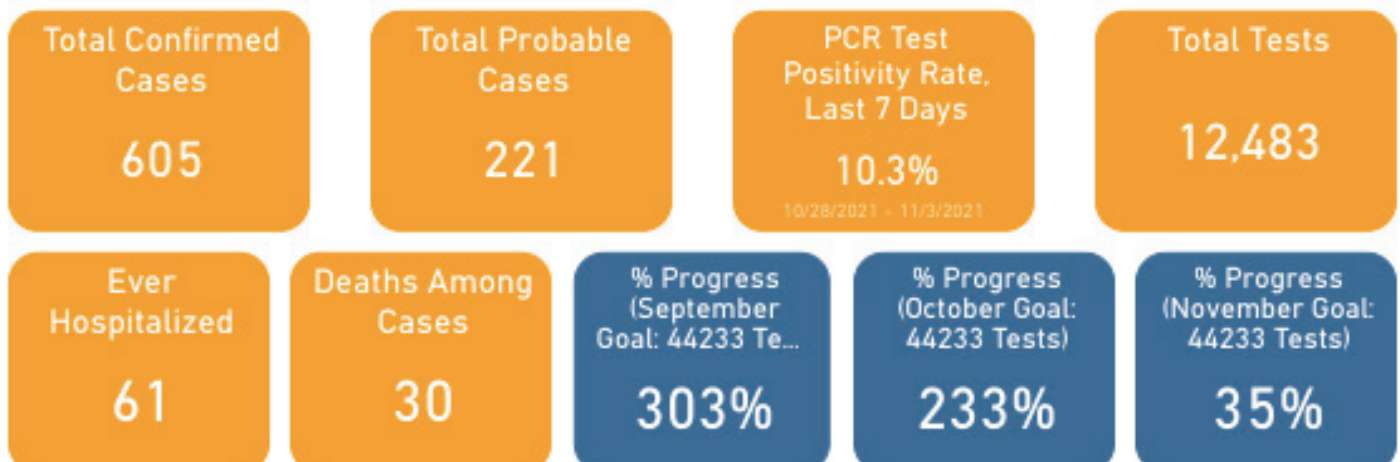


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread: Low Moderate Substantial High

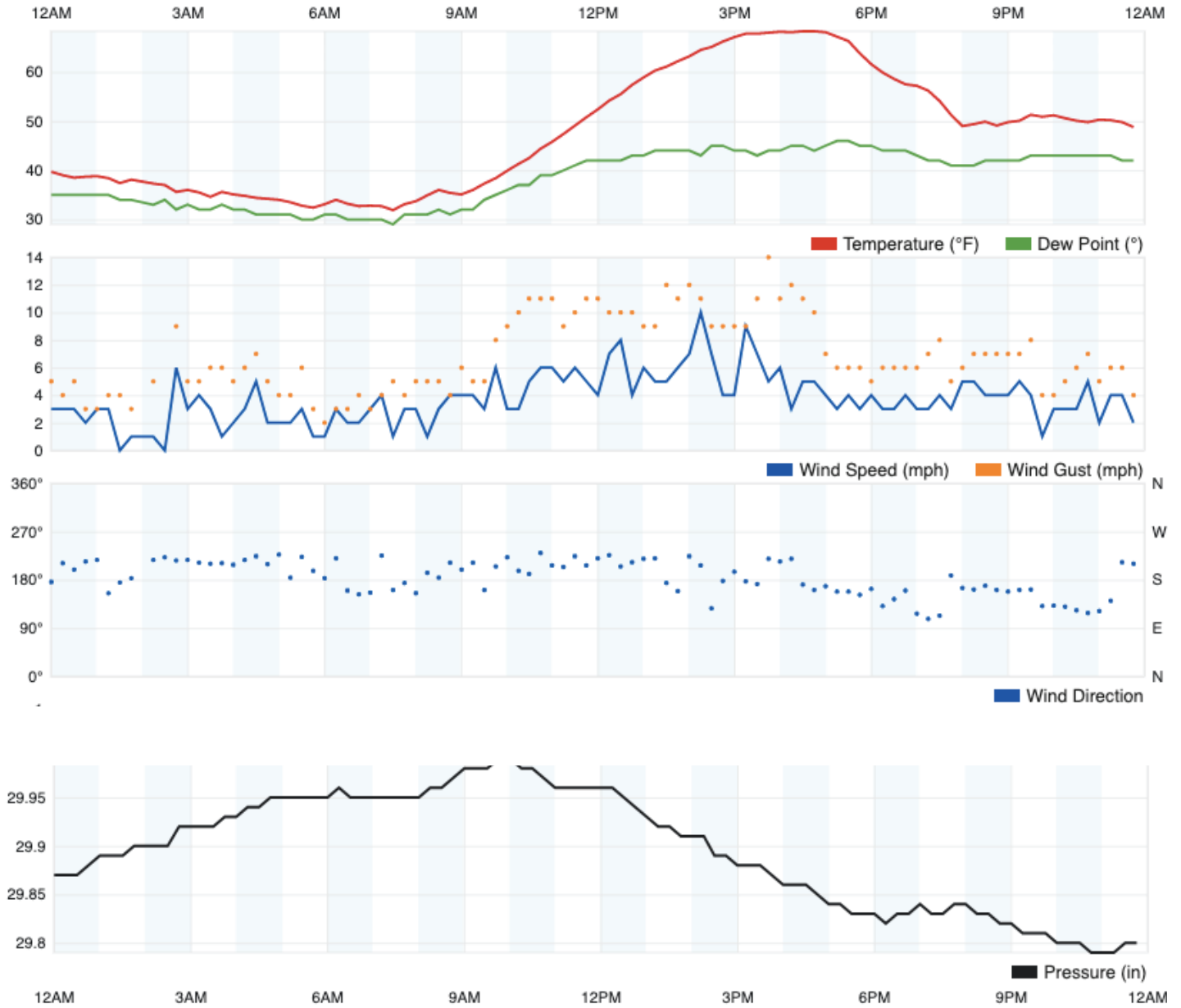
Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.



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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs




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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance Rain 20%	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 65 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 52 °F



*One More Warm Day
Turning Cooler on Monday*

Today

60-70°
Cooler Temperatures Moving
into North Central SD

Monday

45 to 50°
Light Rain Possible in
Central and North Central SD

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 11/7/2021 4:32 AM Central

One more warm day is expected across the area, with highs mainly in the 60s. A weak system crossing the region late tonight and through Monday will bring cooler temperatures and a chance for light rain in central and north-central South Dakota. The rain may be mixed with light snow early Monday morning.




SNOWFALL CLIMATOLOGY

Snowfall is considered to be “measurable” if at least a tenth of an inch accumulates. Here’s some perspective on when this first happens. As mild as this fall has been, we’ve fallen a bit behind schedule. However, measurable snow is possible Wed PM-Fri across northeastern SD & west central MN.



	 Earliest first 0.1" or greater snowfall	 Average first 0.1" or greater snowfall	 Latest first 0.1" or greater snowfall
Aberdeen	9/21/1995	Oct 29 th	1/9/1963
Watertown	9/21/1995	Nov 2 nd	12/25/2004
Pierre	10/1/1999	Nov 6 th	1/4/2005
Mobridge	10/1/1999	Nov 4 th	12/30/1987
Sisseton	9/26/1942	Nov 6 th	12/22/2006
Kennebec	9/24/1912	Nov 8 th	1/4/2005
Timber Lake	9/15/1912	Nov 3 rd	12/29/2006
Wheaton	10/4/2006	Nov 8 th	12/19/1990

Averages based on 1990-2020 data

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD   

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Today in Weather History

November 7th, 1986: A major winter storm dumped 10 to 25 inches of snow over most of North Dakota. The snow combined with winds of 30 to 50 mph and gusts to 70 mph, creating blizzard conditions. Snow began over southern and eastern North Dakota on the morning of the 7th, and by late afternoon, had spread over the entire state. The snowfall was heavy at times and continued through the night of the 7th. In the southeast quarter, the snow alternated with rain, freezing rain, and sleet. By daybreak on the 8th, snow and blowing snow was occurring statewide. By late morning, the storm had intensified into a blizzard over almost all of North Dakota. The blizzard ended over extreme western North Dakota by late afternoon of the 8th and over the rest of the state that night. The most substantial snowfall occurred over south-central and east-central North Dakota. The highest wind gusts of the storm happened in the north-central and northeast sections of the state. Several wind gusts to 58 mph were recorded at Grand Forks, and a gust to 55 mph occurred at the Minot Air Force Base. Wind chills dipped to 40 below over some parts of the state. The storm happened on the opening day of deer hunting season and forced many hunters to cancel their trips.

November 7th, 2000: A storm system brought 4 to 10 inches of snow and northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph, with higher gusts to create blizzard conditions to South Dakota. Numerous schools and other events were canceled due to the blizzard conditions. In addition, several accidents occurred due to the slick roads and low visibilities. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 9.5 inches in Selby; 8 inches in Glenham and 12SSW of Harrold; 7.3 inches near Onaka; 7 inches at Faulkton; and 6 inches in Miller.

1940: The Tacoma Narrows Bridge opened on July 1st, 1940, spanned the Puget Sound from Gig Harbor to Tacoma. At the time of the opening, the bridge was the third-longest suspension bridge in the world, covering nearly 6,000 feet. Before the bridge opened, high winds would cause the bridge to move vertically, giving the nickname Galloping Gertie. On this day in 1940, winds of 40 mph caused the bridge to collapse because of the physical phenomenon known as aeroelastic flutter.

1951: At 7 AM, a blinding flash, a massive ball of fire, and a terrific roar occurred over parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, caused by a disintegrating meteor. Windows were broken in and near Hinton, Oklahoma, by the concussion.

1957: A historic tornado outbreak impacted southeast Texas and southwestern Louisiana. Ten people were killed.

1986 - An early season blizzard struck the Northern Plains Region. North Dakota took the brunt of the storm with wind gusts to 70 mph, and snowfall totals ranged up to 25 inches at Devils Lake. (Storm Data)

1987 - Heavy snow fell across parts of eastern New York State overnight, with twelve inches reported at the town of Piseco, located in the Mohawk Valley. A storm in the southwestern U.S. left nine inches of snow at the Winter Park ski resort in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires reduced visibilities to less than a mile at some locations from North Carolina to Ohio and Pennsylvania. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather continued across the state of Texas. Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco and Del Rio with readings of 92 degrees. McAllen was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 96 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2001: Typhoon Lingling struck the southern Philippines, killing 171 people with 118 missing in Camiguin. The typhoon then struck Vietnam 5 days later, killing an additional 18 people.

2011: A powerful storm system moving through the southern Great Plains produced tornadoes, large hail, damaging winds, and flooding across parts of Oklahoma and western north Texas on November 7-8, 2011. The system initially produced numerous thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, and flash flooding over portions of south-central Oklahoma during the late evening of November 6th and early morning of November 7th. Rainfall totals of 5-9 inches were reported across Jefferson, Carter, and Murray counties.

2012: A Nor'Easter brought several inches of snow to the Northeast. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 6 inches were typical with locally higher amounts.

2013: Super Typhoon Haiyan made history as one of the largest and strongest typhoons ever recorded.

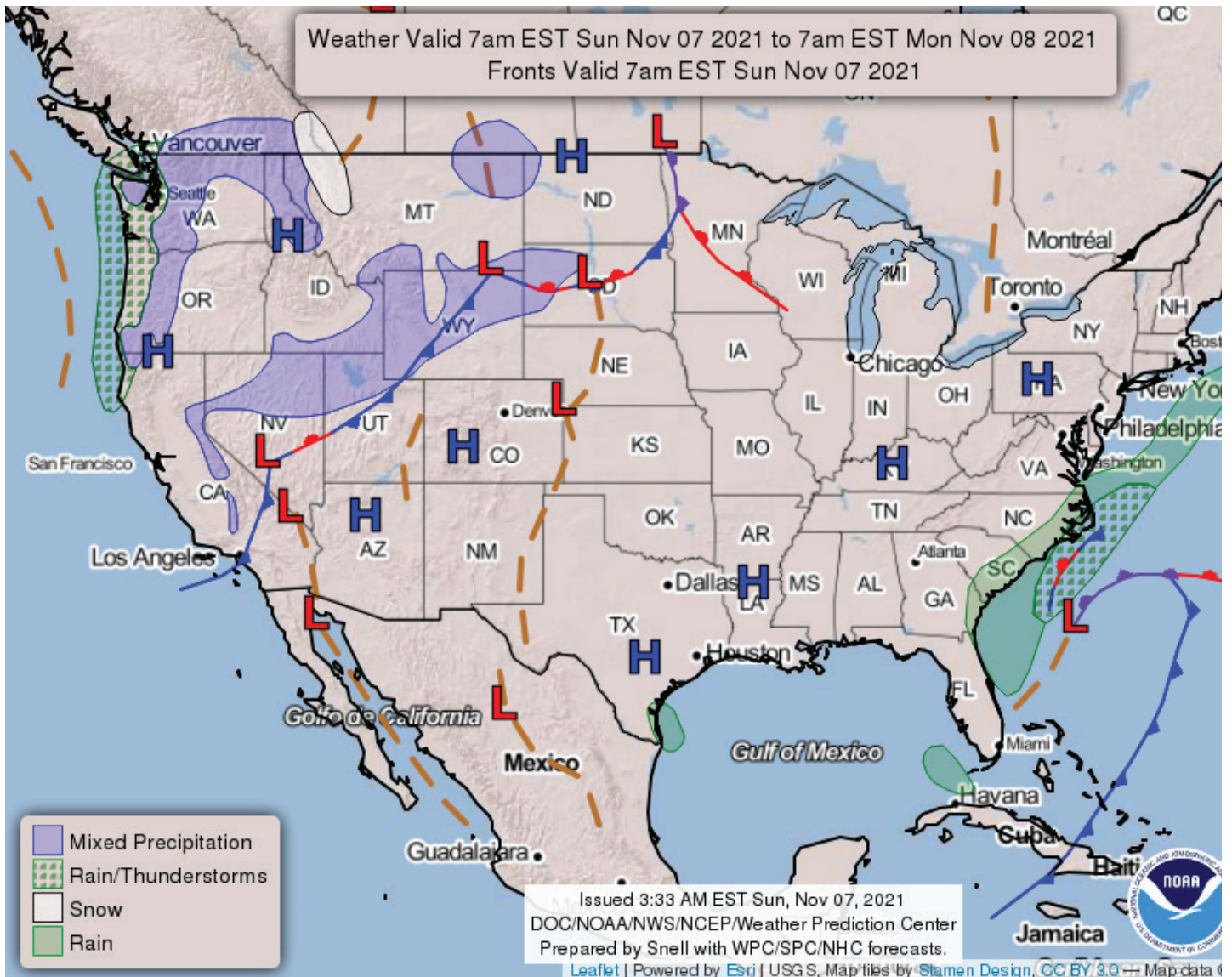
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 68.3 °F at 4:45 PM
Low Temp: 31.9 °F at 7:30 AM
Wind: 14 mph at 3:45 PM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 75° in 1909
Record Low: -9° in 1991
Average High: 47°F
Average Low: 23°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.23
Precip to date in Nov.: 4.30
Average Precip to date: 20.70
Precip Year to Date: 19.72
Sunset Tonight: 5:12:53 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20:42 AM



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COWS, CUDS, AND MEDITATION

Have you ever watched a cow, lying beneath a tree, quietly looking through its leaves at the puffy clouds that are passing across the soft blue sky? They seem to be concentrating on something far beyond themselves, yet important to them. Their stillness reflects a sense of peace and confidence that "all is well in my world and there's nothing for me to worry about." All the while they are chewing on "cuds" - round balls of grass that they bring up from their stomachs and chew some 30,000 times each day to get all of the nourishment out of them.

Could that not be a picture of meditation for the Christian to adopt? A time when we quietly "chew" on a piece of Scripture that God brings to our minds from His Word that we have hidden in our hearts.

