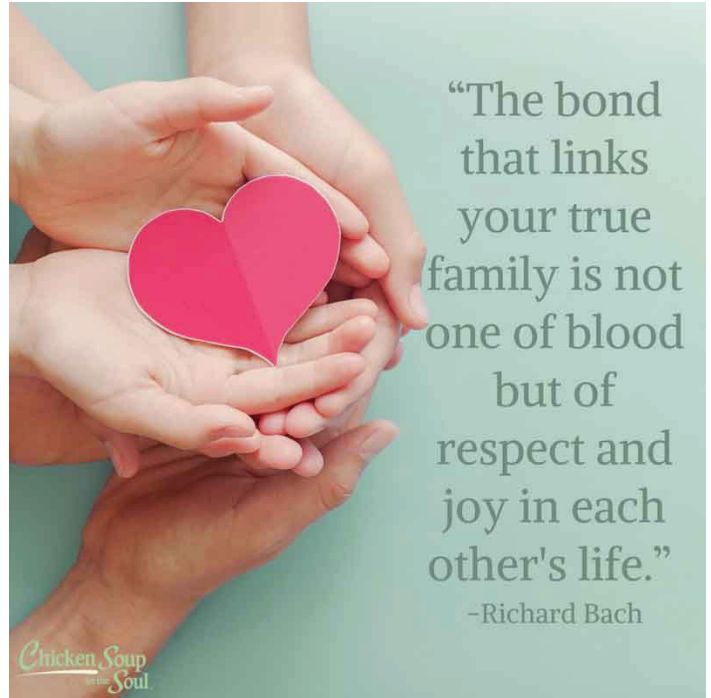


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UpComing Events

Tuesday, Nov. 15

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Oral Interp regions at Aberdeen Central
4 p.m.: JH GBB hosts Britton-Hecla (7th at 4 p.m. followed by 8th)

Thursday, Nov. 18

5 p.m.: JH GBB hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (7th at 5 p.m. followed by 8th)
6 p.m.: Football Team Awards Banquet at Olive Grove Golf Course

Friday, Nov. 19

McGovern Debate & Oral Interp at Mitchell

Saturday, Nov. 20

McGovern Debate & Oral Interp at Mitchell
1 p.m.: JH GBB at Mobridge (7th at 1 p.m., 8th grade to follow)

Sunday, Nov. 21

7 p.m.: Snow Queen Contest at GHS Gym

Wed-Fri., Nov. 24-26: No School - Thanksgiving Vacation

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 14, 2021

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

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Bible Study 10:00 AM
Conde Ad Council 5:00 PM

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM
Confirmation Snack Time 3:30 PM
Confirmation 4:00 PM
Groton Ad Council 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 18, 2021

UMW 1:30 PM

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Conde Worship 9:00 AM
Groton Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday School - after children's sermon 11:00 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, Nov. 14

9am Worship
10:15am Sunday School

Monday, Nov. 15

6:30am Bible Study

Tuesday, Nov 9

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 17

6:00pm 7th & 8th gr confirmation

Thursday, Nov. 18

WELCA to meet.
Thankoffering collection

Saturday, Nov. 20

10am Rosewood
Newsletter deadline

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. 14

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

Monday, Nov. 15

7:30 p.m.: Christian Literature Circle

Tuesday, Nov. 16

12:30 p.m.: Quilting

Wednesday, Nov. 17

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

Sunday, Nov. 21

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

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

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Northern State Drops Road Contest at #23 Minnesota Duluth

Duluth, Minn. – In another North Division match-up with playoff implications, Northern State fell on the road to #23 Minnesota Duluth 49-35. After the Wolves went up by 15 midway through the second quarter, the Bulldogs scored 29 unanswered points and took the lead for good in the third quarter.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 35, UMD 49

Records: NSU 7-4, UMD 9-2

Attendance: 1716

HOW IT HAPPENED

Less than five minutes into the game Hunter Trautman put Northern State up 7-0 with a two yard rushing touchdown

Minnesota Duluth tacked on two field goals on back-to-back possessions to get within one point at 7-6, Curt Cox made the field goals from 37 and 30 yards out

With 19 seconds remaining in the first quarter the Bulldogs would pull ahead 13-7, following a 26 yard passing touchdown from John Larson to Sam Pitz

On the Wolves first possession of the second quarter Dakota Larson would break the school's career touchdown receptions record with a 57 yard touchdown reception from Trautman

The following Northern possession would end in another Trautman to Larson touchdown pass, this one coming from 26 yards out

NSU's third consecutive scoring drive took only one play as Trautman found Dewaylon Ingram for a 68 yard passing touchdown to put the Wolves up 28-13 with 5:12 remaining in the second quarter

It took less than a minute for the Bulldogs to answer with a touchdown of their own, as Garrett Olson found Armani Carmickle for a 43 yard touchdown reception

Duluth would pull even at 28 a piece going into the half, following a five yard touchdown pass from Olson to Pitz and a successful two-point conversion run by Johnny McCormick

Minnesota Duluth continued to score 14 unanswered after the halftime break, the first touchdown was a 27 yard touchdown pass from Olson to Carmickle with 11:42 left in the third quarter and Wade Sullivan punched in a seven yard touchdown run with 4:02 remaining in the quarter to go up 42-28

Trautman would pull the Wolves back within one possession one last time with an 11 yard touchdown pass to Ingram in the back corner of the endzone making it a 42-35 game, the touchdown pass was Trautman's 37th of the season and broke the school single season record

The Bulldogs closed the scoring in the game with a one yard touchdown run by Olson

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hunter Trautman: 20-45 passing, 388 passing yards, 5 total touchdowns (4 passing, 1 rushing)

Dewaylon Ingram: 9 receptions, 200 receiving yards, 2 receiving touchdowns

Dakota Larson: 7 receptions, 149 receiving yards, 2 receiving touchdowns

Hunter Hansen: 12 total tackles (10 solo, 2 assisted)

Brennan Kutterer: 11 total tackles (8 solo, 3 assisted)

UP NEXT

Northern State closes the 2021 season with a record 7-4 (3-3 North Division), and a 3-2 home record in the inaugural season at Dacotah Bank Stadium. The Wolves finished the season in a three way tie for third place in the North Division, and a three way tie for fifth place overall in the NSIC.

Groton Daily Independent

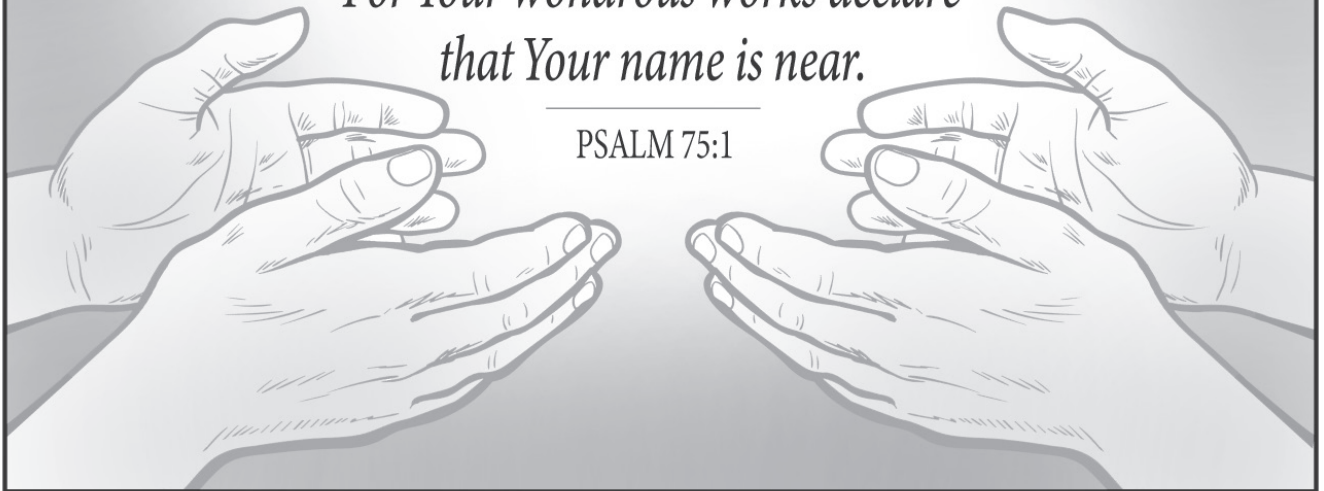
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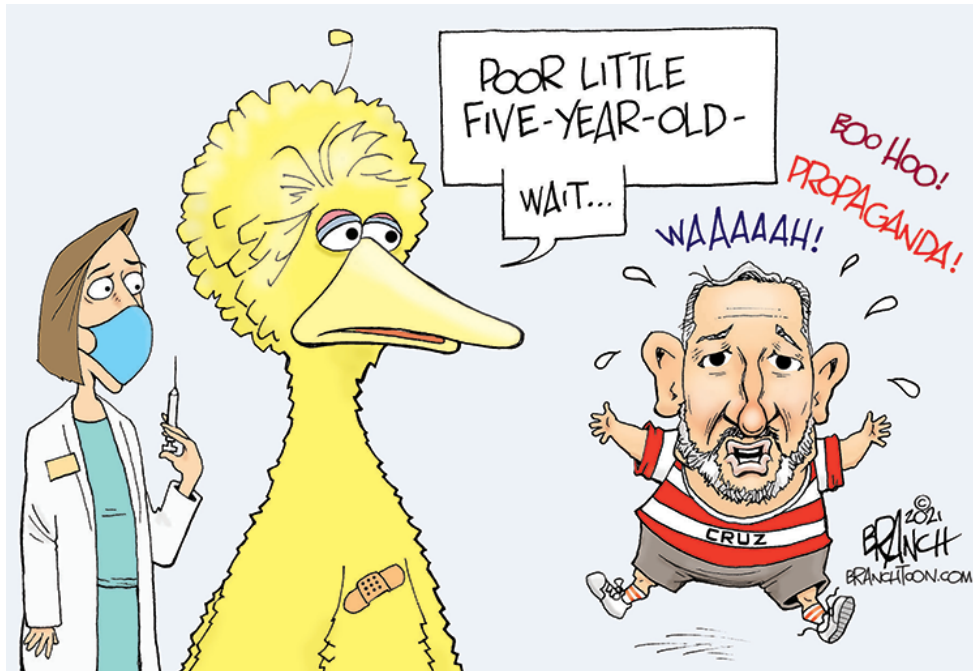
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

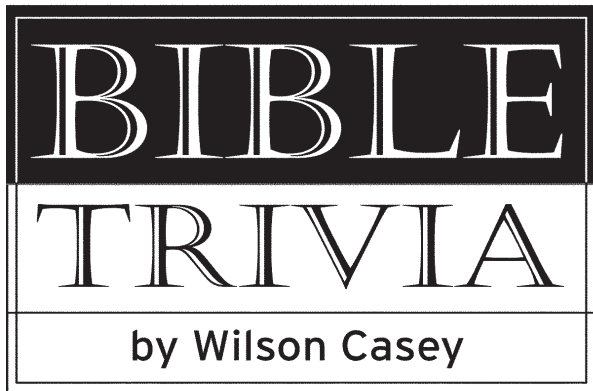
*We give thanks to You, O God,
we give thanks!
For Your wondrous works declare
that Your name is near.*

PSALM 75:1



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by Healthy Exchanges

Thanksgiving Pumpkin Torte

You take care of the rest of the meal, and I'll take care of dessert. Now if we could just find someone to take care of the dishes, we'd have something else to be thankful for!

- 18 (2 1/2-inch) graham cracker squares
- 1 (15-ounce) can solid packed pumpkin
- 1 (4-serving) package sugar-free instant butter-scotch pudding mix
- 2/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans

1. Evenly arrange 9 graham crackers in a 9-by-9-inch cake pan. In a large bowl, combine pumpkin, dry pudding mix, dry milk powder, pumpkin pie spice and water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in 1/4 cup whipped topping. Spread half of pumpkin mixture evenly over graham crackers.

2. Top with remaining 9 graham crackers. Spread remaining pumpkin mixture over top. Evenly spread remaining 3/4 cup whipped topping over pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle pecans evenly over top. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serves 8.

* Each serving equals: 115 calories, 3g fat, 3g protein, 19g carb., 225mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1/2 Fat.

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1. Who wrote in Ephesians 5:20, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"? *Matthew, Peter, Paul, Jude*

2. From Psalms 107:1 and 118:1, why should we give thanks to the Lord, because He is ...? *Evermore, Good, Watching, Hopeful*

3. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times, at eight? *Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah*

4. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? *Adulterers, Sun worshippers, Renegades, Unthankful people*

5. In Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? *Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant*


6. Who were commanded in 1 Chronicles 16:4 to thank God? *Levites, Ammonites, Benjaminites, Danites*

ANSWERS: 1) Paul; 2) Good; 3) Psalms; 4) Unthankful people; 5) At your own will; 6) Levites

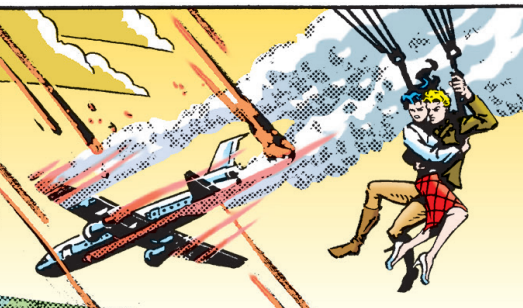
Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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Character Profile:
Dale Arden



AN AIRPLANE IS TORN ASUNDER BY A FREAK METEOR SHOWER!

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

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



By JIM KEEFE
11-7

AS THE TWO COMBATANTS FINALLY COME TO REST...
...ONLY ONE EVENTUALLY RISES.

FLASH! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE CREATURE TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE IMPACT...
LUCKY FOR ME.

LOOK, SOLDIERS ARE ARRIVING. THEY'RE QUEEN FRIA'S MEN.

WE CAME AS FAST AS WE COULD.


HURRY, WE HAVE TO GET YOU TO SAFETY. THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY!

WHO... WHO IS ON THEIR WAY?

RAAHHRRR!




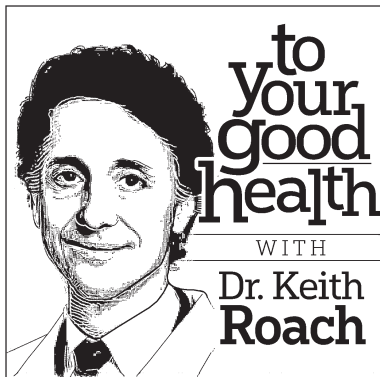
Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



THE LEGS GO FIRST," SAY THE OLD GOLFING HANDS. THAT WILL CERTAINLY BE TRUE UNLESS YOU MAKE AN ONGOING EFFORT TO STAY IN SHAPE.

IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO ADD A WORKOUT REGIMEN TO YOUR LIFESTYLE, AT LEAST TRY TO WALK RATHER THAN RIDE THE GOLF COURSE WHEN YOU PLAY. YOU'LL PLAY BETTER AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, **FEEL BETTER.**





The Problem With Playing Pharmacist

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife has been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation. Doctors tried an electrical cardioversion, but it came back after a few days. She is taking metoprolol and Eliquis. We have read about the supplements red clover, turmeric, omega-3 and hawthorn. Should she discontinue the pharmaceuticals and take supplements instead? -- J.C.

ANSWER: Please don't do that, and let me explain why.

Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heart rhythm. The goal of treating it is first to relieve symptoms, such as fast heart rate and dizziness, and second, to reduce the risk of stroke. Blood clots can form inside the heart when

the atria are fibrillating (a chaotic, non-coordinated muscle movement). Those clots can break off and go into the blood vessels of the brain, causing cell death and loss of function in that part of the brain. That's a stroke.

Your wife is taking metoprolol to slow the heart rate. Atrial fibrillation causes the ventricles to go too fast, causing a sensation of fast heart rate and palpitations. Metoprolol, a beta blocker, protects the heart from damage from a too-fast heart rate, in addition to relieving symptoms. Apixaban (Eliquis) is a powerful anticoagulant, reducing the risk of clot formation.

Red clover is usually used in herbal medicine for its estrogen-like activities. Unfortunately, estrogens INCREASE clot risk, so this herbal medicine absolutely should not be used by someone at risk for clots. Sweet clover hay is the source of warfarin (Coumadin), another often-used anticoagulant in people with atrial fibrillation: This may be the source of confusion. However, warfarin needs to be dosed precisely, with frequent blood-level checks.

Turmeric is an antioxidant that does have some mild anticoagulant properties. However, it is not remotely powerful enough to do the job of protecting your wife adequately from stroke.

Omega-3 fish oils were once thought to reduce risk of atrial fibrillation; unfortunately, a 2013 study showed no benefit.

Hawthorn has two potential benefits: To a slight extent, it acts as a beta blocker (like metoprolol) as well as an anticoagulant. However, no trials have proven its effectiveness. It may interfere with both her medicines. The metoprolol and Eliquis have much more safety data.

DR. ROACH WRITES: In a recent column, a reader noted she had a history of irritable bowel syndrome and described intermittent sharp rectal pain. My answer discussed control of her IBS. When I saw the column printed in the newspaper, weeks after I wrote it, I realized instantly that the diagnosis was probably proctalgia fugax, which is a spasm of the muscles of the anus. It is thought to be related to nerve compression.

I learned from my predecessor of this column, Dr. Paul Donohue, that sitting on a baseball or tennis ball can sometimes stop the pain instantly, and that creams and sometimes oral or inhaled medications can be effective in harder-to-treat cases.

I also want to point out that I fell victim to something called an anchoring heuristic error. I read about my reader's irritable bowel and became "anchored" to that diagnosis. Admitting an error and trying to understand why it happened are critical to reducing the likelihood of making the same error again. Anyone can make a mistake; it's important to learn from them.

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.



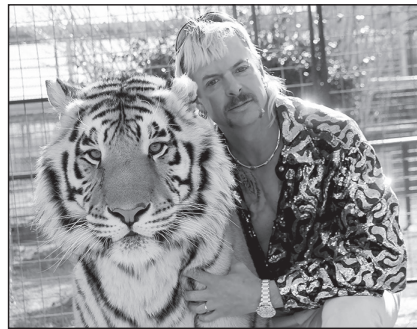
What Happened, Brittany Murphy? — When actress Brittany Murphy died suddenly in 2009 at age 32, celebrity watchers cast a collective suspicious eye toward the situation. Murphy's shocking physical and personality changes after marrying failed director Simon Monjack were just part of her decline. This two-part documentary pieces together police reports, official autopsies, amateur true-crime vlogs and interviews with industry insiders close to Murphy, including actor Kathy Najimy and director Amy Heckerling. Theories of brainwashing, abuse and intentional poisoning are addressed, but the most shocking interview is with Monjack's former girlfriend. Since Monjack also died only a few months after Murphy — in eerily similar fashion — the truth may never be found. (HBOMax)

Brian Wilson: Long Promised Road — Arguably one of the great musical geniuses of modern American music, Brian Wilson also has always been an enigma. Volumes have been written about the Beach Boys founder over the decades, and his unique vision and talent for composing music remain wholly unmatched. Rolling Stone editor Jason Fine spent hours driving Wilson around Los Angeles, visiting locales from the Beach Boys' past and unlocking memories. Musicians past and present weigh in on Wilson's influence, and as a spectacular bonus, a new original song debuts. (In theaters Nov. 19/on demand Nov. 23)

Tiger King 2 — Remember back when we were all hiding out at home avoiding the pandemic, and the one thing that bonded us was binge watching a reality series about a low-rent tiger zoo? Hold on to your beer, it's back for a second round. Though the show's star is now incarcerated, Joe

Exotic's input is still included via collect calls from prison. Interviews with the rest of the unusual folks who staffed the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park in Oklahoma update us on how the series changed their lives, what they're doing now and if competitor Carole Baskin's first husband's real killer has been found yet. (Netflix)

The Real Housewives Ultimate Girls Trip — Every iteration of the "Housewives" franchise uses a group trip as a storyline and catalyst for crazy behavior. One such trip is even nicknamed "Scary Island" by fans. Well, someone finally got the bright idea to bring the biggest drama queens from four of the housewives' cities together for one big crossover Caribbean vacay of bikinis, booze and blathering. It's not for everyone, but sometimes you need a little mindless television. (Peacock)



Netflix

Joe Exotic in "Tiger King"

Harriet the Spy — The beloved children's book by Louise Fitzhugh is now an animated series. (The story was also a live-action movie in 1996.) Harriet M. Welsch is an 11-year-old New York City girl who wants to be a writer. She decides that observing — OK, spying on — others and keeping notebooks of her observations is a step toward this goal. As a budding writer of 11 years old when I first read the book, I adopted this method myself. And as we both came to discover, this practice can backfire. Harriet is voiced by Beanie Feldstein, who is fresh off portraying of Monica Lewinsky on "Impeachment: American Crime Story." (Apple TV+)

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1. Name the group that released "We Want the Airwaves."

2. Which group released "Cold as Ice?"

3. Who was slated to record "My Girl" before it was given to the Temptations?

4. Which Gibb brother added "I Just Want to Be Your Everything" to his debut album?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "And so you see I have come to doubt all that I once held as true, I stand alone without beliefs, The only truth I know is you."

Answers

1. The Ramones, in 1981 on their "Pleasant Dreams" album.

2. Foreigner, in 1977. The song was used as a soundtrack in a 1978 "Saturday Night Live" skit. It charted around the world, but never quite reached the top.

3. The Miracles. But songwriter Smokey Robinson recruited David Ruffin, put him in front of the Temptations, and the rest is history.

4. Andy Gibb, in 1977. It was written by his brother Barry, who penned the chart topper in 20 minutes.

5. "Kathy's Song," by Simon and Garfunkel. Paul Simon wrote the song to a girl he met in 1963 in England, but Kathy couldn't handle the stardom and ended the relationship. She lives in Wales now and is in her 70s.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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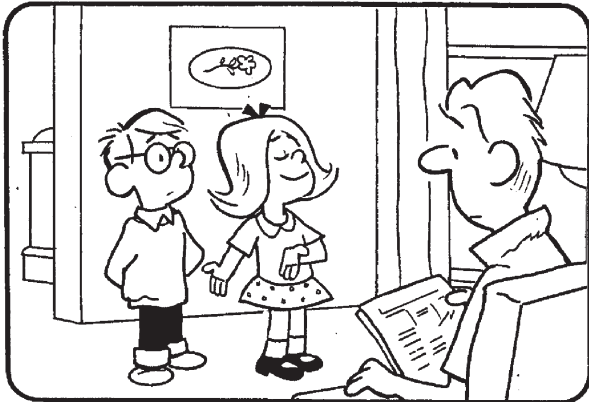
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Flower is different. 2. Glasses are removed. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Hair is different. 5. Children are holding hands. 6. Socks are shorter.



• Thanksgiving Tip: “Let one person be responsible for putting prep dishes, pots and pans in the dishwasher while another prepares the bird and side dishes for the table. You will be half-way done with dishes by the time the meal is over.” — *M.A. in Washington*

• “Bake stuffing in muffin tins for individual servings. Also, if your family is anything like mine, we love the crispy parts, and everyone will get some this way!” — *W.G. in Mississippi*

• “If you host a large family holiday gathering and serve a lot of side dishes, try this trick to them hot while waiting for other items to finish in the oven. Simply cover the bottom of a clean ice chest with a few trivets or a couple kitchen towels, and set casseroles and oven-cooked meats inside. Most people use a cooler to keep things cold, but the insulation works just as well to keep hot things hot ... at least for a little while.” — *M.E. in West Virginia*

• “An oldie but a goodie, and certainly considerate of dear old Mom: In my family, you come to Thanksgiving dinner with your own plastic containers for leftovers. If you don’t bring your own, you don’t go home with tomorrow’s lunch. Mom instituted this rule after the first Thanksgiving when all the kids had moved out. We practically cleaned her out of Tupperware!” — *E.Y. in New Mexico*

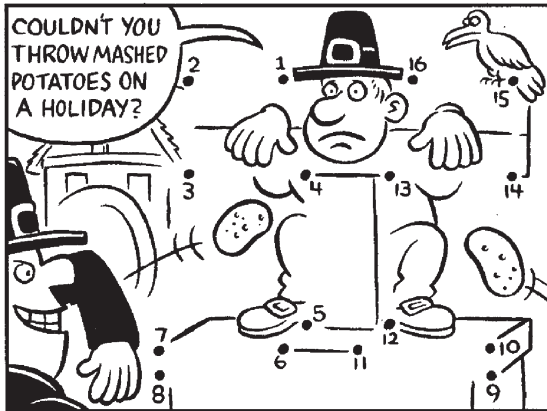
• Recipe substitution: If you need 1 teaspoon of pumpkin pie spice, use 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon ginger, 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves.

