

Groton Daily Independent

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UpComing Events

Sunday, Nov. 21

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

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

Thursday, Nov. 25

Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Groton Community Center

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Groton Novice Debate
JH GBB hosting Clark/Willow Lake (7th at 6 p.m. with 8th to follow)

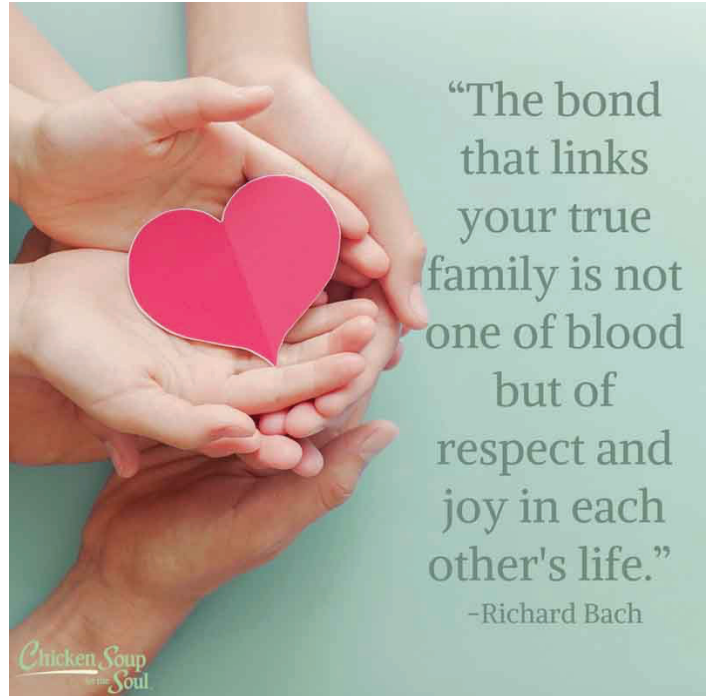
Wednesday, Dec. 1

8:30 a.m. to Noon: ACT Practice Test

Thursday, Dec. 2

LifeTouch Pictures Retake at Elementary, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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



8:30 a.m. to Noon: ACT Practice Test
JH GBB at Northwestern (7th at 6:30 p.m. followed by 8th)

Friday, Dec. 3

State Oral Interp at Huron

8:30 a.m. to Noon: ACT Practice Test

Saturday, Dec. 4

State Oral Interp at Huron

10 a.m.: JH GBB Jamboree in Groton

10 a.m.: Wrestling Invite at Clark-Willow Lake

Monday, Dec. 6

4 p.m.: School Board planning/work session

JH GBB hosts Langford. 7th at 6 p.m. with 8th to follow

Tuesday, Dec. 7

GBB at Flandreau Indian. JV at 5 p.m. with varsity to follow

JHGBB at Tiospa Zina (7th at 4 p.m. with 8th to follow)

Thursday, Dec. 9

7 p.m.: MS/HS Christmas Concert

Friday, Dec. 10

GBB hosts Britton-Hecla. JV at 6 p.m. with Varsity to follow

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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THE BEST STEAKS TASTE BETTER



The Delightful Gift

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
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United Methodist Church

Groton and Conde

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday
Conde Worship 9:00 AM
Groton Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday School after children's sermon 11:00 AM
All Church Christmas Decorating 12:00 PM

Monday, November 22, 2021

Wheeting Funeral 10:30 AM

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Newsletter Items Due
Bible Study Movie Day 9:30 AM

Sunday, November 28, 2021

UM Student Day
Conde Worship 9:00 AM
NO Sunday School
Groton Worship 11:00 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

Sunday, Nov. 21

9am Worship/Communion
Congregation Meeting
10:15am Sunday
3pm Avantara

Monday, Nov. 22

6:30am Bible Study

Sunday, Nov. 28

9am Worship
No 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. 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

Wednesday, Nov. 24

7:00 p.m.: Thanksgiving Eve Service

Sunday, Nov. 28

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

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

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Groton Snow Queen Contest is Tonight

Groton will be having its 75th Annual Snow Queen Contest at 7 p.m. today. The senior candidates are Christina Zoellner, Julianna Kosel and Trinity Smith. The junior candidates are This year's Junior Snow Queen Candidates are Ashley Johnson, Emma Kutter, Kayla Lehr, Gretchen Dinger and Emily Overacker. The event will be livestreamed at GDILIVE.COM.

Kesterson advances to Chief Petty Officer at Pinning Ceremony

Karyn Babcock attended her son's, Wesley Kesterson, US Navy Chief pinning on ceremony on Friday. Chief Petty Officer Kesterson is stationed at NAS Lemoore CA with his wife Marilene and two sons Logan and Aiden. Both Logan and Aiden attended the Groton Area Elementary school last spring.



Marilene with Wesley



Karyn with Wesley

Photos Courtesy Bruce Babcock

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FREE DATE CHANGES



FROM
\$2,549*
\$2,299*



FROM
\$1,949*
\$1,699*

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BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

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— Enjoy a fully guided 4-island Hawaiian vacation with centrally located lodging in Waikiki on Oahu, and beachfront lodging on the “Big Island” of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Guided throughout by our friendly Tour Directors—your local experts. Includes 3 inter-island flights.

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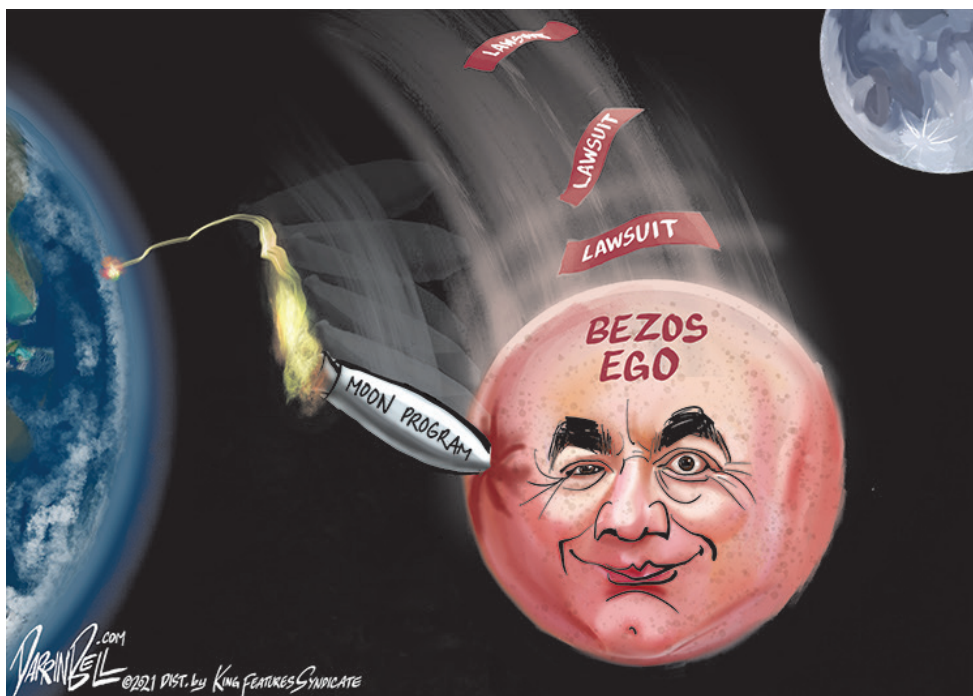
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

🌀 PSALM 74:17 🌀

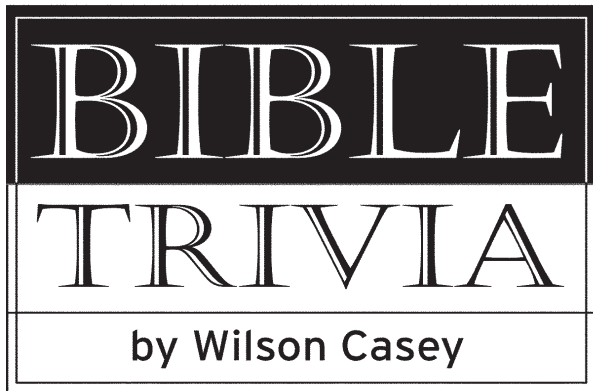


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1. Is the book of Habakkuk in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?

2. Which book's chapter 3, verse 14 (KJV) mentions "the beginning of the creation of God"? *No book does, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Revelation*

3. From Mark 9, Hell is a place where "what" dieth not, and the fire is not quenched? *Worm, Body, Soul, Greed*

4. Who's the only woman in the Bible with her age mentioned (at death)? *Eve, Ruth, Leah, Sarah*

5. On what day of creation did God divide land and water? *2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th*

6. What did Methuselah become at 187 years old? *Saved, Invalid, Father, Martyr*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Revelation; 3) Worm; 4) Sarah (Genesis 23:1-2); 5) 3rd; 6) Father

Looking for a great holiday gift? Wilson Casey's Golf Trivia 2022 daily calendar will challenge and entertain golfers of all skill levels. Available in stores and online.

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by Healthy Exchanges

Chunky Tomato Soup

Soups have always been one of my favorite foods, and autumn has always been my favorite season. Stir up this "pot of pleasure" on a cool late fall night and let it warm you up with pleasure-pleasing taste!

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 3/4 cups (one 14 1/2-ounce can) beef broth
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat tomato soup
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 1/2 cups peeled and chopped fresh tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups chopped, unpeeled zucchini

1. In a medium saucepan sprayed with olive oil-flavored cooking spray, saute onion for 6 minutes. Add beef broth, tomato soup and Italian seasoning. Mix well to combine.

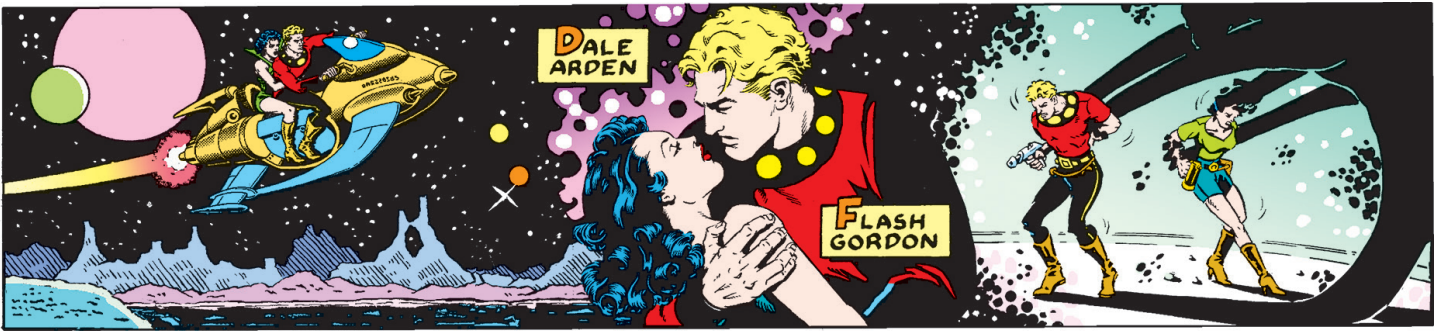
2. Stir in tomato and zucchini. Bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring often. Serves 4 (1 1/4 cups each).

* Each serving equals: 94 calories, 2g fat, 3g protein, 16g carb., 604mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Vegetable, 1 Starch.

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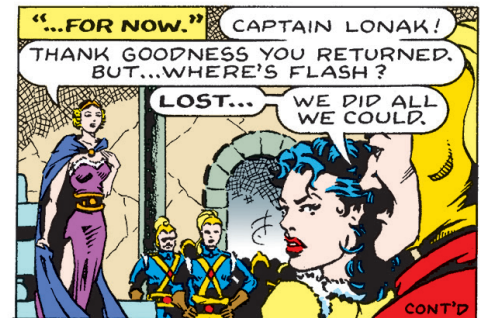
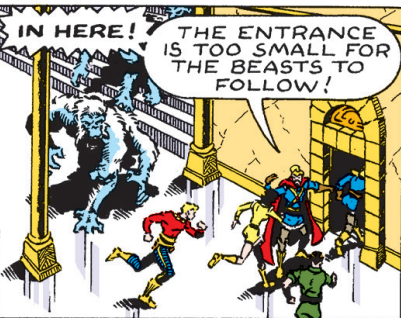
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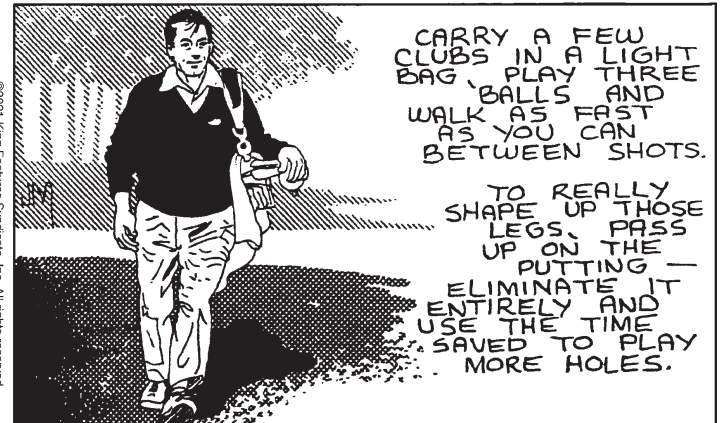


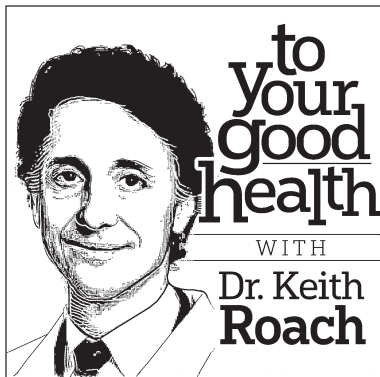
FLASH GORDON
11-14
By JIM KEEFE

FLASH AND HIS COMPANIONS RACE FOR SHELTER FROM THE APPROACHING HORDE!



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Are Big Dogs Dangerous Pets for Seniors?

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently read that a large percentage of orthopedic injury to the elderly is directly related to their falling while walking large animals, specifically dogs over 20 pounds. Can you shed light on this please? -- M.F.

ANSWER: A March 2019 study in JAMA Surgery did identify dog walking as an increasing cause of fracture. Over 4,000 fractures were identified among dog walkers over 65 in 2017, about triple the number 10 years earlier. However, this wasn't a large proportion of fractures (only about 2% of total fractures), and the authors did not identify the size of the dog

as a risk factor, although they did suggest that clinicians recommend a smaller (and well-trained) dog as a wiser choice.

Dogs not only provide some social support, they also encourage exercise. I have had many patients (and a few family members) who have very meaningful connections with their dogs and other animals. In fact, I have seen many people who describe their animal companions as the most important relationship in their lives.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am scheduled for a hip replacement operation because X-rays show joint failure. I am 81 years old and in excellent health. At the moment I do not feel any pain in my hip and am walking very easily. I go swimming three times a week. My question is whether I should agree to this operation as a preventive method to avoid later painful and possibly riskier circumstances because of my age. -- P.H.

ANSWER: Hip replacement is indicated in people with severe, debilitating symptoms (such as pain or loss of function) despite conservative management. That doesn't sound remotely like what you are describing. The findings on the X-ray are less important than your symptoms and function, so I could not recommend a hip replacement for you at this time. Age by itself is not a contraindication for hip replacement should you need one later on.

I do understand what you are saying: You are less likely to have a surgical problem being operated on earlier. Some surgeons will operate on people with milder symptoms for this reason. However, you aren't describing even mild symptoms, hence my recommendation against surgery at this time.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Just wondering about good versus bad cooking oils. At one time, coconut oil was said to be a bad oil, but now I'm reading that it's really a good oil. Some even say you should eat a spoonful each day to boost your health! So, which is it? Is coconut oil good or bad? -- J.Z.

ANSWER: Coconut oil is "bad," at least compared with healthier oils like olive oil and canola oil. It has a high saturated fat content, and people who consume coconut oil have an increase in their total cholesterol and unhealthy LDL cholesterol. If you love the taste of coconut oil, it's reasonable in moderation, but don't consume it thinking it is good for your health or your heart. The available evidence does not support that.

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

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Cusp — “There is no normal in teenage years,” laments a 16-year-old girl in this Showtime Original documentary. It’s raw and honest look at the very real, very adult situations and decisions three small-town Texas teen girls face as they simply try to grow up at their own pace while surrounded by toxic masculinity. A Sundance Film Festival award winner, “Cusp” is a timely film that addresses the difference in perceived versus actual maturity of young women, and the pressures, fears and consequences that result. (Premieres Nov. 26 on Showtime)

Madagascar: A Little Wild Holiday Goose Chase — The DreamWorks-produced animated gang is back for some adventure and merriment in this TV holiday special. Led by Melman the giraffe, the animal friends set off on a mission to help their new goose friend, Hank, reunite with his family. But it’s New York City, where nothing is simple and there are lots of distractions. Will young Alex the lion, Marty the zebra and Gloria the hippo be able to find Hank’s worried flock in time for Christmas? (Premieres Nov. 26 on Peacock)

Love Hard — A better title might have been “How to Lose a Guy Who’s Just Not That Into Love, Actually, You Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,” because the creators basically took plotlines, dialogue, jokes and characters from previous movies and series, and strung them together like a strand of popcorn Christmas tree garland. Even the title is a rip-off. It’s a story of internet dating, catfishing, lying, posturing, jealousy and family, all with a wintry holiday theme. The characters are dreadfully self-unaware, and the movie is wholly predictable and formulaic, and yet it hit Netflix’s No. 1 trending spot. I’m not saying don’t watch it, just

don’t expect any originality. (Netflix)

Ride the Eagle — Ever since “Brewster’s Millions,” I have loved movies involving inheritances-with-a-catch. We all dream of a windfall from a rich relative, but isn’t it more exciting when there’s a creative task to complete before receiving the handsome reward? Susan Sarandon’s character, Honey, believed this, so she video-



Showtime

Scene from “Cusp”

taped her final farewell to her son, Leif (played by Jake Johnson, who also wrote the script). Honey bequeaths her mountain cabin to Leif, but there’s a catch. She realized she hadn’t taught him enough important lessons while he was growing up, so she created some tasks and adventures intended to make up for that. While completing them, Leif meets Honey’s love-interest, Carl, played by J.K. Simmons, who expectedly throws in a few truth zingers about Honey. It’s a sweet, funny and only occasionally sad story, but in a heartwarming way. (Prime Video)

Paradise PD — Imagine a gaggle of bumbling, inept police officers similar to the “Reno 911” television series, but animated and therefore exaggerated in their respective idiosyncrasies and disgusting habits. Add an awkward father-son relationship causing much shenanigans, a cocaine-snorting police dog and occasional song-and-dance numbers. Now in its third season, “Paradise PD” is touted as an irreverent adult cartoon. This means it is NOT for the kids because it’s really crass, though the humor is not particularly clever. (Netflix)

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1. What duo released "Time on Your Side (You're Only 15 Years Old)"?
2. Name the Merrilee Rush song that Connie Francis originally turned down.
3. Which Ricky Nelson song talks about having a girl in every port?
4. Who wrote and released "I Get Around"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "A long time ago, when the earth was still green, There were more kinds of animals than you've ever seen."

Answers

1. Friend & Lover, in 1968. It was the b-side to "Reach Out of the Darkness," the duo's highest-ranked song.

2. "Angel of the Morning." Francis turned the song down because she claimed it was too risqué.
3. "Travelin' Man," in 1961. Hank sings the song in "King of the Hill" season 3, and Toyota used it in a 2019 TV commercial.
4. Brian Wilson and Mike Love of the Beach Boys, in 1964. Love sued in 1994 to be added as a writer as he wasn't originally listed.
5. "The Unicorn," by the Irish Rovers in 1968. The popular song (about an animal that was too late to get on the Ark) started out as a poem in Shel Silverstein's book "Where the Sidewalk Ends."

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}

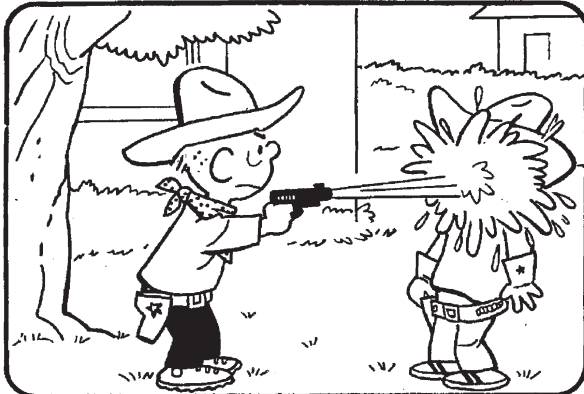


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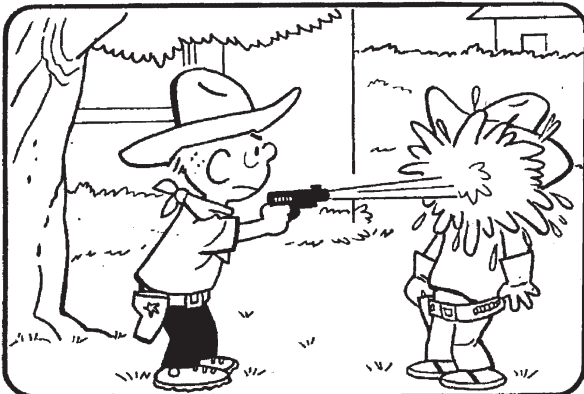
"I only threaten him with the silent treatment. ... I don't follow through with it!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bandanna is different. 2. Star on glove is missing. 3. Leaves are added. 4. Sleeve is shorter. 5. Sneakers are different. 6. Hedge is taller.

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- Cookie sheets make great temporary mud and moisture trays for dirty shoes. Stash one at the entry to your home, and you will have less dirt tracked across your floors.

- “To make your drains fresh-smelling, shake a half-cup of baking soda into the drain. Then pour 2 cups of vinegar that you have warmed on the stove. It will froth and bubble. When it’s done, run the hot water and give it a little scrub.” —*R.C. in Idaho*

- Blood pressure can be affected by many things, and seeing the doctor is one of them. Instead, request that your blood pressure be taken by a nurse or physician’s assistant. Having a full bladder also can make your pressure reading higher, as can positioning your arm below heart level.

- “Keep knitting yarn in check with empty tissue boxes. Set your yarn ball inside the box, and let the string lead out of the top. When not in use, tape the string to the side of the box. Box-

es can be stacked and stored for future projects.” —*C.W. in Indiana*

- “Try this baking tip from my mother: When you have a recipe that calls for dry spices (cinnamon, ginger, ground clove, etc.), cream them with the butter instead of sifting them with the dry ingredients. I do feel like they become infused in the recipe better.” —*A. in Illinois*

- Visit the dollar store for low-cost toys to use on car or airplane trips. You can get several busy toys and dole them out one at a time. Most parents will attest to what a lifesaver this can be.

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

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A BETCH-YA! Place a dime on the tablecloth, between two quarters, and cover with an empty glass so that the glass rests on the quarters. The bet is to remove the dime without touching either the coins or the glass.

SECRET: Scratch the tablecloth, opposite the dime, and it will come out from under the glass.



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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

WHERE ARE WE?