Imagine how our lives would be different if we sat quietly and brought a verse of Scripture from His Word into our minds and then looked to Him to give us all the nourishment that it contains. Imagine the changes that would take place in our lives if we would invest even a small amount of time "chewing" on a verse or two from His Word each day asking Him to "nourish our lives" with its meaning. Imagine the peace and comfort that could be ours if we simply asked His Spirit to use His Word to calm our fears, lift our depression, eliminate our doubts, change our attitudes, and convict us of our sins.

If we can imagine it, we can do it! God troubles our hearts and minds to get our attention. Then we must submit to His Spirit to work in us as we meditate on Him.

Prayer: Lord, speak to our hearts and change our lives as we willingly ask Your Spirit to guide and guard us. Please do in us what we cannot do in ourselves. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: May all my thoughts be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Psalm 104:34

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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)
11/11/2021 Veteran's Day Program at the GHS Arena
11/21/2021 Groton Area Snow Queen Contest
11/25/2021 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
12/04/2021 Olive Grove Tour of Homes
12/11/2021 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-Noon

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

13-15-18-20-35

(thirteen, fifteen, eighteen, twenty, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$195,000

Lotto America

06-09-16-32-39, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 3

(six, nine, sixteen, thirty-two, thirty-nine; Star Ball: two; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.88 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

08-30-48-57-64, Powerball: 9, Power Play: 2

(eight, thirty, forty-eight, fifty-seven, sixty-four; Powerball: nine; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$146 million

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP FOOTBALL=

All-Nations Class 9A=

Conference Championship=

Winnebago, Neb. 62, Todd County 12

All-Nations Class 9B=

Conference Championship=

Tiospa Zina Tribal 40, McLaughlin 18

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

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

Strong helps South Dakota St. upset North Dakota St. 27-19

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Pierre Strong Jr. had two touchdown runs and the running back threw for another score as South Dakota State knocked off previously unbeaten and second-ranked North Dakota State 27-19 on Saturday.

It was the second win in a row for the 12th-ranked Jackrabbits (7-2, 4-2 Missouri Valley Football Conference) against rival North Dakota State (8-1, 5-1). South Dakota State snapped the Bison's 32-game home winning streak with a 27-17 victory in April.

Strong broke loose with a 75-yard touchdown run on the second play following the opening kickoff. He finished with 22 carries for 152 yards, and surpassed the 1,000-yard mark in a season for the third time in his career.

Smith added a 1-yard TD run late in the first quarter and then tossed an 11-yard pass to a wide-open Tucker Kraft in the end zone as the Jackrabbits built a 24-7 halftime lead.

Cam Miller's 14-yard touchdown pass to RaJa Nelson late in the third quarter pulled North Dakota State to

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27-14. Miller then led an 88-yard drive on the next series but threw an incomplete pass on fourth-and-goal. The Bison later added a safety, and Jake Reinholz's 33-yard field goal with 1:09 remaining capped the scoring.

Chris Oladokun was 13-of-22 passing for 157 yards for the Jackrabbits. Jaxon Janke had six receptions for 118 yards.

Miller completed 15 of 22 passes for 218 yards with two touchdown passes and one interception. He also led the Bison on the ground with 59 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>

Camp, Bell connect to send S. Dakota past W. Illinois 42-21

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Carson Camp threw a pair of touchdowns to Carter Bell and South Dakota used the last 10 minutes of the second quarter to break away from Western Illinois for a 42-21 win on Saturday.

Down 14-7, Camp threw a 60-yard touchdown to Bell with 10:19 before intermission to make it even. After forcing the Leathernecks to punt, the Coyotes (6-3, 4-2 Missouri Valley Football Conference) went on a 10-play, 78-yard drive that ended when Michael Mansaray ran it in from the 5-yard line with 3:25 before the break.

Then, after Western Illinois' (2-8, 2-5) three-and-out, Camp ran it from the 1 with seven seconds until half to end an eight-play, 76-yard drive.

Camp threw for 246 yards and Bell caught five passes for 182 yards. Nate Thomas had 11 carries for 110 yards rushing.

Connor Sampson threw for 362 yards with two scores and two interceptions for Western Illinois.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25.
Sign up for the AP's college football newsletter: <https://apnews.com/cfbtop25>

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-9, 26-24, 25-17

Sioux Falls Washington def. Rapid City Central, 25-18, 25-10, 25-16

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

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

Moose on the loose herded from South Dakota State campus

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A moose on the loose got onto the South Dakota State University football field in Brookings before leaving town.

Campus police said the moose left campus around 3:30 p.m. Friday and was headed west. They said the bull moose appeared to be a year or two old.

Emmett Keyser, the regional supervisor for the Game Fish and Parks office, told KELO-TV that his agency helped the campus police and other law enforcement with herding the moose out of town.

"We did try to move him north," Keyser said.

But, in apparent impersonation of a running back, "He ran back through our line and into the stadium," Keyser said.

The moose hung around campus for a time until officials were able to herd him west out of town.

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"The thing is, moose are so unpredictable," Keyser said. "You don't want anyone getting hurt or the animal getting hurt."

The sighting followed one a few days earlier of a moose walking down U.S. Highway 75 in Luverne, Minnesota, around 50 miles (80 kilometers) away. It wasn't clear if it was the same moose.

While moose are rare in the area, they do appear from time to time.

EXPLAINER: How US rules on international travel are changing

By TALİ ARBEL Associated Press

More than a year and a half after COVID-19 concerns prompted the U.S. to close its borders to international travelers from countries including Brazil, China, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and much of Europe, restrictions are shifting to focus on vaccine status.

Beginning Monday, bans on travel from specific countries are over. The U.S. will allow in international travelers, but they must be vaccinated — with a few exceptions.

The U.S. is also reopening the land borders with Canada and Mexico for vaccinated people. Most trips from Canada and Mexico to the U.S. are by land rather than air.

Here are some questions and answers about the changes:

WHY ARE THESE CHANGES HAPPENING?

The goal is to restore more normal travel while limiting the spread of COVID-19, the government says. The travel industry and European allies have pushed for an end to country-specific bans. Americans have been allowed to fly to Europe for months, and Europeans have been pushing the U.S. to change its policies.

In 2019, before the pandemic, about one-fifth of the roughly 79 million visitors to the U.S. came from Europe.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS?

All adult foreign nationals traveling to the U.S. must be fully vaccinated before boarding their flight. Like before, travelers will still have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of departure to the U.S.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE VACCINATED?

Yes, with some exceptions. Children under 18 don't need to be vaccinated but they do need to take a COVID test. Kids 2 and younger are exempt from testing requirements.

WHAT ABOUT ADULTS WHO AREN'T VACCINATED?

Since half the world remains unvaccinated, and vaccine distribution has been so skewed to rich countries, the Biden administration is leaving a loophole for people who live in countries where vaccines are scarce. That list includes about 50 countries where fewer than 10% of people have been vaccinated. Travelers from those countries will need permission from the U.S. government to come, and it can't be just for tourism or business travel.

The U.S. government says it will permit unvaccinated international visitors to enter the country if there is a humanitarian or emergency reason, such as an emergency medical evacuation. Those exceptions will be applied "extremely narrowly" and require approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There could also be a medical exception, with documentation from a doctor.

WHAT WILL AMERICANS HAVE TO DO?

Americans who are unvaccinated have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within one day of international travel. If you're vaccinated, you need to take a test within three days of your departure, for both Americans and citizens of other countries. This does not apply to flights within the U.S.

WHO IS GOING TO ENFORCE THE VACCINE RULES?

That's up to airlines. They will have to verify vaccine records and match them against ID, and if they don't, they could face fines of up to nearly \$35,000 per violation. Airlines will also collect information about passengers for contact tracing efforts. There will be CDC workers spot-checking travelers for compliance in the U.S.

WHICH VACCINES WILL LET YOU IN?

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Most but not all of them. Any COVID-19 vaccine approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization, which include the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines used in the U.S. as well as most used overseas, such as AstraZeneca and China's Sinovac. Not currently allowed is Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, which is authorized in 70 countries. The WHO is reviewing Sputnik but hasn't approved it.

WHAT IF YOU DRIVE IN FROM MEXICO OR CANADA, OR TAKE A FERRY?

The land borders have only been open for "essential" travel. Now, anyone can come, if they're vaccinated against COVID. Be prepared to show proof of the shot to Customs and Border Protection agents. Children are exempt from the requirement.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT TRAVEL?

While the administration is characterizing this as a reopening, some people who were technically allowed to fly to the U.S. earlier in the pandemic are now blocked because of their vaccination status. Other roadblocks to normal travel resuming are big delays in issuing U.S. visas, which people in most countries need to visit the U.S. for business and tourism, and restrictions in other countries that make travel difficult.

Even though people coming from China will now be allowed into the U.S., for example, not many are expected to travel because of restrictions at home. Before the pandemic, Chinese tourists were a lucrative market for the U.S. travel industry.

Industry experts do expect a big influx in people flying from Europe, and hope that a broader recovery in travel follows as more people globally get vaccinated, U.S. visa processing speeds up, other countries lift their own restrictions and people feel less scared about getting COVID because of travel.

Iraqi PM survives assassination attempt, ramping up tensions

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Troops deployed around Baghdad on Sunday following the failed assassination attempt with armed drones that targeted the residence of Iraq's prime minister. The attack significantly ramped up tensions sparked by the refusal of Iran-backed militias to accept last month's parliamentary election results.

Seven of Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's security guards were wounded in the attack by at least two armed drones in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone area, according to two Iraqi officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give official statements.

Al-Kadhimi was unharmed. He later appeared on Iraqi television, seated behind a desk in a white shirt, looking calm and composed. His left hand appeared to be wrapped in a bandage. An aide confirmed a light cut.

"Cowardly rocket and drone attacks don't build homelands and don't build a future," he said. Later on Sunday, he received Iraqi President Barham Salih and headed a government security meeting.

Residents of Baghdad heard the sound of an explosion followed by heavy gunfire from the direction of the Green Zone, which houses foreign embassies and government offices. Handout photos showed the damage in al-Kadhimi's residence, including smashed windows and doors blown off their hinges.

There was no claim for the attack, but suspicion immediately fell on Iran-backed militias who had been publicly attacking al-Kadhimi and issuing threats. It came amid a stand-off between security forces and the pro-Iran Shiite militias whose supporters have been camped outside the Green Zone for nearly a month after they rejected the results of Iraq's parliamentary elections, in which they lost around two-thirds of their seats.

"The assassination attempt is a dramatic escalation, crossing a line in unprecedented fashion that may have violent reverberations," wrote Ranj Alaaldin, a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, in a post on Twitter.

Protests turned deadly Friday when the demonstrators tried to enter the Green Zone. Security forces used tear gas and live ammunition. There was an exchange of fire in which one protester affiliated with the militias was killed. Dozens of security forces were injured. Al-Khadimi ordered an investigation to determine what sparked the clashes and who violated orders not to open fire.

Some of the leaders of the most powerful militia factions loyal to Iran openly blamed al-Kadhimi for

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Friday's clashes and the protester's death.

"The blood of martyrs is to hold you accountable," said Qais al-Khazali, leader of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia, addressing al-Kadhimi at a funeral held for the protester Saturday. "The protesters only had one demand against fraud in elections. Responding like this (with live fire) means you are the first responsible for this fraud."

The funeral was attended by leaders of the mostly Shiite Iran-backed factions who together are known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, or Hashd al-Shaabi in Arabic.

Al-Khazali, in a statement Sunday, suggested the militias were being framed, calling for an investigation and for the punishment of the perpetrators.

Other PMF leaders also condemned the attack, blaming it on "third parties" seeking to incite strife.

Influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who won the largest number of parliament seats in the Oct. 10 elections, denounced the "terrorist attack" that seeks to return Iraq to the lawlessness and chaos of the past. While al-Sadr maintains good relations with Iran, he publicly opposes external interference in Iraq's affairs.

Al-Kadhimi, 54, was Iraq's former intelligence chief before becoming prime minister in May last year. He is considered by the militias to be close to the U.S., and has tried to balance between Iraq's alliances with both the U.S. and Iran. Prior to the elections, he hosted several rounds of talks between regional foes Iran and Saudi Arabia in Baghdad in a bid to ease regional tensions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh in a briefing Sunday condemned the assassination attempt on al-Khadimi and indirectly blamed the U.S. He said to be aware of "the conspiracies that target the security and progress of Iraq," without elaborating.

Khatibzadeh said such incidents "are in the interests of those parties that have invaded the stability, security, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq over the past 18 years."

The U.S. strongly denounced the attack.

"This apparent act of terrorism, which we strongly condemn, was directed at the heart of the Iraqi state," said State Department spokesperson Ned Price.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi also condemned the assassination attempt. Writing on Facebook, he called on all sides in Iraq to "calm down, renounce violence and join forces to preserve the country's stability."

Saudi Arabia issued a statement of support for stability in Iraq and said it strongly condemned the "cowardly terrorist attack that targeted Iraq's prime minister."

The United States, the U.N. Security Council and others have praised the Oct. 10 election, which was mostly violence-free and without major technical glitches.

But following the vote, militia supporters pitched tents near the Green Zone, rejecting the election results and threatening violence unless their demands for a recount were met.

The unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud have cast a shadow over the vote. The standoff with the militia supporters has also increased tensions among rival Shiite factions that could spill into violence and threaten Iraq's newfound relative stability.

The election was held months ahead of schedule in response to mass protests in late 2019, which saw tens of thousands in Baghdad and predominantly Shiite southern provinces rally against endemic corruption, poor services and unemployment. They also protested against the heavy-handed interference of neighboring Iran in Iraq's affairs through Iran-backed militias.

The militias lost some popularity since the 2018 vote, when they made big election gains. Many hold them responsible for suppressing the 2019 protests, and for challenging the state's authority.

El-Sissi; French President Emmanuel Macron; Jordan's King Abdullah and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati were among leaders who called al-Kadhimi on Sunday.

Associated Press writers Zeina Karam in Vienna, Sarah El Deeb in Beirut, Jon Gambrell and Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed.

Palestinians, Israel spar over US mission in Jerusalem

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The Palestinians on Sunday slammed Israel for rejecting the promised reopening of the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem, a move that would restore Washington's main diplomatic mission for the Palestinians in the contested city.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said late Saturday there was no room in Jerusalem for another American mission.

The Trump administration shuttered the U.S. Jerusalem consulate, an office that for years served as the de facto embassy to the Palestinians. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has pledged to reopen it, a move that Israel says would challenge its sovereignty over the city. The reopening could help mend U.S. ties with the Palestinians ruptured under Trump.

In a statement, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it views the reopening of the consulate as part of the international community's commitments to ending Israel's decades-long occupation of territories the Palestinians seek for their future state.

"East Jerusalem is an inseparable part of the occupied Palestinian territory and is the capital of the state of Palestine. Israel, as the occupying power, does not have the right to veto the U.S. administration's decision," the statement said.

Asked about the consulate at a press conference, Bennett repeated Israel's position on Jerusalem.

"There's no room for another American consulate in Jerusalem," he said. "Jerusalem is the capital of one state and that's the state of Israel." Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid suggested the consulate could instead be opened in the Palestinian administrative center in Ramallah, West Bank. The Palestinians reject the idea because it would undermine their claims to Jerusalem.

Israel views Jerusalem as its eternal, undivided capital. The Palestinians seek the eastern part of the city, which Israel occupied in 1967 and later annexed, as capital of their hoped-for state.

The consulate is emerging as another test between Bennett's government and the Biden administration, which has moved to restore traditional U.S. foreign policy toward Israel and the Palestinians after the Trump White House largely sided with Israel on issues related to the conflict.

Trump had downgraded the consulate's operations and placed them under his ambassador to Israel when he moved the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city in 2018. The embassy move infuriated the Palestinians and led them to sever most ties with the Trump administration.

Blinken has not provided a firm date for the reopening and U.S. officials have implied that Israeli resistance to the move could act as a hindrance.

Kerry rallies global climate push as uncertainty grows in US

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — John Kerry is everywhere and on the move at a fateful U.N. climate summit.

President Joe Biden's envoy at the talks in Glasgow, Kerry steams from side talks with U.S. rivals China and Russia that painstakingly probe for common ground on climate to news conferences extolling progress. Kerry pops into project launches, rewarding CEOs and bankers for emissions-cutting efforts with high-level face time and praise. The lanky envoy smiles for a photo with Indigenous women from Brazil, their feather headdresses barely reaching his chin.