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

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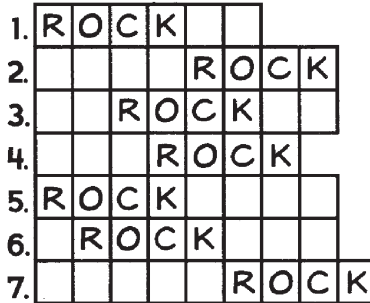


PILGRIM'S PROGRESS! Connect the dots to find out what progress this Pilgrim is making in the New World.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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ROCK AROUND THE ROCK!

IN 1620 the Pilgrims are said to have landed at a spot called Plymouth Rock. One year later they celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day. Let's do our own celebrating by identifying the ROCK-filled words in our list. Here are some hints:



1. Type of chair.
2. It's found in Ireland.
3. Toothlike projection.
4. Flintstones' town.
5. Space flight design.
6. Earthenware vessels.
7. Wall-building material.

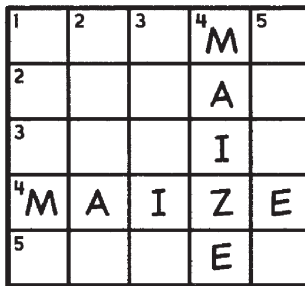
Time limit: two minutes.

1. Roker. 2. Shamrock.
3. Sprocket. 4. Bedrock.
5. Rocketry. 6. Crockery.
7. Sheetrock.

FROM PILLORY TO POST! This Pilgrim has a vegetable garden that he has fenced in using 12 posts equally spaced along each side. How many posts did he use?
Answer: 44 posts. If you don't believe it, draw a diagram!

A CORNY PUZZLE! We've started our word square with MAIZE, the Indian name for corn. You need to find four more five-letter words so that all words used read the same both across and down.

1. A pleasant odor.
2. Not urban.
3. To revolve around.
4. Indian corn (given).
5. To change.

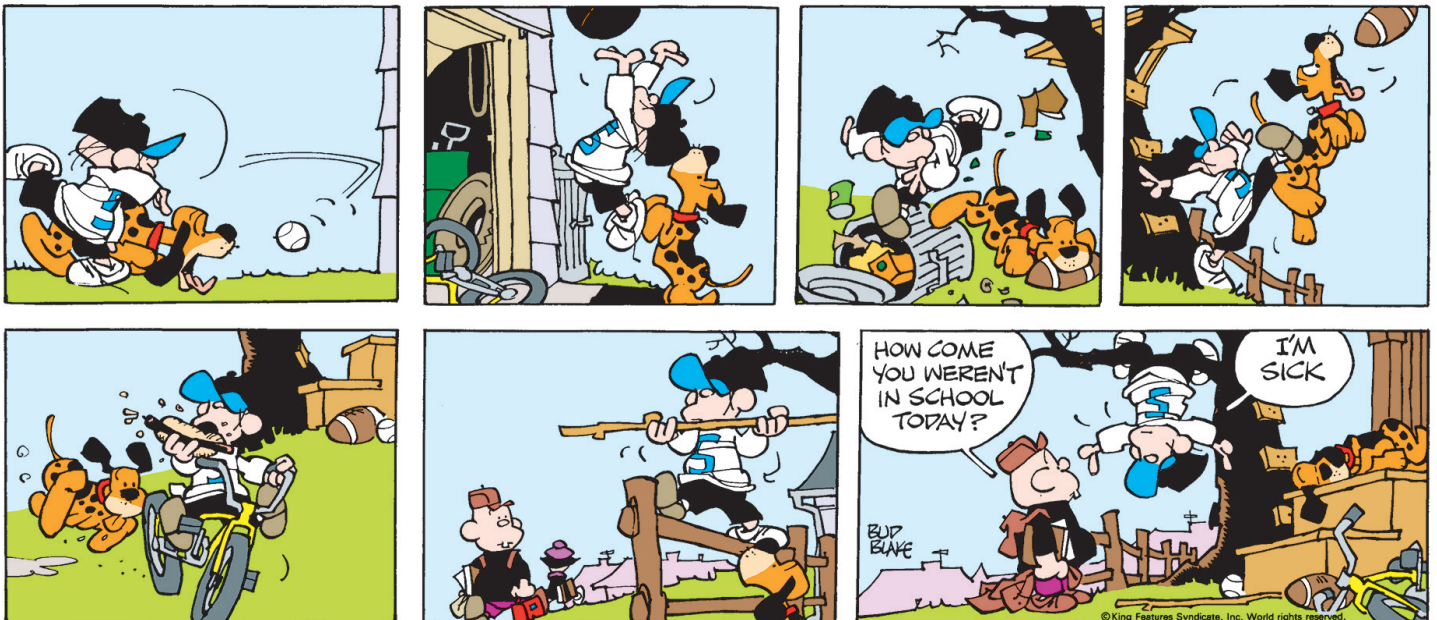


Illustrated by David Coulson

1. Aroma. 2. Rural. 3. Orbit. 4. Maize. 5. Alter.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Up to
- 4 Platter
- 8 Scoop holder
- 12 Olympics chant
- 13 Sicilian resort
- 14 Dryer fuzz
- 15 Sandal type
- 17 Pub potables
- 18 Computer whiz
- 19 Dog tags, e.g.
- 21 PC key
- 22 Excellent
- 26 Expire
- 29 Present location?
- 30 Med. plan option
- 31 Perry's creator

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		

- 32 — Aviv
- 33 Hotel worker
- 34 From — Z
- 35 "Science Guy" Bill
- 36 Segments
- 37 Kanye West's music
- 39 Moonshine vessel
- 40 Japanese sash
- 41 Narcotic
- 45 Volition
- 48 Sound of hoofbeats
- 50 Tom Joad, for one
- 51 First-rate
- 52 Onassis nickname
- 53 Marries
- 54 A deadly sin
- 55 Moment
- 9 Tin Man's need
- 10 SSW opposite
- 11 UFO crew
- 16 Stage
- 20 Ten, in Dijon
- 23 "— she blows!"
- 24 Skip
- 25 Spacecraft compartments
- 26 Wife of Jacob
- 27 Intro studio class
- 28 Fall into a soft chair
- 29 Spelldown
- 32 Not out of the ordinary
- 33 Wizardry
- 35 San Francisco's — Hill
- 36 Thing on a string
- 38 Bagel features
- 39 Unites
- 42 Regrettably
- 43 Rent
- 44 Grand tale
- 45 Dazzle
- 46 White House nickname
- 47 Cover
- 49 Baseball's Gehrig

DOWN

- 1 Clump of grass
- 2 Capri, e.g.
- 3 Secular
- 4 Sully
- 5 Cove
- 6 — -Cat
- 7 Domed building in Washington D.C.
- 8 Purse fastener

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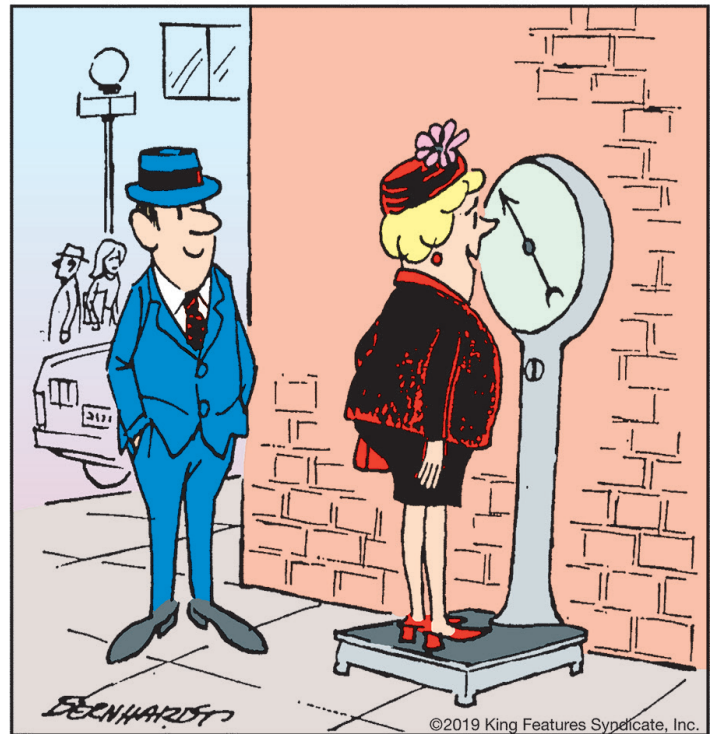
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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



"That's inflation for you—what used to be 130 pounds is now 150!"

Out on a Limb

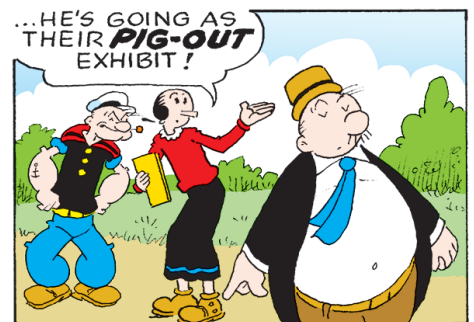
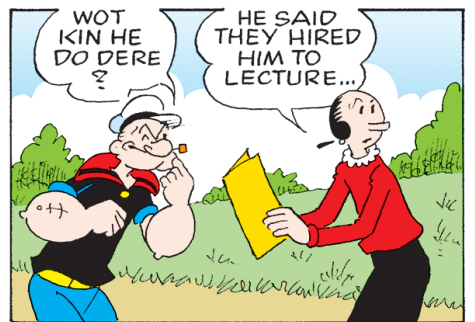
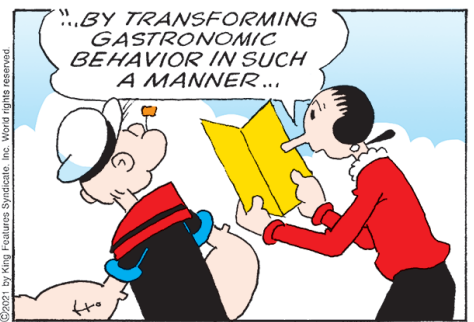
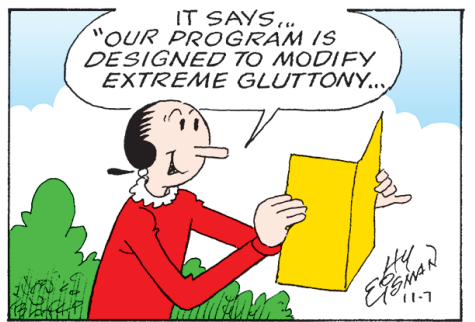
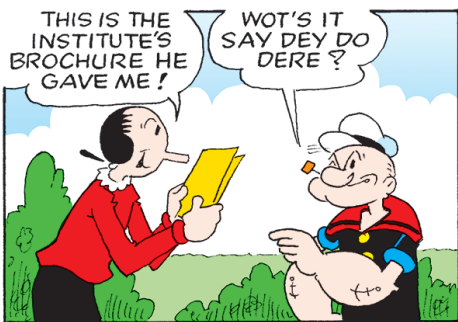
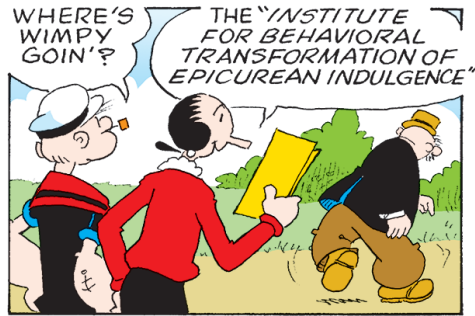
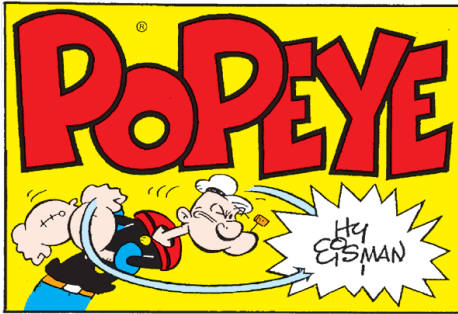


by Gary Kopervas



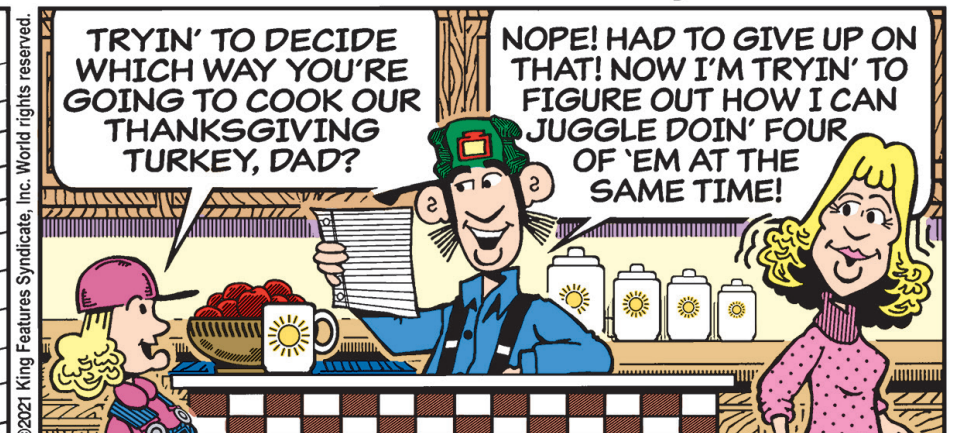
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



www.kingfeatures.com www.rfcomic.weebly.com

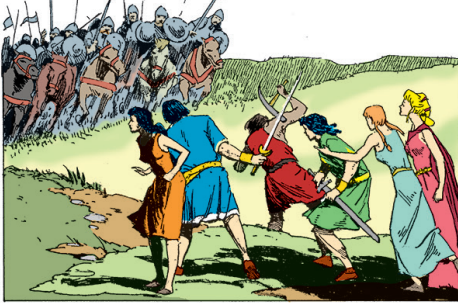
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HAL FOSTER'S
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

VAL'S COMPANY MAY BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE YOUTH ELIXIR, BUT EVEN SO THEY RECOGNIZE APPROACHING DANGER.



THEIR HIGH SPIRITS FADE INTO ANTICIPATION OF A FINAL DESPERATE STAND.



BUT, AT THE LAST MOMENT, THE LEAD HORSEMAN SIGNALS AND HIS MEN PULL UP SHARPLY. "HAIL, PRINCE VALIANT, YOU RAGGED EXCUSE FOR A SQUIRE," HE GRINS. "DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR OLD JOUSTING PARTNER, SIR COEL?"

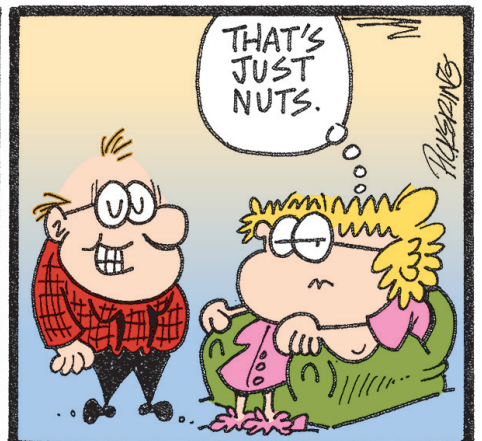
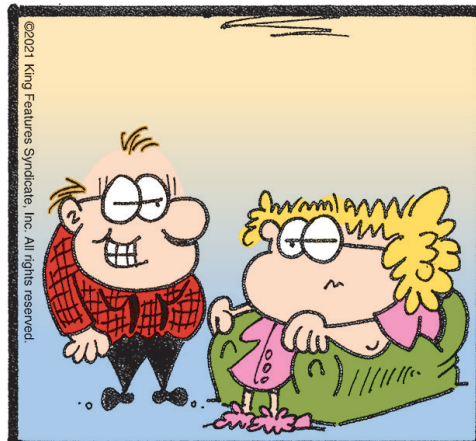
VAL ALMOST ROLLS HIS EYES. "OF COURSE. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SIR COEL."

NEXT:
Friend or foe?

3840 Gianni 9-12-10
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Foreign Radio Stations and Language Lessons

Here we are, still stuck mostly at home for another winter. Looking for ways to get out, even if it's only mentally, I've discovered internet radio.

It's easy to get started. I went to Radio.net (with 33,000 stations around the world) and on a whim I typed in Ireland for a search function. That got me 15 stations in Ireland. I tried Canada, and that netted me 44 stations. Searching for France, I found 798 stations. I went with a French talk show aimed at seniors and have been able to test the free French lessons I've been taking online with Duolingo.

If you get hooked on listening to the radio on your computer, you might consider investing in a good pair of speakers. I prefer the wired speakers, as opposed to struggling with Bluetooth connections, and a decent set can be had for less than \$25. I'm still using

a pair of 3-inch cube speakers with a very handy volume button that I purchased seven years ago.

As for the free French lessons on Duolingo ([duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com)), I've decided to start again at the beginning. There are four goal levels: casual, regular, serious and intense, meaning 5, 10, 15 or 20 minutes per day of instruction. Now that I've found that French talk show, not to mention all the other 797 French stations, I'm going to get more serious about learning French.

On Radio.net there was an offer to get a free phone app at the App store or on Google Play, but you can just click the green arrow for connection. One thing to keep in mind about radio apps for phones or tablets — they do use data. If you're on a cellphone plan, make sure you are using Wi-Fi, or be aware of how much data you are using. You can always listen on the computer.

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1. NASCAR drivers Darrell Waltrip, Ricky Rudd and Ricky Craven won a combined 20 races driving a colorful car sponsored by what brand of laundry detergent?

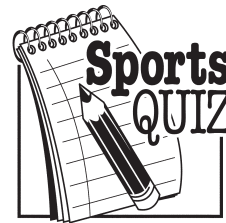
2. Name the documentary filmmaker who directed “Baseball” (1994), “Jackie Robinson” (2016) and “Muhammad Ali” (2021).

3. What Miami University Red-Hawks standout was selected by the Minnesota Timberwolves in the first round of the 1999 NBA Draft?

4. What track and field event is traditionally held in April in Des Moines, Iowa?

5. Who scored the lone run in Game 6 of the 1995 World Series to clinch the championship for the Atlanta Braves?

6. What Toronto Maple Leafs player died in a plane crash in 1951 and was



by Ryan A. Berenz

not recovered until 1962?

7. “The War on the Shore,” “Battle of Brookline” and “Meltdown at Medinah” are famous events in the history of what golf competition?

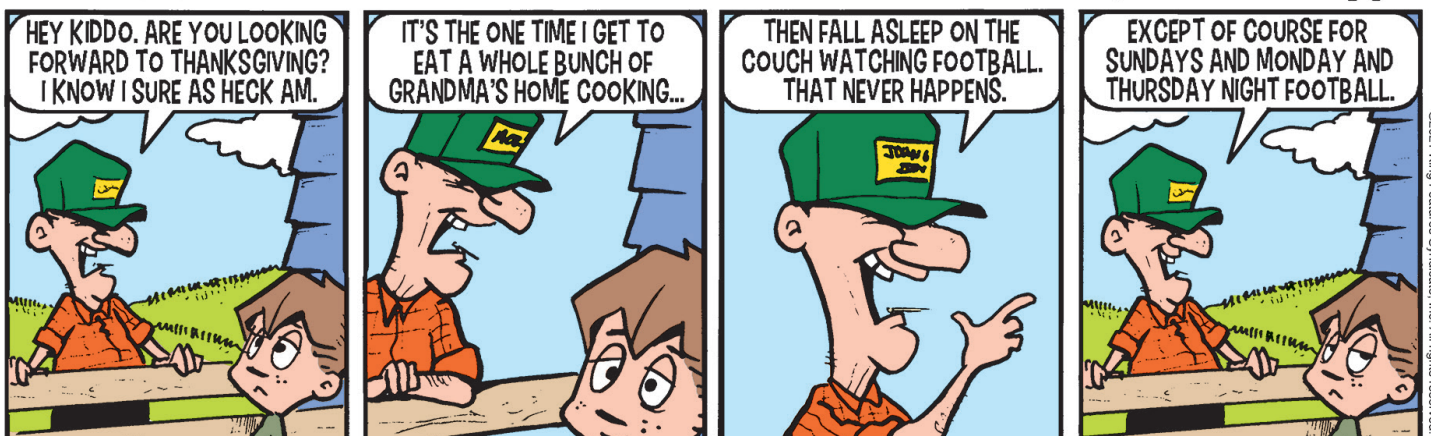
Answers

1. Tide.
2. Ken Burns.
3. Wally Szczerbiak.
4. The Drake Relays.
5. David Justice.
6. Bill Barilko.
7. The Ryder Cup.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





New Dog Has Appetite for Doggie Door Flap

DEAR PAWS CORNER: Help! Our recently adopted dog “Mollie,” a medium-sized mixed breed, thinks the doggie door flap leading outside to the backyard is delicious. Rather than using it to go in and out, she grabs the edge, chews and tugs on it. She growls when she does this. And she insists that we open the back door for her to go out. How do we fix this? — *Mary T., San Antonio*

DEAR MARY: You’ll need to address this in two steps. First, you need to figure out if Mollie is chewing due to boredom or attention-seeking, or if she has separation anxiety due to trauma in her past. If she’s only chewing on the door flap and nothing else in the house, maybe there’s an old memory surfacing.

Second, you’ll need to repair or replace the damaged flap and train Mollie to go in and out of it confidently.

Here are a few methods:

1. **Divert and distract:** As soon as Mollie starts trying to chew the door, call her name to stop her and then distract her away from the door with something else that interests her, like a favorite toy or a treat.

2. **Behavior training at the same time each day:** Note when Mollie is most likely to start chewing on the door. Then, conduct 10 minutes of behavior training in basic commands.

3. **Train Mollie to use the flap correctly:** Once she’s responding well to basic commands, add “going thru the flap” to her training. The AKC has a great tutorial here: www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/dog-not-using-dog-door/ and this trainer’s video shows the clicker-treat method: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-R_k4_UHDeA

If these methods don’t work, consider a professional trainer to help identify and work through Mollie’s fears or bad habits.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

morphine high.

* "Scotch" used to be a synonym for "thrifty" or "frugal." When cellophane tape was first invented, it was marketed during the Great Depression as "Scotch tape" since it could extend the life of objects and save you money.

* A grizzly bear has enough bite strength to crush a bowling ball.

* There is a psychological state called "helper's high" in which the act of giving produces endorphins in the brain that provide a mild version of a

* Table tennis balls can travel off the paddle at a speed of 105.6 mph.

* From 1932 to 1967, there was a casino called the "Bullpen" in a stone building on the grounds of the Nevada State prison in Carson City, where inmates could play blackjack, craps, poker and bet on sports.

* When Frito-Lay introduced a compostable bag for its Sun Chips brand in 2010, consumers noticed that its crinkling and crackling was significantly louder than previous bags -- testing, in fact, at 95 decibels, which is about as loud as a motorcycle! It was discontinued in 2011.

* Scientists estimate that the average person is more than five times as likely to die in a hypothetical human species extinction event as in a car crash.

* A man sued Warner Bros. -- and won -- after he was injured while fainting during a 1974 screening of "The Exorcist."

* The 700-year-old Starkenberger brewery in Tarrenz, Austria, has seven swimming pools filled with beer. The brewery, which is housed in an ancient castle, converted the old vats in the fermentation room to pools.

* A 19th-century costume designer invented the horned Viking helmet.

* In 1994, Chicago artist Dwight Kalb made a statue of singer Madonna from 180 pounds of ham.

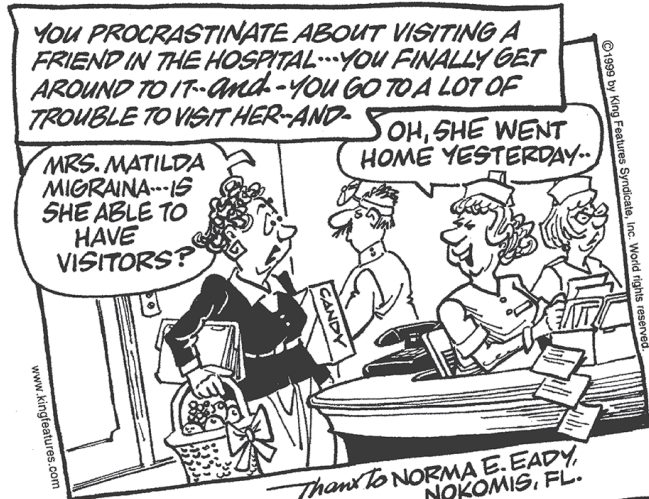
* Chocolate milk was originally sold as medicine.