THE ANSWER to that question lies below. First you must correctly fill in the missing letters in the 12 words listed here. Then, transfer these same letters to the correspondingly numbered positions above. You should then have the name of a favorite American vacation spot.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (1) D_NCE | (7) BEG_N |
| (2) GA_ES | (8) A_ORN |
| (3) SCA_P | (9) BA_ON |
| (4) AD_PT | (10) F_NDS |
| (5) _AILS | (11) BEA_S |
| (6) CHAR_ | (12) _EAST |

It's tricky! More than one letter will fit in some cases, but only one letter is the correct one. Use the trial-and-error method, and a good eraser!

Words are dance, gates, scalp, adapt, nails, chant, begin, bacon, finds, beats, yeast. The vacation spot is Atlantic City.

THE FLYING FENDERS! Hidden at right is the name of a famous TV program. Find the name by reading every other letter in the frame as you go around it clockwise. The trick is to start at the right letter.

E	R	S	D	O	T
A					F
K					H
Z					H
U	Z	D	A	E	

Starting at the "T," in the upper right corner, you get "The Dukes of Hazard."

LINKUPS! Here's a list of 12 one-syllable words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word on the right.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1. DAM | TONE |
| 2. CALL | LED |
| 3. DRAW | HER |
| 4. BAN | USED |
| 5. ACE | PEST |
| 6. FEAT | DIED |

Dampest, callused, drawled, banded, acetone, feather.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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NO!

BUD BLAKE

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Paid (up)
- 6 Tennis star Graf
- 12 False
- 13 Sounded content
- 14 Warm, as leftovers
- 15 Not certain
- 16 Cruise stop
- 17 Farm unit
- 19 Garten of Food Network
- 20 Austen novel
- 22 Perched
- 24 Recede
- 27 Force
- 29 Pleasing
- 32 Symbolic first step toward getting hired
- 35 Cab
- 36 British noble
- 37 Eggy quaff
- 38 Existed
- 40 Squabble
- 42 Past
- 44 Furnace fuel
- 46 Volcanic flow
- 50 Cheered (for)
- 52 Ogled
- 54 Topical anti-septic
- 55 Builds
- 56 Strong points
- 57 "Midnight Cowboy" role

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50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

DOWN

- 1 Grieg's " — Death"
- 2 Actress Patricia
- 3 Private pupil
- 4 Sch. URL ender
- 5 "Feel-good" brain chemical
- 6 Incite
- 7 Jukebox picks
- 8 Hosp. areas
- 9 Fulfillment
- 10 Office plant
- 11 Notion
- 12 Greek consonant
- 18 Bach's "Coffee —"
- 21 1501, in Roman numerals
- 23 Moreover
- 24 Newt
- 25 Large snake
- 26 Ornamental garden trees
- 28 Best-selling Michael Jackson album
- 30 Bill's partner
- 31 Work unit
- 33 Spanish aunt
- 34 Sprite
- 39 Potpourri output
- 41 Swift
- 42 Met melody
- 43 Sticky substances
- 45 Praiseful pieces
- 47 Curved lines
- 48 Presidential power
- 49 TV spots
- 51 Dead heat
- 53 Epoch

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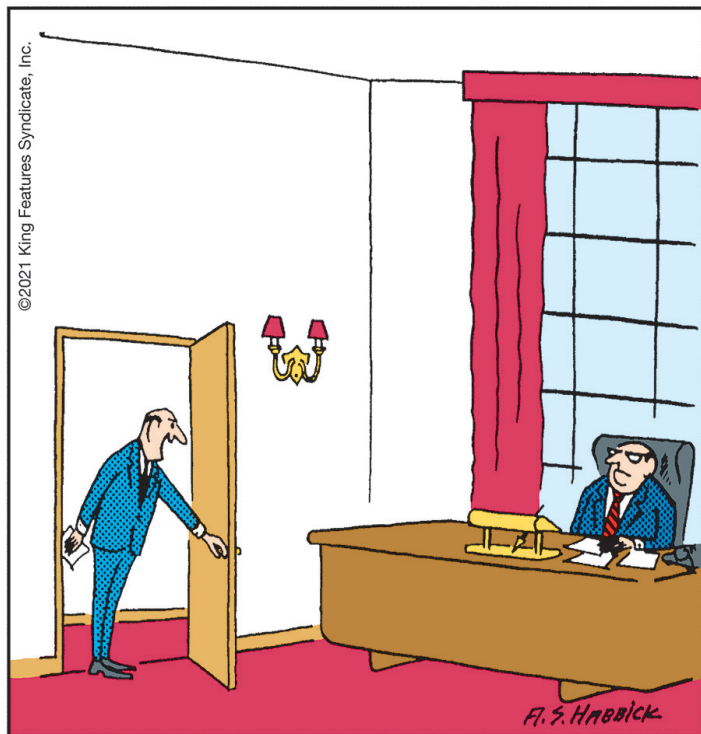
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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LAFF - A - DAY



"I just won the lottery! Fatso."

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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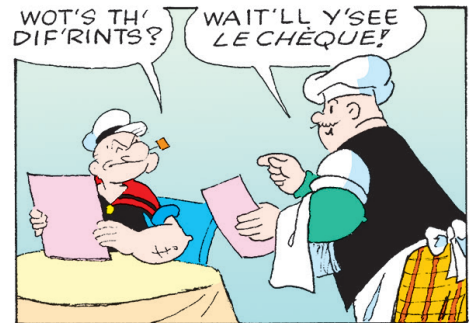
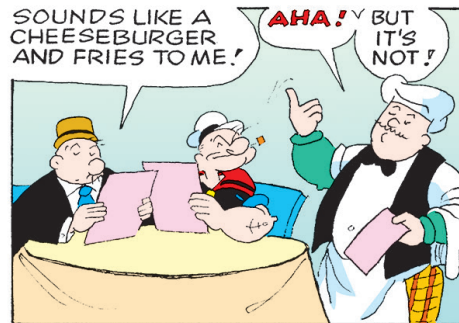
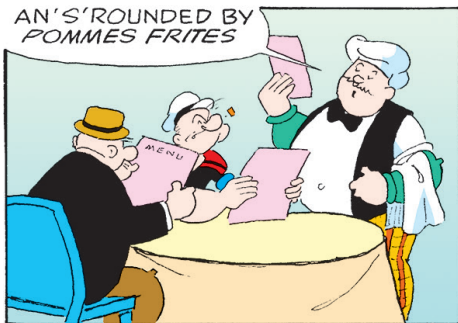
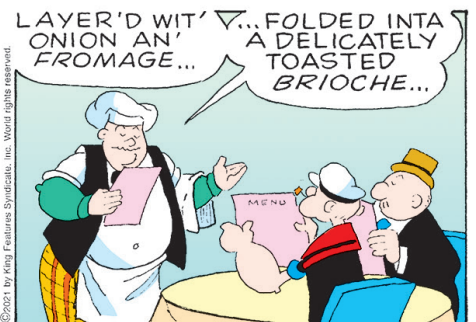
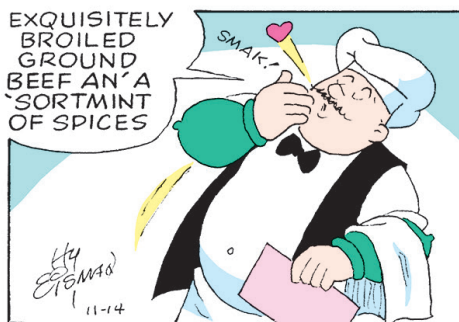
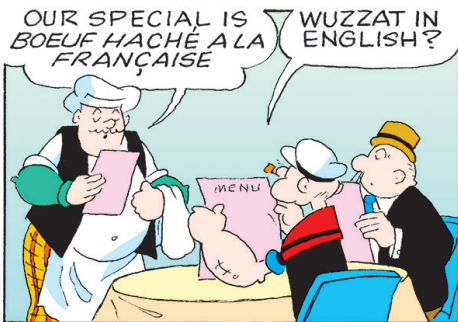
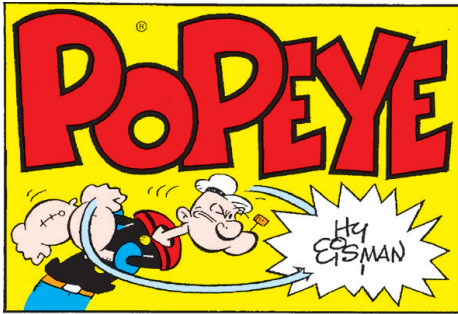
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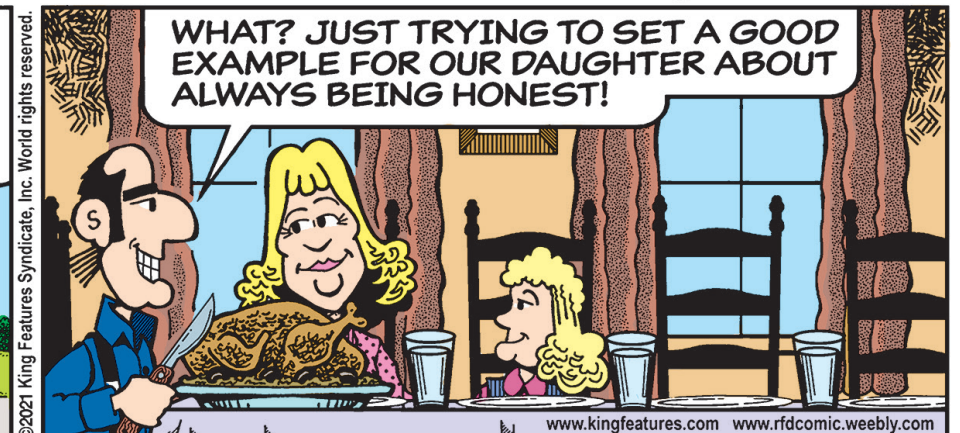
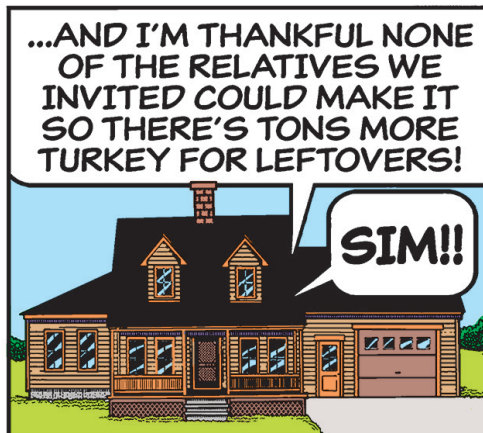
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

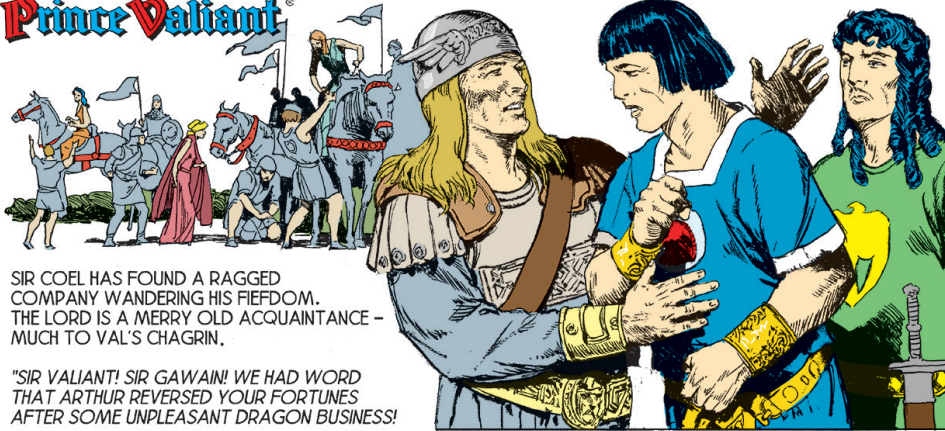


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Walt Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant



SIR COEL HAS FOUND A RAGGED COMPANY WANDERING HIS FIEFDOM. THE LORD IS A MERRY OLD ACQUAINTANCE - MUCH TO VAL'S CHAGRIN.

"SIR VALIANT! SIR GAWAIN! WE HAD WORD THAT ARTHUR REVERSED YOUR FORTUNES AFTER SOME UNPLEASANT DRAGON BUSINESS!



"IS THAT WHY YOU WANDER HORSELESS?" VAL SUFFERS THE JAB IN SILENCE, BUT GAWAIN CANNOT: "HAVE YOU NOT HEARD? TO RESCUE THESE LADIES, WE HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE CENTER ..."



VAL'S GRIP REMINDS GAWAIN OF THEIR VOW TO REMAIN SILENT REGARDING THE UNDERWORLD. "THE CENTER OF - A TERRIBLE CONTROVERSY." IF COEL IS CONFUSED, HE DOES NOT PRESS FOR EXPLANATION.

THE SIX WANDERERS ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO LODGE AT THE LORD'S ESTATE. ALONG THE WAY, SIR COEL RETURNS TO NEEDLING VAL. "FRIENDS, ALLOW ME TO TELL A TALE OF THE PRINCE AND ME, WHEN WE WERE CALLOW SQUIRES."



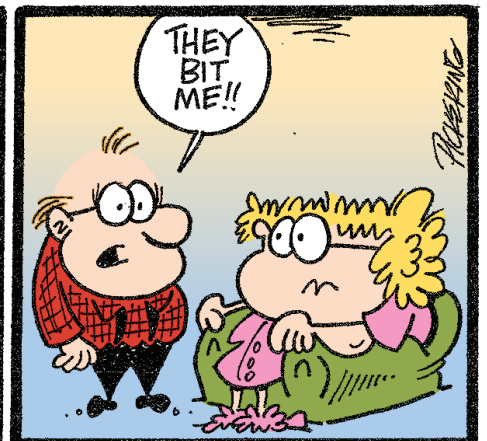
"OH, BUT YOUNG VALIANT WAS BLOODY-MINDED SERIOUS ABOUT LEARNING THE ARTS OF WAR! NEVER ANY FUN AT ALL!"

NEXT: *Side saddle*

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Christmas Dinner in a Parking Lot

My senior center is going to hold its annual Christmas dinner outdoors in the parking lot. If that doesn't bring a tear to your eye about the sad state of our world now, nothing will.

Santa will arrive by limo behind the fire truck, we're told, and will make his rounds through the tables set up across the asphalt, little elves at his elbow passing out presents. Students from the high school choir will sing while others from the culinary arts classes (they'll get extra credit) will hustle the food and drinks outside and serve it. Parking will be wherever you find it around the neighborhood.

In the middle of December? In New England?

Why, some of us wanted to know, did they not simply use the town's rec center? That large space would allow the tables to be spread out, with plenty of

parking right outside the door. Best of all, it's indoors where there's heat. But no, they decreed, the dinner has to be next to the senior center where the kitchen is.

A poll of friends indicates a mixed review of this whole idea. One laughed and said no, he absolutely would not be there. Another said he'd been recruited to set up tables and bring the decorated tree outside, hoping he can find an extension cord long enough to plug in the lights. One adventurous soul decided she will indeed be there, wearing a down comforter over her winter coat, which will be over several other layers of clothing, including snow pants. (She's also bringing a Thermos of hot coffee and is practicing eating while wearing gloves.)

One only hopes someone has put the town plow-truck driver on notice. He might be called upon to plow out the parking lot that day before the dinner.

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1. Which Ismail brother had more NFL career receiving yards: Raghib “The Rocket” or Qadry “The Missile”?

2. In what U.S. city would you find the historic Blue Horizon boxing venue?

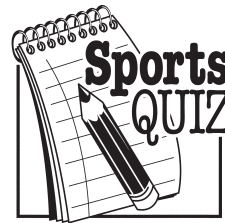
3. Georgia Bulldogs Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker played for what USFL team from 1983-85?

4. “Bad As I Wanna Be” is a 1996 autobiography by what five-time NBA champion?

5. The Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup is presented to the women’s singles champion of what tennis tournament?

6. Name the standout wide receiver for the University of Richmond Spiders and 1986 NFL draft pick by the Detroit Lions who flew two missions onboard Space Shuttle Atlantis?

7. A metatarsophalangeal joint sprain is an athletic injury commonly known



by Ryan A. Berenz

as what?

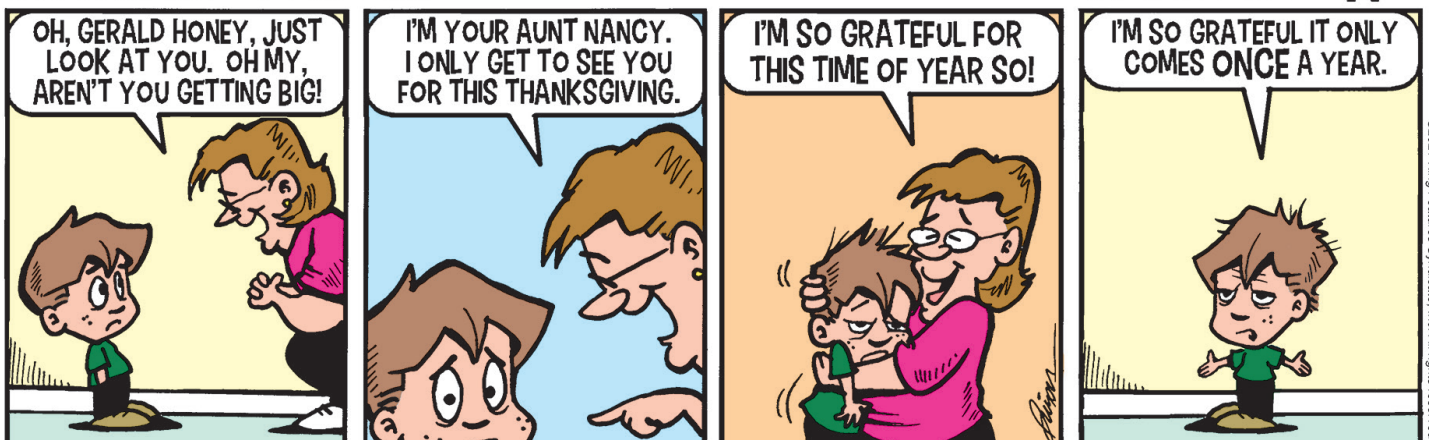
Answers

1. Raghib with 5,295 yards (Qadry had 5,137).
2. Philadelphia.
3. The New Jersey Generals.
4. Dennis Rodman.
5. The Australian Open.
6. Leland D. Melvin.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Her Dog Won't Stop Licking His Paws

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My hound dog "Charlie" licks his front paws nonstop, and sometimes his back paws, every time he lies down. He'll lick the top of his paws and in between the pads. The skin on top of his paws is starting to get raw. I've checked his paws and can't see any cuts or ticks. Why is he doing this, and how can I stop it? — *Lee F., Ocala, Florida*

DEAR LEE: Go ahead and schedule an appointment with the veterinarian. Charlie could be licking his paws for a few reasons. One, a physical injury or infestation — which you wisely checked for first. Two, an underlying condition that is causing Charlie discomfort, like a muscle or bone injury, or arthritis. Three, a compulsion to lick his paws.

The vet should do some bloodwork to rule out underlying disease. He'll do some other tests to determine if arthritis is a factor. And he'll check for allergies, which can cause itchy skin in dogs. Depending on what he finds (or doesn't find), the vet will help you plan a course of action to stop the licking.

It's important to stay on top of this because dogs who keep licking or biting at the same spot can develop lick granuloma. This is a red patch of skin that is sore and itchy, and a dog's licking just makes it worse. Eventually, it can turn into a red lump of skin. The granuloma can become infected, requiring antibiotics to resolve. And if the granuloma doesn't heal or gets really large, it may need to be removed surgically.

Work with the vet to find the cause of Charlie's discomfort and resolve it. Treatment may take a month or more, but it will be worth it.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

220-year-old wooden frigate USS Constitution.

* Heavy metal band Black Sabbath's original name was The Polka Tulk Blues Band, after the brand name of a talcum powder used by Ozzy Osbourne's mother.

* Jellyfish are considered biologically immortal. They don't age and will never die unless they are killed.

* The party game of Twister was originally called Pretzel, but Milton Bradley changed the name in 1965 due to trademark issues.

* Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words and is thought to develop from the fear of pronouncing long words incorrectly. (Hey, we get it -- we tried.)

* The opposite sides of dice always add up to seven.

* "Deaf flights" were prescribed by doctors to cure hearing loss in the 1920s and '30s. Stunt pilots would take unsuspecting passengers up in planes and terrify them with loops, barrel rolls and dives.

* J.R.R. Tolkien was nominated by fellow author C.S. Lewis for the 1961 Nobel Prize in Literature, but was overlooked because the jury said the quality of his storytelling wasn't good.

* Philadelphia cream cheese was actually created in New York.

Thought for the Day: "Yearning for the seemingly impossible is the path to human progress." -- Bryant H. McGill

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* After the battle of Waterloo in 1815, scavengers removed the teeth from tens of thousands of dead soldiers for use in dentures. The so-called Waterloo teeth were in such demand because they came from relatively healthy young men.

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

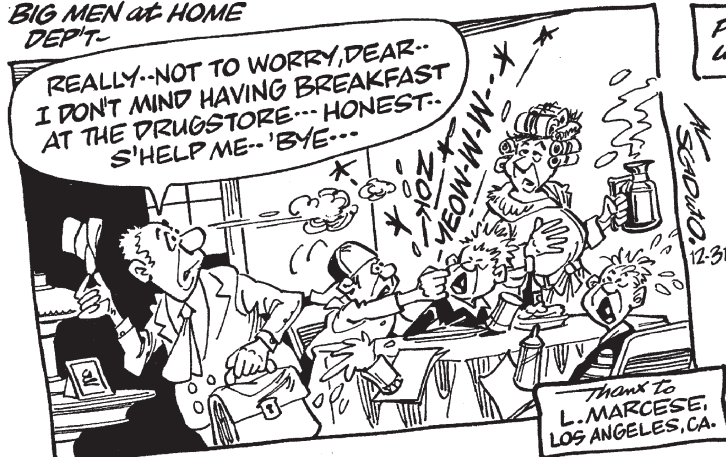
* The U.S. Navy sustainably manages over 50,000 acres of forest in Indiana with white oak trees more than a century old, to replace like for like on the

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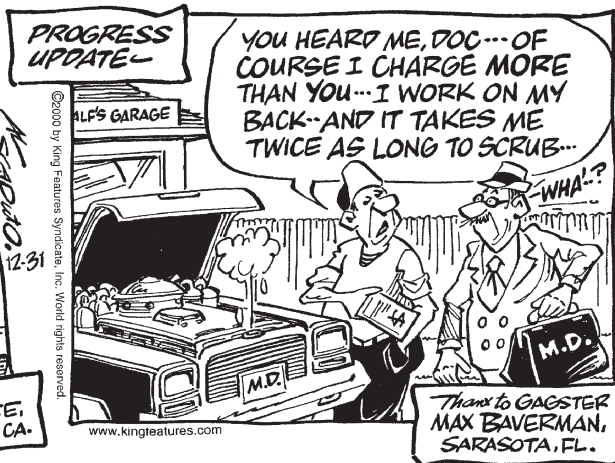
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BIG MEN AT HOME
DEPT.-



BY AL SCADUTO



TELEVISION PROGRAMMING JUST FOR YOU-- FEELING SORRY FOR THE CONTESTANT WHO DOESN'T WANT TO TRY THE \$1,000,000 QUIZ QUESTION...