Toward the end of the U.N. climate summit's first of two weeks, Kerry's voice grew hoarse from his mission of rallying global climate efforts that are threatening to hit a wall at home.

"The alternative is you don't do anything, you don't say anything" on climate, Kerry told reporters at the summit. "You don't have any promises, you don't have any commitments. And you're sitting there, waiting for the deluge."

He was speaking of a climate fight growing more urgent, as global warming from the burning of fossil fuel intensifies, and more fraught, as the United States' own wildly swinging seesaw politics imperil Biden's

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climate efforts and again threaten global momentum on the matter.

With the summit underway, the U.S. House on Friday finally passed a stalled infrastructure bill that contains some important measures to cut U.S. emissions.

But Biden's lagging political support, and Republican upsets in off-year elections last week, are heightening uncertainty that the U.S. administration can deliver on some of Biden's biggest climate promises.

Kerry, President Barack Obama's secretary of state and a former senator, came back post-President Donald Trump to serve as Biden's climate envoy.

The job has entailed apologizing for the global disruption that Trump, who mocks the science behind climate change, wreaked when he pulled the United States out of the 2015 Paris climate accord, which Kerry helped to negotiate. Scientists say the ground lost during the Trump administration leaves this decade a last chance to keep the Earth from warming to more catastrophic levels.

Kerry's job now is part diplomat, part cheerleader. At the Glasgow climate conference, as in the months before, Kerry negotiates to nail down every possible bit of new climate effort from countries and businesses — then pushes for more. While the U.S. return to global climate negotiations has helped push allies to some deeper cuts on emissions, the world's other big polluters besides the United States — China, Russia, India and others — are short on emission promises, at best.

At 77, Kerry is waging only the latest of his campaigns in a decades-long personal battle to curb the fossil fuel emissions heating Earth.

Kerry "brings a deep knowledge of what's at stake," said Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International, and a veteran of climate talks. "He brings long-term relationships to these talks, and the spirit of collaboration." Yet, she adds, he "gets limited by what is happening at home."

If there's not "a credible U.S. plan to meet the targets and phase out fossil fuels, there's only so much, only so far, he can get here," Morgan said.

Conservative groups single out Kerry online, making social media memes out of his wealth — at Glasgow he introduced a speaker as his neighbor on Martha's Vineyard — and supposed love for jetting around the world.

Kerry's intentness on diplomacy to try to push and pull coal-loving China into faster emission cuts also brings him into public contrast with Biden and some of Biden's top officials, who have become vocally critical of China. China is currently the world's top climate polluter. The U.S. is No. 2 at the moment, and the world's worst carbon polluter over time.

Biden's parting words as he left the Glasgow summit this past week after joining more than 100 other world leaders here were that Chinese President Xi Jinping had made a "big mistake" in not attending.

"They've lost an ability to influence people around the world," Biden said.

Veteran observers of global climate talks speak favorably of Kerry's quieter work as climate envoy.

Thom Woodroffe, a researcher on U.S.-China climate diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said Biden's appointment of the former secretary of state made countries such as China "really sit up and take notice with just how significant ... how much importance the Biden administration was going to place on diplomacy and their climate action at home."

While Chinese leaders publicly scold and snub members of the Biden administration, China's own veteran climate diplomat, Xie Zhenha, told reporters at Glasgow he calculated he had talked to Kerry 23 times in Kerry's current position.

When a news site ran a caricature showing an exaggeratedly chinned Kerry with one hand on the shoulder of the equally exaggerated round-faced Xie, and the other hand cupping the Earth and its future, Kerry had the cartoon framed and presented it to Xie.

At the climate summit, Kerry's height makes him an easy spot among the thousands of climate advocates, government officials and reporters at the summit site, which sprawls for more than a half-mile (close to a kilometer). It's a mix of permanent and temporary structures along Glasgow's River Clyde that feels like an airport terminal flanked by a military forward-operating base.

Kerry appears patient and polite with the random advocates and reporters from around the world who

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approach him at the summit.

Before the summit, climate activists carrying out a hunger strike at the White House gates filmed another Biden administration official impatiently thumbing his phone when they approached him on the need for climate action.

Kerry, by contrast, went out and talked to the young climate strikers, telling them about his own environmental activism when he was young.

Kerry's first cause after returning from fighting in the Vietnam War was activism for the first Earth Day, in 1970, he says. His wife, Teresa Heinz, says they met at a later Earth Day, in 1990.

In 2015, his work in climate negotiations, and the trust Xie seemed to place in Obama negotiators including Kerry, helped seal a global climate deal in which more than 190 nations committed to taking action to cut climate emissions.

The irreversible damage being wrought by global warming was even more obvious to all by November 2016, when Kerry made one of his last trips as Obama's secretary of state, becoming the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Antarctica.

The U.S. presidential election had just handed victory to Trump, who already had pledged to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord and would soon be rolling back U.S. climate efforts in office.

Kerry crunched in boots over a frozen sea, faced off with a curious penguin and talked with U.S. scientists there.

The South Pole had the purest air in the world, but it, too, was heavily polluted with coal and petroleum waste, scientists told him. The West Antarctic ice sheet was melting from below in the warming waters, breaking off and floating out to sea.

It was "some of the most stunning wilderness," Kerry recalled last month to The Associated Press, and it was "mixed with the negative impacts of human beings."

Follow AP's coverage of climate change at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate>

Nationwide polio eradication campaign starts in Afghanistan

By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban-run Afghan public health ministry announced Sunday the start of a four-day nationwide polio vaccination campaign aimed at inoculating children under age 5.

For the past three years before taking control of Afghanistan, the Taliban had barred U.N.-organized vaccination teams from doing door-to-door campaigns in parts of the country under their control. The group apparently was suspicious the team members could be spies for the previous government or the West.

Because of the ban and ongoing fighting, some 3.3 million children over the past three years have not been vaccinated.

"Without any doubt polio is a disease that without treatment will either kill our children or cause them with permanent disability, so in this case the only way is to implement the vaccination," said Dr. Qalandar Ebad, the Taliban's acting public health minister.

Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan are the only countries in the world where polio remains endemic and the disease can cause partial paralysis in children. Since 2010, the country has been carrying out regular inoculation campaigns in which workers go door to door, giving the vaccine to children. Most of the workers are women, since they can get better access to mothers and children.

The four-day campaign will start Monday and take place countrywide, Ebad said. The estimated target population is Afghanistan's 10 million children under age 5, including the more than 3.3 million who could not be reached since 2018.

"Vaccination of (children) less than five years of age in the country during the national immunization days is a gigantic task. It is not possible for the ministry of public health alone to complete this task successfully, so we need the support of all lined departments," said Nek Wali Shah Momin, a health ministry official in the polio eradication department.

The Taliban's reported endorsement of the campaign appeared aimed at showing the international community they are willing to cooperate with international agencies. The longtime militant insurgent force has been trying to win the world's recognition of its new government and re-open the door for international aid to rescue the crumbling economy.

The World Health Organization and the U.N. children's agency UNICEF in a joint statement last month said they welcomed the decision by the Taliban leadership supporting the resumption of house-to-house polio vaccinations across the country.

Large sections of the country have been out of reach for vaccinations in recent years. In parts of the south, particularly, the ban by the Taliban was in effect. In other areas, door-to-door campaigns were impossible because of fighting between the government and insurgents, or because of fears of kidnappings or roadside bombs. In some places, hard-line clerics spoke out against vaccinations, calling them un-Islamic or claiming they were part of a Western plot.

Foreign citizens seek US-approved shots as travel resumes

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — As COVID-19 ravaged Hungary in April, Budapest resident Akos Sipos received his second vaccine dose, believing he was doing the right thing for his own health and to help end the pandemic.

But Sipos, 46, soon discovered that the vaccine he received, Russia's Sputnik V, disqualified him from traveling to a number of other countries where it hadn't been approved. The nations include the United States, which is pushing forward with a new air travel policy that will make Sipos and many like him ineligible to enter.

"I thought it's better to get Sputnik today than a Western vaccine at some uncertain future time," Sipos, who works as a search engine optimization specialist, said of his initial decision to receive the jab. "But I couldn't have known at that time that I wouldn't be able to travel with Sputnik."

Starting Monday, the United States plans to reopen to foreign travelers who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. But there's a catch: non-immigrant adults need to have received vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration or which received an emergency use listing from the World Health Organization.

That leaves many hopeful travelers across the globe who have taken full courses of vaccines widely used in other parts of the world — Sputnik V and the China-produced CanSino jab, in particular — scrambling to get reinoculated with shots approved by U.S. authorities.

Two other Chinese vaccines, Sinopharm and Sinovac, have been approved by the WHO and will thus be accepted for travel into the U.S.

Mexico received nearly 12 million doses of CanSino and almost 20 million of Sputnik V after shipments began earlier this year. Residents who got the required two shots of those vaccines now are looking to top up with shots of the Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson vaccines, hoping that will make them eligible to cross the border.

"They screwed those of us who got this vaccine," said Rosenda Ruiz, 52, a public relations manager in Mexico City who received Sputnik V. "There are lots of Mexicans who want to travel, but we can't. I am thinking of getting whatever other vaccine I can get."

While Sputnik V is used in around 70 countries worldwide, it has still not been approved by either the FDA or the U.N. health agency. Nearly 1 million people have received the vaccine in Hungary, a Central European country of around 10 million.

Hungary was one of only two countries in the 27-member European Union to roll out the Russian vaccine. Fewer than 20,000 people received it in Slovakia.

Judit Molnar, president of the Association of Hungarian Travel Agencies, says so many Hungarians being unable to travel to the United States — or even to some countries in the EU which don't accept the

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job — has had an effect on her industry.

"We see that in the last few months, travelers are increasingly asking us when they can travel to America," said Molnar, who is also president of the OTP Travel agency.

"These travelers are saying they really hope the situation will change and that the United States will accept the Sputnik vaccine. There are many people who would like to travel and in Hungary, many people were vaccinated with Sputnik," she said.

Citizens of Russia, where use of Sputnik V is most widespread, also are seeking Western-approved shots so they can travel abroad. Faced with the prospect of being turned away from flights, Russians have booked tours to Serbia, which has authorized use of the Pfizer-BioNTech, China's Sinopharm and the AstraZeneca vaccines in addition to Sputnik V.

Russia, which unveiled Sputnik V with much fanfare as the world's first registered vaccine in August 2020, criticized U.S. plans to leave the vaccine off its list of approved shots.

"There are exactly zero reasons for such decisions," Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the foreign relations committee in the Russian Duma, or lower house of parliament. "The effectiveness and safety of the Sputnik V vaccine has been proven not only by specialists, but also by its practical application."

But the World Health Organization still is reviewing the vaccine, and months of holdups make it unclear when Sputnik V might receive an emergency use listing.

Hungary's government has made bilateral agreements with 24 countries — including Russia, Serbia, Mongolia, Georgia, and Kazakhstan — on mutually recognizing proof of vaccination, regardless of vaccine type.

Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told The Associated Press that it is open to a similar agreement with the United States, but "currently there is no ongoing negotiation."

Sipos, the search engine specialist, said that while he was confident in Sputnik V's efficacy, he recently sought a Western-approved booster shot, Moderna, so he could travel where he wants.

"I felt deceived because they accept Sputnik in more than 60 countries in the world, but in tons of other countries they don't," he said.

Silvia Morales, 38, a public high school teacher in Monterrey, Mexico, said she recently received a Moderna shot after hearing that the U.S. government wouldn't recognize her CanSino vaccine.

She said she "needed to have peace of mind" about her level of protection against the virus.

"But I also love traveling to the United States," she said.

Marcos Martínez Chacón in Monterrey, Mexico, and Jim Heintz in Moscow, contributed to this report.

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

Iraqi prime minister survives assassination bid with drones

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi survived an assassination attempt with armed drones that targeted his residence early Sunday and officials said he was unharmed. The attack was a major escalation amid tensions sparked by the refusal of Iran-backed militias to accept last month's parliamentary election results.

Two Iraqi officials told The Associated Press that seven of al-Kadhimi's security guards were injured in the attack with two armed drones which occurred in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone area. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give official statements.

"I am fine and among my people. Thank God," the prime minister tweeted shortly after the attack. He called for calm and restraint, "for the sake of Iraq."

He later appeared on Iraqi television, seated behind a desk in a white shirt, looking calm and composed. "Cowardly rocket and drone attacks don't build homelands and don't build a future," he said.

In a statement, the government said an explosives-laden drone tried to hit al-Kadhimi's home. Residents of Baghdad heard the sound of an explosion followed by heavy gunfire from the direction of the Green

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Zone, which houses foreign embassies and government offices.

The statement released by state-run media said security forces were "taking the necessary measures in connection with this failed attempt."

There was no immediate claim for the attack. It comes amid a stand-off between security forces and pro-Iran Shiite militias whose supporters have been camped outside the Green Zone for nearly a month after they rejected the results of Iraq's parliamentary elections in which they lost around two-thirds of their seats.

"The assassination attempt is a dramatic escalation, crossing a line in unprecedented fashion that may have violent reverberations," wrote Ranj Alaaldin, a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, in a post on Twitter.

Protests turned deadly Friday when the demonstrators tried to enter the Green Zone. Security forces used tear gas and live ammunition. There was an exchange of fire in which one protester affiliated with the militias was killed. Dozens of security forces were injured. Al-Khadimi ordered an investigation to determine what sparked the clashes and who violated orders not to open fire.

Some of the leaders of the most powerful militia factions loyal to Iran openly blamed al-Kadhimi for Friday's clashes and the protester's death.

"The blood of martyrs is to hold you accountable," said Qais al-Khazali, leader of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia, addressing al-Kadhimi at a funeral held for the protester Saturday. "The protesters only had one demand against fraud in elections. Responding like this (with live fire) means you are the first responsible for this fraud."

The funeral was attended by leaders of the mostly Shiite Iran-backed factions who together are known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, or Hashd al-Shaabi in Arabic.

Abu Alaa al-Walae, commander of Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada, in a tweet apparently addressed to al-Kadhimi that did not name him told him to forget about another term.

Al-Kadhimi, 54, was Iraq's former intelligence chief before becoming prime minister in May last year. He is considered by the militias to be close to the U.S., and has tried to balance between Iraq's alliances with both the U.S. and Iran. Prior to the elections, he hosted several rounds of talks between regional foes Iran and Saudi Arabia in Baghdad in a bid to ease regional tensions.

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's national security council, said indirectly in a tweet Sunday that the United States was behind the attack.

The assault on al-Kadhimi "is a new sedition that must be traced back to foreign think tanks, which have brought nothing but insecurity, discord & instability to oppressed Iraqi people through creation & support of terrorist groups & occupation of this country for years," he said.

The U.S. strongly denounced the attack.

"This apparent act of terrorism, which we strongly condemn, was directed at the heart of the Iraqi state," said State Department spokesperson Ned Price.

"We are in close touch with the Iraqi security forces charged with upholding Iraq's sovereignty and independence and have offered our assistance as they investigate this attack," he added.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi also condemned the assassination attempt. Writing on Facebook, he called on all sides in Iraq to "calm down, renounce violence and join forces to preserve the country's stability."

Saudi Arabia issued a statement of support for stability in Iraq and said it strongly condemned the "cowardly terrorist attack that targeted Iraq's prime minister."

The United States, the U.N. Security Council and others have praised the Oct. 10 election, which was mostly violence-free and without major technical glitches.

But following the vote, militia supporters pitched tents near the Green Zone, rejecting the election results and threatening violence unless their demands for a recount were met.

The unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud have cast a shadow over the vote. The standoff with the militia supporters has also increased tensions among rival Shiite factions that could spill into violence and

threaten Iraq's newfound relative stability.

The election was held months ahead of schedule in response to mass protests in late 2019, which saw tens of thousands in Baghdad and predominantly Shiite southern provinces rally against endemic corruption, poor services and unemployment. They also protested against the heavy-handed interference of neighboring Iran in Iraq's affairs through Iran-backed militias.

The militias lost some popularity since the 2018 vote, when they made big election gains. Many hold them responsible for suppressing the 2019 protests, and for challenging the state's authority.