Thought for the Day: "A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers." -- Helen Keller

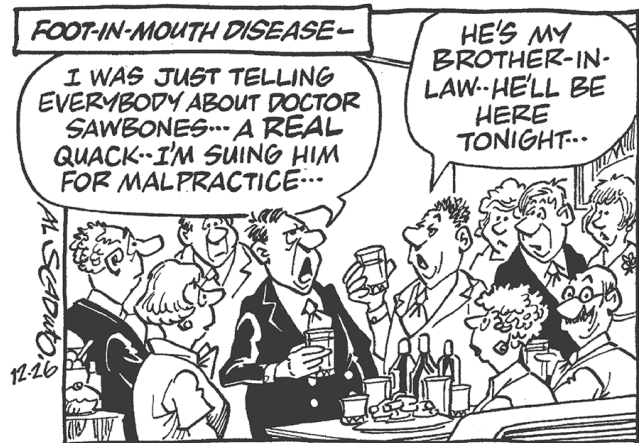
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



Thank to NORMA E. EADY, NOKOMIS, FL.



Thank to R. HARRISON, WICHITA, KAN.

WACKO DEPT--
DIZZIA SPENT HOURS AND MUCHO BUCKS IN LA BEAUTY SHOPPE GETTING THE VERY LATEST COIFFURE STYLE--NOW SHE'S HOME AND-- AH-H--WHAT'S SHE UP TO?

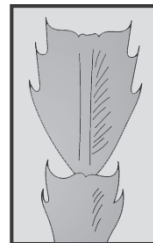
Thank to 'FIFI' MEISNER, SILVER SPRING, MD.



Comparing holiday cactuses

The so-called "Thanksgiving Cactus" and "Christmas Cactus" are actually succulents. They must have cooler temperatures, and sit in darkness for about 6 weeks for the flower buds to appear on the stalk tips. When that happens you can bring the plants into a warmer area for your enjoyment, although you should avoid placing it in direct sunlight. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.extension.iastate.edu
worldofsucculents.com



Thanksgiving Cactus
Schlumbergera truncata



Christmas Cactus
Schlumbergera bridgesii



VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Veterans Village: David Steps Up

I had to park on the street because the lot behind the coffee shop was completely full, with the older veterans relegated to the sidewalk. Sarge and David, the homeless veteran building contractor, were waving hands and instructing the truckers to carefully wedge three, not two this time, but three tiny-home wheel frames onto the lot. Inches mattered.

The land itself for the coming Veterans Village was a thing of beauty. Partially cleared but with plenty of trees still left, it was tucked into some acreage right at the edge of town. The first tiny home was to be delivered in three days, hauled over and hooked up to the underground electric. Town officials and inspectors were sure to be hovering.

David, responsible for Veterans Village, had opted not to grab one of the first tiny homes as his own. Instead, he'd stay in the attic dorm above the

coffee shop for now, if that was all right with Sarge.

"Stay as long as you like," Sarge had said.

Sarge was actually glad to have him there. David had been a good influence on the dorm crew, especially the young veteran who still didn't have a job. He had gone on a number of interviews, none of them successful. The problem, as David discovered late one night in the dorm, was that the veteran couldn't read. He would stare at magazines and turn pages, but couldn't tell you what the words were. Say one thing to him, however, and he would remember it forever.

Which was why David hired him to work on the tiny homes as a yard helper. "I can rattle off a list of 20 things for him to do during the day, and they'll all be done perfectly," David told Sarge. "Darn shame he can't read. He could go far."

Hearing that, Sarge stepped into the coffee shop, shut the door and called his granddaughter. "Baby girl, this is Granddad," he said. "You ever teach anybody to read?"

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



Fewer Time Changes, More Sunlight

Last Sunday, you probably woke up one of two ways: rested because of the extra hour of sleep or bright and early because your kids didn't get the memo on Daylight Saving Time (DST).

We go through this rigmarole twice a year – the extra hour of sleep sounds nice in theory, but that perk fades quickly when it starts getting dark before you are off of work. The additional hour of darkness in the evening results in less exposure to sunlight, leading to a biochemical imbalance in the brain, which increases the possibility of being affected by Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

In the United States, DST was first instituted during World War I to assist with the war effort. While Daylight Saving Time has been observed for a little over a century, there's much debate about putting an end to this practice. In fact, 29 states have introduced legislation to stop DST.

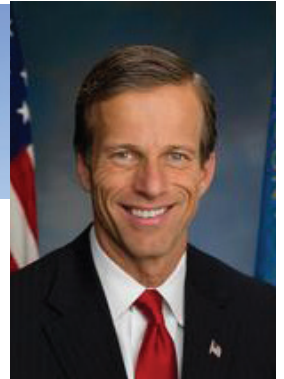
Last year, I was open to the idea that it should be eliminated and wanted to learn more about the impact such a move would have on South Dakota. I was curious if folks supported this move – or if they even cared – so I conducted a Twitter poll.

I asked a simple question: "Do you support getting rid of time changes?" The majority of people are united on this issue, and of the 4,103 responses, 89% supported getting rid of daylight savings. We may have just discovered the one policy that most Americans can agree on.

After receiving this feedback, I signed onto the Sunshine Protection Act which eliminates the "fall back" daylight saving time change. Fewer time changes, more sunlight in the evenings = a win for everyone.

Like many of you, I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family after work and it is increasingly difficult to do so when it gets dark so early. Until we see a victory on the Sunshine Protection Act – keep powering through – spring will be here soon enough.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A Forever Home

Each year, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute honors individuals, families, and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to adoption, permanency, and child welfare. As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, for the last decade, I have had the honor and privilege of nominating South Dakota families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need.

This year, I nominated Bridget and Jason Bennett of Sioux Falls for the 2021 Angels in Adoption Award. They have two biological children and officially welcomed 10-month-old Levi into their family on July 14, 2021, after becoming his primary caregivers since his birth.

The Bennetts had known for years that they wanted to adopt, and they officially started the process in September 2018. After years of obstacles and two failed adoptions, the Bennetts continued to hold out hope that they would eventually be selected to provide a better home for a child in need. And just like that, they received a call when Levi's birth mother was just eight weeks pregnant informing them that she had selected them to be her baby's adoptive parents.

The Bennetts have been champions of adoption for years, and their story is truly inspiring to all families across South Dakota. I feel privileged to have learned about their adoption journey and to have been able to nominate them for an Angels in Adoption Award this year. I cannot think of a family more deserving of this recognition.

I recently had the opportunity to present the award to the Bennetts in Sioux Falls. And let me tell you, they sure do have their hands full with their three little ones on the run! But it's clear to anyone who's around them that they're loving every single moment of it.

November is National Adoption Month, and November 20 will mark National Adoption Day. During this month, we honor all those families who, like the Bennetts, have chosen to welcome a child in need of a home. Sadly, not every child is born into a safe and loving home. Some are born to parents who, as a result of various circumstances, are unable to take care of them. Others tragically lose their parents at a very young age. And in some of the most unfortunate cases, children are born to parents who simply refuse to take care of them or actively seek to damage the great gift in their care. But thankfully, there are parents out there, just like Bridget and Jason, who are eager to receive these children who need a good home and a loving family.

Across our country, there are countless parents whose homes and hearts are already prepared to welcome a child in need. They may not yet know the names of their future sons or daughters, but they're ready and waiting to meet them. National Adoption Month is a good time to rededicate ourselves to caring for children in need and helping them find a forever home.

There are few actions more worthy of admiration than a decision to welcome a child in need and create for that child a secure and loving home. I am so grateful for families like the Bennetts who have opened their hearts and found sons and daughters through adoption. I am also thankful for all of the birth mothers who have chosen adoption for their children to give them a better life in a loving family.

This month in particular, I will be keeping all families and birth mothers who are in the adoption process in my prayers, and I hope you'll join me.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

A little goes a long way during this Season of Giving

The season of giving is here and there are numerous organizations that South Dakotans support in their communities. Food pantries, shelters for women and children, clothing drives, and toy drives are all causes that fill our hearts while helping those less fortunate, especially during the holiday season.

As kids, we are taught that our purpose in life is to serve others. We know that giving someone a meal serves an immediate need, but that food may only go so far in helping our neighbors face other challenges in their lives. We also know that giving of our time to support local organizations should go beyond seasonal solutions when helping to lift people out of their struggles.

There are many organizations throughout our state that operate year-round to provide services to meet both short-term and long-term needs in our communities. These organizations are grateful for our financial support for their missions; however, perhaps we should all go beyond financial donations. For those who want to give the gift of service and time, there are many opportunities for giving this holiday season.

For most of us time is limited because of how much we pack into our daily schedules. This makes time a gift that we all cherish. When you give of your time, think about how that can positively impact someone who is struggling with working and raising a family on their own. Compassion Child Care is a group that strengthens working families through affordable daycare, housing solutions, and options for early childhood education. This organization serves many homeless single moms who are working and struggling to provide for their children.

Consider giving your time as a house manager for Compassion Child Care's housing program and encouraging the young families who this group supports. Also, volunteering at their daycare program gives these working moms an affordable option so they can work during the day to support their families.

You may want to help others by mentoring them or preparing them for their next career or job. Love INC is an organization that coordinates volunteers for more than 60 churches in Rapid City and the surrounding area. These volunteers mentor individuals and families who are in need of shelter, housing, training, and guidance to get back on their feet. This also includes training them for financial independence and teaching interview skills for job seekers.

You can also serve others by using your skills to help head up an organization or teach leadership skills to those who have never had the opportunity to step into a leadership role. Our young people are looking for leaders to follow. Social media is so attractive to the younger generation and it offers access to a variety of personalities who can fill those leadership roles. We know real leadership comes from a tangible connection. Groups like the Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club, Teen Challenge, and the McCrossan Boys Ranch are taking kids away from their devices and teaching them to develop skills and seek positive mentorship. There is also the OneHeart group that is teaching young adults life skills after overcoming addiction. You could be the one who gives your neighbor a second chance at life.

There are myriad ways to help others rather than just contributing funds or resources. I know that however you choose to give back this season and beyond, it will make South Dakota a better place. No matter the season, we are a reflection of our values, and I hope you'll join me in ensuring our South Dakota values will always be rooted in serving others.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: My husband thinks it's better for the planet to hand-wash dishes in the sink, but it seems to me using the dishwasher is more eco-friendly. Can you settle this debate for us? -- Chris B., Bowie, MD

Hands-down, the dishwasher is the way to go, not only from the standpoint of water waste and energy use but also to preserve your own sanity. Who needs to be scrubbing, rinsing and drying dishes all day when an efficient machine can do the work? Modern dishwashers use much less water and energy than their forebears, so you can clean up after your meals and snacks quickly and without guilt just by filling up the dishwasher and hitting the "start" button.

It's not surprising that many of us still think hand-washing is better, given that the dishwashers of yesteryear used 10-15 gallons of water per cycle. But dishwashers sold today in the United States can only use a maximum of five gallons per cycle per the mandate of the U.S. Department of Energy. And to qualify for one of the federal government's EnergySTAR labels identifying especially efficient appliances, dishwashers must max out their water use at 3.5 gallons per cycle.

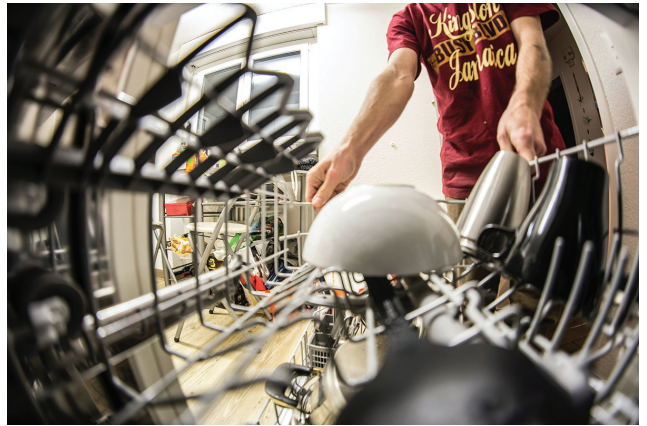
Meanwhile, handwashing the same number of dishes, pots and pans as you can fit in the dishwasher typically "consumes" some 27 gallons of water, according to a study by researchers at Germany's University of Bonn. (They also found that some people can handwash a load of dishes with as little as 8.7 gallons of water while others use as many as 116 gallons!)

"The average kitchen faucet has a flow rate of 2.2 gallons per minute, meaning that you'd only have two minutes to wash an entire dishwasher's worth of dishes to match a dishwasher's water efficiency," reports Savannah Sher on BobVila.com. "It would be nearly impossible to use less than five gallons of water to hand wash a full load of dishes."

And if you're going to use the dishwasher anyway, save yourself even more hot water by skipping the sink pre-rinse and just loading those dirty dishes right into the bottom rack.

"Scrape big chunks of leftover food into the trash, but pre-rinsing isn't necessary with modern dishwashers because they have sensors that adjust the wash cycle based on how dirty the dishes are," says Consumer Reports' Perry Santanachote. In fact, unnecessary pre-rinsing can waste about 6,000 gallons of water per household per year.

These efficiency gains only apply to running your dishwasher when it's full. Rather than running the dishwasher with a half-load, wait until it fills up before hitting start. (Some units have a "rinse and hold" feature that pre-rinses what's in there so it's easier to clean when it does fill up later.) Of course, some items—cutting boards, silver flatware, cast iron cookware, non-stick pans—will still require handwashing, but you can always try to minimize your use of them accordingly.



Running a full load of dishes in the dishwasher is much greener when it comes to energy and water usage than handwashing the same amount of dishes.

Credit: Wendelin, Pexels.com.

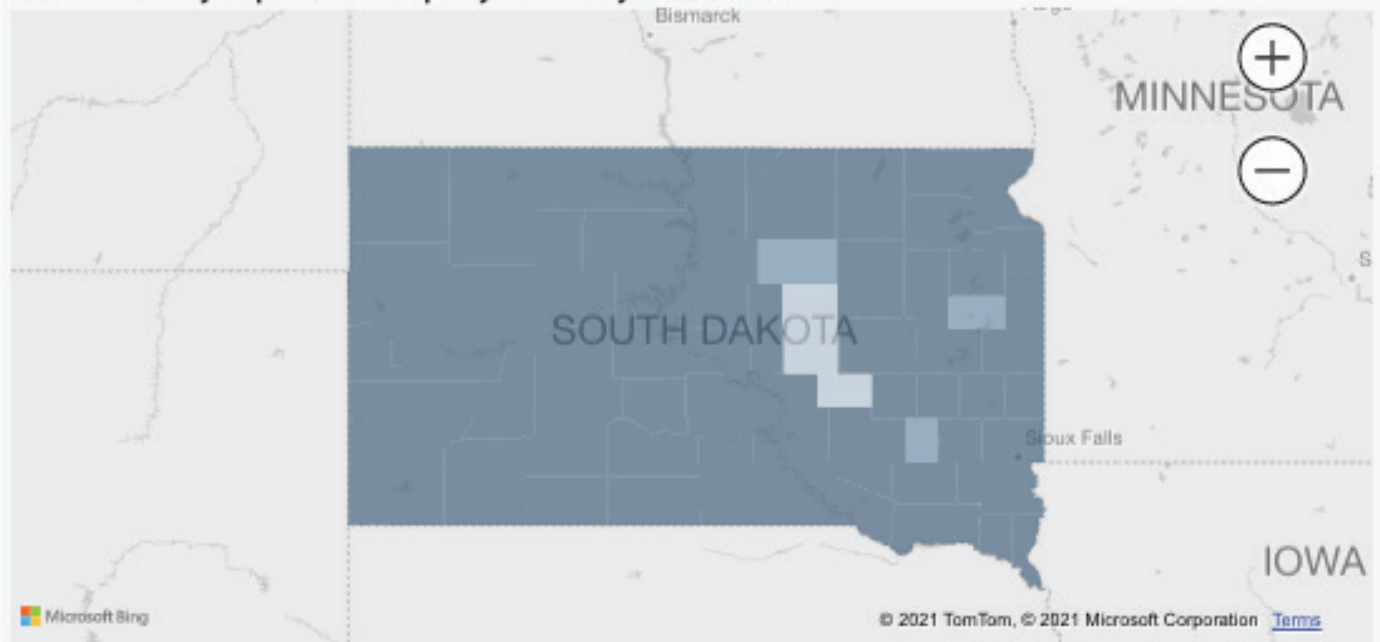
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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

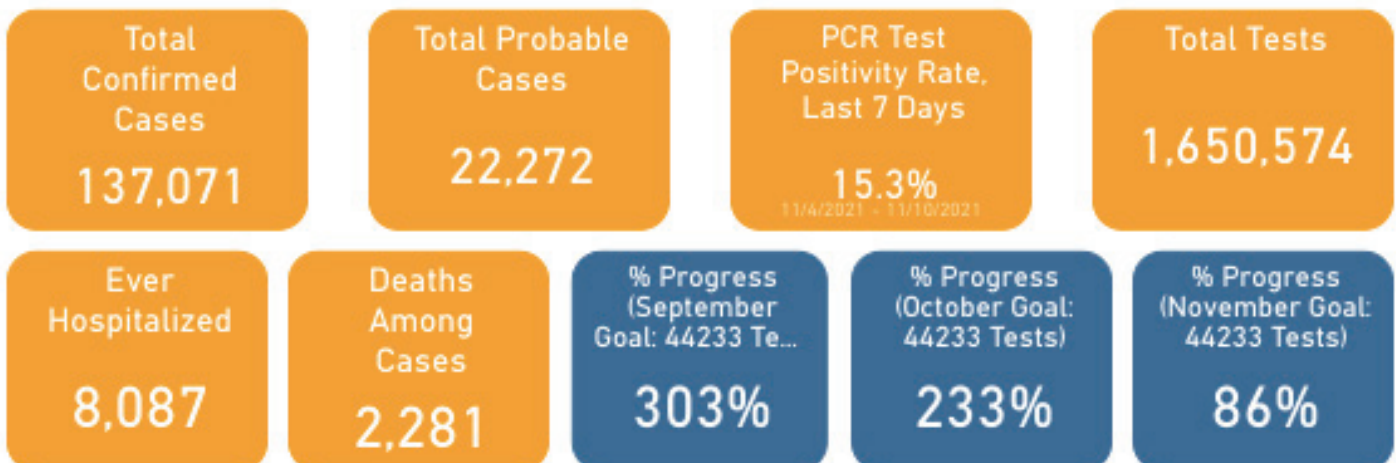


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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



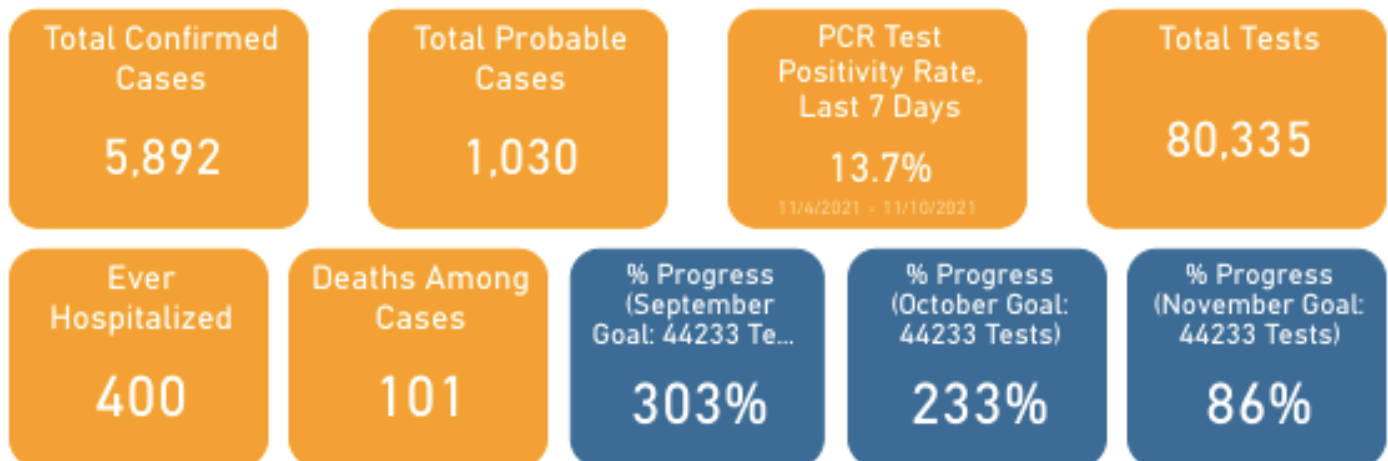
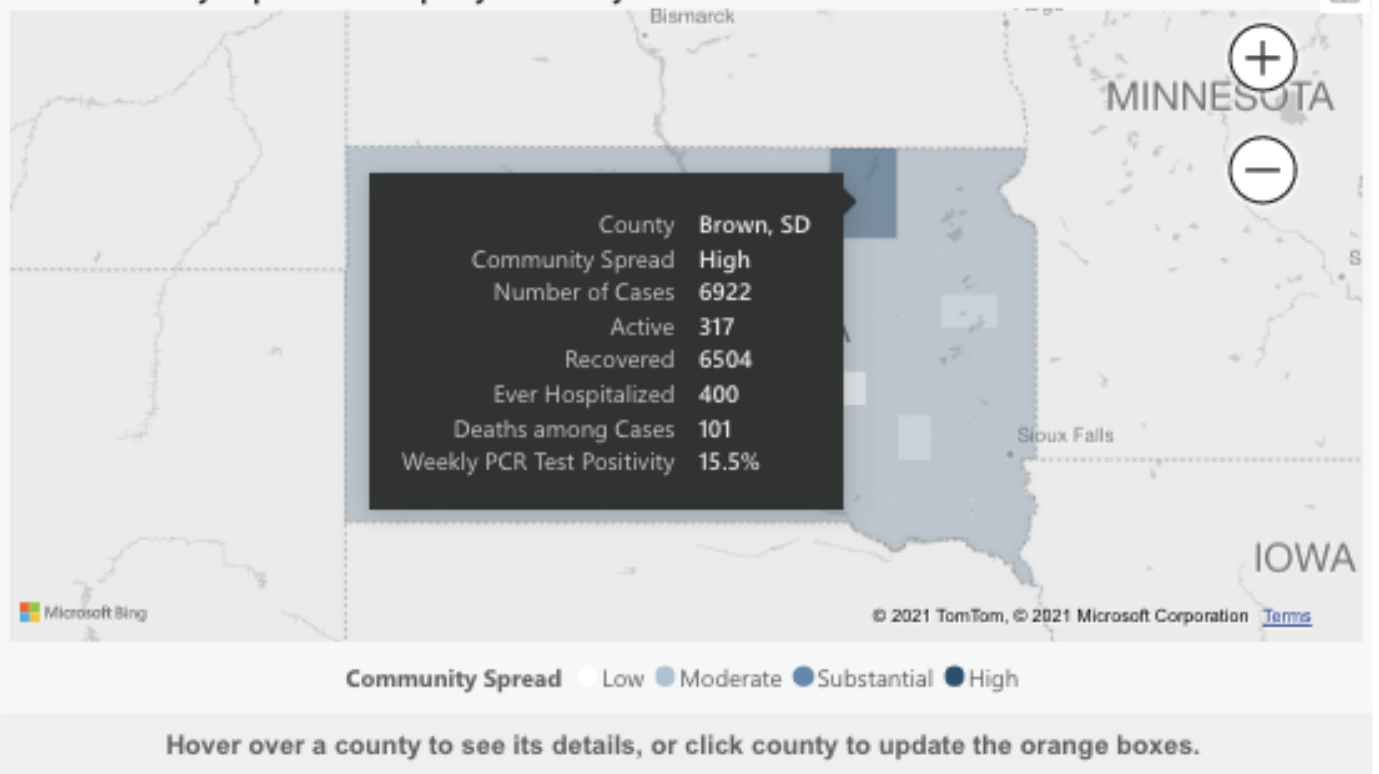
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Brown County COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