Thank SERA PELEO, STAMFORD, CT.



Christmas Rose blooms in early winter in milder climates, and late winter or early spring where the soil freezes hard. Native to Europe and western Asia, this plant loves shade or dappled sun and moist soil. The blooms come in many colors such as white, cream, pink, rose, burgundy and light green. Amend the soil with plenty of organic matter, such as aged leaves and compost. They are resistant to deer and vole, and spread nicely on their own. - Brenda Weaver

Helleborus Niger

Sources: www.hgtv.com
www.whiteflowerfarm.com

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

New Hires to Process VA Claims Backlog

The Department of Veterans Affairs has hired 2,000 claims processors to deal with the claims backlog. They're going to be busy, once they're trained.

As of early October, the VA was sitting on over 200,000 backlogged claims, meaning that of the 600,000 claims in hand, one-third were over 125 days old. In addition, they have now found more than 70,000 claims that must be reviewed after three new presumptives were added for Agent Orange exposure, bringing the total to 270,000 backlogged claims.

The three new presumptives — Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism — have been added to more than a dozen existing ones. Those three conditions had never been approved as presumptives, but now that they are, we have the Nehmer lawsuit of 1986 to thank for the need to review those claims. Nehmer con-

cluded that if you ever filed and were turned down for illnesses that later made the accepted list of presumptives, the VA is automatically required to go back and review your claim. The bonus here is that any disability pay you receive now will be retroactive to the date of your original claim.

You don't have to refile, but as a precaution, check in with the VA and make sure it didn't lose your original claim. Be certain you're among those whose claim is being looked at.

In addition, there are three new presumptives for airborne particulate exposure — asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis — for those who served in the Gulf during a certain period of time. If you've already put in a claim, it will be reviewed.

If you want to keep an eye on how the new claims processors are doing, check www.benefits.va.gov/reports/detailed_claims_data.asp for weekly reports. Note the accuracy-level reports. Those are worrying. Again, don't assume the new processors are reviewing your old claim. Call and find out.

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Angels in Adoption

November is National Adoption Month which is why on behalf of the state of South Dakota, I would like to congratulate Sarah and Terry Reyelts for being selected as 2021 Angels in Adoption honorees.

In addition to having two biological children, Sarah and Terry welcomed three children into their family through adoption. Now parents to five children from ages 3 to 21, Sarah and Terry say all the children's different personalities have perfectly completed their family.

Like so many couples that adopt, they saw a need—a need for children in South Dakota to have a place to call home—and they filled that void. More than 117,000 children are eligible for adoption each year, and I am humbled by so many South Dakotans commitment to our state's most vulnerable individuals.

When Sarah was asked what she would say to those thinking about fostering or adopting, she gave a simple response: "Do it. Beyond the great need, especially in South Dakota... people forget to focus on the blessings in what these children do for you, not just what you do for them. They're a delight and such a blessing, so don't think about it too much, and if God puts it on your heart, just do it."

Fostering is equally important, and throughout Terry's career in law enforcement he's witnessed the value of it firsthand, saying that many biological parents just need to "get themselves right before they can handle the family dynamic again."

A stable and permanent family is so critical in a developing child's life. Through foster care or adoption, these children have a safe haven they otherwise wouldn't. The Reyelts family is an incredible example of how just one couple can change the lives of so many children.

Thank you to all foster and adoptive families for being true heroes to kids throughout our state.

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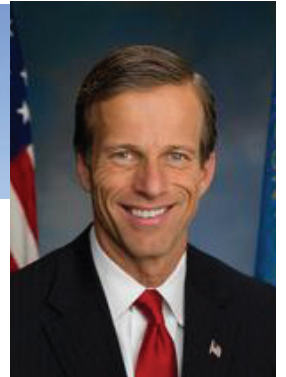
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Hale
GROVES

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John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Honoring Native American Heritage Month

Since 1990, our country has celebrated Native American Heritage Month every November to honor and pay tribute to the proud ancestry and traditions of Native Americans. In South Dakota, we are proud of the culture and contributions of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people. So, as we prepare for Thanksgiving and the rest of the upcoming holiday season, let's take a moment to pause and reflect on the contributions Native Americans have made to our state and nation.

The rich traditions of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people are woven into the fabric of South Dakota's history, and they are a significant part of what makes South Dakota such a unique and special place. They are so woven that our state name of Dakota is a Native word for "friendly" or "allies."

This month we also have the honor of celebrating our country's veterans, many of whom are Native Americans, who bravely risked and sacrificed their own lives in defense of freedom. Native Americans have proudly served in our nation's military since the time of the Revolutionary War. And, during both world wars, Native American soldiers, known as code talkers, were integral in helping to transmit secret tactical messages in support of critical military operations by using codes built upon their native tribal languages. Americans and our allies will be forever grateful to our code talkers.

Native American culture can be found in almost every corner of our state. I recently had the pleasure of stopping by the beautiful and breathtaking Crazy Horse Memorial. This monument serves as an incredible tribute to Native Americans across our nation, and it's a privilege to showcase it here in South Dakota.

I know I'm not alone in considering myself extremely grateful to live in a state that honors its Native American history and traditions. Whether it's language, food, or events, the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people have left and are continuing to leave an important mark on our state and nation.

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Guest Column: Adoption Story Handwritten by God

By: Adam and Hayley Kaemingk

This guest column is written by Adam and Hayley Kaemingk. Adam serves as the West River Director for Senator Mike Rounds and manages his Rapid City office.

November is National Adoption month. Our adoption story was handwritten by God and started before we even knew it. As we look back at the timeline of our life together, we clearly see how God was preparing us for one of the most important times of our lives.

Married in 2007, we dreamed of building a family with biological and adopted children. We welcomed our first born in 2009. Eliot's birth was God's first chapter in our adoption story. At the time, we didn't understand some of what He was doing, but we soon would.

When Eliot was 6 months old, we noticed her eyes were not tracking normally. She was diagnosed with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. This diagnosis meant that she was partially blind and her MRI scan showed a small part of her brain never formed. We committed ourselves to be the best advocates for Eliot and her special needs.

The next few years brought the birth of two more children, Anders and Reese. Between working, running kiddos and the weekly house projects, we put the idea of adoption on the back burner. But we were quickly reminded that Kaemingk timing is not the same as God's timing.

We learned that there was a need for families to take part in the China Special Needs Program. The Lord had led us exactly where He wanted us to be and if our son was in China, we needed to go to him and bring him home. Little did we know when we were praying about that decision - over 6,000 miles away, a little boy was born and placed in an orphanage.

In early 2016, we got "the call." There was a file for us to consider of a 12 month old boy who was partially blind. We couldn't believe the similarities between this child and our Eliot. This is the part of our story where God made it clear that the trials we experienced with Eliot's disorder were there to prepare us to be exactly what our son, Theo, needed us to be.

We took a trip across the ocean to China and Theo Li Minglong joined our family. As he slept that night in our hotel room, I remember thinking about his birth mom. I prayed that God would give her a peace in her heart that he was taken care of and loved.

Our time in Theo's homeland will always be special to us. Back then, he was the boy that didn't know the love of a family. He was the boy who only stared at his fingers. He couldn't stand, walk or feed himself.

Today, Theo is a happy and healthy first grader who loves reading, telling jokes, singing songs and riding his bike. He recently learned to knee board and tube, and enjoys spending time with his siblings and cousins. The prosthetic eye he received three years ago has helped tremendously with his confidence.

God is an exquisite author indeed and we love the story He wrote for us. We just had to be obedient, patient and let go.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Under God, the People Gather and Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is a time of unity. It is a time of gathering friends, family, and sometimes newcomers into your home. Somewhere along the way, America began to forget what the true meaning of Thanksgiving is.

Last year, we were told that families should not get together because of the pandemic. This year, we are being told that some may not be able to afford Thanksgiving as a result of rising prices at the grocery store.

And then there is the crowd that wants to cancel Thanksgiving altogether because of what they call an oversimplification of the history behind the holiday.

The part that most of these cancel culture warriors miss is that Thanksgiving wasn't just about the Colonists who landed at Plymouth. The focus was on more than the three-day feast they shared with the local Indian tribe.

The meal in 1621 may have been the inspiration for how we celebrate today; however, Thanksgiving celebrations pre-date the Colonies. These celebrations didn't originate with a large meal featuring a turkey and all the trimmings. They started as a way to give thanks to God for his blessings on the community.

Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln knew that when they each proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving during their respective terms. Both Presidents cited that the holiday was meant to "acknowledge the providence of Almighty God." President Washington took it a step further and asked Americans to ask for forgiveness for their sins against their fellow man.

President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. He did so to bring the country which was fractured by the Civil War back together. In the proclamation, Lincoln called upon Americans to include in their prayers a request for "the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it."

Thanksgiving is a time for us to heal. It is a time for families and friends to gather. It is a time to open your homes to new friends. It is a time to build community. It is a time to give thanks for the small things in our lives.

Famed author Laura Ingalls Wilder made that point in a 1916 newspaper column. Wilder was reflecting on one Thanksgiving while growing up on the South Dakota prairie. In those days, the only way to get a turkey on the table was to go hunting for one in the wild. One year, her father had rushed into the house to get his shotgun in hopes of bagging a late-season goose. The excitement sparked an argument between Wilder and her sister.

The two had begun arguing about which spices to include in the stuffing. When their father returned without a goose, Wilder had realized that it did not matter which spices would have gone in stuffing; she would have been thankful just to have the goose.

It has been more than 100 years since Wilder wrote that column and families are still fighting over how to cook Thanksgiving meals. The point, which is just as relevant today as it was in 1916, is to be thankful for the small things. Do not let petty arguments keep you from enjoying the blessings right in front of you.

What small blessing am I thankful for this year? That is easy. I am thankful to be spending my first Thanksgiving as a grandmother.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving with family and friends. And may God continue to pour his blessings on South Dakota.

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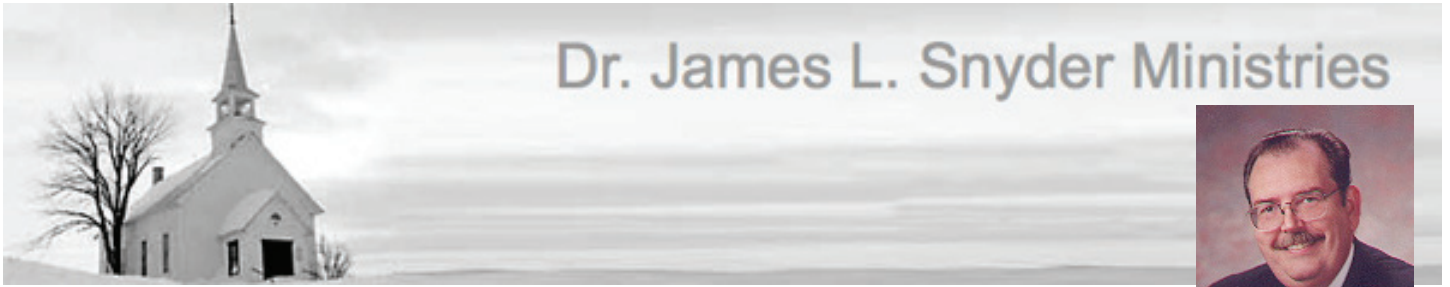
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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Thanksgiving quandary: roast turkey or lame duck

My father used to tell me anything worth doing was worth doing right the first time. If you have time to do it the second time, you have time to do it right the first time.

As fathers go, he was right. It seems most people have not learned this lesson, least of all politicians who are supposedly serving the interests of their constituency. I know there are good politicians in America today. Nobody seems to know who they are, though.

The reason I have been thinking about this is I'm sitting here indulging in the delicate aroma floating in from the kitchen where the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has begun her ritual of roasting the Thanksgiving turkey. I say turkey, but really, she is roasting three turkeys. One is for our family Thanksgiving dinner and the other two are for the church Thanksgiving dinner.

Somewhere along the line, probably years before she met me, she learned the magnificent secret of doing things right the first time. Not like some people we hear about these days who don't have time to do it right the first time, but seem to have plenty of time to do it over and over again, sometimes four times.

Anything worth doing right the first time demands planning. If anyone knows planning, it certainly is my wife. If things were left up to me, nothing would ever get done. I plan to learn how to plan someday, but my plans seem to have fallen apart.

In our home, it begins about the middle of October when my wife says rather pensively, "Let's see. Thanksgiving is about five weeks away. Should we have a turkey this year?"

I can never tell if this is a real question, a rhetorical question or if she is trying to set me up for something. Believe me; I've been set up so many times I have a hard time lying down. For the first hundred years of our marriage, I always said, turkey. After all, what else do you have at Thanksgiving time?

However, this year was a little different. When I responded with my usual answer she said, "But we've had turkey for years. Aren't you growing bored of turkey?"

If there's one thing I don't ever get tired of it's turkey. You can do so many things with turkey. There is roast turkey, sliced turkey sandwiches, turkey salad and turkey soup just to name a few.

The only problem at our house is, the turkey rarely survives the first day, which is a tribute, not so much to our consumption as a family as to the genius of the family chef. I have often wondered what turkey soup really tastes like.

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This expertise in the direction of the Thanksgiving roast turkey did not come without cost. It took years for my wife to master the art of roasting a turkey. Unfortunately, much of this practice was on Yours Truly. She has been roasting me for years and still complains that I'm not quite done yet. That really burns me up.

Only last week she complained I was a little hard on the outside and rather soft on the inside. I was tempted to shift the blame on her but when it comes to this area; I am more of a lame duck than a finely roasted turkey. My philosophy is along these lines; I'd rather let things happen and then try to adjust to the consequences.

My good wife is of the opinion that you create your own consequences. Moreover, when she says this she is usually looking at me a little askew.

"Don't you know that the Thanksgiving Turkey does not roast itself?"

Being the lame duck I am, that thought never played with my mind. I have always enjoyed the results of the roasted turkey without a thought about how it got to my table.

While I was enjoying the aroma of the turkey roasting in the kitchen, I came up with several suggestions along these lines.

First, I need to find things that are worth doing in the first place. How much time I have wasted on things not really worth my time or effort is beyond my computation. Like my wife, I need to be a little more picky about the things I choose to do. Not everything is worth my time.

Second, those things worth doing certainly deserve my best efforts. If I have to redo something, it means I'm not putting my best effort into the project. And at my age, I don't have time to waste on things that are not worth my best effort.

Third, there is no finer satisfaction than a job well done.

I never understood that until recently. In the middle of our Thanksgiving dinner when everybody is enjoying the food and complementing the chef, my wife is sitting in her chair smiling. I never really knew why until now.

This must be how our heavenly Father felt with Jesus at his baptism. "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22).

The best way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to recognize the wonderful work God has done for our salvation, which did not come without the ultimate cost, the sacrifice of His Son. This was done once and for all.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What are conservation dogs?
-- Jon Gretcham, Portland, OR

Simply put, conservation dogs are canines specially trained in sniffing out evidence of specific wildlife species that scientists are seeking to learn more about for one reason or another. Most commonly these dogs are used to help biologists understand where and how threatened or endangered wildlife species are hanging on—or if they are still around at all.

At the forefront of this burgeoning field is Rogue Detection Teams (RDT), a Washington State based non-profit that sends their specially trained dogs around North America and beyond to help scientific researchers, government agencies and non-profit groups gather field evidence in order to further their conservation work.

It's no wonder that conservationists have started using detection dogs, a standard practice in the military and law enforcement since the 1940s when U.S. troops first employed canines to detect German land mines in North Africa. By pairing human handlers well-versed in ecology and biology (the "bounders") with detection dogs trained on a specific scent, conservationists can monitor the density, distribution and overall health of certain species of concern.

To wit, Rogue's dogs have worked all over the world helping conservation groups bolster their cases with hard data collected in the field. The majority of the Rogue's work so far has been in the American West, but teams are scattered as far afield as Brazil, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East in search of everything from sea turtles to grasshoppers to pygmy rabbits, big cats, red foxes and bumblebees.

What makes for a perfect conservation dog? The best detection dogs wouldn't necessarily make a great pet, as they tend to be obsessed with reward accumulation. "Our dogs are typically considered unadoptable due to their high energy and obsessive desire to play fetch," says Rogue's Jennifer Hartman. "This obsessive energy is quite perfect for us because we pair this with detecting an odor and reward our dogs with their ball for locating the odor." Rogue's dogs can cover up to 15 miles a day in survey work, and still have energy left over for more playtime after the search.

And it doesn't take a specific breed or size dog—it's all about the dog's so-called 'high ball drive'. "We have quite a few Labrador mixes as well as heeler mixes because these seem to be high drive dogs that end up in shelters, but we also have a chihuahua mix and what might be a papillon mix in our program," reports Hartman. "We love all dogs though, and don't discriminate as long as they like to play fetch!"

Currently Rogue runs 19 dogs out of its Washington State headquarters. The organization, founded in 2019 by a group of conservation-oriented dog handlers who had been doing this sort of work on their own for more than a decade, also runs programs to train others' dogs (and their owners) in these canine "detection" practices. Through its training work, Rogue hopes to develop the next generation of bounders to carry on the innovative work of the conservation dogs in helping other species hang on in this warming-compromised world.



"Pips" of Rogue Detection Teams was able to find larvae and larval poop of the endangered checkerspot butterfly for the Forest Service in Washington State in 2019. Credit: U.S. Forest Service- Pacific Northwest Region, FlickrCC.

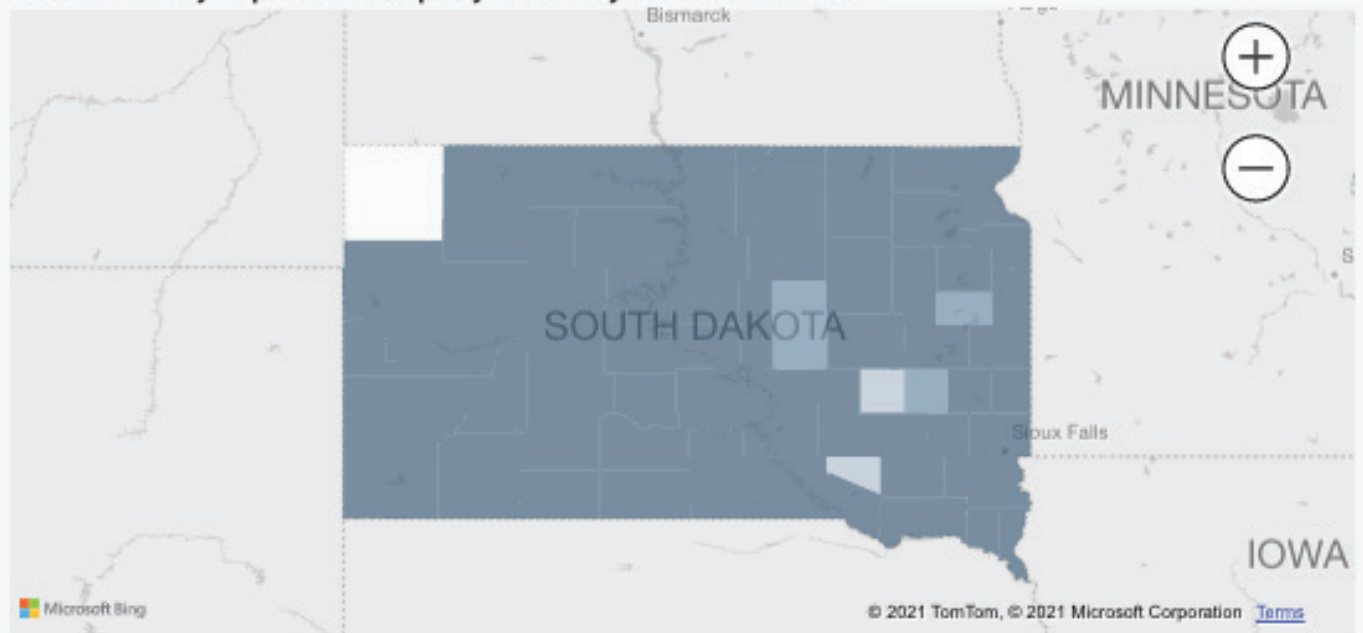
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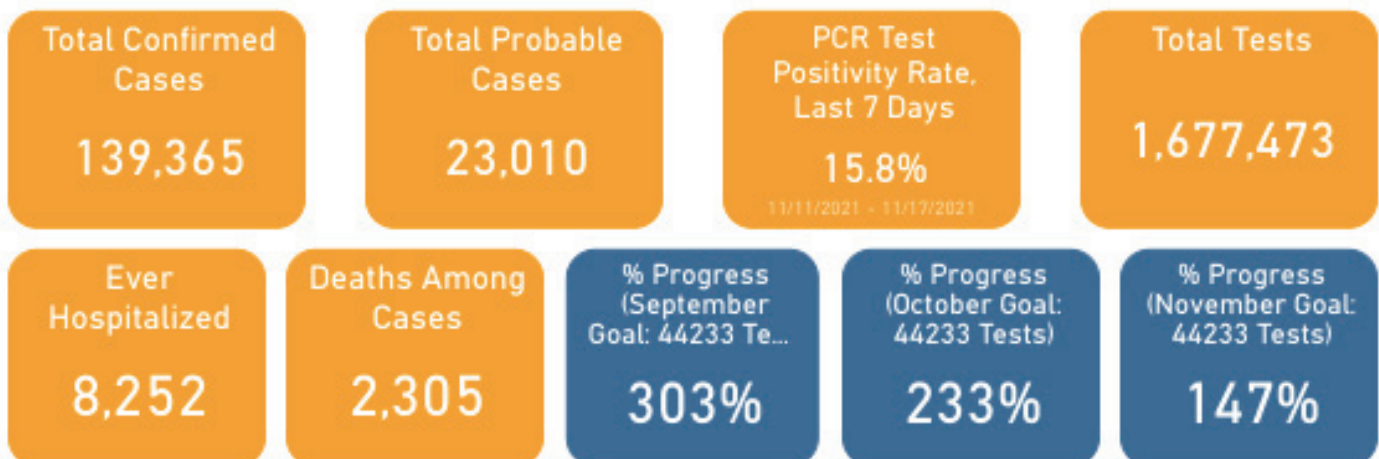
South Dakota COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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