The biggest gains were made by influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who won the largest number of parliament seats, 73 out of 329. While he maintains good relations with Iran, al-Sadr publicly opposes external interference in Iraq's affairs.

Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell and Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed.

The magic 1.5: What's behind climate talks' key elusive goal

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Glasgow, Scotland (AP) — One phrase, really just a number, dominates climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland: The magic and elusive 1.5.

That stands for the international goal of trying to limit future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. It's a somewhat confusing number in some ways that wasn't a major part of negotiations just seven years ago and was a political suggestion that later proved to be incredibly important scientifically.

Stopping warming at 1.5 or so can avoid or at least lessen some of the most catastrophic future climate change harms and for some people is a life-or-death matter, scientists have found in many reports.

The 1.5 figure now it is the "overarching objective" of the Glasgow climate talks, called COP26, conference President Alok Sharma said on the first day of the conference. Then on Saturday he said the conference, which takes a break on Sunday, was still trying "to keep 1.5 alive."

For protesters and activists, the phrase is "1.5 to stay alive."

And 1.5 is closer than it sounds. That's because it may sound like another 1.5 degrees from now but because it is since pre-industrial times, it's actually only 0.4 degrees (0.7 degrees Fahrenheit) from now. The world has warmed 1.1 degrees (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

The issue isn't about the one year when the world first averages 1.5 more than pre-industrial times. Scientists usually mean a multi-year average of over 1.5 because temperatures — while rising over the long term like on an escalator — do have small jags up and down above the long-term trend, much like taking a step up or down on the escalator.

But it's coming fast.

Scientists calculate carbon pollution the burning of fossil fuels can produce before 1.5 degrees is baked in. A report a few days ago from Global Carbon Project found that there's 420 billion tons of carbon dioxide left in that budget and this year humanity spewed 36.4 billion tons. That's about 11 years worth left at current levels — which are rising not falling — the report found.

To get there, scientists and the United Nations say the world needs to cut its current emissions by about half as of 2030. That's one of the three goals the U.N. has set for success in Glasgow.

"It's physically possible (to limit warming to 1.5 degrees), but I think it is close to politically impossible in the real world barring miracles," Columbia University climate scientist Adam Sobel said. "Of course we should not give up advocating for it."

A dozen other climate scientists told The Associated Press essentially the same thing — that if dramatic emission reductions start immediately the world can keep within 1.5 degrees. But they don't see signs of that happening.

That 1.5 figure may be the big number now but that's not how it started.

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At the insistence of small island nations who said it was a matter of survival, 1.5 was put in near the end of negotiations into the historic 2015 Paris climate agreement. It is mentioned only once in the deal's text. And that part lists the primary goal to limit warming to "2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels."

The 2-degree goal was the existing goal from 2009's failed Copenhagen conference. The goal was initially interpreted as 2 degrees or substantially lower if possible.

But in a way both the "1.5 and 2 degree C thresholds are somewhat arbitrary," Stanford University climate scientist Rob Jackson said in an email. "Every tenth of a degree matters!"

The 2 degrees was chosen because it "is the warmest temperature that you can infer that the planet has ever seen in the last million years or so," University of East Anglia climate scientist Corinne LeQuere, who helped write the carbon budget study, said at the Glasgow climate talks.

When the Paris agreement threw in the 1.5 figure, the United Nations tasked its Nobel Prize-winning group of scientists — the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC — to study on what difference there would be an Earth between 1.5 degrees of warming and 2 degrees of warming.

The 2018 IPCC report found that compared to 2 degrees, stopping warming at 1.5 would mean:

- Fewer deaths and illnesses from heat, smog and infectious diseases.
- Half as many people would suffer from lack of water.
- Some coral reefs may survive.
- There's less chance for summers without sea ice in the Arctic.
- The West Antarctic ice sheet might not kick into irreversible melting.
- Seas would rise nearly 4 inches (0.1 meters) less.
- Half as many animals with back bones and plants would lose the majority of their habitats.
- There would be substantially fewer heat waves, downpours and droughts.

"For some people this is a life-or-death situation without a doubt," report lead author Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald said at the time.

That finding that there's a massive difference to Earth with far less damage at 1.5 is the biggest climate science finding in the last six years, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research Director Johan Rockstrom said in an interview at the Glasgow conference.

"It gets worse and worse as you exceed beyond 1.5," Rockstrom said. "We have more scientific evidence than ever that we need to really aim for landing at 1.5, which is the safe climate planetary boundary."

"Once we pass 1.5 we enter a scientific danger zone in terms of heightened risk," Rockstrom said.

In a new IPCC report in August, the world hit 1.5 in the 2030s in each of the four main carbon emissions scenarios they looked out.

Even when scientists and politicians talk about 1.5 they usually talk about "overshoot" in which for a decade or so the temperature hits or passes 1.5, but then goes back down usually with some kind of technology that sucks carbon out of the air, Stanford's Jackson and others said.

As hard as it is, negotiators can't give up on 1.5, said Canadian Member of Parliament Elizabeth May, who is at her 16th climate negotiations.

"If we don't hang on to 1.5 while it is technically feasible, we are almost criminal," May said.

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate>

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears

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Elon Musk tweets to ask if he should sell some Tesla stock

Associated Press undefined

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NEW YORK (AP) — Tesla CEO Elon Musk is asking on Twitter whether he should sell 10% of his stock in the electric-vehicle company amid pressure in Washington to increase taxes on billionaires like him.

Some Democrats have been pushing for billionaires to pay taxes when the price of the stocks they hold goes up, even if they don't sell any shares. It's a concept called "unrealized gains," and Musk is sitting on a lot of them with a net worth of roughly \$300 billion.

"Much is made lately of unrealized gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10% of my Tesla stock," he tweeted Saturday afternoon. "Do you support this?"

By 5:40 p.m. Eastern time, a little more than two hours after Musk's initial tweet, 54% said yes out of a total of 876,189 votes.

Much of Musk's wealth is held in shares of Tesla, which does not pay him a cash salary. "I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock," he tweeted.

Musk, who is known for his sometimes flippant tweets, said he would "abide by the results of this poll."

Houston leaders seek clues for concert mishap that killed 8

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities said they would watch video, interview witnesses and review concert protocols to determine how eight people died at a Houston music festival when fans suddenly surged toward the stage to watch rapper Travis Scott.

City officials said Saturday they were in the early stages of investigating the pandemonium that unfolded Friday evening at Astroworld, a sold-out, two-day event in NRG Park with an estimated 50,000 people in attendance. One attendee said that as a timer clicked down to the start of Scott's performance, the crowd pushed forward.

"As soon as he jumped out on the stage, it was like an energy took over and everything went haywire," concertgoer Niaara Goods said. "All of a sudden, your ribs are being crushed. You have someone's arm in your neck. You're trying to breathe, but you can't."

Goods said she was so desperate to get out that she bit a man on the shoulder to get him to move.

The dead ranged in age from 14 to 27, and 13 people were still hospitalized Saturday, Mayor Sylvester Turner said. He called the disaster "a tragedy on many different levels" and said it was too early to draw conclusions about what went wrong. Dozens were injured.

"It may well be that this tragedy is the result of unpredictable events, of circumstances coming together that couldn't possibly have been avoided," said Judge Lina Hidalgo, Harris County's top elected official. "But until we determine that, I will ask the tough questions."

Experts who have studied deaths caused by crowd surges say they are often a result of density — too many people packed into a small space. The crowd is often running either away from a perceived threat or toward something they want, such as a performer, before hitting a barrier.

G. Keith Still, a visiting professor of crowd science at the United Kingdom's University of Suffolk, has testified as an expert witness in court cases involving crowds. He said he usually does not look at eyewitness reports in the early stages of analyzing an incident because emotions can cloud the picture, and witnesses can see only what's immediately around them.

Based on fire codes, the venue could have held 200,000 people, but city officials limited the attendance to 50,000, Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña said.

"It was the crowd control at the point of the stage that was the issue, especially as the crowd began to surge toward the stage," Peña said.

The deaths called to mind a 1979 concert by the Who where 11 people died as thousands of fans tried to get into Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum. Other past crowd catastrophes include the deaths of 97 people in an overcrowded Hillsborough Stadium in 1989 in Sheffield, England, and numerous disasters connected with the annual hajj in Saudi Arabia.

People in the Houston crowd reported lots of pushing and shoving during the performances leading up to Scott's set.

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Then when Scott took the stage, the crowd seemed to rush to the front, trying to get closer to the stage, said Nick Johnson, a high school senior from the Houston suburb of Friendswood who was at the concert.

"Everyone was passing out around you, and everyone was trying to help each other. But you just couldn't move. You couldn't do anything. You can't even pick your arms up," Johnson said. "It just got worse and worse."

Johnson said fans started to crush each other, and people started screaming. He said it felt like 100 degrees in the crowd.

Scott seemed to be aware that something was going on in the crowd, but he might not have understood the severity of the situation, Johnson said. A social media posting shows fans who appear to be dozens of rows from the stage chanting "stop the show" while Scott is performing. Another post shows two fans climbing a ladder aboard a platform and asking a cameraman to do something.

On video posted to social media, Scott could be seen stopping the concert at one point and asking for aid for someone in the audience: "Security, somebody help real quick."

In a tweet posted Saturday, Scott said he was "absolutely devastated by what took place last night." He pledged to work "together with the Houston community to heal and support the families in need."

Amy Harris, a freelance photographer for The Associated Press, described an "aggressive" crowd atmosphere throughout the day because of the way fans were behaving — pushing and rushing the stage barricades and prohibited VIP and admission areas.

"It was definitely the most chaotic festival environment that I've been in," Harris said. "I felt uneasy all day."

Houston Police Chief Troy Finner said his department noticed attendees "going down" at 9:30 p.m. and immediately notified concert organizers. The event was called off 40 minutes later after discussions that included the fire department and officials with NRG Park.

Finner defended the amount of time it took for the event to be canceled.

"You cannot just close when you've got 50,000 — over 50,000 — individuals, OK?" Finner said. "We have to worry about rioting — riots — when you have a group that's that young."

At one point, Gerardo Abad-Garcia was pressed so tightly into the crowd that he could not move his arms off his chest. During the performance that came before Scott's, he started getting concerned for his safety.

"I just couldn't breathe. I was being compressed," he said. A security guard helped him and others climb a fence and get out.

He described the crowd during Scott's set as a wave that was "going forward and backward." He said some people tried to help those who were passed out on the ground, while other concertgoers seemed to ignore them and continued watching the show.

Some audience members said barricades erected near the stage and to separate different sections of ticket holders prevented fans from escaping.

Billy Nasser described an area created by a stage barricade as a closet that people were thrown into and the door was shut. Joshua Robinson said the barricades created an area that "was just way too small and compact" for the number of people there.

Part of the investigation will include reviewing how the area around the stage was designed, the fire chief said.

Authorities did not disclose the causes of death, and the dead were not immediately identified.

The police chief said authorities were investigating reports of suspicious activity in the crowd, including a security officer who told police that he felt a prick in his neck during the chaos and lost consciousness while being examined by first responders. He was revived by the opioid antidote Narcan.

Scott, one of music's biggest young stars, founded the Astroworld Festival in 2018. The 29-year-old Houston native has been nominated for eight Grammy Awards. He has a 3-year-old daughter with Kylie Jenner, who announced in September that she's pregnant with their second child.

Drake joined Scott on-stage at the concert, which was livestreamed by Apple Music.

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Associated Press writers Ryan Pearson in Los Angeles, Stan Choe in New York, David Sharp in Portland, Maine, and Desiree Seals in Atlanta contributed to this report.

EXPLAINER: Here is why crowd surges can kill people

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The crowd deaths at a Houston music festival added even more names to the long list of people who have been crushed at a major event.

Tragedies like the one Friday night at the Astroworld Music Festival have been happening for a long time. In 1979, 11 people died in a scramble to enter a Cincinnati, Ohio, concert by The Who. At the Hillsborough soccer stadium in England, a human crush in 1989 led to nearly 100 deaths. In 2015, a collision of two crowds at the hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia caused more than 2,400 deaths, based on an Associated Press count of media reports and officials' comments.

Now that more people are heading out of their homes and back into crowds after many months of being cooped up because of the pandemic, the risks are rising again.

Most major events happen without a death, of course, but experts say they see common traits within the tragedies. Here's a look at how they happen:

HOW ARE PEOPLE DYING IN THESE EVENTS?

They're often getting squeezed so hard that they can't get any oxygen. It's usually not because they're getting trampled.

When a crowd surges, the force can be strong enough to bend steel. It can also hit people from two directions: one from the rear of the crowd pushing forward and another from the front of the crowd trying to escape. If some people have fallen, causing a pileup, pressure can even come from above. Caught in the middle are people's lungs.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE SWEEPED IN?

A U.K. inquiry into the Hillsborough tragedy found that a form of asphyxiation was listed as an underlying cause in the vast majority of the deaths. Other listed causes included "inhalation of stomach contents."

The deaths occurred as more than 50,000 fans streamed into the stadium for a soccer match on a warm, sunny day. Some of them packed into a tunnel and were getting pressed so hard into perimeter fencing that their faces got distorted by the mesh, the inquiry found.

"Survivors described being gradually compressed, unable to move, their heads 'locked between arms and shoulders ... faces gasping in panic,'" the report said. "They were aware that people were dying and they were helpless to save themselves."

WHAT CAUSES SUCH EVENTS?

"My research covers over 100 years of disasters, and invariably they all come down to very similar characteristics," said G. Keith Still, a visiting professor of crowd science at the University of Suffolk in England who has testified as an expert witness in court cases involving crowds.

First is the design of the event, including making sure that the density of the crowd doesn't exceed guidelines set by the National Fire Protection Association and others. That includes having enough space for everyone and large enough gaps for people to move about.

Some venues will take precautions when they know a particularly high-energy crowd is coming to an event. Still pointed to how some will set up pens around stages in order to break large crowds into smaller groups. That can also allow for pathways for security officers or for emergency exits.

WHAT ARE OTHER CAUSES?

The crowd's density may be the most important factor in a deadly surge, but it usually needs a catalyst to get everyone rushing in the same direction.

A sudden downpour of rain or hail could send everyone running for cover, as was the case when 93 soccer fans in Nepal were killed while surging toward locked stadium exits in 1988. Or, in an example that Still said is much more common in the United States than other countries, someone yells, "He has a gun!"

Surges don't always happen because people are running away from something. Sometimes they're

caused by a crowd moving toward something, such as a performer on the stage, before they hit a barrier. Still also cited poor crowd-management systems, where event organizers don't have strong procedures in place to report red flags or warnings, among the reasons deadly surges happen.

HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC AFFECTED THINGS?

Steve Allen of Crowd Safety, a U.K.-based consultancy engaged in major events around the world, said it's always important to monitor the crowd, but especially so now that events are ramping up in size following the the pandemic lockdown.

"As soon as you add people into the mix, there will always be a risk," he said of crowds.

He recommends that events have trained crowd spotters with noise-cancelling headsets who are in direct communication with someone in close proximity to the performer who's willing to temporarily stop the event if there's a life-threatening situation. That could be a crowd surge, structural collapse, fire or something else.

Allen said he has personally stopped about 25 performances by the likes of Oasis, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Eminem.

WHY AREN'T PEOPLE CALLING THIS A STAMPEDE?

Professionals don't use the words "stampede" or "panic" to describe such scenarios because that can put the blame for the deaths on the people in the crowd. Instead, they more often point at the event's organizers for failing to provide a safe environment.

"Safety has no profit," Still said, "so it tends to be the last thing in the budget."

Associated Press writer David Sharp in Portland, Maine, contributed to this report.

Crowd surge kills at least 8 at Houston music festival

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The crowd at a Houston music festival suddenly surged toward the stage during a performance by rapper Travis Scott, squeezing fans so tightly together that they could not breathe or move their arms and killing eight people in the chaos.

The pandemonium unfolded Friday evening at Astroworld, a sold-out, two-day event in NRG Park with an estimated 50,000 people in attendance. As a timer clicked down to the start of the performance, the crowd pushed forward.