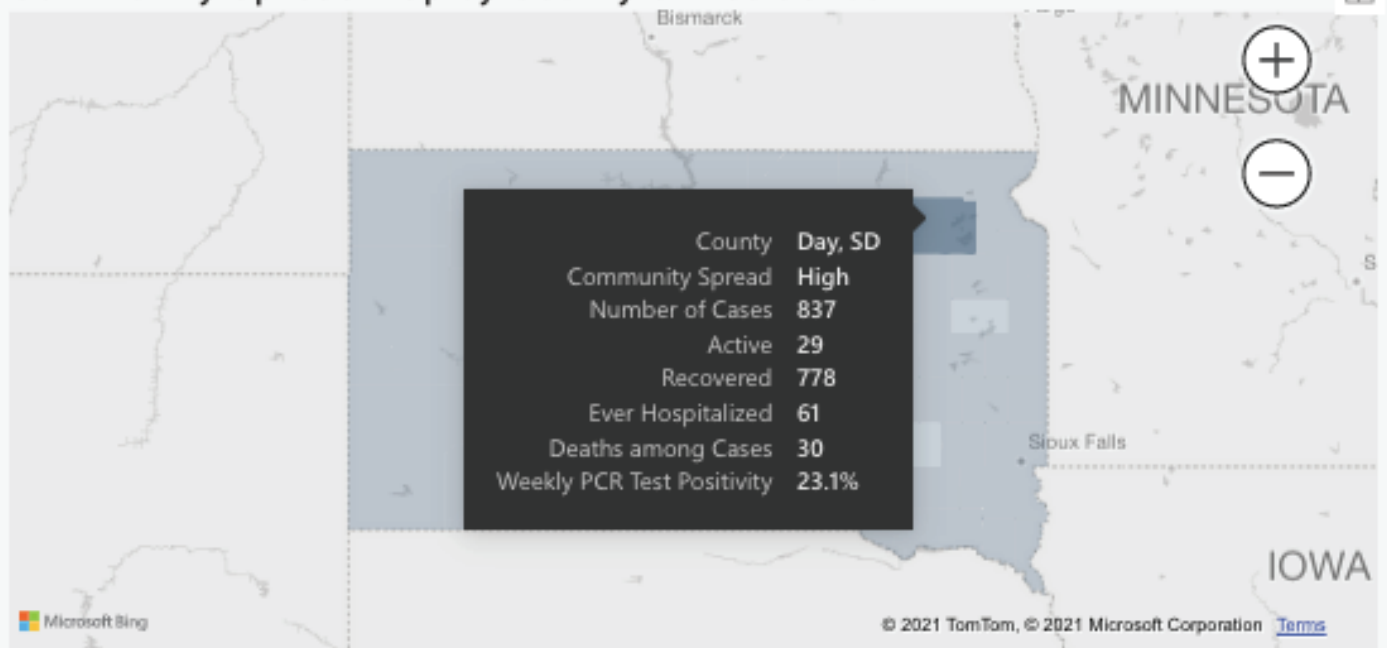
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Day County COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread: Low Moderate Substantial High

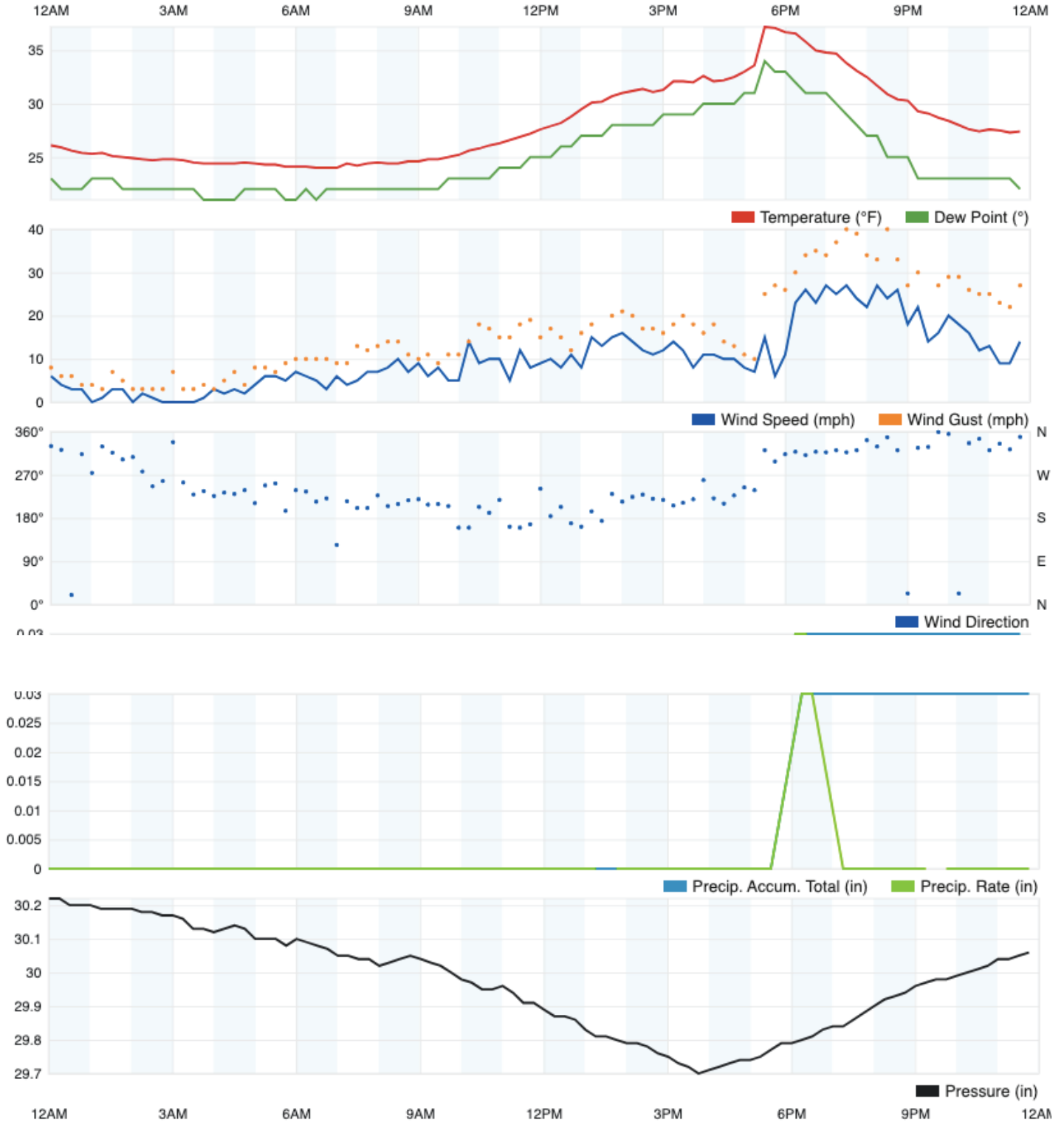
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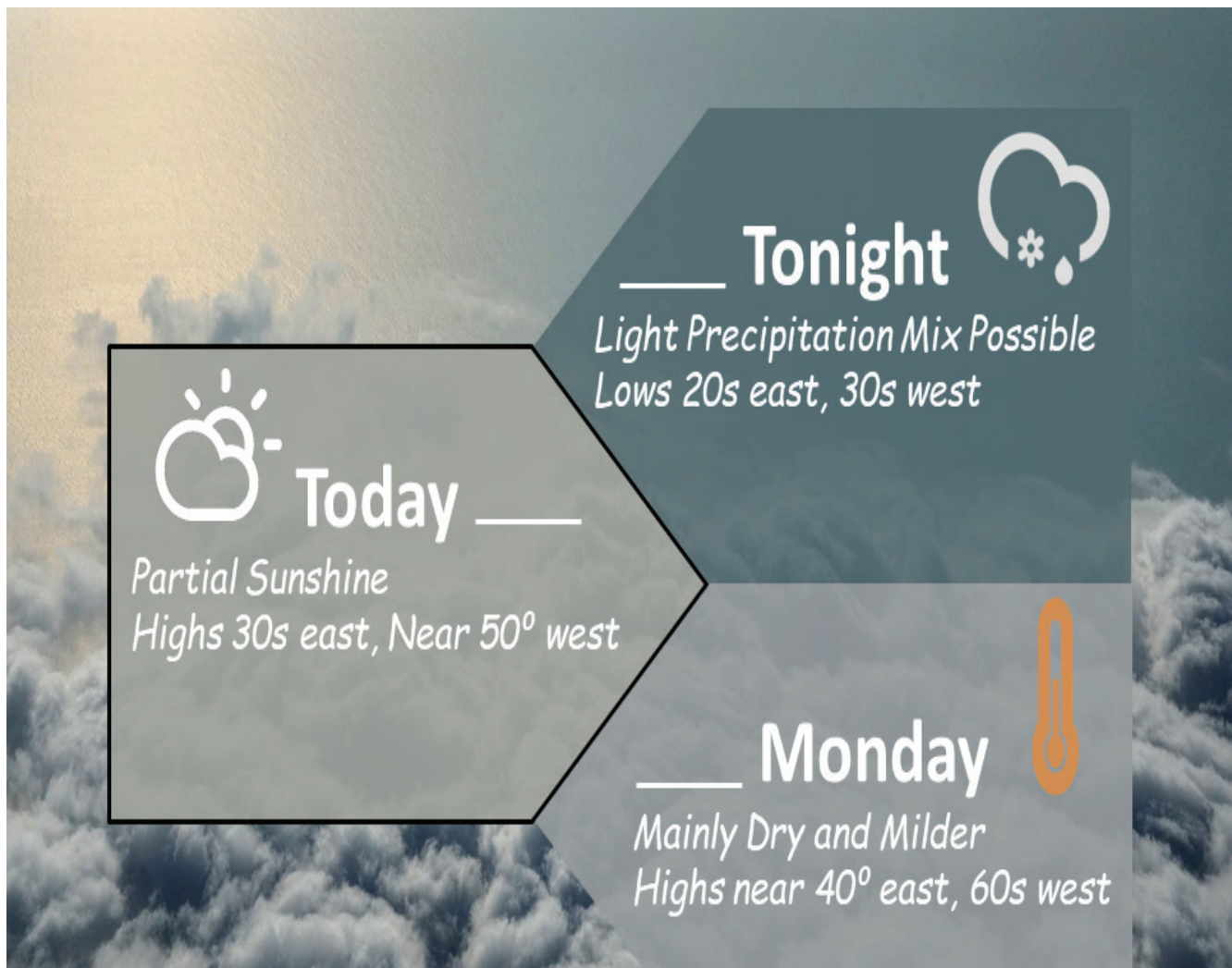
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow then Chance Rain/Snow	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 39 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 59 °F



Today  *Partial Sunshine*
Highs 30s east, Near 50° west

Tonight  *Light Precipitation Mix Possible*
Lows 20s east, 30s west

Monday  *Mainly Dry and Milder*
Highs near 40° east, 60s west

A system may bring some light mixed precipitation to the region tonight into early Monday. A few slick roads will be possible come Monday morning, especially across northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Monday will be milder.

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Today in Weather History

November 14, 1997: A low-pressure system produced snow and blowing snow, creating near whiteout conditions at times. Six inches of snow fell in the Sisseton foothills by Friday evening in Roberts and eastern Marshall Counties. Strong north winds gusting to near 35 mph, combined with the snow, caused visibilities to fall below one-half mile at times over a large portion of northeast South Dakota during the evening of the 13th and through the 14th. Classes were canceled around Summit because of near-whiteout conditions, while classes were delayed for two hours in Britton. Interstate 29 was closed just north of the Grant County line for a time after a semi-trailer rolled. Some snowfall amounts include; 6.5 inches in Summit; 6.2 inches in Waubay; 6.0 inches in Roscoe; and 5.0 inches in Sisseton and Wilmot.

1921: During the afternoon hours, thunderstorms brought severe hail to portions of Alabama. The hailstones ranged from about the size of buckshot to as large as a baseball. The largest stoned weighed as much as a pound.

1964 - With the help of a fresh three inch cover of snow, the temperature at Ely, NV, dipped to 15 degrees below zero to establish an all-time record low for the month of November. That record of -15 degrees was later equalled on the 19th of November in 1985. (The Weather Channel)

1969: Apollo 12 was launched into a threatening gray sky with ominous cumulus clouds. Pete Conrad's words 43 seconds after liftoff, electrified everyone in the Control Center: "We had a whole bunch of buses drops out," followed by "Where are we going?" and "I just lost the platform." Lightning had stricken the spacecraft. Warning lights were illuminated, and the spacecraft guidance system lost its attitude reference.

1974 - A storm produced 15 inches of snow at the Buffalo, NY, airport, and 30 inches on the south shore of Lake Erie. (David Ludlum)

1986 - An early season cold wave set more than 200 records from the northwestern U.S. to the east coast over a seven day period. For some places it proved to be the coldest weather of the winter season. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - The first major snowstorm of the season hit the Southern and Central Rockies, producing 12 inches at the Brian Head ski resort in Utah overnight. Strong and gusty winds associated with the storm reached 52 mph at Ruidoso NM. In the eastern U.S., the temperature at Washington D.C. soared to 68 degrees, just three days after being buried under more than a foot of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A massive storm produced snow and gusty winds in the western U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. Winds gusted to 66 mph at Show Low AZ, and Donner Summit, located in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, was buried under 23 inches of snow. Heavy rain soaked parts of California, with 3.19 inches reported at Blue Canyon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed east of the Rockies. Temperatures reached 70 degrees as far north as New England, and readings in the 80s were reported across the southeast quarter of the nation. Nineteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. For the second time in the month Dallas/Fort Worth TX equalled their record for November with an afternoon high of 89 degrees. The high of 91 degrees at Waco TX was their warmest of record for so late in the season. Heavy snow blanketed parts of Wyoming overnight, with a foot of snow reported at Cody, and ten inches at Yellowstone Park. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

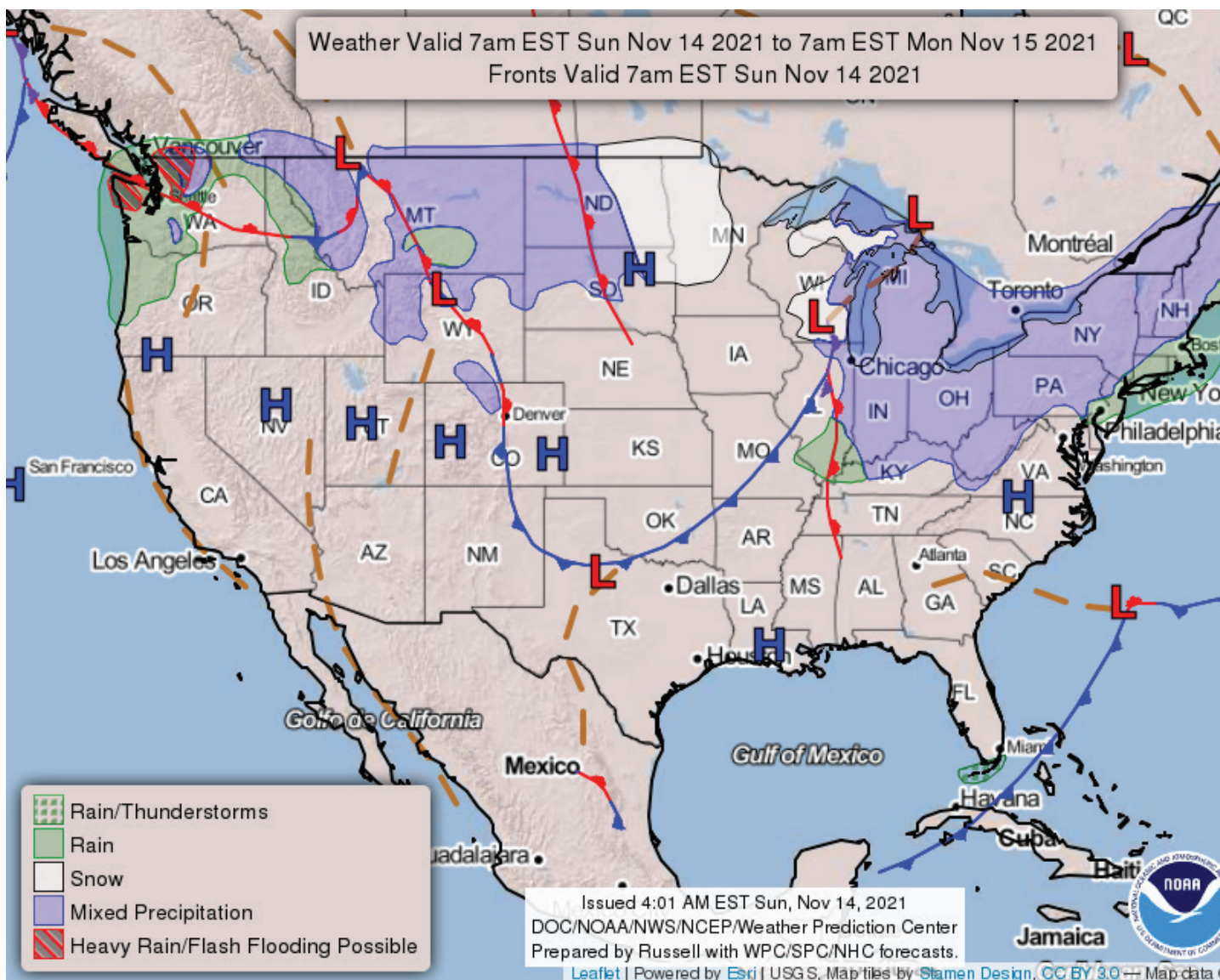
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 37.2 °F at 5:30 PM
Low Temp: 24.0 °F at 7:00 AM
Wind: 40 mph at 8:30 PM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 68° in 2015
Record Low: -17° in 2014
Average High: 43°F
Average Low: 20°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.40
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.16
Average Precip to date: 20.87
Precip Year to Date: 19.88
Sunset Tonight: 5:04:48 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30:22 AM



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God Works

"Do you know what U.N. stands for?" he asked.

"The United Nations," I replied quickly and confidently.

"Not at all," was his reply. "It stands for Unsettled Nations," he informed me.

Then he continued, "Does the Lord care about the condition of the nations of the world? And, if He does care, why doesn't He intervene and make things better?"

"Yes, He cares," I answered. "But we need to see how God has intervened in the past by studying His Word so we can understand what He is doing today."

One nation above all others seems to be the center of God's attention: Israel. Psalm 105:24 describes what we might call an "explosion of people." "The Lord made His people very fruitful. He made them too numerous for their foes." We have often heard that there is "strength in numbers." Here we see this "in action." As the Israelites grew in numbers, they grew in strength, and they were able to overcome their adversaries.

This "strength in numbers" made the Exodus possible. The historian continues by revealing another fact to us: those "whose hearts He turned to hate His people, and to conspire against His servants," were led by Moses, His servant, and Aaron, His chosen one, to lead them into the land that God had prepared for them. Ultimately, it was the persecution that led them to the Promised Land.

Is God involved in the affairs of nations? Indeed, He is. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord!" We may not see it now, but we will see it when the time is right.

Prayer: May we look to You, Lord, as the only One who can save our nation. May our leaders seek Your guidance. Please help me look more faithfully to you for guidance. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The Lord made His people very fruitful. He made them too numerous for their foes, whose hearts He turned to hate His people, and to conspire against His servants. Psalm 105:24-25

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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)
11/30/2021 James Valley Telecommunications Holiday Open House 10am-4pm
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

15-18-22-25-31

(fifteen, eighteen, twenty-two, twenty-five, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$213,000

Lotto America

01-10-11-27-35, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 4

(one, ten, eleven, twenty-seven, thirty-five; Star Ball: ten; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.06 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$63 million

Powerball

08-15-26-35-45, Powerball: 9, Power Play: 3

(eight, fifteen, twenty-six, thirty-five, forty-five; Powerball: nine; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$173 million

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP FOOTBALL

SDHSAA State Championship

Class 11AAA= Harrisburg 27, Brandon Valley 0

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

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

Hail Mary alert, South Dakota beats SDSU 23-20 on final play

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Carson Camp connected with Jeremiah Webb on a 57-yard Hail Mary as time expired to help South Dakota beat South Dakota State 23-20 on Saturday.

Camp eluded pressure from South Dakota State's three-man pass rush, and heaved it to about the 4-yard line where it was tipped several times. Webb outjumped teammate Caleb Vander Esch at the 1 and took a step into the end zone. Webb and his teammates rushed to the other side of the end zone in celebration.

South Dakota (7-3, 5-2) won its second straight game against SDSU in the 115th edition of the series dating to 1889. Before the 2019 season, the teams did not meet last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, South Dakota had not beaten SDSU since 2000.

Camp was 19-of-27 passing for 288 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for South Dakota. Nate Thomas rushed for 90 yards and a score.

Chris Oladokun was intercepted twice for South Dakota State (7-3, 4-3). Pierre Strong Jr. carried it 28 times for 103 yards and a score.

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>

More turn to abortion pills by mail, with legality uncertain

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Before her daughter's birth, she spent weeks in bed. Another difficult pregnancy would be worse as she tried to care for her toddler.

Faced with that possibility, the 28-year-old Texas woman did what a growing number of people have considered: She had a friend in another state mail her the pills she needed to end her pregnancy. She took the pills, went to bed early and describes the experience as "calm" and "peaceful."

"If people can have births at birthing centers or in their own homes, why shouldn't people be able to have abortions in their own homes?" said the woman, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she worries about legal reprisals as Texas moves to join several other states in disallowing mail delivery of abortion medications. "It's a comfort thing."

The COVID-19 pandemic and Texas' near-ban on abortion fueled increased interest in obtaining abortion medications by mail. But with the legality in doubt in several states, some people looking to get around restrictions may not see it as worth the risk. The matter is taking on new urgency with the Supreme Court set to hear arguments next month in Mississippi's bid to erode the Roe v. Wade decision guaranteeing the right to an abortion.

Some abortion-rights advocates worry that whatever state officials and anti-abortion groups promise, people ending their pregnancies at home will face criminal prosecutions.

"We don't think that people are doing anything wrong to order medication from an online site," said Elisa Wells, co-founder and co-director of Plan C, which provides information about medical abortions. "I mean, that's how men get Viagra. They order it online, and nobody's talking about that and asking, is that illegal?"

Medication abortions have increased in popularity since regulators started allowing them two decades ago and now account for roughly 40% of U.S. abortions. The medication can cost as little as \$110 to get by mail, compared with at least \$300 for a surgical abortion.

However, people seeking abortion pills often must navigate differing state laws, including bans on delivery of the drugs and on telemedicine consultations to discuss the medication with a health care provider. And until Democrat Joe Biden became president, U.S. government policy banned mail delivery nationwide.

"We just didn't want women to use these medications and not have any protections, any guidance, any consultation," said Oklahoma state Sen. Julie Daniels, a Republican and lead sponsor of her state's law banning delivery of abortion medication by mail, which is on hold amid a legal challenge.

Plan C saw roughly 135,000 hits on its website in September, about nine times the number it had before the Texas law that bans abortion as early as six weeks into a pregnancy took effect Sept. 1, Wells said.

Aid Access, which helps women get abortion pills and covers costs for those who can't afford them, says it can't yet provide data from recent months. It saw a 27% increase in the U.S. in people seeking abortion pills as states instituted restrictions early in the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a University of Texas study. The biggest increase was in Texas, which had limited access to clinics, saying it was necessary to check the coronavirus' spread.

Aid Access has a physician based in Europe, Dr. Rebecca Gomperts, provide prescriptions to clients in 32 states that only allow doctors to do so. The pills are mailed from India.

"I don't think that any state level regulation is going to stop Dr. Gomperts from what she's doing," said Christie Pitney, a California nurse-midwife who is Aid Access' provider for that state and Massachusetts.

Indeed, Aid Access defied a 2019 order from the Food and Drug Administration to stop distributing medications in the U.S. In April, the Biden administration dropped the FDA ban on mail delivery of abortion medications during the pandemic.

The divide among Democratic-leaning and Republican-leaning states is stark in the St. Louis area. On the Illinois side, Planned Parenthood offers telemedicine consultations and prescriptions by mail. Missouri, however, bars telemedicine and requires a pre-abortion pelvic exam, which providers see as unnecessary and invasive.

"In Missouri, we don't actually provide medication abortion because of the state requirement," said Dr. Colleen McNicholas, chief medical officer of the regional affiliate.

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Abortion opponents don't expect the FDA restriction on abortion medication to be reinstated under Biden. GOP lawmakers in Arkansas, Arizona, Montana and Oklahoma already were working on new laws to ban mail delivery when the FDA acted. Texas' mail-delivery ban takes effect Dec. 2. South Dakota GOP Gov. Kristi Noem issued an executive order in September.

Even some abortion opponents believe it will be difficult for states to crack down on providers and suppliers outside their borders, especially outside the U.S.

"Obviously it would be a lot easier if we had the cooperation of the federal government," said John Seago, Texas Right to Life's legislative director. "There's no silver bullet yet identified of how we're going to approach this kind of next frontier of the fight."

Still, Seago says tough penalties give prosecutors an incentive to pursue violators. The Montana law, for example, mandates a 20-year prison term, a \$50,000 fine, or both to anyone who mails pills to a state resident.

Pregnant people seek telemedicine consultations and abortion pills by mail because they don't want to or can't travel or can't arrange time off or child care, abortion-rights advocates said.

"Just because somebody can't access an abortion doesn't mean that they're going to all of a sudden want to continue a pregnancy that originally was not desired, right?" said Dr. Meera Shah, chief medical officer for the Planned Parenthood affiliate outside New York City, who also does abortions in Indiana.

A person in Ohio who identifies as nonbinary said they used an herbal remedy to self-manage an abortion alone in their college dorm room in 2016, before Aid Access launched its site, telling their roommate they had the stomach flu. They said they didn't have a car and didn't know they could get financial help, and called the Aid Access model "fantastic."

"Any avenue to help pregnant people facilitate their own abortions and have that experience in whatever way best suits them is a great way to give bodily autonomy back to a wider range of patients," they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they fear harassment from anti-abortion protesters.