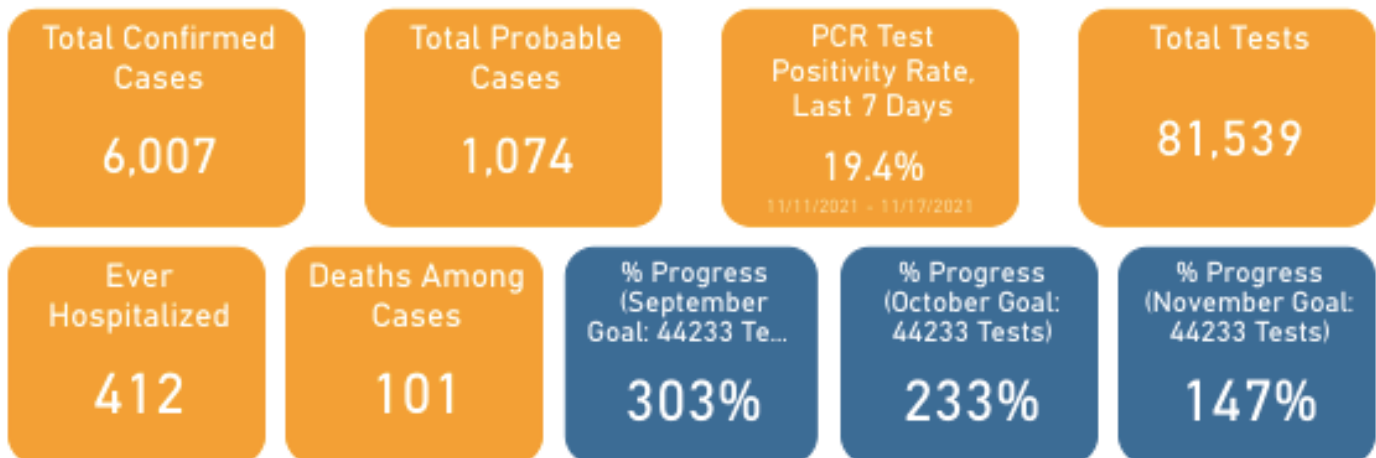
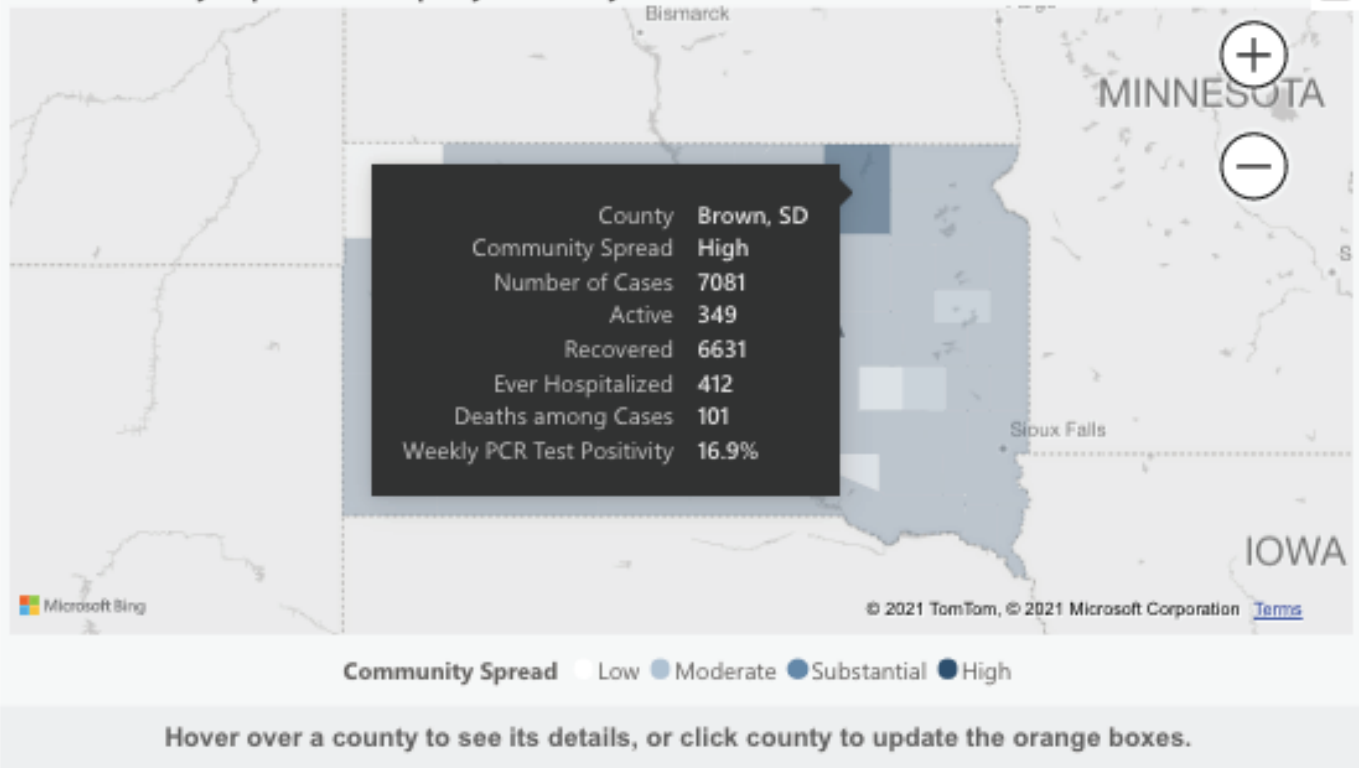
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Brown County COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



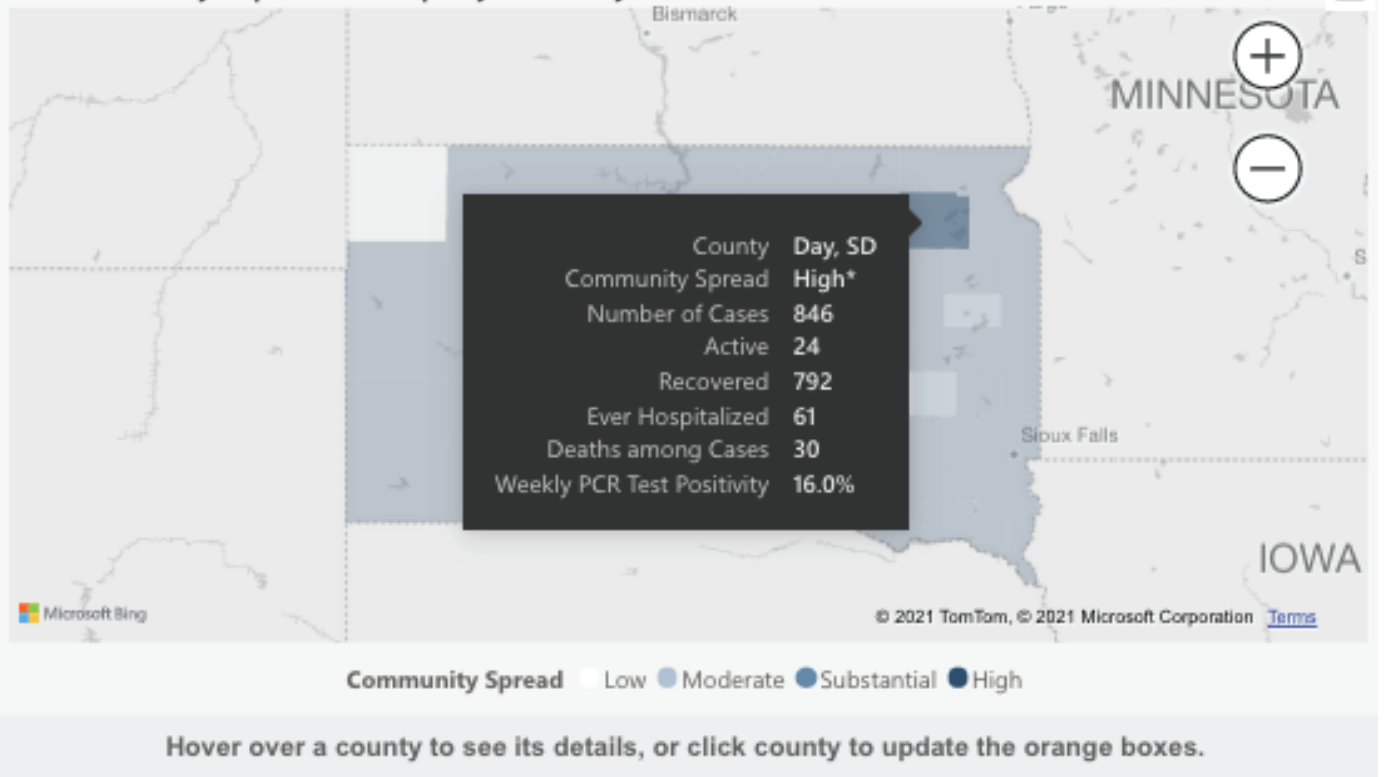
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Day County COVID-19 Report



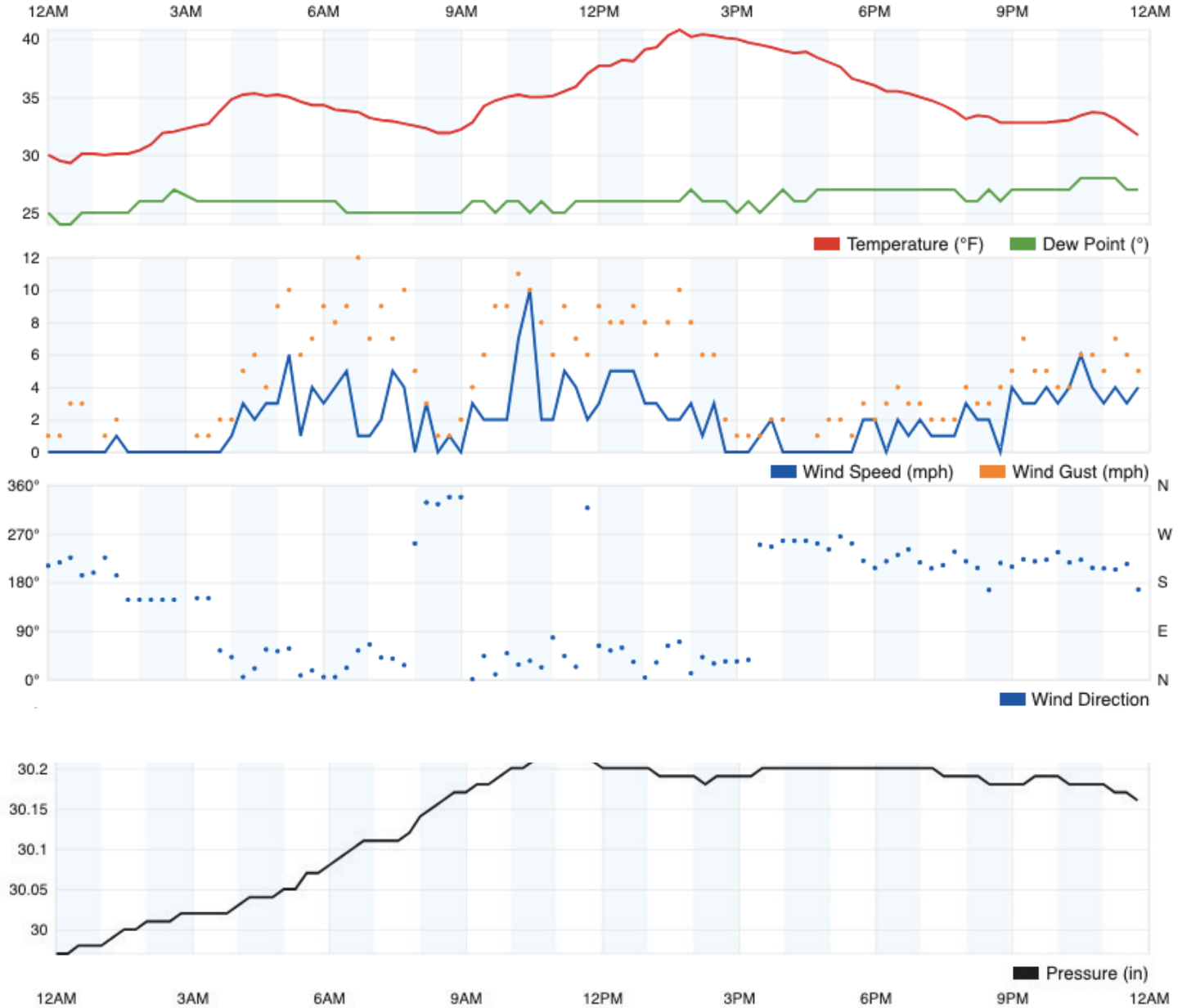
Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Mostly Sunny
and Breezy

High: 33 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 17 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 43 °F

Monday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 25 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 58 °F

Today

*Breezy & Partly
Sunny
Highs in the 30s*

Mostly Dry
This Week

Monday

*Milder, Partly
Sunny
Highs 37-58°*

Updated 3:00 AM CST



Surface high pressure will build into the region today, with breezy winds expected. Chilly temperatures today will warm up for Monday and Tuesday. #sdwx #mnwx

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Today in Weather History

November 21, 1985: Winds gusting to over 40 mph caused blizzard conditions over the western and central parts of South Dakota on the 21st and 22nd. In addition to the existing snow cover, 1-2 inches of new snow fell and when blown by the wind, reduced visibilities to zero at times. Many roads were drifted shut by the blowing and drifting snow in the western part of the state.

November 21, 2003: Heavy snow of 6 to 10 inches fell from the late afternoon to the late evening hours of the 21st and into the early morning hours on the 22nd. Some snowfall amounts included 4 inches in Browns Valley, 2S Ashton, and Britton; 5 inches at Timber Lake, Blunt, 6 SE McIntosh, and Pollock; 6 inches at Clark, McLaughlin, 14 NNE Isabel, 17 WSW Fort Pierre and Miller; 7 inches at Castlewood, 1 W Highmore, and 4 NW Onida; and 8 inches north of Goodwin, at Ree Heights, at Eagle Butte, and near Troy. Thirteen inches of snow fell in Watertown.

1798 - A four day storm was in progress in the northeastern U.S. The storm dropped a foot of snow on New York City and New Haven, and as much as three feet in Maine and New Hampshire. The snowstorm ushered in a long and severe winter, in some places the ground remained covered with snow until the following May. (David Ludlum)

1967 - Excessive rains in southern California caused the most severe flooding and the most damaging mud slides in 33 years. Downtown Los Angeles received eight inches of rain, and 14 inches fell in the mountains. (David Ludlum)

1985 - Hurricane Kate made landfall during the evening hours near Mexico Beach, FL. Wind gusts to 100 mph were reported at Cape San Blas FL. It was the latest known hurricane to hit the U.S. so far north. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Squalls in the Lower Great Lakes Region and the Upper Ohio Valley produced 14 inches of snow at Snowshoe WV, and nearly eight inches at Syracuse NY. Eleven cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 21 degrees at Pinson AL, 9 degrees at Syracuse NY, and 8 degrees at Binghamton NY. Gale force winds lash the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast, and the strong northwesterly winds produced wind chill readings as cold as 30 degrees below zero. Winds gusting to 60 mph at Trumansburg NY toppled a chimney onto a nearby truck. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - High winds accompanied rain and snow in the northeastern U.S. Caribou ME received eight inches of snow in six hours, and Fort Kent ME was blanketed with a total of fourteen inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - The storm which produced thunderstorms and high winds in the northeastern U.S. the previous day, produced snow and high winds in New England, with blizzard conditions reported in Maine. Winds gusted to 55 mph at Boston MA, and reached 58 mph at Augusta ME, and hurricane force winds were reported off the coast of Maine. Snowfall totals ranged up to 18 inches at Vanceboro ME, with 17 inches at South Lincoln VT. There were thirty-five storm-related injuries in Maine. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: The November 21st – 23rd tornado outbreak was the 3rd largest outbreak in recorded history and one of the longest continuous outbreaks ever recorded. There was no break in tornado activity from 1:30 pm on the 21st when the tornadoes started in Texas until 7:30 am on the 23rd when the last tornadoes lifted in North Carolina. On this date, severe thunderstorms spawned six tornadoes within 70 minutes in the Houston metro area in Texas. At one time, there were three on the ground in Harris County. The strongest, an F4, tracked 20 miles through the eastern suburbs of Houston destroying 200 homes and damaging 1,000 more. In total, 23 tornadoes struck Mississippi and Alabama. An F4 tornado killed 12 people on a 128-mile track through 7 Mississippi counties. The deadliest tornado of 1992, an F4 tornado killed 12 people on a 128-mile path through 7 counties in Mississippi, one of the bodies was blown a quarter mile into a tree.

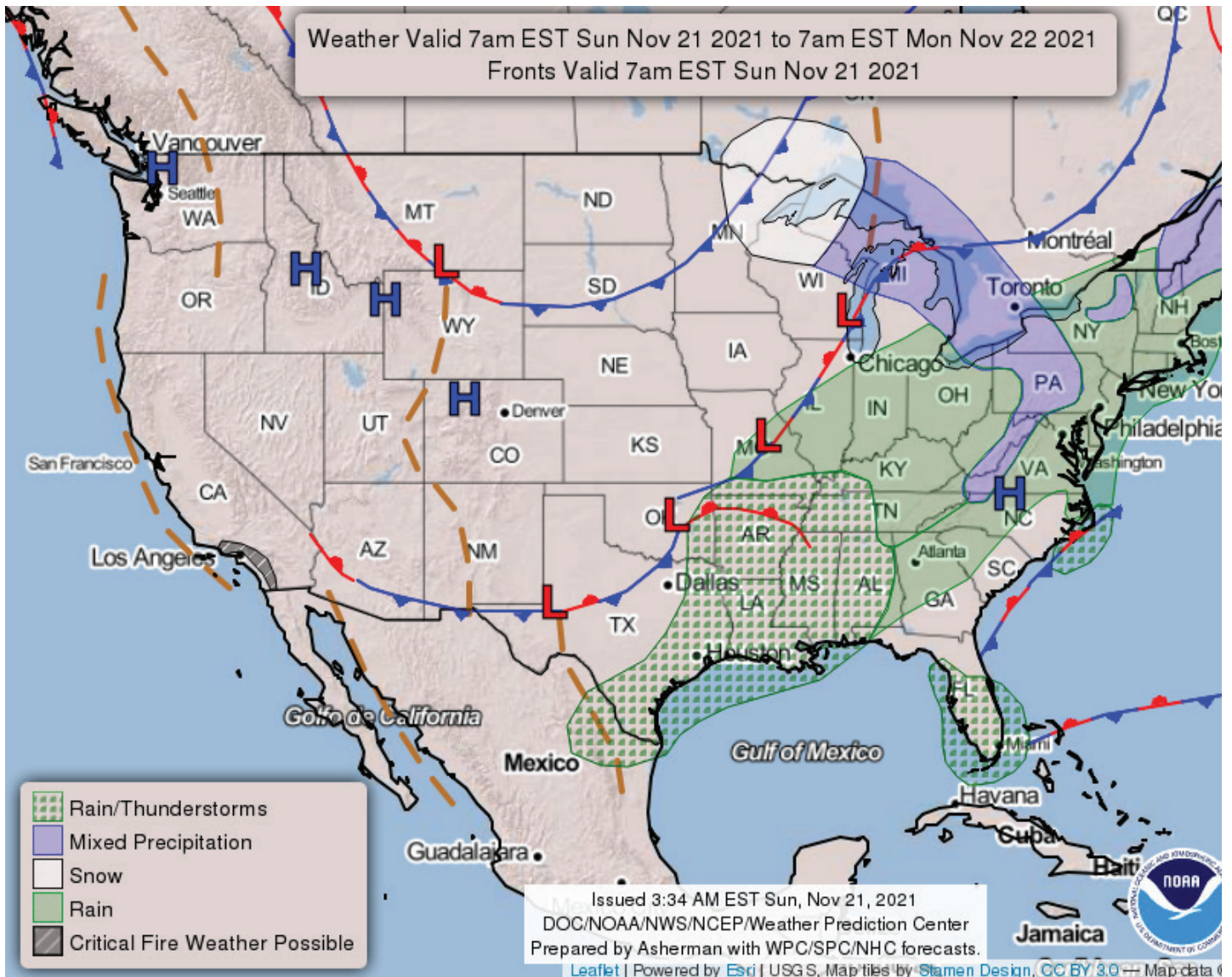
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 40.8 °F at 1:45 PM
Low Temp: 29.3 °F at 12:30 AM
Wind: 12 mph at 6:45 AM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 65° in 1960
Record Low: -18° in 1964
Average High: 40°F
Average Low: 17°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.56
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.16
Average Precip to date: 21.03
Precip Year to Date: 19.88
Sunset Tonight: 4:58:22 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39:41 AM



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Fortified by Faith

If we knew what was going to happen, we would not need faith. We could plan for tomorrow and the next day and the next with confidence. But only God knows what tomorrow will bring into our lives. So, we need faith.

Faith enables us to live courageously, live life with confidence, and know that with God beside us, His Son within us and the Holy Spirit to empower us, we can be more than conquerors.

Unfortunately, not all Christians walk by faith. Some squeak through life by sight. But, the two principles of action are exclusive of each other and contradictory.

Sight is concerned with things that are material and visible. Faith is concerned with things that are invisible and spiritual. Each principle struggles to master the other. As Christians, we must choose which one will be our master.

If we walk by sight, we will encounter many things that will frighten us. We see this in the lives of the people of Israel. When they left Israel, they were followed by the best fighters that Egypt had.

When they came to the Red Sea and saw the enemy about to destroy them, they were frightened. But despite their lack of faith, the Lord saved them. He caused the sea to divide and provided a dry road for their escape.

"Then," states the Psalmist, "they believed His words." When? After they saw His miracle. It was not necessary for them to experience such despair and the fear of destruction. Their lack of faith in the presence and power of God caused them to doubt His promises. "Lord, help our unbelief!" said one disciple. What about you?

Prayer: Lord, help us to take You at Your Word and trust in You for everything. Please increase our faith now. Teach us to see challenges and threats as faith builders. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. Psalm 106:12

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2021 Community Events

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

06-13-18-21-26

(six, thirteen, eighteen, twenty-one, twenty-six)

Estimated jackpot: \$232,000

Lotto America

27-29-33-37-40, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(twenty-seven, twenty-nine, thirty-three, thirty-seven, forty; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.29 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$83 million

Powerball

40-43-48-59-69, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 3

(forty, forty-three, forty-eight, fifty-nine, sixty-nine; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$205 million

North Dakota State romps to 52-24 victory over South Dakota

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Cam Miller threw a touchdown pass and added one of North Dakota State's six rushing scores as the Bison rolled to a 52-24 victory over South Dakota on Saturday.

Tamerik Williams opened the scoring with a 1-yard TD run in the first quarter. Miller connected with Phoenix Sproles for a 75-yard touchdown and then scored on an 8-yard run to make it 21-0 after one quarter.

Christian Watson's 43-yard TD run gave the Bison (10-1, 7-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked fourth in the latest FCS coaches poll, a 28-0 lead just three minutes into the second quarter.

Miller completed 19 of 23 passes for 219 yards. Williams rushed for 60 of the Bison's 301 yards on the ground — scoring twice. Jalen Bussey and Kobe Johnson also had scoring runs.

Freshman Carson Camp passed for 196 yards and two scores with one pick for the 16th-ranked Coyotes (7-4, 5-3). Michael Mansaray and JJ Galbreath had touchdown receptions.