"As soon as he jumped out on the stage, it was like an energy took over and everything went haywire," concertgoer Niaara Goods said. "All of a sudden, your ribs are being crushed. You have someone's arm in your neck. You're trying to breathe, but you can't."

Goods said she was so desperate to get out that she bit a man on the shoulder to get him to move.

The dead ranged in age from 14 to 27, and 13 people were still hospitalized Saturday, Mayor Sylvester Turner said. He called the disaster "a tragedy on many different levels" and said it was too early to draw conclusions about what went wrong.

"It may well be that this tragedy is the result of unpredictable events, of circumstances coming together that couldn't possibly have been avoided," said Judge Lina Hidalgo, Harris County's top elected official. "But until we determine that, I will ask the tough questions."

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Drake joined Scott on-stage at the concert, which was livestreamed by Apple Music.

Associated Press writers Ryan Pearson in Los Angeles, Stan Choe in New York, David Sharp in Portland, Maine, and Desiree Seals in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Appeals court stays vaccine mandate on larger businesses

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal appeals court on Saturday temporarily halted the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for businesses with 100 or more workers.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said the action stops President Joe Biden "from moving forward with his unlawful overreach."

"The president will not impose medical procedures on the American people without the checks and balances afforded by the constitution," said a statement from Landry, a Republican.

The U.S. Labor Department's top legal adviser, Solicitor of Labor Seema Nanda, said the department is "confident in its legal authority to issue the emergency temporary standard on vaccination and testing."

OSHA has the authority "to act quickly in an emergency where the agency finds that workers are subjected to a grave danger and a new standard is necessary to protect them," she said.

A spokesman for the Justice Department, Anthony Coley, said in a statement: "The OSHA emergency temporary standard is a critical tool to keep America's workplaces safe as we fight our way out of this pandemic. The Justice Department will vigorously defend this rule in court."

Such circuit decisions normally apply to states within a district — Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, in this case — but Landry said the language employed by the judges gave the decision a national scope.

"This is a great victory for the American people out there. Never before has the federal government tried in a such a forceful way to get between the choices of an American citizen and their doctor. To me that's the heart of the entire issue," he said.

At least 27 states filed lawsuits challenging the rule in several circuits, some of which were made more conservative by the judicial appointments of President Donald Trump.

The Biden administration has been encouraging widespread vaccinations as the quickest way to end the pandemic that has claimed more than 750,000 lives in the United States.

The administration says it is confident that the requirement, which includes penalties of nearly \$14,000 per violation, will withstand legal challenges in part because its safety rules preempt state laws.

The 5th Circuit, based in New Orleans, said it was delaying the federal vaccine requirement because of potential "grave statutory and constitutional issues" raised by the plaintiffs. The government must provide an expedited reply to the motion for a permanent injunction Monday, followed by petitioners' reply on Tuesday.

Lawrence Gostin, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center and director of the World Health Organization's center on global health law, said it was troubling that a federal appeals court would stop or delay safety rules in a health crisis, saying no one has a right to go into a workplace "unmasked, unvaxxed and untested."

"Unelected judges that have no scientific experience shouldn't be second-guessing health and safety professionals at OSHA," he said.

Oil tanker explodes in Sierra Leone, killing at least 98

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By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY and KRISTA LARSON Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — An oil tanker truck exploded near Sierra Leone's capital, killing at least 98 people and severely injuring dozens of others after large crowds gathered to collect leaking fuel, officials and witnesses said Saturday.

The explosion took place late Friday when the tanker collided with another truck as it was pulling into a gas station near a busy intersection in Wellington, just east of the capital of Freetown, according to the National Disaster Management Agency.

"Both drivers came out of their vehicles and warned community residents to stay off the scene while trying to address a leakage emanating from the collision," the agency said.

In this deeply impoverished country, however, crowds still rushed in to scoop up the fuel, witnesses said. It was not immediately known what caused the leaking fuel to ignite but a massive explosion soon followed.

Video obtained by The Associated Press showed a giant fireball burning in the night sky as some survivors with severe burns cried out in pain. The charred remains of some victims lay strewn at the scene, awaiting transport to mortuaries.

Nearly 100 injured people were taken to area hospitals, officials said. About 30 severely burned people at Connaught Hospital were not expected to survive, according to Foday Musa, a staff member in its intensive care unit.

Injured people whose clothes had burned off in the fire that followed the explosion lay naked on stretchers as nurses attended to them Saturday. Hundreds of people milled outside the main gates of the mortuary and near the hospital's main entrance, waiting for word of their loved ones.

Osman Timbo, said his 13-year-old brother, Mohamed, was among those who had died.

"He left home and said he was going to buy bread for us to eat," Timbo said. "When I heard about the explosion, I went to the scene and I saw my younger brother lying down and he was burned all over. I felt so bad. I loved him so much!"

Hospital officials called in as many doctors and nurses as they could overnight to tend to the wounded. The country's health care sector is still recovering from the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic, which killed many of the West African nation's doctors and nurses.

President Julius Maada Bio, who was in Scotland attending the U.N. climate talks Saturday, deplored the "horrendous loss of life."

"My profound sympathies with families who have lost loved ones and those who have been maimed as a result," he tweeted.

Vice President Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh visited two hospitals overnight and said Sierra Leone's National Disaster Management Agency and others would "work tirelessly" in the wake of the emergency.

"We are all deeply saddened by this national tragedy," he said on his Facebook page.

Larson reported from Dakar, Senegal. Associated Press writer Komba Morsay in Freetown, Sierra Leone contributed.

Health care company ends relationship with Aaron Rodgers

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin health care organization has ended a nine-year partnership with Green Bay Packers star Aaron Rodgers after the quarterback detailed his reasoning for avoiding the three COVID-19 vaccinations endorsed by the NFL.

A statement posted on Twitter by Prevea Health said the company and Rodgers mutually agreed to end their partnership, effective Saturday. Prevea Health and Rodgers had been partners since 2012.

The statement said Prevea Health "remains deeply committed to protecting its patients, staff, providers and communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes encouraging and helping all eligible populations to become vaccinated against COVID-19 to prevent the virus from further significantly impacting lives and livelihoods."

The move comes a day after Rodgers told "The Pat McAfee Show" he had sought alternative treatments

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to COVID-19 vaccination because he is allergic to an ingredient in two of the FDA-approved shots. Rodgers, who turns 38 in December, did not say what ingredient he was allergic to, or how he knows he is allergic.

Rodgers has strongly questioned the NFL's COVID-19 protocols, along with any organization forcing health requirements on individuals.

"I believe strongly in bodily autonomy and the ability to make choices for your body, not to have to acquiesce to some woke culture or crazed group of individuals who say you have to do something," he said Friday. "Health is not a one size fits all for everybody, and for me it involved a lot of study in the offseason."

The COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. were tested in tens of thousands of people and proven to be both safe and effective at dramatically reducing the risk of serious disease and death. The vaccines now have been given to more than 200 million Americans and that real-world use plus extra government safety tracking have made clear that serious side effects are extremely rare — and that any risk is far lower than the risks posed by COVID-19.

Rodgers, who has been tested daily as part of NFL protocols for unvaccinated players, found out he contracted COVID-19 on Wednesday. He can't rejoin the Packers for 10 days and will miss Sunday's game at Kansas City. He must have a negative test to return to the team on Nov. 13.

The reigning NFL MVP, whose endorsement deals include a starring role in commercials for insurance company State Farm, hinted that his stance on vaccination could have consequences when he described himself Friday as a victim of "cancel culture."

More AP NFL coverage: <https://apnews.com/hub/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

The Latest: GOP, Democratic lawmakers visit climate talks

By The Associated Press undefined

The latest on the U.N. climate summit COP26 in Glasgow:

GLASGOW — Glasgow became the site of a rare event Saturday -- a bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation attending a climate summit.

Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, led the Republican and Democratic group to climate talks. Participating lawmakers said it marked an interest by Republican lawmakers on climate issues, and what they said was a bipartisan commitment on climate.

Republican Rep. John Curtis of Utah drew laughter from the audience at an Atlantic Council panel Saturday by playing up the novelty of GOP lawmakers coming to spend time with thousands of ardent climate advocates.

"My name is John Curtis, and I'm a Republican. And I'm here" at a climate summit, said Curtis, the chairman of a conservative conservation coalition in the U.S. Congress.

Coons is a co-chairperson of a bipartisan Senate climate group. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, was among more than a half-dozen Republican lawmakers expected at the summit.

Since the 2018 mid-term election in which Democrats won seats on climate issues, Republican lawmakers have largely stopped publicly challenging the science establishing that the burning of coal and petroleum is the primary cause of global warming.

Lawmakers in the delegation said growing numbers of Republicans in Congress want to work to slow climate change, although the Republican and Democrats often have different ideas on the tactics, including on the role of government regulations.

PARIS — Hundreds of activists gathered at Paris City Hall on Saturday to protest the inaction about climate change by the 10 top climate-polluting nations in the world.

They deployed large portraits of French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga along a banner reading "climate

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inaction = crime against life.”

The protest in the French capital was one of many across the world marking the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice as the COP26 climate talks are taking place in Glasgow.

The crucial U.N. climate summit opened last Sunday, kicking off two weeks of intense diplomatic negotiations by almost 200 countries aimed at slowing intensifying global warming and adapting to the climate damage already underway.

LONDON — Banging steel drums, thousands marched at the Bank of England in central London to press for action at the U.N. climate conference.

Demonstrators waved Extinction Rebellion banners on Saturday and carried placards reading “!Help!” above a picture of the Earth as they marched two miles (3.2 kilometers) to Trafalgar Square.

Protester Sue Hampton, 64, says everyone is at risk and all generations need to come together to press for action.

“Even if I knew for sure that I was going to reach the natural end of my life without seeing any horrors, I would still be here because I have grandchildren and other people have grandchildren,” she said. “So we can’t let the young people do all the work here. We’ve all got to do it together.”

Climate activists also gathered in Dublin, Ireland, with a noisy group assembling at the Garden of Remembrance, which commemorates those who died in Ireland’s independence struggle.

GLASGOW — Elaine Knox, 69 and William Oliphant, 60, of Glasgow don’t fit the normal demographics of the youth-oriented climate protests but they were still at Saturday’s massive climate rally in the Scottish city to demand faster action from governments on climate issues.

“I’m dying before the worst happens,” Knox said. “It’s the youngsters we’re leaving a horrible, horrible world.”

“We’re in a nightmare,” she added.

Oliphant said if people like them don’t fight against the moneyed interests that are causing the Earth to warm up “they’ll just set back and it’ll be business as usual.”

“It’s going to take more than just shouting and protests, it’s going to take fighting,” Oliphant said. “If we don’t fight it’s going to be too late.”

Jamila Khatoon from Pakistan carried a sign about three glaciers in her region that may disappear because of climate change.

“The glaciers are melting,” Khatoon said. “Villages are drowning. Nobody is doing anything.”

AMSTERDAM — Tens of thousands of people have marched through Amsterdam in a demonstration calling for more action to tackle climate change.

The march Saturday in the Dutch capital was one of many around the world that coincide with a United Nations meeting on climate change in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

Banner waving demonstrators gathered on the central Dam Square before marching to a park in the west of the city. Among the banners was one saying: “People and climate above profit for polluters,” and another read: “#Weareable to solve the Climate Crisis.”

Organizers estimated that 40,000 people took part. Police did not immediately estimate the crowd’s size.

ISTANBUL — A small group of climate protesters held a demonstration in Istanbul’s Kadikoy district Saturday, calling for action to save the planet for future generations.

Some 80 people gathered outside the Sureyya Opera House on the district’s main shopping street chanting, banging drums and holding placards with messages such as “Unite for the climate” and “Environmentalism without class struggle is gardening.”

“I want my children to live on a beautiful planet in the future,” retiree Kadriye Basut, 52, said.

She added: “I think we have to leave a beautiful planet. I think we owe that to our children and the planet. We see that world leaders are not doing anything about it, all they are saying is ‘blah, blah, blah.’”

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University lecturer Baris Gencer Baykal, 43, called for an earlier end to the use of coal than the targets set by world leaders at the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow.

"It cannot be postponed any longer," he said. "Because we feel climate change more and more every day. Developing and developed countries alike suffer from this. We want climate justice."

Turkey has suffered drought for a number of years and this summer saw the country hit by forest fires, floods and mudslides in the Sea of Marmara linked to warming waters and pollution.

WARSAW, Poland — Trade union members from Poland's energy sector have protested before the European Union's office in Warsaw, saying the EU's moves to discourage coal use are responsible for soaring energy prices.

Some 200 power plant and coal mine workers from across Poland blew horns and waved union flags as they chanted. The protest's motto was "YES for Poland's Energy Sovereignty. NO to High Energy and Heat Prices."

Trade union leaders say the EU energy policies will harm Poland's economy. The coal industry is a major employer in Poland, which gets more than half of its electricity from black and brown coal.

A government energy policy plan calls for increasing reliance on nuclear energy once the infrastructure is built.

Like other EU member nations, Poland has pledged to phase out coal use and to develop wind, solar and other renewable energy sources. At the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow this week, the government said it would not be able to close all coal-fired plants until 2049, a target that disappointed activists.

GLASGOW, Scotland — British actor Idris Elba has brought his star power to the U.N. climate talks in Glasgow to highlight the importance of helping small farmers cope with global warming.

Elba and his wife, model Sabrina Dhowre Elba, took the stage Saturday in support of the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Elba said he wanted to highlight the dangers of global food chains being disrupted as small-scale farmers in particular are hit by the effects of climate change. He said that 80% of the food consumed worldwide is produced by small-scale farmers.

"This conversation around food is something that needs to be really amplified, and one thing I've got is a big mouth," Elba said.

Speaking on the same panel, Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate, 24, said global warming is already causing hunger for millions around the world, including in her own country.

She said a shift from meat to plant-based diets could help save millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year while freeing up more land that's currently used for animal feed.

GLASGOW, Scotland — Police helicopters buzzed over Glasgow early Saturday as authorities prepared for a second day of protests by climate activists demanding faster action to curb global warming.

Despite a little drizzle and strong winds, tens of thousands of people were expected to join a rally through the Scottish city where this year's U.N. climate talks are being held.

Inside the conference venue, negotiators knuckled down for a seventh day of talks to finish draft agreements that can be passed to ministers for political approval next week.

Among the issues being haggled over at the talks by almost 200 countries are a fresh commitment to the goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius, getting countries to review their efforts more frequently, and financial support for poor nations.

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate>

Glasgow climate negotiators seek to resolve 4 key challenges

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

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GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — As this year's U.N. climate talks go into their second week, negotiations on key topics are inching forward. Boosted by a few high-profile announcements at the start of the meeting, delegates are upbeat about the prospects for tangible progress in the fight against global warming.

Laurent Fabius, the former French foreign minister who helped forge the Paris climate accord, said the general atmosphere had improved since the talks began Oct. 31 and "most negotiators want an agreement."

But negotiators were still struggling late Saturday to put together a series of draft decisions for government ministers to finalize during the second week of the talks.

"People are having to take tough decisions, as they should," Archie Young, the U.K.'s lead negotiator, said Saturday.

Here's the state of play in four main areas halfway through the U.N. climate talks in Glasgow:

TOP RESULT FROM THE CONFERENCE

Each Conference of the Parties, or COP, ends with a general statement. It's as much a political declaration as a statement of intent about where countries agree the effort to combat climate change is heading.

A flurry of announcements at the start of the COP26 talks in Glasgow on issues including ending deforestation, cutting methane emissions, providing more money for green investments and phasing out the use of coal could be reflected in this final declaration. Even though only some countries signed on to each of those deals, others would be encouraged to add their signatures at a later date.

Affirming the goal of keeping global warming at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century, compared to pre-industrial times, is also seen as important. With greenhouse gas emissions continuing to rise, host Britain has said it wants the Glasgow talks to "keep 1.5 C alive." One way to achieve that would be to encourage rich polluters in particular to update their emissions-cutting targets every one or two years, rather than every five years as now required by the Paris accord.

MONEY MATTERS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Rich countries pledged to mobilize \$100 billion each year by 2020 to help poor nations cope with climate change. That target was likely missed, much to the frustration of developing nations.