The new laws in Montana, Oklahoma and Texas say people can't face criminal penalties for having medication abortions. Yet those provisions — and assurances from abortion foes that their goal is not to prosecute people who have ended pregnancies — don't comfort some abortion-rights advocates.

They say roughly two dozen women have been prosecuted since 2000 in the aftermath of self-managed abortions. An Indiana woman who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for feticide in 2015 for a self-induced abortion spent more than a year behind bars before her conviction was overturned.

Some abortion-rights advocates said prosecutors also can use child endangerment or manslaughter charges against people who have had abortions — or who have had miscarriages that authorities deem suspicious. They worry that the poor and people of color are especially vulnerable.

"They can't get drugs where they are, and so they may purchase pills from informal networks or online sites," said Melissa Grant, chief operating officer of carafem, which operates clinics in four states and provides abortion medications in nine. "But that's riskier in this country than actually taking the medicines."

Follow John Hanna on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

South Dakota prison inmate dies of natural causes

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An inmate in the South Dakota prison system has died, officials said late Friday. Prison officials said Whitney Leith, who was 61 years old, died Friday at a Sioux Falls hospital from natural causes.

Gadhafi's son announces candidacy for president of Libya

CAIRO (AP) — The son and one-time heir apparent of late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi announced Sunday his candidacy for the country's presidential election next month, Libya's election agency said.

Seif al-Islam submitted his candidacy papers in the southern town of Sabah, the agency said in a statement.

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Gadhafi's son was captured by fighters late in 2011, the year when a popular uprising toppled his father after more than 40 years in power. Moammar Gadhafi was later killed amid the ensuing fighting that would turn into a civil war.

In a video released by the elections office where he registered, Seif al-Islam addressed the camera said that God will decide the right path for the country's future. He wore a traditional Libyan robe and turban and spectacles.

Seif al-Islam was released in June 2017 after more than five years of detention, and in July told The New York Times in an exclusive interview that he was considering a run for the country's top office. Libya is set to hold presidential elections on Dec. 24, after years of U.N.-led attempts to usher in a more democratic future and bring the war to an end.

The long-awaited vote still faces challenges, including unresolved issues over election laws and occasional infighting among armed groups. Other obstacles include the deep rift that remains between the country's east and west, split for years by the war, and the presence of thousands of foreign fighters and troops.

Gadhafi the dictator had eight children, most of whom played significant roles in his regime. His son Muatassim was killed at the same time Gadhafi was captured and slain. Two other sons, Seif al-Arab and Khamis, were killed earlier in the uprising. Another son, al-Saadi Gadhafi, was released in September after more than seven years of detention in the capital of Tripoli following his extradition from neighboring Niger.

Queen sprains back, misses Remembrance Sunday service

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II missed out on the Remembrance Sunday service in London to pay tribute to Britain's war dead because she sprained her back, Buckingham Palace said Sunday.

The service, one of the most important on the 95-year-old monarch's calendar, was widely expected to be her first public appearance after canceling events in recent weeks on doctors' advice.

"The Queen, having sprained her back, has decided this morning with great regret that she will not be able to attend today's Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph," officials said in a statement just hours ahead of the ceremony. "Her Majesty is disappointed that she will miss the service."

The queen spent a night in a London hospital last month after being admitted for medical tests. It was her first such stay in eight years. On Oct. 29, the palace said she had been told by doctors to rest for two weeks and only take on light duties.

She canceled plans to attend the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, but sent a video message.

But officials said at the time that "it remains the queen's firm intention" to be present for the national Remembrance Sunday service. On Thursday, Buckingham Palace said that the monarch planned to watch the ceremony at the Cenotaph war memorial in central London from a balcony, as she has for several years.

The queen served in World War II as a army driver and mechanic, and attaches great importance to Remembrance Sunday, a solemn ceremony to remember the sacrifices made by fallen servicemen and women. The national service, which follows Armistice Day on Nov. 11, is traditionally marked by the wearing of poppies and a national two-minute silence observed at 11 a.m.

On Sunday, other royals and politicians led the ceremony in London's Whitehall, with hundreds of military personnel and veterans lined up around the Cenotaph memorial. It was the first time the event had returned to normal since the pandemic began.

After Royal Marine buglers sounded the "The Last Post," Prince Charles, 73, laid the first wreath on the queen's behalf, as he had done in recent years. He was followed by other royals and Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The queen has continued to work from home, doing desk-based duties, during her period of rest. She has spent most of the time at Windsor Castle, west of London, and made a weekend visit to Sandringham, the royal family's eastern England estate.

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

Dubai Air Show opens to industry on the mend amid COVID-19

By AYA BATRAWY and ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dubai's biennial Air Show opened Sunday to a world still reeling from the pandemic and an aviation industry hard-hit by the coronavirus, but on the mend.

Boeing and Airbus have traditionally been the stars of the aviation trade show, competing for multibillion-dollar Gulf-based airline purchases and hammering out final details minutes before back-to-back press conferences. This year, however, the five-day exhibition is expected to be much more muted than in past years due to the subdued state of flying and travel amid the COVID-19 pandemic and delays in the global supply chain that have affected plane manufacturers.

Dubai went into a brief lockdown last year, but has since swung open its doors to vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers as it tries to lure back leisure and business spending and draw visitors to its multibillion-dollar EXPO 2020 World's Fair site. The air show in Dubai is one of the first major aviation trade shows to take place since the start of the pandemic.

The tarmac outside the exhibition hall showcased the latest innovations in commercial aviation as well as the global arms trade, and the continued push by companies to sell their hardware.

Boeing brought its new 777-9 passenger jet from Seattle in the longest flight to date for the 777X as it undergoes continued tests and awaits regulatory approval. Boeing says the aircraft will be the world's largest and most efficient twin-engine jet. The Middle East's largest carrier, Emirates, has ordered 126 of the 777X, but the Dubai-based airline has expressed frustration with delays around its delivery, which is not expected before late 2023.

Boeing continues to face scrutiny for its 737 Max aircraft, which was grounded globally until recently following two crashes that killed nearly 350 people. Boeing had to make changes to flight software that played a role in the crashes, paid an undisclosed sum to airlines that were affected by the aircraft's grounding and has settled dozens of lawsuits filed by families of passengers killed in the crashes.

Airbus took journalists through a A320neo, which had been converted into a luxury corporate jet replete with a large bed, walk-in shower and sprawling sitting area with couches and coffee tables.

China's state-owned defense firm CATIC displayed a range of anti-aircraft missiles, munitions and fighter jets. Also on display is Russia's Sukhoi Su-75 Checkmate fighter jet, which will be shown to the public later Sunday. The jet is a less pricey competitor to the U.S. F-35, which the United Arab Emirates has been trying to acquire since formally recognizing Israel last year in a deal brokered by the Trump administration. That sale has slowed under President Joe Biden.

An Emirati airman inspecting a U.S.-made Chinook CH-47 noted that the transport helicopter had been supporting Emirati forces on recent missions in Yemen and Afghanistan.

Israeli companies, meanwhile, displayed their hardware for the first time at the air show following Israel's normalization of diplomatic ties with the UAE last year. The state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries company showed off a range of manned and unmanned naval and aerial drones.

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems displayed its "drone dome" that detects and destroys drones with lasers. Emirati defense officials were seen asking about the range and weight of the anti-drone system at the Israeli pavilion. In all, six Israeli companies are taking part in the air show.

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz described the UAE-Israel partnership as a "strategic asset," saying in a statement that the Defense Ministry's participation "reflects the deepening relations" between the two nations. The two countries share deep concerns over Iran, which is set to resume negotiations over its tattered nuclear deal with the U.S. and other world powers.

The air show is taking place near Dubai's Al Maktoum Airport, a second and smaller international hub to Dubai's main airport, which is the world's busiest for international travel.

With vaccines rollouts ongoing in many nations worldwide, the airline industry as a whole is recovering from last year's roughly \$138 billion net loss.

Still, the industry as a whole continues to face losses this year and next. The International Air Transport

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Association forecasts a net loss of \$11.6 billion for airlines in 2022, and nearly \$52 billion in losses this year. Although commercial travel remains uncertain amid upticks in infections in some countries, cargo volumes are already above pre-pandemic levels. Some airlines have ripped out seats on their grounded passenger flights and transformed their aircraft into cargo planes.

This year, more than 100 American companies are exhibiting at the air show.

"We are committed to deepening and strengthening this vital strategic relationship," said Sean Murphy, U.S. Embassy Charge d'affaires, thanking the UAE for its help in the U.S.-led evacuations out of Afghanistan. The U.S. State Department last week helped facilitate the evacuation to Abu Dhabi of a group of approximately 190 Afghans, including U.S.-trained Afghan pilots, who had escaped to Uzbekistan after the Taliban's takeover of the country in August.

Associated Press writer Josef Federman in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

Al-Jazeera says bureau chief detained by Sudanese forces

By FAY ABUELGASIM Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — The Qatar-based satellite news network Al-Jazeera said Sunday its bureau chief in Sudan was detained by security forces, a day after mass protests across the country against last month's military coup.

The network said on Twitter that Sudanese forces raided the home of El Musalmi El Kabbashi and detained him.

The development comes after security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas Saturday to disperse protesters denouncing the military's tightening grip on the country.

The Sudan Doctors Committee said a 15-year-old protester died Sunday of gunshot wounds to his stomach and thigh, raising the death toll to six people.

In a later statement, Al-Jazeera said El Kabbashi had been arrested at his home in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital. The broadcaster said it held the Sudanese military responsible for his safety.

"Al-Jazeera condemns in the strongest terms the reprehensible actions of the military and calls on the authorities to release El Kabbashi immediately and to allow its journalists to operate unhindered, free to practice their profession without fear or intimidation," the channel said.

Sudanese officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Thousands of pro-democracy protesters took to the streets across Sudan on Saturday to rally against the military coup last month. The takeover has drawn international criticism and massive protests in the streets of the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

The killings Saturday took place in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman. The dead included four people killed by gunshots and one who died from being hit by a tear gas canister. The 15-year-old who died of his wounds Sunday brought to six the number of fatalities, the doctors committee said. Several other protesters were wounded, including from gunshots, it said.

That brought the tally since the Oct. 26 coup to at least 21 protesters dead, according to the medical group.

The rallies, called by the pro-democracy movement, came two days after coup leader Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan reappointed himself head of the Sovereign Council, Sudan's interim governing body. Thursday's move angered the pro-democracy alliance and frustrated the United States and other countries that have urged the generals to reverse their coup.

The pro-democracy movement condemned "the excessive use of force" against the protesters Saturday. The Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change said their struggle to establish a full civilian government "will not stop" and called for mass demonstrations on Wednesday.

The Sudanese military seized power Oct. 25, dissolving the transitional government and arresting dozens of officials and politicians. The takeover upended a fragile planned transition to democratic rule, more than two years after a popular uprising forced the removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and his

Islamist government.

Associated Press writer Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed.

As virus surges in Eastern Europe, leaders slow to act

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC and JOVANA GEC Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — At the main hospital in Romania's capital, the morgue ran out of space for the dead in recent days, and doctors in Bulgaria have suspended routine surgeries so they can tend to a surge in COVID-19 patients. In the Serbian capital, the graveyard now operates an extra day during the week in order to bury all the bodies arriving.

For two months now, a stubborn wave of virus infections has ripped mercilessly through several countries in Central and Eastern Europe, where vaccination rates are much lower than elsewhere on the continent. While medical workers pleaded for tough restrictions or even lockdowns, leaders let the virus rage unimpeded for weeks.

"I don't believe in measures. I don't believe in the same measures that existed before the vaccines," Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said last month as the Balkan nation sustained some of its worst daily death tolls of the pandemic. "Why do we have vaccines then?"

A World Health Organization official declared earlier this month that Europe is again at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic. While several Western European countries are seeing spikes in infections, it is nations to the East that are driving fatalities. Romania, Bulgaria and the Balkan states recorded some of the highest per-capita death rates in the world in the first week of November, according to the WHO.

Experts say fumbled vaccination campaigns and underfunded and mismanaged health systems set the stage for the latest outbreaks, which gathered pace as leaders dithered. Some are acting now — but many doctors say it took too long and is still not enough.

Many governments in the region are facing elections soon, and that no doubt made them reluctant to force people to get vaccinated or impose unpopular lockdowns even in former Communist nations that once carried out mandatory inoculations without hesitation or where leaders were quick to introduce closures earlier in the pandemic.

But politicians' failure to quickly heed the calls of the medical community has likely undermined an already weak trust in institutions in countries where corruption is widespread. Misinformation about vaccines has also found fertile ground amid the broader distrust of authority.

That has left countries stumbling through the latest surge with few protections. While nations around the world have struggled with resistance to vaccines, many in Central and Eastern Europe have particularly low rates for places where supply is not an issue. Bulgaria and Romania, both in the European Union, have fully vaccinated about 23% and 35% of their populations, respectively. Bosnia and Herzegovina has just 21% fully vaccinated.

Referring to Romania's slow response, physician and health statistician Octavian Jurma described his country as a "textbook example" of the "tragic consequences produced by a political takeover of the pandemic response."

Leaders finally introduced a curfew this month, requiring people who don't have a COVID pass — which shows proof of vaccination, recovery from the illness or a negative test — to stay at home from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Infections have since dropped slightly, but hospitals remain overwhelmed.

At the main one in Bucharest, the bodies of those who died from COVID-19 lined a hallway in recent days because there was no room in the morgue. Part of a waiting room was transformed into an emergency ward, with the raising of a plastic sheet.

In Serbia, some hospitals are so swamped that they are only handling virus patients — leaving doctors to sue Brnabic, whose government faces elections in April.

"Since Brnabic said she doesn't believe in measures, some 900 people have died," Slavica Plavsic, a lung disease specialist, told N1 television on Oct. 21.

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The prime minister has rejected that criticism, saying Thursday that she is proud of her government's response.

Meanwhile, authorities at the graveyard in Belgrade say that now they have an average of 65 burials a day, compared with between 35 and 40 before the pandemic. Gravediggers now bury people on Sundays — which typically they didn't — to handle the load.

In neighboring Hungary, few mitigating measures are in place. Like Serbia's, Hungary's government says it would prefer to rely on vaccinations. With nearly 60% of people fully vaccinated, the country is better placed than most in the region — but that still leaves a large swath of the population unprotected.

Hungary's government earlier this month ordered mask-wearing on public transportation and allowed private employers to mandate vaccines for their staff.

But Gyula Kincses, chairman of the Hungarian Chamber of Doctors, said that that was "too little, too late" and recommended that masks be made mandatory in all indoor spaces.

In a recent radio interview, Prime Minister Viktor Orban, whose populist party faces election next spring, said that mandatory vaccinations would "be beyond the limits of what Hungarians will accept," even while acknowledging the new restrictions could only slow, not stop, the virus's spread.

Hospitals in Bulgaria, with its low vaccination rate, were forced to temporarily suspended all non-emergency surgeries so more doctors could treat the influx of COVID-19 patients.

"Politicians now think only about the elections, but there inevitably will be a lockdown, however in tragic circumstances," Ivan Martinov, a leading cardiologist at Sofia's main emergency hospital, told national radio. Parliamentary elections are being held Sunday.

Soaring infections appear to have been a wake-up call to some extent in Croatia, which saw unusually large lines of people waiting for vaccines in recent days.

Authorities said on Wednesday that more than 15,000 people received their first dose a day earlier — a significant jump after vaccinations all but halted in the Adriatic country of 4.2 million.

Croatia and neighboring Slovenia have also introduced COVID passes in recent weeks.

But medical organizations in Slovenia have warned that the Alpine country's health system is still on the verge of collapse. They urgently appealed to people to do their best to avoid seeking urgent care in the coming months.

"There are traffic accidents, accidents at work, other infections," gasped Bojana Baovic, head of Slovenia's Medical Chamber. "This is an alarming situation that we can cope with through maximum solidarity."

Associated Press writers Stephen McGrath in Bucharest, Romania; Justin Spike in Budapest, Hungary; Veselin Toshkov in Sofia, Bulgaria; and Karel Janicek in Prague contributed.

Follow AP's coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>.

Battle among Ecuador prison gangs kills at least 68 inmates

By GONZALO SOLANO Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A prolonged gunbattle between rival gangs inside Ecuador's largest prison killed at least 68 inmates and wounded 25 on Saturday, while authorities said it took most of the day to regain control at the Litoral Penitentiary, which recently saw the country's worst prison bloodbath.

The killing erupted before dawn at the prison in the coastal city of Guayaquil in what officials said was the latest outbreak of fighting among prison gangs linked to international drug cartels. Videos circulating on social media showed bodies, some burned, lying on the ground inside the prison.

The shooting lasted around eight hours, officials said, and then new clashes were reported in part of the prison in the afternoon.

Presidential spokesman Carlos Jijón finally announced after nightfall that "the situation is controlled throughout the penitentiary." He said about 900 police officers had taken control of the situation.

In the initial fighting, inmates "tried to dynamite a wall to get into Pavilion 2 to carry out a massacre.

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They also burned mattresses to try to to drown (their rivals) in smoke," said the governor of Guayas province, Pablo Arosemena.

"We are fighting against drug trafficking," Arosemena said. "It is very hard."

The bloodshed came less than two months after fighting among gangs killed 119 people at the prison, which houses more than 8,000 inmates.

Police commander Gen. Tanya Varela said early in the day that drones flown over the chaos revealed that inmates in three pavilions were armed with guns and explosives. Authorities have said that weapons and ammunition are smuggled into prisoners through vehicles that deliver supplies and sometimes by drones.

The prison violence comes amid a national state of emergency decreed by President Guillermo Lasso in October that empowers security forces to fight drug trafficking and other crimes.

On Saturday, Lasso tweeted that "the first right that we should guarantee should be the right to life and liberty, which isn't possible if security forces can't act to protect." He was referring the Constitutional Court's recent refusal to allow the military into prisons despite the state of emergency. Soldiers are currently outside the Litoral.

Ecuador's penitentiaries are seeing a wave of brutal violence.

The bloody fighting inside Litoral prison that killed 119 inmates in late September was described by authorities as the South American country's worst ever prison massacre. Officials said at least five of the dead were beheaded. Last February, 79 inmates were killed in simultaneous riots in various prisons. So far this year, more than 300 prisoners have died in clashes in penitentiaries across Ecuador.

Outside the prison, relatives of inmates gathered for news of their loved ones.

"Enough of this. When will they stop the killing? This is a prison not a slaughterhouse, they are human beings," said Francisca Chancay, whose brother has been in the prison for eight months.

Some called for Ecuador's military to take control of the prisons.

"What is Lasso waiting for? That there are more deaths?" said Maritza Vera, whose son is an inmate. "Have mercy, where are the human rights. We thought this was going to change, but it's worse."

Ecuador has about 40,000 inmates in its penitentiary system, which is far above the capacity of 30,000. Of this total, 15,000 have not been sentenced.

Arosemena said authorities in Ecuador will deal with the prison overcrowding by granting pardons, relocating inmates and transferring some foreign inmates back to their homelands.

"There will be more than 1,000 pardons, but this is part of a process," he said.

The Guayas governor also said Ecuador will receive international aid from countries like Colombia, the United States, Israel and Spain to deal with the crisis in its prisons. The aid will be in resources and logistics.

"For example, installing a freight scanner in the Guayaquil Penitentiary to avoid the entry of arms costs \$4 million," said Arosemena.

Vera said the situation is making the families of inmates desperate.

"I feel sad and in anguish because there is too much death," Vera said.

Nations compromise on coal to strike UN climate agreement

By SETH BORENSTEIN and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Almost 200 nations accepted a compromise deal Saturday aimed at keeping a key global warming target alive, but it contained a last-minute change that watered down crucial language about coal.

Several countries, including small island states, said they were deeply disappointed by the change promoted by India to "phase down," rather than "phase out" coal power, the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. "We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe."

Nation after nation had complained after two weeks of U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, about

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how the deal did not go far or fast enough. But they said it was better than nothing and provided incremental progress, if not success.

In the end, the summit broke ground by singling out coal, however weakly, by setting the rules for international trading of carbon credits, and by telling big polluters to come back next year with improved pledges for cutting emissions.

But domestic priorities both political and economic again kept nations from committing to the fast, big cuts that scientists say are needed to keep warming below dangerous levels which would produce extreme weather and rising seas capable of erasing some island nations.

Ahead of the Glasgow talks, the United Nations had set three criteria for success, and none of them were achieved. The U.N.'s criteria included pledges to cut carbon dioxide emissions in half by 2030, \$100 billion in financial aid from rich nations to poor, and ensuring that half of that money went to helping the developing world adapt to the worst effects of climate change.

"We did not achieve these goals at this conference," Guterres said. "But we have some building blocks for progress."

Swiss environment minister Simonetta Sommaruga said the change will make it harder to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times - the more stringent threshold set in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry said governments had no choice but to accept India's coal language change: "If we hadn't done that we wouldn't have had an agreement."

But he insisted the deal was good news for the world.

"We are in fact closer than we have ever been before to avoiding climate chaos and securing cleaning air, safer water and healthier planet," he said later at a news conference.

Many other nations and climate campaigners criticized India for making demands that weakened the final agreement.

"India's last-minute change to the language to phase down but not phase out coal is quite shocking," said Australian climate scientist Bill Hare, who tracks world emission pledges for the science-based Climate Action Tracker. "India has long been a blocker on climate action, but I have never seen it done so publicly."

Others approached the deal from a more positive perspective. In addition to the revised coal language, the Glasgow Climate Pact included enough financial incentives to almost satisfy poorer nations and solved a long-standing problem to pave the way for carbon trading.

The agreement also says big carbon polluting nations have to come back and submit stronger emission cutting pledges by the end of 2022.

Negotiators said the deal preserved, albeit barely, the overarching goal of limiting Earth's warming by the end of the century to 1.5 degrees. The planet has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to preindustrial times.

Governments used the word "progress" more than 20 times Saturday, but rarely used the word "success" and then mostly in that they've reached a conclusion, not about the details in the agreement. Conference President Alok Sharma said the deal drives "progress on coal, cars, cash and trees" and is "something meaningful for our people and our planet."

Environmental activists were measured in their not-quite-glowing assessments, issued before India's last minute change.

"It's meek, it's weak and the 1.5 C goal is only just alive, but a signal has been sent that the era of coal is ending. And that matters," said Greenpeace International Executive Director Jennifer Morgan, a veteran of the U.N. climate talks known as the Conferences of Parties.

Former Irish President Mary Robinson, speaking for a group of retired leaders called The Elders, said the pact represents : the pact represents "some progress, but nowhere near enough to avoid climate disaster....People will see this as a historically shameful dereliction of duty."

Indian Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav argued against a provision on phasing out coal, saying that developing countries were "entitled to the responsible use of fossil fuels."

Yadav blamed "unsustainable lifestyles and wasteful consumption patterns" in rich countries for causing

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global warming.

After Yadav first raised the specter of changing the coal language, a frustrated European Union Vice President Frans Timmermans, the 27-nation EU's climate envoy, begged negotiators to be united for future generations.

"For heaven's sake, don't kill this moment," Timmermans pleaded. "Please embrace this text so that we bring hope to the hearts of our children and grandchildren."

Helen Mountford, vice president of the World Resources Institute think tank, said India's demand may not matter as much as feared because the economics of cheaper, renewable fuel is making coal increasingly obsolete.

"Coal is dead. Coal is being phased out," Mountford said. "It's a shame that they watered it down."

Kerry and several other negotiators said that good compromises leave everyone slightly unsatisfied and that countries had more work ahead of them over the coming years.

"Paris built the arena and Glasgow starts the race," the veteran U.S. diplomat said. "And tonight the starting gun was fired."

Chinese negotiator Zhao Yingmin echoed that sentiment.

"I think our biggest success is to finalize the rulebook," Zhao told the Associated Press. "Now we can start implementing it and delivering it on our achieved consensus."

Among those highlighting the cost of failure was Aminath Shauna, the Maldives' minister for environment, climate change and technology.

Shauna pointed out that to stay within the warming limit nations agreed in Paris, the world must cut carbon dioxide emissions essentially in half in 98 months — a formidable task.

"The difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees is a death sentence for us," she said.

Yassmin Fouad Abdelaziz, Egypt's environment minister, said next year's talks to be held in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh would focus on aid and compensation for poor countries.

As negotiators left the final session after congratulating themselves, they passed a young lone protester who sat silently with red blood-like writing on crossed arms that said: "We are watching."

Associated Press writers Aniruddha Ghosal, Karl Ritter, David Keyton and Ellen Knickmeyer contributed to this report.

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

Good COP, bad COP? Takeaways from the new UN climate deal

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — After two years of preparation and 13 days of tough talks, did negotiators at the U.N. climate meeting in Glasgow save the planet?

In short: no.