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

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

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

SDHSAA State Tournament=

Championship=

Class B=

Warner def. Colman-Egan, 25-19, 25-20, 25-8

Consolation Championship=

Class AA=

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Huron, 26-24, 25-18, 25-20

Class A=

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Hill City, 25-21, 22-25, 25-21, 26-24

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Class B=

Chester def. Aberdeen Christian, 22-25, 25-19, 25-18, 25-23

Seventh Place=

Class AA=

Harrisburg def. Pierre, 25-11, 26-24, 25-21

Class A=

Hamlin def. Parkston, 25-23, 25-22, 24-26, 25-18

Class B=

Arlington def. Burke, 25-19, 18-28, 25-18, 25-19

Third Place=

Class AA=

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Brandon Valley, 25-23, 25-23, 19-25, 32-30

Class A=

Dakota Valley def. Wagner, 25-11, 25-17, 28-26

Class B=

Platte-Geddes def. Faulkton, 22-25, 25-8, 25-18, 20-25, 15-12

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

South Dakota St. holds off N. Dakota 24-21 with interception

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Cole Frahm kicked a 38-yard, fourth-quarter field goal and Malik Lofton intercepted a pass at the 12-yard line with 42 seconds remaining to preserve South Dakota State's 24-21 season-ending victory over North Dakota on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits (8-3, 5-3 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked No. 13 in the FCS coaches poll, await an at-large bid into the FCS playoffs.

Chris Oladokun, who transferred to South Dakota State over the summer after playing at South Florida and Samford, completed 19 of 26 passes for 239 yards with three touchdowns.

Quincy Vaughn and Otis Weah rushed for touchdowns for North Dakota (5-6, 3-5), which never led but battled into three ties. Tommy Schuster threw for 218 yards for the Fighting Hawks with one TD and one interception.

The Jackrabbits defense had three sacks, seven tackles for loss and five pass breakups while Oladokun was sacked once.

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>

Prison guard assaulted, held in closet by murder suspect

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man in jail awaiting a murder trial allegedly assaulted a Minnehaha County prison guard and held her in a closet, according to court documents.

The Argus Leader reports Amir Hasan Beaudion Jr., 22, was charged on Thursday for assaulting a law enforcement officer on Nov. 14.

Beaudion is awaiting trial for charges including first-degree murder in connection with a 2020 killing of a Sioux Falls woman. He had volunteered to clean the day room in the unit he was housed in overnight while other inmates are under lockdown, according to court documents.

On Nov. 14, an officer reported hearing screaming coming at 11:55 p.m. He heard a female scream "let me out" multiple times and could hear muffled screams over the radio.

A closet was opened where officers found Beaudion. The female guard ran out of the closet crying, according to court documents. The extent of the guard's injuries weren't revealed in court documents.

The female officer later reported that Beaudion asked for her help filling up a spray bottle before he hit

her in the side of the head and started to choke her, authorities said.

Photo firm ordered to preserve websites; owes \$25K in rent

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A judge has ordered Glasser Images to preserve its websites as the North Dakota Attorney General's Office investigates the abrupt closure of the Bismarck photography studio last month.

The Bismarck Tribune reports the business also is facing a possible eviction from its downtown location. It owes its landlord \$25,000 in rent and late fees accrued since September, according to court documents.

South Central District Judge David Reich issued the order concerning the websites Thursday after a hearing last week in which Glasser's attorney said the studio would preserve all evidence "to the best of our ability" and the state's decision to seek a court order was premature.

The attorney general's office argued that it had previously tried but failed to secure adequate assurance from Glasser's lawyers that its websites would be maintained.

Glasser Images photographed weddings throughout the Dakotas, Minnesota and Colorado. Owner Jack Glasser has said the studio could not remain financially viable, due in large part to the coronavirus pandemic.

The photo studio announced it would be unable to refund clients when it closed, leaving many engaged couples who had booked its services for their weddings out thousands of dollars. The attorney general's office is investigating to determine if fraud occurred.

Officials: Sudan's military agrees to reinstate ousted PM

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A deal was reached between Sudan's military and civilian leaders to reinstate Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was deposed in a coup last month, military and government officials said Sunday.

They also said that government officials and politicians arrested since the Oct. 25 coup will be released as part of the deal between the military and political parties, including the largest Umma Party. However, the party later issued a statement implying that it did not sign off on the deal.

Hamdok will lead an independent technocratic Cabinet, the officials said. They said the U.N., the U.S. and others played "crucial roles" in crafting the agreement. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the deal before the official announcement.

The coup, more than two years after a popular uprising forced the removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and his Islamist government, has drawn international criticism. The United States, its allies and the United Nations have condemned the use of excessive force against anti-coup protesters.

Sudanese have been taking to the streets in masses since the military takeover, which upended the country's fragile transition to democracy. The agreement comes just days after doctors said at least 15 people were killed by live fire during anti-coup demonstrations.

The military has tightened its grip on power, appointing a new, military-run Sovereign Council. The council is chaired by coup leader Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan.

The Sovereign Council will meet later Sunday before announcing the deal, the officials said.

A national initiative formed after the coup that includes political parties and public figures said in a statement that Hamdok would be reinstated and will form a technocratic Cabinet. It said the deal would be signed later Sunday along with a political declaration. It did not elaborate.

However, the Umma Party released a statement stressing its opposition to any deal that fails to "meet the aspirations of all revolutionaries and the Sudanese people."

"The party expresses its faith in the victorious and rebellious resistance and reaffirms that it shall always stand by the people to protect justice," it said.

Also, the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, the group that spearheaded the uprising that culminated in al-Bashir's ouster, objected to any deals with the military.

In a statement Sunday, the group reiterated its opposition to any new political partnership with the military, insisting the perpetrators of the coup should be brought to justice.

"We are not concerned with any agreements with this brute junta and we are employing all peaceful

and creative methods to bring it down," the statement said.

The group also renewed the call for nationwide protests against military rule.

Associated Press writer Noha ElHennawy in Cairo contributed.

Palestinian kills 1, injures 4 before police shoot him dead

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian assailant killed one Israeli and injured four others before being fatally shot by Israeli police near the entrance to a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site Sunday, police said.

Police said the attack took place near an entrance to a contested flashpoint shrine known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. Violence surrounding the site, which is considered holy by both faiths, has triggered previous rounds of fighting between Israel and the Palestinians, most recently in May.

Paramedics said one person suffered critical injuries, one suffered serious wounds, and three others were lightly injured. Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital later said the critically injured person died. The paramedics said the Palestinian attacker was confirmed dead at the scene.

Rabbi Zevi Katzanelbogen, a resident of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, said he was walking home from morning prayers at the Western Wall, turned a corner and heard gunfire. Moments later he was struck in the arm by a bullet, he told reporters from his hospital bed.

Police said two of those lightly injured were officers and identified the attacker as a 42-year-old east Jerusalem resident. Public Security Minister Omer Bar Lev told reporters the gunman was a member of Hamas's political arm from the Shuafat refugee camp in east Jerusalem, and that the man's wife left the country three days earlier.

Palestinian media identified the attacker as Fadi Abu Shkhaidem, and shared an image of him wearing long black robes and a black coat and carrying a firearm similar to the one shown in police photos. He was a teacher at a high school near the Old City.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said at the start of the weekly Cabinet meeting that he ordered security forces to be on alert to prevent other attacks.

The Hamas militant group praised the attack in a statement but stopped short of claiming responsibility, calling the incident a "heroic operation." It later claimed Abu Shkhaidem as one of its members.

"Our people's resistance will continue to be legitimate by all means and tools against the Zionist occupier until our desired goals are achieved and the occupation is expelled from our holy sites and all of our lands," spokesman Abdel Latif al-Qanou said.

Dimitar Tzantchev, the EU ambassador-designate to Israel, said in a statement on Twitter that his thoughts were "with the victims of the cowardly attack in the Old City of Jerusalem" and condemned "this senseless attack against civilians. Violence is never the answer."

Sunday's incident was the second of its kind in Jerusalem's historic Old City in recent days. On Wednesday, a Palestinian teen was fatally shot after stabbing two Israeli border police.

In that incident, the two officers were hospitalized and the teen, identified by police as a 16-year-old from east Jerusalem, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Palestinians have carried out dozens of stabbing, shooting and car-ramming attacks targeting Israeli civilians and security personnel in recent years. Palestinians and rights groups contend some of the alleged car-rammings were accidents and accuse Israel of using excessive force.

But shootings around Jerusalem's Old City and its holy sites are relatively rare, and Israel maintains a sizeable security presence in the area.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, including the Old City and its Christian, Muslim and Jewish holy sites, along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. It later annexed east Jerusalem in a move unrecognized by most of the international community.

The Palestinians seek the occupied West Bank and Gaza for a future independent state, with east Je-

rusalem as its capital.

Ukraine's doctors pushed to the limit by COVID-19 wave

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV and YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KAKHOVKA, Ukraine (AP) — As coronavirus infections hit Ukraine, a single shift for Dr. Oleksandr Molchanov now stretches to 42 hours — 24 of them in Kakhovka's hospital, followed by another 18 hours spent visiting tents set up to care for 120 COVID-19 patients.

While vaccination rates in Eastern Europe have generally lagged, Ukraine has one of the lowest in the region. But because of its underfunded and struggling health care system, the situation has turned dire nearly two years since the virus swept into Europe.

The country is setting records almost every day for infections and deaths, most recently on Tuesday, when 838 deaths were reported.

"We are extinguishing the fire again. We are working as at the front, but our strength and capabilities are limited," said Molchanov, who works at the hospital in the city in southern Ukraine on the Dnieper River. "We are working to the limit."

After his grueling shift, the 32-year-old doctor goes home to sleep and recover for two days. The next one may be even more challenging.

"The situation is only getting worse," Molchanov said. "Hospital beds are running out, there are more and more serious patients, and there is a sore lack of doctors and medical personnel."

The tents beside Kakhovka's hospital have 120 beds, and 87 of them are occupied, with more patients arriving every day. But Molchanov is one of only three doctors to care for them.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's administration inherited a health care system that was undermined by reforms launched by his predecessor that closed many small-town hospitals.

In those communities, people have to seek care in large cities. If the problem is severe enough that a patient needs an ambulance, the wait can be as long as eight hours.

"They are bringing patients in extremely difficult condition, with a protracted form" of COVID-19, said Dr. Anatoliy Galachenko, who also works at the tent hospital. "The main reason is the remoteness of settlements and the impossibility of providing assistance at the primary stages of the disease."

Yulia Tymoshenko, a former prime minister who leads the opposition Batkivshchyna party, said she has traveled to many hospitals in Ukraine and found shortages everywhere.

"The mortality from COVID that is now recorded in Ukraine, is not just mortality; it is the killing of people by this government, which does not have oxygen, antiviral drugs, beds and normally paid medical personnel," she said in parliament.

"There are no free beds in the country anymore — a new patient immediately comes to the bed of a discharged person," Tymoshenko added.

Four coronavirus vaccines are available in Ukraine — Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Sinovac — but only 21% of its 41 million people are fully vaccinated. The Ministry of Health reported that 96% of patients with severe COVID-19 weren't vaccinated.

Zelenskyy has promised every fully vaccinated Ukrainian a payment of 1,000 hryvnia (\$38), about 5% of the average monthly wage, but widespread hesitancy persists.

Doctors say the vaccines are highly effective at preventing deaths and hospitalizations, and when infections in vaccinated people do occur, they usually are mild.

Oleksandr Kymanov, who refused to get vaccinated, ended up getting infected and was brought to the tent hospital in Kakhovka from the town of Rozdolne, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) away. Connected to supplemental oxygen, he cited various falsehoods about the vaccine, saying it was "useless" and that "people still get infected and get sick."

Doctors complain that vaccine falsehoods about containing microchips or that they cause infertility and disease is driving the COVID-19 surge.

"People believe in the most absurd rumors about chips, infertility and the dangers of vaccines, elderly

people from risk groups massively refuse to be vaccinated, and this is very harmful and increases the burden on doctors," Molchanov said. "People trust their neighbors more than doctors."

The government has required teachers, doctors, government employees and other groups of workers to be fully vaccinated by Dec. 1. It also has also begun to require proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test results for travel on planes, trains and long-distance buses.

The regulations have spawned a black market for fake vaccination documents, which sell for the equivalent of \$100-\$300. A phony government digital app for smartphones is reportedly available, complete with fake certificates installed.

"COVID cannot be fooled with a fake certificate, but many Ukrainians learn about it only in intensive care," Molchanov said.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs said 1,200 groups have been sent throughout Ukraine to verify the authenticity of medical documents. Police already have identified several clandestine printers who were creating fake certificates.

Doctors say the fake certificates make their job harder.

"We are working to the limit, but we are tired of fighting not only with disease, but also with stupidity," Molchanov said.

Yuras Karmanau reported from Kyiv. Evgeniy Maloletka contributed to this report from Kakhovka.

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

Relatives of virus dead question Japan's stay-at-home policy

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Yoshihiko Takeuchi, who ran a small restaurant on the island of Okinawa, told only a few friends he had the coronavirus. When he didn't answer phone calls from public health workers for three days, police went to his home and found him dead in his bed.

He was among hundreds of people who have died while subject to "jitaku ryoyo," or a policy of having some COVID-19 patients "recuperate at home."

In many countries, those with the virus stay home to isolate and recover, but critics say that in Japan, a country with one of the most affordable and accessible health care systems, people have been denied hospital care, and the policy amounted to "jitaku hochi," or "abandonment at home."

Takeuchi's sister and a daughter of another man who died at home of COVID-19 have started an online support group for grieving relatives of such victims.

Japan has seen caseloads fall dramatically in the past two months and the government has drawn up a road map to improve its pandemic response. A plan adopted Nov. 12 aims to have beds for up to 37,000 patients nationwide by the end of November, up from 28,000.

That compares with more than 231,000 coronavirus patients needing hospitalization in late August, according to government data. Many had to recuperate at home.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida also promised to have health care workers routinely visit COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms at home.

Public anger over inadequate treatment in the country with the world's largest number of beds per capita is a factor driving such changes. Kishida's predecessor, Yoshihide Suga, resigned after only a year in office, mainly because of widespread dissatisfaction with the government's pandemic response.

Speaking up takes courage in a conformist society like Japan, and class action lawsuits are rare. But Kaori Takada, Takeuchi's sister, and others in her group believe their loved ones were denied the medical care they deserved.

"I had to raise my voice," she said.

She is not sure what she will do. Thousands are following the group's Twitter account and others have come forward with similar painful stories.

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Takada, who lives in Osaka and runs a small nursery in her home, was Takeuchi's only remaining relative. They spoke on the phone right before he was diagnosed, but he did not tell her he was sick alone at home. Given widespread phobias in Japan about COVID-19, he didn't want word to get out.

Takada said he was a gentle man and much loved.

"We are coming together, trying to heal, sharing how people have been treated so cruelly, and perhaps helping each other take that first step forward," she said in a telephone interview.

Japan's local public health bureaus, responsible for arranging for the care of COVID-19 patients, struggled to find hospitals that would admit them. In some cases, ambulances were shunted from one hospital to the next.

A few makeshift facilities provided treatment and supplemental oxygen, but calls to set up big field hospitals went unheeded.

In New York, for instance, hospitals were quickly converted, adding thousands of extra beds and ICUs for virus patients. A Navy medical ship and other facilities were turned into makeshift hospitals. At the outbreak's peak in April 2020, there were more than 1,600 new hospitalizations a day citywide.

In August of this year, when infections in Japan surged with the spread of the delta variant, Japan's hospital systems were quickly declared "stretched thin," even though it has had far fewer COVID-19 cases than the U.S., Europe and some other Asian and South American countries. In early September, more than 134,000 people were sick with the virus at home, according to Health Ministry records.

About 18,000 Japanese have died of COVID-19-related deaths in a population of 126 million. No one knows exactly how many died at home, though the National Police Agency, which tracks deaths, said 951 people have died at home since March 2020, with 250 of them in August 2021 alone.

Shigeru Omi, a top government adviser on the coronavirus and head of the Japan Community Health Care Organization, or JCHO, has urged the government to set up emergency field hospitals, specifically to avoid deaths from "jitaku ryoyo."

Japan's health care system is dominated by small, private hospitals and clinics, and few inpatient facilities are equipped to handle infectious diseases. Many beds are occupied by psychiatric patients and by the chronically ill and elderly, and there are relatively few doctors, intensive care specialists and nurses.

In some places, local authorities arranged for such hospitals to accept patients who were no longer infectious and rehabilitating from serious illness after they were treated at larger hospitals. But overall, caseloads vastly outnumbered the beds available for critical care.

The JCHO runs 57 of Japan's biggest hospitals. All are heavily subsidized by taxpayer money. The Health Ministry said it provided up to 100,000 yen (\$900) per bed for COVID-19 patients.

In October, JCHO said it had prepared 972 beds nationwide for virus patients, or fewer than 7% of its more than 14,000 overall beds, though in August it temporarily made room for about 1,800 patients.

JCHO declined to comment on Kishida's call for providing thousands more beds.

Dr. Takanori Yamamoto, a critical care physician at Nagoya University, believes hospital care needs to be restructured to focus on seriously ill patients in designated facilities, instead of spreading them across small hospitals that each have a handful of ICU beds.

Resources were improperly managed, including widespread hospitalizations of people who didn't need it, he said. Public health bureaus are designed for research and are ill-suited to be "gatekeepers" for doling out COVID-19 care, he added.

The problems are deeply rooted in a decades-old system, and Yamamoto worries that even if Japan manages to ride out this pandemic, it will be unprepared for the next one.

"No other nation turned away patients like this, even countries that had far more cases. The idea of doctors not seeing patients should be out of the question. If you are a doctor, you have to take care of the sick," Yamamoto said.

"Japan has done nothing. There has been no leadership," he said.

The time to act is now, before another wave of coronavirus infections hits, said Dr. Kenji Shibuya, research director at the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research, an independent think tank.

"They didn't act before, even though they knew it's coming," said Shibuya, who has experience working in Britain. "It is about a lack of commitment, lack of will, lack of passion to make a change at a time of crisis," he said.

Back in August, Yuko Nishizato, co-founder of Takada's group, pleaded with hospitals for her 73-year-old father to be admitted. But he died after testing positive for COVID-19 without ever getting treatment, apart from medication for a fever.

Phone records show he repeatedly called the local public health center right up to his death. It breaks her heart to know all he got were recordings.

"I wanted him to live to see his grandchildren. I wanted him to see a more grown-up me," Nishizato said. "There are so many who have suffered the same way, and I don't understand why."

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

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Atlanta airport checkpoint chaos: Man grabs gun, it goes off

By BILL CORMIER Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A passenger awaiting a search at the Atlanta airport's main security checkpoint reached in his bag and grabbed a firearm, and it went off, causing chaos among travelers and prompting a temporary FAA ground stop on flights Saturday afternoon, officials said. The man fled.

The man, later identified as a convicted felon, ran with the gun from the checkpoint and escaped out an airport exit, the Transportation Security Administration said. Authorities said it was not an active shooter incident and described the discharge as accidental.

Police said later they had issued a warrant for the arrest of the passenger, 42-year-old Kenny Wells.

The airport's police commander, Maj. Reginald Moorman, said Wells was being sought on charges including carrying a concealed weapon at a commercial airport, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, discharging a firearm and reckless conduct.

"We are actively pursuing this individual as we speak," Moorman said at a news briefing Saturday evening with TSA and airport officials.

The discharge caused a frenzy on social media as alarmed travelers posted videos to Twitter and other sites showing and describing moments of chaos and confusion at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, one of the nation's busiest.

Authorities said three people suffered minor injuries, including one person who fell in the airport's atrium area away from the checkpoint, and two complaining of shortness of breath. Police said they had to work crowd control until things calmed.

A TSA official said no one was shot.

"We were fortunate that when the firearm went off, no one was seriously injured," Robert Spinden, the TSA's director of federal security for Georgia, said at the airport briefing. Officials didn't immediately disclose the type of weapon involved.

Social media users reported there were long lines afterward and missed flights for some. The incident came ahead of the peak Thanksgiving holiday travel season as people are still coping with the concerns of safely traveling during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the FAA ordered a temporary ground stop, airport officials said operations never ceased and the airport didn't close. They said the airport returned to normal operations in under two hours.

The TSA statement said it all began when the passenger was about to undergo a bag search by an official at 1:30 p.m. at the airport's main checkpoint after an X-ray scan detected what was described as a "prohibited item."

"He advised the passenger not to touch the property, and as he opened the compartment containing the prohibited item, the passenger lunged into the bag and grabbed a firearm, at which point it discharged.

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The passenger then fled the area," according to the statement.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported social media users rushed from the airport in the chaos after hearing the gun going off. One video posted on Twitter showed people running out of the terminal, some anxiously glancing back.

After Atlanta police gave the all-clear normal operations resumed at the airport before 3:30 p.m. TSA said all passengers had to be re-screened.

The TSA said the incident underscores the importance for all passengers of checking personal belongings for dangerous items before leaving for the airport. Passengers caught with firearms at airport checkpoints face a civil penalty. The TSA says firearms may be allowed in checked baggage when they are unloaded and packed in a locked, hard-sided case.

Last month, federal officials reported a spike in firearm seizures at Atlanta's airport — part of a record year for the number of guns detected at airport security checkpoints.

The TSA said it seized 391 firearms at Hartsfield-Jackson airport in the first nine months of 2021. That was up from 220 last year when passenger counts were down significantly because of the pandemic. But it also was a big jump from 2019, when 323 firearms were seized in Atlanta.

Across the nation, the TSA said, it had stopped 4,495 airline passengers from carrying firearms onto their flights by Oct. 3 of this year, surpassing the previous record of 4,432 firearms caught at checkpoints in all of 2019.

The agency's news release last month noted the record came despite a continued dip in passengers because of the pandemic. Authorities did not offer an explanation or theory about the spike in gun seizures.

Hartsfield-Jackson is one of the nation's busiest airports, though other U.S. airports rival its passenger screening numbers. Dallas Fort Worth International Airport was second on the TSA's list, with 232 firearms seized by Oct. 3.

Venezuela votes in regional election under international eye

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's electoral system will be put to the test Sunday when millions of voters across the South American country are expected to decide thousands of races in highly scrutinized regional elections.

The contest will be observed by more than 130 international monitors, mostly from the European Union, satisfying a longstanding demand of the opponents of President Nicolás Maduro. It will mark the first time in four years the main opposition parties will participate in an election, a decision that came amid now-suspended negotiations between the ruling party and adversaries.

More than 21 million Venezuelans are eligible to vote in over 3,000 contests, including for 23 governors and 335 mayors positions. More than 70,000 candidates entered the races.

Maduro is not on the ballot. His term ends in 2025. But what is at stake is the legitimacy of the National Electoral Council, which has often been accused of setting conditions favorable of Maduro's allies after years marked by their decisions to disqualify parties and some of the most popular opposition candidates.

International observers have been deployed across Venezuela to observe electoral conditions such as fairness, media access, campaign activities and disqualification of candidates. They are expected to release a preliminary report early next week and an in-depth look next year.

It is the first time in 15 years that EU observers are in Venezuela. In previous elections, foreign observation was essentially carried out by multilateral and regional electoral organizations close to the Venezuelan executive.

Historically, voter turnout has been low for state and municipal elections. The abstention ceiling has hovered around 70%.