Restoring goodwill and trust between rich and poor countries on this issue requires a clear commitment on raising financial support starting from 2025. Addressing the thorny question of who is to pay for the losses and damages that nations face as a result of global warming they aren't responsible for is likewise important, but agreement there could be elusive, observers say.

"It's about finance, finance, finance, finance," said Fabius.

CARBON TRADING: A TRICKY NUT TO CRACK

Many negotiators and observers at climate conferences roll their eyes when they hear the words "Article 6." The section dealing with rules for carbon markets has become one of the trickiest parts of the Paris climate accord to finalize. Six years after that deal was sealed, countries appear to be making headway though and there's even talk of a breakthrough on the issue that so frustrated negotiators in Madrid two years ago.

Observers say Brazil and India may be willing to drop demands to count their old — but others say worthless — carbon credits amassed under previous agreements. The price for this might be that rich nations grant poor countries a share of proceeds from carbon market transactions to adapt to climate change. This has been a red line for the United States and the European Union until now.

A deal on Article 6 is seen as crucial because many countries and companies aim to cut their emissions to "net zero" by 2050. This requires balancing out any remaining pollution with an equal amount of carbon they can reliably say is captured elsewhere, such as through forests or by technological means.

TRANSPARENCY AND RIGOR IN NATIONAL EMISSIONS-CUTTING TARGETS

The Paris Agreement lets governments set their own emissions-cutting targets, and many of them are in the distant future.

Verifying that countries are doing what they committed to, and that their goals are backed up by realistic measures, is tricky. China in particular has bristled at the idea of having to provide data in formats set by other nations. Brazil and Russia, meanwhile, have resisted demands to lay out in greater detail the short-term measures they're taking to meet their long-term goals.

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

Tens of thousands mourn Brazilian country music singer

By ERALDO PERES and DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

GOIANIA, BRAZIL (AP) — Struck with grief, tens of thousands of fans gathered Saturday to pay tribute to Marília Mendonça, one of Brazil's most popular singers who was killed a day earlier in an airplane crash at age 26.

The Latin Grammy winner and four other passengers, including her producer and uncle, perished Friday when their plane crashed while flying from Mendonça's hometown of Goiania in Goias state to Caratinga, a small city in Minas Gerais state north of Rio de Janeiro.

Some mourners arrived as early as Friday night to bid farewell to the country music singer, spending the night outside the large gymnasium in Goiania where Mendonça's wake was held. People stood in lines for hours Saturday in the sizzling heat, at times taking shelter from the sun under large umbrellas, waiting to pass by her coffin.

"Her, dead, it doesn't make sense. Everyone likes her," said Tania Rodrigues, who was in the crowd with her 11-year-old daughter, Rosangela.

Ilsa da Costa Oliveira, wrapped in Brazil's green and yellow flag and holding three red roses in one hand and a CD of Mendonça in the other, spoke of the traits that made the singer so popular: "She is very charitable to the public, to women, to men, children, young people, old people ... She's a good person, humble and charismatic."

Inside the gymnasium, fans were able to catch a glance of the singer, who was known for her feminist engagement, writing about empowering women and denouncing domestic violence. Some broke down in tears as they passed her open coffin.

The Latin Recording Academy issued a statement saluting "a promising young singer/songwriter," calling her "the voice of a new generation of sertaneja," Brazil's country music.

"Marília Mendonça will be sorely missed, but her legacy will live on through her music," the statement said.

Details about the cause of the accident remained unknown. Photographs and videos Friday showed the plane lying just beneath a waterfall. Earlier in the day, Mendonça had posted a video showing her walking toward the plane, guitar case in hand. She was on her way to a concert.

Associated Press journalist Eraldo Peres reported this story in Goiania and AP writer Diane Jeantet reported from Rio de Janeiro.

EXPLAINER: Rittenhouse attorneys spar over victim depictions

By TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Attorneys spent the first week of Kyle Rittenhouse's murder trial sparring over who provoked whom, with prosecutors portraying the Illinois teenager as the aggressor and the defense working to show that the men he shot had threatened him.

The stakes are enormous as jurors weigh whether Rittenhouse fired in self-defense because he legitimately felt threatened or whether he overreacted.

"To establish self-defense, the first prong is the defense must show there was going to be interference with Rittenhouse and that Rittenhouse had a belief that could result in great bodily harm," said former Milwaukee County prosecutor Daniel Adams, who isn't involved in the case.

Rittenhouse brought a semi-automatic rifle to a protest against police brutality in Kenosha in August 2020. The city was in the throes of several nights of chaotic demonstrations after a white police officer shot Jacob Blake, a Black man, after Blake resisted arrest during a domestic dispute. Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time, said he was trying to protect downtown businesses from looters and vandals. He's charged with homicide and attempted homicide, as well as being a minor in possession of a dangerous weapon.

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Just before midnight, he shot and killed Rosenbaum as Rosenbaum chased him across a parking lot. As Rittenhouse fled the scene someone in the crowd tried to kick him in the face and Anthony Huber swung his skateboard at him, connecting with Rittenhouse's head and neck. Rittenhouse fatally shot Huber. A moment later Gaige Grosskreutz ran up to him holding a pistol. Rittenhouse shot him in the arm; Grosskreutz survived.

Rittenhouse insists he fired in self-defense in all three instances. The jury will ultimately have to decide whether Rittenhouse reasonably believed he was in danger and whether the amount of force he used was reasonable.

That means defense attorney Mark Richards needs to make jurors understand that Rittenhouse was terrified, Adams said.

Judge Bruce Schroeder gave the defense some help earlier this year when he barred anyone from referring to Rosenbaum, Huber or Grosskreutz as victims, saying the term is "loaded" because it implies the defendant committed a crime against them before anything has been proven. The judge gave Rittenhouse another boost when he ruled last month that his attorneys could refer to the men as "rioters," "looters" and "arsonists" if they can show evidence backing up those labels.

Richards went on the offensive during opening statements on Tuesday, telling jurors that Huber intended to "separate (Rittenhouse's) head from the body" when he hit him with the skateboard and tried to wrest his gun away.

Richards also has worked to persuade the jury that Rosenbaum was a menace. He got a police detective to testify that at various points during the night, Rosenbaum armed himself with a chain he stole from a construction site, set a Dumpster on fire and was walking around wearing his shirt as a mask.

Ryan Balch, a military veteran who carried a rifle and was with Rittenhouse at points, testified that Rosenbaum was "hyperaggressive," had thrown rocks at his group and had threatened to kill "any of you guys" that he found alone that night. But another former veteran who was armed in the streets, Jason Lackowski, described Rosenbaum as a "babbling idiot" whom he didn't see as a threat.

With images from FBI surveillance plane video, Richards highlighted Rosenbaum's movement behind a car, emerging as Rittenhouse ran past and chasing him down in the moments before Rittenhouse shot him.

The defense attorney, describing how Rosenbaum came out from behind a car to meet Rittenhouse before the shooting, said to the detective: "Correct me if I'm wrong, but this looks like the classic ambush."

Prosecutors quickly objected, and Richards said: "Mr. Rosenbaum is in hiding as my client arrives, correct?" "It appears so, yes," Howard answered.

Richard McGinniss, a video journalist with the conservative website The Daily Caller who was recording events that night, testified that Rosenbaum chased Rittenhouse down and lunged for Rittenhouse's rifle.

Richards also noted in his opening statement that Grosskreutz was carrying a handgun when he approached Rittenhouse.

"What he's trying to do is put the jury in the shoes of Rittenhouse (and show) that the dread, the fear and the terror is real," Adams said. "When you're being attacked by several people, he doesn't know (their intentions). What he thinks is he's going to get his gun stripped off and used against him."

Assistant District Attorney Thomas Binger has pushed back, stressing repeatedly that Rosenbaum was unarmed when he was killed. He also has argued that Rittenhouse provoked Rosenbaum during a confrontation earlier that evening and that Rittenhouse chased him with a fire extinguisher before Rosenbaum turned the tables.

He got Balch to acknowledge on the stand that he never saw Rosenbaum strike anyone or carry a weapon. Binger also questioned McGinniss' description of Rosenbaum lunging toward Rittenhouse, raising the prospect that Rosenbaum was actually falling toward him — as McGinniss had said in a televised interview after the shootings.

Binger also has argued that Huber and Grosskreutz were trying to disarm Rittenhouse to protect others. He has said that Grosskreutz raised his hands in a universal "surrender" motion before he was shot. Richards maintains he dropped his hands and began to raise his pistol.

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Prosecutors had hoped to highlight Huber's actions as heroic in questioning his great-aunt, Susan Hughes, who also testified that Huber had known Jacob Blake. But Schroeder ruled that such testimony would open the door for the defense to tell jurors about Huber spending time in prison for a family dispute in 2012 in which he threatened his brother with a knife and choked him.

The prosecutor also contends that in all the chaos of that night, Rittenhouse was the only one who killed anyone. He elicited testimony from Rittenhouse's friend, Dominick Black, who also went to the protests armed with a rifle to protect businesses, that people had thrown rocks at him but that he didn't feel his life was in danger.

"I mean, pain, yes, but not danger," Black said. "I knew it wasn't going to kill me."

"So you felt like it wasn't enough to use deadly force, correct?" Binger said.

"Correct," Black said.

Find AP's full coverage on the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse at <https://apnews.com/hub/kyle-rittenhouse> and follow Todd Richmond on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

Frustrations grow as marchers demand faster climate action

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, SETH BORENSTEIN and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Tens of thousands of climate activists marched Saturday through the Scottish city hosting the U.N. climate summit, physically close to the global negotiators inside but separated by a vast gulf in expectations, with frustrated marchers increasingly dismissive of the talks and demanding immediate action instead to slow global warming.

The mood at the protest in Glasgow was upbeat despite the anger and bursts of rain. Similar protests were also held in London, Amsterdam, Paris, Dublin, Copenhagen, Zurich and Istanbul.

Many of the marchers condemned government leaders for failing to produce the fast action they say is needed, with some echoing activist Greta Thunberg's view Friday that the talks were just more "blah, blah, blah."

"We're having these conversations, but there's no policies to actually back them," said Daze Aghaji, a marcher from London at the Glasgow demonstration, shouting over the steady beat of the drums.

"And on top of that, the real people should be in the room," Aghaji said, referring to complaints that the Glasgow summit has too sharply limited participation by the public. "How are we expecting to make decent policy when the people who are the stakeholders of this aren't even present in the room?"

Marchers held signs with messages including "Code Red for Humanity," "Stop big polluters," "COP26, we are watching you" or simply "I'm angry." One sign asked "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"

Megan McClellan, 24, of Glasgow said she doubted that climate negotiators were listening.

"This is a very easy thing for them to ignore. They're nice and comfortable" inside the summit conference center, she said, which is ringed by steel fences.

But her friend Lucette Wood, 30, of Edinburgh disagreed.

"They might not actually do anything about it but they pretend that they do ... and they will just put it off for 20-30 years," Wood said.

Thunberg's dismissive talk of the two-week climate summit — which has another week to go — has touched a nerve inside and outside the summit site. Government leaders and negotiators insist they are as equally aware as the marchers of the urgency of their task, with time slipping away to rein in pollution from fossil fuels before the Earth faces much higher levels of warming.

Jamila Khatoon from Pakistan carried a sign in Glasgow about three glaciers in her region that may disappear because of climate change.

"The glaciers are melting," Khatoon said. "Villages are drowning. Nobody is doing anything."

Elaine Knox, 69 and William Oliphant, 60, both from Glasgow, said they were attending the rally for the next generations.

"I'm dying before the worst happens," Knox said. "It's the youngsters we're leaving a horrible, horrible

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world.”

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose country is hosting the talks, has defended the progress made by governments in raising promises of emissions cuts and climate financing, while acknowledging the public’s demands that more needs to be done.

At the huge U.N. conference venue, negotiators spent a seventh straight day haggling over draft agreements that can be passed to government ministers for political approval next week. Among the issues under discussion were a fresh commitment to capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), pushing countries to review their efforts more frequently to increase the pressure for deeper cuts, and providing more financial support for poor nations to adapt to climate change.

The summit’s president, Alok Sharma, told reporters he understood the protesters’ frustration.

“I think we have overall made progress,” Sharma said Saturday. “I think people have been constructive in the negotiating rooms.”

“We are getting to the point where the rubber hits the road, where we’re going to have to make, you know, tough decisions” by government officials, he said. “I don’t, certainly do not, underestimate the difficulty of the task which is ahead of us.”

Saturday’s marches drew a range of participants and ages, a day after tens of thousands of young people in the Fridays for Future movement protested outside the Glasgow conference’s fences. Thunberg’s mix of school strikes, blunt and impatient talk about government excuses, and mass demonstrations have galvanized climate protests since 2018, especially in Europe.

The climate protest movement — and the worsening droughts, storms, floods, wildfires and other disasters around the world this year — have brought home to many the accelerating damage of global warming and have kept the pressure on governments for stronger and faster action to reduce fossil fuel emissions.

Elizabeth May, a Canadian member of parliament and 16-time participant in the U.N. climate talks, said the protests are making a difference.

“Most of the people on the inside are here in their hearts and sometimes physically,” May said, who joined the Glasgow demonstrators Saturday.

In central London, thousands of climate protesters marched from the Bank of England to Trafalgar Square. Protester Sue Hampton, 64, said everyone is at risk and all generations need to press for action.

“We can’t let the young people do all the work here. We’ve all got to do it together,” she said.

In Istanbul, climate protesters brought their children to the demonstration Saturday, emphasizing the impact of global warming on future generations.

“I want my children to live on a beautiful planet,” said Kadriye Basut, 52, in Istanbul.

Danica Kirka in London and Andrew Wilks in Istanbul contributed to this report.

Follow all AP stories on climate change at <https://apnews.com/hub/Climate>.

Navy launches ship named for gay rights leader Harvey Milk

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A Navy ship named for slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk, who served four years in the Navy before being forced out, was christened and launched in San Diego Bay on Saturday.

The replenishment oiler USNS Harvey Milk slid down the shipyard ways after a bottle of champagne was smashed on the bow by former Navy officer Paula M. Neira, clinical program director for the John Hopkins Center for Transgender Health.

Milk’s nephew, Stuart Milk, and Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro watched the traditional ceremony.

“The secretary of the Navy needed to be here today, not just to amend the wrongs of the past, but to give inspiration to all of our LGBTQ community leaders who served in the Navy, in uniform today and in the civilian workforce as well too, and to tell them that we’re committed to them in the future,” Del Toro said.

Del Toro said that, like many others, Milk had to “mask that very important part of his life” while he served in the Navy.

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"For far too long, sailors like Lt. Milk were forced into the shadows or, worse yet, forced out of our beloved Navy," Del Toro said. "That injustice is part of our Navy history, but so is the perseverance of all who continue to serve in the face of injustice."

Milk was one of the first openly gay candidates elected to public office. He was serving on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978 when a former political colleague, Dan White, assassinated him and Mayor George Moscone at City Hall.

In 2016, then-Navy Secretary Ray Mabus decided that six new oilers scheduled to be built would be named after civil and human rights leaders. In addition to Milk, they include Sojourner Truth, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Robert F. Kennedy, suffragist Lucy Stone and Rep. John Lewis of Georgia.

Del Toro told Mabus, who attended the christening, that it was a courageous decision.

"Ship names are important because they express what we value as a Navy and as a nation and communicate those values around the globe in every port of call," Del Toro said.

Stuart Milk, co-founder and president of the Harvey Milk Foundation, thanked Mabus for providing the family details of his uncle's discharge from the Navy.

"He has a less-than-honorable discharge. He was forced to resign because he was gay," Stuart Milk said, adding that "we have to teach our history to prevent ourselves from going backwards and repeating it."

Although there is a process for reversing such discharges, he said it was important to not do that for his late uncle in order "to keep the memory of how we did not honor everyone in this very honorable service."

The naval tradition of having ship "sponsors" went to Neira and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who was unable to attend.

Feinstein was in San Francisco City Hall when Milk and Moscone were shot and then made the stunning announcement of their deaths. The ship "will carry a rich legacy of civic leadership," Feinstein said in a letter read at the ceremony.