But they were hardly expected to do so. The annual Conference of the Parties, just held for the 26th time, is all about getting countries to gradually ratchet up their measures to defuse global warming.

The focus of the Glasgow talks was not to forge a new treaty but to finalize the one agreed to in Paris six years ago and to build on it by further curbing greenhouse gas emissions, bending the temperature curve closer to levels that don't threaten human civilization.

Here's a look at what was achieved in Glasgow:

AIMING FOR FEWER EMISSIONS

Going into the Glasgow talks, most countries, including the United States, China and the 27 members of the European Union, declared new, more ambitious targets for reducing emissions.

Some, such as India, announced additional measures at the meeting itself. Side deals brokered by host country Britain covered issues such as reversing deforestation, boosting electric vehicles, phasing out coal, clamping down on methane emissions and unlocking investor cash for the fight against climate change.

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Within the official negotiations, countries agreed to firmly focus on the most ambitious goal in the 2015 Paris accord, of keeping global warming from going beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit). Experts and vulnerable countries have long advocated that threshold, but some nations previously held onto the option of aiming for "well below 2 C (3.6 F)."

They also agreed to explicitly target coal use and fossil fuel subsidies, though the original proposals were greatly watered down.

In a bid to spur further ambition, major emitters will be asked to present new targets at the 2022 U.N. climate conference in Egypt.

AID TO POOR COUNTRIES

There was bad blood going into the meeting because rich countries have failed to meet their pledge of providing \$100 billion each year by 2020 to help poor nations cope with climate change.

The final agreement expressed "deep regret" about the funding failure and urges rich nations to come up with the money as soon as possible.

The share and amount of money earmarked for poor countries to adapt to rising sea levels and other impacts of climate change was also increased, though not by as much as they had demanded.

NO REPARATIONS

Wealthy nations such as the United States and European Union members rejected demands to establish a fund to compensate poor countries for the destruction wrought by climate change, which developed countries are significantly responsible for because of their past emissions.

Many vulnerable countries were angered by the decision but nevertheless backed the agreement in the hope of making progress on the "loss and damage" issue next year in Egypt.

CARBON TRADING RULES

Fixing the rules on international cooperation for reducing emissions, including carbon markets, had eluded nations since Paris. Six years on, it remained one of the hardest-fought issues in the negotiating room over the past two weeks.

The rules covering what's known as Article 6 will become increasingly important as countries and companies aim to cut their emissions to "net zero" by 2050 by balancing out any remaining pollution they produce with an equal amount of carbon captured elsewhere.

While a compromise was found that proponents say could add trillions of dollars to the battle against climate change, some countries and environmental groups fear the deal left significant loopholes which could undermine the integrity of the system by allowing certain emissions cuts to be counted twice.

A shift by Brazil, under pressure by some of its major companies, proved decisive in clinching the deal. In return, the country gets to keep some carbon credits it amassed under an older system that experts say wasn't credible.

A small surcharge on carbon trades will go toward a fund to help poor countries adapt to global warming, but campaigners had hoped for the levy to be applied more broadly and blamed U.S. opposition for that happening in Glasgow.

TECHNICAL TWEAKS

Countries agreed to several tweaks to the rules on how and how often they need to report what they are doing to reduce emissions. While this may seem technical, experts argue that greater transparency and more frequent accounting are important for building trust because nations are closely watching what others do.

China has been particularly wary of having others scrutinize its efforts too closely. Along with other developed and emerging economies, it is now expected to report every five instead of every 10 years.

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

Polish police find body of young Syrian near Belarus border

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

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WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Polish police said Saturday that the body of a young Syrian man was found in the woods near the border with Belarus, the latest victim in a political standoff at the European Union's eastern border.

The regime in Minsk has for months been encouraging illegal migration across its border into the EU nations of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. All three countries are reinforcing their frontiers, seeking to block the newly opened migration route, and the situation is growing more dangerous as winter approaches.

Polish police said the body of a Syrian man about 20 years old was found a day earlier near the village of Wólka Terechowska. They said the exact cause of death could not be determined and that an autopsy would be performed.

It brings the death toll now to at least nine reported victims in the migration encouraged by Belarus' longtime President Alexander Lukashenko.

Many of the migrants are from Syria, Iraq, or elsewhere in the Middle East, people seeking to flee conflict and hopelessness for the prospect of better lives in Europe.

The crisis is creating another point of tension between the West and Belarus, and by extension with its closest ally: Russia.

Though Russia this week sent nuclear-capable strategic bombers and paratroopers to patrol over Belarus in a show of support, Russian President Vladimir Putin denied allegations of being involved in creating the flow of migrants to Europe.

"I want everyone to know that we have nothing to do with it. Everyone is trying to impose any responsibility on us for any reason and for no reason at all," Putin said in excerpts released Saturday of an interview with state television that is to be broadcast in full on Sunday.

He said that no Russian aviation companies carry the migrants to Belarus, and also lashed out at the West as a root cause for the crisis, with military operations in Iraq and elsewhere that have led to continued conflict in the region.

"Is it Belarus that pioneered these problems, or what? No, these are causes that were created by the Western countries themselves, including European countries," Putin said.

A large number of migrants are in a makeshift camp on the Belarusian side of the border in frigid conditions. Polish authorities report daily new attempts by the migrants to breach the border.

The situation shows no signs of ending soon. Belarusian state news agency Belta reported that Lukashenko on Saturday ordered the military to set up tents at the border where food and other humanitarian aid can be gathered and distributed to the migrants.

Poland's Border Guards agency on Saturday morning said in one case, Belarusian soldiers began destroying a temporary border barrier near the Polish village of Czeremcha and used laser beams to blind Polish security services.

Nearby, a group of some 100 migrants and refugees waited to cross the border. "Belarusians equipped the foreigners with tear gas, which was used toward the Polish services," the Border Guards said, saying the Poles stopped the attempts to cross.

Many of the reported incidents at the border are very hard to verify. Independent journalists face limits to their reporting in Belarus, and a state of emergency in Poland's border zone prevents media from entering the area.

The state of emergency ends Nov. 30, and the Polish government said Saturday that it is working on a plan to let journalists at that time be able to again report from the border area with the permission of the Border Guards.

The Polish military reported that a soldier on duty at the border died in an accident on Saturday. The soldier was not in direct contact with migrants, and a military statement said the accident involved the "firing of a service weapon."

After the large migration into Europe in 2015, Europe has been reinforcing its borders to discourage the arrival of more migrants and refugees. Still, every year, tens of thousands try to get in, embarking on dangerous and sometimes deadly journeys by sea and land.

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Since the summer, thousands have been lured by what appeared to be a new and easier way to slip into Europe, through Belarus.

The EU accuses Lukashenko of creating the artificial route in order to retaliate for sanctions against his regime imposed after an election in 2020 widely viewed as flawed and a harsh crackdown on internal dissent that followed.

The restrictions were toughened after an incident in May when a passenger jet flying from Greece to Lithuania was diverted by Belarus to Minsk, where authorities arrested dissident journalist Raman Pratashevich. The EU called it air piracy, barred Belarusian carriers from its skies and cut imports of the country's top commodities, including petroleum products and potash, an ingredient in fertilizer.

A furious Lukashenko shot back by saying he would no longer abide by an agreement to stem illegal migration, arguing that the EU sanctions deprived his government of funds needed to contain flows of migrants. Planes carrying migrants from Iraq, SyrEXPLAINER: Why quitting coal is so hard

By KARL RITTER Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — In the run-up to the U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, host Britain announced one of its goals of the conference was to consign coal to history.

That turned out to be easier said than done. Even saying it — in writing — became quite a challenge.

Government negotiators in Glasgow wrote and rewrote a paragraph that spells out that fighting climate change requires the world to end coal power, along with fossil fuel subsidies. The wording on coal was weakened one last time just before the gavel came down after coal-dependent India insisted on replacing the words "phase out" with "phase down."

Here's a look at the role coal plays in climate change and the energy system, and why it's been so hard to move away from:

WHY THE FOCUS ON COAL?

Of the three fossil fuels — coal, oil and natural gas — coal is the biggest climate villain. It's responsible for about 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions. It's also a fuel that is relatively easy to replace: Renewable alternatives to coal-fired power have been available for decades. The burning of coal also has other environmental impacts, including air pollution contributing to smog, acid rain and respiratory illnesses.

WHO IS BURNING THE MOST COAL?

China, the world's most populous country and a manufacturing giant, is by far the world's biggest coal consumer, followed by India and the United States. In 2019 China produced 4,876 TWh of electricity from coal, almost as much as the rest of the world combined, according to the International Energy Agency. But adjusted for population size the situation is different: Australia has the highest per capita coal emissions among the Group of 20 biggest economies, followed by South Korea, South Africa, the United States and China, according to an analysis by Ember, a climate and energy think tank.

WHY ARE COUNTRIES STILL BURNING COAL?

The short answer is coal is cheap and plentiful. But even as renewables become more competitive on price, coal isn't that easy to get rid of. Electricity needs are soaring as the world's population and prosperity increase, and renewables simply aren't enough to satisfy that growth in demand. The IEA projects that India will need to add a power system the size of the European Union's to meet expected growth in electricity demand in the next 20 years. Coal's role in the power sector has remained relatively stable in the past five decades. IEA statistics show that in 1973 coal's share of global electricity generation was 38%; in 2019 it was 37%.

WHAT WAS AGREED ON COAL IN GLASGOW?

Many vulnerable countries, including island nations who fear they will be lost to rising seas, were hoping governments would for the first time in a U.N. climate deal call for the phase-out of coal. But the wording was watered down during the talks because of resistance led by India and in the end the agreement just calls for countries to escalate efforts to "phase down unabated coal power" without setting a timeline.

WHAT IS NEXT FOR COAL?

Coal's future looks bleak in the long term despite the vague decision in Glasgow. It's not just driven by climate concerns: In the U.S., natural gas has been replacing coal for years for economic reasons, though

coal has rebounded this year due to a surge in natural gas prices. Since the Paris Agreement in 2015, many countries have set net zero emissions targets, which often require phaseouts of unabated coal, meaning coal-fired plants that aren't fitted with expensive technology that captures emissions. Austria, Belgium and Sweden have already closed their last coal plants. Britain plans to end coal power by 2024. Announcements made in the run-up to and during the Glasgow conference mean some 370 more coal plants around the world were given a close-by date, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. The U.S. has not made such a pledge yet.

Beloved 'Dolphin Tale' star Winter died of twisted intestine

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Florida's most famous dolphin Winter, beloved by fans around the world and star of the movie "Dolphin Tale," died of twisted intestines, according to necropsy results released by the aquarium Saturday.

The dolphin's intestines were in an area impossible to reach through surgery.

"There was nothing more the team could have done to save her life," according to a statement from Clearwater Marine Aquarium, adding that the condition is found in stranded wild dolphins "as well as any living being with intestines."

Winter, who died Thursday, inspired fans young and old after her tail was amputated when it became entangled in a crab trap rope, cutting off circulation. But the prosthetic tail and the dolphin's miraculous recovery offered hopes to many with illnesses and disabilities.

"Because of Winter's injury and the distortion it caused in her body, she was more prone to facing health complications since her rescue 16 years ago," the aquarium said in a statement.

The staff said they worked around the clock in recent days to try to save 16-year-old Winter and minimize her pain. The facility was closed Friday, in part to mourn the loss of its most famous resident, but reopened Saturday.

Shortly after the dolphin arrived following her 2005 rescue, the aquarium partnered with Hanger Clinic, the nation's largest provider of prosthetic limbs, to create her tail. While Winter might have survived without one, using her side flippers to swim, that would have led to skeletal misalignment and other health issues.

Attaching the tail without damaging Winter's skin was problematic because her skin is so thin it can be cut with a fingernail. Eventually, a soft silicone-like sleeve was created and is now marketed as WintersGel. The prosthetic tail then slid snugly over the sleeve.

Fans — including autistic children and soldiers with missing limbs — made pilgrimages to visit Winter, star of the 2011 film "Dolphin Tale," which chronicled her recovery. Such sleeves are now used for human prosthetics and have all but eliminated skin sores.

Sinema's shift: 'Prada socialist' to corporate donor magnet

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twenty years ago, a Green Party activist running for the Phoenix City Council named Kyrsten Sinema likened raising campaign cash to "bribery."

Now a first-term senator from Arizona, she no longer has such qualms.

Once a self-styled "Prada socialist" labeled as "too extreme" by Arizona's Democratic Party, Sinema has found new power as a centrist in a 50-50 Senate where there are no votes to spare, forcing President Joe Biden to downsize his agenda and other Democratic ambitions.

Her outsize authority highlights one senator's ability to exploit her party's narrow hold on the chamber and bend the will of the majority. That prowess is also a reason that corporate interests eager to influence Democrats' now-\$1.85 trillion package of social and climate initiatives have rushed to provide her financial support.

Throughout months of exhaustive negotiations, Sinema has offered only limited explanation for opposing policies Democrats have campaigned on for years, angering many of her colleagues.

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But her actions also have won her new allies, making Sinema a magnet for campaign donations from powerful interests with millions at stake in how the legislation turns out.

Sinema notably opposed two parts of Biden's initial proposal that have broad public support: an increase in the tax rates for corporations and wealthy individuals, and an expansive plan that would have substantially reduced the cost of prescription drugs for Medicare recipients.

The concessions she helped win align with the interests of many of her donors who have made Sinema the Senate's No. 3 recipient of money — nearly \$500,000 — this year from the pharmaceutical and financial services sectors, according to OpenSecrets, a nonpartisan group that tracks money in politics.

Sinema's office declined to make her available for an interview. In a statement, her office said she has consistently supported "pro-growth economic policies" and "protecting medical innovation." They disputed the relevance of comments Sinema made early in her political career in a race she lost.

"Senator Sinema makes decisions based on one consideration: what's best for Arizona," spokesman John LaBombard said.

Yet her embrace of influential donors she once rejected perplexes many in her party.

"It creates the perception of a conflict of interest and perception of industry groups having influence," said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., who was co-chair of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2020 presidential campaign. "How does she explain the role of all of these contributions?"

A former social worker who served on Ralph Nader's 2000 Green Party presidential campaign, Sinema didn't seek office as a Democrat until after two unsuccessful Arizona bids as a progressive or independent.

After winning a seats in the Arizona House in 2004, her political persona began to shift. Gradually retooling herself as a moderate, Sinema rose through the Legislature's Democratic minority while positioning herself for higher office as the state transitioned from a Republican stronghold to an electoral battleground.

Since her 2012 election to the U.S. House, the candidate who once railed against capitalism's "Almighty Dollar" has welcomed the contributions of industry groups and corporate political action committees. She's raised at least \$3 million from CEOs, businesses executives, investors, lobbyists and finance sector workers, campaign finance records show.

Sinema's swelling campaign account comes as many in her party have refused such contributions, denouncing them as evidence of deep-seated corruption in Washington.

While Sinema is hardly alone in raising money from special interests during a major legislative battle, what is notable is the scope of Sinema's fundraising windfall between April and September. Her objections to Biden's legislation then gave her massive sway over the future of his bill. The roughly \$3 million she collected during that period is the best cash haul of her career outside the 2018 election, when she was first on the ballot for U.S. Senate.

But there were signs of her gravitating to business interests earlier.

Last year, she helped initiate a bipartisan caucus to raise "awareness of the benefits of personalized medicine," a pricey form of precision treatments for diseases that are hard to cure. Her current opposition to tax increases on corporate and high-earners comes after she voted in 2017 against President Donald Trump's tax cut legislation, which lowered the corporate rate to its current 21 percent while also giving a rebate to high earners.

Among the donors:

—Executives and a PAC for the drugmaker Amgen have given at least \$21,500 in 2021, making Sinema second only to House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California in receiving contributions from the company this year. Almost all of the Amgen donations were clustered in late June, when Democrats were pushing legislation that would have curtailed pharmaceutical company earnings by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices. Sinema's opposition was instrumental in leading lawmakers to pursue a scaled-back version that is now advancing in the House. The new plan would allow Medicare to negotiate the price of about 100 drugs within a few years, while limiting monthly insulin copayments to \$35 for many.

Company CEO Robert Bradway gave Sinema \$5,000; two company lobbyists gave an additional \$3,000.

—Sinema has taken in at least \$27,000 this year from major drugmakers including Takeda, GlaxoSmith-

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Kline, Genentech and Eli Lilly. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the preeminent trade organization representing drugmakers, has been a major source of funding for a group that is running ads praising Sinema as "independent and effective for Arizona," records show.

—Twelve executives for the investment bank Goldman Sachs have donated \$37,000 to Sinema since May. That includes Goldman President John Waldron, who gave a maximum \$5,800 donation in August. Sinema's office said that while she doesn't support raising corporate taxes, she does support establishing a corporate minimum tax so that businesses can't altogether avoid paying their fair share, which is now included in Biden's plan.

—Executives, managers and a corporate PAC for Ryan LLC, a global tax consulting firm, poured over \$72,000 into Sinema's campaign account in late August and September. That made Ryan, whose employees and PAC had not previously given to Sinema, one of her top corporate donors. The Texas-based company advertises itself as "liberating our clients from the burden of being overtaxed." In August, USA Today reported that the company officials are ensnared in an FBI inquiry over whether they pressured the administration of Gov. Doug Ducey, R-Ariz., to issue millions of dollars in tax refunds to a Ryan client.

Checks have also come in from Jimmy Haslam III, a longtime Republican donor and owner of the Cleveland Browns, and his wife, Susan, who gave \$8,700 to Sinema in June and September; Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, twins who run a private equity firm and are perhaps best known for successfully suing Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, who each gave \$5,800 apiece in July; and Stanley Hubbard, a billionaire Minnesota TV and radio station mogul who has given millions of dollars to GOP causes, who donated \$2,900 in September.

Sinema has drawn the ire of her colleagues in Congress, who say she blocked proposals that almost all Democratic lawmakers support.

"It would be a tragedy for us to not fix the unjust corporate tax system so that corporations and individuals pay their fair share," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington state, the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, who played a major role in negotiating the bill.

Sanders focused on Sinema's support for the priorities of the pharmaceutical industry.

"It is beyond comprehension that there's any member of the United States Congress who is not prepared to vote to make sure that we lower prescription drug costs," he said last month. He added that he hoped Sinema "does what the people in Arizona want."

Some longtime Democratic Party financiers have also grown frustrated with her.

"With all the tension in the party, people have long memories," said Michael Smith, a donor from Los Angeles, whose partner, James Costos, served as President Barack Obama's ambassador to Spain.

Sudanese rally against army tightening grip on power; 5 dead

By **FAY ABUELGASIM** and **SAMY MAGDY** Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudanese security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas on Saturday to disperse protesters denouncing the military's tightening grip on the country, killing at least five and wounding several, activists said.

The violence came as thousands of pro-democracy protesters yet again took to the streets across Sudan to rally against the military's takeover last month. The coup has drawn international criticism and massive protests in the streets of the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

The killings on Saturday took place in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman, and the dead included four killed by gunshots and one who died from a tear gas canister, according to the Sudan Doctors Committee. Several other protesters were wounded, including from gunshots, it said.

The rallies, called by the pro-democracy movement, came two days after coup leader Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan reappointed himself head of the Sovereign Council, Sudan's interim governing body. Thursday's move angered the pro-democracy alliance and frustrated the United States and other countries that have urged the generals to reverse their coup.

"For me, this is an illegitimate council and this was a unilateral decision that was taken by Burhan alone,"

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said protester Wigdan Abbas, a 45-year-old healthcare worker. "It was a decision by one person ... without consulting the coalition for freedom and change."

The Sudanese military seized power Oct. 25, dissolving the transitional government and arresting dozens of officials and politicians. The takeover upended a fragile planned transition to democratic rule, more than two years after a popular uprising forced the removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and his Islamist government.

Saturday's protests were called by the Sudanese Professionals Association and the so-called Resistance Committees. Both groups were primary forces behind the uprising against al-Bashir in April 2019. Other political parties and movements joined the call. The Sudan Doctors Committee is also part of the democracy movement.

They movement has opposed the return to the power-sharing deal that established the deposed transitional government late in 2019 and demand a full handover to civilians to lead the transition to democracy.

Earlier Saturday, protesters gathered in Khartoum neighborhoods waved Sudanese flags and posters of deposed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who has been under house arrest since the coup. They also chanted "civilian, civilian," a reference to their main demand that the generals hand over power to civilians.

Later, the demonstrators regrouped in Khartoum and barricaded at least one major street with stones and burning tires. There were also protests in other Sudanese cities and towns.

"The youth ... will not give up and will not stop this revolution until we achieve the goals of the revolution," said Mohammed Ahmed, a 28-year-old university student.

Hamza Baloul, the information minister in the deposed government, took part in Saturday's rallies following his release from detention earlier this month.

There should be "no negotiations with the coup leaders," he told the protesters in Khartoum. "The Sudanese people insist on a civilian government ... the civilian state (government) is our option and we will fight for it."

Later Saturday, security forces stormed the Arbaeen Hospital in Omdurman, pushing and beating up doctors, as well as injured protesters who were there for medical help and their families, the Sudan Doctors Committee said.

Pascal Cuttat, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Khartoum, condemned the violence at the hospital. "The work of medical professionals must be facilitated and the injured must have access to the care they need," he tweeted.

The U.S. Embassy in Khartoum also condemned "the excessive use of force" against protesters who took to the streets "for freedom and and democracy."

Sudanese police, however, denied using live ammunition against the protesters and said that the demonstrators attacked several police stations and vehicles in Khartoum, leaving some 39 policemen with serious injuries.

The demonstrations took place amid tight security. Authorities had closed off bridges over the Nile River linking Khartoum's neighborhoods. Troops and paramilitary forces also sealed off the area around the military headquarters, where thousands of protesters set up camp in April 2019, forcing the military to remove al-Bashir.

Saturday's deaths have brought the tally to at least 19 protesters killed due to excessive force used by the country's security forces since the Oct. 25 coup, according to Sudanese doctors and the United Nations.

Ongoing mediation efforts have sought a way out of the crisis in Sudan.

The U.N. envoy in Sudan, Volker Perthes, said he held "good discussions" Friday with representatives of the protest movement in Khartoum, civil society activists and Mohammed Hassan al-Taishi, a civilian member of the council dissolved in the coup. Nasredeen Abdulbari, justice minister of the deposed government, also took part.

Magdy reported from Cairo.

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Home for the holidays: Rockefeller tree arrives in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City ushered in the holiday season Saturday with the arrival of a 79-foot (24-meter) Norway spruce that will serve as one of the world's most famous Christmas trees, in Rockefeller Center.

The 12-ton tree was trucked in from the Price family home in Elkton, Maryland — the first time the tree has come from that state since the tradition began eight decades ago. The lighting ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 1.

The spruce will be adorned with more than 50,000 multicolored lights and topped with a 900-pound (400-kilogram) star with 70 spikes covered in 3 million crystals.

The tree was cut down Thursday and removed by a crane on the Price property. The spruce, about 85 years old, had stood near the family's house. Devon and Julie Price told NBC's "Today" that they had worried about it falling down during a storm.

"So we're very excited to have it go to New York City," Devon Price said.

Erik Pauze, Rockefeller Center's chief gardener, found this year's tree in March after going to a nursery to buy plants in southern New Jersey and deciding to take a drive in the area, he told The Baltimore Sun.

The tree is expected to remain up through early January.

EXPLAINER: Did Rittenhouse lawyers do enough to prevail?

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

KENOSHA, Wisconsin (AP) — Kyle Rittenhouse testifying about the night he shot three men on the streets of Kenosha — sobbing and seemingly unable to continue as he spoke about the first shooting — was among the most compelling moments in his two-week murder trial.

It might also have been the most effective part of the three-day defense case, potentially swaying any jurors inclined toward sympathy for the 18-year-old who has claimed self-defense for killing two men and injuring one.

Prosecutors say the primary cause of the violence was Rittenhouse's decision to go to Kenosha with a rifle in a city wracked by protests after a white police officer shot a Black man, Jacob Blake.

Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time, is charged with multiple counts including intentional and reckless homicide, as well as possession of a dangerous weapon by a minor. He and the men he shot are white.

Here is a look at how the presentation went for the defense, which rested its case Thursday:

HOW DID RITTENHOUSE'S TESTIMONY GO?

The defense's most consequential decision was to put Rittenhouse on the stand to let him tell jurors what was going through his mind when he opened fire.

Andrew Branca, a Colorado lawyer who wrote the book "The Law of Self Defense: Principles," said on his blog about the trial that the decision was "a high-stakes bet by the defense, and one that always has risk of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory."

Defendants claiming self-defense don't have to testify. But there's pressure on them to do so since what they were thinking when they used lethal force is so central to determining guilt.

The risk was Rittenhouse would get tripped up, rattled or provoked by aggressive questioning from prosecutors and that he would blurt out something that hurt his case. But for most of his some six hours testifying, he was calm, answering questions politely and succinctly. He didn't wilt or lash back.