Regardless of turnout, Sunday's elections could mark the emergence of new opposition leaders, consolidate alliances and draw the lines to be followed by Maduro's adversaries, who arrive at these elections

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decimated by internal fractures, often rooted in their frustration at not being able to knock from power the heirs of the late President Hugo Chávez.

"What we are going to see is a fight for second place because second place will symbolically mean which opposition should be stopped more, that will have a weight," said Félix Seijas, director of the statistical research firm Delphos. He added that the results will show who ultimately "is the second force" of the country, and which segment of the opposition represents it."

Chileans vote in highly polarized presidential election

By EVA VERGARA and JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Chileans will vote for a new president Sunday following a polarizing campaign in which the leading candidates vowed to chart starkly different paths for the region's most economically advanced country staggered by a recent wave of social unrest.

Pre-election polls point to a large number of undecided voters but consistently have favored two of the seven candidates running: former student protest leader Gabriel Boric and his ideological opposite, José Antonio Kast, who has a history of defending Chile's military dictatorship.

But neither is expected to garner enough support to cross the 50% threshold required to avoid a runoff vote next month. Within striking distance of the two frontrunners are center-right candidate Sebastián Sichel and center left former Education Minister Yasna Provoste. Also up for grabs is Chile's entire 155-seat lower house of congress and about half the senate.

Boric, 35, would become Chile's youngest modern president. He was among several student activists elected to congress in 2014 after leading protests for better and higher quality education. Running as the head of a broad alliance that includes Chile's Communist Party, if elected he says he will raise taxes on the "super rich" to expand social services and boost protections of the environment.

He's also vowed to eliminate the country's private pension system — one of the hallmarks of the free market reforms imposed in the 1980s by Gen. Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship.

Kast, 55, from the newly formed Republican Party until recently was seen as an outsider on the far-right fringe, having garnered less than 8% of the vote in 2017 as an independent. But he's been steadily rising in the polls this time with a divisive discourse emphasizing conservative family values as well as attacking migrants — many from Haiti and Venezuela — he blames for crime.

A fervent Roman Catholic and father of nine, Kast has also taken aim at the outgoing President Sebastian Pinera for allegedly betraying the economic legacy of Pinochet, which his brother helped implement as the dictator's central bank president.

Whoever wins will take over a country in the grips of major change but uncertain of its future course after decades of centrist reforms that largely left untouched Pinochet's economic model.

Pinera's decision to hike subway fares in 2019 sparked months of massive protests that quickly spiraled into a nationwide clamor for more accessible public services, one that exposed the crumbling foundations of Chile's "economic miracle."

Gravely weakened by the unrest, Pinera begrudgingly agreed to a plebiscite on rewriting the Pinochet-era constitution. In May, the assembly charged with drafting the new magna carta was elected and is expected to conclude its work sometime next year.

Meanwhile, in a fresh sign of the tensions Pinera will leave behind, the billionaire president was impeached in the lower house before dodging removal by the senate over an offshore business deal in which his family a decade ago sold its stake in a mining project while he was serving the first of two non-consecutive terms.

Goodman reported from Miami

Photos of missing Chinese tennis star posted online

BEIJING (AP) — An employee of Chinese state TV has posted photos of missing tennis star Peng Shuai online in a new effort to dispel concern about her disappearance after she accused a senior leader of

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sexual assault.

The photos appeared Friday on Twitter, which cannot be seen by most internet users in China. The state TV employee, Shen Shiwei, wrote they were on Peng's account on the WeChat message service with the comment, "Happy Weekend."

The ruling Communist Party faces mounting appeals from tennis stars and the sport's professional tour to prove Peng, a three-time Olympian and former No. 1-ranked women's doubles player, is safe and let her speak freely.

Meanwhile, the editor of a newspaper published by the party said Peng would "show up in public" soon.

The controversy is politically awkward as the Chinese capital prepares to hold the Winter Olympics in February. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Friday denied knowing about the outcry over Peng's disappearance.

Peng, 35, hasn't been seen in public since posting a statement on social media this month accusing Zhang Gaoli, a former member of the party's Standing Committee, the ruling inner circle of power, of forcing her to have sex despite repeated refusals.

Shen works for CGTN, the English-language arm of China Central Television that is aimed at foreign audiences. His Twitter post came after CGTN this week distributed a statement it said came from Peng that retracted the accusations against Zhang.

The editor of Global Times, an English-language newspaper published by the Communist Party, said on Twitter he had confirmed from unidentified sources that the photos "are indeed Peng Shuai's current state."

"In the past few days, she stayed in her own home freely and she didn't want to be disturbed," wrote the editor, Hu Xijin. "She will show up in public and participate in some activities soon."

The photos showed Peng with a gray cat and holding a panda figurine in what appeared to be a private home with stuffed animals lined up behind her. There was no indication when the photos were taken.

Steve Simon, the chairman and CEO of the Women's Tennis Association, reacted Saturday to a video purporting to show the tennis player at a restaurant.

"I am glad to see the videos released by China state-run media that appear to show Peng Shuai at a restaurant in Beijing. While it is positive to see her, it remains unclear if she is free and able to make decisions and take actions on her own, without coercion or external interference. This video alone is insufficient," Simon said.

"As I have stated from the beginning, I remain concerned about Peng Shuai's health and safety and that the allegation of sexual assault is being censored and swept under the rug. I have been clear about what needs to happen and our relationship with China is at a crossroads."

Simon has threatened to pull the WTA's events out of China. That means almost a dozen next year, including the WTA Finals.

Emma Terho, the chair of the International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission, tweeted Saturday that the body "is very concerned about the situation of three-time Olympian Peng Shuai."

"We support the quiet diplomacy approach that is being taken and hope it will lead to the release of information about the whereabouts of Peng Shuai and confirmation of her safety and well-being," Terho added.

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Tennis players take on Communist Party: Where is Peng Shuai?

By STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer

Some of the world's most famous tennis players, distraught by the disappearance of colleague Peng Shuai, are challenging China's Communist Party to get answers.

So far it's a standoff with little visible impact as tennis greats like Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal — joined by tennis governing bodies, human rights groups, retired players, and several athletes' lobbies — try to turn their profiles into power.

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Peng, a two-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1 in doubles, disappeared after making allegations of sexual assault over two weeks ago against former vice premier Zhang Gaoli, who was a member of the all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee and a lieutenant of General Secretary Xi Jinping.

Athletes may sense a pressure point.

China is just 2 1/2 months from hosting the Beijing Winter Olympics, which is facing a diplomatic boycott over allegations of crimes against humanity involving at least 1 million Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities. NBA player Enes Kanter has been the most outspoken in defense of the Uyghurs, calling Xi a "brutal dictator."

Peng's case is unique. She is a star athlete and has a platform and credibility that few other women in China share. The effort to silence Peng reflects the Communist Party's determination to squelch criticism of its leaders and to prevent any organized public response.

Athletes are especially sensitive politically because they are well-known and admired. The ruling party publicizes their victories, especially those of a three-time Olympian such as Peng, as evidence it is making China strong again.

China's Foreign Ministry has repeatedly disavowed any knowledge of the case. Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told media on Friday the issue is "not a diplomatic question and I'm not aware of the situation."

Peng wrote a lengthy social media post on Nov. 2 in which she said she was forced to have sex three years ago with Zhang. The post was quickly deleted from Peng's verified account on Weibo, a leading Chinese social media platform. But screenshots of the explosive accusations were shared on the internet.

Athletes have been weighing in ever since.

"She's one of our tennis champions, a former world No. 1, and clearly it's concerning. I hope she's safe," Federer told Sky Italia on Saturday. "The tennis family sticks together and I've always told my children as well that the tennis family is my second family. ... I just want her to be OK and that she's safe and that we hear something hopefully soon."

Nadal told the French newspaper L'Equipe, "The most important thing is to find out whether she is OK. All of us in the tennis family hope to see her back with us soon."

French tennis player Nicolas Mahut said he won't play in China if the situation isn't resolved, and he added that the International Olympic Committee needs to do more.

"It's really embarrassing to not speak out. They should say something a few months before (the) Olympics in China," Mahut said. "I hope they will do something soon."

Players have been emboldened by the unequivocal support of the Women's Tennis Association and its chairman and CEO Steve Simon, who has threatened to pull the WTA's events out of China. That means almost a dozen next year, including the WTA final.

"There's too many times in our world today when you get into issues like this that we let business, politics, money dictate what's right and what's wrong," Simon said in an interview on CNN.

"And we're definitely willing to pull our business and deal with all the complications that come with it because ... this is bigger than the business."

A statement from Wimbledon said the sport's most prestigious tournament is "united with the rest of tennis in the need to understand that Peng Shuai is safe."

"We have been working in support of the WTA's efforts to establish her safety through our relationships behind the scenes," the All England Club added.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman tweeted: "We are deeply concerned by reports that tennis player Peng Shuai appears to be missing, and we join the calls for the PRC to provide independent, verifiable proof of her whereabouts. Women everywhere deserve to have reports of sexual assault taken seriously and investigated."

Liz Throssell, a spokeswoman for the U.N. human rights office in Geneva, said Friday it was calling for "an investigation with full transparency into her allegation of sexual assault."

Global Athlete, an advocacy group, has asked the Switzerland-based IOC to suspend the Chinese Olympic Committee until Peng's safety is guaranteed.

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"The IOC must use its substantial leverage to ensure that the international community is provided proof of Peng's whereabouts," Global Athlete head Rob Koehler said.

Despite Peng being a former Olympian, the IOC has remained quiet. A sports business, it derives 91% of its income from selling broadcast rights and sponsorships. But it prefers to cast itself as a non-government organization whose role is to defend high-minded ideas like "promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity," which appears in its Olympic Charter.

Emma Terho, the newly elected head of an IOC's Athletes' Commission that is supposed to represent the interests of Olympic athletes, issued a brief comment on Saturday and said "we support the quiet diplomacy" approach favored by the IOC.

The IOC always says athletes are its first priority, but there is growing pressure from some athletes to get a larger slice of the IOC's billion-dollar pie.

"Experience shows that quiet diplomacy offers the best opportunity to find a solution for questions of such nature," the IOC had said in an earlier statement. "This explains why the IOC will not comment any further at this stage."

It also said it has received assurances that Peng is "safe."

The World Olympians Association declined to issue a statement. It claims to represent 100,000 living Olympians. It was founded by Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., who heads the IOC preparations for the Beijing Olympics which begin Feb. 4. IOC President Thomas Bach is the honorary president.

"The IOC has more leverage than any other organization with the pending Winter Olympic Games," Koehler of Global Athletes wrote to AP. "They need to use that now. Athletes going to these Games are watching how the IOC will protect athletes."

AP reporters Joe McDonald in Beijing and Andrew Dampf in Turin, Italy, contributed to this report.

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

More AP Winter Olympics: <https://apnews.com/hub/winter-olympics> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Rittenhouse verdict puts Biden in difficult political spot

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — A difficult political atmosphere for President Joe Biden may have become even more treacherous with the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse.

Biden was already facing sliding poll numbers with an electorate worn down by the coronavirus pandemic and increasing inflation. Now, the president finds himself caught between outraged Democrats — some of whom were already stewing over Biden's inability to land police reform and voting rights legislation — and Republicans looking to use the Rittenhouse case to exploit the national divide over matters of grievance and race.

"This is one of the last things Biden wants to be engaging in at this moment as he tries to finish up the big Build Back Better bill and get that across the finish line through the Senate," said Christopher Borick, director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion. "Race and Kyle Rittenhouse is not the space where he wants or needs to be going deep right now."

The acquittal of Rittenhouse has touched off new conversations about racial justice, vigilantism and policing in America. The Illinois teen armed himself with an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle during an August 2020 protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin, days after the shooting of a Black man by a white police officer. He said he came to small city to help protect a car lot from vandals and provide medical aid.

Rittenhouse would end up fatally shooting two men and maiming a third. Rittenhouse and his lawyers successfully argued that he had acted in self-defense during a confrontation in which he feared for his life.

The verdict in the case comes at a moment when Biden is trying to keep fellow Democrats focused on passing his massive social services and climate bill and hoping to turn the tide with Americans who have

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soured on his performance as president.

The president responded carefully following Friday's verdict, expressing respect for the jury's decision. He later added in a written statement that, like many Americans, he was "angry and concerned" with the jury acquittal of Rittenhouse.

Meanwhile, Republicans, who had success in this month's Virginia election in part by accusing Democrats of promoting critical race theory in public schools, are embracing 18-year-old Rittenhouse as their newest hero in America's culture wars.

GOP Reps. Paul Gosar of Arizona and Matt Gaetz of Florida have said they'd like to hire him as an intern, with Gosar suggesting they arm wrestle for the honor. Another Republican, Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, on Saturday predicted that liberal outrage over the Rittenhouse trial would benefit her party.

"It seems liberals want self-defense to be illegal," Boebert tweeted. "Try running on that in 2022 and see how far it gets you with the majority of the sane American public."

Former President Donald Trump was quick to stand with Rittenhouse following the verdict. He called the teen "brave" for testifying in his own defense and accused the left of trying "to fan hatred" with its treatment of Rittenhouse.

Trump has spent much of his post-presidency stoking divisions with his frontal criticism of Biden and of any Republican who has not marched in lockstep with his views. And most Republicans, either through silence or direct endorsement, have followed his lead.

In the aftermath of the acquittal, Republicans have highlighted a tweet by Biden during his winning 2020 presidential campaign in which he appeared to suggest that Rittenhouse was a white supremacist.

The tweet, from September 2020, excoriated Trump for failing "to disavow white supremacists on the debate stage" the previous night and included a video that contained a still image of Rittenhouse from the night of the Kenosha shooting and footage of torch-bearing white supremacists at the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel are among party officials who have called on Biden to apologize.

"He smeared a teenager to score political points and spread lies about this case," McDaniel wrote on Twitter. "What Biden did was dangerous and inflammatory."

Asked by a reporter soon after the verdict if he stood by his campaign social media posting, Biden responded that "I stand by what the jury has concluded."

Borick, the Muhlenberg College pollster, said the results of this month's elections in Virginia show that driving at cultural issues — including race and transgender rights — could be a good strategy for Republicans trying to energize a segment of the electorate that was passionate about Trump but less enthusiastic about the rest of the GOP. But Borick warned that the GOP's fulsome embrace of Rittenhouse wasn't without risk.

"I don't know if it's a great place to be if you're trying, come the midterms, to reach suburban voters and educated voters who might not fault the decision to acquit Rittenhouse because of the circumstances but are far from comfortable holding him up as a hero," Borick said.

Even before the verdict, Biden had been facing increased pressure from some Democrats over the lack of progress on passing voting rights and police reform legislation.

Last month, a day after Senate Republicans filibustered a major voting bill for the second time this year, Biden acknowledged that the process of governing could be "frustrating and sometimes dispiriting" but urged supporters to "keep the faith."

At the same, civil rights leaders have expressed frustration that Biden has not used the power of the bully pulpit more to push for a broad police reform bill named after George Floyd, the Black Minneapolis man whose killing last year by police touched off protests around the U.S.

Speaking at an event earlier this week where he signed into law a trio of bills to increase aid to police, Biden only made passing mention of the George Floyd act, asking legislators from both parties to work together to make it law.

"That's next," Biden said.

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

Fox says it did not pay for Rittenhouse film and interview

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A Fox News executive said Saturday the network did not pay Kyle Rittenhouse's family for any special access during Rittenhouse's murder trial or after his acquittal, after it was announced that he would speak to Tucker Carlson for an interview to air on Monday.

The comment came after Rittenhouse's trial attorney, Mark Richards, said that a Fox documentary crew was embedded with Rittenhouse's team against his wishes. Richards told The Associated Press on Saturday that he didn't think the filming was appropriate and that he had tossed the crew out of meetings several times.

"It was not approved by me, but I'm not always in control," he told the AP. "I think it detracted from what we were trying to do, and that was obviously to get Kyle found not guilty."

Richards, to the AP and in similar remarks to CNN on Friday night, said it was arranged by those who were raising money for Rittenhouse, though he did not say that Fox paid Rittenhouse.

Carlson, on his show Friday, showed portions of what his film crew had recorded, including Rittenhouse's first public comments after being acquitted of murder charges in a trial that sparked a national debate on guns and self-defense.

Justin Wells, senior executive producer of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," said no payment was made for access, footage rights, legal fees or any other purpose to Rittenhouse or his family.

It's considered unethical for a news organization to pay for an interview. Broadcasters have found workarounds for much-sought interview subjects, including paying for old photos, or flying an interview subject to different locations and putting them up in hotels.

David Hancock, a spokesman for the Rittenhouse family, said any potential payment by Fox "was never offered and it was never asked for and it was never discussed."

The intention of the documentary, which is to be shown next month on the Fox Nation streaming service, is to memorialize the experience that Rittenhouse had during the trial and to show people who he really is, he said.

In choosing Fox, Rittenhouse's family is putting the story before an audience most likely to be supportive. Conservatives paid his \$2 million bail after his arrest last year. A website devoted to defending Rittenhouse and raising money for him greets visitors with a quote attributed to James Monroe: "the right of self-defense never ceases."

Carlson was chosen to conduct the first post-trial interview with Rittenhouse because he "was honest. At the very beginning he saw what was happening and he pointed out that Kyle was defending himself," Hancock said.

The spokesman said Rittenhouse plans to do other interviews with other news organizations, although they haven't been set yet.

In Carlson, the 18-year-old will sit down with an interviewer who said on his program Friday night that it was "a day when all of us should be celebrating."

Carlson, along with colleagues Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham, took victory laps during their shows and attacked politicians and media members who thought Rittenhouse should be convicted.

"For the authoritarians among us, this is a disaster," Carlson said. "They can't let it go. Why? Because they understand the Rittenhouse case is a referendum on the most basic right of all — the ancient right of self-defense. If Kyle Rittenhouse can save his own life from the mob than you can, too, and that drives them insane."

Speaking to CNN's Chris Cuomo on Friday, Richards said that Rittenhouse "is going to have some hard choices in his life about the direction he goes and what he stands for. These will have to be made by Kyle eventually. ... He needs to learn how to take responsibility and to tell people 'no.'"

Richards also told journalist Ashleigh Banfield in a separate interview that while he's "not a big Fox guy,"

he also had harsh words for some coverage he saw on CNN and MSNBC.

"It makes me angry that they can't take the time to at least get the generic, basic facts correct, because it didn't fit into the story they wanted to tell," he said.

___ Associated Press reporter Amy Forliti contributed from Minneapolis.

Rittenhouse lawyers' trial playbook: Don't 'crusade,' defend

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

Soon after a Wisconsin jury acquitted Kyle Rittenhouse of all charges against him, defense attorney Mark Richards took a swipe at his predecessors, telling reporters that their tactics — leaning into Rittenhouse's portrayal as a rallying point for the right to carry weapons and defend oneself — were not his.

"I was hired by the two first lawyers. I'm not going to use their names," Richards said Friday. "They wanted to use Kyle for a cause and something that I think was inappropriate — and I don't represent causes. I represent clients."

The angry rhetoric surrounding Rittenhouse's case didn't subside with the change in attorneys. But Richards, beaming as he talked to reporters outside his Racine law office after the acquittal, said that to him, the only thing that mattered was "whether he was found not guilty or not."

Along with co-counsel Corey Chirafisi, he spent the months leading up to the case in virtual silence — "I don't do interviews," he said brusquely to one emailed request in December — and sought at trial to minimize the polarizing questions about Second Amendment rights.

It was a strategy that sometimes conflicted with other forces surrounding Rittenhouse. Fox News had a camera crew embedded with Rittenhouse at certain points, including before and after the verdict, gathering material for a documentary marketed as a "Tucker Carlson Original." Carlson tweeted a promo for the documentary to air in December, along with teasing an exclusive interview with Rittenhouse to air Monday night.

The crew sometimes sat in on defense meetings. Richards told The Associated Press that he opposed it as inappropriate and said he tossed the crew out several times. He said it was arranged by those raising money for Rittenhouse.

"It was not approved by me, but I'm not always in control," he said. "I think it detracted from what we were trying to do, and that was obviously to get Kyle found not guilty."

Regardless of what was happening behind the scenes, the strategy from Richards and Chirafisi in court was clear: get the jury to regard Rittenhouse as a scared teenager who shot to save his life.

They repeatedly focused on the two minutes, 55 seconds in which the shootings unfolded — the critical moments in which Rittenhouse, then 17, said he felt a threat and pulled the trigger.

"These guys have a client who is a human being ... that's what they're rightly focused on," said Dean Strang, a defense attorney and professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Strang, who spoke to the AP before Friday's verdict and who wasn't connected to the case, said Richards and Chirafisi see Rittenhouse "as an 18-year-old kid who landed in a whole lot of trouble, more than he could handle."

In the days after the shootings, Rittenhouse — who brought an AR-style rifle to a protest, saying he was protecting a stranger's property — was initially represented by attorneys John Pierce and Lin Wood, who painted Rittenhouse as a defender of liberty and a patriot who was exercising his right to bear arms. Pierce tweeted a video of Rittenhouse speaking by phone from a jail in Illinois, where he's from, thanking supporters. A video released by a group tied to his legal team said Rittenhouse was being "sacrificed by politicians" whose "end game" was to stop the "constitutional right of all citizens to defend our communities."

Rivers of money flowed to a legal defense fund — more than enough for Rittenhouse to post his \$2 million bail — but Wood left the case and became active in pressing the false claim that Donald Trump had won the presidential election. Pierce left the criminal case in December after prosecutors said he shouldn't be allowed to raise money for Rittenhouse, but he stayed on the civil side of things until Rittenhouse said he fired him in February.

On Friday, Richards recounted his first meeting with Rittenhouse: "I told him when I first met him, if he's

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looking for somebody to go off on a crusade, I wasn't his lawyer."

Wood told the AP on Saturday that he's not a criminal lawyer and hasn't been involved in the civil side of things since he was asked to withdraw. He said the foundation he heads, Fightback Foundation, raised money for Rittenhouse's bail and publicly said the case was a Second Amendment issue.

"I was not an attorney pushing for a cause," Wood said. "Fightback has a mission that includes the right to bear arms and self-defense."

Richards — gravel-voiced, gruff and often sprawled back in his chair during the proceedings — had seemed to be the lead attorney in the months leading up to the trial. After the verdicts, he called Chirafisi his co-counsel — "not second chair" — and referred to him as his "best friend."

They came to court prepared. Richards used several videos during his opening statement — over the objection of prosecutors who did not seize on that opportunity.

They argued vehemently for a mistrial when they felt prosecutors were acting in bad faith, and appeared to outmaneuver prosecutors in getting a gun charge dismissed.

And they made a careful calculation with perhaps their biggest decision: whether Rittenhouse should take the stand, risking a potentially damaging cross-examination. Richards said they tested their case against a pair of mock juries and found it was "substantially better" with Rittenhouse testifying.

"It wasn't a close call," he said.

Richards is a courtroom veteran and was a prosecutor in Racine and Kenosha counties in the late 1980s before he opened his own firm in 1990 that specializes in criminal defense. Chirafisi is also a former prosecutor and has been practicing law for more than 20 years. His law firm is in Madison.