"When the Harvey Milk sails, she will send a very strong message both domestically and around the globe to everybody that believes in freedom and justice and liberty, that there is a place for you in this family," said co-sponsor Neira.

General Dynamics NASSCO began construction of the six oilers in San Diego in 2018 under a \$3.2 billion Navy contract. The first ship in the class, the John Lewis, was christened this summer.

Roads, transit, internet: What's in the infrastructure bill

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The \$1 trillion infrastructure plan that now goes to President Joe Biden to sign into law has money for roads, bridges, ports, rail transit, safe water, the power grid, broadband internet and more.

The House passed the bipartisan plan Friday night and Biden said Saturday he will hold a signing ceremony when lawmakers return from a week's recess.

The new law promises to reach almost every corner of the country. It's a historic investment that the president has compared to the building of the transcontinental railroad and Interstate Highway System. The White House is projecting that the investments will add, on average, about 2 million jobs per year over the coming decade.

The bill cleared the House on a 228-206 vote, ending weeks of intraparty negotiations in which liberal Democrats insisted the legislation be tied to a larger, \$1.75 trillion social spending bill — an effort to press more moderate Democrats to support both.

The Senate passed the legislation on a 69-30 vote in August after rare bipartisan negotiations, and the House kept that compromise intact. Thirteen House Republicans voted for the bill, giving Democrats more than enough votes to overcome a handful of defections from progressives.

Here's a breakdown of the bill:

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The bill would provide \$110 billion to repair the nation's aging highways, bridges and roads. According

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to the White House, 173,000 total miles or nearly 280,000 kilometers of America's highways and major roads and 45,000 bridges are in poor condition. And the almost \$40 billion for bridges is the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the national highway system, according to the Biden administration.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The \$39 billion for public transit in the legislation would expand transportation systems, improve accessibility for people with disabilities and provide dollars to state and local governments to buy zero-emission and low-emission buses. The Transportation Department estimates that the current repair backlog is more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations and thousands of miles of track and power systems.

PASSENGER AND FREIGHT RAIL

To reduce Amtrak's maintenance backlog, which has worsened since Superstorm Sandy nine years ago, the bill would provide \$66 billion to improve the rail service's Northeast Corridor (457 miles, 735 km), as well as other routes. It's less than the \$80 billion Biden — who famously rode Amtrak from Delaware to Washington during his time in the Senate — originally asked for, but it would be the largest federal investment in passenger rail service since Amtrak was founded 50 years ago.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The bill would spend \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging stations, which the administration says are critical to accelerating the use of electric vehicles to curb climate change. It would also provide \$5 billion for the purchase of electric school buses and hybrids, reducing reliance on school buses that run on diesel fuel.

INTERNET ACCESS

The legislation's \$65 billion for broadband access would aim to improve internet services for rural areas, low-income families and tribal communities. Most of the money would be made available through grants to states.

MODERNIZING THE ELECTRIC GRID

To protect against the power outages that have become more frequent in recent years, the bill would spend \$65 billion to improve the reliability and resiliency of the power grid. It would also boost carbon capture technologies and more environmentally friendly electricity sources like clean hydrogen.

AIRPORTS

The bill would spend \$25 billion to improve runways, gates and taxiways at airports and to improve terminals. It would also improve aging air traffic control towers.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

The legislation would spend \$55 billion on water and wastewater infrastructure. It has \$15 billion to replace lead pipes and \$10 billion to address water contamination from polyfluoroalkyl substances — chemicals that were used in the production of Teflon and have also been used in firefighting foam, water-repellent clothing and many other items.

PAYING FOR IT

The five-year spending package would be paid for by tapping \$210 billion in unspent COVID-19 relief aid and \$53 billion in unemployment insurance aid some states have halted, along with an array of smaller pots of money, like petroleum reserve sales and spectrum auctions for 5G services.

Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe, Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Biden hails infrastructure win as 'monumental step forward'

By ALAN FRAM and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Saturday hailed Congress' passage of his \$1 trillion infrastructure package as a "monumental step forward for the nation" after fractious fellow Democrats resolved a months-long standoff in their ranks to seal the deal.

"Finally, infrastructure week," a beaming Biden told reporters. "I'm so happy to say that: infrastructure week."

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The House passed the measure 228-206 late Friday, prompting prolonged cheers from the relieved Democratic side of the chamber. Thirteen Republicans, mostly moderates, supported the legislation while six of Democrats' farthest left members opposed it.

Approval of the bill, which promises to create legions of jobs and improve broadband, water supplies and other public works, sends it to the desk of a president whose approval ratings have dropped and whose nervous party got a cold shoulder from voters in this past week's off-year elections.

Democratic candidates for governor were defeated in Virginia and squeaked through in New Jersey, two blue-leaning states. Those setbacks made party leaders — and moderates and liberals alike — impatient to produce impactful legislation and demonstrate they know how to govern. Democrats can ill afford to seem in disarray a year before midterm elections that could give Republicans congressional control.

Voters "want us to deliver," Biden said, and Friday's vote "proved we can."

"On one big item, we delivered," he added.

The infrastructure package is a historic investment by any measure, one that Biden compares in its breadth to the building of the interstate highway system in the last century or the transcontinental railroad the century before. He called it a "blue collar blueprint to rebuilding America."

His reference to infrastructure week was a jab at his predecessor, Donald Trump, whose White House declared several times that "infrastructure week" had arrived, only for nothing to happen.

Simply freeing up the infrastructure measure for final congressional approval was like a burst of adrenaline for Democrats. Yet despite the win, Democrats endured a setback when they postponed a vote on a second, even larger bill until later this month.

That 10-year, \$1.85 trillion measure bolstering health, family and climate change programs was side-tracked after moderates demanded a cost estimate on the measure from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The postponement dashed hopes that the day would produce a double-barreled win for Biden with passage of both bills.

But in an evening breakthrough brokered by Biden and House leaders, five moderates agreed to back that bill if the budget office's estimates are consistent with preliminary numbers that White House and congressional tax analysts have provided. The agreement, in which lawmakers promised to vote on the social and environment bill by the week of Nov. 15, was a significant step toward a House vote that could ultimately ship it to the Senate.

Elated by the bill's passage, Biden held forth with reporters for over a half hour Saturday morning, joking that his chances of getting the bill done had been written off multiple times, only for him to be able to salvage it. He said he would wait to hold a signing ceremony until lawmakers — Democrats and Republicans who voted for it — return to Washington after a week's recess.

The president acknowledged uncertainty surrounding his larger social and environmental spending package, saying "time will tell" whether he can keep popular provisions like universal paid family leave in the final version. He wouldn't say whether he has private assurances from moderate Democrats in the House and Senate to pass the nearly \$2 trillion bill, but said he was "confident" he would get the votes.

Biden predicted Americans would begin to feel the impact of the infrastructure bill "probably starting within the next two to three months as we get shovels in the ground." But the full impact will probably take decades to be fully realized.

He added that he would visit some ports that would benefit from the legislation in the next week, as his administration tries frantically to ease supply chain disruptions that are raising prices on consumer goods before the holidays.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said there's a pent-up demand to get going on public works. He told CNN he's already got \$10 billion worth of applications for a certain program that's only got \$1 billion in it. "This is not just a short term stimulus bill."

Biden said the investment would be viewed in 50 years as "When America decided to win the competition of the 21st century" with a rising China.

The president and first lady Jill Biden delayed plans to travel Friday evening to their house in Rehoboth

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Beach, Delaware. Instead, Biden spoke to House leaders, moderates and progressives.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., leader of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said Biden even called her mother in India, though it was unclear why.

"This was not to bribe me — this is when it was all done," Jayapal told reporters. The lawmaker said her mother told her she "just kept screaming like a little girl."

In a statement, five moderates said that if the fiscal estimates on the social and environment bill raise problems, "we remain committed to working to resolve any discrepancies" to pass it.

In exchange, liberals agreed to back the infrastructure measure, which they'd spent months holding hostage in an effort to press moderates to back the larger bill.

The day marked a rare detente between Democrats' moderate and liberal wings that party leaders hope will continue. The rival factions had spent weeks accusing each other of jeopardizing Biden's and the party's success by overplaying their hands. But Friday night, Jayapal suggested they would work together moving forward.

Democrats have struggled for months to take advantage of their control of the White House and Congress by advancing their priorities. That's been hard, in part because of Democrats' slender majorities and bitter internal divisions.

"Welcome to my world," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told reporters. "We are not a lockstep party."

Democrats' day turned tumultuous early after a half-dozen moderates demanded the budget office's cost estimate of the sprawling package of health, education, family and climate change initiatives before they would vote for it.

Party leaders said that would take days or more. But with Friday's delayed vote and lawmakers leaving for a week's break, those budget estimates should be ready by the time a vote is held.

The infrastructure measure cleared the Senate in August with bipartisan support.

As for the social and environment package, House passage would send it to the Senate, where it faces certain changes and more Democratic drama. That's chiefly because of demands by Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona to contain the measure's costs.

Moderates have forced leaders to slash the roughly 2,100-page measure to about half its original \$3.5 trillion size. Republicans oppose it as too expensive and damaging to the economy.

The package would provide large numbers of Americans with assistance to pay for health care, raising children and caring for elderly people at home. It's got \$555 billion in tax breaks for cleaner energy and electric vehicles. Democrats added recent provisions restoring a new paid family leave program and work permits for millions of immigrants.

Much of the package's cost would be covered with higher taxes on wealthier Americans and large corporations.

Associated Press writers Cal Woodward, Lisa Mascaró, Farnoush Amiri, Kevin Freking, Aamer Madhani, Alexandra Jaffe, Mary Clare Jalonick and Brian Slodysko contributed to this report.

Biden: Families of separated children deserve compensation

By ZEKE MILLER and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden said Saturday that the families of children separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border during the Trump administration should be compensated, as his Department of Justice is in settlement talks with affected families.

Raising his voice, Biden said that regardless of the circumstances, people who had their children taken from them under the Trump administration's family separation policy, meant to deter families from crossing into the U.S. illegally, should be remunerated.

"If, in fact, because of the outrageous behavior of the last administration, you coming across the border, whether it was legally or illegally, and you lost your child — You lost your child. It's gone — you deserve some kind of compensation, no matter what the circumstance," Biden said. "What that will be I have no

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idea. I have no idea.”

Shortly after taking office Biden created a task force to attempt to reunify hundreds of children and parents affected by the policy, which was in place for several months during 2018 and sparked a domestic and international outcry.

The government was considering payments of around \$450,000 to each person affected but has since changed the figure, though not dramatically, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions are private.

The discussions continue, and there is no guarantee the two sides will strike agreement.

About 5,500 children were split from their parents under President Donald Trump’s “zero tolerance” policy, under which parents were separated from their children to face criminal prosecution for crossing the border illegally, according to court filings in a federal case in San Diego. Inadequate tracking systems caused many to be apart for an extended time. The payments are intended to compensate for the psychological trauma.

Attorneys for the families are also seeking permanent legal status in the United States for those separated under the practice, which a judge halted in June 2018, six days after Trump stopped it under international pressure.

—
Associated Press writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed.

Knife attack on German train severely injures 3 people

BERLIN (AP) — A knife attack on a high-speed train in Germany left three people severely wounded, the Bavarian Red Cross said Saturday. Police said a man has been arrested in connection with the morning attack.

The train, one of Germany’s high-speed ICE trains, was traveling between the Bavarian cities of Regensburg and Nuremberg at the time of the attack. A spokesperson for the Bavarian Red Cross, which had 110 responders at the scene, said the organization processed three “severely injured” people.

A 27-year-old Syrian man was arrested in Seubersdorf, where the train stopped after the attack, Bavarian state police told The Associated Press. The injured people came from the Regensburg and nearby Passau areas, state police said.

In addition, 200 to 300 other people from the train were taken off and brought to a nearby location, the Bavarian Red Cross spokesperson said.

Local police told The Associated Press they received a call about the attack around 9 a.m.

Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said the background behind the “terrible” attack was “still unclear.” He said people in Seubersdorf, a municipality 473 kilometers (294 miles) south of Berlin, faced no “acute danger.”

“I hope that those injured and those who witnessed this will recover quickly and completely,” Seehofer said.

A spokesperson for the German railway network confirmed that the station in Seubersdorf was closed and that train travel between Regensburg and Nuremberg was suspended. Long-distance train service has since been rerouted via the nearby city of Ingolstadt.

Voting distrust likely to continue despite smooth election

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The first major election day following a year of relentless attacks on voting rights and election officials went off largely without a hitch. Unlike the 2020 presidential election, there were no claims of widespread fraud, ballots emerging mysteriously in the dark of night or compromised voting machines changing results.

The relative calm was a relief to those who oversee elections, but will it matter to those who still believe last year’s election was stolen from former President Donald Trump?

Election experts say even a smooth election cycle this year is unlikely to curb the distrust that has built up over the last year within a segment of the public. That skepticism has led to costly and time-consuming

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partisan ballot reviews, threats to election officials and new voting restrictions in Republican-controlled states.

"I'm extremely concerned that we're not at the end of this," said David Becker, a former U.S. Justice Department lawyer who now heads the Center for Election Innovation and Research. "We're not at the middle of this. We're at the beginning of this, and nobody is addressing it particularly well right now, with the exception of the professional election officials who are keeping their heads down and doing their job."

There has been no evidence of widespread fraud or other wrongdoing with the 2020 election, and those claims have been rejected by judges, election officials and Trump's own attorney general. Nevertheless, two-thirds of Republicans said Joe Biden was not legitimately elected president, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted two weeks after Biden's inauguration.

Tuesday's election featured problems typical of an election day that were quickly resolved: power outages, technical issues with equipment or too few ballots at particular polling places. In New Jersey, confusion over the reporting of election results circulated on social media. The Republican gubernatorial candidate, Jack Ciattarelli, had yet to concede but said after the election that he did not want supporters "falling victim to wild conspiracy theories or online rumors."

Ahead of Virginia's high-profile gubernatorial election, Trump had said in a statement that he was "not a believer in the integrity of Virginia's elections, lots of bad things went on, and are going on." Yet in his statement congratulating Republican Glenn Youngkin, Trump made no mention of fraud and credited his own supporters with the win.

Matt Masterson, a former top election security official in the Trump administration, noted that little changed between 2020 and this year in how elections are run in the U.S.

"These are the same systems, the same people, the same processes," Masterson said. "Election officials did their job in 2020, and they did it again in 2021."

When problems arose, they were caught quickly. The Ohio secretary of state took administrative oversight of the state's most populous county, home to Columbus, after it failed to properly update its poll books and allowed three people to cast ballots twice, although that did not affect the outcome of any race.

That elections are mostly running well hasn't stopped Republican officials from making claims about election fraud to justify new voting restrictions even in places where Trump and Republicans won handily in 2020 and where election officials reported no problems.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Trump ally, earlier this week called for a new state office to investigate election crimes. He also seeks new laws adding more restrictions to ballot drop boxes and increasing penalties for those who collect ballots for others.

"I am excited that with this legislation, our state will be able to enforce election violations, combat voter fraud and make sure violators are held accountable," DeSantis said in a statement.

Mail voting was hugely popular last year amid the pandemic and helped drive high turnout this year in Virginia. And it was Republicans who did well on Tuesday in Virginia, where Democrats had expanded voting access in recent years. That included no longer requiring voters to provide an excuse to cast a mail ballot.

But GOP lawmakers still say rules around mail ballots must be tightened to address public concerns about fraud, even if there is no evidence it exists.

In Ohio, Republicans have introduced two bills seeking to rewrite state election laws. One calls for prohibiting off-site ballot drop boxes, eliminating a day of early voting and tightening the state voter ID requirement. The other goes even further -- reducing early voting from 21 days to six, eliminating no-excuse absentee voting and banning drop boxes altogether. Trump won the state handily, but lawmakers behind the second bill cited the potential of fraud to justify their proposal.

State Rep. Bill Seitz, a Cincinnati Republican sponsoring the less stringent bill, believes Biden was legitimately elected but laments that the dispute over the 2020 election results makes it difficult to discuss voting issues rationally.

"This is what happens when you try to do something fair in an environment in which there is no fair," he said. "The Democrats will be knee-jerk opposed to anything they see as restrictive of voting, and a contingent of Republicans will be opposed to anything they see as an added convenience on voting."