Lead prosecutor Thomas Binger pressed Rittenhouse, asking him if it was true that he intended to kill all three men. "I didn't intend to kill them," Rittenhouse responded. "I intended to stop the people who were attacking me."

His display of apparent emotion just minutes into his testimony, leading the judge to call a brief recess, may have helped his cause with jurors, some legal experts said.

"There is public debate as to the sincerity of Rittenhouse's tears," said Louis J. Shapiro, a Los Angeles lawyer. "If the jury accepts them as genuine, then it will bode well for Rittenhouse."

Branca, who told The Associated Press previously he thought Rittenhouse should be acquitted, said Rit-

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tenhouse's testimony went well for the defense.

WHAT ELSE STOOD OUT ABOUT THE DEFENSE CASE?

The defense achieved a lot before even starting their presentation to jurors. Some witnesses for the state clearly helped the defense.

A stark example was when one of the prosecution's earliest witnesses, videographer Richie McGinniss, described the first man Rittenhouse killed, Joseph Rosenbaum charging Rittenhouse, screaming "F--- you!" and lunging for Rittenhouse's rifle.

It was also prosecutors who entered the extensive video evidence that backed the defense view that Rittenhouse was being chased when he shot Rosenbaum and, moments later, Anthony Huber and Gaige Grosskreutz. Their video showed Grosskreutz with a gun in his hand as he approached Rittenhouse.

Joe Lopez, a Chicago-based defense attorney, said he didn't see calling such witnesses as a mistake by prosecutors. He said prosecutors often want to be the ones entering evidence that is unavoidably favorable to the defense rather than leaving it for the defense to do.

WHAT ELSE DID THE DEFENSE ACCOMPLISH?

Since so many key issues were broached and thrashed out in cross-examination during the state's weeklong case, the defense had less to do.

Besides putting Rittenhouse on the stand for much of Wednesday, the defense also called a series of witnesses in an effort to show he displayed no aggression or ill-intent on the night, and helped to clean graffiti that day and put out fires at night.

With prosecutors trying to focus jurors on the totality of what Rittenhouse did, starting with his decision to come to Kenosha with a gun, the defense tried to steer them toward a micro view, with one defense expert zeroing in Thursday on the 2 minutes, 55 seconds from when Rosenbaum started chasing Rittenhouse.

"Self-defense is the debate that the defense wants the jury having in the jury room," Shapiro said. "Not the question of why didn't Rittenhouse mind his own business" and stay away from the protest."

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

More turn to abortion pills by mail, with legality uncertain

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Before her daughter's birth, she spent weeks in bed. Another difficult pregnancy would be worse as she tried to care for her toddler.

Faced with that possibility, the 28-year-old Texas woman did what a growing number of people have considered: She had a friend in another state mail her the pills she needed to end her pregnancy. She took the pills, went to bed early and describes the experience as "calm" and "peaceful."

"If people can have births at birthing centers or in their own homes, why shouldn't people be able to have abortions in their own homes?" said the woman, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she worries about legal reprisals as Texas moves to join several other states in disallowing mail delivery of abortion medications. "It's a comfort thing."

The COVID-19 pandemic and Texas' near-ban on abortion fueled increased interest in obtaining abortion medications by mail. But with the legality in doubt in several states, some people looking to get around restrictions may not see it as worth the risk. The matter is taking on new urgency with the Supreme Court set to hear arguments next month in Mississippi's bid to erode the Roe v. Wade decision guaranteeing the right to an abortion.

Some abortion-rights advocates worry that whatever state officials and anti-abortion groups promise, people ending their pregnancies at home will face criminal prosecutions.

"We don't think that people are doing anything wrong to order medication from an online site," said Elisa Wells, co-founder and co-director of Plan C, which provides information about medical abortions. "I mean,

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that's how men get Viagra. They order it online, and nobody's talking about that and asking, is that illegal?"

Medication abortions have increased in popularity since regulators started allowing them two decades ago and now account for roughly 40% of U.S. abortions. The medication can cost as little as \$110 to get by mail, compared with at least \$300 for a surgical abortion.

However, people seeking abortion pills often must navigate differing state laws, including bans on delivery of the drugs and on telemedicine consultations to discuss the medication with a health care provider. And until Democrat Joe Biden became president, U.S. government policy banned mail delivery nationwide.

"We just didn't want women to use these medications and not have any protections, any guidance, any consultation," said Oklahoma state Sen. Julie Daniels, a Republican and lead sponsor of her state's law banning delivery of abortion medication by mail, which is on hold amid a legal challenge.

Plan C saw roughly 135,000 hits on its website in September, about nine times the number it had before the Texas law that bans abortion as early as six weeks into a pregnancy took effect Sept. 1, Wells said.

Aid Access, which helps women get abortion pills and covers costs for those who can't afford them, says it can't yet provide data from recent months. It saw a 27% increase in the U.S. in people seeking abortion pills as states instituted restrictions early in the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a University of Texas study. The biggest increase was in Texas, which had limited access to clinics, saying it was necessary to check the coronavirus' spread.

Aid Access has a physician based in Europe, Dr. Rebecca Gomperts, provide prescriptions to clients in 32 states that only allow doctors to do so. The pills are mailed from India.

"I don't think that any state level regulation is going to stop Dr. Gomperts from what she's doing," said Christie Pitney, a California nurse-midwife who is Aid Access' provider for that state and Massachusetts.

Indeed, Aid Access defied a 2019 order from the Food and Drug Administration to stop distributing medications in the U.S. In April, the Biden administration dropped the FDA ban on mail delivery of abortion medications during the pandemic.

The divide among Democratic-leaning and Republican-leaning states is stark in the St. Louis area. On the Illinois side, Planned Parenthood offers telemedicine consultations and prescriptions by mail. Missouri, however, bars telemedicine and requires a pre-abortion pelvic exam, which providers see as unnecessary and invasive.

"In Missouri, we don't actually provide medication abortion because of the state requirement," said Dr. Colleen McNicholas, chief medical officer of the regional affiliate.

Abortion opponents don't expect the FDA restriction on abortion medication to be reinstated under Biden. GOP lawmakers in Arkansas, Arizona, Montana and Oklahoma already were working on new laws to ban mail delivery when the FDA acted. Texas' mail-delivery ban takes effect Dec. 2. South Dakota GOP Gov. Kristi Noem issued an executive order in September.

Even some abortion opponents believe it will be difficult for states to crack down on providers and suppliers outside their borders, especially outside the U.S.

"Obviously it would be a lot easier if we had the cooperation of the federal government," said John Seago, Texas Right to Life's legislative director. "There's no silver bullet yet identified of how we're going to approach this kind of next frontier of the fight."

Still, Seago says tough penalties give prosecutors an incentive to pursue violators. The Montana law, for example, mandates a 20-year prison term, a \$50,000 fine, or both to anyone who mails pills to a state resident.

Pregnant people seek telemedicine consultations and abortion pills by mail because they don't want to or can't travel or can't arrange time off or child care, abortion-rights advocates said.

"Just because somebody can't access an abortion doesn't mean that they're going to all of a sudden want to continue a pregnancy that originally was not desired, right?" said Dr. Meera Shah, chief medical officer for the Planned Parenthood affiliate outside New York City, who also does abortions in Indiana.

A person in Ohio who identifies as nonbinary said they used an herbal remedy to self-manage an abortion alone in their college dorm room in 2016, before Aid Access launched its site, telling their roommate they had the stomach flu. They said they didn't have a car and didn't know they could get financial help,

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and called the Aid Access model “fantastic.”

“Any avenue to help pregnant people facilitate their own abortions and have that experience in whatever way best suits them is a great way to give bodily autonomy back to a wider range of patients,” they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they fear harassment from anti-abortion protesters.

The new laws in Montana, Oklahoma and Texas say people can’t face criminal penalties for having medication abortions. Yet those provisions — and assurances from abortion foes that their goal is not to prosecute people who have ended pregnancies — don’t comfort some abortion-rights advocates.

They say roughly two dozen women have been prosecuted since 2000 in the aftermath of self-managed abortions. An Indiana woman who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for feticide in 2015 for a self-induced abortion spent more than a year behind bars before her conviction was overturned.

Some abortion-rights advocates said prosecutors also can use child endangerment or manslaughter charges against people who have had abortions — or who have had miscarriages that authorities deem suspicious. They worry that the poor and people of color are especially vulnerable.

“They can’t get drugs where they are, and so they may purchase pills from informal networks or online sites,” said Melissa Grant, chief operating officer of carafem, which operates clinics in four states and provides abortion medications in nine. “But that’s riskier in this country than actually taking the medicines.”

Follow John Hanna on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

Prize-winning 1619 Project now coming out in book form

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

Thais Perkins is the owner of Reverie Books in Austin, Texas, and the parent of a middle school student and high school student. Among the books she is eager to have in her store, and in the schools, is an expanded edition of “The 1619 Project” that comes out this week.

“My store is a social-justice oriented bookstore, and this book fits very well within that mission,” she says. “I am promoting community sponsorships of the book, where people can purchase a copy and have it donated to one of the schools.”

That is assuming, of course, the school will be allowed to accept it.

The “1619 Project,” which began two years ago as a special issue of The New York Times magazine, has been at the heart of an intensifying debate over racism and the country’s origins and how they should be presented in the classroom.

The project has been welcomed as a vital new voice that places slavery at the center of American history and Black people at the heart of a centuries-long quest for the U.S. to meet the promise — intended or otherwise — that “all men are created equal.” Project creator Nikole Hannah-Jones received a Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

At the same time, opposition has come from such historians as the Pulitzer Prize winner Gordon Wood, who denounced the project’s initial assertion that protecting slavery was a primary reason for the American Revolution (the language has since been amended) and from Republican officials around the country. Sen. Tom Cotton, of Arkansas, has proposed a bill that would ban federal funding for teaching the project, and the Trump administration issued a “1776 Commission” report it called a rebuttal against “reckless ‘re-education’ attempts that seek to reframe American history around the idea that the United States is not an exceptional country but an evil one.”

In 2021, Republican objections to the 1619 project and to critical race theory have led to widespread legislative action. According to Jonathan Friedman, director of free expression and education at PEN America, dozens of bills around the country have been proposed or enacted that call for various restrictions on books seen as immoral or unpatriotic. Two bills passed in Texas specifically mention the 1619 project.

“When you look at the current movement about critical race theory, you can see some of its origins in the fight over the 1619 project,” Friedman says.

The Texas laws, Friedman says, are “opaque” about how or whether a given school such as the ones at-

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tended by Perkins' kids could receive a copy of the 1619 book. He cites a passage which reads "a teacher, administrator, or other employee of a state agency, school district, or open-enrollment charter school may not ... require an understanding of the 1619 Project." The provision "effectively bars a teacher from teaching or assigning any materials from the 1619 Project," he says, but not the school library from stocking it — especially if the book has been donated.

A spokesperson for the Austin Independent School District says in a statement that the "academics team is currently working on this internally, and we are not yet able to speak to the issue."

The 1619 book appears destined for political controversy, but it's also a literary event. Contributors range from such prize-winning authors on poverty and racial justice as Matthew Desmond, Bryan Stevenson and Michelle Alexander, to Oscar-winning filmmaker Barry Jenkins, to "Waiting to Exhale" novelist Terry McMillan and author Jesmyn Ward, a two-time winner of the National Book Award for fiction. Along with essays on religion, music, politics, medicine and other subjects, the book includes poetry from the Pulitzer winners Tracy K. Smith, Yusef Komunyakaa, Rita Dove and Natasha Trethewey.

"It's just such an amazing part of this book," Hannah-Jones says of the poems and prose fiction. "It gives you these beautiful breaks between these essays."

"The 1619 Project" book already has reached the top 100 on the bestseller lists of Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com. Online seller Bookshop.org has set up a partnership with the publisher One World, an imprint of Penguin Random House, for independent stores such as Reverie Books to donate copies to local libraries, schools, book banks and other local organizations.

Hannah-Jones' promotional tour is a mix of bookstores and performing venues, and at least one very personal journey. She will make appearances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Free Library of Philadelphia. She will visit Waterloo West High School in her home state of Iowa, partner with Loyalty Bookstore and Mahogany Books for an event at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington and attend the Chicago Humanities Festival.

She also will speak at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English. Lynsey Burkins, who leads the council's Build Your Stack initiative, which helps teachers build their classroom libraries, says it was important to reflect a diversity of experiences in the classroom texts. Burkins, a third grade teacher in Ohio, says that it's easier to engage students with topics like history when they can see themselves in the work they're reading.

"The more books that we have in our menu, the more that students get to start learning about historical events in a way that is humanizing for them," Burkins says.

Hannah-Jones says that reaching classrooms was not on her mind when she conceived of "The 1619 project," but that schools have become important outlets. Through a partnership with the Pulitzer Center, which has teamed with the Times before, the project has been embraced by dozens of schools and educational centers around the country, from high school history faculty in Baltimore to grade school teachers in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to the advocacy group Texas Trailblazers for Equity in Education.

Hannah has a second book out this week. The Penguin Random House imprint Kokila is publishing the picture story "Born On the Water," a collaboration among Hannah-Jones, co-writer Renée Watson and illustrator Nikkolos Smith that Hannah-Jones says she was inspired to work on after readers of the Times magazine asked for something addressed to younger readers.

It is a mini-history, with verse and images, that traces centuries of Black lives from their thriving communities in Africa to their forced passage overseas and enslavement to their hard-earned freedom. Those once "brokenhearted, beaten and bruised" became "healers, pastors and activists," Hannah-Jones and Watson write, "because the people fought/America began to live up to its promise of democracy."

Jess Lifshitz, who teaches fifth grade literacy in the Chicago suburbs, says that although she was familiar with "The 1619 Project," she didn't plan to directly incorporate the work into her classroom because of her students' age. That changed when she received a preview copy of "Born on the Water."

"It honors what children are able to wrestle with and grapple with, and I think so many books written for children underestimate what they're capable of," Lifshitz says. "With all the tension that is swirling around

adults, sometimes it's hard to remember what a beautiful picture book that tells an accurate story about history can do for the kids sitting in the room."

Annie Ma, who covers education and equity for AP's Race and Ethnicity team, contributed to this report. Follow her on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/anniema15>

This story has been updated to correct a quotation in the second paragraph to read "social-justice oriented" instead of "socially justice oriented," and to add the word "up" in the quotation "America began to live up to its promise of democracy."

Parkland activists heal over years while pushing gun reform

By KELLI KENNEDY Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — When the shooter in the 2018 Parkland school massacre finally pleaded guilty last month, it briefly revived attention and donations for the anti-gun violence March For Our Lives student movement birthed by the tragedy.

It also dredged up personal trauma for many of young activists, though most are now hundreds of miles away at college.

Jaclyn Corin, 21, one of the group's original organizers and now a Harvard junior, stayed off social media the week of the shooter's court proceedings to avoid painful memories. But well-intentioned loved ones texted constantly to provide support, unwittingly making it impossible for her to ignore.

"I try my best not to think about him and the violence that he inflicted, but it's incredibly hard to do that when someone who ruined your life and the lives of literally everyone in your community is trending on social media."

In the initial months after the shooting that killed 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the teenagers amassed one of the largest youth protests in history in Washington and rallied more than a million activists in sister marches from California to Japan. They made the cover of Time magazine and raised millions to fund March For Our Lives. They testified before Congress, met with the president, won the International Children's Peace Prize and launched a 60-plus city bus tour to register tens of thousands of young voters.

March For Our Lives has evolved into a 300-chapter organization that has had a hand in helping pass many of the 130 gun violence prevention bills approved across the country since 2018 and regularly files amicus briefs in gun-related lawsuits.

Yet some of the original founders, including Emma Gonzalez, have left or taken a step back — or moved on to other issues. One of them is running for Congress in Florida.

Corin was so burned out from activism when she started college that she said she needed a year for herself.

"A lot of our trauma from the shooting is inherently linked to the organization," she said.

Nearly four years after the shootings, the twenty-somethings have managed to keep the organization going and youth-led. Still, they've struggled to achieve sustainable financing. The organization has raised over \$31 million to date, but its operating costs were slightly higher than funds in 2020.

David Hogg, one of the most recognizable faces from the group and still one of its most active members, said the organization is much more stable now than in the early days.

"When you get a bunch of traumatized teenagers together and say, 'It's up to you to fix this,' ... the weight that puts on a 17-year-old mind or a 14-year-old mind like my sister's after she lost four friends that day is enormous."

Hogg, also a student at Harvard, delayed college for a year to help grow the organization. He was in Washington last week for a Supreme Court case about the right to carry a firearm in public for self-defense where the organization filed an amicus brief supporting a restrictive New York state law.

"There are days when I want to stop. There are days when I am exhausted. But there are days when I realize I am not alone in this work," Hogg said in a recent interview.

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Hogg, who has drawn persistent scorn from conservatives including Georgia's Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Fox News personality Laura Ingraham, said March For Our Lives is focused on the long game. It hopes to spur youth nationally to run for office, become judges and draft policies.

Volunteers in the organization made over 1 million texts and phone calls leading up to the 2020 election.

Maxwell Frost, one of the group's founders and its former organizing director, is running for an open congressional seat from Orlando. Another founding member, Charlie Mirsky, took a year off to work full time as the organization's policy director before enrolling at Lafayette College. Last summer, he helped the organization form a judicial advocacy branch to write amicus briefs.

While gun control remains the group's chief mission, the students said they consider issues like racism, poverty and voter disenfranchisement to be intertwined and have focused extra efforts on communities of color affected by gun violence.

Many of the students rallied for Black Lives Matters last summer in the wake of the George Floyd protests, including Aalayah Eastmond.

Eastmond, now a junior at Trinity Washington University, was in her Holocaust history class when the gunman killed several students inside. The now 20-year-old took part in March For Our Lives' bus tour, though she is not a formal member of the group.

"I wanted to make sure we were addressing inner city gun violence that disproportionately impacts Black and brown youth," Eastmond said. "I felt like that was a huge part of the conversation that is overlooked."

And now, as a jury will decide in January whether the Parkland school shooter will spend life in prison or receive the death penalty, the student activists find themselves grappling yet again with the human toll of gun violence. The organization does not have a formal position, but the students said they support whatever the victims' families want.

"I think it's a really difficult scenario," Corin said. "I struggle with the morality of the death penalty often, but I do know that it could give victims' families peace, specifically in this case where we know the person is guilty."

Bannon indicted on contempt charges for defying 1/6 subpoena

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, has been indicted on two counts of criminal contempt of Congress after he defied a subpoena from the House committee investigating the violent Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

The Justice Department said Friday that Bannon, 67, was indicted on one count for refusing to appear for a deposition last month and one count for refusing to provide documents in response to the committee's subpoena. Each count carries a minimum of 30 days of jail and as long as a year behind bars.

Bannon is expected to surrender to authorities on Monday and will appear in court that afternoon, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the case and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A parade of Trump administration officials, including Bannon, have defied requests and demands from Congress over the past five years with little consequence, including during Democrats' impeachment inquiry. President Barack Obama's administration also declined to charge two of its officials who defied congressional demands.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Bannon's indictment reflects the Justice Department's "steadfast commitment" to the rule of law.

The House voted to hold Bannon in contempt of Congress on Oct. 21 after he refused to show up for a deposition or even engage with the committee as it investigates the siege of Trump's supporters that was the worst attack on the Capitol in two centuries.

A second expected witness, former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, defied his own subpoena from the committee on Friday, as Trump has escalated his legal battles to withhold documents and testimony about the insurrection.

If the House votes to hold Meadows in contempt, that recommendation would go to the Justice Depart-

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ment for a possible indictment. The chairman of the Jan. 6 committee, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., told reporters at an event in his home state Friday that he will recommend contempt charges against Meadows this coming week.

In a statement, Thompson and the committee's Republican vice chairwoman, Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, said Bannon's indictment "should send a clear message to anyone who thinks they can ignore the Select Committee or try to stonewall our investigation: no one is above the law."

They added: "Mr. Meadows, Mr. Bannon, and others who go down this path won't prevail."

Officials in both Democratic and Republican administrations have been held in contempt by Congress, but criminal indictments for contempt are rare. The most recent notable examples of criminal penalties for not testifying before Congress date to the 1970s, including when President Richard Nixon's aide G. Gordon Liddy was convicted of misdemeanor charges for refusing to answer questions about his role in the Watergate scandal.

Bannon and Meadows are key witnesses for the committee because they both were in close touch with Trump around the time of the insurrection.

Meadows was Trump's top aide at the end of his presidency and was one of several people who pressured state officials to try and overturn the results of the 2020 election that Democrat Joe Biden won. Bannon promoted the Jan. 6 protests on his podcast after predicting the day before that "all hell is going to break loose."

The indictment says Bannon didn't communicate with the committee in any way from the time he received the subpoena on Sept. 24 until Oct. 7, when his lawyer sent a letter, seven hours after the documents were due.

Bannon, who left his job at the White House in 2017 and currently serves as host of the conspiracy-minded "War Room" podcast, is a private citizen who "refused to appear to give testimony as required by a subpoena," the indictment says.

When Bannon declined to appear for his deposition in October, his attorney said the former Trump adviser had been directed by a lawyer for Trump, citing executive privilege, not to answer questions. Bannon's attorney did not respond to a message seeking comment on Friday.

This is not the first time that Bannon has faced legal peril. In August of last year, Bannon was pulled from a luxury yacht and arrested on allegations that he and three associates ripped off donors trying to fund a U.S.-Mexico border wall. Trump pardoned Bannon in the final hours of his presidency.

Meadows, a former congressman from North Carolina, defied his subpoena after weeks of discussions with the committee. His lawyer said Meadows has a "sharp legal dispute" with the committee as Trump was asserting executive privilege Meadows' testimony, as Trump had with Bannon's.

The White House said in a letter Thursday that Biden would waive any privilege that would prevent Meadows from cooperating with the committee, prompting Meadows' lawyer to say he would not comply.

"Legal disputes are appropriately resolved by courts," said the lawyer, George Terwilliger. "It would be irresponsible for Mr. Meadows to prematurely resolve that dispute by voluntarily waiving privileges that are at the heart of those legal issues."

Biden has waived most of Trump's assertions of privilege over documents and interviews, citing the interest of the public in knowing what happened on Jan. 6. Trump sued the committee and the National Archives to stop the release of documents, and U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan has repeatedly backed Biden's position, noting in one ruling this past week that "Presidents are not kings, and Plaintiff is not President."

The committee's proceedings and attempts to gather information have been delayed while Trump appealed Chutkan's rulings. On Thursday, a federal appeals court temporarily blocked the release of some of the White House records the panel is seeking, giving that court time to consider Trump's arguments.

Still, the committee is continuing its work, and members have interviewed more than 150 witnesses in an attempt to build a comprehensive record of how a violent mob of Trump's supporters broke into the Capitol and temporarily halted the certification of Biden's victory.

The committee has subpoenaed almost three dozen people, including former White House staffers,

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Trump allies who strategized about how to overturn his defeat and people who organized a giant rally near the White House on the morning of Jan. 6. While some, like Meadows and Bannon, have balked, several others have spoken to the panel and provided documents.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Nomaan Merchant, Zeke Miller, Farnoush Amiri and Jill Colvin in Washington and Emily Wagster Pettus in Jackson, Mississippi, contributed to this report.

Merkel calls on all to get shots to avoid bad virus winter

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday called on all unvaccinated Germans to get their shots as quickly as possible as the country's coronavirus infection rate hit the latest in a string of new highs and death numbers were growing.

"If we stand together, if we think about protecting ourselves and caring for others, we can save our country a lot this winter," Merkel said in her weekly podcast.

Still, the chancellor warned that "these are very difficult weeks ahead of us."

Germany's disease control center said that the country's infection rate climbed to 277.4 new cases per 100,000 residents over seven days, up from 263.7 the previous day.

The Robert Koch Institute reported 45,081 new infections, two days after the daily total topped 50,000 for the first time.

Another 228 COVID-19 deaths brought Germany's total in the pandemic so far to 97,617.

While the infection rate isn't yet as high as in some other European countries, its relentless rise in Germany has set off alarm bells. Outgoing Chancellor Merkel plans to meet with the country's 16 state governors to coordinate nationwide measures next week, and parliament is mulling legislation that would provide a new legal framework for restrictions over the winter.

German magazine Der Spiegel reported that the army wants to mobilize up to 12,000 soldiers until Christmas to help out in overwhelmed hospitals, support vaccination and testing efforts in nursing homes, and aid health offices with contact tracing of infected people to contain the virus.

More than 10,000 soldiers of Germany's Bundeswehr army have helped out in previous waves of the coronavirus pandemic, but the mobilization underlines that the authorities expect the pandemic situation to get worse in coming weeks.

Already, several hospitals in the hard-hit eastern states of Saxony and Thuringia, as well as in Bavaria, have started transferring intensive care patients to other regions of the country because they are full, German news agency dpa reported. Planned surgeries have been postponed as well so medical staff can focus on COVID-19 patients again.