The attorneys repeatedly pushed back against prosecutors' notion that Rittenhouse was an outsider drawn to Kenosha by the chaos, noting that although he lived in nearby Antioch, Illinois, his father lived in Kenosha and Rittenhouse worked in Kenosha County as a lifeguard. Richards shared his own distress at watching the violence in Kenosha from his home in Racine after the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a white police officer.

While prosecutors tried to show that Rittenhouse acted as a vigilante who overreacted, he and his lawyers argued that he was defending himself. "You as jurors will end up looking at it from the standpoint of a 17-year-old under the circumstances as they existed," Richards told the jury.

When Rittenhouse was on the stand, they were quick to object to the prosecutor's cross-examination, calling it badgering.

In one fiery moment of the trial, after the defense objected to prosecutor Thomas Binger's line of questioning, Chirafisi raised the prospect that Binger was trying to provoke a mistrial because the state was faring poorly.

"I don't know that it's my role to sit here and say who's winning," Chirafisi told the judge. "I don't think that's necessarily what I'm supposed to do. But I think the court has to make some findings as it relates to the bad faith on the part of the prosecution."

Richards and Chirafisi split the duties at trial, with Richards doing the opening statement and closing argument and Chirafisi handling much of the witness testimony. Richards said the two argued over who would question Gaige Grosskreutz, the man who had a gun in his hand when Rittenhouse shot and wounded him.

Richards said Chirafisi won — and did a better job than he would have. Chirafisi got Grosskreutz to admit that he had pointed his gun at Rittenhouse.

"It wasn't until you pointed your gun at him, advanced on him ... that he fired, right?" Chirafisi asked.

"Correct," Grosskreutz replied. Under follow-up questioning from the prosecutor, Grosskreutz said he never meant to point his weapon at Rittenhouse.

Strang, who helped represent Steven Avery in the case documented by the Netflix "Making a Murderer" series, described Chirafisi as quick-witted and always engaged in the courtroom. Strang said Richards is slow to anger, but "won't let go" if he thinks something is unfair.

That was evident during Richards' closing argument when, in his booming voice, he looked at the prosecutors' table and repeatedly accused Binger of lying. Jurors appeared riveted. Richards repeated his distaste for the way prosecutors presented their case on Friday.

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He also blamed social media for spreading what he called “not the true story” of the events in Kenosha right after they happened — “something we had to work to overcome in court.”

“I knew this case was big,” Richards told reporters. “I never knew it was going to be this big.”

This story has been corrected to delete a reference to Carlson documentary to air Monday; it is to air in December.

Forliti reported from Minneapolis. Associated Press writer Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

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

Protests erupt over virus rules in Austria, Italy, Croatia

By EMILY SCHULTHEIS and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters, many from far-right groups, marched through Vienna on Saturday after the Austrian government announced a nationwide lockdown beginning Monday to contain skyrocketing coronavirus infections.

Demonstrations against virus restrictions also took place in Switzerland, Croatia, Italy, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands on Saturday, a day after Dutch police opened fire on protesters and seven people were injured in rioting that erupted in Rotterdam. Protesters rallied against coronavirus restrictions and mandatory COVID-19 passes needed in many European countries to enter restaurants, Christmas markets or sports events, as well as mandatory vaccinations.

The Austrian lockdown will start Monday and comes as average daily deaths have tripled in recent weeks and hospitals in heavily hit states have warned that intensive care units are reaching capacity. The lockdown will last at least 10 days but could go up to 20, officials said. People will be able to leave their homes only for specific reasons, including buying groceries, going to the doctor or exercising.

The government also will make vaccinations mandatory starting Feb. 1. Not quite 66% of Austria’s 8.9 million people are fully vaccinated, one of the lowest rates in Western Europe.

Saturday’s march started off at Vienna’s massive Heldenplatz square. Chanting “Resistance!” and blowing whistles, protesters moved down the city’s inner ring road. Many waved Austrian flags and carried signs mocking Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg and Health Minister Wolfgang Mueckstein. Some wore doctor’s scrubs; others donned tinfoil hats. Most signs focused on the vaccine mandate: “My Body, My Choice,” read one. “We’re Standing Up for Our Kids!” said another.

Among those protesting were members of far-right and extreme-right parties and groups, including the far-right Freedom Party, the anti-vaccine MFG party and the extreme-right Identitarians.

About 1,300 police officers were on duty, and 35,000 protesters participated in different marches across the city, police said. Police said several protesters were detained, but didn’t give specific numbers. Later Saturday night, protesters threw bottles and beer cans and fired pyrotechnics at police, who then used pepper spray to disperse the crowds.

Freedom Party leader Herbert Kickl, who recently tested positive for COVID-19, appeared via video, denouncing what he called “totalitarian” measures from a government “that believes it should think and decide for us.”

Schallenberg apologized to all vaccinated people on Friday, saying it wasn’t fair they had to suffer under the renewed lockdown restrictions.

“I’m sorry to take this drastic step,” he said on public broadcaster ORF.

In neighboring Switzerland, 2,000 people protested an upcoming referendum on whether to approve the government’s COVID-19 restrictions law, claiming it was discriminatory, public broadcaster SRF reported.

A day after the Rotterdam rioting, thousands gathered on Amsterdam’s central Dam Square, despite organizers calling off the protest. They walked peacefully through the streets, closely monitored by police.

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"This policy (anti coronavirus measures) makes a lot of conflicts between the people," Hugo Gietelink from Amsterdam told The Associated Press. "I think it is very important that the vaccinated and non-vaccinated have to make a friendship again."

A few hundred people also marched through the southern Dutch city of Breda. One organizer, Joost Eras, told broadcaster NOS he didn't expect violence after consulting with police.

"We certainly don't support what happened in Rotterdam. We were shocked by it," he said.

In Italy, 3,000 turned out in the capital's Circus Maximus, a field where in ancient times Romans staged popular entertainment, to protest against "Green Pass" certificates required at workplaces, restaurants, cinemas, theaters, sports venues and gyms, as well as for long-distance train, bus or ferry travel.

"People like us never give up," read one banner, in the red, white and green colors of the Italian flag. Almost no one wore a protective mask.

In Northern Ireland, several hundred people opposed to vaccine passports protested outside the city hall in Belfast, where the city's Christmas market opened Saturday -- a market where proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test was required.

The Northern Ireland government voted this week to introduce vaccine certificates for admission to nightclubs, bars and restaurants starting Dec. 13.

Some protesters carried signs that have been widely criticized as offensive, comparing coronavirus restrictions to the actions of Nazi Germany.

In Croatia, thousands gathered in the capital of Zagreb, carrying flags, nationalist and religious symbols, along with banners against vaccination and what they describe as restrictions of people's freedoms.

In France, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin condemned violent protests in the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, one of France's overseas territories. Darmanin said 29 people had been detained by police overnight. Authorities were sending 200 more police officers to the island and on Tuesday will impose a nightly curfew from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Protesters in Guadeloupe have staged road blockades and set cars on fire. They denounce France's COVID-19 health pass that is required to access restaurants and cafes, cultural venues, sport arenas and long-distance travel. They are also protesting France's mandatory vaccinations for health care workers.

Grieshaber reported from Berlin. AP reporters from across Europe contributed reporting.

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

Canada finds 4th body after British Columbia mudslide

By JIM MORRIS Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The British Columbia Coroners Service has confirmed the discovery of three more bodies near the village of Pemberton, bringing to four the number of people who died in a landslide caused by heavy rains that swept vehicles off the road.

The search continues for a fifth body, chief coroner Lisa Lapointe said in a statement Saturday.

The mudslide occurred Monday when a wave of rock and debris covered a section of the highway between Lillooet and Pemberton.

The body of a woman was recovered Monday.

Lapointe said another body was recovered Wednesday and two additional bodies were found on Thursday.

"Efforts continued Friday to locate a fifth person reported as missing, but unfortunately those attempts were unsuccessful," she said.

The British Columbia government announced Friday it is limiting the amount of fuel people can purchase at gas stations in some parts of the province and is restricting nonessential travel as highways begin to reopen following the storms.

Provincial Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth said nonessential vehicles will be limited to about eight gallons (30 liters) per trip to the gas station. The order is expected to last until Dec. 1.

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Environment Canada says 24 B.C. communities received close to 4 inches (100 millimeters) of rain from Saturday to Monday.

The precautionary closure of the Trans Mountain Pipeline during the flooding has raised concerns about a fuel shortage in province's Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

Top US diplomat warns Russian group not to interfere in Mali

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Saturday warned a shadowy Russian company with connections to the Kremlin not to interfere in efforts aimed at restoring democracy in the West African nation of Mali.

As he wrapped up a weeklong, three-nation tour of Africa that was dominated by crises across the continent, Blinken said it would be "unfortunate" if the Wagner Group became active in Mali, where there are internationally backed plans to have a democratically elected government in place by April.

Mali "remains a linchpin for future stability in the Sahel and we have deep concerns about that stability and deep concerns about the extremism and terrorism that is spreading tentacles in the region," Blinken said at news conference with Senegal's foreign minister, Aissata Tall Sall. West Africa's Sahel region is the vast area south of the Sahara Desert where extremist groups are fighting for control.

"It would be especially unfortunate if outside actors engage in making things even more difficult and more complicated," he said. Blinken said he was speaking particularly of the Wagner Group, which has deployed mercenaries to Syria, the Central African Republic and Libya, drawing protests from the West and others.

The Wagner Group, owned by a confidant of Russian President Vladimir Putin, has been accused by Western governments and U.N. experts of human rights abuses in the Central African Republic and involvement in the conflict in Libya.

France and Germany have objected to the presence of Wagner mercenaries in Mali, and the European Union said this past week that it would consider sanctions against anyone interfering in Mali's democratic transition.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said the company has a "legitimate" right to be in Mali because it was invited by the transitional government, and he has insisted the Russian government is not involved.

Blinken, who has also been pressing while in Africa for an end to crises in Ethiopia and Sudan, said the United States was ready to restore aid to Mali that was suspended after a military coup.

"This is ultimately about the people of Mali and their aspirations for peace, their aspirations for development and respect for human rights," he said. "We look forward to taking the next steps to resume the full array of assistance as soon as the democratically elected government has taken office."

Mali has struggled to contain an Islamic extremist insurgency since 2012. Extremist rebels were forced from power in Mali's northern cities with the help of a French-led military operation, but they regrouped in the desert and began launching attacks on the Malian army and its allies.

In June, Col. Assimi Goita was sworn in as president of a transitional government after carrying out his second coup in nine months. Mali faces increasing international isolation over the junta's power grab. Elections are due to be held in February, but the EU fears they will be delayed.

In Dakar, Blinken was pushing American-built infrastructure projects, including an initiative to produce COVID-19 vaccines in Senegal, a first for Africa. He also promoted sustainable development, women's empowerment and other human rights initiatives to bolster faltering democracies.

In meetings with female entrepreneurs and executives from U.S.-based multinational companies, Blinken extolled the benefits of boosting women's roles in economies and of buying American. In a jab at China, with which the U.S. competes for lucrative business, he noted that America invests "without saddling the country with a debt that it cannot handle."

"The effects are going to be felt inside of Senegal, improving infrastructure, creating jobs and reinforcing public safety and climate resilience," he said as he witnessed the signing of four road, traffic management

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and other deals between Senegal and U.S. firms worth about \$1 billion.

The investment, he said, shows "our shared values of democracy, transparency and rule of law as well as innovation."

In less than two weeks Senegal will host a major China-Africa trade and investment forum, underscoring Beijing's interest in increasing the scope of its influence on the continent. U.S.-China competition in Africa has been a major underlying theme of Blinken's trip, although he has tried to downplay it.

"Our purpose is not to make our partners choose, it is to give them choices," he said. "And when people have choices, they usually make the right one."

Tall Sall, the foreign minister who will play a major role in the forum, thanked Blinken for his comments. "We have a diplomacy of sovereignty from which we do not exclude anyone," she said. "There is not only one choice. We have many choices."

As he does in France and other French-speaking countries, Blinken spoke extensively in French at his public appearances, including with Senegal's president, Macky Sall, and at an event at Dakar's Institute Pasteur, which hopes to begin producing COVID-19 vaccines with American help next year.

In his meetings, Blinken addressed security issues, particularly a rise in jihadi violence across the Sahel and increasing authoritarianism that many believe is fueling extremism.

Senegal is a key partner in the fight against extremism and last year it hosted the U.S. military's annual counterterrorism exercise, Flintlock.

One area where Sall may seek U.S. help is with increased security measures along the country's borders with Mali and Mauritania, where several counterterrorism operations have taken place in recent years.

Associated Press writer Babacar Dione contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the European Union said this past week, not last month, that it would consider sanctions against anyone interfering in Mali's democratic transition.

A year later, Rhode Island buildings still say 'Plantations'

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Rhode Island dropped "Providence Plantations" from its name a year ago, but not from its buildings.

Providence Plantations is written in the script in marble near the State House dome and on bronze plaques in the entryway. The state seal with the full former name is on the rotunda floor, the elevator doors, door numbers and directional signs. It's even on the rug in front of George Washington's portrait in the state room.

Voters chose to strip the words "and Providence Plantations" from Rhode Island's formal name a year ago by approving a statewide referendum, which was revived amid the nation's reckoning with racial injustice following the murder of George Floyd. The word "Plantations" didn't specifically refer to a place where slaves labored, but supporters of the measure insisted it elicited such imagery and was offensive.

Democrat Gina Raimondo signed an executive order in June 2020, when she was governor, to change state employee paychecks and executive agency websites. Voters approved the referendum in November 2020.

Since then, the state changed official websites, business cards and state employee paychecks. New letterhead is in use and citations are issued with the new state seal.

The administration is still compiling an inventory of places where the wording still exists, as well as determining potential costs and best practices for the removal, officials in Gov. Dan McKee's administration said. A working group will convene before the end of the year to develop goals for next year.

State Rep. Anastasia Williams, a Providence Democrat, pushed to change the state name. Now she says there are other, extremely serious matters at hand that the state's leaders need to address — the ongoing pandemic, the growing number of homeless people, the need to welcome immigrants and refugees, and

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an education system that has failed children of color.

"I'm not taking any of the importance of it away, but where it is for me as a priority, we already won that battle and we know it has to be done," Williams said last week. "We have some serious things at hand that are not even being seriously addressed."

The remaining displays of the old name can be an opportunity to strike up conversations about what the voters voted for and why, she added.

Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea is the keeper of the state seal, and has been using a new embosser to apply the redesigned state seal to official documents.

Gorbea is running for governor. If elected, she said she would make sure there's a plan for removing the old name from the more challenging places, especially the seal in the State House rotunda, since many people see it there.

"It is the change that the voters wanted and so we should have, at bare minimum, a plan," Gorbea said. "If it hasn't been done, why not? But if it can be done, let's do it."

In early November, state Department of Administration officials said they would share the inventory of places where the old state name was written and the costs for changing it, but as of this week it had not provided that accounting to The Associated Press. In the DOA building, the old state seal is on the front desk and on the directory of rooms.

Rhode Island was incorporated as The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations when it declared statehood in 1790. In 2010, nearly eight in 10 voters rejected the shorter name in a referendum.

Gorbea said she fears people will become cynical if they voted for the change yet the most public-facing displays remain the same.

"The state has changed," she said, "times have changed and government needs to change to accommodate that."

Conflict over abortion laws won't abate if Roe v. Wade falls

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

On both sides of America's abortion debate, activists are convinced that Roe v. Wade — the 1973 Supreme Court ruling establishing a nationwide right to abortion — is imperiled as never before.

Yet no matter how the current conservative-dominated court handles pending high-profile abortion cases — perhaps weakening Roe, perhaps gutting it completely — there will be no monolithic, nationwide change. Fractious state-by-state battles over abortion access will continue.

Roe's demise would likely prompt at least 20 Republican-governed states to impose sweeping bans; perhaps 15 Democratic-governed states would reaffirm support for abortion access.

More complicated would be politically divided states where fights over abortion laws could be ferocious — and likely become a volatile issue in the 2022 elections.

"Many of these states are one election away from a vastly different political landscape when it comes to abortion," said Jessica Arons, a reproductive rights lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Those states include Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, which now have Democratic governors and Republican-controlled legislatures. GOP gubernatorial victories next year could position those states to join others in imposing bans if Roe were nullified.

The net effect on abortion prevalence is difficult to predict, given that many people in states with bans would persist in seeking to terminate unwanted pregnancies. Some could face drives of hundreds of miles to reach the nearest clinic; others might obtain abortion pills by mail to end a pregnancy on their own.

Among the briefs filed with the Supreme Court as it considers a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks is one reflecting input from 154 economists and researchers. If abortions became illegal in 23 states, they calculate, the number of abortions at clinics nationwide would fall by about 14%, or about 120,000, in the following year.

Abortion-rights activists predict women of color, rural residents, low-income women, and LGBTQ people would be disproportionately affected.

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Under this scenario, the economists say, bans would affect 26 million women of child-rearing age, and the average distance to the nearest abortion clinic would increase from 35 miles (56 kilometers) to 279 miles (449 kilometers).

Elizabeth Nash of the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights, says a gutting of Roe would galvanize some Democratic-governed states and abortion-rights groups to accelerate programs assisting people to cross state lines for abortions.

"But things will get complicated and difficult very quickly," she said. "You're disrupting the entire abortion care network across the country, and people will be seeking abortion in locations which may not have enough capacity for people in their state already."

A possible preview is unfolding at Planned Parenthood's clinic in Fairview Heights, Illinois, just outside St. Louis. It opened in 2019 as an abortion option for people from Missouri and other nearby Republican-governed states. It's seeing an increase in patients from farther away as a tough ban in Texas creates appointment backlogs throughout the south-central U.S.

Dr. Colleen McNicholas, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer for reproductive health services in the St. Louis region, said the clinic is bracing for a possible influx of an additional 14,000 women per year seeking abortion services if post-Roe bans proliferate.

"We're absolutely thinking about what operational changes we would need — staying open seven days a week, operating two shifts each day — to absorb that many patients," she said.

Already, patients are "super frustrated" by drives of up to nine hours from home, she said.

Michael New, an abortion opponent who teaches social research at The Catholic University of America, said possible increases of out-of-state abortions and "mail-order abortions" would be among several challenges facing the anti-abortion movement even as its dream of Roe's demise came true.

Another potential challenge: Some Democratic-leaning prosecutors might refuse to enforce bans.

Michigan, for example, has a 90-year-old ban on the books. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, a Democrat, says she wouldn't enforce it if it became law; a local prosecutor, Democrat Eli Savit in Washtenaw County, tweeted, "We will never, ever prosecute any person for exercising reproductive freedom."

While there's a consensus that Roe is more vulnerable than ever, there's no certainty about how the Supreme Court might proceed. Clues will surface on Dec. 1, when justices hear arguments in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

In that case, Mississippi is asking the court to overrule Roe and a follow-up 1992 decision that prevents states from banning abortion before viability, the point around 24 weeks of pregnancy when a fetus can survive outside the womb.

If the court simply upholds Mississippi's ban, other Republican-governed states would likely enact similar measures. The Guttmacher Institute says between 6.3% and 7.4% of U.S. abortions, or 54,000 to 63,000 annually, are obtained at or after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

However, activists on opposing sides believe the high court — either in the Mississippi case or a subsequent one — is poised to go further, nullifying Roe so states would be free to impose sweeping bans.

"For nearly 50 years, states have been prevented from passing abortion laws that reflect the values of people who live there," said Mallory Quigley of the Susan B. Anthony List, an anti-abortion group. "Dobbs is the best opportunity since 1973 to correct that."

Wisconsin could become one of the most contested battlegrounds, since it still has in its statutes an 1849 law criminalizing abortion. But even if the law took effect, it might not be enforced if next year's election leaves Democrats serving as governor, attorney general and as district attorneys in Milwaukee and Madison, which are home to abortion clinics.

The 2022 elections are likely to energize activists in each camp, says Julaine Appling, an abortion opponent who leads the Wisconsin Family Council.

"The smart candidates running on either side will say it makes a huge difference who is governor and who is attorney general," she said. "Wisconsin is very purple — and we've got a real fight on our hands on this issue."

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When Roe was decided, abortion was broadly legal in four states, allowed under limited circumstances in 16 others, and outlawed under nearly all circumstances elsewhere. In 1974, a year after Roe, there were about 900,000 abortions in the U.S., according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Abortions rose steadily, peaking at 1.61 million in 1990, before a steady decline — falling to 862,000 in Guttmacher's latest survey, covering 2017. The decline is attributed to increased availability of effective contraception and a plunge in unintended pregnancies, notably among teens.

Women also have safer, easier options for terminating pregnancies; medication abortions now account for about 40% of U.S. abortions. Advocacy groups are spreading the word about abortion pills that can be used at home without a medical professional's involvement.

Increased use of mail-order pills could pose a dilemma for the anti-abortion movement, given that its leaders generally say they don't favor criminalizing the actions of women seeking abortions. Pills often are shipped from overseas; those suppliers are an elusive target for prosecutors.

Arons, the ACLU lawyer, says anti-abortion activists are deluding themselves if they think post-Roe bans can enable them to live in abortion-free states.

"People who want to end their pregnancies will find a way to do so, whether it's legal or not," she said. "The need will always be there."

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Marchers across France decry violence against women

PARIS (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters marched Saturday through Paris and other French cities to demand more government action to prevent violence against women. The demonstrations come amid growing outrage in France over women killed by their partners and as French women are increasingly speaking out about sexual harassment and abuse.

Protesters marched in Paris behind a large banner saying "Stop sexist and sexual violence."

"We are always putting the blame on the women," Parisian demonstrator Ghislaine Gireire-Revalier said, expressing sympathy for women who are trapped in violent domestic situations. "What we forget is the phenomenon of being in one's grip ... little by little it's like a spider that surrounds you in its web."

Groups fighting violence against women said at least 101 women have been killed by their partner or ex-partner in France so far this year — about one woman every three days. More than 220,000 women are suffering physical or sexual abuse by their partner each year, according to a 2017 nationwide study.

Activists are urging President Emmanuel Macron's government to dedicate 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) each year to fight violence against women, instead of 360 million (\$406 million) spent now, in part to create more shelters.

Demonstrator Meryll Le Goff said "there are measures that have been put into effect like the telephone for those in serious danger," a special phone with a button to push to alert police. Over 2,500 such phones were being deployed in the country in September, the Justice Ministry said.

"But there aren't enough for everyone," Le Goff said. "Measures half done, men who are detained temporarily or even imprisoned but are eventually released without any measures that follow ... that's the problem."

The protests are part of a week of global actions marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Subdivision's social posts reflected fear before Arbery shot

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — Months before Ahmaud Arbery was killed, shooter Travis McMichael wrote a simple, chilling response to a Facebook post about a suspected car burglary in his Georgia neighborhood: "Arm up."

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The item he commented on was sandwiched between chats about lost dogs and water service interruption, like in many online communities in the U.S. based around physical neighborhoods.

But in the year before Arbery's death, the posts in the Facebook group for the subdivision where McMichael lived portray a neighborhood increasingly on edge over low-level incidents, with residents swapping suspicions, keeping children inside and becoming willing to take matters into their own hands.