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Election officials said it was important to remind the public that there were no widespread problems with the 2020 election, which was dubbed the "most secure" in U.S. history by a group of federal, state and local election officials.

"This isn't something that went wrong that we're fixing," said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold, a Democrat. "This is something that went really right in 2020. We had the safest elections in America's history, with record turnout among both Democrats and Republicans. And the lies are about that."

Falsehoods surrounding the 2020 presidential election also triggered death threats against election officials that continue even a year later.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson described what the nation is confronting as a "five-alarm fire" and called on industry and community leaders to help defend democracy.

"Those trying to dismantle democracy have shown us again and again that there may be no bottom to where they will go to lie and deceive voters," said Benson, a Democrat. "We must take them at their word and believe them, and get to work spending every day countering their lies with truth."

Associated Press writers Anthony Izaguirre in Tallahassee, Florida, and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

Easing of COVID travel restrictions lets loved ones reunite

By TRAVIS LOLLER undefined

For Erin Tridle and her boyfriend, it was love at first sight. They met while the American was traveling in France in the summer of 2019. They said, "I love you," on day two. "People tell us it's like something from a movie," she said.

When Tridle returned home to Los Angeles, they began a long-distance relationship, spending time together when they could. Then the pandemic hit, separating them indefinitely as countries locked down travel.

"The uncertainty of not knowing when we would be together again was one of the hardest things I've even been through," Tridle said.

Travel restrictions that have upended lives will relax Monday, when new rules go into effect allowing air travel from previously restricted countries as long as the traveler has proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test. Land travel will require proof of vaccination but no test.

Eirini Linardaki was already in Paris on Friday, making her way from her home in Crete to her partner of seven years in New York City on a series of four flights. The visual artist said the travel restrictions were especially hard on people in nontraditional relationships. But at 45, it's not so easy for her to just move to America.

"I have kids and a career, and I also have him," she said. "I love him, so I have to make it fit into the structure of my life."

Loved ones have missed holidays, birthdays and funerals while nonessential air travel was barred from a long list of countries that includes most of Europe, Brazil and South Africa. Closures at the land crossings with Mexico and Canada have devastated the border towns where traveling back and forth, sometimes daily, is a way of life.

Before the border closure, Montreal junior college teacher Gina Granter and her partner in New York City saw each other at least twice a month. Now, between the closures, quarantine rules and other restrictions, they've managed to see each other only three times since the beginning of the pandemic.

When her partner finally was able to travel to see them after missing their daughter's second birthday, the little girl didn't remember him, Granter said.

"I have a brother named Steven, and she was calling her dad 'other Steven' or occasionally 'Granddad,'" Granter said. "She had no memories of being with him in New York."

With the reopening, Granter, 42, is looking forward to regular weekend visits again, and she plans a long trip to New York around Christmastime.

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"There were anguished nights, and it was so hard," she said.

For many, one of the most frustrating things about the travel restrictions has been their seemingly arbitrary nature, said Edward Alden, a senior fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations. The list of restricted countries doesn't necessarily match the places with the worst COVID-19 outbreaks. And Alden sees no logic in restricting land travel but not air travel in North America.

"There was a lot of public anger," he said. "Many people were willing to accept restrictions, but not the lack of rationale and logic, particularly for couples and families separated for long periods."

There were ways around the restrictions, but they were often difficult and expensive. For instance, the air travel ban didn't restrict citizens of those countries, but rather travel from those countries.

For Bárbara Feitoza of Brazil, that meant staying for two weeks in Colombia, where she knew no one and didn't speak the language, so she could travel to the U.S. to be with her boyfriend in March. It was her first international trip, and she said it was terrifying to fly at the height of the pandemic.

The 28-year-old civil engineer from outside of Rio de Janeiro was at work when she learned the U.S. was preparing to drop its travel restrictions. Feitoza said she was "euphoric," jumping from her seat as bewildered colleagues looked on.

Some of those separated from loved ones found support in an online group called Love Is Not Tourism. Among them was Linardaki, who said she was impressed by the variety of people's circumstances.

"It's not only people in their 20s," she said. "There were people who've known each other for very little time, people who've known each other for years, people who are 65 or 70 years old. People all over the world were united by this difficulty."

As for Tridle and her boyfriend, they hope to get married in a couple of years and live in the same country. But for now, the 30-year-old is just looking forward to him being able to visit at Christmas.

"I'm super excited for him to come to the U.S. again so we can spend some good, quality time together here," she said.

AP journalists David Biller and Diane Jeantet contributed from Rio de Janeiro.

UN investigator: Crimes against humanity under Myanmar junta

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The head of the U.N. body investigating the most serious crimes in Myanmar said that preliminary evidence collected since the military seized power on Feb. 1 shows a widespread and systematic attack on civilians "amounting to crimes against humanity."

Nicholas Koumjian told U.N. reporters Friday that the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, which he heads, has received over 200,000 communications since the army takeover and has collected over 1.5 million items of evidence that are being analyzed "so that one day those most responsible for the serious international crimes in Myanmar will be brought to account."

In determining that the crimes against civilians appear to be widespread and systematic, he said investigators saw patterns of violence -- a measured response by security forces to demonstrations in the first six weeks or so after the military takeover followed by "an uptick in violence and much more violent methods used to suppress the demonstrators."

"This was happening in different places at the same time, indicating to us it would be logical to conclude this was from a central policy," Koumjian said. "And, also, we saw that particular groups were targeted, especially for arrests and detentions that appear to be without due process of law. And this includes, of course, journalists, medical workers and political opponents."

Myanmar for five decades had languished under strict military rule that led to international isolation and sanctions. As the generals loosened their grip, culminating in Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's rise to leadership in 2015 elections, the international community responded by lifting most sanctions and pouring investment into the country.

The Feb. 1 military takeover followed November elections which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy

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party won overwhelmingly and the military rejects as fraudulent. Since the takeover, Myanmar has been wracked by unrest, with peaceful demonstrations against the ruling generals morphing first into a low-level insurgency in many urban areas after security forces used deadly force and then into more serious combat in rural areas, especially in border regions where ethnic minority militias have been engaging in heavy clashes with government troops.

Christine Schraner Burgener told The Associated Press shortly before her 3 ½ year term as the U.N. special envoy for Myanmar ended on Oct. 31 that "civil war" has spread throughout the country.

The U.N. investigative body was established by the Geneva-based Human Rights Council in September 2018 with a mandate to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyze evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since Jan. 1, 2011.

Koumjian, an American lawyer who served as an international prosecutor of serious crimes committed in Cambodia, East Timor and Bosnia, was appointed by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as its head in 2019 with instructions to prepare files that can facilitate criminal prosecutions in national, regional or international tribunals to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Koumjian said his team has been collecting evidence from a wide variety of sources including individuals, organizations, businesses and governments, and the evidence includes photographs, videos, testimonies and social media posts "that could be relevant to show that crimes happened and who is responsible for those crimes."

The investigative body has received information from social media companies, which he wouldn't name except for Facebook because it had made its cooperation public.

"We began engaging with Facebook as soon as we were created in 2019, and they have been meeting with us regularly," Koumjian said. "We have received some, but certainly not all, that we have requested. We continue to negotiate with them and actually I am hopeful that we are going to receive more information."

He said the Human Rights Council specifically instructed the investigators to cooperate with the International Criminal Court's probe into crimes committed against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority and the case at the International Court of Justice brought by Gambia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation accusing Myanmar of genocide against the Rohingya.

"So we are sharing documents with those proceedings," Koumjian said.

The court actions stem from the Myanmar military's harsh counterinsurgency campaign against the Rohingya in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and the torching of homes.

Koumjian said: "All we're doing is collecting evidence of the very worst violence, hopefully sending a message to perpetrators: 'If you commit this, you run the risk that you will be held to account.'"

EXPLAINER: How warming affects Arctic sea ice, polar bears

By SETH BORENSTEIN, CAMILLE FASSETT and KATI PERRY Associated Press

Majestic, increasingly hungry and at risk of disappearing, the polar bear is dependent on something melting away on our warming planet: sea ice.

In the harsh and unforgiving Arctic, where frigid cold is not just a way of life but a necessity, the polar bear stands out. But where it lives, where it hunts, where it eats — it's disappearing underfoot in the crucial summertime.

"They have just always been a revered species by people, going back hundreds and hundreds of years," said longtime government polar bear researcher Steve Amstrup, now chief scientist for Polar Bear International. "There's just something special about polar bears."

Scientists and advocates point to polar bears, marked as "threatened" on the endangered species list, as the white-hot warning signal for the rest of the planet — "the canary in the cryosphere." As world leaders meet in Glasgow, Scotland, to try to ramp up efforts to curb climate change, the specter of polar bears looms over them.

United Nations Environment Program head Inger Andersen used to lead the International Union for the

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Conservation of Nature, which monitors and classifies species in trouble. She asks: "Do we really want to be the generation that saw the end of the ability of something as majestic as the polar bear to survive?"

THE STATE OF SEA ICE

Arctic sea ice — frozen ocean water — shrinks during the summer as it gets warmer, then forms again in the long winter. How much it shrinks is where global warming kicks in, scientists say. The more the sea ice shrinks in the summer, the thinner the ice is overall, because the ice is weaker first-year ice.

Julienne Stroeve, a University of Manitoba researcher, says summers without sea ice are inevitable. Many other experts agree with her.

Former NASA chief scientist Waleed Abdalati, now a top University of Colorado environmental researcher, is one of them.

"That's something human civilization has never known," Abdalati said. "That's like taking a sledgehammer to the climate system and doing something huge about it."

The warming already in the oceans and in the air is committed — like a freight train in motion. So, no matter what, the Earth will soon see a summer with less than 1 million square kilometers of sea ice scattered in tiny bits across the Arctic.

The big question is when the Arctic will "look like a blue ocean," said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

Maybe as early as the 2030s, most likely in the 2040s and almost assuredly by the 2050s, experts say.

The Arctic has been warming twice as fast as the rest of the world. In some seasons, it has warmed three times faster than the rest of the globe, said University of Alaska at Fairbanks scientist John Walsh.

That's because of something called "Arctic amplification." Essentially, white ice in the Arctic reflects heat. When it melts, the dark sea absorbs much more heat, which warms the oceans even more quickly, scientists say.

THE POLAR BEAR CONNECTION

There are 19 different subpopulations of polar bears in the Arctic. Each is a bit different. Some are really in trouble, especially the southernmost ones, while others are pretty close to stable. But their survival from place to place is linked heavily to sea ice.

"As you go to the Arctic and see what's happening with your own eyes ... it's depressing," said University of Washington marine biologist Kristin Laidre, who has studied polar bears in Baffin Bay.

Shrinking sea ice means shrinking polar bears, literally.

In the summertime, polar bears go out on the ice to hunt and eat, feasting and putting on weight to sustain them through the winter. They prefer areas that are more than half covered with ice because it's the most productive hunting and feeding grounds, Amstrup said. The more ice, the more they can move around and the more they can eat.

Just 30 or 40 years ago, the bears feasted on a buffet of seals and walrus on the ice.

In the 1980s, "the males were huge, females were reproducing regularly and cubs were surviving well," Amstrup said. "The population looked good."

With ice loss, the bears haven't been doing as well, Amstrup said. One sign: A higher proportion of cubs are dying before their first birthdays.

Polar bears are land mammals that have adapted to the sea. The animals they eat — seals and walrus mostly — are aquatic.

The bears fare best when they can hunt in shallow water, which is typically close to land.

"When sea ice is present over those near-shore waters, polar bears can make hay," Amstrup said.

But in recent years the sea ice has retreated far offshore in most summers. That has forced the bears to drift on the ice into deep waters — sometimes nearly a mile deep — that are devoid of their prey, Amstrup said.

Off Alaska, the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea polar bears provide a telling contrast.

Go 30 to 40 miles offshore from Prudhoe Bay in the Beaufort Sea "and you're in very unproductive waters," Amstrup said.

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Further south in the Chukchi, it's shallower, which allows bottom-feeding walruses to thrive. That provides food for polar bears, he said.

"The bears in the Chukchi seem to be faring pretty well because of that additional productivity," Amstrup said. But the bears of the Beaufort "give us a real good early warning of where this is all coming to."

THE FUTURE

Even as world leaders meet in Scotland to try to ratchet up the effort to curb climate change, the scientists who monitor sea ice and watch the polar bears know so much warming is already set in motion.

There's a chance, if negotiators succeed and everything turns out just right, that the world will once again see an Arctic with significant sea ice in the summer late this century and in the 22nd century, experts said. But until then "that door has been closed," said Twila Moon, a National Snow and Ice Data Center scientist.

So hope is melting too.

"It's near impossible for us to see a place where we don't reach an essentially sea ice-free Arctic, even if we're able to do the work to create much, much lower emissions" of heat-trapping gases, Moon said. "Sea ice is one of those things that we'll see reach some pretty devastating lows along that path. And we can already see those influences for polar bears."

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Fassett, a data journalist based in Oakland, California, 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 under-covered topics.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2021. There are 54 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 7, 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.

On this date:

In 1861, former U.S. President John Tyler was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives (however, Tyler died before he could take his seat).

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1967, Carl Stokes was elected the first Black mayor of a major city -- Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.

In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

In 1980, actor Steve McQueen died in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, at age 50.

In 1989, L. Douglas Wilder won the governor's race in Virginia, becoming the first elected Black governor in U.S. history; David N. Dinkins was elected New York City's first Black mayor.

In 2001, the Bush administration targeted Osama bin Laden's multi-million-dollar financial networks, closing businesses in four states, detaining U.S. suspects and urging allies to help choke off money supplies in 40 nations.

In 2013, shares of Twitter went on sale to the public for the first time; by the closing bell, the social network was valued at \$31 billion.

In 2015, the leaders of China and Taiwan met for the first time since the formerly bitter Cold War foes split amid civil war 66 years earlier; Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou hailed the meeting in Singapore as a sign of a new stability in relations.

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In 2017, former star baseball pitcher Roy Halladay died when the small private plane he was flying crashed into the Gulf of Mexico; the 40-year-old was an eight-time All-Star for the Blue Jays and Phillies.

In 2018, a gunman killed 12 people at a country music bar in Thousand Oaks, California, before apparently taking his own life as officers closed in; the victims included a man who had survived the mass shooting at a country music concert in Las Vegas.

Ten years ago: A jury in Los Angeles convicted Michael Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, of involuntary manslaughter for supplying a powerful anesthetic implicated in the entertainer's 2009 death. (Murray was sentenced to four years in prison; he served two years and was released in October 2013.) Former heavyweight champion boxer Joe Frazier died in Philadelphia at age 67.

Five years ago: In Philadelphia, with tens of thousands shivering in the cold, Barack and Michelle Obama passed the torch to Hillary Clinton in an emotional but anxious plea to elect her president. Meanwhile, Donald Trump accused Clinton of being protected by a "totally rigged system" and urged voters to "beat the corrupt system and deliver justice." Former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, 78, died in Miami. Singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, 82, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Democrat Joe Biden clinched victory over President Donald Trump as a win in Pennsylvania pushed Biden over the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes; the victory followed more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in ballots. Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting. In a victory speech delivered near his Delaware home, Biden offered himself to the nation as a leader who "seeks not to divide, but to unify." Addressing the nation as the first woman to be elected vice president, Kamala Harris paid tribute to the women – particularly Black women – who helped pave the way for her. Chanting "This isn't over!" and "Stop the steal," Trump supporters protested at state capitols across the country, echoing Trump's baseless allegations that the Democrats won by fraud.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., is 91. Actor Barry Newman is 83. Actor Dakin Matthews is 81. Singer Johnny Rivers is 79. Former supermodel Jean Shrimpton is 79. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 78. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 69. Jazz singer Rene Marie is 66. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 64. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 61. Actor Julie Pinson is 54. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 53. Actor Michelle Clunie is 52. Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock is 51. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 49. Actors Jeremy and Jason London are 49. Actor Yunjin Kim is 48. Actor Adam DeVine is 38. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 38. Actor Lucas Neff is 36. Rapper Tinie (TY'-nee) Tempah is 33. Rock singer Lorde is 25.