Merkel expressed her concern about the high number of intensive care patients and rising death numbers — especially in regions with low vaccination rates.

"Think about it again," Merkel said to those who still hadn't got the jab. "We just need to grab it, grab it fast."

"I am asking you: Join us, and try to convince relatives and friends as well," she added.

The chancellor also called on those who are vaccinated already to get a booster shot against COVID-19.

The booster vaccinations are "a real chance to break the severe fall and winter wave of the pandemic," Merkel said.

Germany has struggled to bring new momentum to its vaccination campaign lately, with a bit over two-thirds of the population fully vaccinated. It has balked so far at ordering vaccine mandates for any professional group.

Children under the age of 12, who cannot yet get vaccinated in Germany, are among the worst hit group.

The head of the German Teachers' Association warned Saturday that local health offices were struggling to keep control amid the many outbreaks in schools across the country.

"The reality is that we are already on the verge of losing control in some hotspot areas," Heinz-Peter

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Meidinger told weekly paper Welt am Sonntag. "We no longer know how to contain infection outbreaks in schools."

Also on Saturday, the government started offering free rapid COVID-19 tests again. They were scrapped a month ago in an effort to persuade more people to get vaccinated.

Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

Biden bill would give local news outlets 'shot in the arm'

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and TALI ARBEL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's \$1.85 trillion social spending bill includes a provision that, if it becomes law, would mark the first time the federal government has offered targeted support in response to the decline of local news.

The help would come in the form of a payroll tax credit for companies that employ eligible local journalists. The measure would allow newspapers, digital news outlets and radio and television stations to claim a tax credit of \$25,000 the first year and \$15,000 the next four years for up to 1,500 journalists.

It's a response to growing alarm that the elimination of newsroom jobs is leaving communities without access to critical information. The concern has grown since a hedge fund with a reputation of ruthless cost-cutting acquired Tribune, one of the nation's largest newspaper chains, in May. Already, about one-fourth of the country's newspapers have closed and half of local journalism jobs have evaporated in the past 15 years, according to research from the University of North Carolina.

That leaves about 1,800 communities with no local newspaper.

But the credit, which would cost \$1.67 billion over the next five years, does create some tension for the industry. Some top Republicans in Congress have derided it as a handout. Leading journalists also acknowledge that it's awkward to receive financial assistance from a government they cover independently.

Still, given the sense of crisis the industry is facing, many journalists say the risk is worth it.

"This is only a reluctant response to this fear of the collapse of local news and their business models," said Steven Waldman, president and co-founder of Report for America, an organization that places journalists in local newsrooms, including The Associated Press. "Most journalists start off with a healthy skepticism about the government getting involved and helping journalism. And that's appropriate."

"But," he added, "the reason why this is happening now is just the severity of the crisis."

Government support for media, in ways direct and indirect, is not new. It goes back to the earliest days of the country when Congress subsidized periodicals' postal rates. More recently, a pandemic-era small business loan program provided millions to news organizations.

The provision is supported by more than a dozen House Republicans, though the second-ranking GOP leader, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, called it a scam in a recent tweet. "Make no mistake — this is Biden and Dems in Congress helping pay the reporters' salaries who cover for them," he tweeted.

The proposal's fate ultimately hinges on how Congress proceeds with the broader legislation, which has only attracted Democratic support and has become bogged down by divisions in the House and Senate. Notably, it is one of the few provisions to which House and Senate Democrats have already agreed.

Lawmakers will resume debate on the bill when they return to Washington this coming week.

Though the proposal's main objective was to rescue small papers that were hit hard as ad dollars evaporated at the start of the pandemic, it will help some larger companies. Should the tax break become law, Gannett, one of the nation's largest remaining newspaper chains, could gain as much as \$127.5 million over five years, according to an analysis by the AP.

Maribel Perez Wadsworth, who runs the news division of Gannett, which employs more than 4,000 journalists at USA Today and local papers such as The Arizona Republic and Detroit Free Press, called the credit a "good shot in the arm." She would not specify how the money would be used.

AP spokesperson Lauren Easton declined to comment on the tax credit.

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Ariz., introduced the credit as a piece of legislation last year along with Rep.

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Dan Newhouse, R-Wash.

One of the jobs tax credit's proponents was community-newspaper chain Wick Communications, which is based in Sierra Vista, Arizona — Kirkpatrick's congressional district. CEO Francis Wick said revenue has dropped by about half since 2009, with a steep ad-sales decline during the pandemic as local businesses reduced advertising. To cut costs, the company consolidated town papers into regional titles, cut print publication days and furloughed journalists.

The tax credit, which would add an extra \$2 million for the company in its first year, would help the papers in the 11-state chain try to transition to a digital-centric model with more paying subscribers, Wick said, rather than focus so tightly on cutting expenses.

"We need to make sure ultimately we can do our jobs," Wick said.

The proposal has a key supporter in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had long supported efforts to help local journalism. But the issue became more personal when her hometown paper, The Baltimore Sun, was among those acquired by hedge fund Alden Global Capital despite efforts by journalists and community members to steer the paper to local ownership.

One of those local advocates, former Maryland county executive Ted Venetoulis, called Pelosi after Alden's purchase, to urge her to support the credit, which by the time of that phone call was already in the broader Biden package.

That would be the last time Venetoulis and Pelosi, D-Calif., would speak before he died in early October, the speaker said in an obituary in the newspaper and her office confirmed to AP.

The provision put in place guardrails to try to keep money from going to partisan sites that masquerade as local news or fake-news operations while casting a broad net about which organizations are considered legitimate local news outlets, whether they are hedge fund-owned chains, nonprofit, print, digital, radio or TV.

"This isn't the government deciding who gets it and who doesn't get it," said Jon Schleuss, president of the NewsGuild, a union that represents journalists, including those at the AP. "Are you employing local journalists? If so, here's a tax credit. It's really helpful because it is targeted to where we've lost so many journalists over the past decade and that's in the local."

Arbel reported from New York.

History-making Winsome Sears ready to work in Virginia

By MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — Winsome Sears says voters learned where she stands as she made history campaigning to become the first Black woman elected to statewide office in Virginia.

But Sears may be less known for her policy positions than for a campaign photo showing the 57-year-old former Marine posing with a military rifle. The image launched the Republican from political obscurity after a nearly 20-year absence from elected office to win the GOP's nomination for lieutenant governor, and she completed her comeback in November as Republicans swept Virginia's top offices.

Those who know her say Sears is more than a gun-toting caricature — they point to her willingness to buck her own party at times, and her dedication to school choice and other conservative education priorities. The photo grabbed attention, but she held it with an engaging, almost stream-of-consciousness speaking style, firing up the crowds for her ticket mate Glenn Youngkin, now the governor-elect.

She had one-liners ready for the press as well. When asked about her pro-gun stance after the votes were counted, she told a local television station: "Harriet Tubman carried a gun and if it was good for her, then it was good for me too."

Having won 51% to 49% over Democratic state Del. Hala Ayala, who as a Black Hispanic also would have made history, Sears is ready to pivot again, from speechifying to governing.

"Actions speak louder than words," Sears said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And that's why I couldn't wait until we got to the end. So that I can really show the people that I mean to do right."

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That I'm not just using flowery language."

The word that best describes Sears is "authentic," according to Chris Braunlich, who served with her on Virginia's board of education a decade ago. She had little tolerance for local school superintendents who made excuses for their students' poor performance, he said.

"When you tell me that I'm a victim ... how? Tell me how," she said in one campaign speech in which she emphasized, as she often does, the progress that's been made over the decades in American race relations. "Everything I've had, I've had to work for. Everything."

Sears has embraced President Donald Trump, serving as co-chair of a group called Black Americans to Re-elect President Trump, and defending him against charges of racism. Still, she has taken action when she believes Republicans fall short on racial issues.

In 2018, she launched a write-in campaign for U.S. Senate when Corey Stewart, whose campaign had links to white supremacists and used the Confederate flag as a prop, won the GOP nomination.

"The Republican Party never saluted the Confederate flag, did not fight under the Confederate flag ... and he is our candidate, our nominee?" she said at the time. "He does not represent the party of Lincoln. ... He is not a true Republican."

When she is sworn in in January, she will be the first woman in the post, which is considered part time but often is a launching pad for future governors. Five of the past 10 lieutenant governors in Virginia have gone on to serve as governor.

Former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, the nation's first African American elected governor, said Sears has an independent streak that has served her well.

"She's experienced, and she's shown she's someone who's willing to listen, and willing to learn," said Wilder, a Democrat, who met with Sears during the campaign and has agreed to serve on Youngkin's transition team.

Wilder, now a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, had been a lieutenant governor as well. He found the post to be a surprisingly sturdy platform for advancing an agenda, because it provides many opportunities to speak in front of influential audiences.

"You can define your issues," he said.

Presiding over the Senate is one of the lieutenant governor's key duties but the job could be more than ceremonial for Sears since Republicans not only won the governor's mansion, but also reclaimed a majority in the House of Delegates.

That leaves the 21-19 Senate as Democrats' last bastion of power, with Sears poised to cast tie-breaking votes whenever a single Democrat can be lured to the Republican side.

Democrats are particularly concerned about her strong anti-abortion record. Ayala repeatedly warned voters that the Senate is essentially split 20-20 on the issue, with Democratic Sen. Joe Morrissey having voted against some legislation to expand abortion rights.

Sears said voters heard that pitch as Ayala more than doubled her fundraising, and rejected it.

Voters "cared about the bread-and-butter issues that are facing them," she said. Sears pointed out that she would allow abortions in cases of rape or incest and to save a pregnant woman's life or health. Asked if she would like any changes to abortion in Virginia, she was noncommittal, saying only, "Let me see about that."

Sears represented Hampton Roads in the legislature for a single term two decades ago, sponsoring legislation against KKK-style cross burnings and squabbling with the Legislative Black Caucus, where she was the only Republican.

While absent from electoral politics, she was appointed to the Veterans Administration, the Census Bureau and the state school board and ran a plumbing and electrical supply company in the Winchester area. She said she moved there to provide a better environment for one of her daughters, DeJon Williams, who had mental health problems. Williams and her two daughters died in a car crash in 2012 after witnesses reported her speed exceeded 100 mph.

"I'm reminded that God gave us the ability to grieve, he gave us tears for a reason," she told The Win-

chester Star in 2012.

Sears speaks frequently about her faith, writing a book titled "Stop Being a Christian Wimp!" long before she re-entered politics. She also led a prison Bible study.

Vinson Palathingal, a GOP activist from Fairfax County and an early supporter, said the party should have promoted her more prominently.

"Expanding the tent is something I'm working on, and that is exactly what Winsome is talking about," he said as he handed out sample ballots.

Sears argues that lower taxes, school choice and opposition to abortion have more appeal among minorities than conventional political wisdom allows.

"We're going to need new voters if we're going to win," she said in a GOP podcast earlier this year. "You know where we're going to get them from? The only place: the Democrats. They're in the Democratic Party, they're conservatives, and they don't even know it."

Lions, tigers and an unbearable year at Jack Hanna's zoo

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium had a bear of a year.

It began Jan. 1, the first day of famous zookeeper Jack Hanna's retirement after 42 years as the beloved celebrity director-turned-ambassador of the nation's second-largest zoo.

As if the khaki-wearing "Jungle Jack" were the life's breath of the institution that his upbeat animal-loving persona and masses of TV appearances made famous, the zoo seemed to deflate from there.

In March, news of a financial scandal broke. Top executives resigned. Investigations were launched. Mea culpas were issued.

The next week, the zoo's beloved 29-year-old bonobo Unga died, and a 4-year-old cheetah injured a zookeeper.

Then in April, just as a streaming international TV channel named for him was launching, a damning animal rights documentary alleging Hanna had ties to the big cat trade premiered in California. A day later, in timing they said was unrelated, Hanna's family announced he had dementia and would retire from public life.

In October, citing the financial and animal rights revelations, a commission of the respected Association of Zoos and Aquariums stripped the Columbus Zoo of its main accreditation. Zoo officials filed an intent to appeal last week.

"It's been a tough year for the Columbus Zoo, yes," said association president Dan Ashe, while adding that the zoo's roughly 2 million visitors a year can still be assured the facility's 10,000 animals are well cared for.

Ashe said bringing in Tom Schmid, who currently heads the Texas State Aquarium, as the zoo's new leader bodes well: "He's going to bring the Columbus Zoo roaring back."

Schmid, 56, begins his new job Dec. 6 as president and CEO of the zoo and its related businesses, including The Wilds safari park and conservation center and Zoombezi Bay water park.

Keith Shumate, chair of the zoo's board, called Schmid "extremely smart, ethical and passionate about zoos and wildlife conservation."

"We can't change what happened in the past, but we've done a lot to admit those wrongs, to apologize and to address our shortcomings," said zoo spokesperson Nicolle Gomez Racey. "The people who took liberties in their power are gone, and the people who are cleaning up the mess in the room, under new leadership, we're moving forward. That's the only thing you can do."

Interim CEO Jerry Borin has overseen zoo business since then-CEO Tom Stalf and his chief financial officer, Greg Bell, resigned in March after a Columbus Dispatch investigation found they allowed relatives to live in houses owned or controlled by the zoo and sought tickets for family members to attend entertainment events.

The findings were confirmed in subsequent reviews, including a forensic analysis that found financial

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abuses by Stalf, Bell and two other former executives cost the zoo more than \$630,000. Investigations by Ohio's state auditor and attorney general are still underway, their spokespeople said.

The spending abuse was a particularly painful blow after the pandemic-related financial hardship of 2020. Typically, Columbus Zoo is open 363 days a year. More than half its earned revenue comes from admissions and other sales, such as food and gift items. Yet, that year, it was closed for weeks, ultimately sustaining \$20 million in operational losses. Twenty-nine full- and part-time employees were furloughed, and 33 non-animal care positions across the zoo and The Wilds were eliminated.

Yet even more wrenching were the accusations leveled in the documentary "The Conservation Game," which premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on April 6.

The film tied the zoo and Hanna to the big cat trade, showing that some tiger, lion and snow leopard cubs that had been Hanna's fuzzy and adorable companions on TV neither came from nor returned to the zoo. In many cases, they were provided by backyard breeders and unaccredited roadside zoos and disappeared into private hands after those appearances.

As publicity around the film grew, Hanna's relatives said they hadn't seen it and could not comment on the claims. "What we can say emphatically is that he worked his entire career to better the animal world," the family said in a statement.

Ashe said the film's revelations, coupled with his association's own growing file on the zoo's Animal Programs department, weighed heavily in the decision to pull Columbus' accreditation.

"They were, and have been for some time, dealing with non-AZA members, and pretty clearly not disclosing those transfers," Ashe said. "Those are very serious issues within our accreditation process."

Filmmaker Michael Webber said the zoo and its accreditors took his documentary's allegations seriously. Over the summer, the zoo acknowledged the bulk of the film's revelations and apologized. It revised policies and reporting structures for acquisition and disposition of ambassador animals in the Animal Programs department. A longtime vice president of animal programs retired.

"We made some mistakes. There's no doubt about it," Shumate told the Dispatch.

Borin also reversed the zoo's previous opposition — which the film alleged had been spearheaded by Hanna — to The Big Cat Public Safety Act. He announced zoo support in April for the federal legislation prohibiting private ownership of big cats as pets and banning cub-petting venues. Racey said the reversal followed important revisions to the bill, which remains pending in Washington.

Webber said he's giving the zoo a second chance because of its robust response to the film, and he hopes the public will, too.

"I feel very good about the outlook both for the Columbus Zoo and for the animals that we've seen exploited for decades," he said. "Albeit after a very painful year, things are going to be better."

Ashe said the year's disclosures also have caused soul-searching within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, where the Columbus Zoo has long been a flagship institution and Hanna a superstar.

"Our members live on their reputation for excellent care of animals, so whenever we see something like Columbus, which, quite frankly, we should have caught that earlier, it's an opportunity for reflection and improvement," he said. "That's the silver lining in all of this. I think Columbus will be better as a zoological facility, and we'll be better as an accrediting body, as well."

Arbery trial: Grim photos, police testimony dominate Week 1

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — Jurors in the trial of three white men charged in Ahmaud Arbery's killing saw graphic photos of the shotgun wounds that killed him.

They heard a defendant's description of having the 25-year-old Black man "trapped like a rat" during the five-minute chase that ended in his death. And they heard the men's explanation for thinking Arbery was suspicious, and possibly armed.

The trial of father and son Greg and Travis McMichael and their neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan wrapped up its first full week of testimony Friday. Each is charged with murder and other crimes in the death of

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Arbery, who was fatally shot last year after he was spotted running in the defendants' coastal Georgia neighborhood.

Bryan's cellphone video of the shooting dramatically raised the killing's profile, making it part of a larger national outcry over racial injustice.

The trial is expected to continue through at least next week. Here are some key moments so far.

GRUESOME IMAGES

Several jurors squirmed when a Glynn County police investigator walked them through dozens of crime scene photos of Arbery's body as it lay in the street where he fell dead after being shot three times on a Sunday afternoon in February 2020. They included close-up images of shotgun wounds to his wrist and grievous injuries to his chest and underneath one of his arms.

Arbery's mother remained in the courtroom throughout the presentation, while his father stepped outside before it began.

SHIFTING SUSPICION

The jury heard from two police officers about Greg McMichael changing his story on the day of the shooting, when asked why he initiated the deadly chase.

Officer Jeff Brandeberry said McMichael told him at the scene that Arbery had been recorded by security cameras "breaking in all these houses out here." Later that day, McMichael told Detective Parker Marcy that Arbery had been recorded inside a single home — one that was still under construction, with no doors or windows. He noted there had been other break-ins in the neighborhood, and "logic tells you this guy may be the one that's doing it."

Prosecutors say there's no evidence Arbery took anything from the unfinished home.

'INACTIVE' INVESTIGATION

Prosecutors have called to the witness stand eight officers who took part in the initial investigation by Glynn County police — which ended up making no arrests in the case. Arbery had been dead for more than two months when the McMichaels and Bryan were charged with murder. That happened only after the video of the shooting leaked online and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over.

Stephan Lowrey, the lead county investigator in Arbery's killing, testified that he hadn't closed the case before it got handed to the bureau. "It was still open but not getting much traction," Lowrey testified. He added: "I think 'inactive' was a fair summary."

'TRAPPED LIKE A RAT'

Glynn County investigators testified that on the day of the shooting, both Greg McMichael and Bryan described using pickup trucks to prevent Arbery from fleeing the Satilla Shores neighborhood, named for the Little Satilla River that flows past its homes on Brunswick's edge.

McMichael said he wanted the running man detained until police could arrive and question him. "He was trapped like a rat," McMichael told police Sgt. Roderic Nohilly.

Bryan said he joined the pursuit without knowing Arbery, the McMichaels or why they were chasing him. Lowrey testified that Bryan several times mentioned maneuvering his truck to edge Arbery off the road, though the investigator said none of the actions Bryan described struck him as a serious crime.

"I didn't hit him," Bryan said. "Wish I would have. Might have took him out and not get him shot."

A WITNESS, NOT A SUSPECT

Lowrey also told Bryan's attorney, Kevin Gough, from the witness stand that he considered Bryan to be a witness to the shooting. Asked by Gough if he thought Bryan committed aggravated assault or any other felonies with his truck during the chase, the investigator replied: "No, that wasn't the way I interpreted it at the time."

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Meanwhile, Glynn County police Officer Robert Rash noted that 12 days before Arbery was shot, Travis McMichael reported seeing him trespassing in the neighborhood. McMichael told police Arbery reached toward his pocket as if reaching for a gun. Rash's body camera video showed him searching that night for Arbery with a flashlight and his gun drawn.

"So it's standard procedure when you're going into a possibly armed situation to be sure you have your gun ready, for your protection?" Robert Rubin, one of Travis McMichael's attorneys, asked the officer. Rubin added: "Travis McMichael has a right to carry a gun. He has a right to protect himself."

OBJECTION OVER SHARPTON

The Rev. Al Sharpton visited the Glynn County courthouse to pray with Arbery's parents outside and then joined them in the courtroom to hear some of the trial testimony.

The civil rights activist's visit upset Bryan's attorney, Gough, who told the judge he believed Sharpton was trying to influence the jury.

"Obviously there's only so many pastors they can have," Gough said. "And if their pastor's Al Sharpton right now that's fine, but then that's it. We don't want any more Black pastors coming in here."

Sharpton shot back that Gough's comments showed "arrogant insensitivity" to Arbery's family.

There was no ruling from the judge, as Gough made no formal motion to exclude pastors from court.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 14, the 318th day of 2021. There are 47 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 14, 1910, Eugene B. Ely became the first aviator to take off from a ship as his Curtiss pusher rolled off a sloping platform on the deck of the scout cruiser USS Birmingham off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

On this date:

In 1851, Herman Melville's novel "Moby-Dick; Or, The Whale" was published in the United States, almost a month after being released in Britain.

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln gave the go-ahead for Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's plan to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond; the resulting Battle of Fredericksburg proved a disaster for the Union.

In 1881, Charles J. Guiteau went on trial for assassinating President James A. Garfield. (Guiteau was convicted and hanged the following year.)

In 1915, African-American educator Booker T. Washington, 59, died in Tuskegee, Alabama.

In 1940, during World War II, German planes destroyed most of the English town of Coventry.

In 1965, the U.S. Army's first major military operation of the Vietnam War began with the start of the five-day Battle of Ia Drang. (The fighting between American troops and North Vietnamese forces ended on Nov. 18 with both sides claiming victory.)

In 1969, Apollo 12 blasted off for the moon.

In 1970, a chartered Southern Airways DC-9 crashed while trying to land in West Virginia, killing all 75 people on board, including the Marshall University football team and its coaching staff.

In 1972, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above the 1,000 level for the first time, ending the day at 1,003.16.

In 1996, singer Michael Jackson married his plastic surgeon's nurse, Debbie Rowe, in a ceremony in Sydney, Australia. (Rowe filed for divorce in 1999.)

In 2005, Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees won his second American League Most Valuable Player award in three seasons.

In 2013, former Boston crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger was led off to prison to begin serving a life sentence at 84 for his murderous reign in the 1970s and '80s. (Bulger was killed Oct. 30, 2018, hours after

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arriving at a federal prison in West Virginia.)

Ten years ago: Former Penn State football assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, in a telephone interview with NBC News, denied allegations he'd sexually abused eight boys and said any activities in a campus shower with a boy were just horseplay.

Five years ago: In his first extended remarks on the election, President Barack Obama abandoned his dire warnings and dark predictions about his newly elected successor and urged Americans to give President-elect Donald Trump time to rise to the daunting responsibilities of the office. Corey Seager of the Los Angeles Dodgers won the National League Rookie of the Year award unanimously and Detroit's Michael Fulmer took the American League honor. Gwen Ifill, co-anchor of PBS' "NewsHour," died in Washington at age 61.

One year ago: Donald Trump supporters unwilling to accept Democrat Joe Biden's election victory gathered in cities across the country including Washington, D.C., where thousands rallied; after night fell in the nation's capital, demonstrators favoring Trump clashed in the streets with counterprotesters, resulting in injuries to demonstrators and police officers and charges against nearly two dozen people. Mexico topped 1 million registered coronavirus cases and nearly 100,000 test-confirmed deaths, though officials agreed the number was probably much higher. Marshall University in West Virginia commemorated the 50th anniversary of a plane crash that killed 75 people, including 36 members of the school's football team; posthumous degrees were awarded to the players who were killed.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kathleen Hughes is 93. Former NASA astronaut Fred Haise is 88. Composer Wendy Carlos is 82. Writer P.J. O'Rourke is 74. Britain's Prince Charles is 73. Rock singer-musician James Young (Styx) is 72. Singer Stephen Bishop is 70. Blues musician Anson Funderburgh is 67. Pianist Yanni is 67. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is 67. Former presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett is 65. Actor Laura San Giacomo (JEE'-ah-koh-moh) is 60. Actor D.B. Sweeney is 60. Rapper Reverend Run (Run-DMC) is 57. Actor Patrick Warburton is 57. Rock musician Nic Dalton is 57. Country singer Rockie Lynne is 57. Pop singer Jeanette Jurado (Expose) is 56. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Curt Schilling is 55. Rock musician Brian Yale is 53. Rock singer Butch Walker is 52. Actor Josh Duhamel (du-MEHL') is 49. Rock musician Travis Barker is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Robby Shaffer is 46. Actor Brian Dietzen is 44. Rapper Shyheim is 44. Rock musician Tobin Esperance (Papa Roach) is 42. Actor Olga Kurylenko is 42. Actor-comedian Vanessa Bayer is 40. Actor Russell Tovey is 40. New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor is 28. Actor Cory Michael Smith is 35. Actor Graham Patrick Martin is 30. NHL forward Taylor Hall is 30.