At a time of broad re-examination of race, criminal justice and the role of technology, such online neighborhood forums in the U.S. have a troubling tendency to veer from wholesome community chitchat to anxious hypervigilance when suspicion is the discussion topic.

"It causes people both to be more anxious, more on-alert or hypersensitive. But it also makes them more suspicious of someone not like them," in a variety of ways, said media psychologist Pamela Rutledge. "It's really sort of stacking the kindling, so to speak, because people are then watching for something to go wrong."

Closing arguments are expected Monday in murder trial for McMichael and two other white men charged in the slaying of Arbery, whose death became part of a broader reckoning on racial injustice in the criminal legal system.

Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael grabbed guns and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after seeing the 25-year-old Black man running in their neighborhood outside the Georgia port city of Brunswick in February 2020. William "Roddie" Bryan, who joined the pursuit in his own truck, took cellphone video of Travis McMichael shooting Arbery as he threw punches and grabbed for the shotgun.

They say that they were trying to lawfully stop burglaries in their neighborhood, and McMichael testified he shot Arbery in self-defense.

He also testified that much of what he knew about local burglary reports came from the Facebook group for the Satilla Shores subdivision where he lived with his parents.

His "arm up" comment came in response to a July 2019 post, included in court documents, in which a woman warning of car burglaries said: "Remember, you can't tell if a thief is a lightweight or a murderer."

An item from that November referenced a Black man and a white couple recorded on back-to-back nights inside a home under construction five houses down from the McMichaels. Travis McMichael's response: "They are really playing with fire."

All sides agree the Black man was Arbery, who was recorded on video five different times inside the same house — including just before the McMichaels began their pursuit of him — though prosecutors say there's no evidence he committed any crimes in the neighborhood.

One neighbor testified that a post about a car break-in prompted her to check her husband's truck and discover some of his tools missing. Brook Perez said it "felt like a violation."

Neighbor Lindy Cofer said people on the Facebook group swapped theories and suspicions behind who might be responsible for certain property crimes. Asked if she had ever been a victim of crime, Cofer said not for more than 30 years.

Scholars have long found that people who consume a lot of media tend to have a greater sense of fear, said David Ewoldsen, a Michigan State University professor who studies media and psychology. The strongest effect is with local news, because people know the area and identify with it.

On a neighborhood site, it's even closer to home and thus "magnifies the effect," he said.

Humans have a "fight or flight" response to fear. When the spark is a social media post from a neighbor they know, people may want to somehow respond to the situation. "So you have all of that intertwined, and it's going to increase the likelihood of a violent response," Ewoldsen said.

Still, outright violence remains rare. In a case this year in wealthy Danville, California, some residents took to the social media platform Nextdoor to urge police to remove Tyrell Wilson, a Black homeless man, before a separate rock-throwing call culminated in a police officer fatally shooting him in the head.

"These platforms serve as vehicles to amplify and echo a feeling that your community is under assault," said Steven Renderos, executive director of the group MediaJustice. Watching discourses himself, he's felt "there's a way in which white vigilante-ism is praised and in a way in which Black existence is criminalized."

Nextdoor has worked to curtail racism on its platform, including with diversity and inclusion training for

its moderators, Renderos said. Facebook didn't respond to an emailed request for comment from The Associated Press for this story.

Still, Renderos would like to see more transparency around the users' demographic data to see whether it reflects the entire community, since artificial intelligence can only go so far in weeding out hate speech or violent language.

"At the end of the day," he said, "what you can't fix on the platform side is the racism that exists in those communities."

Whitehurst reported from Salt Lake City.

Europe's COVID crisis pits vaccinated against unvaccinated

By RAF CASERT and KAREL JANICEK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — This was supposed to be the Christmas in Europe where family and friends could once again embrace holiday festivities and one another. Instead, the continent is the global epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic as cases soar to record levels in many countries.

With infections spiking again despite nearly two years of restrictions, the health crisis increasingly is pitting citizen against citizen — the vaccinated against the unvaccinated.

Governments desperate to shield overburdened healthcare systems are imposing rules that limit choices for the unvaccinated in the hope that doing so will drive up rates of vaccinations.

Austria on Friday went a step further, making vaccinations mandatory as of Feb. 1.

"For a long time, maybe too long, I and others thought that it must be possible to convince people in Austria, to convince them to get vaccinated voluntarily," Austrian Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg said.

He called the move "our only way to break out of this vicious cycle of viral waves and lockdown discussions for good."

While Austria so far stands alone in the European Union in making vaccinations mandatory, more and more governments are clamping down.

Starting Monday, Slovakia is banning people who haven't been vaccinated from all nonessential stores and shopping malls. They also will not be allowed to attend any public event or gathering and will be required to test twice a week just to go to work.

"A merry Christmas does not mean a Christmas without COVID-19," warned Prime Minister Eduard Heger. "For that to happen, Slovakia would need to have a completely different vaccination rate."

He called the measures "a lockdown for the unvaccinated."

Slovakia, where just 45.3% of the 5.5 million population is fully vaccinated, reported a record 8,342 new virus cases on Tuesday.

It is not only nations of central and eastern Europe that are suffering anew. Wealthy nations in the west also are being hit hard and imposing restrictions on their populations once again.

"It is really, absolutely, time to take action," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said. With a vaccination rate of 67.5%, her nation is now considering mandatory vaccinations for many health professionals.

"All of Germany is one big outbreak," Lothar Wieler, head of Germany's disease control agency, told reporters Friday. "This is a nationwide state of emergency. We need to pull the emergency brake."

Greece, too, is targeting the unvaccinated. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a battery of new restrictions late Thursday for the unvaccinated, keeping them out of venues including bars, restaurants, cinemas, theaters, museums and gyms, even if they have tested negative.

"It is an immediate act of protection and, of course, an indirect urge to be vaccinated," Mitsotakis said.

The restrictions enrage Clare Daly, an Irish EU legislator who is a member of the European parliament's civil liberties and justice committee. She argues that nations are trampling individual rights.

"In a whole number of cases, member states are excluding people from their ability to go to work," Daly said, calling Austria's restrictions on the unvaccinated that preceded its decision Friday to impose a full lockdown "a frightening scenario."

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Even in Ireland, where 75.9 % of the population are fully vaccinated, she feels a backlash against holdouts. "There's almost a sort of hate speech being whipped up against the unvaccinated," she said.

The world has had a history of mandatory vaccines in many nations for diseases such as smallpox and polio. Yet despite a global COVID-19 death toll exceeding 5 million, despite overwhelming medical evidence that vaccines highly protect against death or serious illness from COVID-19 and slow the pandemic's spread, opposition to vaccinations remains stubbornly strong among parts of the population.

Some 10,000 people, chanting "freedom, freedom," gathered in Prague this week to protest Czech government restrictions imposed on the unvaccinated.

"No single individual freedom is absolute," countered Professor Paul De Grauwe of the London School of Economics. "The freedom not to be vaccinated needs to be limited to guarantee the freedom of others to enjoy good health," he wrote for the liberal think tank Liberales.

That principle is now turning friends away from each other and splitting families across European nations.

Birgitte Schoenmakers, a general practitioner and professor at Leuven University, sees it on an almost daily basis.

"It has turned into a battle between the people," she said.

She sees political conflicts whipped up by people willfully spreading conspiracy theories, but also intensely human stories. One of her patients has been locked out of the home of her parents because she dreads being vaccinated.

Schoenmakers said that while authorities had long balked at the idea of mandatory vaccinations, the highly infectious delta variant is changing minds.

"To make a U-turn on this is incredibly difficult," she said.

Spiking infections and measures to rein them in are combining to usher in a second straight grim holiday season in Europe.

Leuven has already canceled its Christmas market, while in nearby Brussels a 60-foot Christmas tree was placed in the center of the city's stunning Grand Place on Thursday but a decision on whether the Belgian capital's festive market can go ahead will depend on the development of the virus surge.

Paul Vierendeels, who donated the tree, hopes for a return to a semblance of a traditional Christmas.

"We are glad to see they are making the effort to put up the tree, decorate it. It is a start," he said. "After almost two difficult years, I think it is a good thing that some things, more normal in life, are taking place again."

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

Malaysian PM's party wins landslide victory in state polls

MALACCA, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob's Malay party won a landslide victory in a state election Saturday, defeating its allies in the ruling coalition as well as the opposition ahead of national polls.

The victory in southern Malacca state by Ismail's United Malays National Organization, or UMNO, was seen as a bellwether that could shape alliances in national elections following a period of political turmoil. The elections are not due until 2023 but are widely expected to be called next year.

UMNO had led Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957, but was ousted in 2018 elections by opposition leader Ibrahim Anwar's reformist alliance following a multibillion-dollar financial scandal that led to the corruption conviction of former Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Anwar's alliance crumbled last year after Muhyiddin Yassin withdrew his Bersatu party and formed a new government with UMNO, the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party and several others. Muhyiddin was forced to resign in August due to infighting, and Ismail, who was Muhyiddin's deputy, took office, bringing back UMNO's rule.

UMNO and Bersatu, the two biggest parties in the ruling alliance, are at loggerheads but have agreed to share power until the next general election. Both parties are vying for the support of ethnic Malays, who

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account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 31 million people.

The Election Commission said the UMNO-led National Front coalition secured 21 of the 28 state assembly seats, Anwar's opposition won five and Bersatu two.

"Voters returned to the UMNO/National Front fold as this coalition is associated with greater financial security at a time of insecurity" amid the coronavirus pandemic, said Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert with Malaysia's Nottingham University.

She said it was also a major defeat for the opposition and showed that voters rejected Anwar's leadership.

UMNO President Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also on trial for corruption, said the people of Malacca sent a clear signal that they wanted "stability and prosperity." Opposition politicians blamed a low voter turnout of 66% for their loss.

Analysts have said that a big win for UMNO could potentially lead to challenges in ruling party states that are led by Bersatu, accelerate plans for early general elections and may prompt the Islamic Party PAS and others supporting Bersatu to review their alliance.

Campaigning in Malacca, which is around a two-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur, was muted amid strict rules as the country emerged from a virus lockdown last month after a successful vaccination rollout. Political rallies and house visits were banned, taking the campaigning to social media.

The polls were held as Malaysia gradually reopens its borders to vaccinated travelers. The country has vaccinated more than 76% of its population, including most adults. Daily infections have dropped dramatically to around 6,000 from its peak of more than 20,000 in August. The country has recorded 2.57 million cases and nearly 30,000 deaths.

As tourism brightens, Times Square hopes to regain luster

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — David Cohen has been yearning for a return to the days when business boomed at his family's souvenir shop in Times Square.

While tourists have begun returning, foot traffic into Grand Slam souvenirs is still not what it was before the coronavirus pandemic, when hordes of global visitors crowded under the canopy of electric billboards just outside his door.

But the return of foreign tourists to a place popularly called the crossroads of the world may help hasten recovery for businesses like his — many of them mom-and-pop shops — that collectively employ thousands of people and serve as one of New York City's most important economic engines.

"We welcome them back with open arms," Cohen said after the U.S. began allowing vaccinated international travelers into the country this month. "We've got a long way to go."

Times Square has long stood as an emblem of New York's hustle and bustle. But as Broadway theaters shut their doors and the city became an early epicenter of the global pandemic, 9 in 10 businesses in the area closed, according to a district civic group, The Times Square Alliance.

"We really were were a symbol to the world of the pandemic and the pause," said Tom Harris, the alliance's president.

Three-fourths of area businesses have since reopened, bit by bit, as Broadway shows began reopening to vaccinated-only audiences.

Among those hopefully restarting are businesses that don't cater directly to tourists, but are part of the city's entertainment ecosystem.

Sam Vasili's Shoe Repair reopened last month across 51st Street from the Gershwin Theater, where it had operated for three decades before a long pandemic closure.

Owner Sam Smolyar was all grins on a recent afternoon as he shared the news that a Broadway production set to reopen nearby had requisitioned his help. For years, he helped outfit the Rockettes with custom-fitted boots. "We rely on the theater, and on the businesses around here," he said.

He hopes more people buying tickets on Broadway will mean busier times.

"It starts to get better," said Vasili, who employs three people at the shop.

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Just before the COVID-19 outbreak, New York City was posting record numbers of tourists — 66.6 million in 2019, including 13.5 million from outside the U.S. Then the pandemic prompted severe restrictions on foreign travel.

A marketing blitz has been underway for months to remind Americans that New York City is again open for business and ready for the visiting masses. Now the city is expanding its outreach to those outside the U.S., who are especially coveted because they spend more time and more money during their visits.

While domestic travel accounted for 80% of visitors, foreign tourists account for about half of the city's tourism spending and typically represent half of all hotel bookings.

Harris of the Times Square Alliance said the district is already rebounding. Since May, he said, the number of pedestrians counted in some places has grown from 150,000 per day to as many as 250,000 — still far below the roughly 365,000 people who tramped through the grid of streets before the pandemic.

"Between the return of Broadway, the return of international tourists," Harris said, "we really expect to be at those pre-pandemic numbers sooner than most people predict."

Those returning visitors included people like Marina Galan, who soaked in Times Square from the bleachers under a cascade of lights. She and her friends flew to New York from Madrid on the first day U.S. borders opened to vaccinated tourists.

"When you come back to New York, this is what you want to see," she said. "Everything is kind of back to normal."

Her friend Pablo Leon said he was eager to return. The group took a risk last March when they bought tickets for the Broadway musical *Hadestown*, despite being uncertain about when they'd be allowed to travel to the United States.

"That was the true gamble because we bought the tickets for tonight, without any knowledge if we were going to be able to come here," Leon said.

NYC & Company, the city's tourism agency, is spending millions of dollars overseas to draw tourists back. It projects 2.8 million foreign visitors by the end of the year, a sliver of the 13.5 million who visited in 2019. With borders reopened, officials hope the number of visitors will steadily rise over the next few years and again reach record levels within the next four years.

"We're hoping to do everything we can to accelerate that timeline," said Chris Heywood, the agency's executive vice president.

The campaign is initially focused on Canada, Mexico, Brazil, South Korea and parts of Europe, but will likely expand into other countries — possibly into China, a particularly lucrative market because Chinese visitors significantly outspend other nationalities.

Chinese visitors, however, may decide to stay put for now because of quarantining requirements back home — at least two weeks when returning from an overseas trip.

"Daytrips and domestic tourists are helping Broadway, museums and restaurants, but New York can't reach our pre-pandemic level of visitors until international tourism returns in full," New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli said. "Reopening America's borders is a big help, but other factors, beyond our control, make it hard to see when we'll get back to the numbers we had before the world shut down."

The return of annual traditions like New York City's big Thanksgiving parade and the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration could attract more visitors.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has also announced a \$450 million initiative to help revitalize the tourism industry.

On a recent day, William Brownstein hawked comedy club tickets to passersby who might now be ready to laugh off the months of grim news.

"With all the crazy things going on" — with Republicans and Democrats, with pro- and anti-vaccine viewpoints — "you got to laugh about it," said Brownstein, who returned from his unplanned hiatus in May, soon after comedy clubs were allowed to reopen.

"I think as time progresses, we will see a lot more people come," he predicted. "It's just going to take a little time, but they will be back like they were before."

US climate pledge faces test in Senate with global impact

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After talking the climate talk at U.N. negotiations in Scotland, the Biden administration now tests whether a divided United States can walk the climate walk: push a massive investment for a new era of clean energy through the narrowest of margins in the Senate.

The House passed a roughly \$2 trillion social policy and climate bill Friday, including \$555 billion for cleaner energy, although the legislation is almost certain to be changed by the Senate. What ultimately emerges in the climate part of the bill will have a lasting impact on America and all its neighbors on Earth, and help determine whether the United States does its promised share to keep climate damage at a level not disastrously worse than it is now.

“The problem is that when you have these storms that are coming with such frequency, just as soon as you deal with one, you’re dealing with the next one,” said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who has struggled with five federally declared disasters in his six years leading the global oil hub on Texas’ Gulf Coast.

Turner talked on the sidelines of the U.N. conference in Glasgow, where he was one of dozens of mayors pushing for investment in climate. After years of storm deaths in intensifying deluges and hurricanes from the tropics, Houston residents froze to death in record numbers in a wobbling polar vortex this year.

“And so for our vulnerable communities ... where people are already on the margins, it keeps getting a little bit further down,” Turner said.

In the Senate, cost-cutting demands by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin from the coal state of West Virginia and that chamber’s strict rules seem certain to force significant changes to the bill. That would prompt fresh disputes between party centrists and moderates that will likely take weeks to resolve.

If Biden’s package passes, its impact boosting clean energy sources and technologies will mean the U.S. likely will just miss, by 5%, Biden’s target of halving fossil fuel emissions by the end of this decade — more precisely and wonkily, of halving the amount of carbon dioxide that the U.S. is pumping out by 2030 compared with 2005 levels.

That’s according to modeling by researchers at Princeton University and elsewhere, climate scientist and energy analyst Zeke Hausfeather explained.

But if Biden’s bill fails in Congress, the United States likely will fall shy of its emission-cutting promise by much more, by 20%, the academic modeling shows.

Market forces making renewable energy ever cheaper would help carry the United States a lot of the way regardless, Hausfeather said.

But with that broken promise behind it, it would be harder for the U.S. “to convince countries like China and India to follow through on their climate commitments ... if we are unable to follow through on our own promises,” noted Hausfeather, a director at the Breakthrough Institute research center.

The United States over time is the world’s biggest emitter of the coal, natural gas and oil fumes that are altering the atmosphere and heating the Earth. China, with its dependence on coal-fired power plants, is the biggest emitter currently, and the U.S. No. 2. India, with its booming population and coal dependence, is poised to overtake both in coming decades.

At Glasgow, Bangladesh climate negotiator Quamrul Chowdhury fought, as he has for years, for the United States and other big polluters to make the fast, big cuts needed to keep his and other low-lying nations above water.

After decades of U.S. climate policies flipping with the political parties of incoming administrations, Chowdhury was eager for Congress to seal the deal.

“In your domestic legislation, if it is enshrined, that will help,” Chowdhury said. At climate conferences, leaders “make promises, make commitments, but those are not met. Promises are made, only to be broken.”

The sharpest U.S. climate swing of all was by the Trump administration. It pulled the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord, slowed offshore wind projects, promoted oil and gas exploration and drilling. It canceled

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Obama administration projects that had aimed to promote clean energy and discourage coal.

Scores of Republican lawmakers in Congress are stepping forward now to lay claim to a middle ground on climate, between Trump and Biden, whose falling popularity is raising doubts about continued Democratic power in Washington.

In a conservative caucus founded by Republican Rep. John Curtis of Utah, the Republicans say they know how to move voters off fossil fuels and argue for a climate policy that continues use of natural gas in particular.

They emphasize trees, as well as carbon capture technology that has yet to be developed to scale, to capture climate-damaging emissions.

"We know we must reduce emissions. Now let's have a thoughtful conversation about how we go about it," Curtis said in a panel with other U.S. lawmakers at Glasgow. "And that's, that's a new place, I think, for us."

Depending on whether a next Republican administration, like Trump's, actively opposes efforts to scale down fossil fuel use, another U.S. retreat on climate efforts might knock the nation a few more percentage points back further on meeting Biden's emission-cutting goal, Featherhaus said.

But "I think the larger effect ... would be from the lack of global leadership on the issue, and creating the (quite justified) impression that U.S. pledges are not to be trusted," he said in an email.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 21, the 325th day of 2021. There are 40 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 21, 1995, Balkan leaders meeting in Dayton, Ohio, initialed a peace plan to end 3 1/2 years of ethnic fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BAHZ'-nee-ah HEHR'-tsuh-goh-vee-nah).

On this date:

In 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1920, the Irish Republican Army killed 12 British intelligence officers and two auxiliary policemen in the Dublin area; British forces responded by raiding a soccer match, killing 14 civilians.

In 1942, the Alaska Highway, also known as the Alcan Highway, was formally opened at Soldier's Summit in the Yukon Territory.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Air Quality Act.

In 1969, the Senate voted down the Supreme Court nomination of Clement F. Haynsworth, 55-45, the first such rejection since 1930.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's attorney, J. Fred Buzhardt, revealed the existence of an 18-1/2-minute gap in one of the White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1979, a mob attacked the U-S Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing two Americans.

In 1980, 87 people died in a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1985, U.S. Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard was arrested and accused of spying for Israel. (Pollard later pleaded guilty to espionage and was sentenced to life in prison; he was released on parole on Nov. 20, 2015, and moved to Israel five years later.)

In 1990, junk-bond financier Michael R. Milken, who had pleaded guilty to six felony counts, was sentenced by a federal judge in New York to 10 years in prison. (Milken served two.)

In 2001, Ottilie (AH'-tih-lee) Lundgren, a 94-year-old resident of Oxford, Conn., died of inhalation anthrax; she was the apparent last victim of a series of anthrax attacks carried out through the mail system.

In 2018, President Donald Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts publicly clashed over the independence of America's judiciary, with Roberts rebuking the president for denouncing a judge hearing a migrant asylum challenge as an "Obama judge."

Ten years ago: Congress' bipartisan deficit reduction "supercommittee," tasked with finding \$1.2 tril-

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lion in cuts over a decade, failed to do so. Detroit's Justin Verlander became the first starting pitcher in a quarter-century to be voted Most Valuable Player.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump held court from his perch high above Manhattan, receiving a line of former rivals, longtime allies and TV executives while overseeing his White House transition.

One year ago: A federal judge in Pennsylvania tossed out a Trump campaign lawsuit seeking to prevent certification of Joe Biden's victory in the state; in a scathing order, the judge said Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani presented only "speculative accusations." The Trump campaign requested a recount of votes in the Georgia presidential race, a day after state officials certified results showing that Democrat Joe Biden won the state. (After the recount, the state's top elections official recertified Biden's victory.) U.S. health officials agreed to allow emergency use of a second antibody drug to help the immune system fight COVID-19; the drug from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals was an experimental medicine that Trump was given when he was sickened in October 2020.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Laurence Luckinbill is 87. Actor Marlo Thomas is 84. Actor Rick Lenz is 82. Actor Juliet Mills is 80. Basketball Hall of Famer Earl Monroe is 77. Television producer Marcy Carsey is 77. Actor Goldie Hawn is 76. Movie director Andrew Davis is 75. Rock musician Lonnie Jordan (War) is 73. Singer Livingston Taylor is 71. Actor-singer Lorna Luft is 69. Actor Cherry Jones is 65. Rock musician Brian Ritchie (The Violent Femmes) is 61. Gospel singer Steven Curtis Chapman is 59. Actor Nicollette Sheridan is 58. Singer-actor Bjork (byork) is 56. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Troy Aikman is 55. R&B singer Chauncey Hannibal (BLACKstreet) is 53. Rock musician Alex James (Blur) is 53. Baseball Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. is 52. TV personality Rib Hillis is 51. Football player-turned-TV personality Michael Strahan (STRAY'-han) is 50. Actor Rain Phoenix is 49. Actor Marina de Tavira is 48. Country singer Kelsi Osborn (SHeDAISY) is 47. Actor Jimmi Simpson is 46. Singer-actor Lindsey Haun is 37. Actor Jena Malone is 37. Pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen is 36. Actor-singer Sam Palladio is 35.